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# 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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SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 1857.

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## Review of the Week.

THE controversy between Government and the public on the subject of the Income-tax has commenced in good earnest, although with good manners. Sir GEORGE CORNEWALL LEWIS has now received two deputations pressing upon him a great change in the tax—with reference to the mode of assessment, to the persons who would fall under the pressure, and to the amount,—and 'Manchester follows up the attack.' No satisfaction! Sir GEORGE puts aside at once any idea of readjusting the tax. He treats that as a closed question. He admits hardships, but pleads the 'difficulty.' Readjustment of the Income-tax, therefore, at the hands of the present Government, is a thing that the public must not look for; and politely as Sir GEORGE LEWIS expressed it, it is quite as well that they should understand the distinct refusal. One of the grossest inequalities of the tax is, that it presses hard upon the man with 100% a year, not at all upon the man with 99% a year; which is of course so absurd that we may call it simply silly. Sir GEORGE declined to meddle with that iniquity: it must go on. He does not indeed adopt the bare-faced expedient of standing upon the letter of the present statute, and continuing the tax literally one clear year after the ratification of the treaty of peace; but he tells us that he shall have to provide for a heavy expenditure this year, and he must consider the expenditure along with the tax. The war augmentation of divers taxes on malt-tax, &c., will fall in, and he implies that he shall be able to reduce the Income-tax very little. A bad tax, badly adjusted, and still heavy—that is the Ministerial reply to the request of the public for a reconsideration of the Income-tax. We are not disposed to press hard upon the Government; but we cannot refrain from observing that at the best this reply is, that Government has not the capacity for doing any better, though others could teach it.

It is well known that the Opposition has under consideration a readjustment of the Income-tax and of our whole financial arrangements, with a view to rendering the burdens of the people less severe. This has appeared for some time past, most especially from the declarations of Sir JOHN PAKINGTON and our able weekly contemporary the *Press*.

Mr. ROEBUCK has disclosed one reason for this inability of the public to obtain any kind of effectual influence over the Government. He calls it "corruption." There is corruption, he says, in every

public department, from top to bottom. Members are inveigled into the great connexion by invitations to the Queen's Palace; and 'independent' as they may be in their wishes and their position, they are thus coaxed into tameness. If Mr. A. is stubborn, Mrs. A. gives way, and A. is conquered through his wife. Now, there is some truth in this description by Mr. ROEBUCK, though it is a great deal too abstract and general. Taking the matter in a less precise form, and yet in a more correct form, what it amounts to is this:—

When gentlemen are elected by the constituencies, and come to reside in London for the legislative season, it is also the London season. Those of them who are suited for drawing-room business are drawn into 'distinguished' society, and are gradually induced to feel the same sympathies, interests, and objects in life with that undefined and yet perfectly cognizable class which constitutes the 'upper' society of London town, and manages or cajoles the public business of the country. There is the whole story. A contractor has put forward a distinct denial that public contractors do business with the public departments by corruption, and we believe him. No money passes, even the distribution of place is necessarily too limited to corrupt all those who thus betray the public interests. But London residence, the natural desire for 'distinction,' the universal devotion to advancement, especially in *appearances*, drag the representatives of the people into a new 'set,' and constitute them the representatives of the West-end. The House of Commons accordingly conducts the affairs of the nation on West-end principles. And since City men have taken to live about Belgravia and Tyburnia, even *they* constitute no effectual check, unless we come to a matter like the Bank Charter Act, in which they have the first word.

The only improvements, therefore, reforms, changes of policy, or whatever else we may call them, for the interest of the public, are those which West-end statesmen and philosophers can approve, on grounds of intellectual fitness, good taste, or the supremacy of the upper classes.

For instance, many Lords, Baronets, and Judges, Members of Parliament, and other intelligent gentlemen, constitute themselves a Law-Amendment Society,—and an excellent society it is. The society has this week assembled a conference on mercantile law; a branch of law which is in the grossest confusion. The state of the joint-stock companies acts, the doubts as to the real position of insurance companies, the state of the bankruptcy

law, the Royal British Bank, the confusion of the law on the subject of dock warrants, the gigantic and hideous expenses of bankruptcy,—these are but a very few instances of the excessive confusion of the mercantile world. Foreigners speak with the greatest contempt of the foolishness of a people like the English—of a *mercantile* people,—whose mercantile law is quite incapable of being understood by a foreigner or explained by a native. Nothing can be more desirable, then, than a revision of the whole, with an improvement on Lord BROTHAM's principle of rendering it in accordance with plain common sense instead of Mandarin technicalities. The upper classes of the West-end are quite willing to concede reforms of this kind, and we may thank them for their condescension.

But let any public man attempt to break through the class interests, especially the interests of the high-born, wealthy, and titled classes,—those, in short, who are fairly called the West-end classes, and he is crushed. Sir JOHN McNEILL forms an example; Colonel TULLOCH another. They were sent out as commissioners into the Crimea to expose the bad management, the frightful sacrifice of life in the British army, many times greater than that of Walcheren, as they reported. Now Sir JOHN belongs more to the engineering classes, to the nation, than to the upper classes. He has a title and a fine position, but he is a man who takes an interest in the work to be done, whatever it is, more than in class or person. Well, the Government could not but receive his report. Who had occasioned that mismanagement in the East? The Government, carried on by the representatives of the West-end class. They were the officers that outrageously sacrificed life, property, and taxes!—officers born of the West-end class; and what was the result? The result was, that when the worst officers—most pointed at by the Report—came home, they were all promoted to distinguished positions, got General commissions, Colonelcies, honours, increased pay: while Colonel TULLOCH was worried into illness, and Sir JOHN McNEILL has been treated with total neglect for a year, until certain persons at Liverpool sent him that vote of thanks which he ought to have had from Lord PALMERSTON's Government and from the Parliament. That is the example of the way in which any man is crushed who attempts to thwart the West-end classes and the people will never get their rights until they awaken to a sense of the real conspiracy against them.

At present, however, the people at large are doing less than some small section of them, such as the

unemployed builders; they are doing less even than the ticket-of-leave men, who have been assembled by the instrumentality of Lord CARNARVON and Mr. HENRY MAYHEW, to tell their difficulties.

We laugh at the Italians for suffering themselves to be cajoled, by us amongst others. Are we not in alliance with Austria? who has just insulted the Lombardo-Venetian Kingdom by an amnesty, clogged like others, with conditions that frustrate it,—for instance, it excludes the refugees.

The death of the Princess DE LIEVEN will not undo that 'inner circle' of diplomacy which really manages the world; and we have our domestic inner circle quite as much for the management of our world at home as abroad.

If occasionally a gentleman does venture to be outspoken, he is voted unmannered, and the well-behaved talk of cutting him. Take the case of Sir ROBERT PEEL. The very organs of the Ministry to which he belongs are quoting the Billingsgate of the Prince DE LIGNE, or, as the printer of the *Press* wittily calls him, the Prince DE LINGE, in reply to the outspoken account which Sir ROBERT PEEL gave of his travels on the Continent. The Prince calls the Baronet a ragamuffin and a toper.

The Indian Mail brings us some more detailed accounts of the news from Persia and China. From Persia the accounts are satisfactory. The Persians made a more gallant resistance at Bushire than we might have expected—a resistance which implies some stamina in Persia, and therefore a greater advantage in bringing her to her proper place in the Asiatic system. At Canton, Sir JOHN BOWRING is rather in difficulties, hence his demand for troops. He is not strong enough for what he has undertaken.

Descending from politics and law to police, we have to note that Lord CAMPBELL has denied the inherent right of an Archbishop of CANTERBURY to prevent Archdeacon DENISON from having a fair trial on appeal. The Church in this country is not above the law.

Our aristocratic class,—that West-end class that sits upon the shoulders of the country, is represented in the courts by VANE TEMPEST, late a gallant officer, who has been buying jewellery and giving it away. The jewellers apply for payment, and he pleads "Infancy." The plea is characteristic in every sense, as an assertion of privilege.

#### MEETING OF TICKET-OF-LEAVE MEN.

A GATHERING of ticket-of-leave men convened by Mr. Henry Mayhew, at the request of the Earl of Carnarvon, who presided, took place at Farringdon Hall, Snow-hill, on Tuesday evening. Between eighty and ninety attended, and were admitted by simply showing their tickets-of-leave at the door. The police were rigorously excluded. The appearance of the men is described as for the most part resembling that of costermongers; but here and there were to be seen a few of the flash 'swell mobsmen.' Lord Carnarvon was supported by Mr. Henry Mayhew, the Rev. Mr. Portal, Mr. Beach, Mr. Wyld, Dr. Mackay, and a few other gentlemen.

The first person to ascend the platform (says the account in the daily papers) was a tidily-dressed and simple-looking bald old man of about sixty, who prefaced his recital with the words, "Fellow-men and brother sufferers," and went on to describe himself as one who had "seen more trouble in his time than any other man this day in England." Being the same individual who told his tale of distress at the former meeting in the National Hall, in the character of a dock labourer, who was constantly harassed by the police in his endeavours to support himself by honest industry, it is not necessary here to repeat the greater part of his statement. The only addition to his former narrative was that in April last he obtained a situation upon Mr. Mayhew's recommendation, and he thanked God that he had been able to keep it ever since. He had to work very hard for his living, but he knew many like himself who would be only too glad to change positions with him, and to return to honest pursuits. Many now ran about the streets playing their old games, who would jump at the chance of emigrating to Australia; and he was very sorry for the day that he had himself come home from the colonies. After giving some particulars illustrative of the alleged dishonesty and tyranny of the police, the speaker sat down.

A fat, burly-looking young man, in a rough over-jacket and a wide-awake hat, next claimed to be heard, and began by demanding somewhat bluntly, "Who is Mr. Mayhew?" Having had that gentleman pointed out to him, he set himself very rudely to catechizing him, but was soon compelled to desist by the feeling of the assemblage. He then remarked that "he meant no offence, but he wished to caution the men against making themselves so public, and risking their lives to come there for the sole benefit of another man. That man

was Mr. Mayhew. (*Hisses.*) They might hiss him if they liked, but Mr. Mayhew convened these meetings, and said upon the cards that he intended to make them and their difficulties known. [A Voice: 'You take it in a wrong light.'] Perhaps he did, but he was a poor man, and could not express himself like Mr. Mayhew. He wished, however, to speak the truth, and not to relate mere fictions. Lord Carnarvon ought to know that Mr. Mayhew called these meetings, where he extracted information from the men privately, and then published it in his work. (*Confusion.*) That gentleman stated the other day in a Sunday newspaper that while a ticket-of-leave man could make his 5*l.* a week and keep a pony by his old practices, it was useless to expect him to become a clerk upon a salary of 15*s.* a week. A nice man was Mr. Mayhew! (*Laughter and hisses.*) It was nonsense to talk of shutting out the police while such a man was—"

The Chairman at this point cut short the speaker's invective, which appeared to be fast reaching its climax, and appealed to the good sense and good feeling of the meeting to support him in confining the discussion to its legitimate scope. Shouts of applause followed this remonstrance, and the indignant orator was compelled to sit down.

The third speaker was a costermonger, who also spoke last year; and he stated that he had a wife and child and an aged mother to keep, but he thanked God he was able to do so by honest industry. He only expected the workhouse for his old age, and he got no more than one meal on some days; "but that was far preferable to three meals and a pannikin of soup in the Penitentiary." His ticket was of no use to him, because he was not one of the learned ones, but one of the ignorant ones, who had had to "rough it" ever since he was fourteen. In this as in the previous case, a very favourable testimonial to character was produced at the close of his speech.

Two other speakers also received excellent characters from their employers, who were present, and who had not previously known, though one had suspected, that these servants of theirs possessed tickets of leave. The sixth speaker, a mason, and a middle-aged man, very well dressed, inveighed with great bitterness against the persecutions of the police. How, he asked, could a ticket-of-leave, without a character, expect to get work, when thousands of workmen who had never been in gaol are now starving for want of employment? He had tried for a year to get employment, and could not, and he wouldn't starve. "The way in which his kind friends 'lent him a hand' was to set the police to hunt him down without cause. His married sister had her house lately broken into, and when the police went to inquire about it, his niece told them, 'Oh! I have an uncle who is a housebreaker.' (*Laughter.*) By this means the police were set upon him; he had been dragged about by them from one court to another upon every variety of false charge. Once he was accused of stealing the hat he had on, and it was only by the hatter's coming forward to prove his purchase of it that he was ultimately liberated. He (the speaker) was a ticket-of-leave man himself, and he now lived with a ticket-of-leave woman; and of course that was sufficient to justify his apprehension for every conceivable depredation committed in his neighbourhood. If a mat was stolen from the next door to his, ten to one but the police would be down upon him for it." After denouncing the inconsistent benevolence of the country, which lavished its care upon the foreigner and the negro, and neglected the oppressed and the destitute at home, the speaker concluded by entreating for himself and his class a chance of returning to the paths of honest industry, and by declaring his conviction that transportation would never stop crime.

Mr. Mayhew said that if the last speaker really wished for employment he should be happy to furnish him with the name of a gentleman who would give it to him. (*Applause.*)

Two or three other ticket-of-leave men having addressed the meeting in a similar strain, the Chairman thanked the persons present for their orderly behaviour, exhorted them to strive to become honest once more, and called for a show of hands to ascertain whether the men would prefer to have a ticket of leave in England or one in the colonies. All, without an exception, signified in favour of the latter, and the meeting shortly afterwards broke up.

We have received the following letter on the subject of this singular conference from a well-known and esteemed correspondent of the *Leader*, and we recommend his communication to the serious attention of our readers:—

#### THE "MONSIEUR AUX KALMIAS."

(To the Editor of the *Leader*.)

SIR,—I belong to that class of persons whom you Londoners somewhat contemptuously designate as "yokels;" in other words, I am a 'country cousin.' It is, therefore, needless to mention that the greatest treat I anticipated in my visit to the metropolis was the sight of a real lord. Imagine, then, the sudden thrill that shot through me when a friend offered me a ticket to see a live Earl. It is true my benefactor spoke rather slightly of the illustrious young nobleman, as a "Monsieur aux Kalmias;" adding, in the *nil admirari*

tone of 'men about town,' "I am told he is famous in his own county for fat hogs and tall rhododendrons." My rapture was certainly damped by this supercilious remark, but rekindled when another acquaintance observed: "Ah! his lordship is a man of considerable promise. He made a very fair speech on the address, in reply to the Queen's Speech, last session; and, you know, he was a double-first." I did not know anything about it, but of course I assented with a nod; nor do I now quite understand how any man can be more than first, or how he can be a double, except he is beside himself. However, that is not much to the point.

This exhibition of a young Earl was to be combined with one of his social antipodes—the much-abused 'tick't-o'-leaf-m'n.' It appears this budding legislator had applied to Mr. Henry Mayhew to commune a meeting of his protégés, in order that from their own lips their peculiar grievances might be ascertained, and, perhaps, useful suggestions obtained for remedying the practical defects of the system. With characteristic kindness of heart that gentleman at once responded to the wishes of the noble aspirant after useful knowledge, and exerted himself with so much success that nearly one hundred of the unfortunate outcasts were persuaded to lay aside their natural suspicions, and to meet in the large and handsome room belonging to Salter's Coffee-house, in Victoria-street, Farringdon Market. It was nearly eight o'clock when I entered the spacious and lofty hall. Even at that hour only a small number of the guests had assembled, though the pavement outside was dotted here and there with small groups of individuals of a vacillating disposition—curiosity and fear struggling for the mastery. My heart beat audibly, and the blood sang in my ears, as with quick, faltering step I approached the platform, supporting the noble presence of an Earl, condescendingly seated in a chair of no uncommon pretensions. Timidly raising my eyes, I beheld the folds of an elegant white silk handkerchief proudly, but gracefully, swelling out of the long-descended bosom, reminding one of the pure white berries of the mistletoe pendent at Christmas time from the boughs of a sturdy oak. Not that there was anything oak-like about the philanthropic lord, who had abandoned for a time his rhododendrons and azaleas, and relinquished his horticultural pursuits to study the physiology of Botany Bay. Presently I ventured to look yet higher, and with bated breath gazed on those aristocratic features—the mild, slumbering eye, the well-bred nose, the softly-reposing moustaches, the modest, retiring chin. No pigeon-fancier in St. Martin's-lane would have hesitated for a moment to give him a certificate of race. Perhaps my allusion is not sufficiently obvious. There is, sir, an aristocratic class of pigeons called Almonds, from their colour. The bills of these birds, by breeding in-and-in, become so very soft that they cannot pick up the peas with which base-born pigeons are usually fed. It at once struck me that the noble lord in the ordinary chair was a 'soft bill,' and altogether an Almond pigeon of unquestionable descent. On his right sat the Levite "who was content to dwell with the (noble young) man." It seems that in exalted circles it is customary to retain, as a part of the establishment, a private chaplain to transact the great man's religious business, in addition to a secretary or amanuensis for purposes of spelling and grammar, and a butler to drink the old port. Or, as my informant irreverently expressed it, "Your swell can't do without his bible-holder, any more than without his ready letter-writer and 'bottle-jack.'" I was glad to observe that the reverend gentleman did not look at all ashamed of his pupil, or unbecomingly oppressed by the tightness of his own immaculate choker. He had evidently wrapped himself up in his virtue and a comfortable top-coat buttoned up to the throat, and was piously resigned to his fate in having fallen among thieves. On his right hand, again, sat a lay figure. Take this as a bad pun, if you choose, but I am serious in calling it such, though my facetious companion tried to impose it upon me as a young aristocrat, who was being reared to sit in the House of Commons. As far as mere sitting goes, very likely it would be quite as useful as many of the animated creatures who are sent there to learn how to sleep with their hats on. But this was too palpably a wooden figure to be mistaken for one of the glorious old gentlemen of England. The face, too, was wretchedly carved. From some accident, the features had been spoilt, and so others had been picked up at random, and glued on anyhow. No, no; call me 'yokel,' if you please, but I know a man when I see one, and I know a lay figure, too, and can tell the difference.

On the left side of the noble chairman sat a serenely-majestic being, whom I at once recognized as Mr. Henry Mayhew, from having had his likeness pointed out to me in the picture of London Notabilities, gratuitously exhibited to the public, outside Mr. Vickress's wine and spirit establishment, at the corner of Wellington-street North. Around the platform, but below it, were congregated several decent, respectable-looking gentlemen, whom my cicerone represented to be persons connected with newspapers, and that sort of thing, but I suspect he was laughing at me. Why, they were all well clothed, and looked tolerably well fed, and there was nothing at all wild or desperate in their appearance. Besides, they were all on good terms with one another, and chatted together as pleasantly as you and I could do. Facing them sat the "tick't-of-leaf-m'n," as they called them—



selves—mostly young men of stunted growth, with long, shallow, parallelogram-shaped bodies, on short spare legs, curved outwards from the knee down, except when they resembled the hind-legs of a cow. Poor fellows! the restless, suspicious eye, peering out at the corner, the hollow cheeks, and the lantern jaw, spoke of a hungry childhood, and of a manhood alternating between want and wild debauchery, with black care in the form of a policeman dogging their steps, and ever dancing before their mind's eye. Some few wore an extremely sinister and repulsive expression, but in general the external indications denoted only sensuality with deficient conscientiousness—the natural consequence of hereditary neglect and ignorance. One fellow, indeed, might have sat as Mr. Leech's model. I was thankful I had not to walk in his company, that night, down a dark lane.

I need not detain you, sir, with a detailed report of the speeches made on this occasion. The business of the evening was, of course, opened by the Earl of Rhododendron, who, for this one night only, forbore to wear the diamond ring which is pronounced to be a 'necessary' with individuals (if I may be allowed to use that word in speaking of the aristocracy) of his exalted rank. Lightly resting his delicate fingers on the front of the platform, and swaying to and fro on his noble toes, his lordship told his fellow-subjects that he had convened, or called them together—for he considerably varied his expressions—in order that he might hear from themselves what they thought of the ticket-of-leave system. The amiable speaker kindly reminded them that they had all broken the laws of their country, and would have been transported had there been any place to transport them unto. But as there was not, they had been condemned instead to penal servitude—the meaning of which hard words they all perfectly understood—and after a time had been allowed to mingle once more with honest men, as a reward and trial of their repentance. Unfortunately, some of them had not kept their promise to 'society,' and 'society' was therefore very angry with them. But for his own part, before he legislated, that is, made laws for them, he was anxious to give them another chance, and would be glad to listen to anything they had to say for themselves. Of course, as the law-maker resumed his unpretending chair, the law-breakers loudly applauded—the most refined and respectable audience could not have been more enthusiastic. A regard for truth compels me to admit that the speakers who followed were not endowed with the celestial gift of eloquence. Indeed, most of them prefaced their remarks with the somewhat needless confession that they were not much of 'spokesmen.' They agreed, however, in condemning the vexatious interference of the police, and also in ascribing much of the difficulty they experienced in finding employment to members of their own families. One was pointed out to the police as a burglar by his own niece, and not one of them had ever been entreated, in the second column of the *Times*, to return to his heart-broken relatives, or to apply to A. Z.—the old address—where they would hear of something to their advantage. They also insisted upon the great benefit to be derived from having a house of refuge to go to on their release from prison—or, in their own picturesque phrase, when they first went 'home.' The possession of a ticket-of-leave, they said, rendered them the same good service in obtaining employment that a previous conviction would do towards a mitigation of sentence at the Old Bailey. In this country they had no chance of earning a sufficient livelihood by honest industry; their only hope was in emigration, but this required means which they did not possess.

Then again uprose the Earl of Rhododendron, wise in council, eloquent in debate, and winged words flowed from his lips, sweeter than honey or the honeycomb. He said that he had heard their narratives with much interest, and listened to them with considerable sympathy. He would give them—a piece of advice. (Their brightening faces again faded into gloom.) If they could not get work in one place, they had better try another. In fact, his lordship recommended them to travel—to winter in Rome, and spend the summer at Baden-Baden, unless they could content themselves with Brighton, Leamington, Cheltenham, and Bath. They must remember, too, that they were better off than many of their countrymen. During their imprisonment they had all been taught some trade or handicraft, and no industrious man need long want employment in this great metropolis. (Oh, good my lord, is this really so?) But if they did fail, let them not be discouraged—let them not fall away from the paths of virtue—let them make one more attempt. (His lordship forgot to say how they were to live in the meantime.) Besides, they had enjoyed the inestimable privilege of having heard "God's holy waad" read to them. Let them cling to those blessed truths. (My lord, my lord, is it not written among those blessed truths that it does not suffice to tell the hungry and the naked to be fed and clothed, if you do not give them food and clothing?) Then his lordship kindly inquired if they would like to go to the colonies, and if so he would ask them to hold up their hands. All were held up without a single exception. "Ah, I thought so. Thank you." The illustrious chairman then dismissed them to their homes (?), with a request that they would separate in a peaceful and orderly manner. Having

delivered this satisfactory address to the poor starving creatures, who had renounced their most pressing engagements—at Notting-hill and elsewhere—to gather the lessons of wisdom from an Earl, the silken folds of the immaculate handkerchief, bursting from the noble bosom, were seen to pass, gracefully and with stately condescension, down the room, diffusing choice aroma on either side. After the handkerchief, humbly, followed the choker, and after the choker, I suppose, was borne the lay figure, but my eyes, dazzled by the brilliancy of the passing lord, could rest on no duller objects for a while. The gracious form vanished from my sight, and my ears were for the last time regaled with that elegant and *distingué* cough—hay! hay!—so different from the hoarse rough notes drawn from plebeian throats.

I feel that it was a great privilege to have been present at such an interesting exhibition of a live Earl, and yet—how hard it is for mortals to learn contentment!—I could wish, sir, that his lordship had told his hearers that for the relief of their immediate necessities he would leave a cheque for 50*l.* with Mr. Mayhew; that he disapproved of a house of refuge, as it would bring too many of them together, when the most vicious would exercise the greatest influence; but that he would willingly subscribe towards a fund for providing them with means of emigration; and that he would bring their case before the Legislature at the earliest possible period—instead of promising to ponder on their statements "at his leisure." His lordship did nothing of the kind, and I am afraid that his inconsiderateness will destroy whatever confidence the unfortunate beings had begun to place in their true-hearted friend Mr. Henry Mayhew. Nay more, if the lessons of history are of any value, I would respectfully, but earnestly, warn the noble Earl and his compeers against indulging in maudlin exhibitions of a dilettanti philanthropy. Can they not see that sympathy, offered in this manner, is an insult to the suffering classes? No doubt they mean well, but their ignorance of the real wants and wishes of the people causes them to make lamentable blunders. Mere oppression may be endured. But when the privileged classes flaunt their supercilious compassion in the face of their humbler brethren, they may expect no greater meed of gratitude than was rendered under similar circumstances to the old French noblesse prior to the First Revolution. Above all things, let them beware of making themselves contemptible. These are no times for the buffoonery of a Sir Robert Peel, the ruffianism of a Lord Ernest Vane Tempest, or the milk-and-water sentimentality of an Earl of Carnarvon.

There is a poor blind Sampson in this land,  
Shorn of his strength, and bound in bonds of steel,  
Who may, in some grim revel, raise his hand  
And shake the pillars of this Commonweal,  
Till the vast temple of our liberties  
A shapeless mass of wreck and rubbish lies.

Your obedient servant,

MUS RUSTICUS.

#### PUBLIC MEETINGS.

##### MR. MIALI AND HIS CONSTITUENTS.

MR. MIALI, M.P., met his constituents at Rochdale on the evening of Friday week, according to annual custom, for the purpose of submitting to them an account of his Parliamentary conduct during the preceding session, and of giving them an opportunity either to approve or condemn his policy. Mr. Jacob Bright, the Mayor, presided, and delivered a speech, in which he criticised the foreign policy of the Government. He then introduced Mr. Miall, who gave an abstract of his last year's Parliamentary services, and confessed two errors, which consisted in his having been accidentally absent from two important divisions. Relative to the Persian difficulty, Mr. Miall said:—"We are an insular people: why should we be continually interfering with the business of our neighbours? Look around you for the fruit of the Palmerstonian policy. We have already had two wars, two occupations—one unsuccessful from imperfect administration. We have a war with Persia, as I read in the paper to-day that our naval armaments have taken possession of Bushire. We have sent an army 5000 strong to the north-west of India, to penetrate into the central regions of Asia, to drive the Persians out of the town of Herat. I'll be bound that not twenty persons in this hall would care to know where Herat is; but we are at a war that may possibly cost as much money, and very nearly as much bloodshed, as that which is happily now concluded. Nobody knows what it is about; but those who are best informed tell us that it is about a lady. (A laugh.) It is no matter of laughter, though it does assume most certainly a ludicrous aspect. Another subject is the bombardment of Canton. I can only trace this to the determination of the European to pick a quarrel with the Chinese." The hon. member proceeded to condemn at considerable length the policy of the British Government towards the Chinese; and, after a reference to Italy, Hungary, and our relations with France, concluded a speech of two hours' duration with some remarks on Lord John Russell and reform.

Mr. George Ashworth then moved, and Mr. John Petrie seconded, a vote of confidence in Mr. Miall, which was unanimously carried.

##### BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND INSTITUTE.

A *soirée*, in connexion with this institution, was held on the evening of Friday week, at the Music-hall, Birmingham. The attendance was numerous, and included Colonel Sykes, chairman of the East India Company, with whom were Mr. Sheriff Mechi and Dr. Booth, as a deputation from the London Society of Arts, to explain the system recently established by the society for the examination of students attending classes of literary and scientific institutions, and for awarding prizes and certificates to meritorious candidates. The company assembled at six o'clock, and passed a couple of hours in partaking of tea and coffee, and in inspecting an extensive display of photographic pictures, specimens of the photo-galvanographic process, stereoscopes, microscopes, bronzes, electro-deposits, and other objects of artistic and scientific interest. The various speakers explained to the meeting that the institute especially addressed itself to the education of working men, which is notoriously extremely deficient, even in the merest elements of their respective crafts. Much good, it was stated, had already accrued from this educational society, and it was anticipated that its sphere of operations would speedily be enlarged.

##### M. KOSSUTH AT MANCHESTER.

M. Kossuth, last Saturday evening, delivered his lecture on the present state of Continental Europe to a large audience in the Free-trade Hall, Manchester. The lecturer insisted on the utterly futile character of the late war; pointed out the unnatural condition of slavery in which Europe at present languishes, and which he thought is mainly supported by Louis Napoleon, "the parvenu Emperor;" prophesied the coming struggle for freedom; and exhorted the English nation to give its countenance to the cause of liberty. The proceedings concluded with a resolution expressing sympathy with the lecturer, and repudiating English alliances with despotism against the peoples.

##### SIR ERSKINE PERRY AT DEVONPORT.

The annual *réunion* of the Devonport Mechanics Institute took place on Thursday week. Sir Erskine Perry, one of the members for the borough, was among the speakers, and the object of his address was to point out the natural tendency that the men of Devonshire have towards painting (as evidenced in the unusually large number of fine painters which the county has produced), and to argue from this, coupled with the fact that Devonshire has no important natural productions and no great manufactures, that the natives of the county would do well to cultivate their taste for the fine arts, so that we might not be obliged to depend so much as we now do upon France for objects of taste and fancy.

##### MR. WILLIAM DRIVER AND THE BELVEDERE-CRESCENT REFORMATORY.

An address delivered by Mr. William Driver to the boys of the Belvedere-crescent Reformatory on New Year's-eve has just been communicated to the papers. After pointing out to them that life is eternal, and that they cannot avoid living if they would, Mr. Driver asked:—"What are you prepared to do for the world? It is all very well for you to talk of getting a living, but what are you ready to give in return for your living? Listen to this. Before you ask the world to keep you, you must show it that you are worth being kept. Living must not be your first thought. 'Take no thought for your life what you shall eat.' I am not afraid to say those words. I don't want to smooth them over, either for you or for myself. I want you to take them as they stand, and put upon them the plainest meaning. If you go out into the world to try how much you can get out of it, and how little you can give in return, be sure it will be down on you some day in a way you won't like. If you let the world see that you are of use to it, you need not fear for your life. Show that your life is of value, and you will find plenty to take care of it. Don't measure out your services as if you were afraid of giving too much. . . . My boys, I do not want to frighten you; I do not want you to think you are going out into a hard-hearted wilderness of a place not worth living in. Don't think the world was made only to dig graves out of. It really is not a bit like a wilderness, and I should be sorry if you thought so. Don't be out of heart at the muddles you will come across sometimes, nor yet think that any other days were better than these. Perhaps the finest thing would be to live when there are no muddles; but certainly the next best thing is to live when there are plenty, and to have a hand in clearing them away. You will see many things you will not be able to understand. You may think some are too rich, while others are too poor. That some die when it seems as if they ought to live. Do not worry yourselves about this. Do not be hasty to judge, and, above all, don't say any of these things are wrong. If you could see the other side of the grave as well as this, and if you were above all, and could see everything at once, you would be better able to judge. It is enough for you to understand yourself and your own duty. . . . Our business is the work of to-day. Do what is right day by day; never mind to-morrow. Right to-day, right for ever."

##### THE INCOME-TAX MOVEMENT.

Meetings have been held at Haverfordwest (to represent the whole county of Pembrokehire), at Rhyl,

Arandel, Torquay, Marylebone, Cripplegate, Lambeth, Derby, Bury, Totness, Evesham, Knaresborough, Chesterfield, and Edinburgh. At Marylebone, a letter was read from Sir Benjamin Hall, who observes that the Chancellor of the Exchequer has already intimated the intention of Government not to take advantage of the literal wording of the act. Sir Benjamin adds that he has always hoped for a more equitable adjustment of the tax, and that it will afford him the greatest pleasure to record his vote in favour of any scheme which shall ensure the accomplishment of that object.

A deputation from a society established in the City for promoting the interests of the trading community, had an interview with the Chancellor of the Exchequer at Downing-street on Tuesday. From the opening address of their chairman, Mr. Stratton, it appeared that their object was to suggest the entire removal of the income-tax from incomes which do not exceed 150*l.*, and the exemption of the first 150*l.* from higher incomes, so that the possessor of 500*l.* a year would only be chargeable on 850*l.* It was argued by several of the speakers that one of the objections to direct taxation is that persons who have great difficulty in procuring the necessities of life are obliged to pay the tax in a lump; and that various tradesmen (grocers, for instance) are already exposed to considerable hardship in being compelled to pay duty in large sums at a time on several articles which they sell, though they only receive it back in small retail purchases. Dr. Challice stated that he knew of several persons possessing an income of 150*l.* a year who had been compelled to take their children from school on account of paying income-tax. The prices of necessities, he said, were getting very high, and persons with only 150*l.* a year had a hard time of it. Having made an allusion to the deputation of the previous Friday, and intimated that he understood the Chancellor of the Exchequer to show a disposition to readjust the tax, Sir G. C. Lewis interrupted him, observing, "I said nothing on that occasion about making any readjustment. I said I was quite ready to entertain any detailed propositions of that kind which might be made to me." Dr. Challice also remarked that many bachelors evade the tax by living principally at clubs. The Chancellor, amidst some laughter, said he was afraid a bachelor-tax might operate as a constant incentive to imprudent marriages. Mr. Gannon, who had been a small tradesman in Clare-market, stated that very few of his fellow-tradesmen were able to put by anything for their old age. "He could conscientiously say that the indirect taxation paid by the middle and labouring classes on the every-day necessities of life averaged from 35 to 40 per cent., and on some articles it was as much as 100 per cent. He was certain, if it were the rule, instead of the present mode of indirect taxation, to send collectors round and make monthly or quarterly demands for a specified sum of money for tea-tax, and so on, the people would never for a moment tolerate such imposts. In his own case, as a small tradesman of thirty-one years' standing—and the same might be said of thousands of others—if he took the average of assessments to the local taxes made upon him during that period at 16*l.* a year, it had amounted to 496*l.*; if indirect taxation paid upon the indispensable necessities of life be added 20*l.* a year, that would make 620*l.*, making a total of 1116*l.* Could it be wondered at that with the competition of the day, and such sums abstracted from men like himself, that our workhouses, prisons, and lunatic asylums had so many inmates who were respectable, industrious tradespersons at one period? This state of things was causing a serious amount of discontent, which he was convinced would sooner or later be exhibited in some striking manner." The Chancellor of the Exchequer said:—"With regard to the question of the pressure of the poor-rates in parishes where there is a large poor population, that is a necessary consequence of the present parochial system. It is true that in St. George's, which is a rich parish, the poor-rates are considerably lower than in St. Clement Danes, in which Mr. Gannon lives; but many people think it is essential to the present system of poor-laws that the taxation should continue parochial. Proposals have been made—particularly with regard to towns—to extend the area of taxation; but all such proposals have met with great opposition. Each parish holds to its own separateness and to its exclusive right to manage its own affairs; and every other plan has encountered many difficulties. As to taxation on tea and sugar, as well as income taxation, the taxation of the country must either be direct or indirect. You must either go on income or you must go on articles of general consumption—such as tea, sugar, beer, spirits, and the like—or you must resort to both those means of taxation, as now arranged; but at present it does not fall on the principal articles of consumption. There is no tax on bread or biscuit; on meat, dry or salt; fish, dry or salt; native fruit, or vegetables. These are staple articles of food; and if a man could confine his means of subsistence to them, he need not pay any taxes. But, if Mr. Gannon's views were adopted, I fear the unavoidable consequence would be, not that the income-tax would be lightened, but that it would be necessarily aggravated." The case of Mr. Walker, with which our readers are already acquainted, having been mentioned, Sir G. C. Lewis said he would cause inquiry to be made into it.

#### INAUGURATION OF A NEW SCHOOL OF ART IN SHEFFIELD.

The opening of a new school of art in Sheffield was celebrated on Monday evening by a public *conversazione*, at which Mr. Roebuck, M.P., presided. After addressing the meeting in a speech, in which he insisted on the ennobling and comforting influences of art, he gave place to Mr. Cole, of the Government department of science and art, who, speaking of the various schools of design scattered through the country, observed:—"The Exeter school was founded some two or three years ago, and, though the population of that town was only 40,000, the average number of students coming up there for examination from the various parish schools and schools of other denominations was no less than 835; and in the Exeter school of art there were, besides, 190 students. In Cheltenham, with a population of only 35,000, the number of art students from all the schools is 1350; in Chester they have 1200 students from the public schools; and in Worcester nearly 500. But in Manchester, which was an old school, and where there was a population of 300,000, he was sorry to say they had only 230 students from the parish schools. In Sheffield the number was only 18."

#### MR. ERNEST JONES'S POLITICAL SOIREE.

Mr. Ernest Jones delivered another of his political lectures at St. Martin's Hall, Long Acre, on Tuesday evening. The subject was "Foreign Affairs," and his remarks contained a fierce denunciation of England and Russia as the two great upholders of despotism. Alluding to the distress of the operatives, he thus wound up his discourse:—"The hour [for emancipation] is near, but it has not come. When it arrives, you will not mistake it. It will be when the cup of your misery overflows—it is not full yet; when from every trade comes up a cry of misery—not from one or two alone; when confidence in Parliament and Crown is lost entirely—you still cringe to both; when you no longer go creeping to workhouse doors, but swarm up to palaces instead; when you begin to say 'To seek redress from those who live by injuring us, is useless—let us redress ourselves; when you are no more whining about Parliament and Throne, but cry: 'We, the people, are the Throne and Parliament.' Then I shall know the hour has arrived; and then I'll throw myself, a soldier, in your midst."

#### PRISON DISCIPLINE.

MR. CHARLES PEARSON, the City Solicitor, has addressed a communication to the Lord Mayor on the subject of prison discipline, in fulfilment of a promise recently given by him. We were prevented last week, by an unusual press of matter, from introducing our readers to this interesting document; but we now append some extracts which will show the attention which Mr. Pearson has given to the subject, and cast some light upon one of the most perplexed and solemn questions of the age. It will be seen that the City Solicitor finds the solution of the enigma in some middle ground between the savage ignorance of the past and the over-indulgence of the present. Hard, stern labour, directed with an eye to pecuniary profit, so that the community may derive some advantage from those who, up to the time of their imprisonment, have clung to society like a curse, is the method by which Mr. Pearson would indemnify the honest for the evil they have suffered, and open to the wretched creature of bad education and defective arrangements a path out of the sterile desert of his brutish abandonment and callous disregard of right. Labour, the great source of the world's riches and of the earth's healthy progress, is to be, under Mr. Pearson's system, the regenerator of our criminal population. After dilating on the old system, which he calls "the cheap and cruel system," he speaks of the present "expensive and effeminate system," and remarks:—

"The system is thus pithily described by its most able and zealous advocate, the chaplain of Reading Gaol, who thus observes, 'The essentials of the separate system are seclusion as a punishment, labour as a relaxation, and scriptural instruction as a corrective,' as explained by the regulations and illustrated by the practice of the gaol. The chaplain's short description may be thus translated into plain language:—Under the separate system criminals are to have a great deal of solitude, a great deal of victuals, a great deal of warmth, a great deal of sleep, a great deal of mental instruction, a great deal of religious teaching, with a very little exercise, and labour sufficient only for the purposes of recreative relaxation. By the combined influences of these corporeal, mental, and religious agencies, it was assumed by the enthusiastic advocates of the system that the hearts of criminals would be softened, their unruly wills subdued, their minds would be enlightened, their souls converted, and their lives reformed. It was, moreover, said by its advocates, that by uniting secrecy with solitude, by placing criminals in cells so constructed as to exclude both sight and sound, by hooding and masking them when led out to chapel or exercise,

and by changing their name for a letter by which they were to be known from their admission into prison up to the time of their discharge, by a little secrecy and good management a prisoner might upon his release maintain his incognito. It was said the world would forgive or forget his crimes, and he might go abroad as an exile, or be restored to society as having completed his penal punishment, or be released in this country on a ticket of leave."

Further on, he observes:—

"Solitude has its peculiar vices and evils as well as society; man is for good as well as for evil a social being, and this unnatural, unsocial treatment has often, very often, exercised a most baneful effect, as well upon the body as the mind of those who are for any length of time subjected to its action. The laws of nature cannot be outraged with impunity; walls and bolts and bars cannot shut the devil out from his own favourite workshop—the heart of an idle man."

Mr. Pearson proceeds to expound his own conceptions of what the future, or self-supporting, or "labour-and-appetite system" should be, first commenting on the course taken by the Government with reference to the proceedings of a committee of the House of Commons on the subject which sat a few years ago:—

"As the ticket-of-leave substitute for the plan which the committee recommended to the consideration of her Majesty's Government must force itself upon the attention of the House at the very commencement of the ensuing session, we shall learn what has been done by the Home Secretary between 1850 and 1857 towards the examination of the extensive details which the committee were unable to investigate for want of sufficient time for the purpose; one thing only remains for me to say,—I have never been summoned before any committee or commission appointed to conduct such an inquiry. The other witnesses, who were prepared with plans, drawings, and estimates to confirm their former statements, inform me that they have never been called upon to offer any further observations or to submit themselves to any other examination. As far, therefore, as I am informed, the Government have allowed the plan to remain entombed in a blue book which I have just ascertained weighs five pounds and three quarters avoirdupois. If the report and evidence be permitted to slumber in the pages of that monster blue-book, they might as well have been buried under the pyramids of Egypt."

Of the new reformatory system we read:—

"The proposed plan for accomplishing these objects, as described to the committee, contemplated the establishment of large industrial prisons, secure and strong, plain and cheap, with separate sleeping cells for each inmate. The prison to be surrounded by strong and lofty walls, enclosing 1000 or 2000 acres of land. I propose that each of these prisons shall accommodate 1000 or 2000 inmates, classified, sub-classified, and distributed in different prisons, according to their economical condition, whether artisans, mechanics, or labourers; according to their physical state, their age, and strength; according to their moral and legal status; whether felons or misdemeanants under longer or shorter sentences, and whether hardened offenders or novices in crime. By having one superintending power to deal with the large fund of labour of our prison population, means would readily be obtained for a most perfect system of classification—legal, moral, social, and economical—for the purpose of meeting all the various objects I have described, so that the mutual contamination of prisoners might be prevented, discipline might be enforced, and the separation of the prisoner—one of the first objects of the system—might be promoted, at the same time that justice would be done to the ratepayer by turning the confiscated labour of the criminal to the best and most profitable account. When the proposed plans for the classification of prisoners is complete, I propose that they shall, as nearly as economical considerations and prison arrangements will admit, be employed in the pursuits at which they are most apt, and to which they will be returned at the termination of their sentences."

#### STATE OF TRADE.

THE trade reports for the week ending last Saturday show a further increase of activity, except at Manchester, where business opened heavily, a decline in prices being arrested only by the firmness of the Liverpool cotton-market. At Birmingham, there is an advancing tendency in iron, owing to the American and also the Continental demand. In the general trades of the place there has been no particular alteration, but in some cases employment is checked by the uninterrupted advance in the prices of raw material. The Chamber of Commerce have resolved to aid the movement for procuring a reform of the bankruptcy laws. The Kidderminster Bank, which stopped on the 13th ult., shows debts amounting to 45,872*l.* against assets estimated at 34,700*l.*, and a dividend of 12*s.* 6*d.* is expected. At Nottingham there has been general activity, and, notwithstanding the advance in prices, the stocks of hosiery are lower than ever. In the woollen districts there is full employment, and the Irish linen-markets are without change.—*Times.*



In the general business of the Port of London during the same week there has been little change. The number of ships reported inward was 154, being 17 less than in the previous week. These included 10 with cargoes of sugar, 30 with cargoes of corn, flour, rice, &c., and 4 with cargoes of tea, amounting in all to 33,105 packages, 15,511 chests of which were brought by the American ship King Fisher. The number of vessels cleared out was 85, including 10 in ballast, showing a decrease of 1.—*Idem.*

## THE ORIENT.

## CHINA.

The *Moniteur de la Flotte* (says the *Times* Paris correspondent) contains news from China not hitherto published. It was known at Macao that the Russian Government had obtained permission at Peking for their ships to enter the five ports. This fact is considered to be extremely important. Russia has had for some years extensive commercial relations with China by land, and, according to the terms of a treaty signed in 1725, the town of Kiachta, situate on the frontiers of the two empires, serves as a commercial entrepôt. Commerce has increased, and is considerably extending itself on that point. It is impossible to give an idea of the anarchy which prevails at this moment in various provinces of China. Highway robbery is organized on a most extensive scale. The Government has neither force nor authority to suppress the highwayman. The mandarins execute a multitude of inoffensive beggars, but they are helpless against thieves. Yeh, the Viceroy of Canton, is one of the most abominable and cruel men in the empire. He maintained a number of mendicants of the most unfortunate description, and every time any act of violence was committed in the city, being too feeble or too great a coward to dare to arrest the assassins, he selected a dozen mendicants, whom he ordered to be decapitated, and then wrote to the emperor that a horrible crime had been committed, but that the authors had been arrested and punished. It is by these repeated falsehoods that the mandarins deceive the emperor, who is never permitted to know the truth. The insurgents, with their chief, Tae-ping, are completely masters of the province of Kiang-Su. Their headquarters are at Nankin. That city may be regarded as for ever lost to the emperor, for his authority can never be re-established there. It was impossible to show more incapacity than the imperial generals. The insurgents have fortified the Yang-Tse-Kiang, and the mouth of that river is closed against the Chinese fleet. By the latest accounts, Admiral Seymour was still at Canton. He had established himself so as not to be annoyed by the Tartar troops. He had been joined by the hospital-ship *Minden*, and had sent the *Winchester* and *Coromandel* to Hong-Kong, the *Sybil* to Whampoa, and the *Pique* and *Hornet* to Shanghai. He had done so at the request of the British consuls, who had demanded them for the protection of British subjects.

Accounts received at the close of last week, from irregular sources of information, state that Commodore Armstrong has attacked and dismantled the Barrier forts, in consequence of the Chinese wantonly firing on a man-of-war's boat under American colours. The price of tea has advanced, and the supplies are short everywhere. These announcements, however, together with those which we published in our last issue, are open to some doubt.

## PERSIA.

Bushire surrendered on the 9th of December, after four hours' fire from the fleet, without a single casualty. Fort Reshire was captured on the previous day after a smart action. Brigadier Stopford, Colonel Malet, and Lieutenants Utterson and Warren were killed, besides about twenty rank and file. Only one officer, Captain Wood, was wounded. Karrack was occupied on the 4th of December. Large reinforcements are to be sent up the Gulf.—A large mass of official correspondence from Admiral Leake, General Stalker, and others, has been published; but these documents only give the military details of the facts above indicated. Brigadier Stopford was killed in charging eight hundred Persians who were entrenched near the fort. The enemy was driven out in brilliant style. Colonel Malet was shot by a treacherous enemy whose life he had saved. Bushire was bombarded by the fleet for four hours, when the Persian batteries were nearly silenced. An opening was then made in the wall of the town, by which troops could enter; and the place speedily surrendered. Bushire is declared to be a military post under British rule.

The *Morning Post* of Tuesday contains the subjoined announcement in prominent type:—"We believe we may state that official information has reached our Government of the probability of the Court of Teheran agreeing to our demands. The Turkish Minister at that capital has sent a despatch to his Government, informing them that, having heard of the fall of Bushire, the Persian Government 'decided' to make peace upon the English terms. On its reaching Constantinople, this intelligence was immediately forwarded, by telegraph, by Lord Stratford, and its authenticity may be relied on. We may therefore hope for a speedy settlement of the Persian difficulty." The writer, however, adds, that we must not be too sanguine.—The *Daily News* learns, "from good authority, that a telegraphic message from Lord Stratford de Redcliffe was received at the Board of

Control on Saturday, to the effect that the Shah has accepted the terms of peace offered by England, not on account of the fall of Bushire, but on general grounds."

## SIAM.

The French papers contain some very glowing accounts of the reception by the Siamese court of M. de Montigny, who has been sent out from France to conclude a treaty of commerce. There was much mutual astonishment; the Siamese being wonder-struck at the portraits of the Emperor Napoleon and his Empress, and the French at the barbaric magnificence they saw around them.

## IRELAND.

THE BANK OF IRELAND AND THE SADLEIRS.—Application was made in the Irish Court of Queen's Bench on Friday week, on the part of the Bank of Ireland, for liberty, under the thirty-fourth section of the Common Law Procedure Act, to substitute service of the summons and plaint on the defendant, Sir Matthew R. Sausse, at present a judge in Bombay, by serving the process on his sister, who resided in Hume-street, and with whom it was sworn he was in constant communication. The action was brought on foot of promissory notes for 700*l.*, of which Sir Matthew Sausse was the maker and James Sadleir the payee; these were dated only a few days before the defendant left this country for India, where he had been promoted to a seat on the judicial bench. The court refused to grant the required powers.

MODEL FARMING.—A return has just been issued, showing the last year's expenditure of the National Board of Education for the Encouragement of Model Farming and the Science of Agriculture generally. Some of the figures contained in it do not indicate a satisfactory state of things as regards the experiment. An Irish journal, generally favourable to the Education Board, observes:—"It appears by the returns of the past year's labours in rural enterprise that the Glasnevin model farm, consisting of about 180 acres, was cultivated at an expense of 5150*l.*, and that the proceeds of sale of crops only amounted to 1445*l.*, thus involving a direct loss of 3705*l.* in this one instance. . . . Leaving the chief farm on the 'model' principle, we find Kilkenny far up in the list of expenditure. Last year's outlay was 483*l.* and the income 12*l.*, showing the handsome balance of 471*l.* in favour of agricultural quackery. The Ulster 'model' is quite equal to the rest of its economic brethren. Last season's expenses were 750*l.*, and the proceeds of sale of crop and other sources of income amounted to the round sum total of 40*l.*, thus involving a loss of 710*l.* on the year's experiments." It appears that the total outlay on the nineteen "models" was 12,348*l.*, and the returns 3724*l.*, giving a direct loss of public money amounting to 8624*l.*

THE TIPPERARY BANK.—In the case of *Bergin v. McDowell*, tried in the Consolidated Court, Dublin, on Tuesday, it was decided that Mr. John Scully was a shareholder of the Tipperary Bank.

## AMERICA.

SOME charges of corruption have been brought in the House of Representatives against the honesty of various of its members. They originated in the *New York Times*; but, being brought before the attention of the House by one of the members, another honourable gentleman said that he knew them to be true, from personal experience. He added, that a distinct proposition was made to him by a member of the House of Representatives for a vote in favour of the Minnesota Land Bill, for which he was offered 1500 dollars. The House determined to investigate the matter.—A bill for reducing the duty on imports has been brought in by Mr. Campbell, of Ohio, who said that the committee contemplate diminishing the high schedules, and either abolishing or raising the low ones.

The New York Board of Councillors has resolved on giving an official welcome to the English officers of the Retribution, in the event of their arriving there. To this proposal there was one opponent, and one only. The noncontent gentleman was of opinion that it was not right to pay honour to Queen Victoria. High satisfaction is expressed by the New York papers at the reception given to Captain Hartstein and his fellow-officers in England, and at the appointment of a new Minister to Washington, who is erroneously supposed to be the Hon. C. P. Villiers. Several of the journals give vent to considerable exultation at the idea of the supposed new English representative being a man of aristocratical blood, and "the brother of Lord Clarendon"—an indication of feeling which the *New York Times* rebukes as "slightly snobbish."

The Governors of several of the States have been sending in their annual messages or financial statements. These indicate a general condition of prosperity.

An association to promote emigration to the Pacific has been formed at New York, in which city a movement is on foot to establish "a hospital for inebriates!"

A murder, presenting features of more than usual savageness, has been perpetrated at Slackville, Missouri. The proprietor of an hotel quarrelled with a Dr. Stovall, and blows were exchanged. Soon afterwards, Stovall was passing by the stables in a vehicle. Burns, the hotel-keeper, was in stables; and Stovall, getting

out, went towards him, beckoned to a negro to move out of the way, raised a gun, and fired. Burns was looking round at the moment, and received the whole charge in his face. He sank to the ground, and Stovall, advancing nearer, fired a second time, hitting his victim in the back. Burns cried out, "I'm a dead man!" But Stovall again advanced, drew a pistol, put it close to the head of the dying man, and fired a third time; then, putting the pistol to Burns's breast, he discharged a fourth shot, and, getting composedly into his vehicle, drove off, as Mrs. Burns and the children were rushing from the house, screaming.

The accounts from Kansas continue to report dissension. Seven of the members of the Free State Legislature have been arrested, and more arrests were expected to take place. Governor Robinson has resigned.

The Supreme Court of California has recommended the repudiation of the State debt, all but 300,000 dollars, on the ground that it is unconstitutional. They advise the adoption of the debt by the Legislature, "the question of repudiation to be submitted to the people." No transfer of stock has been made since the decision. The people, however, are "opposed to repudiation, and meetings have been held in various parts of the State to give expression to public opinion."

The war in Nicaragua, at the last advices, had come to a pause; but a struggle between Walker and his enemies was anticipated. Walker would seem to be greatly inferior in force and equipments to his opponents, who are said to be supported by the natives. The steamer *Sierra Nevada* has left San Juan with a large number of recruits for Walker; but, previously to her departure, an attempt was made to sink her. "It is stated," says the New York correspondent of the *Times*, "that Walker had been beaten and compelled to evacuate Granada, and take refuge in the Island of Ometepe. The mode in which Walker dealt with the property of the Transit Company has created him powerful enemies here—among others, the extensive steamboat proprietor, Mr. Vanderbilt. Costa Rica has obtained a loan of 500,000 dollars, and a war-steamer is fitting out here, which will probably recover for the company one end of the transit route; the aid it is understood the Costa Ricans are now receiving from New York will be likely to overbalance the recruits that have recently left to join the army of Walker."

Hostilities have occurred at Puget Sound, Oregon, between the United States steamer *Massachusetts* and the Indians, who submitted after having twenty men killed and twenty-one wounded. The steamer lost only one man.

The Mexican advices still speak of revolutionary contests. Alvarez has declared his intention of supporting Comonfort's Government; but the Presidential troops have been engaged at Orizaba with some insurrectionists. The latter were defeated, and lost their artillery, &c.

The New York commercial advices report an improvement in monetary matter.

