

Thomson's High Street, 7 Wellington Street, Strand.

The Leader.

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

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SATURDAY, JANUARY 7, 1854.

[PRICE SIXPENCE.]

News of the Week.

THE weather almost rivals in public interest the Russian question and the Coburg question, for Christmas has at last come clothed in such frosty horrors as satisfy our surviving grandfathers, and enable Mr. Lowe to point out the coldest day upon his record, extending back for forty-five years. But the wind passes by, the snow will melt, and the rigours of January 1854 will become a matter of history, before we shall have done with the Russian question; we hope not before we shall have done with the Coburg question.

From the seat of war we have actually no news worth calling by that name; but the position of Russia towards the rest of Europe becomes daily a subject of more anxious watch, and the position of our Government towards its allies abroad, or the enemies of its country, is a subject of still more anxious inquiry. There are excellent reasons for anxiety. The question of the Baltic, indeed, has taken a turn rather favourable than otherwise. It is now stated by the daily journals, evidently on official authority, that Sweden is not under the influence of Russia. Early in the week it was announced that a league had been formed between Sweden and Denmark, to maintain a neutrality; and of course it was supposed that a league between Sweden menaced by Russia, and Denmark already subservient to Russia, must be in the interest of that great Baltic power: we are now assured to the contrary. It is said that Sweden and Denmark intend to maintain a real, and not an armed neutrality, permitting free passage to the armed ships of both powers, and entrance even to their own ports. There are some exceptions, but they are necessary in themselves—such as the exclusion from a Danish port, which is a state prison; or there are conditions usual in time of war, and perfectly proper. So far as professions go, this league between Sweden and Denmark appears to put a limit upon Russian exactions in the Baltic. But still we must have the most suspicious vigilance, for while it is said that the Court of Sweden labours under some desire to please Russia, the Court of Denmark has already sacrificed a part of the legitimate succession to its throne for the same object.

The most conflicting and, at the same time, unpleasant reports, are now circulated in every capital of Europe, respecting the actual relations

of our Government abroad. In well-informed circles, a report is currently circulated as coming from St. Petersburg, asserting that the French Government is endeavouring to isolate itself from the other European Powers, and even from the English alliance. The source of this report stamps its character; but as we have reason to suppose that our Government has not been so hearty in its accord with France, as France has with the British Cabinet, the receipt of such a report in London, and the willingness to believe such reports in any quarter, are circumstances which justify solicitude. On the other hand, it is averred that Austria, or Austria and Prussia,—for the accounts vary,—have proposed to mediate between Russia and Turkey independently of the Western Powers. There is no necessity to pay much attention to this rumour, except so far as it suggests attention to the conduct of our own Government, for the purpose of seeing that the honour and interests of this country are not betrayed by subservieney to Austrian manœuvres. It comes out more clearly than ever, that the Austrian Government is only carrying on an apparent co-operation with the Western Powers, in order to do what it can for Russian purposes. In Paris, suspicions of Austrian conduct amount almost to certainty.

The reports respecting the participation of Prince Albert in these affairs continue, and are repeated without hesitation; and, as yet, we believe we are correct in saying that not the smallest contradiction has been given. A very strong feeling is rising amongst the public. The people begin to talk of their regret that such incidents should affect the popularity of the Queen.

The mission of Count de Pourtales, the Prussian Minister at Constantinople, to Paris and London, before returning to his own country, is still regarded as a proof that Prussia desires to keep clear of the Austro-Russian intrigues. Amongst the few particulars that reach us from the Black Sea are some that corroborate the report that a British ship was destroyed in the action at Sinope. The commander of this ship has now appeared, and has related the mode in which his vessel, lying at anchor and accidentally in the neighbourhood of the Turkish fleet, was fired upon by the Russians and destroyed, without any notice having been given to him to quit his anchoring ground. Nevertheless, we do not yet hear of any explanation demanded from the Russian Government on that subject, nor do we hear of

any attempt to explain the position of the English Ministers. The friends of our own Government assure us that it is firm and true, and it is possible that on the meeting of Parliament all these ugly reports may be dissipated. In the meanwhile, however, two effects are obvious. The state of affairs on the Continent becomes more intricate, and those who are friendly to the Ministers become more firm in their assertion that war will be avoided—an assertion which implies that the English Government is preparing to betray the honour of its country, and the welfare of Europe, for the sake of keeping peace with the despots who harass and tyrannise over the Continent.

Lord Palmerston has scarcely resumed his place, ere a new resignation is announced. Lord Hardinge had resigned the post of Commander-in-Chief. The reason of this resignation is apparent from the re-instatement of Adjutant-General Sir George Brown. Sir George had resigned, because, after he had refused leave of absence to some officers, Lord Hardinge granted the leave,—thus superseding an officer of rank in the exercise of his duty. This act on the part of Lord Hardinge was either subversive of discipline in the army, or it implied a very severe censure on Sir George. There has been another accusation, freely levelled at Lord Hardinge—that of too eagerly seeking to provide for his immediate friends. In regard to that charge we have no sufficient evidence, and the opinion of the responsible adviser of the Crown is shown in the re-instatement of Sir George, necessarily as that act involved the resignation of the Commander-in-Chief. Lord Hardinge, however, like Lord Palmerston, has been induced to continue.

In various circles, Ministerial as well as anti-Ministerial, there are strong expressions of a feeling, "there will be no war"—the expression of hope on one side, and of sarcastic despondency on the other. The recent announcement, however, that the number of men in the Navy is to be augmented by 8000 men beyond the vote of last year, and that the whole force is in rapid conversion into a screw fleet, does not look as if Ministers counted on peace; nor do we believe that they are so outrageously miscalculating the tendency of events.

At the time of Lord Palmerston's separation from the Cabinet, it was generally remarked that Lord Lansdowne did not attend the sittings of the Cabinet. Rumours that he intended to share the exile of his colleague, whom he had been the

chief means of bringing to the Cabinet, were met by the assertion that the marquis was only kept at home by Christmas festivities and personal infirmities. If he had any intention of severing himself from the Government, that appears to have been abandoned. At the last meeting of the Cabinet all the Ministers were present.

Amongst other doubts which beset the public interests, there can be none respecting the financial and commercial condition of the country; nothing could be better—trade, revenue, all are everything that they could be wished. We do not remember a period in the history of the country at which there could have been so many technical reasons for doubt, and at which the quotations for public securities, notwithstanding the operations of speculators for the fall, have remained so steady, at a comparatively high rate. The revenue tables for the quarter and year explain some of the reasons for this strong confidence. At the same time, through these tables, and by its organic action, this commercial country renews the ratification that it has so often given of the enlightened policy brought into office by the power and patriotism of the best Minister whom this country has seen within the century at least—the best, we should be inclined to say, since the time of those Ministers who made William III. rectify the political liberty of the people. The revenue tables for the year show an increase of 700,000*l.* on the ordinary revenue, or of 1,300,000*l.*, including repayments, imposts, &c. But it is the quarter which challenges attention. Here there is a decrease of 295,000*l.*; and a decrease under every item, except at the Post-office. With regard to the income-tax, it is to be observed that, under the modified form, part of it did not become available until the latter half of the financial year, and the decrease cannot really be of any significance. Under the other heads, against the appearance of decrease is to be set the improvements and remissions of assessed taxes, the still greater improvements and re-distribution of the Stamp taxes, the remissions in the Excise, with striking remission of the soap duty, and the reductions in the Customs, including tea and sugar. Mr. Gladstone reckoned the probable loss for the year at more than 1,600,000*l.*, which would be more than 400,000*l.* on the quarter. The decrease, therefore, small as it is, is equal to a virtual increase of 100,000*l.*, these remissions notwithstanding. Thus the State is obtaining from the people virtually as much taxes as before, although virtually the people pay far less taxes; making the payment in a much more easy manner, and imposing it upon a greatly extended commerce.

This steadiness in the revenue, again, is explained by the Board of Trade for the month of November, or, as it is technically called, the month ending on the 5th of December. These returns are very striking, and for the uniformity which they present in the commercial progress of the year, notwithstanding the change of circumstances, in the price of bread, the hardness of the season, the strike in the North, and the war clouds that gather on the horizon. They are remarkable, also, in another respect—in the diffusion of prosperity which they indicate. Thus every month of the year 1858 shows an increase in the exports as compared with each month in the year 1852—an increase ranging from 1,187,000*l.* to 1,595,000*l.*, with the single exception of March, in which the increase stood a little below 920,000*l.* The highest of all the months was November. The aggregate exports of the eleven months exceeded 80,700,000*l.*, the amount was 65,000,000*l.* in 1852, the actual increase being 15,500,000*l.* The imports show the same increase, but particularly an increase in the consuming powers of the people; food and the commoner luxuries being more largely consumed in 1853 than 1852. There is an increase in every article, except in certain raw materials required in an additional degree

for our own manufactures. Thus, notwithstanding the appearance of depression which had come over the country as the year declined, trade has continued with its steady onward momentum. The country must have been employing an enormous capital, and must have been making money—a circumstance which fully explains the sustained character of the revenue, and that confidence in the public that knows neither check nor chill from the doubts about Ministers and foreign matters.

Among the holdings forth which scarcely belong to political movements, we may reckon Mr. John Mitchell's demonstration in New York, and Mr. Charles Dickens's lecture on his own writings at Birmingham. Mr. Mitchell's proceeding is a kind of acted romance. There never was a more striking instance of the great Irish want, distinct discrimination. Mr. Mitchell desires to make it appear that America is with him in the desire to rescue the Irish people from the oppression of the English Government; but he indiscriminately attacks the English people as well as Government; and by vehement denunciations of the American Government and people, he shows that he is surrounded rather by Irishmen than by Americans!

In early times, the Homers and Hesiods recited their poems in royal halls, and, afterwards, at festivals, where all Greece was gathered to witness their triumph. In our own days we have readings of Shakspeare. But rarely, except in private circles, has a living author come forward as his own interpreter. Charles Dickens has begun a practice which will find perhaps too many imitators. For a worthy cause—to increase the funds of the new Birmingham Institute—this most popular writer of fiction has read his *Christmas Carol* and his *Cricket on the Hearth* to audiences who showed by their numbers and their hearty applause the gratification which they derived. The hall of the Institute was crowded, attention never flagged, and the success of Mr. Dickens was complete. In his opening speech, he stated a principle which ought never to be lost sight of in the practical working of Mechanics' Institutes. It was this: that working men should have an active share in the management of institutions which, like that of Birmingham, spring from them, are called by their name, and are designed for their benefit. In many places we know that this principle is carried out, but it is capable of much wider application, and its justice is now acknowledged.

The list of disasters is uncommonly full this week. We have, of course, railway accidents; some due to the state of the weather, but one due to the standing cause—management. A slow train is run into near Rugby by an express which left the station *five minutes* after it. Sometimes the law inferred the motive from the act; a rule which would convict the railway managers of intending to use an express train as an instrument for the destruction of the other. There have been great fires, one which appears to have burst out in the premises of Mr. Townend, the hat-manufacturer in London city; another at Bradford, and another at Rochdale. Frost is usually a time of conflagrations; the season encouraging a lavish use of fire, and congealing the element with which flames are extinguished. The sudden and spontaneous falling of the great shears at Southampton was probably caused by that neglect to procure absolute sufficiency, which the contract system of construction makes a boast of superseding.

But the great comprehensive accident of the day is the weather. Since 1809 it has not been so severe; within the memory of man it has not been so capricious. Clear sun, frost, black fog, falling snow, rain, sleet, wind, and thaw, have alternated with each other; while the duration of the frost is marked by an accumulation of snow, reduced to powder by the traffic of the London

highways, and congealed in masses where the traffic is not so great. The public carriages of London, reduced in number, go about, many of them with additional horses, seeking additional fares. The perishing of people by the cold here and there is reported; and from Nottingham a meteorological correspondent reports the appearance of the aurora borealis, which had been seen further to the South earlier in the season. A winter attended by this usual concurrence of phenomena is a fit one to celebrate the completion of a model to represent, at the Crystal Palace, the great pre-Adamite animals, and that triumph of science which has made known the primeval world to men whose existence began so long after that world had passed away. Professor Owen entertained at dinner, in the grounds of the Crystal Palace, and in the head of the Iguanodon, is a typical representative of the age.

SEVERE CRITICISM BY A CITY REVIEWER.

A PERSON named Small was brought up at the Central Criminal Court this week for sentence, having been found guilty of stealing a coat from "his Lordship's Larder," and writing a poem on the Duke of Wellington. The Recorder, after reading the effusion, remarked that, although cleverly written, it was deficient in taste, and the poet was sentenced to six months' imprisonment.

THE BRITISH NAVY.

(From the Times.)

In the present state of affairs abroad, it becomes a matter of general interest to the people of this country to ascertain, as far as possible, the condition of the effective naval forces at our disposal; and, from the increased activity which has been visible for some time past in the dockyards, we have no doubt that the Admiralty will be prepared to meet with the utmost promptitude all the demands which may be made upon the service. We understand that it is the intention of the Government to raise the number of seamen and marines for the current year to 53,500 men, which is an increase of about 8,000 on the number voted for last year, and a further addition to the 5,000 men raised under the orders of Lord Derby's Administration. The total increase in the navy since 1852 may therefore be stated at about 13,000 men. Of the force now to be raised for the service of the fleet 38,000 will be seamen and boys, and 15,500 marines. The unabated demand for ships and seamen in the merchant service, which is attributable to the extraordinary increase of our exports and imports, may render it a work of some difficulty summarily to raise so large an additional force, but, on the other hand, the improved condition of the seamen under the last regulations of the navy, the chance of prize-money, and the call of the country, are additional inducements to volunteer for the service. A large proportion of our seafaring men are always abroad, and probably not more than 20,000 seamen, except those serving in the navy, are at any one moment in England. Some time must therefore elapse before the demands of the service are known to the class of men whom they most concern; but the manner in which 5,000 additional seamen have been raised in the past year, without any extraordinary stimulus, warrants the belief that the sailors of England will not be wanting to the flag of their country.

The present moment is remarkable for other reasons in the annals of the naval service, since it is destined to witness the transformation of the fleet into a steam navy. No one of the tens of thousands who were present at the naval review at Spithead in August last could doubt the expediency and necessity of the application of steam power to the largest ships. Already on that occasion a considerable squadron of line-of-battle ships moved by screw propellers was collected; but this force has since been largely increased, and our readers will peruse with interest a list of the line-of-battle ships and frigates now afloat and moved by this powerful mechanism:—

	Guns.	H.p.	
Duke of Wellington	120	700	Western Squadron.
Royal George	120	400	Devonport.
St. Jean d'Acre	101	600	Western Squadron.
Agamemnon	90	600	Bosphorus.
Cæsar	90	400	Not in commission.
Cressy	80	400	Sheerness.
James Watt	90	600	Not in commission.
Majestic	80	400	Not in commission.
Nile	90	500	Not in commission.
Princess Royal	90	400	Portsmouth.
Sanapareil	70	350	Bosphorus.
Ajax	58	450	Cork.
Blenheim	60	450	Guardship (Portsmouth).
Hogue	60	450	Ditto (Devonport).
Edinburgh	58	450	Ditto (Portsmouth).
Arrogant	47	350	Western Squadron.
Impetuous	50	360	Western Squadron.
Amphion	34	300	Western Squadron.
Horatio	24	250	Guardship (Sheerness).
Tribune	30	300	Western Squadron.
Dauntless	24	580	Portsmouth.
Highflyer	21	250	Mediterranean.
Euryalus	50	400	

The above are all screw steamships; but to these may be added the following, among the more powerful paddlewheel steamers now afloat:—

	Guns.	H.p.	
Terrible	21	800	Bosphorus.
Sidon	22	560	Bosphorus.
Odin	16	560	Western Squadron.
Retribution	28	400	Bosphorus.
Valorous	16	400	Western Squadron.
Furious	16	400	Bosphorus.
Leopard	18	560	Portsmouth.
Magicienne	16	400	Devonport.
Penelope	16	650	West Coast of Africa.

We omit vessels of an inferior class, and those we have named all deserve to be ranked as powerful frigates.

In addition to these lists the following screw steamships are building, and will probably be afloat in a few months:—

	Guns.	Horse Power.
Royal Albert	120	400
Marlborough	120	...
Conqueror	100	...
Orion	90	600
Repulse	90	600
Hannibal	90	450
Algiers	90	450
Exmouth	90	500
Hero	90	...
Forto	50	...
Chesapeake	50	...
Curacoa	30	350
San Fiorenzo	50	...

It appears from these returns that, setting aside the whole sailing fleet of England, we have at present afloat 11 steam line-of-battle ships, soon to be increased to 20, 5 guard-ships with auxiliary steam power, and 7 frigates fitted with screw propellers, which may be considered (with one or two exceptions) the finest vessels ever launched of their class. Of these screw line-of-battle ships, only two (the *Sanapareil* and the *Agamemnon*) are in the Turkish waters, and the former of these two vessels does not, we fear, altogether answer to her name. The greater number of those already in commission belong to Admiral Corry's division, which is termed by the Admiralty the Western Squadron, though it may be considered to be on an experimental cruise; and four are still waiting for commission. So that, independent of the British squadron now in the Bosphorus, that portion of the fleet which is not in the Mediterranean consists of an equal number of newer and more powerful ships than those under the command of Admiral Dundas. This result is already creditable to the Admiralty, and it has been accomplished within the last few months on what is still a peace establishment.

CHRISTMAS WEATHER—SNOW STORMS—THE RAILWAYS.

For many years England has not been visited by Old Winter, in his garb of ice and snow; but this winter of 1853-54 is an exception to what had almost become a general rule. We have had both frost and snow; Christmas was celebrated, and the New Year has opened with both in plenty.

Last week the ornamental waters around the metropolis were frozen over—thousands skated on the ice; Prince Albert and his sons skated at Windsor; and in all parts of the kingdom thousands enjoyed the same delightful exercise. There was a partial thaw on Friday week, and for one day all but the most adventurous and reckless avoided the ice. But in the afternoon frost returned with the shifting wind, and from that moment it has continued. On Sunday there was a fall of snow, driving before the fierce north-east wind. Skating, however, was not suspended. On that day, and on Monday and Tuesday, there were some thirty thousand skating and sliding. The banks of the Serpentine, and the waters in St. James's, Regent's-park, and Kensington-gardens were lined with spectators of all ranks, ages, and sexes. The scene was like a fair. Never since the Great Exhibition have there been more persons in Hyde-park. Few accidents

occurred, and those only the result of overcrowding; swift skaters knocking down those who were in their way, and clumsy fellows slipping up, bruising their persons, or breaking their heads.

But Tuesday night, with Fahrenheit's thermometer eight degrees below zero, the coldest night in England since 1809, prepared a different scene. The north-east wind brought a tremendous snow-storm. When London awoke on Wednesday morning, doors were found barricaded with drift snow; windows were covered as with a curtain; pathways were blocked up—the snow lay six inches deep, in some places more, upon the ground. On the Wandsworth, Camberwell, Kennington, and Kent roads, in many places where it drifted, there were mountains of snow. In almost all places, where there was no drift, it fell to the thickness of from nine to twelve inches in and round the metropolis. Fleet-street, the Strand, and Holborn, were by three o'clock in the morning all but impassable, and yet the snow was falling as fast as ever. Until daybreak the snow continued, the wind meanwhile howling and drifting the flakes in all directions, and with such violence, that the police could not perambulate their beats, and were compelled to seek shelter under doorways, arches, porticos, or any attainable projection for several consecutive hours.

When morning came, and business called its votaries from their homes, walking was found to be impossible, until mile after mile of footway had been reclaimed from the invader by an imposing corps of pioneers, operating with shovels and brooms. The masses of snow thus disposed of being thrown into the roadway, immensely increased the difficulties which previously opposed themselves to the passage of vehicles. At no period of the day was the number of omnibuses equal to the usual supply, while cabs, at first utterly invisible—few proprietors being willing to sent their vehicles into the streets, and few drivers willing to take charge of them—were only obtainable with great difficulty. Most of the omnibuses which ran drove three, and in some instances four, instead of two horses. Of the cabs, fully one half of those out drove two horses, generally tandem. As might naturally be expected under these circumstances, an adherence to the ordinary fares was out of the question. The long stage omnibuses, instead of 6d., charged 1s. and 1s. 6d., and the twopenny omnibuses along Holborn and Oxford-street raised their fares to 6d. Cabs were difficult to procure at any price, the ranks being almost entirely deserted, "Cabby" arguing, and in this instance with justice, that "once upon the rank he would be nailed for the 6d., which wouldn't pay in such weather." Those vehicles, therefore, which were out, were generally hired direct from the yards, or picked up whilst loitering about, so as to make their own terms with the hirer. The railway stations were as deserted as the street stands, and passengers arriving from the country were frequently compelled to leave their luggage at the stations, and proceed on foot to their various destinations. In some instances as much as 5s. was given for cabs for a distance barely exceeding a single mile.

Great inconvenience was experienced by the City merchants and clerks residing in the suburbs, many of whom, in consequence of the difficulty of procuring conveyances, were compelled to walk through the snow to their respective offices.

As evening drew on the omnibuses gradually decreased in number, until at nine o'clock they had entirely ceased running, and the streets relapsed into a state of silence, alike unwonted and monotonous at such an hour—the silence being the more marked from the fact that few of the heavy waggons employed in the heavy goods traffic of the railways were (or had been) abroad, those that were visible requiring five or six horses to do work for which three or four would have been sufficient under ordinary circumstances, and for one or two waggons which ascended Holborn-hill eight horses were found to be necessary.

But the most serious interruption to the course of metropolitan business arose from the effect of the snow blocking up the various lines of railway, owing to which the mail and other trains were delayed to an extent unknown for many years past, and probably never since the introduction of the railway system.

London and North Western.—Early in the morning a telegraphic message from Tring announced that the up line was blocked in the cutting, and the down line in a very bad state, a luggage train, followed by the mail train being almost embedded in the snow. Several hundred men were at once set to work to clear the line, but after several hours' arduous labour only partially succeeded. The first train arriving at the Euston station was from Northampton, considerably behind its time, the guard reporting that the snow had drifted three feet high in the streets when he left Northampton. This train was followed by one from Wolverton, due at 9, and arriving at 12. At half-past 12 came in the mail train from Liverpool and Manchester, eight hours behind its time. The guard reported a heavy fall of snow, and constant delays as far as Tring cutting, where a train came to

a dead block, and remained embedded in the snow five hours. Ultimately it was found necessary to go back to the next station, and shift the train to the down rails, along which it finished its journey. The other trains continued to arrive during the day from one to two hours behind their times. The down trains, with the exception of the first, which was two hours late, started nearly as timed on the company's tables.

Great Western.—The South Wales mail train, due at 4 a.m., arrived at its time; but the Plymouth mail, due at the same time, did not come in until 7 o'clock, subsequent trains keeping time pretty regularly. The down trains started as timed, and had it not been so, no great inconvenience would have resulted, because, as stated by an official circular of the company, "there was hardly anyone to carry." Some seven or eight cabs belonging to, or hired by, the company plied during the earlier part of the day, but their horses soon getting knocked up, passengers arriving were left to get along as they could.

Great Northern.—A message by electric telegraph early in the morning intimated to the authorities at King's-cross that the line on both sides of Grantham was completely blocked, and all traffic impossible between Peterborough and Newark. The first train arriving was from Peterborough at 7 o'clock, due at 4.15 a.m. At 10 o'clock two other short distance trains arrived, one of them being about an hour and a half late. A train from Peterborough, due at 11, arrived at 12.45; and 2.10 p.m. a train came in from Cambridge nearly to its time; no tidings, however, having then been received of the mail train from the north, due at 4 a.m. At 3 o'clock in the afternoon a second telegraphic message was received, stating that the line between Newark and Peterborough was still completely blocked, and that the snow, which had continued throughout the day, was then falling faster than ever. The arrival of the mail train, therefore, was regarded as exceedingly improbable for many hours. The down trains started at the usual times, but the company declined to book passengers farther than Peterborough.

Upon inquiry at the King's-cross station late in the evening it was ascertained that no trains from beyond Peterborough had arrived, or were likely to arrive. A telegraphic message was received by the superintendent of the line at 8 o'clock stating that traffic between Peterborough and Newark was still impossible—the loop line not being open, and the main line remaining closed, notwithstanding the exertions made to clear it; the snow in the cuttings having accumulated to an almost uniform depth of six feet.

Eastern Counties.—This line, like the Great Northern, was seriously obstructed by the immense masses of snow, hurled into the cuttings by the storm early in the morning; special engines conveying large numbers of labourers were despatched down the line for the purpose of clearing the rails. From the Colchester branch, up to 2 o'clock, only one train had arrived at Shoreditch, namely, the Colchester mail, at half-past 4, which was three hours and a half late; while from the Cambridge line no train whatever had arrived from beyond Broxbourne up to the same hour, the snow having accumulated from that point to Chesterford to an unprecedented extent. In the Chesterford cutting four luggage trains were completely imbedded in the snow, with the mail train from Yarmouth, Norwich, and Cambridge, due in London at 4.15 a.m., waiting behind them. The only down traffic during the day was from Shoreditch to Broxbourne, Hertford, and intermediate stations, the first train being despatched at 10 instead of 8 o'clock. On the Northern Union Line, from Colchester to Ipswich and Norwich, traffic was entirely suspended.

The Norwich mail arrived at the Shoreditch station on Wednesday night fourteen hours behind its time, and at nine o'clock a train drawn by some powerful engines was despatched to Cambridge—being the first started to that town, with the view of making another attempt to force through the snow. The down mails left Shoreditch last night, but it was not anticipated they would reach their destination at the usual time. The officials of this line were working arduously from 2 o'clock in the morning assisted by hundreds of men endeavouring to clear the line.

South-Eastern.—The great obstruction along this line commenced at Ashford, the line from whence to Dover was blocked so early on Tuesday night, that the mail train which left London at 8 p.m., and ought to have arrived at Dover about 11 p.m., was delayed until half-past nine yesterday morning, being ten hours behind its time. The up mail from Dover due at London-bridge at 8.6 a.m., did not arrive until 12.30 p.m., while up to 3 o'clock no train whatever had arrived from Ramsgate, Margate, or Canterbury. All the other up trains were considerably late, but the down trains were despatched at times fixed. On the North Kent branch, drifted to an almost uniform depth of six feet. Weatherall, the station-master at London, was arduously engaged from 4 o'clock in the morning superintending large bodies of men employed in clearing the line.



London, Brighton, and South Coast.—This line was completely blocked up between London and Newcross, and had to be dug out before trains could travel in the morning. The mail and other trains arrived somewhat behind time, but no serious delay occurred. The down trains were despatched as usual.

London and South-Western.—The mail train on this line (from Southampton) was about four hours late. No material obstruction was experienced until it arrived at Farnborough, where the line was found to be completely blocked. A telegraphic message was sent to the superintendent at the Waterloo station, who immediately despatched assistance to clear the line. The other up-trains were rather late in arrival, the down trains being despatched according to the time table. So vast was the accumulation of snow upon the roof of the Waterloo station that grave fears were entertained for its safety, and precautions were accordingly taken to remove the weight from the building. It may also be mentioned that the glass roof at the South Eastern station, London-bridge, was considerably injured by the weight of snow lying upon it, and a large number of men and trucks were employed during the day in its removal.

Such were the official reports of the railways on Thursday morning.

From Birmingham, Southampton, and Manchester, brief accounts to the same purport were received. In all directions we heard of the stoppage of mail communications; and it was not until late on Wednesday night that some mails reached London.

At Shields there were some storms on Tuesday, and the Wear was frozen over. Several ships had been lost.

On Wednesday night there was another fall of snow of considerable depth; but as there was little wind it dropped lightly to the earth, piled itself upon every ledge, tipped the palisades with tall balls, pyramids, and domes; and fledged the branches of the trees.

The railway facilities of Thursday were a little better than those of the previous day; the Great Northern was partially open as far as York; the Great Western was open; on the Southern lines from London there was little obstruction; but the Great Northern routes were in the main snowed up. Several trains were stopped at Stafford, the line below being blocked up hopelessly. North of Stafford, the Normanton cutting defied the utmost exertions—five engines being at one time employed. Generally speaking, the railways were impervious in many places.

The state of the river has been such that all navigation, except for sea-going vessels, was suspended early in the week. Large masses of ice floating down formed into impenetrable ridges in the pool.

It is currently stated that any longer continuance of the present inclement weather will entail the alarming probability of a total failure in the supply of gas for the metropolis. The condition of the river below London-bridge is now such, that the colliers cannot discharge their cargoes—the barges being, in almost every instance, frozen in, or so jammed up by masses of ice, as to render it impossible to carry on the ordinary operations. The directors of several of the leading gas companies met for the purpose of determining what was best to be done under the circumstances. No decision was arrived at, and the only hope seems to be that the severity of the weather may moderate. The price of coals is almost fabulous.

At Liverpool, in the absence of the *Times*, the merchants on 'Change have had recourse to a snow-balling match, which ended in a riot on a small scale. They were ranged in two sides—cotton-brokers *versus* share-brokers, the latter section being marshalled by a leader of prodigious proportions. The *mêlée* raged thickly and furiously, and a dense crowd assembled to witness the encounter. Ultimately, the head constable, Captain Greig, entered on the scene of action, accompanied by a section of police, and attempted to put the belligerents to flight. They were, however, upon their private property, and asserted their right to do as they liked with their own. They renewed the match in the captain's presence. He ordered arrests to be made. An indescribable scene followed. Several merchants were taken into custody, and marched off to Bridewell, amid the yells and groans of the infuriated "merchant princes" who wreaked their vengeance upon Captain Greig and the "Blue coats," by hurling at them showers of well-aimed snowballs. The head constable's hat was repeatedly displaced; he was several times thrown down, while he was picturesquely bespattered with snow. The snow-balling was renewed, and the head constable returned with a larger force, who attempted to take possession and clear the flags. They were vigorously hustled, however, and speedily broken up into units. The captain then walked into the news-room, with the intention probably of addressing the merchants, but he was surrounded by a crowd of menacing faces, and literally hustled from the room. He was ultimately compelled to withdraw his men, who left the ground followed by a smart shower of snow-

balls. The ringleaders who had been taken into custody were liberated—their names had been booked. The matter at one time had a somewhat serious aspect, several windows in the police-office being broken, and the crowd assuming a threatening attitude.

Scotland felt the severity of winter earlier than England. Last Tuesday week snow fell heavily in the north; and the mails were some days behind time. In Ireland the weather has been also sharp.

From the continent we have no accounts later than Monday. Then there had been several snow storms, and the communications were much impeded. The Emperor and Empress of the French drove about in a sledge at the end of last week. The rivers were frozen.

LETTERS FROM PARIS.

LETTER CVI.

Paris, Thursday Evening, Jan. 5, 1854.

NEVER has the New Year dawned on France more gloomily. Famine, pestilence, financial crisis, commercial crisis, war, revolution—such are the prospects of '54.

New Year's-day felt these sinister previsions. Most of us are sad at heart; even those who do not despair in soul. Many stayed at home last Sunday; few were the visits of congratulation. I do not, of course, speak of family visits. The falling-off in *étrennes* (new year's gifts) was a serious loss to trade. Numbers of poor stallkeepers, who had braved the snow and the frost to expose their humble stock of nick-nacs upon the Boulevards, sold next to nothing.

The usual reception took place at the Tuileries; and not a reception only, but almost an *émeute*. The Great Bodies of the State, offended at taking rank after the Household of the Emperor, vented audible murmurs. Some individuals even went away without having been presented. The 1st of January, 1854, was distinguished by a burlesque revival of the manners and fashions of the old Court of the Bourbons. The ladies (as many as had rehearsed the deportment) wore by order the Court mantle (*manteau de cour*). Now you must not run away with the notion that this *manteau* falls gracefully from the shoulders. It does nothing of the kind: it starts from the small of the back and terminates in the tail of a comet: with the *tournures en crenoline*, it has a horrible effect. So these mantle-bearing ladies have already been christened the *hocheteuses*. The mantle of the Empress was remarkable, above all others, for its tail, some twelve feet long. All the constituted Corps delivered addresses as usual. Some allusion to Eastern affairs was anxiously looked for; but Bonaparte maintained his habitual reserve, and held his peace most absolutely on the subject of the day.

