

The Leader.

A POLITICAL AND LITERARY REVIEW.

"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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VOL. VII. No. 304.]

SATURDAY, JANUARY 19, 1856.

PRICE { UNSTAMPED .. FIVE PENCE.
Stamped .. Sixpence.

Review of the Week.

ANOTHER diplomatic Conference—but not at Vienna. Such, unless peace is to be patched up immediately, we construe to be the meaning of the intelligence that Russia has accepted the propositions of Austria "as a basis for negotiation." We have already had a sufficient insight into the purposes with which Russia accepts. She has on every negotiation endeavoured to evade the completion of the promise with which she began. She accepted "the Four Points" only to attempt in a conference a complete frustration of all four, and particularly of the most important, the third point. To that point is now added the fifth of the new propositions—the cession of a part of Bessarabia to form a new boundary with Turkey remote from the Danube. The CZAR has already notified on several occasions his resolve not to admit any interference of the other powers between himself and Turkey, and not to surrender any territory. In his first reply to the Austrian propositions, it is understood, he declined to make any cession of territory; he now accepts, but not, we presume, for the purpose of ceding territory. If we are to judge of him by the past, we have a right to suppose that he "negotiates upon the basis" of the five points, in order to frustrate the five points—that he accepts the proposal to cede territory, as the starting point for negotiation which will enable him to prevent the ceding of territory.

The most interesting point, therefore, for our own public, is to observe the position taken by the Governments of France and England. The entire question is, whether they will stop their military proceedings, or continue to take up their position, ready to act the moment the evasiveness of Russia shall make itself known. By commencing negotiations a few weeks hence, by frequent reference to St. Petersburg, and by ten-days suspensions of the conference, Russia may expect to protract the diplomatic conflict until the summer shall be "too far advanced" for any effective operations in the Baltic. If she really intends to make peace upon the terms proposed, every essential could be con-

cluded in five days. If she procrastinates, we may be sure that she does not resolve to make peace; and if our own Government permits her to procrastinate, we may be sure that that Government shrinks from the immediate duty of placing a compulsion upon the enemy.

Of course the first doubt is suggested by the position of France. On the surface, everything is well. The EMPEROR has just assisted at the ceremony of distributing medals bearing the likeness of Queen VICTORIA, to the French soldiery, fourteen thousand in number. The EMPEROR gave the post of honour to the Duke of CAMBRIDGE, and was for himself only a bystander. The improvements in Paris continue; and M. MAGNE, the Finance Minister, reports a singularly flourishing state of finance and trade—a deficit of not more than 50,000,000 of francs on the balance of income and expenditure for 1855, and a large sum in store to proceed with in 1856! He declares that the produce of the older taxes, exclusively of the new taxes imposed for the sake of the war, exceeds the amount raised in 1846, the model year of LOUIS PHILIPPE—"the NAPOLEON of Peace." Nevertheless the bank of France shows no rise in the bullion, notwithstanding the immense exportations from this country. There is a leak somewhere. Again, notwithstanding the flourishing state of trade, the tightness of the money-market is as much felt in Paris as in London, or more so. It seemed to be certain that the EMPEROR has gained a popularity through the dramatic display on the return of the Crimean troops; but the feeling has not gone deep. He is said not only to have been struck with disappointment, lately, at the silence of the youths of the Ecole Polytechnique, when the Crimean troops paraded, but to have expressed his disappointment. Such incidents would appear to show how unmanageable are some of the instruments of the alliance.

There are other proofs of this unmanageableness. Austria, who professedly acts with France and England for the protection of Turkey, and who would prospectively benefit by any transfer of Danubian authority from Russia, is dragooning the inhabitants of the Principalities, as if they were Hungarians or Italians!

Our own Embassy at Constantinople is said to have been working against General WILLIAMS and the relief of Kars. There have been murmurs before, but now the accusation is openly made by the *Times*. Lord STRATFORD DE REDCLIFFE is said to be so jealous of other authority, so pugnacious, that he quarrels with Turkish Ministers, and withheld support from General WILLIAMS, because that courageous and able commander had been appointed without his assistance; thus, when General WILLIAMS sent, one after the other, more than sixty despatches and letters asking for supplies and a reform of the fatal corruption that intercepted the supplies, Lord STRATFORD left the despatches unanswered. The *Times* tells Parliament to call for correspondence; but to us it appears that charges of the kind ought to be met in a different way: they ought either to be refuted at once, or substantiated before a criminal tribunal of the State.

Further East, we have some confirmation of the report that Herat is not absolutely ceded to Persia, with signs that the Affghans are about to join in the scramble for the disordered possessions; while India remains in a state but half tranquillised—the Santhal insurrection partially suppressed. Our Government, however, has made a wonderful acquisition—a treaty with Japan. The stipulations give our shipping the right to enter two ports of the island, and our dead the right of burial there; but as to commerce it must still conform to the customs and authorities of Japan. The treaty therefore, is not an adequate compensation for Santhal insurrections, or Affghan intrigues.

One of the prettiest incidents in India is a lecture on the War with Russia, by a Parsee gentleman, who closed with a prayer for the success of England. What a fund of loyalty and docility might have been created among the intelligent Parsees and tractable Hindoos, if India were only governed by *English* ideas, instead of its "Civil Service"—a freemasonry more selfish, more powerful, and more remote from responsibility than our own!

The accounts brought by the American mail describe the House of Representatives as still struggling with the effort to elect a President after weeks of such struggling. But President Pierce

would not be longer foiled in the promulgation of his message; so, sending it to the still unconstituted House, he resolved to "shame the fools, and print it!" We have great doubts as to the legality of such a step; but doubts not less strong as to the possibility of bringing the President to account. He might plead, with much force, that the longer suppression of the message was calculated to occasion decided inconvenience, especially in Europe; and if General Pierce should fail in his hopes of re-election, it will not be because he has struck such a blow at the constitution as the promulgation of his message without a President of Representatives to read it.

The Emperor of the French has addressed to his faithful Senate, not a *verbosa et grandis epistola*, but an *admonition*, composed and published with extraordinary secrecy and solemnity. The admonition takes the form of a discourse on the Imperial Constitution, celebrating its manifold wisdom and ascribing any slight flaws in its operation to the common imperfection of all human ordinances and instruments. This confession of the mortal element distinguishes the Neo-Cæsarism of the nineteenth century. But all that is mortal in the Imperial Constitution is to be found in the Senate and the Legislative Corps; and to them, particularly to the Senate, the present admonition is addressed. There is something exquisitely ludicrous, as the Paris correspondent of the *Times* remarks, in the notion of the Imperial Senate being treated as an independent body; but as the Romans made a deity of Fortune, so the French nation of our day worships Irony. The admonition suggests that the senators have misunderstood their mission, for, like Monsieur Jourdain, they do not seem to be aware that they have been talking "prose all their life." Perhaps they have understood the one part of their duty only—the duty of pocketing the affront of 30,000 francs per annum. Why drag their splendid liveries in the mud of responsibility?

The disclosures at Rugeley have not yet terminated. We have already four distinct cases, besides the abortive case of George Bate, Esq., which was only prophetic. The jury have returned a verdict of "Wilful murder" in the case of Anne Palmer, the wife. In the case of Walter Palmer, which stands over till the 23rd, Professor Taylor has thrown out the opinion that the man was "poisoned with gin;" and a chemist has proved that William Palmer had bought prussic acid just before his brother's death. William was seen at an inn in Stafford playing with small bottles—one of them, very small indeed, containing a liquid as clear as water. Immediately after his brother's death, he wrote to the widow, urging one payment, and hinting at another, as not more than his due for having assisted "poor Walter" so "many, many times."

The case of the postmaster at Rugeley is a siding. It turns out that Palmer had not only induced the postmaster to open a letter, but he had sent a copy of Professor Taylor's first letter—which seemed to imply that no poison had been discovered—to the coroner, avowing his wish for a verdict of "Death from natural causes." William Palmer, however, not only sent this letter to the coroner. He had previously, it would seem, sent to the same functionary a present of game.

The railway system is brought more closely to book each successive week. Cambridge has now followed the example of Norwich, but has improved upon the example. Norwich secured the report of Colonel Wynne upon one line of the Eastern Counties network, and has thus obtained many guarantees for the immediate safety of the traffic, and has thrown a great light upon the state of the whole iron network of the United Kingdom. Cambridge carries forward the work, asking Government to grant an inspection of four more branches in the same network, and pointing out that the supervising power exercised by the Board of Trade is not sufficient for the positive control of railway management. While this is going on, the South-Western Railway Company has had a special meeting to consider the propriety of extending the railway in the direction of Salisbury and Yeovil, between which a separate line is projected by a separate company. This branch has been repeatedly proposed to the proprietary, and as repeatedly rejected. At the meeting, it was shown that it would probably cost £800,000; that the profits would be very doubtful; that £100,000 would be required as an advance to the separate company; and that the object of the

extension—the desire to forestall competition—ii the motive which has led the Great Western Railway Company into a course that has reduced the dividends from 8 per cent. to 2 per cent. The meeting, however, was swamped by proxies in the pockets of the great shareholders, and the extension was carried. Thus, while Norwich and Cambridge are protesting against the lax construction and management of the existing railway, the leading men in the South Western are planning, as other railway managers are, a further spread of the weak and vitiated system.

HEALTH OF LONDON.—Eleven hundred deaths were registered in London in the week that ended on Saturday. In the second week of the last ten years (which corresponds to last week), the average number was 1,239. If, for comparison with the deaths in the present increased population, this average is raised by a tenth part, it becomes 1,363. The present state of the public health must be regarded, therefore, as comparatively good; and if last week is compared with the same week in 1854 and 1855, when the deaths rose to nearly 1,500, the result becomes still more satisfactory. Fatal cases produced by diseases of the respiratory organs have decreased in the last fortnight; the numbers in the last three returns having been 348, 253, and 238. Bronchitis, the most fatal of the diseases which constitute this class, numbered in the same periods 204, 141, and 126. The return for pneumonia (or inflammation of the lungs) is not heavy for this season. Phthisis was fatal to 118 persons, the corrected average being 151. 21 deaths occurred from small-pox, four of which took place in Woolwich. Mr. Rixon, who registered three from that disease in the Royal Ordnance Hospital, mentions that it has been extremely prevalent there, but is now abating; that there were upwards of 30 cases at one time in that establishment, and some of the worst description. Two deaths from typhus, one from "fever," and one from erysipelas, occurred on the 5th and 8th of January in St. Luke's Workhouse. Measles carried off three very young children in the Westminster Workhouse. Last week the births of 798 boys and 765 girls, in all 1,563 children, were registered in London. In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1846-55 the average number was 1,486. —From the Registrar-General's Weekly Return.

THE REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S QUARTERLY SUMMARY OF DEATHS IN LONDON.—In the last 13 weeks of the year 1855, 13,840 persons died from all causes in London; 3,079 from zymotic diseases, 620 from dropsy, cancer, and other diathetic diseases; 2,233 from tubercular diseases; 5,733 from inflammations and other diseases of particular organs; 45 from malformations; 357 from premature birth and debility; 407 from atrophies; and 537 from old age. The causes of 163 deaths, generally sudden, were not ascertained. 448 persons died violent deaths; namely, 5 by cold, 22 by poison, 75 by burns and scalds, 15 by hanging, 46 by suffocation, 76 by drowning, 162 by fractures and contusions, 30 by wounds, 17 by other violence. Of the zymotic diseases, scarlatina (774), typhus (608), hooping-cough (441), and diarrhoea (316), are most fatal. Of cancer, 271 persons, of consumption, 1,627, of bronchitis, pneumonia, and pleurisy, 2,208 died. 2,496 of the deaths, or nearly 1 in 6, occurred in the public institutions of London; 1,333 in the workhouses, 71 in military and naval asylums, 873 in civil hospitals, 81 in military and naval hospitals, 12 in hospitals and asylums for foreigners, 98 in lunatic asylums, and 28 in prisons. 77 deaths took place in St. George's, 88 in the London, 94 in St. Thomas's, 100 in Guy's, and 143 in St. Bartholomew's hospitals. 422 deaths took place in five large workhouses; 52 in the East London, 80 in Lambeth, 81 in St. Giles, 100 in Marylebone, and 109 in Pancras. 3,501 of the persons who died were men of the age of 20 and upwards; 113 were engaged in the Government service, general or local; 205 were in the army or navy; 82 were members of the learned professions, or their subordinates; 29 were engaged in literature, the fine arts, or sciences; 442 were engaged in entertaining, clothing, and performing personal offices for man; 172 were capitalists, proprietors, merchants, or clerks; 439 were engaged in the carrying trades; 76 were agriculturists or gardeners; 34 were engaged about horses and other animals; 624 were engaged in art and mechanic productions; 173 worked and dealt in animal substances; 420 in vegetable substances; 253 in minerals; 248 were labourers or of other ill-defined classes; 133 were persons of rank or property not returned under any office or occupation.

METROPOLITAN BOARD OF WORKS.—The Board has determined that the salary of the engineer-in-chief shall be one thousand a-year, including travelling and incidental expenses; and that the salary of the accountant shall be £450 a-year.

A FARMER KILLED BY A BULL.—A farmer at Northill, Bedfordshire, has been killed by a bull. He had entered the animal's stall while his hands were bloody from killing a pig; and it is supposed that this irritated the beast.

THE WAR.

At length there is a prospect of our War heading giving place to a Peace heading. Russia accepts the Austrian terms as a basis for negotiations; and, unless—as frequently is the case—the whole thing splits on some proposed modification, or some unlooked-for mode of interpreting those terms, the Spring campaign, for which such vast preparations have been made, on both sides, will remain unacted.

The receipt of this rather surprising intelligence necessarily deprives the war news, which had previously arrived from various quarters, of a large part of its interest. It must of course be read with an eye to the modifying intimation from St. Petersburg; but it is not yet quite time to close our War Ledger, and therefore, we proceed briefly to chronicle the sum total of the news from the week's Crimea, the Baltic, and Asia.

A telegraphic despatch has been received from Prince Gortschakoff, stating that a party of French, wearing white cloaks (probably that they might not be perceived in the snow), advanced by night, and surprised Baidar. They bayonnetted the outposts, but retreated when the Russian reserves came up. The Russian loss, adds Gortschakoff, was three killed and three wounded. This is an advance upon the one Cossack.

Numerous ambushes have been laid by the Cossacks round the camps of the Allies, but the vigilance of the latter has completely defeated the schemes of the enemy. An English transport, laden with gunpowder, has blown up at Eupatoria. A French ship of war, which had run aground in the Sea of Marmora, has been got off by the steam-frigate Labrador.

All goes well at Kertch, notwithstanding the recent alarm. The enemy, with the exception of a few straggling Cossacks, has not re-appeared in the neighbourhood; the defences are described as excellent, and the garrison as fully competent to repel attack. The cold is intense; but, according to one account the town and troops are abundantly supplied with fuel, and all sorts of provisions. According to another, however, there is a scarcity of provisions already.

Intelligence has been received from Constantinople, stating that the Russian advanced posts are within three hours' march of Erzeroum. The campaign of the Turkish army in Imeritia is definitively abandoned, in order to cover that city. The ground in Armenia is covered with snow. General Mouravieff has sent to Gumri for reinforcements, and is fortifying Kars, which, should the war continue, is to be the basis of his operations next Spring. Omar Pacha is concentrating his forces at Usergette; but an English war steamer, it is stated, has received orders to proceed from Sinope to Souchoum-Kaleh, to bring him to Constantinople. It is rumoured in some quarters that he is coming to England.

The official account of the fall of Kars has at length been published. Its tendency is to shift the blame from the shoulders of the Ministry on to those of Omar Pacha.

"This personage," says a letter from Constantinople, "has endeavoured to turn aside the storm which threatens him by sending his confidant, Colonel Simmons, to Constantinople. The Colonel has arrived; but he was preceded by twenty-four hours by the president of the Military Council, Halim Pacha, who came from Trebisond, where he instituted a summary investigation. Colonel Simmons sees, however, that it is too late to act at Constantinople, and is accordingly preparing to leave for London, in order to cause the English press to support Omar Pacha. He says that nothing is more simple than his justification, and he undertakes to prove that the responsibility of the fall of Kars rests entirely with the ministry, and principally with Riza Pacha. He states that Omar Pacha, in proceeding to Kutais, knew perfectly well that Kars was about to fall, and that he even expected to receive the news of the capitulation before setting out. Colonel Simmons adds that the roads were in such a state that it was not possible to send an army of 40,000 men to Erzeroum. This assertion, however, is contradicted by the arrival of Selim Pacha in that town, and by the concentration of troops which the Government is effecting there."

The *Times* seeks to throw the blame on Lord Stratford de Redcliffe, our irritable and jealous ambassador at Constantinople, and has preferred against him charges of the gravest nature. According to this authority, his Lordship withheld succour because General Williams was not of his appointing; and actually refused to answer or re-

cognise that commander's reiterated appeals for assistance.

St. Petersburg advices, received before the declaration of the Czar's acceptance of the terms of peace, state that General Luters will take the supreme command in the Crimea, and that Prince Gortschakoff will succeed Prince Paskiewitch as Stadtholder (Viceroy) of Poland. Of the Russian defences in the White Sea, the *Patrie* thus speaks:—

"One of the points of the Empire which it has appeared to the Russian Government will be particularly open to the attacks of the allied fleets, in the next campaign, will be Archangel, the principal Russian establishment in the White Sea. The Council of War, during its recent deliberations, decided on having a supplementary line of defences constructed, and several batteries erected and mounted with guns of the very longest range. Orders have been given for conveying over the snow in sledges to Archangel forty-two pieces of artillery of large calibre, and owners of those vehicles have been called on to send in tenders for the transport both of these guns and of a variety of warlike stores. It is expected that 10,000 militia will be stationed on the banks of the Neva, between the capital and Cronstadt."

Rumour in Paris talks of a French force for the Baltic, amounting to 80,000 men, six thousand horses, and one hundred guns. It is said that the English Government has been asked by France whether she can supply vessels for the conveyance of such a force.

As an evidence of the state of popular feeling in Russia, the annexed extract from a St. Petersburg letter—rendered doubly ludicrous by the comment which the intelligence of the last few days' supplies—is worth reproduction. The writer is speaking of the Austrian terms:—

"Least of all is any concession to be thought of towards any demand made by England, for you have no conception of the hatred that has penetrated through all classes of the Russian nation against England. We will pay no tribute of any sort any longer to that country. We will have no Lord Redcliffe over us here. We will not have their ships any more in our ports, not even after a peace, which I suppose will some day or other be made. The unnatural alliance of France and England will not last for ever: our firm determination will last much longer in no case to let England prescribe laws for us; and that the English will see clearly when their martial heat has all evaporated."

The war may be said to have reached one of its climacterics. The interest will now be centred in the renewed negotiations.

THE RUSSIAN SETTLEMENTS AT THE MOUTH OF THE AMOOR.

Some intelligence with respect to the Russian naval station at the mouth of the river Amoor at the eastern extremity of Asia, is contained in a San Francisco journal, which says:—"The new Russian settlements are situated about eighty miles above the mouth of the Amoor river. The bark Palmetto left the Amoor river about the 25th of October. The settlement at that time consisted of about two hundred and fifty houses, substantially constructed of bricks and stone, and building operations were progressing rapidly. Active preparations were going on for the defence of the place. The sudden disappearance of the two Russian frigates from the Gulf of Tartary, in the month of May last, is accounted for. The supposition that they found a passage into the Gulf of Saghalien is correct. The vessels were lightened of their armament and hauled through the shoal water which stretches across the southern passage to the gulf, and were then warped up the Amoor river to a point some fifty miles above its mouth. For the defence of the town three large fortifications have been constructed, and mounted with guns taken from the two frigates. The guns of the fortresses command every point of approach from the seaboard, and the Russians appear to think that they should be able to defend the place against any force. The Amoor river is navigable for large vessels for a distance of one hundred miles above its mouth during a greater part of the year, and vessels of two hundred or three hundred tons may find safe navigation at all times."

RUSSIAN COURTESIES.

A letter from Kertch contains some additional particulars respecting the late Captain Sherwood and other English prisoners. They will be read with deep interest:—"Major Goldsmid returned yesterday, and had met with much civility from the Russian officers. He remained for three days within their lines, and was taken blindfolded to the place where poor Sherwood had been carried, and where he died. On entering the room, still blindfolded, he heard a low chanting, and was then told to unbandage his eyes, when he found himself standing by the body of our poor friend, laid out with the most delicate

care, and with a priest of the Greek Church praying over him. He had died only that afternoon. The host of Major Goldsmid during the greater part of the time was a Lieutenant of Cossacks, who treated him most kindly. The Russian officers are all apparently extremely well disposed to the English, and one evening insisted upon drinking Queen Victoria's health. There is no sort of hostility to the English; and the feeling among them appeared to be that they would be most glad if the war were at an end; but not the least from any feeling of having been beaten."

WAR MISCELLANEA.

RUSSIAN GUNBOATS.—The Russians are now building a flotilla of two hundred and twenty-five gunboats, of which forty are steam-vessels. They are also making an extraordinary levy of seamen for a Baltic fleet.

THE HEALTH OF THE ARMY.—Dr. Hall writes on December 31st:—"The health of the army continues very satisfactory; there is an absence of serious disease, and, although the admissions under the heads 'chest affections' and 'frostbite' are numerous, it is satisfactory to know that the former are, for the most part, merely simple catarrhs, and the latter slight vesications of the fingers, toes, and tips of the ears. The few serious cases there are were all occasioned by exposure when drunk." The diminution of bowel complaints in the army is described as "remarkable." The Land Transport Corps is not so healthy. Several of the force are natives of Asia Minor, and they bear the winter ill.

THE BALTIC.—The Polyphemus and the Driver have been despatched to put a stop to the intercourse carried on between neutral ports and those of Russia.

THE DOCKS.—A further explosion of the docks at Sebastopol has taken place with complete success; but the work is even yet not fully accomplished.

PRUSSIAN "NEUTRALITY."—The statistics for the past year of the Russian exports and imports carried on through Memel demonstrate that the traffic, the profits of which constitute one of the inducements for the complicity of Prussia in the prolongation of the war, instead of being checked, is largely increasing. All kinds of munitions of war are stated to have been forwarded across the frontier with such perfect connivance on the part of the Prussian authorities as to have reduced the current prices for them to a point in many instances almost approaching those of times of peace. The port of Königsberg has likewise, in its degree, been characterised by corresponding activity. —*Times*.

THE COUNCIL OF WAR AT PARIS.—It is said that a question has been mooted in the Council of War now being held at Paris, of withdrawing the army from before Sebastopol, but keeping possession of Eupatoria, Kamiesch, Balaklava, and one or two other points. The question of a campaign in the interior of the southern provinces has been suggested; but the impossibility of ascending the rivers is urged by the Admirals. The absence of the Turkish Ambassador at the Council has excited considerable surprise.

THE POLISH LEGION.—General Zamoycki has just addressed to his countrymen and his old companions in arms, in the form of a report to Prince Czartoryski, a circular in which he informs them that he is charged by the English Government, with the assent of France and of Turkey, to organise a division composed of Poles, bearing the name of the "Polish Division of Cossacks of the Sultan," and destined to receive into its ranks Polish prisoners of war or others who may quit the Russian army.

AMERICA.

By the latest advices from Washington (dated January 3rd), we learn that the Speaker has not yet been elected. The President, however, conceiving that he would not be justified by further delay, has delivered his Message to the Senate. It was transmitted on the 31st ult., and an abstract of it will be found below. Great indignation was excited in the House by the fact of the Message having been sent in writing before the House was organized. Some members, indeed, contended that the Constitution gave the President power to adopt this proceeding, but others denounced it as an innovation and an indecency. A fierce and vehement debate ensued; and ultimately it was decided that the Message should not be read. The House then agreed to lay the whole case on the table, and again adjourned.

The Northern Light steamer has been permitted to leave New York for her destination, after an examination of her cargo, which consisted of a few saddles, ploughshares, type, and a printing press. Kansas is still in a state of anarchy. The pro and the anti-slavery parties have had a collision; the ballot-boxes have been destroyed, and the voting stopped. An anti-slavery man's house having been burnt, a person was arrested for the offence, and put in prison; but his friends broke open and burnt down the gaol. The Seminole Indians in Florida have attacked an exploring party of United States troops, and only three out of eight escaped.

From Nicaragua we hear that Walker has placed

a portion of his men at the disposal of the President of Honduras, whence they had been despatched. Walker contemplates forming a naval force. In California, fresh riches are being discovered every day. During eleven months, the Mint has coined above twenty millions' worth of dollars of gold. It is believed that the largest quantity of corn ever sown in California will be put in for the coming harvest. The differences between the authorities of San Francisco and the French consul have been arranged, and the French flag saluted.

Alvarez has resigned the Presidency of Mexico, and is succeeded by Comonfort. The following is the new Ministry:—Foreign Relations, Rosa; Justice, Montes; Government, Lafragua; War, Celicio; Finance, Payne. Alvarez had departed for the south. Santa Anna, the ex-President, has reached Carthagena, where he was well received by the inhabitants.

Peru is in a very unsettled state, and symptoms of another revolution are apparent. Great gold discoveries have been made at Valparaiso, where crowds of people are flocking in the midst of considerable excitement.

New York commercial letters state that the changes are very slight in the stock-market, which, at the last advices, closed rather more firmly than on previous days. For money there was a good demand, with a fair supply at previous rates. The market for exchange was very heavy.

THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

THE Message commences by referring to the negotiations now in progress with Great Britain regarding Central America. The Legislature is reminded that, by the convention concluded between the United States and England in April, 1850, the latter undertook not to colonise, occupy, or exercise any dominion in, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, the Mosquito Coast, or any part of Central America. Great Britain, however, has continued to exercise authority on the Mosquito Coast, and has formally colonised a considerable insular group known as the Bay Islands, belonging of right to the State of Honduras. [The general nature of this question was explained in the *Leader* of November 3rd, 1855.] England has, by repeated treaties, renounced all claims on the Mosquito Coast; yet she continues to exercise sovereign authority. The United States cannot concur in the English interpretation of the treaty by which this authority is sought to be justified. That interpretation is to the effect that the operation of the treaty is prospective, and does not necessitate the abandonment of any possessions already held. The President believes that an amicable solution of the difficulty is not hopeless; but there is reason to apprehend that, as Great Britain still holds possession of the territory, the question "cannot long remain undetermined without involving in serious danger the friendly relations" of the two countries.

With respect to the recruiting question, the President says that the position of America is purely neutral; that she sells gunpowder and arms to all comers; that her merchant ships assist in conveying the French and English sick and wounded to their respective countries, without compromising the neutrality of the United States; that the recruitment by England of soldiers on American soil would so compromise her; that this recruitment was systematic, deliberate, and entered on with a full knowledge of American laws and national policy; that the subject is still under discussion, and that the results will be communicated to the Legislature in due time.

The President repeats the recommendation submitted to last Congress that provision be made for the appointment of a Commissioner in connexion with Great Britain, to survey and establish the boundary-line which divides the territory of Washington from the contiguous British possessions. "The prospect of a speedy arrangement has contributed hitherto to induce on both sides forbearance to assert by force what each claims as a right. Continuance of delay on the part of the two Governments to act in the matter will increase the dangers and difficulties of the controversy." The President adds:—"Misunderstanding exists as to the extent, character, and value of the pre-emptory rights of the Hudson's Bay Company and the property of the Puget's Sound Agricultural Company, reserved in our treaty with Great Britain relative to the territory of Oregon. I have reason to believe that a cession of the rights of both companies to the United States, which would be the readiest means of terminating all questions, can be obtained on reasonable terms; and, with a view to this end, I present the subject to the attention of Congress."

The Sound Dues are next touched on. The President is of opinion that these dues should no longer be paid; not so much because of their amount, as because it is a recognition of the right of Denmark to bar one of the great maritime highways of the world, and to levy a tax on a common natural claim. "While, however, rejecting this proposition, and insisting on the right of free transit into and from the Baltic, I have expressed to Denmark a willingness, on the part of the United States, to share

liberally with other Powers in compensating her for any advantages which commerce shall hereafter derive from expenditures made by her for the improvement and safety of the navigation of the Sound or belts."

The disagreements with France, Spain, and Greece, have been satisfactorily settled. In connexion with Cuba, the President writes:—"I do not abandon the hope of concluding with Spain some general arrangement, which, if it do not wholly prevent the recurrence of difficulties in Cuba, will render them less frequent, and, whenever they shall occur, facilitate their more speedy settlement."

Mexican affairs are described as being in such a state of disruption that the United States Government has been unable to negotiate for the removal of grievances. The President has felt it incumbent on him to appeal to the good faith of American citizens to abstain from unlawful intervention in the affairs of Nicaragua. He has also adopted preventive measures.