## CONTINENTAL NOTES.

## FRANCE.

THE termination of the Neuchâtel dispute has given rise to the annexed article, which has appeared in the *Moniteur*:—"The Neuchâtel prisoners have been liberated, and are already on the French territory. The Helvetic Government, in concert with the national representation of the country, has performed an act which does it honour, and which is in perfect keeping with the true interests of Switzerland. The Government of the Emperor had advised that measure already in September last, and had renewed its advice in a communication dated the 26th November. Aware—in confidence—of the conciliatory intentions of King Frederick William, and knowing that the whole question lay in the unconditional liberation of the prisoners, it found it necessary to insist on making the Federal Government understand the full bearing of the request that was made to it. If Switzerland refused, France could no longer deter the King of Prussia, whose spirit of moderation she highly appreciated, from having recourse to arms to procure a just satisfaction for his offended dignity. If, on the contrary, Switzerland complied with the counsels of France, the latter found herself engaged to make use of that concession with the Cabinet of Berlin to prevent any coercive measures, and to claim a satisfactory solution of the Neuchâtel question. We therefore congratulate ourselves upon the resolution taken by the Helvetic Confederation. She may at once fearlessly dismiss her contingents, and the Prussian Government having already announced that it is ready to commence negotiations on the ground itself of the dispute, a final arrangement may be hoped for conformable to the interests as well as to the dignity of both parties." It is very evident that Switzerland will not be pleased with this official emanation.

The Court of Cassation having met for the purpose of considering Verger's appeal, the convict's counsel claimed a delay of ten days from the date of the appeal, and this was granted. In the meanwhile, the papers are "recommended" not to publish any more details respecting the assassin.

An election for a deputy for Nismes, in place of M. Baragnon, took place on Thursday week. "The official return," says the *Daily News* Paris correspondent, "is

as follows:—Registered electors, 38,367; voted, 12,280; for M. Prouse, Government candidate, 11,200; for M. Douzel, 1047; votes lost, 11; bulletins cancelled, 22. It thus appears that considerably less than one-third of the electors went to the poll. I rather think, however, that in the Nîmes district there are more legitimists than republicans, and the Count de Chambord has not only advised, but ordered, his friends to abstain from voting. At all events, the republicans will not throw away their strength at a single election."

The Persian Ambassador was received last Saturday by the Emperor at a public audience, when he presented his credentials. To the speech of the Ambassador, the Emperor made the following reply:—"Monsieur l'Ambassadeur,—I am happy that your sovereign has charged you to bring me his congratulations. When the war broke out in the East, I sought with pleasure to renew our former relations with Persia, and her neutrality was not useless to us. I now congratulate myself upon the treaty of commerce concluded between our two countries, as commercial relations firmly established always cement the friendship of nations. It is with regret that I hear of the war which has broken out between you and one of my most intimate allies; but I entertain most ardent wishes that your mission to this portion of the globe may hasten the return of a lasting peace. I thank you for the flattering things you have said to me for France and for the Prince Imperial, and I beg of you to believe in my full sentiments of benevolence towards you." The Ambassador handed to the Emperor the royal order of Persia, and presents for the Empress and Prince Imperial.

The ceremony of the investiture with the insignia of the Order of the Bath of those French officers who have been admitted to the honour, took place on the 17th inst.; but the official account only appeared in the *Moniteur* of last Saturday. Among the chief persons present were Prince Napoleon, Lord Cowley, Marshals Pelissier, Canrobert, and Bosquet, General Sir Alexander Woodford, General Gomm, and Lord Lucan. At the banquet afterwards given, the speeches were of the usual complimentary character.

The *Moniteur* announces that Monseigneur Morlot, Cardinal Archbishop of Tours, has been appointed Archbishop of Paris by an Imperial decree, dated 24th January.

Kern, who is charged by the Federal Council of Switzerland with a special mission to the Emperor, was received on Sunday in the character of an Envoy Extraordinary, and presented his letters of credence.

The *Revue de Paris* has been suspended for one month, on account of an article which appeared in it against the King of Prussia.

The *Pays* states that the Russian authorities in Bessarabia have been ordered to quit Bolgrad on the 1st of February.

The Imperialist and Fusionist circles of Paris are occupied just now with very different, but to each of them very interesting, statements. In the former, it is confidently asserted that the Pope has at last consented to crown the Emperor at Rheims in the month of May, and has given the sanction of the Church to the new order of things in France. In the latter, a contract of marriage is announced between the Comte de Paris and the daughter of the Duchess Regent of Parma, who is the only sister of the Duc de Bordeaux. By this alliance the fusion will, it is hoped, be complete, and the conflicting pretensions of the Houses of Bourbon and Orleans be reconciled. At present, however, the youthful Princess and future bride is only in her eighth year.—*Daily News*.

"The proposition presented to the Council of State for the grant of a pension of 100,000 francs to Marshal Pelissier," says the *Times* Paris correspondent, "has been negatived by the particular section to which it was referred. The casting vote was that of the President. The objection, however, is not to the grant itself, but to the form in which it was made. The provision was that it should revert to the Marshal's descendants in the male line. The section of the Council of State considered that this was an indirect means of establishing a majorat, and they therefore rejected it by, as I have said, a majority of one. Marshal Pelissier is, I believe, a bachelor, but he is not too old to marry."

The *Presse* announces that the Tribunal of Commerce of Paris has given judgment in the case of the Directors of the Company of the Docks Napoleon against Fox, Henderson, and Co., declaring the convention made between the parties on the 14th of February and 24th of July, 1854, void, and condemning Fox and Henderson to pay all the expenses. The Princess de Lieven died on Monday night at Paris.

"Two extremely serious facts," says the *Assemblée Nationale*, "have been brought to light by the French official census of 1856, and which have not only excited the attention of the public, but formed the subject of consideration in the Academy of Moral and Political Sciences at one of its recent sittings. The first fact is an almost complete interruption in the progress of the national population since the census of 1851, and the second is the extraordinary tendency evinced during the same period by the people of the country districts to remove to large towns, and particularly to the capital. From 1851 to 1856, France, according to the last cen-

sus, has only gained 256,000 inhabitants. In the same number of years, from 1841 to 1846, the increase was 1,200,000." There was also only a very small increase from 1846 to 1851. The department of the Seine, however, in the last five years, has gained 300,000.

A French advocate has written to the London *Morning Star*, to complain of the unfairness of Verger's trial. While expressing great abhorrence of Verger's crime, he contends that his treatment has been illegal and despotic. Verger, he remarks, was refused a week's delay in his trial, and is not allowed possession of various papers. "His brother, a looking-glass manufacturer in the Rue de Seine, writes to the journal *La Patrie*, which had affirmed that Verger, two days before committing his crime, had received assistance from the Archbishop of Paris. He writes to say that the fact is absolutely false, and he supports his denial by material proofs. The editors of *La Patrie* apply to the examining judge for the authorization to publish this. The reply is a menace to suppress the paper. Verger demands the production of sixty witnesses, all of whom have important declarations to make. These witnesses are called by the examining judge, who in private takes their depositions, and refuses to communicate these depositions, or allow the witnesses to make them publicly. Verger writes to the Minister of Justice and to the Emperor. The Minister grants the delay which the accused has demanded, and, notwithstanding the authorization of the public-prosecutor, commands that the witnesses shall not be introduced." The reason for these suppressions of evidence, says the writer, is that the witnesses were prepared to make the most startling revelations of the horrible profligacy committed by various dignitaries of the French Church. "Verger," adds the letter, "intended to establish before the court the basis of a new religious sect." His coadjutors "intended to disperse themselves all over the earth, to inform the nations of that which they considered to be a Gospel. But it was required that their *début* should be accompanied by a *coup d'état*, to make a great noise and create the opportunity." The rallying watchword of the neophytes was to be the cry of "Down with the Goddess!"

## AUSTRIA.

The Imperial Cabinet (says a letter from Vienna) has made serious representations to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sardinia, with respect to the demonstrations made by the democracy of Lombardy and Turin against the presence of the Emperor in Milan.

The first reception of the Emperor at Milan was very cold. The populace abstained from any enthusiastic demonstrations; but of course the official joy was rampant. To the address of the Podesta of Milan, the Emperor replied, "The past is forgotten." The fortifications of Vicenza are to be dismantled. The Credit Bank is about to establish branch banks in the different provincial capitals.

The Emperor has signed a decree granting a full pardon to all persons in the Lombardo-Venetian territory condemned for high-treason, revolt, or insurrection. Prosecution for such crimes is suspended. The special Court at Mantua is dissolved. This is stated to have produced a manifest increase of popularity.

## ITALY.

A funeral service in honour of the late Archbishop of Paris, by order of the Pope, and at his expense, was performed on the morning of the 14th inst. in the church of the Santi Apostoli at Rome. The Pope himself was not present; but the prelates of his court, and the Papal choir took part in the ceremony.

The excavations at Ostia in the Papal States, conducted under the superintendence of the Commendatore Visconti, have recently brought to light a very fine remnant of the ancient road leading to that city. It is flanked by numerous tombs and other edifices, the most conspicuous among the former being that of Sixtus Carucinius Parthenopeus, a Roman knight and decurion of the Ostian colony. This splendid erection is made of Greek marble, and is of very large dimensions.

The brigands continue to give great trouble in the Papal States. Two of these depredators were attacked by the troops on the 9th inst. near the Tuscan frontier. The banditti shut themselves up in a house, and made a desperate resistance; but the house was stormed by the soldiers, who, notwithstanding the loss of their brigadier, entered, and succeeded in capturing one of the brigands, the other escaping. It is said, however, that he has been taken since; but this is doubtful. The man killed was the notorious Paasatore, called the Pasotino; the other was the not less celebrated Lazzarini.

The assassin of Count Lovatelli, with eight, or, according to some accounts, twelve others suspected of being his accomplices, has been captured. The assassin himself is stated to be a young man, the son of a farmer turned away by the count owing to suspicions respecting his honesty.

The King of Naples, it is asserted, will grant an amnesty on the occasion of the approaching accouchement of the Queen.

The Pope has given 55,000 francs from his privy purse to the indigent, for employing them on the high roads.

The Piedmontese budget for 1858, just presented to the Chamber of Deputies, estimates the revenue at 144,113,081*fr.*, and the expenditure at 147,866,821*fr.*

The deficit in the receipts as compared with the expenses is trifling. The receipts present an increase of 8,145,759*fr.* over the estimate for 1857.

The *Swabian Mercury* quotes a letter from Naples asserting that, shortly after the execution of Milano, a party of armed men proceeded to the cemetery during the night, overpowered the guards, exhumed the body of the criminal, placed it in a coffin, and carried it on board a vessel, keeping a strict watch over the guards until their purpose was accomplished.

The King of Sardinia arrived at Villefranche at nine o'clock in the morning of Thursday week, by the steam-frigate *Governolo*. On landing, he was received by Count Cavour and the local authorities. The people, in spite of the bad weather, assembled in crowds to welcome him. The King having reviewed the 9th Regiment of the line at Villefranche, rode on to Nice, where he was received by the municipality in a fine amphitheatre erected for the occasion, and gaily decorated. An address having been presented and acknowledged by him, Victor Emmanuel next proceeded to visit the Empress Dowager of Russia at the Villa Avigdor.

## PRUSSIA.

The Prussian Ministry, menaced with an interpellation on the part of the Opposition, concerning the application of the extraordinary credit of 4,500,000*fr.* voted during the Oriental war for military purposes, have preferred to meet any accusation in advance, and the Minister of Finance has submitted to the Landtag a project of law, concerning the extraordinary military expenses entered into, and the application of the credit for this purpose. The interpellation of Herr von Patow has, in consequence, been withdrawn.—*Morning Star*.

## TURKEY.

The Austrians have already begun to evacuate the Danubian Principalities, and have stopped all their contracts, in several cases paying a forfeit for doing so. The commission for tracing the new boundaries of Moldavia and Wallachia will probably be able to commence operations by the end of April. A Turkish *corps d'armée* will take the place of the Austrians, and occupy the Principalities up to the time of their final organization. Seven battalions will be stationed at Jassy, and eight at Bucharest: these will be drawn from the *corps d'armée* of Roumelia. The troops have been recently employed with success in putting down the disturbances in Albania and the brigandage on the frontiers of Greece. Another *corps d'armée* is to be concentrated at Erzeroum and on the Persian frontier. This is owing to the hostilities between Persia and England. Ismail Pacha is to command this body.

The English submarine telegraph line from Constantinople to Varna will be taken by the Turkish Government. Negotiations have been opened to settle the amount to be paid and the manner of working it. Colonel Biddulph, R.A., and Lieutenant Holdsworth, R.A., who are at present in charge of the line, will superintend it, at least in the beginning.

It is apprehended that the representative of Turkey in the Danubian Principalities will find some resistance to the convocation of the Divans. The Ministerial crisis in Moldavia is not yet terminated.

The draught of the firman for the convocation of the Moldavian and Wallachian divans *ad hoc* was completed on Tuesday, the 13th inst. The internal independence of the two principalities is guaranteed.

Brigandage continues in Thessaly to an alarming extent, especially among the rural population, whose flocks suffer considerably. The shepherds are obliged to take the law into their own hands, and to knock the banditti on the head when they can get a favourable opportunity. This lawless state of things is said to be owing to the indolence and rapacity of the Turkish officials.

According to the Constantinople correspondents of the *Indépendance Belge* and *La Presse*, Sir Henry Bulwer, the English delegate to the commission for settling the constitution of the Divans, had a very hot altercation with Lord Stratford de Redcliffe at the last mixed conference. He asserted that the Ambassador had kept him in entire ignorance of the progress of the discussion, while the other members had been duly informed. He added that he saw lamentable omissions in the firman. Lord Stratford retorted very bitterly, admitting, however, that he had acted contrary to his instructions, but adding that he would explain himself to his Government, and not to Sir Henry. It is said that Redschid Pacha interposed to stop the dispute.

The firmans for the convocation of the Divans *ad hoc* in Wallachia and Moldavia have been published. As we have from time to time informed our readers of the nature of this temporary constitution, during the discussion of the details by the commissioners, &c., we need not now retrace the same ground, further than to say that the Divans are to be elected by the various classes composing the populace, the electors to possess certain property qualifications or social distinctions; that the elected of the various classes are to form separate committees of the Divans, each to study the interests and wants of its own class; and that, "the Divans, having only the mission to express wishes, which will be first examined by the Commission, composed of the delegates of the Porte and those of the



guaranteeing Powers, and then discussed between the Sublime Porte and its allies, the propositions of the different committees will be embodied in separate reports, which will be presented to the General Assembly, and placed before the Commission." The Porte expects that the Divans will finish their labours in the course of six months, "and that, impressed by the sentiment of their duty of fidelity, they will not fail to restrict their discussions within suitable limits, and thus spare us (the Porte) the displeasure of having to devise means to protect against all impeachment our august rights of sovereignty."

## SPAIN.

The Queen has been suffering from an eruption on the skin; but the malady is now subsiding.

## DENMARK.

The Danish Government, in replying to the last note of the German Powers on the subject, persists in maintaining its right to dispose of the crown domains in the Duchies of Schleswig-Holstein.

## RUSSIA.

The St. Petersburg correspondent of the *Constitutionnel* describes a new ministry instituted by the Emperor Alexander, with the view of introducing improvements into the agriculture of Russia:—"This ministerial department will be charged with the task of ascertaining the actual state of cultivation in the provinces, and the means best calculated to remove the obstacles which stand in the way of agriculture; it will also decide on the advisability of making pecuniary advances to farmers to effect improvements. The ministry will likewise be charged with the establishment of model farms, agricultural societies, and popular libraries for the dissemination of a practical knowledge of farming, and with the introduction of new agricultural instruments, &c."

Russia has within the last few weeks given large orders to French engine and machine builders. The great manufactories of steam-engines, tenders, railway waggons, apparatus for making beetroot sugar, and machines for distillation, are at present actively employed.

## GERMANY.

Count Wartensleben, of Carow, near Genthin, in Saxony, has written to the *Kreuz Zeitung*, offering hospitality on his estates to any of the royalists of Neufchâtel who may be in want of a refuge. The grandfather of the count obtained, in 1772, for himself and descendants, the freedom of the town of Neufchâtel.

## BELGIUM.

According to a weekly contemporary, the English residents at Brussels have waited on the Prince de Ligne to express their regret at the vulgar personalities of Sir Robert Peel, in his celebrated speech at Birmingham, with respect to the Prince. In replying to this compliment, the Prince said the attack would have no effect whatever in diminishing his respect and admiration for the English people; but at the same time he described Sir Robert's coarse verbiage as being fit only for "a sot (*ivrogne*) and a blackguard (*gamin*)," adding:—"Should chance ever place me in unpalatable contact with him, I shall not hesitate to say that his conduct has been that of an underbred puppy."

## MONTENEGRO.

The inhabitants of Mokrine, Prievar, Zubsi, and Sutorina, are said to have voluntarily submitted to the authority of Montenegro, retaining, however, their municipal independence. Each of these villages has received a Montenegrin governor, who appoints to various offices, and imposes taxes.—A war between Montenegro and the Porte in the ensuing Spring appears to be imminent.

## ACCIDENTS AND SUDDEN DEATHS.

The Earl of Harewood, while hunting last Saturday with the Bramham-moor hounds near Weatherby, was thrown, owing to his horse stumbling, and received so severe a kick on the head from the animal in its efforts to regain its feet, that serious fears were entertained for his lordship's life. He was taken up insensible, and conveyed to Harewood House, where a trepanning operation was performed the following day. No alarming symptoms have supervened, and it is now hoped that the patient may recover.

A bricklayer, named James Perry, was killed on the afternoon of Friday week by a fall from a scaffold erected round a long shaft or chimney belonging to some premises near the Mile End Road, Stepney. He had been drinking rather too freely at his dinner, and, slipping from the scaffold, fell to the ground, a distance of fifty feet. A compound fracture of the skull, with other injuries, caused his death almost immediately after his arrival at the hospital.

Two boats have been lost near the Zetland Islands—one containing ten, the other twelve persons. Every soul in each case has been drowned. It does not appear that there was any storm at the time, or that the rowers were at all intoxicated; but catastrophes of this kind are frequent in those wild seas.

## OUR CIVILIZATION.

**EMBEZZLEMENT.**—William Henry Scott, late cashier to Messrs. Yeats and Co., wholesale provision merchants, has been committed for trial on a charge of embezzling 250*l.* from his employers. A few days previously, he appeared as witness against a man named Hardcastle on another charge of embezzlement preferred by the same prosecutors.

**THE SAMARITAN INSTITUTION.**—The investigation into the charge of fraud brought against this institution was concluded last Saturday, when Sir R. W. Carden, having summed up the evidence, proceeded:—"I have devoted a great portion of time to the investigation and consideration of the present charge, and I may have been subjected to some misapprehension in my anxiety to arrive at the truth amid conflicting testimony of the most painful description. It is no part of my duty to consider the consequences to the prosecutor or the accused, but to determine impartially the legal effect of the evidence on either side. To support a charge of obtaining goods by false pretences it is not sufficient to show that they have been obtained upon a fraudulent promise to make a particular use of them hereafter. Whatever, therefore, may be my opinion of the defendant's conduct, and however deserving of reprobation it may be, I do not think I should be justified in sending him for trial on the charge before me. The defendant is therefore dismissed."

**AN UNHAPPY HOME.**—James Coles, a well-dressed youth, was charged at Worship-street, on his own confession, with stealing a watch. His parents had warned the watch-maker, from whom the property was stolen, not to let their son have any goods if he should call and ask to look at some. A few days afterwards, the youth called, and the shopkeeper was persuaded into showing him some watches. He then selected one worth 4*l.* 10*s.*, and suddenly ran off with it. When before the magistrate, Coles said:—"I am guilty of this robbery. I had a quarrel with my father and mother, and determined to get a situation. They did not want me to do so, and when I got a place at a coffee-house my father was anxious I should not take it; but I did take it, and then had a quarrel with my master, and left him. I had behaved very badly to my father, and when I went back he told me to return to my place, that he would not have me there, and, in fact, he turned me out. I told him I would go and steal something and get into prison, and I stole this watch. I never saw the man before who pledged it for me, but he gave me the 30*s.*, and after I had spent it, having no home to go to and no means of living, I wandered about the streets, and put myself in the way of the police that they might suspect and ask me what I was doing. I did so last night, but the police did not interfere, and I therefore at last went up to the officer and gave myself into custody." To an inquiry from the magistrate whether his parents were there, Coles replied, "No, sir; and I shall not disgrace them by telling where they live." He was sentenced to four months' hard labour.

**A ROMANCE OF VILLANY.**—A singular tale of knavery, including an ingenious device for self-concealment on the occasion of police visits, has been unfolded at the Clerkenwell police office, where a well-dressed young man, described as a surgeon residing at No. 15, Frederick-place, Goswell-road, was charged with attempting to extort money from a gentleman of Lincolnshire by threatening to publish a libel against him. The accused had advertised constantly that he was able to cure certain diseases, and, in this case, the prosecutor communicated some private facts to him, when the prisoner wrote back and threatened that, unless the prosecutor paid him a douceur of 25*l.*, he would publish the letters to the world. In consequence of this, a warrant was placed in the hands of two policemen, who went in plain clothes to the prisoner's house, where they saw his wife. One of the constables said he had something the matter with him, and wished to consult "the doctor." The wife stated that he was absent from home, and, upon being pressed as to his return, she said he had gone into the country upon a professional tour. The constables then stated who they were, and that they had a warrant against her husband. Upon hearing this, she touched a spring in the wall, and a bell rang loudly at the end of a passage. The police went into the passage, and searched the house over, but could not find "the doctor." When they returned and saw the wife, she exclaimed, "Ah, ah, you may think yourselves clever, but you will not find him. He is not in the house now; he has bailed you, and you will never take him as long as you bailed you, and you will never take him as long as you bailed you." Determined not to be defeated in this way, the constables again went into the drawing-room, which was elegantly furnished, and, after searching for some time, they knocked the flooring, and fancied they discovered a hollow sound. They looked further, and found a trap-door, which they lifted up, and underneath they perceived the prisoner crouching down in a corner. He refused to come up, but they dragged him out by his collar, and took him to the station. He was remanded, and has since been discharged.

**THE CONVICT M'LEAN.**—A memorial has been sent to the Home Secretary from inhabitants of the town and county of Linlithgow praying for a commutation of the

sentence of death passed upon Peter M'Lean for the murder of Thomas Maxwell, on the road between Bathgate and Durhamtown, on the 19th of last November. M'Lean was convicted by a majority of the jury, but recommended to mercy, and was sentenced to be executed on the 2nd of February. The memorialists express concurrence with the views of the minority of the jury, and submit that it was rather matter of inference than proof that M'Lean struck the fatal blow; that the deceased and his brother were in all probability the original aggressors in the quarrel; that the surviving brother was in such a state of drunkenness as to cast serious doubt on the accuracy of his evidence; and that there was no premeditation or previous hostility.

**ATTEMPTED GAROTTE ROBBERY BY A CABMAN.**—A man named Gibbons, described as a cab-driver, was charged before Mr. Long at the Marylebone police court, with attempting to garotte Mr. John Bean, a gentleman living in the neighbourhood of Market-street, Paddington. Mr. Bean was walking along Sale-street, in the direction of his home, about three o'clock in the morning, when he was confronted by a man, who tightly grasped his neck-handkerchief, and pressed his knuckles with all his force against his throat, so as almost to throttle him. The ruffian at the same time exclaimed, "Your money or your life;" upon which, Mr. Bean (who, notwithstanding the violent pressure on his throat, was still able to speak) replied that he had no money with him. Gibbons, however, still insisted on having some, saying that he would take fourpence, if Mr. Bean had no larger sum about him, rather than not have any at all. Mr. Bean, who had nearly eight shillings in his pockets, and who was apprehensive that the man would discover the fact and rob him, called for assistance, and a police-sergeant who was on duty in Cambridge-terrace at the time, came up, and took Gibbons into custody. Mr. Bean was nearly fainting from the injuries he had received, and he was laid up the whole of the following day in consequence. Mr. Long committed Gibbons for trial, and refused to take bail.

**AN OUTCAST'S HISTORY.**—Mary Allen—"a woman dressed in unwomanly rags"—was brought up at the Westminster police-court on Monday, charged with stealing a roll of woollen plaid, value thirty shillings, from the shop of Mr. Gawtreys, Lowndes-terrace, Knightsbridge. The theft having been proved, the magistrate, on looking at the police charge-sheet, remarked that the prisoner had given neither her occupation nor her address. Prisoner: "I don't intend to give either. I admit that I stole the roll of plaid, and I tell you honestly that if you were to discharge me now, I would do the same again directly." Mr. Paynter (the magistrate): "Why?" Prisoner: "Anything is better than the life I have been living of late—wandering about with only what I stand upright in, under-mind, uncared-for, wretched, destitute, and dirty, absolutely loathing myself; and now I've told you all my history." Mr. Paynter: "It strikes me you have my not. You appear to be a well-educated person, and I should think you could not have been brought to the condition you describe without some imprudence of your own." Prisoner: "I have been well brought up, but no matter; I will not explain what I have been. I have told you what I am, but I tell you honestly and truthfully, I would take the coat off your own back if I could, sooner than I would starve about, unfriended, unpitied, as I have done of late." Mr. Paynter remanded the prisoner for a week, and desired the police to use their best endeavours to learn something about her.

**THE UNEMPLOYED.**—An immense multitude of the unemployed labouring men who have recently been holding meetings in Smithfield, attended on Monday at the Clerkenwell police-office, and, on being allowed to enter, rushed in a huge body into the court, which they completely filled. They had been holding a meeting at Smithfield, and had afterwards gone to the workhouses of Clerkenwell and Islington for relief; but their formidable numbers created alarm, and, with the exception of a few at Clerkenwell, they failed to obtain the assistance they sought for. They attended at the police-court to complain of this refusal, and several of them observed that, unless something was done, there would be a revolution in the country. On the magistrate asking if there were any other cases there, a voice answered, "Yes, sir, six hundred, and as many more outside the court." An officer was despatched to the Islington workhouse, the relieving officer of which shortly afterwards attended. A promise was then given that the most urgent of the claims should be attended to.—From one hundred and fifty to two hundred persons, many of them youths, attended at the Lambeth office on Tuesday, to complain that they had been refused relief at the workhouse of that parish, except on condition of working three hours for half a pound of bread. Mr. Elliott, the magistrate, at once sent an officer to the house, who, on his return, in about three-quarters of an hour, informed Mr. Elliott that he had found the board of guardians sitting, and he at once proceeded to the board-room and informed the chairman and the members of the board of the message he had been sent with. The board at once consented to hear the complaint of a deputation of the workmen, and the officer took a message to the parties to that effect,

but they one and all declined. Mr. Jarret, one of the relieving officers, also offered the parties tickets for labour in the workhouse, for which labour they would have been paid according to their necessities and the number of their families; but they refused to accept them, and marched off in a body. Mr. Elliott observed that he was not surprised or disappointed at the result, believing, as he did, that the object of the parties was more display than actual want or a desire to seek parochial assistance.

**ROBBERY OF COWS.**—Five men have been charged at Worship-street with stealing four cows from the shed of a milkman in East-road, City-road. The value of the animals was 90*l.*; and the shed had been broken into in the course of the night. The evidence of several witnesses fixed suspicion on all the accused, one of whom appears to have been the receiver; but, as there was more doubt in his case than in that of the others, he was admitted to bail.

