Fred Edmund Galloway, 352 Strand.

The Leader.

A POLITICAL AND LITERARY REVIEW.

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

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VOL. VIII. No. 368.] SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 1857. PRICE { UNSTAMPED...FIVEPENCE. *Stamped.....Sixpence*

Review of the Week.

THE completion of the elections has caused little difference in the Ministerial calculations. The English counties have surrendered a large number of seats, either to the Liberal party, or to Lord PALMERSTON. Middlesex has rejected Lord CHELSEA, and still returns its quota of two Liberal members; and the return of four Liberals for the City has left the metropolitan constituencies, both for the county and districts, absolutely to the Liberal party, not a single Conservative among them. The new member for Middlesex, indeed, appears likely to be a gain for the independent Liberal party. It is not the extent of liberal professions in Mr. HANBURY's speeches, but something in the manner and aspect of the man, that gives the idea of a stout recruit for the popular section of the Legislature. He declared that he should leave "the aristocracy" to Lord ROBERT GROSVENOR, and attend himself to "the democracy." Lord ROBERT rather protested against being exiled in that way to the upper regions of society; and it would be unfair to forget that he *has* been a sincere and steadfast Liberal throughout a long season when it was unfashionable as well as fashionable.

One among the successes has been singled out for general congratulation; it is the signal victory of Mr. SIDNEY HERBERT over the Tory interloper in South Wiltshire, Lord HENRY THYNNE. The House of Bath is not strong, and Lord HENRY is not exactly the man to oust a statesman like Mr. SIDNEY HERBERT; whose very opponents hail his return.

The Tory party is reduced to a minority which entirely destroys its power, and, should the change in the country continue, must, not long hence, totally destroy its very character, if that is not done already. It is certain that in the minority, even as it now stands, there are considerable numbers who are no more Tories than some hundred or more who sit on the "Liberal" side—some, indeed, who are *less* Tories than men who vote with Lord PALMERSTON. They adhere only to a form in the mode of expressing their opinions, and in fidelity to their old constituents; but it is probable that old Toryism has its revenge in a certain effeminacy—they call it "moderation"—which has crept over the Liberal ranks. We shall have to ascertain, this session, whether or not the Liberal party is so completely degraded as to provoke a popular movement out of doors; and the test will be its sternness, not only to carry a Reform Bill, but to resist any diversions which may be attempted in the shape of a "moderate" Reform Bill. If we have any such measure at all, it must be thorough-going; and a man that proposes any palliative to stay the appetite of the public must be recognised and denounced as a traitor.

The latest incident has confirmed the suspicion that Government intends as much as possible to impart a neutral character to the present House. During the week, two candidates have been named for the Speakership. One was Mr. MATTHEW TALBOT BAINES, a very worthy gentleman, who is known to be sufficiently acquainted with Parliamentary law to execute the duties; but he has been set aside in favour of Mr. EVELYN DENISON, a moderate Liberal, who is presented on the score of his dignified manner, his commanding appearance, and the esteem in which he is held by both sides of the House. No character given to him for acquaintance with his duties. He is "honest, industrious, and sober," but it is not stated that he can cook.

In some respects there is now a stronger party out of doors than there is in the House. The long list of gentlemen who are excluded constitutes an excellent staff of officers for the Independent party, and since the hopes of Lord JOHN RUSSELL must rest upon the strengthening of the independent Liberals in the House, we are now tolerably secure of a political movement with representatives both within and without the walls.

One stout and influential member of the independent Liberals, indeed, has signified his intention of retiring from public life as well as from Parliament. In doing so, Mr. JOHN BRIGHT reminds the electors of Manchester how firm he has been to his principles, and how little he has given colour for the accusation that he has acted with the Tories. The Tories found it their interest to support his party in 1857; but they did not do so in '52, or even in '46. Mr. BRIGHT's avowal that he is pained by the rejection of Manchester must be felt severely by many of the electors, especially by some who voted against him. Nothing has been more conspicuous since the election than a regret in the people of England at large, that Mr. BRIGHT should be excluded from the House of Commons; and Manchester, which owes to him a large part of its present prosperity, was the one place in the United Kingdom which fell short of this national feeling. In a certain way, however, the absolute character of Mr. BRIGHT's retirement will be satisfactory to his friends; since it implies that he will devote himself to the recovery of his health. It would be a decided advantage should he become stronger, for most certainly he will be wanted.

In Italy, where Austria, notwithstanding her professed "explanations," continues to menace Piedmont, the English election has been viewed with interest. The people of the Sardinian States have avowedly watched to see how far the people should sustain the Liberal character of the representation; and two elections have given them decided satisfaction. One is the return of Lord JOHN RUSSELL for the City of London; since in 1856, and subsequently, Lord JOHN has shown so deep an interest in Italy. And Lanarkshire has thrown out Mr. BAILLIE COCHRANE, the spokesman for King BOMBA. Lanarkshire, in fact, has put upon poor BAILLIE COCHRANE, at least in a Parliamentary sense, the "Cap of Silence."

Another incident evinces the sort of confederated interest which the people of constitutional states abroad feel in England. A Free Trade Society in Belgium has had considerable success in establishing branches throughout the different towns; it promises to make such rapid progress, that the opposite party among the manufacturers is alarmed; and a Protectionist Society has been established at Tournay. This Protectionist society took advantage of the local holidays to set up a masquerading in ridicule of Free Trade. A person was hired to eat largely, and he was nicknamed "Lord Mangefort." The sarcasm warmed into anger, and the mob raised a cry of "A l'eau les Anglais!" This incident became the subject of inquiry in the Belgian Parliament, and Count VILAIN XIIII. thought it necessary distinctly to declare that the people of Belgium, like the Government, had no sympathy in these hostile cries. In England we know it well; we are familiar with the antics of an expiring party, and feel nothing but amusement at the feeble allegory. We can quite afford to let a poor Belgian eat for the day at the expense of others, under a French name intended for English, while we know that the Belgian people adhere to the constitutional freedom which we helped them to establish, and are about to adopt the commercial freedom which we have exemplified. But how strongly this anxiety on the part of the Belgian Liberal Ministers confirms our position, that the English Government ought to act with the constitutional States abroad. Even if there were no specific treaty for the purpose of joint action, there might be a practical federation, with the effect of

extending our influence, and of strengthening the outposts of constitutional government in Europe.

The QUEEN has issued a proclamation prohibiting the importation of cattle into this country from the Baltic ports. Since the cattle thus imported only constitute about one-seventh of the proportion taken into metropolitan consumption through the Islington market, only a fraction of the supply for a few of the eastern ports, and a *very* small fraction of the supply for the whole country, this proclamation would do little towards checking the distribution of meat which is tainted by other causes than imported infection; and should the typhoid which is ravaging Europe be produced by atmospherical causes, the QUEEN of course cannot proclaim its non-admission. But the act of the Government will call attention to the state of the meat market and of the beasts; it will lead to greater vigilance, and no doubt to improvements in the keep and stabling of the animals, especially their stalling in the transit from pasture to market.

The disturbance in the money-market has continued this week, though there are some signs of a check to the causes that produced it. On Monday, the Bank of England followed up the rise of discount by a rise to 7 per cent. for advances on Government Securities; the mode in which speculators obtained a portion of their means. The enhancement of the 2nd and 6th has had a decided effect, not only in improving the state of the exchanges—that is, in checking the outflow of gold from this country—but in arresting the headlong impetus of speculation on the Continent. In Hamburg, for example, where the discount had been lowered to 6½ per cent., it has at once risen to 8 per cent.; and it is notorious that the Bank of France has been restrained from lowering its own rate by the act of our Bank. The speculators, however, will not give up the contest so easily. Immense exertions are now made by the Crédit Mobilier class of financiers to make up the sum required for the first instalment of the new Russian Railway Company; and from the sales at a loss which are observed in various quarters, the sum may be made up. Thus the demand for gold on the Continent is likely to continue; but the Bank of England has shown that it can keep the state of the Exchanges under control; and the high credit of this country contributes to render a stated rate of discount here more effectual than even a higher figure across the water.

The drain of silver towards India and China goes on at an enormous rate. The prohibition of the French Government has proved ineffectual to prevent it; and this is another phenomenon which tends to create a doubt whether the Bank can recover its loss very suddenly.

The trial of ALLUM has resulted in his acquittal. There was, in fact, a certain failure of evidence to convict him of attempting to poison the English or anybody else. It is true that he was on his way to Canton in a boat with some of his family, but it is explained that he intended to return. The bread on board the boat, like that distributed at Hong-Kong, is said to have been poisoned; and as soon as he discovered the fact, he hastened back to Hong-Kong. The Jury acquitted him; but the Government has detained him on suspicion either in deference to a ruling prejudice, or on grounds of *moral* distrust though the technical proof failed. The idea is, that, whether malignant or not, ALLUM will do what YEH orders him, and that the baker will be employed to exterminate the British. Meanwhile, the Emperor has ordered YEH to chastise us, and then to forgive us—so wise and merciful is the Celestial Emperor! But emperors always are good when they are pleased.

THE METROPOLITAN BOARD OF WORKS AND THE CITY.—The opinion of counsel, presented to the City Commission of Sewers on Monday, on the question whether the Metropolitan Board of Works has a right to levy rates on the City of London, is to the effect that the Board does not possess that right. The sum demanded is upwards of 5000*l*.

THE GENERAL ELECTION.

[In several cases below, the election by choice of hands is mentioned and not the ultimate result of the poll; but the required information will be found in the list of members returned, as far as the issues were known up to the time of our going to press.]

MIDDLESEX.

A MEETING of the Middlesex electors was held last Saturday in Viscount Chelsea's committee room, at the Hoop Tavern, Notting-hill. The room was densely crowded. Captain Morley presided. Lord Chelsea gave a general exposition of his principles, which was received with but little favour, and with a great deal of opposition. He answered some criticisms on his opinions which had been put forward by Mr. Grosvenor, a son of "his noble relative and opponent, Lord Robert Grosvenor;" and he denied that there was any ambiguity in the term "Liberal-Conservative." He was a follower of the late Sir Robert Peel; he would not oppose a moderate increase of the suffrage, but objected to the ballot and to the admission of Jews into Parliament. A Mr. G. Leverson then said they had heard the exposition of the opinions of Lord Chelsea, and he thought the meeting would agree with him that his views were not of that enlightened and liberal character which entitled him to be sent to Parliament as the representative for the county of Middlesex. The Chairman said "he could not permit any speech to be made. Lord Chelsea had come there to explain his opinions, and to answer any questions, but not to hear speeches from electors." This elicited great uproar and cries of "Shame!" Mr. Leverson then proposed a resolution condemnatory of Viscount Chelsea; and this having been duly seconded by Mr. Pritchard, the High Bailiff of Southwark, a show of hands was taken. The chairman, however, refused to give any official decision as to the result, and Mr. Gruneisen (secretary to the Conservative Land Society) moved a resolution expressive of confidence in Lord Chelsea. When this was put, a decided minority of hands was held up, and the chairman and noble lord abruptly quitted the meeting, amidst laughter and uproar. Mr. Pritchard was then called to the chair, and expressed his astonishment at the conduct which had been pursued, not only as regarded the gentleman who had preceded him in the chair refusing to hear any one make any observations, but in his treating the meeting with the disrespect he had done. Mr. Leverson and other gentlemen then further addressed the meeting, and a resolution in favour of Lord Robert Grosvenor and Mr. Hanbury was unanimously carried.

The election for the metropolitan county took place on Monday, and terminated in the signal defeat of the Conservative candidate, Viscount Chelsea. "From an early hour," says the *Times*, "the election of the Liberal candidates appeared to be safe, and every successive return from the various polling districts exhibited an increasing majority in their favour. The only polling district in which Lord Chelsea obtained a majority was at Bedfont, where he polled 219 votes against 195 for Mr. Hanbury, and 192 for Lord Robert Grosvenor. At Bethnal-green and Mile-end, where Mr. Hanbury's local influence is great, the preponderance of Liberal votes was remarkable. In the populous district of Hammersmith, where Conservative influence has on former occasions been successfully shown, the Liberals polled nearly two to one. At King's-cross and Hampstead, they polled more than two to one. In Westminster, Lord Chelsea made a better fight. At ten o'clock, the three candidates had each polled 58 in the Westminster district, according to the Liberal return, but at twelve o'clock the Liberal candidates were in a majority, and at the close of the poll they were 70 ahead. The Liberals early saw the probable consequences of split votes, and exerted themselves with success to impress upon the electors the necessity of not giving plumpers."

The sum total of the various polling places, at the close of the election, was thus officially announced:—Mr. Hanbury, 5426; Lord Robert Grosvenor, 5327; Viscount Chelsea, 2928.

Not one Conservative now possesses a seat for the metropolitan districts; a fact highly honourable to the Londoners and their immediate neighbours.

SUSSEX (EAST).

The nomination took place at Lewes last Saturday. The candidates were—Mr. Augustus Elliott Fuller and Lord Pevensey (Conservatives), and Mr. John George Dodson and Colonel Cavendish (Liberals). The show of hands was in favour of the latter; and a poll was then demanded on behalf of the Conservative candidates. It was stated on behalf of the latter that intimidation had been resorted to by the Government to defeat the Conservatives, a letter having been sent down by the Woods and Forests to the Crown tenants, requiring them to support the Liberal candidates.

FLINTSHIRE.

A great display of Cymric excitability and warmth was made last Saturday at Flint on the nomination of the candidates for the county. The candidates were—the Hon. Edward Thomas Lloyd Mostyn (a Palmerstonian) and Sir Stephen Glynne, a moderate Liberal. The Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone addressed a long speech to the electors in favour of the latter, who is his brother-in-law; but he was received with great disapprobation. There was a good deal of angry crimination and recrimination; the charge against Mr. Mostyn being that he is a blind and slavish adherent of Lord Palmerston—which he denied; while Sir Stephen Glynne was accused of being a Puseyite—which was also repudiated. Mr. Gladstone, in the course of his speech, complained of the increased expenditure of Government, of its not making provision for the extinction of the income-tax, and of its entering into unjustifiable wars without the sanction of Parliament; all of which, he said, Mr. Mostyn was prepared to support.—A curious piece of ultra-national feeling appeared in the speech of Mr. Mostyn. He thought there should be Welsh Bishops for Wales, and that the Judges should understand the Welsh language—which seems reasonable enough; but he added that "he would support any measure for keeping up and extending that language in the Principality.—The show of hands was declared to be in favour of Sir Stephen Glynne, though this was doubtful. A poll was demanded for Mr. Mostyn.

LANARKSHIRE.

The show of hands at the nomination was in favour of Sir Edward Colebrooke, a Liberal and a supporter of Lord Palmerston; when a poll was demanded on behalf of the other candidate, Mr. Baillie Cochrane, who stated his opinions with respect to the Premier thus:—"It was true that Lord Palmerston did carry on the Russian war with signal ability and success, and he concurred in the opinion that he was the greatest of war Ministers; but that was a very good reason why he should not be a good peace Minister. The fact was that war was his natural element, and this explained all his foreign policy. (*Immense uproar.*) He heard the noble lord state to Mr. Disraeli in the House of Commons the other night—'It is true I get you into scrapes, but at the same time I am no sooner into a scrape than I am out of it.' (*Laughter and cheers.*) This reminded him of the conversation between a master and his servant. 'Well, John,' said the master, 'I am no sooner in a passion than I am out of it.' 'Yes, sir,' replied John, 'but you are no sooner out of it than you are in it again.' So it was with the Government. We were no sooner out of one war than we were in another." (*Cheers and disapprobation.*)

CARLOW (COUNTY).

M. Bruen and Captain Bunbury were on Saturday returned without opposition.

QUEEN'S COUNTY.

The candidates nominated on Saturday were Sir Charles Coote, Mr. Michael Dunn, Right Hon. C. W. Fitzpatrick, and Mr. Burrow Kelly. The show of hands was in favour of Coote and Fitzpatrick. The other candidates retired.

CARLOW (BOROUGH).

The Hon. Captain Ponsonby, the defeated candidate, in addressing the electors after the close of the poll, made some serious accusations of bribery and corruption. He said:—"When I was here during my canvass, I received earnest and solemn promises from men of respectability, even up to eleven o'clock yesterday—from gentlemen, shall I say, who I thought would have done anything in the world before they would violate their pledges, and they have come up and deliberately broken their promises. I say there is something wrong when that took place—I do not say that it was bribery that brought that matter about. There are something like twenty gentlemen who *solemnly pledged themselves* to give me their support, and they have deliberately broken their word, and voted against me. I leave it to those gentlemen to settle this matter with their own conscience. I know that deserters in the army are held in contempt by their comrades, and despised by the enemy. I hope those gentlemen will be pointed out, and known to every man in the community during the rest of their lives as persons without a particle of principle or honour. (*Cheers.*) This is not an attack on any man who kept his word, and conscientiously voted against me. (*Hear, hear.*) I give them every credit, because they acted honestly and above board. (*Cheers.*) I had letters and offers from several persons, promising to vote for me if they were bribed. ('*Oh, oh!' and great sensation.*) One gentleman offered to vote for me if I would buy a picture from him. (*Great laughter.*) I am determined to make those letters public. It may be unpleasant to those parties for me to do so; but I wish it to be understood that it is not against the constituency I speak, but against certain people of this town who broke their word."

TIPPERARY (COUNTY).

Some riots, rivalling, if not surpassing, the savage excesses of the Kidderminster mob, have taken place at the town of Tipperary, during the canvassing for the county. One of the candidates (Mr. Waldron) and his friends were canvassing on Thursday week, when they were savagely attacked by the adherents of the rival candidate, Mr. Massy. Mr. Waldron represents the Roman Catholic interest; and religious feeling would seem to have been at the bottom of the disturbance. There was a positive fight with shillelaghs; paving stones were thickly thrown about; several persons were seriously hurt; and a great many shops, into which the supporters of Mr. Waldron had run for shelter, were attacked. Mr. Waldron's committee room was also attacked. The damage to glass in several places has been very great.—Very serious riots have also taken place at the Queen's County and Lisburn elections.

WILTS (SOUTH).

The close of the poll showed—for Mr. Sidney Herbert, 1517; Mr. Wyndham, 1445; Lord Henry Thynne, 1269. His Lordship is therefore defeated, and the former members were returned. When the three gentlemen were addressing the electors, much amusement was caused by Mr. Wyndham reading his speech, and, at the beginning of every sentence, referring to the manuscript, which he endeavoured to conceal in his hat. "But the crowd," says the *Times*, "were too sharp for him, and, observing the direction in which his eyes were turned, almost drowned his voice in cries of—'What is that in your hat?' 'Is it printed?' 'You should have got it off by heart yesterday!' These interruptions, followed as they were by roars of laughter, seemed somewhat to disconcert the hon. gentleman, who experienced great difficulty in making himself heard amid the sounds of merriment which burst from every side." Everything, however, passed off with great good humour.

HUNTINGDONSHIRE.

The official declaration of the poll here has revealed a very singular and perplexing state of things. The numbers were—Rust, 1192; Heathcote, 1106; Fellowes, 1106. There had been many contradictory statements as to whether Mr. Heathcote or Mr. Fellowes had the majority, the friends of each claiming the victory by a bare excess of one vote; but the result, as officially announced, has taken everybody by surprise. "There appears," says the *Times*, "to be a disinclination on both sides to enter into a scrutiny; it is probable, therefore, that they will proceed to a fresh election. Nothing definite, however, will be known until after the writ is returned on the 30th of April. Anticipating the probability of another election, both candidates have started on their canvass."

MR. BRIGHT'S FAREWELL ADDRESS.

TO THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF MANCHESTER.

GENTLEMEN,—I have received a telegraphic despatch informing me of the result of the election contest in which you have just been engaged. That result has not greatly surprised me, and, so far as I am personally concerned—inasmuch as it liberates me from public life in a manner which involves on my part no shrinking from any duty—I cannot seriously regret it. I lament it on public grounds, because it tells the world that many amongst you have abandoned the opinions you professed to hold in the year 1847, and even so recently as in the year 1852. I believe that slander itself has not dared to charge me with having forsaken any of the principles, on the honest support of which I offered myself twice, and was twice accepted, as your representative. The charge against me has rather been, that I have too warmly and too faithfully defended the political views which found so much favour with you at the two previous elections.

If the change in your opinion of me has arisen from my course on the question of the war with Russia, I can only say, that, on a calm review of all the circumstances of the case—and during the past twelve months I have had ample time for such a review—I would not unsay or retract any one of the speeches I have spoken, or erase from the records of Parliament any one of the votes I have given upon it, if I could thereby reverse the decision to which you have come, or secure any other distinction which it is in the power of my countrymen to confer. I am free, and will remain free, from any share in the needless and guilty bloodshed of that melancholy chapter in the annals of my country. I cannot, however, forget that the leaders of the Opposition in the recent contest have not been influenced by my conduct on this question. They were less successful, but not less bitter in their hostility in 1852, and even in 1847, when my only public merit or demerit consisted in my labours in the cause of free trade. On each occasion calling themselves Liberals, and calling their candidates Liberals also, they have coalesced with the Conservatives, whilst now, doubtless, they have assailed Mr. Gibson and myself on the ground of a pretended coalition with the Conservatives in the House of Commons!

I have esteemed it a high honour to be one of your representatives, and have given more of mental and physical labour to your service than was just to myself; I feel it scarcely less an honour to suffer in the cause of peace, and on behalf of what I believe to be the true interests of my country,—though I could have wished that the blow had come from other hands, at a time when I could have been present to meet face to face those who dealt it.

In taking my leave of you, and of public life, let me assure you that I can never forget the many—the innumerable—kindnesses I have received from my friends amongst you. No one will rejoice more than I shall in all that brings you prosperity and honour; and I am not without a hope that, when a calmer hour shall come, you will say of Mr. Gibson and of me, that, as colleagues in your representation for ten years, we have not sacrificed our principles to gain popularity, or bartered our independence for the emoluments of office, or the favours of the great. I feel that we have stood for the rights, and interests, and freedom of the people, and that we have not tarnished the honour or lessened the renown of your eminent city.—I am now, as I have hitherto been, very faithfully yours, JOHN BRIGHT.

Florence, March 31, 1857.

THE NEW PARLIAMENT.

THE following is a list of the members returned, since our last issue, by English and Welsh counties and Irish and Scotch constituencies, arranged according to their general political opinions. The names of the late members who have been defeated, or have not presented themselves for re-election, are indented to the right.

ENGLISH AND WELSH COUNTIES.

Places and Representatives.	L.	C.
BEDFORDSHIRE—		
Mr. F. H. Russell	1	0
Colonel Gilpin	0	1
BERKSHIRE—		
Mr. R. Palmer	0	1
Hon. P. P. Bouverie	1	0
Mr. G. H. Vansittart	0	1
Lord Barrington (C.)		
CAMBRIDGESHIRE—		
Hon. E. T. Yorke	0	1
Mr. E. Ball	0	1
Mr. Adeane	1	0
Lord G. Manners (C.)		
CHESHIRE, NORTH—		
Mr. W. T. Egerton	0	1
Mr. G. C. Legh	0	1
CORNWALL, EAST—		
Mr. Robartes	1	0
Mr. Kendall	0	1
CUMBERLAND, WEST—		
General Wyndham	0	1
Captain Lowther	0	1
Mr. Irton (C.)		
DENBIGHSHIRE—		
Colonel Biddulph	1	0
Sir W. W. Wynn	0	1
DERBYSHIRE, NORTH—		
Mr. Thornhill	1	0
Hon. G. Cavendish	1	0
DEVONSHIRE, NORTH—		
Mr. J. W. Buller	1	0
Hon. C. Trefusis	0	1
Sir T. Acland (C.)		
Colonel Buck (C.)		
DORSETSHIRE—		
Mr. Portman	1	0
Mr. Ker Seymer	0	1
Mr. Sturt	0	1
Mr. Floyer (C.)		
DURHAM, SOUTH—		
Mr. Pease	1	0
Lord H. Vane	1	0
Mr. Farrer (C.)		
FLINTSHIRE—		
Hon. T. E. L. Mostyn	1	0
GLAMORGANSHIRE—		
Mr. C. Talbot	1	0
Mr. H. Vivian	1	0
Sir G. Tyler (C.)		
HAMPSHIRE, NORTH—		
Mr. Beach	0	1
Mr. Sclater	0	1
Mr. M. Portal (C.)		
Viscount Eversley (L.)		
HAMPSHIRE, SOUTH—		
Hon. R. Dutton	0	1
Sir J. Jervoise	1	0
Lord W. Cholmondeley (C.)		
Mr. H. C. Compton (C.)		
KENT, WEST—		
Mr. W. Martin	1	0
Mr. Whatman	1	0
Mr. M. Smith (C.)		
LEICESTERSHIRE, NORTH—		
Lord J. Manners	0	1
Mr. Farnham	0	1
LINCOLNSHIRE, SOUTH—		
Sir J. Trollope	0	1
Mr. Willson	0	1
Lord Burghley (C.)		
MIDDLESEX—		
Lord R. Grosvenor	1	0
Mr. R. Hanbury, jun.	1	0
Mr. B. Osborne (L.)		
NORFOLK, EAST—		
Sir E. N. Buxton	1	0
General Windham	1	0
Sir H. Stracey (C.)		
Mr. H. N. Burroughes (C.)		
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE, SOUTH—		
Lord Althorp	1	0
Mr. Knightley	0	1
Colonel Vyse (C.)		
OXFORDSHIRE—		
Mr. Henley	0	1
Mr. G. V. Harcourt	0	1
Colonel North	0	1
SOMERSETSHIRE, EAST—		
Mr. Miles	0	1
Colonel Knatchbull	0	1
SURREY, WEST—		
Mr. Briscoe	1	0
Mr. H. Drummond	0	1
Mr. Evelyn (C.)		
SUSSEX, EAST—		
Mr. Dodson	1	0
Lord Pevensey	0	1
Mr. Fuller (C.)		
WARWICKSHIRE, NORTH—		
Mr. Spooner	0	1
Mr. Newdegate	0	1
WIGHT, ISLE OF—		
Mr. Clifford	1	0
Colonel F. V. Harcourt (C.)		
WILTS, SOUTH—		
Mr. S. Herbert	1	0
Mr. W. Wyndham	1	0
YORKSHIRE, NORTH—		
Hon. O. Duncombe	0	1
Mr. Cayley	1	0

SCOTLAND.

ABERDEENSHIRE—		
Lord Haddo	0	1
ARGYLESHIRE—		
Mr. Finlay	1	0
Sir A. Campbell (C.)		
AYR BURGHS—		
Mr. Craufurd	1	0
CAITHNESS-SHIRE—		
Mr. Traill	1	0
DUMBARTONSHIRE—		
Mr. Smollett	0	1
LANARKSHIRE—		
Sir E. Colebroke	1	0
Mr. B. Cochrane (C.)		
PERTHSHIRE—		
Mr. W. Stirling	0	1
SUTHERLANDSHIRE—		
Marquis of Stafford	1	0
WIGTONSHIRE—		
Sir A. Agnew	1	0

IRELAND.

ARMAGH, COUNTY—		
Sir W. Verner	0	1
Mr. Close	0	1
Colonel Caulfeild (L.)		
CARLOW, COUNTY—		
Mr. Bruen	0	1
Captain Bunbury	0	1
Mr. J. Ball (L.)		
CORK, COUNTY—		
Mr. Deasy	1	0
Mr. Macarthy	1	0
Mr. V. Scully (L.)		
DONEGAL, COUNTY—		
Major Conolly	0	1
Sir E. Hayes	0	1
DROGHEDA—		
Mr. M'Cann	1	0
FERMANAGH—		
Captain Archdall	0	1
Hon. H. A. Cole	0	1
KERRY, COUNTY—		
Mr. A. Herbert	1	0
Lord Castlerosse	1	0
KILDARE, COUNTY—		
Mr. Henchy	1	0
Mr. Cogan	1	0
LISBURN—		
Mr. Richardson	1	0
LONDONDERRY, COUNTY—		
Mr. Clark	0	1
Mr. Greer	1	0
Captain Jones (C.)		
Captain Bateson (C.)		
LOUTH, COUNTY—		
Mr. Fortescue	1	0
Mr. M'Clintock	0	1
Mr. Kennedy (L.)		
MAYO, COUNTY—		
Captain Palmer	0	1
Mr. G. H. Moore	0	1
Colonel Higgins (L.)		
MEATH, COUNTY—		
Mr. Connolly	1	0
Mr. M'Evoy	0	1
Mr. Corbally (L.)		
MONAGHAN, COUNTY—		
Sir G. Forster	0	1
Mr. C. P. Leslie	0	1
QUEEN'S COUNTY—		
Sir C. Coote	0	1
Mr. Magan	0	1
ROSCOMMON, COUNTY—		
Mr. Grace	1	0
Colonel F. French	1	0
SLIGO, COUNTY—		
Sir R. G. Booth	0	1
Mr. E. J. Cooper	0	1
Mr. Swift (L.)		
TYRONE, COUNTY—		
Lord C. Hamilton	0	1
Mr. T. L. Corry	0	1
WATERFORD, COUNTY—		
Mr. Power	1	0
Mr. Esmonde	1	0
WESTMEATH, COUNTY—		
Mr. Magan	1	0
Sir R. Levinge	0	1
Mr. P. Urquhart (L.)		
WEXFORD, COUNTY—		
Mr. Hatchell	1	0
Mr. M'Mahon	0	1
Mr. George (C.)		

ACCIDENTS AND SUDDEN DEATHS.

THE wife of the Rev. T. J. Wylde, minister of the village of North Wraxall, has been burnt to death, in consequence of her night-clothes catching fire from a taper by her bedside. She was ill, and had apparently got out of bed in the temporary absence of her husband, when the lamentable event took place. On the room being entered, she was found sitting in a chair, on fire, dead, with the bell-rope clutched in her hand.

A portion of the abutment wall on the down line of the Edinburgh and Glasgow railway fell a few days ago as a train was coming up. The driver, with great promptitude, backed the engine; and thus an accident, which might have been most disastrous, was averted. No great damage was sustained by the passengers.

