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OPENING OF THE LAND CONFERENCE.

CARPENTERS' HALL, MANCHESTER, MONDAY, DEC. 8, 1845.

At a meeting of delegates held in the above Hall, on Monday the 8th of December, 1845, it was moved by Mr. Cuffay, and seconded by Mr. Dixon, that Mr. Sherrington be appointed the chairman of the conference. Mr. Hobson moved as an amendment, that Mr. M'Grath be appointed chairman. This proposition was objected to on the ground that Mr. M'Grath, not being a delegate, could not sit as chairman; the amendment was therefore withdrawn.

Mr. Sherrington having taken the chair, credentials were delivered in from the following places:—

Mr. Gilbertson, from Carlisle.
Mr. James Brown, from Preston.
Mr. Sherrington, from Scotland.
Mr. Hobson, from Huddersfield.
Mr. Knight, from Lambeth.
Mr. Shaw, from Leeds.
Mr. G. W. Wheeler, from Rouen, Boulogne, and Reading.
Mr. Saunders, from Nottingham.
Messrs. Dixon and Leach, from Manchester.

Messrs. Cuffay, from Westminster; and Taylor, from Ashton, though unprepared with their credentials, were allowed to take their seats.

Mr. Cuffay moved that a committee of three be appointed to draw up rules for the guidance of the conference; Mr. Hobson seconded the resolution.

Mr. G. W. Wheeler moved, and Mr. Dixon seconded, that the conference assemble every morning, during its sittings, at nine o'clock, and adjourn at twelve, to re-assemble at two, and adjourn for the day at five.

After the credentials of the delegates had been handed in, and standing orders had been agreed upon, Mr. O'Connor rose and said:—

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen—I consider the present the most fitting time to offer to the conference an analysis of my own views upon the several questions that are likely to be submitted to the conference. I regret that severe indisposition has compelled me to rely more upon what I have casually gathered from my brother directors, than a more close conference with them would have put me in possession of. Gentlemen, but for this circumstance, which I could neither foreseen or obviate, I would very naturally have devoted the short time allowed to me, before the meeting of conference, to have prepared a full digest of my opinions. Under all the circumstances, I have thought it to be the wisest plan to reduce what I had to say to writing, and I now beg to submit the result of my own thoughts to your consideration. Gentlemen, I shall commence with the

OBJECTS.

The object of the association is to locate its members upon the land, whereby the working classes may be afforded an opportunity of judging of the real value of their labour in a free market.

THE MEANS.

The means by which the association proposes to realize the object in view, are by purchasing land in the wholesale market, and when purchased, to subdivide it into the most suitable allotments for the use of individual members; and when so subdivided and leased, in perpetuity to the members, then to mortgage or sell the reserved rent, to enable the trustees to make further purchases, with a view to the location of more of its members, and so on, till all have been provided with their respective allotments according to their several amounts. Thus, the means are to be realised by co-operation, and the object is to be achieved by the adoption of such rules, and their rigid application in economising and fostering the means of the society, as this conference shall devise.

RULES.

Perhaps my remarks, under this head, may be more properly considered as a running comment upon the object, means, and prospects of the society; and first in importance stands the great question of legal protection—enrolment.

Gentlemen, as far as I can collect the general opinion of the members, it is decidedly in favour of enrolment, and therefore I am bound by my duty to the body, as well as by an interest in the success of the plan, which will be best served by promoting confidence, to abandon and forego all my own prejudices upon the subject of enrolment.

The legal guarantee given to the members under enrolment are very great, while the pecuniary advantages cannot be lost sight of. The legal advantages are, firstly, the priority of claim, which the law gives the association, in cases of the death or bankruptcy of any of the officers having the custody of monies, property, or securities of the society; the assignment of counsel by the court, and also of solicitor, free of expense, in cases of dispute arising between the members and their officers. The pecuniary advantages are partly embraced in the legal, as well as exemption from all stamp duties; and when the questions of transfer and leasing are taken into account, and supposing a solicitor to charge two guineas for a long stamped rigmarole of a lease, and suppose the society, from first to last, to number 10,000, here is of itself as saving, from enrolment, of 20,000 guineas, independently of all other savings. Gentlemen, this is one of the great means at the disposal of the working classes—co-operation; and it is by this means chartered societies, whether upon the high seas or the high road, are enabled to beat down all individual competition.

Next to enrolment, gentlemen, comes a wise application of the means to the end; and first in importance, to this branch, comes the thing promised for the thing paid. The thing paid is £2 10s.; the thing promised is two acres of land, of a specified quality, a cottage that costs £30 in building, and £15, as capital, to each member, when located, to carry on operations. Now, Gentlemen, you will see at once what *per se*, or considered alone, without its relative contingencies, would appear an impossibility, namely, that a society should give each of its members £15, and only receive £2 10s. as the price of the whole. Gentlemen, you will at once see that much of the success of the society must depend upon the undiminished value of the thing bought and to be sold again. The prospects of all succeeding occupants will mainly depend upon the terms upon which the first drafts are located. Now, gentlemen, as all should be bound to all, and as all should have, as nearly as possible, equal rights; and as those first located will decidedly be best off, we should show, to all expectants, that the earlier realization of the hopes of some are, in some degree, compensated by the certainty of the object being achieved by all. To this end I suggest the propriety of the £15 advanced standing as a lien against all who receive it at an interest of 5 per cent. added to the rent, until every member of the association shall have been located upon his allotment. Gentlemen, this will preserve and keep alive a continuous brotherhood between those located and those to be located; and those who are postponed will have the satisfaction of getting 5 per cent. for the money advanced; and as the health of the society will be more and more developed every day, we may conclude that those who are amongst the latest occupants will have their reward in receiving their £15, discharged of interest, as the premium for delay. Gentlemen, I do not propose that this 5 per cent. upon the £15 shall be sold or mortgaged, but that it shall be a reserved rent, always to revert back to the society in one shape or another, and always for the purposes of the members.

Gentlemen, the next apparent difficulty, with which you will have to deal, will be the amount of rent to be paid by each; but here I think the dullest will see the impossibility of establishing any fixed rent except by scale, which does partake of as much fixity as you can insure. Thus, if you say that a member shall pay £5 a-year for two acres of land that costs £40, that is £20 an acre, and a house that costs £30, you say as distinctly, without stating the very fact, that the member who gets two acres that costs £60, or £30 an acre, shall pay £6 a-year, and the member who gets two acres that costs £30, or £15 an acre, shall only pay £4 10s.

Gentlemen, the next branch of the subject to which I shall call your attention is to the question of amount; whether two or four acres shall be the society's standard. For myself, I can very well appreciate the desire of a person, with a large family, to possess himself of that quantity of land to which he supposes he may have the labour required for its cultivation in his own family; and, therefore, I am for allowing every member to exercise his own judgment upon this head, while I would still enforce the inability of a man, with a small family, to cultivate even two acres to the highest state of perfection. However, this is entirely a subject for the consideration of the shareholders themselves. The next point to which I would direct your attention is one of considerable importance; it is, as to whether selection of occupants shall be made by priority of payment or by ballot. Upon this point, counsel has only given his opinion in favour of priority, lest the laws made against gaming and lotteries should interfere with the enrolment; but upon being reminded that the cases so far differed, as regards our association, and those who purchased tickets, some with the certainty of getting blanks; whereas, our rules provided prizes for all, although the acquisition of them by some is postponed to a later period. Counsel, therefore, has merely given the preference to priority, lest the adoption of the ballot may lead to disappointment. For my own part I think the details to carry out the principle of priority would be much more cumbrous and difficult of management than those to carry out the ballot, and, therefore, I am decidedly in favour of the ballot; while, of course, it will be understood that none are eligible to ballot except those who have paid up their full shares.

Gentlemen, the next branch of the subject to which I shall call your attention is the mode of carrying out our object by the purchase, sub-division, and sale of estates. Here the two means of realising further funds, either by mortgage, or sale, present themselves. In the one, I see not only difficulty, but disagreeable probabilities; in the other, I see not only agreeable probabilities, but cheering certainties. For instance, we purchase, say one hundred acres of land, for £2,000, and we expend £1,500 upon the erection of cottages, and pay £750 in the shape of advanced capital, at the rate of £15 to each member. Now, this makes a total of £4,250, which, if we offered for sale, may be sold before the value of the plan was tested for twenty years purchase, or £5,000; whereas, if we kept the first allotment for two years, mortgaging it at three-fourths of its value, at the end of those two years the application of the labour of fifty families to the 100 acres would increase the value of the purchase from twenty to thirty-three years, the highest rate of purchase that is given for landed security. I will explain it more familiarly to you. If you attempt to sell as soon as you purchase, the purchaser will purchase at the then value of the land; whereas, at the end of two years, what each tenant held for £5 a-year, AND WHICH, mind, would be all that we could sell, would be worth £8 a year, or more, from the application of labour, and that £8 a year would be the purchaser's security for £5 a-year; and for that he would give as large an amount, and larger, than for government security. Now, twenty years purchase for £250 a-year will be £5,000; and thirty-three years purchase would be £8,250.

Gentlemen, these are the peculiar features of co-operation that I would impress upon your minds. I am, then, for mortgaging, in the first instance, and thereby realising, subsequently, as large a fund as possible for the benefit of the members—a benefit that must result from a fair testing of the plan; and, mind, what has been done in the first instance may be subsequently relied upon by all future purchasers. Now, gentlemen, I come to a portion of my subject which never has been discussed by the public yet. I mean not only the probability, but the certainty, of our funds, or rather our security, being increased as follows:—We will suppose that 100 members are about to be located from amongst those who have paid up in full, and consequently the most wealthy. When the land is purchased the allotment takes place before the houses are built, and I think we may fairly presume that out of the 100 who have paid up in full, upon an average, each would expend £10 more upon his cottage than the society guaranteed; that would increase the value of the property by £1,000; while it would not make the member, who had spent it, liable to any more than £5 a-year rent. This you will find will be the strongest preservation of the link of brotherhood and membership, and will have the effect of proving to the poorest that the wealthiest, while they have been the first provided for, have not been discharged from the ulterior duty of lending themselves and their funds to the accomplishment of the general objects of all.

Gentlemen, these views have been set out partially in many of my earlier letters; now I condense them for your consideration, always bearing in mind, that though the society gives but £70 worth for what it charges £5 a-year, yet, in their individual capacity the working classes could not procure the same advantages for £10 a-year, *or indeed at all, as there is no market open for such traffic.* Gentlemen, I beg to keep your minds rivetted to this question of incorporative power. I beg to remind you that societies, incorporated with the individual resources of a number of poor individuals, are enabled to compete with, and finally to overcome, all the competition of the wealthiest individuals. This is, then, our strength; we overcome the law of primogeniture. We bring the raw material into the free labour market, and we offer it in competition with the slave labour price of wages.

Gentlemen, I am not inclined to treat any suggestion upon this subject lightly, provided it is made in a proper spirit; and, therefore, I shall offer an observation or two on that emanating from Manchester. I mean the propriety of bringing the allotments up to a certain state of bearing by the expenditure of the promised capital, under judicous management, before the more ignorant of the occupants should enter upon the undertaking. If this is left to their own option, I not only have no objection to the principle, but I further volunteer my services as their unpaid steward and instructor, deducting from their original £15 capital, what has been judiciously expended in labour, and allowing them to take possession of their allotments in full bearing, and when the fruits of my industry shall be ripe. Gentlemen, if my health permitted, I should have entered much more minutely into this important subject. I regret that my ten days' illness has deprived me of the benefit of the counsel of my brother directors. In the short time that my recovery allowed, I have gathered as much of their views, as I could, whereas, if I have misunderstood, or mis-stated them, they are at perfect liberty to object to what I have now offered, as this manifesto must be taken solely as my own opinion.

Gentlemen, I presume that you all have an equal interest, with myself, in this gigantic, national scheme, and if any have joined in the hope of possessing themselves of £15 for £2 10s. paid up, and if the alterations, that I consider necessary in the rules, should alarm such speculators, I have that reliance upon you, gentlemen, that the dread of losing the gamblers will be more than compensated for by the establishment of that firm principle upon which the alteration will base the rights of the poorest, as well as the prior claim of the richest. Gentlemen, my object is, that no man should be discharged of his liabilities to the association until every member of the body shall be first provided for, and that then the general savings from the co-operation of all, shall be equally, honestly, and honourably divided amongst all. Before I sit down, I will read for you one of the guarantees which enrolment confers, and one which, in a money speculation, should be courted by every officer who has aught to do with the funds of the society; and, gentlemen, bear one thing in mind, and never lose sight of it, it is this—ENROLMENT IS ONLY BENEFICIAL TO THE MEMBERS. If the officers had any notion of playing the rogue, they would be for non-enrolment, as, then, the members would have no protection against their frauds. ENROLMENT, THEREFORE, IS FOR THE MEMBERS; NON-ENROLMENT IS FOR THE OFFICERS. Gentlemen, before I sit down, I will read for you one of the advantages of enrolment. The act that I hold in my hand has the following provision:—"And be it further enacted, that if any person already appointed, or who may hereafter be appointed, to any office in a society established under the said recited act, or this act, and being entrusted with the keeping of the accounts, or having in his hands, or possession, by virtue of his said office or employment, any monies or effects belonging to such society, or any deeds or securities relating to the same, shall die, or become a bankrupt, or insolvent, or have any execution, or attachment, or other process issued, or action, or diligence, raised against his lands, goods, chattels, or effects, or property, or estate, heritable or moveable, or make any assignment, disposition, assignation, or other conveyance thereof for the benefit of his creditors, his heirs, executors, administrators, or assignees, or other persons having legal rights, or the sheriff, or other officer executing such process, or the party using such action or diligence, shall, within forty days of the demand made in writing, by the order of any such society or committee thereof, or the major part of them assembled at any meeting thereof, deliver and pay over all monies and other things belonging to such society to such person as such society or committee shall appoint, and shall pay out of the estates, assets, or effects, heritable or moveable, of such person, all sums of money remaining due which such person received by virtue of his said office or employment, before any other of his debts are paid or satisfied, or before the money directed to be levied by such process as aforesaid, or which may be recovered or recoverable under such diligence, is paid over to the party issuing such process, or using such diligence: and all such assets, lands, goods, chattels, property, estates, and effects shall be bound to the payment and discharge thereof accordingly."

Now, gentlemen, there's a strong inducement to force me to get rid of all my prejudices against enrolment. THERE'S PROTECTION, which nothing BUT THE LAW can afford. Gentlemen, there are other subjects, such as the appointment of trustees and directors, and their duties, the obligation of officers, and the question of finance, to which I shall take a fitting opportunity of directing your attention, with the view of making your laws as stringent as you can to enforce a just discharge of those several duties. I conclude, by once more reminding you of our power, which consists in our incorporation; and further reminding you, that the triumph of free trade principles may result in our ability to purchase slices of the estates of the aristocracy at one-half their present value. I now remind you, that the rules, upon which this society has been established, were neither considered perfect or binding, and the more you alter and correct them, if those corrections and alterations are calculated to give stability to your project, and security to the members, the better the members will appreciate the change, for they are a considerate and a thoughtful people. Gentlemen, I have now done more than I was justified in my present state of health in doing—I sit down, leaving the question to your guardianship.

AFTERNOON SITTING.

Mr. Canning, from Wigan, not being furnished with credentials, was allowed to take his seat until his credentials were produced.

Mr. Cuffay moved, and Mr. Taylor seconded, "That each motion be handed to the chairman, in writing, previous to its being put, and that the mover, and other speakers, be allowed ten minutes each, and the mover of the resolution five minutes in reply."

Mr. Vallance, from Barnsley, produced his credentials, and took his seat accordingly.

Mr. O'Connor moved, and Mr. Leach seconded, the following resolution:—"That the conference do now resolve itself into a committee for the purpose of considering the alterations to be made in the rules."

The motion, after discussion, was withdrawn for the present.

Mr. Hobson moved, and Mr. O'Connor seconded, "That, in the opinion of this conference, it is highly essential to the success of the Chartist Co-operative Land Society that the rules should be enrolled under the Benefit and Building Societies' Acts, inasmuch as such course will alone give security to the members, and limit the responsibility of all concerned to the extent of the society's operations. To this end the conference instruct the board of directors to procure such enrolment, with the name of the society remaining as it now stands, if that be possible; but should the revising barrister refuse to certify with such name, the directors are further instructed to change the name to that of the National Co-operative Land Society."

Mr. Dixon moved, and Mr. Shaw seconded, the following motion:—"That the directors be empowered to submit the rules, as agreed to, to Tidd Pratt, Esq., for enrolment; and in the event of the name, as it at present stands, being an obstacle, and in the event of Tidd Pratt refusing to enrol, that then an appeal be made, as provided by law; and in the event of the name standing as an obstacle, that then the directors be empowered to confer with the several districts, through the delegates now assembled, with the view to taking the opinion of the members upon the subject."

Mr. Cuffay objected to the alteration of the name; and should it not be possible to get it enrolled without its alteration, that the enrolment be not persisted in.

Mr. Leach said, the object of enrolment was to guarantee the working classes from their being robbed by the middle classes; for, although the name of the society is the Chartist Co-operative Land Society, yet its members were not confined to the Chartist body; a large portion of its members are not, and never were, Chartists. Under the present rules there is no remedy for the dishonesty of any of its servants; not that he suspected any of them were dishonest; but unless enrolment was conceded, it would be the destruction of confidence.

Mr. Knight: The interest of the society requires that its rules should be enrolled either with or without the name.

Mr. Vallance was instructed to support the enrolment of the society, if the name, and objects remained in their present state.

Mr. G. W. Wheeler would not vote for the enrolment if the rules, if the objects, or the name were altered.

Mr. Shaw would vote for the enrolment of the rules with or without the name.

Mr. Brown: One portion of my constituents are in favour of enrolment, either with or without the name, while the other portion have instructed me to vote against the enrolment, if the name was to be altered.

Mr. Canning was instructed to support the enrolment of the rules at all events, the name being no object to his constituents.

Mr. Leach moved the following:—"That in the opinion of this conference, the Land Society's rules should be immediately enrolled, and that the board of directors be instructed to accomplish the same with or without the name."

Mr. Doyle: There are a great number of persons waiting to join the association, but who will not do so unless it is enrolled, as there is no guarantee for the honesty of the officers of the society, for although no officer has at present absconded with any money, still that is no reason that they might not; for these reasons he should support the enrolment.

Mr. G. W. Wheeler moved, and Mr. Gilbertson seconded the motion—"that the rules be not enrolled unless the name and objects are retained."

Mr. Hobson: It is not in the power of Tidd Pratt to refuse the enrolment of the rules, even with the name as at present, provided those rules are in conformity with all the provisions of the Benefit Society's Act. The intentions of the society must be stated in the rules. In his opinion, the passing of the last resolution would be an act of suicide.

On a division there appeared—

For Mr. G. W. Wheeler's amendment ... 2
" Mr. Dixon's ... 7
" The original motion ... 8

Mr. Hobson moved, and Mr. Cuffay seconded, a motion for the printing of Mr. O'Connor's statement, which was carried unanimously.

The conference then adjourned till nine o'clock to-morrow morning.

TUESDAY MORNING—DECEMBER 9.

Mr. Sherrington in the chair.

Mr. Hobson: There are several points in the statement of Mr. O'Connor that require explanation. If the system of priority is introduced, it will be necessary to keep an account of payments, even to the fraction of an hour. The conference are here to legislate against probabilities and possibilities. The ballot gives every man a chance to be located, for these reasons he would move,—"That, in the opinion of this conference, the mode of selecting occupants for the allotments, by ballot, from among those who have paid up their shares, is calculated to give the greatest amount of confidence to the members generally, because it precludes favouritism, and prevents all intrigue, fraud, or collusion."

Mr. Smythe, of Bradford, seconded the motion, as he considered it was the only way to give stability to the society.

Mr. Vallance was of opinion that the system of priority would introduce great confusion into the management of the affairs of the society.

Mr. Knight objected to the ballot, supported priority of payment, and moved,—"That priority of payment constitute priority of occupation."

Mr. O'Connor: You will recollect that the opinion of counsel was only against the ballot, fearing that it would render the society liable to the Gaming and Lottery Acts. One objection to the resolution was to any man balloting unless he shall have paid up his whole share. The conference were perfectly at liberty to alter rules for the further benefit of the society. As to the question of priority, what should be done with those parties who had paid up at the present time. If you establish the ballot for those who have already paid up, and priority of payment for those paying after, it will cause great dissatisfaction among the shareholders.

Mr. Taylor seconded the motion of Mr. Knight, and stated that the fraction of an hour could not be of that importance as it had been represented.

Mr. M'Grath considered that the system of priority would not give general satisfaction. There were many obstacles to it which were insurmountable. How could it be applied to those who had already paid up their shares? And when thirty or forty enrolled in different localities at the same time, how is their priority to be determined? He thought the ballot the wisest plan; it gave to all a fair chance, and was perfectly practicable, whereas the principle of priority could not be carried out with pricision, and it gave to capital a decided advantage over poverty.

Mr. Cuffay: There is great difference between ballot and lot—the ballot is putting in, and lot the taking out. The lot, by allotment, is the putting the names into an urn and drawing from them the prizes. A great deal depends upon priority. If the society be divided into sections, then vote for priority.

Mr. Wheeler: As far as he himself was concerned, he was most decidedly in favour of priority. The success of the society depends upon priority of payment. A great majority of members are in favour of priority of payment. There will be no difficulty in keeping the accounts, for, should it so happen that forty or fifty pay up in one day, the sooner the location would take place.

Mr. Clark: Mr. Wheeler's plan cannot be carried out, and I deny that the majority of the members are in favour of priority.

Mr. Leach: How can priority of payment be reconciled with justice. A man paying his threepence a-week is not in the same situation as a man who can pay the whole down.

Mr. Dixon: A great majority of his constituents were in favour of the ballot.

Mr. Canning was decidedly in favour of the ballot.

Mr. G. W. Wheeler said that he should support the motion of Mr. Clark as the one most conducive to the interest of the shareholders, and the only one on which the conference could be consistent. Mr. Hobson's principal objection is, that it invested a discretionary power in the hand of the directors; but his own plan is open to the same objection; for if three districts were to be chosen, they would still have the opportunity of chosing which they would select; but surely members were not going to elect to this office men in whom they had no confidence. Mr. Hobson objects to the motion of Mr. O'Connor on the ground of the competition it would occasion, whilst the same objection applied to his own plan; besides it tied up the hands of the directing body; and they must be aware that land often realized a fictitious price, as many parties were compelled to part with land at a much lower price than its real value; and from the present railway mania it was likely that the directors, if their hands were not tied up, would probably purchase land much lower than the present market price. Mr. Hobson had said a great deal about Irishmen and Scotchmen leaving their homes and coming to this country; but if they did come it was because they could get a better living here; and wherever a man could get a living that would be his home. Another advantage of Mr. Clark's motion was, that if 100 persons were located, coming from 100 different localities, it would give a greater impetus to the society. Men would say—Tom Smith was gone, and it will soon be my turn—which would be a great inducement to many to join this society.

Mr. O'Connor moved that the conference resolve itself into a committee, and that no speaker be allowed to occupy the time of the conference more than two minutes.

Mr. Poole seconded the resolution.

Mr. Brown: His constituents were in favour of the ballot, unless the society was divided into districts, and then they were in favour of priority of payment.

Mr. Poole: There will be great injustice in priority of payment, unless the society is divided into drstricts.

Mr. Harrington: Only one place in Scotland is in favour of the priority. If the conference decide in favour of the ballot, a considerable portion of his constituents would retire from the society.

Mr. O'Connor: No person that cannot pay up his share in full will pay any portion of his money, if the time of closing the society is stated. The legitimate members and founder of the society have paid their money on the faith of the ballot.

Mr. Cuffay: His instructions were in favour of priority. Did not believe that the society being closed at a particular day would cause any diminution in the payment of shares.

Mr. Shaw was in favour of the ballot. If priority of payment be allowed, those who were able would pay up, and swamp the whole concern.

Mr. Leach moved that rule 16 should form part of the amended rules, with the addition that the society close its first district when the society consists of 6,000 members.

Mr. O'Connor seconded the motion; where there is necessity for alteration do it, but do not alter where unnecessary.

Mr. Hobson said, selection by ballot means precisely what the parties mean by election by lot. Lot means lottery, but the word being used might enable the revising barrister to bring in the acts of gaming and lottery to bear upon the question of enrolment.

Mr. Doyle had heard some members of the London district complain that priority of payment would be attended with great injustice.

Mr. Taylor: The man who comes forward and pays his whole money, is rendering a great benefit to the poorer payers.

Mr. Saunders was in favour of priority of payment.

Mr. Hobson: Objections raised by him had not been answered; the principle of priority would entail great expense; what objection to the ballot? On a division there appeared—

For the amendment ... 12
" Motion ... 5

A question arising as to the propriety of carrying out the last resolution,

Mr. Hobson said, it does not follow that, having confirmed a principle, you should enter into all the details connected with it.

Mr. Clark moved, that the selection of localities be intrusted to the board of directors.

Mr. M'Grath seconded the motion: It was very unwise and very unjust to limit the exertion of the directors, for the rule did not compel a man to go upon the land, though successful.

Mr. O'Connor repudiated the position in which Mr. Clark's motion would place the directors—no objection to incur any responsibility that the subscribers of the society imposed upon the directors. The proposition of Mr. Clark was premature. There was land enough offered for sale every day in the year, and it might be obtained in any district.

AFTERNOON SITTING.

Mr. Clark said the reason of proposing the resolution was, that the directors would have better opportunities of knowing where land was to be purchased—with some parties, situation was no object. He knew a party that was willing to go within ten yards of the gates of hell so that he got upon the land.

Mr. Hobson: The onerous duties sought to be imposed by the conference on the directory is likely to produce angry feelings among the shareholders—they would be inundated with suggestions, and every little plot of land that was for sale would be forwarded to them—and unless that plot of land was bought it would produce great dissatisfaction and jealousy amongst the unsuccessful. Divide the country into districts, and when sufficient money is in hand, draw from those districts; and if the first is not successful, go to the second, and so on. Most likely there would be no occasion to proceed further than the first, for there is always sufficient land in the market to be bought any day in the week. Those enthusiastic persons, who say that they would go within a few yards of the gates of hell so that they could get upon the land, would be the first to complain of favouritism, if unsuccessful in obtaining the ballot.

Mr. Smyth, in seconding the amendment, said, if the present motion was passed by the conference it would destroy all confidence in the directory, and give rise to the charge of favouritism.

Mr. Clark: It has been already laid down, that no person shall be allowed to ballot unless he has paid up his share; but, according to Mr. Hobson's plan, if Yorkshire was the fortunate district, it might be years before those of the Manchester district would be located. Should wish to see land purchased, in the first instance, in those districts where the most members were.

Mr. Wheeler would support the views advocated by Mr. Clark.

Mr. O'Connor would suggest that, before the purchase of land in any locality, a ballot take place amongst all the members, and a majority should signify to the directors whether they would wish the land to be purchased. He was sure that the greater the responsibility vested in the members, the greater the satisfaction would be; he moved the following resolution:—"That when the sum of £5,000 shall be paid, the directors shall then proceed to ballot from amongst the members who have paid up their shares in full, and where the required number shall be so elected, that then the members, so selected, shall proceed by such means as the majority shall agree upon, for the purpose of selecting a locality where the purchase of land shall take place, and the directors shall be bound by such decision."

Mr. Clark asked the question—would not a greater price be paid for a small quantity of land than that for a greater quantity?

Mr. Hobson: The amendment proposed by Mr. O'Connor is unwise. He would not like to see the necessity for the shareholders, in this society, to leave their homes.

Mr. Wheeler opposed the adoption of Mr. O'Connor's amendment.

Mr. Poole said—Did the shareholders know where the land was about to be purchased, no doubt that even the threepenny shareholders would make a struggle to get the money to pay up their shares.

Mr. M'Grath had heard nothing to alter his opinion, as to allowing the directors to have the choice of selecting the place for the purchase of the land. More obstacles would be created by Mr. Hobson's plan than that proposed by Mr. Clark.

Mr. Vallance supported the proposition for enabling the directors to buy the land. If this power was left in their hands, no doubt it would give the greatest satisfaction.

Mr. O'Connor: If the difficulties suggested against his amendment had weight, they told with a double weight against the plan of Mr. Hobson.

Mr. Leach: No doubt there was a great desire, among the shareholders, that the purchase of land should be near the places where they lived. The cost of removal to a distant portion would take away the object of the society. The parties who obtained the prizes ought to have a voice in the selection of where the land should be purchased. He supported the amendment of Mr. O'Connor. There could be no difficulty in dividings the country into districts.

Mr. Cuffay: As far as England was concerned he wat a cosmopolite; but the London shareholders do not expect to have land purchased for them in the suburbs; they are willing and ready to take their chance. He had a feeling for home, and if he gave way to his feelings, he should prefer the county of Kent.

Mr. Hobson: By Mr. O'Connor's plan there would be no opportunity of getting at the opinion of the different shareholders. There were objections to his own plan. It has been urged, that it might be the lot of Manchester to be years before the members of that locality would be located; so that, in fact, it would be years, under any circumstances, before the shareholders of any locality could be located.

Mr. O'Conneor: The adoption of Mr. Hobson's plan would make the directors a mere nonentity.

Mr. Leach: One of the principles of the People's Charter was, that there should be equal electoral districts, and as there would not be any difficulty, under that document, in apportioning the country, in cases of elections, why should there be any difficulty in carrying it out in the land plan.

Mr. Clarke: The directors are bound to pay attention to the wishes of the subscribers. Mr. Hobson's plan cannot be carried out, because it will not only give priority to persons who have paid up their shares, but also to those who have not paid up.

Mr. Taylor: The price of land never can, nor never ought to be, an object with the directors.

Mr. Dixon said: To buy land for twenty-five cannot be accomplished at the same price as if the purchase was to be made for £100. He proposed to divide the number of shareholders paid up into four districts. The removal of parties from home would have material effect upon the objects of the society.

Mr. Doyle said, that Mr. O'Connor was going directly in opposition to all his former statements and writings; as he had formerly stated that the purchase of a small quantity of land would cost more, in proportion, than that of a larger quantity. The best possible plan to adopt was to leave the selection of land to the directors.

Mr. O'Connor explained.

Mr. Hobson: There never was a subject that was not open to objections, and with a view to embody the ideas of the members of the conference, he would move the following resolution:—"The directors shall, in their purchasing and drafting of occupiers, be guided, as far as practicable, by the principle of providing allotments for the members, so as to render it unnecessary for a family to remove far from home. To this end, when the necessary amount of capital is so subscribed, they shall classify the members who have paid up their shares into sections, guided by locality, and before they commence operations they shall place as many slips of paper as there are in a suitable vessel, each slip having the name of a section written on, and all being folded up alike. Then an indifferent person shall be appointed to draw these papers out of the lot, and in one of the localities so drawn shall the first purchase be made: if practicable, preference being given to the first drawn. Out of the members residing in, or contiguous to, such district, who have paid up their full subscription, shall the occupiers of this particular plot of land be selected; and the same rule shall be observed to regulate the locality of all the subsequent purchasers and allocations." It is not necessary that the directors should give notice of the place where they intend to purchase. By giving notice of intention to purchase it would cause greater competition amongst the bidders. Prudence, therefore, would suggest the propriety of the directors keeping it a secret as to when and where they were coming into the market.

Mr. Cuffay objected to the alteration of Mr. Hobson's motion.

Mr. M'Grath: Mr. Hobson seems to dread competition, and no doubt competition is to be dreaded; there is a great many who would gladly sing the requium of the land society.

Mr. G. W. Wheeler said, that the motion of Mr. Clark was the only safe plan that could be adopted. You must know when to get the land. Land is not always either let or sold at its real value. Home is that where a man can get an honest living.

Mr. Saunders was opposed to the plan of Mr. Hobson. They had heard a great deal about home, but it was impossible for the conference, or for the directors to legislate, so as to locate every shareholder near the place of his nativity; he should, therefore, support Mr. Clark's motion.

Mr. Leach: It should be an instruction to the directors that they should purchase the land near the residences of the successful candidates. It would be a stronger inducement to shareholders to support the society if they knew that the land would be purchased in or near the several localities to which they belonged.

Mr. O'Connor insisted that the ballot must take place before the purchase was made.

Mr. Vallance: We have been taught to believe that the rules of the society required but little variation; and, therefore, he should vote for Mr. Clarke's motion.

Mr. O'Connor would withdraw his amendment if Mr. Clarke would embody it in his motion.

Mr. Hobson's amendment ... 3
Original motion as amended ... 13

Mr. Clarke, having agreed to amend his motion according to the suggestion of Mr. O'Connor, the following resolution was submitted to the conference:—"That the selection of the locality, where the purchase of land shall be made, be entrusted to the board of directors, it being imperative upon them to make such purchase in the district where the greatest number of members, who have paid up their shares, may be resident."

WEDNESDAY SITTINGS.

Mr. Sherrington in the chair.

The roll having been called, and the minutes read,

Mr. Clark moved the rescinding of the resolution come to yesterday, inasmuch as it would compel the directors always to purchase the land in those districts were the greatest number of paid members resided.

Mr. M'Grath, in seconding the motion, said that no doubt they would be charged with inconsistency, in asking the conference to undo what they had done; but the directors saw great difficulty in carrying out the resolution.

Mr. Wheeler objected to the rescinding of the resolution.

The Chairman said that the directors, by Mr. Hobson's plan, would be too much confined in their operations. He considered that the resolution proposed by Mr. Clark, and carried by the conference yesterday, was the best that could be adopted.

Mr. Hobson moved that the house resolve itself into a committee, and continue in committee until the whole of the principles be settled.

Mr. Cuffay objected to the motion.

Mr. Leach seconded the motion.

On a division, there appeared for going into committee ... 7
Against it ... 5

Correspondence was read from Wigan, containing the credentials of Mr. Canning; Mr. Donaldson, of Warwick; Mr. Calladine, of Hucknall Torkard.

Mr. O'Connor contended that the principles of the society could not be carried out unless the resolution passed by the conference yesterday remained on the minutes.

Messrs. Clark and M'Grath ultimately withdrew their resolution.

Mr. M'Grath: The object of the directors is to make the rules as perfect as they possibly could. He did not wish the conference to stultify itself, and concluded by moving "That Great Britain be divided into districts, to be distinguished by Nos. 1, 2, 3, &c., and that the directors be guided, in purchasing land, by the majority of free members in the districts; but land shall not be bought a second time in any district till a location take place in each."

Mr. Clark secondsd the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Mr. Hobson moved, and Mr. Doyle seconded the following resoluton, "That the number of districts be five."

Mr. Wheeler moved, and Mr. Taylor seconded, the motion, "That the number of districts be two—England and Scotland." The society could not be carried out unless the resolution passed yesterday stood.

Mr. Leach: The division of the country into districts is the best plan that can be adopted, and the present resolution will not stultify the acts of yesterday.

Mr. Doyle: Entirely differed with Mr. Clark, although the seconder of the resolution passed yesterday, that the present resolution does not stultify the previous acts of the conference.

Mr. O'Connor: What is being done now is doing an act of injustice to Manchester. The greater the number of the Manchester subscribers, the sooner it will be satiated, and by that means the other localities will sooner become entitled to the ballot. The whole plan entirely depends upon the practicability of purchase, allotment, sale, and re-purchase of the allotment.

Mr. Vallance: Had Mr. Clark's motion, passed yesterday, been discarded by Mr. O'Connor's suggestion, it would have been much better. He should however, now, vote for Mr. Hobson's motion. No doubt when it becomes generally known the country is divided into four districts there will be great competition in paying up the subscription.

Mr. Taylor: The conference must legislate for the mass and not for individuals.

Mr. Cuffay would vote for Mr. Wheeler's amendment. The conference seemed very diffident in vesting power in the hands of the directors.

Mr. Canning would support the motion of Mr. Hobson, but could not agree with some of the speakers that if the resolution of yesterday had stood, the land would have been purchased in Lancashire.

Mr. Shaw: The motion of Mr. Hobson came near to realise what had been stated, not to removed the shareholders from their usual place of residence.

Mr. Hobson: You should not put the whole of the members either in Lancashire or Yorkshire into one district.

For the amendment ... 4
Original motion ... 12

Mr. Hobson, in moving the following resolution, stated, that it would, as far as practicable, remedy the evil of causing parties to remove from their districts. "That when the directors have selected a locality, and made a purchase in accordance with the previous resolutions, the requisite number of residents for the allotments, on such purchase, shall be selected out of the members resident in such district who have paid up their shares."

Mr. Smith seconded the motion.

Mr. Knight would oppose the motion of Mr. Hobson with all the energy he possessed.

Mr. Dixon then moved the following amendment:—"That the ballot be taken from the whole of the shareholders in the association who have paid up their shares."

Mr. Leach seconded the amendment.

Mr. Vallance: Observations had been dropped, he would not mention any names, that the conference were coming to the same conclusion as last night; that he denied; the question last night was whether the selection of occupants should be made before the purchase or after. No doubt that where the greatest number of members were, there would be the greatest chance of the members being located. He should, therefore, vote for Mr. Dixon's amendment.

Mr. Cuffay would vote for Mr. Dixon's amendment.

Mr. Doyle: Every man who has paid up his share will have his chance of the prize. Do not clog the shareholders, for if you do you will do a great injury and injustice to the society.

Mr. Clark: In case of parties not wishing to locate in the Manchester district, they might give notice to the general secretary, who would then communicate with the district, and thus enable the shareholders in that district to have another chance of a prize—this is perfectly applicable to every district. By this means, without bartering the shares, you satisfy the wish of both parties. There are numbers of shareholders in Devonshire who would relinquish their prizes if they were certain of getting a location near their own residence.

Mr. Sherrington: The majority of shareholders, no doubt, could wish to reside in their respective districts.

Mr. O'Connor: You can never exclude the adoption of chances from operation in this society. There are plenty of men in Manchester who would be glad to give a bonus to members who may not wish to be located in the fortunate district. By Mr. Dixon's motion you give every member a chance; but if you confine the chance to a particular district, it would be a very great injustice. You further the adoption of the principle of "Home, Sweet Home," by making the ballot from the whole members.

Mr. Hobson: What does Mr. Clark propose by his resolution? Why, he proposes that the ballot, in cases where the parties refused, or declined to locate where they had obtained the prize, be extended to the whole shareholders; thus giving them two chances. The resolution proposed by himself would provide the greatest amount of benefit to the shareholders.

Mr. Leach: The discussion of the question of the transfer of shares is very premature. The object of the amendment is to give the chances to the whole body of paid-up shareholders.

Mr. G. W. Wheeler moved the following resolution:—"That the whole of the proceedings of the conference, as related to Mr. Clark's resolution of the previous day, should be rescinded."

Mr. M'Grath moved the suspension of the standing orders, which was seconded by Mr. O'Conner.

On a division—

Mr. Wheeler's amendment ... 1
Mr. Dixon's ... 12
Mr. Hobson's ... 3

AFTERNOON SITTING.

Mr. O'Connor: We have affirmed a great many principles of the society—we have affirmed the enrolment—the selection of occupants by ballot—and division of the country into districts. The next subject of importance was the mortgage or sale of land. He said that the object of the society was to purchase land in the wholesale market, and sell it in the retail market, for the benefit of the working classes. The more labour you employ upon the land the greater the value of that land. Seeing the value of labour, that is the principle that should guide your consideration, as to the mortgage or sale of the land. Home property is not so valuable a security as a fee-farm rent. In the first place, we must commence with mortgage. There are two descriptions of mortgage—you purchase an estate and pay so much down, leaving the remaining portion on mortgage; in the second, you purchase an estate and sell it immediately. Quit and crown rents are sold at forty years purchase. By the application of labour you raise a thing of £5 a-year to the value of £8 a-year; a principle should be affirmed, that it should be left to the discretion of the directors whether the property bought should be sold or mortgaged in the first instance. He then moved the following:—Resolved, "That the trustees and directory shall have the power to raise money upon the property of the association by loan, mortgage, or sale, for the purpose of carrying out the objects of the society."

Mr. Vallance: The shareholders of Barnsley had instructed him to suggest that the estate should be mortgaged instead of sale. Increase the value of land from the application of labour. If, in the case of the land being offered for sale at the expiration of the third or fourth year, is there not an inducement to the holders to exercise frugality, and very likely save sufficient to purchase their own allotments. These being his ideas upon the subject, he was decidedly in favour of mortgage, and concluded by seconding the resolution.

Mr. Cuffay supported the motion.

Mr. G. W. Wheeler stated that he was instructed to support the system of mortgage instead of sale, and that some of his constituents were ready to advance £800 by way of mortgage.

Mr. O'Connor stated that he had a promise of a loan fund to the extent of £20,000, as soon as the rules of the society were enrolled. There was no difference between loan and mortgage.

Mr. Knight supported the motion.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

Mr. Hobson stated that he was aware that it was the intention of some parties to introduce a loan fund in connection with the society, and would, therefore move, "That in the opinion of this conference, it will greatly conduce to the security of the society if all advances of money out of the capital of the society to the occupant, to enable him to occupy, should be considered a loan bearing interest, for which each borrower shall give security."

Mr. O'Connor: In this case we must not only affirm a principle, but we must also show our ability to carry it out. If we are able to pay back the money, it is an act of justice; but if not able to return the money it is an act of injustice. By the operation of co-operation, the society will be enabled to give to every member £70 worth of property for the rent of £5 a-year. I propose, for the protection of the members, for the honour of the society,—I propose that

[Continued in our Eighth Page.]

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W. T. HESKETH.

To Mr. WALMSLEY, Cheetham Hill.

Dover, *January 25th, 1845.*

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F. I. HILLIER, Jun.

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ONE trial is solicited, which will prove its efficacy over all the medicines in general use for the above distressing complaints, having already been taken in above 3,000 cases, without one known instance of failure. Recommended by the following well-known gentlemen, who have experienced its extraordinary effects:—Mr. Rouse, proprietor of the Eagle and Grecian Saloon, City road; Mr. Campbell, Managing Director of ditto; Mr. Smeeson, wholesale salesman, Newgate-market; and Mr. J. Webster, comedian. Sold by P. M'DOUGALL only, in bottles at 1s. 1½d. each, 35, Myddleton-street, Clerkenwell. Upon the receipt of 1s. 6d. will be forwarded free into the country.

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THE Earl of Aldborough cured of a Liver and Stomach Complaint.

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To Professor Holloway.

Sir,—Various circumstances prevented the possibility of my thanking you before this time for your politeness in sending me your pills as you did. I now take this opportunity of sending you an order for the amount, and, at the same time, to add that your pills have effected a cure of a disorder in my liver and stomach, which all the most eminent of the faculty at home, and all over the continent, had not been able to effect; nay! not even the waters of Carlsbad and Marienbad. I wish to have another box and a pot of the ointment, in case any of my family should ever require either.