**THE DOUBLE MURDER IN WALWORTH.**—Mrs. Bacon has made further statements with respect to the guilt of her husband, from which it would appear that, after cutting the throats of the children, he endeavoured to strangle her. This is confirmed by the fact that her throat, when first she was taken into custody, presented livid marks as of the constriction of a rope. Amongst the articles found on Bacon at the time he was taken into custody was a square morocco case, containing the photographic likenesses of his murdered children as they lay in their coffins. This emblem he carried with him to Stamford, and showed to all his friends and acquaintances, always expressing great grief at their loss. —Bacon and his wife were again examined at the Lambeth police office on Wednesday. Great indisposition to face the public was evinced by the man, and the woman showed an equal horror at being brought face to face with her husband. The latter was therefore permitted to sit at the solicitors' table, with her back turned to Bacon; and this position she maintained during the whole of the proceedings. The vacant and wandering look which distinguished her when first she was in custody has now given place to a settled look of misery. Her husband also seemed very dejected and apprehensive. The chief additional evidence was that of a Mrs. Hyde, who had washed some shirts for Bacon, one of which was stained apparently with blood. This witness also stated that Bacon had remarked to her that if his wife said anything about him he would kill her. He had likewise exhibited great uneasiness, and this had caused her to "have her suspicions" about him in connexion with the murders. Blood has been found on some of Bacon's clothes and on Mrs. Bacon's dress. Both the prisoners were again remanded.

**THE ATTEMPTED BURGLARY AT NOTTING-HILL.**—The two men dexterously caught by the police last week in their attempt to commit a burglary at Notting-hill have been examined at Marylebone police-office, and sentenced, for that offence and for their assaults on the police, the one to six and the other to two months' imprisonment.

**CRUELTY TO A CHILD.**—A young man, named Hicknott, has been sentenced by the Clerkenwell magistrate to hard labour for three months for savage ill-treatment of his illegitimate daughter, aged sixteen months. He admitted to having beaten it with a cane, and said that once it fell on the fire. It presented a mass of frightful injuries. The man was loudly hissed by the people in court.

**A GAMEKEEPER'S MORALITY.**—Two gamekeepers, named Woollen and Sims, employed by the West Ardley Game Association, charged two men at the Wakefield Petty Sessions with shooting a hare. The fact of the hare being killed was doubtful; and the counsel for the defence accused the keepers of getting up charges for the sake of profits, and of having once been poachers themselves. One of the prisoners was fined 1*l.* 7*s.*, but the other was discharged. Woollen then remarked, "I've got the one I wanted;" on which one of the magistrates said, "If you were a servant of mine, I would send you off. That expression will be remembered against you in all further evidence you give in this court."

**A BURGLAR'S DESCENT THROUGH A CHIMNEY.**—A man contrived, about a fortnight ago, to climb on to the roof of a farmer's house at Ryton, near Shifnal, Shropshire, by means, probably, of a rope-ladder, and descending a chimney, made his way into the house, but not without great difficulty in squeezing himself through the iron arch plate at the back of the grate. A fire was burning at the time, though it was night, and the fellow must have got scorched. Moreover, a pistol which he carried went off in the course of his gymnastics, and alarmed the family, who, on rising, could not discover anything more the matter than a great smell of soot. When, however, early in the morning, a man servant entered the kitchen, and opened the outer door, to go to the stables, the burglar sprang from under a table and rushed forth. He was pursued, but ineffectually. It does not appear that he succeeded in stealing anything.

**A CAB QUESTION.**—A cabman has been summoned at Bow-street under peculiar circumstances. Mr. Houghton, a silk-mercator of the Edgeware-road, hired the cab (which was a Hansom) on a very rainy, sleety day, and, singularly enough, sat with the window up. The cabman requested him to put it down, as the seat was

getting so wet that he would not be able to take another fare that day, and the property would be damaged; but Mr. Houghton refused. The driver then declined to take him any further, when Mr. Houghton told him to drive to Bow-street, which was done. Mr. Jardine took time to consider the question, and on Tuesday he gave his decision for Mr. Houghton, while expressing his opinion that the case was very hard. As he had delayed his decision, and caused the cabman to come up a second time, he returned him the cost of the summons.

**THE BULLION ROBBERY: DECISION OF THE JUDGES AS TO THE PROPERTY.**—Mr. Baron Martin and Mr. Justice Willes sat on Tuesday afternoon in the Exchequer Chamber at Westminster, to decide on the right of the several parties claiming the Turkish bonds and other bonds found in the possession of Pierce, Burgess, and Tester. The applicants were—the South Eastern Railway Company, the Sheriffs of London and Middlesex, a Mr. Saward (an attorney), the wife of Tester, and the Crown. The claims of the Sheriffs, Mr. Saward, and Mrs. Tester, were disallowed. Some further discussion then took place, and eventually the judges made an order that the company should have restored to them so much of the property as was shown to be the result of the robbery, and that the remainder should be given into the custody of Sir Richard Mayne, the Chief Commissioner of Police, to abide any future orders that may be given respecting it. In the course of the proceedings, Mr. Baron Martin expressed his opinion that Fanny Kay has an equitable right to the property, according to the request of Agar.

**CLEVER IDENTIFICATION OF THIEVES.**—A few nights ago a party of burglars attempted to enter the house of Major Smith, at Woodcroft, near Partick. They first broke a pane of glass in one of the windows, and then tried to wrench open the shutter, by unscrewing the snib with a clasp-knife. The knife, however, was broken in the attempt, and a bell, which was attached to the shutter then rang, and aroused the master of the house, who, jumping out of bed and arming himself with firearms, rushed to the spot and speedily put the thieves to flight. On examining the window next morning, a portion of the blade of the knife was found sticking in the shutter, and this circumstance subsequently led to the detection of the burglars. The fragment of the broken knife was given to the police, and it was not long before a constable saw two suspicious-looking men on his beat, whom he took into custody. At the station-house they were both searched, and on one of them was found a knife with a broken blade, which exactly fitted the piece which had been discovered in the window-shutter of Major Smith's house. The man on whom the knife was found was a notorious housebreaker.

**THE CONVICT THOMAS MANSELL.**—This man, formerly a private of the 49th Regiment, who now lies under sentence of death for shooting a comrade, is respited, as the reader will recollect, to the 5th of February, for certain technical reasons connected with the trial. The matter will be argued before the Judges of the Court of Queen's Bench some time during next term; but no day is yet fixed. There will be another respite; and if the Judges should decide that the jury was not legally empanelled, the convict will be tried again at the next assizes.

**THE GREAT BANK FRAUDS.**—Anderson and Saward were again examined at the Mansion House on Wednesday, when the chief witness was Mrs. Margaret Hardwicke, the wife of William Salt Hardwicke. She was a very respectable-looking elderly woman, and gave evidence to the effect that Saward was intimate with her husband. The witness was subjected to a very severe cross-examination by Mr. Giffard, who appeared for Saward, and who sought to show that Mrs. Hardwicke was well acquainted with her husband's dishonest modes of life. This she denied, asserting that, if she had been asked about his employment, she should have said he was 'a gentleman;' but it was very evident that she was not ignorant of his real sources of income. She admitted that he had been transported, and that once, when he was about to be tried, she "gave a sum of money to some one, and he was let out of prison." She denied that this was 'escaping' from prison, and asked if she was to be witness against her husband, or against whom. Afterwards she said—qualifying the information by adding, "I am not certain"—that she gave the bribe to "some one belonging to the gaol." Further evidence, strengthening the prosecution, having been received, the prisoners were remanded till next Thursday.

**JUVENILE 'NECESSARIES.'**—An action has been brought against Lord Ernest Vane Tempest, of tempestuous notoriety, for 150*l.* 1*s.* in payment for jewellery and trinkets supplied to him by Mr. Hancock, the jeweller, of Bond-street. His lordship had the magnanimity to plead 'infancy,' and thus endeavour to avoid payment. Much fun was made by Mr. Edwin James, counsel for Mr. Hancock, in connexion with his lordship's 'infantine' propensities. Mr. James contended that even 'infants' are liable for necessities, and the meaning of the word necessities, he said, must be defined in relation to the position in life of the 'infant.' Among his lordship's 'necessaries' was a gold latch-key. All the officers in the regiment to which Lord Ernest

once belonged had their latch-keys of gold, so his lordship must. Another of his necessities was a locket. "What is a locket?" asked Baron Bramwell. Mr. James said that, as he had had a locket once, he could answer that question. A locket "is that in which you put the hair of the lady to whom you are attached." "Then," said Baron Bramwell, "I have been without a necessary all my life." Lord Ernest's mother, the wealthy Marchioness of Londonderry, offered the jeweller five shillings in the pound for her son's debt, but this was not accepted. Mr. Hancock could not prove the delivery of more than 65*l.* 15*s.* worth of goods, owing to the absence of an assistant in Egypt; and the verdict was therefore given for that amount.

#### NAVAL AND MILITARY.

**THE AMERICAN MERCHANT NAVY.**—A charge was preferred on Friday week at Liverpool before Mr. Mansfield, the stipendiary magistrate, against the first mate of the American ship *Albert Gallatin*, who, it was alleged, during a voyage from New York to England, and particularly while entering the docks on the 11th inst., treated with great brutality three foreigners, named Müller, Zimmerman, and Zills. These men had been induced to ship on board the vessel by an advertisement issued in New York, which stated that a passage to Liverpool and twenty dollars a month would be given to landsmen and others, who would be expected only to perform landsmen's duty on board. The mate was fined in one case 5*l.* and costs, and in the other two cases 40*s.* and costs.

**THE WRECK OF THE TYNE.**—The endeavour to pump the water out of the Tyne steamship, which ran aground on the south coast, has failed, and there appears now to be little chance of getting her off. The attempt has been abandoned until the weather shall be calmer.

**RESISTANCE TO THE LASH.**—A very unpleasant occurrence took place on Monday at Portsmouth. A man who has only been one hundred and ninety-five days in the Royal Marine Artillery corps, and been confined several times for bad conduct, incurred a debt of 8*s.* for slops he had "taken up;" this sum the captain of his company said should be put against his account on the books of the corps, whereupon the man used an insulting expression, and said he would do no more soldiering until he was paid. This led to a court-martial last Friday week, which adjudged him to receive fifty lashes on Monday. On his being taken towards the place of punishment under escort, he broke away from his guards, rushed upon Colonel Parke (the commandant of the corps) as he was stooping to pick up a paper he had dropped, and gave him a tremendous blow in the face, knocking him to the ground and cutting him in the face very severely. The man was speedily overpowered and led to the halberds, where the fifty lashes were inflicted. He will now be tried for striking the colonel.—*Times.*

**WRECK IN THE CHANNEL.**—The *Marian*, for Antigua, owned by the Mayor of Liverpool, ran ashore on Sunday in Rhos Bay. She is in a very dangerous position; but hopes are entertained that she will be got off.

**THE BROADSTAIRS BOATMEN.**—An amateur theatrical performance is to take place at the St. James's Theatre, on the 7th or the 9th of February, for the benefit of those brave men, the Broadstairs boatmen.

**THE NEW "DREADNOUGHT."**—The new hospital ship *Caledonia*, which is to supply the place of the old *Dreadnought* at Greenwich, was on Monday lashed alongside the latter vessel, which will be shortly removed and broken up. The *Caledonia* will then receive the name of the *Dreadnought*.

**THE MAIL STEAMER VIOLET.**—The identity of the passenger lost in the Dover and Ostend mail packet *Violet* has now been proved. It is now satisfactorily ascertained that the deceased was a Prussian Baron von Issing, captain of the 7th company of the 15th regiment of infantry, in garrison at Minden. This officer obtained leave of absence to go over to London on family affairs, taking with him 500 dollars in cash, and bills to the amount of 2000 dollars. His wife is the sister of Sophie Cravelli, now Baroness Vigier.

**THE MORTALITY ON BOARD THE DUKE OF PORTLAND.**—The Local Marine Board, sitting in Cornhill, have been investigating the frightful mortality of Chinese on board the British ship *Duke of Portland*. Every care appears to have been taken on board, and a larger number of men were not shipped than the vessel was built to hold. Nevertheless, the coolies were discontented, behaved in a very mutinous manner, plotted a general massacre, and were only overawed by a great exhibition of firearms. Several suicides were committed, and fever raged fearfully. At the close of the examination of the witnesses, the Chairman announced the decision of the board:—"That no blame attaches to the owner and master, or any one connected with the ship. That Captain Seymour's conduct to the emigrants appears to have been kind and attentive, and that every possible precaution was used by him to decrease the mortality. Dr. Ludgate appears also to have exerted himself for the same purpose. It appears to this board that the mortality was greatly aggravated by the great heat and unusual length of the passage (150 days), caused by the sailing of the ship in an improper season. She sailed fully one month later than



**THE BRITISH BANK.**—A supplemental dividend meeting under the bankruptcy took place last Saturday. Mr. Lawrance referred in strong terms to the course adopted by certain solicitors in serving a number of notices upon various shareholders for one and the same debt; he knew one instance himself, in which the debt was 200*l.*, for which fourteen summonses were issued; and it was no exaggeration to say that the costs of the solicitors had thus amounted to the full sum of the

original debt. Mr. Linklater announced a dividend of 5s. 6d. in the pound for those creditors who had not hitherto received any dividend. There would be a sum of 7000*l.* or 8000*l.* in hand after this payment, to which would be shortly added 16,000*l.* handed over by the official manager. Other steps were being taken to realize assets. It was hoped that a further dividend might be declared in about a month from this time. The dividend was declared *pro forma*, after the reception of proofs, amounting in the aggregate to 150,000*l.*

**THE BANKRUPTCY OF JOHN PAUL, THE DEFAULTING COLLECTOR.**—Mr. Henderson, in the Court of Bankruptcy last Saturday, presented a petition against John Paul, the defaulting collector to the City of London Union; he is described as of Bedford, and of 51, St. Mary-axe, corn and seed merchant. The petitioning creditors are Messrs Loughton and Loughton, shoe manufacturers, of Leadenhall-street. The matter was balloted to Mr. Commissioner Goulburn. Paul has been a bankrupt twice before—in 1827 and 1837.

**THE BISHOP OF LONDON.**—Dr. Tait, the new Bishop of London, took the customary oaths in the Court of Queen's Bench, last Saturday.

**THE REV. W. H. MILMAN**, Librarian of Zion College, and son of the Dean of St. Paul's, will, it is stated, be Archdeacon Hale's successor at Cripplegate.

**THE DISCOVERIES OF IRON** in the neighbourhood of Seend, Wiltshire, continue, and several furnaces will be erected immediately.

**THE COUNTY COURT JUDGESHIP**, vacant by the death of Mr. Kekewich, will be filled by Mr. Charles Dacres Bevan, of the Western Circuit.

**BETTING-HOUSES.**—The police have been making some very vigorous and unanticipated descents into the West-end betting-houses. Several clerks and visitors have been taken into custody, and the ledgers carried away. Alarmed at these indications of a hot campaign, the proprietors of some of the other houses have prudently closed their doors. Steps have also been taken to abate the nuisance arising from the large gatherings of disreputable women and their followers in the streets at an early hour of the afternoon.—Some keepers of betting-houses were on Wednesday fined by the Marlborough-street magistrate in various large sums.

**HEALTH OF LONDON.**—The deaths registered in London, which in the two previous weeks had been 1135 and 1171, rose in the week that ended last Saturday to 1216. In the ten years 1847-56, the average number of deaths in the weeks corresponding with last week was 1177. But, if the deaths of last week are to be compared with the average, the latter should be raised proportionally to the increase of population, in which case it will become 1295. Hence it will be seen that, although the rate of mortality has been rising lately, it is still below the average. In comparing the results of the last two weeks, an increase is observed in the deaths of old persons; for, whereas 41 men and women, who had attained the age of 80 years or upwards, died in the former week, the number last week was 74. In these 74 old persons, an unusual number of nonagenarians is found, namely, 14; a man and a woman were each 95 years of age, and the two oldest were women who had reached the age of 96 years.—Last week, the births of 904 boys and 885 girls, in all 1789 children, were registered in London. In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1847-56, the average number was 1553.—*From the Registrar General's Weekly Return.*

**THE PRINCESS HOHENLOHE** and her daughter have arrived in England on a visit to the Duchess of Kent.

**INCUMBENCY OF ST. JAMES'S, CLERKENWELL.**—The Lords Chief Justices of Appeal have decided that the right to present to this incumbency has not been affected by the Local Management Acts; that the Rev. Robert Maguire has been improperly elected by the vestry; and that the vestry must be restrained from presenting him to the Bishop of London for induction or license. A fresh election will now be made by the general body of parishioners; and it is said that there are several candidates ready to take the field.

**THREE WOMEN** have been frozen to death in the snow in the county of Forfar.

**A MERCANTILE LAW CONFERENCE**, under the presidency of Lord Brougham, was held on Wednesday at Willis's Rooms, St. James's.

**THE BISHOP OF OXFORD AND HIS CLERGY.**—The beneficed clergymen of the diocese of Oxford met on Thursday at St. Mary's Church, Oxford, at twelve o'clock, to elect a proctor in the Lower House of Convocation, in the place of the late Professor Hussey. The Bishop of Oxford presided. Considerable opposition was offered by the Rev. Thomas Curme, M.A., vicar of Sandford, Oxon, and domestic chaplain to the Duke of Marlborough, who objected to the constitution of the synod, and thought (as he subsequently explained) that the Bishop had no more right to interfere in an election for the Lower House than a temporal peer in the elections for the House of Commons. The Bishop said he could not allow any one to speak till the synod was fully constituted. But Mr. Curme still endeavoured to proceed; on which the Bishop directed the registrar to send for a policeman. The matter, however, was settled without that apostolic functionary, the Bishop consenting to hear Mr. Curme when the synod was properly constituted. Subsequently, the Bishop said Mr. Curme could not protest till after the proceedings had closed, and Mr.

Curme refrained from pressing the matter further at that time. The election then took place; Mr. Lloyd, one of the Bishop's chaplains, being chosen by a large majority.

**MURDER BY A MANIAC.**—Ensign Pennefather, of the 40th Regiment, stationed at Melbourne, Australia, has committed a series of outrages of a most horrible character. He suddenly rushed out of his room with a six-barrelled revolver in his hand, shot Ensign Keith, then Dr. M'Cauley, then Ensign Lucas, who ran forward to wrest the pistol from him, and finally himself. There appears to be no doubt that he was in a maniacal state. Dr. M'Cauley was shot dead at once; Edsigns Keith and Lucas are in a dangerous state; and the assassin himself shortly afterwards died. He had been an invalid for some time; and a change in the weather seems to have had a bad effect on him. There had also been a review that morning, and it is thought that this excited him.

**THE WILL OF MR. JOHN KENYON.**—Mr. John Kenyon, who died on the 3rd ult., left the following liberal bequests to personal literary friends:—To his cousin, Elizabeth Barrett Browning, 4000*l.*; and to her husband, Robert Browning, 6500*l.*; to Bryan W. Procter, better known as Barry Cornwall, 6500*l.*; to Dr. Henry Southey, 8000*l.*; to Catherine, the daughter of Robert Southey, the Poet Laureate, 250*l.*; and to each of the other daughters, 100*l.*; the son and daughter of Mrs. Henry Nelson Coleridge, 250*l.* each; John Forster has 500*l.*; George Scharf, 500*l.*; and Antonio Panizzi, 500*l.*, with all the wines in the cellars at Devonshire-place and at Cowes; Agnes Catlow, 105*l.*; and Walter Savage Landor, Henry Chorley, Mrs. Jameson, and Sir Charles Fellowes, each 100*l.* The furniture, books, prints, and articles of *vertu* in Mr. Kenyon's cottage at Wimbledon are left to his friend Miss Bayley, and James Booth, one of the executors, to whom is bequeathed 5000*l.*; Thomas Hawthorne, the other executor, having 20,000*l.* The whole of the residue of the property, after payment of the legacies, is to be divided by the executors. A bequest of 5000*l.* is made to the London University Hospital. Many legacies are also left to the relatives of Mr. Kenyon and many others in whom he was interested.

## Postscript.

LEADER OFFICE, Saturday, January 31.

### THE MERCANTILE LAW CONFERENCE.

#### DEPUTATION TO LORD PALMERSTON.

ACCORDING to arrangement, a deputation from the Mercantile Law Conference—which has been sitting during the last few days at Willis's Rooms—had an interview yesterday afternoon with Lord Palmerston at Cambridge House, Piccadilly. Lord Brougham was the spokesman, and in a concise address pointed out the necessity that exists for several important amendments in our laws, instancing more especially the law of bankruptcy and insolvency. With respect to the 17th section of the Statute of Frauds, he said that the provinces generally are in favour of a repeal, while London is averse to such a step. The conference, he added, wished to see established some tribunals of commerce, somewhat similar to those of France and Belgium.—Lord Palmerston said the Government would give the subject all the attention that its own importance, together with the high authority of Lord Brougham, and the other members of the conference, demanded.

**NAPLES AND SICILY.**—The King of Naples has concluded a convention with the Argentine Republic for the reception of such of his political prisoners as may consent to be exiled thither. The offer has been made to Poerio, but he has declined to go.—An insurrection in Sicily appears to be imminent.

**MRS. SEACOLE'S BANKRUPTCY.**—Mrs. Seacole appeared in the Court of Bankruptcy yesterday, and, there being no opposition, she was granted immediate certificates of the first class. She was warmly congratulated by the court, and said she was quite ready to go out to India, if she could be of any service to the army.

**HENDERSON V. GODDARD.**—THE ROYAL BRITISH BANK.—Lord Campbell, in the Court of Queen's Bench yesterday, said, in this case, which, as in many others, raised a question as to the liability of shareholders to execution under judgments obtained against the official manager of the Royal British Bank, that the same question has arisen in the Court of Common Pleas and Exchequer, and the court had consulted the judges of these courts, and they were unanimously of opinion that the shareholders were liable, and therefore the rule would be made absolute for execution.

**VERGER'S TRIAL.**—The Court of Cassation, on Thursday, refused Vergier's application for a new trial.

**SWITZERLAND.**—It is stated that the conferences on the Neuchâtel question are to be held at Paris.

**VISCOUNT DOWNS** died at Torquay, on Monday, in his forty-fifth year.

**OFFICIAL APPOINTMENTS.**—Mr. Thomas Price, late Treasurer of Antigua, has been appointed to the Presidency of the Virgin Islands. Mr. C. J. Bayley, late Colonial Secretary in the Mauritius, is appointed Governor of the Bahamas.

### NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

R. G.—There is no publication containing the names of the private soldiers of the army, nor do we know how a list of the men of the regiment named by our correspondent can be obtained unless by going to the orderly room of the regiment and giving a good reason for seeking the information. If our correspondent wishes to find out whether a particular individual is in the corps or not, a polite note to the Adjutant would no doubt bring him the information. It is even possible (we do not say probable) that his request might be complied with at the office of the Secretary of War.

**ERRATUM.**—In the "Arts" last week, for "Ensign Arthur Hardinge," read Ensign Henry Hardinge.

No notice can be taken of anonymous correspondence. 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. We do not undertake to return rejected communications.

# The Leader.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 1857.

## 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.

### IMPERIALISM IN ITALY.

CATHERINE OF RUSSIA, when she made a progress through any part of her empire, was duped by a perpetual series of stage effects. No such illusion has been found possible in Italy. The Austrian Emperor has been confronted by the scowling discontent of the Venetian and Lombard populations. He has conciliated no good-will, enforced no respect. Though the official *Gazette* of Milan, printed in imperial blue, records the ebullition of joy and loyalty that greeted FRANCIS-JOSEPH, neither Italy nor the Emperor can have been deceived. The Emperor broke down in the delivery of his speech to the municipality of Milan. Ministers and councillors sought to hide his confusion; the police endeavoured to suppress the satirical criticisms that glanced from tongue to tongue; but the mishap was irretrievable; the Austrian rule had always been hated; the Austrian ruler was now ridiculed. "We are governed by a ninny," said the Milanese.

The Emperor's reception in Italy has been purely official. The King of NAPLES, inspecting a state prison, would be welcomed by its officers with demonstrations of loyalty; the prisoners might be curious to see their principal gaoler, and would not dare to manifest their hatred. Exactly parallel have been the circumstances of the Austrian visit. A German bureaucracy, taking precedence of the Italian nobles, crowds round the Emperor; the functionaries crook their knees and applaud him; the municipalities levy a tax of light to illuminate the cities; but Italy herself stands sullenly apart, and, on the day that FRANCIS-JOSEPH enters Milan, a Lombard deputation presents a statue to Piedmont, and a subscription for the guns of Alessandria. Nor can the police prevent the circulation by myriads of a lithograph representing a wreath of death's heads. Even among the flowers of a triumphal arch a chaplet of skulls is placed, by night, that a Kaiser, king of men, may understand how his representatives have been whitening the sepulchre. There was not only an utter absence of enthusiasm from Venice to Milan, there were displays of national animosity. It is vain to hope that the general amnesty will convert Lombardy to an Austrian allegiance. It has come too late; it is a mockery; the amnestied persons are not relieved from *surveillance*; the police may, at any moment, reclaim them.

No Imperial concessions can now stifle the cry for national independence. Every



sentiment of acquiescence has been rooted out of the Italian heart. Those who will not recognise this truth, in its full significance, are wilfully blind to the facts of the Italian question. Before 1848 the Austrian rule in Italy had become intolerable. It had all but destroyed the manufactures of the Lombard cities, it had consumed in taxes almost the whole product of the Lombard plains, only comparable, in their natural fertility, with the plains of Beauce and the richest provinces of China. The failure of the revolution, instead of mitigating the national thirst for independence, exasperated it. An inextinguishable sense of wrong, a jealousy, a hatred, unappeasable by any amnesty, reform, or concession whatever, became the political religion of every patriot, and the atrocities perpetrated by the Austrian generals at Brescia, Ferrara, Bologna, and Mantua, elicited a curse upon the empire which neither time nor any gracious words can remove. A registry of massacres, of spoliations, of imprisonments without trial, of secret military murders, of mothers and virgins flogged by soldiers in the open streets, of young patriots blown from the cannon's mouth, of old men and young girls burnt in a bonfire at Brescia, of families ruined, of whole districts made desolate, of Austrian Italy, from border to border, filled with mourning and terror;—these are the counts of the Italian indictment—crimes not to be obliterated or condoned. The Italians know well that the question of the future lies between Italy and the aliens who oppress her; the issue is no longer between Guelf and Ghibelline, Pope and Emperor, but between foreign domination and Italian independence. Whoever recommends the Lombardo-Venetian people to compromise with Austria will be regarded with suspicion and contempt by every true Italian. The living and the dead forbid the sacrilegious and fratricidal compact.

FRANCIS-JOSEPH, visiting the Italian conquests of his dynasty, has provoked a silent manifestation which must be instructive to Europe. The political activity of Genoa and Turin has been quickened by the unmistakable fidelity of the Austro-Italian people to the symbols of 1848. Conceive how MANIN would have been welcomed had he entered Venice the day after FRANCIS-JOSEPH had left it! Count CAVOUR has been furnished with new proofs of the ardent life that struggles for free action throughout Italy; but, however sincere, he is rendered powerless by the embarrassments of his position. Meanwhile, however, it is time for politicians in England to consider what interests they have in upholding the imperial integrity of Austria. The solemn diplomatic fiction of the necessity of an Austrian empire in the centre of Europe was exploded in 1849, when the first Russian musket was fired in Hungary. It may still be insisted upon by fossilised pedagogues and pedants; but it is a mere trick of superannuated diplomacy, and disappeared from the world of realities with METTERNICH. SCHWARZENBERG commenced the new epoch of military centralisation, against which all the Liberalism of Europe, Germany included, has arrayed all the forces of the future. The sooner our statesmen and our governmental publicists acknowledge this truth, the better for the fortunes of Europe. The Revolution only sleeps, and when its "great wakening light" is seen, new counterpoises to the despotic principle represented as much by FRANCIS-JOSEPH as by ALEXANDER II., must be sought, but not in the Austrian Empire. We have always been willing, with a deep and sorrowful conviction, to acknowledge that even despotism is better than anarchy,

but it is an old and an obsolete trick to describe anarchy as the one alternative of despotism. We have seen perfect security and order in a Roman republic of our own times; we see Imperialism co-existent with misery and terror; we cannot think that even that amusing fiction, the Balance of Power, would suffer through the absence of the soldiery and placemen who constitute the Austrian party in Italy.

