

Alfred Edmund Gallows, 154 Strand.

The Leader.

A POLITICAL AND LITERARY REVIEW.

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

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News of the Week.

THE Ministerial crisis that was threatened for Monday really passed over at the end of last week, with the resignation of Lord JOHN RUSSELL, which we announced in our Postscript, and when Sir EDWARD LYTTON's motion was brought forward for discussion on Monday, the question was so completely settled, that he did not venture to carry it to a division. Before Sir EDWARD moved, Lord JOHN stood up and made an explanation. His statement really added nothing to the information conveyed in the Fifteenth Part of Eastern papers, "communications with the Austrian Government," which the public had been perusing for the two previous days "with all the interest of a novel." But his explanation was not without interest as another chapter in the analysis of a public man—the dissection of an eminent nobleman after political suicide, with a clinical lecture by the subject himself lying on the dissecting-table. Lord JOHN told us, as any reader could have gathered from his despatches, that he went to Vienna impressed with the duty of laying before the Austrian Government that which was virtually an ultimatum from this country, requiring either the "neutralisation" of the Black Sea, by excluding all war ships, or the "limitation" of the Russian naval forces to four ships of the line with other vessels in proportion. But after he arrived at Vienna he underwent several conversations with Count BUOL—one of them four hours in length—and began to perceive practicability in the Austrian plan of "equipoise," letting the other powers counterbalance the force of Russia if they pleased; so he promised, in Count BUOL's official chambers, to support, in London, the very counsels that he was commissioned to oppose in Vienna. Yet again, after his return to London and much talk with his colleagues—events meanwhile pursuing their course rapidly—he began to perceive the impracticability of the Austrian plan. He assures us that he was perfectly honest in all these opinions; and what is more wonderful, if the report of his speech be carefully read, it will be found that he is of all these opinions still—that he is in favour of peace on the Austrian plan of equipoise, but sees that it is impossible. There was nothing in all this that ought to have surprised the House of Commons; they had become familiar with the impartial opinions of the Hamlet of the House of BED-

FORD—with "Finality JOHN," who insisted that we need no more reform, and opposed Mr. LOCKE KING's 10l. franchise as a preface for proposing a 5l. franchise of his own—who resisted the reduction of the sugar duties, and then proposed a reduction, in order to prevent Sir ROBERT PEEL from beginning his great career in carrying the Whig doctrines of free-trade. But it was one thing to find excuse for Lord JOHN personally, and another to tolerate the representation of this country abroad by a Minister who was for a vigorous prosecution of the war while accepting a compromise, and backed the demands of his own Government with promises to back the demands of the opposite side. Lord JOHN's proverbial impulses have led him alternately with the popular party, and then the popular party has used the Lord for its instrument, or against the popular party, and then Lord JOHN always "retires to a back bench." He has done so just now, and the country is very much inclined to leave him there. The explanation enabled us to understand Lord JOHN better, and enabled the country to understand its own comprehensive reasons why it was tired of being represented by such a Lord, either in the Cabinet or in Count BUOL's official chambers.

Sir EDWARD LYTTON was to have moved "That the conduct of our Minister in the recent negotiations at Vienna has, in the opinion of this House, shaken the confidence of the country in those to whom its affairs are entrusted"—that is, a censure on the Ministry because such a man as Lord JOHN RUSSELL remained in it. But Lord JOHN did not remain in it; and how could Sir EDWARD ask the House of Commons to censure the Cabinet for having in it the man who is not there? No doubt, by a kind of ingenious twist, it was possible still to apply to the Government a certain censure for *having had* in it such a man as Lord JOHN; but the English Parliament is not good at following refinements of that kind; from the very first the position was one that implied that most harassing kind of defeat in the House of Commons, an indifferent reception throughout. It would have been better to drop it; but Sir EDWARD had made up his mind to associate his name with the train of events that drove Lord JOHN RUSSELL from power, the speech was ready, and it was not in his heart to lay it on the shelf. He persevered. It has been observed, however, that no pains in editing the composition so as to bring it to the