Captain Henry King, of the 21st Fusiliers, has been drowned while bathing near the rocks outside Fort Ricasoli, Malta. The sea was very heavy at the time, and was too much for his strength. He was only twenty-four.

A boy of six years of age, named William James Jewell, has been killed by a blow on his head from a pole, which struck him while looking at a street exhibition of tumblers in Plumstead. A couple of men, in company with several others, were performing various feats of strength, when the pole accidentally slipped out of their hands and struck the child on the head with such force as to render him completely insensible. He died a few hours afterwards. An inquest was held, when the jury returned a verdict in accordance with the facts, and expressed their opinion that such heavy and unwieldy instruments should not be used in places where great crowds of people are collected.

As the carriages were being prepared for the eleven o'clock train to Ballymena, on Thursday, an engine boiler exploded, and the fireman, who was the only one

on her, was killed. The engine was raised quite off the rails, and carried over two waggons, a distance of about thirty yards, when it fell on its side, much battered. The fireman was blown high in the air, and alighted in a field about forty perches away. He was quite dead and much mutilated.

A special train which left Lanark at ten o'clock on Monday—carrying the state of the poll to Glasgow, and some gentlemen who intended to record their votes—overtook a mineral engine near Overton station. The train was proceeding at nearly full speed, and the collision was very violent. The driver, guard, and stoker of the special train, besides some passengers, were hurt, but not seriously.

A young man employed as an overlooker in the factory of Messrs. Brown and Co., Bradford, has been caught by a shaft in the machinery, and beaten to pieces in a few minutes. The body was fearfully mangled.

While hunting last Saturday, Mr. William Lawson, the late Liberal candidate for West Cumberland, was thrown from his horse and severely injured.

STATE OF TRADE.

The trade reports from the manufacturing towns for the week ending last Saturday state that business has received a slight check from the advance in the Bank rate of discount, especially at Manchester, where caution is also induced by doubts as to the stability of the cotton-market. At Birmingham, there has been no alteration in the iron trade. The foreign demand for metal manufactures has been good, and the general occupations of the place exhibit average activity. In the woollen districts there has been dulness. The Nottingham advices state the American orders for hosiery to be very large, while for home account the transactions both in hosiery and lace have been limited. In the Irish linen-markets there has been a fair amount of business without any general alteration in prices.—*Times.*

In the general business of the port of London during the same week there has been increased activity. The number of vessels reported inward was 276, being 115 more than in the previous week. The total number cleared outward was 145, including 31 in ballast, showing an increase of six.—*Idem.*

The hands in the employment of Mr. Hollins, cotton-spinner, Preston, have struck rather than submit to a reduction of ten per cent. on their wages; and about two hundred are now out. A meeting of those on strike was held on Thursday week, and a committee has been appointed to solicit subscriptions from the workpeople at other mills, as well as the general public.

IRELAND.

An "Orange" Riot.—Several of the students of Trinity College, Dublin, attempted last Saturday afternoon to march in procession round the statue of William III. in College-green, in consequence of the election of Messrs. Napier and Hamilton. They were opposed by the police, and a great deal of rioting took place during the whole of the day; but no serious damage was done.

Important Legal Decision.—The Encumbered Estates Court has decided, by a large majority, that the decision of the Court of Queen's Bench in the case of "Errington *v.* Rorke" should be overruled, and that a title granted by the Commissioners of the Encumbered Estates Court is indefeasible.

AMERICA.

Political news from America is at present almost non-existent. The chief fact is that the amended Dallas-Clarendon treaty has left the United States for England, accompanied, it is said, by the expression of a hope by Mr. Buchanan that the treaty thus modified may be accepted.—It was reported that despatches had been received from the United States Commissioners, Morse and Bonlin, relinquishing the hope of a peaceable adjustment of the difficulties with Granada, and adding that force will be necessary.—The new treaty with Mexico is said to contain a proposal for the establishment of a line of postal steamers between New Orleans and Vera Cruz, to run under the American flag: a force which it is thought would be used in resisting any attack which Spain may make on Mexico.

The Bank of Newcastle at Pittsburgh has suspended, and the cashier is reported to have absconded.—A person named Smith, the late Receiver-General and Treasurer of the Bahamas, has been tried and found guilty of embezzling certain public moneys, and sentenced to two years' imprisonment with hard labour.

President Baez, of St. Domingo, has announced an armistice of two years with Soulouque, of Hayti. Negotiations have been opened at Madrid with respect to the difficulty with regard to the naturalization of Spaniards.

A despatch from Fredericton, New Brunswick, dated March 26th, states that Governor Sutton prorogued the Legislature on that day, preparatory to a dissolution. A new election was expected immediately.

Several spirit dealers in New York are in the habit of selling fraudulent liquors under pretence of their being the wines of France and of other continental countries in Europe, or the porters and ales of London, Edinburgh, and Dublin. Simulated labels are placed on the bottles, and a Swiss, named Sandmeyer, has been sentenced to sixty days' imprisonment in the City prison for manufacturing these labels.

From Peru we hear that General Vivanco has left Truxillo with all his forces, and taken up quarters at Lambayeque. General Caravedo, with about two hundred revolutionists, took possession of the city of Piscora after six hours' fighting. The loss of killed and wounded was very considerable on both sides. The Piscoranos fought bravely.

Governor Geary, of Kansas territory, has resigned his office, alleging that he could not carry on the government in consequence of the failure of President Pierce to fulfil the pledges made at the time of his (Governor Geary's) appointment. These pledges included a promise to support him with an army of militia at the expense of the public treasury, if necessary; but this was not done.

A "new kind of fuel" is mentioned by the *New York Herald*, where we read:—"A farmer about one hundred and fifty miles south of Chicago got out of coal, and, as the roads were in a bad condition, he thought he would try the virtue of corn in the ear to supply the place of coal. It worked so well that subsequently he purchased a load of coal and tried it by measure in contrast with the corn; and the experiment developed the fact that the corn fuel was cheaper and better. The corn and the coal were worth the same price per bushel, thirty cents each, and the corn went the furthest and made the cleanest and best fire." If corn is to be consumed in this way, it would seem as if some one ought to discover a method of making coal eatable, in order to strike the balance.

The assertion that Walker's force had ascended the San Juan, had taken Castillo, and recaptured some of the steamers, now turns out to be false. The attack on Castillo failed; its leader, Colonel Titus—a Kansas "Border ruffian"—got into a mess, became frightened, and ran away. He has since been disgraced for cowardice. Walker has made two attempts to take San Jorge, but failed. His men, it is said, have been ill-treated by their officers, and have refused to advance.

An engagement with the Indians has taken place near Cypress Swamp, Key West. No particulars are yet known, except that the United States troops suffered considerable loss.

Nearly the whole of the business portion of the town of Plymouth, Iowa, was destroyed by fire on the 23rd ult. The loss is estimated at one hundred thousand dollars.

An anti-Comonfort rebellion has broken out at Jugula, Mexico. The rebels entered the town, shot the Mayor and several inhabitants, and marched on to Tusepan, the Indians committing great ravages.

A negro at Flemingsburg, Kentucky, has murdered his master, in revenge for frightful ill usage both of himself and wife. The man and woman fled into the thickets after the assassination, but they were soon pursued, and the woman drowned herself in a stream. The husband was captured, confessed the act, justified it, and, being tried and found guilty, was sentenced to death. In the same city, a young white man, who murdered another in the open streets, has been acquitted.

THE ORIENT.

SIAM.

The King of Siam, in order to carry into execution the treaties concluded between him and several European nations, had published the following edict:—"We, Sovereign of the country of Siam, the States of Laos, of Cambodia, of Malacca, and of Djoukseylon, wishing that the treaties we have concluded with the powerful nations of Europe—France, England, and Russia—may be executed in all their terms, communicate these conventions to the knowledge of the governors of our provinces, officers of customs, and all our subjects. We wish that the members of these various nations may travel freely through our states, trade therein, and practise their religion, conforming at the same time to our laws, and respecting the acts of our authority." Then follows this portentous signature,—"Phra-Bard-Somdetch-Phra-Paramendr-Maha-Mongkut-Phra-Chom-Klau-Chau-Yu-Hua. For the King and for the execution of his will,—Ramki-Mahisvvar, Minister of the Royal Edicts. Done in our palace at Bangkok, the 7th day of the 12th moon."

CONTINENTAL NOTES.

FRANCE.

"The Jesuit in the Family."—The *Indépendance Belge* ascribes to a Jesuit priest in Paris an act of self-sacrifice which we recommend to the attention of fashionable clergymen nearer home. It appears that the Jesuit Fathers in Paris are anxious to collect a considerable sum of money for some charitable purpose. The reverend father, who is engaged in organizing a subscription, bethought him of a lottery as peculiarly adapted to the prevailing taste of French society. But he pleads the utter inability of the Order to provide prizes for the successful drawers. What, therefore, shall be offered to subscribers to the lottery? The reverend father replies, "*Myself.* I will be the prize. For three days I will place myself at the entire and absolute disposal of the drawer of the prize." When we add that the holders in the lottery are exclusively ladies, we think this act of self-sacrifice on the part of the reverend Father Lefèvre will be duly appreciated.

The Press in France.—The *Progrès du Pas de Calais*, the journal in which the present Emperor of the French was wont to publish his meditations as "the Prisoner of Ham," has been suppressed for its articles recommending the liberal party to vote at the forthcoming elections in France.

Marshal Magnan, as Commander of the Army of Paris, has just issued an order to the effect that all Jewish soldiers shall be exempt from service during the solemnities of Easter, commencing on the 8th and ending on the evening of the 18th, in order that these men may be able to perform their religious duties. They were also allowed on Wednesday and Thursday to remain out of quarters until eleven o'clock at night.

The Council of State has brought to a conclusion the affair of M. de Dreux Brezé, the Bishop of Moulins, who was accused of abuse of authority, in having suspended certain clergymen without sufficient cause, in publishing synodal statutes contrary to law, and in a general infraction of the Concordat existing between France and the Pope. The decision (which was condemnatory of the Bishop) was arrived at by a very large majority, there being only four dissentients. One of these, M. Corundet, spoke warmly in favour of the Bishop, and proposed that a new Concordat should be concluded. It is stated by the Prefect of the department (the Allier) in which the Bishop's diocese is situated, that, were the ecclesiastic to present himself in public, he would probably be insulted and even roughly used. The finding of the Council of State will be communicated to the Court of Rome.—"With regard to the affair of the Bishop of Moulins," writes the *Times* correspondent, "it is said that the Pope has not demanded his resignation, as his Holiness did in the case of the Bishops of Luçon and Pamières, but that he has written to the prelate in friendly terms, recommending him to be more indulgent and conciliatory in future. Moreover, in consequence of the friendly intervention of the Pope and of some eminent prelates, and notwithstanding the decision of the Council of State, a better understanding has been established between the Government and M. de Dreux-Brezé. Marshal Pelissier, who it appears is an intimate friend of the Bishop, has assisted in bringing about a reconciliation."

The ship Catinat, which was sent in search of the sailors belonging to the Anais—the vessel seized by the Coolies on board, who murdered some of the crew—has taken away the men who were put on shore. The body of the murdered commander, Captain Cavignac, has been found and buried.

Some Government functionaries who attended the funeral of Madame de Larochejaquelein were dismissed or rebuked, as it was thought the act savoured of a too great partiality for the Bourbons. The deceased lady's son, who, so far from being a Bourbonite, is a member of the present Imperial Senate, was so indignant at this that he resigned his senatorial position. But the discharged functionaries were restored, and the Marquis retains his position.

TURKEY.

Riza Bey has been named Ambassador of the Porte at St. Petersburg. An energetic note relative to the delimitation of the Turkish and Persian frontiers has been presented to the Government of the Shah by the Sultan's Envoy.

In two cases, Christian witnesses have given evidence against Turks in Bosnia, and in both the Mussulmans were found guilty. The passport or card of identity system has been introduced into Bosnia.

Five hundred houses have been destroyed by a great fire at Salonica.

The *Turkish Gazette* announces the formation of a permanent diplomatic mission at St. Petersburg. This has not previously existed.

The Sultan visited Lord Lyons on board the Royal Albert on the afternoon of the 27th ult.

AUSTRIA.

General Count Marziani, who commanded the Austrian troops in Wallachia, has been named Governor-General of Transylvania and the Bukovina. He is to leave without delay for his post, in order to receive the Emperor on his visit to Transylvania in May.

The Hungarian party in Vienna is much dejected, because it is aware of what took place at a Cabinet Council which was held about ten days ago. The Emperor, who presided, most positively stated that it was not his intention to make any changes, either in the form of government or in the political division of Hungary. The Hungarians believed that a very extensive sphere of action would be granted to the "representation" of the country, and that the Temesch Banat and Servian Voivodina would again form a part of the kingdom, but they are now aware that they have deceived themselves. A general amnesty will be granted, real grievances redressed, and perhaps some taxes remitted, but the principle of the unity of the empire will be most rigidly maintained.—*Times Vienna Correspondent, April* 1.

Count Wimpffen, a Protestant, has been appointed to the command of the First Army, the head-quarters of which are situated at Vienna.

Diplomatic communication between Austria and Sardinia is for the present suspended. "When the Imperial Royal Government ordered the Austrian Legation to quit Turin," says the *Oesterreichische Correspondenz*, "it expressed its resolve that the measure should not be prejudicial to Sardinian subjects travelling to or residing in Austria, and the Sardinian Cabinet has declared that the cessation of the diplomatic relations shall neither interrupt the intercourse of Austrian subjects with Sardinia, nor be prejudicial to the rights of the same. In the official communication involved in this question the grievances of Austria against Sardinia were not touched on." The Sardinian residents in Austria have been placed under the protection of M. de Bourqueney, the French minister at Vienna. In the despatch of the Sardinian Government to the Marquis de Cantano, recalling him from the Austrian capital, the previous recal of Count Paar from Turin is alluded to as an "unjustifiable" step; but the general tone of the document is courteous towards Austria.

The murrain has appeared among the cattle at Ungarisch-Hradisch, a station on the Northern Railroad, at a distance of about one hundred English miles from Vienna. Until now, only two oxen have died, but a cordon has been established, and the price of meat must rise, as there is a great cattle market at Hradisch.—*Times Vienna Correspondent.*

MONTENEGRO.

A civil war is thought likely to break out shortly in Montenegro, the Russians having, for certain state reasons, conceived a strong feeling against Prince Danilo, and some new laws and taxes having given offence to the people.

BELGIUM.

Vicount Vilain XIV., the Belgian Minister of Foreign Affairs, has spoken in the Chamber of Representatives with great indignation on the subject of the Protectionist riots at Tournay, during which there were cries of "Throw the English into the water!" The Minister remarked that such an exhibition of spiteful prejudice was peculiarly painful on account of its coming so quickly after the generous eulogium on Belgium pronounced by Lord Palmerston at Tiverton.

ITALY.

The Grand Duke of Tuscany has declined, "for the present," to conclude a Concordat with the Pope. The King of Naples, it is said, has intimated the same refusal, while professing unbounded love for the Holy See, and a willingness to make voluntary concessions. A Neapolitan Concordat, however, is talked of.

A bill for the reconstruction of the Jewish congregations in Sardinia has been introduced into the Chamber of Deputies. According to its provisions, says the Turin correspondent of the *Times*, "all Jewish congregations composed of persons residing in the same commune will form separate corporate bodies. They will therefore be invested with certain privileges, and have the right of holding property. They will be governed by Councils of Administration elected by the whole of the ratepayers. The Councils will be charged with arranging the general expenses of religion and administration. The expenses will be divided among the members of the congregation, according to their position, their professions, and their means. The poor—those who do not pay any direct tax to the State—will be exempt from all charge. The Rabbis are to be elected by the votes of the ratepayers. The bill encountered some opposition from those who would have liked to see full and entire liberty granted in all matters of religion; but the House finally expressed its approbation by a majority of 29—*i. e.*, 76 to 47."

Prince Rinaldo Simonetti has been placed under arrest in his own house at Bologna under rather peculiar circumstances. When the Emperor of Austria was in Italy, a certain Buonafede, who had been in confinement in Mantua, or Milan, appeared in Bologna, and, by a piteous tale of ill-usage, induced the Prince to employ him in his household as an accountant. After a time, suspicions of the man were entertained; he was watched, and a letter was intercepted which proved that he was an Austrian spy. The Prince reproached Buonafede with his ingratitude and treachery; on which the man went to the Austrian Commandant (to whom the letter had been addressed) and told him what had occurred. The Commandant, it is stated, then required of Monsignor Amici, the Papal Commissioner Extraordinary, that Prince Simonetti and a clerk at the Post-office, suspected of being concerned in the interception of the letter, should be imprisoned. This was at once done with respect to the clerk, but the Prince it was thought necessary to deal with more circumspectly. However, he was confined to his own house, and a sentinel was placed at the door of his apartment, to prevent his issuing forth. Monsignor Amici afterwards visited and interrogated him, and, having reported the affair to his own Government, received an order to release the Prince from arrest, but at the same time to recommend him to retire to his country-house.

A letter from Florence, of the 29th of March, states that the small financial world in Tuscany is in motion, in consequence of the principal merchants of Florence and Leghorn having announced their intention to establish a Tuscan bank, having branches in the principal towns, issuing notes, discounting commercial bills, lending money on a deposit of public securities, and opening accounts current. The managers propose to lend 4,000,000 livres to the Government, who on their part engage to receive the notes of the bank in all the public offices.

Count Cavour received on the 2nd of April a provincial deputation, thanking him for the language he held in defence of the Italian cause at the Congress of Paris. On the other hand, the Neapolitan Government has made a complaint to that of Sardinia about the circulation of a medal struck in remembrance of Bentivegno, the chief of the late Sicilian insurrection, and of Milano, who attempted the life of the King of Naples. As the medal was struck at Geneva, in Switzerland, and has never been publicly sold in Sardinia, Count Cavour has remonstrated against being connected in any way with the matter.—*Morning Star.*

A placard, signed "The People of the City of Palermo," has been circulated among the Neapolitans. It is highly revolutionary. "Ferdinand II.," say the writers, "is crime personified. All that belongs to him is corrupt. The tree must fall with its branches. Repel the sword with the sword, the dagger with the dagger—life for life. . . . . Pardon his (the King's) young wolves, yes; but him, or the perfidious Austrian, never. . . . Long live Italian unity!"

SPAIN.

The elections in Spain have given a large majority to the Government; but it is anticipated that, after the Cortes have met, there will be many defections from the present avowed supporters of Narvaez, and that the various sections of the Opposition, uniting, will be able to damage, if not upset, the Ministry. At any rate, the success of the ruling party, whether temporary or permanent, seems to have been obtained by illegality, corruption, and the unsparing exercise of arbitrary power; and the Government has exhibited a spirit of spitefulness where it has failed. Don Rafael Navascues, Governor of the province of Cadiz, has been deposed from his office because the Opposition candidates have succeeded there, contrary to all expectation—a result which, it is thought, the Governor should have prevented. The tyranny exercised over the press is as rigorous as ever. The *Iberia* is to be prosecuted for an article questioning the legality of the elections, and the Government demands a penalty of 800,000 reals.

SWEDEN.

The Diet has unanimously approved the abolition of the Sound Dues and the treaty concluded with the various powers.

DENMARK.

The *Nord* of Brussels says that, in the reply of the Cabinet of St. Petersburg to the circular despatch of M. de Scheele, Russia recommends Denmark to display deference and conciliatory dispositions towards the great German powers, and solicits her to discuss the question with Germany in a direct manner, without heightening the difficulties by any intervention of other parties.

DANUBIAN PRINCIPALITIES.

A horrible act of butchery has been committed by some Turkish soldiers on a gardener and his wife in the service of a Prussian, living at Bucharest. The latter was reported to be in possession of a considerable sum of money, which attracted the cupidity of several men in a Turkish regiment recently stationed in the town. Luckily for the owner of the property, he only resided at Bucharest during the summer months, leaving his house for the winter in charge of his gardener, who lived there with his wife and two children, consisting of a boy about eight years old, and a baby. One evening the soldiers forcibly entered the house, and, to the great surprise and terror of the inmates, peremptorily ordered the man to deliver up his money to them. Three roubles was all that he was able to give the ruffians, at which they were so exasperated that they seized an axe and struck both the man and his wife several heavy blows with it, hacking and mangling their bodies in a frightful manner. An alarm was at once raised by their eldest child, but, before any assistance could be obtained, the perpetrators of the outrage had fled, leaving the bodies of the man and woman lifeless on the floor of the room. The husband's skull was cleft in two, the axe still remaining in it, and pinning him to the ground; the baby lay stretched on its mother's breast, and, although covered with blood, was altogether unhurt. No traces of the murderers have yet been discovered, the murdered man's son not having been able to identify any man in the Turkish regiment, which has been repeatedly paraded since the commission of the crime. Some persons assert that the authors of the deed were Austrian soldiers in Turkish uniform, but the only reasons for supposing this seem to lie in the fact of the assassins not being recognised by the boy amongst the Turks, and of the murder being committed in the quarter where the Austrian troops were billeted. When, however, we call to memory the numberless atrocities committed by the Austrians during their occupation of the Principality, and when, moreover, we find that the Turks have been free from any imputation of disorderly conduct, the reasons given for suspecting the troops of Francis Joseph acquire not a little force.

OUR CIVILIZATION.

A SOMERSETSHIRE MURDER.

A TRIAL for murder terminated the Spring Assizes at Taunton on Friday week, when Thomas Nation, a young man, was charged with slaying John Aplin, at Wiveliscombe, on the 23rd of last December. The story was clearly told in the able summing-up of the Judge (Lord Chief Justice Cockburn), and we reproduce the narrative as there set forth:—

"The prisoner and the deceased were together during the greater part of the day on which the murder was committed, and it was proved that Aplin had five sovereigns in his pocket. The ostler said the prisoner insisted upon going in the cart with the deceased. Alpin (who was drunk) took out his money, and Thomas Alpin (his brother) said, 'Put up your money again in your purse;' he did so, and the ostler said the prisoner could hear and see that. The horse was young and spirited. Aplin was starting when Nation jumped up into the cart and wanted to drive, but the deceased said he would drive himself, and they went off at a slow pace shortly before nine. They went through the turnpike, came back again, and then returned. What it was they turned back for is not known. Nation spoke to the turnpike woman. They were then going on towards their home. At a point where Grant's-lane turned off, a man named Waterman, who was at work at the corner, said he saw a cart with two men in it turn down the lane. No other cart had gone through the turnpike. He saw a barrel in the cart, and Aplin's cart had a barrel in it when they started from Wiveliscombe. Waterman heard the church clock strike nine at the time he saw the cart. The cart was now traced into the cutting in Grant's-lane, and it must have been half an hour in Grant's-lane before the dead body was discovered. A person named Slocombe and his wife were passed by the cart. The horse was galloping. There was then, apparently, no one in the cart. Mr. and Mrs. Slocombe walked slowly on to their home, half a mile off, and it was then ten minutes to ten. Then the witnesses spoke to the cart stopping and to finding the dead body of the deceased in it. The body was searched, but there was no money nor purse. They then had evidence of the distances between the several points. Dr. Edwards came, and he traced back the marks of a horse's hoof till he came to a pool of blood, the size of a sheet of blotting-paper. Dr. Edwards afterwards described the state of the body. When did they next see or hear of the prisoner? He was seen by a young girl some distance off at ten o'clock, and she had a conversation with him, and they wished each other 'good night.' The alarm of murder had been given, and, as it was known that Nation had been last seen with Aplin, the constables went to his father's house, some eight miles off. He was not to be found. They watched the road, and about seven in the morning the prisoner was observed coming, and they took him. They proceeded to search him, and they described what they found upon him. They then came to a footmark, and that was very important. Were they satisfied that that was the track of the prisoner's boot? because, if they were, it was evident that the prisoner had gone from that spot on foot. He must have gone there in the cart, and returned on foot. If, therefore, they traced him to the spot, what was the inference? The evidence weighed with fearful force against the prisoner, and the learned counsel for the defence had endeavoured to meet it. It was for them to say whether they thought the evidence identified the track with the boot. The nails were put in irregularly. Would that have happened to another boot, although made by the same maker? They then had the evidence of Mr. Herepath, the analytical chemist, as to the blood. It had been proved that on that day the prisoner had three teeth drawn. It would be dangerous, therefore, to attach any great importance to the fact of some few minute spots of blood being found on his clothes. But then came the knife. The question was, was there blood found on the knife? Was it human blood? They would take the knife and look at it. Mr. Herepath had explained to them his view of it. He said it could not be the blood of an animal, as described by the prisoner. It excited surprise when they heard that Nation had eaten his meat raw. Still, that might be so. [Some of the witnesses had stated that it is not uncommon in that part of the country for the lower orders to eat their meat raw when they have not got the time or the means to cook it.] But Mr. Herepath took upon himself to say it was not the blood of a dead animal. It was living blood, and it was human blood, and he had shown them the marvellous powers of the modern microscope. At the same time, admitting the great advantages of science, they were coming to great niceties indeed when they speculated upon things almost beyond perception, and he would advise them not to convict on this scientific speculation alone. Then came the fact about the money. Nation at first denied having more than one sovereign and 10d. in copper. Ultimately he gave up three more sovereigns, but no silver. Aplin had five sovereigns; and on the prisoner were found four. What had become of the other sovereign? It might have dropped in the scuffle. The father says he let him have the money, and had given an account of the money he had, which had been confirmed by the

actuary from the savings-bank. One could understand how a poor old man, seeing the prisoner in such peril, might give way to temptation and perjure himself to save his own son's life. The three constables said the old man had stated that his son had only a few shillings; but then they all differed as to the questions which had been put to the father. The father must have known that four sovereigns were found on his son. If the old man's story was false, would he not have said he gave him four sovereigns, and not three sovereigns and half-a-sovereign? Would not that go some way to satisfy them that the old man's story was true? He had thought it right to make these observations, and they must deal with them."

Nation was found Guilty, and sentenced to death. The execution has been fixed for next Tuesday week, the 21st inst.

MORE ABOUT MODERN WITCHCRAFT.

A singular communication appears in the *Times* of Tuesday. It is from a country magistrate, who does not give his name or place of abode, but who sets forth the substance, and even the minute phraseology, of an application made to him during last November by a farmer "in the parish of Hockham." The farmer's wife was bewitched, and the symptoms were of this astonishing character:—"Continual worrying—like wind teasing her, and like a sow with all her young pigs a-pulling her to pieces." They had spent every shilling in doctors, but all in vain. Therefore, the farmer wanted his worship to grant a warrant "to have the witch proved"—that is to say, to cause her to be swum. "I've heard say that, if they be witches, and if you take a line (not to do them any harm, but just to swim 'em), they won't sink. I've heard say that there was a gentleman at —— who had one swum in the river. *I don't know exactly how it finished, but I heard she didn't live long after it.* . . . . . I do hope your worship will grant the police to take old Mrs. C. all of a sudden—by surprise like—and take her to a pit and swim her (not to hurt her). If she's an upright woman, she'll sink, and if she don't sink it'll prove her guilty." This statement was followed by a metaphysical discourse between the magistrate and the farmer on the subject of demoniacal possession, the magistrate in vain endeavouring to cure the applicant of his superstition. Finding he could not obtain the judicial assent to the trial by drowning, the farmer asked his worship to take the supposed witch into a room, and have her stripped, to see "if she had anything bad about her." Being asked what she was likely to have about her that was bad, the man replied, "Why, sir, some say that they have imps about them; *but I don't know.*" "What is an imp?" asked the magistrate. "I don't know, sir," answered the farmer, whose faith seems to have struggled with some doubt as regards details—"unless it be some bad spirit or other from the power of old Satan; *but I never seed one.*" He then gave the following relation of the way in which the source of his wife's ailments was traced to Mrs. C.:—"My wife was advised to send for the woman ——, of ——, who is wonderful clever in these things. She came and told us to take some particular liquid and put it in a bottle with some of the hairs out of the noddle of my wife's neck, and the parings of her finger-nails and toe-nails (these we cut quite close), and some old horse-shoe nails. (These, you see, sir, are little schemes which go from one generation to another; *there's always something to be learned out of the weakest and ignorantest.*) Well, sir, we put the bottle on the fire, and we waits while it's boiling and burning, and what not; and when it bursts we looks out of the window, and the evil-disposed person stands before us. Last Friday night was a month that my wife did this; and, after she done it, she got out of bed, as she do sometimes, to take a drop of drink or a little magnesia, and she looked out of the window, and there she saw the woman C—— standing before the window, at a most unsealable hour, in the moonlight, in an agony sort of state." It does not appear what became of the old lady who thus presented herself "at an unsealable hour;" but, from information afterwards obtained by the magistrate, it appears that, if you resolutely refuse to speak to the witch when thus forced to appear, she will go home and die. In the course of further conversation between the magistrate and the farmer, a very prosaic monetary reason for suppressing witchcraft was advanced by the latter. "Sir, if our squire knew that there was any such bad things as witchcraft in the parish, he would have it altered; *because, you know, sir, I have to pay the rates and taxes, hard and fast.*" But, finding he could not obtain an order for the watery ordeal, he hit upon a very strange substitute. "Can't you at any rate have her *hitched to the Union House? That might be a benefit.*"

The magistrate afterwards had some conversation with the occupants of a neighbouring cottage, who gave him further particulars of the black art, and argued the theory upon abstract grounds.

The *Times* has had a leading article on the subject; but we confess we should have been better satisfied had a few names been given.

THE ASSIZES.

Joseph Stillman and William Hayes have been found Guilty at Gloucester of a highway robbery, with violence, on John Paine, at Bristol, on the 9th of last January. Paine, who is an old man, was in the employment of some coal merchants at Bristol, and was proceeding with a packet of money belonging to his master, to the house of one of the partners at Kingsdown, when he was met by three men (two of whom were the prisoners), who took the money from him, and beat him violently across the face. One of the witnesses at the trial—a man named Thomas—was apprehended under suspicion of being the third man; but he turned Queen's evidence. His testimony, however, was doubtful, and it was not even certain that he was concerned in the robbery; for a man, named Manning, absconded shortly after the affair, as if from a guilty knowledge. The case being fully proved against Stillman and Hayes, and a previous conviction having been established against the latter, the one was sentenced to twenty and the other to fifteen years' transportation.

