

London Sat. Morn. 7 Wellington St. Strand.

The Leader.

"The one Idea which History exhibits as evermore developing itself into greater distinctness is the Idea of Humanity—the noble endeavour to throw down all the barriers erected between men by prejudice and one-sided views; and by setting aside the distinctions of Religion, Country, and Colour, to treat the whole Human race as one brotherhood, having one great object—the free development of our spiritual nature."—*Humboldt's Cosmos.*

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1853.

[PRICE SIXPENCE.]

News of the Week.

THE position of our Government has materially altered, not only by the retirement of Lord Palmerston, but also by the manifest change of affairs in the East. The public ought not to be surprised if the events of the week are followed by events of a still more striking character.

In the Black Sea, Russia begins to boast her victories; and although exaggerated, they are not to be denied. A fleet, under General Nachimoff, succeeded in overtaking, near Sinope, a Turkish squadron of transport ships, with armed vessels, and in destroying the larger number. Indeed, from the result, the object seems to have been less victory than destruction. We have as yet only Russian accounts; but from the mauled condition of the Russian ships, it is evident that the Turks fought vigorously; and we may have trustworthy reports, as several French and English officers were on board the squadron—unless they were among the thousands whom the Russians boast of having killed. The reports of three Russian victories in Asia are not so well ascertained; but here the declaration of Persia against Turkey is an undeniable gain to Russia, though, luckily, Persia is not at present capable of doing much beyond her own frontiers.

On the whole, however, Russia is recovering ground both in the Black Sea and in Asia. It is evident that Turkey has been forced to enter upon the contest with tactics not her own, and has been obliged to sustain her conflict with Russia according to etiquette, not suited to her own resources and genius, but dictated by European interests. It is incumbent on her allies, therefore, who have restrained her, to give her a more active support; and, although "the fleets" had not been at once ordered into the Black Sea, we fully expect to hear that these Russian victories are followed up by a new course of action on the part of France and England. It is useless to trifle with Russia any longer; that truth must by this time be recognised at head-quarters; and if France and England do at last really move, woe betide Russia and her allies.

We do not the less count upon the probability that our Ministers will more energetically come up to their duty because Lord Palmerston has left them; nor are we quite sure that his retirement may not be for them a release in Eastern affairs.

The *Times* assures us that his retirement has no connexion with the affairs of the East, adding—

"Nor is it true that differences of opinion on that subject have manifested themselves with such force as to lead to the retirement of any member of the Administration."

Now, it is to be observed that the peculiarly studied terms of this contradiction imply that there has been some division in the Cabinet, just short of causing the retirement of some member of it. Who was that member? Was it Lord Palmerston? And on which side was he? It is not less remarkable that his retirement should be simultaneous with a belief among the friends of Ministers, very faintly shadowed in the assurance of the *Times*, that there will be no change or "abatement" of their course in the East—the belief that they are about to adopt a much more energetic course.

Russia has determined to set herself against Western Europe: the result is in the hands of God; but we cannot help regarding that nation as insane which commits itself to such a course as renders its continued existence incompatible with the policy and honour of France and England. Austria insidiously, but really, takes sides with Russia; and Europe, it seems, is not to be quiet unless the empire of the two-beaked eagle be also broken up. It might be better distributed, for the welfare of its own inhabitants, of Europe, and of mankind.

The avowed reason of Lord Palmerston's retirement is his total opposition to any such plan of Parliamentary Reform as would satisfy the public! He was always opposed to reform; but we did not expect that the convert to Liberalism and to Free Trade would thus retract at the seventieth hour.

Still less, as one of his last acts in office was to announce an important reform. The heads of houses at Oxford received a letter from the Home Secretary on Tuesday, forwarded by the Chancellor (Lord Derby), reminding them of Lord John's propositions, and begging to know what the University had to say; an intimation that if the University were silent, Ministers would legislate. And so it appears: University reform is to be a prominent topic of the Queen's speech.

In reform matters at home Ministers have decidedly shown themselves in advance, not only of retrograde communities, like the governing body at Oxford, but even of the public reformers, so called *par excellence*. At Manchester, for example, has been held a meeting of delegates from Poor Law guardians in Lancashire and Yorkshire,

for the purpose of procuring amendments of the law. Instead, however, of directing their hostilities against the abuses, the delegates seem to have been animated chiefly by the spirit which was rampant in the Anti-Poor Law agitation of King Oastler; and while they attacked the Board of Commissioners, aiming at its total abolition, they specifically object to the orders of 1852, as interfering with the discretion of guardians. In short, jealousy of authority is the guiding motive. Now this movement is objectionable, for two grounds that will cause its defeat, and ought to defeat it. However open to criticism on points of detail, the orders of August, which were mainly distinguished by directing better observance to the law, and particularly in giving relief for able-bodied labourers in the form of work, constituted a decided improvement to the system; and, instead of abolishing these orders, reformers should rather try to carry out their spirit in the administration of the Poor Law. On the other hand, there is not the slightest probability that the Commission will be discontinued. There are abuses, not only recognised, but maturely considered and condemned—such, for instance, as the law of settlement, which only awaits a "pressure from without" to be swept away; if, indeed, Ministers do not take it into their own hands next session. This was a service in which the meeting of delegates might have helped. By devoting themselves to the Anti-Poor Law agitation of '38, they have shelved their movement, and rendered their organisation of comparatively little account.

Ministers do not appear as agitators, but as executors, completing several improvements which the public has long discussed. Lord Palmerston, for example, issues regulations for burials, in order to secure in detail as well as in the general spirit, the observance of those natural laws which he has recommended to the Presbytery of Edinburgh as more efficacious than helpless prayer. The Secretary of the Admiralty has issued new instructions to the commanders of vessels on the subject of minor punishment, with much advice as to the treatment of men in general. The character of the regulations in regard to minor penalties is, to render punishment prompt, specific, and applicable to the offence, without the delay of protracted severity which converted some old punishments into sources of dissension amongst the men. The general advice is excellent, especially in inculcating upon



temper and self-possession, with the avoidance of that abusive language which set to the crew an example of Billingsgate from the quarter-deck. And not the least important of the official improvements is, that example of agricultural statistics which the Board of Trade has just issued.

This particular example has been long brewing. The statistics were collected in the counties of Haddington, Roxburgh, and Sutherland by the Royal Agricultural Society of Scotland some time since. Statistics are in process of collection in the English county of Hampshire, where Lord Ashburton and Mr. Pusey have been giving those who have been called upon to furnish the information such excellent advice. There are two great obstacles to the collection of the information—indifference of the farmers to the object, and the fear that their personal affairs may be exposed to their neighbours and competitors. Lord Ashburton endeavoured to persuade them that the latter fear would not be realised, and this example of statistics from Scotland will corroborate what he said. The totals of the calculated produce of wheat, peas, or potatoes, for an entire county, derived from the details of individual returns, expose nothing that the farmer need fear to have known, though they will guide him and his fellows in regulating his preparations so as to avoid the production of commodities in which he may be anticipated, or to supply deficiencies in their plans, to his own profit. These statistics have been long in collection, because the business is new; but when the public collectors are properly instructed, when farmers perceive the convenience of the arrangement, and when the arrangement itself has been improved by the light of experience, the process will take comparatively little time, and the returns can be presented at the close of each season, so as to guide the operations of the farmer in the next.

The news from our colonies to the South and East ought to be extremely satisfactory to the public generally, but especially to the working-classes. The accounts from Australia announce increased produce of gold, general prosperity of business, and such a condition of all the three principal colonies as bespeaks large exports, particularly of gold, large imports from this country, and increased demand for labour. There had been great outcries about the probable "glut" of goods—outcries repeated not only in London, but in Melbourne and Sydney: the consuming power of the colonists, however, had proved to be so great, that the supposed glut melted away like snow in summer, and for the main articles of consumption the demand continues steady. The gold diggings were turning up new riches, but particularly the earliest in Victoria, that of Ballarat: here, by penetrating deep into the ground, to the depth even of a hundred or a hundred and forty feet, the diggers came upon streams of gold—meandering veins six or eight feet in breadth, and worth, it is reckoned, 800*l.* a running foot. As the gold is near the surface, and also at so great a depth, and as it lies scattered over so great an extent, it is to be supposed both that the intermediate depth will be found richly strewn with the mineral, and also that the primary sources must be exhaustless; since it must have been flowing down through the soil of Australia for ages upon ages. People have talked of the exhaustion of the gold mines, forgetting that our less productive tin mines have been worked from the beginning of history, and are still productive, even in the washings.

While thus prosperous in natural produce and business, the colonies were also doing well politically. In New South Wales the Legislative Council, deferring to public opinion, had delayed its Constitution Bill for three months, in order that the provision of a Nominee Council, with an hereditary constituency, might be deliberately considered. In South Australia, where the debates

had proceeded not more hastily, but much more smoothly, the Council had arranged for two Chambers, the upper one to be nominated by the Crown, with seats for life; but with a provision that, after nine months' experience, the Lower Chamber should have the power of converting the Upper Chamber into an elective body. The demand for labour continued to be very great.

Notwithstanding the probability that the Caffres will renew their depredations and border warfare, the intelligence from the Cape is also satisfactory in its marked political progress. The last meeting of the Legislative Council under the old system had been held. Lieutenant-Governor Darling justly complimented that body on its death-bed for having, upon the whole, exerted itself for the public interests. His speech, acknowledging that the old constitution was no longer suited to the wants of the day, might be studied with advantage by many persons at home who talk about preserving old institutions, as if it were impossible to adopt new improvements. No Ministry has shown more than the present how easy it is to be thoroughgoing in reform; but it has shown that capacity always in places where it acted under one peculiar condition. The present Ministry has been thoroughgoing in reform where the general body of the people were prepared to *extort* thoroughgoing reform.

The Spanish Government is, for the hundredth time, reported to be contemplating a *coup d'état*. The occasion is offered by the resistance of the Senate to the Government in pushing its railway schemes: the Government dissolves the Cortes, and threatens the *coup*. What does it matter? The Government of Spain is but one continued *coup d'état*.

Like that of Rome—still coercing its subjects, and occasionally extending its iron favours to foreigners. Mr. Desain, a native of Gibraltar, is the new victim—imprisoned seventeen days without warrant, and then reluctantly handed over to the British consular agent, who is negotiating for redress on account of this "Papal aggression."

Naples also again thrusts herself upon notice for her criminal treatment of her own subjects, and her defiance of international relations. The distinguished prisoner Poerio, ex-Minister of the King, has again been subjected to a petty restriction upon his personal comforts, his leave to spend his *own* money being hardly limited to fourpence a day. The Government having but lately succeeded in mollifying that of France, for an insult upon a French officer, is now trying its hand at offending England and America. Mr. Baggio, a British Ionian, who has long conducted business in Naples, is arbitrarily excluded, on the plea that he has political relations with refugees. Mr. Carbone, an American citizen, is equally excluded from Sicily, notwithstanding the offer of the American Consul to be answerable for his conduct. Quarantine hardships of a very disgusting character are also inflicted upon travellers. Naples appears to be determined to try how far our Foreign Office can be made to bear insults. Hitherto, unquestionably, the experiment has been very satisfactory to Naples.

The internal Government of the kingdom, however, is in the most shocking state. Travellers contrast it with the state of Piedmont, where the effects of constitutional liberty already appear in the demeanour of the people. There is an air of freedom in the city, in the countenance and actions of the inhabitants, which shows that they are suffered to think and speak. Order and contentment are everywhere apparent; and the political movement now going on in the elections shows how the public at large appreciates the confidence of the Government, since, while the retrogrades have but few successes, even the Liberals remain in a minority, and the Government is acquiring an overwhelming majority. In Naples, on the other hand, a moral silence is every-

where enforced by the tyranny of an all-pervading police, and the gaol expenses must be enormous. Naples has been cultivating an army, to be given to Rome; and it costs money to grow soldiers. Naples suffers also somewhat from the dearth which has visited a considerable part of Europe; and her finances are rotten to the core. The population, gloomy and discontented, exhibits the worst signs of bad government. The Lazzaroni are reduced to such excessive poverty as to have occasioned a new and peculiar treatment. Haggard and emaciated, unable to procure sufficient clothing, reckless of decencies even beyond the type of "Ould Ireland," they are not fit spectacles for the civilised part of Naples, and *their quarter has been walled up to hide them*. Indian tradition tells us how Alexander, unable quite to reduce the terrible and mystic tribe of Gog and Magog, drove them into the mountain and walled them up with a wall of brass. The Lazzaroni of Naples are the Gog and Magog of King Bomba.

Once more a true Christmas is ushered in with snow and frost—such a Christmas as, in these days of reform and oblivion of the past, is almost numbered among our old institutions. But if the cold is sharp without, the blaze is all the brighter, and the hearth more cheerful, which forms the centre of many a happy group in every town and hamlet of Old England. Still, there is another side of the picture. The pinching frost is hard to bear for the poor, who are clothed in rags; and even working mechanics, with large families around them, can tell us that provisions are dear, and that, even at "merry" Christmas, the battle of life is fierce. Let wealthy England look to this. Perhaps a few shillings spent in charity may not mar the comfort of the happiest fireside. Some thousands of Englishmen in Lancashire and in other districts of the North, will find it difficult to echo the cry of "merry Christmas" in the December of 1853.

LETTERS FROM PARIS.

LETTER CIII.

Paris, Thursday Evening, Dec. 15, 1853.

THE *dénouement* of this sorry drama, which history will call The Second of December, seems to be nearer than might be supposed. At least, it is generally felt to be so here. Every day, every hour, intensifies and precipitates the crisis. Every one is in expectation of great events. [Meanwhile, commerce, and labour, and industry are in suspense. The empire is like a dying man. The heart still beats; but the extremities are already frozen with the dews of death. The pulse is fluttering; the minutes are counted. To describe to you the state of suffering in which France is now, would be impossible. No work here, and no bread there, is, after all, only one aspect—the physical aspect of our present position. The moral aspect is far worse. The dearthness of provisions and the stoppage of work have envenomed the common hatred. Passions are let loose; private revenge is busy in the provinces. Torch in hand, it lights incendiary flames from village to village, from mill to mill. Wherever corn is left in the mill while the poor people around are starving, that mill is burnt. Only in the large towns are the stores of corn in safety. Twenty-seven departments the chief corn-producers have been ravaged with fires this last fortnight. In the towns the popular indignation has another source, and takes another shape. Manufactories and workshops are closing one after the other. The masters, deprived of their usual markets, are lowering from day to day the wages of their workmen when they do not discharge them altogether. The furnished workmen yield without resistance, but they mutter terrible threats, and hoard up a savage retaliation. The tactics of the Legitimists are already, you see, producing their effect. It is the Parisian shopkeepers who feel it most. For the last three weeks purchasers have ceased to appear. The tradesman wanders about his shop solitary and moody, his eye fixed on the door which no customers approach. He is reckoning the fugitive hours that must elapse before the day on which bills fall due which he has no resources to meet. His house-rent is raised, the price of everything, excepting bread only, is doubled, and his profits are null. Ruin stares him in the

face. In a fortnight he would be ready to call for a revolution; in a month he would load his gun and hand it to a barricade. In the midst of such a situation, you may imagine the Bonapartists, Persigny and the others. They feel the ground shaking beneath their feet, as if every moment it would open and devour them. They are struck with a vertigo; they assemble, discuss, adjourn, and conclude nothing. Persigny, the great man of Bonapartism, tortures his brains in vain: he has not an idea left, unless it be to continue the magnificent *régime* of authority which has produced such admirable results. He prosecutes, arrests, searches, warns the journals. The *Siècle* has been warned this week. The *Indépendance Belge* stated that M. Hubbard, one of the advocates in the trial of the Opéra Comique conspiracy, had been arrested, for having undertaken the defence of one of the accused. The *Siècle* simply copied this statement. For so doing it received a warning. M. Persigny had the condescension to inform the *Siècle* that M. Hubbard was not arrested for having defended a prisoner, but for having been a party to a secret society. That can't be the truth; but never mind. Under the *régime* of authority, authority must always be in the right till it is enough in the wrong to get kicked out. So be it.

M. Thiers alone refuses to hear of the Fusion. He is the champion of the Duchess of Orleans. He wants the Comte de Paris for King, that he may be the Minister of Louis Philippe II. and not of Henry V. He hopes that in the *coup d'état* which is to upset Bonaparte, there may be a revulsion of feeling which will reinstate the Orleans family on the throne. In other words, he wants to make the Legitimists draw the chesnuts out of the fire for the Orleanists to crack. This is the direction in which M. Thiers is working. M. de Montalembert went to him the other day to win him over to the Fusion, but found him inflexible. M. de Montalembert cited the names of conspicuous adherents; among others, MM. Villemain and Cousin. "I know that," replied M. Thiers, "but M. Cousin, you see, is quite a *cousin*—I am only a third party." (*Je ne suis qu'un tiers.*)

The affair at Sinope has strangely complicated the political situation in the East. Bonaparte is sadly embarrassed. This disaster, occurring almost within gun-shot of the two fleets of England and France, makes their attitude a sorry one indeed. Are the fleets to be sent at last into the Black Sea to escort the Turkish convoys? Are the fleets to remain at anchor while the Russians are destroying the Turkish ships and arsenals? Such were the questions to resolve. The Council of Ministers assembled. Persigny proposed to send the two fleets to Sebastopol by way of reprisals, and set to work at once and conclusively. Fould protested; he exposed the state of affairs at home, the fall at the Bourse, and the general panic. The Council broke up without deciding anything. But the Council had no sooner dispersed than Bonaparte himself despatched an extraordinary courier, bearer of positive and precise instructions to General Baraguay d'Hilliers at Constantinople. The courier was ordered to hasten night and day to his destination. A thousand suppositions are afloat on this sudden act. There can be but one explanation.

The Governments of France and England have hesitated too long to engage to rush into impulse. So the orders of Bonaparte would seem to be to prevent the French fleet entering the Black Sea. Hence the haste of this pressing despatch. There is no hurry for the fleet to enter the Euxine: a week or a fortnight is all the same. Besides, the French fleet cannot move alone: the British fleet must have its orders too. But there is all the hurry in the world to prevent an act of hostility which might light up a general conflagration. Such are the orders despatched by this extraordinary courier, who travels night and day to Constantinople. According to my own interpretation, let me add, I am perhaps the only man in Paris to believe in the possibility of such a cowardly policy.

Everybody exclaims, "What a disgrace to the two Governments!" Meanwhile the fall at the Bourse continues. The panic-struck jobbers are going in for a general war. If you believe the Bourse, the two fleets have already proceeded into the Black Sea; have encountered and annihilated the Russian squadron! What there is of truth in the report is simply, that two steam-frigates have been detached from each of the allied fleets, to reconnoitre Sinope. This move is enlarged, by the inventiveness of the "Bears," into a new edition of Navarino. No news from Turkey since the naval engagement, except that the Wallachian regiments are deserting, and rising against the Russians. As to the Conference, and the new Note of the Four Powers, the accord is no longer quite so cordial as it was given out to be. Prussia, before acceding to the Note, insisted on France and England engaging to use all their influence to prevail upon the Porte to humble itself to Russia. On France and England assenting to this condition, Prussia acceded. Such is the part our nations are condemned to play before the world. S.

CONTINENTAL NOTES.

We in London may well hesitate in accepting Vienna despatches about Russian victories, when even from Constantinople and from Bucharest and Jassy complaints reach us of the uncertain information which prevails respecting battles and movements occurring only a few miles off.

There has undoubtedly been a severe engagement at Sinope, in which the loss of the Turk has been considerable, and the victory of the Russians dearly won and turned to doubtful advantage; but whether the calamity was the result of a contest in the open sea, an encounter between two hostile squadrons, or a wanton aggression on an arsenal of the coast, is not yet positively ascertained.

The following bulletin (a Russian version, of course) was posted on the Bourse at Odessa on the 5th of December:—"The Russian fleet, under the command of Admiral Nachimoff, has met in the Black Sea a Turkish and Egyptian fleet, composed of eighteen ships—two-deckers, frigates, corvettes, together with two steamers of 500-horse power, and two others of 300-horse power. After a long engagement the following Turkish ships have been destroyed or captured:—One of 64 guns, no name given; one of 60 guns, no name given; one of 52 guns, Nezirami Effendi; one of 50 guns, Ahmet Ali; one of 46 guns, Nazim Fessim; one of 22 guns, Fessi Mahmoud. Steamers—Two of 20 guns each; two transports; one British transport. The engagement took place near Sinope. 5000 Turks have been killed, and many taken prisoners. Osman Pasha, who was wounded, has also been taken prisoner. Several officers, both English and French, were on board the Turkish fleet."

Another account stated that on the 30th of November the Russian Admiral Nachimoff, with six ships of the line, forced the passage of the roads at Sinope, and destroyed, after an hour's engagement, seven frigates, two corvettes, one steamer, and three transports. The frigate which was least damaged, and which the Russians were carrying off to Sebastopol, they were forced to abandon at sea, after taking Osman Pasha and his suite on board the Russian Admiral's ship. This intelligence was brought to Odessa by an aide-de-camp of Prince Menschikoff, and thence forwarded to Vienna by telegraph. It has been confirmed by advices from Bucharest. The larger Turkish vessels which were destroyed had each 800 soldiers, besides artillerymen, on board, and a large sum of money, being bound for the east coast of the Black Sea. A fourteenth vessel escaped undamaged.

Another account states that the Russian squadron which destroyed the Turkish vessels at Sinope, consisted of four ships of 120 guns, and four of 86 guns. Three Turkish ships were sunk; the remainder were burnt, as it was impossible to secure the prizes. The Russian ships were greatly damaged, and required many repairs to enable them to reach Sebastopol. 400 Turkish guns were sunk.

Another account states that the Russians entered the harbour of Sinope, with three three-deckers, four two-and-a-half-deckers, six frigates, and four steamers, making seventeen vessels of war, and attacked the Turkish squadron there, consisting of six frigates, three corvettes, and two steamers. One Russian three-decker and all the Turkish ships were burnt, with the exception of the *Taif*, which brought this news. The combat lasted for four hours.

The disaster was known at Constantinople on the 3rd, when great excitement prevailed. A Grand Divan was held, at which all the foreign Ministers were present. The English and French Ambassadors were urged to despatch the combined fleets into the Black Sea, but they had an audience of the Sultan, at which it was resolved not to send the whole fleets at once, but four frigates, to obtain more precise information. There was, however, no doubt that the whole fleets would shortly enter the Black Sea. The carnage at Sinope was described as immense.

La Presse says:—"According to information obtained from a good source, we believe we may affirm that the despatch we have transcribed exaggerates the facts. There has been no such thing as a naval battle, properly so called. It would appear merely that some Turkish frigates and a certain number of transports, having on board troops destined for Batoum, were surprised by a division of the Russian navy so superior, that all resistance was naturally impossible. Osman Pasha, whose capture is announced by the despatch, is a secondary officer of the Turkish navy. Such as it is, when reduced to its just proportions, this event is not the less the most just commentary upon the passive attitude of the Anglo-French squadron."

Two French and two English steam-frigates are gone to Sinope, nominally with medical assistance for the wounded.

The admiral of the Turkish fleet has not been taken. Osman Pasha, who commanded the flotilla, was not admiral of the fleet, but *feriki bahrie*, or Vice-Admiral, of which the Turkish navy has several. Three of the ships taken were transports, seven were frigates, two corvettes, and one was a steamer. The loss may be a serious one for the Ottomans, considering the service for which they have now to rely upon their sea forces, but we have yet to be told what are the losses on the other side. Considering the resistance made by the Turks, we can hardly suppose that the Russians came off without considerable damage. By sea, then, the Turks have proved that they have good stuff in them, having so determinedly withstood a greatly superior force. Before the loss of the vessels just mentioned, the Ottoman fleet was thus composed:—2 three-deckers, of 130 guns; 4 two-deckers, of 80 guns; 10 frigates, of from 40 to 61 guns; 6 corvettes, of from 22 to 26 guns; 14 brigs, with from 12 to 20 guns; 16 cutters, &c., of from 4 to 12 guns; and 6 steam frigates, besides gun-boats.

The port of Sinope, where the action occurred, is situated in the small gulf or bay of Sinope, which is formed by the projection of a headland on the coast of Anatolia, midway between Constantinople and Batoum, which are the extreme points of the southern coast of the Black Sea. Sinope is about 300 miles from Constantinople, and as many from Batoum, whilst it is about 200 miles south-east of Sebastopol, the great Russian naval station in the Crimea. Sinope would, therefore, form an excellent port of refuge for Turkish ships on their way with succours for the Asiatic army or for the Circassians, whilst it is also a good station for

a squadron whose duty it would be to intercept Russian reinforcements on their way from Sebastopol to the army of Prince Woronzoff.

The *Journal des Débats* says, "The importance of Sinope consists in its naval arsenal and building-yard, the only one in Turkey besides that at Constantinople. Ships of the line and frigates are built there. The oak cut on the surrounding mountains is very hard, and the vessels built at Sinope are considered the best in the Turkish fleet. The engineers are for the most part foreigners in the service of Turkey, and the workmen are Greeks of the country, who are paid from 10 to 12 sous a day. The fortifications of the port are incomplete and in a bad state. In 1808, at the time of the attempt of Admiral Duckworth on Constantinople, then defended by General Sebastiani, the French Ambassador, that officer, comprehending the importance of Sinope, sent two French officers and two sub-officers of engineers to improve the fortifications. Their first care was to erect a battery at the point of the promontory in such a position as to be able to command both sides of the peninsula and the entrance of the roadstead. They afterwards traced out several other works of defence, some of which were never executed, and the others were not kept in repair, any more than the rest of the fortifications. Thus the place remained without receiving any repairs for forty years, and those which have been lately commenced had not received the necessary development. The Russians in 1807 made an attack on Trebizond by sea, but were repulsed; but, as they had never attempted anything against Sinope, the Turks persuaded themselves that they had nothing to fear, and they have just been roughly punished for their carelessness. It may be readily conceived that six ships of the line with their heavy broadsides, suddenly appearing in the roadstead, could soon knock to pieces such old and dilapidated ramparts."

"If the war is to continue actively next year in Europe and in Asia, it will become a matter of great importance for the Turks to rebuild the fortifications of Sinope on the principles of modern art, and to put that place in security, not only against a *coup-de-main* like the present, but also in a state to maintain a regular siege. If the Russians were to take possession of Sinope, which they could readily do in its present wretched and unprotected condition, they might make it a place impregnable against the Turks, and convert it into a kind of Gibraltar on the Turkish coast of the Black Sea. Established in a position of this kind, which would enable them to land a considerable body of troops, they would keep in check all the centre of Asia Minor, and cut off the communications between Constantinople and Erzeroum. The Turkish army of Armenia would then have not only to oppose the enemy on the side of Georgia, but it would have another army in its rear, and the Ottoman Government would be obliged to organise a second army in Asia Minor. These considerations cannot escape the notice of the European military officers who give strategic advice to the Ottoman generals. The town of Sinope is built with the materials of the old Greek city, a colony of the Milesians. Sinope was the birthplace of Diogenes, and the capital of Mithridates. Lucullus took possession of it in the year 71 before Christ. The houses and the fortifications present a multitude of ancient ruins confusedly heaped together. There may be there seen Greek and Paphlagonian inscriptions, busts, and military statues."

On the 24th, at 8 a.m., Sir E. Lyons reached Constantinople, and proceeded without delay to the fleet lying at Beykos.

The allied fleets have been feasting and complimenting each other, and enjoying the hospitalities of the French admiral. This affair at Sinope will have put their blood up. Meanwhile we hear of the astonishment of the Ottomans at the *drinking* of the allies, especially of the English.

From the Principalities we learn that General Osten-Sacken, with 4000 infantry, reached Jassy on the 8th inst. One-half of them proceeded to Redout-Kaleh, in Asia, by forced marches.

Letters from Bucharest of the 5th inst. announce the *de facto* suspension of hostilities on the banks of the Danube. Military operations are at a stand-still everywhere, even at Giurgevo, where the Russians are engaged in the construction of a fort. Their hospitals are as full as ever. Turna Severin is held by 5000 Turks. When the Russian Consul in Servia reached Semlin he despatched letters to his Government, in which he denounced Prince Alexander of Servia as a secret adherent of the Porte. On the 23rd ult. the Elders of the various Servian districts met at Kruschewa, and resolved to watch the movements of Prince Alexander. They went the length of discussing the propriety of recalling Prince Milosch Obrenowitsch, who, from his exile at Bucharest, has lately come close to the Servian frontier.

The Turkish passenger steamer, *Medari Tifjaret*, which was captured by Russian cruisers in the Black Sea several days ago, came into the Bosphorus on the 26th, and caused great astonishment. The vessel was taken before the expiration of the delay granted on both sides for placing merchant ships out of danger. As there were several Russian merchantmen at Constantinople when the *Medari Tifjaret* was captured, the Russians were unusually scrupulous in dealing with her. Lord Stratford de Redcliffe had removed from Therapia to Pera to be nearer the French Ambassador.

The merchants of all nations at Constantinople had signed an address to the Sultan, expressing their best wishes for his cause. A column of the new legion of Turkish *Cossacks* had arrived at Constantinople, 8000 volunteer Scodriens had been organised in Albania, and a new corps of 10,000 Kurds had been formed by the sheikhs of their country.

Entrenchments have been thrown up round Bucharest. Glowing reports had reached St. Petersburg of Russian successes in Asia: among others, that Prince Orbelian encountered 30,000 Turks near Alexandropol, and, after a sharp engagement, drove them back; and that, in another direction, General Brummer charged 7000 Turks with the bayonet, and completely routed them, taking a cannon, two standards, and a part of the Turkish train and ammunition. But these glowing accounts are contradicted by far more authentic advices from Constantinople.

The *Patrie* states that Akadziach has been taken by the Turks, and this appears to be the fact. The Russian

bulletins make no mention of the fall of Ackalzich, but it is indirectly confirmed by that published in the *Invalide Russe*, which reports an action which took place between the Turks and Russians at Atskhour, some leagues in advance of Ackalzich, and on the road to Tiflis.

The *Lloyd* states that at the capture of the fort of Safa, near Shefkatil by the Turks, the Russians lost 400 killed. The same journal, and with it the *Ost. Deutsche Post*, announces that in the renewed attack on Shefkatil on the 17th, the Russians were repulsed, with heavy loss. The attempt was made to land troops, but the men, in number 1800, were compelled to return to the ships, leaving 400 killed and wounded, and one gun. Schamyl and Selim Pacha, operating in concert, were gradually approaching each other, and taking the fortresses on their lines of march. Prince Woronzoff was surrounded at Tiflis, and his retreat was cut off. The *Lloyd's* despatches state that the large and important fortress of Alexandropolis, Gumri, was besieged by the Turks; and the *Ost. Deutsche Post* announces its actual capture. The latter journal adds that Redout-Kaleh, on the Black Sea coast, and Kislar had been taken by the Turks.

On the other hand, despatches from Vienna report that the Russian General Andronikoff has totally defeated the Turks in a battle at Akhalzik, on the borders of Turkish Armenia.

Two Russian steamers were cruising near Varna, to cut off the Turkish reinforcements.

The Turkish bulletin respecting the operations of the European army attributes the retreat of Omar Pasha to the necessity which there was for getting his troops, which had begun to suffer from the biting cold, into their winter quarters on the right bank of the river. On the 11th of November, on which day the snow had begun to fall, there was but one battalion with two batteries left on the island between Turtukai and Oltenitza. On the following day the Russians made an attack on the *tête-de-pont* on the island, but were repulsed by Halil Pasha.

Rodzewitch, late secretary to Prince Gortschakoff, has arrived at St. Petersburg with an escort. He was at once transferred to the casemates of the fortress. It is generally believed that Rodzewitch and another Pole, who was likewise accused of having kept up a correspondence with the Turks, have been shot.

The St. Petersburg *Court Gazette* contains an impromptu by M. Nezhovitch, supposed to be occasioned by reading the Emperor's manifesto: "The Czar gives the word, and all is prepared. The land overflows with bravery and courage. Every Russian heart beats with solemn emotion, and the Russian standard will wave in bloody war. Behold the fields covered with our soldiers! See the fame-covered warriors! mark the death-bearing bayonet! look upon the brethren gathered under the standard of the cross, and cry, 'Great is the God of Russia!'"

It is stated that Prince Woronzoff (who is at this moment seriously ill, and as whose successor Prince Menchikoff is mentioned) lately reported to St. Petersburg that he knows that great frauds are now being practised in the army in the Danubian Principalities by the commissariat, and that the soldiers are exceedingly ill-cared for. An old officer of his staff was immediately sent from St. Petersburg to the Danube to investigate the facts. He found everything in the fairest possible order, and Woronzoff received rather a sharp answer. He persisted in maintaining the accuracy of his information, and a second officer was sent to the Danube, and discovered the true state of the case. For a monarch so careful of his soldiers as Nicholas I. this must have been a very disagreeable discovery. Usually the sick in the army are reported two per cent. This proportion suddenly increases to thirty per cent. as soon as an inspection becomes probable.

It appears certain that Persia has declared war against Turkey, and that the British Minister at Teheran has broken off relations with the perfidious Shah. What Afghanistan may do remains to be seen; but it is quite probable that another British expedition to the Persian Gulf may be necessary.