present day could rescue it from its posthumous character. In the very petty and mechanical matter of tenses, Sir EDWARD found it impossible to reconcile the present with the past. He was continually speaking in the present tense when he should have spoken in the preterpluperfect; speaking in the positive mood, when it should have been in the conditional. Occasionally the polished phrases became a little damaged in imparting the due antiquity of colour. Conceived as a diatribe, the composition had to be converted into an historical essay; and when the orator intended to denounce the Government for insincerity in its warlike language while the plenipotentiary at Vienna "sits on that bench," he had to turn his denunciations into the complaint that the Ministry was insincere in its patriotism so long as the Minister sat on that bench "up to Thursday last." Dates and emotion do not go well together. Sir EDWARD's doleful tragedy sounded like the celebrated song of GUY FAWKES, where the singer tells us how the conspirators blew up the King and all his Ministers—"that is how they would have done it," if everything had not happened otherwise. No studied "quousque tandem" could tell upon an audience, when it had thus to be delivered at every sentence with an "it," or a "while;" and the anachronism of the invective told fatally upon the remainder of the debate. The rescue lay in the fact that Lord PALMERSTON had been made angry. Sir EDWARD had endeavoured to draw a distinction between Lord CLARENDON, whose language, written and spoken, happens to be singularly lucid and unmistakable, and Lord PALMERSTON, maintaining that while Lord CLARENDON deserved credit for the patriotism and stubbornness of his bearing, Lord PALMERSTON, who ruled over the Cabinet as a whole, was responsible for the recreant Lord JOHN. Lord PALMERSTON did not take time to reflect upon the exact meaning of Sir EDWARD's studied distinction; he accused him of ignorance, if he did not know that the language of the Foreign Secretary must be the language of the Cabinet and of the Premier, and of malignity if he did know it. The reason for Sir EDWARD's distinction came out afterwards, when Mr. DISRAELI insisted that for a time the whole Cabinet agreed with Lord JOHN; and when Mr. ROMBUCK, anticipating his own debate on the next night, roundly declared that there were "traitors" in the Cabinet. In the course of the debate some of the traitors were named as being Sir CHARLES

WOOD, Sir GEORGE CORNEWALL LEWIS, and Sir GEORGE GREY. It was said that these men had agreed with Lord JOHN and Mr. GLADSTONE; but the real charge against Lord PALMERSTON was that of consenting to sit as President of a Coalition Cabinet for political purposes at home, while in foreign affairs half that Cabinet consisted of "traitors." Sir GEORGE GREY stood up, and boldly denied that there was any division in the Cabinet at all: and there is, indeed, no evidence to prove it. If any person conveyed to Mr. DISRAELI the information which he professed to have, there must be, or must have been, some very base "traitor" in the Cabinet; a traitor so mean and so paltry, that we regard his existence among English gentlemen as more improbable than Mr. DISRAELI's having been totally deceived in the matter. Mr. GLADSTONE finished the debate by one of his most casuistical and unexciting speeches—a kind of lecture to the House of Commons for the mistake it had made in not adopting his views, and closing the war on the Russian terms of peace; and then Sir EDWARD LYTTON's vote of censure was withdrawn.

Mr. ROEBUCK's motion of censure upon the members of the Administration who advised the Sebastopol expedition came late in the day absolutely; and it was rendered still more out of date by the interposition of Sir EDWARD LYTTON's motion, a censure upon a more recent event, but already felt to be too late. Preter-plu-perfect is not the tense in which Mr. ROEBUCK should have spoken, but some tense much further thrown back. The effect of tedium was increased by the adjournment from Tuesday over the Wednesday; and, excepting Mr. ROEBUCK's conscientious reproduction of his favourite portions from the Sebastopol Report, the discussion principally turned upon the same question put in a variety of forms, whether or not the debate ought to have been had at all. It was contended, that since the political grounds for proceeding with the Crimean expedition had not been stated, and could not be stated, the House could not judge the conduct of the Cabinet Ministers, and that "the previous question," therefore—whether the motion ought to be put—was a very proper one to be answered in the negative. Sir JAMES GRAHAM and the Peelites voted against that form, because they wished to meet the motion with a direct negative; but the House was really engaged in single combats, such as Mr. BRIGHT's attack upon Lord PALMERSTON, and the viscount's retaliation. Mr. ROEBUCK himself had created a difficulty, for virtually he exonerated the late Ministers in the War Departments; Lord JOHN RUSSELL had already been disposed of; he could not censure Lord PALMERSTON as Home Secretary in the ABERDEEN Cabinet, while exonerating the Premier and the War Ministers. The attack, therefore, seemed to be levelled at Lord PALMERSTON as Premier of the Cabinet which had not given the advice imputed! One speech had a great effect upon the House, for its substantial facts and noble-minded spirit. Sir DE LACY EVANS impartially and earnestly surveyed the mistakes committed in the Crimea, and the means to correct them. But the real question upon which the House divided was, whether or not it would be convenient for the several parties to put Lord PALMERSTON out of office. The body of the members usually sitting on the right hand of Mr. Speaker, and some forty of the more discreet Conservatives, in voting that Mr. ROEBUCK's motion should not be put, virtually pronounced a negative on the removal of Lord PALMERSTON. This division gave to Ministers 289 to 182; and with that vote the session virtually closed.

