

Charles Neville Thomas 18/September 1860

THE SATURDAY ANALYST AND LEADER;

A Review and Record of Political, Literary, Artistic, and Social Events.

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POLITICAL DUTIES OF THE RECESS.

THE recess is the season for meetings between Members and their constituents, and before these events begin to come off in any considerable number, it would be a good thing if some general principle of action could be agreed upon by Reformers. In reply to an invitation from the Walsall Reform Association, Mr. BRIGHT has declined to undertake the task of agitating the country. In this he has acted with more than his usual wisdom. It is quite true "that it is impossible for any person to undertake to speak at meetings during the recess, and to attend Parliament during the session, without overloading himself with labour and responsibility," and it is hopeless for any individual to attempt, as Mr. BRIGHT has done on former occasions, to be the whole reform cause in himself. If the people want political change, they must work for it themselves, and form local committees in each town or borough. The public is not in the humour for abstract principles, nor prepared to support an agitation of a comprehensive kind, but there is a very general discontent with things as they are, and a desire to obtain some measure which will relieve us from the unpleasant condition of constantly talking about changes which do not take place.

The most ardent believer in Universal Suffrage will not consider the present restrictions of the franchise to be the greatest evil of our electoral system. Parliaments, as now constituted, do not represent the opinions and feelings of the existing body of electors. An elaborate system of corruption stands between them and any reasonable chance of returning a member to their taste; and scarcely an election takes place in which the favorite candidate is any more than a makeshift, accepted because nothing better is to be obtained. When a vacancy occurs in an open borough, inquiries are made in all directions for parliamentary aspirants; the lawyers, or political agents look out for a victim, and usually find one, while the honest politicians in the place seek in vain for a man willing to be victimised, and able to perform the duties of the M.P.-ship.

In many cases an extension of the suffrage, wide enough to overthrow the existing organisation, would do some good by rendering it possible to return a different sort of member; but with the present electoral machinery, popular appeals to a large constituency are so expensive, that few can afford to encounter them, and this sort of property qualification practically excludes the most desirable men. If wealth is to be represented, to the exclusion of intelligence, the landed gentry have by far the first claim, and a mere transfer of political power from the landed class to the mill-owners and mercantile speculators, would be a national misfortune, and by no means a gain.

The fundamental want of our system is the means of representing intelligent opinion, and the number of electors on the register is, compared with this, a secondary question. But while this may be freely admitted, the two things are strongly and necessarily connected, for the working classes do contribute a considerable share to the sum total of intelligent opinion, and their admission to the franchise would increase this action to a considerable extent. As a philosophical problem, we need not trouble ourselves with conservative elements. In a wealthy and settled state of society such as our own, they are quite sure to take care of themselves, and public exertion is needed to give adequate power to those forces which are naturally opposed to them, and which result from the dissemination of knowledge, and the propagation of ideas.

Two things appear practicable at present. One is to induce a large portion of the middle class to urge upon the Government the duty of bringing forward a reform bill early in the next session, and the other is to commence some movements among constituencies for the two-fold purpose of spreading political knowledge, and of obtaining the control of the seats nominally at their disposal. The working class cannot be expected to be enthusiastic for the modicum of reform possible to be obtained at present, but they would in a quiet way embrace a five or six pound rental suffrage if not diminished in value by a rate-paying clause.

Having made up our minds to get reform piecemeal, we must be contented with a modest extension of the franchise as an initial measure, and not cumber our plans with propositions for extensive disfranchisement of rotten boroughs, which it will be far easier to obtain at a subsequent time. Reformers out of doors should throw upon the Government the task of deciding the specific measure to be proposed, contenting themselves with exciting public opinion as far as they can, and requiring from the Cabinet that, whatever may be the details of their Bill, it shall be straightforward and satisfactory as far as it goes. So far from asking the working classes to give up their claims for a complete enfranchisement, they should be stimulated to make them loudly heard, and the point of union

between the masses and the rich Liberals will be practically found in the willingness of both to support any reasonable measure which the Government will produce.

Associations for manhood suffrage may, like the Northern Reform Union, achieve much good; but there is a mass of political opinion too timid for extreme measures, and yet available for all that the manhood suffrage folks expect to get as the first instalment of their claims. Each locality should decide for itself what sort of an Association it will form, and a central society in London might endeavour to combine them all for common action, when there was anything definite to support.

We should like to see the formation of Political Knowledge Societies in every town, and in this matter London might advantageously set the example. Isolated meetings do little good, and the daily press wastes its columns in miserable reports of speeches made by men who are not in Parliament, or whose reputation is not already made. During the late agitation in the Metropolis against the aggression of the Lords many elaborate speeches were made, full of historical and legal information; but scarcely any were reported with sufficient accuracy to give any idea of their character, or diffuse the knowledge they contained.

If, however, a society announced for the winter a series of monthly meetings, and at each took up a single subject, and by the aid of one or two speakers treated it exhaustively, all this would be changed, and the press would give a very different sort of report.

In the provincial towns similar means should be taken, and the Political Knowledge Societies should exert themselves to make elections turn upon opinion instead of upon corruption. Where the electors are not very numerous, small subscriptions and a good registration would enable such an association to return its own candidate free of expense.

We may come upon distressed times when popular anger will carry everything before it; but with such tolerable prosperity as we may hope to witness, no agitation will be successful which is not essentially educational. The country can only advance by fighting the battle of ideas against wealthy class interests. When properly appealed to, the people will range themselves on the right side; but there is as much Toryism in the working-class as anywhere else, as the average man is usually a supporter of things as they are.

ITALY AND HUNGARY.

SOME politicians who have never been friendly to popular movements, but who now worship GARIBALDI because they dare not withhold their acclamation from success, have thought proper to warn the Italians against mixing themselves up with the affairs of Hungary; but the wise-thinkers and truer lovers of liberty will rejoice to see the good understanding which has been established between the two great victims of Austrian tyranny. If FRANCIS JOSEPH could trust his Hungarian troops, he would, instead of talking about constitutional freedom, be booted and spurred at the head of an army, to put down the movement in Sicily, which he knows will not stop until it has carried the flag of United Italy to the towers of St. Marks. He may avoid fighting this year, but if his empire lasts as long, he must make a final struggle in 1861; and the success of that adventure will very much depend on the continuance of union between the national parties on the banks of the Danube, and on the shores of the Mediterranean. The English Cabinet will continue its silly remonstrances, "Don't touch Venice," "Don't go near Fiumee," "Leave the Hungarians alone;" but all wisdom will have forsaken CAVOUR when he prefers fighting the Hungarian regiments to enlisting them on his side. He has shown such remarkable ability up to the present time, that he is entitled to retain the post of political leader, and to find his judgment deferred to by the patriots of the sword. As a human character there can be no question as to the comparative merits of GARIBALDI and CAVOUR, but there are times when the chivalrous lion has need of the assistance of the cunning fox; and it is to be hoped that the statesman at Turin and the hero at Naples, will find themselves able to work together, until their noble task is finally achieved.

By this time it is probable that Sardinia is in formal possession of Naples, and some will represent the event as a movement of suspicion on the part of CAVOUR, and intended to check GARIBALDI's independent career. It may possibly throw some minor difficulties in the way of the gallant Dictator, and we hope he will be able to secure the contents of the arsenals before handing them to the Sardinian King;

but the main effect will be, to relieve him of a load of embarrassment, and leave him in a favourable position to deal with that disgraceful renegade who commands the legions of the POPE.

Without a strong force in Naples, it would be difficult to keep its ignorant and demoralised population in order; and any disturbance would operate injuriously upon the national cause. It is fortunate that Naples is likely to escape the bombardment and plunder so amiably designed for her by her paternal SOVEREIGN, and the spectacle of a Government thoroughly Austrian in its character, quietly tumbling to pieces from its own rottenness, will afford a useful subject of contemplation to the young despot at Vienna, who may before long find himself in the same predicament, and equally puzzled where to place his head.

In 1848 Lord PALMERSTON advised the Hungarians to keep their quarrel quite distinct from that of any other nationality. They were foolish enough to do so, and failure was the result. Now every effort should be made to promote a union among the peoples, upon the basis of aiding and respecting each other's national ideas. The German who longs for a united Fatherland, must see that the success of the Italians and Hungarians helps him forward, and that if he is persuaded to aid his Princes in the coercion of Italy or Hungary, he will have given them power to obstruct his own favourite idea. At home—if he had a political home—the German statesman would render honourable service to his own race, and to humanity; but in helping the Czar to Germanise Russia, or the Hapsburg to Germanise his multifarious dominions he is engaged in pure mischief and deserves to be overthrown.

A nationality is something different from, and more than the organisation of a race. It is rather the union of various races, animated by common ideas, interested in the defence of the same boundaries, and having associated interests. In this view Italy has advanced in nationality far more than any one would have imagined possible. If the North and the South continue to fight the Austrians for a common idea, a great step in unity will be gained. Of course difficulties will arise, but if the various races of Italians are so fortunate as to get through a successful campaign, for the liberation of their country, they will be firmly linked together in some way, although the future must determine whether as federal states or a single kingdom.

In like manner the Hungarians have made their progress towards a positive nationality. The Magyar, the Slavonian, and the Roumanian will differ, as Yorkshire does from Kent, or Ireland from Scotland; but they have by this time learnt mutual forbearance, and a campaign for liberty in which all will fight side by side, will have the happiest result. It is also of importance that the movements in Italy and Hungary should partake of a joint character; for not only will their success be thereby promoted, but a commercial connection between the two countries will be established. Uniting together in war will lead to common action in peace, and when Austrian oppression is removed, the ports of the Adriatic will offer a fine field for the industry of Italian seamen and the transport of Hungarian produce. If evil advisers can separate the action of Italy and Hungary, both may fail. If they are verily united, the continuance of that great nuisance to humanity, the Austrian Empire, will be impossible; and its German adherents, instead of upholding a hideous tyranny over other nationalities, will seek the development of their own national idea.

Count PERSIGNY's speech has roused the Germans to further action, and their efforts for unity will be materially strengthened by the half hostile, half contemptuous declaration of France. In past history nations have seldom been formed by the voluntary fusion of races, but nearly always by conquest and force. We shall see, now the world has progressed, to what extent the scholars' book has replaced the warriors' sword.

The development of the idea of nationality in Europe will form two great powers out of the German and Italian races. It will also form an important power of Hungary with alliances of the Danubian provinces. But it will not stop here. It will change the character of Russia, where it is now the fashion to attribute all evils to the Germanising tendencies of Peter and his successors, and to associate liberal ideas with a purely national movement. This movement is not Pan-slavic, but tends to the reconstitution of Poland under a Russian prince. The treaties of 1815 are silly rags to make a banner of war. The allusion to them in our Queen's speech was an indication of antiquated imbecility in the Cabinet.

The bonds of despotism are manifestly breaking, and England ought to be the first to promote the operation of natural affinities in reconstructing the map of Europe.

MORAL GRAVITATION.

THERE is a profound truth in the remark made the other day by a popular orator, that Progress is only Moral Gravitation. There is in every movement of the popular mind a tendency to a central truth; and these movements, it is important to know, are as well and harmoniously regulated, as the motions of the planets. The exercise of free-will in the social or political arena has no more influence on the certainty of events in the moral world than it has in the natural. Persuasion in the one is equal to coercion in the other—the first has simply relation to a law of Liberty, the latter to a law of Necessity. The result, indicated by the tendency of progress, is quite as sure to follow in the one case as in the other.

The usual error is in confounding the two spheres of action, and substituting the one mode for the other. It is as absurd to endeavour to *compel* the human will and conscience in a particular direction, as it would be to aim at *persuading* the planets to alter their courses. Yet this is precisely what States and monarchs have been trying to do for ages, undeterred by the folly of the design and the fatality of the issue. The BOMBAS of every clime and time would govern by force, and pride themselves on thwarting popular inclination, and crushing the national volition. The result is, the most horrible oppression and insecurity, as well for the throne and altar, as for individual relations. It is written that no government can be safe, which does not respect civil and religious liberty. But the tyrant has no perception of the central truth, and how towards that all the bearings of governmental and national action must naturally gravitate. He would, like JOSHUA, command the sun and moon to stand still, in order to favour his private ends; and expects to prosper in the world by a perpetual series of miracles. He claims, indeed, supernatural power, and right divine. And such is the audacity of the claim, that for a period, the astonished world acquiesces, and looks on with stupefied wonder. But reason at length resumes its sway—the world awakens from its sleep—already the broad day has shed illumination on the earth—the light has penetrated the low valleys as well as brightened the hill-tops, and the date of despotism is fixed. In a moment, lo! it was—and is not.

Brute force, however, is not only irrational, but blind. Want of intelligence includes all other wants, and cannot be substituted by anything else. The Southern planter in the United States cannot educate his own children, and has to confide them to the teachers of the North, who returns them to their parents' hands instructed in principles that are fatal to their own position. Nor can this necessity be avoided; for without some modicum of intelligence, brute force itself would be totally inoperative. But its short-sighted policy has been ever to do with the smallest amount of knowledge. Its great dread is lest the common people should know too much; and petty tyrants, in a domestic sphere, are to be found who talk of the over-education of the masses. There are too many of the middle class who find themselves inferior to the artisan who frequents the Mechanics' Institute, and stand in awe of the man whom they would command. The shopkeeper likes not to feel himself lower in the scale than the workman. The remedy is obvious, but it implies labour. Do as he has done. Read books. Listen to lectures. Meditate and debate on man, nature, art, and literature. Give the mind leave to expand. Become his equal, his superior, by the proper use of means at your disposal, and occupy your leisure with profitable studies. What! do you shrink from the labour of all this? Then yield, without envy, to him who has won, by the labour of the brains as well as of the hands, a superiority unattainable by the indolent and unthinking. But do not attempt by force, or what is equivalent to force, to prevent him from receiving from all available sources the information as open to you as to him, but in which, from your own negligence and apathy, you are not accustomed to participate.