From Syria we learn that the sentiments of the people are favourable to the Turkish Government; and now the Christian population, for the most part, sympathise with the Turks. Most of the Christian districts of Lebanon have promised to send auxiliary troops to Constantinople; and the question has already been directed to the Porte, whether it is inclined to accept the offer of the Maronites. The Druses, it is said, are only awaiting a steamer from Constantinople to carry them to the scene of hostilities. Their destination is to be Djelab-Jakfur, near Erzeroum. The cavalry of the Druses, for which 12,000 horses are required, will proceed to the same place by land. One of the Emirs has received 15,000 piastres for the equipment of the above troops. Several hundred volunteers are also about to leave Syria for Constantinople.

The export of arms and ammunition to Bosnia has been prohibited by an order of the Austrian Government. The Christian population of Bosnia is in a state of great excitement. The Prince of Servia, doubting his safety at Belgrade, has left that city for Topola. Prince Gortschakoff has declared that Galatz and Brailow shall be considered neutral ports for the export and import of merchandise. Riots have taken place at Galatz between the Wallachian militia and the Russian troops. A battalion of the Wallachians refused to obey the orders of a Russian general. The battalion in question and four companies of Wallachians were consigned to their barracks.

General Budberg, the new Russian Commissary Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary in Moldo-Wallachia, is attended by a staff of fifty officers of the Czar's guard.

There has been a rumour at Berlin that the United States of America have offered a very considerable sum to the Porte, on the condition that some small island in the Archipelago shall be ceded to them.

The French Government has authorised the *Credit Foncier* to subscribe a portion of the Turkish loan, now being negotiated by Namuk Pasha in Paris, on condition that the English Government guarantees the rest. The *Charivari* says this warlike act of the *Credit Foncier* has horrified the pacific shareholders.

The *Siecle*, in publishing the warning alluded to by our

Paris correspondent, as by law bound to do, pleads in extenuation that it yesterday voluntarily published a contradiction of the paragraph from the *Gazette des Tribunaux*. The real reason of this pretext having been hit upon to strike the *Siecle*, is thought to be that in a recent personal controversy with M. Louis Veuillot, of the *Univers*, the *Siecle* has lately written a warm panegyric of Victor Hugo, in which it said, in answer to some vituperation of the organ of the Jesuits, that everything written by Victor Hugo would live. As this prophecy would literally include "Napoleon the Little" and other later writings, for which the police are at this moment making diligent and frequently baffled searches, it is construed as seditious.

In the night of the 7th the telegraphic wires between Calais and Boulogne were cut.

It is reported that Government has convoked a general meeting of the directors and principal engineers of all the railways in France, to concert measures of public safety. This railway congress is expected to assemble towards the end of this month.

There has been an extraordinary fog at Lyons and in the neighbourhood. In the city carriages were brought to a standstill, and people lost their way as completely as they might have done in Thames-street. On the 8th the navigation of the Saone was reported to be entirely suspended. The mail from Paris was sent by land, and made very slow progress, owing to the fog.

The Emperor was not present at the opening of the new Boulevard de Strasbourg, it is said, in consequence of an intimation of a plot against his life. Nevertheless, he is described as driving and riding out with little or no escort, and of walking with the Empress in the Bois de Boulogne.

Mademoiselle Georges, the renowned *tragédienne* of the Empire, is about to take a final benefit in the part she performed at sixteen (she is now between seventy and eighty), *Cleopatre*, in the *Rodogunde* of Corneille. A splendid representation is being organised by all the first dramatic artists in Paris for this solemnity, which, we suppose, is to be under the special patronage of Napoleon III.

Mademoiselle Rachel has positively dated from St. Petersburg her resignation as *Sociétaire* of the Théâtre Français. According to the terms of Napoleon's celebrated Moscow decree, she expresses her intention of leaving the stage altogether. It is said that she has a very lucrative engagement pending in America. Her success in St. Petersburg has been prejudiced by the company she has taken with her, whose incompetence is considered an insult to the Court and aristocracy of St. Petersburg.

The Federal Grand Council of Switzerland has declined to suppress the duty on corn at the solicitation of the Cantonal Governments of Berne, Appenzell, and Geneva.

The following are the results of the elections in Piedmont of members of the Chamber of Deputies:—Ministerials, 123; Radical Opposition, 40; Reactionary Opposition, 15; elections of which the result is not known 26.

This is the fifth election since the proclamation of the Constitution, and the readiness with which the electors came to the poll, shows a growing intelligence of the rights of citizenship.

The Liberal-Conservative party has not lost a single member. The Ministers—Cavour, San Martino, and Rattazzi—were all returned by large majorities. The prominent feature of these elections is the failure of M. Brofferio, the Radical Deputy and Advocate, and unceasing opponent of the ministry.

The total number of members composing the Chamber of Deputies is 204. The final result of the elections cannot be known for some days, but there is no doubt that the proportions of parties will be maintained in the totality as they now stand, and that the Government will get a strong working majority. Amongst the members just returned there are several distinguished Lombards, who, although naturalised Sardinian subjects, have had their properties in Lombardy sequestered by the Austrian Government.

Several more arrests have taken place in Naples, owing to some verses (in everybody's mouth) said to have been posted up in the street. The rhymes say:—

"Tho' Naples be so fair and good,
We've naught but Indian corn for food.
Were Masaniel, alas! not dead,
Why we should feel no lack of bread.
If things go on till then as now,
By Christmas time we'll have a row.
The French are coming—God be praised—
And price of bread will not be raised."

There can be no doubt of the existing poverty and high price of food, with a decrease of commerce, which falls heavily on the poorer classes.

M. de Maupas has had another dispute with the Neapolitan Government. Under pretence of the cholera at Paris, all persons coming from France are subjected to a vigorous quarantine, which has excited much discontent. M. de Maupas has addressed an energetic note on the subject to the King of Naples, threatening to return to Rome, and, it is said, hinting that if the affair were not set right, he might find it necessary to request the French Government to send some ships of war to Naples.

The shade of Joachim Murat will not let King Bomba sleep upon his bloodstained pillow.

At Madrid a *coup d'état* is expected. The debate on the question of prerogative, raised by the Senate on the occasion of the railway bill, was concluded on the 9th inst. The Opposition obtained a majority of 36 votes. A Royal decree of the 12th inst. suspended the sitting of the Cortes, without fixing any period for their new meeting.

A letter from Lisbon, in the *Heraldo* of Madrid of the 7th, says that the King Regent of Portugal intended to demand from the Cortes the proclamation of the majority of his son, King Pedro V.; also that it was reported that the young King intended to make a journey in Spain and Portugal.

At the present moment, it is affirmed, negotiations are going on for the simultaneous evacuation of the Roman States by the French and Austrian armies of occupation. It appears that a secret treaty exists by which that double occupation was to last for five years. The five years are about to expire, and the Pope is anxious to get rid of his foreign pro-

tectors, and to trust his safety to the safeguard of Italian troops alone. With this view the King of Naples is at the present moment organising a body of 20,000 men, which he promised to Pio Nono, during his residence at Gaëta, that he would place at his disposal. The whole of these troops are to adopt the Pontifical cockade, and to protect the Holy See, along with the 12,000 men whom the Pope has already in his service.

We wish the Pope joy of his 12,000 men, and of his Neapolitan contingent. Without the French and the Austrians his tiara would not be worth an hour's purchase, and he knows it well. But what interest English Protestants have in seeing the Pope at Rome we are at a loss to discover. We do not believe this report. But the prolonged occupation of the Roman States by French and Austrian troops is a question that demands immediate settlement.

The Prince of Prussia has visited the Emperor of Austria at Vienna, en route to Italy.

Panslavism is again causing some uneasiness at Vienna, and the agents of the Government in the southern parts of the Austrian monarchy are called to exercise redoubled vigilance. At Agram, in Croatia, Louis Gaj, editor of a paper, has been arrested and brought to Vienna. Serbia, it is feared, may make use of her position, and appeal to panslavistic sympathies.

Letters from Baden show that the conflict between the ecclesiastics and the civil power is carried on with undiminished spirit on both sides. A letter from Constance, in the Brisgau, states that the parish of St. Augustin is in a manner under interdict. The church is closed, and no kind of worship is celebrated. The keys of the edifice have been taken to the Dean of St. Stephen's, and the Archbishop has left the parish without religious instruction. The dean has buried one body upon his own responsibility, but he has refused to marry two couples who presented themselves. The numerous sick persons in the hospital and elsewhere have been left without the consolations of religion.

A letter from Rome of the 30th, in the *Milan Gazette*, states that nine new arrests have taken place there, all belonging to the middle classes. It is not known whether they are connected with the conspiracy of August 16, now under inquiry, or not.

CITY MATTERS.

SOME time ago the City Policemen made an application for increase of pay, alleging, among other things, the rise in rents and provisions. Their application has been handed about from the Court of Common Council to a Police Committee, and referred by them to the Court of Aldermen. At a special Court, on Saturday, the Lord Mayor, commenting on this, said he thought the matter had better be referred back to the Common Council, who were quite competent to deal with the question in all its bearings. He also stated that the force was deficient by eighty men, whereas the Metropolitan force always had enough and to spare. Mr. Alderman Lawrence stated that the deficiency was fifty-six, not eighty, as stated by the Lord Mayor. Mr. Alderman Thompson and Alderman Lawrence both suggested that the standard of height should be lowered, as the difficulty of getting men five feet eight inches in height was the cause of the deficiency. Mr. Alderman Wire, however, said that it was the superabundance of employment everywhere that made policemen scarce. Finally the question of the pay of the men was referred to the General Purposes Committee for their report, and a special Court is to be called to consider it.

At a meeting of the Common Council, on Thursday, the Coal and Corn Finance Committee presented a triumphant report on the result of the investigations of the Select Committee of the House of Commons last session on the coal dues. The cause of the rejoicing is that the Parliamentary Committee could not agree upon a report; while they recommended that the inquiry should be continued.

The sittings of the City Commission are now suspended, it is believed, until after Christmas. Nothing of new importance was elicited at the examination of witnesses last Friday.

MR. MECH'S BALANCE; AND HOW HE GOT IT.

MR. MECH, the modern Paladin of distressed agriculture, the amateur farmer who has so gallantly confronted adverse balance-sheets, and so perseveringly sought out new sources of strength for his class, has found them, like Anteus, in touching the earth. As a reward, he has got a profit of 600l. this year. At a meeting of the Society of Arts, on Wednesday, he told his hearers *how* he got it, and what he said deserves the most extensive circulation. We, therefore, append extracts from the paper he read at the meeting. Having read the items of his balance-sheet, he proceeded:—

"Now, sir, this balance-sheet opens up a vast question for reflection, both in town and country. Why is it so different from my former one? Principally because I have the power of irrigation. It is true that prices are higher now than then, but crops are less productive, and expenses are higher. Nearly the whole difference between this balance-sheet and the former one arises in the live stock account. By irrigation I am enabled to double, if not triple, my green and root crops, and thus render them profitable instead of unprofitable. It is quite clear that if I can double

my stock, I also double the quantity of my manure, and thus affect importantly the cereal crops. If I double my green and root crops, I diminish their cost one-half. This is actually the fact, and therein is my present and most agreeable position. Every practical farmer knows that the losing part of his farm is the root crop (I mean in the Midland, Southern, and Eastern counties, where we have hot summers and little rain). That root crop costs him more than the animals repay, and leaves a heavy charge on the ensuing grain crops. Irrigation changes all this, and permits each crop to be responsible for its own annual charge, thus rendering them all remunerative. I am forcibly and frequently reminded of the truth of this statement by a five-acre pasture opposite my residence. Vainly did I try, by solid manures, to render this vile plastic clay into a useful pasture. It was like birdlime in winter and cast-iron in summer—poor, indigenous, and drab-coloured grasses choked and eradicated the finer kinds I had sown—and the animals wandered about, hollow and dissatisfied. In the space of eighteen months irrigation has changed all this—new, fine and fattening grasses have clothed the field with perpetual verdure—it keeps three times as many animals, and the close and shaven pasture indicates their affection for it—butter, milk, and cream alike testify by their richness to the fertility of irrigation, whilst the animals are improved in their condition. Professor Way, in his recent valuable analysis of grasses, in the *Royal Agricultural Society's Journal*, has revealed the astounding truth, that irrigated grasses contain 25 per cent. more meat-making matter than those not irrigated. We all know that grasses are voracious drinkers—they cannot stand drowning on undrained land in stagnant water, from which their roots soon extract all the oxygen; but see how prim and green they look beside any trickling rivulet. I venture, therefore, to predict, that the people of this country will soon connect ample water-supply, cleanliness, and health, with the idea of ample and cheap physical supplies—(hear, hear)—they will identify the well-washed contents of their closets with rounds of beef, saddles of mutton, big loaves, and rich milk. (Great laughter.) The ladies, whom I am too happy to see here tonight, knowing their great and proper influence, will recognise in every sloop that leaves the house a rich, cheaper, and more abundant supply of that element, milk—(laughter)—which is to develop in their offspring by bone and muscle, beauty and power, mental and physical. . . . It is of no use to send a stream of sewerage to a farmer who allows his own manure to run down the ditches, and sends to Peru to bring it back again in the shape of bird's dung at 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ per ton. No, landlords and tenants, too, must be taught, or brought to believe, that food and liquefied manure are one and the same thing, merely altered in form. Then you may make a small well by the side of each present sewer, and with your steam force-pump take all that comes down that source, and distribute it through subterranean arterial pipes on the whole country; not a drop need run past your pump to taint your streams. There is no more difficulty in it than in the water supply; but you must work a change in the minds of the agriculturists, or they will hardly take it as a gift, much less pay you for it. . . . The effects of liquefied manure are so striking in improving our crops, that the cause is worth tracing. We know that there is nothing of which a farmer is so much afraid as the subsoil six or seven inches below the surface; if he brings this at once to the surface, he will grow nothing for some time. This proves clearly that that dreaded subsoil has never received, or been improved by the solid manure ploughed in to the surface soil; but by applying the solid manure in a liquefied form, it sinks deeply into the subsoil, saturating every granule, and by a thousand affectionate affinities improves its chemical condition, rendering its particles available and agreeable to the fibres of plants; change of air and change of water are as necessary to roots of plants as to living animals; all this is effected by drainage and irrigation. It is no uncommon thing for us to saturate the soil to the depth of five feet in the very strongest clays, making the drains run with the precious fluid, diminished, of course, in strength and value. The specific gravity and temperature of liquefied manure are much higher than those of ordinary water, thereby warming the cold and inanimate subsoil—we know the effect of bottom heat in our gardens. It is a significant fact that the liquid excrement of animals in dry weather destroys vegetation—dilute it well, as in our sewers, then it stimulates and fertilises. . . . Experience has taught our farmers, that the ammoniacal portion of our manures is the most costly, and yet the most difficult to retain; owing to its extreme volatility, admixture with water is the only profitable way to prevent its escape into the atmosphere, therefore the washing away of the fresh made manure into a copious tank for irrigation, is in every way a great economy and advantage. . . . As this is a general discourse, I will not overlay it with tedious statistics of cost, but will state generally that to irrigate a farm of 200 acres you would require—Four-horse steam power, worked at sixty to seventy pounds per inch. Fifteen yards per acre of three-inch iron pipe. A circular tank about thirty feet in diameter, and twenty feet deep. Two hundred yards of two inch gutta percha hose, with corrugated joints to render it flexible. Gutta percha jet. A pair of force pumps, capable of discharging 100 gallons per minute. (Mine are of five-inch diameter, and twenty-inch stroke, making thirty strokes per minute; but I would recommend larger barrels, and a slower action, to prevent wear and tear.) At present prices all this can be accomplished for about 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ per acre, so that the tenant paying nine shillings per acre to his landlord for such an improvement, would be a great gainer. . . . While touching on irrigation, it may be useful to consider drainage, with which it has a close connexion. Of course, without drainage natural or artificial irrigation would be injurious. A smart discussion has recently been carried on, whether drains should cross the slope angularly or follow the natural fall in equi-distant lines. There can be no doubt as to the necessity for tapping sand or peat pots, or other natural and free receivers of water, when surrounded by tenacious clays. Up and down drains will generally do this, but where they do not lateral branches may be added.

Although close and shallow drains may make the land appear somewhat more dry during winter, the crops on the deeply drained land show a superiority in the summer. As so dense a fluid as liquefied manure will filter deeply (five feet) through the heaviest clays, and flow from the pipes in streams, I hope we shall never again hear the too common assertion that 'water won't go through our soils.' I place before you the model of a steam cultivator, which, I think, is about to introduce a new economy in British agriculture. I have become, as it were, a parent to it against my inclination. Mr. Romaine, the intelligent inventor, was consigned to me by the agricultural department of the Canadian Government, who had a high opinion of it. After trying in vain to interest some of our implement makers in this invention, I found that it would be lost to agriculture unless I advanced the necessary funds for its manufacture, and for the securing of the various patents. On public grounds I did this, and happy I am to say that its success promises all that the inventor anticipated. If, with the assistance of a pair of horses and 5s. worth of coke, we can effectually cultivate ten acres per day, we may bid farewell to the whole tribe of tormentors, scarifiers, grubbers, harrows, broadshares, and clod-crushers, that consume, through our horses, so much of the food of this country. (Cheers.) If it does not supersede the plough, it will limit its operations. When once the steam cultivator is shown to answer, no doubt many others will appear; and I venture to predict that, within seven years, steam will become the grand motive cultivating power."

Another subject touched on was the transfer of land:—

"I purchased the other day three acres of land that intersected my fields, and was highly amused at the production of as many parchments and documents, as, when spread out, would cover the great charity dinner-table at the London Tavern. (Laughter.) After travelling back seventy-five years to trace the enclosure or kidnapping of this piece from a heath, it traced the depth of the parties, their wills, their successors' wills, three or four mortgages several times transferred, and a mass of writing out of which any clever lawyer could, I should think, extract fifty objections. Apply the same principle to our funded, and every other description of property, and we should come to a dead fix, like the Irish encumbered estates. Like those, the very absurdity of the evil will, I fancy, some day work its cure. It certainly keeps down the price of land, by greatly diminishing the competition for it." (Cheers.)

Several other members added facts in corroboration of Mr. Mechi's views as to the use of manure and machinery, and the meeting ended. It is an event in the history of agriculture.

[For the sake of our agricultural readers, we subjoin the balance-sheet.

Dr.—To valuation, Oct. 31, 1852—Horses, 36 $\frac{1}{2}$; pigs, 117 $\frac{1}{2}$ 2s. 6d.; sheep, 203 $\frac{1}{2}$ 6s.; cattle and cows, 347 $\frac{1}{2}$; implements, 390 $\frac{1}{2}$ 12s.; tillages, hay, &c., 526 $\frac{1}{2}$ 10s.; rent of chapel land, 45 $\frac{1}{2}$; tithes, rates, 68 $\frac{1}{2}$; labour, including engineer, bailiff, &c., 407 $\frac{1}{2}$; guano, bones, and superphosphate lime, 98 $\frac{1}{2}$; seed corn and seeds, 45 $\frac{1}{2}$; live stock bought, 1280 $\frac{1}{2}$; corn and cake bought for feeding purposes, horses' keep, &c., 648 $\frac{1}{2}$; coals for engine, tradesmen's bills, &c., 130 $\frac{1}{2}$; my improved rent, 36s. per acre, 240 $\frac{1}{2}$; profit, 343 $\frac{1}{2}$ 16s. 3d.; total, 4975 $\frac{1}{2}$ 6s. 9d.

Cr.—By valuation, Oct. 31, 1853:—Horses, 74 $\frac{1}{2}$; pigs, &c., 255 $\frac{1}{2}$ 6s.; sheep, 448 $\frac{1}{2}$; cattle and cows, 239 $\frac{1}{2}$ 10s.; implements, 390 $\frac{1}{2}$ 12s.; tillages, hay, &c., 471 $\frac{1}{2}$ 18s. 9d.; wheat, 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ quarters per acre—50 acres, 630 $\frac{1}{2}$; barley, 5 quarters per acre—11 acres, 114 $\frac{1}{2}$; beans, 5 quarters per acre—13 acres, 145 $\frac{1}{2}$; oats, 10 $\frac{1}{2}$; produce of cows and poultry, 50 $\frac{1}{2}$; hay sold, 55 $\frac{1}{2}$; horse work, labour, hay, manure, &c., for private establishment, 60 $\frac{1}{2}$; live stock and wool sold, 2002 $\frac{1}{2}$; three stocks of old straw, 30 $\frac{1}{2}$; total, 4975 $\frac{1}{2}$ 6s. 9d.

Live Stock Account.—Cr.: To valuation, 1852, 753 $\frac{1}{2}$ 8s. 6d.; corn, cake, and feeding stuffs bought, 648 $\frac{1}{2}$; live stock bought, 1280 $\frac{1}{2}$; profit, or rather price paid for produce of farm, 337 $\frac{1}{2}$ 7s. 6d.—3018 $\frac{1}{2}$ 16s. Dr.: By valuation, 1853, 1016 $\frac{1}{2}$ 16s.; live stock and wool sold, 2002 $\frac{1}{2}$ —3018 $\frac{1}{2}$ 16s.]

NEW BURIAL-GROUNDS' REGULATIONS BY LORD PALMERSTON.

The following are the regulations which have been issued by Lord Palmerston for observance in the new burial-grounds about to be established, and which will also be enforced in all new burial-grounds established under the Metropolitan Burials Act:—

"1. No interment shall take place within ten yards of any part of the boundary of the cemetery, and the space of ground intervening between the boundary and the ten-yard limit above described shall be planted with shrubs, evergreens, and trees, in such manner as, while it will promote the absorption of any deleterious emanations, shall not interfere with a free circulation of air.

"2. The area of the cemetery shall be under-drained to such depth and in such effectual manner as shall be sufficient to prevent the accumulation of water in any vault or grave therein.

"3. There shall be a sufficiency of roads and pathways within the burial-ground to afford every access to the several graves without walking over other graves; and such roads and pathways shall be constructed of hard materials, and be properly guttered and drained in such manner as to carry away surface water.

"4. The whole area of the cemetery, which may from time to time be used for interments, shall be divided into grave spaces in such manner that the position of every grave space may be readily distinguished.

"5. A plan of the cemetery shall be provided, on which every grave space shall be marked.

"6. A register of graves shall also be provided, in which shall be registered every grave space, together with the name, the age, and the date of interment of every occupant of such grave.

"7. Every grave space in the cemetery shall be designated by letters or numerals, or by some other convenient mark, which shall correspond to similar marks designating such grave space in the plan of the cemetery and in the register of graves.

"8. The grave space allotted to each person of the age of 16 and upwards shall be at the least 9 feet 6 inches long and 4 feet 6 inches wide.

"9. The grave space allotted to each young person from 7 to 16 years of age shall be at the least 7 feet 6 inches long and 3 feet 6 inches wide.

"10. For children under 7 years of age the grave space shall be at the least 5 feet 9 inches long by 2 feet 9 inches wide.

"11. Each grave shall be dug as near as may be in the middle of the grave space.

"12. With the exception of purchased vaults and graves, interments shall take place in every alternate grave space until the whole area of the cemetery devoted to interments shall have been buried in; and thereafter the alternate grave spaces, which have thus in the first instance been left vacant, are to be buried in till they shall all have been used.

"13. No more than one body shall be buried in any grave, except in purchased vaults and graves, under conditions hereafter stated.

"14. The depths of graves, excepting purchased vaults and graves, shall be as follows:—For persons of 16 years of age and upwards the depth shall not exceed 6 feet, and in no case shall the coffin have a covering of earth of less depth than 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ feet, measured from the upper surface of the coffin to the level of the ground. For persons between 7 and 16 years of age the depth shall not exceed 4 feet 6 inches; and the covering of earth over the coffin shall in no case be less than 3 feet, measured from the upper surface of the coffin to the level of the ground. For children under 7 years of age the depth shall be 3 feet 9 inches, as near as may be.

"15. No grave in which a burial has taken place, excepting purchased vaults and graves, shall be re-opened for another burial until after the lapse of the following periods of time, that is to say:—No grave in which a person of 16 years of age and upwards has been buried shall be re-opened for another burial until after the lapse of 24 years from the time when such person was buried. No grave in which any young person between the ages of 7 and 16 years has been buried shall be re-opened for a second burial until after the lapse of 15 years from the time when such young person was buried. No grave in which a child under 7 years of age has been buried shall be re-opened for burial within a shorter period than 10 years from the time when such child was buried.

"16. Purchased vaults and graves are excepted from the preceding regulations; but when more than one body is to be buried in such graves and vaults each body must be enclosed in an air-tight leaden coffin, and no coffin is to be deposited in any such vault or grave nearer the surface than 4 feet 6 inches, measuring from the upper surface of the coffin to the level of the ground.

"17. Whenever a burial has taken place (except in a private vault) the grave shall be forthwith filled up with earth, and the surface shall be immediately covered, either with a suitable stone, if such shall have been provided; or with fresh turf, or the surface shall be suitably planted; but in no case shall the bare earth be left exposed.

"18. Care shall be taken that the grave spaces, monuments, walks, buildings, &c., and the whole surface of the cemetery be kept in a proper state of neatness.

"PALMERSTON."

"POOR BRETHREN" AND RICH GOVERNORS.

The charities of England are about to be looked into; and the darkness which has covered the administration of many a noble bequest it is hoped will be removed. Among others, perhaps, the Charity Commissioners will tell us how it is that, while the revenues of the Charterhouse have increased nearly six-fold, the pensions of the poor brethren remain what they were in the days of James I., when that magnificent old citizen, Thomas Sutton, founded the institution? Those revenues now amount to 30,000 $\frac{1}{2}$ a year; but the pensions continue to be 25 $\frac{1}{2}$. On receiving his appointment, a poor brother has to find his own furniture for the apartment provided for him, with the exception of the following, which are supplied for his use by the governors:—A poker and iron shovel, an iron fender, a pair of bellows, a deal table, and a wooden chair. At the expiration of four years sheets and pillow-cases are supplied for the use of a poor brother by the authorities. The brethren dine together every day in the hall. They are also supplied with the following for their own apartments (the dinner, at three o'clock, being the only meal taken collectively):—Coals and candles, and bread and butter. The candles are given out at the rate of half a pound per week to each brother, being just double the quantity which was formerly allowed. The only article of clothing furnished by the governors is a cloth cloak, which is supplied once in every two years. There are eighty old pensioners and forty scholars in the Charterhouse. The pensioners have tried to get their pittance increased, and twice they have put in an appeal to the governors. The latest plaint, sent in last week, we subjoin:

"TO THE MOST REVEREND, MOST NOBLE, AND RIGHT HON. THE GOVERNORS OF THE CHARTERHOUSE.

"The poor brothers, members of this foundation, desire again to make a respectful, and, as they hope it will be thought, a reasonable appeal to the governors, trustees of the revenues of the Charterhouse, for an increase of the pension of 25 $\frac{1}{2}$ now annually allotted them, that sum being found wholly insufficient to provide such daily needful com-

forts as are essential to health, decency, and cleanliness, and which are not furnished by the hospital, viz.: clothing, linen, washing, boots and shoes, groceries, &c., and is especially inadequate when weighed with the greatly increased revenues of the hospital since the time of its munificent founder.

"Your petitioners beg respectfully to state that they have been accustomed to something more than the necessities of life; and have been taught to consider the Charterhouse as an asylum for decayed gentlemen. It is freely and gratefully admitted that, of late years, your lordships' nominations have been more in accordance with that honourable designation. May they not respectfully offer this as an additional claim to an improvement in their position?"

"They are induced to make this renewed application at the present time, as, in the instance of a former application, the answer given them was, not that the funds would not admit of an increased allowance, but that the governors then 'declined to comply with the prayer of the petition,' which does not forbid them from hoping for a future favourable consideration of their present petition."

[Signed by the brethren.]

The governors considered this on Friday. They were Dr. Bird Sumner, Archbishop of Canterbury; Dr. Charles Blomfield, Bishop of London; Fox Maule, Lord Panmure, Mr. Justice Cresswell, and Archdeacon Hale. In reply to the poor brothers, the rich governors said they could not, consistently with their duty, increase the pension.

TROOPS FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN.

With what authority we know not, the *Times*' correspondent at Dublin, writing on Tuesday, furnishes the following paragraph:—

"It is again confidently stated that a large body of troops is under immediate orders to embark in steamers at Cork for the Mediterranean. The 1st of January is the day named for their departure, and it is added that so pressing is the demand that at least one regiment will be forced to march on Christmas-day to arrive in time at the place of embarkation. The corps here indicated is the 62nd, at present stationed in Kilkenny. The march to Cork occupies five days. The 46th Regiment, forming part of Dublin Garrison, got the route yesterday for Kilkenny to replace the 62nd. The first division of the former marches to-morrow morning."

THE NEWCASTLE MEETING.

DULY on Monday the people of Newcastle met in such numbers as the place of meeting provided for. Mr. Crawshaw did not take the chair, as the Mayor was present, and was willing to occupy the post of honour. As our readers have already seen the resolutions, we omit them, and simply record the salient speeches.

Sir John Fife, who moved the first resolution, said there was a painful impression on the minds of most men that the Government of this country had not been so prompt in this matter as our gallant neighbours, the French, nor so decided as it ought to have been in asserting the authority of international law, the honour of her Majesty, and the interests of the nation.

The documents issued of late from St. Petersburg stood unparalleled and alone in the history of modern Europe for their unblushing falsehood and their domineering insolence. (Cheers.) They could not, however, wonder at the conduct of Russia, when they thought of the shameful encouragement she had had from a party in this country, of whom Lord Aberdeen was at the head. When they considered the character of the Czar, his insolence, his domineering conduct, and his unwarrantable invasion of the Principalities, were not to be wondered at, for they were due to those parties in this country who had so shamefully trifled with its interests. The defenders of Lord Aberdeen's conduct—and they were very few—said, so moderate had been his lordship's course, that it had had the happy effect of obtaining the acquiescence of Austria. (Laughter.) But, remembering that Austria was nothing more than the abject tool of the Czar, he could not imagine a keener sarcasm on the conduct of a prime minister of this country than to say he had the acquiescence of Austria and the approbation of the camarilla of Vienna. (Cheers.) This country once had a prime minister called Chatham, and, if he had lived in the present day, we should have had no war—we should have had no crossing of the Pruth; he would have told the Czar at once that he would sweep the Russian flag from the face of the ocean, and he would have kept his word. (Cheers.) Sir John Fife did not wish to speak disparagingly of the man to whom the country was principally indebted for the blessings of free trade; but the argument held forth at the peace meeting in Edinburgh was this—If your ally, however old and faithful, be rather weak—if he is driven with his back to the wall—by deserting him in his distress, you will save yourselves a little money. Sir John Fife never could believe that such an argument could weigh with the majority of his fellow-countrymen. (Cheers.) Rather than that they should become so degenerate to the spirit of their forefathers, so debased in character, it were better that Great Britain should be sunk beneath the waves of the sea, and that her grand old name should be erased from the history of the world. (Cheers.) There were parties in this country ready to invoke the spirit of Christianity in reference to this matter, but his opinion was, that of the whole *dramatis persone* in this affair, the Sultan was the only man who had practised it. It was a saying of the witty and profligate Charles II., that he had in his own breast just sufficient virtue to enable him to admire that quality when he saw it in others. Not only was it that Austria and Russia dared not imitate the virtues of the Sultan, but they hated them; for the Sultan had shown them an example of something like constitutional govern-

ment, in the Danubian Principalities especially, which neither Austria nor Russia dared to follow. They also hated Turkey for her religious toleration; and he would tell them that the Christians in the Ottoman Empire did not pay church-rates. They hated her, too, for her commercial freedom, her proverbial honesty, and, most of all, for her noble hospitality. Those districts on the Danube which were occupied by the Slavonian race, had, for the last 400 years, enjoyed under the Sultan something like constitutional liberty, electing their own chiefs and princes, and paying tribute to the Sultan which was rather more nominal than oppressive. Russia had sent a commissioner there on the pretext of protecting the Greek Christians; but for the last fifty years the conduct of that functionary had been so uniform that it could not be attributed either to the innate depravity of the Russian character or in the individual, but could only be accounted for in one way, and that was by the systematic instructions he received from St. Petersburg, for he had made it his business invariably to stir up and foment hostile feelings and jealousies between class and class, and to make the government of those countries bad and disturbed, and as dissatisfied as possible with the sovereignty of the Sultan. And this he had done by systematic bullying, lying, and cheating. In 1842 Prince Alexander was elected by the Servians as their Prince. The Czar, knowing that he was hostile to Russia, sent to the Sultan, insisting on the election being rendered null and void. Prince Alexander was not popular in St. Petersburg, and the Czar would not have him. Sir Stratford Canning wrote to the British Government, stating that, in his opinion, the Sultan ought to be supported in resisting this insolent demand on the part of Russia; but what happened? Lord Aberdeen said, very coolly, that Prince Alexander would very soon be glad to flee from his own people, and that British interference was not necessary, because Austria did not find it necessary to interfere. Alexander, however, was re-elected, and he was their Prince to this day. Sir John Fife gave them that as a specimen of the bullying insolence of the Czar, and to show the infatuated, doating policy of Lord Aberdeen, and his entire reliance on the honour of the Czar. He believed that peace was one of the greatest blessings on the earth, but he was convinced that peace never could be secured by mean compliances, nor by a base desertion of the principles of justice, and whether they considered this question in a moral, a religious, or a political point of view, they would see that it was the duty of this country to show Russia that she should not invade, rob, and plunder at her own good pleasure. (Cheers.)