A Mr. Shellingford has obtained 800*l.* damages from the Chester and Holyhead Railway Company on account of an accident on their line, from which he received injuries on the hip and head, to such an extent as to deprive him of a post worth from 300*l.* to 350*l.* a year, which he held at the railway post-office. The company did not dispute the allegation of negligence on the part of their servants (the accident arose from the wrong turning of the points in the Bangor tunnel, so that the carriages went off the right line, and came into collision with some railway trucks); but they left the question of damages to the decision of the jury.

The case of ill usage of English sailors on board the American ship James L. Bogart was tried on Friday week at the Chester Assizes, where Peter Campbell, one of the men of the vessel in question, was indicted for shooting James Chrystie, an English sailor. Charles Vanderpole, another English seaman, said that, on the night of Saturday, January 17th, he and Chrystie left Birkenhead in a boat to go on board the Robin Hood, to which they belonged. They were taken on board the James L. Bogart instead, under pretence of that being the right ship. "I was wakened next morning, between five and six o'clock," continued Vanderpole, "by the second boatswain, and was sent to clean the top-gallant forecastle. Campbell then called us to breakfast. After breakfast, we were standing up, and Campbell told the second boatswain to go to the forecastle and take some men with him. Chrystie told the second mate that he did not ship for that vessel. Campbell laid hold of him by the back of the neck. Chrystie ran away. The second mate (the prisoner) had a six-barrelled pistol in his hand. Furber, the chief mate, then picked up a billet of wood to strike Chrystie with. He threw it at the latter, and then picked it up again. Campbell was chasing Chrystie as well, and he cried out, 'Shoot the —— if they won't work.' He fired three times at Chrystie. The chief mate fired as well. After firing, they went off. Chrystie then came and stood by me. The prisoner and the chief mate came to us, and said, 'Will you work?' We replied, 'We will, if you will treat us like men.' Campbell then fired at me, but did not hit me. I heard a ball whistle past. He then fired at Chrystie, who cried out, 'Oh God, I'm shot!' Before firing, Campbell said, 'I'll shoot every one of you.' Chrystie stood still after being shot. One of the men then struck the chief mate, and he fell on the deck. The chief mate was struck with a handpike. When he fell, he was bleeding very much. The pilot and steward then ran up a signal of distress, and soon after the officers came on board. The chief mate and Chrystie were taken to the hospital." Chrystie confirmed this statement; and Campbell, being found Guilty, was sentenced to transportation for life.

CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT.

The April session commenced on Monday. The trial of Thomas Bacon and his wife for the murder of their children was postponed to next session. The first case tried was that of William Smith, a lad of fifteen, indicted for perjury in having falsely procured the conviction of another lad, whom he charged with an offence for which sentence of death was recorded. Suspicions of Smith's veracity having been entertained, steps were taken to put it to the proof, when he confessed that he had told a lie. The sentence against the other lad was then reversed, and he was declared Not Guilty. Smith was now convicted, and sentenced to fourteen days' imprisonment, and then to be kept in a reformatory school for three years.

Two letter-carriers in the employ of the General Post-office have been found Guilty of stealing letters containing money, and have been sentenced to four years' penal servitude.—Another postman was charged with misdemeanour in delaying to deliver certain letters committed to his charge. When he was first questioned with respect to the letters, he said he had concealed them in a field, and he showed the place. His excuse was that he was too tired to deliver them overnight, but meant to do so the next day. He was found Guilty, and condemned to hard labour for eighteen months.

Sarah Price, a miserable-looking young woman, was tried for the murder of her infant child. She threw it, with a ligature tied round the throat, into the canal in the Regent's Park, after being driven to despair, and apparently to insanity, by the desertion of her by the child's father, and by the state of extreme poverty to which she was reduced. She attempted shortly afterwards to drown herself, but was prevented by a policeman coming up. Her blood, she said, was all turned to cold water, and she added that she felt it cold round her loins at the moment she was speaking. She also stated that the child was suffering from diseased kidneys, and that that was one of the reasons why she killed it; and she said she wished she was where it was. A verdict of acquittal was pronounced, on the ground of insanity.

Alexander Clark, an American and a photographic artist, was indicted for the manslaughter of Eliza Bunn. The woman had had a photograph of her little boy taken at Clark's house, but there was a subsequent quarrel with respect to its not being sent in, though the money had been paid. After high words on both sides, a scuffle ensued, and Clark was severely handled by the woman and a female friend of hers, both of whom were very violent. He was thrown down into a pan of water, but got up again, seized a hammer, and struck Mrs. Bunn on the head, of which blow she died. At his trial, Clark said he had acted in self-defence (it appeared, indeed, that there was a great deal of struggling for the hammer), and he expressed deep contrition for what he had done. He was found Not Guilty.

John Tobin, John Davis, John Vernon, and George Brodrick, were tried on Tuesday for stealing certain pieces of hide from Mr. Waring, a hide and skin merchant in Bermondsey; and Alfred Bevington and James Proctor, who are glue merchants in the same neighbourhood, were charged with receiving the property, knowing it to have been stolen. The hides were offered to and purchased by them at a price far below their proper value; and this was the principal point relied upon in support of the prosecution. But it was elicited in the course of the case that every transaction with Tobin, who was the seller of the pieces, was regularly entered in the books, and that there was not the slightest concealment in any respect. It also appeared that Tobin was known to be a man who went about the country collecting small lots of the article in question for the purpose of disposing of them to wholesale dealers, and that the sales were effected by sample; and there was no proof that Messrs. Bevington and Proctor ever saw the article that was delivered in bulk, or that they were aware of its quality. They were therefore Acquitted. All the rest were found Guilty. Tobin was sentenced to eighteen months' hard labour, Vernon to twelve, Davis to six, and Brodrick to four.

A man named Fowler has been sentenced to transportation for life for coining. A woman assistant was at the same time condemned to six months' imprisonment.

Lewis Evans, an old seaman, was found Guilty of defrauding the East India Company under circumstances which appeared in our paper last week. He was sentenced to three months' imprisonment.

William Webb, *alias* Philip Cohen, *alias* Philip Neesy, a young man only nineteen years of age, was tried on Thursday for the murderous assault on Mr. Alfred Buckler committed in a railway-carriage on the 5th of March. He was found Guilty, his counsel admitting that there was no possible defence; and, although convicted on the minor count of wounding with intent to do bodily harm, instead of the first count which declared the intent to be murder, he was sentenced to transportation for life.

Abraham Rechtherd, a German, has been found Guilty of the attempt to extort money from his employer, Asher Stern, under a threat of accusing him of committing arson, of which we gave the details last week. The trial of the two other persons concerned with him was postponed till next session; and so also was the sentence on Rechtherd.

Robert M'Donald has been sentenced to six years penal servitude for a murderous attack on an African seaman at Wapping. Another man who was charged with participating in the offence was Acquitted.

MIDDLESEX SESSIONS.

Joseph Petit, a Frenchman, has been tried on several charges of robbing hotels. He would take a bedroom at some well-known house, would ransack several of the rooms, and depart with his booty. He was furnished with a great many disguises, including artificial beards and moustaches, and seems to have exhibited much ingenuity in his thefts and evasions of detection. The defence was that he had suffered illness and money losses in the East, and that his brain was affected; but he was found Guilty. He has been sentenced to penal servitude for five years.

John Borman was convicted of robbery at an election meeting, and, being an old offender, was sentenced to four years' penal servitude.

A case of ingratitude on the part of a ticket-of-leave man, similar to one we reported last week, was tried on Monday. George Corbishley, a respectable-looking, middle-aged man, of good education, was charged with embezzling four sums of money, amounting in all to 38*l.* 11*s.*, from Mr. Reuben Courtwell Greatorex, an architect and builder, in whose employment he lived as

clerk and collector. He had been previously tried and found Guilty of forging a bill of exchange. The sentence was seven years' transportation; but he was liberated on ticket-of-leave, and Mr. Greatorex, out of kindness, and having received a good recommendation from the chaplain of Dartmoor prison and from Messrs. Grissell, with whom the man had lived previous to his conviction, took him into his service—a kindness which he soon abused. He was found Guilty of the embezzlement, and sentenced to penal servitude for six years.

SACRILEGE AT DEPTFORD.—The whole of the plate (amounting to 200*l.* worth) has been stolen from the church of St. Paul's, Deptford, which was broken into on the night of the 1st instant. A policeman whose beat includes the church had neglected, contrary to orders, to go through the churchyard once in every hour; and the thieves—who are supposed to have been four in number, and who must have used great violence—were thus enabled to pursue their work in quiet.—Some burglars at Perth, on Friday, broke into the Session-house in the hope of stealing the communion plate of the East Church, which is generally kept there. But they were disappointed, for the plate, on that particular occasion, was not in the building.

A HARD CASE is brought before the notice of the public by a correspondent of the *Times*. A poacher was recently tried for the murder of a gamekeeper, but was found Guilty merely of manslaughter, though, had the testimony of one of the witnesses been received, he would have been convicted of the capital offence. But the counsel for the defence suggested, the Judge confirmed, and the jury apparently believed, that this witness had perjured himself for the sake of a reward which had been offered for the prisoner's conviction; and the poacher was only transported for life, instead of being hung. The witness' character, however, was ruined, though the cross-examination of him had not shaken his evidence. "He accordingly went to the nearest town to the scene of the murder, taking with him several witnesses, and there proved to the entire satisfaction of the magistrates that every word he had said was true. Since the trial, the witness has lost his place (his late master being an uncle of the prisoner), and he is at present in very distressed circumstances, as, owing to the stain on his character, he is unable to obtain employment." The correspondent suggests that a witness under such circumstances "ought to be allowed to appeal, and that, having proved the truth of his statements, his character should be publicly declared free from stain."

MURDER OF TWO CHILDREN.—A Liverpool butcher, named John Gibbons, has cut the throat of his wife and of three of his children. Two of the children are dead; and the other child is seriously wounded. The woman is the man's second wife, and is said to be a drunkard. The man seems to be insane, and is under the delusion that he will be dragged paraded about the town in an iron cage, attended by bands of music.

ATTEMPT TO MURDER A POLICEMAN.—A murderous attack has been made on a policeman near the little hamlet of Denny, Somersetshire, by a ticket-of-leave man and his brother, who had a grudge against one of the constabulary, and who mistook their man. The wounded officer was felled, stabbed, and left insensible, by a cross-road, on the night of Friday week. The policeman for whom the attack was intended afterwards arrested the suspected persons, and they are under remand.

A PAINFUL CASE.—William Stevens Hayward, described as a gentleman, was charged at Bow-street, on Monday, by Jane Bettison, servant at a lodging-house in Alfred-place, with committing a criminal assault upon her on the previous evening. The magistrate in vain endeavoured to extract from her a plain statement of the circumstances, and at last she burst into tears, exclaiming, "I can't say it; I really can't, sir." The defendant's counsel suggested that the case should be adjourned to a future day, to give the girl an opportunity of composing her mind, and Hayward of communicating with his friends. Mr. Hall thought this was the only course that could be taken. Meanwhile, the accused was admitted to bail.

A CARD SHARPER.—The practice of card-sharping in railway carriages still continues, in spite of all the efforts of the public to put it down. Some gentlemen were in a second-class carriage on the South-Western Railway last Saturday morning, on their way to Mortlake, to see the boat-race, when a man—who afterwards turned out to be a well-known sharper, named Michael Grant—asked one of the passengers to bet on some cards which he was shuffling. The gentleman bet a penny, but apparently only with the design of making a case against Grant, and then giving him into custody. He won the penny, which Grant offered to pay; but the gentleman refused to take it, and said he would give the man into custody. Two of Grant's companions then began to bully the gentleman; but another person in the carriage supported the latter, and the sharper was given in charge when the train reached Putney. His companions, however, escaped. Grant begged that he might be let go, on account of his wife and three children—an appeal he repeated when he was before the Lambeth magistrate; but on neither occasion was it regarded. He was remanded.

"A SOLDIER, AND AFEARD."—A scene of violence and abandoned vice at Woolwich, has terminated in the death of a gunner and driver of the Royal Artillery, named John Lawler. The soldier was at a disreputable house in Hog-lane, together with a man named Walsh, who had formerly been a bombardier, and who entertained some old grudge against Lawler. Mrs. Coulson, the landlady of the house, was intoxicated; and so were some of the women about the place. A quarrel arose between the landlady and the soldier, and she aimed a blow at him with the poker; but Walsh warded it off, though he struck Lawler with his fists, and turned him out. In a few minutes the artilleryman came back; the door was opened; Walsh and the landlady (the former having the poker in his hand) chased Lawler to some stairs leading down to the river, and Walsh knocked his cap off; when, apparently through fear, the soldier leaped into the water, and was drowned. The landlady wished Walsh to endeavour to get the man out of the water, but he refused. However, he afterwards gave information at a neighbouring boat-station that a man was in the river. The case was brought before the Woolwich magistrate, Walsh and the landlady being charged with causing the soldier's death; but it was adjourned for further evidence.

THEFT BY A POSTMAN.—Charles Jackson, a post-office bagman, has been committed for trial on a charge of stealing, on the 24th of March, the way-bill of the Tewkesbury mail-bag, and two registered letters, one containing a remittance of 571*l.* 10s. 5d.

MURDEROUS ASSAULT.—An elderly gentleman, named Robert Robinson Tripp, having had a quarrel with his landlord, Mr. James Scott, of Gifford-street, Caledonian-road, Islington, at half-past two o'clock in the morning, stabbed him in the side with a sword. He was given into custody; but Mr. Scott was so seriously wounded that he was unable to appear the following day. Tripp stated to the magistrate that Mr. Scott went up to his apartment at that unseasonable hour to ask for rent; that he swore at and abused him; and that he (Tripp) pushed him from the room with the sword. "It was a case of villany," he added. The magistrate remanded him for a week. Mr. Scott has since died.

STABBING.—George Holles, described as a gas-fitter but who appears to get his living by theatrical performances, is under remand at the Worship-street police-office, charged with stabbing his wife in the shoulder because she refused to make a pair of stage trousers for him on a Sunday.

DESPERATION AND CRIME.—Two ticket-of-leave men have been examined at Sheffield, and committed for trial, on a charge of setting fire to a wheat stack. One of them admitted that he had done it, and said they were driven to desperation by want and the inability to get employment. When the flames were discovered, they appeared to place themselves in the way of being captured.

A RESPECTABLE THIEF.—Mr. John Morse, a person carrying on an extensive business as a furniture broker and salesman in the Commercial-road, Peckham, has been examined at Lambeth police-court on a charge of stealing a cruet-stand and some bottles from a shop in High-street, Peckham. The property was only worth about five shillings, and he was observed to take it from the front of the shop, and walk quietly away. He was committed for trial.

POISONINGS.—A very melancholy event has recently occurred at Glasgow, a young Frenchman in that town, named Pierre Emile l'Angelier, having been poisoned under circumstances which have caused a young lady to be taken into custody, on suspicion of having committed the crime. It seems that for some time past M. L'Angelier had been on terms of the closest intimacy with Miss Madeleine Smith, the daughter of an architect living in Blythswood-square. One morning, while stopping at the village of Bridge-of-Allan, the young man received a letter from Miss Smith, saying that she wished to see him immediately. He, therefore, started at once for Glasgow, and, on arriving there, called at his lodgings for a short time, and then went out, saying that he should not be home again until late. He returned about two o'clock in the morning, and complained of feeling very ill. Medical aid was immediately sent for, and a surgeon prescribed for the young Frenchman, apparently without suspecting that any poison had been administered to him. The patient, nevertheless, continued to suffer very violent pains throughout the night, and on the forenoon of the following day he was so much worse, that the medical gentleman who had attended him the previous night was again sent for; but by the time he arrived the young man was dead. A post-mortem examination of the body was made, and arsenic was discovered in the stomach. Miss Smith was subsequently apprehended on suspicion, when it transpired that she had purchased arsenic; but it was said that she merely bought it to use as a cosmetic. The inquiry is not yet completed. —Another case of poisoning has happened in the village of Chorley, in Lancashire; the suspected culprit in this instance being a shoemaker of the name of Edward Hardman. His wife died about a month ago, and was buried in the parish church; but, suspicions having afterwards arisen as to the cause of her death, the body was exhumed and the stomach examined by an analytical chemist, who detected the presence of antimony and arsenic. He gave it as his opinion that the woman had died from poison, and Hardman was, therefore, apprehended and committed to Lancaster gaol on a charge of Wilful Murder.—Mr. Joseph Hodson, farmer, of Collingham, near Newark, North Nottinghamshire, was discovered on the morning of Sunday, the 22nd ult., sitting upright in a chair in his house, quite dead. A portion of a mince-pie was found on the table beside him. He had evidently eaten of this; and chemical analysis showed that it was poisoned. It had been sent to him through the carrier. The inquest was adjourned.—A case of poisoning is being investigated at Woolwich, where an artilleryman is charged with administering a deleterious drug to a woman of the town with whom he had had a quarrel. The woman is not dead; but, on giving evidence at the police-court, she was so ill and overcome with emotion that she swooned, and the case was left incomplete. It is stated that the artilleryman is her husband. She said in her evidence that she is married, but on being asked the name of her husband, became so much affected that no answer could be obtained.

ATTEMPTED MURDER AT MAIDSTONE.—A woman of light character at Maidstone, has been nearly murdered by a bargeman, between whom and herself and sister there had been an altercation. The girl's skull is fractured, and she lies in a very dubious state.

SWINDLING BY WHOLESALE.—A moustached foreigner, styling himself Captain John Jonsen, a Hungarian, at Birkenhead, has for the past week or so been ordering goods from every one who would give him temporary credit in that town and Liverpool. On Tuesday, Captain Jonsen attended a public sale, and had knocked down to him goods to the value of 41*l.*, for which, however, as for everything else he had ordered, he did not pay. After his departure from the sale-room, two valuable cups were missed, and he was traced by a detective to his lodgings, where, on his pockets being searched, invoices for goods which had not then arrived were found to the amount of about 300*l.* He was taken before the magistrates on Wednesday, and committed for trial.

GAROTTING AT BRIGHTON.—Several cases of garotte robbery have occurred within the last two or three weeks in the neighbourhood of the Dyke Road and the Upper Shoreham-road, Brighton.

THE SHEFFIELD ELECTION DISTURBANCES.—One of the officers engaged in the preservation of peace on Saturday week died on Wednesday morning, in consequence of injuries which he received by a stone, which was thrown by some of the mob who assembled in front of the Angel Hotel, Sheffield. The name of the deceased is Edward Prior.

RIOT.—Five men and a woman have been examined before the Worship-street magistrate on a charge of being concerned in a furious attack on the police; and a gentleman of independent property, named Cohen, was at the same time charged with inciting the mob to resist the police. A constable had been arresting a man for an assault, when Waggett, the principal of the persons now charged, came up, and, after savagely assaulting the officer, rescued the captive. The policeman, though severely injured, followed Waggett, and seized him. A frightful struggle then ensued, and it was found necessary to send for a reinforcement of police, as a large mob had collected, whom Mr. Cohen constantly urged to attack the policeman. The officer was found by his comrades stretched on the pavement, with Waggett and the others surrounding him. Even then the riot was with difficulty quelled, and several of the constables were seriously hurt, Cohen all the while heaping abuse upon them. All the prisoners were committed for trial; but bail was accepted.

MUTINY.—Andrew George Gallagher, William Todd, and John Williamson, seamen, were charged at the Thames police-office with mutiny and disobeying the commands of Captain Alexander Andrew, the master of the barque Marchioness of Ailsa, and also with attempting to stab Mr. John Pearson, the chief officer, and Thomas M'Lintock, a seaman belonging to the same vessel, on its homeward voyage from Table Bay, Cape of Good Hope. The mutiny arose out of some complaints about the food. The men were remanded.

GATHERINGS FROM THE LAW AND POLICE COURTS.

A SERIOUS defect in law has been exhibited in a case tried at the Liverpool Assizes, and has called forth some severe criticism from the *Preston Guardian*. A man named Astin, one of the proprietors of a co-operative association called "The Padiham Cotton League Company," broke into the mill on the night of the 18th of last February, and cut and wantonly destroyed a great quantity of cotton warps, worsted healds, and machinery, inflicting damage to the amount of 300*l.* As well as being a shareholder in the company, Astin had been employed by it, but had been discharged. This had kindled his animosity, and he had been heard to utter threats against the members. These facts having been stated at the trial by Mr. Edwin James, in his opening

speech, the Judge (Mr. Baron Martin) refused to hear witnesses, alleging that, as the accused was a partner, he was an owner of the property, and therefore not indictable. Mr. James suggested that perhaps the law which renders a shareholder, who is also the servant of the company of which he is a member, punishable for embezzling the funds of the company, might be strained, so as to apply to the present case; but this was at once set aside by Baron Martin. The prisoner was therefore discharged.

A case in which Cardinal Wiseman was the defendant has been tried before Mr. Justice Crowder at the Gloucester Assizes last Saturday, and excited very great interest. Lord Petre, the Duke of Norfolk, and several Roman Catholic ecclesiastics, were on the bench. The facts were briefly these:—The Princess Letitia Bonaparte, the sister of Prince Lucien Bonaparte, the first cousin to the present Emperor Napoleon, having married Mr. Wyse, afterwards the Right Hon. Thomas Wyse, our Minister at the court of Athens, and having subsequently been separated from her husband on account of her dissipation, took up her residence in France, and was allowed 200*l.* a year by her husband. There she became involved in pecuniary difficulties, and the plaintiff—the Abbé Roux, a French priest, lately in a cure in Chelsea—visited her, and advanced money to pay creditors, to rescue her from a *maison de santé*, and to redeem furniture and jewels. The Abbé alleged that she had signed the acknowledgment of debt of 25,000f., and that he had placed this in the hands of Cardinal Wiseman, who, he said, had undertaken to endeavour to obtain payment from Mr. Wyse, but had not done so, and now the paper was not forthcoming. The plaintiff was under examination upwards of four hours, it being necessary to interrogate him through an interpreter. Cardinal Wiseman, on the other hand, swore that he had never had the document in his possession: he had had an interview with the Abbé with respect to the matter, and he had seen the document; but, "if it went through his hands at all, it was merely that he might hand it over to Mr. Wyse." He had made a search among his papers for the paper, but could not find it. He was persuaded that it had not been left with him.—The evidence of the Princess Letitia Bonaparte (Madame Wyse), taken on interrogatories in Italy, was next read to the court. She stated that the plaintiff had offered his friendly offices in her affairs, and had paid numerous sums of money on her behalf, but she declared that he had been repaid by sales of her jewellery and from other sources, and that he had received one quarter of a year's allowance from her husband (Mr. Wyse), which left him actually in her debt to the amount of two hundred and fifty francs. She admitted signing the acknowledgment of her debt to him of 25,000f., but this she did on the representation by the plaintiff that the Archbishop of Paris had requested him to discontinue his visits to her, and that he wished to have this document to show that his visits were visits of business. He promised, after showing the papers to the Archbishop of Paris (the prelate who wasassassinated a few months ago), to return them to her. Accordingly, on the day after he had received the paper of acknowledgment as to the 25,000f., he again came to her, told her he had shown it to the Archbishop, and, as there was no further use for it, threw what appeared to be the very document into the fire. Notwithstanding these allegations, however, the jury found a verdict for the Abbé; damages, 500*l.* At the request of the counsel for Cardinal Wiseman, execution was stayed till after the fourth day of Easter term (this day week), in order that Mr. Wyse should be communicated with, in the hope that he might be able to throw some light on the existence of the document. Some of the Cardinal's letters were read at the trial. They conclude with singular union of formality, commercial abbreviation, and religious phraseology:—"I have the honour to be, Sir, *your very obedient servant in J. C.*—N. Cardinal Wiseman."

John Callaghan, Thomas Conway, and Patrick Fracoley, three labourers, were charged at the Westminster police-office with having endeavoured by threats and intimidation to force a number of men to depart rom their work The accused were workmen employed by Mr. Freake, builder, in finishing some houses in Princes-gate and Exhibition-road, Kensington; they truck for higher wages, and attempted to prevent some men who had been engaged in their places from doing their work. Callaghan was sentenced to three months' hard labour, and the other two to fourteen days' imprisonment each.

NAVAL AND MILITARY.

Lieutenant-General Ashburnham, C.B., appointed to the command of the military force about to be despatched to the seat of war in China, left town, accompanied by several military officers, last Saturday evening for Alexandria, on his way to Hong-Kong, to assume his command.

Lieutenant-Colonel J. L. Simmons, C.B., of the Royal Engineers, who was the Queen's Commissioner at the head-quarters of the Turkish army under Omer Pacha, and who has received the Imperial Order of the Medjidie of the Third Class for his distinguished services during the late war, left town on Friday for Marseilles, on his way to Constantinople, accompanied by his staff. He is now British Commissioner for the regulation of the Turco-Persian boundary.

Experiments at Woolwich Arsenal.—The Duke of Cambridge, Commander-in-Chief; Lord Panmure, Secretary at War; Lieutenant-General Sir William Codrington, Admiral Eden, and Mr. Monsell, accompanied by the Persian Ambassador, Ferukh Khan, and suite, arrived at Woolwich last Saturday for the purpose of witnessing a series of experiments which were carried out at the Government practice range. The experiments, which occupied upwards of two hours, commenced with a trial of the efficiency of shells filled with molten iron, for the purpose of firing any ignitable material. The invention appeared to be highly successful, as did some others which were also tried.

A Solitary Voyager.—Information has been received in the north-east ports that the schooner Happy Return, which left Sunderland with coals on the 28th ult., has been towed into Dundee, by the Hull steamer Queen, with only one hand (a lad, named William Charlton) on board. It seems that after leaving Sunderland the schooner had encountered a heavy gale, and lost her main boom; she also had her sails split, and her bulwarks carried away. Her crew got on board a foreign vessel near the South Bell Light, but, for some reason not explained, they left the lad on board. After the crew had left the lad in the leaky and disabled barque, in a rough and stormy sea, he pumped her and kept her before the wind, until, exhausted with his efforts to keep the crazy craft afloat, he went below to bed, after securing the wheel, and slept soundly for several hours. He was wakened by the steamer coming alongside. When the schooner was got into Dundee, it was ascertained that she was making three inches and a half of water an hour.

Rewards for Saving Life.—On the morning of the 19th ult., the British barque Haltwhistle, James Patterson, master, was stranded off the heights of Calantsoog, when the Dutch pilot-boat Rinkelaar, with the master and nine men, put off to her assistance, and succeeded in saving the lives of the crew, consisting of fourteen hands; but the master and mate declining to leave the ship, a boat, manned by a pilot and an apprentice, put off to their assistance. In consequence of the boisterous state of the weather, she was upset, and the pilot was drowned; but the apprentice succeeded in swimming to shore, after three hours' perseverance. Signals of distress being still sent from the ship, the same apprentice, together with another apprentice and a seaman, put off in a boat, and, after much exertion and danger, succeeded in saving the captain and the mate. These circumstances having been represented to the Board of Trade, they have awarded the following sums:—To the master of the pilot-boat, 5*l.*; to the crew, consisting of nine persons, 2*l.* each; to the relatives of the pilot who was drowned, and who belonged to the first boat, 10*l.*; to the apprentice who swam ashore, 10*l.*; to the three persons in the last boat, 10*l.* each.

Accident to the Troop-ship Transit.—The Transit, while lying at anchor in a fog off Lymington, had her bottom stayed in, the young flood having driven her on her anchor. The water rose very fast, and the captain was obliged to put back to Spithead.

The Oneida.—Fears are entertained for the safety of the Oneida, which ought to have arrived before now from Australia. She was the pioneer ship of the Overland Australian Mail line, and had nearly two hundred persons on board, and a large quantity of gold. The last that was heard of her was on the 4th of February, on which day she left King George's Sound, a port just within the south-west point of Australia.

Explosion on Shipboard.—A violent explosion occurred on Monday afternoon, on board the iron screw collier Hutton Chaytor, Captain J. Jefferson, lying in the Victoria Dock, Hartlepool, by which two of the crew were seriously injured, though not dangerously. The Hutton Chaytor was loaded with Thornley gas coals, and had been lying in her berth since Saturday waiting for a sea-tide. Two of the crew—the second mate and another—went down into the fore-hatch upon some necessary business, carrying a lantern with them. On getting below, the candle was removed out of the lantern, and the explosion took place.

A Ship's Crew Starved to Death.—A Stavanger pilot, on the 2nd ult., boarded a vessel about eight miles from the land, off Kinn, Norway. Seven bodies were found on board, bearing marks of having died of starvation. No provisions were in the ship, and one of the bodies seemed to have been attacked by the others to satisfy their hunger. Some of the bodies had apparently been dead several days; others only a few. The vessel was the Holingen, from Narva for Gainsborough. Judging from articles found on two of the men, they were English.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Lord Chelsea and the Jews.—The following excellent letter, signed "A Jewess," has been addressed to Viscount Chelsea, the defeated candidate for Middlesex:—"My Lord,—I feel that I should apologize for intruding upon your time when I know it to be so fully occupied, yet I find it impossible to refrain from addressing you upon a subject of the greatest importance. I have no words sufficiently vivid to express my astonishment at your speech of the 1st of April. In that speech, delivered at Edmonton, you stated that 'you had never met a Jew who had not declared that, if he had the opportunity of inflicting a serious injury upon the Christian faith, or of preventing its spread, he would fail to do so.' I am always unwilling, indeed I am quite unable, to doubt the veracity of an English gentleman, and therefore I feel anxious to believe that, in the somewhat bewildering excitement of electioneering movements, you were unfortunately betrayed into expressions at variance with well-ascertained and universally-acknowledged facts. The Jews never try to make proselytes. Faithful to their own creed, they do not, either directly or indirectly, endeavour to undermine the religious opinions of others. Why should they make the attempt? They are taught to believe that Almighty God, the fountain of all mercies and of all blessings, judges all human beings according to their works, and that the pious and righteous on earth, whatever be their race or faith, may all hope to enter into the kingdom of Heaven. That those who profess the Christian religion should endeavour to make converts I fully understand, and, while I am firmly convinced that they will not be successful in winning my co-religionists from the faith of Israel, I candidly confess that I honour the motives and appreciate the exertions of zealous missionaries. They labour indefatigably to diffuse the tenets of their religion, because they believe that there is no salvation out of the pale of their own church. The Jews, however, can have no motive for wishing to make proselytes; they respect all religions, and are truly convinced that a conscientious obedience to the dictates of the same is not merely compatible with, but pre-eminently productive of the exercise of the noblest virtues."