Your most obliged and obedient servant,
(Signed) ALDBOROUGH.

A Wonderful Cure of Dropsy of Five Years' standing.

Copy of a Letter from Mr. Thomas Taylor, Chemist, Stockton, Durham, 17th April, 1845:—

To Professor Holloway.

Sir,—I think it my duty to inform you that Mrs. Clough, wife of Mr. John Clough, a respectable farmer of Acklam, within four miles of this place, had been suffering from dropsy for five years, and had had the best medical advice, without receiving any relief. Hearing of your pills and ointment, she used them with such surprising benefit that, in fact, she has now given them up, being so well, and quite able to attend to her household duties as formerly, *which she never expected to do again.* I had almost forgotten to state that she was given up by the faculty *as incurable.* When she used to get up in the morning it was impossible to discover a feature in her face, being in such a fearful state. This cure is entirely by the use of your medicines.

I am, sir, yours, &c., &c.,
(Signed) THOMAS TAYLOR.

A Cure of Indigestion and Constipation of the Bowels.

Copy of a Letter from G. R. Wythen Baxter, Esq., Author of the "Book of the Bastiles," &c., &c.

The Brynn, near Newtown, Montgomeryshire, North Wales, March 3rd, 1845.

To Professor Holloway.

Sir,—I consider it my duty to inform you that your pills, a few boxes of which I purchased at Mr. Moore's, Druggist, of Newtown, have cured me of constant indigestion and constipation of the bowels, which application to literary pursuits had long entailed upon me. I should strongly recommend authors, and studiously-disposed persons generally, to use your valuable pills. You have my permission to publish this note, if you wish to do so.

I am, sir, *your most obedient servant,*
(Signed) G. R. WYTHEN BAXTER.

A Cure of Asthma and Shortness of Breath.

Extract of a Letter from the Rev. David Williams, Resident Wesleyan Minister at Beaumaris, Island of Anglesea, North Wales, January 14th, 1845:—

To Professor Holloway.

Sir,—The pills which I requested you to send me were for a poor man of the name of Hugh Davis, who, before he took them, was *almost unable to walk for the want of breath!* and had only taken them a few days when he appeared *quite another man*; his breath is now *easy* and *natural*, and he is increasing daily in strength.

(Signed) DAVID WILLIAMS.

N.B.—These extraordinary pills will cure any case of Asthma or Shortness of Breath, however long standing or distressing the case may be, even if the patient be unable to lie down in bed through fear of being choked with cough and phlegm.

This Wonderful Medicine can be recommended with the greatest confidence for any of the following diseases:—

Ague	Female Irregularities	Sore Throats
Asthma		Scrofula, or King's Evil
Bilious Complaints	Fits	
Blotches on Skin	Gout	Secondary Symptoms
Bowel Complaints	Headache	
Colics	Indigestion	Tic Doloreux
Constipation of Bowels	Inflammation	Tumours
	Jaundice	Ulcers
Consumption	Liver Complaints	Venereal Affections
Debility	Lumbago	Worms, all kinds.
Dropsy	Piles	Weakness, from whatever cause, &c., &c.
Dysentery	Rheumatism	
Erysipelas	Retention of Urine	
Fevers of all kinds	Stone and Gravel	

These truly invaluable Pills can be obtained at the establishment of Professor Holloway, near Temple Bar, London, and of most respectable Venders of Medicine, throughout the civilized world, at the following prices:—1s. 1½d., 2s. 9d., 4s. 6d., 11s., 22s., and 33s., each box. There is a considerable saving by taking the larger sizes.

N.B.—Directions for the guidance of patients in every disorder are affixed to each box.

Market Intelligence.

LONDON CORN EXCHANGE, MONDAY, DEC. 8.—In the past week the arrivals of English wheat up to our market, coastwise, were on a limited scale, and of very middling quality, the bulk of the samples proving greatly out of condition. By land carriage very few samples came to hand. Of Irish oats the receipts were by no means large, though they have proved fully adequate to meet the wants of the dealers. The imports of foreign grain were, comparatively speaking, small. Fresh up to-day very little English wheat came to hand; hence the stands were scantily filled with samples. Owing, however, to the rumours afloat on the subject of a contemplated alteration in the corn-laws, the wheat trade was almost paralysed; indeed, such was the heaviness in the trade that some time elapsed before a single sale was concluded. We have, therefore, to quote a decline in the value of the finest parcels of both red and white of 2s., in that of the middling and inferior qualities of quite 3s. per quarter, at which a clearance was not effected, many of the buyers refusing to purchase except at further reduced currencies. As might, therefore, be expected, the market closed with even a further downward movement in the quotations than we have above quoted. Of free foreign wheat the show was by no means large, but the before-mentioned causes operated against sales, and the currencies suffered an abatement of from 1s. to in some instances 3s. per quarter, and at which amount of depression scarcely any sales were concluded. For wheat under lock there was scarcely any inquiry; indeed, such was the heaviness in the trade, that prices must be considered almost nominal. The show of English and foreign barley was moderately good, but of very inferior quality. In some cases, selected parcels fit for malting were taken at about late rates; but all other descriptions declined in value 1s. to 2s. per quarter, and a large portion of such was left over for Wednesday's market. We had only a limited quantity of malt on offer, yet the sale for that article was very dull, at a decline of 1s. per quarter. Although the show of oats was by no means large, the oat trade ruled extremely dull, and the currencies declined from 1s. to 2s. per quarter. The almost only quality in demand was feed. The supply of beans was moderate, while the inquiry was very dull, and the quotations fell from 1s. to 2s. per quarter. Peas of all kinds, the show of which was large, moved off heavily at a reduction in value of from 1s. to 2s. per quarter. Flour very dull, and the turn lower.

CURRENT PRICES OF GRAIN, FLOUR, AND SEED IN MARK-LANE.

BRITISH GRAIN.

Shillings per Quarter.

Wheat ..	Essex & Kent, white, new .. 54 to 68	..	63 to 72
	Ditto, red 52	63 ..	56 68
	Suffolk and Norfolk, red .. 53	62 white	52 67
	Lincoln and York, red .. 53	63 white	54 67
	Northumb. and Scotch ..		57 65
Rye ..	.. ..		29 32
Barley ..	Malting 32	34 extra	28 —
	Distilling		29 32
	Grinding		26 29
Malt ..	Ship 53	57 Ware	59 61
Oats ..	Lincolnshire and Yorkshire, feed, 25s 0d to 27s 0d; potato, or short, 26s 0d to 30s 0d; Poland, 25s 6d to 30s 0d; Northumberland and Scotch, Angus, 25s 0d to 29s 0d; potato, 27s 0d to 30s 0d; Irish feed, 24 0d to 26s 0d; black, 24s 0d to 26s 0d; potato, 25s 0d to 28s 0d; Galway, 23s 0d to 24s 0d.		
Beans ..	Ticks		39 45
	Harrow, small		41 47
Peas ..	White 40	46 boilers	47 51
	Gray and hog		38 42
Flour ..	Norfolk and Suffolk ..		45 51
	Town-made (per sack of 280lbs		45 57
Buckwheat, or Brank			30 32

ENGLISH SEEDS, &c.

Red clover (per cwt.)	40 to 70
White clover (per cwt.)	45 74
Rapeseed (per last)	£26 28
Mustard seed, brown (per bushel) 9s to 13s; white, 9s to 11s.	
Tares, winter (per bushel), 5s. 6d. to 7s.	
Linseed cakes (per 1000 of 3lb each) £11 to £12	

FOREIGN GRAIN.

Shillings per Quarter.

		Free.		In Bond.
Wheat ..	Dantsic and Konigsberg 67 extra	71	..	55 — 60
	Ditto ditto .. 62 —	65	..	52 — 55
	Pomeranian, &c., Anhalt 60 —	68	..	52 — 57
	Danish, Holstein, &c. .. 58 —	64	..	50 — 55
	Russian, hard .. .. —			
	Ditto, soft .. .. 57 —	60	..	48 — 54
	Spanish, hard .. .. —			
	Ditto, soft .. .. 62 —	66	..	53 — 57
	Italian, Tuscan, &c., red —			
	Ditto, white .. .. 65 —	71	..	56 — 60
	Odessa & Taganrog, hard —			
	Ditto, soft .. .. 55 —	68	..	48 — 55
	Canadian, hard .. .. 58 —	61		
	Ditto, fine .. .. 62 —	64		
Rye	Russian, Prussian, &c. 28 —	30		
Barley ..	Grinding .. .. .. 26 —	29		
	Ditto, distilling .. .. 31 —	33	..	20 — 23
Oats ..	Dutch, feed .. .. 24 —	27		
	Ditto, brew and thick .. 25 —	21	..	21 — 25
	Russian .. .. .. 24 —	25	..	21 — 23
	Danish & Mecklenburg 24 —	27	..	21 — 24
Beans ..	Ticks, 33 to 39, small .. 37 —	44	..	32 — 42
	Egyptian .. .. .. 37 —	49	..	36 — 39
Peas ..	White, 42 to 51, gray .. 40 —	42		
Flour ..	Dantsic and Hamburgh (per barrel), fine 31			
	36, superfine .. .. 32 —	38	..	26 — 30
	Canada, 34 to 36, United States .. .. .. 33 —	38	..	28 — 31
Buckwheat	.. .. 30 —	35		

FOREIGN SEEDS, &c.

Per Quarter.

Linseed .. Petersburgh and Riga (free of duty)	.. 44 to 47
Archangel, 40 to 45, Memel and Konigsberg	
Mediterranean, 40 to 48, Odessa	.. 40 47
Rapeseed (free of duty) per last	.. 47 50
Red Clover (10s per cwt. and 5 per cent. on the duty)	£24 26
White ditto	.. 40 62
Tares, small spring (free of duty) 38 to 40, large	.. 45 63
Linseed cake (free of duty), Dutch, £8 10s, £10 0s,	.. 40 44
French, per ton	.. £9 10, £10 10
Rape cakes (free of duty)	.. £5 0 £5 5

AVERAGE PRICES

Of the last six weeks, which regulate the Duties from the 4th of December to the 10th of December.

	Wheat		Barley		Oats.		Rye.		Beans		Peas.	
	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
Week ending Oct. 25, 1845..	59	5	33	0	24	11	34	5	45	5	44	1
Week ending Nov. 1, 1845..	60	1	34	3	26	2	33	2	45	3	43	10
Week ending Nov. 8, 1845..	59	7	35	1	25	2	35	7	45	1	44	[illegible]
Week ending Nov 15. 1845 ..	58	6	35	0	26	3	38	2	44	5	45	[illegible]
Week ending Nov. 22, 1845 ..	57	11	34	1	25	5	37	1	43	4	45	[illegible]
Week ending Nov. 29, 1845..	58	2	33	2	25	0	35	4	41	9	45	10
Aggregate average of the last six weeks ..	58	11	34	1	25	6	35	8	44	3	44	11
London averages (ending Dec. 2, 1845)	63	2	35	4	26	3	39	2	41	[illegible]	48	[illegible]
Duties.. ..	14	0	4	0	3	0	7	6	1	0	1	[illegible]

LONDON SMITHFIELD CATTLE MARKET, MONDAY, DEC. 8.—The past week's imports of live stock into London have been again extensive, notwithstanding the present advanced period of the year; we have received 34 oxen per the John Bull and Caledonia steamers from Hamburg, 77 oxen, 101 cows, 623 sheep, and 2 calves, per the Giraffe, Attwood, and the Commercial Packet from Rotterdam; and 113 cows, together with 142 sheep by the Rapid, from Harlingen. At the outports 60 sheep and 67 beasts have been imported from Hull. To-day we had on offer 150 foreign beasts, and 350 sheep in, generally speaking, fair condition. Nearly the whole found buyers at full prices. Fresh up to our market this morning the arrival of beasts from our own grazing districts were large, but for the most part of middling quality, if we except the droves from the western counties. The attendance of both town and country buyers being large, the beef trade ruled firm, at prices fully equal to those obtained on this day se'nnight, and at which a good clearance was effected. From the northern counties we received about 2,000 shorthorns; from the eastern 300 shorthorns and Scots; from the western and midland counties 700 Herefords, Devons, runts, &c.; from other parts of England 400 of various kinds; from Ireland 120 beasts, and from Scotland 100 Scots. Although the numbers of sheep were on the increase, the mutton trade was firm at full prices, the best old Downs readily producing 5s. per 8 lbs. Very few calves were on offer, while the veal trade was firm at Friday's advance. In pigs a steady business was transacted, at full prices. The great Christmas market will be held here on Monday next.

By the quantities of 8lb., sinking the offal.

	s.	d.	s.	d.
Inferior coarse beasts	2	10	3	0
Second quality	3	2	3	6
Prime large oxen	3	8	4	0
Prime Scots, &c.	4	2	4	4
Coarse inferior sheep	3	4	3	10
Second quality	4	0	4	4
Prime coarse woolled	4	6	4	8
Prime Southdown	4	10	5	0
Large coarse calves	4	2	4	8
Prime small	4	10	5	2
Suckling calves, each	18	0	31	0
Large hogs	3	10	4	8
Neat small porkers	4	8	5	2
Quarter-old store pigs, each	16	0	21	0

HEAD OF CATTLE ON SALE.
(From the Books of the Clerk of the Market.)
Beasts, 3,441—Sheep, 25,400—Calves, 59—Pigs, 381.

RICHMOND CORN MARKET, DEC. 6.—We had a very large supply of grain in our market to-day, and many of the samples very bad. Wheat sold from 5s. to 6s.; oats, 2s. 9d. to 4s. 6d.; barley, 4s. to 4s. 3d.; beans, 6s. to 6s. 6d., per bushel.

LIVERPOOL CORN MARKET, MONDAY, DEC. 8.—Since last Tuesday we have had good supplies of flour and oatmeal from Ireland, but moderate of wheat and oats from the same quarter. From Canada we have received 2,873 quarters of wheat, and 11,500 barrels of flour. There have been no arrivals of any consequence from foreign ports. The recent fresh agitation of the Corn Law question has served further to depress the grain trade here, and the business in any article, during the past week, has been on a very limited scale, with lower prices generally. On Friday new wheat was offered at a decline of 3d. to 4d., and on old 2d. per bushel; on flour 1s. to 2s. per sack and barrel; 1d. per bushel on oats, and 1s. per load on oatmeal. In the bonded market no transactions of moment have transpired. United States flour is offered at 30s. per barrel.

MANCHESTER CORN MARKET, SATURDAY, DEC. 6.—In the early part of the week there was only a moderate consumptive demand for flour, and where sales were effected, it was necessary to submit to a reduction of fully 1s. per sack on all but the choicest quality. In oats and oatmeal there was likewise but little passing, and the latter article might have been purchased on lower terms. Subsequently, the revival of rumours relative to an abolition of the Corn Laws at an early period had the effect of causing an almost total suspension of business in every article, and prices were, in consequence, rendered altogether nominal. The transactions in our market this morning were so exceedingly limited in extent that it is not possible to report a change in the quotations of any article.

HULL CORN MARKET, TUESDAY.—During the past week there has been more disposition to buy fine wheats at the prices of the last week, but any attempt to advance in price has not been met by buyers, consequently the trade has been by no means brisk; bonded neglected. At to-day's market the supply of wheat from the farmers is moderate, and the prices of last week are unaltered. All sorts of spring corn the same as last quoted. Linseed and linseed cakes are both quieter. The same may be said of rapeseed and rapeseed cakes. Bones held very firmly. In guano not much doing.

BIRMINGHAM CORN EXCHANGE, WEDNESDAY.—During the present week English wheat has maintained its value, and old, in some instances, realised 1s. per quarter advance. Malting barley no lower, and fine samples scarce. Oats held for last week's prices. Beans 1s. per quarter less money.

WAKEFIELD CORN MARKET, FRIDAY.—We have fair supplies of wheat and barley, and moderate of other grain. There was a very limited business done in wheat to-day, and to effect sales a decline of 1s. to 2s. per quarter was submitted to. Fine barley fully as dear, other sorts 1s. per quarter cheaper. Beans in slow request, and prices of new must be quoted 1s. per quarter less than last week. Oats sold at a reduction of ½d. per stone, and shelling of 6d. per load. Malt firm at late rates.

NEWCASTLE CORN MARKET, TUESDAY.—There was a moderate supply of wheat from the growers on Saturday last, with a small arrival coastways; the millers selected the best conditioned samples at 1s. per quarter advance, and the damp and inferior kinds met a ready sale at last week's prices. There was nothing done in bonded, but there was more inquiry for free wheat. This morning there was a fair supply of wheat, but the trade was rather dull upon the whole at Saturday's prices. Rye was in moderate request. The supply of barley is large, and the best samples only are saleable at last week's prices; other kinds are difficult to quit on low terms. There was a small supply of oats, and all kinds were 1s. per quarter higher. In beans and white peas there is little doing, and but few on sale. Flour is slow sale at last week's rates.

LIVERPOOL CATTLE MARKET, MONDAY.—The supply of cattle at market to-day has been smaller than last week, particularly in sheep. We had a numerous attendance of customers; anything good eagerly sought after. Beef 5½d. to 6d., mutton 6½d. to 7d. per lb.

SALFORD NEW CATTLE MARKET, WEDNESDAY.—The supply of stock good, and the quality an average one. The demand continues extensive, and all firm. Beasts early sold up. There was no change in the value of either beef or mutton. But little stock unsold.

NEWCASTLE CATTLE MARKET, TUESDAY.—There has been a very small supply of stock at our market to-day, which met a brisk sale, and prices considerably on the advance; plenty of buyers, and all soon cleared away. The following quotations were fully supported:—Beasts, small cutters, 7s.; steers of the best quality, 6s. 6d. to 6s. 9d.; middling, 5s. 6d. to 6s.; pork, large, 6s. to 6s. 6d.; small, 7s. per stone of 14 lb. Good half-bred Wedders, 1s. a head below 7d.; middling, 6½d.; ewes, white-faced, 6d.; black-faced, 5d. to 5½d. per lb., sinking offal.

COUNTY OF HERTFORD.—Mr. Halsey has offered himself as a candidate for the county of Hertford, on the Conservative interest. We understand, however, that he will not be elected without opposition. A requisition is in course of signature to the Honourable Spencer Cowper, the brother of Earl Cowper.

Poetry.

BEAUTIES OF BYRON.

NO. XXIII.

"CHILDE HAROLD."

We continue our extracts from the fourth Canto descriptive of Rome: here is a picture of

THE PANTHEON.

Simple, erect, severe, austere, sublime—
Shrine of all saints and temple of all gods,
From Jove to Jesus—spared and blest by time,
Looking tranquillity, while falls or nods
Arch empire, each thing round thee, and man plods
His way through thorns to ashes—glorious dome!
Shalt thou not last? Time's scythe and tyrants' rods
Shiver upon thee—sanctuary and home
Of art and piety—Pantheon!—Pride of Rome!

ST. PETER'S.

But lo the dome—the vast and wond'rous dome.
To which Diana's marvel was a cell—
Christ's mighty shrine above his martyr's tomb!
I have beheld the Ephesian's miracle—
Its columns strew the wilderness and dwell
The hyæna and the jackall in their shade;
I have beheld Sophia's bright roofs swell
Their glittering mass i' the sun, and have survey'd
Its sanctuary the while the usurping Moslem pray'd;

But thou of temples old, or altars new,
Standest alone—with nothing like to thee—
* * * *

THE VATICAN.

Or, turning to the Vatican, go see
Laocoon's torture dignifying pain—
A father's love and mortal's agony
With an immortal's patience bending:—Vain
The struggle; vain, against the coiling strain
And gripe, and deepening of the dragon's grasp,
The old man's clinch; the long envenomed chain
Rivets the living links,—the enormous asp
Enforces pang on pang and stifles gasp on gasp.

Or view the Lord of the unerring bow,
The God of life, and poesy, and light—
The Sun in human limbs arrayed, and brow
All radiant from his triumph in the fight
The shaft hath just been shot—the arrow bright
With an immortal's vengeance; in his eye
And nostril beautiful disdain, and might
And majesty, flash their full lightnings by,
Developing in that one glance the Deity.

But in his delicate form—a dream of love,
Shaped by some solitary nymph, whose breast
Longed for a deathless lover from above,
And madden'd in that vision—are exprest
All that ideal beauty ever bless'd
The mind with in its most unearthly mood,
When each conception was a heavenly guest—
A ray of immortality—and stood,
Starlike, around until they gather'd to a god!

And if it be Prometheus stole from Heaven
The fire which we endure, it was repaid
By him to whom the energy was given
Which this poetic marble hath array'd
With an eternal glory—which, if made
By human hands, is not of human thought;
And Time itself hath hallow'd it, nor laid
One ringlet in the dust—nor hath it caught
A tinge of years, but breathes the flame with which 'twas wrought.

THE COLISEUM.

I see before me the Gladiator lie:
He leans upon his hand—his manly brow
Consents to death, but conquers agony,
And his droop'd head sinks gradually low—
And through his side the last drops, ebbing slow
From the red gash, fall heavy, one by one,
Like the first of a thunder-shower; and now
The arena swims around him—he is gone,
Ere ceased the inhuman shout which hail'd the wretch who won.

He heard it, but he heeded not—his eyes
Were with his heart, and that was far away.
He reck'd not of the life he lost nor prize,
But where his rude hut by the Danube lay.
There were his young barbarians all at play,
There was their Dacian mother—he, their sire,
Butcher'd to make a Roman holiday!—
All this rush'd with his blood.—Shall he expire
And unavenged?—Arise! ye Goths, and glut your ire!
* * * *

"While stands the Coliseum, Rome shall stand;
When falls the Coliseum, Rome shall fall;
And when Rome falls—the World." From our own land
Thus spake the pilgrims o'er this mighty wall
In Saxon times, which we are wont to call
Ancient: and these three mortal things are still
On their foundations and unalter'd all;
Rome and her Ruin past Redemption's skill,
The World, the same wide den—of thieves, or what ye will.

NOTICE.

Poetical Contributions for our "Christmas Garland" must be at the Office of this Paper by, or before, December the 15th.

Reviews.

THE PURGATORY OF SUICIDES. A Prison Rhyme in Ten Books. By Thomas Cooper, *the Chartist*. London: J. How, 132, Fleet-street.

It is now more than three months since we commenced our review of Mr. Cooper's remarkable poem. If we have lingered long on our way, our readers must impute it to the difficulty we have felt in tearing ourselves from a pleasing theme. Moreover, we desired to make known, as far as consistently we could do, the beauties of Mr. Cooper's epic to our readers, that so the many thousands who cannot afford to give seven shillings and sixpence for the poem, might know, at least, something of its scope and merits. We must, however, add, that we should not have ventured to have extracted so largely from the poem as we have done, had we not had Mr. Cooper's permission to do so.

The "Purgatory of Suicides" has caused an extraordinary sensation. The author was known to belong to the working classes; and on the title-page of his poem he avowed himself to be a "Chartist." Curiosity was, therefore, naturally excited as to the sort of poem a Chartist shoemaker could write. Moreover, the public pretty generally knew what kind of Chartist Thomas Cooper had been. *He* had been no mealy-mouthed, "moral," canting adventurer, but a sterling, straightforward democrat, who had dared to tell the whole truth and suffer for it. He had been the oracle and leader of starving but intelligent and resolute multitudes, who, under his teaching and guidance, had made famous, as a stronghold of Chartism, one of England's most ancient and celebrated towns.

The chivalric character gained by Thomas Cooper in Leicester, was maintained by him on the two occasions, when arraigned as a "criminal" on charges arising out of the troubles of 1842; particularly on his second trial. At that trial the struggle between himself, single-handed, and the formidable array of "legal talent" opposed to him, lasted ten days; and the name of "Thomas Cooper, the Chartist," rang through the land; made subject for public wonder by his "insolent daring," in combatting the craft and tyranny of the legal bloodhounds employed to hunt him down.

Mr. Cooper's political acts had made him notorious, but his prison acts have already made him famous. Heretofore his popularity was confined to a party, but his "Purgatory of Suicides" has achieved for him popularity with the public, including *all* classes and parties.

Our estimate of this poem must be pretty well known to the readers of the *Star* by this time, and it is not necessary that we should add many words to what we have, from time to time, expressed when giving extracts from the several "books," or cantos. What in addition we have to say we shall best express by a few words of comment on the very able review of the poem which appeared in the *Britannia*, and which was copied into this paper of the 13th of September. The following are the "points" of the *Britannia's* review:—

We repeat it emphatically that Thomas Cooper is one of those great poets, stamped by nature's own hand—not fashioned by schools, not taught by labour to string rhymes together, but pouring forth from the fulness of his own mind and heart a torrent of burning and impetuous eloquence. * * * *

The poem is written in the Spenserian stanza. Grander and more nervous than "Childe Harold," which, in its reflective passages, it somewhat resembles—evidencing much deeper reading, much profounder thought, much greater power of the forcible and the terrible in expression, though with less beauty of poetic imagery—this Prison Rhyme comes nearer than any other poem in our language to the grand works of Milton. * * *

Our judgment may be disputed—the world may disregard this mighty and daring effort of an irregular but lofty genius, though we do not think it will—yet still we shall hold to our opinion, that this "Prison Rhyme" is the most wonderful effort of intellectual power produced within the last century. * * * It is not to be lightly read; it is not to be placed in young hands. We might even be disposed to wish it had never been written. But here it is, full of power, full of eloquence, full of grand detached passages—beyond all question the most singular poem in the English language. * * * * Let us frankly, with all its faults, acknowledge this "Prison Rhyme" to be one of the most wonderful productions of which the world has preserved record.

With much of the above we heartily concur, as indeed we concur with much of the entire "review;" but, we cannot go with the *Britannia* in exalting Thomas Cooper above all our English poets subsequent to Milton—even Byron!" "Comparisons are odious," and we will not compare the merits of the *Purgatory of Suicides* with those of *Childe Harold*; we shall content ourselves with expressing our dissent from the judgment of the *Britannia*. But Thomas Cooper may be a great poet, and still inferior to Byron. Let us add, we know what Byron, as a poet, is, but we know not what Thomas Cooper may yet be. We believe that had Byron lived only ten years longer than he did, marvellous as are the works he has left us, he would have exceeded even those wondrous productions. Thomas Cooper's first poem is certainly greatly superior to more than the first poetical work of Byron; what his future poems—one, at least, we are sure of—may prove to be, it would be idle now to speculate. But we must hold, otherwise we shall fall into the error of "comparisons" we promised to avoid.

The poetical merits of the *Purgatory of Suicides* are great, but, in our humble opinion, not nearly so great as estimated by the *Britannia* critic. Its faults, we think, are mostly comprised in the objections advanced by the *Athenæum*, and some of those advanced by the *Nation*—viz., an excess of "swelling phraseology," and a very cloud of words, which, if they be English, ninety-nine out of every hundred Englishmen will nevertheless be unable to understand; such as "inchoate," "esperance," "frore," "pulchritude," "infract," "yare," "aidant," "pule," "perdurably," "obtest," "bedazed," "preen," "conglobated," "operose," "demiurgic," and many others "too numerous to mention." We confess to having had to read more than one stanza twice or thrice over before we could comprehend the author's meaning. These, however, are defects which Mr. Cooper may easily avoid in future.

The opening or reflective passages in each book are generally the most purely poetical, and generally, too, the plainest and simplest in their phraseology. Indeed, it is usually where the poem is weakest in poetical merit that the greatest number of outlandish words are found. We could have liked that there had been more of such poetry as the apostrophe to the robin, opening the "fourth book." We must add that some of the descriptive passages are very fine, though, usually, too elaborate. Some of the declamatory stanzas are also poetically grand; we must particularly notice the outburst of Condorcet, in the fifth book. The six stanzas commencing:—

"The spirit of Prometheus doth but sleep."

are truly magnificent.

We think the construction of the poem would have been superior to what it is, had Mr. Cooper brought his characters together without those ghostly cruisings which occupy by far the greatest portion of the poem. In each book we find the characters therein summoned to a great gathering of all disembodied suicides, to discuss the great question of mankind's destiny. In each book we are led to expect that the next will contain the discussion ("adjourned" at the close of the "first book") but we expect only to be disappointed. At length we come to the last book, when instead of a renewal of the discussion so excitingly commenced in the "first book," we find the "question" has, by some mysterious means, not explained, been already settled, during the time that Hades was being ransacked to get the disputants together. We must confess too that the "tenth book" disappointed us. We do not say that it exhibits a "lame and impotent conclusion," on the contrary, the conclusion is just what we could desire, but the language of nearly the entire "book" is tame and pointless compared with the preceding portions of the poem.

But, with all its defects, the "Purgatory of Suicides" is a great work, reflecting well-earned fame upon its author, and no little honour upon the class from which Mr. Cooper sprung, and the party whose name he boldly avows and wears. The "Purgatory of Suicides," at least in one respect, commands our unqualified admiration. As a bold and triumphant defence of free thought, and man's natural and imprescriptible rights, it is, beyond comparison, the best poem in the English language, save and except one or two of Shelley's immortal productions. Of course, disbelief in the time-honoured frauds and impostures, religious, political, and social, which yet vex this earth of ours, is in the present day widely existent; but those who dare to avow their disbelief are comparatively few. We do not dispute that those who fire from a "masked battery" against the monstrosities of priestly fraud, political privilege, and social wrong, do good service to the cause of human progress; we will even admit that very often they may effect greater good than if they showed themselves in their true colours, and openly assailed the systems they abhor and despise. Still we must confess that our sympathies are with the bold and avowed assailants of wrong, and therefore it is that we admire Mr. Cooper's poem, independent of its poetical merits. With an unfaltering hand he rends the veil of humbug, and exhibits the true character of the frauds which have for so many ages made fools and slaves of mankind. He proclaims, "trumpet-tongued," the rights of the human race, and points out the only sure means by which those rights may be won and established—the enlightenment of the minds of the hitherto darkened and deluded masses. With all the poet's detestation of priestly fraud, with all his hatred of kingly and class tyranny, we heartily sympathise; for us, as well as for himself, he speaks what we cannot express for ourselves, and from our heart's core we thank and honour the poet who has proved himself, in the words of great Thomas Paine, "*Bold enough to be honest*, and *honest enough to be bold*."

We had prepared a summary of the opinions of such of our contemporaries as have reviewed this poem, with some comments of our own thereon; but the many demands upon our space compel us to exclude it. We conclude this notice with the finishing stanzas of the poem. As already described in previous extracts, the denizens of Hades are met to celebrate the triumph of brotherhood, freedom, and happiness; the following "chaunt" concludes the poem:—

"All hail the glorious power of Gentleness,
Of Pity and Mercy, Goodness, Love, and Truth!
Knowledge all hail, and Reason fetterless,—
Philanthropy, that yearned with god-like ruth
O'er suffering—Patriotism, whose eloquent mouth,
Bold heart, and sinewed hand dissolved the thrall
Of Tyrants!—Genius, Song, and Wisdom sooth,
All hail!—Great sources of old Evil's fall—
Men, spirits, hymn your power, in jocund festival!

"Earth's children raise their universal song
Of love and joy: mountain, and strand, and sea
Are vocal with your praise! Spirits prolong
The strain: through endless life they anthem ye—
Their endless after life of jubilee:
And hymning ye our essences enhance
Still more the measure of their ecstasy,—
Assured more deeply of their heritance,
The more their joyous thought hath joyous utterance!

"Spirits, still more rejoice! for pain and woe
Are gone, and universal life doth bloom
With joy!"—
The dream o'erwrought me to a throe
Of bliss,—and I awoke to find my home
A dungeon,—thence to ponder when would come
The day that Goodness shall the earth renew
And Truth's young light disperse old Error's gloom,—
When Love shall Hate, and Meekness Pride subdue,—
And when the Many cease their slavery to the Few!

WISE SAWS AND MODERN INSTANCES. By Thomas Cooper, *the Chartist*. London: J. How, 209, Piccadilly.

These are a series of homely tales told in homely language; but, though plain in outward garb, they enshrine precious gems of wit and wisdom, philanthropy, and pathos. The scene of most of the stories is laid in "Old Lincolnshire," the remainder, chiefly in Leicestershire. "Nearly all the characters sketched are real,—some of them in their very names; and the few adventures allotted to them are devoid of romance and intricacy, because they seldom exceed fact." The moral of each tale has generally a political signification, directed against some giant wrong, or popular error, and the work may be regarded as another and valuable contribution, by Mr. Cooper, to the cause of mental freedom, political right, and social justice.

The work is dedicated to

DOUGLAS JERROLD.

My friend, heart-homage, in this simple strain
I yield thee for thy toil to aid the Right!
So long hath genius, with a guilty slight,
Passed by the thousands who life's load sustain
Of scorn and indigence,—to court the vain
And foppish crowd,—or laud, in phrases dight
With fulsome flattery, some pampered wight
Who counts himself for polished porcelain,—
The poor for vulgar clay! A nobler path,—
Disdaining hireling censure, hireling praise,—
Thou, for thyself hast chosen. Still, in faith
That thy true toil shall hasten the boon days
Of brotherhood renewed, brother, *toil on!*—
All upright hearts give thee blythe benison!

The opening tale is entitled "Kucky Sarson, the Barber; or, the Disciple of Equality;" and illustrates the difference between talking about equality, and acting in the spirit thereof. "Tim Swallow Whistle," the tailor of Horncastle, who, being suspected of sedition, falls into poverty and trouble, but ultimately rights himself, and sees his enemy fall, illustrates the adage, "Every dog has his day." "Davy Lidgitt, the Carrier," is the story of a man who brought his ninepence to nought, by being in too great a hurry to become rich. "The Fisherman and the Fiddler" is a cheerful story of two originals locating at Torksey. The fisherman is always getting into some scrape through not minding the "wise saw" of the blind fiddler, "Don't say so till you are sure." Moreover, the fiddler has one favourite string he plays upon, to the tune of "Divide the land equally," which he had learned from a wondrous wise man, his godmother's grandfather, who used to argue "that God Almighty gave the world to everybody, and that the rich had stolen the poor's share of the land." "The Beggared Gentleman" is ably written; the unfortunate man's address to his "Crooked Stick" is very pathetic. "The History of Cockle Tom," showing the nurture of a young English sailor, is a capital story; we are inclined to think the best in the work; it will be read with delight, especially by the young. "The Last Days of an Old Sailor" would be a pleasing tale but for its painful finish; the more painful because the author assures us that the hero of his story is no imaginary character, but a man who lived and died in the town of Gainsborough, as described in this story—another victim of that infernal system which the wretched inmates of poorhouses have to submit to. "The Minister of Mercy" is a pen and ink portrait of the celebrated dissenting minister, Robert Hall, showing him engaged in the benevolent work of providing for the poor and unfortunate of Leicester. In the course of his philanthropic labours he encounters a friend, who is an unbeliever in religion, but endowed with a large portion of the "milk of human kindness." He contributes largely to a relief fund, which the "Minister of Mercy" is collecting, indeed the sum he contributes is much larger than any sum the Minister can obtain from any of the religious and wealthy manufacturers. In the course of a conversation between the sceptic and the Minister, on the hardness of heart towards the poor shown by the wealthy, the sceptic remarks, that "if callousness to the sufferings of their workmen continues to increase among the manufacturers, as rapidly as it has increased for the last ten years, Christianity will be openly scoffed at by the poor of the next generation, in the very streets where we are now walking." This conversation the author supposes to have taken place twenty-eight years ago. The next story,—"Merrie England—No More!" exhibits the prediction of the sceptic realised. As a specimen of Mr. Cooper's prose writings, and for the stern truths contained therein, we give the whole of this tale:—

"MERRIE ENGLAND"—NO MORE!

On an April morning in forty-two—scarcely four years bygone,—a group of five or six destitute-looking men were standing on a well-known space in Leicester, where the frustrum of a Roman mile-stone (surmounted, in true Gothic style, with a fantastic cross) was preserved within an iron palisade, and where the long narrow avenue of Barkby-lane, enters the wide trading street called Belgrave-gate. The paleness and dejection of the men's faces, as well as the ragged condition of their clothing, would have told how fearfully they were struggling with poverty and want, if their words had not been overheard.

"Never mind the lad, John," said the tallest and somewhat the hardest-featured man of the party; "he can't be worse off than he would have been at home, let him be where he will. What's the use of grieving about him? He was tired of pining at home, no doubt, and has gone to try if he can't mend his luck. You'll hear of him again, soon, from some quarter or other."

"But I can't satisfy myself about him, in that way, George," replied the man to whom this rough exhortation was addressed; "if the foolish lad be drawn into company that tempts him to steal, I may have to hear him sentenced to transportation, and that would be no joke, George."

"I see nothing so very serious, even in that," observed another of the group; "I would as lief be transported tomorrow as stay here to starve, as I've done for the last six months."

"It would seem serious to me, though," rejoined John, "to see my own child transported."

"Why, John, to men that scorn to steal, in spite of starvation," rejoined George, "it's painful to see any child, or man either, transported: but where's the real disgrace of it? The man that pronounces the sentence is, in nine cases out of ten, a bigger villain than him that's called 'the criminal.' Disgrace is only a name—a mere name, you know, John."

"I'm aware there's a good deal o' truth in that," replied John; "the names of things would be altered a good deal, if the world was set right: but, as wrong as things are now, yet I hope my lad will never steal, and have to be sentenced to transportation. I've often had to hear him cry for bread, since he was born, and had none to give him; but I would sooner see him perish with hunger than live to hear him transported, for I think it would break my heart;—and God Almighty forbid I ever should have to hear it!"

"Goddle Mitey," said George, pronouncing the syllables in a mocking manner, and setting up a bitter laugh, which was joined by every member of the group, except the mournful man who had just spoken; "who told thee there was one? Thy grandmother and the parsons? Don't talk such nonsense any more, John! it's time we all gave it over: they've managed to grind men to the dust with their priestcraft, and we shall never be righted till we throw it off!"

"No, no," chimed in another, immediately; "they may cant and prate about it: but, if their God existed, he would never permit us to suffer as we do!"

"Well, I'm come seriously to the same conclusion," said one who had not spoken before, and was the palest and thinnest of the group; "I think all their talk about a Providence that disposes the lot of men differently here, 'for His Own great mysterious purposes,' as they phrase it, is mere mysterious humbug, to keep us quiet. What purpose could a being have, who, they say, is as infinitely good as he is infinitely powerful, in placing me where I must undergo insult and starvation, while He places that man,—the oppressor and grinder, who is riding past now, in his gig,—in plenty and abundance?"

"Right, Benjamin," said George; "they can't get quit of their difficulty, quibble as they may: if they bedaub us with such nicknames as 'Atheistical Socialists,' we can defy them to make the riddle plainer by their own Jonathan Edwards, that they say good Robert Hall read over thirteen times, and pronounced 'irrefragable.'"

"Just so," resumed Benjamin, "whether man be called a 'Creature of Circumstance,' or a 'Creature of Necessity,' it amounts to the same thing. And, then, none of the Arminian sects can make out a case: they only prove the same thing as the Calvinist and the Socialist, when their blundering argument is sifted to the bottom."

"So that, if there be a Providence," continued George, "it has appointed, or permitted—which they like, for it comes to the same,—that old —— should fling the three dozen hose in your face last November, and that you should be out of work, and pine ever since; it appointed that I should get a few potatoes or a herring, by begging, or go without food altogether, some days since Christmas; and that each of us here, though we are willing to work, should have to starve; while it appointed that the mayor should live in a fine house, and swell his riches, by charging *whole* frame-rents, month after month, to scores of poor starving stockingers that had from him but half week's work."

"And, with all their talk about piety," rejoined Benjamin, "I think there is no piety at all in believing in the existence of such a Providence: and since, it appears, it can't be proved that Providence is of any other character, if there be One at all, I think it less impious to believe in None."

John stood by while this conversation was going on; but he heard little of it,—for his heart was too heavy with concern for his child,—and, in a little time, he took his way, silently and slowly, towards other groups of unemployed and equally destitute men, who were standing on the wider space of ground, at the junction of several streets,—a locality known by the name of "the Coal-hill," and "the Haymarket," from the nature of the merchandise sold there, at different periods, in the open air.

"Have you found the lad yet?" said one of John's acquaintances, when he reached the outermost group.

"No, William," replied the downcast father; "and I begin to have some very troublesome fears about him, I'll assure you."

"But why should you, John?" expostulated the other; "he's only gone to try if he can't mend himself—— Look you, John!" he said, pointing excitedly at what he suddenly saw; "there he goes, with the recruiting serjeant!"

The father ran towards the soldier and his child; and every group on the Coal-hill was speedily in motion when they saw and heard the father endeavouring to drag off the lad from the soldier, who seized the arm of his prize, and endeavoured to detain him. An increasing crowd soon hemmed in the party,—a great tumult arose,—and three policemen were speedily on the spot.

"Stick to your resolution, my boy!" cried the soldier, grasping the lad's arm with all his might; "you'll never want bread nor clothes in the army."

"But he'll be a sold slave, and must be shot at, like a dog!" cried the father, striving to rescue his child,—a pale, tall stripling, who seemed to be but sixteen or seventeen years of age.

"Man-butcher!—Blood-hound!" shouted several voices in the crowd: whereat the policemen raised their staves, and called aloud to the crowd to "stand back!"

"I demand, in the Queen's name, that you make this fellow loose his hold of my recruit!" said the soldier, in a loud, angry tone, to the policemen; two of whom seemed to be about obeying him, when, a dark, stern-browed man among the crowd, of much more strong and sinewy appearance than the majority of the working multitude who composed it stepped forward, and said,—

"Let any policeman touch him that dare! If they do they shall repent it! There's no law to prevent a father from taking hold of his own child's arm to hinder him from playing the fool!"

The men in blue slunk back at these words; and the soldier himself seemed intimidated at perceiving the father's cause taken up by an individual of such determination.

"Tom," said the determined man to the lad, "have you taken the soldier's money?"

"Not yet," answered the lad, after a few moments' hesitation.

"Then he shall have my life before he has thee!" said the father, whose heart leaped at the answer, and infused so much strength into his arm, that with another pull he brought off his lad, entirely, from the soldier's hold. The crowd now burst into a shout of triumph; and when the soldier would have followed, to recapture his victim, the stern-browed man confronted him with a look of silent defiance; and the red-coat, after uttering a volley of oaths, walked off amidst the derision of the multitude.

"Don't you think you were a fool, Tom, to be juggled with that cut-throat?" said the stern-browed man to the lad, while the crowd gathered around him and his father.

"I wasn't so soon juggled," replied the lad; "he's been at me this three months; but I never yielded till this morning, when I felt almost pined to death, and he made me have some breakfast with him,—but he'll not get hold of me again!"

"That's right, my lad!" said one of the crowd; "the bloody rascals have not had two Leicester recruits these two years; and I hope they'll never have another."