Some obstruction to the closing of the session had already been got rid of. Maynooth, instead of being a weekly debate, is postponed till "that day three months"—which will fall somewhat in the middle of the recess. Lord PALMERSTON had made it up with the Irish Members, consenting to support their clause for retrospective compensation in the Tenants Compensation Bill. The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER has announced that no further demand upon Parliament will be necessary at present; as Ministers have 3,000,000*l.* of the allowance already made inappropriate.

It is true that members have been doing some work in Committee, which would seem to require a practical sequel. The conduct of the police during the second Sunday of the rioting has been brought before the Commissioners appointed by the Home Office, and the evidence is telling so strongly against the police in particular cases, that the Commons will probably have something

to say upon the subject, if Ministers do not anticipate them. Some of the police appear to have struck out the brilliant idea, that if they were called upon to attack one person they could acquit themselves of the duty by attacking somebody else—a woman, or a quiet-looking man; or they render their business easier by the Napoleonic plan of concentrating their force upon a single point—twelve truncheons on one man's head.

Dr. HASSALL is proving before the Select Committee of the Commons that which he has proved before the readers of the *Lancet*—that by the adulterations of food the retail dealers of this country are poisoning her Majesty's lieges,—undermining the strength of her Majesty's subjects for service in the Crimea, and other useful purposes; and really, with the evidence before the Committee, it does seem criminal that Parliament should adjourn for the recess and leave the community to another year of poisoning. Then there is the Beer Act—that great law which every police magistrate condemns either by his own opinion or the facts he states; while it is supported by Sir ROBERT CARDEN, who dictates to others the Maine Liquor Law he does not obey himself; and by Mr. GEORGE CRUIKSHANK, who denies that there is any inconvenience resulting from the act, the cry for the act repeal being only "a fuss about drink," while he hands in caricatures of his own as evidence for the Select Committee!

Nothing decisive from Sebastopol. The Generals report that all goes on well, and that they are pushing their works nearer to those of the enemy. That they are coming to close quarters is clear from the sorties that have taken place. The French have been three times attacked, on the 15th, 16th, and 18th; but in every instance the Russians have been repulsed with loss. In like manner the English repulsed an attack upon the left side on the 18th. It may therefore be fairly inferred that the enemy finds the proximity of the Allies menacing and inconvenient, and that as reinforcements are expected, he is more desirous than ever of obstructing the progress of the siege in every possible way. This is a period of silent activity on the part of the Allies, and troubled action on the part of the enemy; but we cannot have long to wait for more decisive news.

In Asia the Russians have again advanced upon Kars, have cut off communication with Erzeroum, and have invested the place—some say with 60,000 men.

The retirement of the French military commissioner from Vienna, and of the Austrian military commissioner from Paris, are facts which illustrate the widening difference between the Western Powers and their recent ally. On the other hand, the large subscriptions which are already anticipated towards the loan in France, now ascertained to be an open one, imply that the resources of that country are much more buoyant, the people much more favourable to the war, than they were supposed to be.

Naples, who has declared that she shall follow Austrian suit, has just been welcoming the King of Portugal; expecting, it is said, that he will take one of the Neapolitan princesses off the royal hands as his wife; for while powers are trembling in the balance, dynasties are still pursuing the speculations of wedlock. New relations, it is solemnly said, have been made, favourable to the Orleans family, because the Count de CHAMORD begins to think that his wife never will have an heir.

Rather an important measure is in prospect of being passed by the Legislature of North Carolina—a law to legalise the marriage and education of slaves. North Carolina is scarcely a slave state; her example, perhaps, would be slowly followed by others more to the South; and the measure has only been delayed by the hostile and menacing agitations of the Abolitionists. It may, however, be at least the fine point of the wedge.