Louis D'Orleans on the Bourbon "Fusion."—The affair of the "fusion" between the two branches of the Bourbon family continues to excite a languid interest in political circles. The Paris correspondent of the *Indépendance Belge*, writing under date March 27th, communicates to that journal the following letter of the Duke de Nemours to a friend:—"Claremont, Jan. 25.—My dear Sir,—In a letter from M. le Comte de Chambord written upon the occasion of the death of M. de Salvandy, and published in the papers, there occurs a sentence which represents the reconciliation accomplished in 1853 as one of the firmest guarantees for the future condition of France. This sentence, as we have since ascertained, has a meaning with respect to which it is now no longer possible to entertain any doubt, and its effect must be to lead the public to believe in engagements on our part which my brothers and I have never contracted. We are therefore most unwillingly compelled to depart from the silence which we had determined upon preserving in regard to our relations with M. le Comte de Chambord. The fact is that when, in a spirit of conciliation, I went to M. le Comte de Chambord, I only did so upon the formal assurance that this step did not involve any engagement on our part. In expressing to him, then, our sincere desire to see France call him one day to the throne, and our wish to devote all our efforts to obtain such a result at a fitting opportunity, I was far from offering him our blind and undefined co-operation. Its conditions were, of course, to be determined by a previous understanding. These conditions, on our side, are contained in three principal points, which our convictions, as well as the respect due to the past history of our family, forbid us ever to abandon:—1. The maintenance of the tricolored flag, which is now, in the eyes of France, the symbol of the new state of society, and the expression of the principles consecrated since 1789 2. The re-establishment of a constitutional government. 3. The concurrence of the national will in the re-establishment of this form of government, and in the recal of the dynasty. Of these three points one only was entered upon by me with M. le Comte de Chambord during his visit to Nervi, and the result of our conversation was such that I felt myself called upon to inform him that so long as this matter remained undecided all community of views between him and ourselves was impossible. Since then, this state of things having to our great regret remained unaltered, and the bare notion of a previous understanding being rejected by M. le Comte de Chambord, it has become incumbent upon us to put a stop to attempts, at present useless, in favour of an agreement. We sincerely regret not having been more successful in our endeavours to reunite under the same flag all shades of the Constitutional party, for we should be thereby still serving France. Our resolution is henceforth to await events, and to take counsel on each occasion from reason and our duties towards our country.—Receive, my dear sir, &c.,—Louis d'Orleans."

Mr. Thackeray at Edinburgh.—Mr. Thackeray was entertained at a dinner at Edinburgh on Thursday week. Lord Neaves occupied the chair, and Mr. Thackeray, in reply to the toast of his health, humorously vindicated himself from the charges of being a systematic cynic, perpetually engaged in finding out what is base in human nature, and of entertaining anarchical views in politics—an opinion which some nervous persons have adopted since the delivery of the celebrated lectures on "the four Georges."

DARLINGTON ENTERTAINMENTS.—There have been some pleasant meetings during the winter at Darlington, where weekly entertainments are given at the Mechanics' Institution. A few days ago "the season" closed, with *éclat*. There was a large assemblage, which diverted itself in various ways. Mr. F. Mewburn spoke to the meeting in behalf of the committee; the Rev. H. B. Hall, Mr. H. K. Sparks, and Mr. C. H. Compton delivered well-worded and pertinent addresses; and a series of entertainments, in which about fourteen thousand persons have participated during the winter, were brought to an agreeable close.

HOW TO MAKE AN ANGEL.—The *Avenir*, of Nice, relates an extraordinary instance of superstition, which, however, in the face of witchcraft in England, will not so much surprise as shock the reader. A servant in a family, consisting of a young man, his wife, and an infant, was found squeezing the head of the infant to a jelly, by way, as he said, of making an angel of it. Either, he said, the child will die and go to Paradise, or it will survive and be *innocent* ever after!

THE APPREHENDED MURRAIN.—The alarming plague now ravaging the herds of cattle in the north of Europe, and threatening in time to reach this country, has occupied the attention of the Privy Council. A supplement to the *London Gazette* of Friday week contains an order in Council of the previous day (April 2nd), which directs "that, from and after the date hereof, no cattle and no horns, hoofs, or raw or wet hides or skins of cattle, shall be imported or introduced into the United Kingdom which shall come from or shall have been at any place within those territories of the Emperor of Russia, or of the King of Prussia, or of the Grand Duke of Mecklenburg Schwerin, which respectively are in or border upon the Gulf of Finland, or any other part of the Baltic Sea between the Gulf of Finland and the territories of the Free City of Lubeck, or which shall come from or shall have been at any place within the territories of the Free City of Lubeck; and also that, from and after the date hereof, no cattle and no horns, hoofs, or raw or wet hides or skins of cattle, shall be imported or introduced into the United Kingdom which shall be, or shall have been on board any vessels at the same time with any cattle, or horns, hoofs, or raw or wet hides or skins of cattle, which shall have come from or shall have been at any such place as aforesaid. And her Majesty, by and with the advice of her Privy Council, doth hereby further order, that all cattle, and all horns, hoofs, and raw or wet hides or skins of cattle, the importation or introduction whereof is so hereby prohibited as aforesaid, and also all hay, straw, fodder, litter, or manure, being or having been in or on board any vessels at the same time with any such cattle, or horns, hoofs, or raw or wet hides or skins of cattle, as aforesaid, shall, upon their arrival in this country, be destroyed, or otherwise disposed of, as the Commissioners of her Majesty's Customs may direct."

THE ROYAL BRITISH BANK.—The hearing of evidence in this case was resumed on Wednesday before Mr. Commissioner Holroyd. The court was again densely crowded. Mr. John Stapleton was examined at great length by Mr. Linklater. He stated that he became a director of the bank on the 24th July, 1855. By a minute, he found that Mr. Esdaile had seconded his nomination for the directorship. Mr. Cameron told him that the bank was then paying 12 per cent., 6 of which went to the reserve fund. Mr. Cameron also stated that new shares were issued. He had not heard of Mr. Humphrey Brown's debt at the time, nor of the Welsh works. The directors did not inform him of the particular debts due to the bank. He had afterwards complained that they had not done so, and expressed himself warmly against Mr. Cameron. In January, 1856, he expected there would be a loss by the Welsh works, but he was led to believe that the works would improve and become more marketable. The large amounts then due did alarm him, certainly; but he did not open his lips. He heard the report and the accounts read, and he held his peace. On the 5th of February, he was appointed deputy governor, and soon afterwards became acquainted with Mr. Cameron's account. The bank had no adequate security for his debt. They contemplated a considerable loss on Mr. Oliver's account; also a loss on Mr. M'Gregor's account. Mr. Blackie's account looked very bad indeed in December. On March 6th, a letter was written to Mr. Cameron remonstrating against his practice of drawing on the bank. If his account increased after that, it must have increased fraudulently. On the 19th February, Mr. Deputy Dakin was introduced as a director, and on the 10th of March he left, being alarmed at the Welsh works.—Mr. Thomas Crawford, who prepared the balance sheet, said he was disposed to think that the general design of the audit was to mislead.—After some few more proceedings, the further hearing was adjourned to Wednesday week, the 22nd inst., when Mr. Alderman Kennedy will be examined.

THE REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S QUARTERLY RETURN.—In the first quarter of the year—namely, the 13 weeks that ended on March 28th, the deaths in London were 16,093, which exceed the deaths of the same quarter in 1856, but are less than those of 1855. The increase on last year arises from pulmonary diseases—bronchitis, pneumonia, and phthisis; for, though the mean temperature was nearly 39 deg., which is about the average of the winter quarter, and the mean weekly temperature was on nine weeks above the average, the fifth and sixth weeks were very cold, and on two days at that time the thermometer fell to 20 deg.

LORD DOUGLAS died at his seat, Bothwell Castle, upon the Clyde, on Monday morning, in the seventieth year of his age. He was the son and last male heir of the first Baron Douglas, in whose name "the great Douglas cause"—a case of disputed right to the estates—was tried in the latter half of last century, the decision being finally given in his favour by the House of Lords, on an appeal made to that body.

NORTH-WEST LONDON PREVENTIVE AND REFORMATORY INSTITUTION.—A meeting of the friends of this institution was held on Tuesday in the building in the New-road, at which the Bishop of London delivered a farewell address to ten young men who have been inmates of the Reformatory, and are about to emigrate. The Bishop was in the chair, and the Archbishop of Canterbury was also present.

GREAT FLOOD.—The late heavy rains have caused the principal rivers in the West Riding of Yorkshire to overflow, and a large district in the vicinity of the Ouse, the Aire and Calder, and the Don, is now submerged.

FIRES.—A fire burst out on Sunday morning on the premises of a greengrocer in Leman-street, Goodman's Fields. The house was completely gutted.—On the same morning, the house of a tailor at the rear of the Trinity House, Tower-hill, was burnt down, and some of the adjoining tenements were also injured.

COTTON FROM ALGERIA.—The *Moniteur* publishes the report of the jury charged to award the prize of 20,000f. given by the Emperor annually, for a period of five years from 1853, as an encouragement for the cultivation of cotton in Algeria. It appears that the natives are every year giving more and more attention to the culture of cotton.

ARTISTS' GENERAL BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.—The forty-second anniversary festival of the Artists' General Benevolent Institution was held last Saturday, at the Freemasons' Tavern. About a hundred and fifty gentlemen, most of them connected with art, sat down to dinner under the presidency of Lord Dufferin, who was supported, among others, by Sir Charles L. Eastlake, P.R.A.; C. R. Cockerill, Esq., R.A.; E. M. Ward, Esq., R.A.; Alfred Elmore, Esq., A.R.A.; F. R. Pickersgill, Esq., A.R.A.; W. E. Frost, A.R.A.; H. Weekes, A.R.A.; W. Boxall, A.R.A.; Augustus Egg, A.R.A.; R. J. Lane, A.R.A.; and Mr. W. Simpson, the artist of the well-known "Sketches of the War in the Crimea," &c. As a proof of the widely-spread sympathy which is felt for the institution, the chairman mentioned that among the subscribers to its funds are two French members of the profession of great distinction—Ary Scheffer and Rosa Bonheur.

FRANCE AND ENGLAND IN WESTERN AFRICA.—The Queen of Great Britain and the Emperor of the French, being desirous to prevent all future cause of misunderstanding with regard to the right of trading at and near Portendic, on the west coast of Africa, and at Albreda, in the River Gambia, asserted or assumed respectively by the Governments or subjects of Great Britain and France, have concluded a convention for that purpose. In this instrument, various mutual concessions are made.

EARL COWLEY.—The Queen has directed letters patent to be passed under the Great Seal, granting the dignities of Viscount and Earl of the United Kingdom to Baron Cowley, G.C.B., her Majesty's Ambassador to the Emperor of the French, and to the heirs male of his body lawfully begotten, by the names, styles, and titles of Viscount Dangan, in the county of Meath, and Earl Cowley.—*London Gazette.*

CONCERTS FOR THE PEOPLE.—The 28th Monday Evening Concert (of the St. Martin's-hall series) took place last Monday, and was honoured by the presence of the Lord and Lady Mayoress, accompanied by the Sheriffs and Under-Sheriffs of London and Middlesex, who paid great attention to the performances. Between the parts, Mr. Adolphus Francis read a chapter from Dickens's Old Curiosity Shop.

THE FINSBURY ELECTION PETITION.—A meeting of electors of the borough of Finsbury, held at the Belvedere Tavern, Pentonville, has appointed a committee of five, to take measures for supporting the petition to be presented to the House of Commons against the return of Mr. Cox, and a fund has been raised to defray the expenses to be incurred thereby without calling upon Mr. Serjeant Parry to contribute to such expenses. Mr. Shaen, of Bedford-row, has been appointed the solicitor, and Mr. Edwin James, Q. C., has been retained to appear in support of the petition.

THE LATE VISCOUNTESS KEITH.—Hesther Maria Viscountess Keith died a few days ago at her residence in Piccadilly, in her ninety-fifth year. This remarkable lady was the last remaining link between the present generation and that brilliant literary circle which congregated round Johnson at "the club" which thronged the hospitable mansion of Mrs. Thrale at Streatham. Viscountess Keith was the eldest daughter of Henry Thrale, the friend of Johnson, and the husband of Hesther Salusbury, better known to the world, by the name of her second husband, as "Mrs. Piozzi."—*Morning Post.*

AUSTRALIA.—The summer in Australia has been remarkably fine, an unusual quantity of rain having fallen, causing the rivers to overflow and irrigate the country, which at this season is generally parched and arid. Great expectations are therefore entertained of a bountiful harvest.—The progress of Melbourne is being evinced at present in the rapid creation of large and architecturally magnificent houses of business; so that the city begins to look solid and handsome.—Some fear is entertained by the Melbourne merchants of another glut of imported manufactures such as that of 1854-5.

THE RUINS OF COVENT-GARDEN THEATRE.—Messrs. Eversfield and Horne, auctioneers, commenced on Monday the disposal, by public auction, of the ruins of the Theatre Royal Covent Garden, when a large quantity of loose bricks, charred timber, and sundry old materials lying on the ground, were sold for immediate removal. As soon as the ground is cleared of these, the remainder of the ruins, comprising several millions of bricks, the Portland stone forming the lower portion of the external walls, the portico, and the other building materials, will be disposed of in the same manner, in order to clear the ground for building the new theatre.

CAFFRARIAN WOOL.—The mails just received from the Cape of Good Hope mention a fact which we regard with great satisfaction. An English settler at King William's Town had received two bales of wool grown by the Tambookies, and shorn from sheep of their own breeding. This was the first arrival in the colony of wool grown by the natives, and the occurrence was justly regarded as one of no little importance. The getting up of the article was of course imperfect, but no doubt was entertained that an improvement in that respect would take place, the profit on two bales being quite sufficient to stimulate the growers to whatever exertions might be requisite for the continuance and extension of the trade.—*Leeds Mercury.*

THE MIGHTY FALLEN.—At the nomination for the Sunderland election, Mr. George Hudson was arrested by a sheriff's officer for debt, judgments for 100,000*l.* being still out against him. It appeared, however, that a candidate cannot be deprived of his liberty; so the officer let go his prey, and Mr. Hudson being re-elected, was again safe. It is expected that he will shortly be made a bankrupt, and he is stated to be very poor.

REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC PRINTING.—This report, which has just been published, contains a complaint that a great deal of public money is wasted in the printing of long reports which few people ever read. The mode of obviating this abuse was pointed out by the committee of 1841—viz., by conferring extended and discretionary powers on the Printing Committee, especially as regards the publication of "evidence" and "appendices" to reports. The sale of Parliamentary papers, it appears, has averaged an annual net amount of 4000*l.* by sale and waste. The committee suggest that every member be recommended to consult Mr. Vardon, the librarian, before moving for a return; that, after the order for a return has been made, the librarian prepare a form to be forwarded with the order; that no return be printed without the inspection of Mr. Vardon and the approval of the Speaker; that no papers moved for by address, or by order of the House, be printed except by authority of the House; and that extended powers be given to the committee to control more effectively the matter printed in appendices to reports. It is also recommended that the Treasury lay on the table, with the estimates, a distinct account of the amount of printing expenses executed under the authority of each Secretary of State or public department, and by either House of Parliament.

THE KIDDERMINSTER RIOT.—Mr. Lowe has recovered from the injuries he received at the Kidderminster election. He has received an address of sympathy from the gentry of the neighbourhood.—Two of the apprehended rioters have pleaded Guilty to a charge of assaulting the police, and have been condemned each to thirty shillings' fine and costs, or, in default, one month's imprisonment. Other cases have been remanded.

TOWER OF LONDON.—The appointment of Major of this fortress, vacant by the demise of Major Elrington, has been conferred by Viscount Combermere on Colonel Whimper, a meritorious old soldier, who, in consequence of severe wounds received at the battle of the Alma, has been rendered unequal to active service.

THEATRICAL FUND.—The annual dinner in aid of this fund took place on Monday evening at the Freemasons' Tavern; Mr. Phelps in the chair. Sir Charles Ibbetson returned thanks for the toast of "The Army;" Mr. T. P. Cooke for that of "The Navy." In vindicating the nobility of his art, Mr. Phelps observed:—"Few, indeed, amongst the thousands who have or do practise that art, possess in a high degree its requirements; and, even when that does occur, it has been considered a drawback upon the actor's powers that his creations cease to be when he shall cease to live. True; but do not the vividness of its present impressions compensate in a large degree for its want of permanence? (*Cheers.*) What other artists can produce such immediate effects as the actor? What other artist can, by one stroke of his wand, electrify the heart and brain of assembled thousands—striking a chord that acts upon them all, at once—and compelling a multitude involuntarily to acknowledge kindred to each other, and wonder at the power that has thus exposed them in the fulness of their humanity? Gentlemen, if this be true—and

there are few will deny it—I say again, the actor's is as noble an art, when rightly employed, as can engage the faculties, mental and physical, of man." He also referred to the great service which good acting may render to the cause of education and progress—a truth which he had learnt from his experience during the past thirteen years, "passed in a somewhat peculiar position."—Mr. Buckstone, in alluding, in the course of his speech, to the patronage of the drama by the Queen, said:—"Believe me, I feel proud to declare this evening, and before such an assembly, that a demonstration of the small amount given to a certain actor, on a recent occasion, for his services there, had nothing whatever to do with the generosity of the Court, or the director of its theatricals. (*Cheers.*) A liberal sum is allowed for these performances. I know, as regards myself, I have always been well and sufficiently remunerated. And the receipt by this actor of the small payment, which he presented to a police poor-box, was a question with which her Majesty had nothing to do. (*Cheers.*) In these sectarian times, the performer ought to be too proud and too grateful that his royal mistress is pleased to encourage his art in her own halls, than seek by an exhibition of doubtful taste to question the liberality of a kind patroness, who had only the interests of the drama in view when she invited the actors to give a 'taste of their quality' in her own palace." (*Cheers.*) Mr. Buckstone having expressed a fear that their trustee, Mr. Dickens, would have been off during the last few weeks electioneering, that gentleman, in returning thanks for his health, said:—"God forbid that he should have any electioneering designs on any constituency whatever. His way of life, his means of usefulness in life, such as they were, had been long ago chosen, and he had no intention of canvassing for any success beyond that which he had already achieved—beyond the approbation of that distinguished circle which expanded behind him" (the ladies on the dais) "or that of which he had a dim perception in the clouds above him" (the ladies in the gallery). Mr. Phelps in replying to the toast of his health, gratefully accepted the general acknowledgment of the value of the actor's profession. He mentioned, however, that this favourable feeling was not universal, as, at a boarding-school to which he had sent his daughter, some of the pupils were removed because the principal had consented to receive the daughter of an actor.

Extensive and Destructive Fire at Leeds.—Between one and two o'clock on Thursday morning, the premises of Messrs. R. and J. Harrison, mustard and chicory manufacturers, Jack-lane, Holbeck, Leeds, were discovered to be on fire, and before the arrival of the fire-engines the flames had extended so rapidly, that all efforts to save the main building were ineffectual, and the machinery and stock were entirely destroyed. The damage will probably exceed 5000*l.*

Suicide.—Mr. Samuel Wilkes, a clerk at the Sun Fire Office, has drowned himself in the Serpentine out of a fear that he would be unable to perform the duties consequent on a promotion he had recently had. He has left a mother behind him.

National Characteristics.—It was on a day during spring that we drove to call on some French friends who had bought a country villa near Florence. You approached the house by a grove of cypress trees, interspersed with statues and jets d'eau. Before it was a terrace commanding a splendid view of Florence, and the neighbouring hills. The contadini were busy ploughing the filds, with my black-eyed friends the oxen. The fields of fresh green-corn were bright with brilliant flowers, and we stood and gazed entranced at the exceeding beauty. Presently, Monsieur and Madame came out to welcome us, together with their sister and niece. The ladies all wore coloured handkerchiefs over their heads, and there was a grace and gaiety in their welcome that we never use in England. I say use, because I will not believe that we are either naturally morose or ungraceful, but we do not always think it worth our while to be gay and pleasant to those from whom we expect nothing in return; and so, instead of dispensing brightness and gladness to those with whom we come in contact, there is generally nothing more stiff and boring than a 'morning call' in England. This is never the case abroad. I do not remember ever having made a visit that I did not leave the house happier and brighter than I entered it. One of the greatest characteristics of both the French and Italians is their perfect ease; there is no attempt to hide anything from you, they do not try to appear what they are not. Poverty is no disgrace—riches are no honour. There seems no attempt on the part of one class to tread on the heels of another, and the relation of servant and master; tenant and landlord, or rather contadini and signor; shopkeeper and gentleman; is much more gracefully and happily sustained. They are always friendly together, and you never have to regret your own forgetfulness of the difference it has pleased God, in this world only, to make between you.—*Going Abroad; or, Glimpses of Art and Character.*

Interesting Discoveries.—During the past week, some very interesting discoveries have been made in Danny Park, Hurstpierpoint. The remains of a Roman villa have been brought to light on a commanding situation, near the Roman camp on Wolstanbury-hill, consisting of a regularly built Roman wall, indicating the building of which it would seem to form a portion to have been about sixty feet either way. In addition to this many fragments of articles, such as Samian ware, flue tiles of a hot vapour bath, amphoræ, glass, and nails, have also been discovered.—*Brighton Gazette.*

Fanaticism of the Austrian Clergy.—An emigration fever is now raging in the Tyrol, and many of the mountaineers have gone to Peru, because the Ultramontane keepers of their consciences have told them that no good Catholics ought to pitch their tents in countries which, like America, are principally inhabited by Protestants. The increasing desire to emigrate is said to have given serious annoyance to this Government. The fire-and-flame sermons of the Jesuit missionaries have turned the brains of two girls—a servant and a seamstress. The poor creatures, who have become monomaniacs, talk of nothing but the loss of their immortal souls, and of the hell to which they are doomed. About a fortnight since, the proprietress of one of the first hotels in the suburb of Leopoldstadt died suddenly of apoplexy, and the priest who had been sent for expressed his indignation that he had been called from his bed to attend a corpse. A day or two afterwards, a Jesuit missionary, in the Church of St. John, began to preach *at* the relatives of the deceased, who had been renowned for her kindness to the poor, but such a murmur of indignation arose that the reverend gentleman was obliged to change his theme.—*Times Vienna Correspondent.*

A Diligence Overturned.—The journey of a company of Spanish actors, who were on their way from Madrid to perform at the Folies Nouvelles in Paris, has been attended with a melancholy accident. The diligence in which they were travelling was overturned near the frontier into a ravine. Two female dancers were wounded in the head, and a third had her right arm broken. The guard was killed.

Massacre of French Settlers in New Caledonia.—Eleven Frenchmen, settlers at Morari, New Caledonia, have been murdered by the natives, together with fourteen or fifteen Kanakas in their service.

Postscript.

Leader Office, Saturday, April 11th.

THE NEUFCHATEL QUESTION.

The Swiss *Bund* gives a statement of the conditions which Dr. Kern brought forward at the fifth sitting of the Conference, as the only bases on which Switzerland would consent to treat. They are opposed, in almost every particular, to the demands made by Prussia.

THE CONTINENT.

"I am enabled to state, on the best authority," says the *Globe* Paris correspondent, "that the amnesty which is to crown the visit of the Emperor Francis Joseph to Hungary will be of the most complete description; it will alone exclude Louis Kossuth."

The Republican party in France has definitively decided on its candidates in the approaching elections. In the provinces, Liberals of local importance will be chosen in preference to names more familiar to the nation, but whose influence is more of a moral than of a practical character. In Paris, the best men of the party will be brought forward, and the election of one or two of the candidates is nearly certain. The presence of a little opposition in the Legislative Chamber will render immense service to that insipid body. The candidates for Paris will be Cavaignac, Carnot, Bethmont, Dufaure, Guinard, and Goudchaux. In Lyons, Jules Favre will be put forward, and probably elected.—*Globe.*

FALL OF HOUSES (YESTERDAY).

A very lamentable catastrophe occurred yesterday (Friday) morning in a court, called Russell-place, turning out of Little Russell-street, Covent-garden. The houses there (five in number) were in a very dilapidated state, and were being pulled down. Some workmen were employed upon a wall at the back, which fell down shortly before eleven o'clock, burying several persons in the ruins. Four men were drawn out,—one dead, and the other three frightfully injured. It is feared that one of these will die.

The Bishopric of Norwich.—Although the bishopric of Norwich will not be filled up immediately, we have every reason to share in the anticipation that Mr Pelham will be the successor of Dr. Hinds in that see.—*Globe.*

Extensive Fire at Poplar.—Between the hours of three and four o'clock yesterday morning, a fire, involving great destruction of property, broke out on the premises of Mr. Broadstairs, dairyman, Alpha-road, Millwall, Poplar. The flames progressed so rapidly that the greatest difficulty arose as to the removal of the horses, cows, and other animals, which would have perished but for the assistance of the neighbours. The tenement was burnt down, and the adjoining buildings were considerably damaged by fire and water. Mr. Broadstairs is not insured.

Open Council.

[In this department, as all opinions, however extreme, are allowed an expression, the editor necessarily holds himself responsible for none.]

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

THE LAWS RELATING TO THE PROPERTY OF MARRIED WOMEN.

(*To the Editor of the Leader.*)

Sir,—In my last letter I discussed at some length the first clause of the petition relative to the Property of Married Women. I now come to the second, which affirms, "that it is usual, when a daughter marries in these (the upper and middle) ranks, to make, if possible, some distinct pecuniary provision for her and her children, and to secure the money thus set aside by a cumbrous machinery of trusteeship, proving that few parents are willing entirely to entrust the welfare of their offspring to the irresponsible power of a husband, to the chances of his character, his wisdom, and his success in a profession.

This second clause establishes that the *principle* upon which the petition was drawn up is *virtually conceded* by society, although it has not as yet worked into the common law. Whatever may be said on all hands of the trust which a wife ought to repose in a husband, it is an undeniable fact that those who, in the present state of female education, or by right of some prerogative, consider that it is their place to judge for her, concerning her pecuniary affairs, very rarely do allow her, were she ever so much disposed to do so, to fling all the chances of pecuniary ease into the same boat with her husband's fortunes, and that were they to do so, society would turn round and stigmatize them as careless and unfeeling for a daughter's interests. The common sense of the world is at variance with the sentiment of the world; and those who would require from the individual woman a complete renunciation of all ideas of *meum* and *tuum*, require that the father shall step in and rigorously fulfil for her that attention to the hard facts of life, of which she must be wholly innocent and oblivious. Hear what the father would say to himself, and to the world:—

"My daughter's my daughter the whole of her life, and I am not justified in placing her, unable to work, and perhaps the mother of several children, wholly at the mercy of some one whom I may only have known six months. If she chooses to give him the interest of her fortune I cannot help that, but I ought certainly to feel sure that he cannot take the capital without her knowledge and against her will. Besides, he might fail, and then where would she and the children be?" And so he takes his 5000*l.* or his 20,000*l.*, and ties it up tightly under care of the most trustworthy person he can think of, and dies under the comfortable assurance that if the trustee neither dies nor runs away, his money is safe from his son-in-law! And I contend that for a father *not* to do this, would in general be thought to imply weakness, or culpable neglect; and that in the case of commercial houses, men clearly understand that they are trading with the husband's and not with the wife's property, and that few creditors, even in cases of aggravated failures, would be so cruel as to rejoice in seeing innocent women and children involved in a common ruin, since, be it remembered, they have not contributed to speculations, and that the chances of their extrication are infinitely less. It is somewhat analogous to cases of partnership of limited liability, where the basis of a commercial agreement is *à priori* laid down; and it will be better for trade when no confusing ideas of the possibility of the wife's fortune being responsible cross the judgment of those who have dealings with the husband. It is said to be a scandalous sight, when a man who has not wherewith to pay his creditors, lives in affluence upon the fortune of his wife; but which is worse, to see a man indebted to the affection of his wife for rescue from a portion (and only a portion) of the evil and social disrespect he has brought upon himself, or to see her children in need of bread and education for want of a simple understanding beforehand that she had a right to secure their welfare, whatever might occur to him? For a mother who brings children into the world has a positive right to demand of society the power to provide for them, without being placed at the mercy of the spoiler or the improvident. To her belongs the pain and the trouble, the anxiety, and the largest portion of moral responsibility to God in regard to their training. All the world admits, nay, insists upon this as a matter of religion and sentiment. To her, therefore, surely, must be accorded the very limited right to keep her own and to work for them; not, mark me, to take anybody else's money, Government or other, but to work for them *herself*; in a state of society where, in spite of many changes for the better, the struggle is enormous for the penniless mother of

a family, unless she be gifted with some special talent, and even then——!

These observations form a reply to the perpetual assertion, "Well, but a woman should know whom she trusts, she should be content to take her chance, look before you leap," and a few other proverbs. Undoubtedly; but a woman, and especially an affectionate one, is not gifted with unerring foresight with power of scientific analysis, when she leaves one home of comparative seclusion to enter another; and there is a third party in the constitution of the family who has a moral right to be considered, the child, who has an actual claim upon his mother—his mother, who, on her side, has no right to promise away her power of discharging her obligations in his behalf. People, if they look out well beforehand, have a certain right to leap, like the Persian prince, into the air, if so be that they carry with them nothing but what is strictly their own, but they have no right to leap with all their moral responsibilities with them, to promise away their own power of fulfilling their plainest duties, shuffling them off on to another person whose time is probably engrossed with practical external life, and, in fact, creating an entail upon their own consciences of the worst description. For a subsequent clause of the petition declares that "the law, in depriving the mother of all pecuniary resources, deprives her of the power of giving schooling to her children, and in other ways providing for their moral and physical welfare; it obliges her, in short, to leave them to the temptations of the street, so fruitful in juvenile crime." This sentence, specially inserted, as I happen to know, at the request of a person much interested in and cognisant of the question of juvenile reformation, begs a point, which, were it proved by numerous examples, would exactly confirm what I have said above.