It is not true, as it has been affirmed, that he has sent an ultimatum to St. Petersburg, threatening the occupation of the Black Sea by the combined fleets, if Russia should not at once relinquish every hostile tentative. Instead of so bold a decision, England and France have, there is reason to believe, perpetrated a fresh folly. The two Governments, it is understood, have simply and merely intimated to Nicholas a demand for the free navigation of the Black Sea. If Russia demanded of England free commercial intercourse with India, what would be the reply? Judge, then, what reply the Emperor of Russia will make to this saucy proposal. It is a false step, and one all the more miserable that it implies a confession on the part of France and England, that they do not claim the right of entering the Black Sea, or, at least, that they shrink from the responsibility of asserting such a right, in spite of all rumours of decisive action to the contrary. Up to this moment, Russia has obtained and preserved every advantage in these interminable negotiations. The Anglo-French alliance which, in the belief of all political quidnuncs, was to arrest the march of the Russian armies, has only helped them on a stage or two. In the very teeth of the two fleets Russia has burnt a Turkish squadron, destroyed a Turkish town and arsenal, and by a skilful feint she has withdrawn the mass of her forces from the Danube to the Caucasus, where she is preparing such a formidable irruption into Asia as will ultimately give her possession of all Asia Minor. The troops of the Czar will not take Constantinople in the spring, it may be said. Suppose they do worse: suppose they plant their standards at Scutari, in face of Constantinople. Then will the imbecile diplomacy which rules the destinies of the world be forced to give to Russia all she demands in Europe, if only to take from her all she has seized in Asia. Something yet more shameful and yet more significant may then be witnessed. Russia may disdain the mediation of a discomfited diplomacy, and insist on treating directly with Turkey, at the last extremity, the conditions of peace. To save Constantinople and Asia Minor, the Porte may be glad enough to abandon, not only Moldo-Wallachia, but the Danube, Bulgaria, the Balkans, and a part of Roumelia. Meanwhile, the Russians, while making

ready for the invasion of Asia, are not neglecting preparations on the Danube. From Bucharest to the Jalomniza they have thrown up vast entrenchments to secure their centre from attack. They have fortified their whole line of retreat. Secure on that point, they have changed their plan of operations, and instead of advancing their left or their centre, they will debouch to their right on Kalafat or Widdin. A sham passage may be attempted at Matschin or Isatcha, on the Lower Danube, and at Oltenitza in their centre, to keep the Turks in suspense; while the main army, falling back on Lesser Wallachia, forces the passage of the Danube between Widdin and Nicopolis. Then, marching upon Sophia, they will turn the Balkans in this direction, and render utterly useless the fortifications of Schumla. If these operations should succeed, if the Russians should finally plant their standards at Scutari on the Asian bank, the last hour of the Turkish Empire, and with it of Western civilisation, may be said to have arrived. Yet, there are not wanting fools who believe that the Czar, with all this perspective before him, will be stopped short by the Note of the Vienna Conference. He declares that to accept that Note would be "to plead guilty of wrong, and to sign his own dishonour." This reply of the Czar sent our funds down to the lowest point they have yet reached—to 71.25.

The situation at home generally is, as I set out by saying, by no means brilliant. The Fusionist party is stirring heaven and earth from one end of France to the other. It is debauching generals, colonels, and regiments. At a recent banquet giving by the officers of a regiment in the garrison of Lyons to their colonel, the health of Henry V. was drunk, and his "speedy return." Bonaparte heard of this, and telegraphed for General de Castellane, of whom he demanded explanations. The General simply replied that the facts had not come to his knowledge, and that consequently he had not had to take measures against any persons. Since then General de Castellane has been in disgrace at the Tuileries, and his successor is already named—General Pelissier. A mass of Legitimist proclamations, printed no one knows where, are inundating the departments. One of them, after stating that Bonaparte will be obliged to execute another *coup d'état*, concludes: "Frenchmen, beware: the tyrant is about to strike a *coup de police*." The visit of Henry V. to England is still talked of. The apparent object is the complete reconciliation with the House of Orleans. He would go to Claremont direct; stay some time in that residence; to let all the world know for certain that the past is completely obliterated. But the real object is the proximity to Paris: only twelve hours from Claremont to the Tuileries.

As for the Republicans, Bonaparte is retransporting them to Cayenne. All the prisoners sentenced to transportation, who have remained in France, says the new decree of January 1st, "are to be transported to Lambessa; and those condemned to the same punishment who are now undergoing in France the punishment of hard labour at the hulks, are to be transported to Cayenne." Bonaparte chose New Year's-day for this decree. This is what he calls a New Year's gift (*étrennes*) to the Republicans. Perhaps his pleasantry is ill-timed.

S.

CONTINENTAL NOTES.

WITH reference to the *émeute* of the Softas, the following telegraphic despatch from Constantinople has been published in the *Moniteur*:

"Pera, 22nd Dec.

"The general assembly having authorised the minister to negotiate, the students of the Mosques, excited by some Ulemas, met yesterday to petition against that resolution; disturbances were at one moment feared; but the measures taken by the Cabinet, assembled in the palace, prevented any disorder. From three to four hundred students have been arrested. Everything is tranquil. A proclamation just issued makes known the true object of the deliberation of the general assembly, and announces that measures will be taken against the perturbators, if necessary."

The proclamation appears in a supplement to the Turkish journal the *Djerridé-Hawadiss*, and bears date the 21st of December:—

"The powerful allies have made known to the Sublime Porte the pacific intentions which the Court of Russia never ceases to testify, and also in impelling the Imperial Government in that path they have demanded what its intentions were on the subject. In consequence, on the 17th and 18th of the present month the affair was submitted to the deliberations of the Grand Council, convoked immediately for the purpose, and composed of all the Ministers, Viziers, Ulemas, military Pashas of the army and navy, and other dignitaries of the Empire. It unanimously decided on replying that, since the Sublime Porte has commenced hostilities to protect its rights and the integrity of its States, it will not reject a peace calculated to guarantee them both for the present and the future. A *felva* confirmative of this decision has just been drawn up by the Cheik-ul-Islam, and an Imperial order has been published to that effect. Communication of what precedes has been made to the representatives of the Four Powers. The affair at this moment only rests on a simple demand and answer. The question is not now of peace, and even an armistice has not been declared. The state of war continues,

and despatches announcing what has just taken place have been sent to the Pashas and to the Generals of the armies of Roumelia and Anatolia, in order that the course of the military movements may not be interfered with. The object of the present notification is to make this decision known to all the world."

To this notification is appended the following:—

"The above-mentioned decision having been come to unanimously, conformably to the glorious provisions of the *fatwa*, emanating from the sacred law, any one who shall allow himself to speak against the foregoing shall be considered to have spoken against a decision come to unanimously, and be immediately subjected to the penalties which will have been incurred for this act. We announce this provision to you for your information."

The letters brought by the *Caradoc* from Constantinople are to the 24th of December. Constantinople was tranquil. A certain number of the individuals arrested had been exiled to Candia. The defeat experienced by the Turks in Georgia is much less serious than was reported.

The correspondent of the *Morning Chronicle* at Constantinople sends the following amended version of the last negotiations, by which it will appear on how hollow a basis the quadruple alliance rests:—"When the collective Note of the 5th December reached Constantinople, the negotiations on this scheme of Lord de Redcliffe were so far advanced, and were proceeding so favourably, that it was wisely resolved by the Ambassadors of the Four Powers not to break off, in favour of a new project, an arrangement which had already nearly reached maturity. Accordingly, by the concurrent determination of the four Ambassadors, the Vienna Note was withheld, and the negotiations on that of Lord de Redcliffe were continued. It is, therefore, this Note of Lord de Redcliffe's which Turkey is said to have accepted, and which, if finally agreed upon, will be presented to Russia with the sanction of the Four Powers. It is understood, however, that Austria considers that the chances of the project being accepted at St. Petersburg would be greatly improved, were it presented to the Emperor by Austria and Prussia alone; and, as the Western Governments have, it is stated, after some discussion, acquiesced in this view—being a mere point of form—it will be presented by the two German Powers only."

The *Sicils* reports that Austria and Prussia have withdrawn from the negotiations since the fleets were ordered to enter the Black Sea.

"The *Moniteur* of yesterday contains a circular, dated December 30, addressed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs to the legations of the Emperor in foreign countries, on the Eastern question. This document, which is very moderate, but very firm, after narrating the different phases of the question, declares that France, England, Austria, and Prussia, have recently, by their agreement concluded at Vienna, solemnly recognised that the territorial integrity of the Ottoman Empire was one of the conditions of their political equilibrium."

"The affair of Sinope took place against all prevision, Russia having declared that she only desired a material guarantee for the fulfilment of what she demanded."

"To prevent the Ottoman territory or the Ottoman flag from being the object of a new attack on the part of the naval forces of Russia, the French and English fleets have received the order to enter the Black Sea."

The circular terminates by expressing the hope that Russia will not expose Europe to new convulsions.

Since the affair of Sinope there are no longer any Russian vessels-of-war remaining in the Black Sea, and they appear not to be inclined to quit Sebastopol, where they have taken refuge. A letter of the 21st ult., from Christiania, announces that three Russian officers had just arrived in that place charged with a particular mission. They are, it is said, to visit the different ports of Norway.

An adjutant of the Sultan has been sent with two firmans to Servia. The Russo-Turkish treaties annulled; all previous rights voluntarily confirmed. Servia has the option of claiming the Protectorate of all the Powers.

The Belgrade correspondent of the *Ost. Deutsche Post* contradicts the news of the death of Izet Pasha, which he announced on the 13th.

A letter from Malta, of the 30th, announces that the military commandant had just received orders from Government to make the necessary arrangements at the arsenal for the establishment of a reserve of artillery and ammunition, which was about to be sent from England.

The bearer of the so-called "ultimatum" to Russia, from Louis Napoleon, was the Secretary to the French Embassy at St. Petersburg, M. de Reizet, on return from leave of absence. He cannot arrive in the Russian capital before the 8th or 9th, so that the reply of Russia to the announcement cannot well be known here, even by telegraph, before the 15th or 16th.

The Russian Colonel, Kovalensky, who so successfully agitated in Montenegro before the war broke out last year, has been there again. His nominal business was to present some vessels for the National Church, given by the Emperor Nicholas.

At the reception on New Year's-day, after saying a few words to the Nuncio, which were not overheard, the Emperor addressed the other members of the diplomatic corps, and said in substance, and very nearly in words, as follows:—"I sincerely hope to be able to maintain the relations of amity which now subsist between my Government and the Sovereigns whose representatives you are;" and, turning towards the Ottoman Ambassador, he added, "My good wishes, my sympathies, and my efforts are in favour of your Sovereign, and you will be good enough to communicate what I say to him."

As war approaches, Louis Napoleon abounds in personal civilities to the Russian Ambassador. On New Year's-day he said to M. de Kisseleff, "I trust, *Monsieur l'Ambassadeur*, that the year 1854 may be a good year for us all." The evening before there was a grand ball at the Princess Mathilde's, to usher in the new year. The Emperor and the

Empress, who were present, showed great attention to the ministers of Russia and Austria, and the Empress was graciously pleased to dance with both M. Hubner and M. de Kisseleff. This latter, also, had the honour of waltzing with the Princess Mathilde.

M. Kenikoff, director of the Political Chancery at Teflis, has departed for Persia and Afghanistan, as Ambassador Extraordinary of the Czar; he is accompanied by a General and Russian staff officers. He was expected at Teheran on the 30th of November. Mr. Thompson, the British Chargé d'Affaires in Persia, has succeeded in terminating the difference which had existed between that country and England. Ahmet Effendi, Turkish Chargé d'Affaires, satisfied with the explanations of the Persian Government, did not think it right to interrupt his relations with the Shah.

The Consul-General of England has left Bucharest, and gone to the headquarters of Omar Pasha at Rustchuk.

Operations are suspended in the Danubian provinces by the severity of the winter. It is reported that both armies are ordered to remain on the defensive for the present; but that as soon as weather will permit Russia will attack the main positions of the Turkish forces.

The changes in the Turkish Ministry are Riza Pasha taking the place of the Capudan Pasha (as Minister of Marine), dismissed in consequence of the affair at Sinope; and Halil Pasha, brother-in-law of the Sultan, entering, as we should say, the Cabinet without a portfolio. The new members are both men of extraordinary vigour and capacity. Riza Pasha, before the present hostilities, would have been considered belonging to the peace party, but he is now the most determined advocate of war à l'outrance. Of Halil Pasha the same may be said. At present no peace party can be said to exist in Turkey, though there may be statesmen more ready than others to prolong the negotiations which are now acknowledged on all sides to be hopeless.

All accounts from Russia mention the extraordinary activity of the preparations of war. From the Baltic to the Black Sea vigorous recruiting is going on, and the whole of the army is to be placed on a war footing.

The letters from St. Petersburg to the 29th ult. quote the rate of exchange slightly more unfavourable for England. A considerable business had taken place in exports for next year. With regard to politics, the only remark is that the preparations going on in all quarters are such as to denote that they are made with a view to more serious contingencies than that of a war merely with Turkey.

The *New Prussian Gazette* of the 29th ult. confirms the account already given of the Emperor of Russia having ordered that all the forces in his empire shall be placed on a war footing.

A private letter from St. Petersburg, dated the 25th, contains some interesting details, which there is no time to transcribe. The first paragraph, however, is as follows:—

"There reigns here at this moment, in all branches of the public service, a movement and activity of which there has been no example since the preparations of the army in 1812. On seeing how the minds and the efforts of the entire nation are turned towards war, one would say that Russia thinks herself on the eve of a new invasion. Each day numerous *feldlingues* (couriers) leave for every part of the empire to hasten on the armaments. Agents are sent about everywhere to wake up the fanaticism and ferocity of the Orthodox population, and to rouse from the very depths of Asia the hordes of Kirghese, Mongols, and Tartars, and precipitate them on the Indus, with the hope of the sack and pillage of the British Presidencies."

Everything is done to give the war the character of a national and religious struggle, and, if the letter of a gentleman long resident in Russia, and well acquainted with the country, which is transmitted to the *Times*, is to be trusted, not without success. The Emperor is profuse in thanks and rewards to all the chief officers employed on the Danube and in Asia. He has addressed a warm letter of praise to Prince Woronzow, to Admiral Nachimow (of Sinope infamy), and to his son Constantine, for his vigorous administration of the marine department, in the absence of Prince Menschikoff.

Russian intrigues and menaces, however, seem alike to have failed in Sweden and Denmark. On the 27th ult., King Oscar of Sweden and Norway communicated to the Swedish Diet, in secret committee, the text of a treaty concluded between him and Denmark, with a view to assure their respective neutrality in case of a European war. The substance of this treaty has been communicated in a Note to the European Powers.

The general rules which the Governments of Sweden and Denmark have laid down for themselves in the event of the outbreak of war, are—

Abstention during the struggle that may take place, from all participation, direct or indirect, in favour of one belligerent party to the detriment of another.

Admission into Swedish, Danish, and Norwegian ports of the men-of-war and merchantmen of those same belligerent parties, each of the two Governments reserving to itself, however, the right of prohibiting the entrance of the said vessels into certain ports, or into certain basins of those ports, an interdiction which will naturally be extended to the belligerent parties.

Permission to said vessels to provide themselves at the ports of the two monarchies with all goods and merchandise they might stand in need of, with the exception of articles regarded as contraband of war.

Exclusion from the entrance, and from the sale in the said ports, of war prizes, &c.

Such are the principal points of the neutrality declared in this Note. The Sovereigns of Denmark, and Sweden and Norway, on the other hand, claim for the vessels of their respective States the right of the continuance of enjoying safety and every facility in their commercial relations with the belligerent Powers, under the obligation of submitting to the rules of the law of nations in special cases of blockade, &c.

There have been several arrests lately at Berlin and Vienna. The Emperor of Austria was expected back from Munich at the end of this week.

The body of General Von Radowitz was taken to the garrison church, to remain there until it could be transported to Erfurt. A correspondent of the *Cologne Gazette* says, that during his long illness the King did not once have a personal interview, nor did any intercourse take place between them, though both mutually desired it. The dying general repeatedly exclaimed, "he had still something of importance to impart to the king." During periods of imperfect sleep he often spoke aloud, and on one occasion, unconscious where he was, or perhaps thinking he was in the Chambers, he actually delivered a speech, which, for political talent, tact, and enthusiasm, might have vied with his happiest efforts of former times.

Letters from Vienna, dated December 27, speak of the resumption of the loan project by the Austrian Government, which it is supposed will be accomplished by Austrian bankers alone, as those of Frankfurt, London, and Paris do not seem to enter into the plan. The new loan will amount to 50,000,000 florins at 5 per cent., 4,000,000 of which will be employed for the payment of the due interests, and 1,000,000 for the establishment of a lottery. Meanwhile, according to letters from Berlin of December 30, the Prussian Government also contemplates a loan, the project of which is about to be submitted to the Chambers. It is presumed that the Second Chamber will not show itself favourable to the project unless reasons are given that political events render such a loan indispensable. In that case the Prussian Government will be obliged to point out in precise terms the line of policy she intends to adopt in the present complications.—*La Patrie*, Jan 5.

On the 28th ult., M. Cadorna read to the Piedmontese Chamber of Deputies the draught of the address in reply to the speech from the throne. It was unanimously adopted. The Chamber afterwards authorised the Cabinet, by a majority of 86 to 13, to levy the taxes until the close of March, 1854. The Senate also voted on the same day the reply to the King's speech, without any discussion.

Some bread riots have been got up by the reactionary and clerical party among the peasantry. They were easily suppressed.

The particulars of the disturbances at Aosta, in the Turin journals of the 31st ult., are very scanty. The *Opinione* states that the insurgent bands of the valley of Aosta adopted the party-cry of: "The King for ever! Down with the Constitution!" and attributes the movement to Austrian intrigue. The *Voce della Libertà* says that bands were formed simultaneously at three points, viz., at San Martino, Verrez, and Bard, and that the movement spread to the valleys of Locana and Pont. The *Armonia* states that the bands were composed of men from the valleys of Gressoney, Chiensallas, and Brozzo, and adds to the above party-cry another: "Maize at 3 francs!" The *Piedmontese Gazette* announces that the news from Aosta was of the most tranquillising nature, and that the bishops, the Intendant of the Province, and the Syndic, had induced the insurgents by persuasion to lay down their arms. The National Guards and a few veterans maintained order and tranquillity in the town, while the troops were marching against the rebels. It adds that the movement might be considered put down. The *Parlamento*, however, says that two small bands of rebels were still infesting the mountains, though pursued by the troops.

On the 21st ult., the somewhat novel ceremony of consecrating an English abbot was performed by Cardinal Wiseman, at the Church of St. Gregory. Dr. Burder, the abbot elect, abandoned the Church of England about eight years ago, and entered the new Trappist monastery of St. Bernard, in Leicestershire, where he rendered himself so acceptable to his brethren, that at the end of three years they elected him their superior. The provincial-general of the order, however, would not ratify the election, on account of the short time the doctor had served in the monkish ranks, and he was therefore obliged to content himself for four years more with the secondary dignity of prior. On Wednesday, Cardinal Wiseman installed him in his full rank, and Dr. Burder, as abbot of St. Bernard's, with shaven crown and Carmelite gown, paraded up and down the church between two Italian bishops, all with their croziers before them, whilst a full choir thundered out an impressive "Te Deum." Another English Trappist monk took part in the ceremony, acting as the cardinal's deacon, his powerful frame and thoroughly Anglo-Saxon features, in combination with the monkish garb, reminding one irresistibly of the Friar Tuck class, of anchorites who figure in our early ballads and traditions. Dr. Manning preached upon the occasion.

The Austrian Government acts as mediator between the Church and Government in Baden. The arrested priests were released on Christmas eve, in order to perform their functions during the sacred festival.

M. Visconti was buried on Tuesday at 1 o'clock, at the church of St. Philippe du Roule. There was a large attendance of political and literary celebrities, and all the academies were represented by deputations. After the ceremony at the church, the body was removed to Père-la-Chaise. A carriage of the Emperor followed. M. Duchatel, the ex-minister was present at the funeral.

M. Lichtenvelt, lately Minister in Holland of affairs connected with the Roman Catholic religion, has been appointed to succeed Baron Fagel as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at the Court of France.

The French Academy elected M. Saint Marc Girardin as its Director, and M. de Vigny as Chancellor for the first quarter of 1854.

The ball at the Tuileries on Wednesday night was attended by about 2000 persons, among whom were several British and other foreign officers. The Emperor opened the ball with the Princess Mathilde, and the Empress danced with Prince Napoleon. The Emperor appeared to be fatigued and dull—such at least was the impression of many of the visitors. The Empress did not look so well as on the evening of the receptions.

HINT AND HYPOTHESIS.

(From Punch.)

Suppose a young Foreigner crosses the sea,
In a vessel with Marmion not quite overladen,
And, coming to England, the good luck hath be
To win the kind heart of a true English maiden.

Suppose that her hand goes the way of her heart,
And friends who have loved her from childhood right
dearly,
Settle, gladly, on him, from all charges apart,
An income—well, say thirty thousand pounds yearly.

Suppose they invite him to banquet and fête,
Exhibition, review—every sight you can mention;
Present him with jewels, and pictures, and plate,
And load him, in fact, with all kinds of attention.

Suppose that they take him to lay a first stone,
And are eager to offer him trowel and hammer;
And when he makes speeches, they honour the tone,
Applaud the good sense, and forget the bad grammar.

Suppose all is done that the best friends can do,
From punctilious politeness to punctual pay-day,
In part, that he pleased them all round at first view,
In part for the love which they bear to his Lady.

Now, suppose that his wife has a trust of her own,
Conferred by her Guardian, not much of a burden,
Responsible, though, to that Guardian alone,
Like the place Mr. Jarndyce bestowed on Dame Durden.

That so wisely and well she administers rule,
Understanding her work, both in letter and spirit,
That her Guardian (suppose that his name is John Bull)
Would floor the best man who should question her merit.

Now, if her young spouse, who has drawn such a prize,
Behaves like a trump the first years of their union,
And even takes pains, by a graceful device,
To bring her and her neighbours in closer communion.

If he joins, like a man, in the sports of her friends,
Goes shooting, and fishing, and hunting, and yachting,
And comes out so well that the prejudice ends,
That foreigners can't help intriguing and plotting.

What a favourite he grows with the high and the low,
(With person, and sense, and accomplishment gifted)
But suppose that—talked over by people we know—
He lets us observe that his tactics are shifted.

That he meddles with matters which one might believe
His former good taste would enjoin his eschewing,
While, concerning some others, he ought to perceive
A graver objection to do what he's doing.

That he talks to his wife on her Guardian's concerns,
Over which she should have unrestricted dominion,
And in oftentimes greatly displeased when he learns
She has done any business without his opinion.

That, when she is disposed, at the urgent desire
Of her Guardian, to order some hostile proceedings, ?
He seeks to dissuade her because it appears
Some friends of his own wish to settle the pleadings.

That he's losing the name he so quickly acquired
By a gentleman's high-minded scorn of disguises,
Giving up the frank bearing old Bull so admired,
For mysteries the hearty old fellow despises.

Supposing all this—or a portion at least—
Mr. Punch, who knows neither to fear nor to flatter,
Believes that the wind will set strong from the East
The day John Bull Jarndyce gets wind of the matter.

MR. CARDWELL AT OXFORD.

There is an order of "Ancient Druids" at Oxford, as well as in other places; and the city members—Mr. Cardwell and Mr. Langston, "Druids" themselves—met about a hundred other "Druids" and constituents in that city on Monday last. The Mayor of Oxford, Mr. Spiers; Alderman Dudley, Alderman Sadler, Mr. Charles Green, sheriff; and several members of the Town Council, who belong to this order, were present. Speeches were made by Mr. Langston and Mr. Cardwell, in returning thanks for the toast of "The City Members."

Mr. Langston, in returning thanks, said, in looking back on the year that had passed, it was delightful to know that this country had made greater progress in its manufactures and exports than had ever occurred in any previous year. (Cheers.) In entering on the year 1854—and he would not trench on any political subject, but, standing here as one of their representatives, he begged to be permitted to express his deep regret at the prospect of this country being forced into a war. They would, however, all feel that the Government had done all in its power to prevent this calamity befalling this country, and he was sure that there was not a single Druid who would grudge to bestow his share towards the expenses, if the calamity of war were forced upon them. (Much cheering.)

Mr. Cardwell's speech was to the same purport; but of more interest, as he is President of the Board of Trade.

"They could not but be sensible on looking back on the year which had closed, and looking forward to that on which they had entered, that in England they enjoyed this privilege, that all from the highest to the lowest—speaking of them in regard to their worldly circumstances—that all classes united in constituting that public opinion, which, after all, was the great governing principle of legislation in this kingdom. (Cheers.) Without touching upon politics, he might congratulate them that in the last year any mea-

asures had been carried which equalised burdens, mitigated their pressure, stimulated industry, promoted trade, and tended more generally to diffuse prosperity, and thereby to conciliate yet more fervently the loyal affections of the people to that exemplary Sovereign who sat on the throne of these realms, it was by their favour that he and his colleagues had been enabled to take their part in carrying out measures of that kind. (Cheers.) His colleagues had spoken of the year which they were entering, and of that which had closed, and had told them with respect to the latter that which he (Mr. Cardwell) could confirm and knew, that it had been an unexampled year with regard to the exports of British industry to all parts of the world. (Loud cheers.) If they had laboured under a diminution in the supply of food, what had been the concomitant circumstances of that visitation? Industry not checked, a people not complaining, but a universal sense of submission to the dispensation of Divine Providence, and a conscientious conviction that man had had no part in the infliction of this calamity. With regard to the future, they could only hope that their industry would continue, and that those clouds which hovered over, and those difficulties which disturbed, one part of the kingdom, and an important part, affecting the permanent prosperity of all classes of the people, would happily be dispelled, and that, by a mutual understanding between the employers and the employed, that labour might be set in motion, which was the foundation of capital, which earned not only a present reward, but enabled the master manufacturer to lay by that which would afterwards be devoted to the employment of additional labour, and thereby circulate among the working classes increased prosperity. (Loud cheers.) With regard to their foreign affairs, of which Mr. Langston had spoken, this at least they knew, that every year it pleased God to continue to them the blessings of peace was a year of increasing conquests to the commercial armies of Great Britain. Now people were clothed in the clothing which they manufactured; and, as they consumed a large portion of the luxuries which they, on the other hand produced, it bound them together by bonds stronger than ambition—in the bonds of love and universal brotherhood, which they believed it was God's will should prevail among all people for the common benefit of mankind. (Much cheering.)

"Should any evil circumstances disturb that happy course of events, they knew well that it would be due to no ambitious enterprise emanating from the Government or from the people. (Cheers.) They should not be forgetful of that maxim which it belonged to them peculiarly to observe, namely, to beware of the entrance of a quarrel, and if they did unhappily become involved in one, to so bear themselves that their adversary should have reason to beware of them. (Cheers.) 'Thrice is he armed who has his quarrel just; and, whenever the evil day might come, and whatever might befall this great and mighty people, they would be found armed in the triple armour of justice, moderation, and forbearance. (Cheers.) Whatever might be in store for them, they might rest assured that the blessings which a Divine Providence had bestowed on this people would not be withdrawn if they continued to merit them by industry, by energy, by steady perseverance at home, by justice and forbearance abroad, and by that valour and courage which it was unnecessary to speak of, inasmuch as those qualities never were wanting when required to maintain the reputation and supremacy of Great Britain. (Cheers.) Let them, then, hope that, in 1854, no circumstance, either foreign or domestic, would occur to disturb the career of industry, the operation of commerce, or to check the diffusion of that comfort which was going on through all classes of the community; for it was the peculiar privilege of the times in which they lived that wealth was not for the wealthy alone, nor prosperity for those only who were already blessed with prosperity; but that it was to be applied to stimulating and increasing trade, promoting public good, and in spreading increased comfort among all classes of the people. (Cheers.) May that principle long continue, and may they long continue to avail themselves of the means of promoting that other great end, without which temporal prosperity was of little avail—namely, the moral and intellectual advancement of all classes of the community. (Cheers.) He (Mr. Cardwell) knew that this question was one that was dear to their hearts, and he hoped and trusted that every year would be marked with increased progress and improvement in this respect; that the circulation of knowledge would be still further extended through the instrumentality of the press, and that the adaptation and diffusion of education would be commensurate with the requirements of the age. (Loud cheers.) Above all, he desired to see the unfolding of the moral instincts, and expanding of right and sound religious principles, whereby this country might become more and more qualified to be an example to all free nations, and to be a light to all the people of the world." (Cheers.)

MR. DICKENS AT BIRMINGHAM.

The Birmingham people resolved to establish a new Educational Institute early in last year, and the beginning of this sees the resolve in process of execution. To aid the funds, and impart pleasure to the people, Mr. Dickens promised to read two of his Christmas books in public. The books selected were the "Carol," and the "Cricket on the Hearth;" and last week the Town-hall was filled on Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday by an intelligent multitude of eager listeners. The characteristic feature of the proceedings was the stipulation of Mr. Dickens, that one night should be devoted to the working-classes. That night was Friday, when some 3000 attended. Before he began to read the "Carol," Mr. Dickens made a little speech, reported as follows:—

"My good friends," he said, "when I first imparted to the committee of the projected institute my particular wish that on one of the evenings of my readings here the main body of my audience should be composed of working men and their families (cheers), I was animated by two desires—

first, by the wish to have the great pleasure of meeting you face to face at this Christmas time, and accompany you myself through one of my little Christmas books (cheers); and, second, by the wish to have an opportunity of stating publicly in your presence, and in the presence of the committee, my earnest hope that the institute will from the beginning recognise one great principle, strong in reason and justice, which I believe to be essential to the very life of such an institution. It is, that the working man shall, from the first unto the last, have a share in the management of an institution which is designed for his benefit, and which calls itself by his name. (Cheers.) I have no fear here of being misunderstood—of being supposed to mean too much in this. If there ever was a time when any one class could of itself do much for its own good and for the welfare of society, which I greatly doubt, that time is unquestionably past. It is in the fusion of different classes, without confusion; in the bringing together of employers and employed; in the creating of a better common understanding among those whose interests are identical, who depend upon each other, who are vitally essential to each other, and who never can be in unnatural antagonism without deplorable results, that one of the chief principles of a mechanical institution should consist. (Cheers.) In this world a great deal of the bitterness among us arises from an imperfect understanding of one another. (Cheers.) Erect in Birmingham a great educational institution—properly educational—educational of the feelings as well as of the reason—to which all orders of Birmingham men contribute, in which all orders of Birmingham men meet, wherein all orders of Birmingham men are faithfully represented, and you will erect a temple of concord here which will be a model edifice to the whole of England. (Loud cheers.) Contemplating as I do the existence of the Artisans' Committee, which not long ago considered the establishment of the institute so sensibly and supported it so heartily, I earnestly entreat the gentlemen—earnest I know in the good work, and who are now among us—by all means to avoid the great shortcoming of similar institutions; and, in asking the working man for his confidence, to set him the example, and give him theirs in return. (Great cheering.) You will judge for yourselves if I promise too much for the working man when I say, that he will stand by such an enterprise with the utmost of his patience, his perseverance, sense, and spirit; that I am sure he will need no charitable aid or condescending patronage; but will readily and cheerfully pay for the advantages which it confers; that he will prepare himself in individual cases where he feels that the adverse circumstances around him have rendered it necessary; in a word, that he will feel his responsibility like an honest man, and will most honestly and manfully discharge it. (Great cheering.) I now proceed," he concluded, "to the pleasant task, to which, I assure you, I have looked forward for a long time."

A pleasant task, pleasantly executed, and agreeably accepted. It is estimated that the readings will pour about 300l. into the treasury of the institute. A noble offering from an author for the purposes of education.

DINNER TO PROFESSOR OWEN IN THE IGUANODON.

The Crystal Palace is clearly destined to be the mother of novelties and of wonders. What would our readers say to an invitation to dine within the carcass of a model monster, which, some thousands of years ago, flourished in the county of Sussex? Yet we have such an invitation, and the consequent dinner to record. It is a "great fact."

Our readers probably know that Mr. Waterhouse Hawkins is building up models of the great beasts that formerly roamed at will among the formations of an antique world. The "Iguanodon" was one there. He was a native of Sussex, and several of the bones from the model of which the present animal has been restored were found near Horsham. The dimensions of the animal have been kept within the severest limits of anatomical knowledge. His length from his snout to the end of his tail is 35 feet, he is 12 feet in height, his girth round the body is about 25 feet, and the girth of his fore leg 6 feet 6 inches. He was a vegetarian in the days when coarse rank herbage afforded him his supplies of food, and is undoubtedly the Brotherthon of his class.