Of financial matters, we read:—"It appears from the report of the Secretary of the Treasury that the receipts during the last fiscal year ending June 30, 1855, from all sources, were 65,003,930 dollars; and that the public expenditures for the same period, exclusive of payments on account of the public debt, amounted to 56,365,393 dollars. The amount of the public debt at the commencement of the present fiscal year was 40,583,631 dollars, and, deduction being made of subsequent payments, the whole public debt of the Federal Government remaining at this time is less than 40,000,000 dollars." A departure from the principles of the present tariff on imports is not anticipated.

The question of the "Constitutional relations of Slavery" occupies considerable space. The allegation of the Northern States that the Southern States have persistently asserted claims, and obtained advantages in the practical administration of the general government, to the prejudice of the North, is denied. "It is mere delusion and prejudice," says the Message, "to speak of Louisiana as acquisition in the special interest of the South." The acquisitions of Florida and Texas are pointed to as evidencing the desire of sectional agitators to exclude new States from the Union, for mere party purposes. [We have discussed, in a separate paper in our leading columns, this portion of the President's Message.] The probable results and general character of the anti-slavery movement are thus indicated by the President towards the close of his official document:—"It is either disunion and civil war, or it is mere angry, idle, aimless disturbance of public peace and tranquillity. Disunion for what? If the passionate rage of fanaticism and partisan spirit did not force the fact upon our attention, it would be difficult to believe that any considerable portion of the people of this enlightened country could have so surrendered themselves to a fanatical devotion to the supposed interests of the relatively few Africans in the United States, as totally to abandon and disregard the interests of the 25,000,000 of Americans—to trample under foot the injunctions of moral and constitutional obligation—and to engage in plans of vindictive hostility against those who are associated with them in the employment of the common heritage of our national institutions."

THE RUGELEY POISONINGS.

(From our Special Correspondent.)

Rugeley, January 16, 1856.

LET us imagine a sensible and intelligent Parisian, weary of the eternal chatter and the saunter along the Boulevards, forming the sage resolution of setting up his household gods in the right little, tight little island, famous throughout the world as the peculiar shrine of the domestic affections, of solid comfort and genuine worth. Let him cast his eyes over the length and breadth of the land. Let him survey its bold mountains and smiling valleys, its populous towns and sweet rural villages. Much would he behold worthy of admiration as a traveller and a cosmopolite, but little pause would he make ere taking up his abode in the pleasant vale watered by the winding Trent. This would be his harbour of refuge from the vanities and vexations of a frivolous or malicious world. This would be to him the promised land—a land flowing with milk and honey. Here, if anywhere, he might hope to exhume the simple virtues hitherto buried in the dull dribblings of pastoral rhapsodies. Here he would expect to find a true manly race, softened by the gentle influences of home, and equally free from the brutal impulses of a barbarous and the calculating selfishness of a too refined state of society.

Alighting at the Rugeley station he would walk with a buoyant step between well-kept hedges, fencing in "meadows trim, with daisies pied," until, halting for a moment on a bridge that spans a broad canal, his eye would alight upon a substantial red-brick house with its bow-windows looking out upon a lawn sloping down to the water. A small court, filled with Portugal laurels, evincing the genuine Dutch taste for regular forms, separates the house from the road. At the back may be seen what was once a timber-yard of some pretensions, where still a few rows of planks attest the presence of a saw-pit, and where a wheezy-looking crane enjoys the repose due to a long and faithful servitude. Adjoining these grounds a spacious but densely-peopled churchyard contains whole generations of men who, after slumbering through life, now sleep in death. The pious doggerels commemorating the un-

grammatical sorrows of the survivors are already half obliterated by time's "effacing fingers," while two noble arches, clad with ivy, tell by their very ruins how earnest were the men of afore time when they sought to glorify their Creator. On the opposite side of the road now stands a more modern church, fitted for a numerous congregation, and not displeasing to the eye. Here, too, a rapidly filling enclosure proves that the bills of mortality fall due even in the cheerful valley of the Trent: is not the medical profession largely represented in Rugeley?

Behind this edifice our imaginary traveller would behold a tomb, in front of which the gravel had been recently disturbed. Had he stood there a few days since, he would have seen the spade and the pick-axe busily at work, a curious crowd standing around, and the glazed hats of the police conspicuous above all. These were not mourners. Their countenances, where capable of other expression than vacancy, denoted indignation rather than grief. There was one face, indeed, which might well have reflected both feelings, but our stranger would have traced only a heartless indifference, or a superhuman resolution, as he observed it looking through the window of that comfortable house, whence a widow could behold the spot where they had laid her lord, and whence they were now once more bringing into the light of day the mouldering remains of her daughter-in-law and her son. Beneath that tomb was deposited the master of the comfortable house. He had entered upon the stage of life under many disadvantages, but his merits or demerits had prospered his undertakings, and the successful sawyer left behind him a handsome fortune, if not a single friend. He died in his chair nigh twenty years ago. He died, and was buried in the vault which now they are re-opening. It has been opened four times since then. That timber merchant's son, and the wife of another son, and the mother-in-law of that other son, and the guest of that other son, have all been laid in that vault within a short period of each other. The bodies of his son and his daughter-in-law are now wanted to bear evidence which shall hang the brother of the one, the husband of the other.

Our traveller, astonished and alarmed, asks what means all this commotion by the banks of the cheerful Trent. A dear friend of the accused hastens to answer him in this wise:—

In that substantial red-brick house dwells the widow of a timber merchant and sawyer, who amassed very considerable wealth in a space of time so brief as seemed to reflect on the judgment or industry of his less fortunate neighbours. An apoplectic attack placed him, at last, beyond the envy of his townsmen, and Mrs. Palmer—such was his widow's name—reigned in his stead. Both sons and daughters had been born to this prosperous couple—prosperous in all points save this. One son was a lawyer, another a clergyman, a third a surgeon, a fourth a corn-factor, a fifth a timber merchant. There were likewise two daughters; one still unmarried and living with her mother, but otherwise very respectable, and kindly spoken of by the poor; the other married and died, having shortened her life, it is said, by a too assiduous devotion to "the rosy god;" for the sanguine temperament of parents is visited upon, at least, the first generation. Though passing rich, this family was involved in the obscurity that enfolded their native town. If it were lawful to parody an epitaph, it might be said—

Rugeley, and Rugeley's boors, lay hid in night;
God said, "Let murder be!" and Rugeley came to light.

The man destined in the fulness of time to dispel this darkness was William Palmer, a surgeon, whose practice was fortunately confined to his own family and a few intimate friends. His personal appearance, if not heroic, was by no means disagreeable. His stout, compact form, light complexion, florid hue, and easy smile, bespoke the genuine English yeoman, healthy and good-humoured. To the poor he was kind and considerate. Among the humble fry of clerks, apprentices, inn-keepers, and small dealers, he was extremely popular, for he could always guide them in laying their bets upon horses, and freely imparted any certain knowledge he possessed. There is not a chambermaid or waitress within thirty miles, who does not speak of him as "a nice, pleasant sort of gentleman," and he is known to have given pledges to fortune, that prove his loves were neither platonic nor those of the angels. His illegitimate offspring died very, very young. He has been almost equally unfortunate with his children born in lawful wedlock; four have died in infancy; a little boy of seven alone survives, to whom will descend his mother's property. The wife of William Palmer was the illegitimate child of Lieutenant-Colonel Brookes, a retired East India officer, residing in Stafford, whose brains were blown out, but by whom was never discovered. His mistress, Mrs. Thornton, was a woman subject to wild fits of passion. That was previous to his daughter's marriage. The Colonel, at his death, left the usufruct of his property to his mistress; the capital, however, being settled on his daughter and her heirs. This daughter, afterwards Mrs. William Palmer, was an universal favourite, and the poor of Rugeley still deplore the loss of a most sympathising benefactress. With such a wife one would have thought that William Palmer would have lived in contented obscurity in his snug two-storied cottage, standing a little off the street, with its three square windows above, and one on either side of the door. And as he stood at his door, or at the little gate in front, his eyes must have often alighted on the legend beneath the Talbot Arms, the swinging and creaking sign of the hostelry over against him:—HUMANI NITII, ALIENUM. Unhappily he had other guides. His political morality he borrowed from his daily paper, the *Times*; for social morality he betook himself to Bulwer's "Lucrèce;" his medical studies appear, by the well-thumbed pages of a work upon poisons, to have been chiefly directed to the properties of prussic acid, strychnia, and deadly narcotics; while the best-filled bottle in his

surgery was one of tartarised antimony. So fond, indeed, was he of fatal drugs, that he once owned a horse named Strychnine. The most fatal poison of all to himself was his love of horses—his passion for the turf. Accustomed from his earliest infancy to live among horses, and horse-like men—for Rugeley fair is famous throughout the Midland Counties—he acquired the expensive habits and unscrupulous practices of the latter. Not that any one would blame him for his good old English tastes. Is not the turf the keystone of the British Constitution? It is the last Conservative element in the land. Who more fond of the noble sport than the mutual friend of W. B. and W. P. (William Palmer), the great Frail of Shrewsbury? Let it not be imputed to the accused as a fault that he sought to tread in the steps of those fine old Tory gentlemen whose wisdom and virtues are equally conspicuous in the liberal administration of public affairs, and in the honour and purity of their happy homes. Suffice it to say that William Palmer became an owner and breeder of race-horses, that he betted freely and largely, and that he won rarely and to a small extent. The ready money that came to him at his father's death—a few thousands, it is said—was soon dissipated. Tradesmen may be put off, but debts of honour must be paid. Money must be had; if at sixty per cent. well; if not by bills, by pills; money, anyhow. Hebrews not without guile, and that class of attorneys who form the "peculiar people" of modern civilisation, took much paper in exchange for a little gold. The crisis was growing desperate; the next step would plunge him into the slough of despond. There was still one hope, one plank between him and perdition. His mother-in-law might afford some aid. From her fears, though not from her love, he extracted some £20—a syringe playing on a world in flames. The maternal instincts, however, were stronger than that of self-preservation. Mrs. Thornton became alarmed on her daughter's account. She left Stafford and became an inmate in Palmer's house. Four days afterwards she was a corpse. Her property descended to Mrs. William, whose husband, of course, thus enjoyed a larger income. But as at her decease this source would fail, it was necessary to adopt some counter measures. These were readily suggested by certain institutions devised by the commercial spirit of this sensible nation to assuage their grief for departed friends by entering, per contra, a certain sum of money. In other words, William Palmer could find his remedy by effecting a Life Insurance on his beloved Anne. Medical men gladly certified that her health was good, as indeed it was, and predicted length of life and the payment of many a premium. It was true that the lady was pregnant—and the medical science of a refined civilisation deems pregnancy a disease—but this only accounted the more naturally for the husband's anxiety to prepare an elixir of gold against possible woe. Three offices engaged to pay the collective sum of £13,000, whenever Anne Palmer should be gathered to her fathers. The baby was born on the 24th of January, 1854—apparently a delicate, perhaps an untimely child—and was baptised on the same day. On the 25th, the mother came down stairs; the baby doing so well that its father was able to go "to Stafford about insurance," as we read in his diary. The next night, however, he sat up with baby. On the 27th baby was worse, and Dr. Bamford, one of the antiquities of the place, was called in, and prescribed "a mixture"—no matter what. "Baby died at 10 p.m."

To occupy the nine months that elapse before this diary again becomes worthy of note, it may be worth while to notice an incident that occurred some five years ago. In those days there lived a Mr. Bladen, a collector for Charington's brewery, who dabbled sufficiently in turf transactions to make him a defaulter to his employers. It would seem, if public rumour be ever worthy of credit, that William Palmer had borrowed £100 from the sporting Bagman, and it is probable that the hope of recovering this sum induced the unfortunate man to become the guest of his debtor. However this may be, he had no chance of taking it out in board and lodging. He fell desperately sick, and after William Palmer and his assistant, one Thirlby—whose windowns are now recognisable by a great display of rupture bandages and one large jar full of broken poppy-heads—had exhausted their skill, that dear old Dr. Bamford was called in to "prescribe a mixture." Nevertheless, the patient died. His wife arrived when he was already insensible, but in a few minutes was hurried out of the room and never again allowed to behold him—because decomposition had set in so rapidly. She was also dissuaded from carrying the corpse to London, the expense of which William Palmer greatly exaggerated. Rumour goes on to say that the latter handed the widow a cheque for £60, and some loose cash which he had found in the pockets of the deceased, whom he represented as being in his debt to the amount of £57. This claim the widow laughed to scorn, and on Mrs. William's earnest entreaty it was never repeated. Poor Bladen rests in the same vault with Mrs. Thornton, Walter Palmer, and Mrs. Williams. In the month of September, 1854, Mrs. Williams and her sister-in-law, Miss Sarah Palmer, were present at a concert in St. George's Hall, at Liverpool. Here the former lady, perhaps, caught cold, and on her return to Rugeley next day she appeared to be very unwell. The following morning her husband took up to her room a cup of tea with sugar in it, but no milk, and some dry toast. Soon afterwards vomiting commenced. Whatever substance she received, tea, gruel, and once a little arrowroot, was prepared by the servant girl Eliza Tharm, but administered only by Mr. Palmer or Ann Bradshaw, a deaf old nurse subsequently called in. On Sunday Dr. Bamford was sent for, and being given to understand that the case was one of English cholera, though the patient was then suffering from constipation, he prescribed some pills containing calomel and colocynth and an opening draught. On Tuesday evening he again called, and found that only one pill had been taken and that the bowels were still unmoved. This was the last time he saw her, but at her husband's request he at once signed a certificate

that she died of English cholera. Another medical gentleman, Dr. Knight,—one of the antiquities of Stafford—the deceased's very deaf guardian, also signed the certificate with equal facility. He saw the patient twice on Monday, when she was too much reduced to hold any conversation with him. However, her husband supplied the deficiency, and described all the usual symptoms of English cholera. It does not appear that he ordered anything but a small dose of diluted prussic acid, to relieve the retching, nor is there any reason to believe that he made any further inquiries on the subject till Saturday, when he heard that the poor lady had expired on the previous day. A third medical man, the Benjamin Thirlby, who deals in rupture bandages and broken poppy heads, likewise saw the sick woman. It was on the day she died, and when she was so completely prostrated as to be unable to answer any questions. "Benjamin" recommended some arrowroot and brandy, which the nurse promised to give her. "Sept. 29th, Friday.—My poor dear Anne expired at 10 past 1." * * "Oct. 8th, Sunday.—At church. Sacrament." The mortal remains of Mrs. Williams were laid beside her mother and the sporting Bagman. Application was then duly made to the Insurance Offices, which faithfully fulfilled their engagements; £8,000 being paid through a Mr. Pratt, an attorney, who acted as William Palmer's jackal in procuring money.

The speculation had proved so profitable that it was worth repeating. Whose life should next be insured? Why not that of Walter Palmer, his brother? He had already suffered from one attack of *delirium tremens*, but perhaps that objection might be got over through the usual complacency of medical examiners and the competition between rival offices. Mr. Pratt was accordingly instructed to propose Walter's life for £13,000 to £14,000. It is needless to enumerate all his failures, but the object was at length effected. Now, Walter Palmer was the best of a very indifferent family—he was certainly the least selfish. He had the same unhappy taste, however, as his brother William for racing and betting—in short, for sport. Devoting more time to his betting-book than to his ledger, he failed as a corn merchant, and became bankrupt in 1849. His wife was a Miss Millerest, a ladylike and accomplished person, still most prepossessing in appearance, the daughter of a Liverpool shipbuilder, and possessed of an income of £450 a-year. Her sister had married Mr. Joseph Palmer, and strongly dissuaded her from entering such a family—of course, in vain. The union was an unhappy one, owing to his intemperate habits. While residing in the Isle of Man, he had an attack of *delirium tremens*, during which he attempted to cut his throat. With great reluctance Mrs. Walter was compelled to separate from him, though they seem to have been always tenderly attached to one another: and in August last he paid a visit to her at Liverpool for a few days, abstaining entirely from spirits during the whole time. Previous to this he used to take a quart of gin a day, but gradually reduced the quantity to half a pint or thereabouts. He had been living for some time with an impudent, brazen-faced fellow named Walkeden, but a few months before his death removed to Castle-terrace, just over the Railway Bridge at Stafford. This Walkeden, nominally a corn agent, came to live with him, and Mrs. Walkeden also slept in the house, leaving her children to themselves at night. It is understood that old Mrs. Palmer allowed Walter £2 a-week, and it is whispered that William Palmer gave Walkeden £5 a-week as a remuneration for his faithful attendance on his brother. Walkeden's chief business seems to have consisted in supplying his friend and master with gin. Sometimes there was a cask in the house, but more frequently a bottle was procured as required. The average consumption exceeded a quart per diem, and a bottle, perhaps three quarters full, was placed by his bedside every night, with a water-jug and a glass. Not unfrequently the wretched man would toss off half a tumbler of raw spirits at a gulp, and then turn quite black in the face. At an early hour of the morning Walkeden took him a cup of coffee, which he would swallow and cast up again. Then he would "set himself up" by drinking three or four glasses of gin and water. He was constantly complaining of pain all over him, but particularly under the shoulder-blade; he also coughed every morning very severely, and expectorated a great deal.

On the 14th August, Walter Palmer and his evil genius, this Walkeden, went to Wolverhampton to see the races. He was tolerably sober at the time, and a little before twelve o'clock picked at a small mutton chop, but without any appetite. On his return home he was quite drunk, but Walkeden did not the less supply him with gin to drink in the night. All next day, Wednesday, he was in liquor. On Thursday morning he was seized with an apoplectic fit, his brother William being at hand, and died before medical assistance could be obtained. A certificate, however, was not refused as to the cause of death being apoplexy, and again application was made for the payment of the Life Policies. This time the offices hesitated. They had been told that the insurance was intended to cover an advance made by Mrs. Palmer; but it now appeared that the assignment had been made in favour of William, in consideration of an assumed loan of £100, though the deceased had actually received no more than £60. Other circumstances occurred to excite suspicion, and the result was that the different offices combined for their mutual defence, in case any claim should be made upon them. These suspicions must have been strengthened when no demand was made for payment, and it seems unaccountable that no steps should have been taken by the police to enforce a post mortem examination. But Nemesis, though halting in gait, never wearies or halts in her pursuit of the guilty. Thus far William Palmer had safely set at defiance the terrified whispers of his neighbours. No one cared to cast the first stone. In Rugeley itself the Palmer interest was omnipotent. A family that in-

cludes in its members a clergyman, a surgeon, and a lawyer, would anywhere require as cautious handling as a hedge-hog. In Rugeley no man would venture on such a hazardous encounter. The insurance offices, indeed, despatched a Detective to the spot—so called *quasi lucus a non lucendo*; but his inquiries were more particularly directed to a proposal that had been made touching the life of George Bate, Esq., "a gentleman of good property and possessed of a capital cellar of wine." The amount was £25,000. One of the signatures to the proposal was that of John Parsons Cook, another gentleman of sporting notoriety, who now appears on the stage for the first time. George Bate, Esq., proves to be a harmless man, not too much troubled with intellect, but of the ordinary rustic calibre, who had once failed on a small farm, and now went on errands or did odd jobs for the Palmer family. The proposal was not accepted. George Bate, Esq., is still alive: one of the lions, indeed, of Rugeley, and perhaps better off than if he had received the £500 promised to him should the policy be effected.

While casting his net for thousands, William Palmer was not too proud to seize upon smaller prey. On his brother Walter's death, after striving to mitigate his fraternal anguish by working the telegraphic wires in instructing his agents to lay various odds in his name, he hastened to Liverpool to break the news to the poor widow. As she naturally desired to see the body of her husband once more before it was for ever snatched from her sight, he dissuaded her from doing so, by representing the cause of death to have been the rupture of a blood-vessel, and that the corpse was too horrible to be viewed. Not a word of this was true. No vessel had been ruptured, and the body presented no extraordinary appearances of any kind. Towards the end of September he applied to his sister-in-law for the repayment of various sums alleged to be due to him by the deceased, such as £85, advanced upon the furniture, £40 to take up some mysterious bill, and £200 to pay off some small debts.

To this strange application the widow replied with much spirit; that, as she had never received a farthing from her husband during the whole course of their married life, she did not consider herself bound to pay his debts; nor did she believe that his mother was aware of William's present proceeding; that she had reason to believe that her husband did not owe him anything whatever, but rather the contrary; and that he must be cautious how he belied the dead.

Foiled in all these attempts to raise money, whether in large sums or small, and incessantly harassed by the harpies who had discounted his bills, Palmer was now fairly at bay. Woe to him who crossed his path. With the calm resolution of despair he proceeds to the Shrewsbury races, in company with his intimate friend, John Parsons Cook, who was also strangely mixed up with him in sporting transactions generally. This gentleman was about twenty-eight years of age, or about two years younger than Palmer, and generally resided at Lutterworth, in Leicestershire, where he still possessed some property, although he kept race-horses and had William Palmer for his associate. The latter was clearly the master mind, and pulled, as he pleased, the strings which moved his puppet. On the 13th of November these two sporting gentlemen were at Shrewsbury. The races were going on, and Mr. Cook's horse, Polestar, was the winner. The owner was naturally somewhat excited by his triumph, though no Pindar (not even Peter) was there to sing his praises. But a good dinner is no bad substitute for a bard. So he repaired to the "Raven" bird of ill omen, and there entertained his friends with Shrewsbury champagne. The waitress emphatically declares to the present day that his friend, Mr. Palmer, was "a very nice, pleasant sort of gentleman." After dinner a cloud drooped around John Parsons Cook, and yet a film fell from his eyes. Bacchus, the god of truth, had warned him against his friend William—Sweet William no longer. After indulging freely in the foreign wines of an English country town, 150 miles from London, the owner of Polestar took to brandy and water to restore his British solidity. Tossing off his glass à la "gentleman rider," he complained that there was something in it (the brandy or the empty glass?) for it burned his throat. Perhaps those who have drunk strong brandy and water with similar haste may have experienced the same sensation. Perhaps, also, like Mr. Cook, they may have even vomited afterwards. As in the olden time it was given to few men to visit Corinth with enjoyment, so at the present day it falls to the lot of few men to possess that "bibulous clay" which craveth all things, absorbeth all things, and retaineth all things. Mr. Cook was not a man of this stamp. He was not a Prince Zerbino, whom Nature fashions in her dainty moods and then casts away the mould. He bolted his brandy and water down at Palmer's challenge, and bolted it up again when it encountered the cold champagne. That night he was very drunk and very sick and very ill. His dinner he cast up into a basin, his money he deposited with his friend Ishmael Fisher, a sporting wine merchant of Shoe-lane, Holborn. This gentleman apparently owes his love of sport to his patronymic, only that the modern Esau kills partridges instead of gazelles, and runs horses instead of hunting the onagra; to his surname it may be that he is indebted for dealing in liquids, only that his piscatorial talents are devoted to the capture of men rather than of fishes, after the manner of Peter: but what a name it would be for a Jew bailiff! To this Mr. Ishmael Fisher, the owner of Polestar gave £700 to keep till next morning, expressing his belief, at the same time, that Palmer had "dosed" him for the sake of the money. If such had been Palmer's intention, would he have left Cook at such a moment? He neither followed him from the room when his stomach rebelled, nor did he go near him all that night. This neglect showed, indeed, how hollow was his friendship, but it proves his innocence. Guilt would have been much more officious. Next morning Cook looked very ill, as men are apt to do after excessive vinous vomiting. But his

drunken suspicions of Palmer had evaporated with the fumes of the brandy. They were again friends and brother sportsmen. In the afternoon they started together for Rugeley, where Mr. Cook engaged a room at the Talbot Arms, exactly opposite to the snuggerly inhabited by Mr. William Palmer, surgeon, and his pleasant-looking handmaid, Eliza Tharme. Thursday seems to have been a *dies non*; but on Friday Mr. Cook dined with his friend, returning to the hostelry in a state of perfect sobriety—the only evidence to the contrary being his request for a candle to enable him to read in his bedroom: he was a sporting man, be it remembered—still, he might have wished to consult his betting book, or to read the Racing Calendar. On the following morning he felt qualmish and uncomfortable. He threw up a cup of coffee administered by the chambermaid, and afterwards a basin of broth sent by Mr. Palmer. On Monday morning he was better, and able to eat something, but at night he took two pills which made him excessively ill. He screamed wildly, rolled his eyes about, and beat the bedclothes with his hands, while his head moved convulsively and his limbs soon after straightened. Mr. Palmer being sent for in haste gave him some comforting words, two more pills, and a thick, dark-coloured draught which smelt like opium. The sick man vomited almost immediately, but there was no appearance of the pills, and presently he fell into a refreshing slumber. The laudanum, if such it were, had been administered in too large a dose for the state of the stomach after so much irritation—otherwise it might have soothed him into asleep from which there would have been no awakening. On Tuesday afternoon Mr. W. H. Jones arrived, a surgeon of Lutterworth and a personal friend of Mr. Cook. Old Dr. Bamford, aged eighty-two, had, of course, been called in before this, and had prescribed two opiate pills, which Mr. Palmer himself took away. Mr. Jones slept in the same room with his friend, the foot of the beds being opposite to each other, the room sufficiently large, and Mr. Cook lying between the door and the window. A little after eleven Mr. Palmer went across and gave the sick man two pills, supposed to be morphine; vomiting ensued, but the pills remained on the stomach. About midnight Mr. Jones undressed himself and turned in. He had not laid down above twenty minutes, when his friend called to him in alarm and begged that Mr. Palmer might be sent for immediately. That gentleman was by his bedside within three minutes, foolishly volunteering the remark that he had never dressed so quickly in his life before. He then gave him two pills which he brought with him, saying that they were ammonia pills—a preparation never kept ready made up, because of evaporation. A terrible scene now ensued. Wildly shrieking, the patient tossed about in fearful convulsions; his limbs were so rigid that it was impossible to raise him, though he entreated that they would do so as he felt that he was suffocating. Every muscle was convulsed; his body bent upwards like a bow; they turned him over on his left side; the action of the heart gradually ceased, and he was dead. A post-mortem examination could not under such circumstances be avoided. But there was no sufficient cause to account for death. Dr. Bamford, however, thought there was congestion of the brain, though Mr. Monkton's assistant, Mr. Devonshire, positively swore that there was no extravasation of blood, nothing to produce pressure, or irritation, either on the brain or the spinal cord. However, the deceased's step father, Mr. Stephens, cut the Gordian knot by sending the stomach &c. to Dr. Taylor, of Guy's hospital, for chemical analysis. The conclusion arrived at by Drs. Taylor and Rees, who were associated in the inquiry, was most positive, but rather from the evidence than the analysis—Death proceeded from tetanus, and that tetanus was produced by strychnine. Mr. Palmer was therefore committed to gaol on a charge of wilful murder.