This is a better mode of carrying on the war against slavery than the old plan of persecuting our ally, Brazil, because she could not at a blow purify her domestic institutions, or persevering in an exchange of massacres with the natives of the Gambia, to enforce the surrender of slaves or compensation. In the recent case of Mallaghen, we have thrown away many valuable lives, and bombarded a town, to extort money; disguising the moral lesson under an equivocal appearance of avarice. If the Negroes, as a body, were respectably settled in life and educated, it would be morally impossible to keep them in a state of slavery.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

INDIAN GRIEVANCES.

In the House of Lords, on Monday, the Earl of ALBEMARLE presented a petition from the native inhabitants of the presidency of Madras, praying for a redress of grievances, and that the administration of the British territories in India be transferred from the East India Company to the Crown. The petition emanated from a public meeting convened by the sheriff, and was signed by 14,000 persons. In the course of his speech, the earl pointed out the oppressive and heartless taxation under which the natives labour—a taxation which reduces them to the very verge of famine, and which is wrung from them by torture. That horrid practice had indeed been carried on to a frightful extent; and this cruel state of things had not been mitigated by any attempts to improve or develop the material capabilities of the land, which was so disgracefully neglected that famines were of frequent occurrence.—Earl GRANVILLE was of opinion that the Indian Government had done much already, and he had no doubt they would do more.

DEFICIENCY BILLS.

Lord MONTEAGLE moved for copies of all the correspondence which had passed between the Bank of England and the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the matter of deficiency bills.—Earl GRANVILLE at first objected to produce the correspondence, but when the motion was supported by Lord Derby, agreed to it.

RELIGIOUS WORSHIP BILL.

The Earl of SHAFTESBURY, in moving that this bill be recommitted, observed that certain modifications had been introduced into it, and he believed he was justified in asserting that it was now approved, not only by the Archbishop of Canterbury, with whom he had communicated on the subject, but by the Episcopal body generally.—The Archbishop of CANTERBURY confirmed this statement.—Ultimately, it was agreed that the bill should be sent back to the select committee, the Earl of SHAFTESBURY this time expressing his readiness to serve thereon.

THIRD READINGS.

The following bills were read a third time and passed:—Endowed Schools (Ireland), Edinburgh Lands, Youthful Offenders (No. 2), Gold Wedding Rings, Commons Inclosure (No. 2), Encumbered Estates (Ireland) Act Continuance.

THE OFFICE OF POSTMASTER-GENERAL.

In the Commons Lord PALMERSTON, in answer to Mr. MOFFATT, said it was not the intention of Government to abolish the office of Postmaster-General, as it seemed to them that the Post-office ought to be a department connected with the political administration of the country.

LORD JOHN RUSSELL'S STATEMENT.—SIR E. B.

LYTTON'S MOTION.

Lord JOHN RUSSELL (who spoke from the third Ministerial bench) moved, in pursuance of an arrangement with Lord Palmerston, that the orders of the day be postponed, so as to allow of Sir Edward Bulwer Lytton's motion being brought on. He recapitulated the circumstances attending his promise to place the Austrian propositions before the Cabinet in the most favourable manner, and the subsequent rejection by the Government of those propositions. The Foreign Ministers of France and Turkey agreed with him in thinking the proposals might be accepted; but circumstances arose in the course of the week following their rejection here which caused him to change his mind. He had originally thought that the Austrian scheme presented the means of combining all the Powers of Europe against the future aggressions of Russia; but, subsequent to the decisions of the English Cabinet, the Austrian Government proposed to lay down, in Conference, some proposals for a limitation of the Russian fleet, and declared that even the rejection by Russia of those proposals would not be considered a *casus belli*. Now he (Lord John Russell), in conjunction with the rest of the Cabinet, did not think it worth while to enter into negotiations founded upon proposals so made. This was on the 18th of May; and, from that time, things reverted to their previous condition. Mr. Disraeli had objected that, after his return from Vienna, he had become "an uncompromising advocate of war." After the rejection of the Austrian propositions, he had no other course. As for the House not having been informed of the Austrian propositions, that was a matter for which the Foreign Secretary was responsible; but he (Lord John Russell) thought that it would have been a dereliction of duty to publish them. When the Austrian scheme was refused, he fell back upon his former opinions, and a more united Cabinet could not exist. But he had now resolved to resign because of the wide prevalence of opinions adverse to him. He was aware that he had many friends, and those he thanked for their kindness and support. As for his enemies, who turned upon him when there was a rub in his fortunes, he regarded them with contempt.