In the mould of this beast Mr. Hawkins felicitously resolved to entertain Professor Owen at dinner; and accordingly a card, surrounded by grotesque and monstrous illustrations, was sent to twenty-seven gentlemen. The card said—"Mr. B. Waterhouse Hawkins requests the honour of —'s company at dinner in the Iguanodon, on Saturday, Dec. 31st, 1853, at four o'clock, p.m." Naturally this excited the curiosity and interest of some of the leading geologists, paleontologists, and scientific men of the country, and which induced them, apart from the respect in which Mr. Waterhouse Hawkins is deservedly held, to be present upon the last evening of the old year, at a banquet so novel and terrific in its character. The number of gentlemen present was twenty-eight, of whom twenty-one were accommodated in the interior of the Iguanodon, and seven at a side table on a platform raised to the same level. Some drapery tastefully arranged in the form of a marquee above the restored monster served to some extent to keep off the cold wind, and to prevent the illustrious Plesiosaurus and his other antediluvian confreres from prying too closely into the nature of the honour reserved for their more fortunate restored brother. A series of small banners, suspended to the drapery, bore the names of Cuvier, Conybeare, Man-

tell, Buckland, Owen, Forbes, and other scientific persons. Professor Owen occupied a commodious seat at the head of the table, and, most appropriately, in the head of the animal; Mr. Francis Fuller, the managing director of the Crystal Palace Company; Professor Forbes, and Mr. Gould occupied capacious premises in the rear of the monster; while along the ribs were reserved seats for Mr. Prestwich, Mr. D. Wyatt, Mr. Farquhar, Mr. Hawkins, Mr. Day, Mr. Ingram, and other gentlemen.

The healths of the Queen, Prince Albert, and the members of the Royal Family, were most enthusiastically drunk in the interior of the largest of British quadrupeds, and allusion was made to the interest and surprise evinced by her Majesty, on the occasion of her recent visit to the Crystal Palace, on being informed that the Iguanodon was a native of Horsham, in Sussex. Her Majesty called the attention of her royal uncle, the King of the Belgians, to the interesting fact, and we apprehend there will be no person who will not heartily sympathise with the expression of his Majesty, "It is to be thankful the Iguanodon is not now one of your subjects."

Other toasts having been disposed of, Professor Owen, in a brief and eloquent address, alluded to the rapid development of the science of geology, and the great progress which had been made in it within the last fifty years, greatly exceeding the most sanguine expectations of the earliest of the labourers in this interesting and extensive field of inquiry. The learned professor pointed out how the researches of Cuvier had led him to those wonderful conclusions which had enabled his followers to construct from a single fossil bone the entire structure of an extinct animal, and how the untiring investigations and great anatomical knowledge of John Hunter had confirmed the theories of Cuvier. He described the patient and persevering exertions of Dean Cuvier, who from a few bones, discovered at distances far apart, had constructed that most wonderful of animals with which his name would ever be associated, which was half a crocodile, half a fish, half a dolphin, and had the graceful neck of a swan. Poor Buckland, too—he, who from a single tooth had constructed that most cantankerous of all animals, the Megalosaurus—received an eloquent and well-merited eulogy. Finally, the honoured list of names was concluded by that of Alphonse Mantell, the discoverer of the beast in the model of which the company had just dined. The memory of Mantell would ever be associated with that noble disregard of self with which he pursued his favourite study, and that porcupine-like jealousy which he always displayed lest any person should sacrilegiously dare to cut off an inch of the tail of the monster which he had constructed from a single fossil tooth. Professor Owen, at the close of his remarks, proposed "The memory of Mantell, the discoverer of the Iguanodon," a toast which was responded to in mournful and appropriate silence.

AMERICAN NOTES.

The news comes down to the 22d of December: it is not of great importance.

The naval committee of the House of Representatives, it is said, would report a bill appropriating 3,000,000 dollars to defray the expense of constructing six first-class steam frigates, the same to be built in accordance with the recommendations of the secretary of the navy. It is understood that this measure will be followed up with such provisions for a thorough reorganisation of the whole naval system, as will place the service in the most complete order.

An exciting debate on slavery has taken place in the House of Representatives. The subject was introduced by Gerrit Smith, the abolitionist representative for New York, while the House were considering a resolution voting a sword and thanks to Captain Ingraham, for his conduct at Smyrna in the Kossta affair.

The Irish element in the United States manifests itself with its usual violence. On the 19th Mr. John Mitchell was fêted by his friends at the Broadway Theatre. He made a long speech full of the deadliest animosity to England, and not even sparing the Government of the United States. He attacks Secretary Marcy with showing too much courtesy towards crowned heads; with joining the conspiracy of monarchs, with repudiating adventurers and seditious propagandists, and declaring that the Government will vigorously oppose their unlawful movements. Mr. Mitchell's tone in America is as much that of an Opposition leader as when in Ireland. He even hints that Mr. Marcy may open his letters and set police upon his track.

The other Irish manifestations are equally unpleasant. From Chicago we have a brief account of a dreadful riot among the workmen on the Illinois Central Railway, near LaSalle. It appears that an altercation occurred about wages between a contractor named Story and a party of Irishmen, which was terminated by the shooting of one of the disaffected. Mr. Story was afterwards captured and brutally murdered, and his wife was fired at, but

escaped. It is reported that the foreman of the deceased has since shot nine of the labourers, and the sheriff has killed two more, and captured thirty. The ringleader of the rioters escaped.

We learn from Pennsylvania that the railroad riots had broken out there. The citizens, headed by the Mayor, were, on the despatch of the news, tearing up the track of the Western Railroad at the street-crossings in Fairview township. The bells were ringing, cannons were being fired, and the greatest excitement prevailed.

The details of the latest Mexican intelligence furnish some additional facts concerning the movements of the "filibusters" against Lower California, and show that this affair was rather calculated to enhance than retard the advances of Santa Anna to Imperialism. The dictator, it was still believed, would take an early opportunity to dispose of a portion of his territory to the United States, in order to raise funds to carry on his newly arranged machinery of government.

The United States Government has despatched an officer to the Pacific to take measures to capture the Sonora invaders.

An English frigate is reported to have gone to La Paz, at the solicitation of the Mexican authorities, for the purpose of taking sides against the "filibusters" who recently proceeded to that place, seized the acting and prospective governors, declared Lower California a republic, elected a president and other chief civil and military officers, and then sailed for Magdalena Bay, where they contemplated establishing the seat of Government.

The third lecture of Mr. Bourcicault was delivered in New York on the 18th, to a crowded house. The rights and wrongs of women was the subject.

NEWS FROM THE CAPE.

(From the Cape Town Mail, Nov. 19.)

SINCE our last summary, Nov. 5, no events of any consequence have marked the quiet onward course of affairs in this colony.

General Sir G. Cathcart continues to speak hopefully of the future state of the border. The new arrangements and general administration of affairs in Kaffirland seem to be peaceably acquiesced in by the Kaffirs. Some uneasiness, however, is naturally felt by the colonists at the early withdrawal of the troops, after so fierce and protracted a struggle with a daring race like the Kaffirs.

In the Orange River Sovereignty, Sir G. Clark proceeds steadily in maturing arrangements for the withdrawal of British authority from the north side of the river. Numerous petitions and remonstrances against this line of policy have been signed and forwarded to her Majesty. It is also proposed to despatch two delegates to England, to represent the wishes and opinions of the inhabitants on this subject.

Within the colony everything is peaceful and progressive. The only thing of an adverse nature at present spoken of is a fatal disease among the horned cattle, said to have been imported by some diseased cattle from Holland.

A congratulatory address was last week presented to the lieutenant-governor, Mr. Darling, on his recovery from a rather severe indisposition. In Cape Town, Port Elizabeth, Graham's Town, and some other places, a genial spirit of co-operation in favour of universal education, and the promotion of science, has manifested itself, and is likely to lead to a vast extension of the educational institutions of the colony.

Five large troops ships, the Queen, Hougomont, Minden, Havering, and Granville, are now lying in Table Bay, awaiting the arrival from the frontier of the regiments under orders to leave this colony for Madras. These are the 43rd and 74th Regiments, and the 12th Lancers. Her Majesty's steamers Dee, Hydra, and Barracouta, the latter of which only arrived here from England yesterday, have proceeded to Algoa Bay and East London to convey the troops to this port, where they will embark for their destination. The Simoom sailed for England on Tuesday last, having on board the Rifle brigade, a corps which has performed invaluable service to this colony during the recent Kaffir war. The increasing number of desertions and refusal of duty by seamen at this port, is causing great inconvenience to the shipping interest. During the last six weeks, 186 seamen were brought before the Judge of Police, charged with this offence. The punishment hitherto awarded being found insufficient to check the evil, some recent cases have been proceeded against under the 78th section of the Act, which provides that a further term of imprisonment with hard labour may be adjudged where there is proof of "combination" to refuse duty, and as this is the case in most instances, there is a probability that the evil will be abated.

A proclamation has been issued by the Governor, announcing that the lists of persons qualified to vote in the several electoral divisions being completed, it is fitting to proceed with the elections of the members of the Legislative Council. His Excellency therefore proceeds to appoint the several returning officers, and fix the polling places in the several divisions. The elections are to commence on the 9th January, and will have been completed throughout the colony on the 28th. By a further proclamation, his Excellency calls upon all persons who may have accepted requisitions inviting them to become candidates for seats in the Legislative Council, to transmit such requisitions, and their acceptance thereof to the Secretary to Government on or before the 13th December; and also requires every person so invited, and who shall have accepted the requisition, to nominate one person to act as scrutineer, for the purpose of examining the lists of voters returned, as by the law provided.

THE REVENUE.

NO. I.—AN ABSTRACT OF THE NET PRODUCE OF THE REVENUE OF GREAT BRITAIN, IN THE YEARS AND QUARTERS ENDED JAN. 5, 1853, AND JAN. 5, 1854, SHOWING THE INCREASE OR DECREASE THEREOF.

Years ended January 5.

	1853.	1854.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Customs	18,695,382	18,978,324	282,941	...
Excise	13,356,981	13,629,108	272,127	...
Stamps	6,267,261	6,500,968	233,707	...
Taxes	3,377,843	3,153,868	...	223,975
Property Tax	5,509,637	5,560,196	50,559	...
Post Office	1,022,000	1,104,000	82,000	...
Crown Lands	260,000	402,888	142,888	...
Miscellaneous	293,729	176,376	...	117,354
Tot. Ord. Revenue	48,802,833	49,508,641	705,808	259,329
Imprest and other				
Moneys	634,043	879,089	245,046	...
Repayments of				
Advances	1,031,297	1,399,388	368,091	...
Total Income	50,468,103	51,784,118	1,316,015	259,329
Deduct Decrease				259,329
Increase on the Year			1,315,985	

Quarters ended January 5.

	1853.	1854.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Customs	4,541,384	4,444,678	...	96,706
Excise	3,539,640	3,425,676	...	113,964
Stamps	1,615,028	1,539,288	...	75,740
Taxes	1,419,873	1,402,690	...	17,183
Property Tax	468,288	414,888	...	53,400
Post Office	272,000	335,000	63,000	...
Crown Lands	80,000	80,000
Miscellaneous	32,009	26,121	...	5,887
Tot. Ord. Revenue	11,968,176	11,668,881	299,295	382,297
Imprest and other				
Moneys	142,938	279,477
Repayments of				
Advances	491,995	361,702	...	130,293
Total Income	12,603,111	12,310,060	293,051	492,590
Deduct Increase				199,539
Decrease on the Quarter				293,051

NO. II.—THE INCOME AND CHARGE OF THE CONSOLIDATED FUND, IN THE QUARTERS ENDED JAN. 5, 1853, AND JAN. 5, 1854.

Quarters ended January 5.

INCOME.		1853.	1854.
	£	£	£
Customs		4,560,104	4,466,645
Excise		3,549,561	3,435,108
Stamps		1,615,028	1,539,288
Taxes		1,419,873	1,402,690
Property Tax		468,288	414,888
Post Office		272,000	335,000
Crown Lands		80,000	80,000
Miscellaneous		32,009	26,121
Imprest and other Moneys		31,072	183,664
Produce of the Sale of Old Stores		111,807	95,912
Repayments of Advances		491,995	361,702
		12,631,747	12,342,558
CHARGE.		1853.	1854.
	£	£	£
Permanent Debt		5,787,668	5,730,882
Terminable Annuities		576,226	576,849
Interest on Exchequer Bills issued to meet the Charge on the Consolidated Fund		...	492
Sinking Fund		476,086	811,865
The Civil List		99,413	97,740
Other Charges on the Consolidated Fund		327,901	324,770
For Advances		409,376	220,123
For paying off Non-commuters of certain Stocks		...	6,048,758
Total Charge		7,710,689	13,825,468
The Surplus		4,921,058	12,631,747

UNIVERSITY REFORM.

The daily journals publish the text of Lord Palmerston's letter to Prince Albert, as Chancellor of the University of Cambridge, on University Reform:—

Whitehall, Dec. 12.

Sir,—Her Majesty's Government have had before them the letter addressed by my predecessor, on the 4th of October, 1852, to the Chancellor of the University of Cambridge. Your Royal Highness will, without doubt, remember that her Majesty was pleased, in her speech from the Throne, on the 11th of November, 1852, to acquaint Parliament that she had caused to be transmitted to the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, respectively, copies of the reports of the Commissioners of Inquiry upon those Universities, and had called the attention of those Universities to those reports, with a view to a deliberate examination of the recommendations contained therein.

A statement was subsequently made to the House of Commons, that the Government thought it desirable that ample time should be allowed for a full examination of those matters, and that it was not intended that any legislation on the subject of the recommendation of the commissioners should be proposed to Parliament during the then current session.

At the same time, though it was not deemed expedient to discuss the various details connected with subjects so important and diversified as the matters in question, yet reference was made to some essential points, with respect to which her Majesty's Government conceive that it would be the desire and expectation of Parliament, with a view to the public welfare and to the extension of the useful influence of the Universities, that plans of improvement should be entertained.

These points were:—

1. An alteration of the constitution of the Universities with a view to the more general and effective representation of the several main elements which properly enter into their composition.

2. The adoption of measures which might enable the Universities, without weakening the proper securities for discipline, to extend the benefits of training to a greater number of students, whether in connexion or not with colleges and halls, and also to diminish the relative disadvantages which now attach within colleges and halls to students of comparatively limited pecuniary means.

3. The establishment of such rules with regard to fellowships, and to the enjoyment of other college endowments, as might wholly abolish or greatly modify the restrictions which now, in many cases, attach to those fellowships and endowments, and might subject the acquisition of such fellowships and endowments generally to the effective influence of competition.

4. The establishment of such regulations with regard to fellowships thus to be acquired by merit as should prevent them from degenerating into sinecures, and especially the enactment of a provision that after fellowships should have been held for such a time as might be thought reasonable as rewards for early exertion and distinction, they should either be relinquished, or should only continue to be held on condition of residence, coupled with a discharge of active duty in discipline or tuition, or with the earnest prosecution of private study.

5. And, lastly, the establishment of provisions under which colleges possessed of means either particularly ample, or now only partially applied to the purposes of education or learning, might, in conformity with the views which founders have often indicated, render some portion of their property available for the general purposes of the University beyond as well as within the College walls, and might thus facilitate the energetic prosecution of some branches of study, the importance of which the University have of late distinctly and specially acknowledged.

It is obvious, that, for the attainment of these ends provision must be made for the careful adjustment of existing statutes, and for the abolition or modification of certain others which are now periodically administered in some of the colleges.

There are other changes tending to the increased efficiency and extent of study which would naturally accompany or follow those to which I have adverted; but what I have stated may be enough to explain the general expectations which her Majesty's Government have been led to form under the influence of their sincere desire to acknowledge the services, and to respect the dignity and due independence of these noble institutions, and to see their power and influence enlarged to the full measure of the capabilities indicated by their splendid endowments.

Actuated by these views, her Majesty's Government did not hesitate to determine that, so far as depended upon them, a considerable interval of time should elapse, after the reports of the commissioners had appeared, before any specific propositions should be discussed as to the degree and nature of the legislation respecting the universities which it might be requisite to submit to Parliament.

Her Majesty's Government, however, feel that the time has now arrived when it will be due, both to the country of which these universities are such conspicuous ornaments, and to the well understood interests of the universities themselves, that these questions should be decided.

I therefore request that your Royal Highness will, in your capacity of Chancellor of the University of Cambridge, have the goodness to take an early opportunity of informing me what measures of improvement that university, or so far as your Royal Highness's knowledge extends, any of its colleges may be about to undertake, and what aid they may desire from Parliament in the form either of prohibitions, of enabling powers, or of new enactments.

Her Majesty's Government are anxious to receive this information in such time as may enable them to give to this important subject the careful deliberation it demands, and to be in a condition to advise her Majesty thereupon, if possible, by the month of February.

Her Majesty's Government, however, have no hesitation in avowing their opinion that repeated and minute interference by Parliament in the affairs of the Universities and

their colleges, would be an evil, and they are desirous to maintain the dignity of these institutions and to secure for them the advantages of freedom of action. For these reasons, therefore, as well as on other grounds, they earnestly hope to find, on the part of these bodies, such mature views and such enlarged designs of improvement as may satisfy the reasonable desires of the country; and by obviating the occasion for further interference, may relieve those persons in the Universities who are charged with the weighty functions of discipline and instruction, from the distraction which the prospect of such interposition must necessarily entail.—I am, sir, your Royal Highness's dutiful servant, (Signed) "PALMERSTON."

To Field-Marshal his Royal Highness Prince Albert, &c., Chancellor of the University of Cambridge."

PROPOSED REMOVAL OF THIRTY CITY CHURCHES.

The Bishop of London has approved a plan which has been submitted to him by the Rev. Charles Hume, M.A., rector of St. Michael's, Wood-street, for removing some of the churches in the city, with a view to a supply of some of the suburbs. The rev. gentleman states that a small number only of the city churches have considerable and encouraging congregations, two or three of them amounting to nearly 300. On the other hand, the attendance at some falls below 16, and there are many at which it does not amount to 50—the average attendance at the churches proposed to be removed being only 33. While such is the state of things in the city, it has been shown by a return made to the House of Commons by the sub-division of parish commissioners that no fewer than 58 new churches are required in the diocese of London. Of this number 49 are required for the metropolitan district and immediate suburbs, and nine for towns and districts within eight miles of St. Paul's. Mr. Hume contends that less than 20 churches would meet the wants of the population resident within the city of London union, and consequently at least 38 churches might be advantageously taken down and rebuilt in such other parts of the metropolis and its environs as are deficient in church accommodation. The following are the details of the plan:—the number of churches proposed to be dealt with is 50; it is proposed to remove (at present) 30, and to retain 20—the parishes whose churches are moved to be consolidated with those which are left standing. In arranging the incomes for the consolidated parishes, the rule would be this:—To every parish the population of which exceeds 1000, 450*l.* per annum to be assigned; for every additional 100 parishioners add 12*l.* a-year. The aggregate income of the 50 churches is 20,560*l.*; the aggregate income of the 20 proposed consolidated parishes would be 11,353*l.*; there would remain to the 30 churches to be removed 9207*l.*, giving 306*l.* and a fraction for each. The additional sum required to make up a sufficient income for a clergyman, from 500*l.* to 700*l.*, should be made up in the new locality to which the church is removed. In the following list the first church in every group is that which it is suggested should be retained as the sole parish church of the consolidated parishes; the others in each group would then be removed to some other part of the metropolis, or suburbs:—1. St. Vedast's, Foster-lane; St. Michael's, Wood-street; St. Ann's and St. Agnes. 2. St. Lawrence Jewry; St. Michael Bassishaw. 3. St. Faith's; St. Matthew's, Friday-street. 4. St. Benet's, Paul's-wharf; St. Mary Northaw; St. Nicholas Cole Abbey. 5. St. Mary's, Old Fish-street-hill. 6. St. James's, Garlick-hill; St. Michael's, Queenhithe. 7. St. Stephen's, Coleman-street. 8. St. Margaret's, Lothbury; St. Olave's, Jewry; St. Peter-le-Poer, and St. Mildred's, Poultry. 9. St. Stephen's, Walbrook; St. Mary's, Abchurch-lane; St. Swinith's. 10. St. Mary's Woolnoth; St. Edmund King; All-hallows, Lombard-street; St. Clement's, Eastcheap. 11. St. Mary-le-bow; Allhallows, Bread-street; St. Mildred's, Bread-street; St. Mary Aldermay; St. Antholin's. 12. Allhallows Great and Less; St. Michael Royal. 13. St. Dunstan's, East; St. Mary-at-Hill. 14. St. Magnus Martyr; St. George's, Botolph-lane. 15. St. Andrew Undershaft; Great St. Helen's. 16. St. Olave's, Hart-street; St. Catherine Coleman; Allhallows Staining. 17. St. Dionis Backchurch; St. Benet's, Gracechurch-street; St. Margaret Pattens. 18. St. Mary, Aldermanbury; St. Michael's, Wood-street. 19. St. Michael's, Cornhill; St. Peter's, Cornhill; St. Martin Outwich. 20. St. Catherine Cree. The churches within the city which are not to be interfered with are the following:—St. Bride's, Fleet-street; St. Andrew's, Holborn; St. Dunstan's, West; St. Anne's, Blackfriars; St. Sepulchre, Snow-hill; Allhallows, Barking; St. Alphage's; St. Bartholomew-the-Great; Christchurch, Newgate-street; and St. Martin's, Ludgate. Inasmuch as the presentation to the churches proposed to be dealt with is in different hands, it is suggested that each patron shall have as many turns of presentation as he has at present. The patrons of the churches left standing in the city will present to them on each vacancy just in the order they do now. The patronage, however, will be more valuable, as the parish, being a consolidation of two or more existing

parishes, the income will be increased to the amount of 500*l.* or 600*l.* a year. The patrons of the churches to be removed will present to them just in the order they do now. The only difference will be, that they will appoint to those churches for new localities, and with increased incomes. This may be made still plainer by supposing a case. It might be decided to remove St. Alban's, Wood-street, and St. Michael Bassishaw, and to leave St. Mary's, Aldermanbury, standing, to be the parish church for the three consolidated parishes. The particulars of these three parishes at present are:—St. Michael Bassishaw, patrons, Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's, value 230*l.*; St. Mary, Aldermanbury, patrons, parishioners, value 255*l.*; St. Alban's, Wood-street, patrons, Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's and Eton College, alternately, value 247*l.*. When these three parishes are united into one, to be still called St. Mary's, Aldermanbury, and St. Michael's is removed with its incumbent to Paddington, and St. Alban's to Stepney, the Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's will present on every vacancy to St. Michael's, Paddington, with a house, and the income guaranteed from resources in its new locality to 600*l.* a-year, with a considerable parish, and a good congregation. The parishioners will still regularly present to St. Mary, Aldermanbury, with an income made up from part of the tithes of the other parishes to 600*l.*, and house-rent. And the Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's and Eton College will ultimately present to St. Alban's, Stepney, the income of which will also be increased from local revenues to 600*l.* a-year, with the addition of a rectory-house. The advantages of the scheme, the principle of which has received the assent of the Prime Minister and the diocesan are stated to be the following:—1. The anomalous position of the church in the city would be diminished. 2. The want of spiritual instruction, from which many districts are suffering, would, to a considerable extent, be supplied. 3. The clergy in the city, who have nominal cures and small congregations, would have real charges and large congregations. 4. The city clergy remaining would have larger incomes than they had before. 5. The city clergy, removed, would obtain comfortable houses, larger incomes, large congregations, and real pastoral charges. 6. The new parishes or districts would get good churches without the expense of building them, and ministers to whom they would only pay part of a sufficient income.

THE IRVINGITE CATHEDRAL.

The magnificent Gothic church which has been for some time past in course of erection in Gordon-square, in close proximity to University College, and which is intended to be the cathedral of the body of religionists of whom the late Rev. Edward Irving was the founder, was solemnly opened on Sunday, although the congregation hitherto assembling in Newman-street formally took possession of it a week previously. The members of this sect assume to themselves the title of "The Holy Catholic Apostolic Church," and they appear to admit that as far as later times are concerned, the commencement of "spiritual manifestations," or what are more popularly known as the "unknown tongues," date from the time when Edward Irving was ejected from the church in Regent-square, the ministry of which he held in connexion with the Established Church of Scotland. It was he who at that time founded the new church, but the form of worship which is now pursued was not fully developed until some time before his death. Amongst the office-bearers of the church in London may be mentioned:—Admiral Gambier; Mr. H. Drummond, M.P.; the Hon. Henry Parnell; Mr. J. P. Knight, R.A.; Mr. Cooke, the barrister; and Major Macdonald; while Lady Dawson, Lady Bateman, Lady Anderson, and other Ladies of distinction, are amongst its members. Those who join this church offer a tenth of their annual income towards its support and extension.

The service on Sunday morning commenced at ten o'clock precisely, at which hour the chief officer of the church—"The Angel," as he is termed, entered, magnificently clad, wearing a purple cape, the colour denoting authority. Then followed the next order of the ministry, designated "Prophets," with blue stoles, typical of the skies, whence they are supposed to draw their inspiration. Following these were "Evangelists," habited in red, the colour denoting the blood which flowed on the Cross. Then came pastors, elders, and other officers. A liturgy was used very similar to that of the Church of England, from which there appears to be very little doctrinal deviation. A sermon was preached by one of the elders, who inculcated various moral duties, but did not seem to venture upon any broad or direct dogmatic teaching. Attached to the church is a small but very elegant chapel, which is to be used on rare occasions, and which we are informed by a tablet placed thereon was raised by the piety of two ladies, who contributed the munificent sum of 4000*l.* in aid of the work. The chief beauty of the church, however, is the altar, which is carved out of all sorts of

coloured marble, and is superbly decorated. The new sect—for new it may certainly be called without disrespect, Mr. Irving having founded it little more than twenty years ago—has churches in all parts of Europe, and of these that in Gordon-square is to be the central and chief.

STRIKES AND WAGES.

THE Society of Arts has taken a most important step in relation to the strikes, as the following document will show:—

"The Council of the Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures, and Commerce, having had the recent disputes between employers and employed in the manufacturing districts under their serious consideration, are of opinion that this society may be made, in some degree, instrumental in promoting a clear knowledge of the facts and principles involved in the questions at issue, and may offer a neutral ground upon which both parties may fairly and temperately discuss the best modes of either preventing the outbreak of such disastrous quarrels, or terminating them as speedily and satisfactorily, as possible, to all parties, when they arise.

"The council, therefore, propose, in the first place, to hold a conference, to which they will invite the general associations of masters and operatives at Manchester, and the local associations of masters and operatives at Preston, to send each a representative. They also propose to invite to the conference an equal number of those who took the most prominent part on either side of the late dispute among the mechanical engineers. It will further be the care of the council to bring to the conference, without bias on one side or other, as many as possible of those who, without being involved in the labour question as partisans, have studied and mastered its various bearings. The council propose to regulate the order of the proceedings so that they may have a practical tendency and a business character, and not degenerate into vague, noisy, or useless declamation. For this purpose, each speaker will be strictly limited to a few minutes on each topic; and, that digression may be readily checked, the whole subject will be defined and divided into distinct propositions, such as the following:—

"1. Combinations.—Are they objectionable, whether set on foot by employers or employed, as a means of influencing the value of labour? Would a law of limited liability in partnerships tend to render such combinations unnecessary? Do they remove the questions with which they deal from the privacy of ordinary trade management and place them under public cognizance, and, if so, how may that publicity be most simply and effectually secured? Ought any legislative provision, or other arrangement, to be made by which the right of association, if obviously exercised to the detriment of the community, might be controlled or neutralised?

"2. Strikes and Lockouts.—Should partial strikes, intended to take the masters of a locality in detail, be met by lockouts? What other means are likely to be effectual in terminating them?

"3. Wages.—Does payment by piecework alter substantially the nature of the relations which would exist between employer and employed, were the latter day or weekly labourers? Can lists of prices for piecework be equitably drawn up so as to meet the varied circumstances of different machinery, different management, different localities, and the constant progress of improvement? Ought manufacturers to bind together their associations within the limits of a minimum scale of prices for piecework? Ought the operative to share beyond the market value of his labour in the increased productiveness of improved machinery?

"The council propose that no resolutions should be adopted except where entire unanimity prevails. While they venture, for convenience sake, to prescribe the order of the proceedings, they intend to observe a strict neutrality. They have fixed upon Tuesday, the 24th day of January, for holding the conference, which is hereby convened at the Society's House, John-street, Adelphi, punctually at 10 a.m."

The position of the Preston men with regard to the masters is not altered. Last week they received upwards of 3000*l.* for their support. We trust, however, that the movement initiated by the Society of Arts will be productive of the best effects.

THE BRITISH FLEET IN THE TAGUS.

A BAD accident occurred in the British squadron here on the 24th instant. They were to have sailed on that day for a month's cruise, and about 10 a.m. began to get under weigh. The *St. Jean d'Acre*, 101, screw, Captain Hon. — Keppel, was the most seaward ship, and should have sailed first, but as she was watering at the time, she contented herself with getting up her anchor, drifting with the tide for a full half hour, with no canvas set, and this was the cause of the subsequent disaster. Next to her were the *Duke of Wellington*, 131 guns, screw, Commodore Martin, and the *Cruizer*, 20, screw, Captain Hon. — Douglas, which ships weighed and made sail together. The *Duke* beat away to sea beautifully, with the wind W.N.W., and during the whole time she was under canvas astonished and delighted every one by her speed and easy steering. She is acknowledged on all hands to be the fastest ship under canvas in the squadron, and it is quite a new thing in the navy for a three-decker to leave the fastest frigates far astern on any wind. The *Cruizer* was not so fortunate, owing to the drifting about of the *St. Jean d'Acre*. Captain Douglas could not tack as soon as desirable, and by carrying on, in order to reach to windward of the *Acre*, the *Cruizer* got too far under the cliffs on the south bank of the Tagus, and, refusing to stay, would have gone right ashore had not she brought

up on her anchor, which was at once dropped. She immediately pulled royals and top-gallant sails, and cleared topsails. After some delay she was safely hove off out of her dangerous position. The rest of the squadron, seven sail, were now under weigh, nearing the *St. Jean d'Acre*, some on the starboard and others on the larboard tack. The *Acre* was at this time right before the wind; and, unfortunately, this moment was chosen for loosing sail, when she at once began to run rapidly ahead; and before her sails could be set, or steerage got on her, she ran right into the *Desperate* (6 guns, screw, Captain Chambers), which ship was nearest to her, and had first stood on the port tack, striking her right abait the funnel, carrying away her main and mizen top-masts, stoving in her bulwarks, &c. The *St. Jean d'Acre* lost her jib-boom and head rigging. This took place close to the south side of the river, and the line-of-battle ship, with the *Desperate* hanging on her bows, drifted so close to the rocks that persons might almost have jumped ashore from them. Here they brought up with their anchors, and for more than six hours remained in the most perilous situation. The mainmast of the *Desperate* was eventually carried away, and it was only at nightfall that they were separated and moored in safety. The great depth of water along the south side of the Tagus alone saved the *Cruizer*, *St. Jean d'Acre*, and *Desperate* from incurring great damage, if not entire destruction. The lives lost in the last ship from the fall of her spars, &c., have been variously stated at two, four, five, and six. One report says that no lives were lost; but though such might possibly be the case, it is scarcely credible that such an accident could occur on the crowded decks of a war vessel without the loss of some valuable lives. On the *Prince Regent*, flag-ship, one man was killed in weighing anchor, and she lost her best bower and many fathoms of chain. It has since been recovered. A sailor likewise fell from the rigging of the *Valorous* (paddle steamer, Captain Buckle). He was at once picked up by her boats, but died shortly afterwards. The *St. Jean d'Acre* has undergone a temporary repair; the *Desperate* is lying a complete wreck off the palace. Immediately upon the occurrence of the accident the squadron was recalled and moored—and signal made from the flag-ship that no communication should be held with the shore till mid-day on Thursday, a proceeding little calculated to soothe the feelings of the seamen, who had, previously in several of the ships shown marks of discontent, if not of complete disaffection and mutiny, at being sent to sea on the eve of that general holiday Christmas-day. The effect of this signal was to deprive the men of those many additions to their Christmas dinner which they are accustomed to purchase on shore for that day; and, indeed, the entire policy of the admiral's proceedings may be justly questioned. On occasions of emergency British seamen have always shown themselves ready and willing to act; but it is hard to conceive that anything of importance had occurred to call for the sailing of the fleet on the 24th instead of the 26th of December, especially as Admiral Corry is awaiting his despatches by the *Medea* war-steamer. The above is an impartial account of the accident, as communicated to me by an eye-witness. A court of inquiry will of course be held. For the present, beyond the inferences deducible from a brief recital of the facts, I must suspend my judgment till an official decision has been given. I cannot, however, pass by without reprobation the conduct of several persons in the squadron, who, from ignorance of the facts, or misled by prejudice, have unscrupulously thrown the whole blame on the shoulders of Captain Chambers, of the *Desperate*. That officer has nothing to fear, but everything to hope, from a court-martial. I must not forget to mention that the Portuguese men-of-war and the arsenal despatched a great number of boats to the assistance of the English vessels when in danger, and rendered every assistance in their power. It is remarkable that our large fleet of ten ships, all of them steamers except the *Prince Regent*, was got under weigh without one of them being under steam; even the *Valorous*, paddle-wheel steamer frigate, was under canvas and beating out. The squadron remains for the present, and consists of the *Prince Regent*, *Duke of Wellington*, *St. Jean d'Acre*, *Imperieuse*, *Arrogant*, *Amphion*, *Tribune*, *Cruizer*, *Valorous*, *Odin*, and the unfortunate *Desperate*. The *Medea* is hourly expected, when the twelve vessels here will constitute the finest steam-fleet in the world.—*Daily News*.