#### COMMON SENSE OF THE BANK CHARTER QUESTION.

THE debate upon the Bank Charter Act is half done; those who have acquired the greatest amount of scientific and practical knowledge have rallied to the contest, and those who are for returning to the policy of "the dark ages of banking," as Lord OVERSTONE calls it, have been virtually beaten before the meeting of Parliament. Admirable auxiliaries for reviewing the whole subject have been placed at the disposal of the debaters. Lord OVERSTONE has permitted all his tracts, letters, pamphlets, and oral evidence on the subject, to be collected in one handsome volume for private circulation; Mr. M'CULLOCH is the editor, and that is not the only service that Mr. M'CULLOCH has performed. Lord OVERSTONE was, as everybody knows, the eminent banker JONES LOYD; to him, Government, bank, and commercial public has always turned as to the highest authority; in the policy that has been adopted he may be said to have been the partner of Sir ROBERT PEEL. In one of the most important tracts, a "Commentary on the Petition of Merchants, Bankers, Traders," &c., in 1847, Lord OVERSTONE was associated with Colonel TORRENS, the most precise writer on the subject that we have. Mr. GEORGE ARBUTHNOT—private Secretary to Sir ROBERT PEEL for several years, including 1844, when the present Bank Charter Act was passed, and to Sir CHARLES WOOD, who was Chancellor of the Exchequer in 1847—has published a pamphlet which grasps the main arguments upon the subject, and exposes the outrageous fallacies of those who go for repeal or considerable modification.\*

Lord OVERSTONE's volume reviews the whole history of the question from "the dark ages of the currency"—that period from 1797 to 1819, during which the Bank of England was "restricted" from paying for its notes in gold. During that time the guinea was worth twenty-seven shillings and more; and although the bank-note never sank to the value of assignats, or of the revolutionary notes of the United States, the public incurred an immense amount of loss by the fact that each five-pound note in its hands gradually became worth no more than three or four pounds, or less. In 1819 Mr. PEEL, afterwards Sir ROBERT, obtained the passing of that Act which so angered COBBETT, but which redeemed our circulation, and enabled every person, holding a five-pound note, really to hold five pounds in his hands. The Bank Charter has been renewed at various periods since—in 1832 and 1844; and in that time two great steps of progress were taken.

In 1819, the Governors of the Bank of England distinctly denied the principle that the issues of notes were to be regulated by the exchanges; they have since learned the fallacy of that denial. By tacit consent the civilised world has accepted the precious metals, gold and silver, as its current money. The coin of different countries varies—depreciated coin, however, becoming rarer and rarer; under different shapes and stamps, given

\* Tracts and other Publications on Metallic and Paper Currency. By the Right Hon. Lord Overstone. Sir Robert Peel's Act of 1844, regulating the Issue of Bank-Notes, vindicated. By G. Arbuthnot. Longmans.

amounts of gold or silver bear nearly the same value. They are current, not only between individuals, but between communities; they flow from hand to hand, and from land to land, exactly according to the payments to be made. The richest country, like the richest person, is constantly drawing to itself the largest amount, and sending from itself the largest amount. If any country, however, has on hand an amount of saleable goods unusually large in proportion to the money within its frontiers, it sells some of those goods; money is sent to it, and the exchanges are 'in favour' of that country. That is, persons who deal particularly in the commodity of the precious metals find it profitable to send them thither. When the exchanges are 'at par,'—that is, when there is any advantage in sending money either out or in—the share of the currency of the world is just about proportionate to the average wants of that country; as Lord OVERSTONE expresses it, the currency of that country is "full." If at that period there were an excessive issue of paper-money, money would become too cheap in that country; it would become comparatively dearer elsewhere; gold would go out, paper would take its place. The currency of the country would recover its former proportion, only there would be paper instead of gold—depreciated paper. Credit would be injured, and no advantage would be gained by the entire process. It is the same even when the currency is at a low scale, and when the gold is going out; because the country only retains for itself the share of currency which naturally comes to it in the course of commerce; any more than that share, low as it may be, flows away. No tyrannical restrictions to keep money at home can prevail against the movements of commerce, especially in articles so portable as gold and silver. Before 1827 the Bank of England had an idea that it should contract or expand its issue of notes by the index of prices. If prices were 'high,' more notes; if prices were low, fewer. This index is apt to be confounded, either by excessive speculation under the influence of an apparent prosperity, or by desperation; and in 1827 the Bank cancelled a resolution which it had made to take no notice of the exchanges.

Another important alteration of opinion took place. The Bank had based its issues of notes upon the gold within its walls; but it confounded its ordinary operations of banking with its duty as a department of the State, issuing notes that are practically the money of the State. The deposits of its customers may be sent in and out in the most rapid manner, and withdrawn by cheque. Thus, by confounding its two departments, the Bank was quite unable to make the paper money expand and contract exactly as a purely metallic circulation would expand and contract; and it was liable to make over-issues in the face of the exchanges without knowing. The principal object of the Act of 1844, passed by Sir ROBERT PEEL, was to divide the two functions; the Issue department was separated from the Banking department. The Issue Department is the State department, only under the control of an important commercial body; the Banking department is a private establishment belonging exclusively to the company of the Bank of England, and without any interference from the State beyond the necessity of producing summary accounts every week. The rules are these. Government owes the Bank of England 11,000,000*l.*; the Bank holds permanent securities, fixed property, &c., worth about 3,000,000*l.* On the strength of this permanent property it is allowed to issue 14,000,000*l.* of notes; for

every note issued beyond that amount, it must have gold in the strong-boxes of the Issue department. Thus, on the notes issued against bullion, there is a constant contraction and expansion; and the effect was produced of making the paper circulation contract and expand exactly as a purely metallic circulation would contract and expand.

The opponents of the Act object to it on various grounds: they say that the Bank of England should "support credit" by giving accommodation to mercantile men when they are in difficulties; that, scientific as the Act may be, it should be "relaxed" in time of difficulty; that the Act failed to perform its functions in 1847; that from increasing trade we want a larger currency; that therefore more notes should be manufactured; that the Bank enjoys profits too large, and that the Act should be altered in all these respects.

Experience as well as science is against them. In 1825, when there was a great impulse in joint-stock speculation, followed by a tremendous amount of bankruptcy, companies and banks breaking in every direction, the Bank of England did its best "to support credit," by making advances, and what were the consequences? That the Bank itself was nearly brought to the ground. There was an imminent chance that bank-notes would cease to represent five pounds sterling; and the Bank was only saved from these difficulties by the dangerous trick of taking a parcel of old forgotten one-pound notes from a cellar where lumber had been put, and the Bank was 'saved.' But that Bank does not really "support credit" which is under the necessity of 'saving' itself. Again, in 1837, after a year of prosperity and expansion followed by contraction, the Bank "supported credit" by advances at a cheap rate of interest; in 1839 the bullion was reduced so low as 2,545,000*l.*, and the Bank again had to resort to a trick. It obtained a credit in several of the principal towns of the Continent to the amount of 2,500,000*l.* This trick practically shifted the drain from the Bank of England to those towns: and at the same time it enabled the Bank, by selling bills upon those places and receiving its own notes in return, to contract its issues to the extent of two millions and a half. But obviously for the time the Bank was at the mercy of those foreign towns. Now in 1856 we have seen all the commercial towns of Europe in difficulties exceeding our own; and if the policy of supporting credit had been followed out, as it was in 1837, the Bank must inevitably have been brought into the same difficulties, but without any such opportunity of foreign reliance; while in 1856, notwithstanding those difficulties on the Continent, we have seen the Bank, public credit, and the immense increasing trade of this country sustained without a jar.

We have already shown that the attempt to increase the currency in any country by an enlarged issue of notes can have no effect. Our increased trade, however, has drawn to itself, virtually, an increased currency, though not by the issue of notes. We have in notes only exactly the amount of metal which is required by our commerce in its transactions; but currency is economized in a variety of ways—by bills of exchange, by setting off one debt against another in the books, and by the operations of the London clearing-house, in which the clerks of bankers meet to set off the cheques of one bank upon another, and actually transfer notes only for the small balance. The *Economist* remarks the disappearance of about 2,700,000*l.* from the circulation—exactly the amount which is saved by the operations of the London clearing-house.

The breakdown of the Act in 1847 is a fallacy. In 1847 the managers had not yet acquired that experience of its working which they now have, and they still had a traditional feeling that they should 'support credit' by accommodating the public. They did give 'accommodation,' permitting their reserve to get very low—down as low as 1,500,000*l.* The abrupt removal of private deposits, or even a small portion of them, would have exhausted that reserve; and the Banking department would have been in the position of stopping payment, or of realizing its securities in a rash and disastrous manner. We may note, by the way, a singular instance of the many mistakes into which the opponents of the Act have fallen. Commenting upon that fact, the *Morning Post* stumbled upon the assertion that, with 8,500,000*l.* bullion in the Issue department, the Banking department would have been literally unable to pay five sovereigns for one of its own five-pound notes; the writer forgetting that notes paid in can always be carried to the Issue department to be paid and cancelled. The great point on which opponents rely, is, that Lord JOHN RUSSELL and Sir CHARLES WOOD sent a letter to the Bank, promising indemnity if the Bank did issue notes beyond the legal limit; only advising it to do so at an interest not less than 8 per cent. That letter, it was said, was a repeal of the Charter Act; but what was the fact? Not a single note was issued under the letter. The Act did continue its working; the depositors did not withdraw in a panic; and, notwithstanding the banking mistakes by which the governors brought the difficulty on themselves, the Act helped to pull us through that year of trouble.

In 1856 we have seen the difficulties of 1847 renewed abroad—over-speculation, followed by contraction; but, notwithstanding that contraction, our trade has so expanded, that the ten months' exports of 1856 exceeded the whole of the immense exports of 1855, which exceeded 100,000,000*l.* The Bank has been under no pressure. It has raised its discount in exact accordance with the exchanges; and the rule has kept everything smooth. There was a little nervousness in the mercantile community, but no panic; a little 'tightness,' but a striking absence of any unusual bankruptcy; and, in short, substantial prosperity in the very midst of the most gigantic difficulties with our foreign customers. It is this stable ground for our currency which the opponents of the Bank Charter Act desire to exchange for a renewal of those "relaxations" which dragged the Bank into participation with speculative excesses at the very moment when those excesses were gradually becoming bankruptcies.

#### THE ENGLISH AT BRUSSELS.

Nothing more un-English can be imagined than the English abroad. Not that they are French in France, or German in Germany, but that they denaturalize themselves without acquiring the manners of the country in which they reside. According to STERNE, your idle people of this class are usually induced to sojourn in strange lands by one of three general causes: infirmity of body, imbecility of mind, or inevitable necessity. To which of these categories we should assign the Anglo-Belgian population of Brussels it might be impertinent to decide. Many of them, no doubt, would justifiably plead inevitable necessity, and, judging from a recent occurrence, we should be disposed to make some allowance for 'imbecility of mind.'

We have had testimonies from Rome as to the insulting levity of Protestant Englishwomen in Catholic cathedrals; we know how the monuments of art are defaced by Cockneys, whose names are more offensive than

maledictory words; we saw, lately, how an Englishman conceived himself 'all right' when he thrust his conversation upon a party of French gentlemen and ladies in a public room. But it is the officious folly of Englishmen abroad, with their spasmodic servility and abandonment of all national and personal dignity, that disgusts even more than their uncouth mimicry of foreign manners. Who, on the Continent, is so subservient to power, so affectedly severe in his repudiation of liberal sympathies as an Englishman? Assuredly, it is one thing to respect the laws of the country whose hospitality you enjoy, since it is of your own free choice, or through a home-bred 'inevitable necessity' that you have become subject to those laws, while it is quite another thing to repudiate every national characteristic, and to outkneel the knees of paid officials and pensioned courtiers. The English abroad are continually exposing themselves and their country to contempt by their obsequious antics. What sort of humility was it that prompted them at Naples to present an address of congratulation to FERDINAND, and, not satisfied with their national Ensign in the Bay, to approach the foot of *that* throne and *that* monarch, with thanks for his indulgent protection? Englishmen in England are disgusted and indignant; in Naples they flatter the BOURBON, and express their veneration for his sacred person. We have so much confidence, indeed, in the lust for abasement of our travelling fellow-countrymen, that we verily believe they would have humbly addressed a NERO on his providential preservation amidst the flames of Rome, and congratulated a BORGIA on his convalescence from a scratch of his poisoned ring. At Brussels, the classic city of British *émigrés*, our countrymen have been exhibiting their simplicity in a more harmless, but still regrettable manner. A deputation of the English residents 'waited' a few days ago upon the Prince DE LIGNE, to repudiate the disrespectful references to him made recently by Sir ROBERT PEELE. Our readers know how we, in common with the rest of our contemporaries, have animadverted upon the caperings of that untameable *farceur*, the baronet of Tamworth. The oozings of a wine-press are of more consequence than any words he may utter. But it is to be deplored that any Englishman should take advantage of Sir ROBERT PEELE's hiccupped vulgarities to put himself into a situation of solemn foolery. It appears that a certain exclusive fraction of superfine Belgian society have taken upon themselves to vindicate the offended dignity of their nation from the outrages upon good taste and good breeding perpetrated by Sir ROBERT PEELE in his descriptive memoir of the Prince DE LIGNE, a gentleman bearing a high historic name, of noble descent, and, we believe, enjoying a certain esteem among his fellow-countrymen. Now, we cannot be suspected of a desire to abet any attack on Belgium. We entertain a cordial and peculiar sympathy for its national independence; we watch, with solicitous interest, the growth of its institutions, its resistance to despotic encroachments, its free thought, its assertion of the rights of conscience and of political citizenship. We entertain a friendly admiration of its active and able press; we acknowledge the gratitude due from all Liberals for its shelter of proscribed patriotism. Unfortunately, however, the manner in which the English at Brussels set about the task of expressing their Belgian sympathies, was not less graceless and clumsy than their usual demonstrations. Their address took the form of a confession, an act of voluntary humiliation and



repentance, and established an awkward 'solidarité' with the very eccentricities it professed to repudiate.

It is not until they are excluded by the exquisitely ludicrous resentment of the Belgian aristocracy (whatever that may be) from the *Bal Noble*, that the English bestir themselves to make the *amende honorable*. They then feel that an apology is due to the insulted equestrian order to which the Prince DE LIGNE belongs. How do they proceed? With the aid of JAMES, Garter King of Plush, they form a committee of what, in New York, would be called the *crème de la crème* of Anglo-Belgians. The cream is skimmed, and that unctuous oracle, the 'address,' is carried with silver-silver solemnity to the injured and offended Prince DE LIGNE.

The deputation, in point of fact, implored the Prince not to believe that Sir ROBERT PEEL was the type of an Englishman; not to think that "Anglicans" of all parties were accustomed to such "ebullitions of low breeding;" not to blame them for an act of which only he had been guilty. The Prince DE LIGNE seemed only partially to understand them. He knew, however, that, while they were repudiating Sir ROBERT PEEL, they were only anxious not to be repudiated by the stewards of the *Bal Noble*.

Now really, whatever we may think of the wisdom or the dignity of this proceeding on the part of our countrymen, this was, at all events, giving the Prince DE LIGNE an opportunity for a *beau mouvement*. But he, if we may judge by his reply, as we find it reported, appears to have mistaken, or at least to have wilfully missed, the advantage of his position. We are tempted to suppose that the Prince permitted a sudden impulse of reckless generosity to get the better of his *amour-propre*. For if his words have any significance at all, they simply confirm, in a great measure, the accuracy (we say nothing of the discretion) of Sir ROBERT PEEL's description. The gentleman who declined to exchange amenities with a cabman, said, "Now, I'm not going to bandy abuse with you, but I tell you you're a ——" The Prince de LIGNE's allusion to Sir ROBERT PEEL is really neither more nor less than "you're another." Yet how dignified was the attitude he might have assumed, how telling the reply he might have made to the English deputation!

"Thanking them, with a pardonable tinge of sarcasm, for their spontaneous act of humiliation, and apologizing for the silly self-assumption of the *Bal Noble*, he might well have suggested that such language as Sir R. PEEL was reported (he had hoped incorrectly) to have used at Adderley, could not of course reach him, any more than it could affect the general reputation of English statesmen and gentlemen: from his deep respect for England, his only regret had been that a man bearing a name so honoured, not only in England, but throughout the civilized world, should have (if he must repeat, the report was correct) descended to such strange and inexplicable improprieties, not to say indecencies of language, as might be tolerated among hired lampooners and venal *farceurs*, but were inconceivable from the lips of a man bearing a commission from his Sovereign, and representing not only the majesty and the wealth, but the intelligence, the social refinement of England. He was willing to believe that Sir R. PEEL had been the first to regret the utterance, or, at all events, the publication of ill-considered and unwarrantable indiscretions, dropped very likely in one of those moments of forgetfulness which all young men are liable to occasionally, and perhaps, too, from a mistaken confusion of popular merriment with public approbation. But he

must frankly assure the deputation, with all respect, that although the report of this strange language had reached his ears, it had excited scarcely a momentary indignation—he had been willing to forget it, or rather to ignore it; and while he thanked them very sincerely and respectfully for their good feeling and good intentions, he could not help regretting that they had deemed it necessary to revive unfortunate words, and to draw attention to a scandal which had already been talked of too much."

Now, we ask our readers, in England and in Belgium, whether the Prince DE LIGNE, of whom we desire to say nothing inconsistent with due respect, would not more prudently have replied in some such manner as this, than in the words attributed to him? What did he actually say? He retorted that Sir ROBERT PEEL was a "sot, a *gamin*, and an underbred, good-for-nothing fellow."

Is not this, we repeat, a mere circumlocution, neither happy nor elegant, for "You're another?" Is it not mere vulgar abuse? Has not the Prince DE LIGNE helped Sir ROBERT PEEL out of the kennel, by plunging into it himself? Any street-boy in the Strand, any costermonger in Tottenham-court-road, could have 'called names' as well as the Prince DE LIGNE. As to the pertinacity with which our young Tory contemporary (which, in the opinion of its own party, would itself be more influential if it were less scurrilous) has appropriated this miserable altercation, it is easily explained. The living baronet is assailed because the dead baronet was superior to his party. It is not the follies of the son, but the virtues of the father, that Mr. DISRAELI's organ can neither forget nor forgive.

#### THE EVE OF THE SESSION.

THERE has been a complaint that Lord PALMERSTON has acted the dictator. Well, Parliament meets in three days; whose fault will it be if he continue dictator then? We had a dictator in 1834—the Duke of WELLINGTON. For a fortnight, while Sir ROBERT PEEL was coming from Rome, the Duke took upon himself the business of the empire. He laughed, exactly in Lord PALMERSTON's way, when solemn people talked of the Constitution, and held eight offices for fourteen days. Meetings were held, strong resolutions were passed, orators spoke of the 'dangerous precedent'; Lord CAMPBELL, at Edinburgh, even hinted at an impeachment. Meanwhile the Constitution glided into deep water again, when Sir ROBERT PEEL's carriage came down Whitehall.

On the 3rd of February we shall be once more in deep water. Ministers, no doubt, will be prepared with their course of action—we do not say "policy;" the Tories, of course, will oppose them, on public grounds; but what will the Liberals do? Pile the table with petitions against the Income-tax. But after that tax has been regulated, some serious questions remain yet for consideration. We have to ask Lord PALMERSTON what have been the results of his intervention in Naples? what has been his action in the Swiss dispute? how our foreign accounts stand? what reforms he proposes to introduce? We have to hear 'explanations' about Sir ROBERT PEEL. We should be glad to hear a question from Lord JOHN RUSSELL as to whether he may proceed with his 'Bill'; but such questions are usually asked and answered in private.

Of course, the object of the Government is to get through the session. The object of the Opposition is, not to allow the Government to get through the session. What should be the object of the independent Liberals? To press forward the real busi-

ness of Parliament. They hold the balance of parties; if united, their action is in the long run irresistible. There are, then, extensive arrears from last year to be worked off the paper; many vaguely-worded propositions to be fixed in statute form; long-condemned anomalies to be expunged; commercial laws to be revised. But we hold it to be the duty of the Liberals in the House of Commons to recal Parliament to the consideration of political reform. That subject must be revived with energy before the next general election. It has grown in importance year by year. The opportunity may now present itself for debating the whole question in a dignified and decisive style. It is very improbable that any Continental war will, during the year 1857, distract the attention of the country. Nor is it to be feared that our Eastern embarrassments will be of so serious a nature as to become engrossing topics at home.

We will say no more at present on the legislative programme of the year. The events of the coming week will serve as indications of what may be expected from this fifth session of Lord DERBY's Parliament.

#### OUR OPERATIONS IN ASIA.

THE British operations now in progress at different points of the Asiatic continent, appear to be radically misunderstood in certain quarters. It is asserted that the Persian expedition is a buccaneering attack upon the independence of a feeble state; and that the bombardment of Canton was unprovoked and aggressive. Now, we have declared war against the Shah of PERSIA, in pursuance of a distinct treaty which binds us to prevent the wresting of Herat from the independent government of the Affghans. We have gone through all the usual processes of diplomacy at unusual length; and, while we have negotiated, the Persians have been breaching the walls of the town placed by solemn convention under our guarantee. What is it that the advocates of peace, under all circumstances, desire to establish as a precedent of Eastern policy? That Persia, if she so willed, should seize Herat, and that DOST MOHAMMED, when he claimed the fulfilment of our contract, should be presented with the Pipe of Peace? That, from Herat, she should advance, assisted by Russia, to the heights that overlook India? That we should retire within the Indus? That we should never resist a demand, or enforce a claim? This, it will be perceived, is the line taken by those publicists and speakers who declaim against the Persian war. Their arguments are deprived of all weight by the fact, patent to every reader, that they never accept an English reason for an English act, and never find cause for blame in the conduct of a foreign power opposed to England. Let us hear, to-morrow, from any part of the world, that English guns or cutlasses have been brought into action, under whatever circumstances, and we are certain to hear "violence," "precipitation," "wanton outrage," imputed to our authorities.

In China, the case in favour of the English is not less clear than in Persia. It may answer a particular purpose to quibble over the registration papers of the lorcha; but the truth is, that the conduct of the Chinese officials had become unendurable, and that they seized the crew on board that vessel, in defiance of the English flag, of the master's protest, and of the treaty. If Chinese sailors on board a Hong-Kong vessel are to be subject to the brutalities of the native police, Singapore vessels can no longer claim protection. Are the assailants of our policy aware that Chinese vessels from Singapore bear certificates, but that, whether provided with certificates or not, the British Government

protects them? They may, by an act of neglect, forfeit their *individual claims*, but the British Government does not thereby forfeit its *maritime rights*. As to naturalization, it is a process unknown in the East; the Chinese Empire claims as its subjects all the Chinese in the world, whether in Hong-Kong, Borneo, Singapore, or California; but that is no reason why the Americans should not protect a Chinese shipowner settled in California, or why the English should abandon a Hong-Kong crew, even without inquiry, to the mercies of the Canton police. Remember, it is not a question whether we should shelter Chinese criminals. Had the men committed offences on the imperial territory, or against imperial subjects, it was the duty of the local governor to apply to the consul, who would have been bound to order an investigation.

No person is competent to interfere in a discussion of this kind who is not minutely acquainted with the political habits of Orientals, and no person possessed of this knowledge will deny that the course adopted in Persia and China has been humane, rational, and necessary. The result, probably, will be that, by acting with promptitude and decision, we shall spare both countries the calamities of a long war—the inevitable climax of a weak and timid policy.

#### THE TICKET-OF-LEAVE PARLIAMENT.

EITHER the ticket-of-leave men, and all who belong to the allied classes of the condemned or condemnable criminals—either the men have faculties, feelings, and minds such as other men have, or they have not. If they have, they must be amenable more or less to the same influences with other men; if they have not, they belong rather to the category of disease and lunacy than of crime. They are either pitiable or hopeful. We believe that the heterogeneous classes who are described as criminals, thieves, convicts, or ticket-of-leave men, may in fact be more correctly divided into two divisions—men like others who have gone astray, but may be redeemed; men unlike others, who have not the ordinary share of faculties or feelings—who are idiots or lunatics. The ticket-of-leave men who met at Farringdon Hall on the summons of the Earl of CARNARVON, evidently belong to the better class of the redeemable.

They have erred, and they have been punished for their error; the account between them and society is balanced, and they have at least the claim of misfortune. Beginning afresh, they begin at a disadvantage. We take the case of one ticket-of-leave man described by another:—

"I saw a man the other day pick out of the mud a crust of bread, who said he would work two hours for a bit of bread. He said he had no home, could get no work, and had nothing to do but to starve. He was twenty-six years of age, strong, hearty, willing to work, and yet famishing for food. There is not sufficient employment for the honest, and how can we expect employment?"

The same speaker told his own case. The police know him as a housebreaker, and if a house is robbed in his neighbourhood, it is ascribed to him. What is he to do? what are all such men to do? "Transport them," is the easy answer; but the colonies will as little have them as the honest employer. There is one resource open to them, and that is the "old rackets." They may be imprisoned and punished, but there is no punishment so severe as starvation.

The speaker whom we have quoted makes another suggestion. The ticket-of-leave man, he says, "is flesh and blood like others; he has sense and reason, and knows when he is trodden on." He can tell on which side his bread is buttered—when he has learned to dis-

criminate. Evidently we do not cure crime by the present plan; we did not cure it by transportation, even when we were free to use that expedient; but in some cases it has been cured, or the incurables have been safely disposed of. There is an example in Ireland, in the Irish prisons under the Chief Superintendent, Captain WALTER CROFTON. The prisoners are allowed a conditional freedom, as the reward, not of 'pretty' behaviour, but of genuine good behaviour; undergoing an industrial discipline before they attain that stage. Captain CROFTON is already able to give many examples of successful treatment in this way. But there are some incurables—the incurable lunatics of crime; and the same tests which warrant the conditional release of the curable criminals, detects the incurable nature of other men's congenital disease. An intelligent system of prison discipline meets the difficulty presented by the ticket-of-leave men at Lord CARNARVON's meeting. The man whom we have chiefly quoted said, "If there were an institution for men when they come out of prison, it would do good;" exactly the opinion of Captain CROFTON, Mr. M. D. HILL, Mr. ADDERLEY, and other earnest reformers of our criminal code. Some institution, which, in the name of Christianity and humanity, will help back the sinner to an honest life. Mr. HENRY MAYHEW has added to our information by bringing ticket-of-leave men face to face with those who equally desire to restrain and to reform.