This was not all. Every circumstance connected with this extraordinary inquiry is stamped with singularity. Mr. Cook received about £700 at Shrewsbury, and was entitled to as much more. Of the former sum he had only £15 in his pockets when he died; his betting-book, which laid on the mantelpiece during his illness, suddenly disappeared after his death—Mr. Palmer coolly observing that it was of no consequence, as all bets were now null and void. On the Monday that poor Cook was lying ill in his yellow-curtained bed at the Talbot Arms, William Palmer hurried up to London to get his friend's accounts settled with respect to Shrewsbury Races. With this view, a gentleman waited upon him at his lodgings, 8, Beaufort-buildings, Strand, and received his instructions. This gentleman held three £200 bills of exchange, one drawn by Mr. Cook and accepted by Palmer, the others drawn by Palmer and accepted by Cook. One of these had been settled at Shrewsbury; they were now all cancelled. The various sums to be received amounted to £1,020, but of this £110 was refused on the plea of a set-off. The agent therefore wrote to Mr. Cook, at Mr. Palmer's, Rugeley, to that effect, and that consequently he had not been able to remit the £850 to Mr. Padwick, but that he had duly sent a cheque for £450 to Mr. Pratt, the jackal usually employed by Palmer in his monetary transactions. A telegraphic reply was directly returned from Colwich, the nearest station to Rugeley—for there is none there—requesting him to advance the amount necessary to make Mr. Padwick all right, and that he should be repaid on the Thursday. He prudently declined. In the meantime poor Cook died. But when the original memorandum sent by Palmer to Colwich was sought for, it appeared that that man's influence had availed to procure its restitution. There is consequently no legal proof that it was in his handwriting. The chapter of oddities does not terminate even here. While Dr. Taylor was instituting his analysis of Cook's stomach, &c., he had occasion to write to the solicitor for the prosecution, and mentioned that he had not been able to discover any traces of poison. This important letter the learned Professor rather imprudently despatched in an adhesive envelope—so named for

the same reason as the detective police; though perhaps an exchange would not be altogether amiss, for no one could misunderstand the detective envelope and adhesive police, when either a secret was to be discovered, or a glass of brandy administered. The Postmaster of Rugeley observed the tempting missive. He extracted the contents, read, and inwardly digested them, re-fastened the letter, and then hurried off to Mr. Palmer with the news, who was at that time ill in bed. Nor was that the first illegal communication between these two, but of that hereafter. On hearing these glad tidings, Palmer sends for George Bate, Esq., and bids him carry three letters to Stafford. The Esquire does as he is bid. He delivers one epistle to Mr. Glover, who collects Palmer's rents, and receives from him £12 in silver. Then he goes to Mr. Frantz, the dealer in game, who says that he is a pheasant short of the order, but will send the other things to George Bate, Esq., at the Junction Hotel, close to the railway. The illustrious George re-directs the parcel, and gives a lad 3d. to carry it to Mr. Ward's office. He next goes in search of this Mr. Ward, who is no other than William Webb Ward, Esq., coroner for this division of the county, a legal gentleman of considerable shrewdness, but bad memory—at least so say witnesses who expect 2s. 6d. per diem for their attendance at inquests. The coroner was unearthed in the smoking-room of the Dolphin Inn, which owns the only billiard-room in Stafford. George having "tipped him a knowing wink," William Webb Ward, Esq., came out to the foot of the billiard stairs, and there received the said letter. This was on Saturday, the 8th of December. On the following Thursday, George was again wanted to carry a letter to William Webb Ward. But by this time he began to open his eyes, and to think that the secret service fund was probably at a low ebb. At all events, he demurred; but eventually complied with all Palmer's instructions. In the first instance, having opened a drawer, he found there only a £50 Bank of England note. This, William Palmer said, was too much—in which he probably differed from William Webb Ward—and desired him to step over and borrow £5 from "Ben"—our "Ben," him of the rupture bandages and broken poppyheads. "Ben" sent him a £5 note of the Bridgworth Bank. Palmer enclosed the same in an envelope, and sent it by George Bate, Esq., to the aforesaid coroner. This time, he caught William Webb Ward in the road between the station and the Junction Hotel, and there slyly slipped the note into his hand. Subsequently, he saw him in the smoking-room at the last-named hotel. What does all this mean? To-morrow, perhaps, will explain, as a formal inquiry is to be instituted into the conduct of both the coroner and the postmaster. A fearful thing, indeed, is it to be at the mercy of the post-office. Dr. Taylor stated that he himself received annually, and reported upon, from one hundred to a hundred and fifty confidential cases. He has actually gone into 680 cases. And this is our boasted Christianity, our refined civilisation in the purest and most Protestant country in Europe, at the middle of the nineteenth century. But, all this time, your correspondent has left his French traveller at the entrance of the town, watching the exhumation of two coffins from a vault, commanded by the windows of a certain red-brick house. Let us rejoin him, and follow those coffins to the back entrance of the Talbot Inn, through a short straight passage, and into the very smallest room of a small road-side public-house. The first coffin opened was that of Mrs. Wm. Palmer. The coffin being made of wood, the gases had escaped; consequently there was little or no effluvia. The fine delicate features still retained their symmetry. The post-mortem examination being made, it was evident that death had not been caused by organic disease, and that English cholera had no more to do with it than small-pox or typhus. The intestines and other parts were then carefully put into jars, labelled 1, 2, and 3, and sent off to Dr. Taylor.

So far, so well. But no pen can describe the horrors of opening the second coffin, which, being made of lead, had confined the gases, and thus produced a more rapid decomposition. Owing to the stupidity of the police in choosing such a cabin, the sufferings of the jurors were intense. Some fainted, others retched violently, all were prostrated for the remainder of that day. From the post-mortem examination it appeared that Walter Palmer, at the time of his death, was suffering from congestion of the kidneys, and a diseased liver. He might or might not, have died of apoplexy. While Dr. Taylor is pursuing his analysis, let us stroll together into the town. Standing in the road between Wm. Palmer's house and the Talbot Arms, and looking straight forward, the eye falls upon the Town Hall, an inconvenient little building, intended to take up room in the market-place, but not to find any within for any rational purpose whatsoever. A little to the right stands a small pot-house, having over the door a daub, supposed to represent a shoulder of mutton pendant between two yellow cabbages. Within, there is a pleasanter view of two very substantial hams suspended from the kitchen ceiling. Avoiding this public room, you turn sharp off to the left, and discover a tiny bar in the recess of a bay window. Here you will find a garrulous dame, by no means averse to tell you all that she thinks, and a good deal more than she knows. She will tell you, that one evening Mr. George Palmer, the solicitor, called with an Irish "person," euphoniously styled a commercial gentleman; but in reality what the country people call a Scotch pedlar, or itinerant dealer in shawls, scarfs, gowns, or aught else you please. For this worthy, Mr. George Palmer bespoke supper, bed, and breakfast, for which Mrs. Clewsley might hold him answerable. Next day the "gent" took his leave, but after a short interval he returned and reminded the landlady that he was the Mr. Duffy introduced by Mr. Palmer—perhaps fearing that he might be taken for the gentleman of that name who had sailed for Melbourne. Some days elapsed, when Mr.

Palmer called and intimated that he was no longer answerable for Mr. Duffy's expenses. On this hint the dame spake, and asked that gentleman if he could oblige her by settling his little account. He would on the morrow with pleasure, for he expected a large sum of money. It is not possible that he did receive some, as he suddenly disappeared, leaving behind him an old carpet bag full of letters and papers now in the hands of the police. At least one packet of letters was, however, first inspected by mine hostess, who thus discovered that her lodger had long kept up an affectionate correspondence with old Mrs. Palmer, some of whose amatory effusions were rather forcible than elegant. In short, Venus Victrix had degenerated into Venus Circumvaga. At first, the sons were willing to connive at their mother's exuberance of animal spirits, but when Duffy presumed to aspire to connubial love, they not only turned him the cold shoulder, but caused him to be turned out of the Shoulder of Mutton. But as this Messalina in bombazine had tastes like Hamlet's mother, it was deemed advisable to find her a facile helpmate of proper proportions, under their own eye. As the present *locum tenens* is not only an attorney without practice, but also a big powerful fellow—it may be more prudent to suppress his name; your correspondent respectfully declining the honour of being cow-hided. It may not be improper here to remark, that Mrs. Palmer declares that the bills discounted through Mr. Pratt, and purporting to be accepted by herself, are arrant forgeries. Their amount is said to exceed £10,000. Mr. Pratt protests that he has been grossly deceived, and that he frequently communicated with the acceptrix on the subject of these bills. The vulgar explanation of the mystery is, that these letters were intercepted by Mr. Cheshire, the postmaster, and by him delivered to William Palmer. As this individual is to be examined to-morrow and Pratt next Tuesday, that matter also may be cleared up.

Let us now enter the inquest room. At the further end of the table sits the ferrety little Coroner, sharp and shrewd, but a slow penman. On his left sit the jurymen, with open countenances and lips well apart, of average provincial misunderstanding, and no doubt as weighty as any twenty-three men in the kingdom chosen at random. Round the centre table sit the lawyers. The solicitor for the prosecution, well-meaning and honest, but *impar congressus Achilli*. Achilles shows a strong physique, some humour, and abundant shrewdness. When he cannot bully the jurors he makes them laugh, and opposition ceases. By his side behold a well-known barrister of the Oxford Circuit, his hair in front bristling up like a cockatoo's crest, that behind wondrously short and curiously cropped; over-all boots not too polished, coming up above the knee; a grey coat demanding nerve to wear; barnacles on nose; a square grin taking liberties with the lips, and exhibiting moss-grown teeth; and a very plain face under a very rough hat. The police stand about the witness-box, pompous and fussy, and looking as if they were about to burst out of their uniforms. At the table on the coroner's right hand, sit the reporters, busily plying the pen, and feeding the insatiate maw of the public. Those gentlemen near them, in rusty black or brown, with bundles of papers in their hands, represent various insurance offices. They are very indignant about this case, though they must always know that when a man insures his neighbour's life, he is laying the odds on that neighbour's death. However, they do not thirst for Palmer's blood—his life is insured for £5,000, and, as it has been duly assigned, to secure a loan, the policy must be paid at his death. The further end of the room is filled with the local chaw-bacons, who stand for hours in "obstruction's apathy," occasionally snoring on their legs, laughing consumedly when Mr. Lawyer pokes fun at a witness, cheering riotously when the jurymen splutter out noisy nonsense about their impartiality and fearlessness in the cause of justice, but looking blank and chop-fallen whenever a hitch occurs in the prosecution.

Imagine our Frenchman in such an assembly as this. Truly, he will deem himself a Rip Van Winkle sleeping backwards. He will seem to himself to have gone back four centuries, and to have awakened up among the *manants* of 1450. As he listens to the evidence, he may perchance marvel to hear that deaf old crone swear to the sense of the beautiful prayer the minister of God offered up at the bedside of the dying woman. The reverend gentleman denies that he ever prayed at all, and it is proved that Mrs. William Palmer was too feeble to converse with any one. Did the old beldame mistake her own stentorous breathing for the "sough" of the divine as he wrestled in prayer with the Angel of Death? No matter. But mark how still is the room, how anxious each face, how subdued the breathing, as that tall, intellectual man, with genius in his eye, and knowledge of mankind on that mocking lip, rises to read his report. How chill and dread grows every heart as he tells them that the body of the deceased lady was saturated with antimony; that those effervescing draughts she so much relished when offered by her kind, attentive husband, contained antimony; that the tea was poisoned with antimony; that everything she took during that illness was impregnated with antimony; that, day by day, the poison was steadily, unremittingly administered in small, small doses, gradually wasting away the strength, and inducing death from sheer exhaustion. Who can be safe, when "a nice, pleasant sort of gentleman," barely thirty years of age, can go on thus deliberately pretending love and proffering poison? And yet how much is this worse than the plying a brother with ardent spirits, keeping him in a constant state of brutal intoxication, and finally upsetting the equilibrium of the system, and causing a sudden and horrible death? William Palmer is clearly proved to have committed the former crime. There is every reason to believe that he has also committed the latter—not impossibly aggravated by positive poisoning at the last. It is shown that he purchased some prussic acid at Wolverhampton on

the first Tuesday in August. He had no patients out of his own family, and could not have wanted an ounce of such deadly poison for his private practice. However, all this will probably transpire at the adjourned inquest, and speculation will then give place to positive knowledge. But, mark all the incidents of this case. A sawyer and timber-merchant amassing a large fortune, no one knows how, and then suddenly dying of apoplexy: his widow surviving her chastity: one daughter drinking herself to death: one son either doing the same, or poisoned by his own brother: Lt.-Col. Brookes found dead, but no proof that he shot himself: his mistress probably poisoned by her son-in-law: their daughter certainly poisoned by her husband, the sawyer's son: perhaps four legitimate children hastened out of the world by their father: perhaps three illegitimate children similarly treated: probably a friend poisoned by this same man five years ago; certainly an intimate ally poisoned two months ago: the coroner compromised: the postmaster suspended: the telegraph clerk committing an irregularity: the chaplain of the gaol completely fascinated by the poisoner; a nurse dreaming of prayer, or a clergyman forgetting his own fervour: and last, though not least, Rugeley discovered and handed down to posterity in the annals of crime. By this time our domestic Frenchman must be preparing to return to the rattling dominoes, the eternal chatter, and the saunter on the boulevards, quite ready to renounce English comfort and an English home provided he may be allowed to finish his useless but harmless existence in his beloved Paris; and there, having lived without regret, die without pleasure.

RUGELEY, January 17, 1856.

P.S.—A few last words. At one o'clock this afternoon the magistrates met at the Talbot Arms, to prosecute the inquiry into the post-office delinquency. The Coroner was not present, but sent an apology, pleading the necessity of holding two inquests elsewhere—although it was only last night that he issued the precepts. His clerk, Thomas Addison, produced a letter which his employer received on the 8th of December, from William Palmer, together with a basket of game. This witness subsequently assured your correspondent that Mr. Ward was ready to swear that no other letter was ever delivered to him, and that the game had been promised some time before, as an acknowledgment of Mr. Ward's defence of a young man in the employment of Lord Paget. George Bate positively swears that he gave Mr. Ward two letters from William Palmer. The respective veracity of these witnesses will be tested hereafter.

There is certainly an air of low cunning about George Bate, Esq., which does not prepossess one in his favour. The Postmaster at once admitted his offence. He is clearly a man of no decision, utterly destitute of individuality, and satisfied with the last impression. He is meek and good tempered. His nose descends in a straight line from the forehead, so that a plummet would rest along the bridge. His arms hang from his shoulders in a helpless sort of way. Everybody speaks well of him, and has some obliging act to repeat. In the phrase of the country-side, William Palmer used to make him "compliments." He would ask him to dinner, or to step over in the evening and play a rubber. On Sunday his carriage was at Mr. Cheshire's disposal, to take his wife out for an airing; and he himself was often driven over to races in the neighbourhood, and "put up to a thing or two." He is much to be pitied—his organism is chiefly in fault. Nevertheless, he has been bound over to appear at the assizes, to take his trial on a charge of misdemeanour. Conviction is certain.

Here are a few waifs and strays gathered in this place. Since his wife's death, William Palmer has had two illegitimate children: Eliza Thorne being confined in his own house. He has lost four legitimate and three illegitimate children. A young woman also died, appealing to Heaven to avenge her wrongs—not a desirable frame of mind, but at least evincing heartiness. Miss Thornton was not of age when she married William Palmer, contrary to her friends' wishes. She was a clever, amiable, pretty, and loveable woman, having, moreover, a clear income of £300 a-year: her mother gave her besides a present of £700. William Palmer at that time was following his profession with some steadiness and prospect of success. His house was furnished with some degree of elegance; he had a handsome carriage, and was not troubled in pecuniary matters. At that time, he had no connexion with the turf, and, altogether, was somewhat of a "catch" in this dull neighbourhood. And Miss Thornton had already been crossed in love. His friend, John Parsons Cook, was also a great favourite with all who came near him. He is described as a very open-hearted, unsuspecting, gentlemanly young man. During his last illness he was continually asking after William Palmer, and, seemed to take great pleasure in his society. He now rests in peace beneath a simple mound, close to two small yew-trees, at the principal entrance to the churchyard, and almost opposite old Mrs. Palmer's windows. Had it not been for the loss of his betting-book, it is probable that no inquiry would ever have taken place. His step-father, Mr. Stephens, on his way down from town, met William Palmer at Rugeley, on his way up. The latter at once took a fresh ticket, and returned with him to Rugeley. A mutual friend having also arrived at the Talbot Arms, Mr. Stephens sent across for Palmer to dine with them and to tell them how their poor friend had died. It was not until he had almost reached the station that a suspicion flashed across his mind, and he determined to have a post-mortem examination.

But however strong may be our moral conviction, there is as yet no legal evidence to condemn the accused. It would probably go hard with him, indeed, were he to stand his trial at Stafford, but of this there is not much danger. Had the final verdict depended upon the jurors at the inquest, he would have been hanged, drawn, and quartered, before the inquiry was half terminated. Fortunately, our lives are not at the mercy of the passions and stupidity of such a court. No man would in that case

be safe. But if Palmer be acquitted, will not the insurance offices have to pay the policies on his brother Walter's life? Or will they contend that they are vitiated by the latter's habits of intemperance—a good plea had they not charged an additional premium on account of his previous attack of *delirium tremens*.

It is said that the defence will cost old Mrs. Palmer at least £2,000; the accused being her favourite son, and besides unable, owing to the seizure of his property on a civil process, to defray his own expenses. It is probable that Sergeant Wilkins will be retained. The solicitor, Mr. John Smith, of Birmingham, is peculiarly well chosen in such a case, having a familiar knowledge of the medical science.

The inquest on Walter Palmer will be renewed on Tuesday next; not Wednesday, as reported in the daily papers. The inquiry will then be of a double nature. In the first place, the prosecution has to prove that poison was actually administered to Walter Palmer; and, failing in positive evidence to this effect, to infer such an act on the *cui bono* principle. As yet, there is nothing to show that Walter Palmer died of other cause than apoplexy, produced by excessive drinking. Nor is it even demonstrated that the policies on his life were effected by William Palmer, or for his benefit. It was from Mr. Pratt that the proposal apparently emanated. These are the points to be elicited at the adjourned inquiry.

MURDER IN BEDFORD ROW.

MR. WAUGH, a solicitor, of Great James-street, Bedford-row, was shot by a person named Westron at the corner of the row on Wednesday morning about half-past ten o'clock. Westron had apparently been waiting for some time in Hand-court, and, as Mr. Waugh was proceeding to his office, the assassin advanced, presented a pistol, and fired it point blank. Mr. Waugh gave a sudden bound in the air, and exclaiming, "Oh God! take him—hold him!" instantly fell dead on the pavement. The shot had passed through the heart.

Mr. Abraham, one of the managing clerks of the office, ran out and seized Westron, who made no effort to escape, and, in answer to a question, replied, "Mr. Waugh has ruined me." He repeated this several times, adding, "He has compelled me to eat bread and cheese for ten days at a time." To the street-keeper of Bedford-row, who helped to secure him, he observed, "Mr. Waugh ruined me, and I will be the ruin of him." He asserted that Mr. Waugh wanted his money to go abroad with. To one of the by-standers he said, "I did it. I have not got a friend in the world." He had another pistol with him at the time, and a large clasp knife of the dagger description, which he gave up. When being conveyed in a cab to the station-house, he told the police inspector that Mr. Waugh had brought it all on himself; that he had cheated him of his estate—some acres of land; and that he had married into his (Westron's) family. He concluded by saying, "Now I am satisfied."

Mr. Waugh was about fifty-six years of age. The prisoner (who was brought, on the same day, before the Clerkenwell magistrate, and remanded until Wednesday next) is a very respectably dressed person, with a hump on his back. At the station-house, a silver watch, the half of a five pound note, the half of a ten pound, and £1 12s. in cash, were found on him. He and Mr. Waugh were concerned in law proceedings; and, as he had frequently threatened his victim, it had been thought necessary to bind him over to keep the peace.

A WHITE HUSBAND AND HIS BLACK CHILD.

A MR. ALDRIDGE, known to the theatrical world as "The African Roscius," under which name he has played in the provinces, has made his appearance, during the past week, in the Court of Queen's Bench, in the character of the seducer of his friend's wife. Mr. Stothard, the plaintiff, is now carrying on business as a surgeon dentist; but in 1849, when he was about eighteen years of age, he took a fancy for being an actor, and introduced himself to Mr. Aldridge to be taught "the histrionic art and mystery." Selling a reversion to which he was entitled for a small sum of money, he gave £50 to the black Roscius, who sent the youth to various provincial towns, and shortly afterwards introduced him to a Miss Ingledew, whom he was induced to marry. Stothard then went on a professional tour into Wales, and Mrs. Stothard was sent to live with her mother. Her husband earned so little that he could not afford to keep her; but it would seem that he did not even write to her. An intimacy in time sprung up between Mrs. Stothard and Aldridge; the birth of a semi-negro child being the result. During the lady's pregnancy, she received a letter from Mr. Aldridge, imputing the "misfortune" to the husband's visits, and inquiring whether any questions had been asked in connexion with him. After Mrs. Stothard's confinement, he wrote this letter from Germany, where he was performing:—

"Dear Madam,—You would not have been neglected, but I had some communications made to me of most imprudent conduct on your part which very much annoyed me and caused me not to address you again. I do so now, however, and if you give me the

assurance that the child is 'of colour' and that the father is the person you name (himself)—you understand me—both you and your child shall not be neglected. Is it a boy or a girl? Write by return, enclosing the same in the envelope I send you. Seal mine up and then direct it to me. Do not pay the postage. Tell me, does your mother know whose child it is, and is she unkind to you? Did your aunt leave you anything?"

"Yours faithfully,
"IRA."

On his return from Germany, he was taxed by the landlady of the house in which Mr. Stothard lived with being the father of the child. He replied that she had a husband. Mrs. Burgess, the landlady, said, "I know that, but white men don't beget black children." Mr. Aldridge inquired, "Are you a mother?" and Mrs. Burgess pithily answered that she had had nine children, but had never had a black one. The child had since died. Mr. Stothard, it was shown, had not lived with his wife for six years.

The jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff: damages, 40s.

OUR CIVILISATION.

MORE "PARDON" CASES.—Askham Eyre Tennant, a chemist and druggist, who was recently found guilty at the Liverpool assizes of a rape on the person of a girl of fifteen, has received her Majesty's "pardon" after strenuous exertions had been made by his counsel and others. The judge, on the trial, summed up for an acquittal, on account of certain testimony which had been given by two boys, showing that the girl's habits were depraved; but the jury, to the surprise of every one, found Tennant guilty. Other facts have since been proved against the girl; and the result is the "pardon" just accorded.—William Rushworth and John Boys, who were recently found guilty of robbing a sergeant of militia near Hoxton Church, have also received the Queen's "pardon." The judge who tried them entertained, together with their counsel, strong doubts of their guilt; and their sentence was accordingly respited for two sessions, and is now removed.

FACTORY REVENGE.—Mr. Ebenezer M'Kinlay, the manager of a spinning mill at Glasgow, has been shot by Robert Anderson, one of the men who had been employed there, but who had been discharged. The wound was serious, but not fatal. Anderson is in custody.

THE LATE CHARGE OF MURDER AT PADDINGTON.—About six months ago, a man named Henry Watts, the keeper of a beershop in Praed-street, Paddington, was committed from the police-court, Marylebone, on the charge of having murdered his wife. He was tried, and, being found guilty of manslaughter, was sentenced to transportation for fourteen years. Subsequently to the trial, Sarah Browning, the principal witness against the accused, was tried for perjury in a case which had been preferred by her against the father of Henry Watts for an alleged violent and unprovoked assault upon her. Mr. Handley, managing clerk to Mr. Foley, solicitor, Welbeck-street, who had conducted the defence, used his utmost exertions to obtain a commutation of the sentence passed, by memorialising the Secretary of State for the Home Department, and setting forth that Watts's conviction took place entirely upon the strength of the statement of the woman Browning, who had been proved by ulterior proceedings to be almost, if not entirely, unworthy of belief. On Saturday, Mr. Foley received an official notification from the Home-office to the effect that Sir George Grey had taken all the circumstances of the case into consideration, and that Watts's sentence was commuted from fourteen years' transportation to two years' imprisonment, to commence from the period of his trial and conviction in September last.—We confess we do not understand this. To say nothing of the plain fact that the woman's perjury in the case of the elder Watts does not prove that she perjured herself in that of the son, it is obvious that Watts either did or did not kill his wife. If he did not, why the two years' imprisonment? If he did, can that be punishment sufficient?

A HARD PUNISHING MAN.—George Edwards was charged at the Mansion House with stealing two pocket handkerchiefs from the pocket of a gentleman. He loudly asserted his innocence; said he had picked up the handkerchiefs, and that the gentleman was interested in telling a lie, as he would thus get possession of two handkerchiefs which did not belong to him. A policeman said this was an old excuse of his. Edwards further demanded why he should thieve, as he could get his living by hard work, and was, indeed, fond of hard work, "and no mistake." "Are you?" said Alderman Carden; "then I shall give you six weeks of it."

A FIGHT WITH BURGLARS.—The mill of Messrs. G. Crowther and Co., of Churchwell, has been broken open by six men, five of whom are now in custody. The robbery being suspected beforehand, six constables were set to watch, and, about six o'clock on Sunday morning, the thieves were seen to issue from the premises. A desperate conflict ensued between

them and the police; the burglars used pistols; and finally the police, who appear also to have been armed, shot one of the men in the thigh, and, with a single exception, they were all captured. The wounded man was taken to the Leeds Infirmary, where he has since died. An inquest on the body has terminated in a verdict of "Justifiable Homicide."

CHRISTMAS SPORT.—Mr. Cornish, a student in St. George's Hospital, who was recently fined £3 for wrenching off knockers in Ebury-square, has again been summoned at Westminster for having knockers in his possession. According to his own statement, he had been induced to take the knockers by some playful observations which had been made by a Mrs. Major Phibbs and her daughters. Major Phibbs vehemently denied this, and said he did not know Mr. Cornish, who, however, had been introduced to his house by his son, a youth of fourteen or fifteen. The knockers, it seems, were deposited at the Major's house; but, when Mr. Cornish was in custody on the former charge, he sent a letter to Mrs. Phibbs, telling her that if she did not become bail for him it would be the worse for her. After he had procured bail, he went to the house, and, crying in a half frantic manner, implored them not to ruin him by producing the knockers against him. Subsequently, he called on Mrs. Phibbs, and said that she must pay him £13 for his expenses, or he would bring her forward for having the knockers at her house. The investigation of the affair before the magistrate occupied considerable time; but finally Mr. Cornish was fined £5 and costs.

A FRENCH AUTHOR IN TROUBLE.—Ernest Theophile Guignet, a foreigner described in the police-sheet as an author, is under remand at Guildhall, charged with conspiring, with a person now in custody in Paris, and others, to obtain goods to the amount of £10,000 and upwards under false pretences, with intent to defraud. It appears that there is a large gang of these swindlers in Paris; but Guignet promises to make disclosures, and asserts that he was innocently entrapped into complicity. When he was arrested, he escaped by leaping out of a first-floor window; was again seized, and again escaped by slipping out of his coat, which he left in the officer's hands; but was finally secured. Another foreigner is also in custody in London on the same charge.

BURGLARY BY A WOMAN.—Mrs. Doughty, the wife of a commercial traveller at Manchester, was roused one night, during the absence of her husband, by a grasp on her throat. The intruder possessed a tall, slight figure, and, in a smothered voice like that of a woman, demanded money. Mrs. Doughty resisted, and the thief produced a rope and began to pass it across the bed; but, on Mrs. Doughty jumping up and knocking for assistance, the intruder ran off alarmed. Shortly afterwards, the servant, Anne Coulter, ran into the room with a gag across her mouth and her arms bound. She said that she had been bound by two men. Inquiries were made by the police, and the result was that the girl's mother was arrested as the principal, and the girl herself as an accessory.

A NEW WAY TO OBTAIN CREDIT.—Thomas Stevenson is under remand at the Mansion-house, on a charge of forging an acceptance for £35, and of obtaining goods under false pretences. He had set up in business without any capital, but at length succeeded in getting fifty pounds through a relative by drawing a bill which his wife accepted. He also obtained goods by giving, as a reference for his character, the South London India-rubber Company, with which he had had dealings. He was not authorised by the Company to refer to them; but he did so in seven or eight cases. Upon discovering the fact, the manager of the company demanded what his means were; when he said he possessed £400 at the time he set up in business, and referred to his father. Mr. Turner, the manager, wrote to the father, and received a satisfactory reply; but it would seem that this was penned by the accused himself. However, he had paid the company all he owed them.

MORE POISONING.—Thomas Robson, alias William Wilson, has attempted to poison his wife and another woman, her fellow servant, at Newcastle-on-Tyne. The man had enlisted in the army, but had been bought out by his wife. Three weeks afterwards, he enlisted in the Coldstream Guards, from which he shortly deserted. He then employed himself in labour, living apart from his wife, but corresponding with her and appearing to be on affectionate terms. The woman was in service. On the 1st of December, Robson visited his wife, and, on parting, pulled out a bottle of whiskey, which he said was a present for his wife, who was to share it with her fellow servant. She remarked a thick white look in it, which he accounted for by saying he had mixed it with milk to prevent its intoxicating her, and he made a pretence of drinking some. Mrs. Robson and the other woman took a mouthful of the liquid, and shortly became very sick and ill. A subsequent chemical examination detected sugar of lead. Robson has since been apprehended, and is now under remand.

BREAKING INTO A NUNNERY.—Three young men, of respectable appearance and connexions, were charged at Leeds with breaking into a Roman Catholic nunnery, at night, and taking away some books and other articles. The accused admitted the fact, but said they had only done it for a "lark" when they were drunk.

CRIME IN WEST YORKSHIRE.—Offences of a grave character appear to be very rife in the West Riding of Yorkshire. On Saturday night, about half-past eleven o'clock, as Mr. Richard Poppleton butcher, Huddersfield, was returning from Huddersfield market to his home, at Kilner-bank, Mold-green, he was seized, within eight or ten yards of his own door, by some men and robbed of above £90. in cash, notes, and bills. One of the men held him by the throat and nearly strangled him, while the others rifled his pockets. He was at last thrown upon the ground and the back of his head was laid open. Four men have been apprehended. The *Huddersfield Chronicle* records three other very daring attempts at robbery. On Friday night week, about six o'clock, as Mr. Joseph Hirst, of the Greave, Meltham, near Huddersfield, was returning from his works to his residence at the Greave, he fell over a rope which was stretched across the road about a foot from the ground. Immediately he was attacked by four ruffians, who endeavoured to obtain possession of a cash-box which it was his custom to carry on a Friday night. Mr. Hirst managed to regain his feet, and fortunately succeeded in escaping from his assailants without the loss of his property. Two other daring stoppages occurred on the highway in the district of Meltham. In one case, the person attacked was thrown into a pond of water, and had a narrow escape of being drowned.