Mr. George Crawshaw, who moved the next resolution, very properly took up the question of secret diplomacy.

He said the only apprehension he had in proposing this resolution was lest it should be thought too moderate in its language, for he believed that the indignation which they felt at the conduct of the Russian Government was something too deep for words, and could only find its vent in deeds. Mr. Crawshaw complained of the unwarrantable degree of secrecy that had been shown all along by the present Government in reference to the Eastern question, the like of which had never been evinced in regard to any previous war. His opinion was, that every despatch which was either received or sent away by the Government, should be published to the nation in the shortest possible time. But, as it was, enough had been known to cause great dissatisfaction with the manner in which the Government had proceeded in this affair. He did not propose to move a vote of want of confidence in the Government, but that they should keep their judgment on this subject in suspense. He was confident that if the people only used a little gentle pressure towards the Government, though it had behaved in so very unworthy a manner in the affair of the Vienna notes, it would do all they wanted, and would recommend the forces of Great Britain, in conjunction with those of France and Turkey, to be employed in compelling the Russian Government to evacuate the Danubian Principalities. He was more alarmed at the negotiations at Vienna than at the war on the Danube, and his opinion was that the Government should demand the perfect neutrality of Austria in this matter; and in the event of this not being complied with, that they should inscribe on their British flag the independence of Italy and of Hungary, and the extinction of Austria, as they had already inscribed upon it the independence of Turkey. He believed the cause of peace could only be maintained by action. (Cheers.)

Mr. Cohen seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously. A loyal memorial to the Queen, based upon the resolutions, was afterwards adopted, signed by the Mayor on behalf of the meeting, and directed to be intrusted to Lord John Russell for presentation to her Majesty.

ABOLITION OF THE POOR LAW BOARD.

The northern boards of guardians are again on the alert to oppose the renewal of the Poor Law Board. On Monday, there was a meeting of delegates at Manchester, "for the purpose of determining what steps (if any) shall be taken during the next session of Parliament, either to limit the powers of the Poor Law Board, or to attempt a more extensive interference therewith." This is a continuation of the movement against the disputed orders of Sir John Trollope, retained in a modified shape by Mr. Baines. Mr. John Holt, of Stubbylee, Bacup, occupied the chair, and laid before the meeting letters, giving a qualified support to its objects, from Lord Goderich, Mr. Walter, M.P., and Mr. Wickham, M.P. The speakers complained of the restrictions which the orders of the board place upon the action of the guardians; the power which it possesses of making what are in effect Acts of Parliament; its denial of relief, and punishment of poverty. Some instances were mentioned of gentlemen whom the arbitrary conduct

of the board had compelled to withdraw from the post of guardian. The meeting were first asked to adopt a resolution asserting that, as during next session the Poor Law Board will be reconsidered, the present is a favourable opportunity for obtaining some limitation of its powers; but an amendment, asserting that it was time to move "for the discontinuance" of the board, was moved by Mr. Smith, of Bradford, and carried by 15 to 8. Mr. Frost, of Bradford, moved:

"That this meeting is of opinion that the powers possessed by the Poor Law Board of making orders, which have the force of law, are most unconstitutional in principle and mischievous in practice, and such as Parliament has no right to delegate; and, therefore, this meeting determines to make every effort during next session to prevent the renewal of such powers to any body."

This and other resolutions, appointing a committee and calling for a subscription to meet expenses, were adopted, and the meeting broke up.

The following letter, *apropos* of a statement made at the Manchester meeting, has an intrinsic interest. It has been published in the journals.

At a meeting held at Manchester on the 12th inst., to consider the subject of the powers of the Poor Law Board, the chairman is reported to have stated: "According to a Parliamentary return of last session, the cost of the Central Poor Law Establishment at Gwydyr House was 260,000*l.* annually."

No Parliamentary return of the last or any preceding session will be found to contain or bear out this statement.

On a reference to the estimates for the current year, laid before Parliament last session, it will be seen that the entire cost of the establishment of this board, including the salaries of the president, secretaries, inspectors (with their travelling expenses), clerks, messengers, and servants, together with the law charges, and all incidental expenses, amounts to 34,073*l.*

The estimates comprise, besides this sum, the following charges, which, although connected with the administration of the Poor Laws, form no part of the expenses of the central establishment, and which, until the year 1846, were defrayed exclusively out of the poor-rates, namely:—Salaries of the auditors of the poor-law unions, 13,500*l.*; salaries of schoolmasters and schoolmistresses in poor-law unions, 22,000*l.*; one-half of the expenses of the salaries of medical officers in the several poor-law districts, 80,000*l.*

According to the same estimates, the aggregate cost of the Poor Law Boards for England, Scotland, and Ireland, including the salaries of auditors, school-teachers, and medical officers, amounts to 214,494*l.*

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

COURTENAY, Secretary.

Poor Law Board, Whitehall, Dec. 13.

BIRMINGHAM CATTLE SHOW.

THE good town of Birmingham, famous for all kinds of energetic exertions in political and social affairs, has of late years got up a cattle and poultry show. It is not Brummagem; it is genuine. The public were admitted on Tuesday. Very little short of the Metropolitan Show in Baker-street, in point of number, it would seem to have been more nearly equal in point of quality. Mr. Stratton's steer was beaten by a beast exhibited at Birmingham; and, generally speaking, the beasts were well, but not over fed, and admirable in their proportions. It is not a little remarkable that animals are now sent to these exhibitions from long distances—a fact, showing that the prizes are really regarded as distinctions.

But the chief interest of the display was the immense quantity of poultry—thousands of pens. We quote the *Times* for an account of this portion of the show:—

"Last year's exhibition contained 1300 pens of this description of farm produce, a number which was then quite unapproached; but now the entries are 2275. If it be borne in mind that the present contributors, who come from all parts of the country, and even from Ireland, with the exception of some 50 or 60, are all amateurs, and that the sales of birds exhibited amounted on Tuesday, before four o'clock, to 1000*l.*, some idea may be formed of the wide area over which the poultry mania is diffused, and of the intensity of its symptoms. The 50 or 60 exceptional cases are those of dealers permitted to fill space not occupied, from accident or some other cause, by the original applicants. One of these dealers sold a cock and hen (Brahma Pootras) on Tuesday for 120*l.*, the auctioneer, with a boldness which reminds one of poor George Robins, declaring that 'they were thrown away at that price.' It would therefore appear that, notwithstanding all the ridicule poured upon it, the poultry mania still rages among us with epidemic fury. It has given an extraordinary interest to this year's show at Birmingham, for such a collection has never previously been brought together; and, however absurd may be the present mode of forcing forward a branch of farmyard economy hitherto as absurdly neglected, there can be no doubt that in our usual wild extravagant way we are perfecting the best breeds of poultry in the world. The display of these at Birmingham is set off by a new and greatly improved arrangement of pens, which enable the birds to be much better seen than formerly. Exhibited in such numbers and excellence, facilities of inspection, so as to discriminate their nicely shaded merits, are essential; and it may help to convey some idea how closely these merits are contested, that a fine pen of Cochin China fowls, which won the silver medal in its class at Cheltenham, and eleven first premiums elsewhere, has not even been mentioned. In Dorkings, especially the dark gray, there is a wonderful display. The Spanish and game varieties are also exceedingly well represented. Malays, which generally form weak parts of poultry exhibitions, are here exceedingly

strong. As for Cochin Chinas, they are larger, more awkward upon their legs, and heavier than ever, and, therefore, will, no doubt, be considered more beautiful by discriminating judges. The black and white varieties are chiefly in vogue at present, but none are without their special admirers, who point out how splendidly the birds in some pens are feathered and "fuffed" out, while those in others have discolourations of the legs, or some blemish equally fatal to their reputation and standing as fowls. At this season of the year, when turkeys rise so much in estimation and in price, it may not be useless to point out that the wild American species, distinguishable by its bronzed wing, carries the palm away at all our recent shows for weight and excellence. Being close-feathered birds, they do not look so large as they are in reality. An erroneous impression appears to prevail, that because wild in America they are troublesome to domesticate, but this we are assured is not the case. A cock and two hens exhibited weigh 55 lb. Aylesbury ducks retain their old superiority, but there are some novelties in geese, the 'Emden' beating the 'Toulouse.' Although the agriculturist may hold in some disparagement the poultry department of the Birmingham Exhibition, the attractiveness of the whole display with the general public depends largely upon that feature. There is something in the very cock-crowing which insures popularity, and the birds seem to have discovered that it is so—for many of them are already suffering from their efforts to outchallenge each other, and if ghosts, as Shakspeare represents, are scared by such sounds, none will venture during the next few days within earshot of Bingley-hall.

The display of pigs was "large and splendid"—think of splendid pigs!

Another point worth notice, not in connexion with the pigs, by the way, was the company. It was not only numerous but distinguished.

THE FIRST AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS.

SCOTLAND is the first in the field with the much called-for "agricultural statistics." The Secretary of the Highland Society has obtained, and forwarded to the Board of Trade, the statistics of three counties—Haddington, Roxburgh, and Sutherland. Mr. Hall Maxwell, in his letter to the Board of Trade, forwarding the results of this first experiment, gives some information as to how it was made.

"The machinery employed in obtaining the estimates was simple, and proved efficient. In every district there was a committee composed of the enumerator and of experienced farmers selected from and representing each of the associated parishes. The nature and object of their services were explained in a circular addressed by me to the members of these committees before harvest. Their attention was called to the standing crops; and they were requested to institute inquiry and obtain information within their respective parishes. Their observations were continued during the progress of the harvest; and, at a later period, when experiments in thrashing and weighing had been made, the committees were convened by their enumerators, the views of the members were compared and considered, and a statement was prepared and forwarded to me showing the average acreable produce of each parish, in bushels of grain and tons of roots."

The corn produce of the three counties is 485,133 quarters, a little more than one-hundredth part of what is reckoned to be the home growth of Great Britain. The cost of obtaining these returns is not yet published.

"MILES GLORIOSUS" ON REFORM.

THE *Western Flying Post* reporteth that Mr. William Miles, one of the members for East Somerset, delivered himself as follows at the meeting of the Bruton Agricultural Society last week. He was responding to "the County Members":

"We are promised a new Reform Bill; and having had some little employment as chairman of election committees, I think that if a Reform Bill was necessary in 1832 it is certainly not unnecessary now; because there can be no doubt that corruption exists to a very great extent among the borough constituencies of England. (Cheers.) Now, I think that any well-digested scheme of reform which will cure that, and enable honest men to send their representatives to Parliament, will be worthy of support; and that any person bringing forward a proper measure for that purpose will deserve the thanks of his country. (Loud cheers.) I know not what the measure will be; it will be difficult to frame; but whenever it is brought forward it shall have my very best consideration. Because it is put forward by Lord John Russell, that is no reason why it should be thrown out. Having stated thus much, you know what my opinions are upon the subject; you know what they have been; and what my endeavours have been to support these opinions. And as long as you continue me in the honourable position in which you have been pleased to place me, I shall maintain those opinions for the general good of the country, whether agricultural, commercial, or manufacturing." (Loud cheers.)

Every little helps, and every soldier counts in a campaign. Who knows what would not fall if the Tories were to abolish corruption!

AUSTRALIA: DIGGERS TRIUMPHANT.

THE *Victoria* steamer arrived at Falmouth on Saturday with mails from Australia and the Cape. The Australian accounts come down to the 23rd September, on which day the *Victoria* steamed out of Hobson's Bay. The intelligence from the colonies generally is of a most satisfactory character. At Sydney the rural and pastoral districts to the north

were very prosperous, and high prices were given for stations. The city is free from robberies, and handsome buildings are rising in all directions. A Government surveying party was on duty at Port Curtis or Port Gladstone, 800 or 900 miles north. This port is said to possess many facilities as a convenient outlet for wool and other agricultural produce, now conveyed expensively by land to Sydney for export.

The market price for gold at Melbourne was 3*l.* 17*s.*—rising. Wonderful discoveries were making at the new Ballarat diggings. Three men in six days are said to have raised 192*lb.* weight of gold. The diggings are healthy, and the diggers are adopting a more scientific mode than formerly; they sink a shaft, from 6 to 12 feet diameter, to a depth of from 20 to 100 feet, and from the base work radiating tunnels, which are connected at the outer ends by a circular tunnel. All the produce is sent up the shaft.

Referring to the social condition of Melbourne, the *Argus* says:

"There is one aspect of our social condition, respecting which it is of essential importance that correct ideas should be entertained in Europe; it relates to the supremacy of law and order, the security of person and property. We are far from saying that all is accomplished in this respect that is desirable, or that every man who contributes to the revenue of the State has a right to expect.

"The outrages to which we had so often to refer eight, ten, and twelve months ago, in and around Melbourne, are now of comparatively rare occurrence—a fortunate state of things, however, which will not long endure if our Legislative Council do not make a vigorous stand against the unwise and mistaken interference of the Duke of Newcastle and the Imperial Government with the measure which the Council passed last session against the unrestricted admission into the colony of conditionally pardoned convicts from Van Diemen's Land.

"Provisions in general are not dear, in proportion to house rent; at least tea, sugar, butchers' meat, and potatoes are at a reasonable price; but bread, milk, butter, and such vegetables as turnips, cabbages, &c., are still at a high figure; the quartern loaf is 1*s.* 6*d.* It is evident, then, that the first and necessary expenses which meet a man on landing are very heavy; but let not the new comer be therefore discouraged; if he is the sort of man suited to the colony—and almost all working and labouring men are—he will soon be in a position to meet his expenses, and also to put by money to join one of the many building and freehold land societies which the high price of land and extravagant rents have called into active existence within the last few months. English readers given to such pursuits as market-gardening, poultry-keeping, dairy-farming, &c., will form their own conclusions of the prospects of those following such callings in a country with a range of prices like those quoted in our market report. Battersea gardeners, Surrey fowl-tenders, and the dairy people of Kent and Essex will probably lick their lips at the thought of cauliflowers at 2*s.* a-piece, eggs at 5*s.* per dozen, and milk at 2*s.* per quart. We can assure one and all of such that we have room for thousands of them; that these high prices do not arise from any natural scarcity; that the gardener will find plenty of land, the dairyman any number of cattle, and the poultrywoman hens innumerable.

"It must be distinctly understood, in spite of all the 'croaking' letters which have swarmed in the English papers, that the industrious workman may secure employment at high wages the very day he lands; while, at the same time, the clerk, shopman, or broken-down city idler lingers about our streets dispirited, unemployed, and miserable."

The fact of the greatest moment, however, has reference to the complete triumph of the diggers over the Government in the matter of the license fee. Perhaps our readers will remember that Mr. Latrobe, Lieutenant-Governor of Victoria, has never shown any abilities equal to the post he filled, and that he has been repeatedly in conflict with the inhabitants. In the matter of the gold license, Mr. Latrobe has behaved with peculiar weakness. When the gold was discovered he insisted on 3*l.* a month from the diggers, saying, when it was urged that they would not pay it, that they must. However, the diggers did not pay, and the fee was reduced to 30*s.* Nevertheless, the diggers have kept up constant complaints; and during the months of June and July the agitation gathered strongly to a head, rousing up the diggers of Bendigo, the Ovens, Goulburn, and other places, to form an association, and embodying not only their grievances in a memorial to Mr. Latrobe, but prescribing their demands. Mr. Latrobe rode the high horse; he was "prepared for anything," the "law must be observed;" in fact, he had collected troops and artillery, and did seem prepared to make a "determined stand," as he expressed it. Meanwhile, throughout August, the agitation went on gathering greater strength and impetus; at Goulburn, the commissioners, among whom we find "Mr. Horne," were compelled to refrain from enforcing the fee for the last ten days of August, and to release prisoners. By the 1st September, the day for renewing the licenses, the Bendigo men had determined to "tender" ten shillings, and if that was not received, to pay nothing. In order that those who adopted these views might be known, they agreed to wear a red ribbon in the buttonhole, and red ribbons were the order of the day. Government had sent up a force; but they yielded, and a notice was issued stating, on authority, that the fee would not be collected for September.

Here was a change! The fact is, that "firm and determined" man, the Lieutenant-Governor, had on the 30th August proposed to the Legislative Council the total abolition of the fee! A committee met, and it was agreed to recommend the council to pass a temporary act commuting the 30*s.* a month into 2*l.* for the remainder of the year! Of course this was equivalent to the success of the diggers! But here our accounts drop the story.

We have news from the Cape of Good Hope up to the 7th November. At that date three regiments had left for Madras. Colonel Nesbitt, of the 60th Foot, Commandant of British Kaffraria was drowned on the 13th of October, in crossing the Kieskamma river. Some apprehensions were entertained that the Kaffirs would revolt again as soon as their crops were gathered.

The Orange Sovereignty people continued to be excited on the subject of the proposed abandonment of the country by the British. They hope to have their case well stated in the British press, and they have sent two delegates to represent them in England.

JAMAICA NEWS.

THE steamer *La Plata* brings news up to the 27th of November from Kingston. Sir Henry Barkly had obtained the first success of his policy. The House of Assembly was in session, and had passed the Import Duty Bill with some important reductions of the tariff. A great struggle took place relative to the duration clause of the bill, which the retrenchment party wished to limit to the 31st of December, 1853; but, after several divisions, it was carried, by a majority of one, to extend its duration to the 30th of December, 1854. The bill has been sanctioned by the Council and Governor. The question of responsible government was fixed for debate on Wednesday, the 20th, and it was contemplated Government views would be carried out and the guarantee loan accepted, as all parties were tired of the general dead lock. The return made to the House of Assemblies by the Receiver-General showed a deficiency of 200,000*l.* up to the January quarter, which would have to be added to the debt of the country, as it never could be discharged by ordinary taxation.

TESTIMONY OF A "TRAVELLER IN ITALY."

SOME time since the *Times* published an admirable letter in defence of the calumniated Liberals of Italy—especially of the movement, or national party—signed, "A Traveller in Italy." On Thursday, the same journal printed another letter from the same pen. We cut out one or two passages of interest even for our readers, who have been kept well-informed on the subject. The first relates to the advocacy of assassination by the Papal party:—

"During the existence of the Roman Republic emissaries from Gaeta went about the provinces endeavouring to influence the superstition of the lower orders, and again excite a *Jacquerie* against the Liberals; such documents as the following were circulated among the peasantry:—'Republicans or Liberals mean only men who would destroy our religion itself and all its ministers. Gather yourselves together, and plunge your weapons into the hearts of those enemies of God, and pray to Him that He will destroy them utterly, even their very infants,—exterminate their race.' These emissaries did not succeed in their object, or but very partially; yet, is it to be wondered at, when these things are considered, that the Liberal cause was sometimes stained, as at Imola and Ancona, by the assassination of persons who were known as supporters or spies of the fallen Government? Saffi, who was Minister of the Interior under the Republic, in enjoining upon the authorities of Ancona the most severe measures for the punishment and repression of these assassinations, wrote thus:—'The perpetrators of these crimes are traitors to the Republic, and ruin the work of an entire people in the cause of their redemption; every act of illegality or of violence which bears the stamp of political revenge is an execrable relic of past times, and an imitation of the crimes of priestly Government.'"

The second vindicates the gallant Garibaldi, and the devoted Ugo Bassi.

"Among those Italians who have most been the victims of calumny and misrepresentation is Garibaldi. During the siege of Rome he was represented in the French papers, and sometimes in the English, as a leader of Condottieri, a brigand, a pirate, a chief of assassins. Listen for a moment to his history. Born in the middling rank of life, he was obliged to fly, when still young, from his native city, Genoa, during a persecution of the sect of Carbonari, of which he was a member. He afterwards went to the Brazils with the object of engaging in some commercial undertaking, but, devoted to the cause of liberty, he soon joined a small band of Italian refugees who were serving as volunteers in Montevideo, defending the cause of liberty and the republic. His desperate courage, his personal prowess as a soldier, and his heroism, never stained by any act of cruelty, made him the theme and admiration of the country; he quickly rose to the rank of general. But Garibaldi was more than a warrior. If he took away life, it was from devotion to a cause which he believed to be that of humanity, and he disdained to contaminate the purity of his motive by receiving riches or rewards for his services, and he lived always in the greatest poverty. In 1847 he returned to Italy. His deeds at Rome are well known. When the siege of Rome was over, and the city taken possession of by the French, he collected about

4000 of its defenders and made a rash attempt to cross Italy to the Adriatic, thus hoping to make his way by sea to Venice, where the last ray of Italian liberty still lingered. He was quickly surrounded with Austrian troops from Florence, Bologna, and Ancona, and he reached with difficulty, with a portion of his force, the little republic of San Marino; here 900 men gave up their arms to the authorities of the republic, who, as authorities of an independent state, proposed to make terms for them with the Austrians. They were, however, made prisoners and sent to Mantua, many of them first being ignominiously flogged. Garibaldi and about 300 companions reached the shore, and embarking during the night on board some fishing boats, made sail towards Venice; as morning dawned the wind fell, and two Austrian steamers were in sight. Some boats were taken, others sunk, and two only, I believe, reached the shore near Rimini; in one of these were Garibaldi and his wife, a lady of the Brazils, who had insisted on accompanying her husband on his retreat from Rome. Garibaldi and his companions immediately separated themselves, as the only chance of escape, and carrying his wife in his arms, who was unable to support herself from fatigue, left the shore and went inland. Two days afterwards he appeared at the cottage of a peasant, still carrying his wife, and asked for water to be given to her, but she expired as he put it to her lips. His companions were hunted about, and most of them shot down like beasts of chase. Two months later Garibaldi arrived at Genoa, having passed through the midst of the Austrian forces in various disguises, and he who had always refused to enrich himself by war, who disdained self-interest, and defied all perils in devotion to a noble cause, now thinks it no dishonour to earn his living as the captain of a merchant vessel trading between China and America. He has been called a brigand and a leader of Condottieri; but let those who reflect compare Garibaldi with the French and Austrian generals whom he fought against in Italy. Among the companions of Garibaldi who were made prisoners was a priest named Ugo Bassi, who had distinguished himself during the siege of Rome by riding unarmed among the combatants, consoling and assisting the dying and wounded. He was sent to Bologna, where, by order of the Papal authorities, he had the skin peeled from the crown of his head and from the thumb and two first fingers of his right hand, and, when this Christian-like ceremony was performed—which was considered to remove his priesthood—he was turned over to the Austrians to be shot!

"Such," continues the traveller, "was the fate of the remnant of that brave army of volunteers which had defended Rome, composed of men from all ranks of life, in which the nobleman, the peasant, and youths who had left the peaceful study of professions and the arts, fought side by side, united in love for their country; their courage had been wasted, and their force consumed in resisting France, at a moment when most needed against the Austrians. The Austrian power in Lombardy rested on a volcano, ready to burst beneath her feet. The battle of Novara, so suddenly and decisively won, checked its explosion, but it still existed, and such a resistance to the Austrian forces as the French encountered at Rome might at that moment have influenced the fate of Italy. And these defenders of Rome have been calumniated as a band of desperadoes, of soldiers of adventure, of anarchists, and revolutionists of all nations! In vain the French envoy, Lesseps, wrote to his Government the unwelcome truth, that Rome was defended chiefly by those classes which in Paris defend the cause of order; he was unheeded in the necessity which the French Government was under of justifying the siege by any means, and imputing it to any motive but the true one. The death of Rossi—the act of a single man—was paraded as the crime of a whole people. The man who had come forward almost alone to support by his talent and reputation the Papal Government in its now open hostility to Italian freedom, who had no ally, who would hardly have found a gendarme to obey him, who stood alone opposed to a whole city, whose power must have fallen of itself in a few days, did more harm to the Romans by his death than he could have done while living. The Republic was said to have been founded on an assassination, and unworthy to exist, and 2,000 Italians died at Rome to defend it. In France the lower and middling classes had learnt to distrust each other; the violence of the Socialists produced a reaction, a retrograde spirit, and Italy suffered for this. Its results were the re-establishment of the Papal authority, and the present despotism in France.

"Should a day of deliverance ever arrive for Italy, it is difficult to foretell what effect it may have upon the Roman Catholic Church. The temporal power of the Popes being wrested from them, their spiritual power would be used without moderation or remorse to recover it, as it is now used for its defence; hence must arise a resistance, an opposition to the spiritual power also."

The letter, as our readers will see, is ably and feelingly written; and its importance is certainly heightened by its publication in the *Times*.

THE NORTHERN STRIKES.

The following address to the "Master Spinners and Manufacturers of Preston," has been just issued:—

"For a considerable period you and your associates throughout Lancashire have been busily engaged in propagating the notion that trade, especially the cotton branch of it, was in a depressed condition, and that consequently you would not be warranted in raising the wages of your workpeople by 10 per cent. I do not specifically allude to the last placard you issued, though, of course, the statement is found there. Early in November you addressed to your workpeople a kind of manifesto, which distinctly intimated that trade was 'bad,' and this intimation has been again and again iterated by your *confères* all over the country. Now, will you be kind enough to reconcile the statements so sedulously disseminated with the tables published by the Board of Trade? Either you or the officials of that board are guilty of misrepresentation; for what you aver to be true and what their figures teach are directly at variance with each other. I beg to direct your attention

to the following figures—exhibiting, as they do, a most satisfactory condition of the trade of the nation generally, as well as of your own. For the 10 months ending the 5th of November, 1852, the declared value of all kinds of goods exported was 59,247,104*l*. For the 10 months ending the 5th of November, 1853, the declared value of the quantity exported amounted to the enormous sum of 73,155,755*l*. This sum represents an extraordinary degree of activity in trade, of which your branch has certainly derived its proportionate share of benefit. Now, let us look at the aggregate value of all kinds of goods exported in the month ending the 5th of November, 1852, and the corresponding month of the present year. For the month ending the 5th of November, 1852, the value of goods exported was 4,855,660*l*. For the month ending the 5th of November, 1853, the value is returned as 6,168,626*l*. Thus you perceive that 1,312,966*l* more of the goods which England has to export were sent abroad in the month ending the 5th of November, 1853, than in the month ending the 5th of November, 1852. You will probably think this might be the case, and yet that the cotton and woollen trades might, nevertheless, be on the decline.

"Let us see what information on this point the tables of the Board of Trade will yield to the public. For the month ending the 5th of November, 1852, the value of the cotton manufactures exported was 1,460,483*l*; for the month ending the 5th of November, 1853, the value of the same kind of goods was 1,560,791*l*, being an increase over the corresponding month of last year of goods to the value of 100,308*l*. For the month ending the 5th of November, 1852, the value of cotton-yarn exported was 469,079*l*; for the corresponding month of the present year the value is returned as 597,736*l*, being an increase over the same month of last year of no less a sum than 128,657*l*. For the month ending the 5th of November last year woollen manufactures and woollen-yarns were exported to the value of 620,495*l*; during the corresponding month of the present year the value of woollen manufactures and woollen-yarns exported is returned as 757,736*l*, being an increase of 137,241*l*. These facts speak for themselves. It is for you and your scribes to explain them if you can, and to reconcile them with the alleged depression in trade; otherwise, whatever for the future you may say on this subject will be deemed worthy of very little consideration.

"I do not deny that this general increase of the trade of the country is compatible with the depression of particular branches; but, if so in your case, it is evidently local and temporary in character and duration. In fact, if you were to have six months of 'bad trade' every five or six years, that would be no reason why you should attempt to 'grind the faces' of your workpeople. During such incidental occurrences, be satisfied, like other tradesmen, if you can make both ends meet and leave the wages of your hands alone. It will be much better for yourselves and others to run short time during such emergencies than to attempt to reduce the wages of your workpeople. If you do not bear this in mind, some of you will live to see your children reap the bitter fruits of conduct almost without parallel for the folly and blunders by which it has been characterised. I have no wish to see anything but all classes in this country free, prosperous, and happy; but remember it will be intolerable (and will bring retribution if you persist in the attempt) for all the effects of free trade, of the discoveries in Australia, and of the mechanical ingenuity of the country, to find their way into the pockets of such a small section of the community as yours."

What the men may expect, is shown by the following anecdote, which we quote from the *Leeds Intelligencer*:—

"A Lancashire cotton-spinner with whom we had a conversation a few days ago, and whose premises are in the strike district, said, 'We gave the advance, and so our hands are still at work. But when the strike is over and the mills are all going again, of course we shall pull them down at the first opportunity.'"

The bottle-makers of the Tyne have obtained 2*s*. advance, and so their strike is at an end.

Reports from Glasgow speak of a strike as imminent amongst the cotton operatives of that town. The cause is a contemplated reduction of wages.

HEALTH OF LONDON.

(From the Registrar-General's Returns.)

The present return discovers a decrease of mortality in London on the two previous weeks, but it still indicates a not very favourable state of the public health. The deaths registered in the last four weeks were 1162, 1339, 1414, and (in the week that ended last Saturday) 1308. In the ten weeks corresponding to last week of the years 1843-52, the average number was 1215, which, if raised in proportion to increase of population, becomes 1337. The actual number of deaths being 1308, it differs but to a small extent from the estimated amount.

The increase in the deaths caused by diseases of the respiratory organs has been the principal feature of late returns. The numbers referred to this class have been in the last four weeks 180, 297, 379, and 343. From phthisis in the tubercular class they were in the same periods 133, 166, 175, and 157. Last week bronchitis was fatal in 159 cases, while the corrected average of ten corresponding weeks (in 1843-52) was 113; pneumonia was fatal in 142, while the same average was 134. Typhus and hooping-cough predominate at present amongst epidemic diseases, the former numbering 64 fatal cases, the latter 56. Typhus shows an increased tendency to prevail. Cholera rapidly declines; it reached its maximum in the first week of November, when the

deaths were 102; in the five subsequent weeks they have been 98, 72, 46, 28, and (last week) 13.

Last week the births of 833 boys and 790 girls, in all 1628 children, were registered in London. In the eight corresponding weeks of the years 1845-52 the average number was 1397.

At the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, the mean height of the barometer in the week was 30.001 in. The mean temperature of the week was 39.8 deg., which is rather below the average of the same week in thirty-eight years. The mean dew point temperature was 38.0 deg.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Court is still at Osborne. Lord Aberdeen and Lord John Russell have visited the Queen this week. The Duke and Duchess of Brabant went home on Monday.

Queen Victoria has subscribed 100*l*. towards the fund for building a church for the English Episcopalians in Paris.

In consideration of the severity of the season, and the excessive price of every necessary of life, the Queen has announced her intention of contributing 250*l*. towards the funds of the Association for Promoting the Relief of Destitution in the Metropolis.

The electric telegraph is now stretched to Osborne, the house of the Queen.

After all, Lord Paget will not stand for South Staffordshire; the Liberals have lost their labour, and will have to seek a new candidate. [This is a Tory report; and, we are informed, not correct.]

All hope of opposing Mr. John O'Connell has been abandoned; and there is little doubt but that he will be Member for Clonmel before we can go to press.

The ladies of Durham, taking pity on the wretched case of Lord Adolphus Vane, who was ousted from the representation of the city, on petition, have consoled him with a snuff-box and a diamond ring. When those valuables were presented to his lordship, on Tuesday, he was "deeply affected," saith the reporter; but with what, said reporter sayeth not.

The widow of the Ettrick Shepherd has obtained a pension at last. The Queen has granted her 50*l*. a year.

Mr. Cobden has been on a visit at Oxford. On Tuesday he was present at the examination in the School of Law and Modern History.

A son of Solouque, Emperor of Hayti, is at present in England. He calls himself M. Dalval.

Jenny Lind has been singing at a concert at Dresden. This is her first public appearance in Europe since her marriage and return from America.

John Mitchell landed in New York on the 29th November. The Irish received him with exulting demonstrations; and the militia regiments serenaded him.

The *Cambridge Independent* prints a circular which has been sent to the leading Dissenters, inviting them to subscribe for a testimonial to the Reverend Mr. Maurice, whose dismissal by the authorities of King's College has excited so much public notice.

Paisley has declared upon the Russo-Turkish question. At a meeting on Monday, the Provost in the chair, resolutions in favour of supporting the Turks were adopted.

Maidstone rejoices in 104 inhabitants who consider that, if England aids either Turkey or Russia, she will assuredly offend, perhaps draw down the judgment of God upon us. Said 104 have memorialised Government to withdraw from all military interference.

Lord Palmerston gave offence when in Scotland, by talking about "England" and "Englishmen." A Scotchman has put his complaint into words, and Mr. Henry Fitzroy has been directed to convey to him "Lord Palmerston's assurance, that in using the words 'English,' 'Englishmen,' 'England,' his lordship meant no disparagement to Scotland, Ireland, or Wales; but only used that form of speech which is usually and conveniently adopted in speaking of the United Kingdom and its inhabitants."

The Admiralty have refused to send out another expedition to explore the Arctic Seas; and Sir John Franklin is fairly given up. [This statement is contradicted by some papers.]

The Irish priests of Dublin have sent a letter of sympathy to the Archbishop of Freiburg.

We are informed that the Bishop of London, assisted by Dr. Lushington and Sir James Patteson, sitting as assessors, will commence an inquiry into certain alleged abuses connected with St. Paul's Cathedral on the 9th of January.—*Globe*.

The Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol has just issued a pastoral letter to the inhabitants of the latter city, urging them to use every exertion for the establishment of model lodging-houses.

"St. Columba" is the name of an Irish College. Its warden is "the Reverend Mr. Williams, of the University of Oxford." He was suspected of Puseyism. When the memorial against Bishop Gobat was set on foot he signed it. In consequence of that act, it is supposed, the Primate of Ireland has withdrawn his name as the chief patron of the college.

Dr. Harington, Principal of Brazenose, died on Tuesday last. He caught cold on Friday and it proved fatal. Dr. Harington was a most active and staunch supporter of the movement party in the University. He also took part in city affairs. He was formerly a Fellow of the College, and was elected Principal in 1842.

Christmas will be pretty generally kept on Monday, as usual, and the mayors of towns seem to have lent support to the movement. At the meeting of the Oxford Town Council, last week, the mayor, Mr. Richard James Spiers, called the attention of the council to the subject, and they unanimously agreed to recommend the suspension of business. He further said, in answer to an inquiry whether the working men would be paid their wages for that day, that "the principle

upon which he acted was, when he gave his workmen a holiday, to pay them the same wages as if they had been at work." How many mayors do this?

The Royal Agricultural Society appears, from the latest reports, to be in a flourishing state. Since June it has lost 43 and gained 156 members; and has besides a balance of 2249*l.* at the bankers. The next Show Meeting will be at Lincoln.

At the Christmas show in Smithfield-market on Monday, there were 7037 beasts, 25,832 sheep, 260 calves, and 290 pigs!

No fewer than 566 vessels were entered inwards at the Custom-house last week; and of these 336 were coal-laden vessels from various ports. It is estimated that they brought 67,000 tons of coal.

Natal seems flourishing. The crops of arrowroot have been very good, and coffee and sugar planting are on the increase.

Pilchards abounded on the Cornwall coast last week. Few, comparatively, were caught, in consequence of the idleness of the fishermen.

A competent commission have been instructed to report on the construction of an organ vast enough to fill the Crystal Palace. They find that it will occupy 5400 feet; be 50 feet deep, and 140 feet high. A steam-engine will work the bellows. The highest pipes will be 64 feet long—half as long as any hitherto used. It will require three years to build it, and will cost 25,000*l.*, "or more."

In 1836 an Act of Parliament took away the jurisdiction of the Palatinate of Durham from the Bishop, and conferred it on the Crown; but left all the stipends of the officers of the court chargeable on the surplus revenues of the see. From 1788 to 1836 it was usual to pay the Chancellor of the Court 100*l.* for each sitting. In 1851 the Crown appointed Mr. Christopher Temple Chancellor, and he instituted a suit against the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for the fee of 100*l.* each sitting of his court, to be paid out of the surplus revenues in their hands. They contended that the 100*l.* was paid at the pleasure of the Bishop, and was not a stipend recoverable at law. The Lord Chancellor gave judgment upon a special case, drawn up by mutual agreement, on Saturday. He decides that the fee of 100*l.* was included in the stipends, and must be paid.

Captain Cox, who took the *Melbourne* to Lisbon, as commander, when she set out on her first voyage to Australia, has obtained 400*l.* damages from the Australian Mail Company, for wrongfully dismissing him. The case was tried in the Court of Queen's Bench, but settled in the midst of the Attorney-General's opening speech for Mr. Cox, by the offer, on behalf of the company, of the damages demanded. Lord Campbell said Mr. Cox left the court with the reputation of a "skilful, attentive, and stout-hearted seaman."

The judge of the Pontefract County Court has decided that where a railway company promises to convey goods to their destination in a given time, they are bound to make good any damage arising from the non-performance of the implied bargain. The case out of which the question arose was that of a market-gardener, who was told that 27 sacks of peas would reach Leeds by half-past two in the morning of market-day. They did not arrive until some hours after, and the gardener lost his market.

Miss Sellon engaged Catherine Callanan as servant; but did not pay her wages. The servant has sued Miss Sellon, and obtained a county court award for 7*l.* 10*s.* It would appear that there was some misunderstanding in the matter, as Miss Sellon alleges Callanan was taken out of charity, and that there was no contract for wages.

From a number of documents which appear in the *Cheltenham Examiner*, it would seem that the judgment of the County Court, by which Dr. Humphreys, the Head Master, was ordered to pay four guineas damages, with costs, to a boy named Micklewright, for an alleged undue and excessive correction, has not been indorsed by the public opinion of that town. The patrons of the school, the President and Fellows of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, have formally absolved the master from blame. An address, headed by the Reverend F. Close, the incumbent of Cheltenham, and signed by between 200 and 300 of the most respectable inhabitants of the town, has been presented to Dr. Humphreys, and finally the scholars have subscribed 40*l.* for a testimonial to him.

Sunday burglaries are growing frequent. There were two last Sunday. In one case all the family had gone to church. The thieves tried to force the door, but failing, they got in at the parlour window, and carried off a large quantity of property. In the other case, burglars opened the street-door with skeleton keys.

Three men have been arrested on suspicion of having committed the burglary at Leighton Buzzard. The evidence is rather strong against them.

Another garrotte robbery has been perpetrated at Manchester. Two fellows followed a wine agent into his office in the evening, half strangled him, robbed him of 25 sovereigns, and turned the key of his own door upon him. He screamed for assistance from the window. Persons came and broke open the door. He was dreadfully hurt, and much exhausted.

Three men walked into the house of Thomas Bincliffe, nurseryman, near Swindon, bound said Thomas, carried off what they could, and ran away. The house was in a lonely place. Bincliffe was left bound, but as the cords were new, he got them loose and released himself. Fifteen years ago he was served the same.

Some Italians and an Irishman, named Eames, were in a coffee-house in Hatton-garden. One of the Italians paid some attention to a girl who was with Eames. Eggs were thrown; one struck Eames between the eyes, and he struck the Italian, knocking him down. He died, but not from the blow; and the jury returned a verdict of "died by misadventure." A post-mortem examination showed that the Italian was much diseased.

A young ruffian named Nolan, recently slew his father in a quarrel, at a place in Galway county. After he had killed

him, he took his father's shoes off, put them on his own feet, and fled!

Another agrarian outrage in Ireland is reported. The Reverend Mr. Rossborough went to Belfast. It was fortunate; for the night after some scoundrels visited his house and fired into it, nearly shooting a servant. A reward of 50*l.* has been offered by Government for their apprehension.

A servant has robbed a lady named "Cocker" of 100*l.* in cash, and bolted.

A Roman Catholic priest, named Foy, went out shooting. He chanced to fire at a small bird near the cottage of a Presbyterian minister, named Collum, whereupon Collum assaulted him with a stick. The facts were clearly proved, and Foy got 50*l.* damages and costs.

Edward Drane Humbell, a coach-builder, married Miss Cuffey, of Manchester, for money. He soon deserted her, and, pretending to go to America, went to Hull. There he wrote "religious" letters to a dissenting lady named Crackles, and taken by his piety, as he had been taken by her "brass," he wheedled and married her. The facts were clearly made out at his trial at the Liverpool Assizes, and the scoundrel was sentenced to four years' penal servitude.

The Reverend Francis Hewgill, the curate, who ran away with the schoolmistress of the national school in his district, leaving a wife and four children behind, and cheating two tradesmen out of two sums of 15*l.* and 25*l.*, has been committed for trial.

George Woodcock, a prisoner awaiting trial in the Derby County Gaol, fell savagely upon Carrington, a turnkey, and beat him senseless with a bludgeon. Fortunately, assistance arrived and the ruffian was overpowered.

John Clark set fire to a rick. He escaped at the time; but, apparently, unable to keep his own secret, a fatal habit that clings to many men, he gave himself up to the police. He would not say why he did it; so we are left to conclude that it was the mere criminal impulse of the moment.

A fortune-teller has been imprisoned at Bristol. She pretended to be dumb.

The police reports of the week have furnished the usual varieties of the brutal treatment of women. Begging is being vigorously put down in some districts. But on the whole the police calendar is not sufficiently striking to require of us our usually detailed treatment.

The wife of one of the Flynns, whose exploits we recorded last week—the Mrs. Flynn whose arm was nearly severed by an adze—now swears that she fell upon it while drunk. The surgeon says it was cut through the whole thickness. She persisted in her statement: her husband is good to her, too good. What is the exact truth it is now impossible to say.

Lamentable effects have followed hard upon the celebration of the Cambridge Race Ball. Several persons who were present have since been afflicted with a dangerous fever, and the Reverend George Treherne and Miss Richards have died. On inquiry, it has been ascertained that an old drain was accidentally broken into just before the ball, close to the ball-room. It had not been opened for years. The fever, it is suggested, was caused by the malaria from the drain.

There was a collision of coal-trains on the Great Northern Railway, on Thursday. The driver of the first train, anxious not to run into the passenger train ahead, was going slowly through the Stoke tunnel, near Grantham, when a second train, whose driver was not so careful, ran into the first in the tunnel. Guard injured.

Mrs. Laman Blacher, one of the persons severely injured in the accident at Straffan, died on Wednesday.

Five persons have died from suffocation by smoke in a coal-pit at Wordsley.

Coal, as a cargo, is sometimes productive of terrible effects. The crew of the *Flora*, a Sunderland collier, ran great risk last week. In the fog, all hands that could be spared went to bed. The captain, fortunately, felt himself suffocating before he went to sleep. He rose and found the ship full of sulphuric vapours. The crew, asleep, were so far gone that they had to be dragged through the hatchway. The boats were got out, and they had barely left the ship when she blew up.

The *Hyperion*, from New York, bound for Kingston, was wrecked at sea. The captain and three of the crew escaped on pieces of wood, unknown to each other. They were two nights at sea, and were then picked up by the *Edward Everett*. The three men had barely wood enough to cling to. They kept up each other's spirits, and "to while away the time, endeavoured to scare off two sharks that continued to flounder about their half-swamped raft!"

During the recent fogs, no fewer than fifteen vessels have been wrecked round the coast.

A free negro in Virginia recently sold himself into slavery, and received part of the purchase-money. He had been emancipated, and ordered to leave Virginia, under penalty of being sold for the benefit of the State; so that his sale of himself looked like an attempt to cheat the State. It is thought to be illegal, and will be tried before a superior court.

There is a story going about, whether authentic we know not, to the effect that a gunner's mate recently returned from India unwell. His stomach was swollen as with the dropsy, so that he died. Two hours before his death a snake, nine inches long, leapt from his mouth! It is supposed he swallowed the reptile when it was young, near Trincomalee, "close to a small island called Snake Island!"

Postscript.

SATURDAY, December 17.

The despatches from India and China arrived in London yesterday afternoon by the Overland Mail. Up to the 23rd of October we have news from Burmah. Our provinces are not in quite so unsettled a state as they were at the period of the last mail. The gallant Captain Latter and Captain Smith had pursued and broken the columns of so-called dacoits, infesting Prome and Sarrawah, and had hanged one

of their chiefs, desperately wounded the notorious Meah Toon, and driven another into hiding. The King of Ava wanted to send white elephants into Bassein; but as they superstitiously affect the Burmese, Captain Phayre had met the King's proposition by another—"Would the King give up D'Orguny, his French drill-sergeant?"

From India Proper we have the news of the death of General Godwin, at Simla, on the 26th October; and the appointment of Major Edwardes to be Commissioner of Peshawur.

The cholera had, up to the 13th November, killed 275 persons at Bombay.

From China we hear nothing of importance whatever.

The secession of Lord Palmerston from the Coalition Ministry is the subject of a thousand rumours and inventions. The Tory-Radical *Sun* and the venerable *Standard* insist on the late Home Secretary having been driven out of office by disgust at the vacillations of the Aberdeen peace policy in the East; while our spirited contemporary, the *Press*, courteously furnishes us with the information that Lord Palmerston has acted "with the concurrence and approbation of the Marquis of Lansdowne and of the principal members of the old Whig party." "Lord Palmerston" (continues the same authority) "is now on a visit to the Noble Marquis, at Bowood, to which seat he repaired after having sent in the resignation of his office to the Prime Minister, in order that it might be formally laid before her Majesty." The *Press*, however, with all its indiscretion of hot youth, does not favour us with an official authentication of another and far more startling rumour which has reached us: to wit that the Coalition is to be completely broken up, to make room for the Earl of Derby as President of the Council, Mr. Disraeli, Foreign Secretary, and Viscount Palmerston, Principal Secretary of State. In such a combination the Earl of Malmesbury would probably be Chancellor of the Exchequer. There are, indeed, those who, not content with the explanations vouchsafed by the powerful organ of Lord Aberdeen, suspect something awful behind it all. They whisper mysterious hints about royal autographic letters, and mutter *Coburg*!

Major Magnan, who assisted Omer Pasha in constructing the immense fortifications erected on the Danube and in the Balkan, and M. de la Cour, have arrived in Paris.

Namik Pasha has left Paris for London.

Despatches reached London late last night announcing that the combined fleets had entered the Black Sea "to put an end to further hostilities." They also state that the Russians had attacked Kalafat.

The Leader.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1853.

Public Affairs.

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

ENGLAND BETWEEN TWO STOOLS.

THE position of the English Government between influences that menace its political strength abroad is never known at any one moment; but there is no doubt that, down to a certain day not long past, our Ministers were so conducting the public business as to render this country passive between the two extremes. Attention has often been drawn to the fact, but we do not think that the danger which is threatened from the passive position of England, while these extremes are encroaching upon us, has yet been fairly appreciated.

In some of the public journals lately we have seen vehement attacks upon Mazzini, Kossuth, Louis Blanc, and Ledru Rollin, for imputed projects of spoliation and sanguinary tendencies; but the fact is, that not one of these men—not even Ledru Rollin—has been convicted of any wanton aggression on life or property; while the arbitrary Governments of Europe are at this very moment exemplifying in the very grossest manner

their total contempt for property, justice, law, or humanity. Take them in their own acts as painted by themselves! See Naples at this moment! Poerio, who was for his character selected by the King of Naples to be Minister in a time of difficulty—whom Mr. Gladstone has likened, for the moderation and uprightness of his political conduct, to Sir Robert Peel or Lord John Russell—has been imprisoned since 1849 like a common felon, and treated as a wild beast. The allowance which his friends have been permitted to make for his comfort has, within the last few weeks, been cut down to the beggarly sum of fourpence a day, barely enough to find fuel, for a man in broken-down health, and in a dungeon unreformed by any Howard. That is only the latest instance of the obstinate cruelty with which his Sacred Majesty of Naples has persecuted his own subjects for adhering to the law, when the king broke it. The throne of Naples is continually insulting and assailing the subjects of its allies. Not long since, the Duke de Lesparre, a French officer sent on a complimentary visit, was put into quarantine as an excuse for barring his access to the shore. The case of Mr. Hamilton, whose school was broken up, and whose livelihood was confiscated by the police, against a special treaty with England, we have recently described. Mr. Baggio, a British Ionian, has been refused admission into Naples, where he has long had commercial business. Mr. Carbone, an American, who sought admission to Messina on commercial affairs, has also been excluded, notwithstanding the undertaking of the American Consul in Sicily that he should behave himself. Rome has just inflicted a new outrage on an English subject—Mr. Desain, a native of Gibraltar, imprisoned for seventeen days without charge or warrant.

Spain is another of the arbitrary delinquents. With her broken-down credit, the attempt to get up capital for railways has set her Court and Cortes quarrelling, and the Cortes are dissolved. Her treatment of an ally has been shown in her half-century refusal of a British burial-ground; her faith in the observance of treaties by her conniving at the slave trade in Cuba. Her Court is accused of dabbling in railways after the Capel-court fashion; of profiting by the slave trade, which treaties pledge her to put down, and which Christian opinion in Europe stamps with infamy; and of encouraging a state of society in high quarters which is harlotry without its horrible excuse, and peculation without its official disguises. Spain develops these traits of her social and political system in proportion as she recedes from the company of constitutional Governments to that of arbitrary Governments.

Austria, which almost rivals Naples in cruelty to prisoners, showed her respect for law by destroying the constitution of Hungary, and is now a begging borrower in the money market of the world, with elaborate apologies for the total insolvency of her finances.

Russia, the great patron and conservator of Europe, is breaking her treaties with all the European powers, trampling on international law and justice, in order to seize Turkish territory as a "material guarantee" for forcing upon Turkey demands which all the other Powers declare to be untenable. Prussia, who might side with England, is trimming in a manner which shows that she would fall into the majority, whichever side that might take.

We do not glance at minor states—Hesse-Cassel or Denmark. Suffice it to say that cruelty, lawlessness, breach of faith, immorality in money matters, and in everything else, characterise the conduct of the arbitrary Governments of Europe. They are pushing their principles to extremes, and are at this moment extending their ground on the European field. Here and there constitutional principles struggle for existence; as in Sardinia, threatened by Austria and by the other Italian Governments; or in Belgium, forced to prop herself up with an Austrian alliance in the absence of bold and open support from England.

If we look within the English dominions, we shall find constitutional principles rapidly losing ground. It is said that they are declining in the confidence of our upper classes, who enjoy the privilege of governing us; and that Russian principles are rapidly stealing over the administrators of the Bill of Rights. How far that is so, we cannot say, but what we do know is, that constitutional principles are declining throughout the vast extent of British territory, and throughout

the vast numbers of the British population. Look at the American colonies! By dint of rebellion they have gradually acquired so perfect a local self-government that it perplexes all but nice politicians to know in what consists their connexion with the mother-country, beneficially to themselves or to us. If there were a hearty sympathy between Canada and England, each could aid the other very effectually, and, for our own part, we should regret to see the connexion severed. Nevertheless, Canadians do look across the border, and there they see a confederation of states united in a species of Zollverein, each possessing great political power and enjoying the varied trade of the whole union; from which Canada is excluded.

Republican principles have made immense way in other British colonies. In the Cape of Good Hope the long-promised "English constitution" has been obtained. It was withheld long enough to teach the colonists how much they might get by threatening to rebel; it familiarised them with the language of disaffection, and on the border they see the Anglo-Dutch, who emigrated as rebels, recognised as an independent community. The last meeting of the Legislative Council under the old system is reported this week, and a new system has commenced which must lead to still further change.

In Australia, we see the colonists of New South Wales putting a stop to Mr. Wentworth's attempt at establishing a sort of peerage; we see the gold-diggers of Victoria forcing Mr. Latrobe to give up the fee on gold licenses, and wearing the badge of a red ribbon to mark out those who refuse to pay. In South Australia, we see the leading colonists arranging a constitution, under which, while the Upper Chamber is to be nominated, the Lower Chamber is invested with a power of converting the Upper one into an elective body. And throughout, during the squabble with Lord Grey about the convicts, the squabble with the same nobleman about the constitution which he withheld; the squabble of the gold-diggers with Mr. Latrobe about police and about the licences, there has been a growth of republican feeling, partly suggested by American sympathies, but still more cultivated by the circumstances of the soil on which the colonists stand.

The influence of the Crown and of the Imperial Government is waning in our important colonies almost to nothing; even in Jamaica itself they begin to talk of annexation with America. The English colonies represent that which Lafayette offered to Louis Philippe—a nominal monarchy surrounded, if not smothered, in republican institutions. We still force upon them, as if to keep open the sore, Governors who irritate, and that set on the civil list.

We see that the influence of England is declining on the Continent; that her influence is fading in her own colonies. What is her influence upon herself? What is that England of which we talk politically? The working classes are not "England." They are disfranchised, discontented, unsettled; they are at this moment quarrelling with the employing class. They are not agitating for universal suffrage, because they do not expect to get it. In order to get it, and something like a comfortable subsistence, they are emigrating at the rate of a third of a million each year to America and Australia. The largest number of the people within the geographical limits of the British island is alienated from England and its Government. If there is any "English people" which adheres to the Government positively, it consists of the upper and shop-keeping classes—at the utmost, the enfranchised class—about a seventh of the whole. But it does not present the appearance of a consolidated nation; on the contrary, it is divided within itself into several classes. There is the shopkeeping class, not generally well informed, not inclined to care for anything that does not present a profit, not inclined to self-sacrifices, not hearty in support of any other class, or of the Government, or of England itself, at home or abroad. There is the richer class of capitalists, also pursuing self-interest, and not much caring for anything else. There is the aristocracy, which, disgusted with the loss of political power, is shrinking into a set of country gentlemen with titles, busying themselves about their own estates rather than the country, and represented in an Upper Chamber, which criticises and softens the acts of Lower. And, finally, there is the bureaucracy, recruited from a miscellaneous professional class, sprung from all

the rest, but separated from all the rest by the demon which haunts the Englishman from the cradle to the grave—self-interest. None of these classes care much for the nation. They care somewhat for class, so far as the interests of class directly conduce to the interests of the individual—not further. The capitalists are very zealous about the rights of capital; the shopkeepers want quiet and trade; the aristocracy want to be left alone, to die, we suppose, in peace; and the bureaucracy take up any humbug of the day that may lead to briefs or office. There is no hearty sympathy between the several classes; they can only act together for what they call a "practical object," which means some contemporary purpose, conducive to the interests of each. Love of country, ambition for national power, enjoyment in displaying the national strength abroad—these are antiquated sentiments, and every class is more intent upon pursuing individual gains than upon sustaining the principles by which England has attained to her political, commercial, and social existence.

What then is the position of our Government, supported as it is by a seventh of the nation, that seventh broken up by its own personal objects? The Government possesses the army and the national strong-box, and thus holds the means of extorting from the English people funds for its own support. It seems scarcely to look beyond: to keep office and rub on—is the entire aim of an English statesman. To avoid rather than to seek opportunities of signalling his country abroad. But while speaking in the name of England,—while wielding the army and holding the strong-box,—the English statesman, as we have already seen, finds six-sevenths of the British nation alienated from him, and all the colonies becoming foreign republics. Thus stands the English Government, oscillating between Russian principles, which are gaining ground all over the Continent, and are beginning to submerge our own constitutional principles at Court, and republican principles, which have flooded all our colonies, and have submerged six-sevenths of our own nation. If there is any value in constitutional principles at all, it does seem time at last to make one move, one final attempt to renew life and action in those principles.

INSURANCE FOR THE WORKING CLASS

On many occasions we have been invited to express opinions on projects of insurance for the working classes; but we have rigidly abstained from doing so. The subject is one invested with great difficulty. On the one hand, nothing can be more certain than the facts that the working class—the staple of the people—its great producing order, require, more than any other class, the advantage of insurance against those risks which, injurious to other classes, are fatal to them. But, on the other hand, they have been debarred from the advantages so fully enjoyed by other classes which need them less. Again, on the one hand, it is most desirable that private as well as public enterprise should be directed to supply the want; and yet the very nature of the business amongst the humbler classes of the community tends to deter large capitalists, to draw in comparatively needy and ingenious men, and so to invest the portion of insurance commerce specially devoted to the working classes with more of an adventurous character. Now it is very invidious to pronounce judgment on particular schemes. To praise one might imply censure on others; to censure some as they deserve would entail upon us the penalties of the law for libel, if it did not entail upon us also the discontent of many amongst that class which is peculiarly fond of being deceived—the working class. It is for this reason that we withheld an excellent letter by a correspondent who signed himself S. H. B. In the first instance we cannot do better than exhort the working classes to examine into projects for themselves, and not to be drawn in unless they are thoroughly informed, and are able really to understand the principle of the enterprise which they join, as well as the character of its promoters. Sound political principles are here of no avail—unless an enterprise be commercially sound, it will not stand commercially; and those who put their money into it will find too late that the money is not to be had back again in the shape of the sum assured—that there has been a hole in the bottom of the box.

One of the difficulties which beset insurance for

the working classes consists in the smallness of the sums which they can command, and in the precarious nature of their income. The consequence is that they make their insurance investments only for objects of urgent importance; and, as those investments involve a number of small payments, they are seldom worth the attention of capitalists. There are two immediate results of this state of affairs; the cost of management becomes considerable in proportion to the advantage; and as the managers are often poor, bustling, and needy men, there are frequent defalcations. Such projectors naturally undertake what regular insurance companies will not. The benefit club will play with the edge tools of the actuary, though not commanding his skill or advice; and the man of sixty, who has been paying all his life to a club, may find that just as he requires the help which he has provided the club fails. The working classes, the most numerous, and in the aggregate the most productive, possess the advantages neither of banking nor of insurance. The Poor Law is indeed one kind of insurance, and a valuable kind, though it is very limited—it is an insurance against actual destitution. The savings' bank also affords a place of deposit, but ridiculously limited to a very small sum in the year. These two institutions provide nothing for sickness or old age, and little for families left suddenly destitute by death. Nor, from the causes which we have mentioned, do the friendly societies supply the deficiency.

The whole subject has commanded the attention of a man admirably suited, both by natural genius, by attainments, and by public spirit, to make the most valuable suggestions—we mean Mr. Farr, the statist of the General Register Office.

The grand things wanted are a provision against sickness, and a subsistence in old age. The latter point is a desirable object for all classes of society; but it would be specially advantageous if the labour market could be relieved of aged persons, who do not really contribute to production, but only hinder. There is a certain amount of work to be done in the country, and there is no doubt that it could be done quite as well, or better, if it were only entrusted to the effective men of the country. Let us take an example. In the printing trade there is a given number of workpeople, and at present a given quantity of work to be done. In some branches, by an improved machinery and regulations, the amount to be executed by a given number of men in a given time might be considerably increased; but the printers object to increase the rate of production in a given hour, because the increased speed would throw the older hands out of work. This is a most just and proper consideration; but the regulation intended to effect it violates all reason and economy. A given set of men execute a given amount of work, but could take more besides; only they keep down the rate of production in order that a few aged persons may not be cast destitute. They thus restrain production to a point below that at which a smaller number of men could execute more work, by a rule which prevents any man from doing better than his superannuated grandfather. Abolish that restriction; and if the grandfathers were thrown out of work, the quantity executed by the smaller number would be absolutely greater. Thus it would be cheaper to pension off the old people, and leave to those in the prime of life their full swing.

If to the general fact we add the particular one, that by a better adaptation of savings a livelihood could be secured to each man in his old age, we have a double and powerful incentive to make due provision.

But, as the income of the working classes is precarious, and as the talent which they can command for administration is also precarious, two new classes of circumstances are required for rendering this provision of the working class available with certainty. We want a rule enabling the earners of precarious incomes to make an insurance not dependent upon the steady payment of a fixed annual premium; and we also want a guarantee, which the working classes cannot command, that the repayment assured shall be certain. Mr. Farr proposes to attain the latter object by Government control. He observes, also, with great truth, that whereas most of our financial and industrial operations are brought about by the combined action of masters and working men, it is most desirable that the employing classes should give their aid, either in the formation or administration of the requisite funds. The three chief objects which the working man most desires are, an

annuity in old age, an allowance during sickness, and something for survivors. Mr. Farr has prepared tables which show that these objects may be attained by precarious payments, or payments only continued for a short period. To take an example of insurance against sickness:—A man aged 20, who pays £650, or 13s. at the beginning of every quarter (1s. a week), for five years, would, without the payment of any further premium from the fifth year inclusive, be entitled to £454, or 9s. 1d. a week, for every week of sickness that he experienced during the next forty years, or until the age of 65, when the payment of a deferred annuity would commence. An example of life insurance:—Each single pound paid in by a depositor on the principle of life insurance is by calculation worth a specific sum on the death of the depositor; and Mr. Farr proposes a set of tables which would mark out the respective value of each single pound deposited at successive ages. A depositor, therefore, beginning at an early age, and continuing subsequent years, might pay in a deposit of one or more pounds, with the certainty that at his death a specific sum for each pound deposited will be paid to his survivors. A provision of this kind is much wanted for all persons whose income is precarious, and ought not to be limited to the working classes. It is particularly necessary for professional men and sailors, and we have for some time contended in favour of such a provision. Mr. Farr supplies the requisite for the purpose, the principle on which a table should be formed. He suggests, also, a plan for assuring a deferred annuity on the same principle; that is to say, an annuity deferred until after a given year, with a given sum for each pound deposited. It is very advantageous for the life assurance and the annuity to be combined; the risks of the two correct each other. A man beginning, say at the age of twenty, and paying one pound on the annuity account, and one pound on the insurance account, would be entitled to leave at his death nearly 2l. 18s., and to receive at the age of sixty-five an annuity of about 17s. Next year he would deposit 2l. more, and at his death he would leave about 5l. 12s., or be entitled to receive at sixty-five an annuity of 1l. 12s.; and so on, until, if he kept up his premium until the age of sixty-five, then retiring from work and relinquishing his premiums, he would be entitled to receive an annuity of 18l. 7s., and leave at his death 91l. 11s. for his survivors. Every increase to the premium would give an increase to the benefit assured. If, through failure of means, the premium is stopped, the life assurance and the annuity would not be forfeited, but only diminished in the exact proportion.

The accounts would be very simple: the mere register of the sums paid would furnish all that was wanted for the calculation of the ultimate payment according to the table. But dealing in such small sums would entail considerable expense, unless the system were conducted with the guarantees and the facilities which Government can command. The employing classes might assist by taking the premiums out of wages, of course only on the actual request of the working people, and handing them over in a lump to Government, which would save much trouble, and therefore expense. They might, we may add, assist still more by placing information on this subject before the working classes; and if they were to act in that spirit, they would not only secure the attachment and trust of their fellow-countrymen amongst the working classes, but would also remove many of the causes which render the labour of the country inefficient, and thus keep down the profits of the employer. The provisions suggested by Mr. Farr so strictly belong to the same class of assurance which the Poor Law affords, that they may be called the completion of that measure. If anything is to be said in justification of the Poor Law, much more may be said in favour of the plan suggested by Mr. Farr; and we believe that nothing more could secure the peace of the country, the comfort of the masses, and the elevation of the popular character and skilled labour of this country, than such a plan of provision. The Benefit Societies Act expires next year; the recommendations of the Committee on Insurances have still to be dealt with; a Poor Law reform is expected by public opinion. Members ought not to neglect the only great national subject so admirably handled by Mr. Farr, and embodied in a separate appendix to the annual report of the Registrar-General for 1853—the "Abstracts of 1849."

MORAL SIGNS IN AMERICA.

It is rather remarkable that, notwithstanding the experience which politicians and public writers ought by this time to have accumulated, they are continually falling into the mistake of taking the last act as a proof of the general tendency of public opinion. In England the last receipt is a proof of all interior payments; a sufficient rule since it is known, but, logically, not quite so correct as the rule in Scotland, which requires the last three receipts. In the course of public opinion, it appears to us that the last three events at least should be taken into the account. Every now and then, on the receipt of a mail from the United States, there is a great cry, either that repudiation has been abjured, or that it is in full force. It is not very long since the judges of Mississippi, sitting "in error," decided that the public bonds which had been repudiated still held good as a claim on the state, and must be met. In the United States the office of judge is subject to annual election; but it is not usual to enforce that rule, the judges being practically permanent, as they are in this country, where the Crown retains the power of removal should the judges behave ill. The state elections in Mississippi have just been taken, and the judges are threatened. One, Judge Yerger, has already paid the penalty of adhering to the rights of the creditor; and our English contemporary, the *Times*, evokes the ghost of Sydney Smith to chastise the rampant doctrine of repudiation, Pennsylvania, and all.

Now, the truth is that opinion does not change with the impressions of the writers that partially reflect it. In Mississippi state there is a permanent opinion in favour of repudiation, with a strong influential opinion in the opposite direction; the two opinions are in conflict, and in their conflict they threaten to upset the judgment-seat. It is deeply to be regretted that judges should be liable to be thus called to account for conscientious decisions; but it must not be forgotten, that in Mississippi the election principally turns on the merits or demerits of Governor Foote, who is opposed by Mr. Jefferson Davies, the present Secretary-at-War, with great success. This is admitted by the New York correspondent of the *Times*, who has constantly endeavoured to show that the administration was losing in the state elections. The fate of the judges, therefore, is not so clearly traceable to repudiation.

On the other hand the principle of repudiation does survive. It is a rising idea in America, as well as England, that one generation cannot properly pledge another. In this country, through the great influence of official and monied-people, it has been our custom to connive at the very lavish arrangement of Ministers, to whitewash every successive Chancellor of the Exchequer, and to accept his disposal of our means as if he, fifty years ago, perhaps, knew better than the people of the present day how to dispose of their means. The absurdity of that proposition has not failed to attract attention, and an intellect distinguished above all others in this country by its fineness and conscientious scruple, that of Francis W. Newman, has declared in favour of a summary treatment of the national debt, which is far from being unlike repudiation. The bonds of Mississippi, contracted to support the planters' bank, and sold below par,—or, in other words, failing to obtain the money nominally presented in their text,—and made payable in London without the authority of the public body, really offer many reasons for repudiation. We do not believe, however, that the material advantages once gained by the loan have been entirely superseded; and it does appear to us that the state which takes advantage of those conveniences is morally bound to pay, even if the legal claim were less technically enforced by law than the judges declared it to be. What we have endeavoured to show, however, is that, so far from being perfectly unreasonable caprice, repudiation is an opinion supported by reason, and possessing a permanent existence. We agree with the New York correspondent of the *Times* in cautioning the public against attaching too much importance to these apparent reverses. Pennsylvanian bonds were once worth nothing but to point Sydney Smith's jokes; they are now at par: in the meanwhile, however, those who were terrified at the idea of repudiation, must have lost considerable sums of money, pocketed by those who retained a more consistent trust in the good faith of the American republic.