He had been slandered; but so had the brave and humane Lord Raglan, even to the verge of the grave; and so had many other great men. He had always acted in accordance with his conscience, and he could not be deprived of the satisfaction—whatever errors and mistakes he might have committed—of reflecting that he had been connected, though far beyond his deserts, with measures which had promoted the civil and religious interests of his country. He had therefore no reason to be dissatisfied with the result which had occurred, even though it should lead to his exclusion for ever from political life.

Sir E. BULWER LYTTON entered into a review of the conduct of Lord John Russell from the period of his secession from the Government of Lord Aberdeen up to the present time; and, by several charges of inconsistency, justified the motion which he now withdrew, owing to the resignation of the Minister against whom it was directed. He must say he was astonished that Lord John Russell did not retire from the Government the night after he returned from Vienna. The papers which had just been laid before Parliament showed that, during the latter part of the negotiations, Lord John Russell was at direct variance with Lord Clarendon; the Foreign Secretary expressly instructing our envoy that he must avoid as much as possible the system of counterpoise, and the latter basing his plan on that very system. So far as Lord Clarendon was concerned, there was a frank, hearty, and English tone in these despatches. But Lord Clarendon represents himself alone, while the Prime Minister represents the whole Cabinet. If, then, the latter concurred with his Foreign Secretary, how could he concur with his negotiator? Was it not a fair inference that Lord John Russell did not stand alone in the Government? that there was not a united Cabinet, and that Lord Clarendon was not its spokesman? There were some gentlemen in the Cabinet whose opinions he should like to know—gentlemen who had never yet expressed their sentiments on the nature of the war, or the proper conditions of peace. What were the opinions of the Chancellor of the Exchequer? What were the opinions of the First Lord of the Admiralty? It remained to be seen whether the sacrifice of Lord John Russell had removed the only obstacle to earnestness and unity in the prosecution of the war.

Mr. BOUVERIE pronounced a high eulogy on the character of Lord John Russell; and, in answer to certain assertions which had been made, denied that he had consented to be a party to representing to the late Minister that the opinion of the country, of the House, and of a large number of the Cabinet, was against him; but immediately afterwards admitted that he had made such a representation. This extraordinary self-contradiction elicited loud laughter and ironical cheering from the House.

Lord PALMERSTON criticised Sir Bulwer Lytton's speech with very great asperity. It was full of inconsistencies, the chief argument being based on the assumption that Lord John Russell, after his return from Vienna, continued to be of the same opinion with regard to the Austrian proposals—an assumption which, if the hon. baronet's memory were good for ten minutes' duration, he must have known to be totally and absolutely incorrect. He was, therefore, clearly guilty of one of two things—either of deliberate insincerity, or of the grossest ignorance as a public man. With respect to his assertion that Lord Clarendon merely represents his individual opinion, did he believe that assertion to be the truth? If so, he must be more grossly ignorant, not than any man, but than any child, in London who reads a newspaper. And when he said he should like to see the letters addressed by the Prime Minister to Lord John Russell, he must have known as well as any man that the foreign correspondence of a Government is always conducted through the Foreign Minister, and through him only. Sir E. B. Lytton had said that these frequent changes made us ridiculous in the eyes of Europe; but there was one change which would make us still more ridiculous—a change which would bring in the hon. baronet as the occupant of any high situation. The present Cabinet is not divided, but resolved to carry on the war with the utmost vigour.

Mr. DISRAELI defended the speech of Sir E. B. Lytton, and denounced that of Lord Palmerston as "reckless rhodomontade," and as containing language towards the hon. baronet which was not to be anticipated from one who holds the position of a gentleman. The conduct of Lord John Russell had been full of inconsistencies; the language of the Government had been ambiguous throughout, and they had withheld important information from the House. The First Lord of the Treasury had talked of standing or falling by Lord John Russell; but he was neither standing nor falling—he was merely sitting on the Treasury benches. Was it, or was it not, a fact that there had been a general understanding between the Governments of England and France that the terms in question would be accepted, and that this was communicated to Lord John Russell? [Lord PALMERSTON: "No."] If Parliament lasted six weeks, he believed this statement would be re-

ceived by a majority of the House as authentic. Lord John Russell, who had met the giants of debate in former times, had feared to meet this motion. But in his stead Lord Palmerston had spoken, and had shown, by his language and the tone of his mind, that, if the honour and the interests of the country are longer committed to his keeping, the first will be degraded, and the last betrayed.