A CHAPTER OF ACCIDENTS.

THERE have been several remarkable accidents of late; not only from the rail whence we get such an unfailing supply, but from fire.

There was a great fire in the City on Saturday—the third last week. It broke out in the premises of Messrs. Townend, hatters, Broad-street, Cheapside. Mr. Braidwood, with a strong force, was speedily on the spot; but in spite of the great efforts of the brigades, the premises were burnt down, and no fewer than eleven houses, chiefly warehouses, were very much damaged. The fire was not finally extinguished until Tuesday. Loss estimated at 80,000*l.*

There has been yet "another" great fire in the City. It

broke out on Thursday morning in Bennet-street, destroyed the premises of Mr. Coombes, builder, and damaged St. Bennet's Church and other property.

But a more serious conflagration took place, on Tuesday, at Rochdale, resulting in loss of life. A mill belonging to Messrs. Kelsall was destroyed. The mill is situated in Smith-street, on the right bank of the river Roach, and extends from Duncan-street, to Penn-street. It was a good substantial building, erected eighteen years ago, about 90 feet long by 72 wide, and consisted of four stories and an attic. The manufacture carried on is chiefly in flannels, and the whole of the first, second, and fourth stories, and attic were filled with machinery for spinning, weaving, and other processes, belonging to Messrs. Kelsall, while the greater part of the third floor was let off as a carding room to Mr. Thomas Stott. About 150 hands were employed in the concern, of whom 24 worked for Mr. Stott. At the Duncan-street end of the mill, over the engine-house, there was a machine in the third floor called a "devil." It is a machine which is used in the first process of manufacturing for tearing asunder and cleaning the fibres of wool. This "devil" is separated from the rest of the machinery on the same floor by a wood partition only. About an hour after the mill commenced running yesterday morning, or about 7 o'clock, while Samuel Stott (son of the owner of the machine) and another man were at work at the "devil," the flame of a gaslight suddenly ignited some "floss," or light portion of the wool, flying about the room in the wind from the machine, and the fire communicated quickly with the wool in the machine itself. There is a bucket usually kept over the machine, and a pipe from a cistern of water on the roof was near, intended for use in case of fire; but on this occasion the bucket was out of place, and had to be sought below stairs. Some time was lost owing to this before water could be thrown on the flames, and much more valuable time was wasted in the first abortive attempt to extinguish the fire by these means, ere the police and the fire brigade of the town could be communicated with. The fire brigade received notice about a quarter past 7 and were quickly on the spot; but much time was again lost, owing to the river being frozen over, as well as the water in the street plugs, by an intense frost prevailing for some days past.

By the time the fire-engines were in full play, the fire was bursting from nearly all the front windows of the third storey in Smith-street. The operatives in the third storey had to pass almost through the fire to reach the staircase at the Duncan-street end of the mill, and were somewhat scorched in the effort; but those below escaped without difficulty. From some cause, those in the fourth story and the attic were not informed of their danger until this mode of escape was cut off by the spread of the fire. The result was that a rush was made to the windows of the different fronts of the rooms on the fourth and attic floors and to the roof by the operatives, who chiefly consisted of women and children, and a most appalling spectacle soon presented itself to those outside. The poor terrified creatures shrieked in an agony of terror, and held out their hands for succour, while the flames wrapped the walls beneath them from the windows upward. There were but few men among them, but three of these, Henry Ratcliffe, Richard Duckworth, and Thomas Taylor, are reported to have acted most heroically in braving the heat of the fire to assist in lowering the women and children with ropes from the upper stories before they descended themselves. Unfortunately, the alarm of some of the women overcame every other feeling, and they resolved upon the desperate risk of a leap. One of these unfortunate creatures, Hannah Amber, leaped from the top of the mill into Smith-street, and was taken up in a state of insensibility. She died soon afterwards, having broken her back. Margaret Scott was clinging to a rope from the roof of the building, by which an attempt was made to lower her, and unfortunately let go her hold after descending a few feet. She fell in Penn-street, and was killed. Jane Standing jumped from the fourth story into some line in the back-yard, and but little hope is entertained of her recovery. A girl made the same desperate leap, and did not sustain much injury from it, except to her eyes, which are burnt by the lime. Of those who had to be carried to their houses with fractured limbs and other severe injuries, the following is a list:—Jane Kershaw, Jane Standing, William Butterworth, Alice Shore, Mary Wolfenden, Elizabeth Armistage, Mary Hardman, Reuben Sutcliffe, Martha Heywood, and Emma Stott.

The fire was got under with great exertion by 10 o'clock, and was extinguished by about noon, but not till the whole of the main building except the engine-house had been destroyed, the greater part of the front wall falling into Smith-street. The entire loss sustained by Messrs. Kelsall and Co. is estimated at 12,000*l.*, a considerable part of which is believed to be covered by insurance, and Mr. Stott has suffered to the extent of 1000*l.*, of which, unfortunately, no portion is insured.

An Irish boy is missing, and is supposed to have been buried in the ruins.

A great fire took place at Bradford on Thursday week, and a warehouse with much property was destroyed.

Between five and six o'clock on Tuesday the immense "shears," or crane, on the south side of the Southampton docks, for the purpose of raising boilers in and out of ships, &c., and other dead weights, suddenly fell. So strong was the construction of this machine, that as much as fifty tons could be raised at one time by its beautifully constructed levers. The exact cause of the accident has not yet been satisfactorily ascertained, but it is conjectured that the foundation could not have been sufficiently strong to bear its immense weight. In its fall it carried away a very large portion of the dock wall adjacent, and had it not happened that the shears fell inland, and not into the dock, there is little doubt but that the Peninsular and Oriental Company's steam-ship *Madrid*, which has been undergoing repair for some time past, and which is placed directly beneath them, must have been partially, if not wholly, destroyed, as well perhaps as some lives have been sacrificed. The "pair of shears" was erected some few years ago by the Dock Company at an enormous expense, and from their now damaged appearance there is no doubt that they must be replaced by new ones, which will incur an expense of some twenty thousand

pounds. The noise of the crash was heard for more than a mile distant.

Charles Granelli was drowned in the Pool. The swell of the Hamburg steamer swamped a boat containing him and six others. The others were saved. A jury pronounced the death accidental.

Some deaths from the incautious use of charcoal are recorded. Two children were recently suffocated in the Colchester workhouse. A woman and four children applied for shelter; to accommodate them they were put in an out-house. The master ordered a "coke" fire to be lighted; instead of this the servant lighted "charcoal." A labourer at Chudleigh, Devon, although previously warned, used charcoal, and was found dead.

JOURNAL OF RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.

Monday.—Two Collisions.—The late severe frosts had rendered the rails exceedingly slippery, and the utmost caution to prevent accidents had to be used along the various lines. The 12.40 p.m. mixed train left St. Helen's station with about thirty passengers, and was slightly behind its time upon reaching the Oak-tree station. Here the Runcorn line crosses the St. Helen's, and just as the passenger train from the latter place had got to the crossing, it was met by a luggage train proceeding to Parr. The engine driver of this train, which at the moment was descending the incline, upon seeing the passenger train from St. Helen's, instantly endeavoured to stop the engine; but such was the slippery state of the rails that the breaks would not act, and a violent collision ensued. The engine belonging to the luggage train struck the engine which was attached to the passenger train, shattering the latter almost to pieces, and producing a very great concussion of the carriages, which fortunately, however, were not thrown off the line. As may be imagined, the greatest consternation prevailed amongst the passengers, many of whom received severe bruises from the violence of the shock. Those of the passengers who were injured were promptly attended to in the station by Mr. Blundell, surgeon, of St. Helen's, who was in the neighbourhood visiting a patient, and who hurried to the Oak-tree station upon hearing of the accident.

The second occurred on the Midland Counties Line. The wheel of a horse-box attached to a passenger train broke; the train was brought to a stand; a luggage train, following it, was obliged to take up a similar position. Fog-signals were placed down the line; and one of these had the effect of stopping the high speed of the express, which ran into the luggage train. Passengers bruised.

A guard on the Croydon Railway was looking out of his van to see that the break was all right, when his head struck against the arch of a bridge, and he was killed.

HEALTH OF LONDON.

(From the Registrar-General's Returns.)

The deaths in London registered in the week that ended last Saturday, amounted to 1656. Coroners' cases, that have been accumulating for some time, and are now registered at the end of the quarter in unusual number, have partly contributed to produce this excess. The mortality has been raised principally by the severity of the weather.

In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1843-52, the average number of deaths was 1160, which, if raised in proportion to increase of population, becomes 1276. There is an excess in the number actually returned above the calculated amount of 380.

The deaths arising from diseases of the respiratory organs rose last week to 347, while the corrected average for corresponding weeks is 259; to bronchitis 171 are attributed, to pneumonia 118, to hooping-cough 65. Ten deaths from cholera were registered in the week.

Last week the births of 791 boys and 775 girls, in all 1566 children, were registered in London. In the eight corresponding weeks of the years 1845-52 the average number was 1299.

At the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, the mean height of the barometer in the week was 29.835 in. The mean temperature of the week was 29 deg., which is 8.4 deg. below the average of the same week in 38 years. On Thursday the air was coldest; and on that day the highest temperature was only 31.5 deg., the lowest 18 deg., and the mean 24.1 deg., which is 13.2 deg. below the average. On Monday the mean was 10.1 deg. below the average, and on five other days it was from 4 deg. to 8 deg. below it. The mean dew-point temperature was 24.7 deg.

A MODEL SCOUNDREL.

BENJAMIN McDonnal, a private in the 50th Regiment, now at Plymouth, recently confessed that he murdered a girl named Rundle, on Roberough Down. He killed her with a stick, and carried the body to a place of concealment. As yet the depth of the snow has prevented an investigation; but from the subsequent acts of the man we see no reason to doubt the accuracy of his confession. Of course he was immediately placed in custody. "The prisoner," says the *Plymouth Mail*, "was confined in the military prison at Devonport, awaiting a court-martial for deserting his regiment at Plymouth, and in the course of the ordinary discipline enforced in the prison, the soldiers are drilled and exercised as usual. On Friday afternoon the prisoners were thus engaged, and it appears that, either before or after the drill, McDonnal secured a large knife, and secreted it in his clothes, for what murderous purpose the sequel will show. At seven o'clock he rang his bell, and one of the warders, named Sparrow, entered the cell, upon which McDonnal fiercely sprang at him, and, felling him to the floor, drew the knife, with which he inflicted several severe and deep wounds in various parts of the body, and otherwise injured the unfortunate man. Writhing in agony, he importuned for mercy, and begged for life, but the wretched maniac for

a time continued to prosecute his murderous intentions, until overcome by the cries of the warder, when he desisted, but only on the ground that he would state it was his (McDonnal's) intention to murder him. Sparrow said he would say so, he would do anything for the safety of his life, and accordingly he was permitted to escape. A court of inquiry was held on the next (Saturday) afternoon, at three o'clock; and with the laudable desire to drive out his reported madness, or with the other desire, to fasten it in him, the culprit was sentenced to receive fifty lashes on his bare back, and to undergo six months' imprisonment. At four o'clock, an hour after the deliberations of the court, the corporeal punishment was inflicted by the drummers of the 50th, and, judging from the manner in which they dealt out their favours, they regarded the disgrace brought upon the regiment with every feeling of indignation. The fellow, however, hardened as he appears to be in crime, did not possess a very hardened skin, for as lash after lash fell on his luckless back, his shrieks and cries led the soldiers who looked on to designate him as a "coward." McDonnal is now in hospital, and when he is sufficiently recovered, an escort will proceed to Roberough Down to make the search now so much desired to set the mystery at rest. After he had been flogged on Saturday, Mr. Gifford, the superintendent of the Devonport police, again proceeded to the prison, and stated to McDonnal the various circumstances attending his case. The prisoner again repeated his former assertions, and stated that at a small place near Bolton, in Lancashire, he made his escape, when three others, not soldiers—for he was not then enlisted—were transported for twenty-one years each, for a desperate robbery committed by them. While he was at Preston, and in hospital, he conducted himself in a singular manner, by jumping out of bed and placing utensils on his head, with which he walked about the rooms, and on one occasion he threw one of them at the surgeon's head. This is the kind of man—say, this is the man—who has confessed to a murder, committed on Roberough Down; and he alleges that he did it at a time when no human eye could watch his hand or mark the countenance of the murderer. Many ask "Is his statement true?" We reply, what possible reason can there be alleged to doubt its accuracy? The man appears to care for nothing, not even for the result of the investigation, should it bear against him. And, in connexion with the above, we may add another fact. Mr. Gifford has already made inquiries respecting the girl Rundle, and the other females who followed the 50th to this town fully corroborate that part of the statement which refers to her absence in October last, since which time they have heard nothing of her. Everything which has up to this moment transpired relating to the alleged tragic occurrence we have detailed above, and as soon as McDonnal can proceed to the Down we promise our readers the result. We need scarcely say that the 50th Regiment feel much disgraced by the disclosure, be it true or false, and every soldier as anxiously awaits the result as do the public at large."

MISCELLANEOUS.

PLEASANT times at Windsor Castle as well as other places. Prince Albert and his sons have been skating in the presence of the Queen; and her Majesty has been driven out by the Prince in a sledge! New Year's gifts were distributed by the Queen, on Saturday, to the poor of Windsor. On Tuesday, her Majesty and Prince Albert visited the Photographic exhibition. Prince Albert went to the studios of the sculptors, Bell and Bailey. The Duke of Beaufort delivered up the insignia of the garter worn by his father. The Duke of Cambridge, Lord Hardwicke, Lord Shelburne, Lord Lansdowne, Mr. Gladstone, and Sir Charles Eastlake, have been the guests of the Queen.

Parliament was formally prorogued on Tuesday, by Royal Commission, until the 31st January, then to meet for the despatch of business, as already stated. The Commissioners were the Lord Chancellor, Earl Granville, and the Duke of Argyll.

The convocation of the prelates and clergy of the province of Canterbury was prorogued on Wednesday, according to the tenor of the royal writ, by Dr. Travers Twiss, vicar-general of the Most Reverend the Archbishop of Canterbury, and metropolitan, under a special commission from his grace to that effect. His grace's commissary, attended by Mr. Francis Hart Dyke, the registrar of the province, attended at the Jerusalem-chamber, when his grace's commission was read by the registrar. The learned commissary then directed the royal writ to be read at length, after which the schedule of prorogation was read and signed by the commissary. "In virtue of this document convocation will meet, for the despatch of business," on Wednesday, Feb. 1.

A Cabinet Council, attended by all the members of that body, was held at the Foreign Office on Tuesday, and sat three hours and a half.

There was another Cabinet Council on Thursday, attended by all the Ministers except Lord Lansdowne. The Council sat four hours.

Reports were current in town on Thursday that Lord Hardinge had resigned, that Lord Raglan would succeed him, and General Brown resume his post as Adjutant-General of the Forces.

We are enabled to state that the resignation and changes in the Horse Guards, reported by a morning contemporary, are quite unfounded.—*Globe*.

The Russian Government, it is said, has informed the persons interested that the railway works at present in construction will be suspended.

We understand that an official letter from Lord Palmerston, as Secretary for the Home Department, has been received this week by our civic authorities, requesting to know particulars respecting some war steamers which his lordship was informed were building on the Clyde for the Emperor of Russia. His lordship has, we believe, been misinformed on the subject, as there are no ships building here for the Czar; but there are at present being constructed two pair of powerful first-class marine engines and machinery for war steamers, by one of our first engineers, who is under contract to have them at Cronstadt in April, and fit them up in the vessels there by his own workmen. Although there are no ships building here for the Autocrat, we have reason to believe that his lordship may learn something on the subject if he institutes inquiries on the banks of the Tyne or Wear. This step on the part of Lord Palmerston would indicate a firmer policy towards that aggressive Power than has hitherto characterised the proceedings of Government since the present Eastern difficulty commenced.—*North British Mail*.

Lord Ingestrie has arrived in England. He will, as a Liberal Conservative, contest Staffordshire with Lord Paget. The day for the East Gloucestershire election is fixed for Monday; polling on Thursday.

There has been a meeting at Belfast to express sympathy with Turkey. The resolutions show that the manufacturers of Belfast, like all the world, "desire peace—if peace with honour be practicable."

The people of Marylebone are about to hold a public meeting "to take into consideration the present unsatisfactory conduct of her Majesty's Cabinet in reference to Turkish affairs, and to humbly pray her Majesty to take to her council such statesmen as will maintain the honour of England and the integrity of the Sultan's dominions against the atrocious aggression of the Autocrat of Russia." After some discussion it was resolved that the use of the vestry hall be granted gratuitously.

Earl Spencer is appointed Lord High Steward of her Majesty's Household, in the room of the Duke of Norfolk.

Lord Guildford, Master of the Hospital of St. Cross, has resigned two livings he held in conjunction with that benefice. As he has held the three many years in violation of the law, it is calculated that he has illegally received 90,000*l.* from the hospital. Steps will be taken to recover this sum.

The consecration of the Bishop of Limerick, Dr. Henry Griffin, took place on Sunday, in Trinity College Chapel. The consecrating Bishops were the Archbishop of Dublin and the Bishops of Cork and Derry.

The inhabitants of Limerick, including some notables among the Roman Catholics, have presented an address to Dr. Higgin, the late bishop, regretting his translation from that see, and signifying their high appreciation of his conduct while among them.

The Portsmouth Town Council having resolved to take a poll of the burgesses upon the question of establishing a Public Library and Museum under the provisions of the Public Libraries Act, 1850, such poll was taken, when there were 1099 votes against the proposal, and only 137 in favour of it. It had been demonstrated that the cost to the smaller class of housekeepers would not have been more than 3*d.* per annum for carrying out this excellent project, but a dread of increased taxation, joined to local party feeling, produced the above result. The above numbers together do not comprise one-tenth of those entitled to vote on the question in Portsmouth.

The mother of Mr. Thomas Carlyle died on Christmas day, at Scotsbrig, Ecclefechan. Mr. Thomas Carlyle and his brother, Dr. Carlyle, were present.

A conversazione was held at the London Mechanics' Institution, on Wednesday, with a view of rousing its friends and supporters to new and vigorous action.

M. Pierre Didot, son of Ambrise Didot, and brother of Firmin Didot, died three days ago in Paris, at the age of ninety-three. The funeral of this senior of the French press took place at the cemetery of Montparnasse.—*Galignani*.

The arrangements of the Metropolitan Poultry Show, which is to take place at the Baker-street Bazaar, are now completed. Upwards of 1160 pens of poultry, exclusive of extra stock, have been entered. Amongst the exhibitors are the names of Prince Albert, Lord Robert Grosvenor, Lord Berwick, Lord North, Lieut.-Colonel Goulbourn, Lady Gilbert East. The number of pens, including pigeons and rabbits, amounts to 1800.

Lord Plunket, a prominent name in Irish history, died at his residence in Wicklow, on Wednesday. He was born in 1764, and was therefore in his 89th year. "Throughout the first quarter of the present century the bar of Ireland was rarely adorned by talent and learning. Far above the most eminent of his order stood William Conyngham Plunket. He had not perhaps the legal lore of Saurin or Burton, the fine genius of Curran, or the graceful elocution of Bushe, but he was the most efficient advocate that Ireland ever produced. He addressed a jury or a judge, an English or an Irish audience, a select committee or a popular assembly, with equal power and success. A supporter of Roman Catholic claims, he still contrived to win and to retain the suffrages of Dublin University—a lawyer indurated by the practice of his profession, he was yet a legislator and a politician—a flaming patriot with Grattan, Flood, and Charlesmont—a supporter of Addington and afterwards of Pitt; on the death of the latter, an aristocratic Whig swearing by Charles Fox; a Grenvillite in Percival's time, a Tory with Lord Liverpool, a partisan of Canning upon favourable terms, and a staunch Liberal with Melbourne and Grey. He began the world with scarcely the position or the resources of a gentleman, but long before old age could quell his keen ambition he had won a coronet for himself and a mitre for his son, places for several of his family, together with ease and opulence and honours,

and every other appliance that could soothe the decline of his own protracted existence. Full 40 years practising at the bar, nearly 20 years in the House of Commons, twice Attorney-General, once Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, twice Lord Chancellor of Ireland, he retired from public affairs in 1841, and survived, as we have said, till Wednesday."

General Pezuela, the new captain-general of Cuba, has arrived in the island. General Canedo left Havana on the 11th of December.

We have news from Jamaica up to the 9th of November. Matters were proceeding steadily; and there was every probability that "responsible government" would be adopted.

The last mail which reached us from Hongkong brought intelligence of a mutiny on board of Sir Fleetwood Pellew's flag-ship, the *Winchester*. This occurrence took place on the 8th of November last, when the crew of the *Winchester*, who, it is said, had not been permitted to go ashore for eighteen months, resolved at last to send a petition to the Admiral upon the subject. There is no suggestion made in the report we have received that the petition was any but one of the humblest kind, and presented without any circumstance of insolence or disrespect. The only reply which the Admiral vouchsafed to it was, that the ship should be got ready to go to sea. The answer seems to have caused great discontent among the men, which did not, however, display itself in any other form than "a noise below in the course of the evening." Sir Fleetwood Pellew immediately ordered that the drum should beat to quarters. Some of the men refused to come upon deck, upon which the Admiral ordered the officers to go below with drawn swords, and drive them up at the weapon's point. These gentlemen had, of course, no option, and descended to execute Sir Fleetwood's orders. In the course of this operation two men—so runs the intelligence—were severely wounded. When as Captain Pellew (Sir Fleetwood) commanded the *Resistance*, in 1813, a similar mutiny occurred. Until selected by the Duke of Northumberland in 1852, Sir Fleetwood had held no command for forty years.

The Marylebone Vestry have resolved to establish schools for the reformation of destitute and criminal children.

A communication was made by the Post-office authorities to the governor of Whitecross-street prison that the post-box would be discontinued after the 6th inst. A similar communication was made to the keeper of the Queen's Prison. Efforts are being made to continue the privilege to the prisons.

On Monday forenoon, the Victoria Bridge, Glasgow, was formally opened by the Lord Provost and Magistrates, and other members of the Bridge Trust, in the presence of an immense concourse of spectators. The ceremonial was conducted under precisely the same arrangements as those followed at the opening of the Glasgow Bridge, eighteen years ago, when the late James Ewing, Esq., LL.D., occupied the civic chair.—*North British Daily Mail*.

Dr. Brown, Roman Catholic parish priest of Clonlough and Camus, and vicar-general of Derry, has forwarded a return to the income-tax commissioners, stating his income at under 100*l*. Should it exceed that sum, he declares he will appoint a committee to dispose of the excess for charitable purposes, and should that course be illegal, he will ask for an "assistant." He protests against the right of any commissioners to levy a tax on his income; because he does not hold his cure from the Queen, and his bishop is not recognised by law.

The Ipswich Borough Police officers are to be allowed to wear moustaches and beards. They preferred a report to the watch committee for permission to dispense with the razor, which was readily granted. Some of the committee expressed their intention, it is said, of adopting the moustache themselves.—*Ipswich Express*.

Two persons have died from exposure during the cold, one a Lascar, the other an Englishman. Both were wretchedly clad.

There was a great loss of life during the year 1853 from accidents at sea, fires, foundering, and wrecks. The total lives thus lost amount to no fewer than 920.

Several families at Roscrea were poisoned on Christmas-day by eating whole meal bread, in which some seeds of bearded darnel had mingled. Medical aid was prompt, and fatal results obviated.

A duel was arranged to come off near Eltham on Tuesday last, between a military and naval officer from Woolwich, who were said to have quarrelled about a female. The seconds, however, having more common sense and discretion than the principals, brought the affair to an arrangement by proposing that each of the belligerents should present himself before the young woman for her to make choice between them. It is whispered that she was so prudent as to reject them both, as they deserved.—*South Eastern Gazette*.

An old woman, a miser, was found dead in her room at Chelsea. Her name was Handel. No less than 116*l*. in notes were found in her clothes, and Bank receipts for 250*l*., besides plate and jewellery.

The grand memorial in honour of the first President of the American Republic in Washington proceeds apace. It is now 150 feet high, or rather more than a fourth of the proposed height. Since the works were actually commenced, it appears to have been discovered that the monument will stand exactly in the centre of "the ten miles square."

Folkstone is becoming an important revenue station. Trade with France has so much increased that an additional custom officer has been appointed.

Very often, what has not been done by any higher inducement, is done for interest's sake. Thus, the conflicting interests of Sardinia, Austria, and Switzerland, will open a number of passages over the Alps, beneficial, in fine, to the cause of civilisation. A new road has been made from Val Canonica, over Aprica, to Tirano, conjointly with the completion of that over the Bernina, which will lead direct from the Engadin to Tirano—a new radius of Alpine communication.—*The Builder*.

In consequence of a report by the Committee of Public Health, the Austrian Government has allowed butchers to sell horse meat to the public in the markets.

A beautiful aurora borealis was observed at Tonbridge Wells on Tuesday. It lasted half an hour.

A certain Marion of Amarre has been fined for having named his child Robespierre. It appears that by the French law Christian names must be borrowed either from any of the authorised almanacs or from ancient history.

From some tables on religious worship just published, it appears that in England and Wales, comprising a population of 17,927,606, there were on the census Sunday 34,467 places of worship—of which 30,859 were separate buildings, and 3508 not separate buildings. On Sunday, the 30th of March, 1851, there were in attendance 4,428,338 in the morning, 3,030,280 in the afternoon, and 2,960,772 in the evening. The religious bodies in England and Wales have 34,467 places of worship, and the number of attendances on the census Sunday was 10,896,066. It is estimated that 7,261,032 persons attended some religious service on that day.

At the time of the census there were more than 256,000 teachers in Sunday schools instructing, every Sunday, in religious knowledge, as many as 1,800,000 children. The total number of Sunday scholars on the books of the schools was about 2,400,000, and about two teachers to every 15 scholars.

A return just printed shows a great increase in beer and ale exported. In eleven months ended the 5th ult. the value of such commodities exported was 1,194,147*l*., against 669,573*l*. for the same period of the previous year. In the month ended the 5th ult. no less than 107,922*l*. was exported, against 72,208*l*. for the same period of the previous year.

1048 sea apprentices have been bound during the last twelve months, at the Shields Custom-house. In the previous year 913 only were articulated for sea in the same establishment; consequently there has been an increase in sea-bound apprentices enrolled at Shields during the last year of 130.

The exports of saddlery and harness have greatly increased, as appears by a return just published. In the month ended the 5th ult., the declared value was 32,974*l*., being an increase of 14,521*l*. on the like period of 1852. In the 11 months ended the 5th ult., the goods were of the value of 280,231*l*., being an actual increase of 121,188*l*. on the like period of the preceding year.

Between January and December the value of coals and culm exported was 1,494,987*l*., against 1,272,676*l*. for the previous year.

The numbers attending the Museum of Ornamental Art at Marlborough House, during the month of December, were as follows:—19,630 persons on the public days, and admitted free; 457 persons on the students' days, and admitted as students on the payment of sixpence each, besides the registered students of the classes and schools—an increase of 5567 over the corresponding period of last year.

Postscript.

SATURDAY, January 7.

We have no authentic and positive intelligence relative to the movements of our fleet in the Bosphorus later than that which will be found elsewhere. We should have no difficulty, in common with some of our contemporaries at home and abroad, in inventing later than the latest information, but at the present crisis of affairs we may, without an inordinate exercise of patience, await the march of events.

It is known that the last despatches to Admiral Dundas were to the effect that he should clear the Black Sea from Russian cruisers. The previous instructions to "convoy Turkish transports," were not carried into execution, as the Turks know to their cost. These last instructions are not tantamount to an attack on Sebastopol, or even to an engagement at sea, since they do not forbid Russian ships remaining at their moorings, or if met with at sea, making the best of their way, without resistance, out of the reach of British or French guns.

Still, we need scarcely add, the movements of the Admirals must be determined in a great measure by professional and technical considerations, with which the orders from home do not interfere. When the Admirals have orders to move, the weather must be very foul, and the Russians uncommonly quiet to prevent a striking *dénouement*.

Nothing can be more dignified and moderate than the last official and unanimous reply of the Divan to the Four Powers: that "since the Sublime Porte had taken up war for the maintenance of its rights and the integrity of its dominions, it would not reject a peace calculated to preserve them both in the present juncture, and for the future."

This reply admits of no equivocation or subterfuge. It forces friends and enemies to declare themselves. No one believes that the Czar will yield. He means mischief, and all the Powers of Europe on their knees to him will only exasperate his pretensions and inflame his blasphemous vanity. It must not be forgotten that the Emperor Nicholas is as vain and as cruel as a coquette. On that one man's sovereign caprice, on the state of his humours, on his digestion, on his temper, now rests the peace of the world. Constitutional and Parliamentary Governments may have their weaknesses:—such is the strength of an Autocracy. It appears that Austria claims a monopoly of mediation at St. Petersburg, at the bidding of the Czar, who repudiates all intervention of the Western Powers.

The report of the capture of Batoum by the Russians is not confirmed.

The officers of the Russian army on the Danube are deeply demoralised by the defeat at Oltenitz.

Hali Pacha is regarded as a sort of counterpoise in the Turkish Ministry to the influence of Riza Pacha.

It is remarked that the notification of the *Stellime* Porte speaks of a *fatwa* confirming its deliberations. A *fatwa* is a declaration that the policy is in accordance with the supreme laws of the empire. In great emergencies, the Sultan demands a *fatwa* of the Council of Ulema. In 1839 Mahmoud demanded a *fatwa* approving the war with Mehemet Ali, Viceroy of Egypt. The present Sultan demanded a *fatwa* approving of the declaration of war against Russia. A *fatwa* has now authorised the Ministers to negotiate according to the terms of the notification. The *fatwa* of the *Shafis*, or students, was of little consequence. Some have been temporarily banished; the greater number were set at liberty the day after.

M. de Peyronnet, formerly *garde des Sceaux* to Louis XVIII., and Minister of the Interior to Charles X., has died in retirement at his Chateau de Montferrand, in the Gironde.

Three fires occurred yesterday in the metropolis; but although they did considerable damage, they were not sufficiently destructive to merit a detailed account.

The weather is, after all, the great topic. Political Cassandras see in a Muscovite winter the signs of a Cossackized Europe. The Londoner innocently thinks that a thaw is going on because the snow in the streets has turned into slushy mud. Certainly we who live in London know not whether the thaw be a thaw or not. The Parks were deserted yesterday, which looks like a thaw. The river is still not navigable, except to sea-going steamers. There were more vehicles in the streets, but high fares were maintained. Accidents on the railways are a matter of course. We have no details.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The point of Mr. Charles Paul's letter is purely and simply a commercial question. We cannot undertake to give an opinion upon a question which, being merely commercial, must be determined by private considerations.

A CONSTANT READER.—By the 21st Henry VIII., cap. 6. If the deceased kept house, and there has been from time immemorial a fixed and certain custom in the parish to pay the priest a mortuary, he is *theoretically* entitled to 3*s*. 4*d*., if the deceased had any personal estate; to 6*s*. 8*d*., if the personal estate ranged from 30*l*. to 40*l*.; and to the 10*s*. sought to be exacted in the present case, if the personalty exceeded that value. We say *theoretically*, for, practically, the recovery would be extremely doubtful if payment were refused, and would only be obtained after an expenditure of at least 100*l*.