Another incident of the day is of an extremely satisfactory kind; not because it proves a sudden

change of opinion, but because it establishes a fact which we have for some time asserted—that the Americans themselves are far from being content with the existing law in relation to slaves. We find the following passage in the *Charleston Mercury*:

"The South has gained nothing but a loss by this law. It was a stupid blunder on the part of Southern statesmen. The value of the slave lost is eaten up if capture follows, while hatred to the institution abroad, and opposition to it at home, are increased by its hard features and the barbarous enforcement of them."

This we say is highly satisfactory, not because it indicates that there is any sudden action against slavery, but because it marks the steady extension of dissatisfaction. The Fugitive Slave Law by no means merits the moral reprobation which has been levelled at it. It is not a substantive piece of legislation; it was an element in the compromise intended to prevent an extension of slavery. It said, virtually, let us take the states as they now are; let Massachusetts be free, let Georgia retain its institutions; let the affairs of each state be governed by that state, and the Black population shall not be suffered to disturb that distribution of jurisdiction. The law was one that could not properly be called in question by the North; but if the South becomes dissatisfied with it—if the South is struck with the amount of shoe-leather wasted in pursuing the fugitive and dark phantom—if Charleston politicians discover that the bill is not worth the cost of retaining it, then, unquestionably, it is quite open to Congress to revise the compromise at the instigation of those states which are specially protected by the compromise. That there is a permanent and a genuine desire amongst the Americans themselves to handle this subject of slavery, we have said, as Henry Clay had before us; and the very fact that a Southern paper is able to put forth a remark like the one which we have quoted, proves how far dogmatic opinion upon the subject must have been shaken. In this result, indeed, we recognise the influence of Clay, not that of the more violent Abolitionist party. Above all, however, it is our present purpose to caution the reader against taking the last cloud or the last sunshine of the American news as constituting some new state of affairs. Repudiation is a permanent impulse, which the Americans will some day bring to perfect action. The repudiation of unjustly contracted debts is likely to consummate its object by a natural self-development; while an undue panic at that ultimate prospect may entail loss upon many who forget that, repudiation notwithstanding Philadelphia has once more acknowledged her liability.

EMIGRATION THE BEST OF STRIKES.

Yes, the best of all strikes is emigration. It is good not only for the emigrant, but for the non-emigrant. The working classes have not yet appreciated that second effect of emigration: let us draw their attention to it.

During the last autumn wages rose considerably, and almost universally. Why was that? The reason was two-fold. There was a greater consumption of goods at home and abroad, and the number of labourers was smaller. How was that brought about? Thus: within the last five years, there had been an emigration of a million and a half of people, comprising a large proportion of effective workers. The population actually diminished under the process, and the births, which partly replaced it, did not of course replace the labourer who had departed for America, since the sucking babe, or even child five years old, cannot compete with the house-painter, the weaver, or the farm labourer. The million and a half went to America and Australia, where they helped to produce more corn and other commodities for us; requiring some of our goods in exchange. Our own manufacturers, shopkeepers, and labourers had more to do, and wanted more to eat, drink, and wear—another impulse to production at home. Houses, clothes, and food had to be brought to market; but now it began to be felt that there is no longer that surplus of labourers which used to be set against the man in work, to keep down his wages. If builders wanted bricklayers, carpenters, or painters, they had to pay more. The emigrants, therefore, who went to Australia and America, served those that stopped at home in two ways,—first, by diminishing the competition amongst the working people, and, secondly, by increasing the demand for the employment of the working man. That is the whole history of the causes which produced the enhancement of wages last spring and summer.

Now, what became of those emigrants that went to America and Australia? In America employment is rife, wages are high, and business generally moves rapidly. But there is something beyond. In America, every man who has lived a very few years in the country becomes a citizen, and has the franchise. He is certain of subsistence for himself and his children, of political independence, and he has a real chance of rising to the highest office in the State. Webster, Pierce, and we believe, General Cushing, now the Attorney-General, in youth followed the plough; George Squier, one of the finest spirits of America, a stirring man, who is leading her on in her path of conquering greatness, had to find his livelihood and to study at the same time. In short, America is the empire of the working man.

As America is, so is Australia becoming. Every man who goes out there, prepared to work, may get an income such as gentry only possess in this country of ours. Much is said of high prices in Australia; but while bread has been dear, it has never exceeded the proportion which it bears in this country to wages; and other things, such as tea and sugar, are positively cheaper than in this country. Land, too, is cheap: every man may expect to die a landowner. And political freedom is cheap: they are adjusting their constitution in such a way that every working man may expect to obtain the franchise about as soon as he would in America, with a certainty that before many years are over the constitution of Australia will be practically in all respects as popular as it is in America. In the colonies, therefore, the working man gets independence, industrial and political: he can feed himself, his wife, and his children, and no man can make him afraid.

That we say is the strike! You do not, in Australia or in America, have wages kept down, nor is labour without the means of making itself represented, heard, and considered in the Legislature and the Government. The last accounts from Australia relate how, in New South Wales, the body of the colonists have stopped an eminent member of the Council who was planning an aristocratic form for the new constitution. In intellectual and flourishing South Australia the leading colonists have voluntarily arranged a constitution like that of Canada, which combines the most liberal traits of America and of England. And in Victoria, the gold-diggers, whose pushing spades are turning up subterranean streams of gold six or eight feet wide, have compelled the Governor of the province, Latrobe, to give up an unpopular tax upon their gold licenses, after, like a genuine Lord Derby, he had declared concession to a popular demand "impossible." That is the strike—to go to the land where wealth, freedom, and independence welcome labour.

It is not every man that can go to Australia; or can wish to go. But he can go by deputy; and that does quite as well. There are many at Preston who do not wish to emigrate. Some, indeed, would soon do it, if they really informed themselves on the subject. But there are many also who already wish it, and in many of the agricultural counties there are numbers sighing to depart for America, where a man eats meat as well as bread, and votes without fear of farmer or landlord; or for Australia, where a man fingers gold as well as coppers, and votes without fear of farmer or landlord. Something like three hundred and fifty thousand have been going this year;—more, we suspect; as many will go next year; and as they go, you men of the working classes will find the value of labour in the country rising generally. If cotton weaving does not pay, do you not think you could turn your hands to something else? Why, common soldiers were cutting the hay last harvest for want of hands; and if the red-coats can learn a business in a day, surely you can. Draft away a few more hundreds of thousands from England, Ireland, and Scotland this year, a few more hundreds of thousands next year, and that strike will attain the object which you strive for in a less effectual form of strike. We do not counsel you to abandon the right of strike after the old pattern; but we say that if the strike sometimes fails—if the employing classes and the Legislature will not attend to your reasonable demands, there is still one strike that is absolutely and incontestably effectual—it is to strike your tents.

DEPARTURE OF THE DARIEN CANAL SURVEY EXPEDITION.

In the year 1695 William Paterson conceived the magnificent design of uniting the commerce of the two Indies by means of a colony planted in the

Isthmus of Darien. He wished to wrest from Spain this "key of the world," and to open out a trade between Scotland and the East, which might rival that of the East India Company. Anticipating a commercial policy, whose advantages are even yet only partially acknowledged, he proposed to "render the colony a free port, in which no distinction of party, nation, or religion should prevail." The enterprising Scotchman obtained a charter from King William, but the jealousy of the rival company organised a strong opposition, and the king—too busy with his wars to pay heed to commercial developments—revoked his grant. The adventurers, however, were not deterred, and, in spite of the discouragement which they had received from the court, a band of twelve hundred Scotchmen determined, on their own responsibility, to carry out the splendid project of their leader. But the curse was upon them. Their ships were rotten, and nearly two hundred of the emigrants never saw the coasts of Darien. The natives were not unfriendly, and everything might still have prospered, but famine commenced a work of destruction, which the more fatal influence of religious dissension, and the narrow jealousy of English monopolists, speedily brought to a terrible conclusion. In the words of a brilliant writer, "ambition, ignorance, and selfishness, with their concomitants, mutiny and discontent, combined to destroy the infant colony. Among all these combustible ingredients was finally flung the torch of fanaticism; and thus the destruction, which neither King nor Parliament could have effected, was rendered inevitable." Presently arrived an order from King William, forbidding the English colonies in America and the East Indies to supply provisions to the perishing Scotchmen. We need not write the sequel, which is a history of disastrous ruin, of blighted hopes, of a jealous monarch, and an injured people.

A peace of forty years has opened out many fields for the development of commercial enterprise; and among many which have lately started into life, is one for uniting the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans by means of a ship canal (without locks) across the Isthmus of Darien. Out of the seven schemes for crossing the isthmus, this seems to be the least liable to objection. Information of the route was first brought to England by Dr. Cullen. Sir Charles Fox, to whom this gentleman had applied, did not hesitate to send out a competent engineer, Mr. Lionel Gisborne, to make preliminary surveys. The result was most satisfactory. After encountering many hardships, including a capture by a party of hostile Indians, Mr. Gisborne and his companion, Mr. C. H. Forde, returned to this country, enabled to pronounce that the scheme was feasible. So convinced, indeed, was Mr. Gisborne of the practicability of his plan, that he was ready, on his own responsibility, to return to Darien, with a corps of volunteer engineers, in order to complete his survey. He recommended "to form a navigation between the two oceans, which will, without locks, at all times, permit the passage of the largest vessels, having 150 feet breadth at mid-water, and thirty feet depth at low tide." Happily the plan did not depend for its success upon men wanting either in intelligence or energy. Before long a company was formed, with Lord Wharncliffe at the head, for the purpose of carrying out Mr. Gisborne's recommendations. It is true that no less than 15,000,000*l.* are required for the completion of the work, but the sum is insignificant when compared with the splendour and utility of the grand result. This morning Mr. Gisborne and his band of engineers sailed from Southampton. Before many days are elapsed they will have begun a work which will confer a mighty benefit upon the whole civilised world, will unite the commerce of the East and the West, shorten the distance between England and the colonies, and pave the way for a grand Federal Union which shall include all nations.

But if the project has been conceived by an individual, and if the work is commenced by a private company, we are glad to state that Government lend their active co-operation. The three great Powers of the world—England, France, and America, have expressed their willingness to promote the success of this enterprise. The three flags will wave in the waters on either side of the isthmus, as a protection for the band of surveyors. An English lieutenant of Engineers will accompany Mr. Gisborne, and we trust that success in this great undertaking may cement the union among Powers on whom the fate of civilisation depends.

YOUNG TORY ENGLAND AND OLD CONSERVATIVE ROME.

No one has contributed more to popular enlightenment on the subject of party cries than the Right Honourable Benjamin Disraeli. The admiring readers of *Coningsby* and of *Sybil* would scarcely expect to find in the disciples of the literary statesman more slavish adherents to the principles of Tadpole and Taper than were those gentlemen themselves. But so it is. On the *Press* there has as yet been ground but one set of tunes, and those—anti-Ministerial, with a party howl for the invariable accompaniment. An anti-Papal article, headed "The Encroachments of Romanism," in the last number of that journal, is a novelty—Young Tory England's Confession of Faith, accompanied by the assertion that the members of the present Cabinet are in league with the Pope. Plotting with the Czar on the one hand, and with the Pope on the other, it is plain that our Ministers, *confrères* as they are of the Chiefs of spiritual and political despotism, are unworthy of the confidence of a free people! These cries are original and hearty; and if they answer the purposes of the party, no exception can be taken to them. But Young England's Confession of Faith is a curiosity *per se*, worthy of deeper consideration: though written for the sake of the *refrain*, it were a pity not to consider it apart, just as one can contemplate the doctrine in the Athanasian Creed, without dwelling on the everlasting brimstone therein threatened with a gusto so consoling, and an assurance so conclusive. How far, then, does this confession agree with the programme of the party who have given it, who pride themselves on an emphatic embodiment of the intelligence which is to characterise the governing class of the next generation? Towards an answer to this query, we digest into articles the beliefs of our dainty young advocates of enlightened Conservatism.

I. "We hold that there is an absolute and eternal Truth, of which the Scriptures are the revealed evidence."

II. "We believe that the Protestant and not the Romanist has rightly construed the message of salvation."

III. "We may no longer make our views a test of citizenship;" but,

IV. "We may soon be called upon to apply the resources of the Constitution in our defence against Romanist encroachments."

V. The weakness of Protestantism is due to its alliance with the infidelity of the first French Revolution.

VI. There was a time when Papists on our soil were regarded as invaders: that time has past; but we do believe that the salvation of Protestantism depends upon acts of Parliament.

When we mention that articles V. and VI. might have been put between inverted commas, being reductions of more lengthened sentences, it will be believed that we have before us Young Tory England's creed, in its length and breadth. We need scarcely point out the contradictions which it contains; for instance, what in the first article appears as the absolute and eternal, passes, in the second, into the relative and transitory; what in the third is liberality, in the fourth is intolerance. The Scriptures, we are informed, have been wrongly interpreted by Romanists, and rightly by Protestants: in other words, revelation dates from Luther and not from Christ. This plainly is a matter of opinion; and as the evidence of the existence of the Truth referred to, lies in the Scriptures, which are the very grounds of the controversy, there is no tribunal other than human intellect to which the dispute can be referred. Unfortunately both claimants concur in keeping out of court. Thus much at least is certain, that the Romanist, altogether excluding reason from the right of judgment upon doctrine, preserves an unity and fixity in his beliefs to which the Protestant can make no pretence. If the doctrine of infallibility is absurd to some minds, to others it is satisfactory; and no man rests satisfied short of certainty in some sense or another. It is a trite saying, that Protestantism has only resisted Rome with effect when assimilated to it in spirit, if not in form; but now it appears that Rome triumphs over resistance, and that in the war of creeds victory inclines, as in all other conflicts, to the side on which are discipline, unity, and strength. It is confessed that Protestantism is too weak, even in England, its

stronghold, to prevent the encroachments of Rome, and Young Tory England recommends us to fall back upon the resources of the Constitution! not upon faggots and fires, but upon Acts of Parliament, which imply coercion. Young Tory England appears not to have profited by the supreme lesson of history, that creeds, opinions, and the spirits of systems make way through ramparts, walls, and guarded coasts, by a law of their own, like that which carries pestilence in the air; that no system of quarantine is long efficacious against the influx of ideas. It will appear plain, that if Protestantism lacks the inherent strength necessary for resistance, it cannot long be protected by enactments. In our belief there is but one security against the Papal and all other superstitions, and that is in the severe but never servile humility of positive science, from which results a belief respecting the universe which cannot be shaken, joined to doctrines which, if any, may justly claim the merit of what fallible beings call infallibility. The conflict must wholly lie between these two; Romanism on the one side, and Positivism on the other. Nothing rests long in a position of unstable equilibrium, and to one or other of these two extremes all protesters tend. Between the two the difference is not one which can be bridged over: there is not an infallibility of fact which can join on or be reconciled to an infallibility of dogma, but the former eternally contradicts and gives the lie to the latter. Of the two we must take one:—Rome, hoary with crimes against humanity, with all her conspiracies of darkness, her spurious mysteries, and her enslaving dogmas—Rome, holding chains and a scourge in one hand and a sealed book in the other; or Positivism, clear-eyed and trustful, presuming nothing, fearing nothing, reverencing all, with the World as a text-book, truth and human happiness as a goal, and the Infinite as an aspiration and a recompense. As science advances superstition recedes; when things are known they are no longer the subjects of conjecture. To inquire beyond what can be known is the first of human follies, or the excess of human arrogance; to discern the limits of knowledge is the perfection of human wisdom.

To return to our esteemed contemporary. It is inexact to allege the recoil from the alliance with French infidelity as a sufficient explanation of the weakness of Protestantism. It is generally believed, on the contrary, that this reaction has been extremely favourable, and that there is at this moment more vitality in the different sections of Protestantism than has existed since the enthusiasm and earnestness that animated the struggles of the first Reformers, shrunk into compromise and respectability. We venture to say, that during the last ten years, in which Rome has accomplished so many marked successes, the weakness and division that lent strength and audacity to the adversary have arisen mainly from the same causes, which have sent numbers, more or less consciously, to swell the ranks of the Positivists. The thinking Protestant in vain struggles to hold the anomalous position in which he finds himself—protesting in part, and retaining in part, till, wearied of battling with contradictions, he becomes glad of any escape. We say it is noticeable, that exactly within the same period both Romanism and Positivism have achieved their triumphs. That this coincidence is not accidental is sufficiently demonstrated by the multitude of cases in which the choice of the extreme appeared to depend on the temperament of the struggler. Brothers have gone in company up to the conclusion that to one extreme or the other they must betake themselves; and when they parted, the one leaned upon Rome, the other trusted in God, in his own God-given intelligence. Nor have instances of this kind been few, and merely such as came before the public; no observant man can have escaped evidences of this struggle which has been, and is, going on in the minds of the thoughtful, and of the uncompromising youth especially, throughout the country.

As to the qualified toleration professed by the Coryphæi of Young Tory England, we have little to say to it. We had, we know not by what illusion, hoped to see it free of the spirit of the old dry port school of theology with which its Church-and-King predecessors have familiarised us; but we are sorry to say that in religion, as in politics, our Young Tory England advocates betrays the mouldy bones of a defunct political tradition strapped over their shoulders. They have not as yet advanced to a position where they may, in the

intervals of discouragement, catch a few rays from afar of the more enduring faith which even now is dawning on the world.

THE GOVERNING CLASSES.

No. XIV.

THE MARQUIS OF LANSDOWNE, K.G.

WHEN Napoleon asked Cambacères whether a certain man could be trusted, Cambacères answered, "Why,—really—his linen is remarkably white,—and—I believe he is gourmet." The first impression about that illustrious statesman, the Marquis of Lansdowne, is, that he is very clean, and is a great patron of the Arts and Belles Lettres. Particularly he is very clean: and only that Robespierre, who never soiled his boots, was partial to the guilotine, one would judge of the Marquis of Lansdowne's character by the consistent purity of the Marquis of Lansdowne's dress. He would attract your attention, any pleasant Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, or Friday evening, during the "season," when he is picking his way up Parliament-street at about seven, on his way from legislation to dinner, is the cleanest old gentleman you had ever beheld. The specklessness of the costume is that of a Sevres ornament: and the cold, calm face increases the effect of the clean glitter—dazzling, in a dirty town, street, and among soiled Londoners, as a meteor—iced. It is a great thing to fix, without offending, attention; and though the Marquis of Lansdowne is not noble in aspect, is only plain and gentlemanly, yet most people turn, pleased, to look at him as he passes in a crowd. And they are not surprised when they find that is the great Marquis of Lansdowne: he fulfils, in air, dress, and manner, the public notion of the man. Chief in precedence, and last in fact, of the Whigs—that is precisely the sort of man such a man should be. The Whigs were always famous for neat dressing: and the Marquis wears what was once the common dress of the party. You see he is clothed in a cover of the *Edinburgh*—buff and blue. There is a tradition that Lord John was once seen in such a dress; and that the Marquis does not change, is an indication that he is the purer Whig.

As to the Marquis's other characteristic, the characteristic of Macænas, it is just as conspicuous. His Whiggery is attested by his coat: and his love and patronage of the "ingenuas artes" is demonstrated by the letters (in Burke) after his name—D.C.L., F.R.S.:—further evidence being, on the same authority, that he is President of the Literary Fund Society, a Trustee of the National Gallery, &c. Then there is the story that he was "præsidium et dulce decus meum" to Moore, to whose fourth baby he stood godfather (giving the nurse a 10l. note, half of which Mrs. Moore kept, with the poet's assent), and to whom he gave a cottage—magnanimous man! for he only owns two or three counties. Moore records several literary conversations with the Marquis, all of which shows that his Lordship's literary profundity was very much like Marshal Murat's, who, hearing Virgil named, exclaimed, "Ah que j'aime Virgil! ce grand poète! quel beaux vers! Tityre tu patulæ," &c.; though, indeed, the Marquis had principles of taste, analogous with his principles of politics,—possessing a Whiggish desire to ridicule the ancients, because they were ancients—and perhaps because he couldn't read them. The Marquis of Lansdowne loved arts and letters because he was a Whig. That was the sort of thing the Whigs set up for, in his time: and he followed the fashion, just as Lord John, with as little capacity, did much about the same time. Why the Whigs should be literary and the Tories only political, cannot be easily explained. Gifford used to say he wished there was a Holland House on the other side: which would have been a pity, because the Tories got such great trust simply by establishing a reputation as best men of business: but the reason was not that there were not cleverer Lords than Holland among the Tories, but only because they none of them had got into the habit of cultivating social fascinations of the Holland House sort. Whig love of letters was only a habit: in later times Peel's was the Holland House:—Peel being, certainly, a nobler patron of literature, and enjoying a finer appreciation of science, than Lord Grey, Lord Melbourne, or Lord John Russell. The Whig habit of Macænasing was acquired in Fox's time. Fox's father

and family were barbarians,—like the best English nobles of that day, Horace Walpole, who was not of the Whig genus, excepted; but Fox lived, in his youth, a great deal abroad, and in the cultivated good society, saturated with Voltaire, of Paris and Italy, and he acquired tastes and faculties and sympathies which puzzled the then Holland House, and also Brookes', when he got home—his French verses, of which any fairly educated English youth of twenty of our day would be heartily ashamed, being regarded by a British society not very well able to spell, as proofs of surprising genius. Fox became the idol of the young fellows; and as Fox read everything, particularly novels, it became a fashion to be clever—especially with the women. But the other heroes of the party were literary. Burke first, and then Sheridan, sustained and intensified the tone imparted by Fox to the party—men like Barré and Francis having prepared the way for that allusive and "smart" style of debating which Gibbon deplored, and which reached its perfection when Sheridan thundered a quotation from Demosthenes, which he subsequently confessed was in the Irish tongue, or as near an approach as he could remember to that enthusiastic language. That the fashion did as much harm as good to the Whigs is quite certain. Every young Whig wrote something when he came of age: and the majority of the young Whigs made great messes of literature—or if they succeeded, got spoiled as politicians. Lord John wrote a play and a biography; and has ever since, no doubt, deeply regretted that he thus offered a real test of the extent of his capacity. On the other hand, Shiel, who was, if anything, a Whig, like all the young Irish collegians who worshipped Grattan, wrote a play which spoiled him—he acted all his life after. For a certain time the literary reputation of the Whigs gave them an artistic position as a party: and they derived immense advantage, as the reading public increased, from the accession to their cause of all the clever fellows who turned up. Holland House was somewhere to go to: and the poets on town decided on Whiggery. To have Moore on their side was worth fifty votes to the Whigs; and how easily astute nobles could contrive to silence all the dangerous pens, was illustrated in Moore's career—for by a little flattery, a little cottage, and a little aid of director sorts, they kept him quiet, intense Irish patriot as he was, even after Sheridan was deserted—and even while O'Connell was being prosecuted. Very slight management, and a few dinners, secured Sidney Smith, Jeffrey, and Brougham: and the *Edinburgh Review* got the intellect of England alongside the Whigs. "All the talents" were so obviously Whigs, that every man of genius took to the party as a matter of course. Byron was no Whig, either by connexion, or by nature: and yet Byron was flattered and petted into doing enormous service to the Whigs by doing enormous mischief (and more out of England than in it) to the Tories—strong Tories, too, like Castle-reagh and Wellington. Mackintosh was taken up by the Whigs because he attacked Burke (whose style, all the Whigs said, had fallen off—as soon as he left them): and yet Mackintosh had as little sympathy with Whig principles as with French principles. Canning lounged into the Whig party as an inevitable thing; it was only when, matured, his vigorous and honest genius discovered that the Whigs were *diletanti*, that he sought the more masculine sympathies of Pitt. In those days the Whigs, eternally out, and forced to cultivate external alliances, managed the press excellently. They sent Perry gossip and invitations, and, what is more, dined with him: so with Hunt, and as clever and influential men of the same class; and the result was, that the press—which in these days, neglected, is abstract and to party useless—educated the rising generation to believe in the Whigs. We wonder now when an editor of a great journal dines with Lord Aberdeen: in those days royal Whig dukes went to dine with editors—and the editors did not chronicle the fact.

And, after all, this patronage of literature, at first an accident, and then a policy, was very definite,—or rather very indefinitely small, in substance. There are no instances of Whig liberality to men of genius; whereas there are many instances of Tory liberality to men of genius. Canning and Disraeli, one the son of an actress, the other the son of a Jew

antiquarian, got the "lead" of the House of Commons: are there such instances on the Whig side? When the Marquis of Rockingham died, Burke was the natural heir; but he was pooh-poohed into a fourth or fifth place, and set aside in favour of Charles Fox, who was a mere Lord Derby: and it was when Burke discovered, in the very zenith of his genius, that an unfamily-ed "adventurer" had no chance with young nobles addicted to declamation on the rights of man, that he left the Whigs,—taking on them a terrible vengeance by arresting the French Revolution! Sheridan's is a parallel case. Too much has been made of his sorrows: he was not more worthless, or half so immoral, as Fox: but he was worthless and he was immoral: and he died friendless, because he had never deserved to keep a friend. But he served the Whigs for years: served them when he could have got from George IV. what he most needed,—money—to desert them: and yet they never gave him a first office or seat:—and on his death-bed he cursed them and the hire for which he had sold his genius. Prophetically, with justice: for when he died they maligned him: and Lord Holland, the hospitable Lord Holland, tells, in his book, how "Sherry," when his guest, used to take a bottle of wine and a book—"the former for use"—up to bed, and how he would stop, next morning, on his way to town, at a Kensington public-house for a drain:—interesting details, but hardly worthy of the narration of a hospitable entertainer. The Whigs bought Moore, and made him eternally contemptible,—a traitor to the creed and the country to which he lavishly professed devotion: but at how small a price! They gave his father a gaugership: they gave him 300*l.* a year. That as a party; and as individuals, they did less. When Moore was flying from the Bermuda storm—"still vexed" in the law courts, too—they made him offers of help so small that he was compelled to decline them. Lord John Russell proffered him the copyright of the dismal Biography, not adding—strangely enough—his share in the receipts during the performance of *Don Carlos*! Not a Whig followed Moore to his grave; and Moore's legacy to the Whigs,—that they would make such use of his MSS. as would bring his widow a small annuity, whereupon to end her days,—is so nobly appreciated, that rather than club 100*l.* per annum between them, they soil his memory by pitching to the public the undigested mass of his essentially private papers. So on to the end of the list of Whig agents. To Mackintosh, as to Macaulay afterwards, they gave a second-rate Indian appointment. They attempted to retain Brougham as their abject tool: and because Brougham resisted, they reviled him. They never could bear great law officers: as Fox hated Thurlow and Dunning, Lord John Russell has sneered at Brougham and suppressed Roebuck,—wherefore Brougham dictated, and Roebuck wrote their history.* The Whigs were always promising to promising young men: but never fulfilled a promise. Mr. Fonblanque was, for a space of twenty years, the greatest of the "Liberal" "Wits," before he was found out by the Whigs; and excepting Mr. Fonblanque, not a Liberal writer, who was not also one of the caste, has, in later times, received at the hand of the Whigs a passport to the service of the country. And those who were in "the House" fared worse; for their ambition was the more conspicuous, and their disappointment the more glaring. Charles Buller was a surpassingly brilliant man. At one point in his career, if he had headed the Radical party, he would have effected wonders. But he sank all his energies, all his genius, all his honour, in the service of the Whigs: perhaps because he was very poor, but I believe because he was misled by the *ignis fatuus* of the historic glory of the Whigs. Such a perfect parliamentary man had not turned up since Charles Townshend: he was created for the House of Commons. Yet he died, full of remorse and misery; he had been kept down, while *Crétiens* like Lord — had been put up. The catalogue (and it might be amplified to pain) is as long as the list of Margaret's lovers—used, and then scorned—who floated down the Seine, below the Tour de Nesle. Lately, Holland House became shunned as the Whig Tour de

* The writer of this, however, assumes as to the tone of that work. He never read it.

Nesle: and in our day the old Whigs broke down, because every young Liberal—a premature Ulysses—found that though the Syrens made pleasant music—they kept their places. A terrible chapter of history would be "the Whigs and their Victims:—"

"In verdant meads *they* sport, and wide around
Lie human bones, that whiten all the ground."

Old parties need new blood: but blood is simply the product—of food.