"No, no, our eyes are getting opened," said another working-man; "they may be able to kill us off by starvation, at home; but I hope young and old will have too much sense, in future, to give or sell their bodies to be shot at, for tyrants."

"Ay, ay, we should soon set the lordlings fast, if all working-men refused to go for soldiers," said another.

"So we should, Smith," said a sedate-looking elderly man; "that's more sensible than talking of fighting when we've no weapons, nor money to buy 'em, nor strength to use 'em."

"Then we shall wait a long while for the Charter, if we wait till we get it by leaving 'em no soldiers to keep us down," said a young, bold-looking man, with a fiery look; "for they'll always find plenty of Johnny Raws ready to list in the farming districts."

"And we shall wait a long while still if we try to get it by fighting, *under our present circumstances*," answered the elderly man, in a firm tone; "that could only make things worse, as all such fool's tricks have ended, before."

"You're right, Randal, you're right!" cried several voices in the crowd; and the advocate of the bugbear "physical force" said not another word on the subject.

"No, no, lads!" continued the "moral force" man, "let us go on, telling 'em our minds, without whispering,—and let us throw off their cursed priestcraft,—and the system will come to an end,—and before long. But fighting tricks will be sure to fail; because they're the strongest,—and they know it."

"Yes, it must end,—and very soon," observed another working man; "the shopkeepers won't be long before they join us; for they begin to squeak, most woefully."

"The shopkeepers, lad!" said the dark-looking man, who had confronted the soldier; "never let us look for their help: there is not a spark of independence in any of 'em: they have had it in their power, by their votes, to have ended misrule, before now, if they had had the will."

"Poor devils! they're all fast at their bankers', and dare no more vote against their tyrants than they dare attempt to fly," said another.

"There is no dependence on any of the middle class," said the dark-looking man, they "are as bad as the aristocrats. You see this last winter has passed over, entirely, without any subscription for the poor, again,—as severe a winter as it has been."

"Ay, and work scarcer and scarcer every day," said another.

"They say there are eight hundred out o'work now, in Leicester," said the elderly, sedate man, who had spoken before; "and I heard a manufacturer say there would be twice as many before the summer went over: but he added, that the people deserved to be pinched, since they would not join the Corn Law Repealers."

A burst of indignation, and some curses and imprecations, followed.

"Does he go to chapel?" asked one.

"Yes; and he's a member of the Charles-street meeting," said the elderly man.

"There's your religion, again!"—"There's your saintship!"—"There's your Christianity!"—"There's their Providence and their Goddle Mitey!"—were the varied indignant exclamations among the starved crowd, as soon as the answer was heard.

"I should think they invented the Bastile Mill, while they were at chapel!" said one.

"Is it smashed again?" asked another.

"No, but it soon will be," answered the man who confronted the soldier.

These, and similar observations, were uttered aloud, in the open street, at broad day, by hundreds of starved, oppressed, and insulted framework-knitters, who thus gave vent to their despair. Such conversation were customary sounds in John's ears, and, having recovered his son, he took him by the arm, after this brief delay, and, walking slowly back towards the Roman mile-stone, the two bent their steps down the narrow street called Barkby-lane.

After threading an alley, they reached a small wretchedly furnished habitation; and the lad burst into tears, as his mother sprung from her laborious employ at the wash-tub, and threw her arms round his neck, and kissed him. Two or three neighbours came in, in another minute, and congratulating the father and mother, on their having found their son, a conversation followed on the hatefulness of becoming "a paid cut-throat for tyrants," the substance of which would have been as unpleasing to "the powers that be" as the conversation in the street, had they heard the two. The entry, into the squalid-looking house, of another neighbour, pale and dejected beyond description, gave a new turn to the homely discourse.

"Your son has come back, I see, John," said the new-comer, in a very faint voice: "I wish my husband would come home."

"Thy husband, Mary!" said John; "why, where's he gone? Bless me, woman, how how ill you look!—What's the matter?"

The woman's infant had begun to cry while she spoke; and she had bared her breast, and given it to the child: but—Nature was exhausted! there was no milk;—and, while the infant struggled and screamed, the woman fainted.

She recovered, under the kindly and sympathetic attention of the neighbours; and the scanty resources of the group were laid under contribution for restoring some degree of strength, by means of food, to the woman and her child. One furnished a cup of milk, another a few spoonfuls of oatmeal, another brought a little bread; and when the child was quieted, and the mother was able, she commenced her sad narrative. She had not, she said, tasted food of any kind for a day and two nights: she had pawned or sold every article of clothing, except what she had on, and she was without a bonnet entirely: nor had her husband any other clothes than the rags in which he had gone out, two hours before, with the intent to try the relieving officer, once more, for a loaf, or a trifle of money: to complete their misery, they owed six weeks' rent for the room in which lay the bag of shavings that formed their bed; and, if they could not pay the next week's rent, they must turn out into the street, or go into the Bastile.

Her recital was scarcely concluded, when the sorrowful husband returned. He had been driven away by the relieving officer, and threatened with the gaol, if he came again, unless it was to bring his wife and child with him to enter the Union Bastile!—and the man sat down, and wept.

And then the children of misery mingled their consolations—if reflections drawn from despair could be so called—and endeavoured to fortify the heart of the yielding man, by reminding him that they would not have to starve long, for life, with all its miseries, would soon be over.

"I wonder why it ever begun!" exclaimed the man who had been yielding to tears, but now suddenly burst out into bitter language: "I think it's a pity but that God had found something better to do than to make such poor miserable wretches as we are!"

"Lord! what queer thoughts thou hast Jim!" said the woman who had previously fainted, and she burst into a half-convulsive laugh.

"Indeed, it's altogether a mystery to me," said the man who had so recently found his son; "we seem to be born for nothing but trouble. And then the queerest thing is that we are to go to hell, at last, if we don't do every thing exactly square. My poor father always taught me to reverence religion; and I don't like to say anything against it, but I'm hard put to it, at times, Jim, I'll assure ye. It sounds strange, that we are to be burnt for ever, after pining and starving here; for how can a man keep his temper, and be thankful, as they say we ought to be, when he would work and can't get it, and, while he starves, sees oppressors ride in their gigs, and build their great warehouses?"

"It's mere humbug, John, to keep us down: that's what it is!" said Jim: "one of these piety-mongers left us a tract last week; and what should it contain but that old tale of Bishop Burnett, about the widow that somebody who peeped through the chinks of the window-shutters saw kneeling by a table with a crust of bread before her, and crying out in rapture, 'All this and Christ!' I'll tell thee what, John, if old Burnet had been brought down from his gold and fat living, and had tried it himself, I could better have believed him. It's a tale told like many others to make fools and slaves of us; that's what I think. Ay, and I told the long-faced fellow so that fetched the tract. He looked very sourly at me, and said the poor did not use to trouble themselves about politics in his father's time, and everybody was more comfortable then than they are now. 'The more fools were they,' said I: 'if the poor had begun to think of their rights sooner, instead of listening to religious cant, we should not have been so badly off now:' and away he went, and never said another word.

"But I don't like to give way to bad thoughts about religion, after all, Jim," said John; "it's very mysterious—the present state of things: but we may find it all explained in the next life."

"Prythee, John," exclaimed the other, interrupting him, impatiently, "don't talk so weakly. That's the way they all wrap it up; and if a guess in the dark and a 'maybe' will do for an argument, why any thing will do. Until somebody can prove to me that there *is* another life after this, I shall think it my duty to think about this only. Now just look at this, John! If there be another life after this, why the present is worth nothing: every moment here ought to be spent in caring for eternity; and every man who really believes in such a life would not care how he passed this, so that he could but be making a preparation for the next: is n't that true, John?"

"To be sure it is, Jim; and what o' that?"

"Why, then, tell me which of 'em believes in such a life. Do you see any of the canting tribe less eager than others to get better houses, finer chairs and tables, larger shops, and more trade? Is old Sour-Godliness in the north, there, more easily brought to give up a penny in the dozen to save a starving stockinger than the grinders that don't profess religion? I tell thee, John, it's all fudge: they don't believe it themselves, or else they would imitate Christ before they tell us to be like him!"

Reader! the conversation shall not be prolonged, lest the object of this sketch should be mistaken. These conversations are *real*: they are no coinages. Go to Leicester, or any other of the suffering towns of depressed manufacture, where men compete with each other in machinery till human hands are of little use, and rival each other in wicked zeal to reduce man to the merest minimum of of subsistence. If the missionary people—and this is not said with a view to question the true greatness and utility of their efforts—if they would be consistent, let them send their heralds into the manufacturing districts, and first convert the "infidels" there, ere they send their expensive messengers to India. But let it be understood that the heralds must be furnished with brains, as well as tongues; for whoever enters Leicester, or any other of the populous starving hives of England, must expect to find the deepest subjects of theology, and government, and political economy, taken up with a subtlety that would often puzzle a graduate of Oxford or Cambridge. Whoever supposes the starving "manufacturing masses" know no more, and can use no better language, than the peasantry in the agricultural counties, will find himself egregiously mistaken. 'Tis ten to one but he will learn more of a profound subject in one hour's conversation of starving stockingers than he would do in ten lectures of a university professor. Let the missionary people try these quarters, then; but let their heralds "know their business" ere they go, or they will make as slow progress as Egede and the Moravians among the Greenlanders. One hint may be given. Let them begin with the manufacturers; and, if they succeed in making *real* converts to Christianity in that quarter, their success will be tolerably certain among the working-men, and tolerably easy in its achievement.

There is no "tale" to finish about John or his lad, or Jem and his wife. They went on starving,—begging,—receiving threats of imprisonment,—tried the "Bastile" for a few weeks,—came out and had a little work,—starved again; and they are still going the same miserable round, like thousands in "merrie England." What are your thoughts reader?

Ay! "What are your thoughts, reader?" Thoughts crowd upon us that we have no room in these columns to give expression to. We, too, have heard such conversations as the above, many a time. Mr. Cooper has neither coloured nor added to the sentiments, which any man with his ears open may hear expressed by the tongues of thousands in the manufacturing districts. Painful as are Mr. Cooper's descriptions of the misery of the working people, the truth of which descriptions we can vouch for, his "'Merrie England'—No More!" affords at least one cheering picture,—the disenthralment of the minds of the oppressed classes from that mental slavery which priests have imposed upon the millions. The working classes are fast discovering that it is the strong who rule the world, and they see, that if they would be the rulers, they must become the strong, and depend upon themselves only for that justice which no other power, natural or supernatural, will give to or gain for them. Mental darkness is dissipating; political and social wrong will follow.

We do not like the second volume so well as the first. We must, however, accord our praise to the "London Venture" and "Signs of the Times." We have not space to dwell on the merits of these. The two concluding stories, or fragments, were intended, it appears, to form parts of a novel, in some degree autobiographical, the completion of which the author has relinquished.

There are several other tales in the two volumes, besides those above named; we have merely singled out those with which we have been best pleased.

These volumes have our hearty commendation. Though of a different and inferior order of composition to the "Purgatory of Suicides," they cannot fail to greatly increase Mr. Cooper's popularity.

GEORGE CRUIKSHANK'S TABLE-BOOK—December. London: *Punch* Office, 92, Fleet-street.

The subject of the principal illustrations this month is "The Railroad Dragon." A "terrible creature in every sense of the word—a frightful creature, an encounter with which would be a new edition of a monster meeting—a dragon more terrible than the dragon of Wantley, more fierce than the dragon of St. George; ay, fiercer than any of his Christmas brethren, the tribe of 'snap-dragons—this monster, hatched in Capel-court,' as they hatch chickens in Egypt, by artificial means; in fine, the dragon of the panic has gone triumphantly forth—abroad himself, when installed in the homes of everybody else—staring with his evil eye, promising schemes out of all countenance, and blowing, by his pestiferous breath, the new lines of projectors into anything but pleasant places." Thus, saith the clever writer of the accompanying article (Mr. Angus. B. Reach), and truly the illustration amply justifies this alarming description. This "Dragon" must be seen to be comprehended, but once seen his portrait will not soon be forgotten. How terrific is the "Dragon's" announcement for his unfortunate victims:—

"I come to dine, I come to sup—
I come, I come, to eat you up."

And this, too, at Christmas time! Well may there be a Panic! "Steam has done it all," says the writer in the "Table-Book,"—"may do us all. The Panic is the executioner which hangs us 'on our own lines;' which overthrows the pillars of their fame—the columns of their advertisements—and which, although it may come with a knock, may not leave us worth a rap. Be warned, then, of the Panic Monster. Distrust the screeching music of its steam-whistle, which may suddenly change its tune from the merry ditty of 'gold in both pockets,' to the doleful dirge of

"'That's the way the money goes.'"

The next article, "Railway Deposits," introduces us to a parody on the "Beggar's Petition,"

"Pity the sorrows of a poor old Stag!"

"A Legend of the Rhine" is brought to a happy conclusion; it is the best quiz on literature of the "romantic school" we have ever read. "My Opinions on Umbrellas," "Hints for a Domestic Police," "The Pessimist," and "Autograph Hunters," are all good. "Jollipump on Happiness" makes one happy to read it. "The Stage Negro" is another of the editor's capital sketches of stage characters. Altogether, this number of the "Table-Book" is more than ordinarily excellent, and we part from it with regret. This number closes the volume, and concludes the "Table-Book;" but Mr. G. Cruikshank announces that, on the 1st of *January* next, he will commence a new work, to be called, "Our Own Times." We trust that the "inimitable George's" new venture will "command success," for sure we are that it will well "deserve it."

☞ We are compelled to postpone reviews of "Jerrold's Magazine," the "Connoisseur," and some other publications till next week.

New Works.—Mr. Dickens's Christmas Book, "*The Cricket on the Hearth*," will, we hear, be ready on the 20th inst. About the same time Mr. Cooper's "Christmas Rhyme," "*The Baron's Yule Feast*," will also be ready: report speaks highly of the merits of this new production of the Chartist poet's pen. Messrs. Bradbury and Evans announce a re-issue of "Boz's" celebrated story, "*Oliver Twist*;" it will be published in monthly parts, uniform with "*Pickwick*," "*Nicholas Nickleby*," &c., commencing on the 1st of January. We hear also that Mr. Gilbert A. a'Beckett, the talented author of the "*Comic Blackstone*," and Editor of "*Cruikshank's Table Book*," will begin the new year with a monthly publication of a very superior character. So that, cheerily the old year will go out, and cheerily the new one will come in.

Melancholy Case of Suicide.—On Tuesday afternoon Mr. Wakley, M.P., held an inquest in the House of Correction, Coldbath-fields, Clerkenwell, on J—— R——, aged nineteen, the son of repectable parents, and a baker, who had been committed for fourteen days, for having left his work without due notice, and who committed suicide. John Sims, a warden of the prison, stated that deceased was received on last Saturday evening, about half-past seven. He appeared weak, and was unable to walk. Shortly afterwards he became so ill, that Doctors Wakefield and Smales were sent for; who, having ascertained that he had taken prussic acid, applied the stomach-pump and other remedies without avail, as he expired at nine o'clock the same night. S. Latham, the warden who searched deceased on his admission, said that he stood up five minutes while he searched him, and that he handed him some coppers from his pockets, in one of which he found a phial which had been emptied, and which was labelled "Essential Oil of Almonds," which, together with his almost insensible appearance, aroused a suspicion that he had poisoned himself. He was instantly removed to a bed, where he lay speechless and insensible. The two house physicians were in immediate attendance. He died at nine o'clock. W. Mitchell, gaoler of Marylebone police court, deposed that last Saturday deceased surrendered himself in consequence of a warrant that was against him for having left his master's employment without notice. Mr. Rawlinson, the magistrate, did all in his power to induce his master to accept an apology from deceased, but he could not. Mr. Rawlinson was, therefore, compelled to send deceased to prison for fourteen days. He could not have obtained the poison while he was in the station-house, as no one was allowed to approach him there, except the officers. None but felons or persons charged with capital offences were searched in the station-house. Deceased was very melancholy while there. R—— M——, a prisoner committed for the same offence with deceased, said that he was in the same cell with deceased in the station-house. He then complained of having been severely dealt with for so trifling an offence, and said that he was about being married, but that his sentence would do away with his marriage. Mr. Richard Browne, baker, Chapple-street, New-road, said that the deceased had been in his employ about ten days, and left it the second week without notice. He summoned him for so doing, and as he did not appear he took out a warant against him. By the Coroner: Deceased had twelve shillings a week wages, with board and lodging. He commenced serving bread at eight o'clock A.M., each day, which occupied him until twelve o'clock, two o'clock, and sometimes until night, in consequence of his loitering away his time. At four o'clock he had to prepare the sponge. After which he was at liberty until eleven o'clock, when he resumed work, and was at it all night. Witness, when he first commenced business purchased a large quantity of "essential oil of almonds," and the "essence of lemon," which he never used, but which he kept safe under lock and key with his currants and other fruits. Mr. Whitby, surgeon, 58, Upper Ebury-street, *Pimlico*, deposed that deceased about ten day's ago purchased two drachms of the "essential oil of almonds" for the purpose of his business, as he told him. He knew deceased well, and cautioned him about the dangerous properties of the prussic acid, which he commonly sold to bakers, confectioners, and pastry-cooks. The jury returned a verdict of "Temporary insanity," accompanied by the expression of a strong hope that magistrates would be warned by the deceased's melancholy fate, and order all persons in custody to be searched previous to their incarceration.

Tit Bits.

Cardinal.—The highest Roman Catholic dignity next to the Pope. The word is derived from *cardo*, a hinge, because the Cardinals will turn either way, and open the door for anything. When the Pope makes a Cardinal, he gives him a red hat; and it is supposed that Cardinal Wolsey patronised the Old Mother Red Cap, at Camden Town, *when he and* Henry the Eighth went out on some of their roystering expeditions to Highgate.—*Punch.*

Father Luke and the Rint.—"Women of Ireland:" says he; "women descended from those three hundthred virgins whom the bloody Saxon Cromwell slew at Wexford; women who inhabit a land whose vallies are the greenest, whose rivers are the clearest, whose mountains are the highest in the world. What sacrifices are you prepared to make to that bleeding, that beautiful counthree? The wicked Saxon has blighted the potatoe-crop, and rejoices in the prospect of the national famine. The agonies of our children feast his heart with hellish joy: do they awaken no sympathies in yours? Are you not prepared to do everything to rescue your starving countrymen? Our Sublime Liberator permits it: enjoins it. That Great Philanthropist cannot subscribe himself, for he is poor—but he calls upon you, his children, to make every sacrifice. Father of our counthry, shall not your daughthers obey you?".—*Ibid.*

Peel's Games.—We understand that the Premier is shortly about to publish a new edition of Hoyle, embracing all the new games and tricks which, by a skilful knowledge of how to play his cards, Sir Robert Peel has become master. He intends devoting an entire chapter to shuffling, which is an art of itself, and one which the Premier has carried to the utmost perfection. There will be a few pages devoted to hints on cutting, with remarks on the proper time to cut, and a few general observations on the treatment of the pack, so as to make a good hand of it. Tricks will occupy a very large space in the Premier's work; but the games will be the chief feature. Cribbage, as played at the expense of the Whigs, will be elaborately explained; and a chapter on revokes will explain how it is that there is nothing irrevocable in the games of the Premier. The work will be emblazoned with a splendid portrait of Sir Robert Peel as the Knave of Spades, in which character he appeared the other day, at the commencement of the works on the Trent Valley Railway.—*Ibid.*

King "Jeames."—We learn from Palermo that the King of the two Sicilies had a tremendous "struggle of politeness" with the Emperor of Russia, to yield "the place of honour" in the Royal carriage. At length, "the contest ended by the King taking the footman's place behind the vehicle." There have been kings who could not be better placed.—*Punch.*

Too Much of a Good Thing.—Parliament is to meet early in January. It had better be prorogued till the Christmas pantomines are over.—*Punch.*

A "Pat" Proposal.—A Glasgow merchant, an Irishman, was lately accosted in his counting-house by a countryman, who needed charity. Money having been given to him, he said, "You haven't got such a thing as a pair of ould britches, have you?" "No my man," said the merchant, "I don't keep my wardrobe in my counting-house." "Where do you live?" rejoined Pat, "and I'll call in the morning for the ould pair you've got on!"

Keeping the Word of Promise to the Ear.—An elderly Portuguese lady, having pledged herself to make a pilgrimage to a distant shrine, barefoot, her friends persuaded her that the fatigue would prove fatal. She persisted, however, in going to the shrine and in going barefoot; but she went in a sedan chair.

A RECEIPT FOR A WIFE.

"As much of beauty as preserves affection—
As much of cheerfulness as spurns dejection—
Of modest diffidence, as claims protection;
A docile mind, subservient to correction,
Yet stored with sense, with reason, and reflection:
And every passion held in due subjection;
Just faults enough to keep her from perfection:—
Find this, my friend, and then, make your selection."

A Classic.—The other day a student from the country, who had joined the Glasgow College, was about to leave by one of the trains from that city, and as he walked up and down the station, dressed out in his toga, he perceived the door of a first-class carriage open, and he thought he would seat himself there. One of the railway guards happening to pass, asked him to what class he belonged (meaning whether the first, second, or third,) when he in all simplicity replied, "*I belang to the Mauthemautics.*"

ADVICE GRATIS.

AN ECLOGUE.
(From *Punch*.)

Paddy: What's to be done at all, Misther Commissioner?
Here's a lot of praytees wouldn't plaze the pigs sir,
Earlies and lumpers, cups and common tatters,
Gone to the divil.

Commissioner: Dig up your tubers, store them in a dry place,
Plenty of straw pat underneath each layer,
Grind them to pulp, or, if you like it better,
Toast on a griddle.

Paddy: Murdther alive, but where's the straw to Come from?
Mill for to grind, or griddle for to toast 'em?
Divil the place I've got to keep myself dry,
Much less my praties.

Dr. Buckland: Ignorant peasant, don't mind Kane or Playfair—
Starch is only gluten, therefore innutritious;
Steam your potatoes, and you'll find the fungus
Equal to mushrooms.

Mr. Tilley: Chloride of lime is better, if you've got it—
Twopence a pound is all that it will cost you.
One pound of chloride, properly employed, saves
Two of potatoes.

All together: But whate'er you do, Pat, keep your mind quite easy.
Science is at work examining the fungus;
Though, for the present, we confess that we know
Nothing about it.

[*Exeunt* Commissioners, Buckland, *and* Tilley. Paddy, *with his hands in his pockets, looks after them bewildered.*

A Gentle Hint.—A spruce young beau, gallanting his intended, a few evenings since, was conversing upon the late turn-out, when he remarked, that "he wished he was able to maintain all the factory girls in Lowell one six months. He would do it to prevent their returning to the mills." His fair one, who had till now been a silent listener to his patriotic discourse, replied, with a sigh, "Ah, I wish you was able to maintain one of them."—*Lowell Bulletin.*

Railway Appointments.—In the prospectus of every Railway, an announcement is always made of the Engineer, Solicitor, Banker, and Surveyor, who is appointed to the Line; but not a word is ever said of the appointment of a Surgeon. From the latter being always excluded, one would imagine there was nothing on a Railway for a Surgeon to do.—*Punch.*

Proper Spirit.—It is said the Bude Lights in Trafalgar Square have been tried several times, but that they cannot be made to burn. The reason of this obstinacy is that they will not lend themselves to illuminate a place which, they maintain, the less that is seen of it the better.—*Ibid.*

One and the Same Thing.—According to rumour, Fleet Prison is to be a Railway *Terminus*. We are sure there was no necessity to have removed a brick of the old place for that purpose.—*Ibid.*

THE O'CONNELL STATUE

Punch offers the following as an inscription for the proposed statue of O'Connell:—

TO ONE
Whose virtues cannot be told;
Who has had a hand for all that ever came to it, and a pocket always open at the call of his friends;
Who has sympathised with the beggar:
Who has never known on any one occasion to forget himself;
Who has in the heat of passion, abused men of all parties,
But on calmer reflection, made the "*amende honourable*," by repudiating all;
Who has shown his love and regard for the English monarchy by trying to relieve it of part of its work;
Who has declared his attachment to the throne, and proved it, by his endeavours to erect a throne for himself;
Who lives "in" the hearts of the Irish people, and "out of" their pockets.
TO HIM
Who is indeed an Emancipator and a Liberator, making at all times "uncommonly" free.
in a word,
TO DANIEL O'CONNELL,
Who has identified the interests of his countrymen with his own, by endeavouring to make his own whatever belongs to them.

Having lived by the contributions of others, he generously contributed
THE BRASS
of which this statue is constructed.

Domestic Vermin.—Why is an extravagant housekeeper like a caterpillar? Because she makes the butter-fly.

Juvenile Grammer.—A little girl having disobeyed her mamma, was termed a nice *article*. "No, please mamma," replied the little girl, "if you look into the grammar you will perceived that I am *not* an *article*, but a *noun* of the *feminine gender*.

Brief (in law).—A complicated account of a simple transaction, which enables Counsel to mystify himself and everybody else about an ordinary matter. Drawing a brief is the art of covering as much paper as possible with the smallest quantity of material.

Bulls, Papal.—Are letters issued by the Pope, and are probably called Bulls in England on account of their being very great mistakes in this country, where they are treated with the utmost contempt by all classes. Some think that a Bull derives its name from its being an attempt to bully the community.

THE COLOSSEUM.

GRAND ORCHESTRAL ORGAN.—This magnificent establishment, patronised and visited by her MAJESTY and his Royal Highness Prince ALBERT, has now, in addition to its former alterations, a new Orchestral Organ, erected in the Glyptotheca, on which the most admired pieces of music will be played daily, from Two till Four o'Clock. Open from Ten till Half-past Four. Admittance, 3s. Children, half-price. The Stalactite Caverns, the most magnificent of all the Temples which nature has built for herself in the regions of night, 1s. each. The whole projected and designed by M. W. Bradwell.

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Additional Novelties. The Conservatories brilliantly illuminated; Mont Blanc and Torrents represented by Moonlight. A Grand Orchestral Organ has been erected in the Glyptotheca, on which the most admired pieces of music will be played, from Eight till the Exhibition is closed. London by Night: additional atmospheric effects to the most extraordinary Panorama in the world will be represented at Eight, Nine, and Ten o'Clock. Open from Seven till Half-past Ten. Admittance to the whole, 5s. Family tickets for four persons and upwards, 4s. each, may be had at the principal Music sellers, and at the Colosseum, from Ten till Four. Children, half-price.

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£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
0 17 0	0 18 9	1 1 1	1 8 2	2 1 0	3 4 2

WITH PROFITS.

Age 20.	Age 25.	Age 30.	Age 40.	Age 50.	Age 60.
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
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THE TEST.—The proof of the efficacy and healthful effect of the plant in preference to tea or coffee:—Let a nervous or dyspeptic patient use two or three cups of strong tea upon retiring to rest, and the effect will be night-mare, disturbed sleep, and other violent symptoms of indigestions, &c.

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The following are reasons why the Piqua Plant is superior to tea, viz.:—

1st. Because it is beneficial to health.
2nd. It does not injure the nerves.
3rd. Children may use it with advantage to health.
4th. It does not prevent sleep.
5th. A quarter of a pound will go as far as three quarters of a pound of the best gunpowder tea.
6th. It is strengthening and nutritious.
7th. It is recommended by physicians, and tea is disapproved of by them.

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Sir,—The beverage under the name of Piqua Plant I have drank for some time. It was first recommended to my notice as a salutary beverage by a friend, who is a great dyspeptic, and I have since recommended it to several patients suffering from chronic affections of the digestive organs, heart, and lungs, with manifest advantage.—I am, sir, yours, &c.

To Mr. Wm. Evans. JOHN BRYANT, M.D.
18, Louther-street, Whitehaven.

Sir,—I am nearly out of the plant again. My sale has doubled since I sent the last order; indeed, it is fast finding its way among some of the best families in the town, and is highly approved of. Please send me 50lbs. immediately.—Yours, very respectfully,

To Mr. Wm. Evans. J. BOUSTEAD.
Dover-road, Southwark.

Sir,—I am much pleased with your Piqua Plant; and find that a portion of it mixed in the tea-pot with tea, is a very great improvement to any tea, particularly green tea.—Yours, &c.,

To Mr. Wm. Evans. G. B.
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Sir,—I have great pleasure, and indeed I consider it an mperative duty, in justice to you, and for the benefit of others, to bear testimony to the excellent qualities of the Piqua Plant. It has wholly removed a constant painful nervous debility with which I was affected, which produced restless nights, and consequently overpowering langour during the day. Since the use of the infusion, the disease has entirely disappeared. I sleep soundly often for six, seven, and eight hours together, and am better in health than I have been for many years; and others, to whom I have recommended it, have experienced the same beneficial results. You are at liberty to use this testimonial, which I am ready to confirm in person any day you think proper.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,

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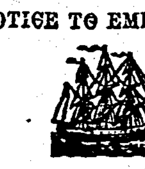
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ANOTHER BOILER EXPLOSION.—Another serious boiler explosion, resulting in the death of two men, took place on Friday, December 5th, at Seghill Colliery. We have not been able to learn the particulars of this melancholy occurrence. One of the deceased was a young man named Stewart, who did not belong to the works, but who was merely assisting at the time of the accident

THE NORTHERN STAR.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1845.

THE CORN LAWS.

THERE is, and ever has been, a large section of society who appear to have deputed to a section of the newspaper press the power to think, the authority to reason, and the right to decide for them. In no instance during our political career, which has not been short, have we witnessed an equal assumption of all these powers to that recently exhibited in the columns of the *Times.* We speak not now as to the authority of that journal upon the question of the Corn Laws, but we are about to reason upon the conclusions to which the Thunderer has come upon its own reasoning, guessing, prophecying, and assumption. The sudden change of Lord JOHN RUSSELL, Lord MORPETH, and Sir ROBERT PEEL, upon the subject of the Corn Laws, are but the ordinary incidents to which ordinary individuals are liable. They are mere units, with, perhaps, occasionally as little title to more consideration in society's scale than Mr. *Pecksniff* himself; but while each stands but individually responsible for his own acts and deeds, the *Times* newspaper is more than an "atom" in society, and consequently a greater amount of responsibility attaches upon that journal.

Since the first announcement by the *Times* of the Minister's intention to repeal the Corn Laws to the present time, we have read every article that appeared in that journal with close and anxious attention. It is a subject of magnitude, not at all comprehended by the *Times,* if we are to take its reasoning powers as proof of its comprehension. In the settlement, or unsettlement, of so long standing and so great a measure, extreme latitude should be allowed even to a literary prophet. As little as possible should be left to guess or hypothesis, and the conclusions arrived at should, as far as practicable, be based upon reasoning—reasoning, not only that the sophist might eke meaning from, but reasoning from which all rational persons must come to a similar conclusion. As we have stated, we have read the several articles with patient and painful anxiety, and the following is the conclusion—the only conclusion, at which we can possibly arrive:—The *Times* objects to the *Standard* wagering its reputation, as it represents nothing substantial; we do not like the system of betting long odds, while, at the same time, we would wager our reputation against the character of the *Times,* which is as Lombard-street to a China orange, that if a jury of twelve sane individuals, of ordinary common sense, was empannelled to arrive at a conclusion as to what the effect of the repeal of the Corn Laws was likely to be from the reasoning of the *Times,* and allowing the defendant the advantage of the best possible counsel, with Baron PLATT for a judge, our wager is, that the jury would fail to arrive at any rational or even *possible* conclusion upon the subject.

There is no doubt that the Thunderer, like *Desdemona,* sees a divided duty—a duty towards the League, and a duty towards the landed aristocracy; while we are facetiously told that the people are the especial clients of our contemporary. The ostensible reason urged for a repeal of the Corn Laws, is the threatened scarcity of food, and, as matter of common sense reasoning, we should expect the reduction in the price of food to constitute the principal recommendation of the measure. The *Times,* however, appears to think that the measure has sufficient support in the interest to be derived from the change by the manufacturing interest, and therefore, plausibly enough, withholds the disappointments likely to be sustained by the victors—and hence the heavy work of the *Times* appears to be the conversion of the landlord. To this end we are favoured with more sophistry than could be possibly used if the said landlords were estimated as rational beings. The Corn Laws are to be repealed to arrest starvation—arresting starvation implies a reduction in the price of food—a reduction in the price of food naturally infers a reduction in the price of land—a reduction in the price of land bespeaks a fall in rent—and a fall in rent leads to diminished resources; and, therefore, while the importation of corn is said to be necessary to cause a reduction in the price of bread, and, lest the consequences which we have pointed out should follow a reduction in the price of corn, the *Times* traverses the world, visits every port, takes stock of every warehouse and merchantman, makes a sum of the several prices at those several ports, and in those several countries, and furnishes us, as the result, that the effect of opening the ports must be an inevitable rise in the price of grain. Rather an Irish mode of reducing the price of bread. But this "stuff" is to allay the misgivings of the landlords; and let us now see how far the reasoning of the Thunderer is complimentary to the intellectual free traders; or how far, IF CORRECT, it is likely to realise their fond anticipations.

Wheat is not to fall at all, but bread is to be cheaper; and the certain effect to be produced by the gigantic measure is such a general rise in the price of produce all over the world as will keep up prices at home. Now let us have a bit of free trade reasoning upon this wild assumption. Firstly, it presumes that England is the world's MAN; and, secondly, it converts the free trade complaint, which was merely national, into a universal malady. We have been told that the large amount paid out of wages for bread has rendered the working classes unable to be as good customers as they otherwise would be in the manufacturing market. The repeal of the Corn Laws is intended as a cure for this national malady, and the effect, we are told, will be to extend the contagion to all points of the globe.

The inability of the foreigner to deal with us has always been ascribed to the operation of our Corn Laws; but what, we would ask, must be his position when the price of his food is raised at home. Must it not follow as naturally as night follows day, that if the price of corn is raised abroad, that the foreign labourer will have more to pay for his bread and less to spend upon our manufactures. Does it not also follow, that money—ready money—and money only—can be paid in the first instance as wages to the foreign labourer, who shall be set to work to create the supply for the English demand, and must it not as naturally follow, that less money will be expended for English manufactures. Such are some of the blunders into which hired writers, with fruitful imagination, and anxious to serve their masters, invariably fall. They paint famine in all its horrors—they arouse sympathy, and awaken all the better feelings of nature, while, in reality, they magnify the evil by placing it out of the power of any to avert it. The scale of prices, furnished to us by the *Times,* from all foreign countries, presents a sad reality to the starving pauper, while the interested and fallacious mode of parading them are but little likely to awake the sympathy, or enlist the compassion, of the wealthy in his behalf.

The effect of the articles in the *Times* has been to create fear, doubt, and apprehension everywhere—hope nowhere. We do not now speak of the intelligence, whether it was achieved through the perjury of a cabinet minister, or the BREACH OF CONFIDENCE IN HIS MISTRESS. What we speak of is, of the rational conclusion to which reasoning men must come upon the subject, after reading the several articles in the *Times* newspaper. In commenting upon the subject last week, and upon many previous occasions, we directed attention to the inevitable effect that panic must have upon the market at home. Many have reasoned after the following absurd fashion:—The farmers will not thrash, because two months must elapse before a competitive supply can come from abroad. The farmer will not thrash, because there is a great scarcity in the market; but not only have the farmers thrashed in apprehension of the panic, but purchasers have increased the panic by refusing to buy a commodity which threatens to be reduced in value. Hence we have the candle burning at both ends. We have the thrashing machines going, to anticipate foreign arrivals, and we have the speculators buttoning up their breeches pockets for fear of the enemy. The *Sun,* in its wisdom, tells us that the increased arrivals from the country proves that there is an abundant supply in the country. How foolish, if believed! How malicious, if not! Does not the *Sun* know if there was a deficiency of full one half of the annual requirement, that the capricious offering for sale of the remaining half, under the influence of a panic, would equally lead to a reduction in the price, as though there was actually a surplus in the country.

It does not need a national surplus to insure a reduction in prices, neither does actual scarcity protect us against glutted markets. We have had this fact so fully proved in the instance of Sir ROBERT PEEL'S cattle tariff, the Irish potatoe famine, and the present corn panic, that it requires no further illustration. We learn now from the *Mark-lane Express,* as well as from the London daily journals, that not only has panic created an artificial surplus, but further, that the price of grain is hourly on the decrease, and that, in fact, it is almost difficult to sell it. Is not this the fulfilment of our prediction, and has not apprehension itself caused a panic amongst the farmers? It is unfortunate for Sir ROBERT PEEL that the shadow should thus have preceded the substance, as we fear that the taste of what the landlords have received will guide them in their anticipations as to what they are likely to receive.

In 1841, we told them that we were satisfied if they preferred being bitten by THEIR OWN DOG to being bitten by the Whig cur—their real policy should have been to have kept the Whigs in office with their watch dog chained at their door—our policy was to let the mad dogs into the kennel for a season, with a certain conviction that they would bite the system till it ran mad, and died of convulsion. We shall now shortly be enabled to submit our several predictions, as to our Tory policy, to the working classes, and being so far right, we have a right to rely upon their confidence for the future; and if we possess it, our advice during the pending struggle is, to allow the monopolists and anti-monopolists NOW to fight out their own battle, while they abstain from taking any part in the struggle until both deadly enemies are exhausted from the conflict. We say NOW, because the public mind is better prepared for diffusive warfare than it was in 1832, 1839, or even 1842. The people have now learned the true philosophy of idleness, and if we could have restrained them from taking any part in the League revolution of that year, the struggle between the factions would have been brought to an issue; but, when we interfered, the enemies united as one man against us. Let us learn wisdom from the past, and abstain from committing ourselves in future. Let us bide our time, until the result proves our several predictions, wherein we have foretold the inevitable disappointment which must follow the repeal of a measure which promised so much good, and which MUST WORK so much positive evil to all classes of society, if not preceded by an EQUITABLE ADJUSTMENT, AND SUCH PRUDENT AND CAUTIOUS CONCESSIONS as are due to the improved condition of society at large.

GLORIOUS NEWS FOR BRUSHMAKERS—OPENING OF THE PORTS IN SALFORD—GLORIOUS DECISION IN FAVOUR OF FREE TRADE PRINCIPLES.

A QUIET little affair has lately occasioned considerable excitement in that part of Manchester known as the borough of Salford, by a decision of the stipendiary magistrate reversing several previous judgments on the same point. As a matter of mere news, it would perhaps attract but little attention, but, as another demonstration of the power of the working classes to work out their own liberty when they choose to do so, it becomes worth a passing comment. For several years past the Town Council of Salford have been in the habit of summoning all hawkers who were bold enough to practice their calling. There has been a dispute between the brushmaker-hawkers of Salford, and the Town Council of that borough—the former insisting on their right to sell goods of their own manufacture in any market town—the latter contending that this right was taken away by the local act. In these contests, and there were many of them, the council was always victorious—the magistrates invariably decided in favour of the council, fines, made heavier by the costs, were continually inflicted, and the trade of a most industrious and useful class of men was destroyed; some were injured by the fines inflicted, and hundreds were still more seriously damaged, by being, through fear of the consequences, deprived of their trade. Latterly, however, a man named HUGHES, more bold than his fellows, determined to try the case with the authorities. Some time ago he was summoned before Mr. TRAFFORD, a stipendiary magistrate, and had to pay his lawyer's fees, in addition to the usual fine imposed by the bench. Immediately on this decision HUGHES went to Mr. ROBERTS, who perused the local act, and expressed a confident opinion that it did not justify the interpretation put upon it by the magistrates; in fact, that their former decisions were all contrary to law. Mr. ROBERTS recommended HUGHES to hawk again, that he might again be "had up" by the police. HUGHES obeyed his orders, the police obeyed theirs, and the consequence was, that HUGHES was again summoned for the tenth or eleventh time, for he was a regular old offender. The case was called on—the bench was graced by two borough magistrates, bearing something of a resemblance to the Dukes of WELLINGTON and BUCKINGHAM. The charge was stated with great perspicuity by the police. HUGHES was caught in the fact, and there was no denying it; nor was there any denying that the brushes were his own manufacture. We believe, too, he had "been impudent;" but that charge was afterwards abandoned. The facts, as there was no doubt upon them, were admitted by both parties, and Mr. ROBERTS was called upon to say why the rebellious varlet, his client, should not be fined forty shillings. Of Mr. ROBERTS'S speech we can, unfortunately, give but a poor account. We know that he told the two dukes that brush-makers were a most honourable order of men, existing long before Noah; that hawking brushmakers were far superior to the stationary vendors of bristles and pigs' hairs; that an injury to them was a blow to the constitution itself; and that, if their trade was destroyed, "the sun of Salford was set for ever." Having thus essayed to work upon the feelings of his ducal judges, Mr. ROBERTS then approached the law of the case, and through an hour and a half quoted case after case, and judgment after judgment, of the superior courts, in favour of his view of the case. But it was of no use. The judges in this case were unwilling to abandon their long-cherished scheme of "protection." "They had a duty to perform"—"Large sums had been invested."—"If the unlimited importation of brushes into the streets of Salford was permitted, what would become of the shopkeepers?—what would become of the landlords?—how could the rents be paid?"—"No; Mr. ROBERTS'S argument was very ingenious—very remarkably so—they had not a word to say in reply—they did not understand the law—but they must decide as they had done before, and convict the defendant in the mitigated penalty of ten shillings." During the delivery of this solemn judgment the dukes were evidently overwhelmed with the intensity of their devotion to the "best interests of the borough of Salford," However, a loophole was left. The judges had intimated that they did not know much of law (nor did they), and they told Mr. ROBERTS that he might, if he liked, appeal to Mr. TRAFFORD; not that they thought it was of much use, for he had always decided according to their view of the case. Mr. ROBERTS seized with avidity on the opportunity, and another hearing was appointed. As we write, we are reminded of the similarity of this contest to that with regard to the Corn Laws. The poor were clamouring for brushes, good and cheap. Brushes brought to their own door they could purchase by giving articles of their own manufacture—"cotton stuffs for bread stuffs." The battle, accordingly, came off. The police—that is the Town Council were represented by Mr. GIBSON. On this occasion Mr. TRAFFORD presided, and Mr. ROBERTS went through an extended repetition of his former speech; it was evidently a staggerer. The reply of Mr. GIBSON was clever and ingenious, Mr. TRAFFORD was staggered. We can use no better description of his embarassment, like PEEL he was hampered by his former decision. So many had already been fined it would be unjust not to fine all the others—and yet he seemed to think that the time was fast approaching, if not already come, for opening "the brush ports of Salford." Towards the close of the discussion he was joined by the dukes of whom we have previously spoken, but they were immoveable, they adhered to their former pledges; they were firm as ever for protection, and they repeated their settled conviction, that if the threatened importation of brushes should ever recur "the sun," as we have before intimated, "the sun of Salford had set for ever." Wednesday morning last being appointed for Mr. TRAFFORD'S decision, the court was crowded with injured brush-makers, and on this occasion the advocate for the prisoner prayed for the judgment of the court—there was consternation, and considerable delay in procuring the necessary authorities—the learned barrister being evidently embarrassed by the weight of the duty imposed upon him, especially by the awkward and illegal decisions of himself and brother magistrates upon many former occasions. The judge gave his decision, that the authorities, quoted by Mr. ROBERTS, were conclusive upon the subject, and that the judgment of his brother Magistrates should be reversed and that the summons should be dismissed. The judgment was received by a crowded court with irrepressible expressions of surprise, joy, and satisfaction, and thus has the first triumph of free trade been achieved by the Salford hawkers over the chartered monopoly of the Salford justices.