We have received a letter from a correspondent taking exception to the statement in our last number, that "the Danes, however opposed to the Russianising tendency of their court, nurse violent indignation against the country of Nelson." "Widely different," writes Mr. Oliver Bradshaw, "is the conclusion to which I have come, and I have had some experience of the Danes. When at Copenhagen last summer, I was particularly desirous to ascertain their feelings towards England, and eagerly snatched every opportunity that presented itself for gratifying my curiosity. I talked with men of all classes on that subject, and invariably found them exceedingly courteous and simple-hearted. 'We like the English,' said they; 'we are relations; the Danes and English are all of one blood: we like the English people, but we cannot trust the English Government; whether Peel is in office, or Russell in office, it is all the same thing: what they say one day they will retract the next.' I confess I was much surprised at their thus admirably distinguishing between people and Government." Mr. Bradshaw proceeds with manly English feeling to express his sense of shame at the policy of "the British Governments towards Denmark—a policy tending to promote the 'disuniting and weakening' designs of the successors of Peter the Great. Our correspondent stigmatises the treaty of May 8, 1852, signed in London by the representatives of the Five Great Powers, 'which struck out eighteen of the twenty-one heads standing between the Throne of Denmark and the House of Romanoff,' and left only the young Prince Christian of Glücksburg and his two sons between the Czar and the Danish Monarchy, as, by 'the new Salique Law introduced into the Danish Constitution, no woman can ascend the Danish throne.' A law, says Mr. Bradshaw, 'sanctioned by the Ministers of an English Queen, the descendant of an Elizabeth Tudor.' We regret to have no space for the rest of Mr. Bradshaw's gloomy predictions. He 'beholds nought save the dark wings of the Muscovite eagle fast stretching from pole to pole.' 'I would still (he concludes) hope against hope: it is a necessity for me to labour while it is still day, for lo! the Russian night cometh when no freeman can work.' At least we have one drop of comfort for Mr. Bradshaw. The Russian policy sanctioned by the Treaty of May 8, 1852, remains to be accomplished, and it has already received a severe check in the Danish Parliament.

Erratum in our last Number.

In the "News of the Week," Sir George Grey was described as Member for Alnwick. It should have been Morpeth. Alnwick does not return a member, though Alnwick Castle has been supposed to exercise that constitutional privilege till recently.

The Leader.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7, 1854.

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.

GREAT BRITAIN GOING TO WAR.

UNLESS the omens are mistaken, the year 1854 is to witness the commencement of a great European war in which Britain must take a leading part. Four-fifths of the effective population of Great Britain have been expecting this issue for some time past, and have even been desiring it. Of the remaining one-fifth a large portion have been compelled within the last week or two to give in. They have had a Cabinet after their own hearts, a Cabinet acting to the very uttermost on their principles, a Cabinet certified as excellent in this part of its policy by Messrs. Bright and Cobden themselves; and yet this Cabinet has at last given up the hope of a pacific solution, and sent forth war-orders among our military and naval establishments. Those of the middle and commercial classes, therefore, who have relied on this Cabinet as a Government anxious to carry out the policy agreeable to them, and save Great Britain from the necessity of going to war, must by this time see that there is no course left but that which they have tried so long to avoid. Where in Great Britain will a political party be found bold enough to say that it could work the Peace-principle in the present Eastern question further than it has been already worked by the Ministry of Lord Aberdeen? Why, that Ministry has boiled the Peace-principle to rags, and has even submitted the bones of it to Papin's digester—an instrument which will obtain gelatin and make soup out of anything osseous on this side of a fossil. If the Aberdeen Ministry has concluded for war, it is time for even the followers of the Peace Societies to be singing Dibdin's songs, and practising in shooting-galleries.

We can conceive but of two classes of persons who can consistently hold out any longer for peace, and lag behind the great mass of the nation now moving forward to the battle against Russia. One is the class of mercantile blockheads who know nothing of the whole question now agitating Europe but that war will derange the money-market, and be expensive. These persons are simply to be set aside in the national reckoning, as incapable even of seeing the bearings of the question as one of commercial interest. The other class deserves more respect. It consists of those who push the Peace-principle to its last logical extreme—that is, who maintain that war in any conceivable circumstances is wrong, and that the necessity of going to war in furtherance of any cause, or in defence of any cause, is to be regarded as a revelation to men that that cause is to be abandoned, and that Providence wills that the other side shall win. This class of persons, however, constitute at most but about one-tenth per cent. of the entire British community; and it is sufficient to point out, by way of reply to them, that their doctrine amounts to this, that conscientiousness must always be on the losing side. Britain, being conscientious, obeys the intimation of Providence, refuses to go to war, and loses; Russia, being unconscientious, despises the intimation, goes to war, and, by doing so, wins! If it is blackguardism to go to war, only blackguardism will be warlike in behalf of its ends; and thus the world has no hope except in those grand laws of which we hear so much, whose function it is to outwit blackguardism in the long run, and convert it all into beneficence and moonshine.

In point of fact, then, the entire nation of Great Britain is deliberately and voluntarily about to go to war. It has made up its mind that now, after thirty-eight years of general peace, an emergency has arrived in which it is necessary to have recourse again to the last and most terrible mode of human action either for aggressive or for defensive purposes—the annihilation, by steel and

gunpowder, of all that portion of the very contents of our globe, human beings and their buildings included, which is charged with the element of hostility and injury. A great political power called Russia, so far behind all similar powers on the earth as to be accounted barbarous, has long been extending its influence beyond its original limits, and is now proposing to take under its stewardship the most important parts of Eastern Europe and Western Asia, with an ulterior view to dominion in Western Europe and in India; this power has been reasoned with, lectured, and treated didactically with no effect; and now there remains nothing else than, either to allow it all the extent of geographical stewardship it wants, or, if we regard that as an evil, to walk up to the power, seize it by sheer force, and inflict on it such a mutilation as will cure it for ever both of the desire and of the faculty of this detestable stewardship. The process may cost us millions, but it must be undertaken and carried to a conclusion. And what may reconcile us to the war thus rendered necessary is that, according to the most severe mode of judgment, it is strictly a defensive war. It is a war of the West in defence of her civilisation. It is a war of Great Britain in defence of her commerce, her colonies, her liberties, her moral greatness, and the very sustenance of her inhabitants.

The fact that we are thus, as a nation, pledged and committed to war, entails on us certain duties, and a certain style of behaviour.

1. *We must place and keep ourselves in the war attitude.* The nation must be unanimous. Men and parties must cease to ride their separate hobbies—their peace-movements, their ballot-movements, and what not; or, at least, must ride them gently. There must be but one cry, one thought in the nation—resistance to Russia. There must be no financial stinginess, but a perfect generosity in all matters of ships, and regiments, and gunpowder. We must cultivate the war-spirit by talking of Nelson and Wellington, and singing and humming all our old national songs. Our newspapers must reform their rhetoric. There must be no more talk about the horrors of war—the burning villages, the destroyed warehouses, the writhing corpses on battle-fields, the increased amount of widowhood and orphanage, and matters of that kind. We know all that infinitely well already, and we have deliberately passed the boundary within which such descriptions are opportune and proper. It is hypocrisy any longer to speak of peace as a blessing. Now is the time to sound the trumpets; we will sing the dirges afterwards.

2. *With all this enthusiasm, we must know clearly what we are about, and be prepared to carry on the war thoroughly and intelligently.* In other words, it must become a distinct notion in the universal mind of Great Britain that the object of this war is to cripple Russia; and that the only natural termination of the war is the thorough accomplishment of that object. We cannot desist from this war on any mere treaty of *status quo*, or evacuation of the Principalities; or throwing open of the Black Sea; or abrogation of existing treaties between Russia and Turkey. We must fasten our teeth in the war, and continue it doggedly and grandly, until we have reduced Russia to that condition in which she shall be at least innocuous in the confederacy of nations. What does this mean? It means, in all probability, the political extinction of the House of Romanoff. It means certainly the destruction of the system of that House, and the letting in of light upon Russia. It means a revolution of Russian society. It means a resuscitation of Poland, an emancipation of Denmark, and a diminution, by several large slices, of the present dimensions of Russia on the map. All this is involved even in the negative aim of the war—protection from future Russian aggression; and any cessation of the war short of these results will be absolute folly and infatuation. Moreover, once engaged in the war, there are certain collateral positive designs which it ought to be made to subserve. Our object should be, not only to extract out of this war the greatest possible amount of humiliation to Russia (that is, of course, not to the Russian nation, but to the political system of the Czar), but also to extract out of it the greatest amount of liberty for the rest of Europe, and of contribution to the cause of progress and civilisation, it can anyhow be made to yield. And what does this involve? It involves the dissolution of Austria, that detestable figment in the European system; it in-

volves the liberation of Hungary, the liberation of Italy, the erection of new Slavonian nationalities, and an entire re-arrangement of Europe, on a basis which will render all future wars unnecessary, and this war the last. War on any other terms will be a bad bargain. If the war on which we are now entering is to end in another treaty of Vienna, like the one of 1815, we are fools for beginning it; and all the money we may expend upon it will be money thrown into the sea.

But, if Great Britain shall thus plainly recognise the nature and bearing of the war to which she is now committed, are not certain things immediately necessary, in order that the war may be carried on well, and as she wishes? There are. In the first place, we cannot go to war with any security with an Aberdeen Ministry for our Agency. Our present Cabinet must be reconstructed: and Lord Aberdeen, at least, must be turned out of it. A Cabinet, with that man in it, at the present time, would bring Britain to ruin. Even a Palmerstonian Cabinet will give us cause enough for alarm and criticism. But with such a Cabinet we might possibly get on, if one other thing were made imperative—a change in our system of secret diplomacy. If this war is carried on diplomatically, we are undone. We shall have another Vienna treaty, as sure as fate. If we are to have a war, let it be a war in which the British People shall know every step, and conclude their own peace. For some activity towards this end, the country necessarily looks to the Parliament which is to assemble on the last day of the present month. It will be one of the most notable sessions of Parliament that Great Britain has yet seen.

WINTER, ITS TRIALS, AND ITS LESSONS.

WITHIN the last few weeks the state of the country has been totally altered, as much altered in its sensations as in its aspect. The surface has been clothed far and near in white; the sky has undergone every change, sometimes a brilliant sun being reflected from the frozen surface of the earth, as from a mirror of glass, at other times clouds coming over with a moisture like warmth, which melted the ice and snow only to be congealed again in strange cast-iron forms. Snow-storms then succeeded; the quiet of the air has been followed by gusty winds; the hilly lands exhibited strange patches of bare earth, in the midst of a snow-field; or sometimes the snow drifted until there are heaps many feet deep, disguising the outlines of the country. In towns, the architecture of the houses is newly picked out with lines of white like fur, or is disguised in masses of snow, according to the caprice of the wind. The traveller has been blinded by the sleet. The rural parts are more desolate than they have been for months, if not for years, here and there a dead body marking the intense cold. The towns are comparatively deserted by carriages of all kinds. London itself seems to have undergone some event which restores numbers of its population, much reluctant, to forgotten foot traffic.

Harsh as the season is, it is not altogether without its pleasures. As every indication shows, from the quotations in the money market to the larder of the private house, from the Board of Trade returns to the countenance of the schoolboy, the resources of comfort are more abundant than usual. If skating is suspended by the snow-drift, the very labour of removing the frozen and heaped-up rain makes a sport in itself.

Except for those to whom the robe of prosperity has not extended even its fringe; who have no comforts, no consolations; who lack even the ordinary means of meeting cold and hunger. For them, that which is but a sport or a zest to others, is a misery. Assuredly many years have passed since the very poor have felt the sting of hardship and hard weather as they do in these hours. One looks round to know what has been done to provide against that suffering, or what might now be done.

Commerce, we are told—the “stimulus of competitive invention,” “supply and demand”—will secure for society all that is needed. We have had many occasions to deny this gross presumption; but never was the protest offered by the whole face of nature so clamorous as it is at the present moment. In order to render industry thoroughly provident and productive, it is necessary that there should be some intelligent Concert between those who are carrying on its divided employment. It is the want of that concert that has brought about many of the troubles that now

oppress us. In the cotton trade, for example, it has both created the occasion of the present dispute, and it now prevents the solution. What is the true cause of that state of the trade which renders it less valuable to the mill-owner, while it is actually extending, and prevents a rise of wages in the midst of the advancing prosperity of the country? The cotton factory system has been pronounced the crowning triumph of British industry, and yet it now cannot advance its wages as wages advance in other trades, because, as the manufacturers tell us, their own profits are declining. Now, why is that? Principally for two reasons. First, because the manufacturers, while obliged to meet foreign competition, have had no concert amongst themselves to arrange the quantity and distribution of their exports, and have thus beaten down each other; and they have thus helped to depress themselves as a body, aiding the mischievous influence of the dreaded "foreign rivals!" Secondly, because the masters have endeavoured to keep down wages by setting their working people one against the other, and by employing a larger proportion of women and children, as they do at Preston; thus demoralising the home of the operative, and bringing down the character of the labour. Instead of this, they might, if they had copied the simple example of the iron trade, have done much to check over-trading or mis-directed trading. If they had caught the spirit of a lesson to be derived from the intelligent labour in some of the iron trades, they might have found that the true course is, not to substitute an inferior species of labour, but to cultivate that kind of operative whose intelligence and skill assimilate him to the engineer, and so to reduce the cost of production, not by an abatement of wages to the individual, but by paying higher wages, and procuring that superior labour which is more productive in a geometrical ratio. This application of concert, not without its example in cognate trades, would have prevented that strike; which might now be ended, if the master would only consent to mutual explanation. In the whole round of industry and commerce, there is no such striking exception to the general prosperity as that same cotton trade and its strike.

But for the poor much more has been done to aggravate instead of mitigating their hardships. Bread is dearer than it needed to have been; fuel is dear because conspiracies are arranged for the very purpose of making it so. The *Newcastle Chronicle* explains a single form of this conspiracy, and we are aware that it is not the only form. On the 9th and 12th of December arrived in the port of London 600 sail of colliers. Coals were at that time about 28s. a ton or more, and they were rising. Here, then, was a relief to the consumer; but there were circumstances which contributed to cut off that relief. The coal factors did not think it desirable to permit such a check for rising prices, and there was "a Bonaparte blow" to be effected. The gas companies were very short of coals. Some, says our contemporary, had but twelve hours' stock on hand; and a reduction of price on the cargo of that great fleet would secure its absorption in the great maw of the gas furnace; the price was reduced to 26s., and the whole floating coal-field was cleared off. Soon afterwards, the consumer discovered that the price of house coals was 33s. and 35s. Now do the coal-owners profit by that rise of prices? On the contrary, the interests of the coal-owners in the North would be greatly improved if they could bring to the metropolis such quantities of a material practically exhaustless as would render coals "as cheap as dirt." But that anti-concert in the London pool cuts off even the supplies which the too limited means of transit can bring us. The means of transit, indeed, would not have been so limited if some concert had presided over the distribution and construction of the railways which bring us so very small a portion; and the produce would be increased, if by a better understanding the masters had educated their men to work more continuously and more intelligently. Domestic discord is an expensive indulgence, and the Londoner may learn its influence by raising the price of coals.

The poor are ill-lodged, not because the business of providing good lodging for the poor is commercially unprofitable, but because commerce has left that branch of its business to fall by chance into the hands of worthless speculators and low-minded dabblers in house property. The poor in London are now enduring all the hardships of cold houses, ill-ventilated rooms, drafty holes in

which the fire scarcely causes warmth, bad drainage, and ill-devised ventilation, because no intelligence has presided over the arrangement of this part of the household of society. And those bad lodgings are dear, because commerce has not listened to "the demand," and has left "the supply" to the low classes whom we have mentioned.

Bread is dearer for this disconcert, which aggravates the cost of production in all quarters of our own country. Indifferent landlords settle their lands with farmers on bad leases; farmers with limited capital take more land than they can work, and rub on with labourers, stupid because ignorant, and listless because paid at a rate which scarcely supports life, much less exertion. Thus our corn is less in quantity, inferior in quality, and dearer in price, than it would be if landlord, farmer, and labourer would really "row in the same boat," and consent to bring us a better cargo. Abroad our Government has winked at the conspiracies of crowned heads against their own peoples, and has thus really connived at the power acquired by treacherous Russia, not only to undermine Turkey, but to dam up our food supplies from the Danube and Baltic. And the better understanding which help to bring us constantly enlarging supplies from America has grown up between the peoples in spite of the impertinent slight with which our Government has thought fit occasionally to risk the friendliness between England and America.

Thus the want of understanding makes clothing, lodging, fuel, and food dearer than they would be in this hard winter; and then we see the great English journal coming forth with an exhortation against charity, or recommending charity only to distribute its dole through the police office! It appears to us that if those who pretend to rule and influence society have allowed these hardships to come upon the poor, they ought now to go down into the cottage and the cellar, and see that special measures be taken to supply the omission by clothing, warming, and feeding the destitute.

JANUARY 30, 1649, AND JANUARY 31, 1854.

PARLIAMENT meets on the 31st of this month; it will then ask Ministers, not only what they have been doing in the East, but what these reports mean about Prince Albert. The rumours have been repeated, over and over again, in several of the journals; they have been mentioned by those of our newspapers which are conducted with the greatest sense of responsibility, and by those which are avowedly attached to the Government; and although terms have been employed which signify that the reports are not worth attention, we believe that as yet not the smallest contradiction has been made. This cannot be because the reports are not specific enough. For example, it has been stated that when Ministers have audience of the Queen, Prince Albert is present. If it has not been stated, it has been insinuated as distinctly as statement, that Ministers are called upon to defend their propositions before Prince Albert. It has been stated that the Prince is in communication with all the Courts of Europe, except that of France. And it has been insinuated, again in terms as distinct as statement, that the Prince interferes with the administration of some public department—the Horse Guards, for example. We are quite aware that at present these reports are unsupported by any proof; but they are believed, and it is almost impossible that the public should withhold belief, when a statement so excessively dangerous to the Crown is daily and hourly repeated in the most public places without contradiction, and is even alluded to by the correspondent of the *Times* itself, in a letter from Vienna, written on the 28th of December. The passage is the more interesting since it is printed only in the second edition of Tuesday, and is withdrawn from the usual reprint on Wednesday morning:

"Instead of being astonished that the 'house-policy' of the Colbours is so severely animadverted on in England, the Austrians appear surprised that the British nation was so slow to remark what was going on. A brief reference to past events will suffice to show that England has indirectly been in the leading strings of Russia and Austria. Some few months since Russia found it convenient to remember that a kingdom of Belgium figured on the map of Europe, and the consequence was that the Ulysses of Europe was recognised as a 'legitimate' sovereign by the imperious Czar. In order still further to strengthen his position, King Leopold aimed at a family alliance with the House of Austria, and accordingly the marriage between the Duke of Brabant and the Archduchess Maria was arranged. It is positively affirmed that as soon as all was thus 'made right' between the King of the Belgians and the two great Northern Powers,

the former undertook to convince his high relatives and friends in England that an intimate alliance with France would be pernicious to England. How well the astute monarch has acquitted himself of his task has been seen by the humiliating part which England has so long been playing in the great political drama which now exclusively occupies the attention of the world. The Earl of Westmoreland may, and probably does, assure the British Cabinet that the Russian Emperor will certainly make concessions to the wishes of the other Powers, but every one here feels convinced that he will do no such thing. It appears that the hope of inducing Austria to assist in making head against the dangerous encroachments of Russia is still cherished in England, but this is entirely out of the question. Her active co-operation the Western Powers will never have, but if France and England go together heart and hand, she cannot venture to meddle or make in the Oriental question. Circumstances prevent my expressing my opinions on this subject freely, but you may place great confidence in my knowledge of the exact position in which Austria stands."

The eve before the meeting of Parliament is that dedicated to "Charles the Martyr," so called because, according to the authorised calendar and the set forms of the Established Church, Charles the First, who was condemned by his country to suffer death for the attempt to subvert its constitution, by snatching for the crown the taxing power of Parliament, is regarded as the martyr. If he was a victim of martyrdom, it follows that the acts for which he suffered are, in the authorised view, a sacred cause. Every year the tolling bells of the Established Churches remind the people of this country, that the Court and constituted authorities take the side of Charles the First; and every year the country laughs at that impudent mummery of martyrdom.

The retention of the ceremony shows how little our royal Government has learned to understand its true position in reference to the country; and if it can still regard Charles as a martyr, it may be equally mistaken in some other respects. For example, it may suppose that the attempt to tax by absolute power was the worst element of Charles's conduct; whereas the true crime which that person committed was the attempt to infringe upon the constitution. Other infringements of the constitution would be as dangerous as that which he attempted in the taxing department. The government of the standing army is anomalous, and we are not prepared to define the amount of interference which a member of the Royal Family and a Field-Marshal might exercise; but we are quite aware that no collateral of the Royal Family can have, by the letter of the constitution, any right to assist at audiences of the Cabinet Council with the Sovereign; still less by the usage of our constitution. When Parliament meets, the public will expect to be told distinctly, "yes or no," whether any other person besides a responsible Minister of the Crown has had the opportunity of learning what passes in the council; especially if that person should also have the opportunity of communicating with courts, whether friendly to this country, or now engaged in the endeavour to undermine us before meeting us in open war.

MILITIA AND VOLUNTEER CORPS.

LORD PALMERSTON has just issued instructions to the Lords Lieutenants of Counties, that the regulated contribution of each officer towards the mess, shall be the same in the militia as in the line, namely, half-a-crown a day; a regulation intended to equalise the expenditure, and to accommodate it to the means of officers who may not be rich. It appears to us, however, that the time is approaching when the present militia law can be most advantageously revised. It is, in many respects, encumbered with relics of our feudal system, which may be regarded as dead for any useful purpose, and available only for the limitation of genuine good. A distinction of caste is kept up between officers and men which belongs to a past state of society, and is not found even in the army. Gentlemen bearing her Majesty's commission in the line are not obliged to have a property qualification. The sole effect of the qualification is, to keep the commission of the militia, which should be a national force, within a class; to mark out that class invidiously, and so far to occasion feelings of discontent and humiliation amongst the men. Those who possess it, in many cases, no more represent our "aristocracy" than they represent the families which came in with William the Conqueror, or with Hengist and Horsa. It might probably be asserted with safety, that the majority of those who hold commissions in the militia are *parvenus*.

There is, however, a more practical reason for the revision of the law. Every good rea-

son appears to confirm the supposition, that this year will witness the commencement of a war in which this country must take a prominent share. All parties will agree that it is desirable to keep down the expenditure which war entails. Already there are reports, that several of our regiments are wanted for foreign service, and evidently it is desirable on many grounds to avoid an augmentation of the standing army. That may be done in great part by extending the age at which men are liable to serve in the militia; but on various grounds the militia is unpopular, if not odious. In part the distinction which we have mentioned renders service in its ranks derogatory; and no gentleman would like to serve in it. This consideration gives additional force to another, arising from the comparatively inferior character of the force, which also renders the service to a certain extent humiliating. However ambitious a man may be of cutting a good figure and performing his duties in a soldierly style, it inevitably happens that the character of the force is produced by circumstances beyond his controul, and he can do very little to elevate it.

Even in the United States this latter motive operates to some extent, and there is a general preference to avoid service in the militia. The Republic, however, requires that the great body of its able-bodied men should be trained and liable to summons for military service; and the difficulty is got over by a very simple process. Every man must serve in the militia, unless he be enrolled in an authorised volunteer corps; an arrangement not unknown to this country.

There are many advantages in the use of volunteer corps. Those who serve can sort themselves into classes, without any invidious distinctions within the corps; they can regulate their expenses according to their means, and thus afford every scope for the unrestricted indulgence of harmless expense, where a volunteer has the means or facility. According to the taste and ability of the volunteer, he might enrol himself in a crack company, with a superior costume and well-provided mess, and society suited to his tastes and habits, or he might enter into a plain corps, intended for work and not for show. The voluntary assorted character of this corps also encourages a species of just emulation between different corps in the display of soldierly qualities, qualities which cannot be displayed without their being to a certain extent really attained. A well-arranged system of volunteer corps, in fact, more truly enables the country to distribute itself spontaneously into a full military representation of all classes, than any militia, or still more, than any standing army. Short of a conscription law, which this country would not endure, there is no other means of rendering it tolerable for a gentleman to carry a musket, or for a soldierly man of real military genius amongst the unwealthy class to tolerate the cost of costume and means.

The subject is one which merits attention, at a time when every regiment in Ireland, with a single exception, is under orders for foreign service, and when the movements of regiments in England show that a large proportion of our standing army may have to be sent abroad. We shall then want an army to possess the country; and it does appear to us that no army can do that so well as the flower of the people itself.

THE GOVERNMENT AND THE UNIVERSITIES.

The letter of Lord Palmerston to Prince Albert on the subject of University Reform at Cambridge, may be taken as a sufficient indication of the extent to which our Government is inclined to accede to the recommendations of the Commissioners. We are quite ready to acknowledge that Cambridge is less open to rebuke than Oxford. From whatever cause it may proceed, whether from the character of its studies, or the inclinations of the ruling body, that University has ever exhibited an apparent willingness to adapt its system to the requirements of the day. The Fellows of Trinity College are the fairest specimens that can be produced of the results of university training. Stronger inducements are held out for proficiency in the physical sciences. Some years have elapsed since the honours, if not the rewards, of the university were conferred on young men distinguished for their attainments in history,

law, and moral science. But these signs of partial progress must not blind us to the radical defects of the institution. The discussion between ourselves and the advocates of a moderate reform on the one hand, or the upholders of the existing system on the other, is one of principle, and not of details. It is useless to amputate a single limb when the whole body is corrupt. If the principle of life has become extinct, we can look for nothing but decay and dissolution. If the disease has taken root in the very heart of our Universities, if they embody no principle, and are animated by no idea, what can follow but paralysis and death? They belong to the past, they are abiding monuments of a superstitious despotism and of priestly intolerance. They form no portion of the national life. Without relation to the present time, with no sympathy for its wants, or unable to comprehend them, these wealthy but dying institutions excite no anger, because they have no claim upon our esteem. By the great body of the nation they are passed by and trodden under foot.

Hence it is of little use to make any attack upon details. The miserable results of a three years' course at an English University are universally acknowledged. After fourteen years of preparation at a public school, and at one of the Universities, the great majority of young Englishmen discover that they have spent their money, time, and labour to little purpose. They mix in society, and they are ignorant of the most ordinary topics of conversation. They fall in with artists, lawyers, surgeons, and men of letters, to say nothing of ploughmen and mechanics, and blush to find that they know so little of the world which lives and stirs around them. It is not, indeed, improbable that some changes may be effected in this respect. We believe that the Government has decided upon recommending a considerable extension in the systems of education now pursued at the Universities. But, beyond this, we see no prospect of improvement. It does not appear that public opinion in Oxford is ripe, or that Government is prepared for the abolition of those tests which are the real obstacles to any effective reform. It is not even certain that, in spite of Lord Palmerston's recommendation, the constitution of the Universities will be re-organised on a truly liberal basis. We have no reason to believe that the principles of government, which have produced such happy results in this country, will be applied to the future government of the Universities. It is even less probable that the restrictions now laid upon the tenure of fellowship will be removed or lessened. It is worth while to quote the evidence of Dr. Hawkins on this point, as an illustration of the opinions entertained by the Hebdomadal Board. "If we have anywhere set aside the spirit of our original statutes, it is rather perhaps in our not requiring of our fellows, who are admitted to the study of the Law or Medicine, to take Holy Orders at all; for such students were originally ecclesiastics. But I trust that in this instance also the intention of the statutes is sufficiently preserved." This speaks for itself, and the evidence of Dr. Pusey, which breathes in every line the most naive hostility to the Commissioners, is to the same effect. It is obvious that both the Hebdomadal Board, and the majority of Oxford tutors, hold that "the educating body in the Universities should be clergymen." And, as if it were not enough to express their private convictions, they maintain that "the feeling of the country" necessitates such restrictions. Surely this unabashed display of ignorance is sufficient to ensure their condemnation as superintendents of Education. Does not this account for the mournful fact that the nation and its Universities are without a single bond of union? Will this country ever be convinced that men cannot teach chemistry, botany, geology, or even scholarship and history, without having received a call to the discharge of spiritual functions? While, however, such notions continue to prevail, the nation and the Universities must remain distinct, and these wealthy institutions, rich in royal and aristocratic endowments, in traditions, in honours, in lands, in leisure, in spacious halls, and sylvan Academes: rich in prizes, scholarships, and all manner of incentives to intellectual exertion, will have no part in the future history of our country. Strangely enough we may apply the sarcasm employed in a different connexion, and for a

purpose widely different, by one whose former love for the National Church has been changed into undisguised contempt. "We must not indulge our imagination in the view we take of the National Establishment. As, in fairy tales, the magic castle vanishes when the spell is broken, and nothing is seen but the wild heath, the barren rock, and the forlorn sheep-walk: so it is with us as regards the Church of England, when we look in amazement on what we thought so unearthly, and find so common-place or worthless."

OUR DEAR OLD MEN.

SOMETHING appears to be amiss in Army and Navy. Lord Hardinge's resignation is revoked, and the difficulty has been overcome. But there is one standing evil to which a recent incident has called attention. Both Army List and Navy List are burdened with superannuated gentlemen, who are retained in service because it would be hard to take away their pay. They are really pensioners in commission, with this striking absurdity, that it is as if the enrolled Chelsea pensioners were to be made the forlorn hope of the Army; for these epauletted pensioners stand in the foremost ranks for command.

A mutiny has broken out in the flag-ship at Hongkong, and when the cause is asked, it is found in a very arbitrary act of cruelty on the part of the commanding officer, Admiral Fleetwood Pellew. The men preferred a reasonable request for leave to go ashore, and he answered it with ordering the ship to sea. The men hesitated, and he gave orders to put down mutiny with the sword, which the officers on board did as a matter of inevitable duty. This is the same Fleetwood Pellew who, in a similar manner, was commanding officer when the crew of the *Resistance* mutinied in the Mediterranean forty years ago. One has not heard much of this Admiral, until he suddenly comes before the public as a professor in the science of mutiny-making.

When we look back to the disaster at Cabul, and see the effect of placing an army under the command of an invalid pensioner—and when we look forward, and see the position in which our armies and our fleets may be placed at no distant date—we are doubly alive to the truth that it is a desperate delinquency to send very aged gentlemen to sea, or to place men whose prime belongs to the age of Waterloo in active service forty years later.

PROGRESS VIEWED FROM THE HEAD OF THE IGUANODON.

"SEEING is believing." Among great specimens at the Crystal Palace in Sydenham, will be those of the gigantic animals that peopled the world, we will not say before the Deluge, but in ages before the present surface of the globe existed. For the world had to develop its surface out of its vegetation and animals, whose dust mingled with the abrasion of its mountains in order to form layer after layer of new soil, before the surface was fit for the tread of mankind. And long before the globe had risen to the present surface upon which we walk, other creatures, alien to our view, then breathed the air in a state of the world impossible to our life, as ours, perhaps, would be to theirs. Then there were frogs ten feet in length, infinitely more calculated to alarm the tender female than the little creatures whose hops are now so often followed by shrieks. Even the sensible Rosamond of Miss Edgeworth might be forgiven for screaming if she saw jumping towards her a frog as broad as three buffaloes abreast; and the Duke of Wellington might have hesitated if he had met on the banks of the Thames the Iguanodon lizard, thirty-five feet in length. The mind has a difficulty in conceiving the actual state of the world at that time; but it is, however, to be realised before us at Sydenham in an arrangement of rocks, marking the successive formations, and in models of those great creatures, the Iguanodon, Megatharium, Ichthyosaurus, and so forth, some of whom strayed about the land where the Crystal Palace now stands, before there were human eyes to look upon them.

The dullest of sceptics might begin to conceive

some idea of the development theory by seeing thus brought into juxtaposition the British population of some unknown era long before the age of man with the latest works that human intellect can accumulate in one view. The *Iguanodon*, who glared with reptile eyes upon a waste of waters and wooded lands, will stand, by his model, in the midst of objects to represent all that the world has done in art, from the days when mere image-making began in Egypt, was nursed in Nineveh, and matured as sculpture and painting in Greece, to the days when science has surveyed not the solar system alone, but the wide waste of independent firmaments—has penetrated the crust of the globe and scoured the history of its formation back to the days of the *Iguanodon* and the *Megatherium*, and has given to common life all the common arts of mechanics, manufactures, navigation, the compass, the railway, the electric telegraph, printing, physiology, the history of man, and that Positive philosophy which grasps all the sciences into one, and teaches man to learn from all things the conduct of life under the rule of obedience to the Divine Power. A contemporary notes the contrast afforded by the ceremony on Saturday, when a party of scientific men, artists and promoters of the Crystal Palace, dined in the body of the *Iguanodon*, and Professor Owen sat not only at the head of the table but in the head of the counterfeit monster, as he does at the head of the science which has compassed a knowledge of the monster and of the world in which he lived. What a substitution of brains! cries the *Globe*.