There is, however, as we have said, a moral law to which these things are subject. However small the amount of knowledge with which despotism may wish to content itself, it cannot keep it at so much and no more. Motion once imparted to the light, it will increase with accelerated speed, until it pervades the hemisphere. With each step of progress, it accumulates power, until, from being the despised servant, it becomes the irresistible master of the tyranny that had accepted its temporary aid. The magician himself must yield to the spirit whose help he had unwillingly evoked. Short-lived is the triumph that intelligence lends to brute force,

which then perhaps is swayed most when most it seems to sway, and but manifests a vain reaction against a power already in operation and constantly gaining on its opponent.

Vain reaction? Yes, most vain. Coercion is employed where persuasion only has the smallest chance of success; and the transference to mental and moral forces of conditions only applicable to physical ones is quite as irrational as if a created being should attempt to swim in the air, or to fly in water.

In such an attempt, violence is suffered as well as inflicted, and outrage nature groans with the anguish. In all nations, at some period or other, the groans of this great anguish have been heard. Louder proceed from the tyrant in his palace than the prisoner in his cell. The torture endured by the former is such as can only be supported by madmen. Whereas the dungeon-bird still retains his reason, and will sing of liberty while in chains, prophesying redemption.

That Redemption is now in process in Italy, where it presents a grand spectacle to which the eyes of Europe are directed. On the same soil the previous Captivity had, also, been illustrated—the Captivity of the Soul. To the priesthood, the task of instructing the people had been entrusted; but, ere long, they refused to instruct themselves. What learning they had they wished to use in support of their order, and not either to extend or to communicate. Of such meagre action as they exercised, selfishness was the motive spring. Where this was not sufficient, they sought to compel where they could not convince. Sensualism, content with gross enjoyment, was their aim and practice. Only not all were sunk in material gratification. But the few that stood out were enough to prolong the light and to project its increase. They did so—suffering for their temerity, until one became triumphant. SAVONAROLA was a martyr, but LUTHER flourished as the hero of an intellectual faith. From his time the way was upward, not downward. The proclivity to religious degradation was stayed, and the course of the current turned into a better direction. Then it was that despotism sought for spiritual reinforcement; and a reaction was planned, in which the most elaborate learning should be brought to bear against true knowledge, and ostensibly support the altars and thrones of absolute authority. Ostensibly, we say; for, really and in its inward action, Jesuitism employed the intelligence which it cultivated, not only in the coercion of the common people, but also reduced Kaiser and Pontiff alike under its control. Such is the anomalous state of affairs, such the complex warfare which the last half century has had to sustain.

The task of Protestantism has accordingly been two-fold, or, rather, three-fold. It has had not only to deliver the masses, but the priest and the monarch. The deliverance of the former, indeed, may be said to have been effected more than a century ago. Science, philosophy, theology had spread and become properties of millions of minds. Truth had its vindicators, its discoverers, its propagandists, and through them went forth conquering, and to conquer. Its way has been onward, unstopped and unstoppable. Meanwhile Jesuitism has been in power, and out of power; now the favourite of Popes and Princes, and now the execrated of both—alternately the tyrant and the victim of the nominally great. The one represents an artificial and constantly defeated tendency; the other, an orderly and invariably growing progress. He who watches both closely, will perceive the irresistible influence of a moral law always operant; certain and universal as gravitation; like that in its nature, but with a spiritual world for its sphere—and that world discoverable in the mind and heart of man. Concurrent with, and dominant over all physical events, it may be seen shaping all accidents into agencies of development, and subordinating the materials of future history to the one purpose of augmenting its force and swelling the volume of its aggression. He who clearly perceives what here we have dimly indicated, will see no reason to despair of human destiny; but will rejoice in hope, and believe in the ultimate victory of right principles, in their social, their political, and their religious aspects.

REFORM—POLITICAL AND SOCIAL.

A LETTER from Mr. BRIGHT to the Walsall Reform Association has been published, in which he says there must be more local feeling and local exertion before the cause of reform can make more progress. Lest the superficial should imagine that the reform spirit has died out, merely because it has ceased to develop itself in a political direction, it may be as well to indicate the fact that it is now beginning to permeate and animate our whole Social organisation. True it is, that

these efforts, like other early attempts at reform are crude and immature, but they foreshadow the vigour and success of the better-planned and more energetically-conducted attempts of the future. *Instinct*, by which we mean experience, unconsciously acquired, grown into a habit of mind, and spontaneously applied, is on this subject producing a slow but total change in that mass of unanalysed convictions and desires, that goes under the vague designation of public opinion and public feeling. It must be remembered that our principal sociarian arrangements, institutions, usages, and laws, are not the systematic creation of enlightened benevolence and the suggestions of a profound sociology (a science which the pressure of circumstances is just beginning to force on human attention, as it formerly did the already elaborated sciences, from mathematics to physiology)—but the undersigned random product of "things left to themselves." Now a moment's reflection will convince those capable of appreciating the data, that the present political systems of Europe are not out of harmony and correspondence with its social organisations. The American republic is a decided step in the right direction, because all reforms, in the present state of moral and intellectual development, are effected by instalments, and by fitful efforts here and there, rather than by duly co-ordinated, and regular simultaneous improvement throughout the whole social system. But the political state of America is far in advance of its sociarian conditions. We find united with the fullest political development, as regards the form of government, not merely the bad social institutions common to Europe, not merely the virtual serfdom of Europe, disguised as it is here under the mask of another name, but the very essence of slavery is maintained—maintained in theory, in substance, and in form. Here we have one of those unhappy sociarian phenomena, produced by local circumstances, which consist in extraordinary progress and expansion on one side, counteracted by retrogression and degeneracy on the other. Our social arrangements are those of an ignorant and a barbarous age. Social despotism, as Mr. MILL, in his admirable work "On Liberty," shews, is not only as bad as ever it was, but in some respects worse. Proletarianism is only serfdom in disguise, and in many points is a flagrant deterioration of its prototype. The recognised position of woman is in essentials just as indefensible, saving a few recent enlightened and salutary legal changes, as it was in the dark ages. But vigorous, if not thoroughly matured plans are on foot for relieving the degradation and inhumanity of proletarianism, and the various other flagitious social wrongs which mere political changes would leave rampant and intact. We want a new school of reformers—reformers who understand the full scope and significance of the terms "Ethology" and "Sociology,"—reformers who can comprehend, appreciate, and apply the great principles elaborated by such writers as COMTE, and BUCKLE, and JOHN STUART MILL. Any movement that will stir the mind of Europe, like the theological revolution of the 16th, or the political reformation of the 18th century, in which LUTHER and the great French thinkers were the leading agents—or even the mind of a single nation, as the final dissolution of feudalism through the abolition of rotten boroughs and the establishment of free trade in this country did within the past quarter of a century,—must assume the shape of a social regeneration. But before social reform can be successfully prosecuted, Sociology must not merely be constructed, but popularized, and before it can even be duly formulated, morals must be reduced to a science.

In the *Edinburgh Review*, No. 218, we find the following passages in an article on Buckle's "History of Civilisation in England":—"The first and highest knowledge of which mankind is possessed," we are informed, is resolvable into "the rules of life which restrain and govern the moral feelings of individuals." We are then told, and no one will gainsay it, that "the working rules of life, and morality, are not based on scientific observation, or clothed in scientific language;" and the author adds, and justly, that "to inquire into and revise these is the highest function to which the human mind can devote itself." The transcendent importance of *Morality* is well signalized in these passages; but the notorious fact alluded to in the sentence we have marked with italics is a scandal to the civilization of the 19th century. *Morality* ought by this time to be an exact science. *Morality* we define as the science which teaches what voluntary conduct and actions of their own intrinsic nature and essence tend to human well being; Sociology teaches what laws, usages, and institutions tend to evolve this happiness-producing conduct on the part of the community. The chief difficulty in regulating individual conduct, framing public laws, instituting customs, devising institutions, consists in distinguishing those sorts of conduct, those human acts which intrinsically and in

their very nature are mischievous, because productive of human detriment, from those which in themselves are innocent or indifferent, but become productive of harm by reason of the false beliefs and absurd prejudices, by which they are condemned and proscribed. These latter may be termed sins of estimation and opinion—being merely considered wrong by foolish and mistaken people. For example—stabbing a man is an act that must necessarily be productive of injury, notwithstanding any opinion or belief to the contrary. And eating bullock's flesh is a thing perfectly harmless in itself, notwithstanding any absurd superstition against it. Yet by reason of the absurd belief existent in India, to eat beef there might be attended with very prejudicial consequences. Fanaticism—if it did not hunt the sinner against popular prejudice to death, would at least bring to bear upon him all the terrors of that moral assassination, which makes itself felt in public odium and disrepute. And much nearer home than India, things quite as innocent, nay, as positively beneficial to health as eating and drinking, are proscribed by false beliefs, and bad institutions, usages, and laws. Now a test of universal application for distinguishing at once those acts—those sorts of human conduct—which are intrinsically and of their very nature innocent or indifferent from those which are inherently and unalterably pernicious, is of more vital significance, more transcendent importance, in its direct application to human well-being than anything that can engage the attention of the human mind. For though in such matters as murder, robbery, lying, cheating, drunkenness on the one hand; and sobriety, truthfulness, benevolence on the other;—the very lowest degree of experience and observation is sufficient to distinguish those things, the essence of which is their mischievousness, from things which are beneficial; yet in the higher and more delicate questions of moral and legislative science, the problem is the most complicated and difficult that is presented to us in any department of science whatever. The mischief produced in consequence of the proscription of things harmless or indifferent in themselves, by prejudices, bad laws, and bad institutions, is manifold. For one thing, it makes artificial criminals—punishes people like *real* criminals for things which are perfectly innocent—punishes them for the mischievous folly of society in holding these absurd beliefs, maintaining these wicked and cruel laws and institutions. But it not only makes artificial criminals, and immolates the innocent on the altars of national insanity, but it tends to make real criminals too. When a person is treated as a criminal for doing what he feels and knows to be perfectly harmless, he is not only stultified and degraded in public opinion, but loses his own self respect; and from a mere factitious criminal at first, the chances are he finishes his career as criminal in serious earnest. Another consideration is, that it brings the whole rule of conduct into contempt, confounds right with wrong, vice and virtue, good and evil; and breaks down all distinctions and barriers between them. The rule of conduct—be it law, public opinion, one's moral code, &c.—is the regulator which restrains men from crime. They have been taught to regard it with respect, as the obligation which compels them to do what is right and avoid what is wrong. Their reason for considering some things right and others wrong is that this rule tells them so; their reason for doing some acts and avoiding others is that the former is enjoined, the latter forbidden by this rule. All of a sudden they find by bitter experience, that this very rule, the object of their deepest veneration, proscribes and punishes things which they cannot but feel and know are perfectly harmless. At once the rule falls into contempt with them; and they have always regarded things as being wrong because prohibited by it, or right because it commands them to be done! The consequence is that, the rule losing its binding force upon their minds, they come to look upon things really vicious as no worse than the really innocent things which their rule confounds together in one category, and punishes with equal severity.

Now the beginning of a social regeneration must resolve itself into the abolition of those laws, customs, institutions, prejudices, beliefs, which punish or proscribe the doing of things intrinsically harmless or indifferent. The first steps of this branch of enquiry, like the axioms of mathematics, sound like self-evident truisms; but a very few propositions further on we get into the thick of problems, compared with which those of Euclid are simple and obvious. And the proof is that mathematics has for ages been reduced to a science, while morals are in the crude and chaotic state indicated above. We shall resume the subject on a future occasion.

THE HANGMAN'S LESSON.

THE hangman has had another opportunity of reading the public a lesson on the crime of murder. The practical moral in this instance was conveyed by the execution on Tuesday-morning of WILLIAM GODFREY YOUNGMAN, for the murder of his mother, his sweetheart, and his two brothers. CALCRAFT read his lesson to 20,000 attentive scholars. Since the law recognises CALCRAFT as a teacher, and maintains capital punishment on the ground of its deterrent influence, the law may be congratulated upon the fact of so large an attendance. Let us see how the lesson was received.