In no other paper in the kingdom, except the *Northern Star,* will this great triumph of free trade be even alluded to.

THE CORN LAW CRISIS.

FURTHER PROROGATION OF PARLIAMENT.

SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE OF TUESDAY.

AT the Court at Osborne House, Isle of Wight, the 10th day of December, 1845, present the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty in Council,—It is this day ordered by her Majesty in Council, that the Parliament, which stands prorogued to Tuesday, the sixteenth day of December instant, be further prorogued to Tuesday, the thirtieth day of December instant.

RESIGNATION OF THE MINISTRY.

[From the *Morning Herald* of Thursday.]

SIR ROBERT PEEL'S Government is at an end. All the members of the Cabinet yesterday tendered their resignation, which her Majesty was pleased to accept.

It will be easily believed that we regret this determination of her Majesty's advisers; but we should much more regret their unanimous determination to sacrifice the industry of the country by stripping it of all protection.

The important fact now announced proves how completely wrong the *Times* was when it stated that the Government had decided upon proposing to Parliament, as a Cabinet measure, the repeal of the Corn Laws.

[From the *Morning Chronicle* of Thursday.]

An official announcement, in another part of our paper, confirms one part of the statement which we made yesterday—namely, that Parliament, instead of being summoned for the dispatch of business, would be again prorogued. The other and more important part of our announcement is, we believe, equally correct. The Cabinet, we are assured, resigned yesterday. It is confidently said, that so far from the Cabinet having at any time come to a decision to recommend the repeal of the Corn Law, a large majority of his colleagues have throughout been opposed to Sir Robert Peel's recommendation.

[From the *Times* of Thursday.]

Yesterday Parliament was further prorogued to the 30th instant. The naming of so early a day would of itself imply that the Cabinet is not now in a state to meet Parliament. The rumours, however, which have been confidently circulated in the best informed quarters since Monday, and circumstances which have come to our knowledge since the return of the Ministers last night from Osborne House, leave scarcely any reasonable doubt that the reviving repugnance of the Duke to the decision of his colleagues has rendered it necessary for them to tender their resignation to her Majesty. An unforeseen difficulty of course there must have been somewhere. After so long and close a succession of Councils, that difficulty could only arise from a struggle between the declared intentions of the chief, and the prejudice or pride of some of his colleagues. Were the Ministry certain of meeting Parliament as the servants of the Crown, it would have fixed the day, and our prediction would have been to the letter fulfilled. That is no longer possible. Some minor changes, as we intimated at the first, there would undoubtedly have been; but it is to the graver difficulty that this new and unforeseen delay must be ascribed. It is said to have been only by the most unqualified expressions of opinion that the leaders of the Cabinet gained the unwilling compliance of the only considerable dissentient. There can be no doubt, that—what was all along to be apprehended—the representative-general of the Lords has since felt returning anxiety the weight of the numerous proxies not less rashly undertaken than rashly confided to his care. The head of an aristocracy demands, it may easily be imagined, a little more time to act, if not to resolve. It is not, however, always possible to adjust the interests of a Cabinet, much less those of a nation, to the convenience, the dignity, or the humour of an individual. An obstinacy which is assumed with a less serious intention may be maintained a day too long, to the ruin both of colleagues and cause. Meantime whatever may happen, whoever may be in next month, very few hours can pass without proving to the nation the substantial truth of our first momentous announcement—viz., that the leaders of the Cabinet were resolved upon proposing a total repeal of the corn-laws. They were resolved to the utmost of their power. They were resolved to do this, or nothing—to repeal the Corn Laws, or be no Ministers. If the Duke sees peril in that measure, or feels reluctance to undertake it, he will have to realise the dangers and disagreeables on the other side of the scale—the dissolution of the Conservative Ministry, and the interposition of a rival, and in some respects a more suitable agency. He will be assured that his own punctilious, so far from impeding the measure, may perhaps only render it the first of a series still less to his taste and convenience. Whatever amount of distrust he may feel in his present (if not by this time his late) colleagues, he will be only too sure of the statesmen and the policy he will help to inaugurate in their stead. If he has not the heart to solicit the Lords in behalf of friends, he will, nevertheless, not escape the still more arduous task of conducting his little aristocratical troop against the close and serried phalanx of an unanimous people headed by inveterate foes.

[From the *Sun* of Thursday evening.]

Report says that Sir Robert Peel's resignation was received by her Majesty without hesitation, although Sir Robert Peel's line of intended policy would have had her Majesty's warm support. Lord John Russell was at once sent for; but, as the noble Lord is at present in Edinburgh, some days must elapse before he can obey the summons. Parliament cannot now meet so early as was expected; and upon the course taken by Sir Robert Peel, will depend the prospect of a dissolution. It is believed that Sir Robert will support Lord John Russell in his general policy. The Premier was almost alone in his views in his own Cabinet.

We understand that, in consequence of the resignation of Ministers, her Majesty will leave Osborne House on Saturday next, in order to be in nearer communication with those who are to become her new advisers.

[From the *Standard* of Thursday evening.]

We can confirm the statement of the *Morning Herald* that all the Cabinet Ministers have tendered their resignations, and that her Majesty has accepted them, and therefore the present Ministers only hold office until their successors are appointed.

It is said that Lord John Russell has been sent for by the Queen. At present nothing can with certainty be known as to who may form the new administration. We do not, however, pledge ourselves for the truth of this rumour.

[FROM A CORRESPONDENT.]

It is said at the West-end, that Lord John Russell passed through London privately last night, and is now at Osborne House.

It is also said, that the leading Whigs talk of an immediate dissolution of Parliament.

[From the *Standard's* City Article.]

THURSDAY, TWO O'CLOCK.

As may be naturally supposed the official announcement of the resignation of the whole of the members of the Cabinet in the *Morning Herald* has produced a great sensation in the City, and has exclusively engrossed attention. All sorts of conjectures are hazarded respecting the result, but as they are necessarily mere conjectures, it can serve no good purpose to repeat them. A report has, amongst others, been circulated within the last hour, that her Majesty has sent for Lord John Russell, but we have not been able to trace the rumour to any authentic source, and its parentage will probably be found in the ranks of the League, where the wish is, no doubt, father to the thought, since the last experience of his lordship's conscience.

The dissolution of the Cabinet has had less influence on public securities than could have been supposed *a priori.* Consols have been done for money at 93⅞ and 94⅝, the latter being the latest quotation. For the account they have been done at 92⅞ but are now 93⅝. This is the first day of the books being shut for the dividends; and it must be recollected that the quotation for the Account is now ex dividend. Reduced Three per Cents. were last done at 93, the Three-and-a-Quarter New at 95, and Exchequer-bills 21 23 pm. Bank Stock has been done at 201.

THE MINISTERIAL CRISIS.

[From the *Morning Herald* of Friday, Dec. 12.]

We stated yesterday that the whole Cabinet had resigned. Such is the fact; the whole of the Conservative Cabinet goes out together, and, we have no doubt, will adhere to the Conservative party. Whatever Sir Robert Peel's opinion upon the subject of the Corn Laws, the country may be well assured that he never did propose, and *in office* or *out of office* never will either propose or support any change in the Corn Laws, unaccompanied by what he believes to be full compensation to the landed interest through all its gradations. Whence that full compensation is to be obtained we are utterly at a loss to conjecture, but it is no more than an act of justice to the late Premier, as we suppose we may call him now, to repeat it, that *he never did propose,* as the infamous fabrication of the *Times* asserted, an unqualified and total repeal of the Corn Laws. Nor, as we firmly believe, will he ever propose or support any such measure. This is most important, because whatever difference has existed in the Cabinet has been merely a difference in *degree* and not in *species,* and therefore cannot extend to the Conservative party in either house of Parliament.

Lord John Russell has been summoned by the Queen, and is now in attendance upon her Majesty as her confidential adviser. And who is Lord John Russell? A party to the Lichfield House compact—one who has within these last few days pledged himself by a public document to concede all the most extravagant demands of the Anti-Corn-Law League; and, hear it you opponents of the Maynooth grant, one of the party most solemnly pledged to extinguish the Protestant Church in Ireland, and to establish the Roman Catholic Church in that great division of the United Kingdom. Let Conservatives think of this in time—and they have but little time to think of it—for whether Parliament be dissolved or not, the work of Ruin will probably commence with the first week of February.

[From the *Morning Chronicle* of Friday, Dec. 12.]

The only facts upon which reliance can be placed with respect to the ministerial crisis are these:—

At the time the story was published last week respecting "the decision of the Cabinet," the Cabinet was virtually dissolved. They had indeed come to a decision, but it is now understood it was a decision to resign.

On Saturday Sir Robert Peel went to Osborne House, and communicated this event to her Majesty, and on Saturday evening a messenger was sent to Lord John Russell to Edinburgh. Her Majesty's commands were received by the noble lord on Monday morning, and he arrived in town on Wednesday evening.

Yesterday morning Lord John Russell left town for Osborne House, having had an interview, it is said, with Sir Robert Peel before his departure. His lordship remained at Osborne House last night, and is expected in town to-day at one o'clock.

It is understood that before his departure Lord John Russell addressed communications to several of his late colleagues, only one of whom, we believe, Mr. Baring, happened to be in London.

It is superfluous to say that, under these circumstances, all rumours as to "ministerial arrangements" may be considered as altogether unfounded.

THE NEW MINISTRY.

[From the *Times* of Friday morning, Dec. 12th.]

In the present state of things in would, of course, be premature to announce any arrangement as to the persons and places in the new Government. The following list was, however, pretty generally credited last night in political circles:—

First Lord of the Treasury.—Lord John Russell.
Lord Chancellor.—Lord Cottenham.
Secretary of State for foreign Affairs.—Lord Palmerston.
Secretary of State for the Home Department.—Lord Morpeth.
Secretary of State for the Colonies.—Lord Grey.
Under-Secretary for the Colonies.—Mr. Charles Buller.
Chancellor of the Exchequer.—Mr. Baring.
Attorney-General.—Sir T. Wilde.
Solicitor-General.—Mr. Dundas.
Lord Lieutenant of Ireland.—The Marquis of Normanby.
President of the Council.—The Marquis of Lansdowne
Ambassador at Paris.—Lord Clarendon.

MOVEMENTS OF THE WHIGS.

[From the *Morning Chronicle* of this day, Dec. 13.]

Yesterday, Lord John Russell, immediately on his return to town from having an audience of her Majesty, was waited on by Viscount Palmerston, the Right Hon. Francis T. Baring, and several of his political friends.

Viscount Palmerston remained a considerable time in private consultation with Lord John Russell.

We have reason to believe that Viscount Melbourne does not contemplate joining his former colleagues in the Administration about to be formed.

The Marquess of Lansdowne arrived at Lansdowne-house last evening. The Earl of Clarendon, the Righ Hon. T. B. Macaulay, and the Right Hon. Henry Labouchere are expected in town hourly.

We understand the Marquess of Normanby may be expected home from Italy at the earliest possible time.

Viscount Morpeth has been written to, and, consequently, may be expected to arrive in a few hours from Castle Howard.

In reply to the various rumours that are afloat with respect to the "Ministerial crisis," it is enough to say, that Lord John Russell has not yet so much as accepted the commission to form an Administration. His lordship will wait upon her Majesty at Windsor Castle to-day, and until his return, it is impossible to say whether or not he will feel himself justified in undertaking the duty of forming an Administration.

The ship Ernest, arrived at Havre from Goree, in Africa, brings two lions and a lioness for the menagerie of Queen Victoria.

RECEIPTS OF THE CHARTIST CO-OPERATIVE LAND SOCIETY.

PER MR. O'CONNOR.

SHARES.

	£	s.	d.
Leicester, per G. Noon	3	3	6
South Shields, per J. Patrick	2	0	0
Stockport, per T. Woodhouse	2	0	0
Norwich, per J. Hurrey	2	0	0
Oldham, per W. Hamer	3	1	9
Newcastle-under-Lyne, per J. Harrison	1	2	6
Todmorden, per J. Mitchell	4	11	6
Yeovil, per J. G. Abbott	5	0	0
Darlaston, per R. Githins	1	18	6
Ashton-under-Lyne, per E. Hobson	12	8	3
Manchester, per J. Murray	17	2	2
Heywood	5	0	0
Sheffield, per G. Cavill	7	15	0
LEVY FOR THE LAND CONFERENCE.			
Leicester, per G. Noon	0	1	6
Darlaston, per R. Githins	0	1	6

NATIONAL CHARTER ASSOCIATION.

EXECUTIVE.

PER MR. O'CONNOR.

	£	s.	d.
An Old Enniskillener	0	2	6
George Marsden	0	2	6
George Johnson	0	1	0
W. Read, Marsden	0	5	0
MRS. ELLIS.			
A Friend at Bolton	0	2	6

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

ANOTHER OUTRAGE BY THE TYRANT LOUIS PHILIPPE. —PARIS, DEC. 6TH. — "To-day the *quartier latin* was in a state of great commotion, and something very like an *emeute* took place among the students. At one o'clock upwards of 2,000 students from the different colleges assembled at the Sorbonne and proceeded thence in procession to the neighbourhood of the Luxemburg, where M. Quinet, the celebrated professor of the College of France, resides. The object of the procession was to do honour to M. Quinet for having refused to deliver his course of lectures on *the literature of the south* since the Minister of Public Instruction has mutilated his prospectus, by forbidding all mention of the *institutions*. The procession was very orderly, and no noise was made beyond occasional cries of 'Vive Quinet,' 'A bas les Jesuites,' &c. On the arrival of the procession at M. Quinet's residence that gentleman appeared, and received a deputation sent to compliment him. He thanked the students for their sympathy, but requested that they would quietly disperse. Notice having been received by the authorities of the intended procession, a large body of the municipal guards were on the spot; and on the young men crying out 'A bas les Jesuites,' they charged along the streets, and several were run down and severely hurt, but none were killed. Twenty or thirty students have been arrested.

The *Journal des Débats* of Sunday, in noticing the affair between the police and the students, when the latter went to compliment M. Quinet, says that the reason why the police interfered was, that the procession was directing itself towards the hotel of the Minister of Public Instruction, with the evident intention of insulting, if not injuring, that gentleman. The *National* denies this was the case. It says that the students, having delivered an address to M. Quinet, were retiring, when one of their number, who was at the head of the procession, called out, "The end of our meeting is now accomplished; let us disperse:" and they were dispersing, when some agents of the police, in plain clothes, who had mixed among the students, followed the young man, who gave the word to his fellow students to retire, and who was then separated from his companions, and arrested him, at the same time using him with unnecessary violence. Some labourers and casual passengers, who observed this, expressed great indignation at the conduct of the police, and the young man, on his side, called to his companions for help. An affray immediately followed. The student was rescued, and the municipal guards (cavalry) charged upon the crowd, when a great number were trodden down, and about twenty were arrested. The *National* says that this is one of those odious scenes which will add a new page to the sanguinary history of the police since 1830.

The *Siecle* publishes a document from M. Deschatel, Professor of Rhetoric in the Royal College of Louis-le-Grand, which condemns, in the strongest terms, the conduct of the police in the disturbances which took place in Paris on Saturday last. "Far be it from us," says that journal, "to condemn the police force, which has such arduous duties to fulfil, without just grounds: but let any one peruse the version of the affair given by M. Deschatel, an eye-witness, and it must appear evident that the police agents acted in a most unjustifiable manner."

M. Emile Deschatel, the Professor of Rhetoric above referred to, was arrested on Saturday by the police, in the square of the Medical School, as one of the rioters. It was in vain that he mentioned his profession; he was collared and ill-treated by the police agents and municipal guards, together with twenty other persons, equally innocent. The prisoners were then placed between a double file of soldiers, and thus marched through the city like malefactors to the Prefecture, where they remained confined until a delegate of the Commissary of Police came to inquire into the cause of their arrest. M. Deschatel remonstrated with that officer, but it was only after two or three hours' confinement that, no charge being adduced against him, he was at last liberated. Some of the police agents having penetrated into the School of Medicine, in pursuit of the rioters, and arrested a number of the pupils who were quietly attending the lectures, or engaged in dissecting, M. Orfila, the *doyen*, caused the intruders to be expelled and the gates of the school to be closed, at the risk of being himself apprehended. He next proceeded to the Prefecture, and obtained from the Prefect the immediate release of the prisoners.

"It is not the fault of the police," says the *National*, "if the Place de l'Ecole de Medicine was not on Saturday the theatre of a sanguinary collision. A great number of letters have been addressed to us, which all agree in stating that the police agents appointed to maintain order conducted themselves in an unworthy, odious, and provoking manner. We regret that we cannot, in our present number, publish those communications, but they are so numerous that we have not had time to analyse them. Besides the young men of the schools, several witnesses, whose testimony cannot be suspected, amongst others a captain of engineers on half-pay, two merchants, and a lawyer, have fully confirmed the above statement."

MORE BARBARITIES IN ALGERIA.—The Paris papers of Tuesday, publish letters from Algeria of the 19th ult., which give a description of an enormous razzia made by Marshal Bugeaud in the neighbourhood of Rion, of which the horrors are so great that they must shock every one having feelings of humanity.

SPAIN.

MADRID, NOV. 28.—Private letters from Barcelona represent the province of Catalonia, particularly those parts near the French frontier, to be in a state of much agitation, in consequence of the attempts made by the Captain-General to enforce the conscription, which is an object of so much hatred to the Catalans. It would appear that there are villages where the whole of the young men have absconded. Part of them have crossed the frontier, and others are still remaining hid in the mountains. All seem determined to abandon their homes and their families rather than submit to the stern discipline of a military life. Several of the letters alluded to regard a rising in the Ampurdan as almost inevitable, in consequence of the rigorous measures adopted by the Captain-General. The sudden departure of Breton from Gerona, on the 20th, in the direction of Figueras, and with a considerable force of horse and foot, would show some foundation for these fears. The discontent in that part of the kingdom, as well as other parts of Spain, is still greater when the inhabitants contrast the forbearance shown to the Basque provinces with the severity practiced towards themselves. Neither conscription nor contribution has as yet been attempted to be enforced in that favoured part of the Peninsula; and though I have reason to believe that it is not the intention of government always to except the Basques from the general contribution of blood and money paid by the rest of the population, yet the exception heretofore made in their favour is not less remarkable, nor less galling to the Catalans.

POLAND.

THE CONSPIRACY AT POSEN.—The *Augsburgh Gazette* publishes the following details of the conspiracy lately discovered in the capital of the Grand Duchy of Posen:—"A soldier of the 6th regiment of the Line, by birth a Pole, quartered at Gross Glogau, in Prussian Silesia, obtained a forlough. On leaving he told some of his comrades that perhaps he should never come back; and that if he did it would be in a character different from that in which he then was. This was reported to the commander of the regiment, and roused suspicions, which induced him to stop the man and put him under arrest. Upon him were found a proclamation to the people of Poland, drafts of letters in the Polish language, containing the plans of the conspirators, and the names of the chiefs, almost all of whom are nobles of the third and fourth classes. The plans were—first, to endeavour to win over the Polish peasants by promising them liberty, with many advantages; secondly, to surprise a small town situated near the city of Sulmierzyche, kill all the Jews who live in it, thereby drawing thither the garrison Krotorzyce, and during its absence seize all the provisions and ammunition with which Krotorzyce is stored, distribute them among the Polish peasants, and thereby enable them to continue the insurrection. The conspirators proposed carrying their projects into execution on the 29th November, the anniversary of the insurrection of 1830. The The Prussian government has reinforced all the garrisons of the Grand Duchy with troops drawn from Silesia."

GRAND DUCHY OF POSEN, THE END OF NOVEMBER. —We have just learnt that late in the evening of the 20th of this month, an express arrived at Posen, which brought important information to the Chief President. It is said to have brought the melancholy news that the populace had risen in the little town of Samber, and made an attack on the depot of the landwehr. In the town and citadel of Posen further precautions are taken to oppose betimes, and with energy, the attempts to disturb the public peace.

A government order was published at Warsaw on the 17th ult., according to which there are to be in all the Catholic churches an altar which is to be exclusively devoted to the Greek worship. The Greek priest is to have the choice of the two altars.

BELGIUM.

BRUGES, DEC. 3.—Yesterday and to day, bands of workmen have been traversing the streets of this city. They go to the principal manufacturers to ask for work, which is refused, because those persons cannot pay workmen whom they cannot employ. The workmen have also been to the burgomaster to represent their situation and to demand work. These assemblages have hitherto been peaceable, but we do not see them formed without apprehension.

SWITZERLAND.

The Executive Council of Lucerne proposed, on the 2nd instant, a decree of amnesty to the Grand Council. The first article stipulates that the individuals implicated in the events of the 8th of December, 1844, and the 31st of March and the 1st of April, 1845, shall pay a sum of 433,748 Swiss francs, before the 15th of January, 1846. When that sum shall have been paid, they will be liable to no other penalty than the deprivation of the rights of citizens. Twelve individuals, amongst whom where Dr. Steiger, and those who should not present themselves to the authorities before the 15th of January, 1846, were to be excluded from the benefit of the amnesty. No capital sentence was to be executed, except in the case of Dr. Steiger. The proposition was referred by the Grand Council to a committee of nine members.

THE RIVER PLATE.

LIVERPOOL, SATURDAY.—Accounts to the 27th of September inclusive have been received from Buenos Ayres per the Sara Johanna, arrived in the Channel. The contents are important.

The contemplated blockade of the port had been instituted on the 24th.

The term allowed for the departure of neutral vessels had been extended to thirty days.

The British and French Ministers had addressed to the Argentine Government a strong note, detailing the grievances of which they complain.

REPORTED REVOLUTION IN BUENOS AYRES.

The Madrid papers of the 3rd mention that accounts had been brought by a vessel, which arrived at Malaga from La Plata, of an insurrection at Buenos Ayres, in consequence of which the British and French entered that city, and deposed the President Rosas. It is probable that this is but an exaggerated edition of the taking of Colonia. No date is given.

ALGERIA.

The intelligence from Algiers of the 30th ult. is thus summed up by the *Réforme*:—

Each mail from Africa brings fresh proofs of the incapacity of Governor-General Bugeaud. Whilst the Marshal was slowly moving in the south-west of the province of Algiers, and marching and counter-marching during thirty-four days, without any result, Abd-el-Kader left the sub-division of Tlemcen, traversed the whole province of Oran, passed repeatedly within a few leagues of Marshal Bugeaud, who believed him to have re-entered Morocco, reached Tiaret the moment the latter evacuated the place, crossed the mountains of Matmata whilst Marshal Bugeaud was amusing himself by measuring their altitude, and then, by a bold and decisive manœuvre, resolutely advanced towards the south-east to invade the province of Constantine, leaving far behind him Algiers, Marshal Bugeaud, and our columns, which he most skilfully turned and avoided. To give an idea of his boldness, we need only observe, that he is now upwards of a hundred leagues distant from the point at which he entered our territory.

"HOLY ALLIANCE" OF THE POPE WITH THE TYRANT NICHOLAS.

Since the article, in our 7th page, on "The Pope and the Autocrat," was in type, we have seen the following news from Frankfort, confirmatory of our views as to the alliance of the Pope with Nicholas. If the following is true, Poland is finally and completely betrayed by the spiritual despot of the Vatican. The *Frankfort Journal* states, that the differences between the Court of St. Petersburgh and that of Rome have been arranged, and that Russia will, in future, strenuously avoid all harsh measures against the Roman Catholic Church, whilst the Holy See is to take care that the Catholic Church shall not interfere in any movements against the state.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

IBRAHIM PACHA is to visit Paris in the month of February, and it is said he will afterwards pay a visit to London.

THE FRENCH EXPEDITION AGAINST MADAGASCAR is fully determined on, but it is thought it will not sail before the end of January.

DESTINATION OF THE MORMONS.—The *St. Louis Republican* says—"Nootka or Vancouver Island, on the north-west coast of North America, is to be the final destination and home of the Mormon people. This island is about 300 miles long, and from 75 to 100 in width.

MEXICAN SUNDAY AMUSEMENTS.—MEXICO, OCT. 28. —Last Sunday a fight between a lion, brought over from England for the purpose, and a Mexican bull, was to take place on the Plaza de Toros, which is fitted up after the fashion of the Roman circus. The place was crowded to excess, in the expectation of seeing something very beautiful; but the people were disappointed, for upon the lion being let out, instead of attacking the bull, as was expected, he laid himself very quietly down, and all the poking which he received from the people, and the worrying of some dogs which were let in upon him, could not bring him to fight. This was perhaps natural, for when he entered, he was received with such a shout from the populace, that he was completely cowed, which the continued shouting of course increased; the noise at the same time increasing, the people calling out "Qui viva el toro Mexicano, qui muero el lion," &c., they considering it as a great triumph for the Mexican bull. The next day a publication was sold in the street, entitled "El glorioso Triumfo del Toro Mexicano."

THE POPE AND THE CZAR.—A Berlin letter of the 27th ult., in the *Journal de Frankfort*, states that all the differences between the Emperor of Russia and the Pope, on the subject of the Catholic Church in Russia, have been settled to the entire satisfaction of both parties.

A NEW RACE OF PEOPLE, of very superior intelligence and morals, is said to have been discovered in Africa, near the mission established by the American board at the Saboon.

THE MONKS OF ST. BERNARD. — We lately mentioned that an accident had lately taken place on the St. Bernard, by which the lives of one of the monks, and three domestics attached to the hospital, were sacrificed. The latter were inhabitants of the Valais, and the former was M. Cart, canon of Callanches, in Faucigny. The accident arose from an enormous avalanche from Mont-Mort to the east of the hospital. It was in contemplation to trace out the road along the Combe, on the side of the valley, and Canon Cart, who was known to be bold, robust, and the most intrepid among the brethren in braving storms, went to direct the operations, as several travellers were expected on that day; he and his three companions were thus cut off while in the performance of an act of hospitality and charity.—*Galignani's Messenger.*

THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. DENIS.—The monument erected to the memory of Louis XVIII. in the vaults of the Cathedral of St. Denis is about being completed, and, when finished, that of Charles X., his successor, will be proceeded with. When this is done, all the French Kings and Princes up to 1830 will be there represented either by a tomb, a monument, or a statue.—*Galignani's Messenger.*

Accidents, Offences, & Inquests.

LATE FIRE IN BARBICAN.

CORONER'S INQUIRY.—On Wednesday an inquiry of several hours duration was gone into before William Payne, Esq., Coroner for the City, and a jury of inhabitants of the ward of Cripplegate Without, for the purpose of ascertaining the cause of the fire which took place on Sunday night last, in the neighbourhood of Barbican, some few particulars of which are given in another column.

The jury having been sworn, viewed the premises, situated in Braim's-buildings, Beech-street, and on their return the following evidence was laid before them:—

Mrs. Mary Tyrrell, of No. 2, Braim's-buildings, Beech-street, deposed that on Sunday night last, about twenty minutes before twelve o'clock, she was awoke by an alarm of fire, and on getting up saw flames issuing from the windows of Mr. Ford's premises, at the end of the court. He is a painter, and mises, at the end of the court. He is a painter, and the window from whence the flames were issuing are over the gateway. The lower part of the premises are occupied as a school by Mr. Allen. Mr. Allen had occupied the premises about six months, and Mr. Ford about four years. He (Mr. Ford) had not carried on any business on the premises for the last nine months. She (witness) was in the habit of taking in messages for Mr. Ford, but about three weeks back he told her that he was going travelling and he should not require her to take any more messages for him. He very seldom came to the premises, but during the last three weeks his visits had been more frequent. The last time she saw him at the premises was on Thursday last. On Saturday night last she saw a strong light on the first floor of Mr. Ford's premises, and smelt a strong smell of pitch or tar. The light was a stronger light than would be emitted from a candle. She had smelt a similar smell when Mr. Ford carried on his business, and she spoke to him on the subject, when he said, with a sneer, "That I had a mind to mind his property as well as my own too, and he was much obliged to me." When she smelt the pitch and tar on Saturday she did not give an alarm as she had been laughed at.

Mrs. Julia Maria Allen, of No. 37, Beech-street, said that on Sunday night, about a quarter or twenty minutes past eleven o'clock, she was going up stairs. She noticed sparks flying up in the air, and her niece told her there was a fire in Braim's-buildings. She went there, and saw flames through the crevices of Mr. Ford's door and the windows above. Her nephew (Mr. A. V. Allen) held the school-room below of Mr. Ford.) I have heard Mr. Ford talk very mysteriously. On the 17th of November I recollect him speaking about fire. It took place in Mr. Allen's school-room. I went there to see my nephew, and found Mr. Ford there waiting to see Mr. Allen, who was absent. Conversation ensued between us, and he asked if my nephew was insured. I told him I knew he was not, but that he was just on the point of being so. Mr. Ford replied that he wished he was, which made me wonder why he (Mr. Ford) should be so anxious about it. After using a great many ambiguous words, he looked round the room, and said if a fire was to take place there, it would not go beyond those walls. I told him it was in a close court, with a great many small houses in it, and that it was impossible to tell where the consequences would stop. He replied that it would be confined to the corner, and would not go beyond the walls. I then asked him whether he intended to set the place on fire, telling him it would be a dangerous experiment to try. He laughed, and said, "Oh no, he hoped not; he hoped to carry on business there yet."

Mr. Alfred Victor Allen, of No. 2, Bunhill-row, school-master, said he took the lower part of Mr Ford's premises from him at Michaelmas last, but did not enter into occupation until the month of October. The last time he was on the premises was on Saturday last about two o'clock, which he left quite safe. He was not insured for one farthing, and the property he had lost in the fire would amount to from £80 to £100. He had been into the portion of the premises belonging to Mr. Ford. No business was carried on, and they were filled with stores of type in cases, old iron, paper, and other things. He never saw such a heterogenous collection before. There were two rooms on the ground-floor, with a sort of loft above the rooms over the gateway. Both rooms on the ground floor came against the partition of his school-room. There were bundles of paper lying about in all directions about the premises.

Coroner: Have you ever had any conversation with him about insurance?

Mr. Allen: Yes, he has asked me several times if I was insured, and has shown me his policy of insurance. I told him that I intended to insure: and the last time he spoke to me about it, I told him that I had been about it. He told me that his policy had been altered. First, because of my having a stove on my premises; secondly, property which had not been insured before; and; thirdly, that he had found out a secret of insurance, by having his rent insured for twelve months. On one occasion, whilst talking of the insurance, Mr. Ford looked round the premises and said, "Mr. Bassingham's wall is a thirteen-inch wall, and the house-wall and buildings on the other side a nine-inch wall, and if a fire occurred it would only clear out the corner."

Henry Andrew Mallet, engineer of the Whitecross-station of the Fire Brigade, after stating that he was called to the fire on Sunday night, said that he had made an examination of the premises that day (Tuesday), at twelve o'clock, and found a quantity of paper saturated with turpentine, in the further corner of Mr. Ford's premises, also some shavings in the same spot. The shavings were also saturated with turpentine; under them was a layer of coal tar, shavings, and paper, upon the floor. He also found some brimstone at the same spot.

A quantity of the paper and shavings were here produced by the witness, and examined by the coroner and jury.

William Taylor, a yonng man living in Braim's-buildings, deposed to seeing Mr. Ford go into the premises on Saturday night, about eleven o'clock, and smelling a strong smell of pitch. On that night he saw a strong light in the window as spoken of by the first witness, and on the Sunday evening smelt a strong and choking smell of pitch.

Mr. John Edward Green, of Whitecross-street, agent to the Imperial Fire Insurance, deposed to letting the premises in Braim's-buildings to Ford. Six weeks back he wished to increase his insurance on his stock and implements of business only, the premises being insured before. The old policy was cancelled, and witness obtained a new one, which he has still in his possession. The premium was increased from 4s. 6d. to 10s. 6d., and the insurance was effected as follows:—Stock, for £185; furniture, £20; goods entrusted, £20; watches and trinkets, £10; and a year's rent, £10. The whole insurance upon the premises and all, amounting to £410.

The Coroner asked Mr. Ford if he wished to say anything, but at the time telling him that if he took his advice he would say nothing.

Mr. Ford said he should like to say a few words. He admitted that he was there on Saturday night for the purpose of clearing a room out in which to put some furniture, but declared that it was a mystery how the fire occurred.

The Coroner addressed the jury at some length, and left it to them to say whether they were of opinion that the fire had been caused by accident or wilfully.

The room having been cleared of strangers, the jury, after some consultation, returned a verdict, "That the fire had been wilfully caused, and that George John Ford was guilty of arson."

The Coroner said he would not commit Mr. Ford that night, but would allow him to be brought before the magistrate at Guildhall police court the next day.

EMBEZZLEMENT OF CLUB MONEYS.—At the meeting of the Croydon bench of magistrates on Saturday, a person of respectable appearance, named James Tompson, who formerly filled the office of secretary to the Mitcham Block-printers' Benefit Society, was charged with having unlawfully embezzled and secreted £30, the moneys of the society. Mr. Humphreys, solicitor, appeared in support of the charge, and Mr. Hill attended on behalf of the defendant. From the evidence adduced, it appeared that in the year 1839 the Mitcham Society lent two sums of £20 to the Bookbinders' Society, and this sum remained outstanding until the year 1844, when it was repaid in four sums of £10 each, and at this period it appeared that the defendant acted as secretary and treasurer to the association, and it was alleged that he had only accounted for one of these sums of £10, and had appropriated the remaining £30 to his own use. Mr. Wade, who acted as secretary at the period when the loan was advanced, proved that fact, and he likewise stated that the entries of the advance of the two sums of £20 which were made in the books of the Mitcham Society, had both been altered to £10, but he was unable to conjecture by whom the alteration had been made. Mr. Dunning, the secretary to the Bookbinders' Society, proved that at various periods during the latter end of the year 1844 and the commencement of 1845, he made four payments of £10 to the defendant, as secretary of the Mitcham Club, in repayment of the money that had been advanced by them. In cross-examination, the witness said that the money was advanced to assist the men against their masters during a strike. Mr. Hill then made some further inquiries as to whether a sum of £1,500 had not been expended for the same object; but Mr. Humphreys objected, and contended that an inquiry of this description was entirely irrelevant, as the magistrates had nothing to do with the question whether the society, or the object for which the money was advanced, was legal or illegal, but the only point at issue was, whether the defendant had embezzled the money or not. The magistrates decided that they would not go into the question of the legality or illegality of the object for which the money was advanced, but should confine themselves strictly to the question of embezzlement. The magistrates, after a short deliberation, said they thought there was sufficient evidence to warrant them in sending the case for further investigation, but they should take the personal recognizance of the defendant in £40, with two sureties in £20 each, for his appearance at the assizes to answer the charge.

INCENDIARY FIRE AT FORNHAM.—Between twelve and one o'clock on Sunday morning last, a fire was discovered upon the farming premises of Mr. Witt, of Fornham. Mr. Witt, we understand, had retired to rest, and was just passing into sleep, when his attention was attracted to a flickering light in the room; he instantly rose, and looking out, discovered his stacks on fire. An alarm was given, and in the course of ten minutes a surprising throng of people collected, the Rev. Mr. Benyon's coachman with the rev. gentleman's engine being promptly on the spot. Information speedily arriving in Bury, the engines of the Norwich Union and the Suffolk Fire office were despatched with all expedition, reaching Mr. Witt's premises about half-past one. It was found impossible to bring the whole of the engines into play, the scarcity of water and the distance from which it had to be brought rendering the efforts of two of the engines altogether nugatory. Meanwhile the flames had made such rapid progress, throwing up a red reflection in the air, which was seen from a great distance. The utmost exertions were made to subdue the raging element and save the property. But the deficiency of water defeated every effort. No water could be obtained nearer than the river, and two engines therefore had to be kept constantly employed to supply one, the Norwich Union, which alone could be brought to bear upon the flames. This arose from not having a sufficient length of hose, the three engines having to join together to convey water from the river, which being pumped from one to the other, reached at last the sole engine that could be effectually employed. Five stacks were consumed, a pea stack, two straw stacks, a hay stack, and a clover stack. Had the wind been favourable to the design of the incendiary the whole of the premises must have been totally destroyed. On the whole the people collected behaved very well, but some observations were heard passing from one to the other which showed that there was a bad feeling rankling in the bosom of some of them.

ELOPEMENT.—The town of Stowmarket was thrown into no small excitement on Wednesday last, by the information that the fair and accomplished daughter of the Rev. Sir Augustus Henniker, of Plashwoods, Haughley, had eloped with Charles Robert Bree Esq., surgeon, of that town. It appears that Sir Augustus being absent from home, Mr. Bree met the lady (who is about twenty-four years of age) about a mile from her father's residence, with an open carriage, in which they proceeded to Bury, and then sent the vehicle back. On the return of Sir Augustus in the evening, the lady was missing, and they were traced to Bury, but no further tidings could be gained of their progress. It is understood that the lady has independent property.—*Bury Post.*

EXTENSIVE POST-OFFICE ROBBERIES, RUGBY, DEC. 6.—This town and neighbourhood have for some time suffered considerable inconvenience from the non-delivery of letters and newspapers; this evil at length increased to such an extent, notwithstanding every attempt was made to trace it to its origin, that recourse was eventually had to the Postmaster-General, who, upon being made acquainted with the particulars, thought the most advisable step would be to send down Mr. R. W. Peacock, the solicitor to the Post-office, and that gentleman accordingly arrived here on Thursday, when he obtained all the information he could, after which he came to the conclusion that William Garrett, a young man employed to deliver the letters in Rugby, was the guilty party, and in order to ascertain whether he was correct or not in his suspicions, Mr. Peacock caused a half sovereign to be marked on both sides, and then enclosed in a letter, which was put into the post-office at Rugby, and subsequently delivered into the hands of Garrett. In the meantime application was made to H. S. Gibb, Esq., a magistrate of the county of Warwick, for a warrant to search the premises occupied by Garrett, the result of which was, that he was brought before H. S. Gibb, Esq., and Major Moultrie, to-day, charged with having stolen a number of letters containing money, &c., the property of the Postmaster-General. From the evidence it appeared that when the prisoner's house was searched, the officer discovered upwards of one hundred letters addressed to various persons at Rugby, and two or three addressed to different individuals at Oxford. Besides fragments of others, in a partially consumed state were found in the fireplace up stairs; in addition to these there were a great number of newspapers addressed to persons in Rugby, and also two silver pencil-cases, besides a variety of jewellery, &c. Seventeen letters, and several newspapers were also found on the person of the prisoner. Sufficient evidence having been given to justify the court in remanding the prisoner, his further examination was adjourned to allow time for those parties who reside at a distance to come forward and identify the several articles that were found in possession of the prisoner.

INTREPID CONDUCT OF A YOUNG FEMALE.—On Tuesday evening Mr. Baker held an inquest at the London Hospital, on the body of Emma Kealy, aged 21, a servant to a lady named Young, residing in Nichol-square, Hackney-road. It appeared that on Thursday last, the deceased was washing in the back kitchen, when the lower part of her dress caught fire by coming in contact with the copper flue, she rushed into the street enveloped in flames, when she was observed by a young lady named Wasford, who resided next door, who immediately seized the door mat, and ran to her assistance, and placing her in a sitting position threw it over her, and then procuring water succeeded in extinguishing the fire; by her exertions she burnt herself very severely. Deceased was taken to the above hospital, where she died immediately on her admission. The coroner and jury highly complimented Miss Wasford for her intrepidity. Verdict, accidental death.

HORRIBLE MURDER NEAR BORRISOKANE.—In addition to a long catalogue of "Tipperary outrages," contained in the Dublin news of Wednesday, we observe the following account of a perpetration of a murder, under the most revolting circumstances, near Borrisokane, on Monday evening. The victim in this instance was a man of the name of Hogan. He had been in Portumna, we understand, during the day, disposing of corn, and was returning homewards leading his horse and car, when, at the gate of Kyle Park, he was waylaid and shot dead. The weapon, it is thought, was a blunderbuss, which must have been placed near the body of the unfortunate man, as the clothes were torn by the shot, and partially burned.

A MELANCHOLY ACCIDENT occurred a few days ago, at Tivetshall, to the Rev. John Neville White, the rector of that parish. It appears that he had for many months past been suffering from defective vision, and on Tuesday last, in the afternoon, he had occasion to go into a plantation on his premises, where he had been felling some poles, for the purpose of looking at them before they were sold. These poles were lying close by the pond, and it is supposed Mr. White stumbled against the stumps of some of the trees in the path, and was precipitated into the water. His body was not found for several hours afterwards; he was then, of course quite dead. The following day an inquest was held on the body, before Mr. John Pilgrim, jun., deputy coroner. After hearing the evidence, which was of a most conclusive nature, the jury immediately returned a verdict that the deceased was accidentally drowned. The reverend gentleman bore a most amiable and honourable character, was greatly beloved in his parish, and by a large circle of friends. He was the brother of the poet, Henry Kirke White, and was in the 61st year of his age.—*Bury Post.*

EXTRAORDINARY FORTITUDE. — The *Edinburgh Weekly Chronicle* narrates the following extraordinary instance of presence of mind and fortitude. A few days ago, Samuel Mason, tentor in one of Mr. Swan's mills near Kilkaldy, met with a severe accident in the following manner:—Having observed a cord entangled with one of the belts, he went up a ladder to relieve the same; but, on doing so, the slack portion of the cord took a turn round his left thumb and arm as it was drawn onward by the movement of the belt. Being thus fixed, he foresaw his instant destruction if drawn up to the pulley by the belt, and, with singular fortitude and presence of mind, he grasped a column close by with his arms and legs, and held on till his arm was literally sawed and torn asunder: being thus relieved, he slid down the column to the floor, took off his bonnet and clapped it on the bleeding stump, holding it with his hand, rushed out, and across the street to his father-in-law. where, exhausted and breathless, he fell on the floor, before the engine was set off, being the first means by which any assistance could have been rendered him. An express was immediately despatched for surgical aid to Kilkaldy, a distance of more than two miles, when his arm was amputated above the torn part; but, finding the bone so much injured, they made another amputation a little below the shoulder-joint. He stood the operations well, though he must have been much exhausted from the loss of blood and the unavoidable length of time that elapsed before surgical assistance could be rendered. Nevertheless, after being carried to his own house in a chair, he went up his own stairs on his feet, and has since been doing wonderfully well.