The third clause of the petition alludes to the Courts of Equity, and of these a woman is unfitted to argue, except in remarking that whatever the mode or degree of success of their action, they are now wholly beside our question, on account of the expense attending any appeal to their aid, and that no separate tribunal on matrimonial relations will be of any use to the nation at large unless its charges be of the most moderate scale; unless, in fact, they become County Courts for the settling of litigated questions in each separate district, without obliging the farmer's wife to leave her hens and cows, and the shoemaker his last, upon every occasion of appeal. It does not, however, seem likely that "appeals," however cheap, are the best or tenderest methods of mending broken hearts, heads, or fortunes, and a simpler common law may prevent an amount of mischief which, when once done in so delicate a piece of machinery as a domestic household, neither judge nor jury can cure. What we want is the simple defence of LAW—that Law so much respected in England that its mere existence upon any point is an influence which penetrates into the secret closets of a house, —that Law to which honest citizens never appeal, and whose dictates they never infringe, but which nevertheless is around us all, from our cradle to our death, a band of gentle but steady constraints, which in the person of an invisible police makes the streets of London safe amidst two millions of people—which constantly sends 5*l.* notes to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, though no man knew of the defalcation —which tames even the sad ferocity of hunger, and enables us to risk the experiments of tickets of leave—the Law which has already secured so much for the weaker sex, though not one in a thousand ever saw even the shadow of its wig and gown, except in their marriage license. For true it is, that the Law of a great and free nation is less a sharp and isolated authority than an all-pervading atmosphere. If it is impure we breathe it at a thousand lungs; we do not fight it, for "to beat the air" is proverbially childish; but we drain our marshes and lay a penalty upon our chimneys, till we find we can say, "How clear it is to-day, there is nothing in the air," although there may be all the time a degree of pressure per inch which, if removed, would make us leap fifteen feet high at every step we took.

Let it not be forgotten, therefore, that no patching process of extra tribunals will meet the requests set forth in the petition, which was, that the Legislature would inquire into and amend, upon various points relating to the property and earnings of married women, the present condition of the LAW.

I am, sir, &c., BESSIE RAYNER PARKES.

IMPRISONMENT FOR DEBT.

(*To the Editor of the Leader.*)

Audi alterem partem. It has of late, in my opinion, been somewhat too much the practice to abuse the creditor for seeking to enforce payment of his just demands from his debtor by the punishment of imprisonment.

I do not for one moment wish to defend the practice of imprisonment for debt as it now obtains in France, but I cannot help thinking that the absence of power to imprison certain classes of debtors is carried to too great an extreme in England, particularly in cases where the sum recovered by a judgment is under 20*l.* And I will give you an instance. In the year 1854 a West-end tailor employed a poor sempstress to make his waistcoats, &c., and continued so to do until nearly the end of 1856, by which time he was several pounds sterling in her debt for work done as well as for goods supplied. The creditor being unable to get her money, sued the debtor, and obtained judgment against him in the County Court. The debtor took no notice of the order of the court, and an execution was levied on his goods, when the debtor politely offered the bailiff, not the money, but a bill of sale by way of mortgage of all his goods, dated in the year 1853, in favour of a person who turned out to be a friend. The debtor had, throughout the period of his employment of the creditor, always kept a well-furnished house, three female domestics, and dressed and lived in good style, and the creditor naturally considered her debtor was a man of means. Subsequent inquiries, however, show that the debtor was discharged from his debts at Ipswich in 1853, in London in 1855, and again in Ipswich in 1856. The debtor has all this time kept possession of the same furniture, and lived, and still lives, in the same style that he has done for several years, and laughs at all his creditors. May I inquire of your correspondent "Civicus" whom he or Lord Eldon would consider the more "worthless" of the two in the case I have above narrated. I can furnish him with names and other details; unfortunately, there are but too many cases of a similar kind.

FIAT JUSTITIA.

"CANDIDE" ON THE ELECTIONS.

(*To the Editor of the Leader.*)

SIR,—It has long been to me a source of mingled pain and regret that so able a journalist as yourself should have become a victim to the modern fallacy of imagining, or at least of asserting, that whatever is, is not always best. From articles that have recently appeared in your paper it might be inferred that the most competent men are not on all occasions returned to represent their countrymen in Parliament—that the electors themselves are not unfrequently influenced by unworthy motives in making their choice—and that the cordial understanding which exists at election time between the candidates and their constituents is hollow, fictitious, and ephemeral. Fortunately, sir, it is in my power to dispel your delusions, and, if your honesty is at all equal to your ability, you will not refuse to accept the refutation of your unwholesome and narrow-minded theory from even so humble an individual as myself—one, however, who, like Mr. Meagles, is a practical man.

Allow me to premise that I am at present making a tour through the eastern and midland counties of this great and enlightened country; though you will pardon my not gratifying your idle curiosity as to whether I am enduring the restraints of the honeymoon, or indulging in the amorous falsehoods of the commercial gent.

It was, if my memory deceive me not, on the night of Wednesday the 18th ult., that I found myself standing in the arched doorway of a commodious family hotel in a large county town. The gas shone out with its usual brilliancy—the air was redolent with bad tobacco—the pavement dotted with orange peel, and the shutters were being poked from the shop-door into the eye of the passer-by. Suddenly a throng of hilarious citizens swept past me into the yard of the caravanserai, then more and more, till the big drops swelled into a full stream. In the crowd I distinguished an individual of a timid and retiring disposition. Upon him I swooped, as an owl upon a mouse, and demanded the cause of the gathering. He trembled, one hand went up to his mouth, and thus he hastened to reply:—

"Oh, sir, don't you know, sir? I suppose you're a stranger, sir? This is a grand meeting of the Odd Fellows to meet the Liberal candidates."

"Expound your meaning more clearly," quoth I.

"Well, sir, you see, sir, our old member is one of us; so we all said we'd stand by him. But you see, sir, we don't really like him no how, for he's allers been very good in the way of lending us money and helping us in our straits. You know, sir, nobody cares to remember that sort of thing, so we just guv a hint to the other candidates that if they would demean thesselves to join us, we'd see what we could do for them. Well, sir, they ha' tuk the hint, and now we're going to ha' a drop o' sumthing with our new brothers. You can come, sir, too, if you ha' a mind—there baint nuthing to pay."

After this, of course I went. A long room was filling fast with bipeds, who called lustily for various beverages and for cigars—though later in the evening pipes were preferred. Presently two gentlemen were ushered in by Mr. G. P. R. James—no, no, I don't mean that, but I never think of two gentlemen without an association with the name of that herring-power prolific novelist. Two gentlemen came in, attended by various local celebrities, in the midst of enthusiastic cheering—it was clear that they had not yet laid any one present under the irksomeness of an obligation. The one was an unfledged lordling, who had seen some twenty-five summers. He was the eldest son of the Earl of Whitechalk, whose ideas on the subject of practical benevolence had rendered him unpopular with many of his fellow countrymen. The other was a London merchant; but both of them appeared to regard the present as the happiest and proudest moment of their existence. I need not particularize the various toasts, sentiments, songs, cigars, pipes, and grogs, that rapidly succeeded each other till the "wee hour ayont the twal'." But what I do insist upon is this, that, if elections can produce so much kind, genial, sympathetic feeling between the extreme points of the social scale, it is a very great pity they do not occur every year. Oh, I know you will say that after the election neither the lordling nor the merchant would be seen to enter an Odd Fellows' club. That, my good sir, is begging the question, and, for my part, I shall look for these worthy gentlemen at every convivial meeting during the ensuing season, whether at Evans's, Cremorne, the Cider Cellars, or Canterbury Hall—ay, not even excepting Almack's.

Two days after witnessing this touching and interesting scene I happened to be in Stockington. In that neighbourhood the Duke of Neufchâtel is the Parhelion. No matter what may be the first frivolous fancies of the aborigines, it is sufficient to say, *le Duc le volt*—in English, *bien entendu*—to have an entire change effected in their intentions. The Duke is not only wise, he is also kindhearted: he is not only kindhearted, he is also affable and condescending. My worthy and excellent landlady waxed warm in praise of his Grace:—

"He is quite a gentleman. Only the last time he was in the town he walked into our bar while Miss Salmon" (a wave of the hand indicated that the mermaid was the Hebe of the hotel) "and me were at dinner. 'Ah, Mrs. White,' he said, 'caught you at dinner, eh? A pleasant occupation.' In course we both of us rose from our chairs, and I said, 'Will your Grace please to walk into our little parlour?' 'No, thank you,' says he, 'I'll just sit here and have a chat with you while you're dining, if you'll allow me.' In course we both of us said we should feel greatly honoured. And I give you my word, sir, I never was so amused in my life. After he had gone, I said to Miss Salmon, says I, 'I declare I don't seem to care about my dinner. His Grace has quite put me off my appetite.' And Miss Salmon said, 'Well, do you know, Mrs. White, I was just thinking I should like to have a duke by my side every day at dinner time—it's as good as a band of music.'"

Is not that, sir, a pleasant vignette? A great duke bringing out all his intellectual treasures for the recreation of a Bonifacia and her barmaid! And yet foreigners accuse us of being haughty and reserved. What! "His son is standing for the county!" Well! what of that? Shame on you for the paltry insinuation.

In the midland counties there is an important town named Costello. The inhabitants have, from time immemorial, been held to be the property of the great baron, Lord Parry, owner of men and patron of ballet dancers. Insensible to their good fortune in belonging to such an illustrious master, these foolish people bethought them of setting up an image of their own manufacture. They had not long to wait for an urban deity. The *deus ex* machinery was hight Cœur de Lion Brindled Sherricobler, Esq., a worthy man, and wealthy to boot. Indeed, his introducer, Mr. Pogis, said that he was prepared to put 10,000*l.* into any local bank they pleased, if they would honour him with their suffrages. What a contrast to your John Macgregors and Humphrey Browns. Mr. Sherricobler himself shot far ahead of the cautious Pogis. He was not ashamed to acknowledge that he was in independent circumstances, that he had made his own fortune, that he was cousin two generations back and only five times removed to a Sherricobler who never paid his tradesmen and always took in his friends, that he had money in many railways, and that he was also concerned in underground operations. Finally, he was still open to conviction—he could be moulded as they pleased. At present, he was as a pearl on a pig's snout, but it was in their power to transform him into the golden calf—unless they preferred him as the goose with the golden egg. Need I say that the electors of Costello are delighted with their *novus homo* as an agreeable variety after the *vir antiquus* to whom they have hitherto been subjected. As a commercial community, they have reason to rejoice in their anticipated emancipation from time-worn prejudices; and I am sure, sir, that even you will admit that the fittest man to represent an influential borough is one who has ten thousand "notions" to invest in local undertakings, while he is unfettered by any opinions or prejudices of his own on any subject whatsoever.

But last night it was my privilege to witness one of those decided manifestations of public opinion which do so much credit to this our native land. There could not have been fewer than 7000 magnanimous Great Britons trampling on one another's toes and yelling into one another's ears. They had assembled to receive an account of the sayings and doings of their past representatives. The one was a tall, fine-looking man, about sixty-three years of age, with white hair, huge shirt-collars, a black beard, long and strong as horsehair, and a tremendous bamboo cane, as terrible as a "Penang lawyer." His black surtout was fastened only by the lowest button, so that the upper part bulged out to correspond with his "gills," and he stood defiantly with his hands upon his hips—somewhat resembling an ancient amphora. He grumbled at the trouble the electors had given him in bringing him down from town: he disputed their right to interfere with his personal con-

venience: he had intended to retire on account of his age—though ten years junior to the Premier—but as he found that that course would be agreeable to two-thirds of his constituents, he had since determined to hold on like grim death: he defied any man to turn him out, unless he had a much heavier purse than his own—a delicate compliment to the incorruptibility of the electors—and, in conclusion, he expressed his perfect satisfaction with himself.

His colleague next spoke: a gentlemanly-looking man, with spectacles and a long thin narrow chin, and something of the pedagogue in the preciseness of his lips. This speaker was as respectful as his predecessor had been the reverse. He bowed to the superior wisdom of his constituents in all things, except in their expectation that he and his esteemed colleague should be present in their places in Parliament. How could he vote on Irish or Scotch, or even private English bills, not pertaining to the borough? Of course it was not his business to make himself acquainted with matters that interested only the nation, but did not exclusively refer to his own constituency.

He resumed his seat amid loud applause, which likewise greeted every subsequent speaker who spoke either for or against Lord Palmerston. In the end, the anti-Palmerstonians had rather the best of it, because no one remained to continue the up-and-down movement of the political balance.

The conclusion therefore at which I have arrived from these experiences is simply this, that the candidates are generally as worthy of the electors as the electors are of the candidates. In this harmony I recognise the existence of that dogma which you, sir, strive to bring into discredit; namely, that whatever is, is best. And in this belief I beg to subscribe myself,

Your obedient servant, Candide.

Solar Spots.—It appears to be not enough that we are to be extinguished by the comet next 13th of June, and that we are to be visited by a murrain in the meanwhile; there is something also the matter with the sun, according to "Helioscopus," a correspondent of the *Times*, who writes, with respect to the spots on the solar disc:—"The observers of these phenomena should be on the alert, as the spotless and monotonous state of the solar disc which prevailed during the whole of last year, in precise conformity with the law of their periodical disappearance at regular intervals of one-ninth of a century, is evidently giving place to a more active state of things. Already, on the 31st of last December, the appearance of an exceedingly minute speck announced a change commencing, and, on the 2nd of January and 9th of February, minute double spots were also seen, but the whole of March passed without any further indication of movement. Now, however, a group of four—two pretty conspicuous and two very minute ones—have entered on the northern hemisphere, and the state of the borders of the disc in the neighbourhood is such as to indicate the probable appearance of more or enlargement of those existing. They may be seen with a very moderate telescopic power. The greatest interest has begun to attach itself to these appearances, which are undoubtedly connected with most important processes in the economy of nature, and they should be observed assiduously."

"A Dowdy Wife."—The mother of General Sir Charles Napier was a daughter of the ducal house of Lennox. Her father, the second Duke of Richmond, and grandson of Charles II. by Louis de Querouaille, the celebrated Duchess of Portsmouth, was betrothed when a boy to the Lady Sarah Cadogan, to cancel a gambling debt between the parents. "Surely, you are not going to marry me to that dowdy!" said the young fellow, then Lord March, when the knot was about to be tied. The knot was tied, however, and immediately the youthful bridegroom was hurried away from his dowdy bride to the Continent. Three years afterwards, on returning from his travels, Lord March went straight to the theatre and saw a lady with whose appearance he was fascinated. "Why, that is the reigning toast—that is Lady March," he was told. It was his dowdy wife. The next moment he claimed her, and they lived so happily together that years afterwards we find them cooing to each other most affectionately at a ball described in one of the letters of Horace Walpole. "The ball began at eight o'clock. The beauties were the Duke of Richmond's two daughters and their mother, still handsomer than they. The Duke sat by his wife all night, kissing her hand."—*Life, by Sir W. Napier.*

Anglo-Saxon and Latin.—It would be almost impossible to compose a sentence of moderate length consisting solely of words of Latin derivation. But there are many which can be rendered wholly in Anglo-Saxon. It would be easy to make the Lord's Prayer entirely, as it is in present use almost entirely, Anglo-Saxon. It consists of sixty words, and six of these only have a Latin root. But for each of them, except one, we have an exact Saxon equivalent. For "trespasses," we may substitute "sins;" for "temptation," "trials;" for "deliver," "free;" and for "power," "might." Dr. Trench proposes for "glory," "brightness;" but this we think is not a good substitute, although we are unable to suggest a better.—"Literary Style," *Fraser* for April.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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

We cannot undertake to return rejected communications.

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

During the Session of Parliament it is often impossible to find room for correspondence, even the briefest.

The Leader.

SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 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.

THE NEW PARLIAMENT.

Distributing the members of the new House of Commons under two general heads—Liberal and Conservative—we are now enabled to calculate their respective forces. There are, as nearly as possible, four hundred Liberals, and about two hundred and sixty-five Tories. In the late Parliament the Tories numbered more than three hundred. They appear to console themselves for their county defeats by dwelling upon the fact that they have lost few boroughs. They had, however, very few boroughs to lose. The two or three that remained to them in Scotland have been forfeited. The war was carried on in the counties, and here the results have been astonishing. Thirty county seats have been gained by the Liberal party; only two by the Tories. The renegade Hamiltons have seen their influence beaten down in Lanarkshire; some of the English counties which for many years had invariably returned a Carlton nominee, have changed sides, and given a large majority to the Reform candidates. Elsewhere, it is notorious, the Conservatives might have been defeated had Liberal candidates chosen to stand forward. Another remarkable circumstance is that, out of a hundred and sixty new members elected, not more than forty-three profess Conservative principles. Thus a majority of the six hundred thousand county electors, as well of the five hundred thousand borough electors, even without the protection of the Ballot, have emphatically declared against the opinions held by the followers of Lord Derby. The Ballot, of course, would have repudiated still more decidedly the Shiboleth of the country gentlemen; while a fair representation of the people in Parliament would have reduced them to their proper place in the State—that of a political fraction, occupying a quiet corner of the House of Commons, an ounce weight to steady the scales. As it is, while the separatist sections—the Manchester party and the Peelites—have been all but obliterated, the obstructive party has suffered under a process of severe mutilation. It has been at least doubly decimated. The nation will gain in two ways. The House of Commons, relieved of many a solid rural presence, will be enabled to legislate upon a large and safe liberal basis, and the Derbyite minority in the House of Lords will be proportionately discouraged. The majorities in the Upper House depend finally upon the majorities in the Lower, although it may become a question whether a few Liberal peerages might not conveniently be created, in order that the senators of the red-and-gold chamber might more speedily comprehend the meaning and the necessity of a Reform Bill. There are several members of the Liberal party on whom coronets might be bestowed without a waste of heraldic honour; certain Earls and Viscounts now sitting among Commoners might appropriately take their places under the hereditary roof. But it will be time to consider these exigencies when the views of the House of Lords, on the subject of the representation, have been duly elicited.

Toryism, defeated at the General Election, enjoys two consolations. It has not lost many borough seats, having, as we have remarked, a very small number to lose, and it has not lost any of its distinguished men. For the same reason, we are sorry to say. Who *are* the distinguished Tories? Now, we wish to answer this question in no unfair or factious spirit, as will be evident when we allow Mr. Disraeli, Sir Fitzroy Kelly, Sir Frederick Thesiger, Mr. Walpole, Sir Bulwer Lytton, Sir John Pakington, Mr. Warren, and Mr. Whiteside, one and all, to be distinguished individuals. If the party has other names to show, what are they? We submit that it would be impossible, without irony, to increase the list. Some years ago, indeed, the Earl of Derby confessed that he had too few men of experience and capacity among his followers to form a competent administration. And even now some deductions must be made. We have noted eight persons as distinguished. But only three of them are politicians—Mr. Disraeli, Sir John Pakington, and Mr. Walpole. Two are brilliant counsel; one is a novelist, and remembers it when he speaks in Parliament; one has written, with lurid incoherence, the romance of epileptic lunacy. So it is not much to say that Toryism has no great names among its killed and wounded. As to the Manchester Leaguers and their adherents, it was impossible to attack them without striking at some distinguished reputation. Of the rejected members of that party not one was obscure. Who that habitually reads the public journals, will be struck by the absence from division lists of Barrington, Farrer, Floyer, Compton, Nesbitt, Fellowes, or Mundy? But who will *not* call to mind again and again the loss of Cobden and Bright, of Layard and Milner Gibson? Reverting to the partial rout of the Peelite section, it is curious to observe the pertinacity with which, in Tory manuals, Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Sidney Herbert are claimed as Conservatives. Poverty, however, is no excuse for stealing, although destitution may be. The intellect of Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Sidney Herbert does not belong to the Carlton Club; those men are Liberals; had they been defeated, Lord Derby would not have been the loser. Certainly, Mr. Cardwell's rejection at Oxford is not a Tory failure, although it may have been a questionable success on the part of the advanced Liberals. In spite of an exterior somewhat frozen by official pedantry, no member of the late House of Commons entertained more conscientious or cordial popular sympathies than Mr. Cardwell, the friend and literary executor of Sir Robert Peel.

It follows that, while the Peelite party has been broken up, and the Manchester party deprived for a time of its representation in Parliament, the Liberals of all shades form a vast majority, while the minority, composed of Tories, also of all shades, has been reduced by at least one-sixth. This opens a promising prospect for Reformers. Their great interest, as was well known early last week, is actually under the consideration of the Government. Nothing but a Trans-

atlantic or Continental war—both all but impossibilities—could save the Premier from the absolute necessity of attempting at least to solve the question; it is understood, indeed, that he has yielded to the representations of his colleagues, and to the vigorous summons of the electors, and that a Bill, combining several points of the Liberal programme, is in process of amalgamation. As we have said, two-thirds of the new House of Commons will assent at once to the general principle of Parliamentary reform; even the Tories confess that it can no longer be postponed. The only danger is lest the Reformers in Parliament should be satisfied with too small a measure, and lest the Ballot should be a second time sacrificed. But there are good men and true keeping watch out of doors, and they will rally the people, while Lord PALMERSTON confronts the Legislature.

FUNGUS *v.* FUNGI.

THE Emperor of the French is engaged in a new reform; he is about to purify French society of the Marquises, Counts, and Viscounts that infest it. All spurious titles are to be put down by the action of the penal law. The proceeding is attended with two classes of danger. It will expose the hollow character of the recent nobility, and it will exasperate the spurious into a temper that may be dangerous even to the State. Titular confusion in France arises from the confusion of the Government. There are many sources of nobility in that country. If we use the word title in its widest sense, it may be acquired in France by inheritance, by the purchase of domain, and by creation. There were the nobilities of the ancient monarchy, which the Revolution cancelled; there were the titles of the first Empire, *de facto* cancelled on the dethronement of NAPOLEON; there were the restored titles of the Restoration, which also recognised the imperial titles; there were the permissive titles of LOUIS PHILIPPE; and now, in addition to all these, besides the new creations of the second NAPOLEON called the Third, we have a number of nobles who have been created by themselves. The confusion was increased by the fact that the old nobles were expelled from the country; many of them died abroad, their possessions fell into the hands of aliens; and while in some cases the inheritance strayed into wrong hands, the title has been divorced from property, and has become a bauble handed down from beggar to beggar. Thus in French society you meet upstarts who have brought their patents by servility to the State, officers who have risen from the ranks to be Dukes, mediæval nobles out at elbows, and nobles who have no more right to their name than Count FATHOM. And such has been the confounding of classes, the degradation of some of the old nobles, the prostitution of modern titles, and the success of the spurious, that it is nearly impossible to tell the gold from the brass. The course taken by the Emperor has been to call from M. ABBATUCCI a report upon the subject; that report is referred to the Council of State; and the Council is to suggest means for enforcing penalties against false assumption.

The recommendation must involve the action of the penal law, and unless the Government is to act in a very arbitrary manner, we may hear of legal proceedings. It is more than possible that men may be accused of the false assumption of title who will be able to establish their claims, although they will be unable to establish any character for honesty even in the lowest sense of the word. In fact, this kind of action is likely to set the courts of law exposing at once the damaged character of some of the old nobility, the contrast between the true old nobles and the modern creations, and the extent to which some fictitious nobles upon sufferance have assisted in the present régime. For it is impossible that men who are called upon to lay down titles which they have assumed and have borne by courtesy, should not defend themselves by explaining how they have served that State which is now so cruel to them. The legal noblesse will hardly come out of such inquiries without some ridicule, and the illegal noblesse will come out with a thorough hatred of the Government which has exposed it.

Besides, how grand the retort which the stripped nobles can make! If they have given themselves patent of nobility, who was it that set them the example, if it was not LOUIS NAPOLEON himself? Men who have made themselves Viscounts and Marquises may perhaps, on being compelled to cancel their patent, avenge themselves by compelling the self-created Emperor to take off his tiara, lay down his sceptre, and reappear before the world as plain CHARLES LOUIS BONAPARTE.

There is a further impolicy in the whole proceeding. Any nobility rests its genuine character upon some reality. Originally it was based upon real power, which grasped a privilege; and the title was only the *name* of the power. Even after feudal exclusiveness of possession had ceased, society still looked up to the Duke or the Marquis, though there was nothing in his dukedom or marquisate *but* the name. You cannot make society respect Dukes merely because they are genuine or legal—that is, because they have a piece of parchment in their strong-box. And any run at the active clever fellows who are calling themselves Marquises and Viscounts is likely enough to expose the spurious character of every sort of aristocratic title in France. The people will look up to PELISSIER because he has been really a successful man. He *was* Duke of Malakoff—that is, a leader at the Malakoff.

But what is the Count DE MORNY besides being "le plus grand *brocanteur* de l'Europe?" In English we might pardonably translate his title to mean Count your Money; for that phrase would really express the whole value of the man. He is rich, and has become so by gigantic jobbing. It would be far more close to the fact if the Emperor were to entitle him the Grand Jobber.

NEW SPECIAL MEN.

THE new Parliament abounds in new men. We feel some pride in remembering that, in nearly every conspicuous instance, we had pointed, before the elections took place, to the names of the new Liberals. It is satisfactory to find that we had correctly interpreted the sentiments and sympathies of the Reform party. Among those members who have just received their political commissions, by virtue of family influence, however, there are some who may legitimately be welcomed under the common standard. The House of Commons will not unkindly see Lord LINCOLN, Lord JAMES STUART, and Viscount MELGUND take their seats by the side of the latest development of the traditional Lord ALTHORP. From another social department it will receive, with pleasure, Mr. WYLD, Mr. SALISBURY, Mr. HOPWOOD, Mr. H. D. SHERIDAN, Mr. NICOLL, Mr. TOWNSEND, Mr. ROUPELL, Mr. GILPIN, Mr. PLATT, Mr. LOCKE, Mr. FOLEY, Mr. W. O. FOSTER, and Mr. AYRTON. We have already noticed the accession of Mr. CONINGHAM, Mr. HACKBLOCK, Mr. WATKINS, and Mr. MCCULLAGH. It remains, perhaps, to shake hands with Sir FREDERICK SMITH, who "hardly knows where to stop" in reform measures, Mr. J. T. MORRIS, and Mr. R. N. PHILIPS, and other gentlemen who will enter St. Stephen's porch by right of writ returned, for the first time. A few names, however, call for further and special comment: "Eothen" KINGLAKE, who brings into Parliament his broad, clear, masterly English intellect, his fine culture, and his 'icebrook' nerve, with his unflinching liberalism and contempt of all servility — qualities now in high demand for the service of Reform. Mr. KINGLAKE, perhaps, will do his work best in the department of administrative improvement, and of questions relating to the army. He is neither a pedant nor a circumlocutionist; nor will he the less zealously or effectually prosecute his aims in the direction of Law Reform for having given up the wig and gown, in which he served an honourable and not undistinguished apprenticeship, for the larger science of legislation. Mr. KINGLAKE then, is a special new man.

New and special also is Major-General "Redan" WINDHAM, a thorough Liberal, whose Parliamentary attack will alarm all military jobbers, pedants, and idlers. He may be expected to lend effective aid to the promoters of army reform and army education; he is known to hold advanced views with respect to the purchase system, to the establishment of "economy and efficiency" as the motto of the War-office, and to the development of a national Militia reserve. These are points on which our journal has emphatically insisted, so that we may cordially recognize WINDHAM as a special new man of particular value.

We may nominate, thirdly, Mr. AUGUSTUS SMITH, who in some sense is the STAMFORD RAFFLES of an island realm. He is governor and owner of those singular outlying fragments of England, the Scilly Isles, peopled by a small but most enterprising and intelligent community, and his administration of those territories has been pleasantly called "an enlightened despotism." An absolute government no doubt it is—would that all absolute governments were like it! But the member for Truro is potentate by virtue of a title possessed by no other sovereign; his dominion is his private estate. He has extinguished pauperism, stimulated the trade, and improved the agriculture of the Scillies. Moreover, he has created the best unsectarian schools for the education of children that are to be met with in the United Kingdom. The District Inspector of Schools will testify to this. Will not Sir JOHN PAKINGTON and Lord JOHN RUSSELL appreciate the value of such a man when Educational, Poor Law, or Administrative topics are debated? He will speak with genuine authority. Such legislators cannot fail to attain influence and reputation in the House of Commons. We must note again Sir ARTHUR ELTON, whom we indicated long before the dissolution as a probable member of the next Parliament. He has *studied* statesmanship and legislation, has been an attentive observer of home and foreign politics, is practically familiar with the wants and feelings of the poor; in his own county he is known as a reforming landowner, and an active magistrate. Beyond those local limits his writings have attracted the attention of all Liberal critics.

We have selected four examples of representative men, without meaning the slightest disparagement to other new members, with whom, no doubt, they will frequently discuss the necessities of the period for which the Parliament of 1857 will have to legislate—not a very long period, probably. It would be impossible to review, individually, the

Liberal recruits in the House of Commons. But as they come into action, there will be opportunities for a complete analysis of the fresh element that has been infused into the legislative body.

LEGAL SUPPRESSION OF WITCHCRAFT.

In how many English counties will the wayfarer observe on the threshold of the cottage-door a horse-shoe nailed? Who is ignorant of the use of that ornament to the entrance of home? For some reason which scientific philosophy has not yet discovered, it prevents the entrance of a witch. Remove the horse-shoe, and the witch may enter. It follows that there must be witches to enter the doors of those cottages; and we believe that the number of counties in which the precaution may be observed is fifty-six. Since there *are* witches, it follows that persons must be bewitched. In a very interesting paper published by the *Times*, the witches are described as obtaining their influence by the most direct process. They believe in the existence of an eternal spirit of evil; they believe that he has the power of working death and destruction, and that he can lend his power to others who will pay the price for it; and we ask, what respectable person will boldly stand forward at the present day and deny that the country people are correct in this plain account?