As early as eight o'clock on the previous evening crowds of persons began to take up their position within sight of the drop. Most of these persons were young, ranging for the most part between twelve and twenty. The boys were provided with short pipes, which they smoked all through the night. By three o'clock in the morning the greater portion of the standing space outside the barriers was fully occupied by the impatient scholars. The majority consisted of young men and their sweethearts, whom they had brought to share in the instruction about to be gratuitously offered by CALCRAFT, for the good of the public in general. They sat side by side in pairs on the pavement, and whiled away the time until daylight in retailing to each other their recollection of former executions. It was the pride of some to remember that they were taken, when mere children, by their parents, to see the Mannings hung. While the darkness continued the young girls relieved the story-telling with snatches of songs; a public-house, close to the drop, and a coffee-stand, being frequently patronised between whiles. As the time wears on, scholars of a more respectable class arrive on the scene, and offer large prices for the best places in windows opposite the gallows, which now begins to stand out in horrid relief against the moon. The boys, tired of waiting, are beginning to play at leap frog. The squalid brutal mob, who have been spending their time in the public-house, are reeling about the pavement, thieves, in hundreds, are mingling in the motley throng, and when the dawn lifts up the curtain of night, the cold eye of morning rests upon a dense mass of human beings, staggering about in drunken besotted confusion, cursing and swearing, singing ribald songs, larking, laughing, chaffing, and in every conceivable manner giving way to the lowest, the most reckless, and most abandoned conduct. The chaplain arrives, and the mob begin to speculate as to whether the culprit is likely to confess. Then they watch anxiously to catch a glimpse of CALCRAFT, and propose various modes of treatment for that functionary, if they could only lay hands on him. At length, as the hour approaches, the all-absorbing enquiry is, "will YOUNGMAN die game?" Hopes are expressed that he will, "for the honour of old England." The interesting and anxiously awaited ceremony is now about to be enacted, and the drunken riot is hushed. A sea of dull, bloodshot eyes are cast upon the drop as the procession appears on the roof of the gaol. Squalid women rush frantically into the crowd and hoist up young children on their shoulders to see the sight. The boys, who are not tall enough to see, content themselves with larking outside, and the thieves, utterly regardless of the last penalty of the law now being exhibited for their edification, are busy robbing the besotted staring mob who are now absorbed on the ghastly spectacle before them. It is to such scholars that the hangman reads his lesson, and it is in such a spirit that it is received. Will he die game? That is still the anxious enquiry. The culprit walks up with a firm step, he shakes hands with the CHAPLAIN and with CALCRAFT, he stands unmoved on the drop, he turns his face towards heaven, the drop falls, and he has *died game!* Listen to the remarks of the scholars: "Well, if ever I come to be hung, I only hope I may die as game as him." That is the moral *they* derive from the lesson. If there were any pretence that the institution of the gallows is maintained in obedience to a divine law, there might be some excuse for its continuance. But there is none. The Legislature at any rate does not uphold hanging on that plea. It is maintained simply as a warning, as a practical example of the penalty which the murderer will have to pay. It certainly is not a little curious, the question being narrowed to this issue, that the Legislature has not ere this been convinced of the unsoundness of the principle upon which it proceeds. No one who has witnessed a public exhibition, and watched its influence upon the minds of the lower classes can doubt for a moment that its effect is exactly the reverse of that which it is intended to produce. We will say nothing of the gross idea inculcated by the spectacle of a murderer being prepared for heaven in a few hours by the chaplain. That is but one of many other startling inconsistencies which beset capital punishment. The chief question is as to the influence of a public execution in deterring others from committing the crime of murder. The review of a few well-known facts ought to be sufficiently convincing. Every murderer in these days of extensive publicity becomes for the time being, and often for long after he pays the penalty of his crime, a sort of hero. No individual in the country was more thought about at the beginning of this week than WILLIAM YOUNGMAN. Twenty thousand people were present to see him hanged, and perhaps a hundred thousand more would have been present, if they could have made it convenient. Hundreds of thousands impatiently waited for the newspapers to know if he had made a confession, and in what manner he had died. For weeks, until the culminating point of his celebrity on the roof of Horsemonger-lane gaol, this murderer was one of the leading topics of conversation. He was the talk of family circles, the subject of enquiry in Courts of Law, a theme of discussion in every newspaper, an object of solicitude

to Ministers of State, and even to the Crown itself. Is there nothing for morbid, untutored minds to envy in such notoriety? We see on every occasion how little impression is made on the mob by an execution—how little impression for good. May we not, if we inquire, as readily discover what is the impression for evil. The highest thought called forth in the bosom of that multitude by the spectacle of the murderer's expiation is, "May I die as game as he." There is no horror expressed by this reckless mob; no hope whispered that they may never be led to commit such a crime; there is not even to be discovered a symptom of pity either for the criminal or his victims. It is a spectacle which moves the heart only to harden it.

The revelations of the police courts afford constant evidence of the demoralising influence of executions, and of the emulation excited by the deeds of notorious criminals. How often do we hear of wives threatening husbands and husbands threatening wives in language something like this—"I'll serve you as PALMER served COOKE," or "I'll do for you as MANNING did for O'CONNOR," or "I'll swing for you one of these days." Here, it will be observed, the crime is contemplated not alone as an act of vengeance, but also as a means of attaining notoriety. In the eyes of the criminal class—the class that makes crime a profession—a public execution can have little terror. They know that detection does not always follow guilt. They have a chance of escape, and if the worst comes to the worst they will have the satisfaction of being talked about, prepared for heaven, and launched into eternity in the presence of some thousands of spectators.

This is by no means a question of humanity. The only other mode of punishment for murder—that of solitary confinement for life—is far less humane than the gallows. The rope is positive mercy, since the culprit who confesses his crime and expresses himself penitent, is assured that the steps of the scaffold are the gateway of heaven.

The solitary dungeon, on the other hand, is the most unrelenting vengeance. It is torture, degradation, infamy. How different would have been the impression left upon the minds of the lawless mob who surrounded the gallows on Tuesday, if, instead of witnessing the execution of the murderer, they had been told that the criminal had been removed to some dungeon, there to live out his life in darkness and in solitude. Were such the punishment for the crime of murder, there would be no idea of heroism in connection with the culprit; there would be no hope of distinction by attracting thousands to the foot of the gallows; no opportunity of exciting sympathy or admiration by "dying game."

THE RAILWAY MASSACRE AT HELMSHORE.

WE are again startled this week by one of those gigantic railway collisions now unhappily so common. Accidents we cannot call them, inasmuch as the cause is generally traceable to gross negligence and want of common presence of mind on the part of the railway officials, when the greatest care and forethought is required. Had the officials of the East Lancashire Railway on Tuesday morning been "good men and true," no such deplorable event as that we now proceed to detail could possibly have occurred.

On Monday afternoon, from 2,500 to 3,000 persons were conveyed from Colne, Blackburne, Burnley, Church Accrington, Haslington, Helmsore, and Ramsbottom to Manchester, to witness some fête or wake at the Belle-vue Gardens. These trains (for there were three) the *Manchester Guardian* states, were composed of some old yellow Chester and Birkenhead carriages, and are lightly constructed for that line, and not at all adapted for heavy excursion traffic. The three trains started on the return journey from the New Bailey Station at Manchester, between eleven and half-past eleven on Monday evening; the first train reached its destination in safety, the second train, with some thirty odd carriages, containing about 1,000 passengers, reached Helmsore Station at 12.45 a.m., of Tuesday. Up to this time, all was right. It is said, although we scout the idea, that after the train had stopped, and at its starting again, the breaks were taken off and that the expansion of the buffers caused the connecting chains or links to snap asunder, and this was immediately followed by the side or preventor chains also giving way. The Helmsore Station is on an incline, stated to vary from 1 in 42 to 1 in 78; down this incline, towards Manchester, went the detached portion of the train, some 14 or 16 carriages, with 500 passengers; at first they moved but slowly, and at no time more than at a brisk walking pace. One guard ran to the moving mass, and put on his break. There was another break, but no guard to put it on, he being engaged attending to the passengers who had previously alighted; after running down the incline 400 yards, the detached carriages met the third excursion train running up the incline at the rate 15 miles an hour. The collision was terrific. The engine and three carriages comingling in one mass of splinters of carriages and mangled human beings. While this little backsliding journey of 400 yards was taking place, and previous to the collision, we learn that a Mr. Shaw, a traffic superintendent of the line, who was riding in the front or non-detached portion of the train, got out, and mounting the engine, crossed to the other line and steamed off towards the advancing train in hopes of stopping it, but was too late, the mischief being done before he got to the spot. The result of all this splendid exhibition of carelessness was 10 if not 11 killed, 22 broken legs, and some 45 others more or less seriously injured.

Now, we candidly ask the directors of the East Lancashire Railway, can all this be justified? First of all, in the face of such a lesson as was read to all railway officials by the accident two years ago at Round Oak, between Wolverhampton and Worcester, all the

circumstances of which are so like this affair, Excepting the carnage (which is now much greater), that one is almost led to fancy the Round-Oak tragedy was only a rehearsal of this the great massacre of all.

Reviewing the whole of the details of this affair at Helmsore we are led to enquire whether the driver did not start his engine with a violent tug, as engine drivers are very apt to do, particularly if out of temper from a late journey, or after hours. We know, from personal observation, that engine men have their tempers, and do show off their airs, and put on full steam and whirl the driving wheels round, and bang, bang, snap, snap, goes the train, and chain after chain undergoing a severe test. The proper way to start a long heavy train is gently at first, and after all is in motion then to put on the steam and go a-head. Again, after the occurrence had taken place, why did not Mr. SHAW, or the Helmsore Station-master, order some *scotchies* or *sprags* under the wheels of the slowly moving train; these would, if judiciously applied, have stopped the train at the expense of only a little jolting to the passengers; again, if Mr. SHAW could find time to disengage the engine from its train, go through the operation of shunting to the up-line and run a little way, and as is stated knocking down some of the escaped passengers, query, could he not have gone with his engine after the runaway on the same line, and hooked on again; for at a walking pace anything can be done on a railway by properly trained railway men. There is a regulation of the Board of Trade, that railway companies shall erect, and maintain two *distance signals* at each station. The signals being placed 500 yards from the station, one on the up, and the other on the down line; and the railway regulations generally *prohibit drivers from passing these distance signals where a red lamp ought to be* when another train is in the station; the object being to keep all trains outside the station over 500 yards, so as to prevent a train being overtaken at a platform. Now this train only ran back 400 yards, consequently 100 yards within a distance signal the collision took place, whereas if the third train had stopped at the 500 yards' signal, the only collision (if one at all), would have been the runaway carriages with a momentum of only a run of only 500 yards running into a standing engine, probably resulting in nothing more than a severe shaking of the passengers. It may be said there were no such distance signals. Then, we ask, why are there not, and why does not the Board of Trade enforce their adoption?

Another query is, why were the guards away from the train, and why was one assisting passengers to alight from a train *after the train had been started*? Why were these trains allowed to run so close after each other? Why does the Board of Trade allow this?

Why were there three break carriages and only two guards? or why was not Mr. SHAW himself on the platform superintending the movements and seeing all were doing their duty, instead of his being in the carriages? Why are not the side chains enabled to hold the train together, even if the patent screw connections do give way? These side chains are also called preventers; what do they prevent? or of what service are they if they do not perform this service? The patent screw connections are made of various weights; consequently the heaviest are the strongest. Why do not the Board of Trade enforce the use of those of sufficient *tested* strength, and why not test these chains and be as particular about their quality, as the Admiralty is over Trotman's anchors and the chain cables of her Majesty's navy? Surely 3,000 excursionists deserve as great protection from the Government as 300 or 400 souls on board an East India ship. We hope the Government inspector, coroner, and jury will not fail to sift this catastrophe to the bottom, and that the conclusion will be more to the public satisfaction than that of the Round Oak accident, two years since.

EXAMINATIONS AND FAILURES.

THERE are, now-a-days, many kinds of the first, and reasons for the latter. A report in one of the daily papers, a week or two back, under the head of "Woolwich Examinations," and giving a somewhat unfavourable account of the general result of the last of these, may make a few remarks not unreasonable. There were at least half-a-dozen heads of study, on all of which the reports of the examiners were not very creditable to the establishment. The examiners were, evidently, most thoroughly dissatisfied with the general standard of attainment. This certainly ought not to be the case now, when the minds of the whole youth of the nation may be said to be set on making adequate preparation for these proofs. We believe that there may be special reasons why Woolwich, though generally, it must be confessed, greatly improved, may not show to the highest advantage on such occasions. The fact is, that the youth of that establishment have been very much in the practice of regulating their standard more by their notions than by their powers or duties, and of making a dead set against those of their own number who would be, as they are pleased to think, industrious "over much." Some time ago, a flagrant instance of this was mentioned to us by a clergyman, the uncle of one of the students; the boy entered young, had a thorough love for study, and capacity far above the average, which he finally proved by passing through the College in an unusually short period, and gaining "Engineers" in spite of persecution. He was spending his holidays with this uncle above alluded to, who, by-the-bye, was an Oxford tutor, and very anxious for his nephew's success, and well knew both his talent and industry. Strange to say, during the whole vacation the boy was resolutely idle, and no inducement could persuade him to take into his hands any book in the slightest degree con-

connected with his studies. This seemed so strange, that the uncle was thoroughly determined to penetrate its reason, and, with the greatest difficulty, extracted the confession that the boy had been forced to bind himself under the most solemn oath that during the holidays he would not touch a book that could in the slightest degree contribute to his success in examination. Thus, the pupils had made, at their own good pleasure, a law of idleness to prevent the ambitious or the industrious from gaining a march upon the indolent. We have heard again, only very recently, that a system of persecution is carried on against those who choose to study, as it is called, out of hours. An *esprit-de-corps*, and a bad and false one, is thus founded and maintained by ill-conditioned *faineants* and red-tapists in embryo, and the credit of the establishment is thus, in some measure, at their mercy and discretion. All this probably is, and certainly ought to be, known to the authorities of the college; but there is no limit to the acquiescence, in many cases, of such authorities in foolish codes ordained by those who ought to know of nothing but submission. Indeed, those who have been brought up at a place, and imbibed its spirit, have often a foolish pride in maintaining its silliest habits and *morale*, instead of making use of their knowledge and experience to correct it. We do not know whether this is the case at Woolwich. Certainly, not many years ago, a disgraceful system of persecuting any professor, grossly, who was remarkable for any ludicrous peculiarity, and not specially endowed with moral courage, was shamefully rife at our civil and military colleges. The system must have been known to the heads of these establishments, and implied a most thoroughly contemptible want of discipline. No public school-master in England would have tolerated for one moment such mischievous nonsense, but would have expelled the offenders by dozens, rather than have permitted its continuance, and any man with a particle of independent spirit would do so at Woolwich, or no matter where, and no matter how closely the offenders might happen to be connected with governors, directors, *et hoc genus omne*.

Irrespective of any sort of persecution, probably in no country in the world is the progress of boys and young men so much impeded as in England by false feeling as to the discreditableness of industry. It has been the cause of more unsuccessful careers than dissipation to which it has often led, and there is scarcely any description of youthful folly to which the public school or university man, when arrived at the age of thirty, looks back with more regret and self contempt than at his own former contempt of industry, and affectation of accomplishing everything by the mere force of talent, with the most trifling amount of application. It is the very pest of some of our highest places of education in England, and though it may rarely crush a first-rate man, it often damages him, whilst it almost and often quite ruins the second-rates by hundreds. This ambition of idleness seems to be a national disease, and must tell unfavourably on the progress of the nation. Certainly, we do not want its malign influence to be aided and increased by any deliberate persecution of the industrious, *ab extra*, and by forces even more formidable than that of foolish and infectious opinion.