Mr. ROEBUCK said that Lord John Russell had, by his disingenuous conduct, given the country to understand that he was an energetic advocate for war, at a time when he was at issue with the Cabinet on the proposals for peace. He (Mr. Roebuck) had thus been deceived, and had voted against Mr. Disraeli's motion, when, if he had known the true state of the case, he should have supported it. Lord John Russell had neglected his duty to the country, to the House, and to truth. But there were many reasons for believing that several traitors still remain in the Cabinet; and these should be made known.—Sir GEORGE GREY denied that, as had been hinted, he had sanctioned a course in the Government which he personally disapproved.—Mr. GLADSTONE agreed with previous speakers in condemning the conduct of Lord John Russell. It was desirable that the Government should give explanations upon several points connected with the papers recently laid before the House. As for the Austrian proposition on the Third Point, which Lord John Russell supported, it was almost identical with the last of the Russian proposals which he (Mr. Gladstone) had advocated, though for doing so he had been severely censured by the late Minister.—The motion was then withdrawn.

THE DOWNING-STREET PUBLIC OFFICES EXTENSION BILL passed through committee.—THE STAGE CARRIAGE DUTIES BILL also passed through committee, after the CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER had withdrawn the 6th clause, which imposed certain duties upon building societies.—The further reading of the DISSENTERS MARRIAGE BILL was proceeded with, and several amendments relating to matters of detail were agreed to.—THE LUNATIC ASYLUMS (IRELAND) BILL, and the MORTMAIN BILL, were read a third time and passed.

The House of Lords on Tuesday was merely occupied in forwarding several bills a stage.

In the Commons, the morning sitting was chiefly occupied in committee on the METROPOLITAN BUILDINGS BILL.

BARON ROTHSCHILD.—REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE.

At the evening sitting, the Report of the Select Committee appointed to inquire into the validity of Baron Rothschild's seat was read at the table. The Committee's decision was that Baron Rothschild, in the matter of the 16,000,000*l.* loan, was not a contractor within the meaning of the act.

THE FOUR POINTS.

Lord PALMERSTON, in answer to Mr. Layard, mentioned that some arrangements were agreed to at Vienna in relation to the Four Points, but they were merely parts of a whole. The allied Governments considered themselves free from the past. Austria was bound by treaty to occupy the Principalities, and to defend them against Russia. With regard to the commission said to be sitting at Vienna, he knew nothing of it.

MR. ROEBUCK'S MOTION.

Mr. ROEBUCK, in bringing forward his motion, the object of which was to visit with severe reprehension every member of the late Cabinet whose counsels led to the disasters in the Crimea, briefly narrated the circumstances under which the committee was appointed, and spoke in high terms of the soldierly qualities and eminent services of the late Lord Raglan—a tribute which he was the more disposed to render, because the world believed that he had done that gallant spirit some wrong. The committee had condemned every member of the late Administration; and it was the duty of the House to pass sentence. Some of the members of that Administration had been excluded from office, and so far they were punished; but he conceived that those who remained, and formed part of the present Government, were far more guilty than the ministers who have been sacrificed. The Duke of Newcastle, Sir James Graham, and Mr. Sidney Herbert, had shown great zeal and industry in their respective departments, though unquestionably they had committed faults. He could not observe an equal degree of energy in those who are still enjoying the sweets of office. He thought the late Government highly culpable for entering on the expedition against Sebastopol without sufficient knowledge of the resources of the enemy, and for sending no more than 25,000 English; and he specially charged Lord Palmerston with neglect in not earlier organising the militia, so that a better reserve might have been formed. While the army was dwindling with cold, hunger, and disease, all the members of the Government, with the exception of the Duke of Newcastle, were away from their posts, taking their pleasure from the end of August to October. The House should visit with its censure the men who had so far forgotten their

duties. As for the herd, who follow like sheep their leaders' track, they should not be held exempt from punishment, even though they were insignificant. All he desired was justice.—Mr. HADFIELD seconded the motion.