There are two circumstances which confirm the general belief. It is found that witches do *not* enter the doors which are fortified with horse-shoes; and that is strong negative evidence. It is also found that persons are bewitched, for the instances are perfectly notorious in all English counties. No doubt evil-disposed persons may spuriously *pretend* to be witches, only for the purpose of making a trade; and it is possible that some genuine witches may also make money by their vocation. We believe that to this day they will for a proper price sell a wind to a sea-captain; and captains do sometimes lay in a stock of that commodity, just as the mythological voyager did: for a knowledge of these profound truths has been common to all ages of mankind. Nor is there anything in this sale of a wind very different from the sale of a caul, which the *Times* does not scruple sometimes to advertise,—the usual price being from one guinea to three or more. The genuine witch, however, works her incantations for the honour and dignity of the thing,—for the love of mischief.

In the village of Hockham resides a person whose initials are J. B.; and his wife has been afflicted by a witch. There was no doubt about the fact. He proceeded to a magistrate in the neighbourhood, and asked for an order to have the witch "proved." The magistrate was not versed in that branch of jurisprudence; and he expressed some doubt as to the existence of witches. Mr. B. silenced him with the precedent of the witch of Endor, and informed him how a witch is proved. She is "swum,"—that is, she is immersed in water, and if she floats she is a witch, if she sinks she is no witch; and Mr. B.'s object was, to have this scientific test applied in a perfectly lawful manner. The magistrate, indeed, seemed to assume—and it is an instance of the rash temper we sometimes find on the bench—that Mr. B. had not really identified the criminal that persecuted his wife; but that again was a mistake. The accuser stated the mode in which the criminal had been identified. Following the advice of a wise woman, he had taken some old horse-shoe nails, together with parings of his wife's toe-nails and of her finger-nails, and hairs from the "noddle" of her neck; had put them into a bottle, and put the bottle in a vessel on the fire to boil; and the time while that compound was "boiling, and burning, and what not," was the time to see the witch. His wife went to bed; got out of bed, as was her custom, to take some magnesia or a little drink, looked out of window; and there, "in the moonlight, at a most unseasonable hour," she saw a neighbour, Mrs. C——, "standing in an agony sort of state." Mrs. C—— is a woman so infirm that she cannot leave her own house; and her having come all that distance proves that she is in possession of supernatural powers for certain purposes; the effects of which Mrs. B. felt only too practically. The husband did not ask to have the culprit condemned without a hearing; he wished a fair trial, and that was the object of his applying for a magistrate's order.

The order was refused, on the assumption that the man's statements were absurd; and that refusal happened in a court of law, where a Chinaman would be allowed to break a saucer as a proof of his statements! We say nothing of other assertions which are received as a matter of course. Now we regret that the magistrate did not adopt an entirely different line of action, and grant the order. It would be a grand thing to have the trial of a witch. The prosecution of Tunnicliff by Charlesworth, in Staffordshire, is no case in point: Tunnicliff was not prosecuted as a wizard, but as an impostor who pretended to be a wizard, for the purpose of getting money out of Charlesworth's pocket on "false pretences," and he was punished as an impostor. But it would be very interesting to take the trial upon the direct issue—to place Mrs. C—— in the dock on the positive charge of having bewitched Mrs. B. The day has gone by when we are to assume either the truth or the falsehood of *any* statement, and it would be useful for the public to bring forward all the evidence which could be adduced to establish a charge of witchcraft. It is all very well to talk of the belief in witches as "nonsense"—an indiscretion which the magistrate committed, and he seems rather proud of it. That of course would materially clear the ground for the professional adviser of Mr. B., who is evidently a very moderate, sensible, and practical man. If the charge had proceeded, we should have had out the facts currently accepted in the neighbourhood; and it would be interesting to have them explicitly stated in a court of law. Half of these absurdities, as "E.," the correspondent of the *Times*, presumptuously calls them, continue because they are not brought out into the light of discussion. As Mr. B. said, genteel folks seldom hear much of these things. But if the facts were brought, by formal depositions, before a court of justice, we should encourage the country people in unfolding to us the full weight of their opinion and knowledge on the subject. We could imagine nothing more useful as a mode of ascertaining the state of knowledge and the mental condition of the county interested. It might also assist in ascertaining the mental condition, the state of opinion, and the development of reasoning amongst even a superior class, if we were to have the evidence on the other side. We should draw out arguments of counsel upon the existence of witches, for example, the authorities which can be produced to support the statements on that subject, and the well-authenticated exercise of supernatural powers. We might regret if Mrs. C. were condemned; for we must remember that it is not a century since persons were actually accused of witchcraft; and it is not very long since they were punished for the exercise of the diabolical arts. The law, therefore, does furnish precedent, both for the conviction and the punishment of witches. The accused lady, however, might have escaped. In any case we can scarcely imagine an inquiry more conducive to an exposition of the intellectual state of the country in its most numerous classes; and the progress of education must have benefited by the proceedings in court. Whatever the result of the trial might have been, some of the collateral questions submitted to the jury would have been peculiarly edifying. We can imagine the conversation of the twelve intelligent men in the bar parlour for months, if not years after that forensic debate.

THE HUDDERSFIELD ELECTION.

Mr. Willans, Chairman of Mr. Cobden's Committee at Huddersfield, has published in the *Times* a letter, contradicting a statement which appeared in the *Leader* last week. We remarked that Sir John Ramsden, a moderate Ministerialist, had recently become possessed of a preponderating influence in Huddersfield, which, during the late election, had been exerted in favour of Mr. Akroyd. Mr. Willans informs us that he has not heard of a single instance in which, during the contest between Mr. Cobden and Mr. Akroyd, the influence of the landlord had been exercised, even in the slightest degree. Sir John Ramsden, he adds, had instructed his agents to abstain altogether from interference in the election.

We are glad to receive this statement from Mr. Willans. But he misunderstood us. We imputed no unfair conduct to Sir John Ramsden. We spoke only of "influence," and we have heard from persons almost as likely to be well-informed as the Chairman of Mr. Cobden's Committee, that influence *was* exerted. We do not add "by Sir John Ramsden himself," whose bare denial would suffice to settle the question. He is the principal landlord in Huddersfield, we believe; he is a Ministerialist; he was opposed to Mr. Cobden on the Chinese debate; his opinions and those of Mr. Akroyd are in many respects coincident; Mr. Akroyd is returned by a Yorkshire borough in preference to Richard Cobden. Would it not be natural to infer, therefore, even were no evidence in existence, that the principles of a politician who is almost the proprietor of that borough should have a considerable effect on the result of the election? Of course Mr. Akroyd was much indebted to the skilful tactics of his own agents.

The interference of Mr. Willans, however, was altogether justified; but his defence of Sir John Ramsden was gratuitous. We desired to assert the independence of the borough; we hinted no disparagement of Sir John Ramsden. The young baronet is an example to his class; he devotes his abilities to the highest objects; he is aiming at statesmanship and oratory; we shall be disappointed if he do not attain to speedy political distinction. Nevertheless, we think that certain Huddersfield electors remembered Byram Hall when they voted for Mr. Akroyd.

THE PERSIAN EXPEDITION, AND ITS CHIEF.

John Chinaman and the stately Persian are the moral Alpha and Omega of Orientalism. In a geographical sense, we might find it necessary for "Persian" to read "Turk." But his geographical position has, for several centuries, brought the latter into close contact with the natives of the West; and repeated collisions have had the natural effect of abrading and de-angularising in him the more salient peculiarities that mark the genuine Asiatic. Not so with the Chinese

and the Persian; their Oriental individuality remains unchanged and unalloyed.

To those who have been accustomed to regard Persia as a civilized country, and to imagine her possessed of a government and institutions analogous even to those of the worst provided states in Europe, the comparison we have incidentally suggested will of course appear strange and unfamiliar. But the idea of Persia being so much more highly favoured than other Oriental monarchies, will, on examination, be mostly found to rest upon some vague reminiscence of HAFIZ and SADI, or a traditional belief that the Persians have been, from remote ages, a polite and educated people. Nor is this altogether a fanciful impression. They do possess a sort of literature; and they still are the most polite and educated of Asiatics. Yet, as a nation, almost every fault which is usually ascribed to the Chinese, may with equal justice be charged upon the Persians also. Their intercourse with Europe has been slight; and, until recent times, only occasional. They are not to be judged by the European standard. It is generally admitted, that, in our earlier intercourse with the Chinese, we too often lost time in diplomacy that would have been better employed in action. It is now, perhaps, beginning to be understood that large sums have been very uselessly expended, since the earlier part of the present century, in costly missions designed to cultivate the good-will of the Shahs of Persia. A seasonable exhibition of force should, wherever Asiatics are concerned, precede any show of conciliation. This maxim was not lost sight of by those who planned the late expedition to the Persian Gulf. The local authorities at Bombay deserve great credit for the completeness and general efficiency of the force detached for service; and praise is due at home to the judicious selection of Sir JAMES OUTRAM as political and military chief of the expedition. That a better choice could not have been made the event has fully demonstrated. We are not so pugnacious as to rejoice over a defeat that might, perhaps, in strict necessity, have been spared: since peace was actually in course of negotiation at the time the battle of Khooshab was fought. But we look upon the victory there achieved as an event of the highest importance in its probable effects on the morale of the SHAH and his subjects. But for this episode in the brief campaign a peace might have been patched up on mere considerations of ministerial policy, and no lasting impression would have been left behind. Nothing, therefore, could be better timed than this brilliant passage of arms, which is rendered even more opportune by the well-known fact that the Persian troops affected no small degree of contempt for the native Indian cavalry, who played so conspicuous a part in their discomfiture at Khooshab.

There are rumours afloat in military circles that Sir JAMES OUTRAM'S valour and good conduct in his present high station will be handsomely acknowledged by the Crown. It is generally believed that a baronetcy, at least, will be conferred upon him; a reward which far less conspicuous services have often earned. From the period (1819) when he joined his first regiment, the 23rd Bombay N.I., Sir JAMES OUTRAM has led a life of useful, zealous, and unremitting activity. His military capacity was from the first well known; but, having of late years been almost entirely devoted to political employments, it is only just now that he has found an opportunity of justifying, by success in the field, the reputation of a brilliant soldier and tactician. And this reminds us that the K.C.B.-ship Sir JAMES now holds is a Civil one bestowed for diplomatic services.

HOW TO ADMIT BARON ROTHSCHILD.

THERE is some talk of a treaty of compromise between Lord PALMERSTON and the leading Peers hitherto opposed to the admission of the Jews. The direct way of dealing with an opposition is, of course, to defeat it; but, if the opposition be reasonable, terms of accommodation may be arranged. No one argues that the oath of abjuration was framed with any view of preserving the Christianity of the Legislature. It was assumed that "the true faith of a Christian" meant Protestantism, as opposed to Papal Catholicism; yet the main objection is, that to admit a Jew would be to unchristianise the Legislature. The Legislature has no protection against indifference, infidelity, or positive atheism; its doors are open to hypocrisy; its oath keeps out conscience only. Why not frame a declaration, binding every member of Parliament, Catholic, Protestant, Unitarian, Friend, Irvingite, Mormon, Jew, or Nothingarian, to observe the laws and to guard the Constitution? To impose a Christian form of swearing upon a Jew, supposing he could adopt it, would be to extort from him an utterance of certain words which he must regard as of no meaning or value whatever; but accept the vow he is prepared to offer, and he is bound by his own code of honour and faith. We doubt whether a Chinese, who, in a national sense, is of no religion whatever, would have any difficulty in entering the House of Commons. The Emperor of CHINA, for instance, who patronises piety as an amiable weakness, might condescend, were he a refugee in London, to patronise Christianity in the same way, and, leaving out of sight the naturalization laws, might take his seat by enacting a little farce at the Speaker's table. We exclude none but men with honest and strong convictions; we stigmatize the Jews, but we fail to preserve the religious uniformity of Parliament. The objection to Baron ROTHSCHILD'S admission is not even bigoted; it is simply irrational.

THE KIDDERMINSTER RIOTS.

THE cowardly and brutal outrage of a rabble at Kidderminster has elicited, on every side, an explosion of unmitigated disgust. Whether they were in all cases non-electors or electors who launched their obscene execrations and ruffianly missiles at Mr. LOWE we cannot say, but they were idiots and poltroons. Their malice was that of savages, their violence that of fools; for what could they hope to gain by attempting to murder a defenceless man who had appeared on a public hustings, fearing nothing from an English populace? We suppose that this language is not too strong for the beggarly sots who hurled thousands of stones at one of their countrymen, and all but cried out for his blood. Glad we are, however, that this was the one exception in England. We were not surprised to hear of head-breaking in Tipperary, where the old-fashioned Irishman practised on his father's head "to keep his hand in," but the Kidderminster mob has dishonoured and disgraced the country—first by its ruffianism in stoning a defenceless man, and then by its sneaking flight from fifty troopers. Mr. LOWE'S political recalcitrations have been forgotten in the sympathy and regret excited by this attack upon him.

Never was there a time at which it was more important to the cause of public liberty at home and abroad to show a good example of the working of free institutions. Such an example afforded by England would do more to promote political liberty throughout Europe than all the hollow husky ravings we hear about Hungary and Poland, and the "down-trodden nationalities." The disposition to decry us and our governmental system is sufficiently wide-spread among the Continental bureaucracies. Upon the whole, however, the elections have been conducted with the most praiseworthy order and good feeling. Candidates, electors, and non-electors have generally vied in chivalrous courtesy and cordial temper. The conduct of the non-electors is of particular importance, since it furnishes the most effective argument for or against an extended franchise. We have to remark on a personal matter before quitting the subject. Mr. BOYCOTT complains to us that, in our report last week, we associated his name unpleasantly with the origin of the riot. We have no desire to misrepresent Mr. BOYCOTT. Our account was gathered from the accounts in the daily journals. We shall be glad to publish the proofs that he had nothing to do with instigating the violence offered to his opponent. All we can say at present is that we dealt with the subject more tenderly than some of our contemporaries, who directly charged Mr. BOYCOTT with having incited the non-electors "to bully and beat." It is not our usage to scatter random accusations, nor did we gratuitously insinuate a single word against Mr. BOYCOTT.

THE WICK BURGHS ELECTION.

THE show of hands at the Wick Burghs nomination was distinctly in favour of Mr. ALEXANDER SHAW, whose strong Liberal sympathies and special knowledge of Indian subjects would constitute him a most valuable member of the House of Commons. The election, while we write, is still undecided. But whatever the result may be, Mr. SHAW may fairly complain of the treatment he has received from the House of SUTHERLAND. He was first in the field for the Wick Burghs; he entered into the contest upon an understanding that the SUTHERLAND influence would not be exerted against him; yet Lord JOHN HAY, whose Liberalism is of a lukewarm temperature, has come forward at the instance of the Marquis of STAFFORD, son of the Duke of SUTHERLAND. What became, then, of the implied compact between the Duke of SUTHERLAND and Mr. ALEXANDER SHAW, who was induced to become a candidate on the condition that he should not have to fight the agents of the SUTHERLAND dominion? Lord JOHN HAY, no doubt, is a very gallant officer, and an estimable gentleman, but he has not, we think, on this occasion, displayed all the frankness and generosity of a sailor.

TORTURE OF CHINESE AT HONG-KONG.—It is stated by the *China Mail*, of the 15th of February, that forty-two Chinese at Hong-Kong had then been confined for twenty days in a cell sixteen feet long by fifteen broad, furnished with only one small aperture for ventilation, and devoid of beds or of any provision for the necessities of nature. They were there under suspicion of being concerned in the bread poisonings. The authorities, it seems, do not provide them with any food, for which they are dependent on their relatives. Among these men is the baker Allum, who, together with nine others, was rearrested after the acquittal of the charge of poisoning, and confined in this fearful hole under suspicion of being dangerous characters. Several of the European inhabitants of Hong-Kong have petitioned Sir John Bowring to deport the suspected persons, as a measure of public safety; but this has been met by a counter petition, arguing that such a proceeding would be extremely arbitrary.

WEST COAST OF AFRICA.—By the last mails from Africa we learn that the Governor of Sierra Leone returned on the 6th of March from a successful tour up the river, where he arranged several treaties with the chiefs. The war continued in Mellicourie, to the advantage of the Moriahs, which tends to the progress of trade. The country round Cameroons is quiet. Lagos is also quiet, and ample preparations are made for any possible attack by Kosoko. A rumour prevails that the Dahomey nation intends making a descent on Abbeokuta.

Literature.

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

The Professorship of Poetry at Oxford, for which there is about to be a contest, ought, according to the vulgar notion, to be held by a poet. But this is a vulgar notion only: the Professorship is, properly speaking, one of Poetry in the old and Aristotelian sense, that is, a Professorship of Æsthetics. Out of the three men of distinction who have ever held it, Lowth, Copleston, and Keble, two were not writers of poetry. This being the case, there could not be a more proper candidate than Mr. Ruskin—if he will come forward, which it seems, however, he will not. It would be a pity if Oxford were to lose him through any over-delicacy, or rather fastidiousness on his part. In his absence, the choice will probably fall on Mr. Matthew Arnold, late Fellow of Oriel, and formerly Scholar of Balliol, a poet, and if a poet rather by art than genius, the more likely perhaps on that account to be a good analyst and critic. The Rev. E. Bode and the Rev. Basil Jones are also in the field with fair chances of success: and either would be a creditable Professor. Mr. Gladstone's late Homeric flights have produced a rumour that he also is a candidate. We are glad at all events to see that the contest is likely to be decided by literary merit, and not, as on former occasions, by religious faction. The election takes place on the 5th of May.

The *Daily Scotsman* states that our notice of the forthcoming publication of Sir W. Hamilton's lectures contained "several inaccuracies;" but fails to establish this rather sweeping charge in a single particular. The attempt indeed is made only in relation to an incidental statement that had but little to do with the matter—Mr. Veitch's connexion with the new edition of Dugald Stewart's works. We expressed our belief that Mr. Veitch had something to do with carrying the work through the press, forgetting at the moment that all the volumes are not yet published. Our contemporary calls this a mistatement, intimating that Mr. Veitch had no connexion with the edition before Sir W. Hamilton's death. This is really of very little consequence either way, as he superintends the remainder of the publication; but we believe, nevertheless, that our contemporary will find on inquiry that the statement of the *Leader* is the more correct, and that Mr. Veitch was engaged on the edition before Sir William's death. The matter is scarcely worth referring to at all, except as a curious illustration of what our esteemed contemporary regards as "several inaccuracies."

The prevailing political distraction, whose influence on the Magazines we complained of last week, has not affected the Quarterlies. Their more hardy vegetation was evidently too far advanced to be seriously affected by the "great wind from the wilderness," which suddenly smote the four corners of the House, shaking the men of peace from their stable seats, and scattering the flying gold of the ruined factions far and wide through the land. A general election, in fact, is now-a-days too brief an event to have more than a transient influence on even the lighter activities of literature and life. Formerly it was a chronic inflammation of the body politic, which arrested all useful works and destroyed all healthy action for months together. Now it is eminently acute, and as brief as acute. You no sooner feel the true fever-beat of excitement, when all is over—the social thermometer falls from boiling-point to blood-heat, the national pulse is equable as before. The representative machinery may still be complicated and even clumsy in construction, but its working is no longer difficult or tedious; and with a tithe of the reforms so liberally promised on the hustings, it must surely become as accurate as it is expeditious.

Meanwhile, the election being past, and the new Reform Bill still future, there is an interval of idleness, and *otium sine literis mors est.* Literary notices begin to appear in the daily papers; the leading journal opens its columns for county correspondents to discuss the momentous subject of witch-proving; the voice of the lecturer is heard again in the land; and white-handed non-electors return to the circulating libraries, while their brothers and husbands pore with listless vacuity over the thrice-read columns in the news-room. In these circumstances, even a dull Review would be welcome; but the Reviews this quarter, as we have intimated, are far from dull,—they are better than usual.

Take the *Westminster*, for instance, to begin with. It contains half a dozen articles, not one of which could be fairly called uninteresting or poor. The most striking and elaborate of these are—the first, on "The Present State of Theology in Germany;" and the fifth, entitled, "Progress: its Law and Cause." The latter is one of those articles almost peculiar to this journal—popular in form, but thoroughly philosophical in substance—in which whole spheres of special facts are gathered into a single principle; and where, in particular, the phenomena of social life, are subjected to strictly scientific treatment, being shown to illustrate, even in their most trivial and fugitive aspects, the working of a general law. Many of our readers may remember a paper of this kind, entitled "Manners and Fashion," which appeared some time ago, in which the most ordinary forms of courtesy, the simplest usages of every-day life, were traced up to primitive acts of worship and homage as their originals. In the present article, the generalization is far more sweeping, as the law of progress enounced embraces in its range not only all the phenomena of individual and social advancement, but the geological changes in the Earth's history; nay, the very genesis of the solar system, the productive activity of the entire Cosmos. The following extract gives a general view of the law, and may be taken as the starting-point of the article:—

In respect to that progress which individual organisms display in the course of their evolution, this question has been answered by the Germans. The investigations of Wolff, Goethe, and Von Baer, have established the truth that the series of changes gone through during the development of a seed into a tree, or an ovum into an animal, constitute and advance from homogeneity of structure to heterogeneity of structure. In its primary stage, every germ consists of a substance that is uniform throughout, both in texture and chemical composition. The first step in its development is the appearance of a difference between two parts of this substance; or, as the phenomenon is described in physiological language—a differentiation. Each of these differentiated divisions presently begins itself to exhibit some contrast of parts; and by and by these secondary differentiations become as definite as the original one. This process is continuously repeated—is simultaneously going on in all parts of the growing embryo; and by endless multiplication of these differentiations there is ultimately produced that complex combination of tissues and organs constituting the adult animal or plant. This is the course of evolution followed by all organisms whatever. It is settled beyond dispute that organic progress consists in a change from the homogeneous to the heterogeneous.

Now, we propose in the first place to show, that this law of organic progress is the law of all progress. Whether it be in the development of the Earth, in the development of Life upon its surface, in the development of Society, of Government, of Manufactures, of Commerce, of Language, Literature, Science, Art, this same evolution of the simple into the complex, through a process of continuous differentiation, holds throughout. From the earliest traceable cosmical changes down to the latest results of civilization, we shall find that the transformation of the homogeneous into the heterogeneous, is that in which Progress essentially consists.

How rich the article is in illustrative facts, gathered from almost all, and often very unexpected quarters, the following extract will show:—

Before passing to other classes of facts, it should be observed that the evolution of the homogeneous into the heterogeneous is displayed not only in the differentiation of Painting and Sculpture from Architecture and from each other, and in the increased variety and specialty of the subjects they embody, but it is further shown in the structure of each separate work. A modern picture or statue is far more heterogeneous in its constitution than an ancient one. An Egyptian sculpture-fresco represents all its figures as on one plane—that is, at the same distance from the eye; and so is less heterogeneous than a painting that represents them as at various distances from the eye. It exhibits all objects as exposed to the same degree of light; and so is less heterogeneous than a painting which exhibits its different objects and different parts of each object as in different degrees of light. It uses scarcely any but the primary colours, and these in their full intensity; and so is less heterogeneous than a painting which, introducing the primary colours but sparingly, employs an endless variety of intermediate tints, each of heterogeneous composition, and differing from the others not only in quality but in intensity. Moreover, we see in these aboriginal works a great uniformity of conception. The same arrangement of figures is continually represented—the same actions, attitudes, faces, dresses. In Egypt the modes of representation were so fixed that it was sacrilege to introduce a novelty; and indeed it could have been only in virtue of a fixed mode of representation that a system of hieroglyphics became possible. The Assyrian bas-reliefs display parallel characters. Deities, kings, attendants, winged-figures, and animals, are severally depicted in like positions, holding like implements, doing like things, and with like expression or non-expression of face. If a palm-grove is introduced, all the trees are of the same height, have the same number of leaves, and are equidistant. When water is represented, each wave is a counterpart of the rest; and the fish, almost always of one kind, are evenly distributed over the surface. The beards of the kings, the gods, and the winged-figures, are everywhere similar; as are the manes of the lions, and equally so those of the horses. Hair is represented throughout by one form of curl. The king's beard is quite architecturally built up of compound tiers of uniform curls, alternating with twisted tiers placed in a transverse direction, and arranged with perfect regularity; and the terminal tufts of the bulls' tails are represented in exactly the same manner. Without tracing out the like traits in early Christian art, in which, though less striking, they are still visible, the advance in heterogeneity will be sufficiently manifest on remembering that in the pictures of our own day the composition is endlessly varied; the attitudes, faces, expressions unlike; the subordinate objects different in size, form, position, texture; and more or less of contrast even in the smallest details. Or, if we compare an Egyptian statue, seated bolt upright on a block, with hands on knees, fingers outspread and parallel, eyes looking straight forward, and the two sides perfectly symmetrical in every particular, with a statue of the advanced Greek or the modern school, which is asymmetrical in respect of the position of the head, the body, the limbs, the arrangement of the hair, dress, appendages, and in its relations to neighbouring objects, we shall see the change from the homogeneous to the heterogeneous clearly manifested.

Our only objection to the paper, as a whole, is to the division expressed in the title, which we cannot help thinking is very much like a distinction without a difference. Law and Cause, as here employed, are in fact only two names for the same thing. If the necessary effect of all activity is difference, then, obviously, every agent, every force, must naturally tend to produce this result. The attempt to verify deductively under the second division what was inductively established under the first, is little more than a repetition of the inductive process slightly disguised, and does not add much to the elucidation of the law. But the discussion throughout is interesting, and the writing excellent, in matter, spirit, and style.

The article on "The Present State of Theology in Germany" is a sketch of the three great theological parties—the Critical, the Orthodox, and the Intermediate party that seeks to unite these extremes. It is condensed and clear, showing throughout full knowledge of the whole subject, and written in a temperate, philosophical, and earnest spirit.

The strictly literary papers of the number are one on the "Hindu Drama"—a very readable account of a subject new to most readers, but really interesting—especially to us; and one on "Literature and Society," which, however, wants substance and purpose, and is a contribution of facts towards the illustration of the subject, rather than a discussion of it. The article on "Glaciers and Glacier Theories," while giving Professor Forbes full credit for the glacier facts which he has established, combats his favourite theory, as it seems to us, on substantial grounds.

The *British Quarterly Review* opens with a sketch, biographical and critical, of BEN JONSON and his works, pleasantly written, and giving, in the main, a fair estimate of his genius. The critic, however, scarcely does the poet justice as a dramatist. In some of his plays the plot may be meagre and the incidents few, but of many, of the majority even, this is by no means true, and in all the situations are admirably chosen for the development of character—the great point JONSON always had in view. "Middle-age Mysticism" is a genial and discriminating account of Dr. JOHN TAULER, the most large-hearted, humane, and eloquent of the mediæval mystics. He laboured, by his impassioned addresses, to diffuse in a practical form among the people the speculative mysticism of ECKHART—a sort of KINGSLEY to the MAURICE of that era; and while belonging to the quietist society of the *Friends of God*, proved himself, by his unwearied and self-denying exertions amongst the diseased and poor, a true friend of the people. We had marked passages for extract, but must pass onto the article on "Oratory and Orators"—a philosophical analysis of the genus orator, showing a careful study of the whole subject, and a profound, almost poetic, insight into the peculiar temperament of the naturally eloquent speaker. He is a man of strong passion, an excitable man, not only mentally, but physically and physiologically:

Standing before his audience, the orator is not merely a voice uttering words and ideas; he is a mass of intensely excited nerve acting, like a charged battery, on the aggregate vitality of his audience while they are individually receiving his words and ideas. The very law of human nature on which oratory depends is, that ideas dropped into the mind when it is in a state of excitement, take a firmer hold of that mind, and are more instantaneously and permanently diffused through it, for better or worse, as the case may be, than when it is in its natural and ordinary mood. Now, though there are various ways in which the mind may be excited, so as thus to increase its tenderness and permeability to ideas, one of the most effective is simple collocation with other minds in an assembly or audience. It is all nonsense to speak of an audience as being simply a collection of individuals; meaning by that, that the audience can have nothing more in it than pre-existed in the individuals separately. Let a thousand individuals meet in the same hall, and, more particularly, let them meet genially and for the purpose of seeing some spectacle, or listening to some harangue, and, after a little while, electric circuits are established amongst them, and they are formed into a collective organism having a certain common consciousness, and exhibiting phenomena not belonging to the individual. Of course in the case of the presence of individuals hostile to the spirit of the assembly and contemptuous of its proceedings, and also in the case of the division of a meeting into opposed factions, there are corresponding variations in the phenomena presented; but still, essentially, the fact of congregation brings with it a set of conditions alien to the experience of the individuals when isolated. Hence part of that force which attends on exhibitions of oratory is actually supplied, not by the speaker, but by the audience itself; and, the larger the audience, and the more exciting the circumstances in which they have met, the more there is of this already accumulated fund of power waiting for the orator's use, and, though independent of him in its origin, yet, in the effect, to go to his credit. But for the power to become apparent, nay also partly for its generation, the orator must be there; and it is the very definition of the man who professes to be an orator that he shall be in his own nature a man meeting the enthusiasm of the waiting crowd with a like enthusiasm of his own which shall receive it, evoke it, mingle with it, madden it, reverberate it, overmaster it. Such men there are; and it is a grand sight to see them as they command a crowd. It is clear that, corporeally as well as mentally, or mentally because corporeally, they are in pre-established harmony with the conditions presented by an assemblage of their fellow-beings. Gradually, as they speak, they glow, they wax fervid; the audience acts upon them, and they react upon the audience; and they stand at last a visibly agitated mass of nervous force swaying the sea of heads beneath them, not by their voice and words alone, but by a positive physiological effluence or attraction."

What, however, is the special characteristic of the excitement?