And now a few more words with regard to examinations, whether at Woolwich or elsewhere. In these examinations those who stand at the head, or near it, however much they may have been indebted to their schools, or to their instructors; we do not wish to under-rate the debt; have probably been far more indebted to themselves. If the secrets of the examinations were known it would not greatly surprise us to find that some of the very worst, as well as the very best examiners, occasionally were the products of the very same establishment. A thoroughly hard worker (where there is no special and unfair cramming) will take a place of honour, even though not brought up at a school with a shining name, and two or three names at the head of the list would scarcely necessarily prove that a school is a good one. It may seem a hard demand, but the places of education of the last and worst of the candidates, though not necessarily their own names, ought to be made public, and we shall make sure of nothing till this is done. A certain number of good marks are generally required on each subject; it occasionally happens that the lower candidates scarcely obtain one. The nursery gardens where these particular plants are produced, whether called college or the mere little plots of expensive private tutors, require a board to warn parents off the premises.

It is certain that our various kinds of army education in the present days of science ought to be very careful, if we do not want to fall altogether into the rear. Amongst other absurdities, an ordinary Cambridge or Oxford education is allowed to be sufficient qualification for some appointment in the English army; it is difficult to conceive anything more ridiculous, but the *Times*, which has of late industriously affected to take the "upper-class" view of things, apologised for the practice some months ago, in a leader if we mistake not, on the ground that young men in the higher ranks often took a hidden turn in the choice of a profession, and that too much time ought not to be lost in accommodating matters.

CHINA.*

THE author of "a Cruise in Japanese Waters" has composed another little book, equally useful and skilful, on the subject of the Chinese and their relations with Britain, past and future. He has been moved to this principally by the lack of sound information evinced in the late debates upon China. It is, he tells us, an

* *The Past and Future of British Relations in China*. By Captain Shepard Osborn, C.B., Royal Navy. Wm. Blackwood and Sons.

incontestable fact that the opinions of the majority were based not upon historical and commercial data, but simply upon the statements of certain special interests or factions. The main difference, however, appears to lie in an essential contradiction between the ideas of the Chinese and the European. The Eastern is in all senses the opposite of the Western mind. In their books they read from opposite sides, and begin at opposite ends; and in manners it is the same. We are not, therefore, surprised at being told of the divergence that exists between the intellectual and logical processes of John Chinaman and John Bull. Whatever the latter may think, the former will be sure to think differently. This is the uniform experience of Captain Osborn, and the source of all the difficulties between the two empires. He never remembers, he tells us, any European who took an European and rational view of China, who was in the end right. Nor is this strange; for the world is content to be governed with un-reason in China, as elsewhere. She has her traditions, too, which are, or ought to be, obsolete, but which she still indulges herself in thinking to be living forces. She, too, has her dead which are not yet buried, as they ought to be, out of sight. Verily, we might see our own sometimes in the un-reason of China; let it suffice that the Chinese see it well enough, and know how to take advantage of it.

Captain Osborn gives a rather amusing *resumé* of our misunderstanding with the Chinese; and draws also an amusing picture of the Chinese habit of misunderstanding. It is not only in diplomacy, foreign policy, and public points that we are ever thus at variance with Chinamen; but he firmly believes that in all matters, however trivial, we and these people ever differ. He can hardly remember an instance of his going to a Chinaman, and expressing an opinion that the reply of the latter did not commence with the words, "My no think so!" and then, in his way, he generally told you that exactly the contrary would be the case. If the question were a Chinese one, he was generally right, unless force were resorted to. "In short," concludes Capt. Osborn, "the European in China appears to me to be ever singing a song about the Flowery Land and its people, to which the native, standing by, strikes in with a chorus of 'My no think so!'"

Captain Osborn argues for the necessity of force as the only cure for their obstinate ignorance. European diplomacy in China amounts to a just appreciation of what is right, what is to the interest of European civilisation, and then a skilful application of force, not reason. Of the servile state of their minds, one instance may suffice. While sailing up the Peiho River, our author counted at one time no fewer than twenty-five villages in sight from the mast-head, and often ten or fifteen were visible; they were none of them ruined in condition, and all appeared full of inhabitants, stalwart naked laborers, and hosts of noisy healthy children; women were not seen until afterwards, but of them there was no lack. The first arrival of the gunboats and Europeans was a startling event to these poor villagers; but a strange sight for the former was to see the whole male population of a village ranged along the bank, on their hands and knees, and performing "kotow," as their gunboats passed. Besides this form of respect and fear for the *Fanqui*, they each offered a token of peace and amity in the shape of a fowl, and here and there some, more frightened than the rest, shouted to the interpreter, Mr. H. N. Lay, "Hail, great king! Oh, pray be pleased to disembark and reign over us!" One man, at a village, supposed to be a Christian convert, improved upon the proceedings by placing himself on his knees in the position of adoration, and continued so long as H. M. gunboat "Bustard" remained in sight. "He, poor fellow," exclaims the captain, "was no doubt anxious to propitiate the demon that had so suddenly burst upon the quietude of his Chinese village; but the application of his Christian teaching was as original as that of some Sandwich Islanders, whom I heard not many years ago singing the 64th Psalm to soothe the heathen goddess who, they believe, presides over their troublesome volcano."

Enough is here to indicate what might be done with China, were England ambitious of dominion. Her footsteps, wherever she has left them, have indeed been faithful. Witness the city of Shanghai, the queen of Central China. Some sixteen years ago, Captain Osborn was one of some half-dozen English boats' crews, under the Commodore, R. B. Watson, C.B., and part of the fleet of Admiral Sir W. Parker, G.C.B., who first burst upon the Chinese quietude of its existence as the pioneers of a new order of things. Not the most sanguine among them could have anticipated that, in so short a space of time, such a magnificent European colony would have been created. "Who could," he demands, "have foretold that where no foreign keel had ever before floated, an import and export trade in European bottoms, amounting to the value of twenty-six millions seven hundred and seventy-four odd pounds, would now exist, and that, at the same time, the native trade and native craft would show no apparent diminution? Yet it is so. Where a low, unhealthy marsh, dotted with squalid Chinese abodes only then met the eye, such a quay or bund is now seen as would put those who live on the banks of Father Thames to the blush! handsome houses, gardens, yachts, mail-steamers and steam-tugs, a thousand indications, in short, of the wealth and prosperity of a great commercial community. The naval officer, contemplating such a scene of prosperity and wealth, replete with high promise to all the world, suddenly created on the footprints left by his profession, may, at any rate, without egotism, say that its labours have not been in vain; and as I turned my back upon Shanghai towards the first unbroken ground north of the Yangtze, the hope naturally arose that our coming labours might be equally prolific in benefits to Great Britain and China."

Such a vein of reflection naturally directs our attention to the future of China. We have much to get over in the past, not

only in the misapprehension of Chinamen, but in the misconduct of Englishmen. There was a time when the English Government tried to have commercial relations with China, but they utterly failed. British merchants would smuggle, would defraud the Chinese revenue. The Chinese would apply their laws to Englishmen; they seized British subjects as hostages; they threatened our official representative; they fired on our flag, and, finally, forbade us to trade with them, under penalty of death. Wars have since sprung, to a very great extent, from the same causes, mercantile rapacity and Chinese official violence, and Chinese incapacity to think or act as Europeans. Another evil is the fact, that from Chinese official subordinates correct information never reaches the Emperor. If it did, an end would soon be put to the system of peculation, extortion, and petty tyranny, by which such officials existed, and by which they, each in turn, hoped to amass a fortune. Moreover, heeding only their peculiar interests, a large mass of the European mercantile community in China were averse to such relations with the Court of Peking as would compel us to place our trade relations upon a really healthy footing. With few honourable exceptions they opposed the resident minister in Peking, extension of open ports, and assistance to the Chinese Government in checking fraud upon their customs. And thus we have been involved in three wars with China, and endless acts of violence against Chinese officials.

What a picture, on both sides, of the corruption of human nature? West or east, both were alike transgressors. The affair of the Peiho River, however, crowned a series of acts of imperial duplicity with one of treachery, not to be paralleled perhaps out of China. Yet England has been in no hurry to resent the insult. This slackness to avenge a defeat is not without injury. "With a Chinaman, as with any other Eastern, delay in acting against him, when he assumes a hostile position, does not increase the chance of his taking a more enlightened view of the irrational nature of his own proceedings, but merely confirms him in his own folly, and he considers your forbearance to arise from fear or hesitation." The Court of Peking, meanwhile, has naturally treated our diplomatists with scorn. Unfortunately, too, our leading mercantile firms in China abetted the obstructive factions, being equally opposed to the general opening up of China, and thus arrayed themselves against the interests of Great Britain, and against the treaty of Tientsin. Our weakness, in regard to China, consists in our being a house divided against itself. Hence the difficulty felt by Government; and, perhaps, the delay in taking those active measures which must at last be resorted to. We are at home, indeed, the victims of a base monopoly, established by our own countrymen.

Captain Osborn has well argued this point, and rightly shewn the enormity of the offence. It is the objections and the influence of the founders of this monopoly "which have alarmed the Foreign Secretary of Great Britain, and which at this moment threaten to sacrifice the interests of the manufacturer and consumer at home to the vested rights of the exporters from China." He thinks, however, that they will not succeed in the end, and that the "sound good sense of this country will outride eventually all their jog-along theories." In the course of his argument, he puts a case. "The tea that the wife of the poor English labourer pays 2s. 10d. or 3s. a pound for—and even at that price it is adulterated with every abomination under heaven—sells on the spot where it is produced at 80 cash per catty, or in rough terms 3d. a pound English. Who is it, he demands, that takes the remaining 2s. 6d. for delivering a pound of tea at our doors? Is it the mandarin, the merchant, or Mr. Gladstone? "One thing is certain, that the half-crown does not go into the hands of the poor Chinese tea-farmer, and that it comes out of the hard-earned wages of the English labourer, or starving half-pay officer." To remedy all this evil, our author argues that the Court of Peking should be summarily punished for its late perfidy, that we should insist upon our right of having a representative at Peking, who shall communicate directly with the prime minister or sovereign; and, lastly, that we should give all countenance and support to the establishment of the new-raised Chinese and European Boards of Customs in China. Every clause in the Treaty of Tientsin ought to be exacted to the full extent.

An armed exploration of the sea-board and interior of China is needed, if China is to be opened, and our import trade to China to become as flourishing as the export trade from China. Not until England appeared as a belligerent did European civilisation progress in the face of Chinese exclusiveness. It was to the strong arm of the executive that Western nations were indebted for this extension of trade to the five ports, and for our increased knowledge of that Empire; it was to the strong arm of the executive, not to the diplomatist, and not to the persuasions or enterprise of merchants or missionaries then resident in Canton, that Great Britain is indebted for her present revenue derivable from China. The whole life of the Chinese is so totally absorbed in temporal interests, that it is merely materialism put in action. Hence, their indifference to any logic but the stern logic of facts and force, and their want of susceptibility to religious impressions. War with the Chinese, in future, must cease being a solemn farce, and become a terrible reality. They will then soon learn to think alike with ourselves, and condescend to the proper measures for the mutual good of both countries.

DRAWING-ROOM SORROWS.*

WE are indebted for this phrase to the book, the title of which we subjoin. It is a small, but decidedly good book, addressed to a young married wife, and at the commencement, warning her that the

realities of matrimony will break in, and, perhaps, jar with the idealities of courtship; and giving such advice under the circumstances as is most expedient. Too much of fancy, of feeling, of passion, however delightful for a time, will not last for "a time, times, and half a time." It is the more sober view of things that wears longest. Personal and perpetual homage must not be exacted from the husband, however willingly rendered it may be by the lover. That wife is mistaken who thinks that a husband worth having will continue to be enslaved by his feelings. These lessons come with all the more force, as they proceed from the pen of a lady. She reasonably objects greatly to the flimsy mode of education in which women are usually reared, and which will not bear the rude touch of actual life. Friends of both sexes will probably be possessed by the husband, and these will excite groundless jealousies in a wife whose mind is ill-regulated, and who foolishly expects to be her husband's idol to the end of the chapter. We repeat that these admonitions, proceeding from a female source, have great cogency and weight.

Our authoress in her argument uses analogy with advantage. She detects a correspondence between music and religion, which she identifies somewhat after this fashion. Education in both is generally superficial. She tells her correspondent that the latter is in some sort a musician, loves music, plays pleasingly on the piano, and might, with her taste and genius, have reached high excellence as a performer if she would have borne the discipline necessary to that end; might, in a word, have become an Arabella Goddard. In the days of her pupillage, under good Mr. Dash, she tried for a quarter of an hour, or so, to practise her musical exercises; but, soon wearied, her eyes would rest upon one amongst them that looked easier than the rest, and, perhaps, it was prettier, more simple, and altogether what would tell better to learn by rote and please a drawing-room audience; amongst which few know, and still fewer care, how intense and unrelenting must be the labour to master those of a more difficult character. Much applauded for this easy victory, her correspondent, however, was not altogether happy under the praise; because she was conscious that if her wandering admirers knew as much of the matter as she did, they would see that she was less deserving of praise for her pains, than of censure for her want of them. Resolution would follow on this to produce what real practice would put it into her power to exhibit, and for a day or two would be persevered in, and so far convince her that she really possessed the power to triumph over all obstacles. But other objects would then interfere,—objects of a more facile and enticing character, and requiring less labour; and away went the exercises, and all chance of acquiring the excellence of Arabella Goddard.