FATAL ACCIDENT ON LONDON BRIDGE. — On Tuesday Mr. W. Payne held an inquest in St. Thomas's Hospital, on the body of William Ford, aged thirty-seven years. Deceased was the conductor of one of Wheatley's omnibuses, and whilst proceeding over London-bridge on the morning of Saturday, the 22nd ult., towards High-street, Southwark, the strap behind the vehicle gave way, and the deceased was precipitated into the carriage, and before the driver could stop the horses he was dragged several yards along the ground by his feet, which by some means got entangled in the iron scroll-work fixed on the steps, several of the foot-passengers ran to him, and extricated him from his frightful position in a state of insensibility. Deceased was removed by two police-constables to the accident-ward of the above hospital, where it was ascertained that he had received a fracture of the left leg below the knee. The deceased progressed very favourably for the first week, but inflammation of the lungs and pleura subsequently came on, causing his death on Sunday morning last. Verdict in accordance with the medical testimony.

ALLEGED DEATH FROM VIOLENCE. — On Monday morning Mr. William Carter, the coroner for Surrey, and a jury, opened an inquiry in the Board-room of Lambeth workhouse, relative to the death of Eliza Stokes, aged 21 years, late a pauper in the above house, who it was alleged had died *from the effects of violence*:—Mr. Thomas Oliver Duke, one of the parochial surgeons, residing at No. 17, Harleyford-place, Kennington-common, deposed that the deceased came under his notice about the 14th of November, as a deceased pauper. Witness placed her under the usual treatment. She had a violent cough and difficulty of breathing. The symptoms increased, and on the 27th she became much excited, in consequence of some violence used by two females who were in the same ward, and when witness arrived she had given birth to a child. Deceased had a bruise on the left temple. Witness did not take any particular notice of the bruise at first sight, as it seemed of a very slight nature. Witness attended her daily until the morning of Wednesday last, when she died in the absence of witness. Coroner: When you saw the deceased after death, did you attribute her decease to the injury on the head, or to any other act of violence? Witnes: I did, sir, at first in my own mind, but have since made a *post mortem* examination of the body. There was no injury to the skull and scalp. The brain and its membranes were rather congested. The lungs were diseased and very much inflamed, and were adhering to the pericardium. The ribs were sound, the abdomen and viscera were also healthy. Witness was of opinion that the deceased died from natural causes, resulting upon the deceased state of her body, which had probably been accelerated by excitement. The jury recorded a verdict of—"Death from natural causes."

DARING ROBBERY.—On Saturday night, between six and seven o'clock, a man called at the door of Mrs. Angus, residing near the foot of Crown-street, Hutchesontown, on the pretence of asking charity. Mrs. Angus, who answered the call, declined to serve him on which the man pushed her aside and entered the house. Immediately thereafter a female, who was not before observed, made her appearance, and seizing Mrs. Angus by the throat, threw her upon the floor, and held her there with a firm grasp. A second man at this moment pushed past them, from the stair, and joining the one who had first entered, the two commenced to plunder the house, there being no grown-up person, with the exception of Mrs. Angus, present. They laid hold of a silver watch, two pairs of blankets, a tartan shawl, a girl's velvet tippet, a cotton gown, and some other articles of smaller value, and made an attempt to force a trunk, in which, however, they were unsuccessful. The party then hurriedly left the house, taking the articles above-named along with them. All this time Mrs. Angus was under the hands of the female, and unable to make the least resistance; there were children in the house, but of such an age as to render them incapable of giving any alarm to the neighbours. In these circumstances the miscreants made their escape. A more daring instance of robbery we have seldom been called upon to record within the limits of the city; and we earnestly trust that the police will be able to secure the depredators, so as to insure the punishment which so serious a crime deserves.—*Glasgow Argus.*

MELANCHOLY ACCIDENT. — On Wednesday week. about mid-day, a party consisting of four young men and a girl left the boat-house of Inverdruie, Rothiemurchus, for the purpose of crossing the Spey. Their names were John Munro, John Macmillan, and Janet Macdonald—all from Urquhart; John Mackintosh from Strathnairn; and Angus Macdonald, from Knoydart. Owing to the late heavy falls of rain in the district, the river was very high, and having partaken of some refreshment, after reaching the opposite shore, the party found themselves surrounded with water in the direction they intended to take. To avoid the distance of going round, which would not be less than half a mile, they proposed taking the boat across, and after they got well over, it was discovered a safe landing-place could not be found. They plied the oars for some time, and at last were borne down with the impetuous stream, until the boat struck against a tree, and the whole were precipitated into the water. Macdonald and Mackintosh instantly disappeared. Munro being a powerful young man, succeeded in swimming ashore. Macmillan got his breast across a strong branch of the tree, and the girl got hold below, standing in water to the shoulders, and Macmillan grasping her from above. It very fortunately happened that some shepherds were near at the time, and hearing cries for help, they proceeded to the spot, and in less than half an hour scores of people were congregated on both sides of the river. Boats were procured with as little delay as possible, and several ineffectual attempts were made to rescue the unfortunate sufferers. Macmillan held the young woman fast with one hand for an hour and a-half. No boat, however, getting near them, and his strength failing, he could retain his hold no longer, and the girl was swept away by the remorseless current. By three o'clock he was rescued from his perilous situation, through the praiseworthy exertions of Lieutenant John Gordon, of the 65th Regiment. The parties drowned were all unmarried.

EXTENSIVE FIRES IN BIRMINGHAM.—On Saturday morning an extensive fire broke out in the premises of Mr. Archer, japanner, Summer-lane, in the above town. It appears that at two o'clock in the morning a man named Walton, who remained up to feed the fire and attend to the drying-rooms, perceived smoke issuing from the lower store-room, and on opening the door he saw the place on fire, and flames bursting out of the windows. The alarm was immediately given, and the engines were promptly in attendance; but before they could succeed in extinguishing the fire about £2,000 worth of property were destroyed. The cause of the fire is yet unknown. A second fire took place about the same hour, at Flint-green, two miles from Birmingham. A number of men were immediately dispatched to the spot, and on their arrival they found a rickyard, containing two stacks of wheat, two stacks of barley, two ricks of hay, two stacks of peas, and one of clover; with a barn and stables, all in flames. In a short time the whole of the property, estimated at about £1,000, was destroyed.

THE BERKESWELL MURDER.—NATHANIEL SHARP, THE SUPPOSED CULPRIT, IN CUSTODY.—In the course of Wednesday morning, police constable Holmes, of the Coventry force, took a young-looking fellow, of about twenty years of age, before the Mayor of Coventry and other magistrates, on suspicion of being concerned in the murder of Thomas Tranter, an old resident in the parish of Berkeswell, but who was killed by some person unknown on the 17th ultimo. The Hall of St. Mary's was much crowded. The prisoner gave his name as James Reed—same name as the person who is supposed to have committed the murder, and who has likewise absconded, and the particulars of his apprehension are these:—He is a labourer, out of employment, and came from Denham, in Buckinghamshire, twenty-three miles from Aylesbury. He was detained at the Aylesbury Police-office, as applying there on Saturday night last for a bed, on his giving the name of James Reed. The attention of the officer in waiting was more particularly directed to him on giving this name, and examined him closer. It appears that, in his opinion, he corresponded with the description given in the government *Gazette* of Young Reed, of Berkeswell and he was accordingly detained. Holmes brought him to Coventry on Tuesday night, he was examined on Wednesday, and will be further remanded until Friday, when he will be taken before the magistrates of the county

ROBBERY AND SUSPECTED MURDER NEAR EAST RETFORD.—On Tuesday last an inquest was holden at Laneham, near East-Retford, on the body of Mr. Robert Draper, an eccentric gentleman of that place, who came by his death, as was supposed, by a fit of apoplexy. Circumstances, however, exciting suspicion, the body was exhumed, and on the inquest it came out that the deceased had been robbed by his housekeeper, named Harriet Baxter Trevor, and a labouring man named Troop, of valuable property to a large amount. The evidence of the medical witnesses excited strong suspicion that the deceased gentleman came to his death by violence, but the jury returned a verdict, "That Mr. Draper died on the 8th day of November, 1845, but that no satisfactory evidence had been given to them as to the cause of death." The two servants confessed to the robbery, and on Wednesday last were both committed to the house of correction at Southwell, to take their trials at the next Retford sessions.

FIRE IN BISHOPSGATE-WITHOUT.—A most extensive fire occurred on Friday night, shortly before eleven o'clock, in the Catherine-wheel, and George-court, Bishopsgate-without, by which a lofty erection of four floors was burned from the base to the roof. A vast quantity of valuable property was destroyed, and the beautiful chapel, known as Bishopsgate Chapel, so far jeopardised, that for some time the greatest fears were entertained for its safety.

OVERFLOWING OF THE THAMES — DISASTROUS EFFECTS.—In consequence of the prevalence of the north-east winds, and the gale of Thusday morning, which forced the water up the Channel, the river overflowed its banks on Thursday night, and the tide rose to a great height. At midnight the sudden rushing of the waters over the enbankments of the Thames and through the wharfs and alleys leading into the streets, aroused the inhabitants from their slumbers, and a scene of indescribable confusion took place. A great many persons were saved in Wapping, Shadwell, the numerous courts and alleys leading out of Bankside and other places by the activity of the police, those of the Thames division being very assiduous in their exertions. An hour before the time named in the calendar for the primary high water, the river was several inches above the usual level, and it continued to flow with a velocity which astonished the oldest watermen and lightermen, until five minutes after one o'clock yesterday morning, an hour beyond the time named for high water at London-bridge, when the tide was one inch higher at the St. Katherine's-dock-gates than it was in November, 1841, when a similar disastrous visitation occurred. It would be impossible to recount a tithe of the hair-breadth escapes from drowning, or to give anything like a complete list of the houses, warehouses, granaries, wharfs, and other buildings damaged by the inundation. From Gravesend to Putney the loss of property on both shores has been immense. Happily there has been no loss of life, but a great number of poor families have suffered great loss, and will, in consequence, contnue to suffer much discomfort for some time to come.

THE ITALIAN FREE SCHOOL.

[From the *Examiner*]

The Italian Free School, in Greville-street, Leather-lane, whose excellent and benevolent objects we have on former occasions alluded to, has lately celebrated its fourth anniversary. The school rooms were crowded with above 200 of the pupils; and among them were seated several ladies and gentlemen of rank who have taken an interest in their welfare. A distribution of prizes took place amidst much pleasing excitement and cheerful applause; after which the director, Mr. Pistrucci, and the founder, Mr. Mazzini, with two other gentlemen, spoke forcibly and eloquently on the state of the school, its objects and its resources; and the evening closed with a highly interesting "charity feast," prepared for the pupils at the expense of the directors.

This *Scula Gratuita Italiana* was founded in 1841, and first opened on the 10th of November of that year. It was intended for the improvement of all poor Italians, without distinction; but chiefly for that of those organ boys, and traders in plaster casts, above one thousand of whom are now toiling in the streets of London, and along the thoroughfares in the country.

The school is opened for two hours and a half every evening (Monday excepted), and for three hours and a half on Sundays; on the latter day, in addition to the humbler branches of instruction, a lecture on moral, historical, or scientific subjects, being delivered at half-past eight. The pupils are instructed in the Italian and English languages, in reading and writing, arithmetic and mechanics, geography, drawing, &c. None of the masters, with the exception of two, receive any emolument. Writing and drawing materials, books, paper, &c., are afforded gratuitously to the pupils.

The school was originally supported by the voluntary subscriptions of Italian gentlemen residing in London; but soon Lady Noel Byron, Mrs. Milner Gibson Mr. Thomas Carlyle, Sir. James Clarke, Mr. Mill, Mr. Toynbee, and others, offered their co-operation and patronage; so that English beneficence contributes now a very ample share toward the support of this foreign institution.

On the other hand, the school has had also its opponents. The many hundreds of boys crowding its rooms from every quarter roused the suspicions of the agents of the Italian Government in this country, who apprehended in it a hot-bed of rebellion, and whose fertile imagination conjured up a legion of organ boys organized in formidable ranks in Greville-street, and marching, under the orders of Mr. Mazzini, to the conquest of Italy. The priests of the Roman Catholic chapels in London also wilfully misconstrued the school into a seminary of atheism and infidelity, for no other apparent reason than the distribution of New Testaments in the Italian language yearly made among the boys. The father Baldacconi, on this ground, openly cried anathema to the school from the pulpit of the Sardinian Chapel. But its most formidable enemies were the *padroni*, or masters of the poor Italian mendicants, who, under the pretence of apprenticeship, have the wretched organ-players under absolute control. These had caught the war-cry from the priests; and by severe flogging and starvation they succeeded, to a great extent, in thinning the ranks of the school. Many of the pupils with tears in their eyes delivered up their books to their kind masters, all intercourse with whom had become out of the question; and such was the effect, even on some of the subscribers, that at the end of the second year the school was threatened with imminent ruin.

The irresistible power of a really good and humane design, however, and the perseverance of the school's founders and friends, have weathered the storm, and though a larger number of permanent subscribers would be a great *desideratum*, yet we learn with peculiar pleasure that the large amount of occasional bounties leaves no uneasiness as to the prosperous continuance of this admirable and most charitable institution.

We have thought that this brief statement might interest our readers. If they think it worth while to inquire further for themselves, they will find much more to interest them; and, we will venture to add, to engage their active help and sympathy.

FOURTH EDITION.

THE NEW MINISTRY.

NORTHERN STAR Office, Saturday Evening, December 13.

We have no certain news as to the formation of the new Ministry. The following is from the *Sun* of this evening:—

The Queen would leave Osborne House this morning by an early train. Lord John Russell attends her Majesty, by royal command, to lay before her his deliberate conclusions as to the task confided to him, and the result of his own opinions, backed by those with whom he took counsel.

Lord Landsdowne, Mr. Baring, Mr. Macaulay, and several other gentlemen had interviews this morning with Lord John Russell, at his residence in Chesham-place.

It is rumoured to-day that Mr. John Romilly will most probably be the new Solicitor-General.

[From the *Standard.*]

Up to the hour of our going to press, nothing with certainty is known respecting the formation of a new administration.

Several confidential communications have been sent from Lord John Russell to Sir James Graham, last evening and this morning, but of course we are ignorant as to their intent and purport.

Various reports were in circulation at the West-end respecting the probability of there being a coalition ministry, but none of the rumours have obtained any degree of credit.

ROYAL MARYLEBONE THEATRE.

LESSEE, MR. JOHN DOUGLASS.

Last Four Nights of Performance before Christmas. Engagement of Signor Bradbury, the Rope Vaulter, for Two Nights only.

ON Monday and Wednesday, the performance to commence with the Drama of the "Sea-side Story," in which Messrs. J. Rayner, Neville, Harrington, T. Lee, Mrs. Campbell, Miss Pearce, and Mrs. Neville will appear. To be followed by the performance of Signor Bradbury. After which the Farce of "Barny Burk." Barny Burk, Mr. T. Lee. On Monday, to conclude with the "Fatal Ring." On Wednesday, with "John Avery."

On Tuesday, for the benefit of Mrs. Campbell, a variety of Novel Performances.

Monday, December 22, is fixed for the Benefit of Mr. John Douglass, on which occasion Mr. and Mrs. R. Honner will perform.

On Boxing Night will be presented a grand new and original Chinese Comic Christmas Pantomime, with new and splendid Scenery, Dresses, &c., which has been some months in preparation, and will be produced on a scale of splendour surpassing all former efforts.

Stage Manager, Mr. Neville.

Boxes, 2s.; Pit, 1s.; Gallery, 6d.

Forthcoming Meetings.

CITY CHARTIST HALL.—The usual meetings will be holden on Sunday. In the evening, at seven o'clock, Mr. T. Cooper will lecture on "The poetry, novels, and character of Sir Walter Scott."

MEETINGS will be held at Westminster on Sunday; Camberwell on Monday; and Hammersmith on Tuesday evenings.

TOWER HAMLETS.—A public meeting on behalf of Frost, Williams, Jones, Ellis, and other exiles, will be held in the Social Hall, Whitechapel-road, on Monday evening, December 22nd; chair to be taken at eight o'clock precisely. Feargus O'Connor, Philip M'Grath, Christopher Doyle, Thomas Clark, Thomas M. Wheeler, and Thomas Cooper, are expected to be present, and address the meeting.

MARYLEBONE LOCALITY.—An adjourned discussion from Mr. Bartlett's lecture of Sunday evening, Dec. 7th, will take place at the Coach Painters' Arms, Circus-street, New-road, on Sunday evening, Dec, 14, 1845, to commence at eight o'clock. Mr. Bartlett has promised to attend.

SOUTHWARK.—The members of the South London Chartist Hall locality are requested to meet in the above hall, on Sunday evening next, at seven o'clock. At eight o'clock a discussion will take place. Subject —"The present state of the country, and the probable effect of a repeal of the Corn Laws."

CHARTIST FESTIVAL.—A convivial dancing party will be held in the Temperance Hall, 52, Rose-place, next door to St. Anne's Church, on Wednesday evening (Christmas Eve), Dec. 24th. Tickets to be had at Mr. Farrell's, Temperance Hotel, 4, Cazaneaw-street; Mr. Goodfellow's, Temperance Hotel, Tarlton-street; from the secretary in the room, on Monday evenings, from seven till ten o'clock; or from the members of the council.

THE COMMITTEE for the funeral of the late Wm. H. Bain will meet on Sunday next, at six o'clock precisely, at Mr. Drake's, the Standard of Liberty, Brick-lane, Spitalfields, to receive the money, and return tickets for the play at the Standard Theatre, on the 10th inst. They request all persons that have either of the above to forward the same to the committee.

MOTTRAM.—There will be held a meeting of shareholders in the Land Society, on Sunday next, at two o'clock, for the purpose of electing the local officers in this branch.

WEST RIDING DELEGATE MEETING.—This meeting will be held on Sunday (to-morrow) in the Working Man's Hall, Bulls-close-lane, Halifax, to commence at twelve o'clock precisely.

HALIFAX.—The members of the Chartist Co-operative Land Society will meet in the above room, at half-past two, on business of importance.

HULL.—The members of the Hull branch of the Co-operative Land Society, are requested to attend a public meeting on Sunday night next, at six o'clock, at the Painters, Arms, Sykes-street.

BRIGHTON.—A special general meeting of the Chartists of this place will be held at the Cap of Liberty, on Monday evening next, December 15th, to take into consideration the propriety of petitioning Parliament for the restoration of Frost, Williams, and Jones. A concert and ball will take place at the Artichoke Inn, on New Year's eve, for the benefit of the veteran, Mr. Flower. Tickets may be had of Mr. Roser, Gardener-street; Mr. Williams, King-street; Mr. Bourne, Bread-street; Mr. Tullett, Jew-street; Mr. Fenner, Frederick-street; Mr. Mitchell, Wood-street, treasurer; Mr. J. Page, Camelford-street, secretary; or at the bar of the above house.

BRISTOL.—This branch of the Chartist Co-operative Land Society will meet every Monday evening, at eight o'clock, at Mr. Francomb's, No. 102, Temple-street.

BANKRUPTS.

[*From the Gazette of Friday, December 12.*]

Frederick Taylor, of 3, Orange-street, Red Lion-square, wax chandler—Thomas Moger (and not Mager, as advertised in last Tuesday's *Gazette*) of Holborn-hill, City, and of Coventry-street, Haymarket, poulterer—Henry Harris, of 22, Leman-street, Goodman's-fields, teacher at the Jews' Orphan Asylum—George Watt, of 8, Old Jewry, City, linen factor—Frederick Whitworth, of Shawforth, Lancashire, cotton manufacturer—Ralph Buckley, of Saddleworth, Yorkshire, woollen cloth manufacturer—William Fay, of Bath, innkeeper—Joseph Rothchild, of Bristol, watchmaker—Henry Rowbotham and Robert Johnson Kenworthy, of Brinksway, Cheshire, and Manchester, calico printers—James Butterworth, of Manchester, plumber—Frederick Lingard, of New Elvet, near Durham, teacher of music—William Ellary, of Kidderminster, ironfounder.

AMERICAN AFFAIRS.

Thinking that a brief and succinct account of the Oregon question, exhibiting the claims of the British and American Governments to the disputed territory, will be welcome to our readers, we give the following article from our talented contemporary, the *Brighton Herald*. The *Herald's* article is, we believe, perfectly correct and impartial, and as it saves us the labour of preparing a similar statement, we take the liberty to pass the "appropriation clause:"—

WAR WITH AMERICA—THE OREGON.

The journals, the politicians, and the statesmen of Europe, are speculating on the probability of a war between Great Britain and the United States of America.

For the reasons we briefly stated last week, and many others might be assigned, we do not yet believe in the probability of this event. At the same time, we are aware that in former years wars have broken out—as that with Spain about the Falkland Islands—with less consideration than the Americans and the war-party in Europe, including that of England, seem disposed to pay to the grounds of this d spute; and it therefore becomes our duty to lay the best accounts we are able to obtain before our readers; and this shall be done as briefly as the subject will admit.

DISCOVERY OF THE OREGON TERRITORY.

It is supposed (and it is a mere supposition) that Drake caught sight of the coast, in lat 48 deg., in 1580. He certainly saw it to latitude 43 deg. But England made no use of the discovery, whatever it was.

This coast then remained unvisited for nearly two centuries. But in 1774 and 1775, Bucareli, the Viceroy of Mexico, sent two persons to explore it.* Perez left the port of San Blos on the 24th of Jan., 1774, and on the 9th of August he anchored in Nootka Road, being the first European to do so, which the Spaniards called the port of San Lorenzo, but which Cook, four years afterwards, called King George's Sound. The next year (1775) Heceta discovered the mouth of the river Columbia, and called it the Entrada de Heceta. "I possess," says Humboldt, "two very curious small maps, engraved in 1788 in the city of Mexico, which gave the bearings of the coast from the 27 deg. to the 58 deg., as they were discovered in the expedition of Heceta" (or Quadra, who accompanied him). (Humboldt's *New Spain: Black's translation, vol. 2, p. 316 to 318.*)

Captain Cook, 1778, partially examined the coast from 44 deg. to 59th, and after his death the crews sold at Canton some furs which they had bought of the natives.

It was these furs that gave a spur to the trade on this coast; and the English and Americans prepared to work for it; but the South Sea Company having exclusive privileges in the Pacific, and the East India Company in China, the English adventurers generally sailed under foreign flags.

Meares, an English officer, left Macao for Nootka Sound in 1788; but could not discover the river St. Roque or the Columbia.

In 1787, and five following years, Captain Gray, an American, ventured into Nootka Sound, and on the 11th of June, 1792, he ran into the Entrada de Heceta, crossed it, and entered the Columbia, which he sailed up fifteen miles. It was he who changed the name of the river from St. Roque to the Columbia, which it still bears.

In 1791 Captain Vancouver was sent by the British Government. By the law of nations no private person, like Meares or Gray, can establish the right of a nation to new discovered land.

Vancouver could not find the river; but meeting with Gray, who gave him the necessary information, he sent Lieutenant Broughton in a small vessel—the Chatham—which crossed the bar, but finding the coast dangerous, Broughton left the vessel, and rowed up in his cutter 100 miles—nearly as far as it is navigable.

These are the main points as regards the discovery of this coast by sea.

The first who penetrated by land was Sir A. Mackenzie, in the service of the North West (British) Company, in 1793. He crossed the Rocky Mountains in about 54 deg., discovered Fraser's River, descended it 250 miles, then struck off in a westerly direction, and reached the Pacific in 52 deg. 20 min.

In August, 1805, the American Government despatched Lewis and Clark to the territory overland. They crossed the Rocky Mountains in 44 deg., discovered the southern heads of the Columbia River, floated 600 miles down it; on the 15th of November, 1805, they arrived at the mouth, and built some huts, in which they wintered, and returned to the United States in 1806.

This is the only time the Rocky Mountains were ever passed by persons acting in a public capacity.

In 1806 Mr. Fraser, acting under the orders of the North West Company, crossed the Rocky Mountains, and established a trading post in Fraser's River in 50 deg. 4 min.

In 1811 Mr. Thomson, another agent of the above company, discovered the northern heads of the Columbia in 52 deg.

This is the whole amount of information as to the question of discovery.

The Spaniards discoved it first, but made no settlement.

Broughton, under Vancouver, penetrated furthest; but made no settlement.

Clark and Lewis, representing the American Government, built huts in 1805.

All three powers—Spain, England, and America—set up claims on the grounds of discovery; but none of them are clear or satisfactory.

The Americans rest their claim (see the negociations in 1824 and 1826) chiefly as regards the sea on Gray. But this argument will not hold water. Gray acted as an individual adventurer. The Americans argue absurdly also on another point. They say that the discovery of a river entitles the discoverer to all the territory drained by such river. No European jurist will admit such a doctrine as this. But whatever the pretensions under Gray, it is clear that he is driven out of Court by Humboldt's maps.

Lewis and Clark only discovered what had been discovered before—the mouth of the river.

The British claim is little, if at all, better. Drake merely saw it at most. Neither Cook nor Vancouver had seen it till after Heceta; so that the title, as far as discovery goes, is with Spain; but settlement as well as discovery is necessary to confirm a title.

CLAIMS BY SETTLEMENT.

By the law of nations, it is not sufficient, in order to give a title to new-discovered land, that its discovery has been made by a private individual. To establish a valid claim, it must be made by an official person—by some commander representing the sovereignty, whether monarchical or republican, of his nation; and even when such a person has made the discovery, if the nation that he represents take no further notice of the matter; if it never direct a settlement to be established on such land, it loses the right it might have claimed of discovery.

"The law of nations," says Vattel (book 1, cap 18), "will not acknowledge the sovereignty of a nation over countries except those in which it has formed settlements and of which it makes actual use."

"Prior discovery," said the American Minister of 1826, Mr. Gallatin, "gives a right to occupy, provided that occupancy take place within a reasonable time, and is followed by permanent settlements and cultivation of the soil."—("Negociations on the Treaty of that Year.")

It was precisely in this spirit that Queen Elizabeth, in her conversation with Mendoza, the Spanish Minister, denied the right of the Spaniards to exclude the English from making settlements in the New World. "Because they had touched here and there on the coasts," said the British Semiramis, "built cottages, and given names to a river and cape, * * they could not hinder other Princes from transplanting colonies into those parts thereof the Spaniards inhabit not; forasmuch as prescription without possession is little worth."

We showed in our last that the possession of the Oregon, so far as the right of discovery goes, unquestionably belongs to Spain, as it was discovered by Heceta in 1774. Humboldt's map, on this point, is decisive.

By the treaty of Florida, dated February 22, 1819, Spain ceded all her rights in the Oregon territory in the following words:—"His Catholic Majesty cedes to the said United States all his rights, claims, and pretensions to the territories east of the said line;" (meaning the 42nd parallel of north latitude, commencing at the head-waters of the Arkansas and running west to the Pacific,) "and for *himself, his heirs, and successors, renounces all claim to the said territories for ever.*"

Here, then, is a clear transference of whatever right Spain has over the Oregon territory to the United States of America. If, as we feel confident, our authorities are good, there can be no doubt on the point. But

Spain never made any settlement in Oregon. She never established her right of discovery, and consequently she neither has nor could transfer any right whatever over Oregon to the United States of America.

The right of settlement by Great Britain is not much better.

It is true that she granted a charter to the Hudson's Bay Company to trade exclusively with the "Indians of all such parts of North America to the northward of the westward of the territories of the United States, as shall not form part of any British provinces or of the territory of any European power;" but in this charter there is no tittle of power given to that Company to "*form any settlements.*" It has neither power to hold or grant land. Its sole power is to *trade* with the Indians. These remarks do not apply to the charter granted to that Company in 1670, which gives them the land on the Red River, extending from Canada across the continent to Vancouver, about ninety miles on and above the mouth of the Columbia. Out of the Hudson's Bay Company a sub-Company has been formed, called Puget's Bay Company, which, with a capital of its own, separate from that of the Hudson's Bay Company, trades in tallow, hides, &c., which the last-named Company cannot do. But this (Puget's Company), though it has stockades on the north of the Columbia (as the Americans have on the south), trades in those articles between Vancouver and the Straits of Fuca in the Pacific, and even this trade, according to Mr. Wyeth, who himself is a fur trader, is scarcely worth carrying on.

America has as little claim to right by settlement. In 1811 a Mr. Astor, a wealthy citizen of the States, fitted out two expeditions at his own expense; one to make for the mouth of the Columbia river round Cape Horn; the other overland. The particulars of these expeditions have been beautifully written by Washington Irving in his work called "Astoria." Both expeditions failed entirely. The Americans reached the mouth of the river; built a fort; and called it Astoria; but it was taken by a British force; its name changed to Fort St. George, and this is the only case in which any part of the Oregon territory has been *occupied* by any person under the authority of the British government.

The treaty of Ghent provided for the restoration of all places taken by either party (British or American) during the war; and on the 6th October, 1818, Astoria was restored to the American government, the British flag struck, and the American hoisted. This, again, is the only instance in which any person authorised by the American government has *occupied* any part of the Oregon. But Astoria itself was subsequently abandoned by the Americans, and is now reduced to a mere log-house, in which a clerk of the Hudson's Bay Company resides for the purpose of keeping up a communication between Vancouver and the mouth of the Columbia.

It follows that no nation has exercised sovereignty over the Oregon territory, and the disputes about it have been gladly adjourned from time to time by both governments, which, at last, came to an arrangement by which the territory is occupied by the subjects and citizens of both Great Britain and America, but which occupancy may be terminated by either party on giving the other twelve months' notice.

The American government has been threatening to give that notice; it sets up claims to Oregon founded on the treaty with Spain; and hence all the talk of late about war.

Three propositions have been made.

1st. By Great Britain, to settle the dispute by arbitration.

2nd. By America, to let things remain as they are for twenty years longer.

3rd. And most recently, by Mr. Webster, that both governments shall abandon their rights of sovereignty and government over the territory, and leave it to time and the future inhabitants to decide what government they will have.

The population of the territory at present consists of about 10,000 whites and about the same number of Indians, who in these negociations seem to be no more considered, either by the Americans or the English, than so many wild buffaloes.

* Humboldt.

PORTRAIT OF PRESIDENT POLK.

He is short in stature, thin and bony in frame, and somewhat awkward in his carriage. His iron grey, wiry hair is brushed back from his temples, and on the summit of *his forehead bristles up stiffly.* His brow is high, but narrow, and beneath it are two deeply-set greyish eyes; the nose is short and thick, and the mouth thin lipped and compressed; he is dressed in plain black, and looks like a stern, obstinate man. There is no dignity, no suavity about him. He appears as if it would be painful for him to look pleasant, and as he reads his speech, his voice sounds harsh and husky, and his manner is ungraceful. Such is James K. Polk, who, in appearance, does not belie his character. He keeps himself up in a garment of self-sufficiency, which he loosens not, though advised to do so by his best friends. He relies on no one, and distrusts everybody. His own breast is the sole depository of his secrets, and his cabinet possesses no key with which to unlock it. Cautious to an extreme, he suspects where no ground for suspicion exists; and possessing only fifth rate talents, he refuses to avail himself of the counsels of better and more able men than himself. It will be well if his obstinacy about Oregon does not end in mischief. Yet, with nothing but disaster before his eyes, he is not a man to forsake a course which he has once determined to adopt. He will proceed in a wrong course because he will. Having been unexpectedly made President, he seems determined to have his own way in everything, and as he is not considered to be very far-sighted, his own friends tremble for the results. Mark that striking looking man near him, with an abundance of white hair floating over his fine forehead, and half hiding his coat collar, and whose dark, piercing, lustrous eyes are bright with the fire of intellect. His face is highly coloured in consequence of some cuticular disease, and his frame is very spare, but he walks the marble floor with the dignity and grace of a monarch. What a contrast does this tall, commanding, form present to the little pinched up figure of Mr. Polk. That is Geo. M. Dallas, one of the soundest scholars and ablest lawyers of the United States, of which he has just been chosen Vice-President. Mr. Dallas has long been one of the leading members of the party to which he belongs, and enjoys the esteem and respect of even his political opponents. He has long been engaged in public life, and, although holding so high an office in his native land, he still practises in the United States Courts. He is a beautiful speaker, and very effective in his addresses—in short, he is in all respects, with the exception of his political opinions, the very opposite of Mr. Polk.

SINEWS OF WAR.

[From the *Tyne Mercury.*]

Three events, very curious in themselves, and very significant in their way, have just occurred in three distant quarters of the globe. In Circassia, the Russian invaders, under Woronzow, have been "beaten into bench-holes, "as the saying goes, by Schamyl. In Morocco, the French Marshal Bugeaud, able, audacious, and unscrupulous as he is, has been foiled, and is now thrown into utter confusion by Abd-el-Kader. Whilst, last and worst, a fashionable Colonel, named Despard, with whiskers and moustachoes, we'll be sworn, as big as bird-nests, has been shamefully routed by a body of *New Zealand savages*, under a warrior named "Keki," and a third of his troops (British troops!) cut to pieces! This is an instructive lesson, if certain sages had the wit to apprehend it. It seems, then, that mercenary bayonets and discipline are not all—that in war, other elements mingle—that body is not the whole, and spirit nothing. This, it seems, must be so; or how come the undisciplined Mountaineers of Circassia to have baffled the automaton-serfs of the cruel tyrant Nicholas for so many years? Or how comes it that so severely has this invasion of Circassia recoiled upon the heart and head of the Muscovite Nero, that he is actually wandering in Italy and Germany in a paroxysm of terror and despondency, afraid to go home for fear of assassination; and afraid to stay, lest his baffled troops and discontented generals and nobles revolt in his absence? Ah! how comes all this, and how has it happened? It is thus because these brave Mountaineers have everything to make their country dear to them, and nothing to disgust them with it. They are free as the air of their own mountains; and make the simple laws under which they live. There is in Circassia no such thing as a rural police—no such thing as an urban police. There are no union workhouses in Circassia; nor guardians like those at Andover; nor philosophers to preach "surplus population," and the duty of starving the poor. Circassia, strange to say, has no national debt; still less one borrowed in paper, worth seven shillings to the pound, and payable in gold, at £3. 17s. 10½d. the ounce. There are no excisemen in Circassia, for they are all "free traders;" and not even a custom-house was ever seen by them except one set up by the Muscovites, but now (thank God!) burned down. Having neither excise, customs, nor stamps—neither have they any income-tax—and taxes being nil, no standing army have they. No. When *their* country is invaded, or war is to be made, every chief and his followers of all ranks must, at their own expense, bear arms; and, from first to last, there has never been a Circassian flogged for deserting or getting drunk. Here is the mystery. Does anybody suppose these Circassians would have fought thus for the preservation of union workhouses, Windsor elections, rural police, Jew magistrates, national debt, commissioners, excisemen, tide-waiters, jailers, union masters, guardians, pensioners, privy councillors, and post-office spies? Poh! Nonsense! Had they been "blessed" with these "institutions," they would have welcomed even a Russian army as a "God-send;" and, as for an American or a French one, they would have perfectly hugged them. Such is our theory of the "sinews of war."

"What constitutes a state?
Not lofty battlements, nor laboured mound;
But men—high-minded men—
That *know their right: and, knowing, will maintain.*"

Railway Robberies.—In the last week Daniel Garrett was removed from the Penitentiary to the hulks at Woolwich, preparatory to being sent abroad, and on Tuesday the vessel sailed, which will convey him to his destination; the other convict, Maynard, goes separately. The former, whilst he admits a great number of cases, exceeding twenty, within the last few months, and some of them after Maynard was arrested, and discloses information as to property, has not divulged anything as to his associates in such a way as to benefit the public, although he resolutely insists that he was not the original taker, and that more than one railway person is concerned. A novel proceeding took place on Saturday with reference to him: the Secretary of State, on the application of Mr. Nash, against whom, with others, actions have been brought, directed that Garrett should be brought up for private examination as a witness in those actions, which is now allowed by the recent act of Lord Denman, and he was submitted to a four hours' examination before one of the Masters of the Court of Common Pleas. The evidence will not be published until the trial.

Chartist Intelligence.

LONDON.

QUARTERLY ACCOUNT

Of the income and expenditure of the Veteran Patriots' Fund, and Exiles' Widows' and Children's Fund: for the first quarter, ending Sunday, Dec. 7th, 1845.

INCOME.

Money subscribed for the two funds jointly.

	£	s.	d.
Mr. Cooper's half-yearly subscription ...	1	0	0
Collection at public meeting in the City Chartist Hall, Turnagain-lane, September 15, 1845...	1	1	1
Donations: Mr. Dunnage, 1s.; Mr. Westrey, 1s.; Mr. Brewerton, 1s.; Mr. Caughlan, 1s.; Mr. Whitfield, 1s.; Mr. King, 2s. 6d.; Mr. Stratford, 5s.	0	12	6
Leicester friends (being a subscription originally intended for Mr. Cooper, but refused by him)	0	17	3
Donations: Mr. Rogers, Lambeth, 2s. 6d.; Mr. Bradley, Leicester, 1s.; Mr. Miller, 2d.; Mr. Sweetlove, 6d.; Mr. Skelton, 1s.	0	5	2
Collected by Mr. Dear, Fleet-lane, Old Bailey	0	11	8½
Collected by Mr. Overton, 2s. 3d.; by Mr. Shaw, 18s. 6d.	1	0	9
Collected by Mr. Wheeler (being contributions from Mr. Ingram, of Abergavenny, and other friends)	0	6	6
Second donation from Mr. Ingram, of Abergavenny	0	2	0
Collected by Mr. Rider, 5d.; by Mr. Harney (from Sheffield), 1s.	0	1	5
From Mr. Harris, Mile End (being a contribution intended originally for the Miners' strike)	0	6	0
Collected at the Henry Hunt Supper, Bethnal-green, Nov. 5...	0	6	0
Collected by Mr. Garrett, 1s. 8d.; by Mr. Reynolds, 7s. 3d.; by Mr. Warren, 5s. 10d.	0	14	9
Donations: Two Teetotallers, Bradford, Wilts, 1s.; Son of Crispin, Rotherhithe, 1s.; Mr. Gray, Goodham, Burnley, 5s; Mr. John Stevens, Trowbridge, 5s.; Mr. G. Mansfield, Bradford, Wilts, 6d.; Mr. Whitfield, per Mr. Stallwood, 6d.	0	13	0
An Enemy to Oppression, per Mr. Cooper	2	0	0
Collected by Mr. Livesey, 3s. 6d.; by Mr. John Bell, 2s.; by Mr. Dear, 4s. 3d.; by Mr. Reynolds, 3s.; by Mr. Garrett, 5s. 5d.; by Mr. Overton, 6d... ...	0	18	8
	£10	16	9½

Making £5 8s. 4½d. for the Veteran Patriots' Fund: and £5 8s. 4½d. for the Exiles' Widows' and Children's Fund.

Income of the Veteran Patriots' Fund continued:—

	£	s.	d.
Brought forward from the joint account	5	8	4½
Major Beniowski's donation	0	10	0
Collected at the democratic supper, Angel Inn, Webber-street, Blackfriars-road	0	1	10
Friends at Bradford (being the remnant of a subscription originally intended for Mr. Cooper)...	0	5	0
Donations to make up round sums, by the Committee; "A friend to liberty," 3½d.; several members, 7d.; Mr. Cooper, 3s. 9½d	0	4	7¾
	£6	9	10

Income of the Exiles' Widows' and Children's Fund, continued.:—

	£	s.	d.
Brought forward from the joint account	5	8	4½
Balance of receipts of St. Pancras' Vestry Public Meeting, for the Exiles ...	0	4	8½
	£5	13	1

EXPENDITURE.

Veteran Patriots' Fund.

	£	s.	d.
Half rent of City Chartist Hall, Turnagain-lane, for public meeting, September 15th, 1845	0	5	0
Half expense of 1,000 circulars ...	0	7	6
Half expense of minute and memorandum books	0	3	6
Mr. John Richards: Oct. 1st, £1; Oct. 15th, 5s.; Nov. 12th, 5s.; Dec. 2nd, 10s.	2	0	0
Mr. Thomas Preston: Oct. 1st, 10s.; Oct. 15th, 5s.; Nov. 12th, 5s.; Dec. 2nd, 10s....	1	10	0
Mr. Allan Devonport: Oct. 15th, 10s.; Dec. 2nd, 10s.	1	0	0
Mr. Thomas Rayner Smart; Nov. 12th, 10s.; Dec. 2nd, 10s.	1	0	0
	£6	6	0

EXILES' WIDOWS' AND CHILDREN'S FUND.

	£	s.	d.
Half rent of City Chartist Hall, Turnagain-lane, for public meeting, Sept. 15th, 1845	0	5	0
Half expense of 1,000 circulars ...	0	7	6
Half expense of minute and memorandum books	0	3	6
Mrs. Ellis: Oct. 1st, £1; Oct. 15th, 15s. Nov. 12th, £1; Dec. 2nd, £2 ...	4	15	0
	£5	11	0

	£	s.	d.
Total income of the Veteran Patriots' Fund	6	9	10
Total expenditure of ditto	6	6	0
Balance in hand	£0	3	10
Total income of the Exiles' Widows' and Children's Fund	5	13	1
Total expenditure of ditto	5	11	0
Balance in hand	£0	2	1

Owing to severe indisposition I could not attend to read over the above account at the quarterly meeting last Sunday, but sent it to be read over. It was then in an imperfect form, but I have since corrected it; and, as no auditors were appointed to revise it, I here present it to the public, and beg that anybody, or everybody, will point out its incorrectness if they be able. I trust the informality of not appointing auditors will be excused; when a secretary is ill (which he cannot help) business is unavoidably neglected. After all, the best auditors are the public.

Mr. Thomas Martin Wheeler forwarded me a letter from Bradford last week; but the signature of the letter was torn off. As an answer to the inquiry made in it, I beg to direct the attention of the writer, wherever he may be, to the foregoing account of income and expenditure, where he will find 5s. placed to the account of Bradford. I trust that none will take offence at my refusal of monies, or at my application of them to benevolent purposes.

Mr. Shaw begs to acknowledge the receipt of the following sums towards the second quarter:—Mr. Brewerton, 1s. 8½d.; Dr. Bowkett, 1s.; J. Watkinson, 1s.; W. Ellis, 6d.

I also beg to acknowledge the receipt of the following sums towards the second quarter:—Collected by Mr. Simms, 7s. 6d.; by Mr. Warren, 3s. 8d.; by F. S., a Chartist seaman of Stockton-on-Tees, 6s. 11d.

Can any friend inform me of the circumstances of Mrs. Roberts, wife of the injured Birmingham exile? I have written twice into Wales, but can get no information relative to the wives and families of the exiles from Newport. Any information relative to individuals eligible to receive relief from either of the above-named funds, I shall gladly receive, on behalf of the committee. I regret to observe, that Mr. Llewellyn is considered as not coming within the regulations under which the "National Victim Fund" was established. Is Mr. Llewellyn sixty years of age, so that we may consider him as eligible to receive some small assistance from our fund—"The Veteran Patriots?" A suffering man ought not to be neglected.