Popularly speaking, the orator is a man who does not lose himself as he becomes excited, but who, the more phrenzied he waxes, grows in the same degree the more shrewd, the more perfect in his command of all his faculties. Speaking more scientifically, the orator is a man who can never cogitate better than when he is agitated. That there are such men, no one can doubt. Placed before an audience, the majority of men, as we have already said, become helpless and foolish: what sense or wit they have forsakes them, often carrying memory, and grammar, and the very power of coherent articulation, along with it. But there are others who positively outdo themselves when they are placed in the same circumstances; who seem as if they had found their element, and who move in it in a way to surprise themselves and others; in whom the excitement of speaking, so far from numbing their various faculties, seems to evoke some for the first time, and to make all more nimble and alert—memory, wit, fancy, imagination, speculative intellect, and even judgment and critical taste, simultaneously. They positively become more cool, more shrewd and subtle, and more self-possessed, less apt to blunder, as they become more fervid. There are many common proverbs and observations respecting orators which in reality embody this theory. When some one jocosely defined an orator as "a man who can speak nonsense till sense comes," the definition, though satirical, was scientifically accurate. When another—an American orator, we believe—declared that he "never could make a speech without first making a few remarks," he said substantially the same thing. But perhaps the finest recognition of the notion, as we have been expounding it, is that contained in a very happy phrase, used by some ancient writer on rhetoric—we think by Quintilian. *Clarescit urendo*, "He grows clear by burning," is the phrase in question; used, too, if we remember aright, precisely in reference to the orator. Whether it was originally so used or not, it suits him well. The orator is emphatically the man who, *clarescit urendo*, is clearest when he is most fervid; shrewdest, when he is most excited; universally most capable, when he is in the highest state of oratorical paroxysm.

The remaining Quarterlies we must leave till next week.

We observe that Mr. THACKERAY has seized the opportunity of a friendly complimentary dinner (to which reporters were admitted) to mitigate the sacred wrath of some exalted personages, who are presumed to have taken offence at the tone of his lectures on the "Four Georges." With all our unfeigned respect for Mr. THACKERAY, we cannot escape a feeling of regret that he should have deemed it necessary to descend even to the semblance of an apology for having respected the truth of history and the sincerity of his own convictions. As we read the report of his Edinburgh convivial speeches (pleasant reading as they are for their neat and happy turns, and their finished negligence of manner), we cannot resist the impression that so elaborate and artificial an extenuation was not indispensable to the lecturer's dignity before the public, and must be fatally inadequate to his justification in that selectest circle whose suffrages the public lecturer has not been supposed to court. *Qui s'excuse s'accuse* seems to us true in this instance as in many others. No reasonable being in Her Majesty's dominions suspects Mr. THACKERAY of disloyalty because he has described GEORGE IV. as he lived, or of a want of due deference to what is called in France "the social hierarchy," because he has been betrayed into a laugh at the hereditary antics of the Lord Chamberlain.

Prophecy in general is little respected, because, if the event be reasonably distant, no one remembers that a false prophecy was uttered, so many false ones being uttered daily, and if by chance the event happen to justify it, a close examination reveals that the words were either so vague as to cover almost any event, or were grounded upon information so imperfect as to be mere guesswork. Very different is it when from a deliberate survey of all present circumstances a penetrative glance reaches far into the future, and sees these circumstances issuing in consequences unsuspected by others. In such cases we applaud the sagacity of the prophetic eye. Such a case is presented by the following extract from a work called *Considérations sur l'Algérie*, published in 1845, and written by M. BODICHON, a resident physician. After detailing the lawlessness of the French troops at Algiers, he says:—"Men of the independent press, advanced sentinels of our public liberty, keep your attention fixed on some of the African generals. By means of Africa, the Restoration tried to coerce the nation, an attempt which was crushed by the paving-stones of 1830. Another Government will perhaps succeed in the attempt. You will one day, if you do not take care, see an African governor, African generals, and African regiments descend upon fortified Paris; once there, they will reply to your protestations by musketry and grape."

Whoever thinks of the *coup d'état*, and sees the Zouaves insolently domineering over Paris—"a Zouave can do no wrong"—will admit that M. BODICHON saw clearly into the future when he printed those words.

MRS. GASKELL'S LIFE OF CHARLOTTE BRONTË.

The Life of Charlotte Brontë. In Two Volumes. By Mrs. Gaskell. Smith, Elder, and Co

(FIRST NOTICE.)

THE publication of *Jane Eyre*, in 1847, was an event in the history of English fiction. No book had been stamped by a more perfect originality, few by more vigour. Who was the author? "Currer Bell." Curiosity was not satisfied by learning that the name was one of three, "Ellis, Currer and Acton Bell," which had been prefixed to a volume of poems. Were the writers men or women? The masculine vigour of *Jane Eyre* thwarted those who believed that they can always detect the female hand in authorship; but the work was far too remarkable for its author to remain in obscurity, unless there had been a settled purpose of secrecy, which there was not. Silently, and by degrees, Charlotte Brontë appeared in literary society; and the aspect of that strange being, with her intense eyes, her self-possessed, almost commanding countenance, and extravagant slightness of person, piqued rather than satisfied curiosity. In that remarkable character, with intensity of power in the head and imp-like slightness of stature, Charlotte Brontë resembled Charles Lamb, though there was no other obvious trait of resemblance between them. Who was Charlotte Brontë? whence come? To learn that she was the daughter of a country clergyman did not explain the singular aspect of the being thus suddenly introduced to fame, and her life, for the time, continued to perplex and tantalize curiosity. Ellis and Acton proved to be Emily and Anne Brontë, also authors of volumes marked by much of the vigour and graphic power that distinguished *Jane Eyre*, though far less firm in the outline or delicate in the colouring. But in less than two years after *Jane Eyre* was known, in little more than a year after Currer Bell became a personal reality to society, the two other sisters had been carried off by death. A brother, of whose wasted and profligate life there have been whispers, also ceased to exist. It was not many years after that the fragile life of Currer Bell herself gave way, and now, for the first time, the living problem is explained. We have the life of Currer Bell, written by a congenial hand, a fellow artist, and a friend—Mrs. Gaskell—whose powers of portrait-painting have already been established by her own novels. However imperfect the materials may have been—and in some respects they are far more abundant than is usual in such cases—Mrs. Gaskell was of living writers the one best fitted to describe to us the original exactly as it was; and any kind of heightened colouring or trimming of outline in such a portrait would have been as misplaced as any foppishness in Lely's portrait of Cromwell.

It is difficult to say how far Currer Bell was made what she was by birth; how far the circumstances of her early life contributed to form her character, or to alter it by contracting it. Had she been of a weaker nature, the circumstances might have extinguished it. As it is, perhaps, they at once contracted and strengthened it. Charlotte Brontë was bred in the rectory of Haworth, one of the wildest places in the wildest parts of Yorkshire; and the early chapters of Mrs. Gaskell's book are devoted to describing the dreary scenes, the wayward, ignorant, and violent people, amongst whom the child was reared. She lived among the inhabitants of a parish in which the curate would leave the church during divine service and go round with a horsewhip to flog the loiterers from the public-houses into the temple; and Haworth has not yet lost its character. "Even now, a stranger can hardly ask a question without receiving some crusty reply, if indeed he receive any at all. Sometimes the sour rudeness passes to positive insult." Again—"They are keen and shrewd, faithful and persevering in

following out a good purpose, fell in tracking an evil one." Another element of wildness entered into the original of *Jane Eyre*; for although in that book Charlotte Brontë did not deliberately sit for her own portrait, the type of the artist is reproduced in the work. She was of Irish extraction. Her father, the Reverend Patrick Brontë, was a native of the county of Down, in Ireland—is, we should say, for Mr. Brontë still lives, although bereft of all his family. He was himself a man of more energy than self-control. Knowing that his father could afford him no pecuniary aid, and that he must depend upon his own exertions, he opened a public school at the early age of sixteen. He next became tutor in the family of a clergyman, and thence proceeded, at the age of five-and-twenty, to St. John's College, Cambridge. While he was at college, he entered one of the volunteer corps then enrolled all over the country; and he mentions the name of Temple—Lord Palmerston—as associated with him in his military duties. Having entered the Church, Mr. Brontë became curate of Hartshead; and while in this humble position he married Maria Branwell, the daughter of a Penzance merchant, who was on a visit at Leeds; from Hartshead, Mr. Brontë was promoted to the living of Thornton, where, on the 21st of April, was born his third daughter, Charlotte, and two others. Soon after the birth of the youngest daughter, Anne, the girls lost their mother. Mrs. Brontë was not handsome, but was very elegant in her appearance and manner, and very gentle. Her life had, indeed, been one of trial. She had married a trial.

His strong, passionate, Irish nature was, in general, compressed down with resolute stoicism, but it was there, notwithstanding all his philosophic calm, and dignity of demeanour. He did not speak when he was annoyed or displeased, but worked off his volatile wrath by firing pistols out of the back door in rapid succession. Mrs. Brontë, lying in bed up-stairs, would hear the quick explosions, and knew that something had gone wrong; but her sweet nature thought invariably of the bright side, and she would say, "Ought I not to be thankful that he never gave me an angry word?" Now and then his anger took a different form, but still was speechless. Once he got the hearth-rug, and stuffing it up the grate, deliberately set it on fire, and remained in the room, in spite of the stench, until it had smouldered and shrivelled away into uselessness. Another time he took some chairs and sawed away at the backs till they were reduced to the condition of stools.

Mr. Brontë was seized with the theory common in that day of bringing up the children in great "hardiness." Two of them sank in infancy under this mode of hardening; and the others appear to have carried through their short life the destructive consequences. Mrs. Brontë's decline was tedious, and, during her illness, the father being much engaged in study, the children were left almost wholly to themselves. Thus to the harsh and barbarous character of the neighbourhood were added this perverse hardy training and a wild neglect of the nursery. Maria, the eldest, then scarcely seven years of age, was fond of getting the newspaper, with which she entertained her sisters, and here, probably, was the germ of Charlotte's passion for politics, which more or less followed her through life; though how many children would hear the newspaper read without in the slightest degree being seized by a passion for politics! At a very early age the children began to invent and act plays for themselves:—

I have had a curious packet confided to me, containing an immense amount of manuscript, in an inconceivably small space; tales, dramas, poems, romances, written principally by Charlotte, in a hand which it is almost impossible to decipher without the aid of a magnifying-glass.

Among these papers there is a list of her works, which I copy, as a curious proof how early the rage for literary composition had seized upon her:

CATALOGUE OF MY BOOKS, WITH THE PERIOD OF THEIR COMPLETION UP TO AUGUST 3RD, 1830.

Two romantic tales in one volume; viz., The Twelve Adventurers and the Adventures in Ireland, April 2nd, 1829.

The Search after Happiness, a Tale, Aug. 1st, 1829.

Leisure Hours, a Tale, and two Fragments, July 6th, 1829.

The Adventures of Edward de Crack, a Tale, Feb. 2nd, 1830.

The Adventures of Ernest Alembert, a Tale, May 26th, 1830.

An interesting Incident in the Lives of some of the most eminent Persons of the Age, a Tale, June 10th, 1830.

Tales of the Islanders, in four volumes. Contents of the 1st vol:—1. An Account of their Origin; 2. A Description of Vision Island; 3. Ratten's Attempt; 4. Lord Charles Wellesley and the Marquis of Douro's Adventure; completed June 31st, 1829. 2nd vol.:—1. The School-rebellion; 2. The strange Incident in the Duke of Wellington's Life; 3. Tale to his Sons; 4. The Marquis of Douro and Lord Charles Wellesley's Tale to his little King and Queens; completed Dec. 2nd, 1829. 3rd vol.:—1. The Duke of Wellington's Adventure in the Cavern; 2. The Duke of Wellington and the little King's and Queen's visit to the Horse-Guards; completed May 8th, 1830. 4th vol.:—1. The three old Washerwomen of Strathfieldsaye; 2. Lord C. Wellesley's Tale to his Brother; completed July 30th, 1830.

Characters of Great Men of the Present Age, Dec. 17th, 1829.

The Young Men's Magazines, in Six Numbers, from August to December, the latter month's double number, completed December the 12th, 1829. General index to their contents:—1. A True Story; 2. Causes of the War; 3. A Song; 4. Conversations; 5. A True Story continued; 6. The Spirit of Cawdor; 7. Interior of a Pothouse, a Poem; 8. The Glass Town, a Song; 9. The Silver Cup, a Tale; 10. The Table and Vase in the Desert, a Song; 11. Conversations; 12. Scene on the Great Bridge; 13. Song of the Ancient Britons; 14. Scene in my Tun, a Tale; 15. An American Tale; 16. Lines written on seeing the Garden of a Genius; 17. The Lay of the Glass Town; 18. The Swiss Artist, a Tale; 19. Lines on the transfer of this Magazine; 20. On the Same, by a different Hand; 21. Chief Geni in Council; 22. Harvest in Spain; 23. The Swiss Artist continued; 24. Conversations.

The Poetaster; a Drama, in 2 volumes, July 12th, 1830.

A Book of Rhymes, finished December 17th, 1829; Contents:—1. The Beauty of Nature; 2. A Short Poem: 3. Meditations while Journeying in a Canadian Forest; 4. A Song of an Exile; 5. On Seeing the Ruins of the Tower of Babel; 6. *A Thing of 14 lines*; 7. Lines written on the Bank of a River one fine Summer Evening; 8. Spring, a Song; 9. Autumn, a Song.

Miscellaneous Poems, finished May 30th, 1830. Contents:—1. The Churchyard; 2. Descriptions of the Duke of Wellington's Palace on the Pleasant Banks of the Lusiva; this article is a small prose tale or incident; 3. Pleasure; 4. Lines written on the Summit of a high Mountain of the North of England; 5. Winter; 6. Two Fragments, namely, 1st, The Vision; 2nd, A Short untitled Poem; The Evening Walk, a Poem, June 23rd, 1830.

Making in the whole twenty-two volumes.

C. Brontë, August 3, 1830.

As each volume contains from sixty to a hundred pages, and the size of the page lithographed is rather less than the average, the amount of the whole seems very great, if we remember that it was all written in about fifteen months. So much for the quantity; the quality strikes me as of singular merit for a girl of thirteen or fourteen. Both as a specimen of her prose style at this time, and also as revealing something of the quiet domestic life led by these children, I take an extract from the introduction to "Tales of the Islanders," the title of one of their "Little Magazines:"—

"*June the* 31*st*, 1829.

"The play of the 'Islanders' was formed in December, 1827, in the following manner. One night, about the time when the cold sleet and stormy fogs of November are succeeded by the snow-storms and high piercing night-winds of confirmed winter, we were all sitting round the warm blazing kitchen fire, having just concluded a quarrel with Tabby concerning the propriety of lighting a candle, from which she *came off victorious, no candle having been produced.* A long pause succeeded, which was at last broken by Branwell saying, in a lazy manner, 'I don't know what to do.' This was echoed by Emily and Anne.

"*Tabby.* 'Wha ya may go t'bed.'

"*Branwell.* 'I'd rather do anything than that.'

"*Charlotte.* 'Why are you so glum to-night, Tabby? Oh! suppose we had each an island of our own.'

"*Branwell.* 'If we had I would choose the Island of Man.'

Charlotte. 'And I would choose the Isle of Wight.'

"*Emily.* The Isle of Arran for me.'

"*Anne.* 'And mine should be Guernsey.'

"We then chose who should be chief men in our islands. Branwell chose John Bull, Astley Cooper, and Leigh Hunt; Emily, Walter Scott, Mr. Lockhart, Johnny Lockhart; Anne, Michael Sadler, Lord Bentinck, Sir Henry Halford. I chose the Duke of Wellington and two sons, Christopher North and Co., and Mr. Abernethy. Here our conversation was interrupted by the, to us, dismal sound of the clock striking seven, and we were summoned off to bed. The next day we added many others to our list of men, till we got almost all the chief men of the kingdom."

In fact their intellectual vigour seems even then to have gone beyond the uncontrolled energy of the father, to have become something greater than he could completely understand. While Maria was about ten years of age and the youngest about four, Mr. Brontë resorted to a curious method of drawing them out. He had a mask in the house, and he told them all to stand out and speak boldly from under its cover.

"I began with the youngest," continues he; "(Anne, afterwards Acton Bell) and asked what a child like her most wanted; she answered, 'Age and experience.' I asked the next, Emily (afterwards Ellis Bell), what I had best do with her brother Branwell, who was sometimes a naughty boy; she answered, 'Reason with him, and when he won't listen to reason, whip him.' I asked Branwell what was the best way of knowing the difference between the intellects of men and women; he answered, 'By considering the difference between them, as to their bodies.' I then asked Charlotte what was the best book in the world; she answered, 'The Bible.' And what was the next best; she answered, 'The Book of Nature.' I then asked the next what was the best mode of education for a woman; she answered, 'That which made her rule her house well.' Lastly, I asked the eldest what was the best mode of spending time; she answered, 'By laying it out in preparation for a happy eternity.' I may not have given precisely their words, but I have nearly done so, as they made a deep and lasting impression on my memory. The substance, however, was exactly what I have stated."

The household, as Charlotte Brontë knew it in her youth, was scarcely formed until the death of the mother. Mrs. Brontë's sister then came from Cornwall to take charge of the house, but her situation was irksome, and she passed most of her time in her own room. Yet it is evident that she attempted to introduce some kind of order and method. She trained the girls to habits of housewifery and punctuality, and so drilled them, that even as children they could keep the house clean, dress a dinner, get up fine linen, and, in fact, live as completely "on their own hook" as the children of emigrants; another characteristic of early training which goes far to explain the unconstrained vigour of *Jane Eyre*.

The three eldest girls were sent to a school at Cowan's Bridge, a little hamlet in the road between Leeds and Kendall, represented under the name of Lowood in *Jane Eyre*. It was ill managed—so ill, that the health of the girls was seriously injured, if not destroyed, and in less than a year after their arrival, Maria and Elizabeth went home to die. Charlotte was still sent back with a younger sister, Emily; but it became necessary to advise the removal of the children from the school. Charlotte was then little more than nine years old; she had become the eldest, and she seems to have been painfully conscious of the responsibility which rested upon her with regard to both her sisters. "The loving assumption of duties beyond her years," says Mrs. Gaskell, "made her feel considerably older than she was;" and after that fatal year "the epithet *bright* could no longer be applied to her."

SPOTTISWOODE'S TARANTASSE JOURNEY.

A Tarantasse Journey through Eastern Russia in the Autumn of 1856. By William Spottiswoode, M.A., F.R.S. Longman and Co.

Mr. Spottiswoode's observations in Russia ranged from Moscow to the Ural Mountains at Ekaterinburg, thence by way of Ufa to Orenburg, on the Kirghiz borders, along the skirts of the steppes to the Caspian coast, and again north-westwards across the country of the Don Cossacks, through Riazan to the capital, and to Warsaw. Throughout this extensive journey he studied landscapes, industry, men, and manners, with a careful and discriminating eye, throwing the results into a pleasant narrative form, always solid, never heavy, always amusing, never frivolous. Were we to offer tourists a model, we could not select a better than this thoroughly interesting book, which is as rich in new information as the story of three months' travel could possibly be. Mr. Spottiswoode does not trespass on the reader's attention with impertinent superfluities of digression, does not seek to fossilise foolish jokes, or to condense old histories of which all that is not already familiar has been justifiably forgotten. He keeps in view the proper object of a tourist, is everywhere immovably impartial, lights up with scholarship the interior of his tarantasse, and illustrates vividly with pen and pencil the aspects of Eastern Russia. Indeed, the book is a panoramic view, unfolding a hundred changes of scenery and customs, of costume and architecture, of natural and artificial characteristics, from Moscow, of the

clustered domes, to Ufa, bosomed amid tufted trees, the bare and silent steppes, the wondrous pine forests, the Bashkir camps and the Asiatic glitter of Astrakhan. We rank it, for freshness and accuracy, with the works of Oliphant and Danby Seymour, although, of course, Mr. Spottiswoode's experiences were more lightly spread over a large surface; he travelled only for a few months, but he made the best use of his brief opportunity. He had studied the reports of previous writers, and, in the presence of a strange people and a little-known country, sought only impressions of life and nature; it was far from his design to judge of social or government institutions. At least, he has not included any political speculations among the first-fruits of his tarantasse journey.

As usual upon quitting Moscow, Mr. Spottiswoode betook himself to Nizhni, journeying thence by steam down the broad, shallow, shifting Volga. Passing a village of the mystic Old Believers—a sect of heretics—he notices that they abjure tobacco and potatoes, the former as a transubstantiation of the Devil himself, the latter as the forbidden fruit, and the flesh of the accursed Iscariot. This singular people has been forcibly dispersed, and will probably melt away among the eastern solitudes of the empire. It was an abrupt transition from their village to Kazan, where a half-ripe Orientalism mellows the aspects of the North. Here was procured the tarantasse, a four-wheeled vehicle resembling a broad, low-built boat, truncated at both ends, with a coach-box and a tented leathern hood, but neither springs nor seats; storing this ponderous carriage with such comforts as are relished by hungry travellers, including Cheshire cheese purchased in the bazaars of Kazan, Mr. Spottiswoode, with his courier and his coachman, started, and was speedily rattling along the savage Siberian road, a great broadway hewn in the forest, with measureless depth of sunless pine cloisters spreading on either side. Now and then he was jolted over a rough timber bridge; once the woods seemed to have taken fire; next, in the chill, grey morning, a long line of drab-clad figures was seen marching under the trees towards Siberia—an instalment of the annual ten thousand exiles, of whom one in four perishes on the road. At the post-houses and inns, civilization seemed to be taking a parting glance at the tarantasse; occasionally a meadow appeared brightly between the masses of forest; then a huge Russian town, ornate and bulky, varied the lengthening view.

From Ekaterinburg, on the Siberian frontier, the tarantasse was driven in a south-easterly direction; but Mr. Spottiswoode felt that the tints of the country on that side of the Ural were those of Asia, that the sun he saw in the early morning was as yet invisible in Europe, in Palestine, in Egypt, in the Syrian desert; it might have just touched the eastern headland of Arabia. Speedily, however, he was among the non-Russian populations beyond Ufa, the limes and poplars of Orenburg, and entering upon a journey of more than a thousand miles through an uncultured region. At this point he interrupts the narrative by a succinct and informing sketch of the tribes inhabiting Eastern Russia, a chapter in which he develops his ethnological views. We might here discuss with him the points of affinity between the Tatar and Mongolian races; but it is unnecessary. The ethnography of those countries has hitherto been very imperfectly explored; we are satisfied that much remains to be elucidated with respect to the original links between these nations and those of Mongolia. The Kirghiz hordes especially seem the kindred of other nomades, from whom, by certain theorists, they have been somewhat arbitrarily separated. Mr. Spottiswoode hesitates between Abbott and Pallas to decide as to their cruelty. M. de Levchine, whose authority is of weight, supplies interesting testimony on this subject. As to their women, although their minstrels sing of them as whiter than snow, with cheeks red as blood, hair dark as night, and eyebrows black as characters traced by a Moollah's pen, Abbott affirms them to have complexions resembling beetroot, faces ever furious by crimson, features naturally coarse, the figures of bears, and the dress of torn toadstools. Mr. Spottiswoode corroborates Abbott, except, we should think, as to the torn-toadstool metaphor.

In six days Mr. Spottiswoode gained a familiar knowledge of the city of Astrakhan, the Star of the Desert, beloved by the Oriental tribes. Situated where a river, after a course of full three thousand miles, empties into an inland sea with a coast of incomparable beauty, Astrakhan is connected by commercial roads with the Baltic and the Caucasus, Tiflis and Baku, and presents a dramatic variety of population, contrast, and colour:—

> We were for the moment almost bewildered, and could scarcely realise the fact, although at the same time we could not for a moment divest ourselves of the idea, that we were in the land of the Kalmucks and Kirghiz, the steppes of the Caspian; and that the only roads were, one by which we had arrived, leading homewards it is true, but little short of 2000 miles before it brought us to the frontier; the other along the sea-shore to a region unparalleled in beauty, scarcely surpassed in grandeur, almost untrodden by travellers,—a region about which so many reminiscences and interests, both historical and political, have ever clustered; where traces of old language and dialect that have elsewhere long since died out may still be found; where fragments of old manners, customs, and religions still linger, like the last wreaths of the morning mist, which hang entwined about the peaks of this their mountain home.

Mullions, arabesques, green-gold-starred domes, cupolas, spires, planted groves, huge painted gates, red and yellow, tawny sand, and the innumerable variegations painted by the encaustic pencils of the sun, confer on Astrakhan the appearance of Oriental antiquity. Mr. Spottiswoode, however, was soon away in Kalmuck tents, or calculating the produce of the Volgan and Caspian fisheries, or analyzing the Tatar nationalities; but his notes are most strikingly interesting when they touch upon the life of the nomade people. He is now referring to the Kalmucks:—

> The women enjoy a liberty and independence unknown in Moslem countries, but still not unlimited, as the following extract from one of their favourite fables will show.
>
> At a council of the birds, summoned to deliberate about the marriage of their khan, one member, having arrived late, was called upon for an explanation of his want of punctuality. And having pleaded the length of his journey, he proceeded to say that he had in the course of it observed three things. First, that there are more nights than days; for the clouds and fogs convert intervals, which should rightly be days, into nights. Secondly, that the dead are more numerous than the living; because those who sleep are as dead. And thirdly, that there are more women than men; because husbands who obey their wives are but women.
>
> If the reflective European inquire further how the Kalmuck philosopher explains these anomalies in the physical and moral worlds, he will hold up his open hand, and say, "some fingers are long, and some are short."

His tenth chapter, purports to be an account of a Buddhist temple and ritual by a pilgrim. It is an ingenious and faithful restoration of religious manners and dialogues; but we have no space for further extracts. The book contains much more than we have noticed, and is remarkable as opening in deep and clear perspective, the scenery and life of a region so curious and so little known as Eastern Russia.

THE MAN WITH THE PAPER MASK.

Junius Lord Chatham: A Biography. By William Dowe.

London: Trübner and Co.

MR. DOWE has been pleased to revive the Junian controversy. Having proved to his own satisfaction that the oratorical Great Commoner of the Junian epoch was also the Great Demagogue of the Press, he has thrown his proofs into shape and given them to the world. The form in which he has put forward his argument is that of a biography of the fiery Earl whom he more than suspects to be the popular oracle of those days, "setting forth," as he tells us, "the condition of English politics preceding and contemporary with the Revolutionary Junian period, and showing that the greatest orator and statesman was also the greatest epistolary writer of the age." It is the misfortune of this notorious *nominis umbra* which electrified Great Britain during the short period it stalked through the country, that inquisitive persons have not been content with the shadow, but must get at the substance, even though that substance be but a name. Nearly a century has elapsed since the first letter was published, yet the curiosity of not a few is as rife as ever to discover who the man with the impenetrable mask could be; and what is still more curious, historians and political writers of every degree have felt themselves bound to enter the lists, and earn their spurs by a tilt against this unknown knight. Lords Campbell and Mahon, Mr. Macaulay, Sir David Brewster, and a crowd of critics might be mentioned, who have done their best to bring the discussion to an end. But this is not so astonishing as the crowd of personages who have been marshalled upon the scene and made to answer to the name of the great Junius. Almost every writer of that day who had acquired a little pre-eminence over his fellow men was put forward as the author of the letters. Some asserted it was George Grenville, the leader of the Liberal party; some, James Grenville; others, that it was Lord Temple; and others, again, that it was Charles Lloyd, private secretary of George Grenville. Exclusive of these, however, we meet with a host in the same predicament—John Wilkes, Horne Tooke, Macaulay, Boyd, Burke, Barre, Hood, Grattan, Francis, Maclean, Glover, Delolme, Lord Shelburne, the Duke of Portland, Sir W. Jones, Gibbon, Sam Dyer, General Lee, Gerard Hamilton, J. Roberts, Lord Ashburton, Lord Camden, James Hollis, Dr. Wray, Horace Walpole, Lord Loughborough, W. Greatrakes, Rev. P. Hosenhagen, John Kent, Bishop Butler, Lord Chesterfield, Lord George Sackville, Dr. Francis, Thomas Lowe Lyttleton, and even Dr. Johnson and Peter Pindar have been dragged into the arena.

Mr. Dowe undertakes to dispose of the principal characters in this heterogeneous mass by analyzing their pretensions to the Junian glory. The others, too humble to attract attention, he passes over without a single glance. Those whose claims he deigns to notice are Burke, Lord George Sackville, Lord Ashburton, Thomas Lord Littleton—a feeble imitation of Lord Rochester—and Francis; but all these he contemptuously sets aside for his own favourite. The hypothesis of Britton, that the letters of Junius were the joint production of Lord Ashburton, Lord Shelbourne, and Colonel Barre, falls to the ground, from the single fact that the secret would scarcely have been kept inviolate had three been concerned in it. The other evidence needs scarcely be sifted after the utter improbability that the authorship could have been withheld from the world had more than one been entrusted with it. Macaulay, and with him are several other able critics, affirm that Philip Francis was the writer of these letters. They affirm that the handwriting of the MSS. is the handwriting of Francis, slightly disguised. In comparing the position, pursuits, and connexions of Junius with those of Francis, they draw a close analogy:—They assert that Junius was acquainted with the technical forms of the Secretary of State's Office; that he was intimately acquainted with the business of the War Office; that during the year 1770 he took notes of speeches delivered in the House of Lords; that he bitterly resented the appointment of Mr. Chamier to the place of Secretary at War, and that he was bound by some strong tie to the first Lord Holland. Turning to the career of Philip Francis, it is well known that he was for some time in the Secretary of State's Office; that he was subsequently chief clerk of the War Office; that he heard the speeches of Lord Chatham during the year 1770; that he resigned his office from resentment to Mr. Chamier, and that he was introduced to public life by Lord Holland. The objection that Philip Francis wrote in his other correspondence nothing that could indicate him to be capable of writing the letters of Junius, Macaulay meets by a direct denial, and also shows that every man must write his best and his worst work, and that if we criticize the letters of Junius himself we shall find sufficient irregularities in the style to overthrow the objection.