And thus, also, in religion, our fashionably educated young lady regards only its shewy externals, not its inner sense. That this inner sense must be believed in before it can be obeyed, she will as readily grant as that two and two make four; but has she any idea of what believing in it comprises? Seldom has her religion been of the kind that turns inward for its manifestations, which it must do in order to become a living and a growing thing, and to produce the sentiment called faith. Little of a living principle can she find stirred into activity by Sunday visits to church; yet in these visits, for the most part, does all her religion consist. She may there listen to powerful sermons, and indulge in the tenderness of devotional feeling, but the impressions thus made have about the same vitality of fact in them, in so far as her religious state is concerned, as her musical condition possesses. She "can play very nicely all the pretty and agreeable music she knows, and which she has picked up as easily as she could gather a flower out of the garden; but her ability goes no further. Why? not because it is not there, but because it had never been developed by the labour and continuous attention requisite for that purpose."

There is something Socratic in this kind of teaching. Our authoress then goes on to tell a story of an old couple who read daily together the lessons of the day, but without the routine practice producing any effect on their moral temper or mental discipline. She regards life as a condition of education, and accordingly is disposed "to submit rationally and willingly to pain and disappointment."

Lessons on the folly of unguarded speech, and the beneficial influence of silence, next follow. Misplaced confidences are fatal. Better it is to practice patience, than to seek such consolation. Next, the relations that a mistress should bear to her servants are fully entered into. These remarks cannot fail of being highly serviceable to new-married people. Our relations to the world, with all its dissatisfying conditions, are then treated. In this portion of the book, we find some criticism on the poet Keats, which we cannot but consider as too austere, and even perhaps misdirected. But, to counterbalance this defect, there are some speculations on life and death, together with "the great mystery of human discontent and misery which are really beautiful."

Some practical directions as to the duties of mothers towards their offspring will, we should think, be found of much value. But the author recurs evermore to her leading arguments—the relation of wife and husband. There will come a time when the ideal of the former is no longer realized in the latter; and the signal soon arrives that the said time is at hand when the lady must abdicate the power to which she has been accustomed. This signal, perhaps, consists in a slight fault-finding with the viands provided for dinner. This is a trying position, verily. "To descend from the pedestal on which the imagination of a lover had placed it, and to behold the deification which had been such a voluntary offering, that it was really excusable to reckon upon its duration, thus threatened with extinction in the mire of an appetite for savoury dishes,"—all this is

* *The Real and the Ideal*. By the Author of "Visiting my Relations," &c. Richard Bentley.

truly mortifying, and very "exciting to irritable feelings." As feeding a false ideal, the author considers the constant reading of novels a fatal occupation for a married woman. No quality of the mind requires such wise guardianship as that of the imagination. Among the vagaries of the fancy, begetting a false faith, as well as a false ideal, the writer includes spirit-rapping, table-turning, "and the rabble-roust of contrivances by which cunning impostors trade upon a deep spiritual instinct in human nature." On the subject of prayer, too, she has some sensible observations. Her own views on these topics, it may be stated, are somewhat mystical.

The writer, however, condescends to common things, and draws on the experience of a long life for particular directions on particular occasions. She is, for instance, decidedly against crinoline, and has a word or two with *Punch* about that important article of modern female dress. The satirists of the day, in her opinion, deal with the prominent follies of the female sex in a way exceedingly wrong. The errors of the sensible part are likely to correct themselves, and it is only the vain and foolish that are the butts of criticism. The latter, women of shallow minds, are ambitious of distinction: hence "the being held up to notice for their extremes in crinoline, or any other foolish fashion, is quite a sufficient stimulus to go on with such extravagant doings." Our authoress thinks little of *Punch* laughing at them, so long as he does not pass them by unobserved, and believes that if nothing were said about crinoline, it would fade away with other absurdities, and, like them, would soon die a natural death. We commend this little, well-written book to the perusal of every lady, as one of the best manuals for female conduct extant.

RECENT NOVELS.*

THE writings of Judge Halliburton, so celebrated for their drollery, raciness, and inexhaustible humour, will, as long as there are free hearts capable of appreciating and enjoying a good, sound, unobjectionable joke, told with all the gusto and embellishment of a lively and unrivalled fancy, retain their place in public estimation. Few modern writers have been able to excel, or even to equal, our redoubtable Sam Slick in power, ingeniousness, and variety of incident and character. He enters into his subject with a *bonhomie* and hearty goodwill, which carries us along in the current of his quaint and ludicrous asseverations, and that with a force which makes resistance on our part not an assumed, but a real, impossibility. The pungency of his wit is all the more remarkable that he never allows it to degenerate into coarse, personal satire on individual weaknesses and peculiarities; through all his brilliant sallies, and keen, truth-speaking observations on human nature in general, he preserves a purity of thought, and a delicacy of feeling, which completely redeems his works from the accusation (too often brought with justice against writers of his class) of bitter, acrimonious, and biting railery; he never offends against the good taste or wholesome prejudices of his reader; but contrives both to instruct and entertain him with racy, humorous, good-natured anecdotes of men and manners, always handling his subject in such a manner as is best calculated to cause either irritation or annoyance, and thus his works have become universally and deservedly popular. Perhaps one of the best of this author's productions, the pages of which lie open on our table as we write, is "The Old Judge; or, Life in a Colony," being a series of chapters illustrative of the author's experiences in Nova Scotia, redolent of that genuine mirth, real knowledge of life, and fascinating volatility of feeling, for which Judge Halliburton is so justly celebrated. We are here introduced into the midst of the most stirring and uproarious scenes, and presented to an almost endless variety of fabulous personages, all of whom are severally types of some eccentric genus of human nature, with which the author has at different periods of his life made himself familiarly acquainted. The narrative is well sustained from the commencement to the end of the volume, the merriment of the reader never being allowed to flag by any dull, uninteresting dissertations upon dry subjects. The anecdotes, which are freely dispersed throughout the book, are told with the greatest smartness, liveliness, and ingenuity. Among these may be noted the manner in which the lawyer floored the adversary of his client, a conceited fisherman, standing up heroically as the champion of his trade, and adroitly made him falsify his own testimony, by putting to him the simple question "How many fins has a cod?" The pleasantries of Sam Slick, however, are so well known to the public, that it is not necessary for us to go more specifically into the details of the present volume.

"A Wife to Order," a tale translated from the German, must be considered as a work of considerable merit, though the characters and incidents are somewhat too much confused and huddled together to render the story as effective as it might doubtless have proved under some more simple mode of treatment. This is, however, no fault of the translator, being rather a blemish in the construction of the original production, and is therefore attributable to Frederick Gerstaecker, and not to Mr. Edmund Routledge. The story, notwithstanding the defect above mentioned, possesses much to interest and even to excite the reader, being full of strong dramatic situations, and exhibiting every now and then considerable skill in the delineation of character; the language is, moreover, easy and graceful, and adapted both to illustrate and enliven the incidents of the novel.

The Old Judge; or, Life in a Colony. By the Author of "Sam Slick," &c. London: Hurst and Blackett. *A Wife to Order.* By Frederick Gerstaecker. Translated by Edward Routledge. London: Routledge, Warne, and Routledge. *Tales from Blackwood.* Vol. 19. Edinburgh and London: William Blackwood and Sons.

The following is a brief outline of the plot. A rich merchant, by name Van Roeken, a resident of Java, being in want of a wife, and not finding any lady native to the place in whom he can take a fitting interest, despatches an order to a friend in Germany to procure for him that very necessary article of domestic comfort, and to remit the same as speedily as possible to his home in the above-mentioned Dutch colony. A young lady, Dora Bernold, deprived of the necessary means of subsistence by the death of her parents, and the desertion of her lover, in a moment accepts the invitation and proceeds forthwith to the place appointed. During the period of the young lady's transit from one country to another, which is necessarily a long one, our capricious hero injudiciously falls in love and marries, and, consequently, upon the arrival of his first-bespoken German bride, finds himself in a somewhat awkward position. The ex-intended bridegroom, however, being somewhat of a cowardly and vacillating disposition, throws all the responsibility of breaking the disastrous tidings to the disappointed maiden upon his friend and partner-Wagner. The latter gentleman, who is represented to us through, out the volume as a very model of honour, rectitude, and conscientious principle, deprecates in no very honied terms the folly of his friend, but at the same time does all in his power to retrieve him from the consequences of his error. Ultimately Wagner, being deserted by the fair one on whom he had previously bestowed his affections, consoles himself for his loss by offering his hand to the victim of his friend's inconsiderate rashness, and the book closes upon the dramatis personæ in a manner most satisfactory to all parties, including the reader.

In this slight analysis, we have made no mention of a most skilful and interesting underplot, which is, perhaps, the most exciting portion of the book; but it is too complicated to admit of any mere outline of its leading characteristics.

We have also upon our table the tenth volume of "Tales from Blackwood." This number is equal to the preceeding ones, and contains several startling and effective stories, told in language at once powerful and vigorous, and the incidents of which are all wrought up to the very highest pitch of excitement. "Antonio di Carara," the "Vision of Cagliostro," and "The Haunted and the Haunters," are severally perfect masterpieces of ingenious construction, and it would be impossible for any reader, having once plunged into the midst of one of these exciting fictitious narratives, to withdraw his eyes from the pages before arriving at its conclusion. "Antonio di Carara," which is placed at the commencement of the present volume, is a tale of Padua, laid in the time of the Emperor Francis, in which the chief characteristic of the Italians, revenge, and the lengths to which they will go in order to gain their darling object, is subtly and vividly delineated. "The Haunted and the Haunters" is a tale of such intense, thrilling, and ghostly interest, that we will not anticipate the reader's enjoyment of it. These tales have already become popular, and bid fair from their continued and increasing merit to retain their place in public estimation.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

SPECIAL.

HANOVER, SEPT. 4, 1860.

THE Federal Diet being about to prorogue, some of its members have brought forward a number of questions which appear to be intended, according to the review of the *Wachen Schrift*, to prevent the nation, during the recess, from becoming oblivious to the existence of the august assembly. Prospects are held out of the federal fortresses being armed upon a regularly concerted system; and that the rifle guns which are to be adopted by the army of the Confederation, will be constructed of one and the same calibre. Praiseworthy intentions, which, carried into effect, will obtain the applause of the whole nation. At present the calibre of the firearms of the several states is as various as are the coins. A motion has been made by the Middle States and their adherents for the issue of a general law of patents. This question is of itself worthy of attention; but at the present time the discussion of it makes a similar impression, as if a man, in expectation of an earthquake, were to make provision for the safety of his tea-cups. While, owing to the most glaring evils and deficiencies in the Federal Constitution, the independence of the whole nation is at stake, it is simply ridiculous to imagine that the Diet can hoodwink the people by such petty legislation, the more as all the world is aware that, constituted as the Diet is, it is powerless for good; for, not to mention the difficulties arising from the feudal principles, which animate it as a body, it is a vital aim of some members, particularly of Denmark, to thwart every measure that might lead to unity of action.

The resolution of the Danish Government announced so early as last May to levy the taxes in the Duchies of Holstein and Lauenburg, in defiance of the decision of the Diet, given on the 8th of last March, to the effect that the Danish Government was not to levy any taxes without the consent of the Provincial Assembly, has been carried out; for the budget of 1860-61 was published and acted upon in both Duchies in the course of last month. This bold proceeding, to which the Danish authorities have doubtless been encouraged by the silence of the Federal Diet during the three months which have elapsed since the declaration of the intention and its execution, has met with some opposition now, not from the presiding Power in the Diet, Austria, nor from the leader of Germany, par-excellence, Prussia, but from quiet and modest Aldenburg. Whether the threatening motion of so petty

a State as Aldenburg will produce any effect at Copenhagen remains to be seen; nobody expects it to mean anything more than a bone thrown to occupy and quiet the howling press. The protests sent up to the Federal Diet by the chief cities of the Electorate of Hesse against the present Constitution, and in reservation of that of 1831, have been supported by Prussia and some of the lesser States entered on the records. The Hessian people have testified their hearty concurrence in the protests of the cities of Cassel and Hanau by the result of the elections for the Hessian Representative Assembly, and it is almost certain that the Assembly will unanimously vote the adoption of these protests. Although this may prove but of little immediate practical benefit to the Liberal cause, the Hessians will have given another bright example of their resolute and consistent spirit. The gentry and working-classes, or rather handicraftsmen, for all men are more or less working men, are entirely of one mind in Hesse. We hear of no such distinctions as feudalists and democrats, so common in Prussia and other States of Germany.

The Teplitz meeting is still the subject of discussion. The most positive assurances of the journals and correspondents who are presumed to be the best instructed in the secrets of the Cabinets of Austria and Prussia, that neither verbally nor in writing has any agreement been made by the two Powers, excite doubts even amongst those who have the least reason to fear such an agreement. The assertion that Prussia has suffered herself to be entangled in the revolution of Italy is too pregnant of consequences to be implicitly credited and acted upon without the strongest proof. It is admitted by all parties that another attempt by France to acquire in Europe that military and political preponderance claimed for her as a national right by Louis Napoleon would, if sought to be obtained by force of arms, necessarily lead to the conjoint declaration of war of Austria and Prussia, and almost certainly the other States of Germany. This has been settled at Teplitz; but, except perhaps the fanatics of the feudal party, nobody imagines that Prussia has pledged herself to employ her forces in support of the principle of legitimacy, the Papedom, or the maintenance of Austrian rule in Italy. The greatest fear of the Liberals, however, still is, that Prussia, confiding in the good understanding between herself and Austria, may discountenance, if not boldly oppose, all measures of progress in civil liberty. Time will tell, but up to the present I do not see in what way Prussia has encouraged the advance of Liberal views in Germany. The Hessians and Holsteiners have done more for freedom in this country than Prussia.