EMBEZZLEMENT.—William Burns, foreman to Messrs. Walker, Parker, and Co., lead merchants and shot manufacturers, Lambeth, and James Winter and Isaac Jones, servants employed by the same firm, have been examined at the Lambeth police-office, charged with embezzling property from their employers from year to year, until at length the amount reached the enormous sum of £5,000. The theft was long suspected by the firm; but they could not until recently fix upon the culprits. Burns was the last man suspected, as he had been born on the premises, treated with great kindness, advanced from post to post, and regarded with the utmost confidence. The prisoners were all remanded. Mr. George Sandford Keymer, traveller to a wine-merchant's house in the City, has been committed for trial on a charge of embezzlement. He had been a defaulter; but his employers agreed to raise his salary, and to treat his defalcations as a debt. They therefore took his bills for the amount; and from time to time these were renewed, but were never paid. Recently he absconded. The defence suggested that he was a partner. Bail was taken for his appearance on the trial.

WOMAN BEATING.—This crime, which has slackened lately, has again exhibited itself. Two cases have come before the magistrates this week. One exhibited more than usual ferocity. John Boden, a tinman in Spitalfields, went home drunk, and without provocation, made a frightful attack on the mother of the woman with whom he cohabits. He knocked her down, knelt on her chest, and tried to tear her mouth open. Her jaw was horribly lacerated, and she was bruised all over. "It was God in His mercy," said the poor woman to the magistrate, "who sent a friend to save me, or I must have been murdered. I am very ill and sore." The woman's daughter was examined, and said she and her mother had been frequently assaulted. Her own front teeth were all knocked out. "It's the drink," pleaded Boden, when asked what he had to say. "When I get it, I don't know what I do." He was sentenced to hard labour for six months, and, on coming out, to find bail for good conduct.

OUR POOR LAW ADMINISTRATION.—A poor man, a few days ago, committed a robbery from a clothier's shop, while in a state of utter destitution. He had been refused admission into the Westminster workhouse, on the plea that the place was full. On being brought before the magistrate on remand, he was discharged; and Mr. Arnold said that the workhouse authorities are bound to find accommodation, if they do not possess it. At Guildhall, on Thursday, Mr. Alderman Finnis called the attention of Mr. Phillips, the relieving officer of the West London Union, to the habit of sending back the children of criminals to their fathers, directly the latter leave prison, though they are thus left to the hazard of starvation. Mr. Phillips said it was done to prevent the parents abandoning their children.

THE BURNOPFIELD MURDER.—The inquest on the body of Mr. Robert Stirling, the surgeon, has concluded, after several very protracted sittings, in a verdict of wilful murder against Richard Rayne and John Cain.

THE TRAGEDY OF A "COMIC VOCALIST."—J. W. Sharpe, the once celebrated comic vocalist, died at the Dover Union on Thursday week. He had been wandering about the town night and day for the last three weeks, in a destitute condition, dissipation

having produced in him a most emacipated appearance.—*South Eastern Gazette.*

THE ORIENT.

INDIA.

THE Santal rebellion is nearly extinguished. Several skirmishes have taken place; four times have the insurgents been defeated by General Lloyd, with great loss; Seedoo, the original leader, has been seized, and lies under sentence of death; Kanoo, the second in command, is also captured; and six of the rebels have been hanged. It is thought that the tribe will be punished by having to make military roads through their fastnesses. The Legislative Council of Calcutta has passed a bill prohibiting the export of saltpetre, except in vessels bound to London or Liverpool, and ordaining that saltpetre shipped to any other place may be confiscated. This act has excited great indignation among the American merchants, who are principally affected.

"Another measure of some importance," says the *Times* Calcutta correspondent, "has been brought before the Legislature during the fortnight. By the modern interpretation of certain shastras, Hindoo widows are debarred from re-marriage. The betrothal, moreover, is held in this respect equivalent to marriage. Girls are usually betrothed before they are eight years old, and, of course, there are thousands of widows in the country who never entered their husband's house. Moreover, these unhappy girls are not only doomed to celibacy, but to slavery. They may wear no ornaments and eat no pleasant food, pass much of their time in fasting, and on all occasions take the lowest place in the household. These rules are obeyed to the letter, and the consequence is the almost universal demoralisation of the class. A statement of the whole truth to civilised readers is impossible; but I may point to the fearful prevalence of incest as one of the many evils of this enforced celibacy. Nor can the widow emancipate herself and shake off Hindooism and celibacy together. The British recognise the native law of inheritance, and the child of a re-married widow is therefore illegitimate by law." To remove this state of things, Mr. Grant has introduced a measure which declares the marriage of a widow legal.

The Salt-Water Creek, called the Mutlah, which runs parallel to the Hooghley at a point within twenty-five miles of Calcutta, has long been regarded by merchants as affording a second outlet for the commerce of that city. The Government has now consented to buoy off the Mutlah; and Messrs. Borradaile and Co. are about to load three ships there.—Of the capture of Herat, some few additional particulars have been transmitted to Europe. The mildness which at first characterised the conquest of that city soon gave place to the utmost ferocity. Mahomed Sadik Khan, the deposed chief, was put to death, together with his whole family, excepting one woman who was spared for the sake of her wealth, but cruelly tortured to induce her to give up her riches. Alarmed at the seizure of Herat by their common enemy, Persia, Dost Mahomed and his brothers have agreed to sink their differences, and to join in opposing the danger which threatens all alike.—The north-west frontier is tolerably quiet; but there is a rumour of an expedition from Peshawur against Saadut Khan a Momund chief, who is said to be preparing for a vigorous resistance. The cause of quarrel is not known. Some difficulty seems to be arising in Oudeypoor, the principal state of the Rajpoot confederacy. The Rana of that district exhibited a very friendly feeling towards us in the course of the Sikh war, and indeed afforded material assistance; but it is now said that we are adopting against him measures of so coercive a character that the result must be the total loss of his independence. On the other hand, however, it is asserted that our measures of coercion are in truth directed against the nobles of the Rana, with whom that monarch had a quarrel, and called upon our Government as mediators. The nobles, it is added, refused to abide by our mediation; and hence the present proceedings.—Nothing further has taken place in Oude since the fall of Ameer Ali; and it is now said that the kingdom is not to be annexed, but that, as in the case of Mysore, the whole administration is to be placed under the control of the Resident, who is to be king in every respect but in name.

Trade has not improved. Money at Bombay is getting scarcer daily; Government securities have fallen, and the banks have raised their rates of interest one per cent.

A singular circumstance attended the thanksgiving at Bombay ordered by the Governor-General for our successes in the Crimea. On the 2nd of December, the day fixed upon, the Parsees of their own accord met in the Town-hall to listen to a lecture on the freedom and blessings of the English government, contrasted with the tyranny and oppression of Russia, drawn up and delivered by one of their countrymen—Dossabhooy Framjee. The lecture being concluded, the service of the day was wound up by a prayer in favour of English rule,—a prayer not only remarkable

for its own excellence and appropriateness, but doubly so as one of the first ever delivered by a layman in public, and in the ordinary conversational language of the hearers, the Parsee worship being conducted, and their sacred books being written, wholly in an unknown tongue, unintelligible to the worshippers, and very imperfectly understood by the great body of the priesthood themselves.

PERSIA.

The cause of Mr. Murray's rupture with the Schah is said to be this:—A Persian, named Mirza Hashim received an appointment from Mr. Murray in connexion with the embassy; but the Persian government objected, and said the man would be seized if he left Teheran for Shiraz, the place to which he was appointed. The Government afterwards seized the man's wife, saying she should be violently divorced from her husband if he did not abandon his appointment. Mr. Murray interfered; demanded the liberation of the woman; and gave the Government four days for decision. Since then, the Persians are said to have sent very offensive letters to Mr. Murray, imputing that he had a personal motive for desiring the liberation of the woman. For this insult, Mr. Murray has demanded an apology, and has hauled down his flag.

CHINA.

The pirates in the Chinese seas have received a very severe chastisement at the hands of the English Captains Fellowes and Vansittart, and the American commander, Captain McCluney. Ample details of these actions have been transmitted by Admiral Stirling; and the chief facts are thus summarised in the leading columns of the *Times*:—

"Towards the conclusion of the month of May, Captain Fellowes, in the *Rattler*, had made a successful attack upon some pirates at Samchow, destroying many of their junks. Another similar operation followed in June. At the end of July, this active officer received tidings of the proximity of a piratical flotilla of a far more formidable character, and returned to Hongkong to take his measures. He had an interview with Captain McCluney, of the United States' frigate *Powhattan*, who placed at his disposal a volunteer force, consisting of two paddlebox-boats and a cutter, with sixty-six seamen and twenty-eight marines, under the command of Lieutenant Pegram. With this assistance, Captain Fellowes hurried off to the creeks in which the pirates had concealed themselves. After some futile endeavours to effect their escape, the piratical junks, thirty-four in number, and heavily armed, made a stand, and attempted to crush the allied boats with the fire of their broadsides. The boats, however, rapidly pulled up to them amid showers of shot; and the junks were carried. Nine of these were war-junks, mounting one hundred and thirty guns in all. The fleet had been manned, according to the estimate of Captain Fellowes, by a force of one thousand men. He calculates, further, that not less than five hundred of these were killed, wounded, or drowned,—so well-directed had been the shell and grape from the boats' guns and the musketry of the marines. The pirates had succeeded in obtaining armaments of no insignificant character; for Captain Fellowes speaks of a 68-pounder, of a large 18-pounder, weighing fifty hundred weight, 32, 24, 12, and 6 pounders. One junk had twenty-one guns mounted. The officers and seamen of the United States' contingent fought throughout with distinguished gallantry, and contributed in no inconsiderable degree to the success of the day.

"The scene of Captain Vansittart's operations was in the bay of Leotung. He started on the 7th of August last from Woosung, his sloop being in tow of the Confucius steamer, which had been manned from the United States' frigate *Macedonian*. The *Pavushan*, a small steamer, which was manned by persons interested in the success of the operations, was subsequently added to the force with which Captain Vansittart proceeded in search of the pirates. By the 20th of August, he had succeeded in destroying twenty junks of the fleet, all heavily armed. 'That they would not hesitate to attack merchantmen,' writes Captain Vansittart, 'is evident from the vigorous manner they opened and maintained their fire upon us. Their guns, six or seven to fourteen and upwards in each, vary from 24-pounders downwards; perhaps an occasional 32-pounder may be met with; but a nice sort of medium, eighteen, is the most common in use.' Finally, in the middle of September, in the neighbourhood of Sheipoo, Captain Vansittart came upon the remainder of the piratical fleet, and succeeded in destroying it. The arduous nature of the enterprise may be understood by the simple statement that, though they were engaged at five hundred yards' distance, it required an hour of hard fighting to silence the fire of the pirates."

EGYPT.

The Viceroy of Egypt has been compelled to curtail the salaries of Government officials, owing to the scanty rise of the Nile this year having caused several lands to be out of culture, and therefore to be exempt from paying taxes. Said Pacha intends to erect a palace on

the Lake Mareotis. The engineers sent out to survey the Isthmus of Suez have returned to Alexandria, and report favourably on the practicability of the canal to join the Mediterranean and the Red Sea. The report will be sent to Constantinople, to obtain, if possible, the adhesion of the Sublime Porte.

"It is now becoming a regular thing," says a communication from Egypt, "for travellers to visit the interior of the Great Mosque, on the site of the Temple. The Pacha of Jerusalem went so far as to offer to allow the Jews to enter the Mosque in order to pray for rain; but they refused, for two reasons;—first, because they were all ceremoniously unclean; secondly, because they might have put under their feet the words of the Law, which they believe to be buried under this mosque. The Jews, however, went to the tomb of Daniel to pray for rain, which came next day, but unfortunately soon ceased."

JAPAN.

A convention between Admiral Sir James Stirling, on the part of England, and the minister of the Emperor of Japan, has been signed and ratified. It provides that the ports of Nagasaki (Fisen) and Hokodadi (Matsmai) shall be open to English ships for the purpose of effecting repairs and obtaining fresh water, provisions, &c. Only ships in distress from weather, or unmanageable, will be permitted to enter other ports without the permission of the Imperial Government. English ships are to enjoy an equality of advantages with those of the most favoured nation, always excepting the advantages accruing to the Dutch and Chinese from their existing relations with Japan. The laws of Japan to be observed by English ships; otherwise, the ports to be closed.

PEACE.

RUSSIA UNCONDITIONALLY ACCEPTS THE AUSTRIAN TERMS AS A BASIS FOR NEGOTIATION.

Such was the intelligence which startled London on Thursday morning. It was doubted by many at first; but the second editions of the daily papers confidently announced the news as authentic, and yesterday the *Morning Post* published the fact that the Government had received an intimation from Sir Hamilton Seymour at Vienna that such was in truth the case. Negotiations, therefore, will be renewed; but it remains to be seen whether, as was the case last spring, Russia, after accepting the terms in the abstract, will not reject them in the concrete. The Vienna correspondent of the *Patrie* says, that the Peace negotiations will be carried on solely in that metropolis.

A brief sketch of the final stages which led to this result will not be uninteresting.

Count de Stackelberg was the bearer to the Court of Vienna of counter-propositions on the part of Russia. The *Morning Post* gives the annexed as the upshot of these propositions:—"Russia rejects the second clause of the first proposal—viz. the 'rectification of her frontier with Turkey.' She also rejects the fifth proposal, by which a right of producing special conditions is reserved to the belligerent Powers, and in virtue of which they would demand the engagement not to rebuild Bomarsund. Russia accepts the rest of the ultimatum, including the neutralisation of the Black Sea, with some modifications. In exchange for the strong places and territories occupied by the allies, Russia proposes to restore to the Porte Kars and the territories she has won from Turkey in Asia in the last campaign." Austria, however, exhibited unwonted firmness and decision. She gave Russia till the 18th inst. (yesterday), for declaring yes or no; and, in the event of the latter, she announced that she would at once break off diplomatic intercourse with the Cabinet of St. Petersburg. The counter-propositions of Russia are alleged to have been couched in very conciliatory language.

Notwithstanding this appearance of energy, Austria informed the Western Powers that she would not be prepared to enter the field this year in the event of Russia refusing her ultimatum. Whether she would ever have been "prepared" may be doubted; but her interference has certainly led to a prospect of peace.

M. Seebach has left St. Petersburg on his return to Dresden. Prince Augustus, of Wurtemberg, General in the service of Prussia, leaves for St. Petersburg. General Mansuroff has passed through Berlin on his way to Vienna.

CONTINENTAL NOTES.

FRANCE.

THE *Moniteur* of Friday week contains a long article in conspicuous type, reviewing the various legislative bodies comprised in the Imperial constitution, and objecting to the Senate that it has not fully carried out the purposes for which it was established. Those purposes are defined to be the taking the initiative in the proposal of new laws, and "the guardianship of all the principles and all the interests of which it is the embodiment and guarantee." The writer inquires whether "the Senate has fully understood all

the importance of so high a mission," or whether it has not "allowed itself, perhaps, to be dominated by the *souvenirs* and customs of the ancient peerage?" The Senatorial body is reminded that "its prerogatives are not those of the peerage; they are different, but they are far more numerous, more serious, more elevated." These remarks are prefaced by the observation that in all new constitutions it is found necessary at first to adopt somewhat from the older powers they have replaced. The article has created considerable sensation, and the various journals have made many attempts to construe its real meaning. The members of the Senate are understood to be greatly offended, but the Ministerial papers have endeavoured to show that the lecture was, in fact, complimentary in its spirit.

It appears from the returns of the Bank of France that the metallic reserve has decreased during the past month 5,430,462f. in Paris, and 13,860,824f. in the branch banks. The discount accommodation has increased in Paris 34,843,096f. and decreased in the departments 5,815,141f. The advances on public securities have increased in Paris 6,470,000f. and decreased in the departments 798,950f. The notes in circulation have increased 15,912,700f. in Paris, and decreased 830,450f. in the departments. The Treasury account current has decreased 21,026,340f., and those of private persons increased 13,951,457f. in Paris, and 879,472f. in the departments.

The Emperor on Sunday received Baron Hubner Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the Emperor of Austria, who presented to his Majesty the reply of the Germanic Diet to the letters of recall of the Marquis de Tallenay, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the Emperor at Frankfurt.

The police authorities of France (says the *Morning Post*) have lately discovered a Republican political movement of some extent, which has ramifications in various parts of France, especially in la Nièvre, les Deux Sèvres, and Charente. The authorities have ascertained that this proposed movement was planned in London; and the chiefs are said to be in constant communication with the revolutionary committees abroad. Measures have been taken to preserve public tranquillity.

The Emperor on Tuesday reviewed, in the Court of the Tuileries and in the Place du Carrousel, the different corps of the Imperial Guard and the Line which lately returned from the Crimea. On this occasion, the Duke of Cambridge distributed to the officers and men the commemorative medals granted to them by the Queen of England. The Emperor yielded the place of honour to the Duke, who, after some little hesitation, accepted it.

M. Magne, the Minister for Finance, has published the usual annual report, addressed to the Emperor, on the monetary condition of the country. The excess of money, realised from the resources of Government, over the expenditure actually made—that is to say, the money in hand—is, at this moment, 120,000,000 francs. This, joined to 415,000,000 francs, which have yet to be received from the two last loans, forms a disposable total of 535,000,000 francs, or £21,800,000. In conclusion, M. Magne thus sums up the general results:—"The simple sketch of the principal financial events of the past year shows us a commercial activity without a parallel; two enormous loans, paid up with the greatest regularity, and, in a great measure before the payments were due; besides the loans, more than 135,000,000 francs, a sum which had never before been known to have been employed in the purchase of *rentes*, for the departments: the direct contributions paid by anticipation, and almost without expense; a well-balanced budget; the going debt reduced; and all this despite the war, despite the crisis in the high price of food, despite the very considerable outlay which accidental circumstances imposed upon it." This, it will be observed, is the official account.

AUSTRIA.

The *Oesterreichische Zeitung* has changed hands, and is supposed now to be the property of Baron Bruck.

PRUSSIA.

General von Wrangel and other Prussian officers have been severely reprimanded by the King of Prussia for having been present at the *Te Deum* sung in the chapel of the Russian Embassy at Berlin in honour of the surrender of Kars.

The King of Prussia has promised a deputation from the Paris Evangelical Alliance Conference (including Sir Culling Eardley and others) that he will inquire into the acts of intolerance which have been said to have been committed in his kingdom; also, that he will instruct his representatives at several minor German courts to call the attention of those Governments to the similar accusations which have been made with regard to their states.

Several Princes of the Germanic Confederation are about to assemble at Berlin. The Prince Regent of the Grand Duchy of Baden, the Grand Duke of Saxe-Weimar, and the hereditary Prince presumptive of Anhalt-Dessau will be among the arrivals. The Prince of Hohenlohe arrived on Tuesday from Vienna.

RUSSIA.

The Princess Alexandrina of Oldenburg embraced

the Greco-Russian faith on the 6th inst. The marriage of the Princess with the Grand Duke Nicholas was celebrated on the 7th, with great ceremony. There was a grand gala at Court, in presence of the Imperial family.

The Council of War at St. Petersburg has pronounced judgment against seven members and the President of a Tribunal of Commerce in the south. They are understood to have appropriated funds belonging to the State Treasury, as well as those belonging to the Tribunal itself.

TURKEY.

The two Greeks who, on the 16th of September last, murdered a gunner of the French brig of war Olivier, were executed at Smyrna on the 29th ult. On the 1st inst., three other executions took place at Smyrna, the first at the Fassola, the second at the Three Streets, and the third outside the first bazaar, which are the most frequented points of the city. The culprits were also Greeks. They had formed part of the band of Simo, who, last June, arrested and carried off several persons in the vicinity of Bourabat, and were subsequently convicted of various murders.

Omar Pasha's house at Constantinople has been officially sealed up. The measure has been taken in favour of his children by his late wife, who at her death left a large property.

A commission, which had been appointed to consider the demand of Lord Redcliffe relative to the abolition of sanitary measures in favour of transports in the service of the allied armies, has reported that the quarantine is necessary as a safeguard against disease.

GREECE.

The Greek Government has signed with the Porte a treaty for the suppression of brigandage; and the bandits are now being hunted down without mercy.

DENMARK.

The existence of a Danish circular despatch, repudiating Denmark's solidarity with Sweden's treaty, and promising to maintain strict neutrality in future, is denied by the official journal at Copenhagen.

THE DANUBIAN PRINCIPALITIES.

Prince Stirbey continues to make as many difficulties as he can. "M. Kretzoulesco," says a letter from Bucharest (Dec. 29th), "having demanded his passports for Constantinople, Prince Stirbey declined giving them to him. The Consul-General of Prussia and Suleiman Pacha had to interfere, and at last the order was given to the local police to grant the passports for Italy, en route for Constantinople. M. Kretzoulesco leaves next week for Varna. The Austrian battalions have marched, in spite of the excessive cold which we have had for more than a week. They are not, however, five, but seven battalions, which return to their country for the purpose of being disbanded."

Stirbey and the Austro-Russian party in the Principalities are in delight at that article in the conditions of peace which leaves the Wallachians and Moldavians to the administration of their own affairs. The Hospodar will thus be left free to oppress the miserable people without any effective control from the Porte; and it is but too obvious that any form of popular government will be a mere pretence. The writer of a letter from Bucharest complains bitterly of France, England, and Austria conniving at doing the very same thing which Russia effected in 1830—taking the Principalities from the protection of Turkey, to put them under the heel of the Hospodar, who is a mere creature of the Czar and of Austria, and who, in plain words, refuses to listen to the complaints of the poor people outraged by the Croats. England is thought to be least culpable in this respect. The dignified conduct of her representative is contrasted with that of the French minister.

SPAIN.

Thirty-two persons have been arrested for taking part in the émeute which recently took place in Madrid; and tranquillity now reigns both in the capital and in the provinces. The disturbance at the palace of the Cortes (which we briefly reported last week) arose from the instigation of a drunken sergeant of the militia, who posted men at the doors, and, ordering them to load their muskets, told them to prevent the departure of any of the deputies. Seditious cries, in favour of a Republic, were uttered; some of the deputies were menaced, others insulted; and Espartero, having been sent for by the Cortes, assured the members that he would put down the émeute in the course of a few minutes, or lose his life. The mutineers continued shouting, and occasionally firing their pieces in the air; but dispersed on the arrival of cavalry. Several arrests have been made.—Another insurrection has taken place at Alroy, in the province of Alicante, arising out of a quarrel with the corporation. The National Guard sided with the people; but the disturbance was ultimately put down.

The Cortes have adopted the first eight articles for conceding the Saragossa railway to the Grand Central Company. The writer of a letter from San Sebastian calls attention to the immense quantity of corn produced last year in the peninsula, especially

in Navarre, and to the great extent of the dealings with France and England; so that had it not been for the cholera, 1855 would have been one of the most prosperous years ever known by the Spanish agricultural and mercantile classes. The want of large bonding warehouses, and of an easy mode of conveyance from one part of the kingdom to others—clumsy carts drawn slowly by horses being used in the place of railroads—is also pointed out by the letter writer, who conceives that an improvement in this respect is only wanted to make Spain the granary of England, and to prove the source of great national wealth.

"Senor Battles," says a letter from Madrid, "who lately presented a bill to the Cortes by which marriage was declared to be a civil contract, which, however, he has since withdrawn, has introduced another bill, which qualifies as working days all the days of the week except Sunday. It was referred to the sections as a preliminary proceeding to authorise or refuse their sanction to its being read, and the authorisation to read it has been granted by six out of the seven sections, one only (the second) having refused it."

M. M. Pereire, of the Credit Mobilier Company, have obtained the concession of the projected line of railroad from Lisbon to the Spanish frontier. A masqued ball has been given at Madrid at the Teatro Real for the benefit of the wounded soldiers in the Crimea. Owing to bad weather, the attendance was not large.

ITALY.

Inquiries are being instituted at Rome into a conspiracy against the Papal Government. Three men are in custody. A manufactory for making poignards has been discovered.

Prince Don Tomaso Corsini, Councillor of State for Finances, died at Rome on the 6th. He was in his ninetieth year.

NAVAL AND MILITARY NEWS.

LOSS OF THE TRANSPORT SHIP BARRACKPORE.—The Barrackpore (French transport), Captain Louttit, of London, was lost off the island of Marmora on the night of the 14th ult. The ship was laden with hay for the French army; and, about nine o'clock, while under three close-reefed topsails, a strong gale blowing from the north-eastward, with thick snow showers, she was driven on the east part of the island of Marmora. So thick was the weather, that, within twenty minutes of first seeing the land, the ship was among the breakers. All hands got safely on shore. They just succeeded in getting a footing on the crags. They had no means of communicating or getting away from the island until Friday, the 21st ult., when her Majesty's steamer Oberon came and took them off.

SPEAKING-TUBES FOR FLOATING-BATTERIES.—The Trusty, fourteen guns, floating-battery, Captain Frederick A. Campbell, and the Thunder, floating-battery, fourteen guns, Captain George G. Randolph, are both being fitted with gutta percha speaking-tubes leading from aft to forward on the main gundeck, communicating with the intended shot-proof look-out house on deck for the officer in command giving orders for placing ship in time of action, and for giving, from any given number of guns, a concentrated broadside fire. Mr. William Wolfe Bonney, the inventor of this mode of communication during action, has recently been engaged in superintending the fitting of similar tubes to all the French floating-batteries now fitting at the French Imperial dock-yards.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR.—Lord Panmure, Secretary of State for War, has been suffering for some days past from an attack of gout. The attack is a severe one, and has affected the right hand. A conference would have been held at the War Department on Friday week, in the middle of the day, of a committee of the Cabinet Ministers to meet some of the principal naval and military authorities; but the illness of the Secretary of State for War caused the meeting to be postponed.

TESTIMONIAL TO LORD CARDIGAN.—A very handsome silver-gilt sword, richly chased, of the value of about two hundred and fifty guineas, has been purchased by public subscription in Yorkshire, as a testimonial of admiration to Lord Cardigan for the gallantry with which he led on the cavalry in the celebrated charge at Balaklava in October, 1854.

SINKING OF AN EXPERIMENTAL MORTAR BOAT.—The first trial, which took place on Friday week, at Portsmouth, of the new India-rubber collapsing mortar boat or raft, invented by the Rev. E. Berthon, of Farnham, was attended by a melancholy accident. After the discharge of the fifteenth shell, the vessel sank with thirteen men on board. All were rescued with the exception of one. It appears that the raft's sides were completely blown out by the concussion.

IRELAND.

THE PRIESTS AND THE PAPAL INTERDICTION.—The conference of the Tenant League is announced to assemble next Tuesday; but, contrary to usual custom, no priests will be present, in consequence of the Papal interdict procured by Dr. Cullen, which

prohibits clergymen from attending political meetings. Mr. George Bowyer, the member for Dundalk, has recently been making a speech with reference to the Irish party, and has been stating that it is powerless in Parliament. "We shall meet Parliament without a leader, without a plan, without union, without independent action."

DECLINE OF CRIME IN CORK.—The *Cork Examiner* contains the following paragraph:—"A circumstance as gratifying as entirely unprecedented took place at the opening of the Cork Sessions, the Assistant-Barrister, Sergeant Berwick, having been presented with a pair of white gloves by Mr. Townsend, Sub-Sheriff of the county, there being no criminal case whatever for trial before his worship. This is the first time such an occurrence has taken place in this city; and, when the nature of the offences usually tried in this court is remembered, the circumstance speaks loudly for the absence of crime in a district so extensive as the Cork division of the East Riding." Yet the Cork magistrates have decided against a reduction of the extra police force by a majority of forty-four to thirty-nine.

A METEOR IN IRELAND.—Atmospheric phenomena have been observed in Ireland as well as in various parts of England and in France. A Longford paper thus alludes to a meteor in that locality:—"At a quarter to ten o'clock on Thursday morning (Jan. 10th), a meteor of very unusual appearance and magnitude, and at no great elevation (not over eleven degrees), and visible for nearly ten seconds, passed this town from W. to S. by W., with an oscillating motion and a tail of great length. Both meteor and tail appeared of a brilliant silver colour. The sun had not made its appearance at the time. The barometer then stood at twenty-nine degrees, thermometer twenty-six degrees; wind N. by E., hard frost during the night."

A CONVICT CLERGYMAN.—It is stated that the Lord Bishop of Cork is about to institute proceedings in the ecclesiastical courts for the purpose of declaring the parish of Inniscarra vacant by reason of the conviction and sentence to transportation for life for forgery of its rector, the Rev. W. Beresford. These proceedings, it is said, will be defended by the creditors of the convict. The parish has for a number of years been sequestered, and the revenue collected by a receiver under the court, for the benefit of the creditors, whose debts amount to a very considerable sum. The defence which, it is understood, will be set up is a denial of vacancy, on the ground that the incumbent is not dead in law, as the prerogative of the Crown may at any time be exercised in his behalf by granting him a free pardon. Many persons look on this defence as futile, but it is said that legal opinions of high character speak confidently of its sustinment.—*Cork Constitution.*

THE MURDER OF MISS HINDS.—Several men have been arrested, and are now in Cavan Gaol charged with the murder of Miss Hinds. With one exception, they are tenants on the estates of the deceased lady.