The idea that Lord Chatham was Junius is not original, although Mr. Dowe has worked it out more elaborately than any of his predecessors. He takes, too, a larger range of inquiry; and instead of confining his examination to the Letters of Junius, he rambles through the correspondence of "Atticus," "Poplicola," "Anti-Sejanus," "Anti-Stuart," "Mnemon," "Anti-Van Teague," "Modestus," &c.; and tracing the authorship to one source, builds up a theory of cunning and subtlety on the part of the writer worthy of Machiavelli himself. This argument is ingenious but tortuous, and it requires no small amount of credulity to submit to it. All the points of coincidence in feeling and opinion between Junius and Chatham, of course are made the most of, and with great plausibility. The disgusted re-

tirement of the minister during the period of the Junian fulminations—his madness, or gout, or whatever it was, real or feigned, that kept him shut up at Hayes—his bitter hostility to King, Lords, and Commons—the cessation of the "Letters" when his party had become thoroughly broken up—his intimate connexion with the Court, even while officially severed from it—his fearlessness of the consequences of his denunciations—the timidity of the King and courtiers, who feared to stretch out their hands to arrest the speaker of evil against dignities—the general belief that it was no understrapper or clerk concealed behind the mask—the concurrent pointing by contemporaries to some mighty political commander—the analogy that exists between the speeches of the one and the writings of the other—the similarity in the handwriting between some of the MSS. and that of Lady Chatham—all these points are made use of by Mr. Dowe in support of his hypothesis. He goes further. He admits Philip Francis, who owed everything to Lord Chatham, into the conspiracy. His purpose has been to show that young Philip Francis was the confidential agent of Lord Chatham during the Junian period. And in adverting to the correspondence of Lady Francis on the subject, he remarks:—"The strong necessity of truth produces from Lady Francis the admission so damaging to the belief to which she is attached, that Lord Chatham had a hand in the letters. He certainly had, and a head too."

In summing up Mr. Dowe is more explicit. "Lord Chatham and Francis were allies. And if it be conceded that each would play his natural part—that the eloquent and exasperated statesman would act like himself, and the smart little clerk of twenty-seven would stick to his proper vocation—we shall not be very much at a loss or at variance about recognizing the truth of the matter, unless indeed we should have some other logical reasons for our particular belief. Everything, in fact, leads us to this: Junius was Lord Chatham." Here the question rests—a question that has taxed the legal acumen and critical penetration of not a few of the ablest men of the last three-quarters of a century. To those who would wish to sift further the statements and arguments of a Chathamist, we recommend the work of Mr. Dowe. His views are clearly stated, with, however, a little affectation of pleasantry, and an unfortunate introduction at times of inelegant and untranslatable Americanisms.

THREE WORKS OF FICTION.

The Metaphysicians. Being a Memoir of Franz Carvel, Brushmaker, written by Himself; and of Harold Fremdling, Esq., written and now republished by Francis Drake, Esq. (Longman and Co.)—There will have been a decided advance on literature when one third of the stories published are as clever as *The Metaphysicians.* The book not only contains good writing, but exhibits real thought. The good writing is occasionally overdone, the thought is overwhelmed amid conceits and commonplaces, yet the residue of talent and originality suffices to mark with superiority the chronicle of Franz Carvel's experiences, and the life of Harold Fremdling. The author is, in his own way, a humorist and a philosopher, dry, cold, quiet; he laughs and moralises, moralises and laughs; his heroes mock the world, and the world retaliates upon his heroes. In the one narrative he portrays the individual, growing and learning; in the other, society aspiring and expanding, and in both a hazy lore of metaphysical subtlety rises between the eye and the object it discerns. It must be premised that this is *our* interpretation of the aim and scope of the work, since Drake and Carvel are not a little obscure in their ultimate exposition. This obscurity arises not so much from a want of precision in the style—we have said the stories are well written—but from a certain density enveloping the point to which the incidents as well as the dialectics converge. Franz Carvel is a disciple of Immanuel Kant, and his treatment of that philosopher's doctrine is sufficiently ingenious, though it may be necessary, now that the sin of studying at secondhand threatens to corrupt the flow of our literature, to warn all impulsive readers against supposing that they know anything of Kant without having studied him for themselves. Suffice it that they understand a book who have read it; summaries, commentaries, quotations, are for the most part worthless, always imperfect, often stupid, sometimes positively false. Harold Fremdling, whose connexion with Franz Carvel is very close, is the disciple of no metaphysician whatever; he approaches such topics reluctantly, and almost under compulsion. Yet his, also, is in one sense the romance of metaphysical investigation, the satire closing keenly with the technicalities of philosophy. Of course, it is easy to ridicule every science the terminology of which abounds in curious words, to play fantastically with the noumenon, and the several potences, with subsumption and the Aristotelian apparatus, but it is quite as easy to ridicule the common cant of trade—the lively pepper, the brisk rice, the dull barley of trade reports—as to follow the Absolute in its undeveloped essence through the realism and idealism of its indifferences. But the author, who is obviously familiar with the super-subtleties that furnish the materials of his pedantic comedy, touches now and then, with a firm hand, some other topics of the times. His Francis Drake, for example, discusses whether, shutting out Judaism, Mohammedanism and Buddhism from view, it is possible to fix a state standard of religious education. Be it Christianity, it is suggested. Then what Christianity? Athanasian or Arian, Roman or Lutheran, Armenian or Calvinistic? Clearly, the wisdom of our ancestors has settled that question by providing the Church of England. But what Church of England? The High or the Low?—the Puseyitic or the Evangelical? That which admits the right of private judgment or that which denies it? That which seeks supremacy for the Ecclesiastical corporation, or that which refers all disputes in the Ecclesia to Parliament? We have no doubt that the book will make its way among thinking readers, who will have to pardon, however, some occasional coarseness and interludes of monotony.

The Confidence: Man and his Masquerade. By Herman Melville, Author of "Omoo," "Typee," &c. Authorized Edition. (Longman and Co.)—In this book, also, philosophy is brought out of its cloisters into the living world; but the issue raised is more simple:—whether men are to be trusted or suspected? Mr. Melville has a manner wholly different from that of the anonymous writer who has produced "The Metaphysicians." He is less scholastic, and more sentimental; his style is not so severe; on the contrary, festoons of exuberant fancy decorate the discussion of abstract problems; the controversialists pause ever and anon while a vivid, natural Mississippi landscape is rapidly painted before the mind; the narrative is almost rhythmic, the talk is cordial, bright American touches are scattered over the perspective—the great steamboat deck, the river coasts, the groups belonging to various gradations of New-World life. In his Pacific stories Mr. Melville wrote as with an Indian pencil, steeping the entire relation in colours almost too brilliant for reality; his books were all stars, twinkles, flashes, vistas of green and crimson, diamond and crystal; he has now tempered himself, and studied the effect of neutral tints. He has also added satire to his repertory, and, as he uses it scrupulously, he uses it well. His fault is a disposition to discourse upon too large a scale, and to keep his typical characters too long in one attitude upon the stage. Lest we should seem to imply that the masquerade is dramatic in form, it is as well to describe its construction. It is a strangely diversified narration of events taking place during the voyage of a Mississippi river boat, a cosmopolitan philanthropist, the apostle of a doctrine, being the centre and inspiration of the whole. The charm of the book is owing to its originality and to its constant flow of descriptions, character-stretching, and dialogue, deeply toned and skilfully contrasted.

Madaron; or, the Artisan of Nismes: an Historical Romance of the Sixteenth Century. By D'Aubigné White. 3 vols. (Cash.)—This is a novel elaborately constructed of historical and romantic materials. The author is at once inventive and studious. He has ransacked the chronicles of the religious wars in France, he has closely copied the manners and costumes of the sixteenth century, he has gone far in search of testimonies to the characters of such personages as Charles the Ninth, Henry of Navarre, the Chancellor L'Hôpital, René, the royal Perfumer, and the Cardinal of Lorraine. Then, *Madaron* is a dioramic picture of southern French scenery along the Rhône and Durance, of Roman antiquity and feudal customs about Avignon, Nismes, and Sisteron; the civil strife of Languedoc lends its passion and tumult to the story, which gains in tone and variety by being interwoven with the adventures of the Vicomtesse de Clavaro, of the ancient château of Beaucaire. Madaron himself is a development of the historical figure sketched by the accurate and learned De Thou. Blaise de Montluc and the savage Beaumont stalk across the scene; Tintoretto comes with his easel to paint a sacred Virgin; more is said of Catharine de Medicis than would be warranted by Brantôme, who compared her beautiful hands with those of the goddess Aurora; much, indeed, is boldly imagined. The result is a clever, extravagant story; but Mr. White is fatiguingly diffuse. He might have spared half his space by cutting down the dialogues, omitting altogether a weighty oration on Opinion, sacrificing a number of unimportant though laborious details, and suppressing a variety of incidents neither intrinsically dramatic nor converging towards the general catastrophe. A few notes on *Madaron* will sufficiently illustrate its qualities. We have Lucrezia Gazzi, a Trasteverine Aspasia, painted on an altar-piece by Tintoretto, and Ximena de Clavaro at a feast in the Boccacian gardens of the Villa D'Armagnac; we have a gallery of Cleopatran portraits; among these is that of the Vicomtesse of Beaucaire, "dressed in a white, glittering material, which shone like floating silver," "thin and transparent." She wears a double tunic of this Hetairian texture, a girdle of uncut rubies, gold bracelets engraved with hieroglyphic characters, a jasmine wreath, a Saracen shawl. Mr. White indulges continually in descriptions of such fairyland loveliness and light attire as might harmonize with the diaphanous architecture of the Purple Halls of Ineffable Felicity, of which children go home to dream at Christmas, especially when he relates how the young nuns and the luxurious Benedictines hold a Memphian revel—the monks in scarlet and gold, the snowy-armed penitents in Druid drapery and embroidered turbans. By way of variety, he adjusts the delicate limbs of Ximena de Clavaro upon a rack, and allows Madaron to personate the executioner, and to deceive the judges by torturing her tenderly. Again, the confession of René is a spasmodic effect introduced to intensify the melodrama. We have no doubt that *Madaron* has been the work of many patient days; it certainly evinces knowledge and talent, but there is a superabundance of romantic blazonry; the interest is generally of a barbaric kind; in fact, Mr. White has endeavoured to compose a story almost entirely of pearl, gold, poison, passion, Olympian beauty, white tunics, and surprises.

THE LITTLE WORLD OF LONDON.

The Little World of London. By Charles Manby Smith. Hall, Virtue, and Co.

Mr. Manby Smith presents us with a picture of London life, after the Chinese school of painting, only that his colours are not so brilliant. There is a total want of perspective. His figures, individually, are drawn with a recognizable degree of correctness, but they are all of the same height and dimensions. His colouring, too, is monotonous—a dull, cold grey pervading every part. Or, perhaps, we should more correctly describe the impression we have received from a conscientious perusal of his work, by likening his sketches of character to those silhouettes in black paper cut out with a pair of scissors by some itinerant untaught genius. The outlines are sufficiently accurate to enable one to recal the features of a well-known countenance, but utterly incapable of affording any clue to the character or disposition of a stranger.

The physiology of London life will ever be an interesting study to the philosopher and economist, and might be made equally amusing to the million. It is a favourite subject with magazine writers, and has also been frequently taken in hand by popular authors, possessed of descriptive powers almost equal to their faculty of perception. And yet from some cause or other it has never been treated in a manner worthy of its importance. There are two opposite faults, into one or both of which the illustrators of London life have invariably fallen—a tedious enumeration of details, or a proneness to hasty generalizations. As statists the Brothers Mayhew stand without a rival near their throne, and their investigations have evidently been con-

ducted in a kind and sympathizing spirit. While they evince their respect for the good and great in the highest classes of society, they never for a moment conceal their contempt for the vulgar rich; and while they express an active commiseration for poverty and wretchedness, they unsparingly disclose the tricks of impostors and the treacherous slough that lies beneath the foundations of society. Their contributions to the study of London life are undoubtedly of great value, but there is still much to desiderate. What is really wanted is a philosophical view of the great metropolis as compared with other capital cities, ancient and modern. It is amusing to read of the humours of the costermonger or the gamin; to know how many drams of gin are drunk in one night in Whitechapel, or how many ballads are annually struck off by the press of Seven Dials; and to learn something of the ingenious devices by which thousands contrive to live, whose lives are apparently of no consequence save to themselves alone. We do not underrate this species of information. The genuine botanist, when he comes upon a strange and beautiful plant, is not satisfied with culling the flowers—he takes care to ascertain the nature of the soil that produces it. He is not content to gaze with rapture on the loveliness of the white pond-lily and inhale its perfumes—he will also probably examine "the black mud over which the river sleeps, and where lurk the slimy eel and speckled frog, and the mud-turtle, whom continual washing cannot cleanse." This filth and slime is the origin of all things. The very earth we inhabit—so are we assured in our childhood—was a chaotic mass of muddy water. Man himself was made out of the wet clay. Civilization is but the dry land appearing above the surface of the foul and troubled waters. The most splendid blossoms of Belgravia are rooted in St. Giles. All this is apparent to the most superficial observer. We do not ask to see the writhings of the eel, or the flying leaps of the frog, or the patient crawling of the mud-turtle. No doubt it must be a funny spectacle, and quite as worthy of the usual admittance fee as the Swiss giant or American dwarf. But we would rather inquire whether these different results of the same powers of assimilation exist in a greater or less degree in London than in other large cities? whether this difference be inevitable, or in what manner it may be amended? and finally, what will be the probable consequences of a continuation of the present state of things? For such information as this we look in vain either to the Messrs. Mayhew, or to Mr. Murray—an ancient contributor to *Blackwood*—and still less to the water-colour sketches of Mr. Manby Smith. Who will undertake to supply this deficiency?

The Arts.

THE OPERAS.

IF we are to believe the voice of rumour, the new tenor at HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, Signor GIUGLINI, revives the traditions of RUBINI as that great tenor sang in the days of his early triumphs. Such is the whisper of the veterans of the stalls. Whether this whisper shall become an acclamation, Tuesday evening next must decide. "*Una vergin' un angel di Dio*," will confirm, we believe, the high reputation which Signor GIUGLINI brings from LA SCALA, where he fairly subdued the Austrians in the persons of the young Kaiser and his bride. Meantime, there is ample room for expectation in the announcement of as many as four first appearances—Signor GIUGLINI the tenor, Signor VIALETTI the bass, Madlle. SPEZIA the prima donna, and Madlle. POCCHINI the première danseuse—at HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE on Tuesday next, the first night of the season.

At the LYCEUM, no new opera or new singer is announced, but the *Puritani*, with Madame GRISI and Signor GARDONI as *Elvira* and *Arturo*, and Signor GRAZIANI as *Riccardo*. The divertissement, *Les Abeilles*, is a novelty, and introduces Madlle. DELECHAUX.

NEW ENTERTAINMENTS.

As if two Operas, and we know not how many theatres, and concerts innumerable were insufficient to the public appetite for amusement, new "Entertainments" are springing up every day on every casual stage, and in every vacant room of tolerable dimensions. There is a fresh crop for Easter week; but certainly one of the most original and daring enterprises of the kind is "A Grand Illustrated Concert in Scena and Costume, Poems and Melodies by F. A. WILSON, K.L.H.G.S.," announced for performance at the ST. JAMES'S THEATRE, under the immediate direction of the author and composer, assisted by a competent stage manager, an efficient orchestra, appropriate scenery, Crimean guardsmen and pensioners, a staff of leading vocalists, and a numerous corps of walking, singing, and dancing ladies and gentlemen. The idea of the originator of this entertainment is, in his own vivid and enthusiastic language, "to comprise in rapid sketch a general review of our late Crimean campaigns, from the earliest scintillations of that patriotic spirit, which fired our whole nation at the first signal of hostilities, and which gradually augmented in proportion as the war progressed, until it attained that enthusiastic intensity which even the advent of peace has yet scarcely been able to extinguish."

This plan, as the author and designer candidly avows, is a little "comprehensive and excursionary;" but if he throws half the enthusiasm into the "scena" which we find in the verses, the effect must be prodigious with any audience in which the British Lion and his numerous family should predominate. We have skimmed over the *libretto*, and really it soars above the common run of compositions of this kind: it has a smack of generous feeling and a versatility of expression all its own. Supposing (it is not a very strong supposition) that the scenes and characters of the late war have not yet passed into the limbo of boredom, at least for the miscellaneous public of a London season, we think we may fairly hope that Mr. WILSON's spirited exertions will not be disappointed.

Another entertainment, of which we have received a prospectus, is to be given at ST. MARTIN'S HALL, by Mr. HENRY SEYMOUR CARLETON (who styles himself, *par excellence*, we suppose, "THE MIMIC"), and to be entitled "Familiar Faces, or Old Friends in New Places." It is said to be written by a smart and skilful writer, accustomed to success. More than this of Mr. H. S. CARLETON, "*The Mimic*," we know not: we only know that to succeed as a Mimic is a venial offence, to fail is almost a crime. Let us, therefore, give Mr. CARLETON (before we hear him) the benefit of the doubt, and wish him all success.

HAYMARKET THEATRE.

MR. BUCKSTONE has judiciously arranged a new scale of prices for the HAYMARKET THEATRE. Dress Boxes, 5s.; Upper Boxes, 3s.; Pit, 2s.; private boxes, orchestra, stalls, and second price, being reduced in proportion. This is a well-timed reform. We join with the *Globe*, however, in urging the abolition of fees—the nuisance of theatrical lobbies.

A LITTLE farce, from the genial and domestic pen of Mr. MARK LEMON, and called *Welcome, Little Stranger!* was produced at the ADELPHI on Monday week, and, on the ground of its own merits, as well as on that of the excellent acting of Mr. WRIGHT, was a 'screaming' success.

TOBACCO.—The *Lancet*, having given up its columns for several weeks past to correspondence relative to the tobacco controversy, now delivers its own opinion. Its conclusions amount to this:—1. To smoke *early in the day is excess*. 2. As people are generally constituted, to smoke more than one or two pipes of tobacco, or one or two cigars daily, is *excess*. 3. Youthful indulgence in smoking is *excess*. 4. There are physiological indications which, occurring in any individual case, are criteria of *excess*. "We most earnestly desire," says the *Lancet*, "to see the habit of smoking diminish, and we entreat the youth of this country to abandon it altogether. Let them lay our advice to heart. Let them give up a dubious pleasure for a certain good. Ten years hence, we shall receive their thanks."

THE CITY MEDICAL OFFICER'S QUARTERLY REPORT.—This document has been presented to the City Commission of Sewers. Besides giving the sum total of the deaths from various causes, Dr. Letheby calls attention to the horrible conviction of the poor lodging-houses in several parts of the City, where misery, disease, filth, and immorality, are rampant.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

BIRTHS.

BAYLEY.—On the 1st inst., at 1, Montague-place, Russell-square, the wife of the Rev. E. Bayley, rector of St. George's, Bloomsbury: a daughter.

MEE.—On the 31st ult., at Wheatley, near Retford, Mrs. John Cowper Mee: a daughter.

WOOD—On the 3rd inst., at Athlone, the wife of Captain R. H. Wood, 67th Regiment: a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

EDGCOME—SCOTT.—On the 10th of February, at Rangoon, Lieutenant W. H. Edgcome, Madras Engineers, to Lucy, youngest daughter of the late Rev. Wm. Scott, rector of Aldridge, Staffordshire.

PIDCOCK—JAMES.—On the 19th of February, at St. Pancras Church, New-road, Spencer Pidcock, Esq., of Woolwich, to Elizabeth James, of the same place.

SMITH—LEAPINGWELL.—On the 31st ult., at St. Mary's-the-Less, Cambridge, Charles Bagot Smith, Esq., to Clara, youngest daughter of the late Rev. George Leapingwell, vicar of High Easter, Essex.

DEATHS.

THOMPSON.—On Wednesday, the 8th inst., at the Queen's Hotel, Cheltenham, Charles Thompson, Esq., Workington, Cumberland, after a short illness, aged 61.

RICHTER.—On the 8th inst., at his residence, 104, Lissongrove-north, Marylebone, Henry Richter, Esq., historical painter, and Member of the Old Society of Painters in Water-Colours, aged 85.

SKELTON.—On Wednesday, the 8th inst., at his sister's residence, 48, Abbey-road, St. John's-wood, J. Skelton, Esq., M.D., Battalion Surgeon, Coldstream Guards.

FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE.

Tuesday, April 7.

BANKRUPTS.—SAMUEL RICHARDS, Bedford-square, apothecary—FREDERICK BLUCHER DOWLAND, Lee, Kent—JOHN EASTON, Clapham-road-place, Clapham-road, builder—EDWARD DUKE MOORE, Southgate and the Minories, merchant—CHRISTOPHER HALL, Sun-court, Cornhill, East India merchant—CHARLES COPLAND and WILLIAM GEORGE BARNES, Botolph-lane and Southampton, provision merchants—FREDERICK WILLIAM WHISTON, Birmingham, druggist—ELIJAH LAWTON, Manchester, cotton waste dealer—JAMES BRADSHAW and AARON COLLINSON, Burnley, cotton manufacturers—RICHARD JONES, Newtown, Montgomeryshire, flannel manufacturer—WILLIAM JOHN ROBERTS, Pembrey, Carmarthenshire, draper—HENRY BISHOP, Dursley, Gloucestershire, money scrivener—WILLIAM BULMER, Bedale, Yorkshire, grocer—THOMAS PYECROFT, Sandal Magna, Yorkshire, carrier—WILLIAM GIBBON, Spenny-moor, Durham, grocer.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATION.—D. ROSS, Alness, merchant.

Friday, April 10.

BANKRUPTS.—THOMAS PEPPER, Mountfield, Sussex, wheelright—JOHN EMMERSON, High-street, Poplar, licensed victualler—THOMAS MOSLIN, Cobourg-place, Old Kent-road, builder—PHILEMON GUY, St. James's-road, Holloway, builder—BARTHOLOMEW WARD, High-street, Southwark, stationer—SAGAR HOLDEN SPLATT, Liverpool, sailmaker—THOMAS ROWE and JOHN WALTER TRENERY, Lincoln, ironmongers—WILLIAM THIRELFALL, Preston, iron merchant—ALFRED CHARLES WOOD, Pershore, Worcestershire, linen draper—ROBERT ALEXANDER, Crawford-street, Camberwell, furniture dealer—THOMAS LEWIS, Nantwich, Chester, draper.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—Mrs. HANNAH SCOTT, Edinburgh, publican—ROBERT GARVIN, Kinross, merchant—JOHN HENDRIE, Glasgow, horse dealer—JAMES HISLOP, Hawick, baker and grocer—M'BRIDE and Co., Albyn Works, Glasgow, power-loom cloth manufacturers and cotton spinners.

Commercial Affairs.

London, Thursday Evening, April 9, 1857.

THE directors of the Bank of England have taken wise precautions in judicious restrictions of the advances given to credit and on securities. The gigantic Russian railway schemes, now on the eve of their birth, are likely to receive but little encouragement in this country. The public tendency in the face of dear money is without doubt towards speculation, and in this particular line the great merchants, contractors, and others, who are personally interested in placing as many shares as possible, would persuade the said public to embark largely. Thus the check put on these gentlemen by the Bank is most wholesome, and, it is to be hoped, will prove a great blow and discouragement to their schemes. The demand for money throughout the week in the Stock Exchange has been most lively. Even 7½ and 8 per cent. has been given from day to day.

In the Foreign Stocks market Peruvian and Mexican have been well supported. Turkish Six per Cent. has hitherto, in any pressure of the money market, invariably shown great sensitiveness; now, however, prices are well supported.

Foreign shares are of course much flatter, the only line that seems to promise better is Riga and Dunaburg.

Grand Trunk of Canada shares are very firm, and the Six per Cent. bonds of this line have recovered their temporary depression, and have been done at 90. Great Western of Canada are hardly so firm; the gloom of the terrible calamity near Hamilton hangs over the holders in this line, and makes them fear that some heavy and positive damages may accrue from the accident. Birmingham, Lancashire and Yorkshire, South Western, Midland, Great Western, Eastern Counties, South Eastern, Caledonians, and Berwicks, continue very firmly supported. It is remarkable that in these present days railway shares maintain their prices, or are what is termed "better held" than the public securities.

In Joint-stock Banks no great amount of business has been transacted. Australasian banking shares of all kinds do not look strong. Ottoman and Bank of Egypt are flatter. In British mines there have been a few bargains in Wheal Margery, Wheal Vor, Great Alfred, and Alfred Consols, Par Consols, and Fowey Consols. Wheal Mary Anne and Trelawny shares are still favourites.

In Foreign Mines, a few United Mexicans at a reduced price, Maraquitas, and Chancellorvilles, have been sold.

Trade in Miscellaneous shares is absolutely stagnant.

The Easter holidays and the Elections, together with the great scarcity of money, is stopping much business. The actual amount of bullion now afloat, and the prospect of more, would raise our receipts to something like one-and-a-half million, if it remained in the country, but the ceaseless drain to the Continent, and the patent fact that twenty-one millions of securities at the Bank have obtained advances, must make Bank directors cautious, and ought to satisfy the public.

Consols close at four o'clock, for May account 93, 93½, Turkish Six per Cent. 96⅞, 97⅛; Turkish Four per Cent. 101.

Blackburn, 8¾, 9; Caledonian, 68½, 69; Chester and Holyhead, 35, 36; Eastern Counties, 11⅝, 11⅞; Great Northern, 96, 97; Great Southern and Western (Ireland), 104, 106; Great Western, 66½, 67; Lancashire and Yorkshire, 101¼, 101½; London and Blackwall, 5⅞, 6⅛; London, Brighton, and South Coast, 107, 109; London and North-Western, 104½, 105; London and South-Western, 101, 101½; Midland, 81¾, 81½; North-Eastern (Berwick), 86, 87; South-Eastern (Dover), 74, 74½; Antwerp and Rotterdam, 7, 7¼; Dutch Rhenish, ½ dis. par.; Eastern of France (Paris and Strasbourg), 34 34½; Great Central of France, 23¾, 24¼; Great Luxembourg, 6¼, 6½; Northern of France, 39⅞, 39⅞; Paris and Lyons, 62⅝, 62⅞; Royal Danish, 18, 20; Royal Swedish, 1, 1¼; Sambre and Meuse, 9, 9½.

CORN MARKET.

Mark-lane, Thursday, April 9, 1857.

To-morrow being Good Friday there will be no other market held this week. The supplies of Wheat are very moderate, but Barley and Oats arrive in large quantities. The Wheat trade continues as dull as possible, with drooping prices. The demand for Barley and Oats yesterday, though not active, was sufficient to prevent any decline from Monday's rates, which were 1s. to 2s. under those of last week for both articles.

BRITISH FUNDS FOR THE PAST WEEK.

(Closing Prices.)

	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Frid.
Bank Stock	.....	218½	.....	216	216	Holiday.
3 per Cent. Red	.....	92	91¼	91¼	91⅛	
3 per Cent. Con. An.	93½	93½	92¾	92⅝	92¾	
Consols for Account	93¼	93½	92¾	92⅞	93¼	
New 3 per Cent. An.	.....	.....	91¾	.....	.....	
New 2½ per Cents.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	
Long Ans. 1860	.....	.....	.....	2⅝	.....	
India Stock	222½	222½	.....	223½	225	
Ditto Bonds, £1000	5 d	1 d	.....	.....	.....	
Ditto, under £1000	par	1 d	5 d	2 d	par	
Ex. Bills, £1000	2 d	.....	2 d	6 d	6 d	
Ditto, £500	.....	2 d	.....	2 d	6 d	
Ditto, Small	1 d	.....	2 d	6 d	6 d	

FOREIGN FUNDS.

(Last Official Quotation during the Week ending Friday Evening.)

Brazilian Bonds	100	Portuguese 4 per Cents.	...
Buenos Ayres 6 p. Cents	86	Russian Bonds, 5 per Cents	...
Chilian 6 per Cents	102½	Russian 4½ per Cents.	95⅞
Chilian 3 per Cents	78	Spanish	41½
Dutch 2½ per Cents	65⅛	Spanish Committee Cer. of Coup. not fun.	6½
Dutch 4 per Cent. Certf.	96¾	Turkish 6 per Cents	97⅛
Equador Bonds	...	Turkish New, 4 ditto	100⅜
Mexican Account	23⅜	Venezuela 4½ per Cents.	...
Peruvian 4½ per Cents.	77⅛		
Portuguese 3 per Cents.	45		

ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA, LYCEUM.—First night of the Season.

On Tuesday next, April 14, 1857, will be performed Bellini's Opera

I PURITANI.

Principal characters by Madame Grisi, Signor Graziani, Signor Tagliafico, Signor Polonini, Signor Soldi, and Signor Gardoni.

Conductor, Mr. COSTA.

After which will be given a New Divertissement, entitled

LES ABEILLES,

in which Mademoiselle Delechaux (her first appearance), Mademoiselle Esper, Mademoiselle Battalini, and Monsieur Desplaces, will appear.

The Theatre has been entirely redecorated, and the Boxes and Stalls rendered more commodious. The Admission to the Pit, and also to the Amphitheatre Stalls, will be through the principal entrance in Wellington-street.

There will be a communication between the Pit and the Boxes.—Pit, 8s.; Amphitheatre Stalls, 7s. and 5s.

The Opera will commence on each evening at half-past eight o'clock.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—SPEZIA, GIUGLINI, VIALETTI, BENEVENTANO, POCCHINI.

OPENING NIGHT, TUESDAY, April 14th,
Opera.....LA FAVORITA.
Ballet.....LA ESMERALDA.
(For particulars see bills.)

The same Opera and Ballet will be repeated on Thursday, April 16th, it being an extra night not included in the Subscription.

A limited number of Boxes in the Half-circle Tier have been specially reserved for the public, and may be had at the Box Office at the Theatre, Colonnade, Haymarket. Price One Guinea, and One Guinea and a-Half each.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—GRAND EXTRA NIGHT, THURSDAY, April 16.

Spezia, Guiglini, Vialetti, Beneventano, Pocchini.

OPERA.—LA FAVORITA.
BALLET.—LA ESMERALDA.

For particulars, see Bills.

A limited number of boxes in the half-circle tier have been specially reserved for the public, and may be had on application at the Box-office at the Theatre, Colonnade, Haymarket. Price, One Guinea, and One Guinea and a Half.

The doors will open at Seven; the Opera commence at Half-past Seven.

EASTER MONDAY AND DURING THE WEEK.

ROYAL OLYMPIC THEATRE.

Lessee and Manager, Mr. Alfred Wigan.

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Dated the 8th April, 1857.

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