The Saxon Government, following the example of Oldenburg, has framed a new law respecting the handicrafts, based upon freedom of labour, by which the *effete* and abominable guild system is to be set aside. In Prussia, on the other hand, the Minister for Commerce appears to be in doubt whether to make labour free, or to restore the guilds. It is plain that the Prussian Government will not venture upon any liberal measure till it has been well tried, and found to answer in other countries as like to herself as possible.

The National Association will hold a general meeting this month, at Cologne. Up to the present from 300 to 350 gentlemen have notified their intention to attend; the most of these will be delegates from the branch associations, established in almost every town of the country. The Mannheim Branch Association will move at the general meeting a resolution, to the effect that the National Association will adopt into its programme the introduction of the Imperial Constitution (*Reichsverfassung*) of 1849. The Nuremberg branch has alike resolved to vote for such a resolution in case it should be moved, but declines to take the lead. On the other hand the Frankfort branch will vote against the *Reichsverfassung* of 1849, and for the retention of the present programme, which has been already fully explained in your columns. I make this mention of the National Verein—not that I anticipate any results from it, but merely to show that it is still in existence. I have already expressed doubts of its being able to maintain itself, but I shall be very glad to find myself a false prophet. The intentions of the National Association are nobly patriotic and liberal, and deserve the best wishes of every man; but, seeing the wilful apathy of the people, one cannot help thinking that the exertions of the brave and intelligent leaders of the movement are being thrown away.

The rumour goes, that an arrangement has been made between Austria and Prussia, according to which as soon as the two powers have resolved to declare a federal war, and consider it inadvisable to place their armies under the command of the General selected by the Diet, the relations of their respective armies towards each other shall be settled by a special agreement. The Diet will then be at liberty either to abolish a part of its military laws or to let such part as is unsuited to the period fall into abeyance. Bavaria, it is said, has promised Austria to occupy Tyrol in case GARIBALDI should attack Venetia. This would be unfortunate for Germany, as it would doubtless prove the commencement of a series of separate alliances which quickly lead to foreign interference, and at last to foreign separate alliances.

According to the latest calculations the Prussian military force, after the complete re-organisation of the army, will comprise 780,000 men. The field army alone numbers 389,000, and the first of the landwehr or fencibles 241,000 men.

The town of Breslaw has sent 1,000 francs as a first contribution to GARIBALDI in support of the war against Naples. This is the first German town that has given evidence of sympathy by a pecuniary contribution for the cause of freedom in Italy, and it will most pro-

bably be the last; for though the Germans evince great admiration for the Italian hero, they display little inclination towards the Italians, or sympathy with their glorious struggle; indeed, should the Italians succeed in becoming a free and united people, the Germans could hardly help feeling themselves degraded, particularly when they reflect upon all that their professors have written as to the physical and intellectual superiority of the Teutonic over the Latin and other races.

MISCELLANEOUS WORKS.

Fraser's Compendium of the English and Foreign Funds. London: Effingham Wilson. Edinburgh: A. and C. Black. Dublin: M'Glashan and Gill. 1860.

This work contains the fullest information respecting the debts and revenues not only of Great Britain, but of all nations—banks, railways, mines, joint-stock companies, and, in a word, every description of security negotiable in London, as well as the laws and regulations of the Stock Exchange. The edition before us is the seventh, corrected to the present time by Mr. P. L. Simonds.

Facts bearing on the Death of Reginald Channell Cancellor. By Thomas Hopley. T.S.S. London: Wertheim & Co. 1860.

These "facts," by tending to show that the boy Cancellor, who, it will be remembered, was beaten to death by his schoolmaster, Thomas Hopley, was labouring under abnormal conditions of the brain and nerves, shew that, consequently, the cruel treatment to which he was subjected, and of which he died, was totally inapplicable to the case. His stolidity and obtuseness were as obviously a disease of the brain and nerves, as biliousness is of the liver. The lash might make a person on the verge of bilious fever jump out of bed and devour a dish of bacon and cabbage with alacrity, and it would be no more absurd to suppose that the flogging had cured the patient, than to suppose that the torture inflicted upon Reginald Cancellor was suited for changing the state of his brain and nerves, and converting stupidity and dulness into genius and acumen.

England's Policy in China. Hongkong: Shortrede & Co. 1860.

The Chinese question, in the opinion of the present writer, is whether "England shall elect territorial occupation in China, or a policy founded on mutual interests and cemented by a practical acknowledgment of past errors;" and he is in favour of the latter alternative. He considers that if we displace the present Government, which, he says, has sprung out of the character and needs of the people, France, equally with England, will claim a share of the spoil; America will follow in our footsteps, and Russia will be the chief gainer; but on England will rest the responsibility of destroying a national edifice, which has been the work of forty centuries.

A Selection of Sacred Poetry, &c. Set to Music. Composed and collected by John Henry Mills. London: Hughes and Butler. 1860.

The first half of this little work consists of 30 pages of verses, selected from various appropriate sources, in addition to original compositions. The remainder comprises the music. The author, who is librarian to the London Cambrian Society, dedicates it to the inhabitants of the Principality of Wales.

SERIALS.

Once a Week. Part 14, August. London: Bradbury and Evans. For a judicious blending of "light literature" with instructive reading, this periodical takes the first place among our weekly publications. From the high-class novel down to the "social sketch" of a page or two, everything is of the very first quality in the former department, and the name of Miss Martineau is a sufficient assurance for the excellence of these papers which come within the latter. The illustrations, moreover, are appropriate and well executed by some of the first artists of the day. We give the following extract on "Spiritualism" from a paper signed "John Delaware Lewis," and dated "16, King-street, St. James's." "I can only afford to glance at several other 'manifestations' which took place during the *seance* and which it would be an abuse of the reader's patience to dwell upon at length. Thus a tray was produced which, under the manipulation of the two mediums, shuffled up and down on the surface of the mahogany, and on one occasion tilted up on one end, a performance which I again most distinctly saw to be due to a sharp movement of the fingers on the part of the niece. The spirit of some one's father danced to the air of 'God Save the Queen.' Spirits were ordered to rap on the walls, and inside the piano, which they entirely failed to do, rapping all the time unmistakably under the table, with slight variations of sound. And every time that one of these raps was produced, it was impossible for the younger medium to repress a slight, almost imperceptible, movement of the body, showing plainly that they were caused by her; even if this could for a moment be doubted, after a second request from us that she would leave the table, and suffer us to hear so much as a single rap when she was not there, which she again refused to do. In short, I feel some difficulty in conveying an accurate notion of the extremely clumsy nature of the whole exhibition—far, very far below the performances of a strolling conjuror at a country fair. Those who may consider this statement an exaggeration can easily satisfy themselves (provided they go without any *parti pris*, either on one side or the other, and are only anxious, like myself, to discover the truth), on applying at 21 or 22, Red Lion-street, Bloomsbury, for an interview with the celebrated medium, Mrs. Marshall—and her niece. I write this woman's name in full (perfectly regardless of the 'spirits' which she may summon up for my destruction), and I append my own name and address, from the same sense of duty which has induced me to trouble the Editor of 'Once a Week' with this short article. When we reflect on the number of weak minds which are being still further weakened by attendance on the *seances* of Mrs. Marshall, and others of her class; on the well-authenticated instances of ladies of rank regulating their course of life, and physicking their children, according to the directions of spirits of Red Lion-street manufacture; on the abominable profanity and wickedness of a piece of jugglery by which feeble imaginations are brought to conceive that a dead father, husband, or child, is dancing on the table to an air from the 'Traviata,' it becomes obviously the duty of the sane part of society to stand forth and expose the delusion."

One of Them. By Charles Lever. No. 10, September. London: Chapman and Hall.—The spirit and interest of this work are maintained in the number before us. We commend the following passage to those inclined to disparage America and the Americans:—"If you're going to pick holes in Yankee coats, to see all manner of things to criticise, condemn, and sneer at; if you're satisfied to describe a people by a few peculiarities which are not pleasing to you, go-ahead and abuse us: but if you'll accept hospitality, though offered in a way that's new and strange to you—if you'll believe in true worth and genuine loyalty of character, even though its possessor talk somewhat through the nose—then, Sir, there's no fear that America will disappoint you, or that you will be ill-treated by Americans."

The Leisure Hour. Part CIV. London: 164, Piccadilly, and 56, Paternoster Row.—This is a well illustrated, and well got up periodical. The articles contain information conveyed in a light and pleasing style, and it is not crammed as some serials are with nothing but "time-killing" materials. Some interesting biographical sketches of celebrated men will be found in this publication.

The English Cyclopædia of Arts and Sciences. Part XX. Conducted by Charles Knight. London: Bradbury and Evans.—The present part of this great work opens with the concluding portion of the "Law of Mortality," and completes the 5th volume. It promises when finished to be one of the best publications of the kind that ever issued from the press.

Kingston's Magazine for Boys. No. 19. September. London: Bosworth and Harrison. This is a periodical which carries out the purpose and object expressed in its title, and excellently combines amusement with instruction, making the latter diverting and the former profitable.

Recreative Science, a Monthly Record and Remembrancer of Intellectual Observation. September. London: Groombridge and Sons. This is another of Groombridge's excellent publications. A paper on "Microscopic Preserves," by H. J. Slack, is a very interesting contribution.

Medals of the British Army, and How They Were Won. Part II. London: Groombridge and Sons.—The second part of this work is like the first, devoted to the Crimean campaign, and has an excellent *fac simile* of the French war medal for its frontispiece.

Blind Ursula. by Mrs. Webb. London: Groombridge and Sons. This is a little tale for children, one of a series entitled "Magnet Stories for Summer Days and Winter Nights," extending from p. 185 to p. 228 of the issue.

Lucia's Marriage; or, the Lions of Wady-Araba. London: J. H. and J. Parker. This is one of the series of "Tales for Young Men and Tales for Young Women," noticed from time to time in these columns. The present "story of the Idumean Desert" is written in a pleasing and popular style, and relates to a very interesting historical period. It affords a few hours pleasant reading.

THE PROPOSED NEW COTTON COMPANY, (LIMITED).

THE staple commerce of this country, symbolized by the "wool sack," on which the highest judicial officer known to our constitution takes his seat in the assembly over which he presides, was once confined to the fleece of the sheep. In more modern times, however, the mineral products of England have furnished the raw materials of her most colossal branch of native commerce; while the branch of mercantile enterprise which in magnitude and importance vies with the latter has its sources in and is fostered by the supplies of an exotic growth, not merely alien to our soil, but chiefly derived from regions under the sway of a foreign power. Cotton wool occupies even a more important place now in the trade of England than the wool of the sheep did in by-gone ages, and America has been the great reserve whence the supplies of Europe have been drawn. The advantage, therefore, of cotton cultivation in our Indian territories are too obvious to escape the attention of our capitalists, and the wonder is that the resources which our Eastern Empire presents have not been earlier opened up and utilised to the maximum extent. Such an enterprise efficiently prosecuted would revolutionise our commerce. And we find that an undertaking is in course of being carried out for effecting this great object. Any serious defalcations that may from whatever cause—and causes are plentiful between separate and rival states—take place in the American supply, would produce in this country all the widespread ruin and concomitant disastrous effects of famine, as it would paralyse at one blow half the commerce of our large manufacturing towns, and deprive millions of the means of obtaining bread. But if our raw cotton were supplied by our own colonial possessions, this terrible contingency would be effectually precluded. And that this is easy of accomplishment is proved by the fact that there is more land suited for the production of this plant within the territories belonging to Great Britain than those possessed by any other power in the world. There is no spot on the face of the earth where cotton can be produced under more favourable conditions of cheapness, abundance, and quality, than in India. Australia, again, produces cotton equal in every respect to the best yields of Egypt and the Brazils. It has been computed from reliable data, and by competent authorities, that 25 per cent. per annum would represent the profit within little more than a twelvemonth of the inception of the Company's operations. It is proposed to establish model farms in the best cotton producing districts, the most approved mechanical appliances for cleaning and packing will be put in requisition, modern scientific agricultural processes and implements will be had recourse to, and every species of industrial improvement as well material, as in the direction and management of the concern will be introduced and applied. Under these circumstances the project bids fair to be one of the most important and successful enterprises ever initiated in the whole range of foreign commerce. We see that a meeting on this important matter is to take place on Friday morning next, the 14th inst., at eleven o'clock, at Manchester, the Mayor of that city having placed the Town-hall at the service of the promoters of the project in question.

THE WORKMEN'S VOLUNTEER BRIGADE.

The first parade and drill of this corps took place on Saturday evening in an enclosed paved yard, entered from Botolph-lane, which was kindly afforded by the authorities of the parish for that purpose. Nothing could be more gratifying than the demeanour, appearance, and conduct of the men, and the progress made by them, which was declared by the officers present belonging to various corps to be most remarkable. About 250 men fell in, in two divisions, one, as appointed, at six o'clock, and the other at half-past seven. Captain Cameron Geddes, V.R., and late of the 96th Regiment, who has patriotically lent his services as acting adjutant to the corps, with sergeant-major Holland and sergeants Hinchey and Marborough, of the Tower Hamlets Militia, and assisted by a little staff of volunteer officers, undertook the task of instruction, and performed it most effectively. After each of the drills, the men were marched round, the full volunteer band of the fifes and drums of the regiment, under band-master Farley, playing popular and patriotic airs in the most inspiring manner. As soon as the men were dismissed from parade, they gave three hearty British cheers for the Queen, and three for the adjutant, who had so ably taken the command. The name of Alfred B. Richards, the hon. secretary and originator of the brigade, was then received with loud and protracted cheering. Nine cheers were given for him and the other promoters of the brigade. Captain Geddes addressed the men in true soldierlike style. He exhorted them to remember that they are now soldiers, and to conduct themselves as disciplined men. They no longer formed a mere portion of a London crowd. He told them to continue as they had begun, and to take a pride in their regiment. They might depend upon it, they would speedily equal any corps in smartness and soldierly attributes. Captain Geddes then asked the men if they were pleased with the uniform which the committee had adopted. As this was a volunteer regiment, he said the council wished to consult, as far as possible, the men's own tastes in the outset. Did they like the frock? (Cries of "All! all!") He would show them another cap besides the one which he wore. (No, no! that is the one.) They were all, then, pleased and unanimous? (Yes! yes! Three more cheers for the Queen!) Captain Geddes then told them Mr. Richards would address them (cheers).