The scene, indeed, was the type of that power which henceforward must command the world; that power, of which even those who aid it do not yet thoroughly appreciate either the nature or the intent. If we were to compare, as our contemporary does, the Professor with the præ-Adamite—the Owen with the *Iguanodon*, we might perhaps recognise the greater amount of individual power in the brute. Compare the two, bulk for bulk, length for length, jaw for jaw, and probably you would find that the *Iguanodon* would be a person of greater weight than the Owen. Strip the Owen to his native condition—put him on a level with the *Iguanodon*, who had no shop of any Moses and Son's to deal at—and you would find that the learned Professor would have a less chance of existence in that condition on the banks of the antediluvian Thames than the unlearned non-professor. But what is it that distinguishes the Owen from the *Iguanodon*? The same thing which distinguishes the Owen from the dog, who will sit down times innumerable in the same place in the middle of the street from which he has started at the risk of life on the approach of the unceasing carriages: it is the power of voluntarily putting two ideas together. It happens sometimes, in regard to animals, on whose "intelligence" our popular writers on natural philosophy expatiate, that two ideas occur to them together; but it is man alone that can seek out two severed ideas, and by his will bring them into union. It is said that man cannot create, but only apply; it appears, however, that by that purposed union man can, so to speak, breed ideas, and call into existence a new race, altering the state of the earth wherever civilisation extends its domain, increasing the power of his own race to an extent totally surpassing the imagination or contemplation of undeveloped man, and almost constituting a new and supplemental Nature. If two ideas can be brought together, two pairs may be combined, and so on; and the Crystal Palace is in itself a type and assemblage of combined ideas innumerable.

It is that combination of ideas which gives the power of man in our day. People yet alive can remember when practical wisdom arrogated to itself the power of pronouncing how far improvements could go, and what further invention should be impossible. It is to be hoped that we have outgrown that presumption. The Crystal Palace, which marks our progress up to the end of '53, is the starting point for '54.

Old-fashioned Absolutism is based upon another blasphemy, in denying any practicability or freedom to such combination: the distinctive operation of Absolutism is to prevent men from putting ideas together beyond the union of royal power and passive obedience; decreeing that public intelligence shall stop itself at the ideas of hereditary thrones and standing armies; and denying all interchange of ideas to suppressed peoples and severed nations. But, thank God, there are free lands on the earth, where men

can put ideas together without restraint or reproach; and that co-operation, we conceive, will in the end prove too strong for the prohibitory regime.

THE NATIONAL FREEHOLD LAND SOCIETY.

WHY was the National Freehold Land Society established?

In order to create working-class forty-shilling freehold votes in the metropolitan counties; and to carry Mr. Hume's four-point Reform motion. The National Freehold Land Society was in fact established by the National Reform Association; and it was founded at the period when Mr. Cobden was preaching his temporary gospel that the forty-shilling freeholders would revolutionise the House of Commons.

The third annual report of the National Freehold Land Society has just been published; and not a figure is presented in proof that a single vote has been created! In fact, the tone of the report is a tone of boasting that the society has been converted chiefly, if not exclusively, into a mere bank of deposit.

Did Mr. Cobden revise the report? And if the association, and the whole forty-shilling freehold movement are politically a failure, will Mr. Cobden say so?

THE GOVERNING CLASSES.

No. XVII.

LORD STANLEY, D.C.L.

"Sir," said the first Pitt to the first Horace Walpole, in the course of a debate, "the atrocious crime of being a young man, which the honourable gentleman has with such decency and spirit charged against me, I shall neither attempt to palliate nor deny; but content myself with wishing that I may be one of those whose follies may cease with their youth, and not of that number who are ignorant in spite of experience. (Cheers and laughter.) Whether youth, Sir, can be imputed to any man as a reproach, I will not assume the province of determining. But, surely, age may become justly contemptible if the opportunities which it brings have passed away without improvement; and vice appears to prevail when the passions have subsided. (Cheers and laughter.) The wretch that, after having seen the consequences of a thousand errors, continues still to blunder, and whose age has only added obstinacy to stupidity, is surely either the object of abhorrence or contempt, and deserves not that his grey hairs should secure him from insults. Much more, Sir, is he to be abhorred who, as he has advanced in age has receded from virtue, and becomes more wicked with less temptation; who prostitutes himself for money he cannot enjoy, and spends the remains of his life in the ruins of his country."

This spirited and Johnsonian-reported protest of the celebrated cornet against the conceit of Fogydomy is worthy of prefacing a sketch upon a statesman whose principal distinction is that he is a young statesman. Whatever the vices or the stupidities of our illustrious aristocracy, the most cynical of democrats can have no reason to complain that they are occasionally young: for if it be urged that the Governing Classes commence to govern very young, the reply is that if our People's House is to be half-filled with Lords, it is better that they should be distinguished from the Peers' House by their youthfulness,—and, further, that a noble is most generous when young,—and that an old Parliamentary noble is less stupid in proportion to his Parliamentary experience. There is, therefore, no objection to be made to Lord Stanley because he entered the House of Commons at the age of twenty-two years. Perhaps it is not enlightened in this country to be governed, in a large degree, by the votes of boys: but it is really creditable to our aristocracy that the young fellows do wait for the legal majority before they take their seats. This is an improvement: before the Reform Bill they never had such a scruple.—Fox, for instance, always having boasted that he was a Parliamentary success before he had done growing. Were we sure that, if our independent boroughs rejected lordlings, they would elect clean and middle-aged gentlemen of the middle class, with "views" on political economy and plans about railways, then no doubt we should be right to insist on

that Roman rule which excluded fathers under forty. But, in fact, it is a piece of luck to get a young lord; for until the young lord is ready the seat is invariably filled by an old warming-pan. And this is further observable—that the old warming-pan will talk, and that the young lord generally can't, up to thirty. If we must be governed by an aristocracy, then, let it be by themselves, and not by their stewards,—by the Stanleys, and not by the Rigbys. Besides, why a law against young aristocrats when there is no law against young democrats? In this country, if a green democrat desires to be in earnest, there is a free stage for him to shriek his impotent ambition; and to illustrate the case, I may mention that "Non-Elector," when only twenty-two, organised a national democratic agitation, which he thought was a "movement," and found was only a spasm—for which reason he rather sympathises with young lords who break down in the opposite political hemisphere—the more that they are able to get up again.

There can be the less objection to Lord Stanley that he is a young man without youth: and there can be the less objection to the system that he, returned by it, was enabled to become a House of Commons' personage before he was twenty-five. And when his career, brief but significant, is studied, all the objections will in his case disappear. He is not one of those who lounged into the House as into any other West-end club: and who took to government as a privilege of his order. We could not expect that he, heir to a peerage, and of a name in our day so distinguished, should refuse the opportunity of solidifying his rank; and, at least, we must admit that the first was the only advantage he has taken of his birth. To deserve that position which he could have kept, like so many of his class, without desert, he appears to have resolutely set about learning his business as an hereditary legislator. A Public School and University Education had, of course, incapacitated him for comprehending anything of current human affairs: and it is to his credit, that the moment the mysterious custom of his caste, which compels several years' residence in one of two of the most vicious towns in the empire, had been duly complied with, and that he discovered his alarming ignorance, he immediately began his own culture—unlearning as much as possible in the first place. In a young gentleman of twenty-two it was a bold course—to proclaim that having "finished" his "education" he was quite unfit for English life until he had seen America, India, and the West Indies, and gone through the sugar and cotton questions. How is it that with all our experience of the ruinous effects of schools upon the mind, "education" is perpetually proffered as the only proper test of man's fitness for the possession of political privilege? The educated classes are notoriously the most ignorant—politically: no body of working men would commit such errors in political economy and historical deduction as a body of either of the Universities when they have to deal with a contemporary political question. The educated classes are eternally opposed to reforms of all sorts; the educated classes supply our statesmen: and the careers of all our statesmen are careers of contradictions and inconsistencies. The educated classes fill our House of Commons; and our House of Commons cheers courageously all the current drivels and all the established delusions of exploded political philosophy—until the manufacturers and the mobs carry their uneducated convictions. We are asked to confer a special franchise, and special representation on our "learned" bodies; and we are to hope that such confraternities would, in election times, rush to the philosophers (on finding their addresses) as the members of their choice. But what sort of men do the learned bodies prefer now? Is the intellect of Sir Robert Inglis the measure of the advance of British civilisation? Is Mr. Goulburn the sage of the day? An utterly uneducated artisan might vote for Socialism; but a frightfully instructed master of arts votes for Inglism; and which voter is the most frantic,—which system the most practicable? All these things Lord Stanley would seem to have discovered in time; and a course of blue books was prescribed by himself to break up the mental stagnation of his University degree,—draughts of Hansard completing a cure, commenced by the committee calomel. He enlarged the grand tour by taking in Asia, Africa,

and America: and though a man, as Mrs. Crewe said, may go round the world, and never be in it, yet Lord Stanley seems to have had a talent for seeing, and, in consequence of actual inspection and study on the spot, became at once in the House of Commons, crowded with men who could have corrected mere "cram," an authority on two classes of question of the highest importance—questions relating to India, and questions relating to the sugar-producing colonies. Knowledge, the most flimsy person will tell you, is power; but not one in one thousand, however conscious of the advantage, will work for that pre-eminence which he attains who is master of his subject. No one, whose tastes lie in the direction of political research, can attend the discussions of the Houses of Parliament without observing, with astonishment, the general ignorance of the mass of speakers on the history of "questions," and the apparent reason is, that only the fluent and the clever speak, and that the fluent and the clever trust to their fluency and their cleverness, and their grasp of the mere current topic, to carry them through successful statements, and—still easier task—successful replies. Lord Stanley, inheriting fluency—and although, in our day, fluency alone would not suffice to obtain power—could have got on very well in well-set speeches, based upon the chat of a dinner-party, and the hints of a newspaper. But he seems to have been guided by a solid ambition to obtain a substantial position. He was quite right: from year to year the tone of our Parliament is necessarily becoming less oratorical and more precise. For reasons not now to be dilated on, but which have reference to the circumstance that the House of Commons is ceasing to be a Senate, and becoming a Board, Lord Derby, when he entered Parliament, was compelled to be less reckless than was Charles Fox, when Charles Fox commenced: and Lord Derby's son, influenced by the gradual change of the times, was compelled to be more careful than Lord Derby was. Taste, rather than tact, may have dictated this. All the Stanleys, it has been noticed, are combative, and appear to conceive that only that amount of science is necessary which enables to spar. But the last Stanley—the present one—seems to have started with a fresh idiosyncrasy: and a grave demeanour, a compact manner, and a courteous style, never suggest the sneer with which mediocre age always welcomes ambitious youth. It is the old members who go about whispering that the coming man is actually arranging for the arrival; and, indeed, it was a pleasant picture, last session, to see Lord Stanley seated on the gangway step, compressedly listening to the experienced private common-place of the revered Mr. Hume. For one thought that this Alcibiades was sure to have the chance of putting into political history this Socrates' gossip.

Why, however, elderly persons will ask, so much writing about so young a man—a young man who has not been a young Pitt—and whose solitary Parliamentary monument is a sugar-loaf? If "Non-Elector" had been alive (and had failed in a political agitation) in 1815—1820, he would have asked two or three columns of the *Leader* of that day to talk about a slim, sickly, little noticed, young man, known at Holland House as John Russell, who, up to that time, had done nothing in Parliament but second hopeless Whig motions in attenuated speeches: and he would have asked this for the same reasons that make him consider Lord Stanley a subject for study now. We live in a country, which is governed, in the end, no doubt, by a great people, but which is administered by an oligarchy; and as the oligarchy is composed of a deplorable set of dull dogs, nothing can be more safe than the prediction, when a clever young oligarch turns up, that when he is a middle-aged oligarch he will be either Prime or a Principal Minister. And as our destinies are to depend on this young man, is it not of the highest importance to us to endeavour to foresee our future in his present tendencies, traits, and characteristics? Undoubtedly there is very little to ascertain accurately; but that little is attended with some circumstances which permit of a hope that we shall have in him rather a decent governor. Entering upon politics at a period when politics were in confusion, when two great parties were expiring, the Whigs from inanition, and

the Tories from poison, it would indeed be surprising if Lord Stanley had been enabled to take up a positive position, or to announce a definitive policy. "*Filius dilectissimus meus*," with a piety that perhaps was partly the consequence of perplexity, followed his father: and how do we know but that when the Tory Troy fell (it was a hearty ten years' siege), Æneas was not calculating upon carrying Priam to a new Conservative realm? Can the wisest of us, not actors in that secret history which is our curse, tell what is Lord Derby's policy? or Mr. Disraeli's policy? Who can say of the body of Tory gentlemen who will sit next session opposite the Queen's Ministers, what are their views upon England's present or upon England's future? Should we look, then, for a programme to Lord Stanley? Like the venerable and confiding Scotch lady, who never ventured on the presumption of understanding the minister of the Kirk, Lord Stanley may regard himself as too young to suggest a plan to a party led by his parent: and we must allow for the difficulty of such a position. In a few years Lord Stanley, with the impetus and prestige derived from his rank, will overtake Mr. Disraeli, as Charles Fox overtook Burke; and will lead the Tory party in the House of Commons: and then we shall see the singular spectacle of father and son managing Parliament in departments. This is the only future for Lord Stanley for very many years to come; and for very many years to come, therefore, we shall hardly have to regard him as a free agent.

But a son, who is in the Commons, has a most unnatural advantage over a father, who is in the Lords; and from this vantage ground might not Lord Stanley lead under Lord Derby? Certainly political confusion is the great opportunity for young politicians: and what a magnificent career is not possible to him who, as it were, inherits the lead of the Tory party, at the moment when the Tory party are about to meet Parliament almost without a principle—clearly without a policy! And now the chances of greatness are increased by the circumstance that this young leader of the Tory party will take his post at the moment when the Whigs disappear! Most of all—is not the crisis superb when, moreover, the people have no plan! We are at a point in our history when, bewildered and amazed, the first great, bold, man who maps a path will lead in it. There is political chaos not only in England, but in Europe; and the cry is for light. No doubt, however, the great bold man must be of the Governing Classes: Browns who preach startling gospels are not attended to at the moment; and Jones's lantern would not sell—darkness being more genteel than day purveyed by a vulgarian. The greater, then, the chances, just now, for young oligarchs who have meaning and manhood. All the old shibboleths are hushed: all the old landmarks are shattered: all the old fences broken down: there is no party, and on the 31st every politician starts fresh. The dull men will search for the old routine: defend Ministers, if they are Ministerialists, on foreign policy, and oppose them, if they are in opposition, for an opposition's eternal technical reasons; the dull and decorous of both sides will believe that the test of enlightenment is Lord John's Bill, and will hope that on either side of this gage of Lord John's, Whigs and Tories will re-arrange themselves. But original minds will reject these "unities" of politics: and insist on a new supply of "principles" for a new generation. Let us trust that a young Tory leader, with the moral of Catholic Emancipation, the Reform Bill, and the Free Trade measures fresh in his mind, will not be contented to renew the old dreary Toryism of resistance. Let us trust that a young Tory leader will see that a wise Conservative would check the democracy Lord Derby dreads by leading it—not by fighting it. We identify, in our day, Toryism with resistance to popular demands; and Whiggism with concession to popular demands. But both theories, as dogmatic theories, are false and fallacious. Position, not principle, has ever governed party in this country: the Whigs have, at times, been more conservative than the Tories: the Tories more "radical" than the Whigs. A young Tory leader of acuteness, observing that that middle class who carried the Reform Bill and Free Trade are now "Peace" fanatics and Conservative negotiators, and that there is

no sympathy between the capitalist and the labouring-class (a pity, but a fact to be noticed by politicians), would put himself at the head of the people, and so oust the Whigs for ever from "popularity."

The history of the Ten Hours' Bill should have shown the Tories that this lord-loving nation, though it may have lost feudal instincts, is most lord-loving among the masses, who at present find the landed aristocracy their natural allies; and the Tories should also observe, that as the next great struggle will be (if the Church doesn't change) about the Church, it would be prudent bravery at once to defy the Dissenting middle class. This is a nation with two aristocracies; and as its democracy is conscious of impotence, it is fatuity in the Tories not to bid for a popularity which would be safe. The Church is too rich to be energetic; otherwise, in a few years, it could win the people from infidelity; and, for analogous reasons, were universal suffrage granted to-morrow, Lord Stanley and Lord John Manners, if they would but consent to resign the petty perquisites of their class for the veritable glory and real power of the actual lead of the people, could carry Manchester from Mr. Bright, and Birmingham from Mr. Muntz. Thus, if the Tories would face with effect a Coalition which is only carrying on the Queen's Government, they will next session appeal, beyond the combinations of parties in an anarchical club, to the common sense of the nation.

There are two questions of the day—Reform and Russia. As to the first, a great Tory leader would now say, "Let us have a real Reform; we may lose our close boroughs, but we shall gain our great cities." As to the second, he would say, "All existing pacts of mankind are broken—let us not talk of treaties, let us not seek order and diplomacy—let us not 'negotiate' with Destiny. Civilisation and Barbarism are at war, one with the other—the Hun is swooping upon Italy—Russia is the common enemy of mankind—let us destroy Russia, or be destroyed."

NON-ELECTOR.

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.

PRINCE ALBERT.

Kempton, January 5th.

(To the Editor of the Leader.)

SIR,—How long shall Prince Albert continue to be the only irresponsible Minister of the Crown? How long will the British nation allow its enormous resources to be wielded for the aggrandisement of the House of Coburg, which is allied to nearly every despot or pretender in Europe? Will it allow the independence of Turkey, like that of Hungary, to be sacrificed to the dynastic interests of Bourbons and Hapsburgs;—her people to be massacred and her fairest provinces ravaged by a horde of sanguinary barbarians? What means the Law of Nations, if the most powerful and civilised people in the world permit weaker nations to be successively crushed and enslaved, without making an effort to free them from their Muscovite invaders?

At the time that England allowed Russia to march her conquering armies into Hungary, in aid of the perjured House of Hapsburg, the British people were not cognizant of the extent of Prince Albert's interference in their home and their foreign affairs: they were not aware that he was always present when the Queen received her Ministers, and took an active and often a leading part in their deliberations; and that he was carrying on a private correspondence with British diplomatists abroad, with foreign Courts, unknown to Lord Palmerston. If the people had known all these mysteries of secret diplomacy, England, perhaps, had then proved herself worthy of the occasion, and, in emancipated Hungary, had found a sure barrier against the encroachments of Russia.

Now that Russian diplomacy is everywhere suc-

cessful—even in the Councils of the Sultan—it becomes a matter of the utmost national importance, that the potent and secret influence of the only *irresponsible* Minister of the Crown should be neutralised by a loud and decisive expression of public opinion. The citizens of London should set an example to the provinces in this momentous crisis of our history, and I venture to assure them that the country is unanimous in its condemnation of the present foreign policy of the Government. Until, however, the people are adequately represented in the British House of Commons, under a real, not a sham Reform Bill, they can have no efficient control over the management of the home or the foreign affairs of England.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Yours obediently,
WILLIAM CONINGHAM.

THE STRIKES.

(To the Editor of the Leader.)

SIR,—The long-continued contests in the industrial districts of the North, between masters and men, at this inclement season of the year, must be fraught with most lamentable results to the members of the latter class, and too often to their dependent families. It is true that public opinion sympathises with them, and that the public sympathy may be valued in money at a thousand pounds sterling per week. Still, however magnificent a sum this may be as a voluntary demonstration of approval, it is to be feared that its division among the crowd of sufferers does not produce a very cheering income to individuals. It is to be hoped that this contest, however it may end now, will have a permanently beneficial effect upon the class, and be the means of making it more prudent, more provident, more far-sighted, and educate it beyond the old idea that has clung to it so long and so perniciously, that it "worked only to live." The men are fighting at great disadvantage, and in all probability must give way at last; but the trials which they have endured, and are still enduring, must eventually tend to purify and elevate them for a better future.

The masters, who still cherish the notion that men "live only to work," are indignant at the obstinacy of their hirelings. The disappointment they feel at their losses is lost in anger at the insubordination so well organised, and the truculent pertinacity so long maintained against their (to them) unquestionable superiority and authority. It is true that masters are the possessors of accumulated capital, with which they enter upon their business, but large premises earning no rent, and costly machinery all standing cold and idle, cannot but tell upon the deepest of pockets. There are inflexible landlords and mortgagees and anxious tradesmen for the master to meet as well as the man, and such folk are no less disagreeable to the one side than the other.

Whether or not it is the case that masters are pressed as quarter-day comes round, under present circumstances, I cannot say, but my attention has been called to an advertisement, which might seem to indicate that they are. This advertisement, in last Saturday's *Manchester Examiner and Times*, contains a proposal to form an "Insurance Company, to protect Employers against Losses sustained by 'Strikes' amongst Workmen. Capital 500,000*l.*, in 5000 shares of 100*l.* each; first call 10*l.* a share." It is of course estimated that large profits will be made. But from the vague explanation of the principles on which the business is proposed to be conducted, this is left quite a matter of faith. Something is said about the analogy of this kind of insurance to fire insurance, but nothing at all leading to the conviction that they are alike. The object may be to make it a matter of indifference to masters whether their trade continues or not, in which case the indemnification and protection accorded to the subscriber will be most agreeable to him, but will in probability also speedily dissipate the profits as well as the existence of the society. The object being to guarantee masters against loss by strikes, the society must be careful that in so doing it does not also guarantee a gain by strikes. The prospectus hints that many are desirous already of joining the society, and it is proposed to organise it forthwith. Whether it will succeed remains to be proved; but great caution ought to be exercised in joining such an adventure. There is such a vast field for miscalculation and mismanagement on one side, and such temptations on the other, as to make it a very hazardous speculation. At least it is an affair for the masters to ponder who may look to such a scheme for relief. To the men I can only say, in bringing the matter to their notice, that in my own humble opinion it is a piece of machinery of which they need not have the smallest apprehensions. The machinery hitherto introduced to workmen has been

generally intended to assist them, though they have too often ignorantly considered it as an unfamilied, unaccommodated competitor. This new machinery is invented against them; and it is to be hoped they will yet suffer any attacks from it with patience. They may have a taste of its quality before long, when they and we shall both have an opportunity of seeing how it will work.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
G. W.

SCOTTISH RIGHTS AND GRIEVANCES.

Falkirk, Jan. 2nd, 1854.

(To the Editor of the Leader.)

SIR,—Being a constant reader of the *Leader*, and having faith in its leadership on most questions, I feel somewhat disappointed when, as at present, I am forced to dissent from you. This dissent is occasioned by your article in the *Leader* of the 24th of December, headed "Scots wha hae wi' Wallace bled." Although you have noticed the proceedings of the Scottish National Association before, this is the first time you have given what I am forced to believe you consider reasons against their claims; and as these reasons have not in my eyes the strength which doubtless they possess in yours, I am bold enough to desire, to say a few words on the other side. The tone of the article is no more satisfactory to me than the arguments; but as the *Leader* has so far improved on the practice of the London press in giving any reasons on the subject, I shall waive any objections on that score. You tell us that Lord Eglinton and his associates have been already answered—and out of their own mouths, too—though, with characteristic Scottish obstinacy, they refuse to accept the answers given. And no wonder if all of them are as wide of the mark as that of the *Times* to Professor Aytoun, on the question of a Secretary of State for Scotland.

You yourself admit that you do not see the force of that answer; but the very reason you give for not accepting it, is a proof that you have failed to comprehend the claim put forth by the Association. Indeed I am almost tempted to ask if you have read the remarks of Professor Aytoun on that subject, in his speeches at the Edinburgh and Glasgow meetings, for it is inconceivable how any person having done so, could mistake his meaning so entirely as you have done. Believe me, neither Professor Aytoun nor any of his countrymen are silly enough to get up an agitation to change the title of Lord Advocate for that of Secretary. What they do ask is, that the person performing the duties of Secretary of State, by whatever title he may be designated, shall not have to perform also the duties of Public Prosecutor, besides attending to his own professional practice at the Scottish Bar. Your remark that helplessness is the proof of demerit, as success is the test of merit, is, with some reservation, true, and is an excellent reason for the existence of the National Association for the Vindication of Scottish Rights.

The degradation and neglect of which Scotsmen complain are no doubt attributable in a great measure to their own lack of energy in claiming the fulfilment of the national contract with England. To insist on the due performance of that contract is the chief object of the Association. If Scotland, having tried to obtain justice from England for the first time, fails, I, for one, will not complain, but accept the failure as a proof of demerit. Whether or not Wallace is the only Scottish rival of Wellington, I will not stop to inquire; but I cannot be so unjust to the memories of Napier and Abercrombie as to imagine that, had the same dangers threatened their country as in the days of Wallace and Bruce, their swords would not have been drawn on the same side. And equally fortunate for both countries was it that these gallant men were spared the necessity of renewing their achievements on Bannockburn. I lament, as you do, the perversity which prefers the historical philosophy of Alison to that of Macaulay, but I do not think it is at all peculiar to Scotland. Those who thoroughly accept the democratic sentiment of Burns, "the rank is but the guinea stamp," are few enough in any country; but I am much mistaken if they are proportionately fewer in Scotland than elsewhere. Scotland, since the passing of the Reform Bill, has always returned a majority of Liberal members to Parliament, and any widening of the elective franchise will infallibly augment that majority. The universal church of the songster certainly derives small support from the creed and Confession of Faith of the Scottish Church, but is it more fortunate if it appeals to the Articles of the Church of England? Dr. Jelf seems to think not, and I, who prefer the church of the poet, yet think that neither the Confession of Faith nor the Thirty-nine Articles, honestly and logically interpreted, give the slightest countenance to that

Church. I think you have made a slight mistake in recommending the Epicurean philosophy of the poet, productive, as it was, of such sad results to himself; nor is the song you quote from at all creditable to his memory. I refer you on this point to the note attached to the song by Allan Cunningham. The late decision of the Court of Session, in the case of the Sunday steamer on the Clyde, is no doubt gratifying as an authoritative affirmation of a great principle, but you are mistaken if you think it was needed to let Scotsmen know that they were at liberty to go abroad on Sunday in merry mood or otherwise. Few even of the most bigoted of the Sabbatarians ever dreamed of enforcing Sabbath observance by the aid of the obsolete laws of the past. Even Sir James Colquhoun, Sabbatarian militant as he is, rested his claim for an interdict to the *Emperor* steam-boat calling at the piers on the Gareloch chiefly on the ground of his proprietorship. At the public piers on the Clyde no obstruction was offered. In your remarks on this subject, you fall into the common error of Englishmen, in supposing that Scotsmen are constrained to their peculiar observance of the Sabbath by some external influence, and are necessarily miserable on that day. This is a mistake. A Scotch Sunday is no doubt insufferably dull to an Englishman; but so is an English Sunday to most of our continental neighbours. In fact, we are all too ready to judge the feelings of our neighbours by our own in like circumstances, unmindful of the modifying influences of education, custom, and, above all, temperament. For my own part, though a Scotsman, I am anxious for a more rational use of the day of rest than has hitherto prevailed in Scotland; but I must confess I do not see how this affects the claims of the National Scottish Association.

I am, Sir, yours respectfully,

A SCOTSMAN.

THOUGHTS OF TRAVEL FOR NEW YEAR'S EVE.—Columbus, alone upon the sea with his disaffected crew, looks over the waste of waters from his high station on the poop of his ship, and sees the first uncertain glimmer of the light, rising and falling with the waves, like the torch in the bark of some fisherman, which is the shining star of a new world. Bruce is caged in Abyssinia, surrounded by the gory horrors which shall often startle him out of his sleep at home, when years have passed away. Franklin, come to the end of his unhappy overland journey—would that it had been his last!—lies perishing of hunger with his brave companions: each emaciated figure stretched upon its miserable bed without the power to rise: all, dividing the weary days between their prayers, their remembrances of the dearest at home, and conversation on the pleasures of eating, the last-named topic being ever present to them, likewise, in their dreams. All the African travellers, way-worn, solitary, and sad, submit themselves again to drunken, murderous, man-selling despots, of the lowest order of humanity; and Mungo Park, fainting under a tree and succoured by a woman, gratefully remembers how his Good Samaritan has always come to him in woman's shape, the wide world over. Thoughts of another kind of travel come into my mind. Thoughts of a voyager unexpectedly summoned from home, who travelled a vast distance, and could never return. Thoughts of this unhappy wayfarer in the depths of his sorrow, in the bitterness of his anguish, in the helplessness of his self-reproach, in the desperation of his desire to set right what he had left wrong, and do what he had left undone. Why does this traveller's fate obscure, on New Year's Eve, surpass the other histories of travellers with which my mind was filled but now, and cast a solemn shadow over me? Must I one day make his journey? Even so. Who shall say, that I may not then be tortured by such late regrets: that I may not then look from my exile on my empty place and undone work? I stand upon a sea shore, where the waves are years. They break and fall, and I may little heed them: but, with every wave the sea is rising, and I know that it will float me on this traveller's voyage at last.—*Dickens's "Household Words."*

EASTER AT CONSTANTINOPLE.—The Greek Lent is over, and it is Easter at Constantinople. All night long great guns have been firing afar off, and small arms are being discharged by excitable persons at every street corner. You might fancy the town was being stormed, instead of holding high festival—so violent is the noise and uproar. During the day the streets are crowded as a fair, and perambulated by itinerant vendors of good things as boisterous as on a Saturday night at Wapping. Fowls, sweetmeats, rank pastry, various preparations of milk and rakes seem to be the chief things which furnish a Greek merry-making at Constantinople. Little boys with eager black eyes and tallow complexions are in their glory, and go yelling and whooping about, to the dismay of staid wayfarers. Here is a Greek and there is a Greek with splendid picturesque face, and dark matted hair falling about in wild array: I know no race of men more romantic in appearance. They go swaggering about from street to street in all the bravery of their national costume, and you may hear their voices a hundred yards off as they wrangle and glare at each other on the smallest occasion of dispute. The dominant race, the grave and dignified Turks, carry themselves very differently. They sit about, cross-legged, on the benches of coffee-houses, or before their itinerant stalls of mohalibé and yaourt. However dirty, poor, and miserable the Turk may be, he always smokes his pipe with the same grand calm air. When two or three of them are together they may perhaps tell each other now and then that God is great; but this is evidently the only attempt at conversation which is suited to their sense of self-importance and the heat of the day.—*Dickens's "Household Words."*

Literature.

Literature 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*.

ALTHOUGH Literature has long been a profession, it is not primarily and essentially a profession, but the reverse; hence, perhaps, one main reason why all its business transactions are so imperfect. Authors are Teachers: they have to teach the world through severe coercive means, constraining the wandering attention, bending it to the laborious task of learning, a labour which is pain at first to all, as we see in children and in the uneducated, but which becomes in time a keen and eager delight; or they have to teach the world through amusement. That is their office. When it is not that, it is mere frivolity or tumbling, and its professors are pedants or mountebanks.

The making of money by Literature is a subsidiary thing. Books are written for another purpose; if besides accomplishing their object they also bring the writer money, well and good; but books written solely and directly for money, have no right to exist. They do exist, as readers know. Literature is often chosen as a means of livelihood by those who have no other means. But it is not in the nature of things that Literature should be, as a whole, a commercial venture. Otherwise, we might well stand aghast when we read such revelations as those in the *New Quarterly Review*, just published. In an article on *Authors and Publishers*, which every one who contemplates publication should read, there are some astounding statements and figures, which are for the most part new, even to us, and will assuredly be new to the public. They are so new that we cannot vouch for their accuracy, although we throw no doubt thereon. They certainly, if correct, demonstrate that without any falsification of accounts, without any dishonesty in the publisher, but merely by means of trade practices, a publisher will realise a profit of something like ninety-five pounds out of a "half-profit transaction," which shows a loss of more than forty-one pounds. Indeed, as a witty friend once remarked to us, "publishing on half-profits is letting the bookseller sell your book, and receiving an account in which there are diagonal lines which make all things equal."

It is always a heavy week with us the first of every month. To read all the magazines, and to characterise them, is no light task; and criticism makes the lightest task some grains the heavier. Not that we are disposed to be severe just now, looking out as we do upon the wide stretch of country silent in the snow, cheerless, suggesting the kindest household thoughts by contrast. Those distant cottages, and the grand houses lonely on the heights, how cheerful they would be made by the New Year's Magazines, freighted with kindness, with wisdom, with wit, with available suggestion for work-day purposes, and with "thoughts beyond the reaches of our souls" for meditation! Let us try to gain for them admission there. Here is *Fraser*—who would be so welcome?