A DIOCESAN SEMINARY.—The Right Rev. Dr. Murphy, titular of Cloyne, has issued a short pastoral to the laity under his spiritual jurisdiction, calling upon them for their assistance towards the foundation of a diocesan seminary for the preparatory education of the youth aspiring to the ecclesiastical state. In the course of this pastoral, he observes:—"The gold of England, the influence of the nobility and gentry, the violent prejudices of its benighted people, together with the undying hatred and malevolence of the Protestant church in Ireland, are still arrayed against us. Were it not for the intervention of Providential circumstances, the storm of persecution so lately raised by one of the professing liberal statesmen of England, should, probably ere this, have burst over our heads, and swept in its destructive course every trace of that provision made by the Government for the education of the Catholic clergy of Ireland. It becomes, then, our imperative duty to avail ourselves of the respite from persecution thus vouchsafed to us by a kind Providence, and to render ourselves independent, as far as lies in our power, of that provision which rests on the mere sufferance of our enemies."

REORGANISATION OF THE LAND TRANSPORT CORPS.—This force is to be organised upon a similar plan to that of the "Royal Waggon Train," which was of very great utility during the Peninsular war, and subsequently at Waterloo.

OBITUARY.

THE RIGHT HON. HENRY GOULBURN, M.P. for the University of Cambridge, died last Saturday morning at Beechworth House, near Dorking, after a very short illness. He was born in 1784; educated at Cambridge; and first sat in the House of Commons as member for Horsham in 1807. He entered official life in 1810, when he was Under Secretary of State for the Home Department in the ministry of the Duke of Portland and afterwards in that of Mr. Perceval. He has since filled various other offices, the latest being the Chancery of the Exchequer under Sir Robert Peel's last administration.

THE HON. MRS. G. VILLIERS, mother of Lord

Clarendon, died at her son's seat at Watford on Saturday night in her eighty-first year.

MR. SERJEANT ADAMS expired on Thursday week at his residence, 9, Hyde-park-street, after a short but most severe illness. He was in his seventieth year, and until recently appeared in robust health. As chairman of the sessions, and as assistant-judge, the late Serjeant has presided on the Middlesex bench for twenty years, and during his career there he tried 31,400 prisoners. Eccentric in manner, and some times even undignified, so much as to incur reproach, he was humane and merciful at heart, careful, painstaking, and discriminating, and his acts of private benevolence, even to prisoners after sentence, were not "few and far between."—*Express.*

THE ROMANCE OF "THE TIMES."

[Under this head, we reproduce from week to week the most remarkable of those mysterious advertisements which appear every day at the top of the second column of the *Times* front page. Such materials are worthy of being preserved in some other form.]

ADA.—Yes, Write.

HOPE.—Direct to the friends you used to call on.

POETICUS.—Where are you now? 4, 128, 256, 272, 5, 96. Yours have not been received. Be just.—**TRUTH.**

DEAR PHIL.—Let me know where I can see you.

It is most urgent. Still your sincere friend, J. K. **OH, Harry, Harry,** come back, come back, to your disconsolate friends in the Crescent, Nos. 1 and 2.

E.—No. 3 received on Tuesday; No. 2 on Friday afternoon. Have hope, patience, and an indomitable will.—**R.N.**

FRANGIPANI.—Do not doubt me. Numbers 67, 412, 87. You will now comprehend the delay.

R. S.—James still lingers. I am well. I trust your health has improved.

R. S.—Ordered to travel, for my health. Shall not return yet. Be happy.

H.B.M.—He that conquers a fault is even more worthy than if he had never erred. With truth and honour for your weapons—hope still.—**Royal Navy.**

HEBE.—Did you see my advertisement of the 9th? I must see or hear from you. Remember how I have suffered.

T. V. M. H.—Has the last application failed? Write again to B. I will see your brother again. You know that I will use every exertion to get your affairs settled. Be prudent, and all will go well. I shall see you on the 24th. Write. God bless you!

ROMEO and JULIA.—Wednesday's and Friday's news have duly arrived. You will find my communications at the same place, and the same day as last week.—January 12, 1856.

THE ADMIRAL.—I have called twice. Presto was not at home. I cannot account for it. One awaits you at Porte St. Martin. Do not keep me longer in suspense. Alas! alas!

THE GENTLEMAN who took by mistake (?), from Mrs. de Arroyava's Ball, last Friday, a thick grey and pink silk neck-handkerchief, will do Mr. F. Blomfield a favour by sending it to the Conservative Club, when he has quite done with it!

DEAREST MINNIE, we forgive you, and wish you God-speed. Look at the *Times* daily.

TEN POUNDS REWARD.—Missing.—Thomas Spiller left the Orange-grove, Bath, on Monday evening, January 7th, to go to Twerton, and has not since been heard of. He is about 40 years of age, 5 feet 6 inches high, very stout, has a profusion of dark hair, and large bushy black whiskers; had on a black coat, velvet waistcoat, black trousers, and a low felt hat (which has since been found); also wore in his shirt studs set in silver, attached by a small silver chain. He had in his possession sundry papers, keys, &c. Mr. Spiller was clerk in the Sun Fire-office, Bath; librarian of the Bath Athenaeum; secretary to the Bath City Lodge of Odd Fellows, M.U., and corresponding secretary of the Bath district. Information to be given to Mr. H. Lloyd, Bath City Weighing Engine.—January 14th, 1856.

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE BANK CHARTER ACT OF 1844.—A special meeting of the council of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce, recently held, adopted a resolution to the effect that the war can never be properly carried out until the present monetary system be reformed, and that therefore it is the duty of Parliament to take steps towards considering the effects produced by the acts of 1819 and 1844, and thus "calling out the energy and power of the nation."

THE BEACON FIRE ON MALVERN HILLS.—This fire was lighted on Thursday week, but as an experiment was not so successful as had been hoped for. The materials of the fire consisted of the following combustibles:—450 faggots, 5 cords of wood, 12 tar barrels, 2 barrels of tar, 2 tons of coals, 3 or 4 loads of hoppers, 2 loads of furze or gorse, 1 barrel of naphtha, and twelve poplar-trees. The fire was lighted precisely at seven o'clock (Greenwich time). It did not, however, give out so large a flame as had been anticipated, and the high wind which blew on

the top of the hill (though it was calm in the valleys) prevented its ascending. From accounts received from various spots of observation, it appears the fire was seen at many distant elevated spots, while at others nearer it was not observed, or only very indistinctly.

SUICIDE FROM ERYSIPELAS.—Mr. Edwin Webster Corsbie, a young man at Norwich, has shot himself through the head in the office of his employers (solicitors), and in the presence of his brother. He had borrowed a pistol some days before, and had been heard to talk about shooting himself; but the only motive that can be discovered was that he had suffered from erysipelas.

THE METEOR OF THE 7TH INST.—Several correspondents of the *Times*, dating from various localities—such as Ventnor, Clifton, and Grimsby—have communicated accounts of this phenomenon. The writer from Grimsby says:—"The extraordinary meteor noticed in your journal of the 8th and 9th ult. was seen here in the S.S.W. on Monday, the 7th, at about a quarter to five o'clock in the afternoon. Its appearance agreed in the main with the description of your correspondents, the chief variance consisting in its emitting lateral sparks of fire as it shot towards the earth, which kept increasing until it burst immediately on entering a somewhat dense cloud. Its course was distinctly marked for some time afterwards by a bright streak of light, which varied with the wind, until it faded away in form like unto a sickle. Some boys, on seeing it, exclaimed, 'There's the moon a-coming down!'—an impression not unnatural in them, as in size it appeared to vie with that luminary."

GOVERNMENT ARTISANS AND THE INCOME TAX.—A large number of artisans and mechanics employed at the arsenal and dockyards, Woolwich, have been served with notices for payment of the income tax. Much excitement prevails amongst the men, who have held a meeting to protest against the proposed payment, on the grounds that their increased earnings have resulted from working several hours overtime daily at the request of the authorities, and in consequence of the demand for their labour incident upon the war.

PUBLIC READING OF MACAULAY'S HISTORY.—A public reading of "Macaulay's History of England," beginning with the third volume, was commenced at Mr. Wyld's excellent news-rooms, in Leicester-square, on Monday evening. The room was well attended, and the reader was listened to with deep interest by a respectable auditory. The idea is a capital one.

GREAT FIRE NEAR THE NEW-ROAD.—A fire of more than usual magnitude burst forth last Saturday night on the premises of Messrs. Hopkinson and Co., pianoforte manufacturers near Fitzroy-square, New-road. The flames were communicated to the organ-building warehouse of Messrs. Grey and Davison; and for some time it was feared that a beautiful Gothic organ for the abbey church of Sherborne in Dorsetshire, and several others, would be sacrificed. But, by great exertions, no greater injury was done to Messrs. Grey and Co's premises than the burning of a portion of the roof. The fire, however, burnt all night; and Messrs. Hopkinson's warehouse was entirely destroyed, together with a large stock of instruments and all the workmen's tools. The building and its contents were insured for £2,000.

THE PROJECTED ROAD ACROSS ST. JAMES'S PARK.—A deputation from some gentlemen residing in the neighbourhood of St. James's Park (including Mr. Benj. Hawes, Mr. Whately, Q.C., Mr. Keating, M.P., Q.C., and others) waited recently on Sir Benjamin Hall, to ascertain from him the intentions of Government with regard to the projected road across St. James's Park. The Minister for Public Works assured the deputation that he had no independent action in the matter; and that he only moved in accordance with directions received from the Secretary of State for the Home Department, by whom he had been instructed to prepare a plan in accordance with certain data. That plan would be submitted to Sir George Grey, by whom it would be laid on the table of the House of Commons. Nothing as yet had been done towards the execution of the plan. Sir Benjamin observed:—"There are three parks—St. James's, Hyde Park, and the Green Park—which are the property of her Majesty, and under the authority of the rangers. In these, I cannot build a lodge, or make or alter a footpath, without authoritative instructions. It is otherwise in the case of the Victoria, Battersea, and Regent's Parks, which I may call the people's parks."

FATAL BOILER EXPLOSION.—A boiler has exploded in the works of Messrs. Hickman, iron-masters, of Sea Brook, Tipton, Staffordshire, on Monday last, by which four men have lost their lives, and fifteen other persons have been seriously injured. An inquest has opened, but stands adjourned.

ACADEMIC REFORM.—A lecture on the subject of Administrative and Academic Reform, by Mr. James Heywood, M.P., F.R.S., was delivered at the Manchester Athenæum on Monday. In the course of his remarks, the lecturer mentioned that, at a public meeting recently held at Birmingham, a memorial to Prince Albert (as Chancellor of the University of

Cambridge) was adopted, praying for a larger measure of Academic Reform than had yet been granted by Parliament, and that the Prince returned for answer that he had no absolute power in his own hands, but that he had transmitted the memorial for the consideration of the resident University authorities.

HOW MR. COTTON EMBRACED HIS ZELINDA.—Mr. Cotton, a dramatic singer, has brought an action in the Marylebone County Court against Mr. Augustus Braham and Miss Rebecca Isaacs, who recently opened the City of London Theatre for an operatic season. Though but a novice, Mr. Cotton was engaged, and appeared in the part of Captain Clifton in "The Slave." However, he could not recollect his part, and apparently managed so ill that he was not allowed to go on, and next day he was discharged. He therefore sued for eight guineas, the amount of one week's salary. Mr. Searle, the stage manager, being called for the defence, said:—"On his first entrance before the audience, I told him quietly if he did not alter he would be hooted. He had these words to speak—'Where, where is my dearest Zelinda?' in a mild, inquiring way on the side wing, and afterwards to come on the stage and embrace Zelinda; but, instead of acting thus wise, his entrance was in a sort of Bombastes Furioso style, and he embraced Zelinda as a bear would a musket. (Roars of laughter.) I could not hear one word after this. The audience were in fits. (Laughter.) I then called the principal actors together, and they agreed with me that I must cut Mr. Cotton's part out altogether. I consider that the audience gave him every chance, but after his acting they would not hear him." Nevertheless, he obtained a verdict for the sum claimed, and costs.

MR. JOSIAH WILKINSON has sent in his resignation as a member of the Metropolitan Board of Works, conceiving that he can effect more good by labouring merely as a servant of the board.

PITCAIRN'S ISLAND.—An interesting communication has been received from this place. The inhabitants were all well on the 14th of September, 1855, the date of the chaplain's letter to the Rev. T. B. Murray. They had heard of the death of the Czar Nicholas; but as no newspaper was on board the vessel which conveyed the intelligence, they were still in the dark. Though they had suffered some anxiety from a poor yam harvest, they had a good stock of sweet potatoes to turn to and the "pinch of the year" was past. They were awaiting the measures of Government for their transfer to Norfolk Island, some having relinquished house-building in expectation of this important change.

AUSTRALIA.—Advices from Sydney to the 1st of October have been received. The trade of New South Wales remains on the whole in a sound condition, though it has been greatly shaken by the officially declared insolvencies, and rumoured failures of many mercantile firms, and by the delay on the part of the Government in bringing forward the new tariff bill. The Public Works Loans Bill had been read a third time and passed. Its object is to authorize the negotiations of loans in Great Britain, or elsewhere out of the colony, and which together with the interest shall be a primary charge upon the public revenue of the colony.

THE NIGHTINGALE FUND.—A meeting for the purpose of aiding this fund was held at the Town-hall, Manchester, on Tuesday morning; the Mayor presiding. The Right Hon. Sidney Herbert, M.P., Lord Stanley, M.P., Mr. Monckton Milnes, M.P., and others, addressed the meeting. An unusual pressure on our space precludes our giving an analysis of the speeches.

BANKRUPTCY OF A SHIPBUILDER.—The affairs of Mr. Mare, the well-known shipbuilder at Blackwall, are now in the Court of Bankruptcy. It is expected that there will be a dividend of ten shillings in the pound.

A FEROCIOUS DOG.—A man at Aston, near Birmingham, has been attacked by a large Newfoundland dog, which worried him horribly about the throat and face, and then seized his left arm in his teeth. Another man came to the sufferer's assistance, and fractured the dog's skull with a poker; but, not until a few minutes of his death, did the brute relax his hold. The man attacked was conveyed to the hospital, and, though acutely suffering, is progressing favourably.

SUICIDE OF A SOLICITOR.—Mr. Harrison, a solicitor at Kendal, Westmoreland, has committed suicide by hanging himself. Disappointment and resentment at a bill he had attended, is one of many reasons assigned for the act.

THE EASTERN COUNTIES RAILWAY.—A meeting of the town council of Cambridge has taken place, to consider the alleged perilous state of the Eastern Counties Railway between London and Cambridge. Resolutions were adopted to the effect that, as the dangerous state of the line had been made manifest by a report of Lieutenant-Colonel Wynne to the Board of Trade, the council were glad to find that the directors of the company were impressed with the importance of taking immediate measures; that the Board of Trade be requested to cause surveys to be made of the other lines of railway worked by the

Eastern Counties Company; and that the powers possessed by the Board of Trade are not sufficient for the protection of the public. A report from a committee of the town council expressed a feeling of dissatisfaction that the management of the railway is solely in the hands of the shareholders, without including any one to represent the principal towns through which the line passes.

Postscript.

LEADER OFFICE, Saturday Morning, Jan. 19.
THE PEACE.

A DESPATCH from "Berlin, Thursday night," says:—"Yesterday, at two o'clock, Count Nesselrode and Count Valentine Esterhazy signed, at St. Petersburg, a protocol containing the conditions proposed by the Allies, as the formulation of the preliminaries of peace."

The *Debats* states that Count Nesselrode, in his first reply to the Austrian Cabinet, says that the Emperor Alexander has expressed his desire for peace. "The internal regime of Russia requires profound reforms, without which the Russian nation cannot hope to attain to the degree of civilisation which other nations have reached. The Emperor is convinced that his mission consists in introducing amongst his people some grand social and civil ameliorations: and he is impatient to commence his work."

The *Rouz-Name*, the official Persian journal, expresses the regret of the Government that the rupture with Mr. Murray should still continue, "owing to the persistence with which Mr. Murray proposes unacceptable arrangements." But this, it is added, will lead to no rupture between the two states. Persia will not leave "the path of neutrality."

FOREIGN NOTES.

ENGLISH steamers have re-entered the Baltic, and captured several Russian traders.

No political amnesty was granted by Naples on the 12th. The Government has refused to permit the exportation of grain.

The bill for a loan of thirty millions of francs has been adopted by the Turin Chamber of Deputies by a majority of 109 to 28.

THE SECRETARY TO THE METROPOLITAN BOARD OF WORKS.

THE election of a Secretary to the new Metropolitan Board of Works, interesting as the second trial of strength between the parties struggling for ascendancy in that Board, was decided to-day; Messrs. WOOLRYCH and WILKINSON, the two candidates between whom the contest lay, starting with 26 votes each on the first show of hands; Mr. WILKINSON obtaining a majority of 22 to 20, and 22 to 21, on the third and fourth show of hands; which, strange to say, on the sixth and final trial (when all the other candidates had been successively eliminated) the numbers were reversed, Mr. WOOLRYCH being elected by 23 to 19. It is difficult to explain fluctuations, which appear to show that some members voted alternately for both candidates; a circumstance which does not augur so favourably as we could have wished, for the future working of the new municipal assembly.

It is understood that the Government will introduce, in the coming session, an important measure for the regulation of Joint Stock Companies. Under this Act, every director will be made responsible, personally, for the acts of the entire board; and directors abetting a misrepresentation of the Company's affairs will be liable to prosecution for misdemeanour.

MARRIAGE OF SIR ROBERT PEELE.—Sir Robert Peel has been married to Lady Emily Hay at the Royal Chapel, Whitehall. A magnificent *dejeuner* was afterwards given by the Duchess of Wellington, when Earl Granville and Lord Palmerston made gallant and humorous speeches.

SIR THOMAS MITCHELL, Surveyor General of New South Wales, died on the 5th of October last year, aged sixty-four. His funeral was a public one, the deceased having been much respected.

THE RUGELEY CASES.—The trial of William Palmer, of Rugeley, will, it is said, take place at Stafford in the first week of April. It appears from the Spring circuit of Judges just issued that he will be tried by the new Judge, Mr. Baron Bramwell, as Mr. Justice Crosswell, who accompanies him on the Oxford circuit, will take the *nisi prius* cases at Stafford.

THE MURDER OF A SOLICITOR.—An inquest has been opened on the body of Mr. Waugh, but is adjourned till Monday next.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice can be taken of anonymous communications. Whatever is intended for insertion must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer; not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of his good faith.

It is impossible to acknowledge the mass of letters we receive. Their insertion is often delayed, owing to a press of matter; and when omitted, it is frequently from reasons quite independent of the merits of the communication.

Communications should always be legibly written, and on one side of the paper only. If long, it increases the difficulty of finding space for them.

We cannot undertake to return rejected communications.

The Leader.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 19, 1856.

Public Affairs.

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

THE RUSSIAN ACCEPTANCE.

THERE is a clear distinction between the acceptance of the Austrian proposals by Russia, "unconditionally," and her acceptance of them "as a basis of negotiation." An unconditional acceptance would imply that Russia has submitted, explicitly and literally, to certain terms; and that it only remains for the Allies, conjointly with the mediating Power, to give them effect. This, however, is the unofficial version. The more guarded Governmental organs, with surer means of information, state that the Austrian scheme has been accepted only "as a basis," which would leave room for any extent of equivocation and compromise, of discussion and modification. If this view be correct, Europe has not advanced, diplomatically, beyond the point at which she stood before the Vienna Conferences. Russia accepted the Four Points, without reservation, "as a basis;" but, in the debates which ensued, it was found that she treated as matters of detail, stipulations which the Western Powers maintained as matters of principle. So it may prove in the present negotiations. Supposing, however, the clear and unconditional acceptance by Russia of the Austrian propositions, many important arrangements have to be carried out before the settlement will be complete. It would be undeniable, in such a case, that the original objects of the war have been fulfilled. Turkey will have been secured, and, in a certain sense, avenged. The violated frontier of the Danube will have been placed under new guarantees. In the South, Russian influence will have receded—Sebastopol exists no longer, and powerful naval armaments are not to be permitted in the Euxine. The Protectorate monopoly will have been abolished. Finally, Russia will have acknowledged that she owes compensation for an injury perpetrated against her weak neighbour; she will have yielded to the public law of Europe, and confessed herself unable to sustain pretensions which she long refused even to abate.

But, out of the original question, other questions have arisen. These are: the military occupation of the Crimea, the position of Austria in the Principalities, the protection of the Danubian Delta, the definition of the Asiatic frontier of Russia—never yet defined—the fortifications of the Aland Isles, the relations between the Scandinavian and the Western Powers, and of Sardinia with the rest of Italy and with Austria. If these points are not included in the settlement, what will

the settlement be worth? Of what duration will the good understanding be?

Interpreting the Russian reply, however, in its probable sense—the acceptance of the proposals "as a basis"—it may be an imposture, and, if entertained at all, must have an ambiguous effect. Morally, it means nothing less than that Russia is now forced into an attitude of submission; diplomatically, it leaves everything unsettled. There is this difference between an unconditional and a vague acceptance. An unconditional acceptance admits of no discussion as to principles, but simply as to the methods of putting them into execution. An acceptance of the terms as a "basis" means, broadly, that Russia is willing to negotiate, and to approach, directly or indirectly, the plan laid down by Austria and the Allies.

The ambiguous result we allude to is, then, that the re-opening of negotiations, within this indefinite area, must have the effect of relaxing the naval and military preparations of the Allies. With a probability of peace before them, is it reasonable to believe that they will continue expending their treasures, fitting out their armaments, preparing the means of invasion? Men do not, in private life, litigate with unabated pertinacity when there is a prospect of a compromise. A formal armistice would not, in all likelihood, be declared, yet a virtual suspension of arms would no doubt follow the announcement of a new Conference, even at Brussels. No truce ensued upon the discussion of the Four Points; but at that moment a great military operation was in progress which no event, short of the actual signing of a treaty, could interrupt. We are now on the debateable ground between peace and war. No warlike movements are actually proceeding; and, we repeat, the inevitable effect of a vague debate with Russia on "the basis" of the Austrian proposals, must be to paralyse those whom Napoleon called "the organisers of victory." In such a diplomatic contest it is easy to foretell on which side the superiority will lie. Whether sincere or not in her intention of procuring peace, Russia will send to the Conferences her most practised diplomatists, who may obtain a success in their department, while the Imperial administrators gain time to fortify the Baltic, and to move new levies into Southern Russia and the Transcaucasian provinces. Therefore, no language held by Russia, unless it pledged her to accept, unconditionally, the terms admitted by the Allies, should induce any relaxation of the preparations for war. No such relaxation is discernible on her part. Her proclamations in Asia Minor, and the concentration of her forces on the Courland frontier point to an opposite probability. If a debate is to be opened, there are numerous points of difference which may be bars to peace. To suggest one: the idea of surrendering Kars as a set off against the surrender of Sebastopol by the Allies is not only preposterous, but it indicates a determination not to part with any of the Bessarabian territory.

For ourselves, we have no desire to see an aimless war prolonged. We have consistently expressed the opinion that the present struggle will be only political and diplomatic in its results, and that it has nothing to do with the liberties or with the civilisation of Europe. At the same time, however, there is an English point of view from which English journalists must regard the war. Its diplomatic objects being just, they must be taken by force, if Russia will not concede them. If Russia is prepared to concede them, we think the English public is prepared for peace; if not, at whatever sacrifice to individuals of interest or feeling, the struggle must be unflinchingly pursued. When tranquillity is restored in Europe

it will be time to reckon with that governing class whose incapacity has allowed the national reputation to suffer during a two years' war which has cost England one hundred and fifty millions of money and thirty thousand men.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

It is difficult to see into the motives of men, but the results of their actions can be seen. Whatever may have dictated the bullying course taken on our part towards the United States—whether it was an aristocratic contempt for the citizens of a community which has no titled grandees, or some positive misinformation carried to head quarters—the result is, that our statesmen have prepared humiliation for themselves and their country. They have placed themselves in the position of endeavouring to extort what they cannot compel, and of losing what they might have had for the asking; and they have prepared for General PIERCE a triumph over them, from which they might easily have shut him out. Our readers will remember that when the first demonstrations against the United States were made in this country, we explained the character of the two chief questions that then existed. There were, we said, other points in dispute, but these were the chief. They were the infraction of the Neutrality Act by the open recruitment of soldiers for the British Legion in the United States, and the violation of the BULWER-CLAYTON treaty in Central America. The President's message will be found in exact accordance with the explanations we then gave; only, if we may be permitted to say so, our own explanation was much clearer than that which FRANKLIN PIERCE appears to be able to give to Congress.

The recruitment was really an unimportant affair, and it was made important only by the malignant intrigues of the subordinates whom Mr. CRAMPTON and Mr. HOWE too greatly trusted. Stinted in means, Mr. HOWE was not able to be so open-handed as the representatives of an aristocratic country like this should have been; he permitted himself to purchase the service of three or four cosmopolitan adventurers, who really became agents and informers against him. Whether or not, he had not money enough fairly to purchase their service; or whether, while they pocketed his money, they worked for the enemy, we know not; but certain it is, that they, his servants, rendered his case as open as it could be in the defiance of the Neutrality Act, and then informed against him. A little frank explanation, a little explicit disavowal of acts which our Government really did not intend, would have sufficed to sever the Government in Downing-street from the blunders of its agents in the United States; but, instead of repudiating acts that were really not sanctioned from London, the charges of the Americans were met by a surprising *justification*; and thus our Government virtually adopted the flagrant misconduct of STROBEL, the mistakes of Mr. HOWE, and the want of tact which led Mr. CRAMPTON into mixing himself up in such very questionable proceedings. It was made a question between England and America only by this chain of blunders on the English side. If there had been sufficient tact at any one point in the series of officials, those beneath would have been left to the fate that they had brought upon themselves, the neutrality of the United States would have been vindicated, but England would have had no complicity in the matter. As it is, General PIERCE has been provided with the opportunity of crowing over the defeated English agents; and our officials, we say, have prepared that triumph for General PIERCE, and are volunteers in being chained to his car.

The Central American case is really important; but if our officials had designed to deprive themselves of any ground to stand upon, they could not have taken a better course than that which they have adopted. There is a single passage in the BULWER-CLAYTON treaty that appears to us to settle the whole question. By that treaty, Great Britain and the United States covenanted that neither "will ever occupy, fortify, colonise, or assume, or exercise any dominion over Nicaragua, Costa Rica, the Mosquito coast, or any part of Central America." A question might be raised as to the effect of the last limitation, "Central America," and some part of the Mosquito coast, not included in the six states, might perhaps be considered not to come within the pervue of the treaty; but, certainly, Great Britain covenanted not "to occupy." Now, the Mosquito coast has been extended at the expense of the State of Honduras; has been carried down the entire length of the State of Nicaragua, and a part of Costa Rica; and, since the treaty was accomplished, a settlement has been formed on the Bay Island. Great Britain claims to construe this Convention as being entirely prospective, and not retrospective—as permitting her to complete settlements already commenced, so long as she commences no other. We do not see how this interpretation is compatible with the one word "occupy." Who occupies the Bay Island? Great Britain occupies it; but she has covenanted not "to occupy." She has a perfect right to have occupied it, but no right to occupy it now. She might, indeed, claim to continue in possessions already taken; but that must be by a liberal construction of the treaty; and a liberal construction can only be conceded voluntarily by the other side. No one can make an absolute claim to liberality; it is in its very nature spontaneous; and he who claims it must be prepared to make a corresponding concession.

Now where is the concession that this country has made to the United States? None. We object to the WALKER encroachment, and justly, on abstract grounds; but most unjustly, when we have an encroachment under the identical name of WALKER—PATRICK of that name having, in fact, preceded the general who now represents Yankee filibustering. Each side, therefore, has its WALKER; and if Great Britain claims liberality of construction to justify its own WALKER, it can hardly refuse the corresponding leniency for the Yankee WALKER. But by our opposition to Yankee encroachments we establish a harsh construction of the treaty, and then send to Washington claiming a liberal construction on our own side! This, of course, puts our representatives entirely out of court; furnishes the opportunity for General PIERCE to take strong grounds in simply standing by the treaty; and since the living WALKER of Yankeeism is stronger in his following than the defunct WALKER of the Mosquito coast, the Americans are tolerably certain of securing practical success.

There is a single phrase in the President's message ominous for the future—his direct allusions to Cuba, all seems to favour the permanence of the Spanish tenure. He states the compensations that have been allowed in the case of the Black Warrior, and of the ports prematurely closed against a temporarily promised free trade in certain commodities. Nothing dangerous will be found in this passage, but he is warm in vindicating the benefit to the Union from having taken to itself the State of Louisiana; and he asks what benefit to the Union, or to Texas herself, would have resulted if Texas had remained a "Lone Star?" It is the very name

given to Cuba by the Secret Society which called itself the "Order of the Lone Star."