Whether the Whigs have not always been as unreal in their politics as unearnest in their patronage of letters, is a question, appropriately raised in discussing the career and character of the amiable Marquis of Lansdowne, which will never be fairly discussed but by some man like Guizot, who, without being an Englishman, comprehends as thoroughly as any Englishman could, English history. At this period it is a question to be raised by Liberals, without the slightest danger to the Liberal cause. The English people have no longer to seek popular triumphs by playing different sections of the aristocracy against one another. In our day our democracy has to pit Manchester against Downing-street,—the ambitious middle class against the whole of a worn-out aristocracy. Mr. Disraeli said, when turned out, that he was sure of one thing,—that England had never loved coalitions: but between the last and any preceding coalition there could be no parallel. This last was a coalition, in fact, of the whole of the aristocracy—of Whig and Tory; all others were coalitions of sections of Lords against other Lords; and though, even in this case, a clique of Lords are left out, they are Lords without a party or a principle, and, consequently, leaving out Lord Derby means as little in history as leaving out Lord Grey—losing Lord Palmerston as little as leaving out Lord Grey. And by such a coalition the Whigs commit suicide; or rather, the alliance of a Tory leader like Lord Aberdeen with the alliance of a Whig leader like Lord Lansdowne, is the alliance of Mezentius with a corpse: and hence the propriety of an inquest on Whiggery. And an impartial investigation does not lead to the conclusion that the Whigs have ever been respectable. That the empire is indebted to them for every advance in liberty and organisation since the Revolution of 1688, is palpably true,—and that at this moment the whole aristocracy is, so to speak, Whig—and that we have a coalition dependent for its chances upon a competition, with the middle class, in Liberalism,—are beyond all question. But the Tiger fought with the Lion for the Lamb, not for the Fox's sake: and the Fox eat his Lamb without a thought of gratitude to either of the combatants. "Civil and Religious Liberty" has never been more than a cry with the Whigs; whereas "Church and State" was more than a cry with the Tories—their interests were bound up in Conservatism, and their interests were the interests of their class, which included the Whigs. The "glorious revolution," with which the Whigs always began their congratulations, was a colossal imposture on the people. The result was to make the House of Commons omnipotent, and gradually the House of Commons got more and more afraid of the people; but, in intention, the Whigs, who comprised most of the titled nobility, meant merely to destroy a Monarch who had resolved himself to rule, and not to let the Aristocracy rule, the nation. How far religious liberty was meant, was proved by the penal laws against the Papists in Ireland; and Scotland, in an early massacre, and often afterwards, ascertained the extent of Whig and Dutch devotion to civil freedom, while England, becoming a Dutch Treasure House (and always,—is not the same feeling exhibited to this day,—abhorring the rule of a "Foreign Prince"), perceived how much finer it was to be governed by a Stadtholder than by a Pope—though the price of the Stadtholder was a new national debt. The reign of Anne (and even that soon the aristocracy had split again, so that her Parliament, when she died, was the most High Church and Prerogative Parliament since the time of Charles II.,—which suggests the "progress" made by the glorious revolution) has been called the Augustan age of England:—and so it was—for liberty, civil and religious, was dead. The Whigs held power during the two first Georges' reigns, not because they were for civil and religious liberty, but because the Tories were Jacobites, and because the Kings were ignorant and brutal foreigners, compelled to rely on the aris-

tocracy. Their reigns were the dark ages of England: the tone of England was Boeotian; and had there been a clever man in France during the period, we should have been beaten both in India and America, and robbed of Ireland and Scotland—shut up into the impotence of the Isle of Man. And the Whigs made their next appearance exactly under similar circumstances to those which first created the party. George III., educated in England, and comprehending England, could have done without the two or three great families: and when he gave those families to understand his views, they became virulent Whigs, appealed to Parliament and to the people. Why? There was no question at issue beyond a personal contest. First Bute, and then Shelburne, offered to become the Sully of the Henri Quatre: and a very good King, in his young days, when he loved and was beloved, would George have been. But Pitt put down Bute, and Fox put down Shelburne; and it was only when the King got the country on his side—in the long French war,—that his Majesty secured his Sully—in that flaming young Liberal, the second Pitt. The pretence that the Whigs were for civil and religious liberty at this period, because they were against the American, and against the anti-French war, has no foundation whatever in historical fact. Chatham howled in fine orations, which nobody now can read, against the employment of savages in the American colonies: but Chatham was head of the Administration, if only a sleeping partner, which imposed the tea tax, and, to the last, he was in favour of vigorously prosecuting the war,—it not being in his nature to give in. Not a Whig opened his mouth against the war until after several defeats of English armies, and until a French and Spanish fleet had got between Admiral Darby and Plymouth. The Opposition of that day, being Whigs, opposed the War, just as the Opposition of this day opposes the Peace—because it was the Opposition. And the Whigs were wrong and the King was right. England should have beaten, and could have beaten, the colonies. To impose taxes on the colonies was infamous: but the colonists were only three millions; and to be beaten by them was a disgrace which degraded England, and but for one or two naval victories, which we may conclude were accidents, seeing what a fool Rodney was, would have destroyed England. There never was such a mismanaged war as the American war; and it was because, with such management, it was hopeless, and not because it involved any principle, that the Whigs took advantage of the cry to turn events against the King and force him into a peace. It reads very splendid,—that page in the History of our British Parliament: Dunning moving that the power of the Crown was increasing and ought to be diminished, and Fox laying down the Whig principle that taxation without representation was robbery. But the King was only gallantly defending the dominions he inherited, and avoiding the dictation of young *roués* and roysterers like Charles Fox. The crime of the King was in distrusting the House of Commons which listened to these magnificent sentiments: and that House illustrated by example the Whig principle that a body of men taxing an unrepresented nation was a body of robbers. Every third member held a place, which was generally a sinecure; two-thirds of the House consisted of members of rotten or close boroughs; and, on the whole, it as little represented the people of England (who were *for* the American war) as the Senate of Louis Napoleon represents the people of France. Undoubtedly, Charles Fox, by his ruffianly daring, and reckless swagger, fresh from furo to talk the rights of man, or from an orgie to vindicate the Constitution, saved England from a despotism: for he and his party had to appeal to public opinion, had to create it, and therefore to be governed by it; and in organising an opposition, within and without, in Ireland as well as in England, in the press as well as in the House, he made “cries” living principles which took root in the world. And, as the French Revolution rushed over the earth, Whig talk caught the contagion: and as William Pitt was in, with a masterly intention to stay in, with a King behind him, and all the land and all the Church alongside him, the Whigs had only one game to play—to head the advancing liberalism of mankind. They talked “public virtue” and got drunk, to secure him, with the greatest

scoundrel of modern times,—George III.’s heir; setting son against father being no crime, when politics are concerned. They criticised the war with acumen, and contended that an unjust war could never succeed—until it did; and Mr. Fox could see no treason in a polite correspondence with the most deadly enemy England ever possessed—Napoleon. The Whigs were wrong and recreant in opposing the French war, as they had previously been in opposing the American war:* for it is demonstrable, so far as any logical prediction can be, that had Pitt not struggled against Napoleon, Napoleon would have had Ireland, India, and the whole of the West Indies. And when the 1780 Whigs had all disappeared,—when their principles had become enlarged by the growth of the mind of the empire,—when decorous Lord John Russell had succeeded to wild Charles Fox,—and when Shelburne, the “Jesuit,” the most roguish Minister who ever got power, had died and given up his title and his lead to his son, the present cultivated and conscientious Marquis of Lansdowne,—what did the Whigs do? To get into power they headed, still, the nation, and talked civil and religious liberty. To them, though not yet in power, was Ireland indebted for Catholic Emancipation, which was a measure in the teeth of Whig principles of 1688: and, as we subsequently found, of 1851,—when the Ecclesiastical Titles Bill was proposed by Whigs and opposed by Tories. To the Whigs was Europe indebted that the Duke of Wellington did not, in 1830, when Waterloo was undone, and his glory ridiculed, force on a new anti-revolutionary war—this time without a justification, because the Napoleon was the Napoleon of Peace. England did endure a practical despotism during Castlereagh’s reign, when Sidmouth’s Six Acts rendered London as free a city as Pesth is now: but what would have been the Government, but that there were Whigs to criticise, in the sacred freedom of Parliamentary speech? And though the Union Act, in 1800, which made Ireland as completely an English province as was Wales, was an act of despotism, yet but for the Whigs would it not have been an unconditional piece of despotism? But the question recurs—What did the Whigs do when they got into power? They fomented a Revolution in 1830, and they passed a Reform Bill, which will remain for ever the test of their ceaseless liberal chatter. The Reform Bill was another Revolution of 1688: a stupendous delusion of a people; twenty years after unreserved confession being made that the Reformed House of Commons is more corruptly elected (for a rotten borough is no borough, and a close borough is not so bad as a saleable borough) than the House of Commons of 1782,—and more corrupt, because upon smaller temptations, if Mr. Hudson, our South-Sea speculator, has told the truth. With an interval of five years, when Sir Robert Peel, essentially a democrat, reigned, the Whigs have had from 1831 to 1851 the power they so long plotted for: and *Cui bono?* They cannot boast of a single great measure; and, as they had no difficulties,—no Sovereign to struggle with—and no violent reactionary party, Sir Robert Peel having always led forwards, to contend against,—the fact that they resigned the lead of the nation is the most conclusive proof that there was no earnestness in their principles: in other words, that they were a mere oligarchy, and not a national party. Sir Robert Peel passed Catholic Emancipation, the Test Act repeal (which Lord John Russell only proposed,—as Canning proposed Catholic Emancipation,—and there never being a real difficulty about it), and the Free-trade measures; and the twenty years’ history supplies no other great topic. The civil and religious liberty principles of the Whigs were illustrated in Ireland by sustaining the establishment of an alien Church, and abroad by leaving the Continent, when they gave up power in 1851, less free than it was the day the treaty of Vienna was signed. In England they never stirred an inch for education, nor attempted to enfranchise the press; and whatever enlightenment we are indebted to for new principles of taxation, has been the enlightenment of Peel and

* This is of course written from the Whigs’ own point of view. As a Liberal, in the largest sense, the writer sympathises with the Americans’ success,—as he would rejoice, for analogous reasons, if the Irish, in 1798, had succeeded.

Gladstone—not of the Whigs. They are dead: and they deserved to die; and, for all ages, they are damned—the Thugs of liberal principles.

A sketch of the modern history of the Whigs is an account of the Marquis of Lansdowne. He followed Lord John Russell into the coalition, as chief mourner for Whiggery. Politically, then, the Marquis has lived an imposture and a failure. But as a Peer, since 1809, he cannot be considered responsible for the decay of his party. It was the business of the Commoners of his Cabinets, who were face to face with the nation, to comprehend and to manage the nation: he never aimed at a more ambitious rôle than to act as a courtier-statesman, forming the link between the throne and the tribunes. And that part he filled always with grace, and to all men’s admiration. For forty years he has been a favourite, first esteemed, then revered, in the House of Lords, for whose tone and climate his accomplished, but not energetic, and not original, intellect, admirably qualified him. If the nation had been more worthy, he would perhaps have been more liberal: and it is not a great fault if he—always contentedly following bolder, more presuming, and profounder minds—made the common human mistake, while wanting power, for himself and for his party, to fancy that he was a better man than he turned out to be, when tried. At least he has lived, as a private nobleman, nobly: and there is none to deny him the glory, whatever the deficiencies of his intellect and the faults incidental to his caste, that he has served his Sovereign and his country with one aim—the purest hope of public good. The public should have less reverence for Peers: and more reverence for intellect: but the Marquis of Lansdowne is as little responsible for the system of the Whigs, as Louis XIII. for the system of Richelieu, or as the Marquis of Rockingham for the system of Burke.

NON-ELECTOR.

[In the last week’s article, under the head of “Governing Classes,” Lord Palmerston was spoken of as a “raging young Peelite.” This was, of course, a misprint for “Pittite.”]

BEHIND THE SCENES OF OXFORD.

WHEN a stranger from the nineteenth century approaches Oxford, he finds so much that is venerable and picturesque in the city of butteries and bells, that he is ready, in the freshness of the first sensation, to declare it the most interesting, if not the most beautiful, object of a modern pilgrimage. Indeed, Oxford is a place of peculiar, if not very refreshing, attractions. To the eye of an artist, taking in the general effect of the distant towers, whether from the old London road, or from Bagley Wood, or even from the rushing railway (that dreadful conspirator in all reforms), there hangs a strange charm about that Sarcophagus of useless learning, and if an inevitable regret dashes the enthusiasm of admiration (a regret which a profounder observation only confirms) it is, that so venerable a relic of the old world should not be—in ruins.

On the present occasion, however, we are not visiting Oxford with an eye to the picturesque, nor with the *insouciance* of an artist’s appreciation; we are accompanying the great apostle of an industrial epoch, Mr. Cobden, on his Mephistophelic career of investigation into the scholastic economy of those doubly imposing, and undeniably ancient, institutions which we have been admiring for a moment from before the curtain. Taking into consideration the tendencies of our present guide, philosopher, and friend, our readers will surely pardon us if we abstain from any indulgence in antiquarian sentimentality. We request them to discard all the fond associations of wasted money and misspent hours, abjure the religion of the place, wipe out all trivial fond records of undergraduate “life,” and listen to us for a moment, while encased in the stern armour of a Commissioner, we report as we find, without fear or favour.

“Behind the scenes” is never a very cheering experience. The first acquaintance with the *coulisses* is comparable to nothing but the taste of the forbidden fruit: it sours your very nature, drives you out of the Paradise of the last innocence, and converts an enthusiast into a cynic. In short, it suddenly transforms an ingenuous youth into a *blasé* “man of the world.” Alas! we all know that first “behind the scenes;” but we have little hesitation in affirming, that for an honest, and ingenuous stranger to get behind the scenes of Oxford University, is a thousand times more cruel a disillusion, more blank an awakening, more bitter an un deceiving. You have said, as you gazed on those solemn fabrics, “There are the cloisters, the chapels, and the schools, in whose austere and holy shade learning and piety, religion and philosophy, were planted, nursed, and

sheltered in dark and troubled times: built by the hands of simple and earnest men for the services of faith and worship, and for the redemption of that worst of pauperism, untaught human genius; they have grown with the growth of the centuries, quickened with the life of learning, sent out the pioneers of science and discovery, filled the world with the warmth and light of genius and virtue, carried on the torch of thought and art, and are still, as they were at their foundation, the supreme temples of the national intellect and heart, the supreme expression of the national unity of mind and soul." Let us enter a college, the best sample, Mr. Cobden would say, we can find, and report progress. We will give the result of our researches in a future article: our readers will then be better able to understand the propriety of leaving the University (represented by caucuses of a score of tutors, who have a horror of professors, and by hebdomadal heads, whose panacea for the century is a Chair of Chinese) to legislate for itself.

A MODEL MAYOR.

WHEN Christmas-day happens to fall on a Sunday, the most-loved holiday of the year is lost to the working masses of the people, whose holidays are few. Christmas, as we all know, is the season of family meeting, when the absent and the distant come together round the old table, and snatch a respite from the struggle and the toil. In the sweet and sacred refuge of home, when the festival falls on a Saturday or a Monday, there is an opportunity for many to visit friends remote; but the Sunday absorbs two holidays, and gives no time for more than the customary weekly rest. We are glad to observe that, in the absence of any official regulation, an effort will be made to abridge as much as possible the business of the Monday immediately following Christmas-day, and that several large employers have given notice that their establishments will be closed on the 26th of December. The Mayors of Oxford, Birmingham, and Southampton have officially recommended the suspension of business. We have before us the minutes of the meeting of the Oxford Town Council, held on the 8th inst., at which the question was raised by the Mayor in a manner so remarkable for its generous and liberal feeling, that we shall offer no apology for citing so noble an example.

"After the ordinary business had been disposed of, the Mayor called the attention of the Council to the circumstance, that in consequence of Christmas-day falling, in the present year, on a Sunday, the people would be deprived of their most valued holidays. He was one of those who thought that the industrious classes had too few legitimate holidays in the year; and that their ancestors, the Protestant Reformers, in their zeal for removing the abuses of the Church, had greatly overlooked the interests of the community in this respect, when they swept nearly the whole of them away. He hoped that the Council would assist him in obtaining a suspension of business, and in creating a holiday for the people on Monday, the 26th of December.

"In answer to an inquiry whether the working men would be paid their wages for that day, the Mayor said that the principle on which he acted was, when he gave his workmen a holiday, to pay them the same wages as if they had been at work. He could not control others, and he could only tell them what was his practice; but if they would take his advice, they would do the same."

We trust this example may be generally followed. The Mayor of Oxford, Mr. R. J. Spiers, is, it seems, a very considerable employer, and the conduct of his varied and extensive business is noted as a model of commercial enterprise and efficiency. His name will be remembered by many of our readers for having figured with some distinction among the exhibitors in the Crystal Palace of 1851, and he is, we believe, an active member of the Society of Arts. It is agreeable enough, in these days of rotten corporations and corrupt municipalities, of turtle-swilling aldermen and guzzling common councillors, to find a gentleman whose commercial position has been acquired by sound and steady habits of industry and enterprise, and who has attained distinction for a refined taste and a generous love of art, occupying the highest civic functions in a city like Oxford, too commonly, and, we fear, too justly, identified with all that is narrow, bigoted, retrograde, and exclusive. It is singular that, in an University city, it should be the city and not the university which holds up the banner of enlightenment. We do not claim the Mayor of Oxford for one of our adherents: he would probably be classed among the Liberal-Conservatives; but we shall never be disposed to quarrel with a conservatism which is liberal enough to desire to universalise the something to conserve, and to use the influence of office and of station on behalf of the many who have few friends. We congratulate Oxford on having such a Chief Magistrate. May we ask if the great employers in the north, who are so eloquent in their professions at Mechanics' Institutes and Athenæums, are ready to create a holiday for their workmen on the 26th of this month? We know that in any case the holiday will be taken, but, in the spirit of that reconciliation which we are taught to associate with Christmas, would it not be better given?

Open Council.

[IN THIS DEPARTMENT, AS ALL OPINIONS, HOWEVER EXTREME, ARE ALLOWED AN EXPRESSION, THE EDITOR NECESSARILY HOLDS HIMSELF RESPONSIBLE FOR NONE.]

There is no learned man but will confess he hath much profited by reading controversies, his senses awakened, and his judgment sharpened. If, then, it be profitable for him to read, why should it not, at least, be tolerable for his adversary to write.—MILTON.

THE VALUE OF THE BEARD TO ARTISANS.

Nanson-street, Carlisle.

(To the Editor of the Leader.)

SIR,—As one among many artisans who have experienced great relief and comfort through the adoption of beard and moustaches, I think the least thing I can do in return is publicly to recommend their adoption among my brethren in labour, as greatly contributing to purify deleterious air, and guard the lungs from the noxious particles which fly about from the substances they use in the prosecution of their various trades. Belonging to a very dusty trade myself, which, moreover, requires confinement in hot rooms, I suffered greatly in my shaven state from a severe and constant cough, often attended by painful attacks of quinsy and rheumatism of the jaws, which combined, as they usually were, reduced me to a very pitiable condition; whereas, I have worn a beard now for four months, and these ugly maladies, which, during the reign of my razor, persisted in troubling me with at least a monthly visit, have not yet renewed their acquaintance, to my great satisfaction, I need hardly say. Besides, my cough has nearly gone, and my lungs, in consequence, enjoy a peace they have for years sighed after in vain. This true statement speaks for itself. It makes my beard a sacred appendage in my eyes, which all the jokes and jibes I am continually favoured with shall not cast down from its eminence. Doubtless the jokers will be converted in due time; meanwhile I beg to say to them, that I have found the yoke of lusty health preferable to that of Mrs. Grundy.

I am, Sir, yours truly,

JAMES WALKER.

UGHT MAJORITIES IN ALL CASES TO BE OMNIPOTENT?

(To the Editor of the Leader.)

SIR,—Would some of your able correspondents enlighten me on the following:—A reading-room, or Athenæum, for "intellectual and moral improvement of its members," by reading and lectures, has just been formed in a town of a population of 2800. Books are to be bought for circulation among members, but the rule for selection of them has not yet been framed, a minority being of opinion that each member ought to be at liberty to put in one volume in turn, if not above a certain price, thereby securing a fair representation of views in morals, politics, or theology. This proposal, it is reckoned, will meet with virulent opposition. Though none of its opponents, to my apprehension, have advanced a justifiable reason for its rejection, nor shown the impartiality, nor the right of the majority, or the managers acting for them, to decide what books are to be admitted and what eschewed, perhaps there may be found some plausible defence of the view of the majority; indeed, the intolerance on such and collateral matters in the part of Britain I inhabit is quite insufferable; folks don't seem to see, or have not the courage to assert, that a majority in such cases strike at the very essence of liberty, and that a minority has rights which may not be infringed with impunity. I conceive the end and aim of all legitimate society or government is the conservation of individual freedom, and that no right exists in the majority to curtail the minority's individual rights, when the exercise of such interferes not with the individual rights of the majority. Casting aside the abstract right of the case, I think that, commercially, the minority are correct: i. e., a hundred members unite, one share to each at 1*l.*, for getting 100*l.* value and interest more quickly than as isolated individuals; on what principle do 100ths of the members absorb the whole, and let ten members go without?

Yours, &c.,

RUSTICUS.

["Rusticus" proposes for our consideration a problem of practical interest and constant difficulty; we will give it our early attention.—ED.]

[We have received a letter from "A French Subscriber," protesting against the report contained in the last letter of our Paris correspondent, of an alliance between the Republicans and the Fusionists for the overthrow of the Empire. He says:—"For the honour of the Republicans, whose names are no doubt unduly cited, and although these citizens

belong to a *nuance*, which is far from having the *éclat* of that to which my friends and myself belong, and to which it is our glory to belong, I do not think any of them guilty of the charge which your correspondent takes upon himself to bring against them. As for ourselves, Republicans, called 'Red,' and who are whitering in the incessant struggles which for more than thirty years we have had to sustain against the different powers which have succeeded to the government of our unhappy country, we protest energetically against any idea of coalition with the Royalist and reactionary parties, our principles not being those which suffer us to compromise the sacred rights of nations."]

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

MR. PEFLOW.—The work referred to has been set aside for notice; we cannot undertake to say when the notice will appear.

THE MOUSTACHE AND BEARD MOVEMENT.

REPORT whispers that from New Year's-day the Moustache and Beard Movement is to date a sudden and triumphant accession of adherents. We have heard it suggested that the venerable dignitaries of the law would do well to abandon wigs and to cultivate beards. Certain we are that the majority of the Bar would be glad on any condition to give up the equally ugly and uncomfortable horsehair appendage, even if they were obliged to resort to horsehair as a substitute for the natural ornaments of the upper lip and chin.

This movement excites our apprehension. When beards are becoming conservative, is Europe becoming Cossack?

ULTRAMONTANISM IN GERMANY.

(SECOND ARTICLE.)

"ULTRAMONTANISM," to adopt the very words of a General of the Order of Jesuits, "crept in everywhere like a lamb; it ruled like a wolf; it was driven out like a dog; but rose again like an eagle." These words, which represent the suppleness, the spirit of domination, the impudence, and the perseverance of the Papal Church, are daily confirmed. They were confirmed when the *coup d'état* completed the general reaction: their truth was likewise demonstrated when, in 1814, the Restoration set to work to destroy the last vestiges of liberty. Even in 1814 it was evident enough that, if the Roman Church had formerly bent to the revolutionary hurricane, it had been with a mental reservation to reconquer at the first opportunity all she had surrendered. "No word is to be kept with the heretics." In our preceding article on the conflicts between the Episcopate of the Upper Rhine and the Government of Baden, we briefly indicated how the prerogatives of the State, respecting the Church, were acquired. We will now add a few details necessary to complete our exposition.

By the treaty of 1804, concluded between the Archbishop and the Crown, the Government of Baden became rightfully *Patron of the Catholic Church throughout the whole extent of the territory of Baden*. The Archiepiscopate of Constance retained the right of patronage only over those parts of his diocese in which the dynasty of Baden had no authority, in which, consequently, it could neither abrogate nor confer any right; that is to say, in Switzerland, in Bavaria, &c.

But some years after the treaty of 1804, other provinces, which up to that time had formed part of the diocese of the Archiepiscopate were again incorporated into the Duchy of Baden. Here comes the question whether the treaty above-mentioned would be equally valid for these new provinces. Now, it is known that after the dissolution of the German Empire, in 1806, the different dynasties assumed a sovereignty without restriction (*landesfürstliche Machtvollkommenheit*). That which formerly was decreed by the law of the Empire emanated henceforth from the sovereignty of the Prince. By virtue of this new and absolute principle, the Government of Baden declared that it would extend its right of patronage also over the provinces recently acquired. It might have founded that right on an interpretation of the treaty of 1804. It preferred the simple assertion of its unlimited sovereignty.

There is the root of the long struggles between the State and the Archiepiscopate. These struggles, it is true, were sustained from 1814 to 1830 with inferior ardour. During that interval the activity of the "Blacks" was engaged principally on the political field: they played high. But since the defeat of the German Revolution, and of the Revolution of Baden specially, the Papists have resumed the struggle on purely ecclesiastical ground again, with a violence and an arrogance which indicate that Rome believes the moment to have arrived when she can annihilate

all treaties, obligations, and other inconvenient usages, abolish the Placet, and re-establish the absolute Hegemony of the Holy See.

The legal validity of the right of patronage which the Government of Carlsruhe has asserted over the whole extent of its territory is, besides, recognised by important authorities within the Church itself. Thus, the ecclesiastic who became afterwards Bishop of Mayence (although reserving, in theory, to the Holy See the right of waiving all treaties at the fitting opportunity), nevertheless, declared formally, in a report which is before us, that, speaking within the terms of the recognised legality, the treaty must be interpreted in favour of the Government of Baden. That ecclesiastic said, in so many words: "It was tacitly reserved by the treaty of 1804 that the Government of Baden should appropriate to itself the rights of patronage in the other provinces, also, from the moment when it had extended its rights of sovereignty over those provinces."

Against the Curialists who claim an unconditional autonomy, the State in Baden stands, therefore, according to formal legality, on a perfectly legitimate ground. The State has certain rights and titles, and the Church is legally subordinate to the State. Indeed, the administration of the Catholic Church was always directed in Baden, in the name of the Grand Duke, by a Council subordinate to the Ministry of the Interior, and called, at first, "Section of the Catholic Church," and later, "Superior Council of the Catholic Church."

Since the proclamation of the Constitution (1818) the CHAMBERS have also legally exercised their share of control by regulating the budget, and by expressing their opinions upon the internal tendencies of the Church.

We have given the salient points of the course by which the State in Baden acquired its prerogatives against the Roman Church. We now proceed to add a succinct and summary history of the conflicts between the two. We are too far removed from the feelings and opinions of either to incur the charge of partiality to the one or to the other.

After the restoration of the Bourbons in France, and after the re-establishment of the Order of Jesuits by Pius VII. (1814), the Papal Church gathered up again the broken threads of its organisation. It sought, in a word, to reintegrate itself in the possession of all the influence it owned before the revolution. To attain that end, the admirers of Ravallac and of Mariana recommended themselves to the thrones, as allies against the spirit of doubt, of liberty, and of progress. While with one hand they were offering this alliance to the thrones, with the other these Escobars held a poniard to destroy the existence of certain states, for the advantage of Catholicism—in *majori Ignatii gloriam*. One of those states which they doomed to dismemberment was the Duchy of Baden, where, by the suppression of important ecclesiastical powers, by a Protestant dynasty, by the influence of France, by the Code Napoleon, by the sub-division of the soil, &c., the Mediævalism was seriously endangered.

At that epoch (1814) there existed still in Germany very remarkable traces of certain endeavours after emancipation, which, in the eighteenth century, had been initiated within the aristocratic spheres of the Catholic Hierarchy. Many bishops still adhered to episcopal tendencies, to Conservative-Liberal principles, to a species of reformed Toryism, expressed in the "Punctuation of Ems" in 1785. It was a liberalism almost imperceptible, but which did seem something, compared with the cadaverous doctrines of the disciples of Laynez and Bobadilla. Two representatives of that cream of the mitred liberal aristocracy in Germany were the Baron de Dalberg (under Napoleon Prince-Primas of the Rheinbund) and the Baron de WESSENBERG, chief of the Josephinist school, both administering, successively, the dioceses of Baden. Wessenberg, placed on the list of prohibited priests because of his opinions, was not even recognised by the Pope in his episcopal functions, which he occupied in the teeth of the anathema of the Holy Father. The Grand Duke protected him against the thunders of Rome, and against the rage of the Papal Nuncio at Lucerne.

It might have been imagined that the State would find an ally in a priest who had drawn upon himself such a weight of ecclesiastical wrath, and who was nothing, save through the grace of a secular power. Not at all. The Catholic priest, the most liberal to all appearance, is still Romish enough to be the zealous defender of hierarchical pretensions. It may well be that he has small relish for the honour of kissing the slipper of an infallible Pope. But it by no means follows that he has any repugnance to see the profane kissing his own.

Have we not seen the Archbishop of Paris attacked by the Veuillots and the Gaumes as fiercely as if he were the Director of Hell incarnate? Was it not supposed that this great Gallican, this modern Bos-

suet, this admirer of Pagan classicism, would be forever the irreconcilable enemy of the men of obscurity. Ah! if it be a question of opposing the secular power, the most touching accord is re-established. The Classicists, who read Homer, Virgil, and Cicero, without thinking themselves condemned to the claws of the † † †, and the poor fools who are wretched because "the earth revolves,"—all unite again in concord and harmony. We find the Archbishop of Paris sending succour to his "dear brother of Freiburg," as readily as the Jesuit Bishop of Posen and Count Waldburg-Zeil the knight-errant, of German Loyolism. Ah! if the thing to be done is to subject the State to the Altar, then at once is reared a Latin cross which stretches its arms from the Seine to the Danube and the Vistula, with the City of the Seven Hills for its base.

A similar phenomenon was displayed in 1814. Wessenberg, anathematised by the Chief of Christendom, Wessenberg the Josephinist, the *protégé* of the Grand Duke, sustained against the Government of Baden a struggle for more than ten years to wrest from the State the rights of patronage which he claimed to belong to the Church. In turning over the documents referring to this contest of 1815, 1817, 1821, 1827, 1828, we are struck with the haughty language of a priest who had no other resources than his pride. Certainly, the language of Wessenberg fell short of the insolence of the now living Archbishop of Freiburg. The contest raised by Wessenberg was a petty display of rebellious impudence: he confined himself to a reclamation of specific rights, and alleged some reasons for his demands, while the Archbishop of 1853 plants himself broadly on the pontifical and canonical ground, declaring "his surprise that he should be called upon to obey the laws of the State." (These are the very words of the Archbishop of Fribourg.)

But to understand thoroughly the bearing of these relatively unimportant conflicts, which were kept up between the Archiepiscopate and the Government from 1814 till about 1830, we must for a moment recur to the political events of that epoch.

The Grand Duchy was originally formed, under Napoleon, by the agglomeration of the ancient Margraviat, with the provinces formerly belonging to Bavaria and to Austria, and with the territories of some petty, secular, and ecclesiastical governments which were dissolved and mediatised. By this means the Master of the Knights of St. John, the Prince-Abbé de St. Blasien and others lost their rights of the middle ages. After the resurrection of the legitimate thrones in 1814, all those ancient petty sovereigns, all that *ci-devant* immediate Nobility of the German Empire, all that secularised Clericalism merged in a common League with Austro-Bavarian tendencies. Their object was to regain their ancient independence, or at least to give the preponderance to the Catholic Powers, by dissolving the small states "infected with Liberalism." The cement of that League were some men affiliated to the vows of that politico-religious Corporation whose handle is at Rome, and whose point is everywhere. Austria and Bavaria were to be the saviours of the future. In Austria flourished, at that time, the Redemptorists, a militant order of Jesuitism. In Bavaria the black-robed P.P. looked forward to a speedy return to the good old times of Charles Theodore, the grand persecutor of the *Illuminati*, whose Court swarmed with abbés and confessors, with tonsured and frocked crusaders of every hue and cut. The aristocratico-clerical conspiracy, powerful in the possession of vast seigniorial lands, influential by its relations with the high circles of Governments, and with the Catholic and legitimate Courts in particular, sought to dismember and divide the Duchy of Baden among the Catholic Powers.*

It was this perilous moment that Wessenberg, the *protégé* of the Government of Baden, chose to create difficulties for the State, by demanding rights which, according to the ecclesiastical authority above cited, belonged exclusively to the State.

To resist the designs of the Papists and the Aristocrats, the Grand Ducal Government did not appeal to public opinion. At that date the country had no constitution; the people could not make their voice heard. The proclamation of a charter would then have sufficed to hold the conspirators in check. But the miserable dwarfish dynasty of Baden stuck to its own absolute sovereignty with the desperation of the biggest thoroughbred despot living. It snuffed the spirit of revolt everywhere; its terrors were ridiculous. The reports of its secret police kept strict account of the colour of the houses and of the shape of handkerchiefs of its subjects, because under the disguises of colour and of form might lurk symbols of Freemasonry! This is au-

* By a secret treaty concluded between Austria and Bavaria in 1814, the Palatinate of Baden and the Main- and Tauberkreis, belonging to the Duchy of Baden, were to lapse to the Crown of Bavaria. Singularly enough, it is precisely in the Tauber-ground that the recent troubles were instigated by the Papists.

thentic. Rather than trust for support to those classes of the people which professed anti-clerical opinions, the Court of Carlsruhe sought to win over a party from the League—the territorial Seigneurs (Standes-und Grundherren). There were political and religious measures which conduced to that end. In religion, the Government conferred on the territorial aristocracy the right of presentation to the parishes. It thought by such concessions to detach some members from the League, forgetting, it seems, that these Seigneurs, for the most part Catholics, were but the tools of the higher Roman clergy, and that, consequently, to give them the right of presentation to the parishes, it was holding out the hand to Ultramontanism.

That furnace of intrigues was not to be extinguished by timid concessions and wavering measures. The Duchy continued to be menaced by the plots of the friends of Austria and Bavaria. In more than one year it was even constantly apprehended that the Bavarian forces would enter into Baden, and proceed to the dismemberment of the Duchy. It was not the Papists who had least contributed to provoke Bavaria to these attacks.

In the thick of these anxieties about the fate of his country and of his throne, but only upon his bed of death, the Grand Duke Charles resolved at last to proclaim a Constitution (1818), one of the first paragraphs of which, directed against the "Austrians" and the "Romanists," confirms solemnly the indivisibility and inalienability of the Grand Duchy in all its parts. By this charter the projects of the conspiracy were outwitted. The Constitution strengthened and united all the provinces of the State, by interesting the whole people in its existence.

After the people had received through the Constitution the gift of political life, the intriguers of Sacerdotalism in Baden, although still from time to time menacing the very existence of the State, necessarily addressed their attacks rather to the spiritual domain. The Ultramontane leaders, by making themselves the interpreters of the doctrines of Haller and of Görres sought to gain for "lay coadjutors" some personages in exalted positions. Among the Protestants at the head of the social scale, Crypto-Catholicism, as among the Catholics, Crypto-Jesuitism, made proselytes. In the families of the *haute noblesse* of the south of Germany, the tutor of the children and the clergyman of the castle were usually in the confidence of the "Blacks." The political activity of the order is, it is well known, singularly facilitated by the rules of the Society, which permit the members to take no part in religious exercises, and not even to observe the most sacred usages of the Church, if they deem it better to abstain. So the Jesuit threw off his scholastic cassock, put his casuistry in his pocket, dressed like a man of the world, affected a taste for Art and Belles Lettres, was conspicuous for *savoir vivre*. By these manœuvres the Society glided to the steps of the throne, insinuated itself everywhere, made unheard-of efforts to place in the chairs of the colleges and universities professors initiated in the depths of the "Ratio et Institutio studiorum Societatis Jesu." The peasant was plied by the Propaganda of flying-sheets and popular almanacks. The Society eluded the laws of the state by indirect purchase of estates, which it administered by secretly affiliated agents, and enlarged by legacies torn from the agonies of deathbeds. The young Theologians were attracted to the *Collegium Romanum* of Rome; a new generation of Papists was reared up.

All this was done, if not with the connivance, at least with the indifference of the Grand Ducal Government, and against the openly expressed opinions of the enlightened part of the population. The Government winked at it; for, after all, it would rather cherish Ultramontanism than govern according to the wishes of its subjects. Its chief endeavour was to get rid of those troublesome paragraphs of a Constitution which it had granted in the hour of danger. It even entered—documents from the secret archives of Carlsruhe, opened by the Provisional Government of 1849, attest the fact—it entered into relation with the Absolutist Courts; it even sent members of the Grand Ducal family to St. Petersburg to consult the highest authority on the best method of getting rid of a Constitution.

In these efforts it had no other allies than the brothers of St. Francis Xavier, who in 1825 actually tried to provoke an agitation among the peasants for the abolition of the Constitution.

These friends of the throne, however, were not too disinterested, as we shall be able to prove in a retrospective review of events since 1830.

[Errata in the first article.—In the second column, line 34, "in opposition," read "in support." Line 88, "Tautonic," read "Gothic."—In the third column, line 22, "territory," read "fatherland."—Line 48, "eleventh century," read "eighteenth century."—Line 54, "incapable of imposing restrictions," read "incapable of resisting the restrictions which were imposed."—Line 60, "retaining," read "restraining."]

Literature.

Critics are not the legislators, but the judges and police of literature. They do not make laws—they interpret and try to enforce them.—*Edinburgh Review*.

THE new number of the *Irish Quarterly Review* opens with an article on *Limited Liability in Partnerships*, which will aid in the enlightenment of our legislators on this extremely important topic, one fraught with the interests of the whole commercial world. It is with some pride that we observe a view originally proposed for English adoption in these columns, and advocated with persistent ardour, now becoming the general view of political writers. We do not of course for one moment arrogate to ourselves the having in any way created this movement; but we take some pride in having been the first among journals which pointed out the French law of partnership, *en commandite*, as one eminently adapted to our industrial condition.