The opening verses, by FRANKLIN Tennyson, have the family accent in them. The first prose article is on the *Decline and Fall of the Corporation of London*—a grave subject skilfully treated. In fiction, there is the opening of a new story by the pleasant pen which traced the fortunes and follies of *Digby Grand*. It is called *General Bounce; or, the Lady and the Locusts*; and there is another story, but we have not read it. The cause of free thought and free speech in matters of National Faiths is greatly aided by such bold papers—bold in their orthodoxy, as the one on *Lord Palmerston and the Presbytery*. The article has other applications, for it is sincere as eloquent; and all sincere words are welcome. For example, listen to this sermon on the mission of the clergy:—

"Their mission we are told, is to save souls; and if we ask, with some surprise, whether it is not also to make people good, we are of course answered, 'By all means, else how are they to be saved?' Wherefore arise two distinct notions of the clergy's mission. Either they are to make men good in order to save their souls, or to save their souls in order to make them good. In the former case, no more goodness will be required of the many than is requisite according to the peculiar recipe of his creed, to deliver him from certain pains and penalties after death; for which latter purpose the priest or preacher will conceive himself mainly to be appointed—a sufficiently popular notion, but one wherein, as it seems to us, lie the germs of all superstition, priestcraft, immorality, ill-fulfilment of the duties of a subject, a master, a social being, and of consequent contempt for, and rebellion against, the powers that be, whenever the resultant of those powers does not happen to be in the direction of the reigning superstition. And this form of sacerdotal influence statesmen have found it necessary, and may find it again necessary, not merely to 'snub,' but to coerce, on critical occasions somewhat sharply, as Elizabeth's Jesuits and Anabaptists discovered to their cost. Whatsoever we may think of the methods which she employed, which were, after all, far more mild than those commonly employed in her age, there is no denying that she asserted a sound principle, which stands good against all refractory priesthoods whatsoever, Catholic or Sectarian, established or voluntary. Let every man have full liberty of conscience; let every man hold what theory he shall prefer concerning what is to happen to him or his neighbours after they die; the state has no objection, for these are matters of opinion, and the state concerns itself with acts: but only let not these opinions come out into such acts as retard the progress of the nation, or interfere, like the demand for a cholera-fast, with the physical—like late educational squabbles, with the moral—or like certain Church-union agitations, with the political well-being of the community. All these are overt acts which may not, and perhaps ought not to be, punishable by law, but still require, the moment they are committed, such reproofs as may teach offenders that, precious as religion and conscience are, man possesses a body, a mind, a social life, as well as 'a soul to be saved'; and that three-fourths of the humanity of each individual in a great nation must not be sacrificed, not even injured in the least, to please the bigotry and the ignorance—or even the devoutness and scrupulosity—of the few to whom a human being is but a thing to be got safely out of this world into the next."

There is also a suggestive view of *Grecian Mythology*, as the religious utterance of the nation; an amusing paper on *Young Germany*; a scholarly

and lively paper on *Cambridge Life*, with other articles we have not had time to read.

Blackwood closes with one of its "slashing" articles on the *Aberdeen Cabinet*, and opens with one of its admirable reviews, which are analyses of foreign books. It also continues its new story, *The Quiet Heart*; gives an amusing review of *The English at Home—by a Frenchman Abroad*; enters elaborately into the Chinese question, and continues its valuable papers on popular science with one on *The Beverages we Infuse*, teas, coffees, and cocoas. The following extract on the physiological uses of tea will be read with interest:—

"It is an established fact in physiology, that the animal body, while living, undergoes constant decay and renovation. The labours of life waste it; the food introduced into the stomach renews and restores it. That which is wasted or rubbed off by this natural wear and tear of the system, passes off through the lungs and the kidneys, and is rejected from the body of the animal; and the quantity of the solid matters contained at different periods in the fluids which the body excretes, is supposed to measure the comparative waste of the tissues at these different times. Now, the introduction into the stomach of even a minute proportion of theine—three or four grains a day—has the remarkable effect of sensibly diminishing the absolute quantity of these solid matters which is rejected in a day by a healthy man, living on the same kind of food, and engaged in the same occupation, under the same circumstances. This fact argues that the natural wear and tear of the body is lessened by the introduction of theine into the stomach—that is, by the use of tea. And, if the waste be lessened, the necessity for food to repair it will be lessened in an equal degree. In other words, by the consumption of a certain quantity of tea, the health and strength of the body will be maintained to an equal extent upon a smaller supply of ordinary food. Tea, therefore, saves food—stands to a certain extent in the place of food—while, at the same time, it soothes the body and enlivens the mind."

"In the old and infirm it serves also another purpose. In the life of most persons who live to advanced years, a period arrives when the stomach no longer digests enough of the ordinary elements of food, to make up for the natural daily waste of the bodily substance. The size and weight of the body, therefore, begin to diminish more or less perceptibly. The limbs shrink in size, and the skin hangs loose on the softer and fatter parts of the person. At this period tea comes in as a medicine to arrest the waste, to keep the body from falling away so fast, and thus to enable the less energetic powers of digestion still to supply as much as is needed to repair the wear and tear of the solid tissues."

The *Dublin University Magazine* always deals liberally in verse, and the opening of the new year is feted with even a larger allowance than usual. A review of JONATHAN FREEKE SLINGSBY'S poems withdraws the mask, and shows us Dr. JOHN FRANCIS WALLER under it. The number is scarcely so good this month as usual. *Bentley*, on the other hand, is improved, although still preserving its accustomed style of papers. There is a capital story of *The Frigate, the Privateer, and the Running Ship*; a curious *Night with the Peelers*; and the old threadbare story of Mrs. OLDFIELD, vulgarising herself in the eyes of a young admirer for the sake of curing him of his passion, is worked up into *Art—a Dramatic Tale*, with more affectation than ability. The *New Monthly* celebrates its commencement of the hundredth volume by a retrospect of its fortunes and its contributors. Sir NATHANIEL contributes two of his pleasant papers, one on ALEXANDER SMITH, and one on D. MITCHELL, the American writer; and there is also an amusing paper on *German Almanacks*, with quotations. *Tail* looks attractive.

One word in closing on a new periodical, *The Northern Tribune*. It is meant as a local magazine, addressing the People of the Northern Counties, and is yet worth the attention of the people in all counties. Its contributors are MAZZINI, Dr. F. LEE, THOMAS COOPER, and W. J. LINTON. Its price is fourpence. It is almost needless to add that the Messrs. CHAMBERS have started a new journal, or rather a modification of the old one, to be to our day what the *Edinburgh Journal* was two-and-twenty years ago. If ever men deserved their fortune, truly we may say the CHAMBERS have deserved theirs; and they must look back with some pride on the two-and-twenty years of useful activity which has made their fortune.

TWO BOOKS OF TRAVEL.

A Narrative of Travels on the Amazon and Rio Negro, with an account of the Native Tribes, and observations on the Climate, Geology, and Natural History of the Amazon Valley. By Alfred R. Wallace. Price 18s. Reeve and Co.
From Mayfair to Marathon. Price 10s. 6d. Bentley.

BETTER books for contrast we cannot find than these two. They illustrate two very common forms of book-writing in the present day. One, a grave, solid, conscientious account of four years' experience, in a country remote, curious, and little known. The other a light, frivolous, gossiping narrative, such as might have been amusing enough in letters to personal friends, but such as nothing but our Literature of Printed Talk could warrant appearing before the public. The writer of *From Mayfair to Marathon* has a certain gay offhand conversational manner which makes his pages readable in vacant hours, and forgotten almost as soon. But Mr. Wallace gives us an insight into tropical scenery, tropical vegetation and life, which renders his pages a valuable and a lasting record. We place his book on our shelves for future re-readings.

Seeing how many predecessors and confederates the writer of *Mayfair to Marathon* may plead in extenuation—seeing, also, that in these days of rash and rabid publicity so much Literature exists which does not profess to be more than the talk of the hour—we will not judge the work harshly. It will better suit our readers if we confine ourselves to Mr. Wallace, whose work comes up to its title, a rare phenomenon. It is a *Narrative of Travels on the Amazon and Rio Negro*; not a volume of verbose details about his feelings, opinions, and personal comforts. In a modest yet graphic manner, Mr. Wallace sets before us the result of four years' experience. He went to South America as a naturalist; he proposed to pay his expenses, by the collections of natural history he should make; and he did what he proposed. Although the loss of the greater part of his collections and sketches by the burning of the ship on the homeward voyage, has greatly impoverished his materials, enough remains in this volume to show how diligent he had been.

We shall have so many extracts to make that we must refrain from occupying space with comment. All we could say would but point in one direction, namely—get the book! As whets to the appetite we will select a few of the extractable passages.

CATCHING A BOA.

"August 3rd.—We received a fresh inmate into our verandah in the person of a fine young boa constrictor. A man who had caught it in the forest left it for our inspection. It was tightly tied round the neck to a good-sized stick, which hindered the freedom of its movements, and appeared nearly to stop respiration. It was about ten feet long, and very large, being as thick as a man's thigh. Here it lay writhing about for two or three days, yawning, and twisting up the end of its tail into a very tight curl. At length we agreed with the man to purchase it for two milreis (4s. 6d.), and so fitted up a box with bars at the top, and got the seller to put it into the cage. It immediately began making up for lost time by breathing most violently, the expirations sounding like high-pressure steam escaping from a Great Western locomotive. This it continued for some hours, making about four and a half inspirations per minute, and then settled down into silence, which it afterwards maintained, unless when disturbed or irritated.

"Though it was without food for more than a week, the birds we gave it were refused, even when alive. Rats are said to be their favourite food, but these we could not procure. These serpents are not at all uncommon, even close to the city, and are considered quite harmless. They are caught by pushing a large stick under them, when they twist round it, and their head being then cautiously seized and tied to the stick, they are easily carried home."

Here is a good correction of the extreme views of Lamarck, with reference to the modifying powers of circumstance; there is, however, much to be said *per contra* were this the occasion:

In all works on Natural History, we constantly find details of the marvellous adaptation of animals to their food, their habits, and the localities in which they are found. But naturalists are now beginning to look beyond this, and to see that there must be some other principle regulating the infinitely varied forms of animal life. It must strike every one, that the numbers of birds and insects of different groups, having scarcely any resemblance to each other, which yet feed on the same food and inhabit the same localities, cannot have been so differently constructed and adorned for that purpose alone. Thus the goatsuckers, the swallows, the tyrant flycatchers, and the jacamars, all use the same kind of food, and procure it in the same manner: they all capture insects on the wing, yet how entirely different is the structure and the whole appearance of these birds! The swallows, with their powerful wings, are almost entirely inhabitants of the air; the goatsuckers, nearly allied to them, but of a much weaker structure, and with largely developed eyes, are semi-nocturnal birds, sometimes flying in the evening in company with the swallows, but most frequently settling on the ground, seizing their prey by short flights from it, and then returning to the same spot. The fly-catchers are strong-legged, but short-winged birds, which can perch, but cannot fly with the ease of the swallows: they generally seat themselves on a bare tree, and from it watch for any insects which may come within reach of a short swoop, and which their broad bills and wide gape enable them to seize. But with the jacamars this is not the case: their bills are long and pointed—in fact, a weak kingfisher's bill—yet they have similar habits to the preceding: they sit on branches in open parts of the forest, from thence flying after insects, which they catch on the wing, and then return to their former station to devour them. Then there are the trogons, with a strong serrated bill, which have similar habits; and the little humming-birds, though they generally procure insects from the flowers, often take them on the wing, like any other fissirostral bird.

"What birds can have their bills more peculiarly formed than the ibis, the spoonbill, and the heron? yet they may be seen side by side, picking up the same food from the shallow water on the beach; and on opening their stomachs, we find the same little crustacea and small fish in them all. Then among the fruit-eating birds, there are pigeons, parrots, toucans, and chattering, families as distinct and widely separated as possible,—which yet may be often seen feeding all together on the same tree; for in the forests of South America, certain fruits are favourites with almost every kind of fruit-eating bird. It has been assumed by some writers on Natural History, that every wild fruit is the food of some bird or animal, and that the varied forms and structure of their mouths may be necessitated by the peculiar character of the fruits they are to feed on; but there is more of imagination than fact in this statement: the number of wild fruits furnishing food for birds is very limited, and birds of the most varied structure and of every size will be found visiting the same tree."

A TROPICAL SCENE.

"However, about ten o'clock we reached the mouth of the Igarapé, or small stream, we were to ascend, and I was very glad to get into still water. We stayed for breakfast in a little clear space under a fine tree, and I enjoyed a cup of coffee and a little biscuit, while the men luxuriated on fish and farinha. We then proceeded up the stream, which was at its commencement about two hundred yards wide, but soon narrowed to fifty or eighty. I was much delighted with the beauty of the vegetation, which surpassed anything I had seen before: at every bend of the stream some new object presented itself,—now a huge cedar hanging over the water, or a great silk cotton-tree standing like a giant above the rest of the forest. The graceful assaé palms occurred continually, in clumps of various sizes, sometimes raising their stems a hundred feet into the air, or bending in graceful curves till they almost met from the opposite banks. The majestic muruti palm was also abundant, its straight and cylindrical stems like Grecian columns, and with its immense fan-shaped leaves and gigantic bunches of fruit, produced an imposing spectacle. Some of these bunches were larger than any I had before seen, being eight or ten feet in length, weighing probably two or three hundredweight: each consisted of several bushels of a large reticulated fruit. These palms were often clothed with creepers, which ran up to the summits, and there put forth their blossoms. Lower down, on the water's edge, were numerous flowering shrubs, often completely covered with convolvuluses, passion-flowers, or bignonias. Every dead or half-rotten tree was clothed with parasites of singular forms, or bearing beautiful flowers, while smaller palms, curious-shaped stems, and twisting climbers, formed a background in the interior of the forest.

"Nor were there wanting animated figures to complete the picture. Brilliant scarlet and yellow macaws flew continually overhead, while screaming parrots and paroquets were passing from tree to tree in search of food. Sometimes from a branch over the water were suspended the hanging nests of the black and yellow troupial (*Cassicus icteronotus*), into which these handsome birds were continually entering. The effect of the scene was much heightened by the river often curving to one side or the other, so as to bring to view a constant variety of objects. At every bend we would see before us a flock of the elegant white heron, seated on some dead tree overhanging the water; but as soon as we came in sight of them, they would take flight, and on passing another bend we would find them again perched in front of us, and so on for a considerable distance. On many of the flowering shrubs gay butterflies were settled, and sometimes on a muddy bank a young alligator would be seen comfortably reposing in the sun.

"After walking over four or five miles of such ground, we arrived at the Lake just as it was getting dark. The only building there was a small shed without any walls, under which we hung our hammocks, while the Negroes used the neighbouring trees and bushes for the same purpose. A large fire was blazing, and round it were numerous wooden spits, containing pieces of fresh fish and alligator's tail for our supper. While it was getting ready, we went to look at some fish which had just been caught, and lay ready for salting and drying the next day: they were the pirarucú (*Sardinia gigas*), a splendid species, five or six feet long, with large scales of more than an inch in diameter, and beautifully marked and spotted with red. The Lake contains great quantities of them, and they are salted and dried for the Para market. It is a very fine-flavoured fish, the belly in particular being so fat and rich that it cannot be cured, and is therefore generally eaten fresh. This, with farinha and some coffee, made us an excellent supper, and the alligator's tail, which I now tasted for the first time, was by no means to be despised. We soon turned into our hammocks, and slept soundly after the fatigue of the day. Jaguars were abundant, and had carried off some fish a night or two before; the alligators too were plunging and snorting within twenty yards of us; but we did not suffer such trifles to disturb our slumbers.

"Before daybreak I had my gun upon my shoulder, eager to make an attack upon the ducks and other aquatic birds which swarmed upon the Lake. I soon found plenty of them, and my gun being loaded with small shot, I killed seven or eight at the first fire. They were very pretty little birds, with metallic-green and white wings, and besides forming good specimens, provided us with an excellent breakfast. After the first discharge, however, they became remarkably shy; so I went after the roseate spoonbills, white herons, and long-legged plovers, which I saw on the other side: they also seemed to have taken warning by the fate of their companions, for I could not get near enough for a shot, as there was no means of concealing my approach.

"What is called the Lake is a long, winding piece of water, from thirty to fifty yards wide and of little depth. It is bordered with aquatic plants and shrubs, and in some parts is thickly covered with floating grass and duckweed. It is inhabited by immense numbers of the fish already mentioned, and alligators, which are so thick that there is scarcely any place where you may not stir one up. There are also great quantities of very small fish about two inches long, which I suppose serve as food for the larger ones, which in their turn are probably sometimes devoured by the alligators; though it appears almost a mystery how so many large animals can find a subsistence, crowded together in such a small space.

"After breakfast the overseer commenced the alligator-hunt. A number of Negroes went into the water with long poles, driving the animals to the side, where others awaited them with harpoons and lassos.

"Sometimes the lasso was at once thrown over their heads, or, if first harpooned, a lasso was then secured to them, either over the head or the tail; and they were easily dragged to the shore by the united force of ten or twelve men. Another lasso was fixed, if necessary, so as to fasten them at both ends, and on being pulled out of the water, a Negro cautiously approached with an axe, and cut a deep gash across the root of the tail, rendering that formidable weapon useless; another blow across the neck disabled the head, and the animal was then left, and pursuit of another commenced; which was speedily reduced to the same condition. Sometimes the cord would break, and the harpoon get loose, and the Negroes had often to wade into the water among the ferocious animals in a very hazardous manner. They were from ten to eighteen feet long, sometimes even twenty, with enormous misshapen heads, and fearful rows of long sharp teeth. When a number were out on the land, dead or dying, they were cut open, and the fat which accumulates in considerable quantities about the intestines was taken out, and made up into packets in the skins of the smaller ones, taken off for the purpose. There is another smaller kind, here called Jacaré-tinga, which is the one eaten, the flesh being more delicate than in the larger species. After killing twelve or fifteen, the overseer and his party went off to another lake at a short distance, where the alligators were more plentiful, and by night had killed near fifty. The next day they killed twenty or thirty more, and got out the fat from the others."

LIFE ABOUNDING.

"In fact, the sound of animal life never ceases. Directly after sunset, the herons, bitterns, and cranes begin their discordant cries, and the boat-bills and frogs set up a dismal croaking. The note of one frog deserves a better name: it is an agreeable whistle, and could it be brought into civilised society, would doubtless have as many admirers as the singing mouse, or the still more marvellous whistling oyster described by Bunch. All night long, the alligators and fish keep up a continual plunging; but, with the grey of morning, commence the most extraordinary noises. All of a sudden ten thousand white-winged paroquets begin their morning song with such a confusion of piercing shrieks as it is quite impossible to describe: a hundred knife-grinders at full work would give but a faint idea of it. A little later, and another noise is heard: the flies, which had weighed down every blade of grass, now wake up, and, with a sounding hum, commence their attack upon the fish: every piece that has lain a few hours upon the ground has deposited around it masses of their eggs as large as walnuts. In fact, the abundance of every kind of animal life crowded into a small space was here very striking, compared with the sparing manner in which it is scattered in the virgin forests. It seems to force us to the conclusion, that the luxuriance of tropical vegetation is not favourable to the production and support of animal life. The plains are always more thickly peopled than the forest; and a temperate zone, as has been pointed out by Mr. Darwin, seems better adapted to the support of large land-animals than the tropics."

As a specimen of Negro credulity read this:

A GOOD STORY.

"There was a Negro," said he, "who had a pretty wife, to whom another Negro was rather attentive when he had an opportunity. One day the husband went out to hunt; and the other party thought it a good opportunity to pay a visit to the lady. The husband, however, returned rather unexpectedly, and the visitor climbed up on the rafters to be out of sight among the old boards and baskets that were stowed away there. The husband put his gun by in a corner, and called to his wife to get his supper, and then sat down in his hammock. Casting his eyes up to the rafters, he saw a leg protruding from among the baskets, and, thinking it something supernatural, crossed himself, and said, 'Lord, deliver us from the legs appearing overhead!' The other, hearing this, attempted to draw up his legs out of sight, but, losing his balance, came down suddenly on the floor in front of the astonished husband, who, half frightened, asked, 'Where do you come from?' 'I have just come from heaven,' said the other, 'and have brought you news of your little daughter Maria.' 'Oh! wife, wife! come and see a man who has brought us news of our little daughter Maria,' then, turning to the visitor, continued: 'And what was my little daughter doing when you left?' 'Oh! she was sitting at the feet of the Virgin, with a golden crown on her head, and smoking a golden pipe a yard long.' 'And did she not send any message to us?' 'Oh yes, she sent many remembrances, and begged you to send her two pounds of your tobacco from the little rhossa, they have not got any half so good up there.' 'Oh! wife, wife! bring two pounds of our tobacco from the little rhossa; for our daughter Maria is in heaven, and she says they have not any half so good up there.' So the tobacco was brought, and the visitor was departing, when he was asked: 'Are there many white men up there?' 'Very few,' he replied; 'they are all down below with the diabo.' 'I thought so,' the other replied, apparently quite satisfied; 'good night!'"

It is commonly supposed that vultures discover their food by scent, and not by sight. Mr. Wallace, in the following, thinks he proves the contrary:

"The common black vultures were abundant, but were rather put to it for food, being obliged to eat palm fruits in the forest when they could find nothing else. Every morning it was an amusing sight to see them run after the pigs the moment they got up, three or four following close at the heels of each animal, for the purpose of devouring its dung the moment it was dropped. The pigs seemed to be very much annoyed at such indecent behaviour, and would frequently turn round and take a run at the bird, who would hop out of the way or fly a short distance, but immediately resume their positions as soon as the pig continued his walk.

"I am convinced, from repeated observations, that the vultures depend entirely on sight, and not at all on smell, in seeking out their food. While skinning a bird, a dozen of them used to be always waiting attendance at a moderate distance. The moment I threw away a piece of meat they would all run up to seize it; but it frequently happened to fall in a little hollow of the ground or among some grass, and then they would hop about, searching within a foot of it, and very often go away without finding it at all. A piece of stick or paper would bring them down just as rapidly, and after seeing what it was they would quietly go back to their former places. They always chose elevated stations, evidently to see what food they can discover; and when soaring at an immense height in the air, they will descend into the forest where a cow has died or been killed, long before it becomes putrid or emits any strong smell. I have often wrapped a piece of half putrid meat in paper and thrown it to them, and even then, after hopping up to it, they will retire quite satisfied that it is only paper, and nothing at all eatable."

Mr. Wallace should have warned his readers that he was not describing a fish, but one of the *Cetacæ*, in the following description of

THE COW-FISH.

"One day the fishermen brought us in a fine 'peixe boi,' or cow-fish, a species of *Manatus*, which inhabits the Amazon, and is particularly abundant in the lakes in this part

of the river. It was a female, about six feet long, and near five in circumference in the thickest part. The body is perfectly smooth, and without any projections or inequalities, gradually changing into a horizontal semicircular flat tail, with no appearance whatever of hind limbs. There is no distinct neck; the head is not very large, and is terminated by a large mouth and fleshy lips, somewhat resembling those of a cow. There are stiff bristles on the lips, and a few distantly scattered hairs over the body. Behind the head are two powerful oval fins, and just beneath them are the breasts, from which, on pressure being applied, flows a stream of beautiful white milk. The ears are minute holes, and the eyes very small. The dung resembles that of a horse. The colour is a dusky lead, with some large pinkish-white marbled blotches on the belly. The skin is about an inch thick on the back, and a quarter of an inch on the belly. Beneath the skin is a layer of fat of a greater or less thickness, generally about an inch, which is boiled down to make an oil used for light and for cooking. The intestines are very voluminous, the heart about the size of a sheep's, and the lungs about two feet long, and six or seven inches wide, very cellular and spongy, and can be blown out like a bladder. The skull is large and solid, with no front teeth; the vertebrae extend to the very tip of the tail, but show no rudiments of posterior limbs; the fore limbs, on the contrary, are very highly developed, the bones exactly corresponding with those of the human arm, having even the five fingers, with every joint distinct, yet enclosed in a stiff inflexible skin, where not a joint can have any motion.

"The cow-fish feeds on grass at the borders of the rivers and lakes, and swims quickly with the tail and paddles; and though the external organs of sight and hearing are so imperfect, these senses are said by the hunters to be remarkably acute, and to render necessary all their caution and skill to capture the animals. They bring forth one, or rarely two, young ones, which they clasp in their arms or paddles while giving suck. They are harpooned, or caught in a strong net, at the narrow entrance of a lake or stream, and are killed by driving a wooden plug with a mallet up their nostrils. Each yields from five to twenty-five gallons of oil. The flesh is very good, being something between beef and pork, and this one furnished us with several meals, and was an agreeable change from our fish diet."

Mr. Wallace did not observe the nails on the forehead, which the comparative anatomists tell us are to be seen there.

THE JAGUAR AND THE CAT.

"The jaguar, say the Indians, is the most cunning animal in the forest: he can imitate the voice of almost every bird and animal so exactly, as to draw them towards him: he fishes in the rivers, lashing the water with his tail to imitate falling fruit, and when the fish approach, hooks them up with his claws. He catches and eats turtles, and I have myself found the unbroken shells, which he has cleaned completely out with his paws; he even attacks the cow-fish in its own element, and an eye-witness assured me he had watched one dragging out of the water this bulky animal, weighing as much as a large ox."

"A young Portuguese trader told me he had seen (what many persons had before assured me often happened) an onca feeding on a full-grown live alligator, tearing and eating its tail. On leaving off, and retiring a yard or two, the alligator would begin to move towards the water, when the onca would spring upon it, and again commence eating at the tail, during which time the alligator lay perfectly still. We had been observing a cat playing with a lizard, both behaving in exactly the same manner, the lizard only attempting to move when the cat for a moment left it; the cat would then immediately spring upon it again: and my informant assured me that he had seen the jaguar treating the alligator exactly the same way."

HOW THE INDIANS CATCH TURTLES.

"The Indians catch the full-grown turtles, either with the hook, net, or arrow. The last is the most ingenious method, and requires the most skill. The turtle never shows its back above water, only rising to breathe, which it does by protruding its nostrils almost imperceptibly above the surface: the Indian's keen eyes perceive this, even at a considerable distance; but an arrow shot obliquely would glance off the smooth flat shell, so he shoots up into the air with such accurate judgment, that the arrow falls nearly vertically upon the shell, which it penetrates, and remains securely fixed in the turtle's back. The head of the arrow fits loosely on to the shaft, and is connected with it by a long fine cord, carefully wound round it; as the turtle dives, they separate, the light shaft forming a float or buoy, which the Indian secures, and by the attached cord draws the prize up into his canoe. In this manner almost all the turtles sold in the cities have been procured, and the little square vertical hole of the arrow-head may generally be seen in the shell."

When we add that there are chapters on the Physical Geography and Geology of the Amazon District, on its Zoology, Vegetation, and Aborigines, and that Dr. Latham has in an appendix given his valuable opinion on the vocabularies of the Amazon, the reader will understand the sort of work we are introducing to his notice.

Portfolio.

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

PHRENOLOGY AND PHYSIOLOGY.

It was not to be expected that our observations on Phrenology and the Phrenologists (*vide* No. 194) would be suffered to pass without remonstrance; and, indeed, treating so large a subject in space so limited it was scarcely possible to make our position clearly intelligible. The question was, however, too important to be ignored; and the occasion chosen by us was one which naturally elicited an expression of our views. While admitting, frankly and admiringly, the value of Gall's initiatory labours, we felt it imperatively demanded of us to declare that these labours, so far from having been completed by his successors, are at present still perhaps a century behind completion; and that every attempt dogmatically to systematise in any but a provisional way the phrenological materials, is to build with wet bricks.

Mr. Charles Bray, the author of *The Philosophy of Necessity*, has addressed us a letter in reply to our article, the interest of which makes us forget its length. We insert it here:—

"Sir,—Will you admit a few observations in reply to yours of last week upon the above subject. We hear every one now saying, 'We believe there is some truth in phrenology;' 'we believe in the general divisions, but not in the particular organs,' &c. A phrenologist lets this pass when coming from the multitude, but from men like Mr. Noble, or from yourself, who may be supposed to know something of the 'History of Philosophy,' it is a different thing. Any one acquainted with the history of phrenology must know that it is from the verification of particulars that it bases its theory of the general divisions. Mr. Noble, although he believes in generals, has not been able to verify particulars; and he says, 'Altogether, I feel myself bound to say the organology of Gall's doctrine must be abandoned;' and you say, 'The general distribution of intellect, emotions, and propensities is confirmed. What then? Does that prove phrenological details to be true?' How has the general distribution been confirmed, if the details are not true? Your idea of the subject appears not to differ materially from the common one; viz., that phrenologists first took for granted that the brain was the organ of mind, and that the in-

tellect was in front, the propensities behind, and the sentiment in the middle; and that, having guessed at so much, they then at their leisure and convenience proceeded to map out these divisions into what they considered appropriate compartments. This is the very reverse of fact, as every one who has followed Gall in his discoveries must know. Without knowing anything of the brain, or of anatomists or physiologists, Gall's first observation was that people with prominent eyes had a good verbal memory; and repeated observation having confirmed this, 'he conceived that if memory for words was indicated by an external sign, the same might be the case with other intellectual powers; and, therefore, all individuals distinguished by any remarkable faculty became the objects of his attention. By degrees he conceived himself to have found external characteristics which indicated a decided disposition for painting, music, and the mechanical arts. He became acquainted also with some individuals remarkable for the determination of their character, and he observed a particular part of their heads to be very largely developed. This fact first suggested to him the idea of looking to the head for signs of the dispositions, or affective powers.' And, again, Mr. Combe says:—'Abandoning, therefore, every theory and preconceived opinion, Dr. Gall gave himself up entirely to the observation of nature. Being a friend to Dr. Nord, physician to a lunatic asylum in Vienna, he had opportunities, of which he availed himself, of making observations on the insane. He visited prisons, and resorted to schools; he was introduced to the courts of princes, to colleges, and to seats of justice; and wherever he heard of an individual distinguished in any particular way, either by remarkable development or deficiencies, he observed and studied the development of his head. In this manner, by an almost imperceptible induction, he at last conceived himself warranted in believing that particular mental powers are indicated by particular configurations of the head.'

"I have seen a skull marked by Dr. Gall many years after he had commenced these observations, and it goes very little way towards bearing out the three grand divisions, in which people are found now so very easily to believe. It was marked with organs of murder and theft, and other abuses, not uses of faculties. You will note that Gall observed external characteristics, and what he observed would not have been less 'the order of nature' had there been no brain or nervous system at all; in fact, the greater part of the registered facts of phrenology are quite independent of fine-spun theories about nervous tissue and centre. Temperament or quality of brain has external characteristics as well as the size and form. Now, if people will give up their belief in generals and follow the method of Gall and his disciples, I have no doubt they will come to the same conclusions. Gall, however, devoted many years to patient investigation, and we must do the same. I am a phrenologist now of some twenty years standing; but after several years' careful examination of every head I could get at, both alive and in plaster, I came very much to Mr. Noble's conclusion. 'I was unable to establish many of the minute distinctions.' I then received the personal instruction of Mr. George Combe, who taught me how to observe; and during the last seventeen years I have verified most of the facts of phrenologists, and have learned something besides. You say that the great physiologists have, without hesitation, rejected phrenological doctrines, and the 'facts' on which they are founded. This is very true, but they have known nothing of 'the facts upon which the doctrines are founded,' because they have never followed Gall's method—they have refused to look through his telescope. Gall observed external characteristics; generally speaking the physiologists have not known where to look for a single organ, but have gone on poking in the brain itself. The methods they have followed for determining the functions of the brain have been vivisection, comparative anatomy, and pathology; but the facts of phrenologists are not to be found through these mediums, therefore, as you say, they have rejected them without hesitation. How long was it, may I ask, before scientific Europe could see Newton's facts in optics? To begin at the first step made in this direction—the first fact observed does Mr. Noble deny that prominent eyes are indicative of good verbal memory? Do you, Sir? Do the great physiologists? It is true there are large, and therefore prominent, eyes that are not connected with verbal memory; but that does not disprove the rule, it only shows the necessity of seeking into the cause of the prominent eyes, that we may distinguish between a large convolution of brain on the super-orbital plate behind the eye and a large eye-ball. All the facts of the phrenologists to me are as clear as this; and 'the thickness of the skull, the form of its surfaces, and the frontal sinuses,' of Valentin, present no greater difficulties than this first part. You say, 'we reject what phrenologists scramble up into a hasty system, because we say, 1st, their basis is unsteady; their cerebral physiology at fault; their facts are equivocal, their psychology is imperfect,' &c. There have been sixty years of careful observations of facts; surely this is not over haste, and if the facts are equivocal, phrenologists, of all others, are most anxious to learn in what respect, as well as to learn in all other respects. Phrenologists consider that at least thirty organs are established; by that they do not mean their primitive functions are unalterably fixed, but that all the facts related with respect to them have been observed, and repeatedly verified. If you will point out which are untrue, you will do phrenologists a great service. You say, 'As a matter of science only, the most superficial acquaintance with the present state of physiology could for a moment permit acquiescence in phrenology as a system.' If we take the list of mental faculties contained in Combe's 'Constitution of Man,' with their uses and abuses, it certainly furnishes a more perfect system of psychology than any other with which I am acquainted, and yet I am not uncognisant of the history of philosophy. There may be undiscovered organs, but they cannot be very numerous, for our own consciousness supplies us with no strong feelings and emotions which have not already received their location in the system; neither can the deficiencies of the phrenological system, which you represent as so great, be supplied from the old metaphysicians. Many of the organs may again admit of subdivision, and we may not have arrived at their primitive functions; but this does not invalidate what has been already discovered with respect to them. We may know most of the properties of common air, and this knowledge is not the less sound and useful from our afterwards discovering that atmospheric air is compounded of oxygen and nitrogen. You do well to distinguish between phrenology as a science and art: we fully admit the difficulty of precisely recognising the relative sizes of different organs from external examination of the head. We believe that not more than a general estimate of character can be arrived at, and we cannot be too cautious in what we predicate from such examination; but phrenology itself is a system of mental philosophy based upon the observation of extreme cases, upon great excess or deficiency, and is quite independent of the judgment of character from development. The public, however, consider that manipulating the head is phrenology; and we cannot too much reprobate the practice of those persons who aid thus to deceive them, and who have brought the science into disrepute by their presumptuous and confident assumption of accuracy in a department in which accuracy has not yet been attained. Taking development is not, and ought not, to be represented as a certain science in the present state of our knowledge; and it is probable that there always will be extreme difficulty in judging, in ordinary cases, of the relative development of thirty-six or more organs; it is difficult, also, to say what has been the influence of education and circumstances upon them, and of their natural associations and combinations among themselves we know comparatively little: consequently, great uncertainty must attend the pre-

dication of all the nice and minute shades of character from development. We do not say that developments should not be taken; human nature may be more advantageously studied through this medium than through any other, and a very correct general estimate of character may be thus arrived at; but it should always be with extreme caution in our deductions, and after stating and allowing fully the difficulties we have to contend with, and our consequent liability to great errors. Still, experience has taught me to trust more to the estimation of character from the examination of the head, than from all that a man's friends or enemies can say of him, or than he can say of himself.—I am, Sir, faithfully yours,
"Coventry, Dec. 15.
"CHARLES BRAY."