THE COMMAND OF THE BALTIC FLEET.

THERE are two good reasons against the appointment of Sir EDMUND LYONS to the command of the Baltic fleet. First, assuming that the war is to be continued, he cannot be spared from the Black Sea. Second, there are no just grounds for superseding Admiral DUNDAS.

In the Euxine, and in the Sea of Azoff, the Allies have not completed their task. Whoever compares, with the coasts that have been swept by our flotillas, the territory yet fortified and held by Russia, will admit that, after Sebastopol, only fourth and fifth-rate places have been reduced. The arsenals of Kherson, the stronghold of Nicholaieff, the entrepot of Odessa, remain even unassailed; and it has been proved, by recent circumstances, that wherever the Allies relax their grasp, the enemy is ready to reoccupy his lost position. Thus, the presence of a powerful naval armament may be by no means superfluous in the Black Sea, during the operations of the approaching summer. And for the command of this fleet, Sir EDMUND LYONS is better qualified than any other admiral in the service. He is familiar with those coasts and waters; he enjoys the confidence of the fleet in the East; he has measured the resources of the Allies against the naval defences of Southern Russia; the field is his own, and there are triumphs to be accomplished in it which may well satisfy an honourable ambition. If Admiral Lyons shall do this year all that an admiral can do in the Black Sea and the Sea of Azoff, his laurels would not grow dim in comparison with any that Admiral DUNDAS—under the most fortunate circumstances—can reap in the Baltic. The machinery for a Baltic campaign would not be purely naval. There would be an army to participate in its efforts, its dangers, and its successes.

Among responsible journalists, no duty is more sacred than that of dealing generously with the reputations of public men—especially of those, who, at great sacrifices to themselves, have loyally served their country. Admiral DUNDAS, we have reason to believe, is one of the most popular admirals in the British Navy. By the officers, and by the men, as a body, who have served under him in the Baltic, he is ardently respected. They know what his labours and what his difficulties have been. He did not go out, like a "Surrey-side" hero, blustering and sharpening his cutlass. He took his fleet quietly and steadily into the blockaded sea; he expended his time usefully, if not brilliantly, in reconnoitering the several positions of the enemy; and he is now possessed of the most valuable experience. That he was summoned to the Council of War at Paris, is one proof that this experience will not be set aside.

Admiral DUNDAS performed no dashing feats; he had no means, and not a very wide discretion. In fact, from all that has come to our knowledge privately, and from what we gain through general channels, we believe that in 1855 neither Great Britain nor France contemplated any extensive operations in the Baltic. Why were no gunboats—or scarcely any—prepared last winter? Why was Admiral DUNDAS's fleet sent out as inefficiently equipped with the inferior machinery of warfare as the fleet of Admiral NAPIER? DUNDAS perceived the shortness of his means, and, without bravado, damaged the external defences of Sweaborg; NAPIER collapsed, and played long bowls at Bomarsund. He left undone—possibly under Admiralty orders—that which his successor accomplished—the almost complete destruction of the Russian coasting

trade. Even Admiral DUNDAS, however, appears to have been hampered by instructions respecting private property.

The minds of Cabinet Ministers, especially Lords of the Admiralty, are fearfully and wonderfully constructed. What ordinary man, for example, can understand why, upon the threshold of a new naval campaign, seventy steam transports have been discharged from Government employ, when their services might have been retained at a nominal cost? When needed they may not be available. But this is only an illustration of the crudity of administrative economy. The Land Transport Corps despatched to the Crimea has virtually perished on the heights of Balaklava. Of the hundreds of mules purchased at high prices wherever there were mules for sale in Europe, scarcely one remains;—and why? Because, forage being dear, they were left to forage for themselves; because they had no stables, bad attendance, poor nourishment, and insupportable work.

To resume,—Admiral DUNDAS knows best whether, with an adequate supply of gunboats, floating batteries, &c., and an auxiliary army, he would be prepared to undertake decisive operations in the Baltic. We want no public disclosures; but we have a right to ask that no admiral should be entrusted with this most important command, at that which might prove the turning point of the war, who felt unequal to the exertions and the risks of a real campaign. We have had two years of demonstrations; we should have, at last, something more than a regatta of fleets. Without, therefore, raising a cry against any admiral, we must observe that he would have best consulted his reputation by declining the command, if our ponderous armaments were again to go into the Baltic, and to return with news that they have "watched the enemy!"

THE RUGELEY POISONINGS.

WELLINGTON complains, in some of his Peninsular letters, that he had to look after everything himself; NAPOLEON gives the most minute instructions to the subordinate generals and kings who carried out his designs, descending even to their domestic affairs. The daily multiplying disclosures at Rugeley show how ramified were the labours which PALMER executed with his own hands.

If the character that is drawn for us by that true novelist, the reporter of the inquests upon PALMER's friends and relations, is at all correct, there are many of the elements of greatness—there is the decision, the clear memory of WELLINGTON; the unscrupulousness of NAPOLEON; the power of combination that all conquerors possess. Nothing appears to be forgotten; everything is in its place. The most respectable of nurses are stationed at the bedside of the wife; a congenial "grain hagg," with harsh features and a power of bullying off inquiry, takes charge of "poor brother WALTER," and plies him with gin. No sooner is WALTER dead than an agent in one place is ordered to bet upon a horse, and in another place upon another horse, and the bets are duly booked. The little inch-and-a-half bottle, with liquor as limpid as water, is in the right pocket. The game is purchased "for London," and duly sent by the faithful GEORGE BATES to the Coroner; and the letter to "dear AGNES," the widow, timeously recites the "many, many times" in which WILLIAM has aided poor WALTER, and suggests to her the propriety of paying his debts.

But these grander traits were not before the view of the good folks at Rugeley, Stafford, or anywhere else, until now. They must have been visible only to the mind of the man himself. To his friends and neighbours one cha-

racteristic must have been a certain agreeable and gentlemanly respectability.—“A gentlemanly man;” that is the character given of him by his neighbours. Not clever in his profession, “but gentlemanly,” says the brother surgeon; which is doubtless as much as professional competition could allow. “A gentlemanly man”—says the reporter, describing PALMER seated in the jailor’s pew at church—“with a smiling countenance, and a decorous attention to the service. He would have been taken for a visitor.”

Every trait marks this all pervading respectability. He had a good house; like THURTELL, he “kept a gig,” and something more, a stud of horses, with a stable keeper. He knew when to put a present of game, and in what quarter. He knew how to keep a just record, and to behave like a just man. His diary tells how “dear ANNE” fell sick and died; and how, on the following Sunday, he “took the Sacrament:” for the prayer-book never fails to make its appearance at the proper moment. When he writes the letter to “dear AGNES,” immediately after the death of his brother, asking one payment and hinting another, it is in no terms of a dun, but rather in the tone of a benefactor, who has cramped himself by aiding an erring brother, “many, many times,” and who feels that it is only just to the widow if he furnishes her with the opportunity of doing her duty by the dear departed.

The effect of this well-sustained demeanour is perceptible all round. A medical neighbour writes to an insurance office, when the question of WALTER PALMER’S policy is under discussion, pointing out that the wife had died, and that in her case payment on the policy was claimed after payment of the first premium. Yet this medical gentleman appears not to have raised any whisper against a man of whom so awful a suspicion was written confidentially. GEORGE BATE thought of signing a proposal for a policy, and bolting to the continent; Cook understood BATE’S reluctance; yet neither Cook nor BATE informed. The respectability of Mr. PALMER’S position, his gentlemanly manners, had their influence even over the official functionaries. The postmaster was willing to place correspondence at his service, although to be found out in doing so was absolute dismissal, ruin, and imprisonment. The Coroner receives the present of game, and a private letter intimating that in the case of COOK, PALMER would like a verdict of “death from natural causes.”

Suspicious evidently crossed the minds of many, yet what do we learn from the facts? These persons dared to let their fellow-creatures pass away mysteriously; dared to guess at the cause of their death; and dared not challenge the respectable Mr. PALMER. Now there never yet was an irresponsible power in existence that did not abuse its irresponsibility, and that did not, besides tyranny, cover an unspeakable amount of corruption and crime. The CÆSARS, who could do what they liked, did what men abhorred. Respectability which can thus defy question, even after suspicion has been excited, must, we know it from every history of power, cover a correlative amount of corruption and crime.

Professor TAYLOR tells us he has had within the year a hundred and more cases of poisoning; poison is not the only form of crime which human ingenuity has invented; and PALMER is not the only respectable man in England.

MR. BAZALGETTE AND THE VACANT ENGINEERSHIP OF THE BOARD OF WORKS.

We have received a copy of the “Concise Minutes of Proceedings at a Special Court of Sewers, holden at the Court-house, in Greek-

street, Soho, on Tuesday, the 30th day of October.” This document contains a summary of Mr. F. O. WARD’S charges against Mr. BAZALGETTE, now for the first time printed in an authentic form.

As several members of the new Board of Works will, it is believed, advocate the appointment of Mr. BAZALGETTE as engineer to the Board, an appointment which would imply the Board’s approbation of his conduct, and adoption of his colossal tunnels, costing £874,000 more than those designed by Mr. ROE, it appears essential, at the present juncture, to fix public attention on this important document, which charges Mr. BAZALGETTE, and the engineers identified with him, in manner following:—

“That after solemnly stating to us, in a printed return entitled ‘Data,’ that a certain specified mode of computation was used, it has turned out that Mr. Bazalgette used two modes.

“That of the two, one was publicly stated, the other kept undivulged.

“That the public one required for given rain-falls a much greater discharging power than the one reserved for secret use.

“That these two modes of calculation were used alternately by Mr. Bazalgette; one to discredit a rival’s tunnel in our eyes, the other to justify his own, which latter will not stand the test of the published formula, as applied to his rival’s tunnel.

“That the second mode of computation was only brought forward on compulsion, when the detailed calculations were insisted on; that even then it was not stated and explained, but the mere sums done by it inserted amongst a mass of figures confused and inaccurate to the last degree, and loaded with needless surplusage, so that without the closest investigation, it would have passed unnoticed.

“That, increasing the perplexity thus occasioned, and still further baffling investigation, several tunnels were entered in duplicate in the calculations, and computed twice over—namely, once by the public mode, and once by the secret one; these duplicate calculations being so disposed as to elude observation.

“That when the calculations were unexpectedly ordered to be printed, and the proof was brought before the Court, several pages of these double entries were sought to be eliminated as mere matters of ordinary revision.

“That the responsibility of these double entries and other errors in the calculations is now sought to be laid on an assistant, on whom such responsibility cannot properly devolve.

“That upon investigation it turns out, that the second mode of calculation, or formula, substantially embodies, though, as employed by Mr. Bazalgette, it misapplies, the invaluable experience of John Roe, the very rival on whose plan discredit was sought to be thrown by the application of the first formula; a fact which, it is submitted, stamps the transaction with an unusual want of generosity.

“That whereas John Roe came before us in a plain straightforward way, resting on no formula at all, but on his observations of the flow in sewers, and in the Fleet River, carried on by day and night for twenty years; and whereas he, with a generous frankness, freely gave his advice, and the results of his long experience to our engineers, by whom he was several times consulted; a corresponding degree of candour has not been shown towards him, but the benefit of the second formula, which substantially embodies his experience, has been denied him; and that he has further been held up as having blundered, on account of an error which was not his, but his assailant’s, which fact was subsequently admitted in such ambiguous terms, as to seem still to fix the blunder on him.

“That the question between John Roe and our engineers, is no mere question of rival formulae, or rival opinions, but a question of experience against formulae, and of facts against opinions.

“That this question involves public interests of vast magnitude, amounting to £500,000 in the matter of the Metropolitan Intercepting Drainage alone, and probably of millions sterling, in like cases, throughout this country and Europe.

“That it was therefore a question requiring on the part of your engineer an extraordinary degree of care as well as candour, which it is submitted have not been shown.

“That engineering errors of greater or less importance, manifesting want of care, exist in your engineer’s design and reports, and that certain of these errors were sought to be disguised; in one case by varying a declivity from 1 to 29 in one part of the document to 1 to 652 in another,—by introducing a third formula giving 8 per cent. more discharge than the first, which was declared to be the only one em-

ployed, and by endeavouring to expunge as an assistant’s error, three pages of calculations; in another case (in your Consulting Engineers’ Report), by varying a declivity from 1 in 1,350 to 1 in 600, and at the same time reducing the discharge required; in another case, by describing as 4 ft. 6 in. by 2 ft. 9 in., a sewer which is really 5 ft. by 3 ft. 4 in.

“That the calculations for the south side, ordered by the Court, have been wholly omitted to be returned, and that on testing the south side high level sewer by each of the three formulae employed to justify those on the north side, it is found that neither formula fits.

“That the private use of an unpublished formula communicated by an individual, has rendered that individual virtually our adviser on the question of sizes, and this on a formula not yet before the world, and in opposition to his own previously published views; which matters are such as we ought to have been allowed to judge of, especially as controverted points of grave importance were involved.

“That the confidential nature of the communication above referred to, might have justified Mr. Bazalgette in declining to make a return of his formula, but could not justify him in returning one when he used another. Had he adopted the former course, we should have been free to judge whether we would or would not rely in so grave a matter on individual authority, and on an unpublished formula.”

The extreme importance of these charges at the present crisis, when the fortunes of the new Board of Works turn on their getting as their engineer the “right man in the right place,” has induced us to make inquiry, in every accessible quarter, as to the history of the case, which appears to be shortly as follows:—

As a member of the late Commission of Sewers, Mr. F. O. WARD found it his duty to study closely the plan of main intercepting drainage, proposed by Messrs. BAZALGETTE and HAYWOOD, and approved by Messrs. STEPHENSON and CUBITT; their estimate being, for the north side only, £1,627,000.

In contrast with this plan Mr. WARD had also to study the plan proposed, for accomplishing precisely the same object, by Mr. JOHN ROE, at a cost of only £753,000.

The magnitude of the saving proposed by Mr. ROE—no less than £874,000—led to investigation as to the relative value of Mr. ROE’S judgment, compared with that of Messrs. STEPHENSON and CUBITT, in drainage matters.

From this investigation it appeared that Messrs. STEPHENSON and CUBITT, though eminent as railway engineers, had no experience in matters of town drainage, to compare with that of Mr. JOHN ROE.

Mr. ROE was for upwards of twenty years engineering surveyor to the Holborn and Finsbury Sewers Commission. In that capacity he introduced all the great improvements in the modern system of town drainage; as, for instance, the egg-shaped sewers, which, though at first violently opposed, are now universally adopted; the method of flushing away deposit with water, instead of lifting it by hand labour and carting it away at great cost; the plan of draining houses in combination, by short branches, at a great reduction of cost; the use of stoneware pipes at a third of the cost of brick drains, for houses and minor streets—a practice at first violently opposed, like the egg-shaped sewers, but now universal—scores of provincial towns being thus drained, and in London alone between 200 and 300 miles of pipe sewers and drains being in successful operation, and in course of rapid extension. Mr. ROE also paid great attention to the velocity of flow in sewers, and to their discharging power; which he found to exceed very considerably what had been previously supposed; and he was thus enabled greatly to reduce the size and cost of the sewers in his district; the saving in one instance being no less than £2 2s. a foot, amounting to £4,000 on a single length of sewer. The result of these and other improvements was that Mr. ROE saved, on an average, £8,000 a-year to

the Holborn and Finsbury division, at the same time making it the best sewered district in the metropolis.

The Fleet river running through a large tunnel in Mr. ROE's district afforded him the opportunity of measuring the velocity of large bodies of water during storms. He corrected these observations by similar measurements of other sewers; and he thus learned the important fact that a tunnel, fed by branches along its course, discharges much more water, and at a much higher rate of speed, than a tunnel fed only at the head.

Observations of this sort, continued for twenty years and upwards, enabled Mr. ROE to fix the proper size of sewers to discharge the sewage and rain from given surfaces, while his extensive experience in executing drainage works enabled him to estimate the cost of such operations with unusual accuracy. He has, indeed, published tables of sizes for sewers and tunnels to drain given surfaces of town area; which tables are accepted as valuable and authoritative guides by draining engineers both in this country and abroad.

Messrs. STEPHENSON and CUBITT can point to no such experience in drainage works; they calculate by a formula; and they thus assign sizes to several of their intercepting tunnels, which, according to Mr. ROE's experience, are too large by upwards of cent. per cent. This difference in size, coupled with several improved arrangements suggested in Mr. ROE's plan, enables Mr. ROE to secure the vast economy of £874,000, on the north side only (besides the pumping costs mentioned above), with an equivalent reduction on the south side.

Mr. ROE, it is stated, has never been known to give an estimate which has been exceeded in the execution of the work; nor has any work of his ever failed. This, indeed, was the boast through life of the late Mr. WHITWORTH, the eminent canal engineer, under whom Mr. ROE was brought up.

These considerations, and particularly the very large economy of £874,000 on the north side only (besides the annual saving in pumping costs), naturally inclined Mr. WARD, taking the ratepayers' interests into consideration, towards Mr. JOHN ROE's plan, and against the more costly and colossal plan of his competitors—so much less experienced in town drainage than Mr. ROE.

Thus far the difference was merely one of opinion—a fair difference between rival engineers.

But, upon closely examining the reports made against JOHN ROE, and the "Data" and "Calculations" submitted by Mr. BAZALGETTE, in consequence of orders of the Court of Sewers, Mr. WARD discovered, with very great pain and regret, that two formulæ, or modes of calculation, had been resorted to—one published, the other kept undivulged; these being employed alternately, like the scales of an unequal balance, one to discredit Mr. ROE's tunnels, the other to justify certain of the tunnels of his rivals. Other expedients, of an equally serious character, proved to have been also resorted to, whether consciously or unconsciously is a question for each man's judgment; but, in any case, most unfairly in their result to Mr. ROE, and most perplexingly as regarded the Commissioners, who were thus predisposed to doubt the value of Mr. ROE's plan, and the practicability of effecting the vast economy of £874,000, proposed by him for the north side only, besides the saving in annual pumping costs, and the proportionate economy on the south side.

Under these circumstances, Mr. WARD, in discharge of his bounden duty, moved for a Committee of Inquiry, to be aided by compe-

tent professional men; and he enumerated, in the concise summary prefixed, the heads of the case against Mr. BAZALGETTE, so far as appeared necessary to secure the appointment of the Committee.

The influence of Mr. JEBB in the late Commission was, however, strong enough to procure the refusal of this Committee, and to screen Mr. BAZALGETTE from having the case against him developed and proved. Accordingly, Mr. BAZALGETTE was allowed to put in a reply—not on the case itself, because this was never developed, nor upon the proofs, because these were never stated—but upon the mere enumeration of the charges.

Thus, Mr. JEBB and his friends did not first hear the case, and then decide upon it. They refused to entertain the case, and decided on suppressing the debate.

Against this peremptory decision Mr. THWAITES entered a written protest; which the new Board, in electing Mr. THWAITES as its chairman, must be presumed to have confirmed. Whether the Board will now reverse its own and its chairman's judgment, by appointing Mr. BAZALGETTE after all, remains to be seen.

It is not the province of the press to offer any opinion on the relative fitness of rival candidates, or to exercise any "pressure from without" on the free exercise of the Board's judgment. We may, however, be permitted to suggest, on public grounds, that it may be desirable not to prejudge the tunnel question, by electing Mr. ROE on the one hand, any more than Mr. BAZALGETTE on the other; but rather to select some independent engineer, of sufficient eminence to command public confidence, and unpledged to any of the rival intercepting schemes.

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.

WHAT SHALL WE GAIN BY THE WAR?

(To the Editor of the Leader.)

SIR,—It is to me difficult to comprehend how an honest liberal can anticipate results satisfactory to the cause he has at heart, from the war in which we are at present entangled. I do not pretend to advocate the duty of non-resistance to tyrannical rulers. Nor do I deny that England might be called upon to interfere on behalf of an oppressed and outraged community. But, to my mind, the present alliance with its constituent ingredients, and the grounds on which it is based, is wholly delusive and rotten. I do not mean that we should not rejoice in the generous friendship and confidence now subsisting between England and France. I do not deny that up to a certain point it is good that Russia should have been repressed and chastised. But the question is, whether these advantages, achieved in such a way and by such means, will necessarily promote the cause of European freedom. The question is, whether to push these advantages with blind vehemence will lead to any great or noble result. To me it appears that the war can only terminate in a crisis favourable to liberty, on the supposition that, first of all, Europe shall be wrapped in anarchy. But is this probable? Look at the enormous power which a state of war lodges in the hands of the executive. Consider the facility with which all the stores and materiel, the arms and ammunition, the hard cash, and the drilled and disciplined army—consider how those essentials of a state of war are quietly and abundantly accumulated at a time when the honour or safety of the nation is proclaimed to be in peril. Consider how placidly an apathetic multitude, in the strait-waistcoat of a paternal despotism, stares at military preparations, for which there seems to be so good an excuse. Consider how a free and independent public, purposely gulled and goaded into martial frenzy, hails with acclamation the ungainly efforts of the Minister of War to swell the standing army, and give weight and dignity to the military front of Britain. Remark how pleased we are to submit to the necessary

severity of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and whilst the tax yet hovers in mid-air, "we lick the hand just raised to shed our blood." Consider all this, and think whether these vast military and naval establishments, maintained in a state of most complete and methodical organisation, dependent in a neighbouring country, if not in our own, exclusively on the will of the executive, are not potent auxiliaries of the ancient order of things, and ask yourself further, whether they are not, at all events, over the water, deliberately and designedly meant to be so?

Nevertheless, suppose that Europe should be wrapped, as I have conjectured possible, in anarchy. Is it your belief that anarchy, in the present state of mind, of feeling, of knowledge, of civilisation on the continent, would terminate in any tolerable state of social order and security? I am not speaking of any local subversion of authority, but of that general explosion in which alone, as it seems to me, freedom could obtain a chance, and despotism meet its downfall, during such a war as that now going forwards. Taking the continent as a whole, it would seem not to be ripe for physical force, even if physical force be the only remedy for its disorder. What is needed seems to be time. The Germans, for instance, are raw, visionary, impracticable. Yet, gradually the salutary influence of true and accurate ideas spreads more and more throughout the thinking classes of society. They are feeling their way to better things. A sudden convulsion would perhaps only expose their unfitness for self-government, and end in the reaction of a despotism more crushing than that they already experience.

A time of peace is not an idle time. What have we not conquered in our own land during forty years of peace, and that without firing a shot! This eager appeal to brute force, this self-complacent reliance on an arm of flesh, this anxious plucking of our sword from the scabbard, savours of some of the lowest qualities of man's nature. It smells of the shambles. You may remind me that we did not begin this fray; that the Czar first broke ground. Well, we will not plunge into the slimy quicksands in which ingenious diplomatists contrived to entangle the question. It is sufficient to assert, as I take the liberty of doing with as much emphasis as is allowable to fallible man, that logically the war assumed a new character, and stood on quite another basis, when the Russians had been ignominiously hustled out of the Principalities, and the blood-stained ruins of Sebastopol were abandoned to the Allied armies. My meaning is, that it ceased to be a war waged for a special purpose. It began to assume the character of a vulgar death-grapple. The whole tone of the press proved it. The acclamations at public meetings corroborated it. A crusade against Russia was the common cry. "We have got an advantage over her. We do not think her so strong as we fancied. Let us push on; we may perhaps upset her, and trample her under foot—who knows?" It is against this notion of a crusade against Russia, undertaken for the purpose just hinted at, and with the aid—the ambiguous aid, of a despotic ally—that I have argued in this and my preceding letters. A correspondent in your last accuses me of proposing that we should end the war by simply running away. I made no such ingenious suggestion. I advocate the offer or concession of reasonable terms to Russia. The noisier portion of the public, encouraged by the press, indulge in little else besides bluster and bravado. There is, I hope, some medium to be found between dogged ferocity and abject cowardice.

Without recapitulating my arguments I will leave two facts for the consideration of all friends of freedom. We are leagued with one despot against another. Do we fondly imagine that both will be swallowed up—each by each in Hibernian fashion? Or is it not more probable that the old Arab superstition will be realised, and the conquering despot absorb into himself all the virtues and the vigour possessed by his prostrate victim? The French eagle hovers over Rome—it overshadows Jerusalem—it reigns at Constantinople—it has triumphed at Sebastopol. Will freedom breathe more freely when the eagle has fixed its talon on St. Petersburg? So much for fact the first. We are leagued with one despot against another. But what is fact the second? It is this—that we leagued ourselves with that despot, simply to keep Russia out of Turkey. Turkey, where our fellow-Christians are exposed to a barbarous and systematic cruelty, compared to which the rigour of Naples or of Austria would prove luxurious indulgence! We fought to rescue Turkey, not for its own sake, but for ours, because we feared Russia. We even suppressed the insurrectionary movements of the Greeks, in order to keep our protégé upright on his tottering legs. I suppose there was no choice, but at least this much is clear,—we cared not a jot for the cause of freedom. It was the balance of power—the danger of Russia clutching too large a portion of the "sick man's" spoil—it was the policy of "statesmen" whose intense sympathy with freedom is of course notorious—these were the motives to the war. And I ask—from such a source and with such auxiliaries what good can come? Yours faithfully,

ARTHUR H. ELTON.

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*.

THIS week the *Edinburgh* and *Quarterly* are out; both good numbers, the latter an especially entertaining number. The *Edinburgh* opens with a sketch of CROMWELL, written by one who is well versed in the subject, but who has spoiled the matter by the manner, which is that of a mocking-bird of MACAULAY. It is a close reproduction of MACAULAY'S manner, without any reproduction of his style; all the felicity and picturesqueness of the original are unattempted, or, if attempted, unachieved. Another and more valuable historical biography is that presented in the paper on the Minister VON STEIN; six solid volumes of German biography are dexterously compressed into forty readable pages.

But the most startling paper in the *Review*, and one which will produce the deepest impression is that on "The Use of Torture in India." In June, 1854, Mr. BLACKETT moved for a commission of inquiry into the tenure of land in the Madras Presidency, formally declaring that the Government officials were in the habit of employing torture to extort payment from the miserable ryots. The declaration was received with amazement by the House, with indignant denial on the part of the Indian representatives; but a commission was granted, and on their report the present article is founded. If Mr. BLACKETT'S statement amazed the House, this report will exasperate the nation:—

The tortures which the commissioners find to have been employed are of various kinds and of different degrees of severity. Some of them are so light as to amount to little more than a menace. Some are so severe as to cause not only extreme present pain, but permanent injuries, mutilation, and even, not unfrequently death. Some of them exhibit an amount of diabolical ingenuity on the part of the torturer, and a degree of moral abasement and degradation in the victim, of which our western minds can hardly form a conception; some, in fine, are so loathsome and indecent, and at the same time so excruciating, that, although they are set down nakedly in the Report, we must abstain from any specific allusion to their nature.

The two most common forms of torture appear to be the *Kittee* (in Teloo-goo called *Cheerata*), and the *Anundal*, which in the same language is called *Gingeri*.

The *Kittee* corresponds with the thumbscrew of the European torturer. It is a wooden instrument somewhat like a lemon-squeezer, between the plates of which the hands, the thighs (in women also the breasts), the ears, and other more sensitive parts of the body, are squeezed to the last point of endurance, often to fainting, and even to permanent disablement. In many places the *kittee* has been superseded by the more simple plan of violently compressing the hands under a flat board, on which a heavy pressure is laid, sometimes even by the peons standing upon it: or of compelling the sufferer to interlace his fingers, and delivering him over to the iron gripe of the peons (or policeman), who sometimes rub their hands with sand, in order to give them a firmer gripe. In other cases the fingers are bent back till the pain becomes unendurable.

The *anundal* is a more purely eastern torture. It consists in tying the victim in a stooping or otherwise painful and unnatural position, generally with the head forcibly bent down to the feet, by a rope or cloth passed round the neck and under the toes. The posture, however, is varied at the caprice of the executioner. Sometimes the poor wretch is made to stand on one leg, the other being forcibly tied up to his neck. Sometimes the arms and legs are curiously interlaced, and the frame, thus violently distorted, is kept bound up for hours, in a condition little short of dislocation. Sometimes a heavy stone is laid upon the back, while thus bent; and it often happens that the peons amuse themselves by sitting astride upon the unhappy sufferer who is undergoing *anundal*. More than one of the witnesses depose to the infliction of this torture under the fierce Indian sun, upon a number of defaulters placed together in rows, for two, three, four, and even six hours; and this in the immediate vicinity of the cutcherry, or revenue office, and in the presence of the tahsildar, or native collector, and of the assembled villagers.