There is also an amusing biography of MACKLIN, the actor and dramatist, in this Review, which our dramatic readers will do well to look after. MACKLIN has the honour of having restored *Shylock* to his Shakspearian dignity:—

"His first character, after his trial, was *Ramillie*, in Fielding's *Miser*; but he was now upon the path of fame and fortune. He was the *Peachum*, of the *Beggar's Opera*; *Scrub*, in the *Beaux Stratagem*; the *Marplot*, of the *Busy Body*, with all the full round of other important parts, and his crowning triumph and success occurred on the 14th of February, 1741. For many years Lord Lansdowne's *Jew of Venice*, altered from Shakspeare's *Merchant of Venice*, had been performed, and the latter entirely neglected. It seemed to Macklin a very great error, that this fine tragedy should be forgotten, and the great poet's design completely perverted by making *Shylock* a low comedy part; he accordingly resolved to adhere closely to Shakspeare's text, to take the character on himself, and placed the piece in rehearsal. At the rehearsals he merely repeated the words of his part, leaving the actors in entire ignorance of his intended mode of representation. The performers, the manager, nearly all the friends of the theatre, predicted a failure, but when the appointed 14th of February arrived, Macklin was resolute: not so, however, his brother actors, and he was forced to endure the frowns of *Portia*, Mrs. Clive, and the lamentations of *Antonio*, *Quin*. The house was crowded from the opening of the doors, and the curtain rose amidst the most dreadful of all awful silence, the stillness of a multitude. The *Jew* enters in the third scene, and from that point, to the famous scene with *Tubal*, all passed off with considerable applause. Here, however, and in the trial scene, the actor was triumphant, and in the applause of a thousand voices the curtain dropped. The play was repeated for nineteen successive nights with increased success. On the third night of representation all eyes were directed to the stage-box, where sat a little, deformed, man; and whilst others watched his gestures, as if to learn his opinion of the performers, he was gazing intently upon *Shylock*, and as the actor panted, in broken accents of rage, and sorrow, and avarice—'Go, *Tubal*, fee me an officer, bespeak him a fortnight before: I will have the heart of him, if he forfeit; for were he out of Venice, I can make what merchandise I will: go, *Tubal*, and meet me at our synagogue; go, good *Tubal*! at our synagogue, *Tubal*!'—the little man was seen to rise, and, leaning from the box, as Macklin passed it, he whispered—

'This is the Jew,
That Shakspeare drew.'

"The speaker was Alexander Pope, and in that age, from his judgment in criticism there was no appeal.

"Thus were genius and discrimination triumphant, and so they ever triumph. Thus, Mrs. Pritchard, the great *Lady Macbeth*, had ever, in the sleeping walking scene, held the lamp in one hand, and touched its palms with the fingers of the other, and so represented the washing of the 'damned spot'; but great Siddons resolved that she would depart from this conception, and though Sheridan wept, and prayed, and entreated, that she would return to the established mode of representation, she was immovable in her resolution—she laid the lamp upon the table, passed hand over hand in the strong will, yet despairing hope, to cleanse that stain which 'all the perfumes of Arabia will not sweeten.' Did the audience hiss, or laugh—no—night was around them—the chill of the tomb was upon all—the great Demon woman, yet the poor criminal, conscience-driven, was before them, she who was, even in sleep, pursued by fiends, and in the—

'What, will these hands ne'er be clean?'

they knew the secret of the sleeper's gesture—and sat in stony silence—wondering at the genius of the poet—the genius of the actress. Thus too, when Edmund Kean resolved to play this same *Shylock*, as man never played it before, they all told him it could not succeed—he attends the last rehearsal—goes home to his poor lodgings—dines on the beefsteak and pot of porter which his fond, true, long-suffering wife had procured—returns to the theatre, carrying his wig, his collar, and his old black silk stockings in a pocket handkerchief—he goes on foot through the snow, enters upon the stage—plays out his part—leaves the theatre amidst the shouts of all, and glowing with his triumph, rushes to his home—wild with joy, cries to his wife—'Oh, Mary! my fortune's made: now you shall ride in your carriage'—and snatching little Charles from his cradle, he exclaims, whilst raptuously kissing him, 'Now, my boy, you shall go to Eton.' Thus does the 'Aut Caesar, aut nullus' of genius triumph."

In the next number of this Review there is to be a biography of BANIM the novelist, and in the present number those piquant, anecdotal papers, *The Streets of Dublin*, are continued. The editor shows sagacity in thus quitting the beaten track of Quarterly Reviews which others still preserve, although the whole spirit and purpose of the Reviews have changed. From the moment the Review ceased to be a Review, and became a quarterly publication of Essays, the old restrictions became unnecessary. The *Revue des Deux Mondes* is the pattern editors should have before their eyes. We have once before suggested (and we repeat the suggestion because it seems to us not without importance), that considering the impossibility of establishing a journal of Scientific Memoirs, translated from the finest continental productions, our Quarterly Reviews would do well in some sort to fill such a place by giving insertion to translations of very remarkable scientific papers.

Apropos of science, Dr. FREDERICK LEES, of Leeds, in a private letter to us, writes: "I have just been making an experiment in relation to the mooted question of Spontaneous Combustion, which, as I am writing to you, I may as well mention. Having had a stomach for the last seven years preserved in alcohol (not my own! for that I preserve without, as you know, but one taken at a post-mortem from a drunkard, who was drowned), I thought that, as it had been well-steeped in alcoholics both before and after death, it ought, when fired, to show at least some combustive behaviour akin

to the case of poor *Krook*—if his happened to be a record of fact. I broke the head of the vessel and set fire to the pint of alcohol in and around the organ. The spirit burnt away, and as it burnt it *singed* the upper part of the stomach, but when all the spirit was consumed the stomach was still there—stubbornly *incombustible*, as I expected."

This is an interesting record, establishing a fact, which, indeed, did not require fresh evidence, to any one conversant with the structure of the body, but which to the general reader seemed inconceivable. We said that the living body *could not* be steeped in alcohol; and, moreover, if it were steeped in alcohol it would not burn. The experiment of Dr. LEES will, we hope, suffice to convince the sceptical general reader.

There have been disputes about HOMER's existence; WILLIAM TELL has been proved a myth, and ingenious men have shown that we have no proof of SHAKSPEARE being altogether unmythical; but what will Glasgow say to her ALEXANDER SMITH being considered a mere *nom de plume*, as BARRY CORNWALL is for Mr. PROCTOR? There is something so prosaic in the name of SMITH ("which is not precisely an Italian name," as a friend once gravely remarked) that America may be excused if her citizens get up a theory of historical scepticism, based primarily on this prosaism, and secondarily on the "suspicious circumstance" of ALEXANDER SMITH having been the name under which Kossuth sailed for England. We are not jesting. That theory has been started, and Kossuth is credited with a *Life Drama*.

Among the few French books which call for the attention of our readers, let us name the eighth volume of SAINTE BEUVE: *Les Causeries du Lundi*. Not, indeed, so charming as the other volumes we have from time to time announced, yet more delightful than any other volume of criticisms coming from Paris. It contains articles on GIBBON, Prince DE LIGNE, GABRIELLE D'ESTREES, RÖDERER, MIGNET, SULLY, MEZERAY, BERNIS, GUY, PATIN, MALHERBE, and others; and, as GRAY wished for a sofa and eternally new novels, so will the literary readers desire eternally new volumes of *Les Causeries du Lundi*.

Let us also name Madame EMILE DE GIRARDIN's republication of *Le Vicomte de Launay's Correspondance Parisienne*. Lovers of light, witty, gossip-samer-gossip will remember her *Lettres Parisiennes*, which were the *feuilleton* chronicles of 1836, 7, 8, and 9. The present volume is a continuation, and tells the gossiping, unwritten history of Paris during 1840-48. It is full of anecdotes, *mots*, ingenious paradoxes, and things "so French." There is a chapter on *The Duty of a Pretty Woman to be Pretty*, which should be read by all women, and all who admire them; that is to say by the whole world. We were greatly tickled by her picture of weddings, which, as she says, *en général pèchent par les oncles; dans cette noce il y avait des effets d'oncles merveilleux!* (which in a rough translation means that weddings in general are spoiled by the uncles; but in this wedding there were some marvellous "uncle effects").

It is a difficult and delicate matter that of reconciling the claims of the "flesh" and the claims of the "spirit"—to fulfil your "contracts with Government," and fulfil all the Church demands. The Directors of the General Screw Company are in this position. They are appealed to by four clergymen on the sin of coaling ships on Sundays. They admit the sin, deeply deplore it, but what is to be done?—have they not made a "contract with Government?" There is something very instructive in the correspondence which passed on this point. The clergy paint a graphic and somewhat ludicrous picture. They complain that divine service (like dinner) was "provided" for the passengers; but during the whole time this provision was partaken of, the sailors were *ahoy-hoy-ing* at the ropes (*ahoy*, we will suppose, not altogether unaccompanied by endearing curses), and not only thinning the "attendance on divine service," but noisily mingling their accents with the mild parsonic intonations. What a picture! curses here, and threats of hellfire there: damnations plentiful as blackberries!

Not content with the picture, they attempt to reason, and as usual ruin their case. They argue thus: Coaling a ship need only occupy one day in each week; if that one day were sacrificed with the express purpose of "honouring the Sabbath," these clergymen confidently assure the Directors that "no real loss will follow in the long run;" so that, after all, the selfish commercial motive is thrust in advance. We are advised to honour the Sabbath that we may in the long run be gainers: we bait with a gudgeon to catch a pike. And this is what they call taking "higher ground!" The directors so appealed to would, on figures being produced, of course readily respond. Meanwhile they point out that prayer is desirable, but contracts are imperative; if the captains can so arrange matters as to give up one day in seven to prayer and petitions for gain in the long run, and yet not be longer on the voyage than the contract stipulates, they, as good Christian Directors, will heartily say, be it so! Not otherwise.

BOOKS BEFORE OUR TRIBUNAL.

ALL readers of the French Revolution will have noted how, while some prisoners appearing before FOUQUIER TINVILLE had to undergo a lengthened examination, others were sent to the guillotine in batches—a glance, a name, and a flourish of the pen sufficed for them. Yet their crime was as serious as the crime of those who were honoured with a longer trial; it was not the crime, but the criminal thus honoured. In one case we see the prisoner at

the bar exposed to an elaborate investigation; he is allowed to display his eloquence and ingenuity, and the Public Accuser retorts. In another case the prisoner merely appears and hears his sentence. "Press of business" was the excuse of this unseemly haste.

Very much is this the case with the literary Public Accuser. He selects, from among the "authors at the bar," one whose case happens to fall within the sphere of his knowledge or interest. He is minute, microscopic; he states the case, throws doubt on it, admits the prisoner perhaps to mercy, but counsels him to be careful for the future. Others he treats in batches. Better men he lets pass by without question; worse men without detailed accusation. The trial is summary; the sentence brief; and as, after all, the sentence is the aim and end of the trial, the more swiftly it is pronounced the better.

We are about to pass sentence. Some of the prisoners have only to present themselves to be judged. A lengthened examination would be tiresome, unless it were carried to a length not compatible with the exigencies of this court. Take the first, as an example; it is an edition of *Grotius de Jure Belli et Pacis* (J. W. PARKER & SON, 3 vols, price 42s.). Dr. WHEWELL has edited this great work, affixing also a translation, with the notes of BARBEYRAC and others. GROTIUS is not a bad subject for a quarterly review article, in which might be discussed his Ethical principles, his influence, his learning and Latinity, winding up with the criticisms of DUGALD STEWART and HALLAM, appreciated and contrasted. But in the space which our columns can spare, nothing of the kind can be done. Let us therefore briefly state what are the claims of this edition, prepared for the Syndics of the University by the Master of Trinity. There is the text, handsomely printed, notes, and at the bottom of each page Dr. WHEWELL's translation. This is peculiar: it contains all the original in nearly half the bulk, not by compression, but simply by the omission of all the unnecessary quotations with which GROTIUS ornamented and obscured his text. Every one who has looked into GROTIUS is aware of his prodigious erudition. Like most learned men, he was hampered by his learning; he could not shake it off; he was forced to show all he knew. In this translation Dr. WHEWELL preserves only such quotations as are necessary to carry on the argument, the rest are indicated by the names of the authors quoted; and as the quotations are given on the same page, in the original, we have only to refer thereto if we desire it. On the other hand, "the didactic and argumentative parts are in general so far from being abridged, that explanatory expressions and clauses are introduced in a great number of passages where they seemed likely to make the meaning clearer." From such inspection as we have made, the translation seems to us admirably executed. Altogether it is a valuable edition of a work which has long been a classic.

The *Speeches of the Right Honourable T. B. Macaulay* (LONGMAN & Co., price 12s.) need not detain us long. A delighted perusal of them issues in an emphatic commendation. We are even disposed to applaud the act Macaulay so indignantly stigmatises, since its result has been to enrich our literature with so remarkable a volume. While engaged on his *History*, which is now, he tells us, "the business and the pleasure of his life," he was suddenly, though reluctantly, forced to publish these speeches, because a bookseller had, without his leave, and without his supervision, given to the world *Speeches* purporting to be his, which were full of gross blunders, misrepresentations, and which did not bear the faintest resemblance to what he actually delivered. There is exaggeration here. The speeches may have been incorrect, but that fault lies at the door of *Hansard*, more than the publisher. There may also be ground for indignation against a copyright system which allows of such republication; but for this Mr. VIZITELY is not to be held responsible. Nevertheless, every one will understand MACAULAY's objection to have that system turned against himself. Every one will sympathise with him in his indignation; and every one will secretly rejoice in the wrong which occasioned the publication of so much admirable literature, good argument, and splendid oratory.

Little need be said of the new edition of *Sir James Mackintosh's History of England* (LONGMAN & Co., 2 vols., price 21s.). It is a republication of the work so well known in its original form among the volumes of *Lardner's Cyclopædia*. It has been revised by the author's son, who has thrown into an appendix certain passages of an insulated character, and has taken upon himself the responsibility of the whole. The work, which describes English History from the earliest period down to the final establishment of the Reformation, is in two handsome volumes, furnished with a full index. There are few books one would sooner place upon the library shelves.

Whenever a man has practical experience to aid speculative ingenuity he is worth listening to. If only those who had something of their own to say would publish, what very few books we should have, and how much richer we should be! THOMAS GISBORNE was a man who had something to say on Agriculture; and he said it. In the *Quarterly Review* of 1849 and 1850 who does not remember those articles on Cattle and Sheep, Drainage, and Agricultural Literature? They have been reprinted with a fourth, on *High Farming*, hitherto unpublished, under the title of *Essays on Agriculture* (MURRAY, price 5s.). A more readable as well as a more valuable work on these subjects we cannot name.

Having dispatched these more serious books, we now turn to a gayer crowd of Christmas books, tempting the purses of Parents and Guardians. Here is another edition of Mrs. S. C. HALL's *Pilgrimages to English Shrines* (ARTHUR HALL, VIRTUE, & Co., price 21s.), a dainty book enough, with its prodigal illustrations by F. W. FAIRHOLT, its pleasant gossip, not free from affectation, however, and its blue and gilt binding. There is an union here of antiquarianism, gossip, local history, and art, which makes the work agreeable to lounge over as it lies conspicuous on the drawing-room table. Beside it, in its brilliant colours, let us place the *Illustrated Uncle Tom's Cabin* (NATHANIEL COOKE, price 12s.), with its hundred and fifty really striking illustrations by THOMAS and MACQUOID. The negro characteristics are well hit off. Topsy is sublime! But the shape of the negro heads too often loses the negro type and approaches the Caucasian—a characteristic which should have been confined to Uncle Tom himself. Some of the illustrations are Frenchified and melodramatic; but most of them are excellent, and all striking.

Is Protestantism to be made elegant and adapted to the drawing-room, that

two such serious subjects as the *Life of Luther* and the *Pilgrim Fathers* cannot appear but as drawing-room books? We shall find them turned into vaudevilles next. It is true a sort of excuse is made in the preface to this *Life of Martin Luther, in Fifty Pictures*, by GUSTAV KÖNIG (NATHANIEL COOKE, price 12s.)—an excuse founded on LUTHER's notorious love of the Arts, and therefore, says the preface, "it is particularly appropriate that a book, destined to honour the great Reformer and spread abroad his name and fame, should derive its principal claim to public favour from its beautiful illustrations." Is this serious? Can the editor suppose that LUTHER's name and fame are to be spread abroad by a series of illustrations, and such illustrations? We must accept that as a flourish of the pen—the logic of advertisements. There can be no objection, quite the contrary, to a *Life of Luther* pictorially presented; but something less of the drawing-room table style would have been desirable. Waiving this point, and looking at the book for what it is, we may add that the fifty illustrations, which are said to have created a sensation in Germany, are poor as works of art, German in style, deficient in invention, and certainly not destined to create a sensation here. The book is more quaint than beautiful; but we have very little doubt that its Germanism and its subject will find admirers.

The *Pilgrim Fathers; or, the Founders of New England in the Reign of James I.*, by W. H. BARTLETT, (ARTHUR HALL, VIRTUE, and Co., price 12s.) is questionable only in its gay attire; the book itself is an excellent and interesting compilation, in which may be read the story of an heroic exodus, and in which landscape illustrations of very great merit serve really to "illustrate" the text. Mr. Bartlett has chosen a good subject, and treated it lovingly, both with pencil and pen. The eye follows the pilgrims to the various localities, as the mind follows them through their struggles.

We have one more illustrated work to mention. *The Coinage of the British Empire*, by HENRY NOEL HUMPHREYS, (NATHANIEL COOKE, price 21s.). This work is both curious and instructive. It gives a history of the progress of coinage in Great Britain and her dependencies, from the earliest period to the present, illustrated by fac-similes of the coins of each period, worked in gold, silver, and copper: the effect of these illustrations is admirable; you seem to have the coins themselves before you, as if laid out by a collector. In a well-considered introduction, Mr. HUMPHREYS tells of the origin of the art of coining, with specimens of the progressive development through Greece and Rome. He also increases the value of the work by comparisons of British coins with those of contemporary periods on the Continent; and he has so arranged the work that any student, on gaining possession of a new coin, can at once determine its place in the series. Altogether, we can heartily commend this book.

Mr. BORN, who is certainly the most enterprising of publishers, and who publishes nothing but works of serious pretensions, has started a new series of *British Classics*. He inaugurates the series with *Gibbon's Decline and Fall*, to be completed in six volumes, containing the notes of GUIZOT, WENCK, SCHREITER, and HUGO. The work is to be unutilized, although edited by an "English Churchman," and will form a valuable as well as cheap edition, fit for any library shelves. What more need here be said of a work which carries with it its own verdict? No one needs be told what the *Decline and Fall* is. There is one little point of interest we may mention, however, since it is not generally known, indeed the editor himself seems not to have been aware of it, namely, that the first French translator of the *Decline and Fall* was a king! M. LECLERC SEPTCHENES was the nominal translator; but it has since transpired that Louis XVI. was the translator of a portion of it. In a future catalogue of Royal Authors that item should be entered.

We wind up with two Christmas story books. The first is *Cherry and Violet*, by the Author of *Mary Powell*, (ARTHUR HALL, VIRTUE, & Co.) a tale of the Great Plague of London, delicately touched, and "got up" in the pseudo-old-fashioned style, which is now, we are thankful to say, passing out of fashion again. There never was a more absurd mania in publishing. To be consistent, publishers should reprint the Classics on papyrus, and translations of HOMER should be recited by rhapsodists. Fancy JOHN COOPER, and GEORGE BARTLEY, T.R.D.L., engaged to declaim the woes of Greece and the wrath of ACHILLES! The second story is *Christmas Day; and How it was Spent by Four Persons*, (GEORGE ROUTLEDGE & Co., price 1s.). It is one of those books that would never have been written, had not DICKENS written his *Carol* and *Chimes*; but the traces of imitation, though obvious, do not prevent the work being a very pleasant little Christmas book, full of the season and its agreeable associations, moving through a story simple enough, and simply told. There are illustrations by PHIZ, which do not improve its attractiveness in our eyes, although doubtless they will to others. The author, Mr. CHRISTIAN LE ROS, is new in the ranks; he will rise.

BOOKS ON OUR TABLE.

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|---|----------------------------|
| <i>Clinical Lectures on Pulmonary Consumption.</i> By T. Thompson, M.D., F.R.S. | John Churchill. |
| <i>The Spirit of the Bible.</i> By E. Hugginson. | E. T. Whitfield. |
| <i>Lectures to Young Women.</i> By W. G. Eliot. | Crosby, Nichols, and Co. |
| <i>Lectures to Young Men.</i> By W. G. Eliot. | Crosby, Nichols, and Co. |
| <i>Familiar Sketches of Sculpture and Sculptors.</i> 2 vols. | Crosby, Nichols, and Co. |
| <i>Memoir of Pierre Toussaint, born a Slave in St. Domingo.</i> | Crosby, Nichols, and Co. |
| <i>Being, Analytically Described in its Chief Respects and Principal Truths.</i> By John Richard Pickmere. | John Chapman. |
| <i>Maud; a City Autobiography.</i> 3 vols. | H. Bentley. |
| <i>The Wetherbys, Father and Son.</i> By John Lang. | Chapman and Hall. |
| <i>The Shot in the Eye, and Adventures with Saxon Rifle Rangers.</i> By C. W. Wobber. | H. Vizetelly. |
| <i>The Home Circle.</i> | W. S. Johnson. |
| <i>Bentley's Monthly Review.</i> | Piper, Stephenson, and Co. |
| <i>Cuba y su Gobierno.</i> | C. Wood. |
| <i>An Examination of the Pathology of Cholera—Revelations of the Past and Present Modes of Treatment—Thermo-Botanic Method of Cure.</i> By John Skelton, M.D. | J. Watson. |
| <i>The Lady's Almanack for 1854.</i> | Lady's Newspaper Office. |
| <i>The Youthful Inquirer Counseled and Encouraged.</i> By H. N. Barnett. | W. Freeman. |
| <i>Historical Development of Speculative Philosophy, from Kant to Hegel, from the German of Dr. H. M. Chalukaus.</i> By the Rev. A. Edersheim. | T. and S. Clark. |
| <i>Sir Philip Sidney and The Arcadia.</i> (Reading for Travellers.) By J. Crossley. | Chapman and Hall. |
| <i>Science in its Relations to Labour.</i> By Lyon Playfair, M.D. | Chapman and Hall. |

Portfolia.

We should do our utmost to encourage the Beautiful, for the Useful encourages itself.—GÖTTE.

AN IRISH PHILOSOPHER.

"Aisy, Misther, aisy; it's jokin' you are, sure, spakin' of Providence to an Irishman; it's like tellin' a hungry man about his gran'-father's fine dinners! Didn't you never hear how Providence wouldn't stay in the country along wid the Orangemen?—it's as throe as that wanst there was kings in Ireland of our own blood and bones, that Father Murphy spakes about. Them was the days, when we had kings and a Providence to look afther us—when our best crop wasn't childer, and there niver come mouths but there was praties to fill them! It's jokin' you are, Misther! What! is it afther tellin' me you'd be, that Providence doesn't live over the say wid the fine gintlemen, and niver looks in here at all, at all! Thruth, thin, if we was to wait for Providence, we would be like Rory waitin' at Dublin for the thrain from Limerick to Cork! Didn't you niver hear what happened to Phelim O'Connor, whose daughter was the purty girl you was winkin' at? (Sure, thin, an' it's not blushin' you are, to find we have eyes?) Faith, an' I'll tell you the story. You, see, Phelim was comin' home by the King's Moss one night as light-headed as a lamp-post, an' as merry and lively as a lark, whirstlin' tunes whiles, and repatin' patheranavies if a lonesome thought come across him; but few of them did. All at wanst it sthruck him to veesit his ould friend M'Carthy, whose house was a quarther of a mile off the road,—and by the same token he forgot his friend had gone to Australia. So, you see, he laves the road, and sthrikes across country for the house; an' when he gets there he knocks, callin' out, 'It's me, Phelim O'Connor, so don't be disturbed, my darlin', and divil a one was there to answer him. So, Misther, he knocks and knocks for some time, sittin' down for the convayniance of it on the door-step, where the whusky sent him asleep, and sure when he waked up it was the blissed morning!—an' that was the way that he got the reumatis he died of,—rest his ould bones! Isn't it the blissid thruth I'm tellin' the gintleman, Rory, as if it came from Father Murphy himself? No, no, Misther; if we don't come up wid Providence on the straight road, we best not turn off it to look afther him. What is the matther with the country at this minute, but the reumatis that she gotten sittin' down by her bogs and waitin' on Providence;—more belike she will die of it—the poor ould creture! What! is it afther contradiectin' me you'd be?—an' a purty opinion you must have of Providence, if you think he's been lookin' afther Ireland this eight hundhred years, an' made such a mess of it! Bad luck to you, Misther, it's ashamed you ought to be for spakin' in that way, though I says it as knows little about Providence. Faith, an' there's a hundree years on to Misther's purgathory for that!—eh, Rory?"

"Belave in purgathory? Yes, an' bedad you'd better be afther doin' the same; but I niver mate a raysonable gintleman, did you, Rory?—they was all made deficient in rayson, and got the land to make 'up for it! Faith, here's Misther jokin' again! How can I tell you about purgathory that have niver been there?—thruth, an' you'll know about it time enough am thinkin'. But maybe you will be goin' to the other place right on, like a throe Prothestant; it wouldn't be purlite, Rory, would it, to keep the gintleman waitin'? Which is the other place? Why will you be askin' me about it, that have so many friends of your own there? Sure, thin, you're spakin' for the sake of it. Well, if you must know, it's the place for—Prothestants, an' propriethors, an' if you're the one or the other, Jasus—blessed be his name—and Father Murphy protect you! Belave in Father Murphy? That's like your way of spakin' about Providence. Ugh! I wonder where half of the praties an' the whole of the rint goes? Belave in Father Murphy! Plaise don't be blasphemious, if none of your kind niver was raysonable. Oh, Rory macushla, here's Misther not seein' we're jokin' him! But listen; you'll hear the whole blissed thruth about me and Father Murphy, and thin you'll know if I belave in him.

"I was wanst at D—, that I wint to, to buy ribbons for my purty Kate Devlin, that's now the wife of my busom, but my sweet'art that thin was. The weather was fine and frosty, and the wind keen, makin' the pint of my nose as red as my neckercheef; brusk weather, with blue and white the only cullers on the ground and sky, and I rayched the town, by runnin' and sliddin', half an hour before I expected; and faith, when I did, it's ready I was for a dhram o' pottheen to drive the cold from my nose and fingers; so sure I turned into the 'Irishman Rampint' to have one. It's not in the middle of the glass I stopped that mornin', nor at the botthum nayther, for I dhrunk right on to the end of the second; and thin I was comfortable. To complate my recovery I stamped wid my feet and sthruck my hands across, undher my oxtars, an' over my shouldhers, an' all the time I was winkin' at purty Mary that sarved the pottheen; when what should I hear from the room inside but the voice of Father Murphy spakin' of Rory Riggan—that's me, Misther—and laughin' at me as if I was the best joke in the world. 'Whisht,' says I, 'Mary darlin', whisht, and let me hear what his rayverence has to say of me this mornin'.' So I goes aisy, and claps my ear to the kayhole, listenin' and holdin' up my finger to Mary to be quate. 'Finish your glass,' says Father Murphy to his friend. 'Finish your glass, Pether, and it's myself will pay for another; sure it's only a year I'll have to put on to Rory's purgathory, an' the poor boy will soon buy it off agin,' says he. 'Thruth,' says Pether, 'an' it's right you are, brother Murphy, an' it's purgathory we could niver do wid out,' says he, 'it's better nor tides (tithes) an' an establishmint,' says he, 'but is it thrue that Rory is goin' to be married?' 'Faith, thin,' says Father Murphy, 'an' it's too thrue; but it's myself that's sorry for it,' says he, 'for when the childer come, and it's the big pot they put on the fire, divil a half of what I get out of him will I get,' says he. 'Here's to purgathory!' says Pether, dhrinkin' his glass dry; 'and may its fires niver quinch,' says he, 'and the

people always belave in it.' 'Whee-ee-wu!' says I, whirstlin', 'the top of the mornin' to you, Father Murphy, an' be d—d if Rory Riggan is the fool you take him for,' says I. An' wid that I buttons my coat up, claps my hat on my head, and walks off wid my stick; an', by japers, that was the last I heard of Father Murphy's sermons!

"Didn't I not tell you that I pay my tides? what more would you be askin' about? Sure thin, an' I wish I hadn't to do it. Why, do yourself belave in the voluntar seestem? I never knewn what it was. You see when I pay my tides I can't help it, and when I used to pay Father Murphy it was 'can't help it,' all the same; the parson had an Act of Parlimint, and the priest had purgathory. What other seestem is there of gettin' our money, that you call the voluntar seestem? Lavin' it intirely to myself! sure thin I'd lave the money intirely in my pocket. Thrust me, Misther, for a knowldge of the humane crature; depind upon it he's raysonable at botthum, an' only gives when he expects to have vatee recaved! But, Misther, tell me what the Prothestants say for thimselves anint their establishmint, for of coorse they're raysonable cratures? What! that they must extermainite Popery—thruth, thin, they may take credit for the work, an' that's jist what the Papists want to do to them. By japers, the Prothestants and Papists are like rival docthors, each wantin' to pison the other, in ordher to get the whole practice; but, bedad, it's too bad of the Prothestant docthor to make the Papist pay for the pison!

"I'm an industhrious man, Misther, an' pays my rint an' tides, an' do every other thing that's honest or accordin' to law; an' there's some as would wish me undher the ground for it; an' it's not but there's some rayson in them too. The Prothestants an' propriethors isn't what they ought to be, more nor the Papists and priests. Did I ever shoot a propriethor? Why, thin, an' no I niver did; but it's many a one of their breed that I've knewn put out of the way with satisfaction to my heart. I niver hears of a propriethor's beein' shot but I says 'Glory be to God—Amin!' for you see, Misther, it's a eight hundhred years' fight we've been carryin' on, and worsted in it always; for, throe to spake, Providence is on the side of the English. What can I think of Providence for keepin' on that side? Thruth, thin, I don't think of him at all; he always sides with the strongest am thinkin', and if we was to be the strongest he would be with us, and thin, as Father Murphy says, who could be aginst us? In the mane time we must do our best for ourselves widout him, an' divil a thing is there for it but to shoot propriethors. Shockin'! What's shockin'? Isn't it shockin' to be forcin' the money from the poor boys to feed and clothe in luxury hell-fire heretics? Did you niver hear the like of that, which is no more justice bekaise it is law, than Mulligan is jist, bekaise he's a lawvior'. Shockin'! by japers, this is what's shockin'. There was Paddy Conon lived down by there, a dacent, industhrious man, wid a faamily of seven, and his wife Judy, what bored them, and at the time I'm spakin' of, she was goin' about wid the eighth—blessed be the Father of all! It was the time of the pratie deseese, and we all was very bad off, but Paddy had more childer than praties, poor boy, and it was by the kindness of his neebors that life was kept in him and his. Well, sure enough, his rint fell due, and he couldn't pay it, as I say, and they was resolved to make him, or else dhrive him out of the country. Now, I say they was wrong. How can a man can what he cannot can; could you, or me, or another one do what we couldn't do? Thruth, thin, and we could not. But the propriethor couldn't see that, or if he did, he wouldn't belave it, which comes to the same. Well, one could frosty night, when the winds was whirstlin' like divils over the country, comes the agents of the propriethor and dhrives Paddy and his out of their house, and took the roof of it, and threw down the sides, and put fire to the furniture—all in the name of the blissed Acts of Parlimint; an' hell conshume them, they said they'd do the same to them that took the poor things in. Well, it was that night, that an ould friend of Paddy's—I'll not name names, saw Paddy, heartbroken in the could, repatin' pathenanavies on his knees by his poor Judy—rest her sowl—who was dyin' before him, by the bare hedge, of the child she was barin' him; while the rest of the childer was shiverin' about her; their skin red wid the wind, and not juice enough in their bodies to enable them to shed tears; an' he saw her die, as I say, an' a day or two afther, sure, Paddy and his were scattered like leeves from a tree that the wind forced off, and thin drave away; and it was as if no one cared for them; but—Paddy's friend shoot the propriethor! Och! bother your raysonin', about it, it's niver in nature to stand it, whatever be the Acts of Parlimint; and depind upon it, Misther, undher an Irishman's could-bloodidness there's always a warm heart!"

The Arts.

A LIFE OF FELIX MENDELSSOHN.