Mr. RICHARDS then stepped into the centre. After alluding to the great gratification experienced by the officers present, in the expression of which he cordially joined, he said: Men! this is a proof whether the working men of England are fitted or not to be trusted with arms in their hands for the defence of their Queen, their homes, and the honour of the country. You have come here to-night loyal, earnest, and patriotic, steady in your desire to learn to take part in this great volunteer movement. Without you, without the bone, sinew, and muscle of the land, that movement can never be grounded on a wide and efficient basis. It is this, and this alone which will give security to the empire, and cause England to be respected abroad. That which has taken place here to-night, within the limits of this small and crowded space, will increase and extend until England shall have an army of loyal freemen worthy of her, fit to defend her in arms against the world, and fit to see justice enforced elsewhere, and the rights of humanity respected. On the social, as well as military advantages of discipline, I need not expatiate. I must, however, compliment the officers, and compliment the men upon the manner in which our martial exercise has been inaugurated. You will bear in mind how much depends upon your preserving their order, that attention, that earnest spirit, which without an exception has been exhibited this evening. I say it is surprising as well as gratifying under the circumstances. What corps has made greater progress than you in a single night? It is because you have come here to learn and not to play at soldiers. Persevere, and there will not be a regiment which shall hereafter march before your Queen out of the great army of volunteers, which will receive more hearty applause and warmer cheering than the "Workmen's Volunteer Brigade." No Government, no officials, could they see what has taken place here to-night, could find a pretence for refusing a separate organisation to artisan volunteers. It is impossible that they can be so blind to a proud and patent reality. Let them witness your loyalty, your order—the kind of men who come forward on an occasion like this, and they must welcome you in the only way in which a proud and independent people will volunteer, that is, on a separate and distinct organisation, like the rest. Let me tell you, that brave and distinguished officers, Generals in Her Majesty's service, approve of this branch, which will soon be the main body of the movement. I have laboured in that movement from the first; but I have long looked to this, without which the rest must fail in its development and effect. [Mr. Richards then begged them to continue as they had commenced, and was throughout listened to with attention, and warmly applauded. As he was called on by Captain Geddes to address the men, after the drill of both divisions, we have endeavoured to amalgamate the substance of both speeches in one.] At the conclusion the band played "God save the Queen," the men remaining of course uncovered, and the regiment, headed by the band, still playing, was marched up in perfect order to head quarters, attracting the attention and the applause of numbers of Her Majesty's lieges in the street.

We have been induced to bestow this unusually long report of the first parade and drill of the "Workmen's Volunteer Brigade," in order to show the feeling, the spirit, and the inclination evinced by men who have come forward in the most spontaneous manner to join this brigade, and who are a fair sample, unselected by any means save the opening of an enrolment office and the distribution of a few circulars, of the working class of Great Britain as volunteers. We have done so to calm the apprehensions of Lord Hardwicke, who libelled them, and to remove the crochets of Lord Elcho, who would patronisingly attach a few, in a coarser dress, to his own and other existing regiments, but who does not think the artisans of England have any claim to distinctive recognition in the muster-roll of defence, or are entitled to boast an *esprit de corps*, or to bear as their own separate motto the noble and appropriate words—*Labor omnia vincit*.

RECORD OF THE WEEK.

HOME AND COLONIAL.

Our harvesting prospects began to brighten as last week closed. The novelty of summer days and cloudless skies, gladdened the hearts of millions, and saved the expiring month from being throughout an unseasonable forestalment of November. The Saturday half-holiday movement having been brought to a very satisfactory stage of arrangement the fine weather was taken advantage of by vast numbers, not forgetting the volunteers, who mustered in their strength. At Knowsley-park, the seat of the Earl of Derby, a grand review of the volunteers and a good dinner afterwards, took place. Simultaneously with the favourable change have come reports from all the agricultural districts as to the state of the crops. These interesting and important communications may be summed up by saying, that if the fine weather last, the corn harvest will be above the average; and that even as it is, an average yield may be expected. Of the potato crop we regret to have nothing favourable to communicate.

It is very suggestive to note how things apparently the most dissimilar are indissolubly connected. What possible apparent relation is there between atmospheric conditions and meteorology on the one hand, and the "books of the Governor and Company of the Bank of England" on the other? Yet so much have the latter been regulated by the former during the past season, that the funds have literally risen and fallen with the barometer. On Saturday the money market in the City, as well as the market gardens in the suburbs, became improved entirely through the unexpected novelty of a resplendent sun; consols reaching 93½, and other securities keeping pace with them.

The fine weather having raised the price of stocks, has lowered the price of corn and meat—the one effect being as satisfactory as the other. At Mark Lane, in the opening prices of the week, there was a fall ranging between 2s. and 1s. per quarter in wheat; and in the cattle markets the prices went down from 2d. to 4d. per stone.

The first of September was well adapted for that sport to the "unfledged bipeds" which is death to the partridges. Parliament having gone out shooting, London being out of town, and the world gone abroad, home politics are now mere *vox et priterita nihil*,—only living in the records of the past and the anticipations of the future,—they are, at present, in abeyance, *in nubibus*, that is, locked up in the heads of Her Majesty's ministers and of Her Majesty's opposition. We suppose, however, politicians will go down to their respective localities and crow bravely upon their own—platforms.

With regard to Mr. Lindsay's alleged mission to the United States in reference to the shipping trade, it appears that that gentleman's visit to America is not to be of a strictly official character, although it seems he goes under Governmental auspices, and has been furnished with the official correspondence that has passed between London and Washington on the subject in question. In case of his being successful in bringing the American Government to negotiations, the matter will then be placed in the hands of the British minister on the spot.

The number of wrecks during August exceeded those of the previous month (which sunk to the minimum of 60) by 36, there having been 96 in all. In January there were 229, February 154, March 166, April 133, May 124, June 146; making a total of 1,108.

Mrs. Yates, the actress, and one of the best representatives of that class of characters peculiar to what is called the "domestic drama" that ever trod the boards, died last week at her residence at Camden Town.

Sir Henry George Ward, the successor of Sir C. Trevelyan, as Governor of Madras, died of cholera soon after his arrival. He was the proprietor of the defunct *Weekly Chronicle* newspaper, from its establishment up to 1849, when he went out as Lord High Commissioner of the Ionian Islands.

In the criminal record of the week, forming so important an item in the history of a civilized country, figures a desperate affray between some burglars and the police at Battersea, which occurred about two o'clock on Sunday morning. A gang of six men, being a detachment of the "predatory classes" (supposed to number near 50,000 in London alone—there being three to every policeman), attempted a robbery at Mr. Dives' mill, and five of them, whose names, as given, are Barton, Willis, Cornwall, Mahoh, and Heywood, have been captured, the sixth having, as it was supposed, been drowned in the river. Policeman Baker received nine blows on the head with what is somewhat inappropriately called a "life preserver," and was left for dead. His recovery was considered doubtful.

As a pendant to the "private mission," ascribed to Mr. Lindsay, "The Honorable" Mr. Edwin James (as the French journalist calls him, who exemplifies the saying that we must go abroad to hear news of home), has been, we are gravely assured, deputed to convey the sympathy and encouragement of the British Cabinet to Garibaldi; but this *canard* forthwith had its wings clipped, and was completely "plucked" of all its scintillating plumage, not being left a single feather to fly with.

The mortality of London was slightly on the increase during the week ending 25th August, compared with the previous one, the deaths having risen from 937 to 1,018. The corrected average number, however, being 1,149, it follows that this represents an improvement of no less than 131 on the mean number of the past 10 years.

Simultaneously with the execution of Youngman, for the Walworth murder, comes the news of another atrocious crime perpetrated by a man named Thorpe, who, on Sunday, at the village of Upton, near Pontefract, having quarrelled with Elizabeth Mitchell, a fellow servant, shot her dead with a gun.

The week's record of accidents (though some occurrences so called appear to be misnamed), keeps pace with that of crimes and offences. Between Bury and Manchester two trains were running towards the former place on Tuesday, when the couplings of the first train gave way, and a part of it ran back on the hindmost one, eleven persons being killed, according to the first report, and 100 more or less injured.

From India we learn that the difficulties of collecting the income tax seemed to foreshadow rebellion, in case of that impost being enforced. Discontent prevailed in Oude when the last news left. In the north-west provinces a famine was thought to be imminent. We hear also

that, notwithstanding the proclamation of the English Government, the Governor-General had forbidden the Rajah of Kotah to appoint his successor; and it was rumoured that the stipulations with the dethroned King of Oude, for the support of his family, would be repudiated, and that this had been publicly announced by the representative of the British Crown.

The Prince of Wales having left Quebec, was received at Montreal, on the 24th, with the usual demonstrations of exuberant loyalty, and the day following, laid the first stone of the Victoria Bridge. During one of the salutes fired by the squadron that accompanies the Prince, an accident occurred which involved no less serious results than the blowing to pieces of four sailors.

Mr. F. A. Daviss, the merchant charged with forging a bill for £179, having been finally examined at the Mansion-house, on Wednesday, was committed for trial.

At Bow-street, Miss Pickard, a watch dealer, has been fined £100, and £3 costs, for making a false declaration to the Customs, with regard to a quantity of watches imported by her. This was a prosecution under the new treaty.

Up to a late period, in the week no further light had been thrown on the Road and Stepney murders.

It appears that the Queen will embark at Gravesend for her voyage to Germany towards the end of the present month—24th or 25th.

The Honorable George Windsor Clive has been returned to Parliament as the representative of Lord Powis, who virtually "constitutes the constituency" of the little pocket borough of Ludlow.

Mr. William Tinsley the Publisher of the Strand, has announced a New work, by Blanchard Jerrold, entitled "The Chronicles of the Crutch," also a New and Revised Edition of Dr. Wardrop's Valuable Work, "The Diseases of the Heart."

FOREIGN.

The *Moniteur*, apropos of what many consider Prince Murat's *mal apropos* letter, in which, by professing to repudiate, he has been thought to put in a claim upon the crown of Naples, intimates to the prince that the hope which his letter discloses of one day entering Naples with the sanction and support of France, is altogether in antagonism with the views and sentiments of the French Emperor. Was it Swift who said that in diplomacy a lie is never told except with the intent that you should take it for a truth, nor a truth except with the intent that you should take it for a lie? Prince Murat certainly has not realized the ideal of *ars est eclare artem*, but has failed in practically showing that the only use of language is to conceal thought.

Prince Murat has written a letter protesting against the construction put upon his manifesto by the *Moniteur*. He says what he meant was, that if the universal people called him to the throne, he hoped it would not meet with the disapproval of France any more than the popular wishes, the practical realization of which in other parts of Italy has had the Emperor's sanction.

Reinforcements for the garrison of Rome had been sent off by the French Government as the week opened; when a despatch came to hand appropriately dated from Perugia, late last week, to the effect that Lamoriciere, the "Christian hero" and faithful son of the church, who has so zealously espoused the cause of his infirm and not very amiable mother, had promised the soldiers of the cross under his command, that any towns which might join in the struggle for freedom against the despotism by which they are now crushed, would be given up to them for pillage; but this really seemed too bare-faced and atrocious to be true.

Saturday's news from Naples shewed the Government to be in a state of collapse. Garibaldi had found a fresh coadjutor in general Nunziante, who had joined his standard, together with one of the best officers in the Neapolitan navy, no less a person than the "sea captain" who had shewn such skill and courage during the attack of the *Velocce*. General Bosco and the War Minister Pianelli were the only adherents the king had left. Garibaldi, in person, had advanced to Monteleone; the king's troops either dispersing or joining the army of the people; other troops in the service of the Government which were in the neighbourhood fell back from the scene of action. At Reggio the King's troops were again beaten by the National Guard in a sanguinary contest.

Early in the present week a somewhat startling, though by no means unlooked for or unwished for announcement reached us, *via the Patrie*, to the effect that Garibaldi had intimated to the Annexation Committee, that as a definitive solution of the problem that had to be worked out, he would proceed to Naples by Saturday, and assume the Dictatorship, on behalf of the King of Sardinia. Count Cavour is more than suspected of being unfavourable to Garibaldi's pretensions.

Meanwhile at Rome, General Lamoriciere appeared to be making preparations not merely for the defence of the city alone, but for the surrounding country. He estimates his available forces at 20,000 men.

General Walker, as we learn from advices from Central America, brought by the *Europa*, having landed at Truxillo, captured the place after overcoming the resistance offered by its defenders.

Fuad Pacha's official report, dated 20th August, states that out of the 167 persons up to that time found guilty, 56 had been hanged, and the remaining 111 shot; some of the sufferers belonging to the highest families. Numerous other arrests had taken place, and those convicted were to suffer death. Such as had sentence of hard labour and detention in the fortresses were to be embarked at Beyrout, and sent to Constantinople.

A "complication" seems to have arisen with Turkey, out of the intervention with reference to Syria. One of the protocols of 3rd August was framed apparently in the interest of the Porte to rebut such a construction of the Paris treaty of 1856, as would give the great powers a right of intervention as charged with seeing to the strict and fair execution of the ordinances regulating the position of the Christian population under Turkish rule. The convention which the Sultan is now called upon to accept, however, seems to be objected to on his part, as not in conformity with the protocol in question. Hence the "hitch" alluded to, which it is to be hoped diplomacy will be able to smooth down without sterner and more serious means being resorted to by way of solution.