Nor are these the most wanton cruelties:

Will it be credited, for example, that it is not uncommon to apply to the most sensitive parts of the body (enclosed in a cloth or a cocoa-nut shell, or other similar receptacle), a biting insect or reptile, such as the poollah, or carpenter-beetle, and to leave it to gnaw the flesh of the miserable sufferer? That by a further refinement of cruelty, meant to combine both pain and humiliation, the defaulters are sometimes tied by the hair to the tail of a donkey or a buffalo? That they are occasionally hung up with the head downwards? And that it is an ordinary practice to put pepper or powdered chillies into the eyes or the nostrils, and to apply these and similar irritating drugs in other ways too revolting to be even hinted at?

The ludicrous smallness of the sums for which these horrible cruelties are inflicted implies a state of tyranny, which is absolutely terrible to contemplate:—

Thus we find an unfortunate man, Nangun Chalooyn, subjected to the *anundal*, tortured with the *kittee*, and exposed to the burning sun during four hours, in order to compel payment of an illegal demand of *ten annas* (fifteen pence)! Another Ryot, named Singuriah, who refused to pay the sum of *one rupee four annas* (two shillings and sixpence), had his hands tied behind his back and his head bound down to his feet with a coir rope, for two hours. Nay, in the terrible case of Vencatachella Rajaulee, in which one of the parties actually died from the effects of the violence employed, the sum demanded was but *ten rupees*!

The natives seem so inured to this system that it is thought no other system will succeed in obtaining the money:—

Many of the witnesses, too, concur in stating that the ryots, in general, appear to expect this violence as a part of the process of collection, and that they prepare themselves accordingly. "I brought the money," says a ryot referred to by Mr. Lushington, "but as no violence was used towards me, I did not pay." The ryot will often come to the cutcherry, as we learn from another officer, with the full amount of his kist in his possession, tied up in small sums in different parts of his dress, prepared to dole it out, rupee by rupee, and anna by anna, according to

the degree of urgency employed; and will sometimes go away leaving a balance unpaid, simply because he was not forced to pay it.

Of literature in its lighter forms the *Edinburgh* has only one article, a pleasant sketch of the "Life and Writings of Stendhal."

Of light literature we are always certain to find delightful papers in the *Quarterly*. This number is even lighter than usual, five of the eight articles belonging to that class. The opening group on "Table Talk" is erudite and entertaining; it runs through the series of "Ana," from the "Memorabilia," down to COLERIDGE'S "Table Talk," culling by the way many a lively saying, and setting the extracts in a readable and suggestive commentary. After characterising the wit of *le grand siècle*, the writer comes to the wit of ELIZABETH and JAMES:—

The great men of that day said many witty things and many wise ones, but we cannot fail to be struck with the singular contrast between the robustness of their intellects, their solemn, and often ponderous wisdom, and the poor *facétie* to which they sometimes stooped. With the fools, who entertained the guests of the kings and nobles, and who bore some resemblance to the laughter-maker of the ancients, we are familiar through the plays of Shakspeare. Their sallies were characterised as much by impertinence as by wit. Indeed the impertinence was often itself the joke. To put one person out of countenance afforded mirth to the rest. The womanly vanity and queenly pride of Elizabeth shrunk from these rude rebukes. She would not allow her fool, Pace, because of his caustic vein, to enter her presence; but once being persuaded to have him in, "come on, Pace," said she, "now we shall hear of our faults." "I do not," he replied, "use to talk of that which all the town talks on." She never probably ventured to repeat the experiment, and in this case no one can do otherwise than sympathise with the sensitiveness of Elizabeth, and wonder at the taste of our ancestors who could suffer their conversation to be broken in upon by the sorry jests and coarse personalities of a licensed buffoon. From Shakspeare we learn equally how the paltriest puns in that day were received for wit; and Lord Bacon's Apophthegms, the best repository of the smart sayings of the ancients which was ever made, bears testimony no less to the fact that an indifferent play on words was held in estimation by sages like himself.

The second literary paper is on MENANDER, the third on HENRY FIELDING—both biographical studies. The article on Mr. JOWETT, which bears the title "Neology of the Cloister," is a substantiation of the charge of heresy brought against him, in the course of which HEGEL, OKEN, SCHELLING, FICHTE, GOETHE, CARLYLE, COMTE, EMERSON, the "Vestiges," HARRIET MARTINEAU, and Mr. ATKINSON are cited as holding the same language which Mr. JOWETT holds—a fact not perhaps significant of orthodoxy, but significant of Mr. JOWETT'S being in very high company. "I would rather be damned with PLATO and SPINOZA than go to heaven with PALEY and MALTHUS," was the energetic phrase of SHELLEY; and it might have occurred to this reviewer that there was something dangerous in his thus grouping together such intellects as the advocates of opinions he "shudders at."

"Landscape Gardening" is a paper which will interest many, and the "Zoological Gardens," a paper which will interest all. From this latter we must borrow an anecdote about the chimpanzee, now at Paris:—

The last time I saw him (May, 1854) he came out to taste the morning air in the large circular enclosure in front of the Palais des Singes, which was built for "our poor relations" by M. Thiers. Here Chim began his day by a leisurely promenade, casting pleased and thankful glances towards the sun, the beautiful sun of early summer. He had three satellites, *coati-mundis*, either by chance or to amuse him, and while making all manner of eyes at a young lady who supplies the Singeri with pastry and cakes, one of the *coati-mundis* came up stealthily behind and dealt him a small but malicious bite. Chim looked round with astonishment at this audacious outrage on his person, put his hand haughtily upon the wound, but without losing his temper in the least. He walked deliberately to the other side of the circle, and fetched a cane which he had dropped there in his promenade. He returned with majestic wrath upon his brow, mingled, I thought, with contempt; and, taking *Coati* by the tail, commenced punishment with his cane, administering such blows as his victim could bear without permanent injury, and applied with equal justice to the ribs on either side, in a direction always parallel to the spine. When he thought enough had been done, he disposed of *Coati* without moving a muscle of his countenance, by a left-handed jerk which threw the delinquent high in air, head over heels. He came down a sadder and a better *Coati*, and retired with shame and fear to an outer corner.

Here is another on the Epicurean fancies of serpents:—

We have before referred to the extraordinary length of time a python has been known to fast without injury. Their fancies as well as their fastings are rather eccentric. Every one has heard of the snake who swallowed his blanket, a meal which ultimately killed him. A python who had lived for years in a friendly manner with a brother nearly as large as himself, was found one morning *solus*. As the cage was secure, the keepers were puzzled to know how the serpent had escaped: at last it was observed that the remaining inmate had swollen remarkably during the night, when the horrid fact became plain enough; the fratricide had succeeded in swallowing the entire person of his brother: it was his last meal, however, for in some months he died. A friend informs us that he once saw in these gardens a rat-snake of Ceylon devour a common coluber natrix. The rat-snake, however, had not taken the measure of his victim, as by no effort could he dispose of the last four inches of his tail, which stuck out rather jauntily from the side of his mouth, with very much the look of a cigar. After a quarter of an hour, the tail began to exhibit a retrograde motion, and the swallowed snake was disgorged, nothing the worse for his living sepulchre, with the exception of the wound made by his partner when he first seized him. The ant-eater, who lately inhabited the room leading out of the Python apartment, has died of a want of ants.

It is some consolation to know that, if the ant-eater is dead, Professor OWEN has dissected him, and is preparing a monograph on the subject.

We must say a word before closing about the *Oxford and Cambridge Magazine*, a new shilling periodical, written by the young Cantabs and Oxonians, trying their literary wings. Of course, there is an article on TENNYSON; of course, there is an article on THACKERAY; no young men

could start a magazine and avoid these subjects. There are tales also, and the beginning of a sketch of Sir PHILIP SIDNEY, and a review of "Hia-watha." Altogether there is talent and promise enough to justify the young men proceeding in their efforts.

ARAGO'S POPULAR ASTRONOMY.

Popular Astronomy. By François Arago. Translated from the original, and edited by Admiral W. H. Smyth and Robert Grant, Esq. In two volumes. Vol. I. Longmans.

THE magnificent edition of Arago's works which is now in course of publication by Messrs. Longman, is very unlike the editions of foreign authors usually issued. Each volume is under the superintendence of some name eminent in the science of which it treats. In the work before us, we have not only Arago, but Arago guaranteed and occasionally corrected by Admiral Smyth, whose "Cycle of Celestial Objects" and other scientific works have made his name, and by Mr. Robert Grant, whose "History of Physical Astronomy" is known to every one occupied in such matters. The editors have, it is true, been somewhat sparing of their notes, not wishing to obtrude themselves; but their few rectifications are very serviceable, and their silence is a sort of guarantee.

The "Popular Astronomy" will probably be the most popular of all Arago's writings. Popular it is, too much so in our judgment; for we cannot escape the conviction that, if Arago had thought less of the ladies and the stupid hearers who crowded to his lectures, and had set himself to the task of a systematic exposition of the science in popular language, he would have produced a work of more substantial benefit. He has ranged through the heavens and the literature of the heavens; he has enlivened the work with anecdotes and piquant facts, and conveyed a mass of information in language no one can find unintelligible; but he has done this in a fragmentary "article-like" manner, not in a style which can furnish the student with a general conception of the science. In a word, the book is not an exposition of the Science of Astronomy, but a series of articles on astronomical topics. To the ordinary reader this will, perhaps, be its charm. To those who wish to see the scientific education of the mass furthered by the writings of the great teachers, it will be a serious defect.

It is, in some respects, a cyclopædia of astronomy. It begins with a book containing a succinct exposition of those geometrical ideas which are indispensable for the rudimentary intelligence of astronomical phenomena. This is accomplished in five-and-twenty pages. It is followed by an equally succinct account of the principles of mechanics and horology, and by one somewhat longer on optics, including telescopes. The work may then be said fairly to begin. The first question which he enters upon is the *Visibility of the Stars*; the second, *The Diurnal Motion*; the third, *The Apparent Motion of the Sun*; the fourth, *The Constellations*; the fifth, *Isolated Stars*; the sixth, *Multiple Stars*; the seventh, *Nebulae*; the eighth, *The Milky Way*; the ninth, *The proper Motions of the Stars*; the tenth, *The Sun*; the eleventh, *Zodiacal Light*; the twelfth, *Movements of the Planets*; the thirteenth, *The Comets*; the fourteenth, *Mercury*; the fifteenth, *Venus*: and for the rest we await volume the second.

The topics just enumerated in the order they here present will show our readers how unsystematic and how encyclopædic the work is, and as a specimen of the light agreeable way in which even the erudition of the subject is conveyed, we may cite the following remarks forming the entire chapter entitled,

THE ANCIENTS WERE ACQUAINTED WITH GLASS.

There are learned individuals who refuse to the ancients a knowledge of magnifying lenses, and *a fortiori* that of refracting telescopes, since, according to them, the Greeks and Romans had only very imperfect notions with respect to the fabrication of glass. I must hasten to expose the palpable fallacy of this latter opinion.

I shall not cite here a passage from Aristophanes (from which it is plain that globules of glass were sold at the shops of the grocers of Athens, in the time of that comic author). My citations will be more explicit, more precise, if it were possible.

Pliny states that the immense theatre (it was capable of containing eighty thousand persons) erected at Rome by Scæurus, son-in-law of Sylla, was three stories in height, and that the second of these stories was entirely inlaid with a mosaic of glass.

We read in the seventh book of the "Recognitions" of St. Clement, that St. Peter, having repaired to the Isle of Aradus, saw there a temple, the columns of which, all in glass, and of extraordinary magnitude, excited his admiration more than the beautiful statues of Phidias, with which the temple was adorned.

Seneca, in his "Natural Questions," speaks of phenomena of colour which are perceived when objects are viewed very obliquely through glass.

According to Pliny, during the reign of Nero, vases of white glass were used at table, which rivalled in transparency cups of rock crystal.

It was upon glass globes that the constellations of the celestial sphere were frequently traced about the same time.

Finally, few ancient tombs have been opened without finding lachrymal urns termed *lachrymatories*.

Ptolemy in his "Optics" has inserted a table of the refractions which light experiences under different angles of incidence, in passing from air into glass. The values of these angles, which differ only in a slight degree from those obtained in the present day by means of similar experiments, prove that the glass of the ancients differed very little from that manufactured in our own times.

Here also is another entire chapter:—

WERE THE ANCIENTS ACQUAINTED WITH THE MAGNIFYING EFFECTS OF CURVED GLASS?

The question which I propose in the title of this chapter may be attacked and resolved in two different ways. We shall first examine whether, among the productions of the industry and the arts of ancient nations which have come down to us, there exist any which could not have been executed without the assistance of magnifying glasses. Certain passages extracted from authentic sources will serve to test the results of the first investigation.

There is in our Cabinet of Medals a seal said to have belonged to Michael Angelo, the fabrication of which, it is said, ascends to a very remote epoch, and

upon which fifteen figures have been engraven in a circular space of fourteen millimètres in diameter. These figures are not all visible to the naked eye. (Dutens, 2nd edit. tom. ii. p. 224.)

Cicero makes mention of an Iliad of Homer written upon parchment, which was comprised in a nutshell. (Pliny, *Hist. Nat.*, lib. vii. cap. 21.)

Pliny relates that Myrmecides, a Milesian, executed in ivory a square figure which a fly covered with its wings. (Pliny, *Hist. Nat.*, lib. vii. cap. 21.; Elien, *Hist.*, lib. i. cap. 17.)

Unless it be maintained that the powers of vision of our ancestors surpassed those of the most skilful modern artists, which could be disproved by a multitude of astronomical observations, these facts establish that the magnifying property of lenses was known to the Greeks and Romans nearly two thousand years ago. We may besides advance a step further, and borrow from Seneca a passage whence the same truth will emerge in a manner still more direct and decisive.

In the "Natural Questions" (lib. i. cap. 6), we read: "However small and obscure the writing may be, it appears larger and clearer when viewed through a globule of glass filled with water."

Dutens has seen in the Museum of Portici ancient lenses (*des loupes anciennes*) which had a focal length of only nine millimètres. He actually possessed one of these lenses, but of a longer focus, which was extracted from the ruins of Herculaneum. (Dutens 2nd edit. tom. ii. p. 224.)

Dutens would have been more correct if he had said, "I have seen at the Museum of Portici *sphærules of glass*." The word *loupe* implies, in fact, optical practices; and the small spheres of Pompeia and Herculaneum were destined solely as a substitute for precious stones in the dresses of ladies of only moderate opulence. The remark of Dutens, and the relic to which it refers, do not acquire a real value but by viewing them in connexion with the passage of Seneca. It may be admitted, that if the last-mentioned philosopher has alluded only to the effects of spheres of water, this arose from the circumstance of his having been then replying to the objections against his own theory of the rainbow.

At the meeting of the British Association, held at Belfast in the year 1852, Sir David Brewster showed a plate of rock crystal worked into the form of a lens, which was recently found among the ruins of Nineveh. Sir David Brewster, so competent a judge in a question of this kind, maintained that this lens had been destined for optical purposes, and that it never was an article of dress.

The book is very handsomely printed, and profusely illustrated. Though not at all realising our idea of a "Popular Astronomy," we know of nothing to be compared with it. In the next volume, we hope the editors will be somewhat more severe in their revision of the translation, which is frequently more French than English in its idiom. Arago's manner may be preserved, but English must be the medium.

A "T.G." IN THE CRIMEA.

Inside Sebastopol, and Experiences in the Camp. Being the Narrative of a Journey to the Ruins of Sebastopol, by way of Gibraltar, Malta, and Constantinople, and back by way of Turkey, Italy, and France. Accomplished in the Autumn and Winter of 1855. Chapman and Hall.

THIS long title covers the first page of a large octavo volume issued by Chapman and Hall. It is handsomely bound, and admirably printed on strong paper. From the beginning to the end there are three hundred and eighty-two pages; there is a map at the beginning and a map at the end, there is a little preface—in short, the usual physical limbs and lineaments of a book:—

"The rest is nought but leather and prunella."

The reader sees the taking title, "Inside Sebastopol." Will he believe that the writer of this volume was only eight days in the Crimea; that out of these he spent three days only among the ruins; that the portion of the book, devoted to "Inside Sebastopol" is less than one-third, and that the remaining two-thirds are taken up with the diary written by the author on his way to and from the Crimea? Here is a writer who calls "the Narrative of a Journey to the Ruins of Sebastopol, &c.," "Inside Sebastopol and Experiences in the Camp;" as if we should describe a journey from the Temple to St. Paul's by Fleet-street and back by Holborn, as "Inside St. Paul's and Experiences in the Churchyard." The presumption of the book is all the more flagrant, inasmuch as in his preface the self-complacent writer boasts that he has "ventured to tell the true story of the repulse at the Redan," and adds, in melodramatic accents, that if peace be made without another act of warfare "that shrewd and fortunate man, Napoleon the Third," will have what?—"revenged Waterloo!" Does not that, in some measure, furnish the reader with a gauge of the writer's capacity; and, taken in connexion with the fact that although he had been only eight days in the Crimea, he talks of gathering "the general opinion of the camp," does it not furnish some measure of his cool presumption? Perhaps we should read for "general opinion," that he gathered the "general shaves" of the camp, and a fine crop they are.

The wonder of it is that the author is a barrister; that may account for the long-windedness of the volume, but certainly not for the disregard of evidence with which he tells a "true story." He starts from London spasmodically on the 11th of August; leaving Gravesend in the "W. S. Lindsay," for the Crimea, on the following day. In one hundred and thirty-nine pages he gets to Balaklava; in one hundred and five pages he gets through the Crimea; and in one hundred and thirty-eight pages he brings us home again. The sort of reading you get in these pages has that kind of lively air, which a very young man assumes, who is particularly well-satisfied with himself, and perfectly certain that everyone else is dying to hear his flippant descriptions of what he has seen, thought, and done. We suppose that every travelling "junior" thinks that what Eothen did, the said junior can do, and does not find out his mistake until his publisher sends in his bill. Voyages to Constantinople, "Voyages en Orient," have been described by so many scores of pens, that nothing short of the highest originality of mind and style, like that of Eothen, or of position like that of Lord Carlisle, can justify a man making the journey in inflicting the tedious narrative of his everyday life by land and sea upon the public. But our travelling barrister, or "Travelling Gent," as he tells us the genus is termed in the Crimea, has evidently a different impression. He is under the conviction, from which one day he may be painfully awakened, that his book will pay. The closing words of the volume are these: "I was away eleven weeks, and

spent one hundred and twenty pounds; and Messrs. Chapman and Hall assure me that an appreciating public will present me with at least double that sum for an account of my wanderings." We venture to assume that the reader has not for some time met with the equal of this for cool self-complacency.

But although we think so lightly of this pretentious production, we have a bone to pick with the author for the sake of truth, and for the sake of that brave army which has endured so much for us in the Crimea. In the course of his work he tells the "true story of the Redan." Here it is; purporting to be in the language of an officer on the spot:—

The story is a very short and a very sad one. The storming party consisted of five hundred men: the supports were to move into the trenches in bodies of about a thousand each, and to move out of the trenches in the same divisions, to support the storming party.

At the moment of the assault there were not above thirty Russians in the Redan: the fire was very feeble, and the storming party ran along the open space, and were over the works with no great loss.

Two divisions of the supports were now marched out of the trenches. There was nothing to oppose them; except a few dropping shots inside, all was as silent as the grave. When, however, they got half way between the trenches and the Russian works a panic seemed to seize them. They did not run away, but they stood still. We saw their officers trying to excite them by voice and gesture to advance. Some even took hold of their coats and tried to start them, as you would try to start a jibbing horse. It was all in vain: they would not move. The men who were inside called to them to come on, and told them there was no one there; but it was of no use: they stood still.

Meanwhile, Wyndham could not get his five hundred men to charge: if they had done so, the Russians were in such small force, that even with that considerable body of troops he would have driven them down the hill, and found time to turn the guns citywards. As to spiking the guns, he did not want to do that; he wanted them to defend his position.

The moment of victory passed away. The Russian supports came up in vast numbers; instead of finding five thousand Englishmen on the top of the hill, protected by the Russian guns, now turned upon their former owners, the Russians found only the five hundred men who had first got in, and these engaged in desultory sharpshooting with the scanty garrison which lurked among the traverses.

The fresh army of enemies did what we ought to have done; they charged with the bayonet, drove the remnant of our five hundred men towards the parapet, and recovered the guns.

And now these guns were turned with murderous effect upon the poor panic-stricken devils who were standing irresolute between the trenches and the fort. They were mowed down by scores. They turned round and ran back into the trenches, which were already full of the men who were to have supported them. After this the confusion was hopeless. Regiments got all mixed together, and no officer could find his men, or men their officer. It was then that Wyndham said, "Send no more men, unless you can send an army forth officered and disciplined." The few brave straggling parties that came out were only a useless sacrifice of the good men.

Then the shot and shell came over into the crowded trenches, and the poor innocent babies, who didn't know a bayonet from a musket, and who were no more fit to act as soldiers than they were to act as parsons, were cut up by balls and splinters, and were got out of the trenches as quickly as possible.

This is the real history of the attack upon the Redan.

The reader will remark that the truth about the repulse at the Redan consists in a wholesale charge against the common soldiers engaged in that tremendous contest. For he will not have failed to note that the repulse is attributed to two causes—the cowardice of the supports and the cowardice of the stormers. The former, we are gravely assured, actually stood "half way between the trenches and the Russian works;" the latter, when in the Redan, could not be "got to charge." Now it will be sufficient to recall what sort of position that was in which our legal friend, for we cannot believe any British officer ever made such a statement, placed his men. The Redan was, according to General Niel, two hundred yards from the British trenches; according to Major Hamley, one hundred and fifty from the most advanced trench; according to both, the intervening space was swept by the fire of the guns on the flank of the Redan. General Niel says the troops crossed that space under a heavy fire of grape, which soon covered the ground with slain; Major Hamley says that while crossing "the intervening space a number of men were wounded by grape from the flanks, where several guns opened fiercely;" and he mentions the further proof of the severity of this fire that only six ladders were borne safely to the ditch, the rest with their bearers lay between the English trenches and the Russian works. Observe our veracious author states that there was "nothing" to oppose the supports; "except a few dropping shots inside, all was silent as the grave." And yet, as we have shown, from the very beginning of the fray the flank guns of the Redan sent a hurricane of grape through the stormers, and, as those guns could not be touched, they were ready to send storm after storm through the supports; so that if, as this writer makes a British officer state, the supports stood still "half way between the trenches and the Russian works," they must have displayed a miracle of heroism, for they must have halted in the shot-swept track where their comrades lay in death or the agonies of death. But it is not true that the supports did not advance. Major Hamley states in so many words that he saw "the supports advance, disappear in the ditch, and reappear on the parapet; then all became smoke and confusion." He adds that "during the combat in the Redan the guns on the flanks continued to fire." We have plenty of evidence that the supports did advance, but we have given sufficient proof, as we think, that there were guns on the flanks, that they were used, and that men could not have stood hesitating under it—they would either have run forward or run backward, or they would not have gone into it at all.

The fact is, we do not know the "true story" of the repulse at the Redan; although we know some things that are not the true story. Years hence some Napier may work out the problem, and make it plain to all why the English did not, or why they could not take the Redan. So far as we can see, the balance of evidence lies on the side of the latter alternative; at all events let it not be said unrebuked that the British soldiers were guilty of arrant cowardice on that great day. Their dash may have been impaired by trench duty, but their intrepidity was not diminished.

We have entered into this criticism to show the worthlessness of the "true

story." We do not doubt the "good intentions" of the writer, any more than we doubt his natural desire to gain cent. per cent. upon his journey to the Crimea. But surely it behoves Englishmen to be careful what they report about that army to whom the honour of the country is entrusted, and, let us add, by whom it has been sustained. The failure at the Redan no more disgraces us than the three failures of the French on the same day disgrace them. The campaign was a joint one; each army had to take the risk of its position; we had to assault the Great Redan, and thereby, combined with the French assaults on the Little Redan and the Central Bastion, both repulsed, we enabled the gallant stormers of the Malakhoff to hold their own. Had we not been in the Redan for nearly two hours, the French might not have gained a victory. That there were faults in the plan of attack upon the Redan and faults in execution, that the wrong men were sent against it, is more than we are prepared to deny; but we steadily assert that the causes pointed out by the flippant author of "Inside Sebastopol" were not the causes that led to the repulse at the Redan.

FOUR TRAVELLERS.

Mexico and its Religion. With Incidents of Travel in that Country. By R. A. Wilson. Low and Son.

MR. WILSON draws a vivid picture of Mexico. He has not only travelled in that country; he has studied its history, and its social and political condition. In this department he is more proficient than in the sphere of antiquarian research. Almost the entire body of his criticism of Cortes and the Spanish historians, who have described the remains of the ancient Mexican empire, is based on a mechanical interpretation of a few imperfect facts. Mr. Wilson concurs with Las Casas in esteeming as "liars" most writers who pointed their pens in docility to the Inquisition; but the best method of correcting a statement is certainly not to reverse it. There is a zone between the torrid and the frigid. However, Mr. Wilson saw much of Mexican life and manners, and what he actually saw he describes with clearness and animation. When, also, he confines his retrospects within the historical period, and leaves Tlascala and Cholula to the archaeologists, he illustrates, to good purpose, the annals of the Spanish monarchy in the New World.

He enters upon an interesting discussion on the yellow fever. This malignant disease, in his opinion—verified by accumulated evidence—had its origin, not in America, but in Africa. In America, it is the produce of slavery, and is periodically renewed, in intensified virulence, by the cargoes of demoralised life brought from Africa, season after season, and thrown upon the American shore. It may be questioned, however, whether the abolition of the trade would effect the extirpation of the disease. Diseases, like plants, may be naturalised, as the small-pox among the Indians of the New World and among the islanders of Borneo, and as other complaints were naturalised by the dirty colonists of Java.

The most malign of the influences affecting Mexico, is however, of a social nature. It is the continual multiplication of the monastic orders—a race of idlers, beggars, and gamblers, whose celibacy is only the mask of vice. Even the expurgated accounts of Mexico, published in Spain, represent them in every age as not much better than they are here described by Mr. Wilson. Nevertheless, in spite of the contempt of the enlightened classes, and the shocks of successive revolutions, they continue to thrive and to exercise enormous power. While the holy beggar of Mexico is a privileged person, the peasant is treated as an animal and watched as a thief, and mechanics also form a degraded caste. Thus (says Mr. Wilson, who has an American eye for annexationable territory), Mexico is like a ripe pear, ready to drop into the hands of any powerful adventurer. He notices some curious circumstances in connexion with this state of things and the advance of Mormonism. Mormonism rose in Western New York; it is now located on the shores of the Salt Lake, between the Mississippi and Alta California. But its leaders keep their eyes fixed on Mexico, and dream of the day when that vast dominion, with its cities, its monasteries, its churches, gorged with gold and silver, and its vast ecclesiastical revenue shall fall into their hands. However, the great Republic itself reckons, among calculable probabilities, the contingency of an unavoidable annexation.

The Araucanians; or, Notes of a Tour among the Indians of Southern Chili. By E. R. Smith. Low and Son.

THE Araucanians, improperly so named by the Spaniards, were the most important tribes of the Chilian aborigines. Their history is singular in this respect, that, after a long and desperate conflict with the armies of Spain, their independence was acknowledged, and they established a free native state in Chili. This territory is divided into four parallel provinces, lying at the foot of the main chain of the Corderillas, and these are subdivided into districts, each of which is governed patriarchally by its chief. The obligations of the clansmen to their chief are very trifling. They refer their disputes to him, and he dispenses justice, but no tribute or tax is raised, nor is any personal service exacted, except in time of war. The land is common property, and its produce belongs to the cultivator. The chief, however, has a privilege of selling it in small portions, though to none except Indians, for the Araucanians have ordained, wisely, that any person disposing of land to a stranger shall be punished with death. Here is the germ of a singular social philosophy! Public affairs are administered by the patriarchs, assisted by general councils of the nation, and though laws cannot be said to exist, there are customs which have equal force. The Araucanian institution is very remarkable. In time of peace a Council of Peace governs, which in time of war is entirely superseded by a Council of War, with unlimited power. Mr. E. R. Smith has written, from actual observation, a lucid and pleasant account of this interesting people.

Brazil, viewed through a Naval Glass. With Notes on Slavery and the Slave Trade. By E. Wilberforce. Longman and Co.