Let me earnestly entreat all real Chartists, in conclusion, to exert themselves in the great and good work for which the "Veteran Patriots' Fund" and "Exiles' Widows' and Children's Fund" were established. Thomas Cooper, Secretary.

134, Blackfriars-road, London.

City Chartist Hall.—A general meeting of the shareholders of this institution was held on Sunday morning, December 7th. Mr. Walker, a member of the board of directors, was unanimously called to the chair; and after a long and animated discussion, in which Messrs. Stallwood, Simpson, Salmon, Dear, Bagley, John Sewell, Edwards, Flude, Overton, and the chairman took part, it was unanimously resolved, "That the vote come to at the last meeting, relative to the meeting of the 'Metropolitan District Council's' meeting in the Hall, be rescinded." Consequently that council will meet in the Hall as usual. It was also resolved, "That the secretary be hereby henceforth authorised to let the Hall, or committee-rooms belonging thereto, to the National Victim Fund Committee, the Veteran Patriot Fund, the Exiles' Widows' and Orphans' Funds, or any other similar committee, for the sum of one shilling each sitting." Messrs. Stallwood and Wyatt were appointed auditors, and Messrs. J. Wyatt, Waller, Dear, Flude, and Bagley were duly elected to fill the vacancies in the board of directors. Mr. Overton was unanimously elected secretary for the ensuing three months. A vote of thanks was given to the chairman, and the meeting dissolved.

City Locality.—The quarterly meeting for examination of the accounts belonging to the Veteran Patriots' Fund, and Exiles' Widows' and Children's Fund, was held last Sunday afternoon; and in the absence of the secretary, from illness, the financial statement was read over by the committee to the meeting. The two committees were re-appointed for the second quarter, with the exception of Mr. Bolwell (removed to Bath), in whose place Mr. Overton was elected. The financial account, with notes by the secretary, will be found in another part of our paper. In the evening, Mr. Walter Cooper (Socialist lecturer, and a true-hearted Scotchman), delivered a very efficient and instructive address on the genius of his immortal countryman, Robert Burns. Mr. Thomas Cooper, author of the "Purgatory of Suicides," being again unable to lecture from illness. Mr. T. C, we hear, however, is better, and expects to take his usual post in the City Chartist Hall to-morrow (Sunday) evening, when he intends to devote a portion of his lecture to Burns, and the remaining time to the subject appointed for the evening—"The Life, Character, and Novels of Sir Walter Scott." These lectures continue to be attended by crowded audiences.

BOLTON.

Lecture.—On Monday night last, Mr. O'Connor visited Bolton, and the large Temperance Hall was crammed to receive him; when he entered the hall his progress to the platform was followed by one continuous cheer, loud and long. Mr. Blinhorn, a veteran Chartist, was appointed to the chair; and after a few well-timed observations, and announcing that discussion was not only invited but courted, he introduced Mr. O'Connor, who addressed the meeting upon the subject published in the bills, "The Land," for nearly two hours, showing also what the effect of a repeal of the Corn Laws must be, and what was the duty of the working classes. As soon as the lecturer had concluded an address that gave unmixed satisfaction, the League, who mustered as strong as they could, started a puppet in the gallery to question Mr. O'Connor relative to fifty pounds he had given to Mr. Dewhirst, of Bolton, when he, Dewhirst, was sent to Monmouth as a deputation to O'Connor. The meeting was not inclined to permit this kind of cross-firing; but Mr. O'Connor insisted upon the speaker being heard; and after Mr. O'Connor had replied, the person who put the question came to the platform to express his satisfaction at Mr. O'Connor's answer—not so, however, with the *less sober* portion of the free trade gentlemen. A chemist, of the name of Morris, next *staggered* upon the platform, and indulged in a tirade of free trade stuff that made the meeting almost split with laughter. The purchase of land for the benefit of the working-classes was what appeared most to annoy the chemist; but when he had concluded, Mr. O'Connor turned him into such a laughing-stock as really made his own friends ashamed of him. Next, the well-known Finnigan, the Manchester free trade TURN-SPIT, mounted the platform, amid the most uproarious squeak of the "corn creaks." He repeated his free trade lesson for about half an hour, and when he had concluded, Mr. O'Connor, with as much precision as if he had taken down every one of his points, went through them, one after the other, and turned the laugh against the unfortunate volunteer. Really, said Mr. O'Connor, I have a right to object to him, kept here, for two hours after my lecture, to speak upon subjects foreign to the object of this meeting; but, nevertheless, I would stay for two hours longer for another half hour of such FUN as Mr. Finnigan has afforded us. (Roars of laughter.) When Mr. O'Connor had replied to Morris and Finnigan, he then turned to the pair, who sat upon his left, and addressed them in such a strain of hearty ridicule, conveying advice and instruction for the future government of their conduct, as made the whole audience, free traders and all, literally roar with laughter. When the proceedings were over, a vote of thanks was given to Mr. O'Connor, and another to the chairman. Mr. O'Connor started between eleven and twelve for Manchester—a large concourse of people following him through the town and cheering. It was a glorious sight for Chartism and the land.

MANCHESTER.

Great Public Meeting.—It being announced that Mr. O'Connor would address the working classes in the Carpenters' Hall, on Sunday evening last, that spacious building, capable of accommodating over 5,000 persons, was crammed in every part long before the time for commencing proceedings. Since the great excitement in 1842, consequent upon the League revolution, there has not been so large or so spirited a meeting in our town. One of the council presided, and after a few preliminary observations, introduced the members of the Executive, who severally addressed the meeting, and appeared to give unmixed satisfaction upon the subject of their mission connected with the land plan. When Mr. O'Connor arrived, he was greeted with the most rapturous welcome, and upon presenting himself to the audience the applause was actually stunning. Well, said he, here's the *Pratic man*, where is the starch and skilly man that said he would again show himself in the north? (Cheers and laughter.) The speaker then proceeded in the most lucid manner to point out to the working classes what the inevitable effect of a repeal of the *Corn Laws must be*, and, at the same time, lay down the rule which should guide their conduct. He knew that when people were crying for bread, at any price, how unpopular, inhuman, and offensive it would be to say starve, in order that you may frighten more out of your hard task-masters. (Cheers.) No, what he said was, look on, make Lord *John bid again*, and Peel bid again. (Cheers.) The thunder is not ours, but we will have our share in the noise and in the triumph, whatever it may be. After speaking at considerable length upon the Corn laws, the lecturer then went on to illustrate the land plan in a most familiar and satisfactory manner, and concluded a speech that gave unmixed satisfaction, by assuring the shareholders that, before the 1st of May, the first draft of 100 free men would be led out of the house of bondage, and located on the promised land. The speaker concluded amid rapturous applause; after which the work of enrolment and paying up shares was proceeded with, and many new members were added to the list of subscribers. Upon the whole, the meeting has inspired the working classes with fresh vigour for the approaching struggle.

STOCKPORT.

Mr. J. Williams addressed the people of this town last Sunday evening, in the Chartist Institution, Bombersbrow. Several questions were put to him, to which he replied satisfactorily, and received a vote of thanks.

Sending an Infant in a Basket to the Liverpool Female Orphan Asylum.—Between the hours of six and seven o'clock on Friday evening last, two respectably attired females met a lad of the name of James Burrows, in Back Berry-street, and, handing him a basket with a handle to it, told him to take it to the Female Orphan Asylum, Myrtle-street. They said that, as it contained glass, he was to be particularly careful not to break it, or knock up against any person in the streets through which he passed; and for the trouble he was to have in conveying it in to its destination, they gave him a piece of money, which he put in his pocket, and which they said was sixpence. The lad proceeded on his errand, and, on being admitted at the institution, the basket was opened, and, underneath a pile of children's caps, petticoats, handkerchiefs, and socks, there was found a very fine, healthy-looking female infant, fast asleep. By its side was lying a bottle filled with milk, and a paper written in a good female hand, of which the following is a copy:—"Christian friends, pray take care of this dear little orphan. I will send you a sum in a few days." The inmates of the institution were, of course, much surprised: the lad, perhaps, much more so than anybody else. He could only give the explanation which we have already given, that he received it from the females, and was told that it was glass. He stated, that the statement proved correct, that he resided at No. 3, Back Berry-street, the street in which the basket was handed to him; and that one of the females appeared to be old and the other young. The elderly female, he said, was dressed in a black cloak, light gown, and black velvet bonnet; and the younger one, who most probably was the mother of the infant, in a black mantella, and white straw bonnet. He did not omit to mention that they had given him a piece of money for his trouble; but, on putting his hand in his pocket and drawing it forth, it turned out, not to be a sixpence merely, as they informed him it was, but a half-sovereign. All subsequent search to discover the females has proved unavailing; but the child, we need scarcely say, having been once received within the hospitable doors of the institution in question, is sure, even if they should never be discovered, to have all its wants supplied. The basket which contained the sleeping innocent was new, and had apparently been bought for the purpose. It was composed of a soft substance, something like matting, and was *about two feet in length and nine inches in breadth.* It has since been sent to the commissioner's office, together with the milk bottle, caps, petticoats, &c., in order to enable the police officers the better to trace the females.

Diseased Potatoes.—Important Experiment.—We are authorised to state that the simple method of rendering diseased potatoes available for human food by boiling them in two waters, the first being thrown away when it has reached the boiling point, has been tried by Major Beamish with complete success. He purchased, we are informed, last week 100 weight's of so called diseased potatoes, at the current depreciated rate of 2d. per weight, for the purpose of giving them to cattle, conceiving, with the seller, that they were fitted for no other purpose, and had already applied many of them to that use, but after seeing a statement in the public prints, he had a portion taken indiscriminately from the heap, and boiled according to the prescribed directions. The result was in every respect corroborative of the first experiment. The whole of the black acrid matter, which in few cases extended beyond the skin, was completely extracted by the first water, and the potatoes, when served up to table, after the second boiling, presented as sound an appearance, and were as dry and palatable as any potatoes of the kind under the most favourable circumstances. They were the common white lumper or horse potatoe, and were cooked "in their jackets."*Cork Reporter.*

Romanism *versus* Protestantism.—The Question Settled.—Two labourers, a Romanist and Protestant, held the following colloquy:—P. An' d' ye mane to tell me that the Catholic is the only true religion? —R. C. Faith, an' I do. D' ye believe in the Epistles of the Aposthle Paul, ar-d Iiut?—P. of coorse. —R. C. Arrah, thin I have ye sure. D' ye mind the Epistle of Paul to the Romans? An' was ye iver after hearing of inny Episthle to the Protestants?

There are fifty vessels, with corn and provisions from this port for the English markets, wind bound in the river Shannon, by adverse weather.—*Limerick Chronicle.*

Trades' Movements.

IMPORTANT TO THE MINERS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NORTHERN STAR.

Respected Sir,—Will you be so kind as to insert the following letter, signed by "one of the coal trade," which recently appeared in the *Liverpool Mercury*, together with a few remarks thereon, and you will greatly oblige the members of the Miners' Association in the counties of Lancashire and Cheshire:—

THE COLLIERS.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE LIVERPOOL MERCURY.

Gentlemen,—A large amount of public sympathy has been exercised towards that useful portion of our fellow-men, the colliers, in consequence of the risk incident to their occupation—hence the general advance in the price of coals, which took place two years ago, was cheerfully acceded to with a view to afford them adequate compensation for their dangerous toil; and that the coal masters having a better price for their coal might realise a sufficient return for the heavy capital invested in their works when the produce of their mines was lessened by the abridgement of labour attendant upon an advance of wages.

Now, however, the sympathy is called for in another direction, for it is evident that the insatiable demands and indolence of the organised miners will entail upon the poor, already alarmed for their food, aggravated misery, by an unprecedented scarcity of coals, and by the advances in price which continued scarcity or severe weather will render inevitable.

The colliers are banded together in a powerful union, the utility of which they are sadly abusing. They pay a legal adviser handsomely to keep them clear of the law, and act upon the advice "Restrict your labour, then you may command your own price for it." Their moral condition, to the shame of the Christian philanthropists, is such, that when their animal desires are gratified they are generally content, and so easily is this now accomplished, that the amount of coal now produced is only one half of what is required, and not half as they might produce by working eight hours regularly per day; instead of this they can now idle away entire days, or they will work two or three hours per day, while the masters must employ as many weekly hands and as much machinery, as if a whole week's work was done. Moreover, they will not work with colliers who are not in the union, and if a member of the union send more than a prescribed quantity of coals per day, his comrades fine him heavily. It follows that the trade and consumers suffer great loss and inconvenience. Boats are detained at our collieries, ships are detained in our docks, the coal masters cannot supply the trade, nor the trade the consumers. Large orders for export are daily refused, and new customers with money in their hands are turned away; yet with the coolest indifference the colliers are demanding a further advance, which, if obtained, will enable them to take it still more easy, while their arbitrary monopoly and restriction of labour inflict upon their poorer countrymen a heavy tax when they are least able to endure it. These explanations I have thought due to the public, that the onus of the scarcity and high prices may rest upon the right shoulders. No workmen might be better paid than the Wigan colliers at present, if they would only work as they can. This monopoly can only be broken up with competition. Perhaps government might find it profitable to teach the able-bodied criminal to raise coal instead of transporting him, or maintaining him in unprofitable confinement. But I must not theorise here. Should this not be deemed too lengthy for your crowded columns, its admission will greatly oblige yours,

One of the Coal Trade.

The unblushing effrontery with which "one of the coal trade" promulgates the most infamous falsehoods against an honourable and industrious body of men, renders it necessary that the public should be made fully acquainted with the real state of affairs, and as to that, the most direct and unqualified contradiction should be given to the foul and slanderous imputations thrown out with no sparing hand against the objects and principles of the Miners' Association. This task I have undertaken to perform, not by writing a long string of mere contradictions to the charges made, but by bringing forward a number of plain, broad, unequivocal truths, such as will bear the most rigid scrutiny, or open investigation. I shall not occupy my time with commenting upon the charge he makes against the miners having a strong predilection for the gratification of their passions, but will leave him and the Christian philanthropists upon whom he falls foul in the course of his remarks, to solve the problem as best they can. Still I do protest against the blame being charged upon the Miners' Union for either the dearness or scarcity of coals, and I prove the union is not to blame, from the fact of there being at present several hundreds of able-bodied miners out of employ who would gladly accept of work at a fair remuneration. Will "one of the coal trade" inform the public why they are not employed? Would not the concentrated amount of coals brought to bank, as the produce of the labour of several hundred men, be more than sufficient to dissipate the evil so frightfully depicted by our anonymous scribe. Would there not be a sufficiency to furnish both the boats at the collieries, the ships in the docks, and the new customers with money in their hands, with more than a supply? Until these questions are answered, I think he will have some difficulty to persuade the discerning portion of the public that the operative coal miners, merely because they only work a limited number of hours per day, are inflicting a heavy tax upon their poorer countrymen. No, the members of the Miners' Association have no such object; by restricting their labour, they are solely desirous of slightly improving their present very inadequate wages, so that they may be better prepared to encounter the miseries likely to emanate from closed ports, dear bread, and rotten potatoes; and also, if possible, furnish with employment hundreds of their brethren who are suffering the most severe privations. Oh, but the colliers with the coolest indifference are demanding a further advance which if obtained, will only enable them to take it still more easy, (really one would think the gentlemen shuddered at the idea of a miner having anything like a cessation from toil.) Well, as he has not told what is the nature of the advance, I shall make bold to do so, and call upon him to contradict me if he can do so, without more deeply implicating himself as a man regardless of the truth, when it does not suit his purpose. In the district of Pemberton, near Wigan, the masters are offering the men an advance of ninepence per score, but which score, let me inform the public, consists of twenty-six baskets, which will average, I believe, from five to six cwt. each. These baskets they have advanced to the public at the rate of twopence per basket, which where the twenty-six baskets to the score are sent to bank, is four shillings and fourpence per score; deduct ninepence, which I may call the men's share, and there is a clear profit of 3s. 7d. per score for those paragons of perfection. These are facts which are irrefutable; and I ask whether my opponent has succeeded in throwing the onus of high prices or scarcity upon the shoulders of the operative miners, or rather, does not the responsibility still rest with the coal proprietors and their agents? These questions I leave the public to answer, and by public decision I and the miners are content to abide. A few words upon the infamous proposal to supersede the honest miner by teaching convicted felons who are sentenced to banishment, to work in the mines, instead of being sent out of the country, and I ask what sort of feelings must a man possess, who could coolly propose a measure fraught with so much wretchedness to the unhappy beings whose multiplied crimes have rendered them unfit to mix with society? What, to be driven from those dens of immorality called gaols, to mix with, and be instructed by, the honest miner? does he of the coal trade imagine for a moment that a working miner would be found so base as to give his own and his children's bread to a convicted felon? And if not, what would become of the poor unfortunates, knowing nothing of the nature of the work, and totally unacquainted with the dangers to which they would be exposed. It is sickening, it is disgusting; the painless extinction system of Marcus is purity itself, when contrasted with this cold-blooded scheme of wholesale murder; and the man who could deliberately propose such a scheme ought to be scouted from society as a monster, fit only to prowl with the tiger of the forest. I have now done with one of the coal trade for the present, and shall conclude by a few words of advice to the colliers themselves. Let neither calumny nor threats induce you to abandon restriction. Your employers hate it—you love it. They wish you to abandon it; you be determined to adhere to it more closely. It is the mighty lever which will effect the entire amelioration of your condition. The letter upon which I have been commenting is a proof of its value; then cling to it with still greater tenacity, and let your cry be, "union, restriction;" and an expression of your determination not to work with, or instruct, or allow your children to work with, convicted felons, should they ever be brought into the pits. I remain, very respectfully,

Wm. Grocott.

Bilston Miners.—The various lodges of the district are requested to send delegates to a meeting to be held at Mr. Linney's, White Horse, High-street, Bilston, on December 14th, viz., Bilston, Darlaston, Wolverhampton, Wednesfield-heath, Wednesbury, Wallsall, Bloxwich, Great-bridge, Westbromwich, and Tipton.

National United Trades' Association for the Protection of Industry.—A meeting of the central committee was held at the Trades' Office, 30, Hyde-street, Bloomsbury, on Monday, December 8th. Mr. Dunning, bookbinder, in the absence of the president (T. S. Duncombe, M.P.), was called to the chair. Communications of a very encouraging description was read from the Manchester district, the trades of Bristol, the tailors and carpenters of Leeds, the miners of Holytown (adding 400 to their previous number of members), the handloom-weavers of Wimsloe, the bobbin-makers of Keswick, the boot and shoe-makers of Holywell (sending their adhesion), the paper-makers of Maidstone, the nail-makers of Belper (announcing the termination of the strike in their favour), the framework-knitters of Mansfield (announcing a considerable increase in the number of members), and others. Several deputations reported that they had waited on trades, which had not yet given in their adhesion, with very great success, and they had every reason to believe that several very influential trades would send in their adhesion in a few days. At the conclusion of the central committee's business, a mutual meeting of the board of directors of the Association for the Employment of Labour, and the Central Committe for the Protection of Industry, was held, when it was resolved, "That a properly organised and energetically pursued system of personal visits to Trades' Societies, at their own time and places of meeting, be adopted throughout the United Kingdom." It was announced that several additional shares was taken up in the Association for the Employment of Labour. All communications for this association must be addressed to Mr. J. Harris, secretary, Trades' Office, 30, Hyde-street, Bloomsbury.

Successful Termination of the Strike of the Horse-nail-makers of Belper.—The gratifying intelligence has been received at the office of the United Trades' Association, that the above strike has been brought to a speedy termination; and, what is better, the terms required by the men have been fully acceded to. A similar advance (10 per cent.) of wages has been also acquired by the horse-nail-makers of Worcestershire.

Loughborough Shoe-makers.—On Monday evening, December 1st, the shoe-makers of this place had a dinner at Mr. Cox's, Talbot Inn, to commemorate their victory in the late strike. After partaking of the good things provided by the worthy host and hostess, Mr. J. Skevington, who, though not of the craft, had been invited to attend, was called to the chair, when the various toasts were heartily responded to, and the evening was spent in a very satisfactory manner. On the day following the wives, &c., had a tea party at the same place. The evening was spent in dancing, &c.

The Framework-knitters.—A meeting of delegates representing the framework-knitting trade, was held at the Odd Fellows' Arms, Kegworth, Leicestershire, on Monday, Dec. 8th. The meeting was called for the purpose of adjusting the statements preparitory to laying them before the manufacturers. This having been done, Mr. Thomas Emmerson, of Arnold, was appointed to superintend the printing and distribution of the wrought cotton hose branch, and parties not present were requested to make early application for the number required, at the rate of one halfpenny each, and forward the money at the same time. It was resolved that Joseph Johnston, of Leicester, be intrusted with the care of providing statements for the wrought woollen hose branch, for all guages below twenty-four, and that James Taylor, of Loughborough, and Joseph Warner, of Sheepshead, be appointed for the same purpose, for all guages from twenty-four upwards, with power to call to their aid persons to assist them in the fulfilment of this important duty. After a long discussion on the subject of wide frames, and the injury sustained by the workmen, from the spurious articles produced from them, it was resolved that each delegate present use his best endeavours to induce the frame-smiths neither to make nor repair any more wide frames, as such frames equally affect frame-smiths and framework-knitters, in depriving them of labour, and reduce the price thereof. A vote of thanks was given to Mr. Levers, for his untiring energy, and his brother frame-smiths who have stood forward to restore the trade to a system of wrought productions. It was recommended by the delegates that a delegate meeting be held at the Bull and Butcher, Bulwell, on Monday, the 15th inst., at ten o'clock in the forenoon. It was then resolved that this meeting stand adjourned until Monday, the 15th inst., to be held at the sign of the Pheasant, Bridge-street, Derby, to commence at nine o'clock in the forenoon. The question respecting the outstanding debt was brought forward, but not one delegate was prepared with an instalment, and thus the parties to whom it is due are kept out of their just rights. Let the framework-knitters consider, and ask themselves what must the public think of them for thus treating their servants.

Bankrupts, &c.

BANKRUPTS.

(From Tuesday's Gazette, December 9, 1845.)

Robert Watson Sheppard, now or late of Ensham, Oxfordshire, innkeeper—Charles Kendal Luce, of Southampton, mercer—Henry Gamble, of Grinstone, Norfolk, grocer—Thomas Ratnett, of Cambridge, tailor—John Poulton, jun., of Luton, Bedfordshire, straw hat manufacturer—Arthur Southcombe Tucker and George Muriel Bidwell, of Melcombe Regis, Dorsetshire, grocers—John Dyer Williams, of 2, Newcastle-street, Farringdon-street, City, blacking manufacturer—Thomas Mortimer, of East-lane, Walworth, victualler—Robert George Spedding, late of 59, Queen-street, Cheapside, and Bush-lane, Cannon-street, City, zinc manufacturer—William Lewis, of Barnsley, Yorkshire, tobacconist—Frederick Sampson, of Manchester, woollen draper—Charles Iles, of Bristol, grocer—John Pope, formerly of Bristol, but now of Stapleton, Gloucestershire, lime burner—William Ockleston, of Liverpool, hide merchant—Theodore Friedlanskey, of Birmingham, chandler—Thomas Mager, of Holborn-hill, City, and Coventry-street, Haymarket, poulterer.

BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.

Samuel Thomas, of 21, Cornhill, bullion merchant.

DIVIDENDS DECLARED.

John Carr Petrie, of Bedlington, miller, third dividend of 5d. in the pound, payable at 57, Grey-street, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, on any Saturday after December 19.

John Fisher and Elizabeth Fisher, of Maghull, wine dealers, first dividend of 8s. 10d. in the pound, payable at 1, Liver-court, South Castle-street, Liverpool, on any Monday.

DIVIDENDS TO BE DECLARED.

In the Country.

James Bryan, of Bristol, chemist, January 2, at eleven, at the Court of Bankruptcy, Bristol.

Certificates to be granted, unless cause be shown to the contrary on the day of meeting.

John Breakenridge, of Liverpool, tailor, December 30—Thomas Hodgson, of Greta bank, Yorkshire, brick maker, January 8.

Certificates to be granted by the Court of Review, unless cause be shown to the contrary, on or before December 30.

Stephen Davies, of Somerset-wharf, Bankside, Southwark, and Times-wharf, Wilton-road, Pimlico, coal merchant.

PARTNERSHIPS DISSOLVED.

John Percivall and Anne Clarke, of Birmingham, accountants—John Potter and George Harrison, of Leeds, share brokers—Henry Hickman and William Croft, of Rock-ferry, Cheshire, joiners—David Dudman and James Kemp, of 51, Red Lion-street, Holborn, publicans—William Taunton and Joseph Adams, of Coventry, appraisers—William Henry Parker Blackburn and John Lee, of Leeds, stock brokers—Brown and Co., of Holbeck and Gildersome, Yorkshire, flax spinners—Elizabeth Jeffery, Richard Jeffery, and Thomas Jeffery, of Puckington (so far as regards Thomas Jeffery)—Thomas Holtboy and J. Barnes, of York, horse breakers—William Prichard, sen., and Lewis Williams, of Cardiff, Glamorganshire, wharfingers—Benjamin Jones and Joseph Brown, of Cardiff, Glamorganshire, bonded store merchants.

Extraordinary Case.—The Court of Assizes of the Bas Rhin was occupied on the 29th and 30th ult. with the following extraordinary case. In August last, two soldiers, in garrison at Strasburg, named Tschupp and Bigaliet, crossed the frontier into Baden to pass the day. On their return, and when on a bridge, Tschupp said to Bigaliet, who was nearly intoxicated, "Come and see how strong the water runs," Bigaliet went to the side of the bridge, and having leaned forward to look at the water Tschupp suddenly laid hold of him, and threw him in; then, supposing, as a matter of course, that the man must be drowned, as the current was strong, and he was not in a state to help himself, hurried to Strasburg, and entered his barracks, before the gates were closed. Providence, however, had willed that this atrocious act should not remain concealed. The bridge is built on boats, and the fall of Bigaliet was broken by one of the cables by which they are fastened together. After his immersion, which completely cured him of his intoxication, he caught by this rope, and, after struggling for a great time, his cries were heard by some boatmen, just as he was sinking from exhaustion, and they saved him. The dismay of Tschupp was very great on the following morning when he saw living the man whom he supposed to be dead. Bigaliet made his declaration, and Tschupp was arrested. At first he declared that he had not been in company with Bigaliet; but several witnesses, who had seen them drinking together during the day, having come forward to prove this fact, the prisoner was confounded. Still, however, he refused to confess his crime, which was unaccountable, as the two soldiers were supposed to be friends. When Tschupp had been in prison for some time, he resolved to avow his guilt, and declared that he had been induced by the wife of a man who keeps the canteen, whose name is Caphiot, to commit the deed. This woman, in whose service he was, had, he said, told him that Bigaliet, her former servant, and with whom she had entertained criminal relations, was constantly extorting money from her on a menace of apprising her husband of what had taken place, and that she was therefore resolved to get rid of him. She told the prisoner that if he would take Bigaliet out for the day, and in the evening throw him into the river, she would reward the act liberally, and she gave him 10-francs to spend, in order that he might so overpower Bigaliet with drink as to render him incapable of resistance. Tschupp said, that he objected to commit the crime, but the woman told him that if he refused she would stab him, and that therefore, partly from fear, and partly from the hope of reward, he at last consented. The woman was taken into custody, and both were tried for the attempt to commit murder. The evidence on the trial fully corroborated the statement of Tschupp as to the woman, and they were both found guilty by the jury. Tschupp was condemned to twenty years' imprisonment, with hard labour, and exposure on the pillory. The female prisoner was condemned to ten years' imprisonment, with hard labour, but without exposure on the pillory. —*Galignani's Messenger.*

Poisoning.—Mary Evans, domestic servant to a gentleman residing in Brooke-street, Birkenhead, attempted on Wednesday last to destroy her illegitimate infant child by administering to it red precipitate powder; but she was detected in the act, and the immediate death of the child prevented by the prompt exhibition of a vomit. The child, however, is in a precarious state, and the unnatural mother is in custody, awaiting the event.

Foreign Movements.

"And I will war, at least in words,
(And—should my chance so happen—deeds,)
With all who war with Thought!"

"I think I hear a little bird, who sings
The people by and by will be the stronger."—Byron.

THE POPE AND THE AUTOCRAT.

POLAND'S APPEAL TO EUROPE.

"Though Poland mourns,
She shall not die;
Her watch-fire burns
And help is nigh.
Her ruffled eagle speeds from shore to shore,
Till nations rise to bid her weep no more."

The important article from our French contemporary *L'Atelier*, which appeared in our last number has, we know, been read with thrilling interest by many of our readers, and, we doubt not, has been responded to by all. The terrible, but too true, stories of the martyrdom of the priest Sciegenny and the patriot Levitoux, cannot fail to excite throughout Britain the bitterest indignation towards the oppressors of Poland, and the liveliest sympathy for the unhappy victims of those remorseless oppressors. Rightly does our French contemporary say of Nicholas, "He martyrizes the Catholics because they refuse to abjure their faith, and to recognise him as their spiritual chief; he puts to death the Poles because they refuse to acknowledge him as their king, and so his career, as an executioner, never terminates." With the Catholic religion we have no communion nor sympathy; rightly or wrongly, in all sincerity, we hold it to be one of the most pernicious systems of priestly delusion and priestly domination ever invented to keep the minds and bodies of men in ignorance and thrall. But so believing, we, nevertheless, respect the sincerity of the great mass of those who belong to the Catholic Church, and hold as sacred the right of that church's members to celebrate their forms of worship, and act, in all respects, with the fullest liberty, which a due regard for the liberty of others will admit of. Opponents of all churches and priests ourselves, we, nevertheless, claim for all churches and priests full freedom of conscience. Toleration is a word we despise, implying, as it does, a cowardice that fears to be honest, and a tyranny that would, if it dared, exhibit its oppressive character to the full. Liberty, entire and perfect liberty, we claim for all men; both in matters civil and religious. We demand that liberty for ourselves, and we demand it not less for others. Not the most zealous Roman Catholic, therefore, can more sincerely denounce the horrible persecution of the Basilian nuns than we do. Not the most zealous believer in Peter's successor could more readily brave all, in defence of his Catholic sisters and brethren of Poland, than we would do, was it in our power to show how truly we burn to aid in avenging their wrongs and sufferings.

But we cannot say that we concur with our French contemporary in desiring to see a renewal of the crusades directed against Russia. Regarding war as one of the very greatest of evils, we certainly regard a religious, or what is called a "holy war," as the most frightful, and the most to be deprecated. We, as well as the writers in *L'Atelier*, "will do all in our power to assist at crushing the tyrant of Poland under the chastisement of his crimes," but we wish to see this effected by other means than the stirring up of nations to a war of fanaticism, for, was such a war once begun, and the now oppressed Polish Catholics victorious, the experience of the past warns us that they would retaliate with fearful vengeance on the members of the Greek church, and the devotees of each church would be satisfied with nothing short of the extermination of each other, of course, all "for the glory of God."

What our French contemporary says respecting the Pope and his alliance with Nicholas is specially deserving the consideration of such of our readers as may belong to the church of which the Pope is the head. The Italian Pope, as head of the Romish church, declares his to be the only true church of Christ; the Russian Pope, or Emperor, as head of the Greek church, declares his to be the only true church; and each anathamatizes the church of the other as schismatical, heritical, and damnable. The Italian Pope is not in a condition to propagate the tenets of his church by fire and sword as many of his predecessors have done, because his temporal power is weak; but the Russian Pope, placed at the head of the most powerful, political, and civil despotism in the world, has ample power to employ the favourite means of priestly propagation, and these means he does not scruple to use, as the accounts we have laid before our readers of the horrible persecution of the Catholic Poles abundantly testify. As the heads of rival churches, these two worthies of course hate each other with all that sincerity of hatred which the champions of rival systems of priestcraft have in all ages exhibited: yet despite this mutual hatred, see how these two scourges of the human race coalesce so that they may prop up that tyranny, which, though differing in forms and names, is really but the same system of fraud and wrong. The Catholic Poles in their tribulation and sufferings naturally turn to the Pope as their spiritual protector for counsel, aid, and sympathy. The tortured Abbess, Mieczyslawska, throws herself at the feet of "his Holiness," recounts her sufferings, the sufferings of her sisters, and those of the Polish people generally. The Pope, we are told, hearkened to all those details "with tears in his eyes" (travellers tell us that even crocodiles shed tears before tearing their victims); but behold, accompanying this news, we find that the autocrat was expected to be in Rome by the beginning of December, and that preparations were making to give him a "grand reception." Thus the holy Catholic Pope is about to "fraternise" with the "schismatical" Russian Pope. Why? Because both tremble for their tottering power, and both, despite their mutual hatreds, hate and fear liberty much more than they do each other. The wholesale executions and military barbarities committed on the friends of liberty in Italy by the Pope, are scarcely less monstrous than those committed by Nicholas on the people of Poland. The great difference between the two, is, that the Pope, as temporal sovereign, is a petty contemptible tyrant, whose rule is confined to a small space, and whose victims are consequently few in proportion. Nicholas, on the other hand, lords it over lands of almost illimitable extent; he rules whole nations with his iron rod; and, consequently, instead of scores and hundreds, as in Italy, the victims of Nicholas must be numbered by thousands, even millions. Here is the only distinction between the Romish and the Russian Pope, the tyrant of Northern Italy, and the tyrant of North-Eastern Europe.

We earnestly entreat the friends of liberty, who belong to the Catholic Church, whether they be English, Irish, Polish, Italian, Spanish, or of any other nation, to ponder on the words of our French contemporary, *L'Atelier*, they deserve to be repeated:—"Can a more monstrous alliance be imagined? What! the Pope, the ally of the head of the Russian schismatics? What! is the successor of St. Peter almost the bosom friend of the executioner of the Catholics? Verily a strange spectacle! If the nations lose their faith in Rome, it is because Rome has abandoned itself to the enemies of the faith! The cause of this unworthy abondonment by the Catholic clergy and their head, is, that the head is himself also the tyrant of a portion of the Catholic family. All the tyrannies, all the oppressions, are bound amongst them *in solido*: the decrepit old man, who reigns in the Vatican, wants the strong arm of the Petersburgh despot for his own maintenance. More solicitous about his temporal power than of his Christian functions, he turned king. As king, as an unfit and bad king, he oppresses those whom he calls his subjects; he compresses their insurrections against his tyranny only by his hangmen and gendarmes; being accustomed to see human blood shed around him, how can he feel when a tyrant is about to *shed it afar off*? Therefore, good understandings between the Pope and the Czar are officially and regularly carried on, and it is not impossible, that the day may arrive, when the Roman Pontiff will be surrounded by Russian soldiers for the express purpose of annihilating, in Italy, every Christian idea of liberty."

The 29th of November passed by this year without any other demonstration than the meeting of democratic Poles, a notice of which appeared in the *Star* of Saturday last, and a meeting of another section of Poles, whose proceedings would be of no interest to our readers. Except these meetings, the 29th of November was permitted to pass unnoticed, to the enduring disgrace of those "aristocratical" and "respectable" "sympathisers," who have hitherto monopolised the patronage of the Polish cause. That, however, this year's anniversary of the revolution may not pass without the voice of Poland's faithful sons being heard in her defence, we give the following extracts from an address which was adopted at the anniversary meeting holden at the Crown and Anchor, on the 29th of November, 1844. The address not having appeared in any English journal, will be new to the mass of the British people, and, for the truths enunciated, are certainly as valuable now as twelve months ago:—

This very evening, when London, Paris, Brussels, and many a town and village of western civilized Europe are ringing with shouts for Poland and gladdening the hearts of the exile, there, toward the east, on the still inundated shores of the Vistula, under the heavy yoke of a tyrannical oppression, on a soil profaned by the foot of an insolent invader, and in homes deprived of the last consolation of the wretched; the safety of family intercourse and confidential outpourings—our old and infirm parents; our orphan children grown up without having enjoyed the cheering embraces and watchful direction of their exiled fathers—our wives, sisters, and those of our brethren whom infirmity or absence has prevented from taking an active part in the revival of their fatherland, shed many a silent tear and compress in their bosoms many a sigh over the glorious event which we commemorate publicly, because, although it failed to free Poland, it proclaimed her vitality, and would have attained its object, but for the want—not of power (every battle was a triumph)—not of patriotism (seldom had a people shown more energy and [illegible] self-devotedness)—but of experience, and the consequent knowledge of men and of parties.

That experience, that necessary condition of success, eight months of struggle, of glorious victories, and after each of them disappointments, sufficed to give it to the people of Poland. Old servants of the despots of Russia (whom disappointed ambition had thrown into the ranks of the insurgents) were driven from their usurped stations and fled, to seek amidst bayonets a shelter against popular indignation. And there alas! they found means, not to restore their power, at least to crush that of the patriots. By them twenty-two thousand men of the *elite* were prevented from coming to the rescue of beleaguered and stormed Warsaw—by them they were, after its surrender, induced to resist the imperative orders of the commander-in-chief, who required them to join the main body of the army, which then would yet have been able to save Poland—by them they were conducted out of the Polish territory and obliged to surrender their arms to one of the co-partitioning powers: to Austria—and Poland fell again—fell into the hands of a revengeful tyrant, whose sway had been preferred by a few of her degenerate sons to a popular government—she fell—wiser indeed than a few months before, but more oppressed, more unfortunate than ever!

Wiser than she had been! Englishmen! this is the point we wish to impress upon your minds—because wisdom is power—and because the power of a nation to reconquer and to defend her independence is a necessary condition of her nationality. And this great and fundamental truth was precisely one of those common sense truisms in the minds of the many, which still remain mysteries to the sophisticated wisdom of our statesmen. They looked for help from cabinets leagued together against the rights of the people and of nations—they reposed their confidence in those very courts who had dismembered Poland, and therefore were interested in retaining her in her former subjugation—they shrunk from any infringement of the liberticide treaty of Vienna, which had confirmed all the former partitions of Poland, and given over to Russia even the last of her still existing fractions under the name of the Duchy of Warsaw. They paralysed the energies of the people, because they believed in its power inasmuch only as it went to harm their interests, and thought it insufficient to save the country—they, in short, had no faith in their country's cause, and therefore ruined it. But along with their country, vanished their influence and their power, and were survived by a people, taught henceforth by them how to appreciate their leaders, taught to rely upon themselves, made fitter for the achievement of a new struggle for independence—in a word wiser, and therefore better.

Yes, better—because popular wisdom is not only power, but justice. Justice to the enslaved millions may, among the privileged, be considered as a sacrifice to duty, as an act of self-devotedness and of virtue; among the oppressed it is the consequence of a clearer insight into their own welfare, of a more exalted feeling of human dignity revolting at the infliction of wrongs. Who was it who dared several years ago to say that liberty to Poland would be slavery to the many, and to represent the tyrant of fifty millions of slaves as their emancipator from the bondage of the Polish nobility? When a quarter of a century ago the landed proprietors of Lithuania petitioned the persecutor of the Lithuanian youth, the pseudo-liberal Alexander, for permission to emancipate their bondsmen, they were refused. What has become of the freedom of those Lithuanian, Ukrainian, Volhynian, and Podolian peasants, whom the insurgents of those countries, their own masters liberated in 1831? They are serfs again under the domination of the Czar; and the good will of their patriotic masters has been of no avail to them. But why talk of this good will? The people of Poland will require no boon from their masters—no granting of what it will be in their own power to obtain. A large majority of our fellow emigrants have already proclaimed and pledged themselves to—not only the liberty of the serfs (this indeed would have been but a paltry concession of that which could not be refused)—but also to assure to the cultivators the full and unconditional property of that soil, for the usufruct of which they had hitherto performed statute labour: and what the intention of a large majority of the emigrants is, cannot but be the necessary result of the will of the people at large, when once restored to that sovereignty, which the full independence of a Poland re-conquered by the efforts of her own inhabitants will secure them.

An independent Poland will be a democratic, a progressive Poland; and, as in former ages, she has been the constant champion of the liberty and civilisation of Europe against the slavery and darkness of Mahommedan and Muscovite despotism, so will she in future be the means of disseminating to the remotest confines of Eastern Slavonia, the social, political, and intellectual progress elaborated in the west of the civilised world.

The above address is important, as being calculated to set right those who may have doubted the veritable patriotism of the Polish emigrants, and who mistrusted their aims as to the future. That address tells truly the cause of the failure of the Polish Revolution. The base selfishness of the privileged classes, who would rather see Russian tyranny triumph than consent to give up their infamous usurpations, and make the revolution a struggle by the people for the people, was the cause of Poland's second downfall. In denouncing these selfish aristocrats, many of whom are to be found in the ranks of the emigration, and are even now plotting to restore the old system of Polish aristocracy, merely changing the masters, but not the tyranny, the name, but not the fact—in denouncing these partisans of Prince Czartoryski, and adulators of Lord Dudley Stuart, the Democratic Poles do well; for, most certainly, the "men of the progress" in this and every other land will never give sympathy nor aid to the partisans of royalty, aristocracy, and caste-distinctions. The most important portion of the address is that, where the emigrants declare themselves pledged, not only to destroy serfdom, and establish the civil and political rights of the entire Polish people; but also, "*to assure to the cultivators the full and unconditional property of the soil.*" These words are what, in this country, we call "plain English," there is no mistaking them, they announce the veritable deliverance of the Polish people from *all* slavery; they guarantee the only liberty worthy of the name—*the liberty to live*, unplundered by tyrants or masters of any description. The lovers of justice are sick of mere words and phrases; they desire a liberty real and tangible. "Many will seek to persuade you," says the Abbé De La Mennais, "that you are really free, when they shall have written on a sheet of paper the word 'liberty,' and shall have posted it up in the streets. But liberty is not a placard to be read at the corner of streets." No; liberty is "the safeguard of our social rights, and the first of these rights"—the right to enjoy the fruits of our labour, leaving to those who will not labour the pleasant privilege of starving. "Poland for the Poles" is a phrase we can understand when explained as above by the democratic emigrants; how different is the phrase "Ireland for the Irish!" The words are similar; but their import how different. "Poland for the Poles," we understand to mean equal rights, and equal enjoyments for *all* the Poles; but "Ireland for the Irish," means a change of masters nothing more; condemning the miserable masses to a continuance of political slavery and social debasement, sweetened by the wholesale pride and selfishness of "nationality." Give them only an *Irish* Parliament, an *Irish* flag, and instead of Victoria and Peel, the Pope and King Dan for their rulers, and these loud-mouthed patriots (themselves, instead of the "Saxons," enjoying the privilege of plundering the working millions) will be fully satisfied. Will the Irish people themselves be so easily satisfied? If so—"God save the *greens!*"

The next revolution in Poland must and will be social, as well as political and national. Why should the Polish people fight for a country, all the blessings of which have hitherto been monopolised by a selfish privileged few? Why should they fight for a land, which for centuries repaid their toil with slavery and misery? Why should they fight for their Polish lords, who have constantly paid their sacrifices with contempt and humiliation? No, it will be for the common rights and common happiness of *all*, that the Polish millions will combat when next they rise against Russia. When that day comes, *and come it will*, when a really national war shall be kindled, when each for his own hearth and homestead, for the rights of himself and the happiness of his family, shall go forth to the conflict, no power on earth can prevent the triumph of Poland. From the Oder and the Carpathian mountains to the Borysthenes and the Dwina,—from the Baltic to the Black Sea, her flag will proclaim a triumphant, free, and happy people.