It will be observed that Mr. Bray in this letter gets rid of our objections by separating Phrenology from Physiology altogether—instead of Phrenology as a science of the functions of the Brain, he calls our attention to Craniology, or the observation of the correspondence between external characters and mental characteristics. Be it so. In this case Phrenology ceases to be a Science and becomes an Art. It rests its claim on empirical observations, and its claim must be tested by them. We do not believe these observations to have the validity Phrenologists claim for them; we believe, indeed, that every one's experience will suffice to invalidate their universality—but into this question we need not enter. Our positions are these:—

1. As a matter of empirical observation, although the fact of correspondence between a certain propensity or faculty, and a certain conformation of the skull, may be frequently observed, it must be *universal* before it can attain scientific rigour.

2. The mere correspondence between a certain elevation or depression of one part of the skull and a certain mental characteristic, will lead us to suspect, but will not suffice to *prove* that the portion of the brain lying immediately under that portion of the skull is the organ of the faculty. We want something more. Does this surprise you? Then ask yourself this—Is the Hand the organ of the Mind, and are its separate portions the organs of the separate faculties? No; yet empirical observation has sketched a *Cheironomy*, from which we learn that *ideal* tendencies are always found accompanying conical fingers, *real*, concrete tendencies always accompanying square and spatulous fingers; large thumbs are observed with strong wills; knuckles laterally large with order in things and ideas; broad palms with sensuous natures; muscular hands with a love of animals, &c. Now, far be it from us to say that *Cheironomy* is a science, or that the tips of the fingers are the *organs* of our intellectual tendencies; but this we do say, that observation of many hundreds of hands will show a correspondence between certain forms and certain mental tendencies as rigorous as the facts of Craniology. Nay more: the Phrenologist will predicate from the character what the head will be like, or *vice versa*. In the same way the *Cheironomist* will accurately describe the hand if the character be given to him, or the character if he see the hand. Failures, of course, occur with both; but in a large number of attempts a very few failures will have to be registered.

3. Craniology, therefore, may be an Art of some utility, and yet Phrenology not have much claim to scientific rank; for the latter must depend on the condition of our Physiology and Psychology. Mr. Bray speaks with a sort of contempt of "fine-spun theories of nervous tissue and centres;" but it is the Craniologist, not the Phrenologist, who thus speaks. Our own countryman, Mr. R. R. Noel, in his admirable German pamphlet, *Die Begründung und das Wesen der Phrenologie*, says emphatically as truly that Phrenology is above all things a Physiology of the brain; and he is too well acquainted with what is known of that Physiology not to see how much yet remains to be discovered before anything like certainty can be attained. He goes further than we are ready to follow, but he admits that up to the present time the Physiology and Psychology of Phrenologists are imperfect.

4. Although Gall's labours may be said to have revolutionised our cerebral physiology, although they were the originators of an immense series of researches into the nervous system, the palpable fact is that our knowledge of the system, so far from causing men to adopt Phrenology, causes them to reject it. It is open to any one of course to reject Physiology, and confine himself to Craniology; so that we know what are his claims all will be well. But Phrenology as a science rests on the basis of Physiology, and while the basis is unsteady the edifice will not be durable. It may make our meaning clearer if we take as an illustration Medicine. That, as every one knows, is founded on Physiology. It has its empirical observations and its inferences, but it cannot attain scientific precision until its scientific basis of Physiology is definitively established. A man may prescribe mercury for biliousness, and turn up his nose at fine spun theories of the liver and its functions; but he does so on no better ground than one who prescribes Cocker's Antibilious Pills. He is an empiric, not a scientific Physician.

5. The Psychology is so unacceptable that many who are believers in Phrenology reject it. We cannot stop here to argue such a large question. Space is not ample enough for us to answer Mr. Bray's letter in detail. Our purpose was rather to settle the real ground on which Phrenology must be discussed, and we sum up by saying: Considered as a Science, at present Phrenology is in its infancy; considered as an Art, Craniology is only better than Physiognomy or Cheironomy. But having noted deficiencies, let us add that Phrenology is the Science of the Mind which the coming Ages will establish.

The Arts.

SHORTCOMINGS.

We turn pale in looking at the list of subjects calling for notice, but unavoidably postponed, this week. There is the new panorama, at Burford's, showing Constantinople from the Seraskier's Tower; there is a new Arctic scene at the Gallery of Illustration; and then there are the Photographic exhibitions, especially the one in Suffolk-street. A picture, by Newenham, invites us to Exeter Hall, and even thither shall Newenham attract us. Our course of pantomimes not having been exhaustive of the best dishes on the card, we had intended a second course, to which other theatrical novelties might have furnished *flancs*. But we are only in a position to say that not the worst thing about the pantomime at Sadler's Wells is the pantomime. There are pretty scenes, more than usually pretty dances, mechanical effects to the full as successful as ambitious; but none of these extinguishes the fun. We say so, not from any careless assumption of good-humour "at this festive period of the year," but because the thing deserves to be said. The Sadler's Wells pantomime "goes" for bustling fun of the old pantomimic character. Nor does the laughter flag, even while enchanting scenery is in view. The Clown is Mr. Rochez, an expert pantomimist, with some degree of humour; the Columbine is both graceful and pretty; and Mr. Fenton, the Harlequin, has not lost in vivacity while he has gained in fat. At Astley's—but not having seen the pantomime it would be a breach of etiquette for us to report on the opening piece—*The Wise Elephants of the East*; or, *the Magic Gong*. Striking title? Those who have been twice in elephantine company do not require to be told how these huge beasts go gravely through the performance of standing on their heads, &c., and with what philosophic resignation to the whole thing as an unavoidable bore. It is as needless to mention that the elephants hold all the human actors, especially the noisy ones, in the greatest possible contempt: Their opinion of the author, although a secret, may be guessed.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

BIRTHS.

CADOGAN.—Dec. 31st, in Green-street, Lady Adelaide Cadogan: a daughter.

CLIFFORD.—Dec. 29th, at Court-house, Cannington, Somersetshire, the Hon. Mrs. Clifford: a daughter.

FARRANT.—Jan. 2nd, at 42, Marine-parade, Dover, the wife of Lieutenant-Colonel Farrant, R.L.S., late H.M. Chargé d'Affaires in Persia: a son.

LISTER.—Dec. 8th, at 39, Trinity-square, Southwark, the wife of Henry Lister, Esq.: a daughter.

LONGMORE.—Dec. 7th, at Montreal, C. E., the wife of Captain Arthur A. Longmore, Twenty-ninth Regiment: a daughter.

TAYLOR.—Dec. 31st, at Teignmouth, the wife of Herbert Taylor, Esq.: a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

CARTER—OLDRIDGE.—Nov. 12, at St. James's church, Calcutta, R. S. Carter, Esq., of Calcutta, to Mary Jane, only daughter of the late William Oldridge, Esq., of Newton St. Cyres, Devonshire.

FELLOWES—ST. LEGER.—Jan. 3, at Starcross, Devon, John Butler Fellowes, Esq., fourth son of Sir James Fellowes, late of Adbury-house, Hants, to Mary Anne, youngest daughter of the Rev. R. A. St. Leger, of Starcross.

GRIFFIN—COVENTRY.—Dec. 31, William Parker Griffin, Esq., merchant, of St. Domingo, and New York, U.S., to Mary Anne Coventry, only surviving daughter of George Linley, the composer, and granddaughter of the late distinguished Orientalist, Dr. John Borthwick Gilchrist, H.E.I.C.S., a lineal descendant of the Borthwick family.

MOON—CRISP.—Dec. 22, at Lectis, the Rev. M. A. Moon to Miss Crisp, late of Wisbech.

TREHERNE—HARPER.—Dec. 29, at St. James's, Paddington, Henry, youngest son of Edmund Treherne, Esq., of St. George's-terrace, Hyde-park, to Harriet, second surviving daughter of the late John Harper, Esq., of Lympstone, Devon.

DEATHS.

BEAUMONT.—Jan. 1st, at Twickenham, Elizabeth, the beloved wife of George Duckett Barber Beaumont, Esq., of Lincoln's-inn, barrister-at-law, aged thirty-six.

BOYD.—Jan. 1st, at Acomb, near York, of fever, Edward Boyd, the third son of P. Hague, Esq., H.B.M. Consul, Ningpo, China, aged five years.

BROWNE.—Dec. 30th, at Esher, Anne, the wife of Lieutenant-Colonel Frederick Browne.

GRAY.—Dec. 30th, at 10, Lansdown-terrace, Cheltenham, Rose, wife of Lieutenant-Colonel Gray, Royal Artillery.

HINCHLIFFE.—Dec. 29th, at her residence, Ramsgate, Charlotte Hinchliffe, youngest daughter of the late Bishop of Peterborough, aged seventy-two.

WHITTLE.—Dec. 24, at 7, Clarence-lawn, Dover, Elizabeth, wife of Captain Whittle, and youngest daughter of Colonel Hutchesson, Royal Artillery.

Commercial Affairs.

MONEY MARKET AND CITY INTELLIGENCE.

Friday Evening, January 6, 1854.

OWING to the very inclement weather, and the consequent non-arrival of mails, &c., business on the Stock Exchange during the week has been occasionally very slack. In Consols there has been a strong tendency to droop—many large money sales have been effected—and at one time yesterday they stood as low as 92½; but several holders of South Sea Stock, and the Hebrew party coming in to buy, sent them up to 93½, from that point they again fell to 93½—the opening price this morning being 93—sellers. French Rentes come so badly that it has depressed Foreign Shares to a great extent, and the universal belief in Paris that a war is now inevitable will doubtless have an effect upon us on this side the water. In our own Railway Market large sales have been effected, and it assumes a very falling look—Land Company Shares are very low. Australian Agriculturals, not confirming the report of quicksilver having been found on their possessions, have receded to 38 40. Mines have been hardly touched. Wallers are said to have the most flattering account from their agents—and a dividend *even* is talked of in the spring. The public, in the absence of other opportunities, has been investing to some considerable extent in Australian Banks, whose dividends and state of prosperity is incredible; but it does not seem to make much difference in the price of Shares. In Foreign Funds but little doing. Russian Five per Cents. keep up marvellously, 112, 113; but, as I said once before, there are not many large holders in this country, and therefore the transactions must be limited. By next week—I cannot help believing—we shall see the Funds lower than at present, for, viewed from every possible point, the political aspect of affairs is of the gloomiest character, but the tendency to rise is so great that the announcement of a Plenipotentiary being sent from Russia, or any other Russo device, would send up the Funds 2 or 3 per cent.

The 3 o'clock price of Consols is 92½ 93.

Consols, 93; Caledonian, 51½ 52½; Eastern Counties, 12½; Edinburgh and Glasgow, 63, 65; Great Western,

81½, 82; Lancashire and Yorkshire, 63½, 64½; London, Brighton, and South Coast, 96½, 97½; London and North Western, 101½, 102; London and South Western, 75, 76; Midland, 80½, 81; Oxford, Worcester, and Wolverhampton, 35, 37; Scottish Central, 91, 93; York, Newcastle, and Berwick, 63, 64; York and North Midland, 45, 46; East Indian, 33½, 34; Luxembourg, 97½, 100; Ditto (Railway), 6, 6½; Ditto, Pref., 1½, 1½; Madras, 1½, 1½; Namur and Liege (with int.), 1½, 1½; Ditto (ex int.), 7½, 8; Northern of France, 33½, 34; Paris and Lyons, 15, 15½; Paris and Orleans, 45, 47; Paris and Rouen, 40, 42; Rouen and Havre, 18½, 19½; Paris and Strasbourg, 30½, 31½; Paris, Caen, and Cherbourg, 3, 4; Sambre and Meuse, 8½, 8½; Western of France, 7, 8; Australasia, 74, 76; London Chartered Bank of Australia, 1½, 1½; Union Bank of Australia, 73, 75; Oriental, 43, 45; Australian Agricultural, 38, 40; Peel Rivers, 1½, 1½; South Australian, 35, 37; Van Diemen's Land, 14, 15 ex div.; North British Australian, par. 1½; Scottish Investment, 2c., 1½, 1½; British American, 38½; Agua Fria, 1½, 1½; Nouveau Monde, 1½, 1½; Mariposa, 1½, 1½; Wallers, 1½, 1½; Colonial, 1½, 1½; Brazil Imperial, 5, 6; United Mexican, 3½, 4½; Linars, 10½, 11½; New Linars, 1½, 1½; Peninsular Mines, 1, 1; Obernhofs, 3-16; Poltimore, par. 1.

CORN MARKET.

Mark Lane, Friday Evening, Jan. 6.
LOCAL TRADE.—Supplies moderate except of Flour, of which about 30,000 bbls. have arrived. Wheat is 4s. dearer than on Monday, with buyers at the advance. Barley firm at Monday's prices. Oats 1s. dearer. The inland navigation is quite stopped by the ice.

FLOATING TRADE.—Since this day week we have only ten arrivals to report. Contrary to expectation, in the absence of demand for Wheat from France, the market has continued to rise. We cannot report many transactions, nor is the number of orders actually received very great; but, on the other hand, the number of cargoes is unusually small at this season, and sales to a very moderate extent are quite sufficient, with the present opinion of holders, not only to prevent any decline, but even to cause a further enhancement of prices. The operations of the week have been effected almost exclusively by Irish and English buyers now in London, who would have purchased much more largely, had holders been disposed to sell.

Without expressing any opinion as to future prices, we may mention one or two circumstances which have hitherto escaped attention, or have only just occurred, and which may throw some light on the subject. In the first place, it appears by advices received this week from New York that

prices there were rising, entirely owing to the discovery that stocks at the seaports are scarcely sufficient to last for local consumption till the re-opening of the inland navigation. Secondly, it appears from a statement before us, partly founded on Government returns, that the deficiency in the crops of Rye and Wheat in Holland is equal to about half a million quarters, and that the stocks of these articles at Amsterdam and on the Meuse are 250,000 qrs. less than at the end of 1853, and the difference is even greater compared with the three previous years. Here, then, is another large market in addition to France and Belgium, for the grain at present on passage to the north of Europe and England. Lastly, we hear from Lombardy that the Communes in that country are making contracts in Venice, Trieste, and elsewhere, for Wheat to be delivered f. o. b. in the Black and Azoff Seas at first open water next spring, at prices nearly equal to present cost, freight, and insurance rates. We think these three circumstances worthy of your attentive consideration. As regards our own country, it is to be observed, that stocks have become greatly reduced in several of the principal ports in England and Scotland. At Bristol, Leith, Hull, Wakefield, and along the Southern Coast, little is held compared to the requirements of the districts. In London, the deliveries in Granary have exceeded the receipts, and though extensive supplies from America are in course of arrival, both here and in Liverpool, prices have risen as fast as in the agricultural markets, showing that the demand is greater than the supply. As to Ireland, the stocks of Foreign Wheat are small, and we believe it will be found that the shipments of both grain and potatoes to this country have been made on such a scale as to render importations necessary to an unexpected extent. Prices of Oats and Barley have already risen considerably in that country.

The cessation of demand from France is, as we are informed by our friends in that country, caused partly by the holidays, but more especially by fears of Government interference; so that should these give way we expect to have a renewed demand from thence.

BRITISH FUNDS FOR THE PAST WEEK.

(CLOSING PRICES.)

	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Frid.
Bank Stock	218	217½	217	217	217	217
3 per Cent. Red.	93½	93½	93½	93½	93	93½
3 per Cent. Gov. An.	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½
Consols for Account	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	94
2½ per Cent. An.	94½	94½	94½	94½	94½	94½
New 5 per Cent.	104	104	104	104	104	104
Long Ans. 1860	52	52	52	52	52	52
India Stock	104	104	104	104	104	104
India Bonds, 25000	104	104	104	104	104	104
Ditto, under £1000	104	104	104	104	104	104
Ex. Bills, £1000	104	104	104	104	104	104
Ditto, £500	104	104	104	104	104	104
Ditto, Small	104	104	104	104	104	104

FOREIGN FUNDS.

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

Brazilian Bonds	99	Russian Bonds, 5 per	112
Buenos Ayres 6 per Cent.	63½	Cents 1822	112
Chilian 6 per Cent.	103	Russian 4½ per Cent.	94
Chilian 5 per Cent.	102	Spanish 3½ Ct. New Def.	21½
Peruvian Bonds	44	Spanish Committee Cert.	44
Mexican 3 per Cent.	24½	of Coup. not fin.	44
Mexican 3 per Ct. for	24½	Venezuela 3½ per Cent.	30
Acc. January 1853	24½	Belgian 4½ per Cent.	30
Portuguese 4 per Cent.	37½	Dutch 2½ per Cent.	84½
Portuguese 3½ Ct. 1843	37½	Dutch 4 per Cent. Certif.	96½

ROYAL OLYMPIC THEATRE.

On Monday, and during the week (except Thursday, when there will be no performance, Mr. Alfred Wigan having the honour to perform at Windsor Castle).

First time at this Theatre, the Comic Drama, called THE FIRST NIGHT.

Principal characters by Messrs. A. Wigan, Leslie, Vincent, H. Cooper, &c.; Miss Wyndham and Miss P. Horton.

After which, the new Introductory Extravaganza and Dramatic Review, called THE CAMP AT THE OLYMPIC. Principal characters by Messrs. A. Wigan, Robson, Morton, and Signor Gatti; Mrs. Chatterley, Miss P. Horton, Mrs. Waring, and Mrs. A. Wigan. After which, THE WANDERING MINSTREL. Jem Baggs, Mr. F. Robson.

WHITTINGTON CLUB AND METROPOLITAN ATHENEUM.

WEEKLY ASSEMBLIES for Music and Dancing—Lectures, Classes, and Entertainments—Dining, Coffee, Smoking, and Drawing-rooms—Library, Reading and News-rooms, supplied with 30 Daily and 100 Weekly and Provincial Papers. Subscriptions, Two Guineas the Year; One Guinea the Half-year. Ladies half these rates. Tickets for the ensuing year, half-year, and quarter, are now ready. NO ENTRANCE FEE.

A Prospectus, with a complete list of Lectures, Classes, and Entertainments for the ensuing quarter, may be obtained of the Secretary.

A Musical Entertainment, entitled "The Pleasure Trip," will be given by Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Cooper on Thursday evening next, January 12. To commence at Eight o'clock. Members free, with the usual privilege for their friends. Non-Members, One Shilling.

M. DE BEAUVOISIN has just commenced a NEW CLASS for the STUDY of the FRENCH LANGUAGE.

HENRY Y. BRACE, Secretary.

37, Arundel-street, Strand.

JUVENILE BALL.—The FOURTH

ANNUAL JUVENILE BALL of the WHITTINGTON CLUB will take place on MONDAY EVENING NEXT, January 9. Dancing to commence at Seven o'clock. Dissolving Views and other Entertainments during the evening. The number of Tickets being strictly limited, Members are requested to make immediate application for themselves and friends.

HEAL AND SON'S EIDER DOWN

QUILT is the warmest, the lightest, and the most elegant Covering, suitable for the Bed, the Couch, or the Carriage; and for Invalids, its comfort cannot be too highly appreciated. It is made in three varieties, of which a large assortment can be seen at their Establishment. Lists of Prices of the above, together with the Catalogue of Bedsteads, sent free by post. HEAL & SON, Bedstead and Bedding Manufacturers, 190, Tottenham-court-road.

FENDERS, STOVES, and FIRE-IRONS.

Buyers of the above are requested, before finally deciding, to visit WILLIAM S. BURTON'S SHOW-ROOMS, 39, Oxford-street (corner of Newman-street), Nos. 1 & 2, Newman-street, and 4 & 5, PERRY'S-PLACE. They are the largest in the world, and contain such an assortment of FENDERS, STOVES, RANGES, FIRE-IRONS, and GENERAL IRONMONGERY, as cannot be approached elsewhere, either for variety, novelty, beauty of design, or exquisiteness of workmanship. Bright Stoves, with bronzed ornaments and two sets of bars, 27. 14s. to 57. 10s.; ditto with ornolu ornaments and two sets of bars, 57. 10s. to 127. 12s.; Branded Fenders complete, with standards, from 7s. to 37.; Steel Fenders from 27. 15s. to 67.; ditto, with rich ornolu ornaments, from 27. 15s. to 77. 7s.; Fire-irons from 1s. 9d. the set to 47. 4s. Sylvester and all other Patent Stoves, with radiating hearth plates. All which he is enabled to sell at these very reduced charges.

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

THE PERFECT SUBSTITUTE FOR

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

	Fiddle Pattern.	Thread or Brunswick Pattern.	King's Pattern.
Tea Spoons, per dozen	18s.	23s.	32s.
Dessert Forks	30s.	40s.	46s.
Dessert Spoons	30s.	40s.	46s.
Table Forks	40s.	55s.	64s.
Table Spoons	40s.	55s.	64s.

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

CHEMICALLY PURE NICKEL NOT PLATED.

	Fiddle.	Thread.	King's.
Table Spoons and Forks, full size, per dozen	12s.	28s.	30s.
Dessert ditto and ditto	10s.	21s.	25s.
Tea ditto	5s.	11s.	12s.

CUTLERY WARRANTED.—The most

varied Assortment of TABLE CUTLERY in the world, all warranted, is on Sale at WILLIAM S. BURTON'S, at prices that are remunerative only because of the largeness of the sales. 34-inch ivory-handled table knives, with high shoulders, 11s. per dozen; dessert to match, 10s.; if to balance, 1s. per dozen extra; carvers, 4s. per pair; larger sizes, from 14s. 6d. to 26s. per dozen; extra fine, ivory, 32s.; if with silver ferrules, 37s. to 59s.; white bone table knives, 7s. 6d. per dozen; dessert, 5s. 8d.; carvers, 2s. 8d. per pair; black horn table knives, 7s. 4d. per dozen; dessert, 6s.; carvers, 2s. 6d.; black wood-handled table knives and forks, 4s. per dozen; table steels from 1s. each. The largest stock in existence of plated dessert knives and forks, in cases and otherwise, and of the new plated fish carvers. Also a large assortment of Razors, Penknives, Scissors, &c., of the best quality.

LAMPS of all SORTS and PATTERNS.

The largest, as well as the choicest, assortment in existence of PALMER'S MAGNUM and other LAMPS, CAMPBELL, ARGAND, SOLAR, and MODERATOR LAMPS, with all the latest improvements, and of the newest and most recherché patterns, in ornolu, Bohemian, and plain glass, or papier maché, is at WILLIAM S. BURTON'S, and they are arranged in one large room, so that the patterns, sizes, and sorts can be instantly selected. PALMER'S CANDLES, 64d. a pound.—Palmer's Patent Candles, all marked "Palmer".

Single or double wicks	64d. per pound.
Mid. size, three wicks	9d. ditto.
Magnums, three or four wicks	9d. ditto.
English Patent Camphine, in sealed cans	5s. 9d. per gallon.
Best Colza Oil	4s. ditto.

DISH COVERS and HOT-WATER

DISHES in every material, in great variety, and of the newest and most recherché patterns. Tin Dish Covers, 6s. 6d. the set of six; Block Tin, 12s. 3d. to 28s. 9d. the set of six; elegant modern patterns, 34s. to 58s. 6d. the set; Britannia Metal, with or without silver-plated handles, 78s. 6d. to 110s. 6d. the set; Sheffield plated, 107. to 167. 10s. the set; Block Tin Hot-Water Dishes, with wells for gravy, 12s. to 30s.; Britannia Metal, 22s. to 77s.; Electro-plated on Nickel, full size, 117. 11s.

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

Catalogues, with engravings, sent (per post) free. The money returned for every article not approved of.

39, OXFORD-STREET (corner of Newman-street); Nos. 1 & 2, NEWMAN-STREET; and 4 & 5, PERRY'S-PLACE.

TO THE LOVERS OF FISH.

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS for COUN-

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

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

FIVE GUINEAS.—Mr. WM. H. HALSE,

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

ALLSOPP'S INDIA PALE ALE.—

PARKER and TWINING (late Harrington Parker), 51, PALL-MALL, are now delivering the October Brewings in casks of 18 gallons and upwards.—Also in bottles, Imperial measure—Quarts, 8s.; Pints, 5s.; Half-pints (for luncheon), 3s. per dozen.

TEA IS GETTING DEARER; this is

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

The strong Congou Tea, at 3s. 4d. per lb.
The prime Souchong Tea, at 3s. 8d., 3s. 6d., and 4s.
The prime Gunpowder Tea, at 4s., 4s. 8d., and 5s.
The best Pearl Gunpowder, at 5s. 4d.

All who purchase at these prices will save money, as Teas are getting dearer.

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

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

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

INSURRECTION IN CHINA.—TEAS

are advancing in Price, and from the disturbed state of the producing districts, the well-ascertained shortness of supply, and the increasing consumption, there is every probability of a considerable rise. We have not at present altered our quotations, and are still selling—

	s.	d.
The very Best Black Tea, at	4	0 the pound.
Good sound Congou	3	0
Finest Pekoe ditto	3	3
Fine Gunpowder	4	0
Choice Coffee	1	0
Finest Homoeopathic Cocoa	1	0

This is the most pleasant and nutritious preparation of Cocoa.

For the convenience of our numerous customers, we retail the finest West India and Refined Sugars at market prices.

All goods delivered by our own vans, free of charge, within eight miles of London. Parcels of Tea and Coffee, of the value of Two Pounds sterling, are sent, carriage free, to any part of England.

CULLENHAM AND COMPANY,
Tea-merchants and Dealers,
27, SKINNER-STREET, SNOW-HILL, CITY.

REGISTERED AS THE ACT DIRECTS.

STEPHENS' IMPROVED PARALLEL

RULER.—In the use of the common Desk Ruler every person knows that there is a constant motion of the fingers to accompany the revolution of the Ruler; this motion, besides the inconvenience to the operator, occasions it to roll out of the parallel, and lines so ruled do not in any length of surface correspond. Another inconvenience in the common Ruler is, that, by its contact with the Pen, ink stains are left on the sides of the Ruler, which, in revolving, soil the fingers and the paper; both these inconveniences are removed by the above-named improved Ruler, which having the rollers underneath a flat upper surface, rolls over the paper without coming in contact with the fingers; and by a peculiarity of formation at the ruling edge the Pen is kept from contact with the ruling parts on the paper, so that soiling the fingers on the paper is completely prevented.

Rulers of various lengths, from seven to eighteen inches, at prices varying from 2s. 6d. to 5s.

Manufactured and Sold by the Proprietor, HENRY STEPHENS, 54, Stamford-street, Blackfriars-road, London. Sold by all Booksellers and Stationers.

KEATING'S COUGH LOZENGES.

During a period of more than 40 years this valuable medicine has triumphantly borne the severest test of public opinion, and upon that sound basis alone it has gradually but surely won its way to pre-eminence, until it is now universally acknowledged to be the most effectual, safe, and speedy remedy ever offered to the world for that large class of disease which affects the Pulmonary organs.

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

N.B.—To prevent spurious imitations, please to observe that the words "Keating's Cough Lozenges" are engraven on the Government Stamp of each box, without which none are genuine.

RECENT TESTIMONIAL.

34, Wine-street, Bristol, August 7, 1853.
Sir,—It is with much pleasure I have to inform you of the benefit I received from your Lozenges. I was attacked with the typhus fever, during which time I had a violent cough, so that it kept me awake the greater part of the night. A friend persuaded me to try a box of your "Cough Lozenges," which I did, and am happy to say that with only one box of your valuable compound I was quite free from my cough.

You can make what use of this you please, for I think such a valuable medicine ought not to go unnoticed.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

WM. T. TRUSCOTT.

Mr. Keating, 79, St. Paul's Churchyard, London.

CAUTION.—TO TRADESMEN, MER-

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

PENINSULAR and ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY.**DEPARTURES OUTWARDS.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ITALY, GENOA, LEGHORN, FLORENCE, ROME, NAPLES, and MALTA.

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

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

MELBOURNE AND SYDNEY.

THE GENERAL SCREW STEAM SHIPPING COMPANY'S steamer "**CRESCUS**," of 2500 tons, **JOHN VINE HALL**, Commander, will sail from Southampton on the 10th proximo. Parcel rates very moderate.

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

THE WORKING TAILORS' JOINT STOCK COMPANY, 314, Oxford-street, near Hanover-square.

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

JAMES CAMPBELL, Manager and Secretary.

MESSRS. FARRELL AND HIGGINS, NAVAL and MILITARY TAILORS, OUTFITTERS for INDIA and the COLONIES, 5, Princes-street, Hanover-square.

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

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

The best Irish made Shirts, Six for 36s.; Coloured, Six for 21s.

THE NEW CORK RESPIRATOR.

The lightest, cheapest, and most effectual ever produced, remains perfectly dry while worn, allowing for respiration without being acted on by the acids of the stomach. It is particularly recommended to Invalids, and all who attend evening meetings or places of amusement. The ease with which it is applied and removed cannot fail to make it appreciated by ladies.

Price 3s. each, free by post.

Wholesale and retail of **William T. Cooper**, Pharmaceutical Chemist, 26, Oxford-street, London.

A NEW DISCOVERY IN TEETH.

MR. HOWARD, SURGEON-DENTIST, 52, FLEET-STREET, has introduced an ENTIRELY NEW DESCRIPTION of ARTIFICIAL TEETH, fixed without springs, wires, or ligatures. They so perfectly resemble the natural teeth as not to be distinguished from the originals by the closest observer; they will never change colour or decay, and will be found superior to any teeth ever before used. This method does not require the extraction of roots, or any painful operation, and will support and preserve teeth that are loose, and is guaranteed to restore articulation and mastication. Decayed teeth rendered sound and useful in mastication.

52, FLEET-STREET.—At home from Ten till Five.

THE UNITED MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY, 54, Charing-cross.

Policies indisputable. Assurances effected on the lives of persons about to reside in Australia on equitable terms. **THOMAS BRITCHARD**, Resident Director.

HOPE MUTUAL LIFE OFFICE.

Incorporated under Act of Parliament. This society combines all the modern improvements in the practice of mutual life and honesty guarantee assurance. **H. C. EIFFE**, General Manager.

4, Princes-street, Bank, London. Loans on personal security granted to the policy-holders.

THE LIVERPOOL AND LONDON FIRE AND LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY.

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