#### COLONIAL APPOINTMENTS.

It is vulgarly supposed to be the function of journals, especially of radical journals, to carp at all official appointments whatsoever, without the slightest reference to their fitness, or the reverse. We have never, our readers will bear us witness, acquiesced in this unworthy conception of independence. We may not be able to praise so often as we could wish, but the rarer the opportunity, the more gladly do we seize it. Two admirable Colonial appointments signalize the administration of his department by Mr. LABOUCHERE in a very hopeful manner this week, and embody, so to speak, one of the leading principles of Administrative Reformers. It has been too much the practice throughout every department of the public service to ignore the principle of promotion for seniority of service and ability among the subordinate civil officers of the Crown, and in the Colonial Department, for example, to supply vacancies with a perpetual succession of new and untried men. The motives for such a system of appointments are as obvious as its effects, and both are equally objectionable. So long as the appointments of the Crown were regarded by the Minister of the time being as so many feeders of Parliamentary corruption, the Ministerial whipper-in was in effect the distributor of imperial patronage. In such a calculation the fitness of the functionary was almost as little considered as the wishes and the interests of the colony he was commissioned to misgovern. Time has worked some wonders in these respects. Colonies have been presented, for better or for worse, with responsible governments, and if they consent to accept a governor from England, he must know his business. On the other hand, the cry of the civil service begins to be heard; seniority and capacity are permitted to assert their claims. In our West India islands the office of government is no bed of repose. Party feeling runs high, the Tory whites and the coffee-coloured Radicals wage fierce battles in the Houses of Assembly, with Homeric episodes of 'liquors' to inflame the combatants. Parliamentary

licence of expression is pushed beyond European limits, and the language of the honourable members is often tropically warm. The local press, too, is prying, bitter, and contentious, incessantly provoking and sharpening public and personal animosities, and scrutinizing the slightest acts and movements of official dignitaries with a reckless and insatiable jealousy. All these heterogeneous elements of West Indian polity demand the presence of a strong will, a calm temper, and a clear, decisive judgment in the Governor, who must ever be on the watch to maintain the prerogatives of imperial authority without encroaching upon the rights of the dependencies.

Firmness and conciliation are equally indispensable to such a position, but, above all, some little knowledge of the natives. We believe that in the two appointments which have suggested these remarks, all these requisites are fully satisfied. Mr. THOMAS PRICE, late Treasurer of Antigua, is understood to have displayed in an eminent degree those qualities which peculiarly fit him for the Presidency of the Virgin Islands, to which he is now appointed, and Mr. C. J. BAYLEY, whom we find promoted to the Government of the Bahamas, is recommended by his able services as Colonial Secretary in the Mauritius. Such appointments as these deserve to be pointed out for special commendation, as an example and an encouragement to public servants, and an indication of a true sense of responsibility in Downing-street itself.

#### THE UNEMPLOYED AT THE UNIONS.

CONSIDERABLE advantages have already accrued to the unemployed population in London from their strain upon the Unions. We can only advise them to persevere. They have a right to relief, without being made paupers, nor will their claims be resisted if urged by large bodies, and in a resolute manner. Some of the magistrates have thought fit to warn them against violent or threatening demonstrations. Such counsel, we think, is superfluous. The men out of employment have exhibited no tendencies of this kind. They have simply proved that they are beginning to understand the reality of their rights secured to them by the Poor-law.

#### 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

#### SECRETS OF THE PURCHASE SYSTEM.

(To the Editor of the Leader.)

SIR,—Many people complain that they find it impossible to understand the working of the purchase system in our army. Colonel Buck, who ought to know something about it, in his recent correspondence with Lord Cardigan states that he cannot, after the most diligent inquiry, discover the process by which his Lordship obtained command of a regiment at such an unusually early age. Perhaps I can enlighten Colonel Buck and your readers on the subject. The regulation price of a lieutenant-colonelcy of cavalry is 6200*l*. Lord Cardigan is currently reported to have paid for his 35,000*l*., in other words, he expended nearly 30,000*l*. in bribing his seniors out of his way.

Similar cases are by no means uncommon, though Lord Cardigan's has a deserved pre-eminence, from the magnitude of the sum paid, and the unusually short period in which the command was obtained. It is not often that a young nobleman is to be found in a regiment, passionately desirous of command, with unlimited pecuniary means, first-rate interest at the Horse Guards, and senior officers ready to make way for him.

But, on a smaller scale, the same thing is going on every day; not one commission in twenty is sold for the regulation price. True, there are strict orders



against sums being paid over the regulation, and fearful denunciations against unauthorized persons trafficking in commissions. Yet the late excellent Commander-in-Chief, while officially issuing these orders, paid over-regulation for his own son's promotion—letting not his left hand know what his right hand did—and benevolent gentlemen living about St. James's, whose circulars may be seen in every mess-room, will, for a consideration, effect an exchange to any part of the world from Sierra Leone to Windsor.

A good deal has been heard lately about the purchase system, but in reality very little is known about it. Of course it is a gross injustice, patent to everybody, that a man should step over another's head, simply because one has money and the other has not; but there are many other evils connected with purchase which are little known and little thought of. Supposing that the colonel of a regiment wishes to retire (we will take an infantry regiment), a civilian would naturally suppose that all that was required would be for the officers benefitting by the retirement to pay each the regulated amount, and be duly gazetted. Far from it. The colonel goes to the senior major, and probably says that he is willing to retire, but wants so much, say 3000*l.* over the regulation. The major declares that it is too much. The colonel insists, reminds the major that Smith of the 190th got 4000*l.*, finally threatens to exchange and sell in another regiment. The major becomes pathetic—speaks to the colonel of their early days when they were ensigns together, of long night marches in Caffraria and sultry field days in the Phoenix, of the moose-hunting in Canada and the dignity balls in Barbadoes—and entreats him not to let a stranger have the good old regiment. This is too much for the colonel; he relents, and in the sacred cause of friendship strikes off 500*l.* End of the first act.

The curtain rises on the senior major, senior captain, senior lieutenant, and senior ensign for purchase, settling their respective proportions of the 2500*l.* Possibly all are tolerably well off, and tolerably liberal; then everything goes pretty smoothly. But very often it is exactly the reverse; the major has a wife and small family, the captain does not much care about promotion, the lieutenant thinks that Captain So-and-So is shaky, and consequently expects a death vacancy, and the ensign's grandmother has a conscientious objection to giving money over the regulation. Nothing remains but to send the begging-box all round the regiment. Probably the second senior captain gives a 100*l.* or a 150*l.*, two or three of the other captains 30*l.* or 40*l.* each, half a dozen of the senior lieutenants from 10*l.* to 50*l.* a piece; even the junior ensign has been known to give what he would call a "five" towards his chance of becoming a field-marshal. At last the sum is raised, and the new colonel assumes the command, one of his duties being to instruct Ensign Smith in the "Queen's regulations," which, assisted by the ensign's "five," he had just broken himself.

I have taken a very simple case as an illustration. Many others are much more complicated. Sometimes the senior of a rank has his name returned for purchase, but either cannot or will not give a farthing over the regulated price. An officer who cannot purchase hurts no one, as his juniors skip over his head; but one who is for regulation often stops the whole promotion, as while he is the first for purchase no officer of the rank above him is likely to retire. Such a man is most unpopular in a regiment, and it is often made too hot to hold him; unless, as not unfrequently occurs, he allows himself to be passed over for a pecuniary consideration.

Space will not permit me at this time to enter into further detail on the system of promotion by purchase as it at present works. Let those of your readers who have friends and relatives in the army question them on the subject, and they will learn more than I can tell them. They must remember, however, that officers are not inclined to tell tales out of school, and that many, like Demetrius of old, remembering "that by this craft they have their wealth," are willing to cry, "Great is Diana of the Ephesians"—excellent and honourable is the purchase system.

Cromwell's troopers are said to have ridden with the sword in one hand and the Bible in the other; at the present day the latter has been replaced by a purse. It is not absolutely necessary for our bold dragoons to be very proficient in the management of their swords, but they must be perfect in their purse drill.

We profess to be the most enlightened people in the world—we know that we are the richest—yet we appear likely, through routine and an unwise economy, to fall into the same state of sleep from which we were awakened by the Crimean thunder-clap. Englishmen are imperatively called on to put down the buying and selling of commissions,—for the sake of the English gentlemen, who, for the most part, officer the army, whom the purchase system degrades; for the sake of the army itself, which it reduces to the level of the Stock Exchange; and for their own sakes,—so that if they are again driven to

Follow flying steps of truth  
Across the brazen bridge of war,  
they may be more able to

Strike, and firmly, and one stroke,

than they were the last time.

One word more. It is little use casting out the purchase devil, and making the house clean, and garnishing it, simply to allow the seven devils of patronage to walk in.

AN OFFICER.

### THE MOON'S MOTIONS.

(To the Editor of the Leader.)

SIR,—As your column of "Open Council" is open to all, I take the liberty of stating my views concerning the moon's motions, without reference to the correspondence which has passed in your paper on the subject.

In my opinion the moon has but two real motions; the first is its annual motion round the sun with the earth, and as the satellite of the earth; therefore, for this motion it is dependent on the earth; by this motion, in one revolution, any point on the moon's surface points to every part of space. The other is its motion round the earth in twenty-seven days twelve hours, or its orbital motion, which is totally independent of the motions of the earth, and would continue without them; but its circular or elliptical form is dependent on the attraction of gravitation of the two bodies, and of the sun. It is plain that this cannot be termed an axial motion (though in reality for every revolution it does revolve once on its axis), or the annual motion of the earth must be termed axial also, which to a certain extent it is, as the point of concentration of gravitation, or the power which preserves this orbit, may be considered its axis, which is the centre of the sun. But it is the diurnal motion which is known as the axial one, and such, in my opinion, does not exist in the moon; and as a necessary consequence, every part of the moon's surface must successively be presented to the earth in a period of one revolution round it. And her hemisphere, which is visible to us, is perpetually presented to the sun as the pole of the earth is to the pole star; therefore, her other hemisphere must be in perpetual darkness.

If the moon had an axial motion, independent of the one above named, as the earth has, a little of her hemisphere which we do not see would, at certain parts of her orbit, become visible to us, or such axial motion must vary as her speed does in her journey round the earth. The reason why only the one-half of the surface of the moon is visible to us, although the whole is presented, is, when the moon is new, or between us and the sun, the hemisphere, which we never see, is presented direct to us, but being opposite the sun, it is in darkness, and therefore invisible. As she recedes from the sun in her orbit towards the first quarter, her illuminated hemisphere is gradually presented to us, causing her gibbous or horned appearance; her obscured half, by her orbital motion, gradually points to other parts of space. When at the first quarter, one-half of her illuminated and one-half of her obscured hemispheres is presented to us; at the full, the whole of her illuminated surface; and in the last quarter the opposite half of her surface to that in the first is presented to us; and under the same circumstances, in the first quarter her motion is slowest, at the full on an average, and in the last quarter the most rapid.

It will be seen from this that if such a thing as a real axial motion existed it would be detected; the various mountains projecting from various parts of her obscured surface, and catching the light of the sun, have appeared successively, unvarying at all times. As the moon is merely a reflector, and as all observations of her have gone to establish the supposition that she is not inhabited, such axial motion would not improve her as a reflector; therefore, it is unnecessary to the purpose to which she was made, and the frigid regularity of her supposed axial motion cannot be reconciled with the known irregularity of her orbital motion.—I am, sir, respectfully, yours,

EDWARD O'DONOUGHIE.

A DANGER FOR THE PRESS.—In the case of an action brought against the *Durham County Advertiser* for a libel contained in a report of a meeting of the Hartlepool Improvement Commissioners, where a great deal of personality was uttered, which was duly recorded in the journal, Lord Campbell has ruled that reports of public meetings in the newspapers, however correct, are subject to the law of libel. This is a very important decision, and one in which the interests of the public, no less than of journalists, is deeply concerned. It clearly annihilates the liberty of reporting, except at great risk; and in effect circumscribes the freedom of the press within very narrow limits. But it rests with the English people to decide whether such shall continue to be the law; that is to say, assuming Lord Campbell's decision to be correct.

FALL OF A RAILWAY BRIDGE.—A viaduct on a branch of the London and North-Western Railway, situated at

Cowden, within a few miles of Coventry, has completely fallen in. The bridge was built of stone, and consisted of several arches. It also carried over the railroad one of the principal turnpike thoroughfares of the locality. Fortunately, no train on the railway was passing the spot at the time that the accident occurred, although one had passed under the bridge but a short time previously; neither did any vehicles or foot-passengers happen to be on the road above, so that no lives were lost, nor was any person in the slightest degree injured. All traffic is of course stopped for a time.

REPRESENTATION OF SALFORD.—Mr. E. R. Langworthy, the candidate for the vacant seat, addressed the electors of Salford on Tuesday night. He declared himself a thorough Free-trader, and promised to support every measure that he believed would promote unrestricted industry and commerce in the broadest sense of the words. He would do all in his power to secure economical administration of public funds, as far as was consistent with the efficiency of the public service, for he was to the utmost extent, and most sincerely, an economist. He considered that the income-tax was an unfair tax, and had always thought as much, believing that under any circumstances its inequalities ought to be remedied. Yet he preferred direct to indirect taxation. He was in favour of an increase of the franchise, and of the ballot. A vote of approval was passed.

CRYSTAL PALACE.—A monthly magazine has been started (A. Hall, Virtue, and Co.) under the auspices of the Company, in order to develop more fully the educational and industrial objects contemplated by its founders.

POLITICS IN MANCHESTER.—Several "Free-traders and friends of political progress" met on Thursday evening at Manchester, and, after hearing a letter from Mr. Bright (dated from Rochdale), in which that gentleman speaks of his continued inability to attend to business, passed a resolution expressing their sympathy with and respect for him, and cheerfully conceding to him any interval of repose he may require. Speeches were then delivered by Mr. Milner Gibson and others, in support of reduced expenditure in naval and military matters, of Parliamentary reform, and of Free-trade.

ST. PANCRAS PARISH.—A poor woman attended at Clerkenwell police court to complain that she had not been properly attended to in St. Pancras workhouse. After walking about the streets in the cold and wet for a night, and being a whole day without food, she went by the magistrate's advice to the workhouse, and was provided with shelter for the night; but she was discharged the next morning, after doing some work and receiving a penny loaf. She received no other assistance, and the authorities said they had done all they could. The magistrate sent a police officer with her, to make another application.

THE "LEGAL ACCIDENT."—The solicitor to the London and North-Western Railway writes to the *Times* to deny some of the statements made under this head by Mr. Brady with respect to a commercial traveller, wrongfully convicted (according to Mr. Brady's assertion) of theft. The writer appears to doubt that there was a miscarriage of justice, and he denies that there was any unfair or harsh treatment of "Mr. T.," who now turns out to have been a Mr. John Matson Temple.

AN EARTHQUAKE IN ENGLAND.—Mr. E. J. Lowe, writing to the *Times* from the Observatory, Beeston, on the 26th inst., says:—"A slight shock of earthquake was felt both here and at Highfield-house yesterday afternoon at 3h. 20m. There was a noise like a distant heavy luggage train and a trembling of the ground, producing a peculiar sensation on the soles of the foot. The earthquake pendulum moved from west to east. The pendulum is thirty-three feet in length, and the movement was scarcely the eighth of an inch."

BARON ALDERSON died at his residence in Park-crescent on Tuesday afternoon, in his seventieth year. He was a native of Great Yarmouth, and was educated first at the Charter House, and then at Caius College, Cambridge. After practising some years as a barrister, he was made a puisne judge in the Court of Common Pleas in 1830; and four years afterwards he was transferred to the Court of Exchequer. He edited, in conjunction with Mr. Barnewall, five volumes of reports of cases heard in the Court of King's Bench between 1815 and 1820.

ARCHDEACON DENISON.—After considerable discussion before Lord Campbell, and Justices Coleridge, Wightman, and Crompton, in the Court of Queen's Bench on Wednesday, their lordships made a rule absolute for a *mandamus* to issue, commanding Sir John Dodson, Judge of the Court of Appeal of the province of Canterbury, to admit a libel and appeal from the decision of the Archbishop of Canterbury, the appeal being from the decision of the Archbishop sitting in the diocese of Bath and Wells as statutory substitute for that bishop. The proceedings had reference to the case of Archdeacon Denison.

SUICIDE.—Mr. Luke Lightfoot, a gentleman of sixty-three, has drowned himself in the Surrey Canal, where the body was found one day last week by a labouring man. The deceased gentleman's relations stated at the inquest that he had been monomaniacal for some time past, and had been kept under restraint; but he got away from the house early in the morning, after leaving in his room a few farewell words to his sister, and must have gone at once to the water and drowned himself.

## 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*.

It is amusing to watch the war of epigrams in France. All free speech being interdicted, all discussion closed, nothing but epigram and allusion remains to express the national contempt. The flatterers of LOUIS NAPOLEON having used with effect the magical name of CÆSAR, his antagonists have retorted with greater effect the contemptible name of the CÆSARS; not the empire in its palmy, but the Empire in its ignoble days, is the parallel they choose. In the *Revue des Deux Mondes* a series of admirable articles has appeared, signed by the well-known name of AMPÈRE, treating of "Roman History in Rome," and sketching the portraits of the Emperors; nor while indulging thus in literary amenities, has M. AMPÈRE lost the many opportunities afforded him of indirectly speaking his mind about France and her rulers. The articles have made a 'sensation.' Allusions have been read in them which have been repeated and commented on with delight. In the last number there are several stinging sentences. For example, M. AMPÈRE begins by remarking on the singular abuse of language which styles the twelve absolute masters of Rome the "twelve CÆSARS." The truth being, as he says with terrible distinctness, that "CÆSAR (NAPOLEON) did not found a dynasty, he had but one heir." *TIBÈRE successeur du petit-neveu de César, n'a plus rien de son sang.* . . . *CLAUDE, CALIGULA, NÉRON, sont déjà les élus de la soldatesque.* Nay more, he adroitly remarks that the descendants of AUGUSTUS had all of them something of that fine Cæsar-like profile which, by a strange caprice of fortune, the first French Emperor exhibited after so many centuries. Who can help thinking of the grand physiognomy of NAPOLEON THE GREAT, and the stolid, stupid profile of NAPOLEON THE LITTLE? With GALBA, we are slyly told, a new series commences, *empereurs d'aventure, qui n'ont plus une goutte du sang d'Auguste et dont les traits sont nouveaux comme l'origine.*

In the same *Revue* there is an interesting criticism of BOSSUET, BOURDALOUE, and MASSILLON, by NISARD, and an article on Italy by M. C. GOURAUD.

Some time ago we had occasion to discuss the "Argument from Design;" our positions were impugned by Dr. McCORMAC in a letter which was unfit for insertion, as every one will see who takes the trouble to read it in his pamphlet "Two Letters to the Editor of the *Leader* on the Theory of Final Causes." He was so little aware of the impropriety of his letter, that he sent it to an Irish newspaper, determined to see himself in type. Since then he has written another letter, which however he did not send to us; and both these extraordinary productions are printed in the pamphlet just named. Extraordinary they are, in the power of misapprehension they display. We said, incidentally, that JOHN HENRY NEWMAN, and KANT, both repudiated the teleological argument. Whereupon Dr. McCORMAC writes to FRANCIS (!) NEWMAN, and quotes with great triumph his declaration that he, FRANCIS, does not repudiate that argument. This may be Irish logic, but in England it has a droll effect. Dr. CUMMING might imitate it, and inform the world that JOHN HENRY NEWMAN does not believe in Papal infallibility, for FRANCIS NEWMAN emphatically repudiates it.

Something of the same felicitous inquiry is visible in his efforts to get at KANT's opinions.

Since I had the pleasure of addressing you, I have devoted a little time, all too little in truth, to Kant and his writings. With this intent, I have looked over Meiklejohn's translation of the "Criticism of Pure Reason, and Cousin on the Philosophy of Kant;" also, Vera's "Introduction à la Philosophie de Hegel" (and incidentally that of Kant, Fichte, and Schelling).—Ingram, 1856. I have referred to Rosenkranz's edition of the whole works of Kant (Leipzig: Voss, 1838), also Vera's Inquiry into Speculative and Experimental Science, with special reference to Mr. Calderwood and Professor Ferrier's publications, and to Hegel's doctrine (London: Longmans, 1856).

Surely KANT's OWN works were the proper sources; but Dr. McCORMAC thinks Messrs. VERA, FERRIER, CALDERWOOD, and HEGEL may enlighten him respecting KANT as FRANCIS enlightened him respecting JOHN HENRY!

The reader will be prepared to find that Dr. McCORMAC, when he takes these books in hand, does not know how to read them aright; and such is the case. He says:—

I cannot well imagine, sir, how you have contracted the impression that Kant was opposed to Final Causes, since of all writers, perhaps, no one, in the main, has enlarged on the doctrine with so entire an approval as he has done.

If Dr. McCORMAC cannot imagine how we "contracted the impression," he may be informed that it was from no more mysterious source than reading the sixth section of Chap. III. of KANT's Transcendental Dialectic, which bears this title—"Of the impossibility of a Physico-Theological Proof;" and again in the succeeding section, where KANT proves that transcendental questions can admit only of transcendental answers, for "all synthetical principles of the understanding are valid only as immanent in experience; while the cognition of a Supreme Being necessitates their being employed transcendently, and of this the understanding is quite incapable." In a word, no one at all conversant with KANT is unaware of his strongly expressed views on this point; and if Dr. McCORMAC had bestowed on KANT a little of the time he superfluously gave to VERA, CALDERWOOD, and FERRIER, he would have saved himself from this blundering pamphlet. But he has looked into KANT with eyes so Irish that he can say:—

The second part of the "Criticism of Judgment" constitutes the "Criticism on the

Judgment of Final Causes," Kritik der teleologischen Urtheilskraft. Kant dilates on the subject of Final Causes with a fulness of illustration, and a *facundia*, so to speak, peculiarly his own.

From any one else this passage would be surprising. We beg Dr. McCORMAC to read that part of the "Critique of Judgment" which he cites so familiarly, and he will find that it is expressly directed to establish the principle of final causes being incompetent to *explain* nature, although they furnish a useful point of view in our study of nature. To introduce this principle of final causes is to introduce a principle derived from our minds which can have no analogy with things in themselves. KANT does not reject the employment of Final Causes, as we do; but he very decidedly protests against their being used as philosophical proofs.

## NEW EDITION OF CARLYLE.

*The Works of Thomas Carlyle.* Vol. I.—*The French Revolution.* Chapman and Hall. For many years thirsty souls with thirsty purses have been clamouring for a cheap edition of the most remarkable writer of our day; and at length Messrs Chapman and Hall have answered these demands by the commencement of an edition in monthly volumes at six shillings each. For twelve shillings that wondrous book, *The French Revolution: a History*, will now be attainable; for eighteen shillings *Oliver Cromwell's Letters and Speeches*; whereas hitherto the one has cost thirty-one shillings and sixpence, the other two guineas. Even this reduction in price will not reach the mass of readers for such works, but it will be very welcome indeed to a large public.

Carlyle has passed through all the stages through which inevitably pass the great writers who sway the minds of their generation. He began by fanaticising the few, who were stirred and startled, and loudly proclaimed the advent of a prophet. He then became notorious, though not popular; and had to be affectionately discriminated from Richard Carlisle, also notorious. Reviewers attacked him. His "style" was singled out for reprobation by men who never deviated into a felicity not sanctioned by the most approved writers: it was not English, it was not endurable. His iconoclastic onslaughts were "highly injudicious." His opinions were evidently not of the "safe" kind. Thus the chorus of admirers awakened the chorus of antagonists, and in strophe and antistrophe the name of Carlyle ascended from all quarters. For some years past this has almost ceased. He has taken his place among the illustrious writers of England; and as a certain proof thereof small journalists speak patronisingly of him, "regret" his "eccentricities," and regard with suspicion any one who speaks of him with reverence. Swift says it is a sure sign of a genius that all the blockheads are in league against him; and as sure a sign is it of gigantic power when certain critics, who laud insignificant writers in terms fit only to be applied to the highest, adopt the lofty *nil admirari* tone which forces one to exclaim with Voltaire, "*Quel grand homme est le seigneur Poccourante! rien ne peut lui plaire.*"

Meanwhile it is clear to all men of insight and knowledge of contemporary Literature, that Carlyle has profoundly influenced his generation, given an impulse and a direction to the thoughts of serious men, and opened the eyes of all to much that was hidden, and in many important respects changed the forms of Literature. Many have imitated his style and iterated his opinions; this, however, is not the influence of which we speak, it is only the superficial result of that influence, and belongs to the mimetic tendency always active in Literature; for, as Goethe says, "in this world there are so few voices and so many echoes." The influence to which we refer has been deeper, more fruitful; affecting the minds of men, rather than their speech; teaching them to see differently, rather than to express themselves differently. As a "model of style" in the vulgar sense, Carlyle is detestable; and critics may well reprimand the imitators of that mode of utterance, which, although it suits his peculiar mode of thinking, must necessarily on that account be unsuited to ordinary thinking. Nevertheless, in a deeper sense, Carlyle is a model of style; not an academy model to be diligently copied, but a living figure to be carefully studied. All great writers are models. All men who produce powerful effects on their generation produce them by means of powerful qualities; and to separate these qualities from the faults—to analyze the style and detect the causes of its influence—is the real study which succeeding writers should propose to themselves. Instead of this, the majority of writers confound mere accidents and excrescences with what is vital and organic, imagining that the peculiarities and tricks of diction are the sources of the new effects, and thus they vainly strive to produce similar effects by imitating the peculiarities. Because an orator who sways multitudes is in the habit of twiddling his watch key, and cannot be eloquent without twiddling, Jones pours forth platitudes, and hopes by means of a conspicuous watch-key, carefully twiddled, to make other multitudes hang suspended on his lips. If instead of fixing his attention on the watch-key, he had fixed it wholly on the oration, he might have ascertained what it really was that swayed the crowd.

Carlyle has several watch-keys. They are, however, for the most part, hindrances rather than aids; and if they assist him as a writer, they diminish the effect produced on the reader. Analysis of his books will discover that their wonderful influence is by no means attributable to the peculiarities of his style, except in so far as those peculiarities are the expression of some more concrete picturesque mode of looking at things. It is felt on all hands that an imitation of his *manner* is intolerable; but if the *matter* were imitated with equal success, then, indeed, we could forgive the manner.

Let this "French Revolution" be taken as a model by any historical writer; not a model to be imitated in its obvious and superficial aspect, but one to be studied. It is impossible to read this work without being deeply impressed with the power and genius which everywhere flash through it: the humour alternating with passages of biblical grandeur, the fanciful and fantastic mode of representation everywhere based on the most scrupulous exactitude, the tone throughout impassioned, moral, generous. Laughter and tears, quick detection of sophisms, ludicrous ripping open of hollow solemnities, pathetic painting of tragic episodes, succeed each other in such



phantasmagoric representation, that it is only when you come to examine narrowly that you perceive this History to be as remarkable for its veracity as for its word-painting. Opinions there are which the student of history will by no means adopt, but there are no statements for which positive authority cannot be produced. It was our task formerly to examine very minutely the course of events during the French Revolution; and the result of this comparison of historians with documentary evidence was that Carlyle was not only the most accurate of historians who had then written on the subject, but the only one who was uniformly accurate. Now if we consider this fact in conjunction with his strange fantastic mode of representation, we shall be led to explore the secret of his success, for we shall discover a similar contrast in all his writings: on the one hand, a solid basis of knowledge; on the other, a most conspicuously eccentric representation. It is because he *sees* clearly, that he writes effectively; he does not produce effects by mere combination of words. His pictures will be found full of minute details, no detail introduced *merely* because it is picturesque, but every detail drawn from reality, and presented so as to call up the reality before our eyes. Very useful it would be to draw a parallel between Macaulay and Carlyle as painters, both abounding in details, both celebrated for their exaggerations. It would be found that Macaulay uses details whenever he can get them, with little solicitude as to their truth, provided they serve the purpose of the picture; whereas Carlyle, so concrete and so hungry for details, uses none but those for which chapter and verse can be given. It would be found that the exaggeration of Macaulay is in statement—in the fact stated—his manner being calm, and wearing the severe air of historical truth; whereas the exaggeration of Carlyle is wholly in the manner, the fact stated being severely true. It may sound paradoxical, but we deliberately say that the leading characteristic of Carlyle's writing is *veracity*, as the leading characteristic of his mode of representation is *concreteness*—which is also veracity.