We have said that day will come. It will; Poland is neither dead nor sleeping, but anxiously waiting the hour of vengeance and freedom. Even in Prussian Poland, or to speak more properly, for we do not recognise the usurpation of Prussia, that portion of Poland seized by the Prussian despotism, even there, where the people are not outraged by the horrible persecutions waged against their compatriots under the Russian usurpation, they cherish the hope of freedom, and, it is said, have been detected "conspiring" to cast off the domination of their Prussian oppressors. Some accounts of the discovery of this alleged conspiracy, and the great number of arrests which followed, have already appeared in this journal, we add the following important extract from a letter from Posen, received within the last few days by an eminent Polish democrat:—

Posen, Dec. 2.—I must break my silence to tell you something about the new misfortunes of our beloved mother (Poland), whose sobbings reach our ears from each of her confines.

On the 8th of November, between eight and nine o'clock in the evening, we heard suddenly a noise of horse-steps, cries of "soldiers," and of the worthy "police." In the course of not more than half an hour, about fifty men of the working class were arrested, not only in the town itself, but in its environs; and also at Czerwo[?]e, if you still recollect this place. You undoubtedly know the bookseller *Stefanski, whom they also imprisoned*, because they found with him (as it is rumoured) an exact plan of the citadel of Posen. A mass of noblemen were also arrested, and all the prisons are overflowing with victims, although they emptied for them the criminal jail, of which the inmates (thieves) were transported to Rawicz (a small town in the Duchy of Posen), besides which they have converted a private house, in the neighbourhood of the police, into a state prison, and residence of the criminal officers. The police director, Mr. Dunker, has already made his appearance amongst us, after having first paid one of his greedy visits to the district of Krotoszyn. The soldiers forming the garrison are to be sent into the Rhenish Prussian provinces, and their place will be filled by others, *because they discovered some connivance between them and the arrested persons.* Lately 300 individuals from *Warsaw were sent to Siberia.* Our *Gazette* of to-day states, that in the territory of Cracow, and in Galicia (Austrian Poland), arrests are taking place daily.

Three hundred more victims sent to Siberia!

"Is there not some chosen curse,
Some hidden thunder in the stores of heaven,
Red with uncommon wrath, to blast the man
Who owes his greatness to a nation's ruin?"

Amongst other crimes of the miscreant Nicholas, the forcible abduction of thousands of Polish little children ought not to be forgotten. This atrocity took place in 1832, and was repeated in 1835. A considerable body of Russian gendarmes, cossacks, and foot soldiers, fell unexpectedly upon the houses of poor families at Warsaw, and seized all the little boys they found therein, and even those they found in the streets. The affliction of the wretched mothers at the moment when their children were seized, thrown into carriages provided for the purpose, and immediately conveyed to Russia, no words can describe. Some of the unhappy mothers died broken-hearted, one plunged a knife into the heart of her child, and then into her own. About two-thirds of the poor little creatures perished on the roads, and the survivors have since sunk, or yet continue to suffer under the miseries of Russian slavery. Alas! that we should have to say it, that

"Heaven looked on and would not take their part."

But, surely if heaven strikes not, at least man's vengeance will yet be terribly manifested.*

Ye infamous privileged sycophants, ye vile, heartless she-aristocrats, who hailed as a god this Moloch of the North, when our land was dishonoured by his tread, did ye know of the above single atrocity, only paralleled by the "murder of the innocents"? Base and heartless as ye are, we can hardly believe it of ye. Oh! it was well done, Queen Victoria, "wife" and "mother" as you are, it was well done that you should welcome to your table this emulator of the Jewish Herod! And you, Sir James Graham, your name

"Exalted o'er your less abhorr'd compeers,
And festering in the infamy of years."

will be remembered by generations to come, as the name of a minister of state, who descended to do the dirty work of a spy, to serve the ends of this monstrous incarnation of imperial crime and despotism.

We must, for the present, conclude our commentary on Poland's wrongs. The space we have devoted to this subject for three successive weeks, will, *probably next week, be devoted to the consideration or* announcement of the state or progress of our brethren in some other land; but, in taking leave, for the present, of this subject, we beg to assure the Polish exiles that these columns are open to them whenever they shall have cause, or see fit, to make known to *the English people, the wrongs, or vindicate the rights* of their country.

Following this article, will be found a notice of a meeting, holden, not on the Polish anniversary, but in consequence of no anniversary meeting having been held. The resolutions only are given, the speeches, owing to peculiar circumstances, we cannot give; but the resolutions, adopted unanimously, express unmistakeably the views of the meeting. That meeting was composed of natives of every European state, with the exception of one or two, yet the most perfect harmony and enthusiasm prevailed. To see so many men assembled, born and trained under such widely varying circumstances, each and all originally strongly imbued with the selfish and blasting vices of national prejudice and religious intolerance, and yet, to see those men meeting in brotherhood, was a cheering and ennobling spectacle. From London to Constanstinople, from Paris to Berlin, from Stockholm to Rome, from the confines of frozen Russia to the southern shore of sunny Spain, brethren had gathered together to declare their sympathy for a suffering but noble people. They were comparatively few. Yes, but they were the voices of many, they *spoke for whole nations, to whom speech is denied*, but whose hearts yearn for the future. When tyrants conspire, patriots should combine. When despots take counsel together their victims should unite. The absolutists are coalescing and marshalling their forces, and so should we;—we shall best do so by promoting the The Fraternity of Nations.

THE POLISH REVOLUTION.

IMPORTANT FRATERNAL MEETING.

A democratic fraternal meeting was holden on Sunday evening, December 7th, in the large room of the Red Lion, Great Windmill-street, for the purpose of protesting against the continued oppression of Poland, and expressing sympathy for the suffering Polish people. The meeting was composed of British, Polish, French, German, Spanish, Italian, Swiss, Swedish, Norwegian, Danish, Hungarian, Transylvanian, and Turkish democrats. The room was crowded to excess. At nine o'clock Mr. Henry Ross was called to the chair, and in a brief but truly patriotic address, explained the object of the meeting. Mr. G. Julian Harney then proposed the adoption of the following resolutions:—

1st. That the 29th of November, the anniversary of the memorable struggle for Polish liberty, having passed by without those demonstrations of public sympathy usual in this country, this meeting, composed of natives of nearly all the states of Europe, feel themselves called upon to supply the omission, by declaring their views on the question of Poland's freedom, their sense of the present sufferings of the Polish people, and their hopes as regards the future.

2nd. That fourteen years of unmitigated oppression which Poland has undergone since her last revolution, added to the preceding sixty years of dismemberment and slavery, instead of diminishing, enhance her claims to national independence. The revolution of the 29th of November, 1830, was an act reclamatory of the rights, and demonstrative of the wishes, of the people at large; it was an effort made to expel from Europe the inroads of Asiatic despotism, and, therefore, not only imposed on all the European nations the duty of assisting Poland in a cause which was equally theirs, but still continues to impose upon them the obligation of co-operating in all her future struggles. Hence, also, none of the sacrilegious treaties concluded with her oppressors, from 1772 to the present time, can affect her imprescriptible rights to national independence and freedom.

3rd. That this meeting recognises the Democratic Polish Emigrants as the only true and veritable representatives of Poland, and the cause of Polish liberty, they having manifested to the world the purity of their motives, and the comprehensive character of their patriotism, by acknowledging the just claims of the working classes, not only to the enjoyment of equal civil and political rights, but also to the full and unconditional property of the soil which they have hitherto cultivated for the benefit of others. That the democratic Poles have alone proved their faithful adherence to their patriotic mission; and this meeting regards as betrayers of that holy mission those who have accepted, or may in future accept, any Russian amnesty. And this meeting will regard any attempt to barter the Polish national sovereignty, in recognition of a would-be royal dynasty, as an act of treason not only to Poland, but to the cause of mankind.

4th. That the accounts which have horrified Europe of the persecution of the Polish monks and nuns of St. Basilius, the horrible tortures and cruel murders to which they were subjected to compel them to change their religion, combined with the martyrdom of the priest Sciegenny and the patriot Levitoux, added to the long list of similar enormities, perpetrated by the command of Nicholas, proves the unappeasable cruelty and unameliorated savageism of the Russian usurpation. That although this meeting is composed of men who hold diversified views on religious questions, each and all solemnly recognise the sacred right of every human being to hold to such faith, or abide by such opinions as each may believe to be true; this meeting, therefore, denounces in the strongest conceivable terms the abominable tyranny exercised against the people of Poland to induce and compel them by corruption, force, and tortures, to abjure their religion.

5th. That the Polish revolution of 1830 was ruined by the intrigues and insidious opposition of the native aristocracy, owing to their reliance on foreign assistance, by the conspiracy of cabinets, and by the delusion which the principle of national selfishness, (under the name of *non-intervention*), succeeded in disseminating among the western nations of Europe. Poland will ensure her restoration by the exertions of her sons, by eventually realising for herself the final triumph of equality, liberty, and the sovereignty of her people; and proclaiming the great principle of the fraternity of nations. Such is the Poland this meeting will hail with brotherly feelings, while they now express their unqualified detestation of her oppressors; the treaties concluded with them; the treachery and falsehood of aristocracy and diplomacy; and above all, the selfish and *immoral* system of national non-intervention. And this meeting trust that their brethren of the Slavonian race (of which the people of Poland are an integrant portion) groaning beneath the yoke of the two spoliating governments, Russia and Austria, will strongly sympathise with, and endeavour to emulate the example of such a Poland. They trust, also, that such a Poland will ever find an enlightened sympathy amongst the natives of the third spoliating country, Prussia, who will thus repudiate and condemn the infamy of being participators in the despoliation of ancient Poland; a despoliation perpetrated by their immoral rulers.

6th. That this meeting regards with distrust and anxious suspicion the visit of the tyrant Nicholas to the despots of Italy, including (it is believed) the Pope of Rome, who, both in his temporal and spiritual capacity, has scourged and betrayed the friends of liberty and progression in Italy and Poland—both Catholic countries. That regarding the visit of the Russian tyrant to Italy, as intended to strengthen the combination of the enemies of liberty, this meeting appeals to their brethren of all the European states to repudiate national prejudices, asperities, and ambitious follies, and to promote to the utmost of their power the fraternity of nations, that so they may present a combined and fraternal phalanx to achieve their own freedom, combat for the oppressed, and establish throughout Europe the reign of equality and happiness.

Mr. Harney spoke at great length on the merits of the resolutions, after which they were seconded by Mr. Thomas Ireland, and supported in eloquent and heart-stirring speeches by Dr. Berrier Fontaine, Captain Stolzman, Colonel Oborski, the citizens Schapper, Michelot, Pruszynski, and Mr. C. Keen. The speeches were delivered in English, French, German, and Polish, and excited an indescribable enthusiasm. The resolutions were adopted unanimously, and a vote of thanks to the chairman, moved by citizen Schapper, seconded by Captain Stolzman, closed the proceedings. The meeting throughout was most admirable and inspiring, and exhibited that true fraternal spirit which each and all present so ardently desire to see universally triumphant.

*A lithographic print, representing one of these barbarous scenes, was published in Paris in 1834, and ought to be re-published, the first edition being (we believe) quite exhausted. Its re-publication, at the present time, would be of great service, and owing to the public mind being just now occupied with the new crimes of the Czar, the sale, we think, could not fail to at least pay the cost of re-publication.

EXTENSIVE PLUNDER.

Notices in the French language, to the following effect, have been forwarded to the various police districts of the United Kingdom. For some time past, but particularly during the close of last summer, two Englishmen, described as below, one named Henry King, supposed to be a Jew, and the other named George Neale, have transacted business on a large scale, as well in this city (Frankfort on the Maine) as in other parts of the Continent, paying for the goods in the first instance partly in cash, and partly by bills of exchange on London, which were duly honoured. Towards the middle of last October, by representing themselves as agents to large houses, they obtained, partly through personal credit, and partly by bills on London, a quantity of property, consisting of choice jewellery and other valuable articles, to an immense amount, together with a quantity of hard cash and notes. The whole proceeds of the fraud have been declared before the proper tribunal to amount to 155,705 florins, to which there is still to be added 100,000 florins, supposed to be due to various tradesmen who have not as yet made any declaration of their losses. The goods procured in this way during the latter portion of their practice principally consisted of wine, Eau de Cologne, &c. King set out for Paris on the evening of the 18th of October, under the pretence of meeting his wife, and on the morning of the 19th Neale took his departure for Wisbaden, where they had both stayed for a long time, apparently with a view of winding up their affairs. Their late bills on London having been returned protested, no remittances having been made to cover the amount, it was considered that they had acted the part of fraudulent bankrupts, and the criminal jurisdiction of Frankfort issued warrants for their apprehension as follows:—

"Under the treaty of reciprocity, we request all the authorities of the various nations to render us such assistance as it is in their power for the earliest apprehension of the two persons hereafter described, with all the property in their possession, consisting of jewellery, merchandise, apparel, and money. To such persons as will give information leading to the apprehension of these parties, and the recovery of the goods, a reward of 25,000f. will be given, together with whatever expenses may have been incurred. Should only a part of the property be recovered, the reward will be proportionate, but at the same time it will not be less than 5,000f. It will, perhaps, assist in leading to the apprehension of the parties to state, that a woman, who passed as King's wife, was confined some weeks since at Paris, and of whose person a sketch has been issued with *this notice. Some of the jewellery* has also been lithographed, and copies issued. To judge by the lithograph, the woman appears to be about thirty-five years of age, with masculine features, high check bones, animated expression of countenance, and with the intellectual part of the head not forming full one-third of the whole. Her person is large, and her appearance stylish. Neale had a passport belonging to Jacques Hahn, of Frankfort, dated August 18th, No. 1,696, and one available for a six months' pleasure tour through Bavaria, Austria, Italy, and Switzerland. Mr. Hahn is a banker of Frankfort, and in age, person, and complexion, not unlike Neale, who is described as follows:—Between 26 and 30 years of age, five feet five inches high (Rhenish measure), hair deep black and curled, eyebrows very black, eyes small, dark, deep, and swimming, pug-nose, mouth middle size, lips full, with handsome white teeth, beard and whiskers black and bushy, covering the chin, complexion fresh and generally warm. He speaks with a thick and rather heavy tongue. Neale represents himself as having been born at sea, as having travelled through various parts of the world, and long established in business at Calcutta. Both he and King were on habits of intimacy with the family of a person named Walton, an English Jew, who represents himself as having lately arrived from Canton. King, who is between 50 and 60 years of age, measures five feet Rhenish, wears a round grey short wig, his forehead is low and flat, eyebrows bushy and greyish, eyes small and supposed to be greyish, nose sharp, mouth common, teeth small and well-formed, no beard, face and chin round, complexion tawny. He is particularly remarkable for a short neck, fleshy flabby hand, and walks with a short quick step. On the inside of his wig there is a pink circular label with the name of the maker, G. Evandre Hayden John, coiffeur Frankfurt a M. He nevertheless wears his own hair underneath. Neale has been in the habit of daily dyeing his hair, whiskers, and moustachios, with a black colouring mixture. The signatures of the parties, fac-similes of which have been issued, are widely different. King's is a bold hand, whilst Neale's is cramped, narrow, and timid. Fac-similes of some bracelets, which form part of the plunder, together with a drawing of Neale's favourite breast-pin, have been forwarded to the various police stations. It is to be observed that Neale had a passport from the British Consul at Frankfort, dated May 18th, 1845, and countersigned for Paris on the 18th of October. As the jewellery was regularly forwarded by post in paid parcels, that fact may assist in leading to the discovery of the delinquents."

Suspected Murder.—On Tuesday morning the town of Merthyr was thrown into considerable alarm by the news of there having occurred, on the previous night, and that morning, three separate deaths from drowning. One of them appears to have been connected with circumstances that require explanation. Ann Meyrick, aged 23, the wife of John Meyrick, living at Rhydycar, a small village in the vicinity of Merthyr, was, on Tuesday morning, drawn out of the Cardiff and Merthyr canal, within a short distance of her own house, quite dead. On being taken to the house, the body bled profusely, and the blood was found to issue from two frightful gashes in the lower part of her abdomen. The bank of the canal was literally covered with blood, from the place whence she was taken out to the archway over the canal—a distance of forty yards. She was last seen in the company of her husband, with whom she left the Heathcock tavern about one o'clock on Tuesday morning, both of them very much intoxicated. He was seen coming home alone, and though inebriated, was not so far gone as not to be able to go and place some hay for the cow to eat. In the morning he was found asleep, his head resting on the table, as he had evidently not been to bed. When he heard of his wife having been drawn from the canal, he began to cry; but to the spectators it evidently appeared more feigned than real. He accounts for his not having noticed her absence, by stating that she frequently slept at her father's house; and states that on his way home in the early part of the morning he had turned on one side to obey a call of nature, while she went on, and that he had never seen her since. A coroner's inquest was postponed to Thursday, with what result we will hereafter relate.—*Cambrian.*

Fatal Railway Accident.—An accident of a very frightful character occurred on Friday evening last on the works of the Shrewsbury, Oswestry, and Chester Junction Railway, between Cresford and Wrexham, by the overturning of a train down a steep embankment, by which one man was killed on the spot, and several others were seriously injured. The workmen and stone-masons employed on the works at Gresford, it appears, were in the practice, on leaving their work in the evening, of getting into the earth waggons, and being propelled up the line to Wrexham. On the evening in question about forty of them had taken their seats in the trucks, and were proceeding at a rapid rate, when on arriving opposite the race course, near Wrexham, the fireman's waggon got off the line, and ran down the embankment, dragging with it the remainder. One man, Peter Edwards, was found among the lower *trucks, frightfully mutilated and quite dead.* Another labourer was discovered with his left leg severed completely. A third poor creature had his left leg broken in three places, while seven or eight others were more or less injured. As soon as possible the sufferers were placed in a truck and conveyed on to Wrexham, where they were received into the Hope public-house, and met with every medical and other assistance. On Saturday an inquest was held at the above on the body of P. Edwards, which occupied a considerable time, in the course of which it was shown that the accident arose by the rails sinking into the earth below the level of the road, the rails not being properly laid on the sleepers. The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death," with a deodand of £5 on the carriage.

Serious Accident at Newbury.—As Mr. Wm. Somerset, Marlborough, Wilts, a large grazier, farmer, and dealer, was going to the cattle show, held here on Friday, driving a spirited horse in his gig down the hill approaching Speenhamland, there meeting a carriage, Mr. Somerset's horse took fright, running furiously into the town of Newbury, dashing with frightful speed until he ran the wheels of the chaise against a lamp-post, throwing out Mr. Somerset. Upon his being taken up and conveyed to a surgeon's (one happening to be near), it was discovered the fall had caused a fearful wound on his head and other parts of his body. He was taken up quite insensible, with but little hopes of his recovery, and is still remaining in a very precarious state. The chaise was dashed to pieces, and the horse also much hurt.

THE MURDER OF AN AGED FEMALE IN WESTMINSTER.

Monday being the day appointed for the examination of Martha Brownrigg, a girl twenty-four years of age, who stands charged with the wilful murder of Elizabeth Mundell, an aged female with whom she resided, the approaches to the Queen-square police-court were at an early hour crowded with persons of all classes, anxious to hear the proceedings.

At half-past three o'clock the accused, who had been privately brought into court, was lifted into the dock, apparently in an insensible state, but whether feigned or otherwise it is difficult to say. She had, on her first examination, the appearance of a pretty, fresh-coloured country girl, but was yesterday much altered, and had evidently been suffering great mental anguish. Ann Gaze, the daughter of the deceased, was first put, and in answer to inquiries from Mr. Edwards, the chief clerk, witness said, as soon as I discovered my mother lying upon the box in her room, I ran for a doctor, and I should think that it was not twenty minutes after I first saw her in that position before he came. The cord which had been found round my mother's neck was cut off by a baker's boy before the medical man came.

The woman Cheshire, who resided in the next room to the deceased, and who, proved on the last examination that she heard the deceased cry "murder" twice, and also heard her say, "What are you doing to me? what are you doing to me?" was then put into the witness box in order to finish her evidence, which had only been taken in part on the previous occasion in order to justify the remand of the accused.

Mr. Bond: When you went to the door of deceased's room to inquire what was the matter, did you find it locked?—Witness: Yes. I tried the handle and could not open it.

Examined by Mr. Edwards: After I had been to the room door, and inquired what was the matter, I returned to my own room and went to bed again. In about a quarter of an hour after I heard the prisoner unlock the door of deceased's room, and come out and go to the cupboard in the passage; and then she knocked at my door, and came to my bed side with some wood in her hand. She said that the old lady was very poorly, and had begged of her to go to her daughter's, and fetch her. I said she had better do so as soon as she could. She stopped for a minute or two, and then she said she thought she would. I begged of her again to run and fetch the old lady's daughter, and then she left my room.

Mr. Edwards: Did you then go into the deceased's room to see how she was?—Witness: No, I did not. Prisoner never asked me.

Witness continued: Prisoner, after leaving my room, went into deceased's, and shortly afterwards came in to me again with her bonnet on, and said that if I heard any noise in the room (deceased's) would I go in.

Mr. Bond: Did you hear any noise after prisoner went out?—Not the least. The room was as quiet as it is now. Hearing no noise I did not go in.

Edward Gaze said I am the husband of Ann Gaze. On Monday night, after the inquest had sat, I was in the deceased's room when they were about to lay her out. (Witness here described appearances in the bed such as are consequent upon dissolution.) The female on seeing this refused to lay her out until I fetched a doctor.

Mr. Bond: Was the prisoner present?

Witness: She was and shuddered, and ever since the inquest has been afraid of being left alone.

Witness continued: On Wednesday I went to deceased's room accompanied by the prisoner, who actually kissed the corpse; and putting herself in an attitude of prayer, said, "God knows all." After this, whilst in the room, prisoner said she had a £5 note, and offered to lend me a sovereign. I then asked her to let me get it changed as I knew the landlord; but she said she'd go herself. She then went to a public-house close by, and immediately returned, saying the gentleman had played a trick on her, having given her a Bank of Elegance note instead of a Bank of England. I told her she had better go back immediately. She asked me to go with her, and I asked to look at the note. She hesitated, and at length gave it to me. The moment I saw it, I knew by the grease it was one I had frequently seen in my mother-in-law's hands. After this I suspected her of the murder, and I insisted upon accompanying her to see where she had obtained the note. As she went along she said she wanted to go and see "Jem," (a comrade of his) with whom she is acquainted, which I opposed, and persuaded her to come along with me. On getting through the Horse Guards, she fell back on my arm, and said she was so ill she could not go further that day. I told her I must get the assistance of a policeman, if she could not go further.

Mr. Bond: Did you say anything to induce her to suppose that you suspected her of the murder?—Witness: I had my suspicions, but I did not tell her.

Witness continued: "Good God," she said, "do not get a policeman, and I will try and go a little further." I assisted her across the road, and after she got on the pavement she fell back in my arms.

Mr. Bond: Be particularly careful to say, as well as you can remember, the precise words she used.—Witness: She said, "I can't keep it any longer; I murdered the poor old woman, and deprived your wife of a good mother." She then caught hold of me, asked me to pray for her guilty soul, and to forgive her. I then gave her in charge. The note produced is the same which the prisoner showed me, having had it in my hands frequently during the deceased's life.

Mr. John Charles Atkinson, of 16, Rodney-terrace, surgeon: I had known the deceased for two years, having attended her late husband, and I have had occasion to remark that she generally was in the possession of good health, and equally level, and at all times in good spirits—a circumstance which I remarked from her spirits being neither depressed or excited during the changes which occurred in her husband's illness. I was called upon at about twenty minutes past eight on Monday morning, and my assistant went, and on his return at a little before nine, in consequence of the communication he made to me, I went myself. On my entering the room I found the body of the deceased on a box about two feet six, the whole of the spine and head being deposited there. I examined the place to ascertain whether her death had been occasioned by hanging or *strangulation.*

Mr. Bond: Was the cord at that time round her neck?—Witness: No; it was on the floor by her side.

Mr. Atkinson continued: Observing some pegs over her head I examined them to ascertain whether they would bear her weight. I found that they had no power, and were such pegs as a bonnet might be hung on. I then examined her neck, and I was satisfied that she had died from strangulation. There were two identations in front of the neck, and only one at the back. There was also a vacuum at the back of the neck.

Mr. Atkinson here illustrated the view he took of the matter with a piece of cord, by showing that the power used to tighten the rope must have been from behind in a right line.

Mr. Bond:—Could such appearances as you have described have been produced by a person strangling themselves?

Mr. Atkinson: It is doubtful, certainly not probable. To have made such appearances as the neck presented, a person must, in my opinion, have fastened the rope from behind to a peg or some other thing which would bear them in a right line with the neck, and keep up the pressure on the front.

Mr. Atkinson continued: On examining the room I found no place on which she could have been suspended. Had she hung herself, instead of the marks of the rope being horizontal, which they were, and from the left to the right, they would have been slanting. I examined the deceased's hands, to ascertain whether they were marked with the pressure which the form of strangulation required, and which it would have produced on them, and I found they were not. There were some slight marks above her mouth, which in my impression were, or might have been, made in the agony of death by strangulation, from a desire on the part of the person to open her mouth and breathe. Witness added that the cord marks were on the lower or tougher part of the neck, and made some observations to show that her death had not been occasioned by hanging.

Mr. F. Partridge, an inspector of the A division, said: On the 3rd inst., at about half-past one in the afternoon, the prisoner was brought to the station in Gardener's-lane, in a fainting condition. I entered the charge against her on the police-sheet, "that of causing the death of Mrs. Mundell;" and having read it over to her, cautioned her that she was not bound to say anything. On hearing the charge, she observed, "All I can say is, that it is all right. I am an unfortunate creature. You may do with me what you like." And she then commenced tearing her hair. I had her thoroughly searched, but nothing was found. On the day after she had appeared at this court I went with the soldier, Gage, to 1, Providence-place, where, on searching a box pointed out to me as belonging to the prisoner, I found some rope, exactly corresponding with that round the deceased's neck; as also two duplicates of trifling articles pledged on the 24th and 28th of November last, the one for a shawl, for 1s. 6d., and the other a gown, for 3s. [This evidence was produced to show that prisoner, who had represented herself to be in possession of some money, which she had saved in service, and which she pretended to go to Bedford-street for—was in distress; a fact which leaves the inference that the murder was committed to get possession of the sham notes, which were supposed to be genuine.]

On the case for the prosecution being completed as above,

Mr. Bond said: Does the prisoner wish to say anything?

Prisoner in a calmer voice: "I have not done the murder."

The witnesses were then bound over to prosecute, and the prisoner was committed to the Central Criminal Court for trial.

General Intelligence.

Mr. Templeton.—This eminent British vocalist is [?] the United States; and now on a professional tour in [?] journals on his first from the tone of the public [?] most successful appearance, his visit must turn out [?] one.

The Coast Defences.—Captain Addison's invention for heating shot red hot, which was recently tested in the marshes at Woolwich, having been approved by the board of officers appointed to ascertain and report on its advantages, the inventor has been requested to state the amount he would require to supply 200 furnaces similar to the one approved of, but placed on higher and stronger wheels, to enable them to be moved with greater facility, and without being liable to break down when employed on actual service. This invention will prove a great acquisition to the coast defences, as its power of rendering 32-pounders and other shot red hot in a limited time has been fully and satisfactorily tested, and the object is attained at a much less expense than by any other mode hitherto adopted.

Dickens's forthcoming Christmas Work, "The Cricket on the Hearth," is being dramatised for the Adelphi.

Will of the late Dr. Wade, which was in his own handwriting:—"Saturday, August 13, 1842.—I, Arthur Savage Wade, D.D., vicar of St. Nicholas, Warwick, give and bequeath to Miss Mary Anne Crafer, third daughter of the late Mr. Thos. Crafer, of East Dereham, Norfolk, all my property and effects, and monies in hand and due to me, and all my shares in Cornish mines, money in annuity offices or banks, and also church stipends and fees, and all other effects of what kind soever, of which she is my sole executrix." His personal estate for the payment of probate duty was valued at £1,000.

Witchcraft.—A Wick newspaper gives the following recent instance of gross ignorance and credulity:—"Not far from Louisburgh there lives a girl who, until a few days ago, was suspected of being a witch. In order to cure her of the witchcraft, a neighbour actually put her into a creed half filled with wood and shavings, and hung her above a fire, setting the shavings in a blaze. Fortunately for the child and himself, she was not injured; and, it is said, that the gift of sorcery has been taken away from her. At all events, the intelligent neighbours aver that she is not half so witch-like in her appearance since she was singed."

The Militia.—In anticipation of the calling out of the militia, the "militia clubs" for providing substitutes have commenced making arrangements for their reorganization.

Death of Townsend, the Pedestrian.—The "veteran," so well known in sporting circles, expired lately in the Cliffe workhouse, Lewes, and was buried in Southover churchyard. He was fifty-four years of age. Townsend was considered one of the first pedestrians of his day, and from his possessing great powers of endurance was able to perform extraordinary feats, particularly matches against time.

Fortification of Jersey.—Things are now proceeding in earnest towards ensuring the complete security of Jersey against the dangers of foreign invasion. Clothing was received a fortnight ago from London for the use of our island militia, together with twenty-four brass nine-pounders. The whole island militia force is divided into five different regiments. Altogether it may be considered to be about 4,000 strong, and in any case of emergency 1,000 more could be brought to the field.

Another "Interesting" Nuisance for Poor John Bull.—We have great satisfaction in being enabled to announce that an event, calculated to strengthen the affectionate attachment of the people to the throne, and at the same time increase the happiness of her Majesty's domestic circle, may be expected to take place early in April next.—*Post.*

Unequal Taxation in Jamaica.—The planter pays two shillings and sixpence for a mule; the negro is charged eight shillings for an ass. This is as bad or worse than it is in the mother country, where the poor are pauperised by the burthens of taxation.

Thirty-one pounds of Shropshire iron have been made into wire upwards of one hundred and eleven miles in length; and so fine was the fabric that a part of it was humorously converted, in lieu of the usual horse hair, into a barrister's wig.

Warlike Editors.—The editors of the *National* and *Presse* (French papers) being at variance, a list of six editors of the *National*, all ready and willing to fight, was the other day presented to the editors of the *Presse*, but he politely refused to make any selection.

Watches, remarkable for their extreme thinness, are now manufactured at Geneva. They are not thicker than a line and the sixteenth of a line (little more than the twelfth of an inch). This change does not, however, militate against the full play of the movement, for that remains the same, the thinness being obtained by placing the hands at the side, instead of over the works. This arrangement makes the watches rather large in circumference.

A Pleasant Place.—Eighty-nine outrages have been committed in the county Limerick within the last six months, as reported to Government.

President Polk completed his fiftieth year on the 2nd November.

Rare Discoveries!—The *Allgemeine Zeitung* announces three new discoveries, which, should they receive confirmation, will be hailed with much triumph by the literary and musical world. Of the first, a hitherto unknown epic poem of the great Ariosto, called "Rinaldo l'Ardito," we have before heard a rumour; the second is the concluding canto of "Don Juan," by Lord Byron, alleged to have been found in Geneva; and the third, a posthumous opera by Weber, which is said to have lain *perdue* in London since his death.

A Cure for Profanity.—A schoolmaster, as a punishment to one of his pupils for using profane language, ordered him to take a pair of tongs and watch a hole in the earth until he caught a mouse. The boy took the tongs, and demurely waited for his victim. Directly after, he saw a mouse peeping out of the hole. Cautiously placing a leg of the tongs on either side, he grabbed Don Whiskerandos by the nose, and triumphantly exclaimed, "By ——! I've got him."

The Stocks.—De Foe lived in the age of Justice Midases and Parson Trullebers, and about the year 1700, he assails them both thus:—"The parson preaches a thundering sermon against drunkenness, and the justice sets my poor neighbour in the stocks; and I am like to be much the better for either, when I know that this same parson and this same justice were both drunk together but the night before."

Fire in Barbican.—On Sunday evening, shortly before twelve o'clock, an alarming fire broke out in Graham's-buildings, Barbican, which has resulted in the total destruction of Shrewsbury Academy, the property of Mr. Allen, and the printing-office of Mr. Ford. The damage done to Mr. Ford's property we understand will be covered by an insurance in the Imperial office, but Mr. Allen is uninsured. The origin of the fire is not known.

Incendiarism.—Tuesday's Government *Police Gazette* contains the offer of a reward of £50 for the discovery and apprehension of the person or persons who on the night of the 1st instant maliciously set fire to an out-building, containing about six loads of unthreshed wheat, the property of John Shand, Esq., of Reny-Birn Hall, near Ruabon, Denbighshire, by which the building and its contents were consumed.

Andrew Snyder, a soldier of the revolution, died lately in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, aged 113 years, the oldest man in the state.

Nothing else to do.—Some person, who had nothing else to do, has ascertained that there are 550,000 grains in a bushel of wheat, 520,000 in barley, 1,260,000 in oats, 37,000 in horse beans.—*New York Gazette.*

The Militia.—We understand that the rolls of names are prepared in this immediate neighbourhood, preparatory to the re-organising and probably to the calling out of the militia, in the spring of next year.—*Liverpool Times.*

Windermere Lake has not been known to be so high for the last fifteen years, owing to the heavy rains which have fallen within the last two or three weeks.

The late Editor of the "Nation."—The friends and admirers of the late Thomas Davis, editor of the *Nation* newspaper, have subscribed a large sum—amounting, we believe, to upwards of £500—for the purpose of erecting a testimonial to perpetuate his memory.

The Chiltern Hundreds.—A piece of land in Buckinghamshire, formerly known as the Chiltern Hills. They afforded shelter to banditti, and abounded in timber, which is the reason of their being chosen as a retreat for those members of Parliament who wish to cut their sticks.—*Punch.*

Cooke's Circus, at Glasgow, which was erected two years ago at a cost of about £1,200, was last week totally destroyed by fire. It is only about three weeks since the Glasgow City Theatre was burnt.

Caution to Wives.—Mrs. Chapman, the landlady of the Ship public-house, Hammersmith, was on Wednesday brought up at the police-court, and fined 1s. for slapping her husband on the face.

Holloway's Pills and Ointment.—Edward White, residing at 45, Clement's-lane, Strand, was an in-door patient at King's College Hospital, with an abscess in the thigh, and a wound nine inches long on the same limb. He could neither bend his knee or put his foot to the ground. He remained there for five months in bed, when he was informed, "that nothing more could be done for him." He was then carried to his home, and commenced using the above invaluable medicines. He can now walk about all the day long, and is quite cured by the means of these wonderful medicines, and this to the astonishment of all who knew him.

Assize Intelligence.

NORTHERN CIRCUIT.

LIVERPOOL, MONDAY, DEC. 8.—The winter assize for the southern division of the county of Lancaster commenced here to-day, before Mr. Baron Parke, and Mr. Justice Williams. The calender contains the names of 62 prisoners. Of these four stand charged with manslaughter, ten with maliciously cutting and wounding, four with attempts to murder, four with rape, two with horsestealing, three with forgery, and six with burglary. Their Lordships sat at eleven o'clock.

(*Before Mr. Baron Parke.*)

CHARGE OF ASSAULT AGAINST THE GOVERNOR, CHAPLAIN, AND THREE OF THE OFFICERS, OF THE BOROUGH GAOL.—Edward Rayner Highton, the governor; the Rev. Thomas Carter, the chaplain; Charles Robinson Bromley, the principal turnkey; William Evans, the cook; and John Jones, the surgeon's assistant, of the borough gaol, were indicted for having committed an assault upon John Reid Miles, a schoolmaster. It appeared from the statement of counsel and the evidence of the witnesses that Mr. Miles was appointed to the situation of schoolmaster at the Borough Gaol in April, 1841, and that he continued to hold it until the latter end of the month of April last. About nine o'clock on the morning of the 16th of that month he met Mr. Highton, the governor, outside of the walls of the gaol, and that gentleman accosted him in these terms:—"I am extremely glad, Mr. Miles, that I have had the pleasure of meeting you this morning." Miles replied that it was a matter of no great joy, as it was a matter of almost daily occurrence. The governor asked him whether he knew Scotch-Jemmy, a mason who had been working in the gaol two or three years before, to which he replied in the affirmative. The governor then observed that he wished Miles to do him a particular favour, to which Miles said that if there was anything he could do Mr. Highton might be perfectly satisfied that it did not require to be put in the form of a request. They then entered the gaol, and went into the turnkey's lodge together. Bromley was present. The governor took out two papers, one after the other, and asked Miles whether he knew the hand-writing. Miles replied that he was not very sure as to the first, but that he thought he had seen something very like the hand-writing of the first one in the gaol before. He also expressed his opinion that both papers were not the production of one hand, but of two different hands. The governor either then, or subsequently, gave Miles to understand that the papers contained anonymous charges against him (the governor); that they had been sent to the Mayor; that he had admitted to the magistrates that some of the statements contained in the papers were true, and declared that some were false; that the magistrates had forgiven him; that he was instructed to find out whether the papers were the production of any officer of the prison; and that if they were, he was clothed with full power to discharge that officer without giving him a moment's notice. He further told Miles that some time before he had turned away Scotch Jemmy's son, who had been employed about the gaol; and that he was particularly anxious that Miles should ascertain, without delay, what was the nature of Scotch Jemmy's feelings towards him (the governor.) Miles said that if the *modus operandi* were left to himself, he would endeavour to lay hold of Scotch Jemmy in an evening or two after; and he had no doubt but that, by means of two or three glasses of whisky, he should be able to ascertain from that person what the nature of his feelings was towards the governor. After promising to report the result by the following Saturday at farthest, they parted, the governor labouring at the time under feelings of apparently strong agitation. After dinner on the same day, the Rev. Mr. Carter, the chaplain, entered the school, and told Miles that he had better go round to the vestry and take away some large printed testaments. Miles, after informing him that he had five or six large printed testaments in the school already which were never called for, went as he was directed; and whilst in the vestry, Mr. Carter made some allusion to the anonymous charges against the governor which had been sent to the Mayor, and said an inquiry was going to be instituted in the gaol with the view of discovering the author. Miles expressed an opinion that, until he had first seen Scotch Jemmy and ascertained his feelings towards the governor, it would be premature to enter upon an inquiry in the gaol. In a few minutes after, however, Miles was sent for to the governor's house, and there he found the governor, the Rev. Mr. Carter, and Mr. Archer, the surgeon of the gaol. There was a table in the centre of the room, and two sets of writing materials on it. Mr. Carter was the first to speak. He said, addressing Miles, "We are about to have the inquiry by calling certain persons in, and we want you to assist us; if you appear to be assisting us in a friendly manner we shall lull suspicion." After some discussion as to how the parties should be placed at the table, Miles sat down and wrote the questions put, and the answers given by the witnesses, four of whom were examined—namely, the porter of the prison. Bromley, one of the defendants, Charles Fry, the governor's clerk, John Deane, a joiner. Mr. Carter put the questions, and the examination lasted about an hour and a half.—When it was drawing to a close, Miles heard either the governor or Mr. Archer say to Mr. Carter—"it (meaning Miles's writing), is not like his—it's not like that." "Oh!" rejoined Mr. Carter, wait, the paper runs." Mr. Archer then left. When the examination of the fourth witness had terminated, Mr. Carter pulled out his watch and said it was time for him to go to his dinner. The governor suggested the propriety of first calling in the blacksmith, but Mr. Carter dissented, and said the blacksmith could be called the following day, when the inquiry would be resumed. Mr. Carter then began to gather up his papers. Miles did the same with his papers; and whilst in the act of putting them in his pocket. Mr. Carter said, "Hand those papers to me." Miles refused, and said that they were to guide his mind in the inquiry against Scotch Jemmy, as they contained many circumstances relative to the governor's conduct. Mr. Carter asked for them a second and a third time, and said that they had better be given up, as they were his papers. Miles declared that he would not give them up until he had first taken an exact transcript of them; that he had heard something while sitting in the room, which led him to infer that they had laid a disgraceful trap for him, and that he deemed it his duty to lay the papers before the chief magistrate along with his own comments. Some wrangling followed, and a few hurried words passed between Mr. Carter and the governor, the former saying to the latter, "Will you allow Miles to take papers out of this room affecting your private character?" Both Mr. Carter and the governor then threatened to send for a magistrate. Miles told them they might send for a dozen magistrates if they pleased, provided they allowed him to send a messenger for a legal adviser. The Governor left the room, and returned in the course of two minutes with a card of the visiting justices in his hand. He sat down and wrote something on a slip of paper, which he handed to Mr. Carter. The latter on looking it over said.—"It won't do, you say too much." He added, —"If Miles won't give us up those papers, we must use force." Mr. Carter and the governor then came round to the side of the table at which Miles was standing. Whilst the governor was in the act of moving round the room he struck the door either with his boot or his knuckles and in came Bromley, the defendant. Mr. Carter said to Bromley,—"Mr. Miles has some papers which we must take from him;" and when that was said, Miles gave the papers a twist in his hand as if he were going to tear them. In less than the fourth of a minute the three parties fell upon him. The governor took hold of one arm, Mr. Carter and Bromley took hold of the other. They hauled him about, and pressed his back against a table in the window. He still held the papers: he had a sheet in each hand. They kept twisting his arms above his head and behind his back. Bromley thrust one knee into his side, and used it as the fulerum of a lever. Mr. Carter ran to one of the windows, pulled it up, and called for assistance. The defendant, Evans, came in through the window, seized Miles with both arms round the neck, and kept pulling and hauling him about. The papers were then taken from him; and at this period he could scarcely breathe. The last thing he recollected was Mr. Carter crying from the lobby for more assistance. When he recovered a little he found himself in a corner against the clock, and the defendant, Jones, holding him. He was then led down to the officer's lodge, where Bromley shut the door, and took from him all the letters, papers, and other documents he had on his person, saying that the governor had instructed him to see that he had no papers about him. He succeeded with an effort in getting outside the gate. William Buckley, task master at the gaol, came up and took him to the Bull's Head, were they had a glass of whisky each, and from thence he proceeded in a cab home, where Dr. Marshall attended him for three weeks or a month. There was blood on his hands from the way in which he had been treated, and his brain was in such a state as he once before felt it to be in from a concussion in a railway train. His Lordship in summing up left it to the jury to say, in the first place, whether the defendants laid hands on the prosecutor, a matter there did not seem any reason to doubt. Secondly, was the occasion on which this violence was offered one where the prosecutor was acting as clerk or servant, or holding himself out as their clerk or servant, and writing on their paper, in which case the endeavour to recover the paper would be justifiable, unless, thirdly, more force was used than was necessary. Verdict—Not Guilty.