MR. WILBERFORCE was a midshipman, and saw Brazil, as his title page expresses it, "through a naval glass." A large proportion of his little book is occupied by details of such adventures and excursions as midshipmen usually engage in; but the rest contains useful information, lightly presented. Mr. Wilberforce cultivates his natural vivacity, and sprinkles the narrative with

quotations, jokes, allusions, emitting occasional corruscations of satire, some of which are telling and some of which are not. Necessarily his perspective is not deep, since he was checked by the tether of "leave;" but he ranged the Brazilian coast, saw something of every class of the inhabitants, sketched men, women, and manners as he went, and picked up numberless varieties *apropos* of slave suppression. Perhaps on this part of his subject he writes with more freedom than responsibility; if anything is meant by the satire, it is scarcely justifiable; if nothing is meant, it is disagreeable. It is not tolerable that gentlemen who have left the navy, probably because they were not qualified to remain in it, should from their retreat fling satires and can- lumnies at the profession they have deserted. In this book insinuations are directed against the service, which are at once out of place, and improper. Mr. midshipman Wilberforce has followed the lead of Mr. midshipman Marryat, who, if he was not so smart, was not so frivolous. Mr. Wilber- force, too, would have done well to have contented himself with his sea- panorama—lively and picturesque as it is—of Brazil. His political defini- tions are sadly out of place. Here is one: "Democracy is the despotism of the many over the few." In some sequestered vale of Dorsetshire this might pass as a keen and original saying. In London it comes late, and to repeat it is a proof of simplicity.

The Niger, Tshadda, and Binue Exploration. By T. J. Hutchinson. Longman and Co.

MR. HUTCHINSON and his companions may be ranked among discoverers. They penetrated, in the Pleiad, to a part of Africa in which no European had hitherto been seen. The voyage was successful, nearly as far as the conflu- ence of the Binue and Faro rivers, which had been designed the *ultima thule* of the expedition. A few miles below the confluence, however, the failure of supplies and the intricacies of the navigation compelled the steamer to turn on her downward route. But Mr. Hutchinson's narrative takes the reader over much new ground. It is brightly coloured and varied, and interesting. The geographical results of the exploring voyage were important.

A NEW ENGLISH HISTORY.

A Popular History of England. By Charles Knight. With upwards of One Thousand Illustrations on Steel and Wood. Part I. Bradbury and Evans.

EVERY one recollects the observations which Lord John Russell made at Bristol, in October, 1854, on "the Study of History;" and still more likely are we to remember the remarks of the *Times*, to the effect that "we have no other History of England than Hume's," and that, "when a young man of eighteen asks for a History of England, there is no resource but to give him Hume." Upon this hint Mr. Knight has spoken, and has given us the first Shilling Number of a New English History, which shall be not only a history of monarchs and of public actions, but of the people; a record of the slow degrees by which the strength and dignity of the English nation has been built up to its present height. The design, Mr. Knight assures us, has been long entertained; and in the "Pictorial History of England," published by Mr. Knight himself, and written by Mr. Craik and Mr. MacFarlane, it was partly carried out. But the present historian specially guards his readers from supposing that his book is to be an abridgement of the work just alluded to. "As the publisher of that valuable history," says Mr. Knight, "I had cause to regret that its limits went beyond what, as its projector, I originally contem- plated. The present work will be far less voluminous. But it will neither follow the arrangement of 'The Pictorial,' nor use its materials, except as they are common to all histories."

To publish a new History of England side by side with Macaulay, is a bold enterprise. But Mr. Knight need not fear. He appeals to another audience, and he occupies somewhat different grounds. His antiquarian and literary studies peculiarly fit him for the composition of a history which shall trace the national life as exhibited in manners, co-tumes, superstitions, domesticities, arts, and intellectual culture; and in this first number we find evidences of the same vivid spirit of identification with by-gone forms of existence, which was exhibited by him and his fellow-labourers in their "London," and which rendered that work the most vital account of the metropolis (with the exception of Leigh Hunt's) that had ever been published. The History, also, is profusely illustrated. Some of the woodcuts, it is true, we have met with before in other of Mr. Knight's periodicals; but they will bear repetition.

Pleasant 'tis to find the veteran champion of popular instruction—the father of cheap literature—commencing the year 1856 with a new under- taking. We wish him every success.

The Arts.

ROB ROY AT COVENT GARDEN.

THE PROFESSOR has put *Rob Roy* on the stage very handsomely, with the advantage of those scenes so pleasantly associated with evenings of the *Donna del Lago*, and *Guillaume Tell*. Old playgoers still speak of Macready's graceful and romantic *Rob Roy*, as one of the most striking and picturesque of his characters, and we know that the not ineffective adaptation of the best of novels, with its moving incidents, and its familiar names, has always been a favourite with the British public. The music, too, interspersed with the dia- logue sometimes a little unconnectedly, is always fresh and full of melody, and some of the airs have a charm which has often brought a tear to the British eyelid in distant lands. In the present performance, a very fair representa- tion has been obtained. Professor ANDERSON himself, without being a Macready, looks a very sturdy, generous *Rob*, and gives a stalwart slashing sort of version of the part. *On est toujours l'esclave de son premier talent*, and there is a certain shuffle in the Professor's walk which mentally suggests the bottle trick, while in his louder passages we are continually expecting a

vigorous denunciation of the Spirit-rappers: but, on the whole, the imper- sonation is manly, intelligent, and agreeable. *Baillie Nicol Jarvie* is acted with a good deal of dry humour by a Mr. GOURLAY, but with scarcely an attempt at an accent; *Major Galbraith* is converted into a drunken buffoon, by Mr. SAM. COWELL; *Rashleigh Osbaldeston*, as presented by Mr. STUART, is tragic and pompous. *Francis* dwindles into a light tenor under the care of Mr. GEORGE PERREN, who has probably studied the dramatic part of his profession from a distinguished Marionette, but whose singing, but for the too frequent intervention of the nose and teeth, would be pleasing. *Dougal* is done by Mr. HARRY PEARSON (the admirable Harry the Eighth of the pantomime) in capital style: it is broad, vigorous, and effective. Miss HARRIET GORDON, from the moment she appears, dissipates all trivial fond recollections of the *Diana Vernon* of the story; she screams and jerks through the part, with a hard, bold, hoarse, fearless assurance, which the audience seems to like, and why should we find fault? Mrs. J. W. WALLACK gives dignity and importance to the *Helen Macgregor* of the play, though her Kemblesque attitudes and maternal embraces remind us more of the Roman matron than of the Highland wife. The drama is very liberally mounted, the supernumeraries have been drilled into as much *entrain* and enthusiasm as if they lived on mountain dew, and the groupings and the dresses would not discredit the genius of Mr. A. HARRIS.

AN audacious attempt has been made at the little STRAND THEATRE, upon the delightful *Holly Tree Inn*. If any reader is disposed to doubt the impossi- bility of adapting a set of stories, however dramatic in themselves, to stage pur- poses, let him pay a visit to the diminutive temple of the drama above-mentioned. Such a hodge-podge has seldom been perpetrated; the personages are pitch- forked about through a confusion of exits and entrances, in at windows and out of doors, without the slightest effort at explanation of these impossible movements and rencontres; the bewilderment of the audience is only sur- passed by their good humour, and the falling curtain brings relief to a mental darkness that can be felt. There are two episodes, however, which even in this shattered and disjointed state, amuse and interest: the two children of the immortal Boots' story (in spite of the terrible stageyness of their infantine precocity), bring tearful smiles to the eyes of the "better half" of the audience, who vent their sympathy in tender exclamations; and the Ostler, converted into a comic character, excites constant merriment by the recital of his "ill-luck." A Miss HERBERT, who personates the fair-haired murderess in the Ostler's story, deserves a word of recognition rather for what she pro- mises than for what she performs. She has natural gifts; a lithe and flow- ing figure, boldly cut features, rich in expression, and a certain grace of gesture. With care and cultivation she may possibly arrive at a higher position in her art; her evident intensity will go far, but she has almost every- thing to learn.

The *Boots' Story* is being dramatised as a sketch for the ADELPHI, with Mr. WEBSTER as the *Boots*. This is a very different thing from an Olla podrida of a set of stories, and we see no reason why the sketch should not be very touching and very telling even on the stage. The difficulty is to preserve the naturalness of the children through the severe training; the only quality in which children of the stage are deficient in is—childhood. We know enough of Mr. WEBSTER to believe that he will make a life-like sketch of the *Boots*.

PROFESSOR ANDERSON announces somewhat tardy reprisals against the "Wizard of the Lyceum," who nightly takes him off, with almost the fidelity of a daguerreotype at Drury-lane. He is preparing a farce under the title of "*Twenty Minutes with an Impudent Puppy*." This strikes us as rather violent face- tiousness, but we are consoled by the thought that the hostilities may be com- pared to those of learned gentlemen who, after bandying abuse in court, drown plaintiff and defendant in the convivial bowl. Mr. LEIGH MURRAY is studying the part of the *Puppy*. The STRAND THEATRE very justifiably caricatures these sham fights of managers in a farce with the appropriate title, "*A Plague on both your Houses*."

MADAME JENNY LIND GOLDSCHMIDT's first miscellaneous concert at Exeter Hall last Thursday week was full of variety and interest, and awakened warm recollections of the operatic season of ten years ago. The great singer was in splendid voice, and in the prayer from *Der Freischütz*, as in the Italian scena, displayed unabated power and exquisite purity of style. Perhaps the most characteristic performance in the concert, was the adaptation of Chopin's Mazurkas to the voice, accompanied by the piano; these strange and shattered strains were vocalised by MADAME GOLDSCHMIDT with a certain wild and wayward melancholy of sentiment and expression which belongs to the music, and the audience seemed to feel its charm. Herr GOLD- SCHMIDT proved himself an accomplished pianist, and Herr REICHARDT, the favourite German tenor, by his refined and graceful singing, contributed not a little to the success of the evening. Madame GOLDSCHMIDT is announced to sing in the *Elijah* on Monday next, and on Friday in a second miscellaneous concert.

MR. PAYNE COLLIER AND HIS CRITIC.—Sir Frederick Thesiger, on Thursday, moved, in the Court of Queen's Bench, for a rule to show cause why a criminal in- formation should not be filed against John Russell Smith, publisher of Soho- square, for printing and publishing a pamphlet containing a libelous attack on Mr. Payne Collier, by imputing that he had fraudulently "cooked up" the emenda- tions in his folio edition of Shakspeare, as well as the original prospectus of Coleridge's lectures. Lord Campbell said he was quite certain that Mr. Collier, of whose friendship he was proud, was quite above the mean frauds of which he had been accused, but the pamphlet was a literary criticism, and could not come under the notice of that court. The rule was therefore refused. The pamphlet had been sent to the *Athenæum*, but that journal refused to insert it. The language employed was extremely violent; and disclosures similar to those of Ireland, the Shakspeare forger, were promised. It is plain that the editor of the *Athenæum* exercised a wise discretion in excluding the attack. Whether Mr. Collier's new readings be or be not genuine, it is most unjust to accuse that gentleman of fraud in the absence of all proof, and merely to indulge a disbelief in his honour.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

BIRTHS.

COOPER.—On the 12th inst., at 27, Queen's-terrace, Queen's road, Bayswater, the wife of Henry Cooper, Esq., of H.M.S. Retribution: a son.

CHAPMAN.—On the 11th inst., at St. Paul's Parsonage, the Red River, the wife of the Rev. John Chapman, Chaplain to H.H.B. Co.: a son.

HUNTER.—On the 23rd of September, on the way from York Factory to the Red River, the wife of the Ven. Archdeacon Hunter, of St. Andrew's Church: a son.

HUNT.—On the 4th of October, at the Mission Point, English River, Rupert's Land, the wife of the Rev. Robert Hunt, of the Church Missionary Society: a daughter.

MANCHESTER.—On the 16th inst., at 13, Cavendish-square, the Duchess of Manchester: a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

TATTERSALL-OWEN.—On Wednesday, the 9th inst., the Rev. W. A. Tattersall, M.A., of Pembroke College, Oxford, and Curate of Walton-on-the-Hill, Lancashire, to Emma Elizabeth, younger daughter of the Rev. Hugh Davies Owen, D.D., Rector of Trevaeth, county of Anglesey.

DEATHS.

COOK.—On the 14th inst., at 4, Bond-street, Pentonville, William Cook, Esq., Manager in London of the Scottish Equitable Life Assurance Society; formerly Civil Commissioner to the Niger Expedition, and Commander of the Barque "Cambria," at the rescue of the crew and passengers of the "Kent," East Indiaman, aged sixty-eight.

PRITCHARD.—On the 14th of October, at the Elms, Red River, Mr. John Pritchard, in his 79th year.

CRESWICK.—On the 4th inst., at his residence, Jamaica-street, Bristol, Humphrey Creswick, Esq. formerly of Hanham-court, and in the Commission of the Peace for the county of Gloucester.

MAYNE.—On the 23rd ult., at Cairo, aged 36, Colonel W. Mayne, A.D.C. to the Queen, Brigadier commanding the Hyderabad Contingent, third surviving son of the Rev. R. Mayne, formerly Rector of Limsfield, Surrey.

FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE.

Tuesday, January 15.

BANKRUPTS.—JOHN TODD MERRICK, Chancellor-road, Hammersmith, and 4, St. George's-place, Walworth-road, Surrey, builder—EDWIN WINSOM, 6, Park-street, Croydon, pianoforte dealer—GEORGE HATT, 8, New Park-street, Southwark, cowkeeper, dairyman, and greengrocer—GEORGE BROWN and WILLIAM RUSBY, 42, Bankside, Southwark, and Idle, near Leeds, stone merchants and quarrymen—EDWARD HOOKER, late of Birchanger, Essex, now of Park-road, West Kent-park, Forest-hill, Sydenham, contractor and builder—JAMES FRASER, 70½, Lower Thames-street, City, wine, spirit, and beer merchant—JOHN PEE, Astley Abbotts, Salop, publican and blacksmith—WILLIAM CORBETT, East Dean, and Newnham, Gloucester, coal merchant and coke manufacturer—CHARLES LUMLEY, Knarborough, York, gardener, seedsman, and fruiterer—THOMAS WOOLHOUSE, ELIJAH WOOLHOUSE, and SAMUEL WOOLHOUSE, Sheffield, saw manufacturers—ROBERT FORSHAW, Liverpool, coal dealer, and beer seller.

Friday, January 18.

BANKRUPTS.—THOMAS WHITEHEAD, Eastcheap, City sugar dealer—HENRY WM. RICHARDSON, Banstead, licensed victualler—WILLIAM BURCH, Sewardstone Mills, cotton dyer—JOHN CRANBROOK GREGORY, Bristol, dealer in porter and ale—WALTER BOOTH, Deptford, papier maché manufacturer—CHARLES DOWN, Newport, Monmouthshire, grocer—CATHERINE HUGHES, Holywell, Flintshire, grocer and draper—JOSEPH LODGE, Wolverhampton, brewer—JOHN MITCHELL, Sun-street, Bishopsgate-street, analytical chemist—WILLIAM SALISBURY, Birmingham, builder—JOHN T. EDWARDS, Liverpool—CHARLES BRADLEY, Wilmslow, Cheshire, tailor.

Commercial Affairs.

MONEY MARKET AND CITY INTELLIGENCE

London, Friday Evening, Jan. 18, 1856.

The excitement consequent upon the *Times*' telegraphic messages from Vienna, which appeared yesterday morning at 11-15, in the Stock Exchange has not been equalled since the *coup d'état*. Consols had been gradually rising for two days before; the Hebrew operators had increased their stakes; and on Wednesday evening the Funds closed at 87½. For the first ten minutes after the announcement that appeared in the *Times*, there was such confusion that no exact price could be ascertained; 87½, 90, about twelve o'clock. The highest point they reached was 90½, then a slight reaction took place. To-day the average price has been 90. In the other markets the rise was as great, Turkish 6½ taking the lead; at one time they were quoted 87½, 87½. The bears who were out got in as fast as may be, most of them, poor fellows, with their skins terribly torn. The Hebrews faces shone as if anointed. Is it so certain that the fact of Russia accepting the terms as a basis for negotiations means peace, or gaining time and an opportunity for Austria to sneak out of the quarrel. Parliament meets on the 31st, then comes the bill to pay, &c., &c. Consols are dear at 90, if one did but know it. A dissolution is not impossible, and surely this Ministry will hardly stand should a peace actually be signed before June.

Railways, foreign and home, are all three or four pounds better per share. In Mines and Crystal Palaces not a great deal doing. Consols closed at 4 o'clock 89½, 90.

CORN MARKET.

Mark-lane, Friday, Jan. 18, 1856.

During the week there have been literally no arrivals of Foreign Wheat or Flour, and the supply of English is quite trifling. The news of the terms of peace having been agreed to by Russia is received with much doubt, but there has been no disposition evinced to purchase at the rates recently current; holders, however, continue firm and resist any important decline. Speculative purchases, at a fall of five shillings, could be made to some extent, though the general impression is, that even in the case of peace, present prices

are not much too high, taking into account the exhaustion of stocks all over Europe. Barley and Oats remain unaltered in value, but the business done has been confined to the supply of immediate wants. Hardly any cargoes are left on the coast, and prices of Wheat and Maize arrived or on passage are quite nominal.

Aberdeen, 20, 4; Bristol and Exeter, 80, 2; Caledonian, 56½, 7; Chester and Holyhead, 11, 12; East Anglian, 11½, 12; Eastern Counties, 8½, 1; Edinburgh and Glasgow, 50, 2; Great Northern, 91½, 2½; Ditto, A stock, 76, 8; Ditto B stock, 120, 122; Great Southern and Western (Ireland), 103, 105; Great Western, 54, 5; Lancaster and Carlisle, 70, 5; Ditto, Thirds, 5, 6 pm; Ditto, new Thirds, 5, 6 pm; Lancashire and Yorkshire, 78½, 9½; London and Blackwall, 6½, 1; London, Brighton, and South Coast, 16, 7; London and North Western, 96½, 7; Ditto South Ditto, 86, 7; Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire, 24½, 5; Metropolitan, 1½, 1 dis; Midland, 65½, 6½; Ditto, Birmingham and Derby, 38, 40; Newport, Abergavenny, and Hereford, 9, 10; North British, 29½, 30½; North Eastern (B-riwick), 68½, 9½; Do., Extension, 8½, 7½ dis; Ditto, Great North Eastern purchase, 4½, 5½ dis; Ditto, Leeds, 12½, 12½; Ditto, York, 45½, 6½; North Staffordshire, 8½, 7½ dis; Oxford, Worcester, and Wolverhampton, 21, 3; Scottish Central, 102, 104; Scottish Midland, 72, 4; South Devon, 11, 12; South Eastern (Dover), 59, 60; South Wales, 66, 8; Vale of Neath, 3½, 4½; West Cornwall, dis; Antwerp and Rotterdam, 8, 8½; Ardennes, 1, 3; Eastern of France, Paris and Strasbourg, 36½, 7½; East India, 21, 1; Ditto Extension, 2½, 1 pm; Grand Trunk of Canada, 10, 9 dis; Great Indian Peninsula, 20½, 1; Luxembourg, 5, 5½; Great Western of Canada, 25½, 6; North of France, 36½, 7½; Paris and Lyons, 46½, 7½; Paris and Orleans, 45, 7; Sambre and Meuse, 8½, 9; Western and N. W. of France, 29, 33; Agua Fria, —; Australian, 1, 1; Brazil Imperial, 2, 2; Coceas, —; St. John del Rey, 27, 9.

BRITISH FUNDS FOR THE PAST WEEK.

(CLOSING PRICES.)

	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.
Bank Stock	207	207½	...	203	207	...
3 per Cent. Reduced	86½	86½	86½	87½	87½	90½
3 per Cent. Con. An.	86	86½	86½	87½	87½	89½
Consols for Account	86½	86½	86½	87½	87½	90½
New 3 per Cent. An.	86½	86½	87½	88½	87	90½
New 3½ per Cents .....	...	...	...	...	...	...
Long Ans. 1885 .....	...	...	16½	16	...	...
India Stock .....	...	220	...	...	218½	...
Ditto Bonds, £1000	7s. d	3s. d	...	6s. d	...	2s. d
Ditto, under £1000	3s. d	...	7s. d	...	3s. d	...
Ex. Bills, £1090	3s. d	7s. d	3s. d	3s. d	8s. d	1s. d
Ditto, £500 .....	...	7s. d	...	3s. d	...	9s. d
Ditto, Small .....	...	6s. d	...	6s. d	4s. d	5s. d

FOREIGN FUNDS.

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

Brazilian Bonds	103	Portuguese 5 per Cents.	...
Buenos Ayres 6 p. Cents ..	55	Russian Bonds, 5 per	...
Chilian 6 per Cents	103	Cents	100
Chilian 3 per Cents	67	Russian 4½ per Cents....	86
Dutch 2½ per Cents	65	Spanish	40
Dutch 4 per Cent. Certif ..	96	Spanish Committee Cert.	...
Equador Bonds .....	...	of Coup. not fun .....	...
Mexican Account	20½	Turkish 6 per Cents	80
Peruvian 4½ per Cents	40	Turkish New, 4 ditto	1
Portuguese 4 per Cents .....	...	Venezuela, 3½ per Cents.	...

DR. KAHN'S CELEBRATED ANATOMICAL MUSEUM, 4, Coventry-street, Leicester-square (open for Gentlemen only), the rarity and completeness of whose contents have already acquired for it an European reputation, and obtained the warm commendations of the press in this and other countries is now open daily. A New Series of Original Specimens and Models, embracing some most important and curious features, illustrative of the wonders and secrets of the Human Structure, has just been added to the Collection, which now stands wholly unrivalled in the world. Lectures are delivered during the day, and a new and peculiarly interesting one is delivered by Dr. KAHN, at half-past Eight o'clock every Evening, on the Reproductive Functions in Man. Admission, One Shilling.

Just published, price 1s., free by post (gratis to Visitors to the Museum), a new edition of Dr. KAHN's Treatise,

THE SHOALS AND QUICKSANDS OF YOUTH. An Essay, specially intended to avert dangers to which the young and susceptible are peculiarly liable, and to arrest the progress of evil.

HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT and PILLS, MIRACULOUS REMEDIES for the CURE of BAD LEGS.—Mr. Allison, of Bowling, states, in a letter to Mr. Umbleby, druggist, of Bradford, that, after a severe cold caught last winter, his legs began to swell, and ultimately sores broke out on each, for the cure of which he tried a variety of remedies without avail, until he used Holloway's Pills and Ointment; and he says it was perfectly astonishing to see the effect these wonderful medicines had on his legs, as both were very quickly healed. Sold by all Medicine Vendors throughout the World; at Professor Holloway's Establishments, 244, Strand, London, and 80, Maiden-lane, New York; by A. Stampa, Constantinople; A. Guidicy, Smyrna; and E. Muir, Malta.

DEAFNESS and NOISES in the HEAD.—

Free of Charge, for the Protection and Instant Relief of the Deaf. A Book of 30 pages.—An extraordinary Discovery.—Just published, sent free by post to any deaf person writing for it, "A STOP to EMPIRICISM and EXORBITANT FEES." Sufferers extremely deaf, by means of this book, permanently cure themselves, in any distant part of the world, without pain or use of any instrument. Thousands have been restored to perfect hearing, and for ever rescued from the snare of the numerous advertising, dangerous, unqualified pretenders of the present day. It contains lists of startling cures, published by Dr. F. R. HOGGITT, Member of the London Royal College of Surgeons, May 2, 1845; L.A.C. April 30, 1846; Consulting Surgeon to the Institution for the Cure of Deafness, 9, Suffolk-place, Pall Mall, London, where all letters are to be addressed. Personal consultations every day between 11 and 4 o'clock. Sufferers deaf 40 or 50 years have their hearing perfectly restored in half an hour, without a moment's inconvenience. Testimonials and certificates can be seen from all the leading members of the faculty and from patients cured.

THEATRE ROYAL, COVENT GARDEN.—EXTRAORDINARY SUCCESS of "ROB ROY," and the Grand Operatic Drama.—THREE JUVENILE NIGHTS. Immense success of PROFESSOR ANDERSON as the Hero of the Macgregors. Enthusiastic applause every night. Great Success of Mrs. J. W. WALLACK as Helen Macgregor. Unanimous approbation of the gorgeous Scottish Spectacle. ROB ROY placed on the stage in the same style as the great Italian Operas. Sir Henry Bishop's music listened to every night by delighted thousands. Seats must be secured early, or no room is attainable.

This Evening, MONDAY, January 21st, and on TUESDAY and WEDNESDAY, ROB ROY. To be followed by the great and most successful Pantomime of YE BELLE ALLIANCE, or, HARLEQUIN GOOD HUMOUR, AND YE FIELDS OF THE CLOTH OF GOLDE. Three Juvenile Nights, on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, the performances commencing with the most gorgeous and most popular Pantomime of Ye Belle Alliance or Harlequin Good Humour and ye Fields of the Cloth of Golde. To be followed by the Scottish Operatic Spectacle of ROB ROY. Rob Roy, Professor Anderson; Helen Macgregor, Mrs. J. W. Wallack; Diana Vernon, Miss Harriet Gordon; Rashleigh Osbaldiston, Mr. Stuart; Francis Osbaldiston, Mr. George Perrin; The Dougal, Mr. Harry Pearson; Major Galbraith, Mr. Sam Cowell; Baillie Nicol Jarvie, Mr. D. Stewart; Mattie, Miss Cuthbert. The Great Pantomime has Flexmore for its Clown, Barnes for its Pantaloon, Charles Brown for its Harlequin, and Miss Emma Horne for its unequalled Columbine. The New Farce of THE IMPUDENT PUPPY is postponed for a few days, in consequence of the tremendous excitement occasioned by the representation of Rob Roy. Doors open at half-past six; commence at seven. Private Boxes, £3 3s., £2 2s., £1 1s., and 12s.; Grand Balcony, 4s.; Upper Boxes, 2s. 6d.; Amphitheatre Stalls, 2s.; Pit, 2s.; Gallery, 1s. Second Price at Nine o'clock. Balcony, 3s.; Upper Boxes, 1s. 6d.; Pit, 1s.; Gallery, 6d. The Box Office is open daily from 11 till 5, under the direction of Mr. O'REILLY.

First appearance of Mr Edouard Bouteillier, M. G. Laristi, and Messrs. Candler, fils, in LES TABLEAUX AERIENS. Grand MORNING REPRESENTATION of the extraordinary and successful PANTOMIME EVERY SATURDAY, at Two o'clock.

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Monday and during the week (Thursday excepted), THE JEALOUS WIFE. Characters by Messrs. F. Vining, Emery, Leslie, E. Vining, Danvers, Mrs. Stirling, Misses Marston, Castleton, and Bromley. After which, the New Fairy Extravaganza, by J. R. Planche, Esq., entitled THE DISCREET PRINCESS; or, THE THREE GLASS DISTAFFS. Principal characters by Messrs. F. Robson, Emery, Danvers, Clifton, Coney, Franks, White, H. Cooper, Misses Marston, Maskell, Stephens, Maynard, Ternan, and Julia St. George. Commence at half-past seven.

MADAME JENNY GOLDSCHMIDT-LIND.

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MENDELSSOHN'S ELIJAH.

M ENDELSSOHN'S ORATORIO of ELIJAH

will be repeated at Exeter-hall, on MONDAY EVENING, January 21, 1856. Principal Singers—

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Miss Dolby, Miss Messent.

Mr. Weiss, Mr. Lawler, and Mr. Lockey.

The Chorus and Orchestra will consist of more than 600 Performers. Conductor, M. BENEDICT.

Prices of Admission:—Stalls (Numbered and Reserved), £1 1s.; Unreserved Seats (Body of the Hall), 10s. 6d.; West Gallery, 10s. 6d.; Area (under West Gallery), 7s.

** The Tickets will be appropriated according to the order of application, and no more will be issued than the Room can conveniently accommodate.

Doors open at Seven, to commence at Eight o'clock precisely.

Correct books of the Oratorio are given with the Tickets.

Application for Tickets to be made at Mr. Mitchell's Royal Library, 33, Old Bond-street.

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HANOVER-SQUARE ROOMS.

MR. MITCHELL respectfully announces that

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SECOND MISCELLANEOUS CONCERT

is fixed to take place at the Hanover-square Rooms, on Friday Evening next, January 25th.

The reserved and numbered seats one guinea each; unreserved seats, 10s. 6d. Doors open at Seven o'clock.

The tickets will be appropriated according to the order of application; no more will be issued than the room can conveniently accommodate. Application for tickets may be made at Mr. MITCHELL'S Royal Library, 33, Old Bond-street.

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(Copy.)

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"I have submitted to a microscopical and chemical examination the samples of barley and groats which you have forwarded to me, and I beg to inform you that I find in them only those principles which are found in good barley: there is no mineral or other impurity present, and from the result of my investigation I believe them to be genuine, and to possess those nutritive properties assigned by the late Dr. Pereira to this description of food."

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The Annual General Meeting of this Society was held on the 30th May, 1855, when a Report of the business for the last year was presented, exhibiting a statement of most satisfactory progress. It appeared that during the two last years, 1853 and 1854, between 800 and 900 new Assurances had been effected, producing an increase of Premium income amounting to £14,000 per annum. It also appeared that, notwithstanding the extraordinary mortality which prevailed during the last year, in consequence of the visitation of the cholera, it had not been found necessary to reduce, in the slightest, the allowance of 3½ per cent. previously awarded to the Policy-holders.

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