ALTHOUGH we agree with Mr. Benedict in regretting "that a satisfactory and complete biography of so eminent a genius should not yet have been produced," *en attendant* the production of that *lusus litterarum*, "a satisfactory and complete biography," we are heartily glad to see that his own unpretending but effective and sympathetic Memoir of the Life and Works of the late Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy has reached a second edition. To say the truth, our experience does not render us sanguine on the subject of 'a satisfactory and complete' biography of any human being, and the Life of Felix Mendelssohn cannot be 'done' by any one, merely because he has an idea that 'it would sell,' like the Lives of Queens and Princesses—Chancellors and Judges—Popular Peers and Poets. Neither a musical critic, with a pretty talent for literary composition, nor a literary gentleman, with a taste for music—up to concert pitch—would reach 'the height of this great argument.' It requires a literary artist, with a large brain and a loving heart, who can bring to the task a very uncommon amount of musical science. The biographer of Mendelssohn must appreciate not only the rarely beautiful organisation, the pure and noble, successful and glorious life of the artist, but also the real merit of his works, and their true position and rela-

tion to the world of Music. Now, a man who has the requisite musical science must have served for the Divine Art as many years as Jacob served for Rachel, and from the same motive. Such a one is not very likely to become a literary artist; he would be a musician, and scorning the poverty of words, would find his fittest means of expression where the power of words fails—in the illimitable riches of harmony. We are not sceptical on the score of multifarious talent—the crop of Crichtons to be got off our own land is manifestly abundant—it is only the Admirableness we doubt. We would rather wait patiently for a proper biographer of Mendelssohn to put forth his work in due season, than be obliged to read to-morrow half a dozen handsome volumes of undigested material, seamed with common-place criticism, purporting to be a life of the composer Mendelssohn. Until then Mr. Benedict's little pamphlet will deserve attention from the lovers of Music and Genius. It is an affectionate and reverential tribute to the memory of one whom he loved and whom he ranks among the brightest spirits this earth ever saw. Hear him tell of his first meeting with "the marvellous boy:"—

"It was in the beginning of May, 1821, when, walking in the streets of Berlin with my master and friend, Carl Maria Von Weber, he directed my attention to a boy, apparently about eleven or twelve years old, who, on perceiving the author of Freyschütz, ran towards him, giving him a most hearty and friendly greeting.

"'Tis Felix Mendelssohn,' said Weber, introducing me at once to the prodigious child, of whose marvellous talent and execution I had already heard so much at Dresden. I shall never forget the impression of that day on beholding that beautiful youth, with his auburn hair clustering in ringlets round his shoulders, the look of his brilliant clear eyes, and the smile of innocence and candour on his lips. He would have it that we should go with him at once to his father's house; but as Weber had to attend a rehearsal, he took me by the hand, and made me run a race till we reached his home. Up he went briskly to the drawing-room, where, finding his mother, he exclaimed, 'Here is a pupil of Weber's, who knows a great deal of his music of the new opera. Pray, mamma, ask him to play it for us;' and so, with an irresistible impetuosity, he pushed me to the pianoforte, and made me remain there until I had exhausted all the store of my recollections. When I then begged of him to let me hear some of his own compositions, he refused, but played from MEMORY such of Bach's fugues or Cramer's exercises as I could name. At last we parted—not without a promise to meet again. On my very next visit I found him seated

on a footstool, before a small table, writing with great earnestness some music. On my asking what he was about, he replied, gravely, 'I am finishing my new Quartet for piano and stringed instruments.'

"I could not resist my own boyish curiosity to examine this composition, and, looking over his shoulder, saw as beautiful a score as if it had been written by the most skilful copyist. It was his first Quartet in C minor, published afterwards as Opus 1.

"But whilst I was lost in admiration and astonishment at beholding the work of a master written by the hand of a boy, all at once he sprang up from his seat, and, in his playful manner, ran to the pianoforte, performing note for note all the music from Freyschütz, which three or four days previously he had heard me play, and asking, 'How do you like this chorus?' 'What do you think of this air?' 'Do you not admire this overture?' and so on. Then, forgetting quartets and Weber, down we went into the garden, he clearing high hedges with a leap, running, singing, or climbing up the trees like a squirrel—the very image of health and happiness."

We quote the following for the sake of its ill-recognised truth:—

"All at once, and perhaps when least expected, the great gap left by the death of Beethoven seemed likely to be filled up; and I am happy to adduce this success as another proof of the much underrated taste of the English public, and its discernment in appreciating, and even discovering new-born musical talent.

"Not to speak of the Elizabethan era—of Orlando Lasso, Luca Marenzio, the great madrigal writers—did not Handel compose his immortal works almost exclusively in England, and for an English audience?—were not Haydn's finest symphonies written to gratify the London amateurs, before a note of them was heard or known in Germany or France?—was not Beethoven revered and known by English artists, by English musical societies, when almost forsaken and neglected in Germany? And so it was with Mendelssohn. His renown, after the enthusiastic but just reports of his reception in London, both as a composer and pianist, spread like wildfire all over Europe, and gave the young and ardent maestro a new stimulus to proceed on his glorious path."

Throughout this Sketch the same enthusiastic love and reverence for his subject prevails. We are of Emerson's opinion, that "like can interpret like." Why should not Mr. Benedict be the biographer whose advent he desires? For a reason given above—he is a musician, and music is his native language—though he writes prose well, upon occasions. We should like to hear some of the dirges, elegies, funeral songs without words, which he has improvised to the memory of his illustrious friend.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

BIRTHS.

On the 8th of December, at Norwich, the wife of Captain J. B. Woosnam, Bombay Artillery: a son and heir.

On the 8th, at 43, Pulteney-street, Bath, the wife of Captain Cummings: a daughter.

On the 9th, at Leversdown, the wife of Captain C. K. Tynte: a daughter.

On the 10th, at 10, Upper Grosvenor-street, Lady Burton: a daughter.

On the 11th, at Brighton, the Viscountess Downe: a son.

On the 12th, at Kilkenny Castle, county of Kildare, Ireland, the Marchioness of Kildare: a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

On the 25th of August, at the church of the Holy Trinity, Hobart Town, by the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Tasmania, John Bisdée, Esq., of Hutton-park, Van Diemen's Land, to Henrietta Charlotte, daughter of Henry Miller, Esq., late Captain of H. M. Forty-eighth Regiment, Hobart Town.

On the 30th of November, at March, J. Lincoln Porter, Esq., manager of the National Provincial Bank of England, to Louisa, youngest daughter of Edmund Barley, Esq., March.

On the 8th December, at the British Embassy, Paris, Charles Drury Hazen, Esq., of Ridding, Notts, to Charlotte, widow of the late Thomas Radcliff Symes, Esq., of Ballybeg, in the county of Wicklow, and third daughter of the Right Hon. John Richards, one of the Barons of the Exchequer in Ireland.

On the 10th, at St. George's, Hanover-square, his Excellency Commodore Sir Charles Hotham, K.C.B., to the Hon. Jane Sarah Holbech, widow of Hugh Holbech, Esq., of Farnborough, Warwickshire, and daughter of the Right Hon. Lord and Lady Bridport.

On the 12th, at the British Embassy, Paris, the Baron d'Aerssen Beijeren de Voshol, Chamberlain to H.M. the King of the Netherlands, and his Counsellor of Legation at Paris, to Anna Maria, youngest daughter of the late Robert Nassau Sutton, Esq.

DEATHS.

On the 13th November, in Cork, Miss Louisa Moore, fifth daughter of the late Hon. and Rev. Robert Moore, of Moorehill, county of Waterford, aged seventy-five.

On the 6th December, of bronchitis, Helen Langford, widow of the late Captain R. S. Adams, H.E.I.C.S., aged seventy-nine.

On the 8th, at her residence, on Woolwich-common, Mary Anne Hall Robe, eldest daughter of the late Colonel Sir William Robe, K.C.B., K.T.S., and K.C.H., of the Royal Horse Artillery.

On the 9th, at 10, Eaton-place, Arabella, wife of George Cary Elwes, Esq., and eldest daughter of the late Thomas Fieschl and the Hon. Arabella Honcago; also, on the 10th, of scarlet fever, Evelyn Robert Cary, their eldest son, aged fifteen.

On the 9th, at Lyme Regis, Dorset, Sarah, wife of Captain Charles Cowper Bonett, R.N., and eldest daughter of the late William Burton, Esq., of Wykin-hall, Leicestershire, and Donhead-lodge, Wilts.

On the 9th, at Antigua-villa, Tor, Torquay, Devonshire, Elizabeth, relict of the late Thomas Stares, Esq., of Walsington, Fareham, Hants, and the youngest daughter of the late Vice-Admiral Sir William Parker, Bart., aged seventy-three.

Commercial Affairs.

MONEY MARKET AND CITY INTELLIGENCE

Friday Evening, December 16, 1853.

CONSOLS have been heavy for the last few days. The contradictory accounts of the state of the belligerents in the East—one day's dispatch differing materially from the preceding day's, the rumour of a French loan to the amount of ten millions, and which, it is said, has been taken by the great Hebrew firm, and last, but not least, the resignation of the only man in the present ministry, no one believing

in the reasons that the Times gives for his retirement—all these concurring circumstances have fluttered Consols, and that they have not fallen one or two per cent. is attributed to the heavy "Bear" account, and the operations for a fall that ought to have taken place weeks ago, according to the ideas of the speculators. Railway shares have maintained a strong value throughout the week. French shares look very firm considering the impending loan. Land Companies are rather worse, and Mining Shares, with a few exceptions, are no better. There has been another "trick" played about one of those suspicious Jamaica mines—the Port Royal—which was reported to have cut an extraordinary rich silver lode, worth 1500*l.* per fathom, and proves utterly false. Consols leave off at 3 30 and 94½*l.* ex dividend.

Consols, 94½*l.*; Caledonian, 56, 56½*l.*; Chester and Holyhead, 16, 17; Eastern Counties, 13½, 13½*l.*; Edinburgh and Glasgow, 64, 63; Great Western, 83½, 84; London, Brighton, and South Coast, 99½, 100½; London and North Western, 103½, 104; London and South Western, 77½, 78½; Midland, 63½, 64; Oxford, Worcester, and Wolverhampton, 39, 40; South Eastern, 63, 64; York, Newcastle, and Berwick, 64, 65; York and North Midland, 48½, 49½; Dijon and Besancon, 24, 24½*l.*; East Indian, 14, 14½*l.*; Luxembourg, 10½, 11; Ditto (Railway), 6½, 6½*l.*; Ditto, Pref., 1½, 2; Namur and Leige (with Int.), 8½, 9; Northern of France, from pm. 35½, 36; Paris and Lyons, 16½, 16½*l.*; Paris and Orleans, 47, 49; Paris and Rouen, 42, 44; Rouen and Havre, 19½, 20½; Paris and Strasbourg, 33½, 33½*l.*; Sambre and Meuse, 9½, 10; West Flanders, 4½, 5; Western of France, 8, 9 pm.; British American, 75, 77; Australian Agricultural, 46, 47; Peel River, 1½, 1½*l.*; South Australian, 39, 41; North British Australian Land and Loan Company, pm. 4 to 4½; Scottish Investment, 14, 14½*l.*; Union Bank of Australia, 74, 76; London Chartered Bank, 1½, 1½*l.*; Agua Frias, 1½, 1½*l.*; Carson's Creek, 1½, 1½*l.*; par; Colonial Gold, 1½, 1½*l.*; Linares (Spain), 11 to 12 x n.; New Linares, 1½, 1½*l.*; dis. to par; Nouveau Monde, 1½, 1½*l.*; par; United Mexican, 4½, 4½*l.*; Crystal Palace, 2 pm., 2½ pm.

CORN MARKET.

Mark Lane, Friday Evening.

WITH large supplies of wheat, prices are fully 2*s.* per quarter higher than Monday. Barley 2*s.* to 3*s.* dearer. Oats firm at Monday's prices.

The severity of the weather renders further shipments from the northern continental ports improbable till the spring; we need not, therefore, give quotations of prices. Irish barley is offered at 18*s.* 6*d.* to 19*s.* per barrel, and oats, black 14*s.* to 14*s.* 3*d.*, white 15*s.* per barrel f. o. b. We have no advices from New York since our last. A considerable quantity of wheat and flour is now on the way for Liverpool and London, after which the supplies from there must be very small, till the re-opening of the interior navigation in the spring.

FLOATING TRADE.—There are only eight arrivals to report this week. The activity which began to appear at the close of last, has continued this week, the demand having been chiefly on continental account. Our own markets, both English and Irish, have been very quiet as far as floating cargoes are concerned, although a rise of 1*s.* to 2*s.* has taken place generally throughout England. The large arrivals into London have failed to produce the expected effect, and there are more inquiries from the country than we have had since the beginning of Nov. The French markets have steadily risen to the extent 2*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.* 6*d.*, with the exception of Marseilles, where the immense arrivals had caused a decline of 9*s.* to 6*s.*. Polish Odessa for present delivery being worth about 53*s.* per quarter there. This depression was attributed to temporary local causes, and wheat for future delivery was still nearly as high as it had been previously. There would be buyers here now at last week's rates, but holders are not disposed to sell, except at more than the prices already paid. The number of cargoes for sale is very small, less than usual at this time of year, four-fifths of the shipments in the Black Sea having been directed to the Mediterranean ports. Few shipments had taken place at Odessa in the week previous to date of last advices from there.

Indian corn has again been quiet. Two cargoes of Galatz sold at 44*s.* and 45*s.*, cost, freight and insurance. There is very little on passage.

BRITISH FUNDS FOR THE PAST WEEK.

(CLOSING PRICES.)

	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Frid.
Bank Stock.....	221	221½	220½	220½	.....	.....
3 per Cent. Red.	95½	95½	95	95	94½	.....
3 per Cent. Con. An.	96½	shut	96	95½	.....	.....
Consols for Account	95½	95½	94½	94½	94½	94½
3½ per Cent. An.	97½	97½	97	96½	95½	.....
New 5 per Cents. ....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Long Ans. 1860. ....	.....	5	5 5-16	5½	.....	.....
India Stock.....	shut	.....	shut	248½	.....	.....
Ditto Bonds, £1000	2 p	.....	.....	5 p	3 p	.....
Ditto, under £1000	5 p	5 p	.....	.....	1 p	.....
Ex. Bills, £1000.....	6 p	9 p	6 p	9 p	8 p	.....
Ditto, £500.....	6 p	9 p	.....	9 p	8 p	.....
Ditto, Small	6 p	9 p	6 p	9 p	4 p	.....

FOREIGN FUNDS.

(LAST OFFICIAL QUOTATION DURING THE WEEK ENDING THURSDAY EVENING.)

Brazilian Bonds	99	Russian Bonds, 5 per Cents 1822.....	112½
Buenos Ayres 6 per Cents. 67		Russian 4½ per Cents.....	98½
Chilian 6 per Cents.....	103	Spanish 3 p. Ct. New Def. 22	
Danish 5 per Cents.....	103½	Spanish Committee Cert. of Coup. not fun.	5½
Ecuador Bonds	5½	Venezuela 5½ per Cents. ....	..
Mexican 3 per Cents.	24½	Belgian 4½ per Cents.	96½
Mexican 3 per Ct. for Acc., December 16.....	24½	Dutch 2½ per Cents.....	64½
Portuguese 4 per Cents. 42½		Dutch 4 per Cent. Certif. 96	
Portuguese 3 p. Cts., 1848 .....	...	

OLYMPIC THEATRE.—

Lessoo and Manager, MR. ALFRED WIGAN.

Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, being the Last Three Nights before Christmas, will be repeated the Original Drama, in Three Acts, called PLOT AND PASSION. Principal characters by Messrs. F. Robson, Emery, Leslie, Cooper, White, and A. Wigan; Miss E. Turner, and Mrs. Stirling. After which the introductory Extravaganza called THE CAMP AT THE OLYMPIC; in which will appear Messrs. A. Wigan, Emery, F. Robson, Cooper, and Galli; Mesdames Stirling, P. Horton, Chatterley, E. Turner, Wyndham, and A. Wigan. To conclude with THE WANDERING MINSTREL, Jem Baggs, Mr. F. Robson.

Box-office open from Eleven to Four. Doors open at Seven, and commence at Half-past Seven. Stalls, 5*s.*; Boxes, 4*s.*; Pit, 2*s.*; Gallery, 1*s.*

WEDNESDAY EVENING CONCERTS, EXETER HALL.

On Wednesday, the 21st, will be produced the whole of the Music from Mendelssohn's

MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM.

After which, Selections from Balfe's

BOHEMIAN GIRL,

And a variety of popular English Composers.

Grand Pianoforte: Miss KATE ROGERS.

Solo Harp: Mlle. LOUISE CHESTNINE.

Fantasia (Contra Bass): Mr. A. C. ROWLAND.

Vocalists: Madame Amedei, Miss Messent, Miss Grace Alleyne, the Misses Wells, Mlle. Norio, Mrs. R. Limpus,

Mr. George Porren, Mr. George Genge, Mr. Lawler, Mr. Russell Grover, &c.

Tickets to be had at the Hall.

MR. ALBERT SMITH'S MONT BLANC

EVERY EVENING (except Saturday), at 8, and Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday Mornings, at 2. Stalls, 3*s.*, which can be taken from a plan at the Box-office, every day from 11 to 4; arena, 2*s.*; gallery, 1*s.*—Egyptian Hall, Piccadilly.

WILL SHORTLY CLOSE.—Dr.

KAHN'S ANATOMICAL MUSEUM, PORTLAND-GALLERY, REGENT-STREET, opposite the Polytechnic. OPEN for gentlemen DAILY, at the usual hours, except on Wednesdays and Fridays, from Two till Five, during which hours ladies only are admitted. Explanations for gentlemen by Dr. Leach; and for ladies by Mrs. Leach. Admission, 1*s.*

FENDERS, STOVES, and FIRE-IRONS.

Buyers of the above are requested, before finally deciding, to visit **WILLIAM S. BURTON'S SHOW-ROOMS**, 39, Oxford-street (corner of Newman-street), Nos. 1 & 2, Newman-street, and 4 & 5, Perry's-place. They are the largest in the world, and contain such an assortment of **FENDERS, STOVES, RANGES, FIRE-IRONS**, and **GENERAL IRONMONGERY**, as cannot be approached elsewhere, either for variety, novelty, beauty of design, or exquisiteness of workmanship. Bright Stoves, with bronzed ornaments and two sets of bars, 27. 14s. to 57. 10s.; ditto with ormolu ornaments and two sets of bars, 57. 10s. to 127. 12s.; Bronzed Fenders complete, with standards, from 7s. to 37.; Steel Fenders from 27. 15s. to 77. 7s.; Fire-irons from 1s. 9d. to 47. 4s. Sylvester and all other Patent Stoves, with radiating hearth plates. All which he is enabled to sell at these very reduced charges.

First—From the frequency and extent of his purchases; and
Secondly—From those purchases being made exclusively for cash.

THE PERFECT SUBSTITUTE FOR

SILVER.—The Real **NICKEL SILVER**, introduced twenty years ago by **WILLIAM S. BURTON**, when **PLATED** by the patent process of Messrs. Elkington and Co., is beyond all comparison the very best article next to sterling silver that can be employed as such, either usefully or ornamentally, as by no possible test can it be distinguished from real silver.

	Fiddle Pattern.	Thread or Brunswick Pattern.	King's Pattern.
Tea Spoons, per dozen ...	18s.	26s.	32s.
Dessert Forks ...	30s.	40s.	46s.
Dessert Spoons ...	30s.	42s.	48s.
Table Forks ...	40s.	56s.	64s.
Table Spoons ...	40s.	58s.	66s.

Tea and coffee sets, waiters, candlesticks, &c., at proportionate prices. All kinds of re-plating done by the patent process.

CHEMICALLY PURE NICKEL NOT PLATED.

	Fiddle.	Thread.	King's.
Table Spoons and Forks, full size, per dozen ...	12s.	23s.	30s.
Dessert ditto and ditto ...	10s.	21s.	25s.
Tea ditto ...	5s.	11s.	12s.

CUTLERY WARRANTED.—The most varied Assortment of **TABLE CUTLERY** in the world, all warranted, is on Sale at **WILLIAM S. BURTON'S**, at prices that are remunerative only because of the largeness of the sales. 3½-inch ivory-handled table knives, with high shoulders, 11s. per dozen; desserts to match, 10s.; if to balance, 1s. per dozen extra; carvers, 4s. per pair; larger sizes, from 14s. 6d. to 26s. per dozen; extra fine, ivory, 32s.; if with silver ferrules, 37s. to 50s.; white bone table knives, 7s. 6d. per dozen; desserts, 5s. 6d.; carvers, 2s. 3d. per pair; black horn table knives, 7s. 4d. per dozen; desserts, 6s.; carvers, 2s. 6d.; black wood-handled table knives and forks, 6s. per dozen; table steels from 1s. each. The largest stock in existence of plated dessert knives and forks, in cases and otherwise, and of the new plated fish-carvers. Also a large assortment of Razors, Penknives, Scissors, &c., of the best quality.

LAMPS of all SORTS and PATTERNS.

The largest, as well as the choicest, assortment in existence of **PALMER'S MAGNUM** and other **LAMPS**, **CAMPBINE**, **ARGAND**, **SOLAR**, and **MODERATEUR** **LAMPS**, with all the latest improvements, and of the newest and most recherché patterns, in ormolu, Bohemian and plain glass, or papier maché, is at **WILLIAM S. BURTON'S**, and they are arranged in one large room, so that the patterns, sizes, and sorts can be instantly selected.

PALMER'S CANDLES, 8½d. a pound.—Palmer's Patent Candles, all marked "Palmer":—

Single or double wicks ...	8½d. per pound.
Mid. size, three wicks ...	9d. ditto.
Magnums, three or four wicks ...	9½d. ditto.
English Patent Camphine, in sealed cans ...	6s. per gallon.
Best Colza Oil ...	4s. ditto.

DISH COVERS and HOT-WATER

DISHES in every material, in great variety, and of the newest and most recherché patterns. Tin Dish Covers, 6s. the set of six; Block Tin, 12s. 3d. to 27s. 2d. the set of six; elegant modern patterns, 32s. 3d. to 57s. 6d. the set; Britannia Metal, with or without silver-plated handles, 73s. to 110s. 6d. the set; Sheffield plated, 107. to 167. 10s. the set; Block Tin Hot-Water Dishes, with wells for gravy, 13s. to 19s.; Britannia Metal, 20s. to 72s.; Sheffield plated, full size, 97. 10s.

WILLIAM S. BURTON has **TEN LARGE SHOW-ROOMS** (all communicating) exclusive of the Shop, devoted solely to the show of **GENERAL FURNISHING IRONMONGERY** (including cutlery, nickel silver, plated and japanned wares, iron and brass bedsteads), so arranged and classified that purchasers may easily and at once make their selections.

Catalogues, with engravings, sent (per post) free. The money returned for every article not approved of.
39, OXFORD-STREET (corner of Newman-street); Nos. 1 & 2, NEWMAN-STREET; and 4 & 5, PERRY'S-PLACE.

DAVIES'S YELLOW SOAP, 38s., 44s.,

48s., and 52s., per 112 lbs.; Mottled, 54s.; Brown Windsor, 1s. and 1s. 9d. per packet; White Windsor, 1s. 4d.; Plain Windsor, 9d.; Honey, 1s. 4d. Sperm Oil, 8s. per gallon; Argand or Vegetable, 4s. 6d.; French, 4s. Sperm Candles, 1s. 7d. and 1s. 8d. per lb.; Transparent Wax, 1s. 10d.; Best Wax, 2s. 3d.; British, 1s. 5d.; Botanic, 1s.; Composite, 8½d.; 9d., 10d., and 10½d. Store Candles, 7d.; Moulds, 8d. for Cash, at **M. P. DAVIES and SON'S** Old-Established Warehouse, 63, St. Martin's-lane, Charing-cross.

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WILLIAM SPRAGUE has a **LARGE STOCK** of **PATENT HARMONIUMS**, from Eight Guineas to Fifty Guineas each. Sole Manufacturer of the Unique Folding Seraphine, from Six Guineas. Also, the Organ Harmonium, with German Pedals, suitable for Places of Worship, price Twenty-five Guineas. Harmonium and Seraphine Notes supplied to order. An extensive Assortment of warranted Pianofortes, including a variety of Cheap Instruments, suitable for learners. Sprague's Concertinas, from Two Guineas each. Price-lists free. Manufactory and Show Rooms, 7, Finsbury Pavement. **WILLIAM SPRAGUE**, Proprietor.

FIVE GUINEAS.—Mr. W. M. H. HALSE,

the Medical Galvanist, of 22, Brunswick-square, London, informs his friends that his **FIVE GUINEA APPARATUS** are now ready.—Send two postage stamps for his Pamphlet on Medical Galvanism.

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5½, PALL MALL,

(Late Harrington Parker.)

Invite the attention of those to whom these Ales have been recommended as an article of diet, and all who enjoy them as an indispensable beverage, to the care taken by their firm to guarantee the fine condition and genuineness of all orders supplied by them.

The salutary properties specially belonging to the Ales of Messrs. Allsopp and Sons, have been indisputably vouched for by the following, amongst others, of the most eminent medical and scientific authorities of the day:—

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MESSRS. HARRINGTON PARKER and EDWARD TWINING, 5½ PALL MALL (late Harrington Parker), call the attention of the Public to the special recommendation of **ALLSOPP'S PALE ALE** by the high authorities above given, and beg to state that they undertake to supply Messrs. Allsopp's Pale Ale (in which alone they deal) genuine as from the brewery, and in the finest possible condition.

Prices, Imperial Measure, per dozen.

QUARTS, 8s. ... PINTS, 5s. ... HALF-PINTS (for luncheon), 3s.
Also in Kilderkins, (18 gallons), 33s.

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TEA IS GETTING DEARER; this is

therefore the Time to Buy.—**PHILLIPS and COMPANY** are still **SELLING AT OLD PRICES**, although the market value of Tea has risen 3d. to 4d. per lb., and will be still higher. The Teas worth purchasing are—

The strong Congou Tea, at 3s. 4d. per lb.
The prime Souchong Tea, at 3s. 6d., 3s. 8d., and 4s.
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All who purchase at these prices will save money, as Teas are getting dearer.

Prime Coffee, at 1s. and 1s. 2d. per lb. The best Mocha, 1s. 4d. per lb.

Teas, Coffees, and all other Goods sent carriage free, by our own vans and carts, if within eight miles; and Teas, Coffees, and Spices sent carriage free to any part of England, if to the value of 40s. or upwards, by **PHILLIPS and COMPANY**, Tea and Colonial Merchants, 8, King William-street, City, London.

Phillips and Co.'s Price List of RAISINS, CURRANTS, IMPERIAL PLUMS, FIGS, &c., is now ready, and is sent, post free, on application.

TO GROCERS.**FINEST OLD 1851 CURRANTS.**—The

holders of, and dealers in, the inferior kinds of 1852 and 1853 Currants, having diligently promulgated the idea that no fine Currants of the 1851 Crop are now in existence, Grocers are respectfully informed that this Class of Fruit, in Butts, Pipes, Caroteels, and Barrels, may be had on application to me, or to **GEO. BADENACH**, North John-street, and **FLETCHER & FRITH**, Brokers, Temple-court, Liverpool.

Your obedient servant,

JOSEPH PRESCOTT,

Dec. 12, 1853.

16, Temple-court, Liverpool.

TO THE LOVERS OF FISH.**CHRISTMAS PRESENTS for COUNTRY FRIENDS.**

25 Real Yarmouth Bloaters delivered in London for 2s.; 100 forwarded to any part of the Kingdom for 6s.; 100 fine Devonshire Kipper HERRINGS, quite a luxury, for 8s.; 100 fine American HERRINGS for 8s.; they are highly dried, and will keep for years; they are well adapted for emigrants and residents in the Colonies. Also, 12 dozen of fine Albion Dried Sprats for 1s. 6d. Fine Finner Haddock, 4s., 5s., and 6s. per dozen. A Barrel of the best Native Oysters for 5s. 6d.; or a bag containing Half-a-Bushel of good quality Oysters for 10s. All orders immediately attended to by **WILLIAM DEEKS**, 7, Bow-street, Covent-garden.

N.B. Country residents requiring fresh Fish from London may rely on their orders being punctually attended to, both in price and quality. All Post-office orders, as above, to be made payable at the Strand Money Order-office. The Trade supplied.

CAUTION.—TO TRADESMEN, MER-

CHANTS, SHIPPERS, OUTFITTERS, &c. Whereas it has lately come to my knowledge that some unprincipled person or persons have for some time past been imposing on the Public, by selling to the trade and others a spurious article under the name of **BOND'S PERMANENT MARKING INK**, this is to give notice, that I am the Original and sole Proprietor and Manufacturer of the said article, and do not employ any traveller, or authorise any person to represent themselves as coming from my establishment for the purpose of selling the said ink. This caution is published by me to prevent further imposition upon the public, and serious injury to myself, **B. B. BOND**, sole executrix and widow of the late John Bond, 28, Long-lane, West Smithfield, London.

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INDIA and CHINA, via **EGYPT**.—For Aden, Ceylon, Madras, Calcutta, Penang, Singapore, and Hong Kong on the 4th and 20th of every month from Southampton, and on the 10th and 26th from Marseilles.

AUSTRALIA, via **SINGAPORE**.—For Adelaide, Port Philip, and Sydney (touching at Batavia), on the 4th of January, and 4th of every alternate month thereafter from Southampton, and on the 10th of January and 10th of every alternate month thereafter from Marseilles.

MALTA and EGYPT.—On the 4th and 20th of every month from Southampton, and the 10th and 26th from Marseilles.

MALTA and CONSTANTINOPLE.—On the 27th of every month from Southampton.

MARSEILLES and the COAST of ITALY.—From Marseilles to Genoa, Leghorn, Civita Vecchia, and Naples, on the 15th and 30th of every month; and from Naples to Civita Vecchia, Leghorn, Genoa, and Marseilles, departing from Marseilles on the 19th and 4th of the month.

SPAIN and PORTUGAL.—For Vigo, Oporto, Lisbon, Cadiz, and Gibraltar, from Southampton, on the 7th, 17th, and 27th of every month.

CALCUTTA and CHINA.—Vessels of the Company ply occasionally (generally once a month) between Calcutta, Penang, Singapore, Hong Kong, and Shanghai.

For further information and tariffs of the Company's rates of passage money and freight, for plans of the vessels, and to secure passages, &c., apply at the Company's offices, 122, Leadenhall-street, London, and Oriental-place, Southampton.

ITALY, GENOA, LEGHORN, FLO-**RENCE, ROME, NAPLES, and MALTA.**

Travellers and Families about to visit Italy, &c., are informed that the **PENINSULAR and ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY'S** two new Steam-ships "**VECTIS**" and "**VALETTA**" of 1000 tons and 400 horse-power each, fitted up with superior passenger accommodation, and already proved to be the fastest ocean steamers afloat, now run from Marseilles to Genoa, Leghorn, Civita Vecchia, Naples, and Malta, departing from Marseilles on the 15th and 30th of every month; also from Malta to Naples, Civita Vecchia, Leghorn, Genoa, and Marseilles, departing from Malta on the 1st and 15th of every month.

Particulars of fares, accommodation, &c., may be obtained on application at the Company's Offices, 122, Leadenhall-street, London, where also, by timely arrangement, separate cabins for families or parties may be secured.

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SHIPPING COMPANY'S STEAMER "CROESUS," of 2500 tons, John Vine Hall, Commander, will sail from Southampton on the 10th proximo. Parcel rates very moderate.

For Passage and Freight apply to the Company's Offices, 1, Adelaide-place, London-bridge, London.

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Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1847.

The Court of Directors grant Letters of Credit and Bills at 30 days' sight upon the Company's Bank, at Adelaide. The exchange on sums above £10, is now at a premium or charge of two per cent. Approved drafts on South Australia negotiated, and bills collected.

Apply at the Company's Offices, No. 54, Old Broad-street, London.
WILLIAM PURDY, Manager.
London, December, 1853.

THE WORKING TAILORS' JOINT

STOCK COMPANY, 314, Oxford-street, near Hanover-square. Registered under 7 and 8 Victoria, cap. 110.

The above Company beg leave to call the attention of their customers and the public to the fact that they have lately made alterations in some of their arrangements and officers, in order that increased efficiency may be given to their business transactions, and greater satisfaction to their customers. The result of the experiment which they have now been engaged for three years in making, has proved the practicability of the principle of self-dependence on which they set out, relying for success on supplying good articles at a moderate price, in the fair way of ordinary business.

JAMES CAMPBELL, Manager and Secretary.

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PRESENT is HEAL and SON'S EIDER-DOWN QUILT. It is the warmest, the lightest, and the most elegant Covering, suitable for the Bed, the Couch, or the Carriage; and for Invalids its comfort cannot be too highly appreciated. It is made in three varieties, of which a large assortment can be seen at their Establishment.—Lists of Prices of the above, together with the Catalogue of Bedsteads, sent free by post.—**HEAL and SON**, Bedstead and Bedding Manufacturers, 196, Tottenham-court-road.

THE IMPERIAL COVERLETS.—The

most elegant and useful articles ever yet used, as a covering for the bed, are the **IMPERIAL COVERLETS**, which combine **GREAT WARMTH WITH EXTREME LIGHTNESS**. No person studying health and comfort should be without them, and to invalids and children they are especially valuable.

"I disapprove exceedingly of thick heavy quilts and counterpanes; they should always be avoided, especially by invalids, as they irritate delicate frames, and prevent sleep."
—**DR. GRAHAM'S "Domestic Medicine,"** page 192-720.

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F. and H. deem it unnecessary to adopt any of the modern systems of advertisement. They enjoy the patronage and support of the most distinguished men of the day in social position, fortune, science, and literature; and whilst their order-books can boast of the most illustrious of names, their unrivalled cut is equally within the reach of the most limited in their means.

Liveries from the highest to the plainest style executed on the shortest notice.

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English Literature and Early English Poetry; some im-
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