### HORACE WALPOLE'S LETTERS.

*The Letters of Horace Walpole, Earl of Orford.* Edited by Peter Cunningham. Now First Chronologically Arranged. Vol. I. Bentley.

THERE are ten prefaces to this chronological collection of the Walpole letters. That is to say, Mr. Cunningham has thought it right to preserve all the critical heraldry of Walpole's various editors. There are, besides, several different sets of annotations—borrowed from former issues, or added by the copious 'Cunningham' himself, who is careful to identify himself by something more distinct than the vague modesty of the initial C. Of some of these notes the value is at least questionable. They are largely derived from "The Peerage," and are sometimes mere superfluities of remark, not very elegantly penned. We miss, in fact, the vigour and precision of style characteristic of some of Mr. Cunningham's writings. Moreover, though tediously minute, he is not always minutely accurate, as when he misnames one of Walpole's commentators, Mr. Vernon Smith. But these are unimportant defects. The most serious fault in Mr. Cunningham's method of editing the letters consists, we think, of his tendency to multiply unnecessary notes on points irrelevant or trivial. Many of these have the appearance of being designed to illustrate, not Horace Walpole, but his editor. We do not say that these venial indiscretions on Mr. Cunningham's part detract from the value of his edition of Walpole's letters; but they certainly do not enhance its utility. What is not serviceable to the reader is not creditable to the editor.

Since we have to make this remark upon Mr. Cunningham's plan, which may be amended in the forthcoming volumes, it is due to him to say that he has arranged the whole series of Walpole's letters, in chronological order, with great care, and has often annotated them with considerable judgment. The edition promises, therefore, to be unique and complete; some of the correspondence is now printed for the first time; much of it had not previously been collected from the memoirs of Hume, Robertson, and Warton. Mr. Cunningham has obtained the official and private letters to the Bedfords, Walpole's deputies in the Exchequer; and these disclose many amiable traits of character not commonly associated with the selfish epicureanism of Horace Walpole.

The new letters in this volume are not numerous, but they are interesting. The first is to the Rev. Joseph Spence, the friend of Pope, and author of the "Anecdotes." Walpole described him as more like a silver penny than a genius, yet owns him to have been his master in the antique. "I will never let anything break in upon my reverence for you," he said, though he afterwards wrote of him with the utmost slippancy, not to say "irreverence." The second new letter is to the Hon. H. S. Conway, and is dated June, 1744. It is full of gossip on public affairs, but concludes with a paragraph of town gossip singularly Walpolean:—

That you may not think I employ my time as idly as the great men I have been talking of, you must be informed, that every night constantly I go to Ranelagh; which has totally beat Vauxhall. Nobody goes anywhere else—everybody goes there. My Lord Chesterfield is so fond of it, that he says he has ordered all his letters to be directed thither. If you had never seen it, I would make you a most pompous description of it, and tell you how the floor is all of beaten princes—that you can't set your foot without treading on a Prince of Wales or Duke of Cumberland. The company is universal: there is from his Grace of Grafton down to children out of the Foundling Hospital—from my Lady Townshend to the kitten—from my Lord Sandys to your humble cousin and sincere friend.

This constitutes a really notable addition to the Walpole letters. Far more remarkable, however, are those of Sir Edward Walpole to Horace on election matters. What cool traffic in suffrages; what contempt of representation! Castle-Rising was a beggarly little borough in Norfolk, which, up to May, 1745, had conferred a seat in Parliament on old General Churchill. Upon Churchill's death, Sir Edward Walpole wrote to his brother Horace:—"Sir,—Castle-Rising is a family borough. Lord Orford's son ought to be brought in there preferably to anybody. Next to him I, and then you. My uncle and his children have the next claim, then the Townshends and the Hammonds." He went on to complain of the contemptuous and arrogant behaviour of Horace, who had put forward, suc-

cessfully as it proved, a candidate of his own, and concluded a very unbrotherly letter by saying, "I must be excused if I beg it of you, as a favour, never to be kind to me again." To which Horace wrote a reply in a sarcastic and reproachful strain, beginning:—

May, 1745.

BROTHER, I am sorry you won't let me say, Dear Brother; but till you have still farther proved how impossible it is for you to have any affection for me, I will never begin my letters as you do—"Sir."

We follow with some of the quotations and comments in this extraordinary letter:—

*Whose birth and seniority give me so just and natural a pretension.* To my father's estate before me, to nothing else that I know of.

*You have, I must confess, showed a great disposition to me and to my children at all times.* Thank you.

*Good nature, which I think and say you possess in a great degree.* Dear brother, I wish I could think the same of you.

*You have assumed to yourself a pre-eminence, from an imaginary disparity between us in point of abilities and character.* Who told you so? not your eyes, but your jealousy. I'll tell you, brother, the only superiority I ever pretended over you, was in my temper.

*Although you are a very great man.* I leave that expression to support itself upon its own force, meaning, and elegance.

You conclude with disclaiming all friendship with, and relation to, me. After the vain pains I have taken to deserve that friendship, and the regard I have in vain had to that relation, I don't know whether I ought not readily to embrace this entire rupture. However, as I think you are good-natured when you are cool, and must have repented the unmerited ill-treatment, I can forgive you, and for this last time offer you my friendship; at the same time assuring you that I despise your anger, and if you persist in disclaiming my brotherhood, the only cover that you have for your abuse, I must tell you that you shall treat me like a gentleman.

Yours or not, as you please,

HOR. WALPOLE.

The passages in italics are quoted from Sir Edward's epistle particular. The next letter, from Horace, however, is generous and fraternal:—

DEAR BROTHER,

May 17, 1745.

You have used me very ill without any provocation or any pretence. I have always made it my study to deserve your friendship, as you yourself own, and by a submission which I did not owe you. For consulting you in what you had nothing to do, I certainly did not, nor ever will, while you profess so much aversion for me. I am still ready to live with you upon any terms of friendship and equality; but I don't mind your anger, which can only hurt yourself, when you come to reflect with what strange passion you have treated me, who have always loved you, have always tried to please you, have always spoken of you with regard, and who will yet be, if you will let me,

Your affectionate brother and humble servant,

HOR. WALPOLE.

It is pleasant to learn that this was the reply really sent to Sir Edward; Horace locked up the more elaborate composition in his desk. The first, perhaps was the more sincere, but the second was more natural. It was one of Walpole's ingenuities to affect an absence of affectation.

Most persons, probably, have read 'their Walpole,' as they have read their Scott or Byron; but there are few who will not be glad to con over the letters, as collected by Mr. Cunningham, in serial order; while to private and public libraries the new edition will be indispensable. It is well printed, on excellent paper; the eight volumes will form a 'handsome set' for the binder. Horace Walpole, indeed, deserves to be commemorated in well-bound editions. He is the reflex of an age; he knew the great world familiarly, and described it with a lighter vivacity than is natural to the English pen; he was feeble, egotistic, vicious—all that Mr. Macaulay says he was—but we could not have spared his letters from the literature of the eighteenth century, rich as that century was in productions of a monumental character.

### QUARTERLY ESSAYS.

*Descriptive Essays, contributed to the "Quarterly Review."* By Sir Francis B. Head, Bart. 2 vols. Murray.

It is not known to all readers how many persons are engaged in making their own reputations. Of course, everyone ambitious of a reputation ought to make it for himself, but not in the sense we mean. The individuals referred to are those happy lovers of themselves who, having the command of certain literary media, praise their own performances, their own books, their own ideas, or, indirectly, puff themselves by perpetually alluding to subjects on which they have written—subjects, perhaps, which are not considered of so much importance elsewhere. Our word may be taken for it, that more than a little notoriety is manufactured by a process of this kind. It is easy in itself, and its results are agreeable. In fact, it would not be a difficult, if it were a pleasant task, to cite a variety of authentic cases in proof; but the example in hand is enough. Sir Francis B. Head, most people know, is a Baronet, and as most people also know, a Quarterly Reviewer; but not everyone was aware that those particular articles in the *Quarterly Review*, which dwelt so long and so lovingly upon the administrative and political prowess of Sir Francis B. Head, were written by Sir Francis B. Head himself. Sometimes he is veiled under a periphrasis, as an assistant commissioner whom "we" accompanied; sometimes he is broadly quoted as a "competent authority;" continually in certain of the essays his name flourishes in flattering paragraphs connected with home and colonial affairs. That was Sir Francis B. Head's method of making himself known; he aspired, and the Review was the instrument of his promotion. And why not? Men less distinguished than he are in the habit of referring to themselves as the eminent, the well-known, the influential. Sir Francis B. Head only joins a chorus, in which every singer is loud in self-exalting eulogy. The only remarkable circumstance is, that the Baronet should so candidly reprint the articles, and say, "I am Sir Francis B. Head, the writer in the *Quarterly Review*, who considered that the sayings and doings of Sir Francis B. Head were deserving of so much attention from an apathetic country."

Now, in as far as this writer has claims upon the general gratitude of mankind, we think they have been fully recognized. Fortune made him a Quarterly Reviewer, instead of a Penny Encyclopædist; his natty descriptions

of engine-houses and coal-mines were introduced to us through a medium more dignified than that of the cheap Miscellany; essentially frivolous, he printed his trifles in the form of essays, or even as 'books,' and the public seemed not unwilling to popularise them. Whether he galloped over the Andes, or gossiped on the Brunnen of Nassau, or sketched an emigrant's hut, or travelled on a locomotive to Crewe, or photographed the seven beauties of Wolverton, or wrote innocuous tittle-tattle about Paris, or gathered from a fortnight's experience in Ireland materials for a commissioners' report, or sought to terrify all women that in England dwell about a French invasion, reading people have taken him in hand, and occasionally promoted him to the honours of a second edition. Such a writer ought to be well satisfied; indeed, Sir Francis B. Head is *exceedingly well* satisfied. He has collected his "descriptive" Quarterly Essays in two volumes, and on the azure cover has imprinted a golden allegory. The *Quarterly Review*, open, with its face downwards, forms a simple coop; within, Sir Francis himself, in the guise of a proud hen, is watching a swarming brood; and the little chickens, running in and out, are the "descriptive essays."

Though not all worth preserving, they are generally readable. Sir Francis has a facile pen, and an aptitude for details. He recorded, when at Boulogne, that upon arriving in his bedroom, he opened his dressing-case, took out his razor, prepared a lather, laid a piece of paper on the table to receive the products of his cheeks and chin, and then shaved! So minute a chronicler may be expected to deal faithfully with the topics under analysis; but, unless the articles have been elaborately corrected since they were originally published, a good many of them must have lost their utility. Thus, the statistics of the London and North Western Railway, and of the General Post-Office, as given by Sir Francis Head, possess only an antiquarian value; while, in other essays, minute particulars are given which would interest a reader on the day following the particular occurrence alluded to, but would for ever after be as dull as a last year's newspaper. Nevertheless, the volumes contain some really descriptive essays which are uncommonly amusing, and to a considerable extent instructive. Among these is the article on the "Cornish Mines." That on "English Charity" is a comparison of the old with the new system, naturally to the advantage of the new, for was not Sir Francis B. Head the assistant commissioner who mapped out the unions in East Kent, and whose interest it was to suppress the outcry against the rigours of the amended law? That on "Canadian Politics" is a virulent attack on Lord Durham, which might well have been omitted from the collection, inasmuch as it is the decision of a judge in his own case, for Sir Francis Head was pitted against Lord Durham. The article in fact is neither more nor less than an outburst of splenetic personality.

The volumes will no doubt attract many readers by the colloquial vivacity of their style and the popular character of their contents; but the writings of Sir Francis Head are essentially shallow, and can acquire only an ephemeral reputation.

### THE ADULTERATIONS OF FOOD.

*Adulterations Detected; or, Plain Instructions for the Discovery of Frauds in Food and Medicine.* By Arthur Hill Hassall, M.D. Longman and Co.

THIS work, invaluable to the professional man, is also of some interest to the general public, for it contains succinct accounts of the various adulterations to which food and medicines are subjected, and the means of detecting them. Two hundred and twenty-five microscopic illustrations greatly add to the value of the work for those who happen to possess microscopes. When Dr. Hassall calls his instructions "plain," he does not mean that they are instructions for the general public, but for microscopists and analysts. He would have added to the popularity of his work could he have given more plain instructions for ordinary people—such, for instance, as the following:—

#### DETECTION OF ADULTERATED COFFEE.

If the ground coffee cakes in the paper in which it is folded or when pressed between the fingers, there is good reason for believing that it is adulterated, most probably with chicory.

If, when a few pinches of the suspected coffee are placed upon some water in a wine-glass, part floats and part sinks, there is reason to believe that it is adulterated; it may be either with chicory, roasted corn, or some other analogous substances. The coffee does not imbibe the water, but floats on the surface, while the other substances absorb the water, and gradually subside to the bottom to a greater or less extent. Usually, however, part of the coffee subsides with the chicory, and a portion of the latter remains on the surface with the coffee; and after the lapse of a short time, in general, both coffee and chicory fall to the bottom.

Again, if the cold water to which a portion of ground coffee has been added, quickly becomes deeply coloured, it is an evidence of the presence of some roasted vegetable substance or burnt sugar; for when coffee is added to water, it becomes scarcely coloured for some time.

Lastly, if in a few grains of coffee, spread out on a piece of glass and moistened with a few drops of water, we are enabled to pick out, by means of a needle, minute pieces of substance of a soft consistence, the coffee is doubtless adulterated; for the particles of the coffee seed are hard and resisting, and do not become soft even after prolonged immersion in water.

His work ought to call the attention of Legislature to the frightful amount of poisonous and dishonest adulteration, and to the means of readily detecting it. If there is to be a public prosecutor, there should be a public analyst: our health ought to be protected as well as our property. Conceal the state of commercial integrity which permits a public and solemn declaration that the "*brown sugars of commerce are in general unfit for human consumption.*"

Some of the adulterations are said to be harmless; but even they are frauds, since the public pays a higher price than would be demanded if the mixture were declared. Sometimes, as in the case of Chicory, they are said to improve the flavour; but they also are frauds. Dr. Hassall, referring to the alleged use of Chicory in France, says:—

Again, it has been asserted that in France and other continental countries the use of chicory is almost universal. We have taken considerable pains, when abroad, to ascertain how far this statement is correct, and we will now state with what results. We found that in all the good hotels in France and Germany the coffee served up was

genuine, and did not contain a particle of chicory; also, that chicory was not mixed with coffee in the houses of the wealthy, but that it was largely employed, either separately or mixed with coffee, by poor persons, and amongst the domestics, not because it was considered to be an improvement, but on the score of economy, chicory costing about 2d. or 3d. per lb., and coffee four or five times as much. This is the real secret of the use of chicory abroad, and not because of any preference, or that it improves the flavour of coffee. Where money is not an object, and where the best coffee is required, chicory is but seldom had recourse to. The practice, then, abroad is the very reverse of what has been asserted, and it affords no countenance to the statement that coffee is improved by the use of chicory.

Many, perhaps the majority, of the adulterations are practised for the sake of giving the articles that peculiar colour which an ignorant public fancies must be an indication of superior quality. Under the mask of this colour all kinds of impurities are hidden, and the colour itself is poison. Not to enumerate here the bonbons, pickles, preserves, and potted meats which are thus coloured, let us consider only Bread, the most important of all articles. We Londoners shudder at the poor Germans and their black bread; yet the black bread, for the most part, is more wholesome than the brilliant white bread which we congratulate ourselves upon. Hear Dr. Hassall:—

The use of *alum* in bread—and it is almost always used by bakers—is particularly injurious. It is true it causes the bread to be whiter than it would be otherwise, indeed whiter than it was ever intended to be by Nature; but it imparts to bread several other properties: thus it hardens the nutritious constituent of the bread, the gluten, and so (on the authority of that great chemist Liebig) renders the bread more indigestible; it enables the baker to adulterate his bread with greater quantities of rice and potatoes than he could otherwise employ; and, lastly, by the use of alum he is able to pass off an inferior, and even a damaged flour, for one of superior quality. Is it then worth while, or rather is it not very foolish, thus to injure the properties of the bread by using alum for the mere sake of obtaining an unnaturally white loaf?

The public, then, in judging of the quality of bread by its colour—by its whiteness—commits a most serious mistake: there is little or no connexion between colour and quality; in fact, very generally, the whitest breads are the most adulterated. The public, therefore, should lose no time in correcting its judgment on this point.

Again, the mistaken taste of the public for very white bread—which, be it known, cannot be obtained even from the finest and best flour except by the use of alum or some other substance similar in its operation—tends to the serious injury of the bread in another way.

The outer part of the grains of wheat has been proved by analysis to be much richer in nourishing principles, in gluten and in oily matter especially, than the central and more floury parts of the grain. Now, in preparing the finer descriptions of flour, the utmost pains are taken to separate this highly nutritious exterior portion of the grain, and thus, although the flour so obtained is very fine and white—very suitable for making a white loaf, that fallacious test of quality—it is yet not nearly so nutritious as whole meal flour, or even the less finely dressed qualities of wheat flour. The consumer, now better instructed, is in a position to judge of how much he sacrifices for the mere sake of an arbitrary and fallacious standard of quality, namely, whiteness. The difference in nourishing properties between whole meal flour and very finely dressed flour amounts in many cases to fully one-third.

Further, alum is very apt to disorder the stomach, and to occasion acidity and dyspepsia.

To this let us add the authority of Liebig:—

Many salts render the gluten again insoluble, apparently by forming with it a chemical combination.

The bakers of Belgium discovered, about twenty years ago, how to bake from damaged flour—by adding sulphate of copper (a poison) to the dough—a bread in appearance and external properties as fine as from the best wheat flour. This mode of improving its physical properties of course deteriorates its chemical properties. Alum has the same effect as sulphate of copper: when added to the dough it renders the bread very light, elastic, firm, and dry; and the London bakers, in consequence of the demand for white bread, such as the English and American flour, usually so good, yields, appear to have been compelled to add alum to all flour in the baking. I saw in an alum manufactory in Scotland, little mounds of finely ground alum, which was destined for the use of the London bakers.

Since phosphoric acid forms with alumina a compound hardly decomposable by alkalis or acids, this may perhaps explain the indigestibility of the London bakers' bread, which strikes all foreigners. A small quantity of lime water added to the musty or damaged flour, has the same effect as the alum or sulphate of copper, without being followed by the same disadvantages.

### THE NEW ZEALANDERS.

*Traditions and Superstitions of the New Zealanders.* By Edward Shortland, M.A. Longman and Co.

WITHIN the last two years no less than three works have appeared on the subject of New Zealand traditions and superstitions—one by Sir George Grey, the late Governor of the Island; a second by the Rev. R. Taylor; and another, the present volume, written by Mr. Shortland. The time may probably come when a sufficient fund of material will have been accumulated from the various sources scattered throughout the innumerable islands of the Pacific Polynesia, to enable some industrious and intelligent labourer to embody, in a concise system, the superstitions and myths of their populations. By this means we shall have an opportunity of analysing their relationship with the traditions of other nations, and tracing out their ethnological connexion. There can be no surer guide to the cognate origin of peoples than their customs, language, and traditions. Thus, in Africa, tribes remotely separated by geography can be shown to have descended from the same ancestral tribe. The same line of inference induces us to believe that the ancient Mexicans and Peruvians found their way to the prairies and mountains of America from the coasts of Asia.

But, independently of the ethnological interest which an inquiry into such matters possesses, there is frequently a charm in the structure and spirit of the myths of the better class of savages which is highly attractive. There we have imagination still investing the objects of nature with supernatural attributes, and creating forms and personages which carry us back to the days when fairies still ruled supreme over the fancy, and science and common sense had not repudiated their existence. The natives of New Zealand have their good and evil genii. They give to the forests and the rocks, to the birds and the beasts, their particular sprites, whose good or evil disposition it is necessary to stir up or appease by incantations and enchantments.



According to the traditions of the New Zealanders themselves respecting their origin, it seems not improbable that the first settlers came from Hawaiki, though it would be presumptuous to say that they were all peopled from the same island; and from the different genealogies of their several chiefs, who admit that about eighteen generations have passed away since New Zealand was first colonized, we may compute the date to be about five hundred years ago. This supposition seems to receive confirmation from the fact that all the genealogies coincide with regard to the number of generations that have elapsed. The inhabitants of the three islands may be classed under six primary divisions, distinguished more or less one from the other by peculiarities of dialect, of physiognomy, and of disposition. A question, however, naturally arises as to what island is meant by Hawaiki, and whether those persons are right who suppose it to be the Owyhee of Captain Cook. The principal difficulty appears to be in the distance, it being doubted whether a light canoe could weather so long a voyage. This objection, however, is at once met by the fact that the nearest land to New Zealand is a thousand miles distant, and that the first inhabitants of the country must have traversed that breadth of ocean. It is also well known that canoes of the present day, which are much smaller than the canoes of the time of Cook, make voyages of five or six hundred miles. We meet also with further evidence of a cognate origin in the peculiarities of their language, and in their customs. For example, the Hawaiians omit the consonant *k* in words where it is used by the New Zealanders; they sound the consonant *l*, which the New Zealanders never do, employing in its place *r*; and they sometimes substitute the consonant *k* in words in which *t* is used by the New Zealanders. Similar peculiarities have been shown to exist in the two languages, which prove them to be nearly identical. We have alluded to other circumstances, as affording links of connexion between the inhabitants of these islands, so remote from each other. Both were found, on their first discovery, to resemble each other in personal appearance, in warlike disposition, and in the practice of cannibalism. The same remarkable ceremony, called *Tangi*, prevails both in the Sandwich Islands and in New Zealand. In both these countries it is the custom for guests to carry away with them any part of the food set before them which they cannot then consume. There can, therefore, remain little doubt that the aborigines of the Sandwich Islands are members of the same family. This family, it is not improbable, found their way southward, from the great continent of Asia, by way of the Malay Peninsula, and Papua or New Guinea.

Having alluded to the mythology of the New Zealanders, it may be interesting to give some idea of their cosmogony, as well as their traditions respecting the origin of living things. In their genealogical legends, Night, or Darkness, is represented as being the source from whence all things have sprung. But instead of conceiving the power of a god calling forth light and order out of a blind chaos, they have simply invested the different objects of creation with personal existences, and made them proceed the one from the other, as children are begotten by their parents. Thus in the beginning of time was Te Po (night, or darkness). In the generations that followed Te Po came Te Ao (the light), Te Kore (nothingness), and Maku (moisture). Maku slept with Mahora-nui-atea (the-straight-the-vast-the-clear); their offspring was Rangi (the sky). Rangi slept with Papatuanuku (the earth); their children were Rehu (the mist), Tane (male), and Paia. From Tane and Paia sprang Tangata (man). Other legends relate that Rangi (heaven), and Papa (the earth), clave together, so that light could not penetrate between them; but that at length one of their children, by main force, separated his parents, pressing the latter down, and raising the former upwards, to their present positions. The names and attributes of these children are rather curious. One was the god and father of man; another the god and father of the cultivated food of man; a third the god and father of the food of man springing up without cultivation; a fourth the god and father of fish and reptiles; a fifth the god and father of forests, birds, and insects inhabiting forests; and a sixth the god and father of winds and storms. The New Zealanders, even those who have been brought within the teaching of the Missionaries, believe in beings possessed of supernatural powers, called *Atua*. These are the spirits of the dead, whom they suppose to watch over the conduct of the living to see that they comply with their rules and regulations concerning things sacred. They also give advice, and exorcise the spirit of cowardice in any of their descendants who may be nervous on the threshold of battle. They confine their care, however, to those among the living with whom they are connected by ties of relationship. Therefore each tribe has its *Atua*. But so little interest do the *Atua* of one tribe take in the affairs of another tribe, that if a man is made prisoner he loses the protection of his ancestral *Atua*, without being adopted by the *Atua* of the tribe by whom he is made a slave, and with whom, therefore, he becomes domesticated.

There is a distinction to be drawn between the work of Mr. Shortland and the work of Sir George Grey. We must not overlook the fact that the latter was, in some measure, an official production, by which we mean, that the opportunities and means which his position as Governor placed at his disposal, enabled Sir George Grey to collect, through the intervention of others, the various fables current amongst the New Zealanders. These very facilities afforded room for interpolation and glosses of the original legends. We have an instance of this in an attempt made to trace vestiges of Mosiac accounts, such as the Deluge, in the traditions of these islanders, than which nothing appears to be more groundless, the legend upon which the assumption is based referring to some partial inundation in the country. Another instance of this may be shown in the paragraph accounting for the origin of charms and incantations, in which it is asserted that "the great God had taught these prayers to man;" the legitimate inference of which is, that the New Zealanders had an idea of God in the sense of a supreme intelligence. This is not the case. But the passage may be clearly regarded as the reflection of a native educated or half-educated in missionary doctrines. Mr. Shortland, however, assures us that he lived with natives who had never been visited by missionaries, that he won their complete confidence, and that it was from them he obtained his ungarbled accounts of their myths and superstitions. We may, there-

fore, regard the work so far useful; the difficulty being, in such cases, to arrive at truth, the natives on the one hand putting on a degree of reserve from fear of ridicule, and the inquirer, especially if he be a missionary, generally endeavouring to adapt everything to his peculiar views.

#### ADVICE TO OFFICERS IN INDIA.

*Advice to Officers in India.* By John McCosh, M.D. W. H. Allen and Co. ALTHOUGH perfectly agreeing with Colonel Taylor that even Venus would be unbearable were she introduced as Miss McJupiter, we are bound to confess that a medical gentleman, with that not very harmonious prefix to his name, has presented the public with a book which will be welcomed by many families. To young officers going out to India, especially to those of the medical profession, Dr. McCosh tenders the most salutary advice, based on long experience, and rendered easy of application by being mixed up with a large share of common sense, and an extensive knowledge of the world. Many of the Doctor's suggestions afford matter for serious reflection, and the 'Griffin,' whether of the military or medical variety, will do well to give them his best attention. For instance, he exhorts all young officers, preparatory to leaving home, to acquire some sort of accomplishment, or to take to some rational pursuit, for "Happiest are they who have some pleasant hobby to mount independent of the world, and can take a quiet canter along the monotonous highways and byways of a tropical existence." All branches of natural history, economical geology, the elements of electricity and magnetism, painting, music, or photography, will prove an invaluable acquisition, and tend to beguile many a weary and lonely hour. "But the possession of a hobby is not enough: they ought to be able to physic their own horses and dogs; to superintend the construction of their own houses and baggage-carts; to know how to manage a farmyard and a garden; how to cook their own dinner; brew their own ale; how to ride and how to drive; how to shoot, and how to sail; how to calculate their pay in vulgar and decimal fractions; and how to balance the debit and credit side of their accounts to the utmost farthing."