More recent news from Naples informs us that the main body of the Royal army was keeping guard over the capital, and that skirmishes between the troops and the lazzaroni were taking place. Garibaldi was said to be at Palmi, at a distance by water which admits of his keeping his promise to be at Naples by Saturday. At Sapri, in the Gulf of Policastro, midway between Palmi and Salerno, General Torre had effected a landing with 4,000 men. It was in this neighbourhood that significant indications of a popular leaning in favour of Victor Emanuel recently took place.

By the *Levant Herald* of the 29th August, published at Constantinople, we see under the heading of "The Syrian Relief Fund," that the preliminary meeting announced to be held with a view to the formation of a definitive Committee took place on the previous Friday, at Misserie's Hotel, and was adjourned till Thursday, when a general meeting was to be held at the same place, with his Excellency the Ambassador, in the chair. At Friday's meeting Mr. Privilegio presided, and after a short statement by the convener as to the object of the effort which it was sought to organise, several influential names were added to the list previously published.

News from Madrid, dated the 4th instant, informs us that the King of Naples has been offered a congenial retreat by the Queen of Spain, in her dominions, which he has accepted; for it seems to be considered that the King's "retirement" from his own realm is only a question of time.

ENTERTAINMENTS.

FLORAL HALL.—Mr. Alfred Mellon's series of Concerts (the termination of which is a matter of serious regret to the music loving portion of the metropolitan public), are brought to a brilliant climax this week, which closes the month's performances, as originally announced. Handel's "Messiah," which was given on Friday, the 31st ultimo, deserves, as we mentioned in our last impression, a more detailed analysis than could be given in the passing notice to which we were then restricted by the length of our weekly *resumé*, and consequent want of space. This work, then, the master piece of the great founder of what may be termed the Sacred Drama, and which in grandeur of conception as a whole, if not in melodic beauty, and the highest attributes of modern orchestration, has hardly been surpassed or even equalled, was given entire, allowance being made for the unimportant curtailments in the original work with which it is usually presented. The solo voices (Misses Parepa, Leffler, and Thompson, Mme. L. Baxter, and Messrs. W. Cooper and Thomas) were well chosen; of the band not a word need be said, its position as the first in the world being well known. The chorus was excellent in all that appertains to training, and vocal, if not numerical efficiency, considering that a thousand voices are not too much to give effect to this stupendous composition. Madame L. Baxter's "Thou who bringest glad tidings," and "He was despised" (encored), were among the most effective of the solo pieces. Monday last was set apart as the "English night." The chief features of interest being Mr. Howard Glover's cantata of "Tam O'Shanter," an interpretation from poetry into music—from language into sound—which for fidelity, combined with invention, being at once literal, and yet free, and uniting as it does, the higher manifestations of genius, with the careful elaboration of what may be called the mechanics of composition, deserves the highest commendation. The solo part was assigned to Mr. Wilby Cooper, who did ample justice to it, and elicited well-earned and cordial applause. The musical public will, doubtless, remember the *ecclat* with which this work was performed at "the concert of the season," given by its talented author at St. James's Hall, during the past summer. The trio from Mr. J. Barnett's "Mountain Sylph," was excellently given by Mlle. Parepa, and Messrs. W. Cooper, and L. Thomas. Nor must we omit in the vocal part of the programme Mr. Kingsbury's "Sailor's Wife," Mr. A. Mellon's "Bright were my Visions" (Victorine), and "Every Man join heart and soul;" Mr. Hatton's part song "Ah! could I with fancy stray;" and Bishop's glee "The Chough and Crow," respectively allotted to Miss Leffler, Miss Parepa, Mr. W. Cooper, and the two last to the chorus. The instrumental portion comprised Dr. Arno's "Soldier tired" (Mr. T. Harper's famous trumpet solo), which is invariably encored), and Mr. W. Mellon's "Isabella Waltz," and Overture, entitled "Romulus," the march from Mr. C. Horsley's Oratorio of "Gideon," and Mr. Calcott's "Artiste's Corp Polka," played by the band. Tuesday was the "Mozart night," when the Hall, as on the preceding evening, was crowded in every part, the numbers present being estimated at about 5,000. The great orchestral works given, were the overture to the "Zauberflaute," the most perfect of its kind, and the ever-fresh and immortal "Jupiter," which for the essence and soul of melody that runs in one delicious, unbroken stream from the first note of the opening to the finale, and the unapproachable felicity of harmonic garniture and orchestral effects, clustered and interwoven, so to speak, round the ideal type of what must be regarded as the very poetry of sound, is still without a rival among the greatest works of the greatest masters, and is universally acknowledged as the finest symphony ever written. Mr. Mellon's admirable selection from "Don Giovanni," comprising the favourite melodies of "La ci darem," "Il mio tesoro," "Deh vieni," &c., deserves special notice. The vocal pieces were, "Vedrai Carino," (Mlle. Parepa); "Cara Imagine," (Mr. W. Cooper); "Qui s'degno," (Mr. Lewis Thomas); while "Possenti Numi," and "Placido o il mar," were respectively given by Mr. L. Thomas and chorus, and Mlle. Parepa and chorus. The second part of the concert commenced with the overture to "William Tell," given for the last time, and besides an excellent miscellaneous selection, contained Ardit's favourite valse, "Il Bacio," which Mlle. Parepa sings with such superlative grace and effect as never to fail in eliciting an enthusiastic encore, and wound up with Mr. Browne's "Garibaldi Polka." On Wednesday, the first part of the concert consisted of a portion of Haydn's "Creation," from the opening representation of "Chaos," up to "The Heavens are telling," Mlle. Parepa (Gabriel), Messrs. W. Cooper (Uriel), and L. Thomas (Raphael), sustaining the solo parts. With that peculiar species of simplicity which forms, whether in music, painting, sculpture, or poetry, an essential condition of the sublime, and a degree of facile ease in his orchestral combinations entirely his own, Haydn unites a vein of rich

and original melody, never previously equalled, and which reached its culminating point in the greatest of composers, Mozart. How deeply we have regretted that the latter did not compose any operas, which he certainly lived long enough to accomplish, and then the former was cut off before he had produced any oratorios, which he would certainly have done had he lived, and of which "lost works," so to speak, his incomparable "Requiem" and Masses make us form so high an estimate. In the second part of the programme we had a repetition of Ardit's "Il Bacio," in which Mlle. Parepa was encored according to custom. Mr. George Perren was also encored in Shield's seldom-heard but, nevertheless, favourite old song, "The Thorn," and Mr. Mellon's selection from "Il Trovatore" was given for the last time but one. The "Beethoven Night" was Thursday, when the magnificent and profound "Choral Symphony" was given as the entire first part of the concert, Misses Parepa and Leffler, and Messrs. W. Cooper and Thomas, being the solo vocalists. The second part opened with a selection from "Dinorah," and comprised another of Mlle. Parepa's famous pieces—the "Shadow Song," (Dinorah). Friday having been fixed for an "Oratorio Night," Mendelssohn's *chef-d'œuvre* of "Elijah" was selected for the occasion; while Saturday, the last night of the series, is set apart for a miscellaneous selection and Mr. A. Mellon's benefit. The importance of these performances this week, induces us to give our critique in considerable detail.

NORWICH FESTIVAL.—Madame Titians and Signor Giuglini are, we understand, engaged for the Norwich Festival. A rehearsal of Mr. Benedict's new cantata "Undine," and some of the other new works to be produced at Norwich, has been arranged to take place at the Hanover-square Rooms on Saturday, the 8th instant. Of this cantata we are in a position to speak with unqualified praise. Herr Molique's new Oratorio of "Abraham," a work of considerable merit, will also be performed for the first time on the occasion in question.

CRYSTAL PALACE.—In consequence of the great success attending the performance by the "Tonic Sol fa Association" last Tuesday, the Edinburgh "detachment," under the command of Mr. Heriot, was "retained" for two more performances for Wednesday and Friday. These consisted of favourite Scotch pieces, such as "Auld Lang Syne," "We're all a Noddin," "Scots Wha ha," "John Grundie," "Over the Sea," "There was a man," &c., the applause being uproarious, and the encores extending to almost every song given.

HAYMARKET THEATRE.—"The Overland Route" still enjoys unflagging popularity during "the last week but one," and has been played during the week to the increasing satisfaction of the intellectual audiences who frequent this time-honoured seat of the legitimate drama. Mr. Charles Mathews and Mr. Buckstone sustaining their original characters. In "A Game of Speculation," which was also played after "The Overland Route," during the first half of the week, Mr. Charles Mathews has appeared in the leading part of "Mr. Affable Hawk." The latter half of the week has been devoted to "Used Up" (after "The Overland Route"), in which Mr. Charles Mathews has sustained his original character of *Sir Charles Coldstream* with his inimitable powers of delineation. The afterpieces given have been "The Christening" and "The King's Gardener."

STANDARD THEATRE.—On the opening night of the Pavilion, on Saturday week, Mr. Douglass, the Proprietor of both these Houses, in the address he delivered, in obedience to the call of one of the fullest audiences we ever saw assembled within the walls of a Theatre, referred to his past endeavours to meet the requirements of an improved public taste in placing on his stage the great master-pieces of the higher drama, interpreted by some of the first actors and actresses of the age, as a pledge of his future efforts with regard to his new enterprise of permanently establishing the lyric drama in its most perfect form, hitherto confined to the West End, in the Eastern districts of the metropolis. And the cheers which followed were at once a ratification of the justice and truth of the appeal, and a significant indication how well his enterprise was appreciated. An example of Mr. Douglass's excellent catering for the public is now in progress at the Standard, where Mr. Barry Sullivan is performing nightly to crowded audiences. Mr. Barry Sullivan's powers as a delineator of the higher characterisations of the "legitimate drama" are well known. For example, in parts so various as "Hamlet," "Richieu," "The Lady of Lyons," his conception of the ideal presented by these difficult types of dramatic portraiture, evince a high degree of intellectual originality and versatility, combined with a facile aptitude of stage-adaptation. Miss Marriott, who sustains the leading female parts, is an actress of great talent and power, and deservedly shares the well-merited and hearty applause bestowed by audiences who can well understand and appreciate when it is interpreted by really competent exponents, that universal language of the feelings, of which our great dramatists are such consummate masters.

EASTERN OPERA HOUSE.—"Proverbs," as Eugene Sue tells us "are the wisdom of nations," and one of the most practical and truthful of proverbs informs us that "variety is charming." In fact, change of air, change of diet, change of scene, of seasons, and change of a good many more things than people like to confess, do in honest truth go to make up the charm of existence, and constitute the soul of all that renders life worth having. Diversity in short, is nature's law, and gushes in exuberant abundance and multifariousness from the teeming bosom of the great mother. "In the name of the prophet —, flgs." No disparagement to Mr. Douglass's most efficiently conducted, and attractive opera house, but to the poetical and unpractically minded, it really may seem somewhat of an anticlimax after revealing one of the secrets of the great Goddess who boasted in her chosen temple, that "no mortal had ever drawn aside her veil" to come souse down behind the scenes at the Pavilion, and discuss dry matters of stage business. But the point we are coming to is this:—That the most judicious variety characterises the performances at this new opera house. For instance, we had "Maritana," on Monday; "La Traviata," on Tuesday; "Sonnambula," on Wednesday; "Norma," on Thursday; followed by suitable after-pieces. "Fra Diavolo" comes out on Saturday. The parts are appropriately and efficiently filled by the members of the "double company," whose names we have already given, and whose qualifications we have specialised. The lyric drama so recently introduced into the far east

has already gained a firm establishment, and taken a permanent hold on the public mind.

CANTERBURY HALL.—The excellent selections from "Trovatore," "Martha," "Dinorah," "Macbeth," &c., at this well-conducted place of musical entertainment deserve notice, as tending to popularise the works of the best contemporary composers, and thus to cultivate and refine the taste of a large portion of the public not possessing facilities for becoming acquainted with the productions of the great masters through any other medium.

POLYGRAPHIC HALL, STRAND.—The Lauri family are giving an excellent and highly successful entertainment here, under the title of "Going on Anyhow." "Polly, the cook" (Miss Jenny Lauri), sustaining the characters of *Becky*, a stage-struck servant; the *Hon. Pop-pinjay Dawdle*, and a Volunteer Rifleman. "Buttons" (Master Septimus Lauri) appears as *Shagnessy O'Doddle*, an Irish hodman; and *Billy Bilberry*, a Lancashire "chawbacon," and another volunteer; and Miss Fanny Lauri (a child of 12 years of age) is the *Nursery-maid* of the "family," who, among other characters, assumes that of a *Yankee Gal*, with an accuracy of portrayal, and a force of individuality as humorous and amusing as they are original and graphic. Among the songs given is the laughable "Keemo Kimo," which this clever infant sings with a degree of drollery and archness, and a perfection of accent not surpassed by the incomparable Mrs. Barney Williams herself. All the characters are very well performed. The costumes, properties, scenery, and arrangements are excellent. The "Family" are already firmly established as popular favourites in the metropolis, and we have no doubt will be received everywhere with an equally liberal share of welcome and applause.

PARTIES about to make presents are strongly recommended to visit the show-rooms of Messrs. Parkins and Gatto, of 24 and 25, Oxford-street, London, who have displayed excellent taste in the selection of an immense stock of really useful articles, (at moderate prices), especially adapted for presentation, consisting of writing and dressing cases, bags, reticules, stationery cases, blotting books, ink-stands, despatch-boxes, desks, work-boxes, book-slides, beautiful specimens in pearl, papier-maché, and tortoise-shell, elegantly mounted articles, Bibles, Prayer-books, and Church Services; in fact, an endless variety of articles to suit every taste and pocket.

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