STABBING AT BOLTON.—David M'Kinley 24, was convicted of having, at Great Bolton, feloniously stabbed and cut one Michael Kelly, with intent to do him some grievous bodily harm. He was sentenced to transportation for fifteen years.

HORSE-STEALING AT WOOLTON.—James Herbert Ince, 33, who had previously been transported for seven years, pleaded guilty to a charge of having, at Little Woolton, stolen a bay mare, the property of William Winstanley. He was sentenced to transportation for ten years.

STABBING AT ROCHDALE.—Robert Brierley 50, was convicted of having, at Rochdale, stabbed, cut, and wounded his wife, Jane, while labouring under intoxication. He was found guilty of an assault, and sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9.—CUTTING AND WOUNDING.—John Carrington was indicted for cutting and wounding James Bispham at Manchester, with intent to do him some grievous bodily harm. The prisoner, it appeared, was, on the 24th of November last, in a public-house in Lower Moseley-street, Manchester, kept by a person of the name of Poole. It was between the hours of eleven and twelve o'clock at night. A person of the name of Rigby was also present, who earlier in the night had bought a couple of books from a man who was exhibiting them for sale. One of these he sold again to a person of the name of Taylor, and a dispute arose between the prisoner and Taylor on the subject, the prisoner alleging that he himself had bought the book. The prisoner finally struck Taylor, and a scuffle took place between them, which was with some difficulty put an end to by the landlord and others turning the prisoner out of the house. He resisted very strenuously the efforts made to eject him, and was put out at last by main force. When he got into the street he asked a woman who was there for a knife she had in her pocket. She refused to let him have it, alleging he would be doing some mischief with it, but he struck her, and finally succeeded in obtaining the knife. He then went to the folding-doors of the public-house, and on Mr. Poole opposing his entrance, struck at him through the opening. Mr. Poole called out "He has drawn a knife and is stabbing at me;" and ran into the bar parlour. The prisoner then succeeded in getting into the house, having in his hand a knife, which he was brandishing about, and meeting at the door of the bar parlour the prosecutor, Mr. Bispham, who was running out on the alarm being given, struck at him repeatedly with both hands in a furious manner, piercing through his hat, and inflicting a wound on his arm, from which, on his coat being removed, the blood spouted to a considerable distance. Some of the parties present tripped up the prisoner, and on securing him, a clasp knife, open, was found lying under him on the ground. The jury found the prisoner Guilty. His Lordship postponed passing sentence, but in an after part of the day the prisoner was put to the bar, and his Lordship remarking on the reckless violence the prisoner had displayed, and on the fact of his having been already convicted of felony, sentenced him to be transported for seven years.

MANSLAUGHTER.—William Charnock was indicted for the manslaughter of John Radcliffe, at Upholland, in this county, by striking him with a poker.—The deceased, it appeared, had formerly resided at Upholland, but had lately been resident in Liverpool. While at Upholland he had become acquainted with Mary Charnock, the daughter of the prisoner, and an intimacy took place between them, which resulted in the birth of an illegitimate child. The deceased continued to call occasionally at the prisoner's house, a circumstance which gave the latter great annoyance. On the 21st of September, being Sunday, he was at Upholland, and called at Charnock's house. He was then somewhat intoxicated. Charnock put him out, and, in the course of a conversation he afterwards, during the same morning, had with a police officer at Upholland, he said, "That fellow" (meaning Radcliffe) "has been at my house, and if he comes again I will help him out with the poker." Some time after the deceased again went to the prisoner's house. Mary Charnock was in the parlour, and the prisoner was upstairs. Mary Charnock requested the deceased to go away, lest her father should see him. He refused, and while this conversation was going on the prisoner came down. He desired the deceased to leave the house, but the latter refused, and dared the prisoner to put him out. The prisoner took up the poker from the fire-place, and a scuffle took place, in the course of which the deceased was thrown to the ground, but the witness, Mary Charnock, stated that she did not see the prisoner use the poker. Mary Charnock called for assistance, and some of the neighbours coming in found both struggling on the floor. They took the deceased away. He did not then complain of being hurt, but soon after said he had got injured in his side and leg. One of the witnesses took him to Liverpool the same evening in a car. The next day a surgeon was called in, who found him suffering from a bruise below the knee, which seemed to have arisen from external violence. The surgeon continued to attend him for about a month, during which he got worse, and he was finally removed to the Northern Hospital, at Liverpool. By that time a large abscess had formed in the thigh and about the knee-joint, which was destroyed. There was also an abscess in the chest. He died on the 9th of November. On a *post mortem* examination it was found that one of the ribs in the left side was broken, and that the abscess which had formed at that spot extended into the chest. He was of a very bad constitution, and it was in consequence of this that the abscesses in question became so extensive. The fracture of the rib must have been caused by external violence, but would probably not have been fatal but for the constitutional peculiarity of the deceased. While on his death-bed the deceased made a statement of the transaction, from which it would appear that on his entering the prisoner's house the latter came down stairs, having at that time a poker in his hand; that he struck the deceased with it in the chest and on the leg, at the places where the abscesses had formed, inflicting the injuries which finally produced such serious effects. Mr. Atkinson, for the defence, contended that the prisoner intruded on in his own house, as he had been, by a person whose presence necessarily was so unwelcome, and who obstinately refused to leave, had a right to eject him; and that allowing for certain exaggerations and mis-statements in the dying declaration of the deceased, it was clear the prisoner had used no more violence than, considering the youth and strength, and the state of intoxication of the deceased, was necessary for that purpose. His Lordship summed up, and the jury returned a verdict of Not Guilty.

THURSDAY, DEC. 11.—PIRACY.—Thomas Sheazle, John Copplestine, Herman Hinka, Thomas Bayle, J. M'Cann, and Henry Matthews, were indicted for making a revolt in the ship in which they were employed as mariners. The jury found the prisoners guilty, and his lordship sentenced Boyle to twelve months' imprisonment, Matthews to nine, and Hinka and the others to six. The business of the assizes concluded to-day.

YORK, MONDAY, DEC. 8.—The two learned Judges, Mr. Justice Erle and Mr. Baron Platt, arrived in York on Saturday last, when the commission was opened. There was but one prisoner committed for trial in the city of York; but the calendar for the county is very heavy, there being no less than 89 persons in custody or on bail, nearly all of whom are charged with felony, viz.,—3 with murder, 4 with manslaughter, 5 with stabbing and cutting or wounding, 5 with assault and robbery, 1 with robbery with violence, 3 with rape, 1 with arson, 16 with stealing from the person, 5 with a nameless offence, 5 with burglary, 6 with horse-stealing, 1 with cattle-stealing, 7 with sheep-stealing, 1 with offence against the coin of the realm, 4 with stealing in a dwelling-house, 2 with attempt to commit rape, 1 with feloniously killing a horse, 1 with receiving stolen property, 1 with forgery, 2 with night poaching, 1 with the same accompanied by assault, 1 with perjury, 1 with obtaining goods by false pretences, and 1 with an offence against the bankruptcy laws.

(*Before Mr. Baron Platt.*)

CHARGE OF MANSLAUGHTER.—Edward Lunn, a respectable chemist and druggist, residing in Fossgate, York, and who had been out on bail, was arraigned on a coroner's inquest, which charged him with the offence of manslaughter in occasioning the death of Anne Downes, at the parish of St. Cruex, in York, on the 21st of October last, by dispensing to her a phial of laudanum instead of a cough mixture. The prosecution was abandoned, and a verdict of Not Guilty was recorded.

HORSE SPEALING.—Thomas Wilkinson, aged fifty-two, was indicted for having, in July last, at Harlow, near Selby, feloniously stolen a horse, the property of James Wilkinson. There were other counts charging the prisoner with killing the horse with intent to steal its skin, with stealing the skin, &c. The jury found the prisoner Guilty, and he was sentenced to be transported for ten years.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 10.—HIGHWAY ROBBERY.—Thomas Kirk, 27, and John Blades, 19, two stout young men, having much the appearance of railway "navigators," were found guilty of highway robbery, accompanied with brutal violence, on the person of an old man named William Ward. They were sentenced to be transported for life.

CHARGE OF MANSLAUGHTER.—Jonathan Bennett, aged 25, a mechanic, charged with manslaughter, in having killed Mary Knowles, at Sheffield, on the 16th of August last, was found guilty of a common assault. It was proved that the prisoner had struck the deceased some blows, while in a state of intoxication; but it appeared probable that she had died of apoplexy rather than from the act of the prisoner.—Sentence, to be imprisoned one week.

THURSDAY DEC. 11.—CHARGE OF MURDER.—George Watson was charged with having, on the 1st of August last, at Selby, committed the crime of wilful murder, by inflicting one mortal wound and stab on the body of Elizabeth Watson, his wife. The jury acquitted him on the ground that he was insane at the moment of committing the act.

THE CASE OF THE FELICIDADE.

We are informed that the judges have declared the conviction invalid on two grounds—first, that it is not piracy for the Brazilians to carry on the slave trade until they have made it to be so by Brazilian municipal law; and, secondly, that the Felicidade was wrongfully taken, not having any slaves on board; and therefore that she did not become a British ship, and was not accordingly justified in capturing the Echo.

Police Intelligence.

GUILDHALL.

ROBBERY.—George Hanslip, clerk in the service of Messrs. Cash and Co., of Wood-street, warehousemen, was brought up for final examination, charged with stealing a quantity of silk waistcoatings, and other goods. His mother, Olivia, was also charged with receiving a part of the goods, which she had caused her landlady to pledge. The prisoners were committed for trial.

WORSHIP-STREET.

MONDAY.—A BRUTAL HUSBAND.—John Peters, a man of very dissolute appearance, described as a journeyman coach-smith, was charged at the instance of the parish authorities of Bethnal-green, with having cruelly ill-treated and neglected his wife and child, whereby they had become chargeable to that parish. It appeared from the evidence of the wife, a care-worn and delicate-looking woman, that she had been married about three years to the prisoner, who was a very worthless character, and had compelled her to support him in idleness and dissipation, out of the scanty pittance she was enabled to earn at her trade of a weaver. During nearly the whole of this period he subjected her to great personal violence, and on her return home on the evening of Thursday week, and presenting him with half-a-crown, which was all she had obtained by her day's labour, the prisoner flew into a terrible rage, and loading her with the most abominable epithets for bringing home so small a sum, struck her several violent blows, kicked her on the lower part of the person, and forced her into the street, with an infant only twelve months old in her arms. She succeeded in getting again into the house, and sought protection in the apartments of her landlord, but was instantly pursued by the prisoner, who recommenced his ill-usage, when the landlord interposed and compelled him to quit the room. The prisoner then retired to his own apartment, in which, after smashing everything to pieces, he burnt the whole of her wearing apparel, and nailing up the room door, swore that he would murder any one who attempted to enter. The police were appealed to to stop this destruction, but declined to interfere, and the witness in consequence was compelled to take refuge at the house of her father, in which she had been since staying, supported at the expense of the parish. Mr. Broughton severely animadverted upon the prisoner's brutal behaviour, and ordered him to pay a penalty to the Queen of 50s., or in default, to undergo two months' imprisonment and hard labour in the House of Correction; and expressed a hope that, as soon as he was liberated from prison, the parish authorities would sue him for the expense they had been put to in supporting his family. The fine was not paid, and the prisoner was removed in the van.

TUESDAY.—EXTRAORDINARY CASE.—Mr. H. Sproules Edwards, a middle-aged man of respectable appearance, described as an ornamental painter, was placed at the bar before Mr. Bingham, charged, in the words of the police sheet, "with having created a disturbance in a crowded congregation assembled at the Free Church in White's-row, Spitalfields, whereby the lives of individuals has been endangered." The Rev. George Montgomery West, D.D., stated that he was the minister of the above place of worship, which had been duly licensed for the performance of divine service, although at present not under episcopal jurisdiction. He had known the defendant for some time as a prominent member of professed infidels, occupying a building in Whitechapel, denominated Hall of Science, several of whose members having, some weeks since, intruded into his church, and publicly challenged a discussion upon the comparative merits of Atheism and Christianity. The witness, at the suggestion of some friends, had accepted the challenge, which ultimately resulted in the withdrawal of the champions of infidelity from the contest. The rev. gentleman then proceeded to say that for the information and instruction of the inhabitants of the district, a New Zealand chief had been lately engaged to deliver a course of lectures on the rise and progress of Christianity through the agency of the missionaries in the southern hemisphere, and at the second meeting, which took place on the preceding evening, and was attended by at least 2,000 respectable auditors, many of whom were ladies, the lecturer had just arrived at a most impressive part of his address, when the defendant, from a conspicuous part of the gallery, suddenly interrupted him with a chain of offensive interrogations, and speaking at the top of his voice, charged him with being an impostor, whose sole object was to make money, although in fact no charge whatever for admission had been made to the public. The defendant had no sooner commenced the interruption than, by apparent previous concert, a most extraordinary and discordant combination of hissing, yelling, and screaming suddenly resounded in the church, which continued for at least a quarter of an hour without intermission, and produced such terror and excitement in the female portion of the audience, that witness deemed it his duty to dissolve the assembly, but as the uproar still continued without the slightest abatement, and a serious riot appeared to be in contemplation, he at length sent out for the assistance of the police, several of whom soon arrived, and the defendant was given into custody. The defendant's removal had the effect of restoring instant order among the auditory, and the lecturer having been prevailed upon to resume his discourse, the assembly quietly separated; but as the third and concluding lecture would shortly be delivered, he must apply for the protection of the magistrate against the recurrence of a similar scene of violence and uproar, which he understood had been threatened by the defendant and other supporters of the Hall of Science, in revenge for the discomfiture their party had sustained. The complainant added, that he had several witnesses in attendance, but the defendant stated, that on entering the church, a scene of disorder and confusion, which he could only liken to that usually exhibited in the gallery of a theatre, had commenced among the congregation, who so far from displaying the respectability that had been represented, consisted generally of persons in the lowest class of society. He made his way with some difficulty up the aisle, and on casting his eye upon the platform, he observed a man fantastically bedizened in the equipments of a savage, who was described in the printed bills as a certain New Zealand chief named "Pake-a-Range," or "Son of the Clouds," but whom he (defendant), on closely scrutinising, instantly recognised as an Irishman named Byrne, whom he had known for the last twenty years as travelling about the country exhibiting himself at different fairs, booths, and public-houses, in the character he had upon this occasion assumed. As soon as he recovered from his surprise, in order to undeceive the audience, he addressed the lecturer by his real name of Byrne, and inquired how long he had been in England; but the only reply the lecturer deigned to give consisted of some strange guttural sounds closely resembling the "gobbling" of a turkey, accompanied by a series of rapid gesticulations denoting a determination not to satisfy his curiosity. Feeling quite positive, however, as to the identity of the lecturer's person, he continued to press the question, and the lecturer at length, in very good English, said that he had been two years and seven months in this country; but being conscious of the falsehood of this statement, he felt it his duty to denounce him to the audience as an impostor, and to give a short detail of his past history and exploits. The previous confusion which had existed was greatly increased by this exposure, and the police having been sent for, he was forthwith dragged out of the edifice, and conveyed to the station-house. In reference also to the assertion of the reverend doctor that no money had been received from the auditors, he felt it right to state that that gentleman had himself put it to a show of hands whether twopence or threepence should be collected from each individual present, and the former proposition was carried by acclamation.—Mr. Bingham said that the question as to the character of the lecturer was not then before him; but even supposing him to be an impostor, he entertained great doubt if the defendant had pursued a strictly legal course in publicly announcing that fact to a crowded assemblage, the probable effect of which would be to produce a scene of discord and disturbance, which might end in serious consequences. He would give the defendant full credit for a conscientious desire to unmask what he believed to be an imposition, but he should have resorted to a safer course of procedure to accomplish his purpose, and as the complainant was apprehensive of further annoyance, he felt it necessary to require the defendant to enter into his own recognizance and find sureties for his peaceable behaviour for the next three months.—The required recognizances were immediately put in, and the defendant left the court with his friends.

MARYLEBONE.

MONDAY.—STABBING BY A SOLDIER.—William M'Carthy, a corporal in the Royal Marines, stationed at Deptford, and who was for some time a constable in the D division of police, was placed at the bar before Mr. Rawlinson, charged with having stabbed in the eye with his bayonet, a young man named John Muggridge. Prior to any evidence being gone into, Inspector Tedman handed to the magistrate a certificate from one of the surgeons at Middlesex Hospital, which set forth that the sufferer was, owing to a wound inflicted upon him, unable to attend. William Henright deposed: I live at No. 15, Grafton-court. Between nine and ten o'clock last night I was standing at the corner of Grotto-passage (close to this court), and two girls were there, one of whom was named Elizabeth Dibley. Prisoner was there, and he spoke to one of the girls, when Dibley said to her, "If you don't go away, and have nothing to say to him I'll tell your brother." Upon this the prisoner slapped Dibley's face, and she returned it. Muggridge, the wounded man, came up, and said to the girl, "What's the matter? come home with me, and if he follows us we'll chuck him out of the window." Prisoner said, "Will you?" and Muggridge then repeated the threat, the girl also saying, "So we will." The prisoner then put his hand to his side, and drawing forth his bayonet, made a thrust at Muggridge, whom he stabbed somewhere in the head. He then returned his bayonet to its sheath. Other witnesses were heard, and the prisoner was remanded till Monday next.

TUESDAY.—VIOLENT OUTRAGE BY A MILITARY OFFICER.—Lieutenant-Colonel Talbot, residing at No. 5, Douro-cottages, St. John's-wood, attended before Mr. Rawlinson to answer the charge of having violently assaulted a journeyman plasterer, named John Rainos. Complainant stated that on the evening of the 4th instant, after he had left his work, he was proceeding towards his home, accompanied by two other workmen, whom he had occasion to leave for a short period in the Park-road. They went on without him; and soon afterwards, as he was about to rejoin them in South-bank, he passed the defendant, who struck him violently with his umbrella, and knocked him down. He got up as soon as he was able, and was again attacked by him (defendant), who gave him a blow with his fist. Lieut.-Colonel Talbot, on being asked what he had to say, stated that on the evening alluded to several men passed him in a very disorderly manner, and amongst them was complainant, who after attempting to trip him up by the heels, ran off with the view of effecting his escape. He (defendant) pursued him, and on coming up with him complainant attempted to strike him. He then, in his own defence, gave him (complainant) a blow. The magistrate decided the case by ordering defendant to pay 40s., and an additional 2s., the cost of the warant. Complainant here stepped forward and said that in consequence of defendant's conduct towards him he had lost three day's work, and had also been obliged to go to a doctor. Mr. Rawlinson: I can't help it; the fine goes to the Queen, but I had rather that the defendant had made you some satisfaction. The penalty and costs were paid.

SOUTHWARK.

TUESDAY.—CHARGE OF VIOLATION.—Louis Horson, described as a French merchant, was charged with violating the person of Susannah Paine, a girl between fifteen and sixteen years of age. The complainant stated, that she went to live with the prisoner, who was a married man, in the capacity of nursery-maid, on the 13th ult., and that a week afterwards, during the temporary absence of his wife, he committed the alleged offence. The complainant described the particulars of the assault, which are unfit for publication. That it took place in the drawing-room, and that she called out as loud as she could, but no one heard her, owing to the position in which she was held during the perpetration of the offence. She admitted, however, that she did not communicate what had occurred to her to her mother until a week afterwards. The complainant was strictly examined by the magistrate as to the cause of her not divulging what had happened to her until a week afterwards, and her reply was that her father was a passionate man, and she was afraid on that account. The prisoner, in the most emphatic manner, declared that he was innocent of the offence and that the charge was trumped up by the girl and her mother in order to victimise him. After a lengthened examination, during which a medical certificate was produced, describing the injuries sustained by the complainant, the magistrate said that instead of sending the prisoner for trial on the capital charge, he should hold him to bail for the assault, with the intent, &c., and should call upon him to enter into his own recognizance of £100, and find two sureties of £50 each, to answer the charge at the ensuing session.—The prisoner not being prepared with the requisite bail was committed.

THAMES.

THE ALLEGED MURDER ON BOARD THE TORY.—On Monday a certificate was forwarded to Mr. Broderip, at the Thames police-court, but was not openly read, stating that George Johnstone, late master of the Tory, would not be able to attend the proposed examination of the day following, and the case has been adjourned for another week.

LAND CONFERENCE.

[*Continued from our first page.*]

the sum of £15, proposed to be given to each shareholder, should remain as a lien upon the property. Under these circumstances, he most cordially seconded the motion. Did not anticipate that the sum would be limited to £15.

Mr. M. W. Wheeler objected to the money advanced bearing interest, as, in that case, the occupants would have to pay interest and rent.

Mr. Leech: This branch of the subject is of vital importance to the stability of the society. He should propose, that the directors should retain the sum to be advanced to the shareholders in their hands, and lay it out for them. He was against all advances to the shareholders. This question had been discussed in Manchester for nearly two months, and unanimously adopted. It becomes the duty of the directors to look to the stability and security of the society. The profits arising to the shareholder from the employment of agricultural labourers is immense. The location of members totally unacquainted with agriculture would be disastrous to the society. It is a very dangerous precedent to deposit money in the hands of any person who may choose to take a share; for if every person that chose to pay his money could obtain £15 or £20, by paying £2 10s, the society would soon be inundated with the lowest class of persons, and every prig in Manchester would then have a share. He then moved—"That for the better security of the members of this association, to prevent, as far as possible, the chance of failure, and, at the same time, inspire that confidence amongst the shareholders so essential to the success of the Land Association, the directors be empowered to employ labour in cultivating the land and putting in the crop, during the time that the house, and other necessary offices, are being erecting; the purchase of seed, implements of husbandry, &c., and to pay for the same out of the £15 16s. 8d.; the surplus, if any, to be given to the shareholder on his taking possession of his allotment. The preference of employment to be given to such shareholder as may have a knowledge of agriculture, who may apply for the same."

Mr. O'Connor would rather pay £20 an acre for land that had not been broken up for twenty years, than £20 per acre for land that had been broken up for twenty years. Grass land is the best land. If the resolution was made inviting, instead of compulsory, he would support it.

Mr. Leach: There is nothing compulsory in the resolution; but if there was, it was no more so than the other resolutions of the society; as they are made as stringent as possible for the purpose of being obeyed. Those who are the most ignorant of agricultural pursuits are the most anxious to go upon the land.

Mr. O'Connor: When the land is bought, the cottage will be built before the occupation of the land by the members.

Mr. Clark: Upon the success of the first allotment mainly depends the success of the plan. The directors ought to have the power of deducting from the sale of the first crop the money that may be expended in the production.

Mr. G. W. Wheeler was surprised to hear Mr. Clark state that the sum mentioned in the rules could not be given to the shareholders. There had not been any assertion of the sort, for the directors would be able to give it.

Mr. O'Connor: The directors are bound to give the money, but not to give it to the disadvantage of the society. He never contemplated that the money would ever be returned. If any man had entered the society in the mere presumption that he was to have £15, and then not to contribute towards the location of his poorer brethren, he would be mistaken.

Mr. Vallance: The question is whether the £15 is to be given or lent. His opinion was that the amount ought to be given and not to be charged with interest. There was no better manure applicable to land than that furnished by a pair of arms with a spade at the end of them. He was an advocate for the money to be given, and not to be charged with interest.

Mr. Wheeler: There would be more trouble in keeping the accounts relative to the interest, besides the difficulty of collecting the amount, should the character of this society be lost by refusing to comply with the proposals contained in their present rules.

Mr. G. W. Wheeler: One of the grand inducements held out to persons to become members has been the fact of giving the shareholders the £15 16s. 8d. The cost of seed, in various instances, are not, as has been stated, £15; in one case a man who cultivated two and a-half acres was £1 7s., and in another £1 2s. 9d.

Mr. O'Connor was against placing the money in the hands of any of the parties, but in favour of charging them with interest, let it be ever so small.

Mr. Poole: The reason why he should support the motion before the house was, that every member would have a security that they would, one time or the other, be located.

Mr. Taylor: In the districts with which he was acquainted, they had, during the last winter, turned over with the spade two acres of land, and the sum paid for wages amounted to upwards of £12.

Mr. T. M. Wheeler: If the sum of £15 16s. 8d. were to be a loan, bearing interest, the society ought not to charge more than £4 a-year for the rent of the cottage. The loan fund proposed to be established was for the purpose of making up the deficiency between the sum advanced on mortgage and the sum that would be obtained for the estate in the retail market. When you charge him with interest on the £15 16s. 8d. advanced, in the shape of rent, you propose now to charge him an additional interest for his advance of money.

Mr. M'Grath: There can be no mistake that the great responsibility rests upon the shoulders of Mr. O'Connor; for while the directors might escape, should there be a failure of the society, its failure would crush him. The value of the interest is not worth the expense of collection. In all cases of mortgage the value of the thing sought to be mortgaged was taken into consideration. He had no doubt that the society could get the money.

Mr. Saunders moved a further amendment, but the hour of adjournment having arrived, the discussion was adjourned till the next morning.

The conference adjourned.

THURSDAY SITTINGS.

Mr. Sherrington in the chair.

The Roll having been called, several members were declared to be absent. The minutes of the proceedings of Wednesday read, was moved by Mr. Doyle and seconded by Mr. Yates, that they be confirmed, which was carried unanimously.

Mr. Cuffay moved that the standing orders be resumed.

Mr. Knight seconded the motion. On a division there appeared for the motion five against five. The chairman decided in favour of the motion.

The following resolutions were proposed just at the close of the proceedings of yesterday, the discussion upon which was adjourned till the morning:—

It was moved by Mr. O'Connor, "That each shareholder, upon being appointed to his allotment, shall be liable to 2½ per cent. interest upon all moneys advanced by the directors, and that the payment of such interest shall continue until the last draft of the first section of shareholders shall be located, and then, and not till then, the payment of such interest to cease, and the occupant be discharged from payment of further interest.

Mr. Poole seconded the resolution: This resolution was ultimately withdrawn.

Mr Saunders moved, and Mr Taylor seconded:—"That, as the allotments are made, and cottages are built thereon, the trustees and board of directors shall, fix the amount of rent to be paid by the occupiers, such holders shall receive a loan from this society (say £15 16s. 8d. for one share, £31 13s. 4d. for two shares) which shall be repaid to the trustees for the use of this society, and such occupier to pay £3 per cent. per annum, until such loan be repaid, and the trustees shall withhold all title deeds, or have some other security for such loan until it is repaid, but such occupier shall be allowed to repay it to the trustees by instalments, and his interest to be reduced accordingly."

Mr. Doyle: The very idea of interest is so repugnant to the feelings of the great body of shareholders, that he should be afraid to attend a public meeting after the conference, and decided in favour of charging interest—it would be much better to make a direct charge.

Mr. O'Connor supported the motion of Mr. Leach.

Mr. Cuffay: It was his wish to have the society conducted so as to get the members located as soon as posssble. If the conference laid down good rules, what temptations it would hold out to persons to join, and concluded by moving the following resolution:—"That each shareholder shall receive two acres of land, a cottage, and £15 16s. 8d., for which the minimum rent shall be £5 10s. per year, until each shareholder of the division to which he belongs shall be located; when that is the case his rent shall be reduced to £5 per annum.

Mr. Knight seconded the resolution. The shareholders have been induced to become members from the fact of the bonus offered by the directors. The proposition of Mr. Leach, no doubt, will be received throughout the whole country, but still he considered that it was better to charge on extra rent instead of interest.

Mr. O'Connor: Every person has argued the question as though it was a loan that was to be paid back—it is no such thing—it never was expected that it would be paid back. We are not doing an injury to any person. The Society proposes to lay down a sum at which they can start and carry out their purpose *without* any danger. He would rather give £15 an acre for good land than five shillings an acre with a cottage for poor land. Good land requires less labour. The poorer the ground the more seed is required to cultivate it. A great many of the shareholders will not require advance.

Mr. Vallance: Mr. Leache's motion was endeavouring to throw a covering over the words, loan or gift. Yet Mr. Leach's resolution states, that all shareholders should be subject to the interest of the advance, whereas it has been argued, that there are many persons who would not require it. Mr. Saunder's resolution, however, does state the amount of the loan and the rate of interest to be charged. Any person who may have received any loan from the society should be compelled to pay it back at the last location—supposing a man had received £20, and on the settlement of the affairs of the society there appeared only £10 due to him, he should then be considered as a debtor to the society, and compellable to pay the difference to enable the directors to keep faith with the other shareholders.

Mr. O'Connor moved, and Mr. Dixon seconded that the standing orders be suspended. Carried unanimously.

Mr. Dixon: There is already an interest charged for the £15 16s. 8d. in the shape of rent. Now if a person does not take the money, would he be charged with interest.

Mr. Taylor: The proposed sum is not the property of the society. If the plan or bonus be adopted you have no claim upon the party borrowing the money.

Mr. Leach: The amount is not a loan, but a gift, as you hold out these inducements to persons to become members—two acres of land—a cottage—and £15 in money. Those parties who do not require an advance will not be injured—while those who do require it will be very much benefited.

Mr. G. W. Wheeler stated that it was necessary that the directors should have some security for the money advanced. His resolution proposed that the money should not be advanced at once, but spread over a distance of time.

The resolution, however, fell to the ground for want of a seconder.

Mr. M'Grath: Whenever you depart from a principle you get into error. In this case the advance must be regarded as a right, the individual has as much right to receive the money as he has to receive the land and cottage. Decidedly in favour of fixing a definite sum. It appears that some of the members of the conference seem to think that you would not get the parties to accept £15 instead of £15 16s. 8d.

Mr. Clark: There is already an interest charged in the rent. There is no doubt, that it is an admitted right that the parties should receive the amount promised. The feelings of the members decidedly would be in favour of paying any extra sum, provided they were guaranteed that they should be repaid at the time when all the parties were located.

Mr. Smith: There can be no right—as the members cannot have a right till all the members are located—the advance must, therefore, be considered as a loan—as there cannot be a right till there is a surplus, the shareholders can only have a right in the surplus.

Mr. O'Connor, in answer to a question from Mr. Taylor as to whether the directors had any claim after accepting the bonus of 5s. or 10s. over the £15, stated that he did not take one step without consulting counsel. He was not going to be a party to any resolution that would cut the throat of the society. The rules must not be repugnant to law, neither must they be repugnant to equity. He was providing against any contingencies, and considered that the minimum proposed was the least security that would be proposed. There can be no doubt of the success of the plan, and instead of the money to be divided at the termination of the society, amongst the members is more likely to be over than under £50.

Mr. Hobson asked permission to withdraw his motion in favour of that proposed by Mr. Saunders, which was granted.

On a division there appeared—

For Mr. Cuffay	1
" Mr. Leach	14
" Mr. Saunders	4

Mr. Leach moved the resumption of the consideration of the proposition, made to the conference yesterday, of allowing the directors to employ agricultural labourers for the purpose of preparing the ground.

Mr. O'Connor: This is not only a proper, but a useful proposition. The man takes possession of his cottage as soon as completed—this will enable the directors either to sell or morgage the land, &c., to great advantage. If this proposition is not adopted, you will have no labour upon the land until the cottage is built. He had no objection to become steward.

Mr. Knight said, had not this motion been brought forward, he should have been compelled to employ a person to cultivate his land when he obtained it, and he was perfectly well aware that his voting for it would satisfy his constituents, who were generally mechanics of various trades.

The motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. Leach moved and Mr. Doyle seconded, the following resolution, which was carried, "That each shareholder, after being located upon his allotment, shall pay to the society the sum of 5s. per share as a bonus for the benefit such member has received from the society each year, until the whole of the members of the section to which such member belongs shall have been located upon the land, whence all further demands upon such member shall cease, and then all profits and benefits arising from the property of the society to be equitably divided amongst all the shareholders of the society as soon as the directors and trustees shall be able to dispose of the same to the best advantage.

Mr. O'Connor was decidedly against any person holding more than four acres. The conference must decide as to the manner in which the person holding two shares shall be located.

Mr. Dixon was instructed to advocate the principle of no person holding more than two acres, and concluded by moving the following resolution:—"That the rule as to shares be as they are now, namely, two acres; at the same time any person may be allowed to hold as many shares as they think proper; but, in no case, to have more than two shares, or four acres, in one allotment."

Mr. Clark: There can be no difficulty in settling this question. There is no provision in the present rules as to the way in which those parties holding two shares are to be balloted for their prize.

Mr. Hobson: The best plan to be adopted is that when the land is purchased, the number of shareholders, distinguishing the double shareholders from those holding one, and then divide the land into so many farms as to provide for those holding four acres and those holding two. If you allow a person to hold more than he can occupy you introduce the subletting system.

Mr. Cuffay would oppose any motion enabling any shareholders from holding more than four acres.

Mr. Knight: The plan was instituted for the erecting of an independant class of farmers. The shareholders of Lambeth, are decidedly in favour of not allowing any shareholder to hold more than four shares. The proposition opens a wide field for creating an aristocracy of farmers, and enables persons to take shares for the express purpose of getting the control of the society.

Mr. Sherrington: It never was contemplated by the Scotch members, that any person should hold more than four acres. The rent is not fixed to any individual to whom the farms may be subject, though the rent is fixed as between the society and the original shareholder.

Mr. O'Connor: The object of a man holding more than two acres is, that he looks to the land to secure his rate of interest as the best security for the advance of capital. There is no difficulty in preventing a member from sub-letting. There are always clauses introduced into leases providing for the forfeiture of the lease, if certain conditions not performed or violated. It is to be hoped that very stringent clauses will be introduced into the leases.

Mr. Taylor asked whether a provision could be made in the leases to prevent persons from holding more than four acres from subletting.

Mr. Hobson: What advantage can be derived from keeping open the question of how many shares a member may hold. It should be confined to the case where a man may require either one share or two shares. You cannot prevent premiums being given, notwithstanding all the stringent clauses that may be introduced; and, allowing shareholders to hold more than four acres, would introduce the principle of sub-letting.

Mr. O'Connor: With regard to premiums Mr. Hobson seems to forget that there is such a power as coercive law. If a man takes a premium he has violated the lease, and it becomes forfeited. Many persons with money would, no doubt, come into the society, and make loans merely on the idea of guaranteeing the interest upon their money. He would rather see the question confined to the fact, that no person should be allowed to hold more than two shares. You will recollect that you are not to legislate for lawyers, but for parties who have a great aversion to law and lawyers.

Mr. Clark stated he had received instruction from Bath of parties being willing to advance certain sums of money by way of loan—had no fear of capitalists coming into the society and breaking it up—but at the same time they ought to have the privilege of receiving interest for the capital advanced.

Mr. Wheeler: You cannot guard against a man holding as many shares as he pleases.

Adjourned.

AFTERNOON SITTING.

Mr. Dixon, in resuming the debate, said that he understood the present object of this society was to break down the system of large farms. There are a great many persons who would willingly give £10 a year for two acres of ground and a cottage. He concluded by reading his resolution as altered: "That the rule as to allotments should be as follows—namely, two acres, three acres, and four acres; at the same time, any person may be allowed to hold as many shares as they think proper, but in no case to occupy more than four acres."

Mr. Vallance: Is the question of the size and the number of shares to be considered together? In favour of dividing the shares into two, three, and four acres, the price of a two-acre share to be £2 10s., a three-acre share to be £3 15s., and the price of a four-acre share to be £5, but in no case shall the size of the allotments be for more than four acres. Great numbers of persons who are shareholders wish the first allotment to be strictly confined to two acres. The respective classes to be balloted for at separate times. He most cordially seconded the resolution.

Mr. Poole supported the motion.

Mr. Wheeler: We are all determined that no shareholder shall occupy more than four acres, but will you confine a shareholder to the number of shares that he shall hold? Would you object to any man subscribing for as many shares, and disposing of them either by gift or otherwise, as he may think proper.

Mr. Canning, Mr. Gilbertson, and Mr. Saunders supported the resolution.

Mr. Shaw: Mr. Cuffay's and Mr. Dixon's motions are two separate and distinct questions. His instructions would justify him in voting for Mr. Cuffay's amendment, while on the other hand Mr. Dixon says that a shareholder may purchase as many shares as he pleases, but not allowed to occupy more than four acres. Every man has a right to just as much land as he can cultivate. He should support the motion of Mr. Cuffay.

Mr. Dixon would withdraw his motion by permission of the conference, which was agreed to. Mr. Cuffay's motion was then carried unanimously.

Mr. Clark: The next question that will come under consideration is the question of the ballot. He would, therefore, submit a resolution for the conference, but should any other person propose a more eligible plan, he should consider himself at liberty to withdraw his own proposition, and support that which he considered more applicable to the case.

Mr. O'Connor: The value of land in Lancashire is not so dear as might have been supposed, as parties prefer letting land lie waste, because the proprietors can make more interest of their money from labour. Near Cheshire there is a quantity of land to be sold which would cost about £20 an acre. You can't go into the market and say that you will buy a certain quantity of land of tabular value—you can't buy land of the same complexion. I contend that you must buy your land before you ballot for occupants.

Mr. T. M. Wheeler detailed his view of the manner in which the ballot for occupation was to be made, and Mr. Clark agreed to withdraw his resolution, and second that of Mr. Wheeler. Mr. Wheeler then moved, "That the members resident in shall elect ten persons, not being paid-up shareholders, in conjunction with the directors, to superintend the allotment in the following manner:—The committee shall examine the secretary's book, and place in a vessel the name of each person who has paid up his share, or shares. They shall then place in a similar vessel a determined number of prizes, each prize representing one acre, with blanks to make them equal to the number of paid-up members. Two disinterested parties shall then draw the names, and the prizes and blanks shall be apportioned as follows:—The holder of one share, if he draw a prize, shall have two acres; if one share and a half, three acres; if two shares, four acres; until the whole of the number of prizes or acres are drawn.

Mr. Hobson: The arrangement proposed by Mr. Wheeler will clog the exertions of the society. Equality of benefit ought to be the object of the society. In some instances you would have to give one man more, and another less, than his quantity of land. The allotments, when made, should be numbered. He then moved the following resolution:—"That when a purchase is made, the directors shall divide the same into allotments of, say two, three, and four acres, in proportion to the number of each class then entitled to occupy; and the ballot for such respective allotments shall be taken separately among the respective classes.

Mr. Vallance seconded the resolution.

Mr. Doyle: Unless you classify the different classes of shareholders you will cause great dissatisfaction amongst the great majority of the members. By classification you get rid of all angry feelings.

Mr. Clark would withdraw, if permitted, his support of Mr. Wheeler's motion, and support that of Mr. Hobson.

Mr. Wheeler did not wish to press his motion to a division, but merely that it should stand as his opinion upon the subject of the ballot.

The motion of Mr. Hobson and Vallance was then carried unanimously.

Mr. Clark: The next business to come before the conference is that of the transfer of shares. Without going into detail, he would move the following resolution,—"That in the event of members residing in districts Nos. 2, 3, 4, or 5, and winning a prize in the ballot for the location in district No. 1, and not wishing to take possession of such allotment, they shall have the privilege of giving up such allotment to be balloted for amongst the members in the district where the location may be situated, and who have paid up their shares, and who were unsuccessful in the first ballot."

Mr. Poole seconded the motion.

The Chairman: The difficulty is very near at hand, and only coming nearer to the principle advocated by Mr. Hobson. There may be a good many of the English people who would not go to Scotland; and if the ballot was to be then open for the whole shareholders you might go on *ad libitum* before you obtained parties who would locate in the Scottish districts.

Mr. T. W. Wheeler was most decidedly against the proposition of Mr. Clark. He then entered into a detail of his plan for the transfer of shares. The plan was most unjust, and attended with the most mischievous consequences to the shareholders.

Mr. Clark explained that when a party who had drawn a lot prize and should not like to locate in the district where the land was purchased, that then the prize should be balloted for among the other shareholders in the district.

Mr. O'Connor: The object should have been to divide the country into as many districts as there was a possibility, instead of limiting the division, which had been done by the resolution already come to. The object of the society was to realise as many practical results of the plan as possible. Mr. Clark, in giving explanation, had mis-stated what he was to explain. By not divulging the place where the locations are to be, you give an impetus to the shareholders in paying up their shares, which, if it was known where the location was to be made, the shareholders in that district would lose no time in paying up their shares.

Mr. Vallance would lay before the conference his ideas upon the subject. He submitted a motion, but it was subsequently withdrawn.

The Chairman supported the resolution of Mr. Vallance.

Mr. Shaw would support the motion of Mr. Vallance. The fact is, that if the land is purchased in Manchester, and a shareholder lives in Leeds, he ought to have the opportunity of relinquishing his prize by giving notice to the secretary that he does not require to be located at present; and that then he should be balloted for again, when the land might be purchased near this own home.

Mr. O'Connor strongly supported the views of Mr. Wheeler, as the only plan that was likely to give satisfaction to the members, namely, to go on through the list till you met with persons who would go on the land purchased.

The Chairman said, Mr. Clark's system was a bungling proposition. The plan of Mr. Vallance was the most just. Under either of the propositions you will find, that you might have forty ballots before you obtained the requisite number of shareholders.

Mr. Hobson: What was the main reason which caused the proposition made by him to be rejected? why, that you ought to give the chance to all the shareholders to come in in the first allotment. If there should be two ballots, justice says, that the second ballot should take place between those who participated in the first. But what Mr. Clark proposes now, is to give the man a chance of refusing—a chance of giving his lot to another person who did not draw a prize. Why should that be allowed? The most judicious plan would be, to ballot from the whole of the shareholders. Mr. Vallance's resolution does recognise the principle of equality.

Mr. Leach could see so much of simplicity in the views of Mr. Wheeler, that he cannot understand what objection there could be to it. Mr. Clark's plan allows a man who refuses to go at one ballot to take precedence in a second ballot.

Mr. O'Connor moved, that when a ballot takes place for occupation, that all the paid up members shall be elegible to ballot and that the whole number shall be drawn, and according to priority shall be located, and in case of any member who has been elected shall object to occupy that, then the list shall proceed, those standing next in rotation having the next preference and so on till the members be filled up.

Mr. T. M. Wheeler seconded the resolution.

Mr. Smith objected to Mr. O'Connor's motion inasmuch as it was liable to the objection against priority being allowed.

Mr. Smith moved, and Mr. Clark seconded the motion for laying the accounts of the society before the conference on Friday morning.

Adjourned.

DEATH.

On the 4th inst., Mrs. Ann Tristram, wife of William Tristram, watchmaker, of Hanley Potteries, aged 65 years, much respected by her relatives and friends; a truly honest and patriotic woman.

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