The besetting sin of the British soldier in India, as elsewhere, is the excessive use of spirituous liquors. "There is, in fact, a constant struggle between the men rushing to their graves and the surgeon trying to keep them out of it; and his best intentions are often defeated." Some allowance, however, is to be made for the dull, listless, monotonous life they are compelled to lead in the hot season in the plains. Perhaps, as the author suggests, something might be done for them by building at every European station a covered gymnasium, where at all hours of the day the men might amuse themselves by various games and pastimes, such as rackets, bowls, billiards, concerts, and theatrical performances. At Lahore, under the superintendence of Sir Henry Lawrence, "an extensive native garden, overgrown with weeds and brushwood, was converted into a place of public resort for the amusement and instruction of the European soldiers, where they could spend the day in the shade, or read, or play at all sorts of gymnastic exercises, according to their tastes." The late Hindoo Rao was in the habit of saying that, if he were commander-in-chief, he would keep the English soldiers in the hills, give them plenty of beef and porter, and, when war broke out, convey them to the scene of action in carts and palanquins, and turn them suddenly loose upon the enemy like so many falcons or cheetahs. It may not be necessary to take quite so much care of our 'natural protectors' as seemed expedient to the old Mahratta chief, but that they do require much consideration is manifest from the fact that at this moment an extraordinary demand is made for a thousand men to fill up the voids in the European regiments in India. Something more, too, should be done to secure the health and comfort of the native troops. Instead of allowing them 'hutting money' to repair their own lines, it would be a wise and truly economical measure if Government took into their own hands the duty of supplying barrack accommodation for the entire army. In that case we should probably not read that the native barracks are "long lines of mud huts covered with thatch or tiles, just high enough to stand in, and just long enough and broad enough for a bed either way. Being on a level with the ground, the floors and walls are excessively damp, and the unhealthiness is increased by exuberance of vegetation in the lines."

A very formidable affair does it seem to take the field with an Asiatic army. "With a horse, three camels, and a Cooly," the Doctor incidentally remarks, "and a well regulated mess in his regiment, an officer is fit for any campaign, and few enter upon one with less baggage." No wonder that Sir Charles Napier inveighed against such an amount of impedimenta, though the grim veteran may possibly have run to the opposite extreme in curtailing an officer's requirements to a clean shirt, two towels, and a cake of soap. "The baggage," we are told, "follows in rear of the whole force, and when that is large, the last camel has not left the old camp when the first enters the new, the line of march being one continued stream of beasts of burden." A truly pleasant prospect for the poor wretch whose little comforts are packed on the back of that last camel, which may be expected to arrive about the time he is again preparing to march. The sick and wounded are conveyed in 'doolies,' "a sort of bed, with four low legs and a corded bottom, suspended on a bamboo pole, over which is fixed a waterproof top with dependent curtains, the patient reclining at full length. For the conveyance of a 'dooly' six men, called bearers, are allowed; two in front and two in rear, the other two relieving them alternately. When an army takes the field, one 'dooly' is allowed for every hundred natives and for every ten European soldiers; so that the bearers alone of a European regiment of one thousand strong amount to six hundred men." These are the 'ferocious doolies' whom an Hibernian orator in the House of Commons once indignantly denounced, with rhetorical flourish, for carrying off our poor wounded men as they lay helpless and unarmed on the field of battle.

The Doctor becomes savagely facetious as he dwells on the slights offered to his own useful and honourable profession. "I have often thought," he says, "that it would have been better for the profession had Marlborough or Wellington suffered the amputation of an arm or a limb upon the field."

battle and under fire." Lord Raglan had enjoyed that experience, but it does not appear the medical profession have any great cause to canonize his lordship. It is, therefore, by no means certain that either of the other great commanders would have displayed any very fruitful gratitude in return for the amputation of their limbs. Incidents of this nature usually leave unpleasant associations, and the skilful operator is regarded with almost less favour than the unseen enemy who inflicted the wound. However this may be, it is gratifying to learn that in the Hon. Company's service no surgeon who knows his duty need be embarrassed by the dread of responsibility. "When the public stores are not available, he buys what he wants, if he can, and his contingent bill, when forwarded through the proper channel, is paid."

The descriptions of the Indian hill sanatoria are also both useful and interesting.

#### A NEW ILLUSTRATED SHAKSPEARE.

*Routledge's Shakspeare.* Edited by H. Staunton. Illustrated by John Gilbert, Engraved by the Brothers Dalziel. London: Routledge and Co.

We have before us the first parts of a new illustrated Shakspeare. *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* and *Love's Labour's Lost*—the latter not quite completed in Part II.—are the plays already put forth; and from these we are enabled to form some judgment of the general character of the issue. And first, to speak of the illustrations; for, without any disrespect to Mr. Howard Staunton, it is plain that the publishers rely mainly on the pictorial embellishments as the special recommendation of this particular edition. We are rather ostentatiously informed that "no less than six thousand pounds" are to be spent on the illustrations alone. About twenty are to be assigned to each part, and they are to form "the most perfect Gallery of Shakspearean Portraiture ever yet produced." These preliminary trumpet notes are rather injudicious. They have the effect of lowering our confidence in the proportion in which they were designed to raise it; and the money which the publishers guarantee to put into the pockets of the designer and engravers is no test of excellence. The woodcuts in these parts, however, are really graceful and elegant; containing dainty little bits of landscape (notably, the brigand's forest in *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, and a wood scene in *Love's Labour's Lost*), several well-drawn human figures, an apparently careful reference to costume, and some quaintly fanciful tail-pieces. What we doubt is, whether Mr. Gilbert has sufficient knowledge of human character to give a proper reflex of the marvellously varied world of Shakspeare's men and women; and we must warn him to be careful lest he split on that rock which has proved the ruin of many previous illustrators of our great national poet—the tendency to an exaggerated mannerism, suggestive of the foot-lights. We throw out these hints rather as suggestions than criticisms; and we shall watch with interest, and no doubt with pleasure, the artist's progress in his work.

The typography of this new edition is extremely beautiful, and apparently very correct. Mr. Staunton's notes are carefully and sensibly compiled; and the text is not overlaid with comment—indeed, we could occasionally wish for a little more elucidation. There is something, however, unnecessarily punctilious in the distribution of the editorial remarks into foot-notes and notes at the end of each play; the former, again, being divided into those which are referred to by the letters of the alphabet, and those which are indicated by stars, daggers, &c. We must also, by the way, object to a suggestion thrown out by Mr. Staunton with respect to the concluding line of the celebrated description of the laughers in *Love's Labour's Lost*—

— In this spleen ridiculous, appears,  
To check their folly, passion's solemn tears.

Mr. Staunton "cannot help believing the line should run—'To check their folly's passion, &c.'" But why? Surely, the line as it stands is good sense in the first place, and fine poetry in the second.

The edition is issued in Monthly Parts, at One Shilling each; but would it not be as well to complete each play in a single part?

#### THE WEDDING GUESTS.

*The Wedding Guests; or, The Happiness of Life: a Novel.* By Mary C. Hume. 2 vols. J. W. Parker.

Two groups occupy the foreground of Miss Hume's picture; the one composed of Cissy and her bridesmaids, the other of the bridegroom and his friends. All these people become entangled, one with another, by feelings of unchangeable affection, and there seems no human cause why Horace should not marry Ida, Frank marry Florence, and Bernard marry Helen. Frank, indeed, does marry Florence, but dies of consumption, somewhat hectically described by Miss Hume. Then, Bernard ultimately does marry Helen, but the interval is full of abysmal looks, piercing glances shot from strange eyes, faces blanched by emotion, foreheads, cheeks, and necks crimsoned by confusion, doubt, agony, and death. And why? Because Miss Hume, casting about for a reason why Helen should be so bewildered, and Bernard so miserable, has been so simple as to adopt the old conception—hereditary insanity. Why, we could send to any country library for two or three novels, in which the hero gnaws his golden link of

love in silence and secrecy, because his may be a lunatic's doom. Be it known, also, that Consumption, as a rivet in the machinery of a romance, is thoroughly worn out. Nor can it be too emphatically said, that dissolution and frenzy—inarticulo and de lunatico—are very improper materials for the novelist to work with. It might be imagined that Miss Hume had gone through a course of death-bed studies, or taken photographs of 'the mentally afflicted,' to judge by the slowly-traced story of Frank Littleton's decay, and the minute record of the half-maniacal comings and goings on Bernard Huntley's face. But Miss Hume is easily relieved from such an imputation. A hundred volumes of fiction were at hand which she could consult for the diagnosis of insanity, and the development of consumptive disease. The only serious question affecting her book is, whether it be readable? We warn such persons as may be tempted to try, that it is an unmitigatedly painful and disagreeable book, with just a simmering sort of interest, spoiled by an incessant cross-fire of dialogue. In the last chapter, the morbid Huntley and his magnanimous wife vanish into obscurity. They have been enjoying themselves; nothing is said about any illness; Huntley tells Helen a dream of garlands and perfume, and radiant little girls and boys:—

"Bernard!" exclaimed Helen, who had long been listening with more and more rapt attention, and now started forward with clasped hands outstretched trembling towards him; "Bernard! Florence is gone!"

"Home!" returned Mr. Huntley, in a low, soothing voice, bending forward to support his wife in his arms, as fearing the possible effects of agitation on her frame.

"Yes, home!" murmured Helen, laying her cheek to her husband's, while the bright tears fell from her eyes like rain. "Home, God bless her!"

"God has blessed her!" was the earnest rejoinder.

"Finis" follows; and what are we to understand by it? Miss Hume writes in sympathetic ink, and unless the reader be intense enough, he may have a difficulty about her meaning.

#### The Arts.

##### KATHERINE AND PETRUCHIO ON HORSEBACK.

THE ASTLEY'S management is setting a strange fashion in SHAKSPEAREAN revivals. We have heard a good deal, in theatrical slang, of a new production of *Macbeth*, *Richard the Third*, or what not, being 'well mounted,' but in the Westminster Bridge-road the epithet indicates an absolute fact. Nay, we might aver that this is the only house in London for high tragedy and comedy, since the actors and actresses address the audience from an equine altitude not hitherto attained at any other establishment. These centaur-like performers—these 'half horsey' people—are charging into all our old pedestrian notions of 'the legitimate' at a hand gallop; they are making a veritable Balaklava onslaught, only with greater success. Mr. KEAN, and other painful peregrinators on shoe leather, will speedily be obliged to knock under before this gallant company of histrionic cavaliers; and, unless Mr. PHELPS consent to 'witch' Islington and Pentonville by some 'noble horsemanship,' we foresee that the denizens of those localities will shortly emigrate to Lambeth. The late Lord GEORGE BENTINCK himself had clearly nothing like so stable a mind as Mr. COOKE, the gentleman on to whose shoulders has descended the classic mantle of Ducrow, and who, had he lived in the days of PLATO, and set up a seminary in the groves of Academia, would not have taught his pupils while walking, but while riding—inculcating the whole duties of man in a series of hippodramatic scenes. There is no saying to what extent ASTLEY'S may not revolutionize the stage; and we therefore advise all our dramatic writers to illuminate their knowledge of the unities by some acquaintance with the mysteries of the *manège*. It is possible that the days of the peripatetic school of the drama are numbered.

These few remarks—in which we merely profess to have cantered lightly over a very wide course—have been suggested by the production on Monday evening at ASTLEY'S of *Katherine and Petruchio on horseback*. We have not yet witnessed it, but promise ourselves great pleasure whenever we do. For the present, however, we cannot help indulging in a few anticipatory remarks. Of course we are introduced to that marriage horse of *Petruchio's*, so vivaciously described by *Biondello* as "hipped with an old mothy saddle, the stirrups of no kindred: besides, possessed with the glanders, and like to mose in the chine; troubled with the lampass, infected with the fashions, full of windgalls, sped with spavins, railed with the yellows, past cure of the fives, stark spoiled with the staggers, begnawn with the bots, swayed in the back, and shoulder-shotten; ne'er legged before, and with a half-checked bit, and a head-stall of sheep's leather, which, being restrained, to keep him from stumbling, hath been often burst, and now repaired with knots, &c." We trust the management has searched through all the knackers' yards and cab-stands of London, to find a steed which shall combine in his one person this astounding complication of all the ills that horse-flesh is heir to. Likewise, we take it for granted that the equine incident recorded by *Grumio*—the lamentable fall from her horse of *Katherine* when descending "a foul hill," the running away of the beasts, the bursting of the bridles, and the loss of *Grumio's* crupper—will be introduced bodily for the delectation of the audience. If all this be carefully carried out, let Mr. KEAN look to his laurels, and give place next year at Windsor Castle to Mr. COOKE.

A family of HOWARDS—not belonging to the Ducal house of Norfolk, but to democratic America—have been performing at the MARLYBONE this week in a new version of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, in which a little girl (Miss CORDELIA HOWARD) performs the character of *Eva*, and her father and mother those of *St. Clair* and *Topsy*. The exhibition is wild and peculiar; and Mr. EMERY may claim to have introduced a novelty to London audiences.

#### FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE.

Tuesday, January 27.

**BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.**—HENRY ERMANNI FELLINGER, 52, Red Lion-street, Holborn, flour merchant.  
**BANKRUPTS.**—JOSEPH LOW, 40, Broad-street-buildings, City, merchant and commission agent—MAXIMILIAN LOW, 40, Broad-street-buildings, City, merchant and commission agent—WILLIAM WHITE, New Crane-mill, Shadwell, miller—JOHN ATKINSON, Queen's-gardens and Westbourne-grove, Bayswater, builder—JOHN OCHSE, 44, Basinghall-street, City, dealer in French china and jewellery—JOHN BUNTON COOPER and HENRY BUNTON COOPER, 5, Bentley-place, Kingsland-road, Middlesox, pawnbrokers—ANDREW PHILLIPS, House of Commons-inn, Cambridge, licensed victualler—THOMAS COOK, Thorpe-le-Soken, Essex, boot and shoe maker—JAMES MARTIN and EDWIN MARKWICK, Upper North-street, and Round-hill-park, Brighton, surveyors and builders—THOMAS LANE, late of Birmingham, now of Wilton-lodge, New-road, Hammersmith, jannitor—JAMES WOOTTON, Oxford-street, Leicester, builder—RICHARD DAVIS, Cardiff, Glamorgan, ship broker and commission agent—FREDERICK LAWSON BANKS, Sheffield, common brewer—EDWARD VON DABELSZEN, Liverpool, metal broker—JOHN GLADSTONE, Liverpool, iron-founder and ship and anchor smith—WHITTAKER RILEY, Manchester, calico printer—WILLIAM RIDLEY CARR and HENRY FREDERICK SCOTT, Wallsend, Northumberland, iron manufacturers and coke burners—THOS. LAIDLER, Jarrow, Durham, coke burner.

**SCOTCH SEQUESTRATION.**—JAMES CALDER, Brechin, draper.

Friday, January 30.

**BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.**—JOHN BAILEY, of Orkney-shaw Clayton-le-Moors, Lancashire, cotton manufacturer.  
**BANKRUPTS.**—GEORGE GROOM, Norwich, boot and shoe

factor—JAMES FELL, Liverpool, tea dealer—JOHN JONES, Preston, tailor—WILLIAM DOEG and JOHN SKEELTON, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, timber merchants—EDWARD CROWTHER, Manchester, merchant and commission agent—JAMES BUTCHER, Church-street, Hackney, licensed victualler—JOHN ADOS PERVANOGIN, Union-court, Old Broad-street, merchant—WILLIAM WOODS, Union-street, Southwark, book and eye manufacturer—WILLIAM WHITE, New Crane Mill, Shadwell, miller—ELEANOR PORTER, Newmarket, Suffolk, grocer—JOSEPH THOMAS LAWRENCE, Shorelitch, upholsterer—GEORGE BASKERVILLE, Talk-on-the-Hill, Staffordshire, innkeeper—WILLIAM BURT, Saint Stevens by Launceston, Cornwall, builder.

#### BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

**BIRTHS.**  
ADAMS.—On the 9th inst., at Rowney Munden, Mrs. Samuel Adams, prematurely: twin sons, stillborn.



**SARGEANT.**—On the 29th of September, 1856, at Natal, South Africa, the wife of William C. Sargeant, Esq., Colonial Secretary: a son.

## MARRIAGES.

**BUNSEN—WADDINGTON.**—On the 21st inst., at the Lutheran Church of the Redemption, in Paris, Charles Bunsen, third son of His Excellency the Chevalier Bunsen, and Secretary of Legation to the Prussian Embassy at Turin, to Mary Isabella, only daughter of Thomas Waddington, Esq., of St. Léger du Bourg Denis, Seine Inférieure.

**HUNTER—AMHERST.**—On the 17th inst., at St. Bartholomew-the-Great, in the City of London, Kime Hunter, Esq., of 28, Great Cornam-street, Brunswick-square, to Lady Constance, only daughter of the late Lady and Lord Frederick Amherst, of the Lima Islands, Vera Cruz, Mexico.

## DEATHS.

**DONKIN.**—On the 23rd inst., at his seat, Wyfold Court, Oxon, George David Donkin, Esq., aged 39 (late of H. M.'s 7th Fusiliers, and Magistrate of the county of Oxford), the only son of the late General Sir Rufane Shaw Donkin, K.C.B., who was Governor-General of the Cape of Good Hope in 1819.

**HUNT.**—On the 26th inst., at Hammersmith, in the 69th year of her age, Marianne, the wife of Leigh Hunt.

**LE GALLAIS.**—On the 11th of December, of yellow fever, at King's-house, Jamaica, while on a visit to General and Mrs. Bell, Charles Le Gallais, Esq., Lieutenant Royal Engineers, aged 26, youngest son of Mr. Judge Le Gallais, of Jersey.

## Commercial Affairs.

London, Friday Evening, January 30, 1857.

SINCE last week the funds have been sinking daily as the account-day in Consols draws nearer. The Bulls dislike the idea of paying 1 per cent. for the privilege of continuing their speculative transactions for a rise, and have therefore been closing their accounts. The general public has been buying for investments. The pressure for money at the discount houses continues as fierce as ever, and at one time this week it was thought that the Bank directors would have to raise the rate again, so rapidly has the bullion been decreasing. It would seem quite impossible that speculators can afford to pay such enormous interest for money advances; and if there be not a sensible relaxation, before long we may look out for some notable failures.

In the foreign markets there has been no great amount of business doing. Turkish Six per Cent. Stock has declined one per cent. The foreign share market for railways and other adventures is flat, Lombardo-Venetian being the only thriving line as regards price. It is understood the great Hebrew house has been buying this stock to a considerable extent. American securities continue moderately well supported. Canada Grand Trunk shares fell somewhat from the falling off of the weekly returns of traffic. Indian shares are hardly so much in demand. The increase of capital in all these undertakings is against them.

Joint-Stock Banks are well supported, and show favourably when compared with other stocks. This week has been remarkable in one respect for the Stock Exchange Committee allowing certain dividend and progressive mines in Great Britain to be quoted in their list. It is to be hoped that this may lead to more regularity than has been hitherto observed in the dealings of the outside share-dealers in this species of investment. The end of the month settling has passed off without any difficulty; the continuation prices charged are high, but not excessive.

The following are the closing prices of the principal securities on the Stock Exchange to-day:—

Aberdeen, —; Caledonian, 60½, 61; Chester and Holyhead, 35, 37; Eastern Counties, 9, 9½; Great Northern, 94, 95; Great Southern and Western (Ireland), 111, 113; Great Western, 65½, 66; Lancashire and Yorkshire, 96½, 97½; London and Blackwall, 63, 7; London, Brighton, and South Coast, 108, 110, x.d.; London and North-Western, 106½, 108½; London and South-Western, 106½, 107½; Midland, 82½, 83½; North-Eastern (Berwick), 83½, 84½; South-Eastern (Dover), 74½, 74½; Antwerp and Rotterdam, 6, 6½; Dutch Rhenish, ½ dis., par, x.d.; Eastern of France (Paris and Strasbourg), 32½, 32½; Great Central of France, 4, 4½ pm.; Great Luxembourg, 5½, 5½; Northern of France, 37, 37½; Paris and Lyons, 54 54½; Royal Danish, 18, 20; Royal Swedish, 4, 1; Sambre and Meuse, 8, 8½.

## CORN MARKET.

Mark-lane, Friday, January 30, 1857.

DURING the week, there have been but trifling supplies of English and Foreign wheat, and only 17,690 barrels of Flour are reported from the United States. There is now decidedly more firmness in the trade, and sales to a moderate extent have been made.

Norfolk Flour is fetching 1s. to 2s. over former prices. There is very little Wheat now on passage, so that the floating trade is almost at a standstill. A cargo of Galatz Maize on passage has been sold at 42s., cost, freight and insurance to Spain, and there are buyers at the price, with very little offering. Barley and Oats are flat, and without alteration in value.

BRITISH FUNDS FOR THE PAST WEEK.  
(CLOSING PRICES.)

|                        | Sat.  | Mon.  | Tues. | Wed.  | Thur. | Frid. |
|------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Bank Stock.....        | 216   | 217   | 217½  | 217½  | 217½  | 217½  |
| 3 per Cent. Red.....   | 94½   | 94½   | 94½   | 94½   | 94½   | 94½   |
| 3 per Cent. Con. An.   | 93½   | 93½   | 93½   | 93½   | 93½   | 93    |
| Consols for Account    | 93½   | 93½   | 93½   | 93½   | 93½   | 93½   |
| New 3 per Cent. An.    | 94½   | 94    | 93½   | 94    | 93½   | 93½   |
| New 2½ per Cents...    | ..... | 78    | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| Long Ans. 1850 .....   | ..... | 2½    | ..... | 2½    | ..... | ..... |
| India Stock.....       | ..... | 219   | 219   | ..... | ..... | ..... |
| Ditto Bonds, £1000     | ..... | ..... | ..... | 2 d   | ..... | ..... |
| Ditto, under £1000     | 2 p   | ..... | ..... | 2 d   | ..... | ..... |
| Ex. Bills, £1000 ..... | 2 p   | 1 d   | ..... | 3 p   | 2 d   | 1 d   |
| Ditto, £500 .....      | ..... | 1 p   | 2 d   | 3 d   | 4 d   | ..... |
| Ditto, Small .....     | 2 p   | 3 p   | 2 d   | 3 d   | 2 d   | 1 d   |

## FOREIGN FUNDS.

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

|                             |     |                             |     |
|-----------------------------|-----|-----------------------------|-----|
| Brazilian Bonds.....        | 101 | Portuguese 4 per Cents. ... | ... |
| Buenos Ayres 6 p. Cents ... | ... | Russian Bonds, 5 per        | ... |
| Chilian 6 per Cents.....    | ... | Cents .....                 | 108 |
| Chilian 3 per Cents.....    | ... | Russian 2½ per Cents....    | 96  |
| Dutch 2½ per Cents.....     | 65  | Spanish .....               | ... |
| Dutch 4 per Cent. Certif.   | 98½ | Spanish Committee Cer-      | ... |
| Equador Bonds .....         | ... | of Coup. not fun. ....      | ... |
| Mexican Account .....       | ... | Turkish 6 per Cents.....    | 94½ |
| Peruvian 4½ per Cents....   | 78½ | Turkish New, 4 ditto ....   | ... |
| Portuguese 3 per Cents.     | 43½ | Venezuela 4½ per Cents.     | 30½ |

## ROYAL OLYMPIC THEATRE.

Lessee and Manager, Mr. ALFRED WIGAN.  
On Monday and during the week, the performances will commence with the Comedietta of

## DELICATE GROUND.

After which will be presented the new and original Fairy Extravaganza, entitled

## YOUNG AND HANDSOME,

In which Miss Swanborough, Mrs. Melfort, Miss Thirlwall, Mr. F. Robson, and Mr. J. Rogers will appear.

To conclude with the new Farce called

## CRINOLINE,

In which Mr. F. Robson will appear.

## DR. KAHN'S ANATOMICAL MUSEUM,

4, Coventry-street, Leicester-square. Open (for gentlemen only) from Ten till Ten, containing upwards of one thousand models and preparations, illustrating every part of the human frame in health and disease, the race of men, &c. Lectures delivered at Twelve, Two, Four, and at Half-past Seven, by Dr. G. Sexton; and a new Series of Lectures is now in course of delivery by Dr. Kahn, at a Quarter past Eight, P.M.—Admission, 1s.—Catalogues, containing Lectures as delivered by Dr. Kahn, gratis.

## ALLSOPP'S PALE ALE IN IMPERIAL PINTS.

**HARRINGTON PARKER & CO.** are now delivering the October brewings of the above celebrated Ale. Its surpassing excellence is vouched for by the highest medical and chemical authorities of the day. Supplied in bottles, also in casks of 18 gallons and upwards, by **HARRINGTON PARKER & CO.**, 5½, Pall Mall. November 24th, 1856.

THE CONTINENTAL WINE COMPANY,  
BIRCHIN LANE, CORNHILL.

Are enabled, by their connexion with the principal wine growers, to supply every description of WINE of the finest qualities at prices for cash far below the average, including their

Alto Douro Ports, at 42s. per dozen.

Genuine ditto, 34s. per dozen.

Superior Pale or Gold Sherry, 30s. to 36s. per dozen.

Champagne, from 42s. to 72s.

Claret, from 30s. to 84s.

Post orders must contain a remittance.

## TWENTY SHILLINGS PER DOZEN.

SOUTH AFRICAN PORT.  
SOUTH AFRICAN SHERRY.  
SOUTH AFRICAN MADEIRA.

"Having tasted these Wines, we say to those who like wine possessing Richness without Sweetness, Dryness without Acidity, and Body without Brandy, by all means give them a trial."—*Vide Bell's Weekly Messenger*, January 17, 1857.

Bottles included. Packages allowed for when returned. Delivered free to any of the Railway Termini in London.

Terms Cash.

A Sample Bottle for 24 stamps.

Country Orders must contain a remittance. Cheques to be crossed "Bank of London."

J. L. DENMAN, Wine and Spirit Importer, 65, Fenchurch-street, London.

Under the Patronage of Royalty and the Authority of the Faculty.

## KEATING'S COUGH LOZENGES.—A

Certain Remedy for Disorders of the Pulmonary Organs: in Difficulty of Breathing—in Redundancy of Phlegm—in Incipient Consumption (of which Cough is the most positive indication), they are of unerring efficacy. In Asthma, and in Winter Cough, they have never been known to fail.

Prepared and sold in Boxes, 1s. 1½d., and Tins, 2s. 9d., 4s. 6d., and 10s. 6d. each, by THOMAS KEATING, Chemist, &c., No. 79, St. Paul's-churchyard, London; and retail by all Druggists.

## ASTHMA.—DR. LOCOCK'S PULMONIC

WAFERS, for asthma, consumption, coughs, colds, and all disorders of the breath and lungs. THEY HAVE A PLEASANT TASTE. Price 1s. 1½d., 2s. 9d., and 11s. per box. Wholesale Warehouse, 26, Bride-lane, London.

## RUPTURES.—BY ROYAL LETTERS PATENT.

## WHITE'S MOC-MAIN LEVER TRUSS is

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Further particulars will be duly announced; in the meantime, the friends of humanity are requested to keep themselves disengaged for the above evening.

(Signed) R. D. GRAINGER, } Honorary  
JOHN LILWALL, } Secretaries.

Offices of the Early Closing Association, 35, Ludgate-hill.

**CLOSING of the MUSEUM of ORNAMENTAL ART**, at Marlborough House. On and after the 7th of February this Museum, including the Soulaiges collection, will be closed, in order that the contents may be removed to South Kensington, and the Bernal collection may be packed and sent to Manchester.

NORMAN MAC LEOD, Registrar.  
South Kensington, 24th January, 1857.

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By order of the Boards.

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- V. LORD RAGLAN.
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