General PEEL, by way of amendment, moved the previous question. He thought the House should not look back, except to profit by past errors.—Lord ROBERT CEIL, who expressed a similar opinion, seconded the amendment. He thought, though the terms of the motion might be vindicated in the abstract, they had the appearance of an acrimonious and vindictive personality.—Colonel ADAIR, being precluded, as a matter of form, from moving the amendment of which he had given notice, and the object of which was to express an opinion that the counsels determining the expedition were consistent with a wise and sagacious policy, made some remarks in vindication of the opinion thus expressed, and in opposition to Mr. Roebuck's censures.—Mr. CONOLLY supported the original motion.—Mr. LOWE was of opinion that his original objections to the appointment of the Committee had been fully borne out. It was impossible for the House to come to a verdict upon evidence which was avowedly partial and incomplete. Besides, the censure would include the Emperor of the French, and might thus endanger our alliance.—The Marquis of GRANBY spoke in favour of the amendment, not wishing to weaken the executive now that we are positively at war, though he thought the war in the first instance unnecessary.—Mr. J. G. PHILLIMORE, Mr. GORDON, Sir J. WALSH, and Lord SEYMOUR spoke against the motion; and Mr. MAGUIRE in its favour.—Sir JAMES GRAHAM thought the House ought to come to some decision on the conduct of the late Administration that night.—Sir JOHN PAKINGTON denied the truth of Mr. Lowe's observation that the inquiry was incomplete as regards this particular question; nor was the House trying the conduct of the French Emperor. The question raised by the motion was, not whether the expedition itself was right or wrong, but whether it had been properly carried out.—Sir CHARLES WOOD said the Government would vote for the amendment of General Peel, on the ground that the inquiry of the committee is imperfect. Had it been perfect they would not have shrunk from a decision on the main question. Mr. Roebuck had, with great inconsistency, censured those Ministers who were not immediately responsible for the war arrangements, and acquitted those who were.—On the motion of Mr. GASKELL the debate was adjourned.

The debate was resumed on Thursday, and protracted until a very late hour, the house not adjourning until ten minutes to three.—Mr. GASKELL having spoken in favour of Mr. Roebuck's motion, the ATTORNEY-GENERAL opposed it, conceiving that the House would not be justified in censuring Lord Palmerston and his colleagues for acts committed by a previous Administration, and upon evidence confessedly imperfect. The object of the motion was to make the present First Minister specially responsible, although he held in the previous Government an office which had no connexion with the management of the war, and although since his accession to his present post, the war had been conducted with the utmost vigour.—Mr. WHITESIDE contended that all the members of a cabinet are responsible for the acts and councils of each individual member. The attempt of the Attorney-General to prove the contrary was unconstitutional. The evidence of the Sebastopol Committee was not imperfect as regards the authorities in this country—the persons against whom the motion was directed; and it was perfectly justifiable to revert to the acts of the late Cabinet.

Lord JOHN RUSSELL agreed with Mr. Whiteside that all the members of a cabinet are responsible for its measures; but he accused Mr. Roebuck of being actuated by malice in bringing forward his motion. The expedition to Sebastopol was undertaken after the defeat of the Russians at Silistria, under the belief that the public would be dissatisfied if the war were not vigorously prosecuted. There was good reason to believe that Sebastopol would fall; and, at any rate, considering the results which would accrue from its reduction, the trial was worth the risk. All the information that could be obtained was obtained; and the absence of the Government from town during the autumn was no injury to the public service. The total Cabinet was responsible for having sent out the expedition, but was not responsible for the details of management. With respect to the tendency of the motion, did the House think it desirable that we should have another change of Government?

Mr. BRIGGS held that the Report of the Committee more than made out the case submitted by Mr. Roebuck, and that it was impossible to refrain from doing something with that Report. He conceived that Lord Palmerston was specially guilty; but that Lord John Russell, having turned Queen's evidence, should, like all persons in that "dignified position," be exempt from punishment. There had been a cabal in the Cabinet against Lord John Russell, because of his being inclined to peace. The general manner of Lord Palmerston was most disrespectful to that House. He had no confidence in the present

Prime Minister; and he believed the country had none.—Sir DE LACY EVANS grounded his observations chiefly on those of Mr. Bright, agreeing with him in thinking that Lord Palmerston had not shown proper respect to the House, but dissenting from his other remarks. He had full confidence in the energy of the Premier, though he thought he had not yet exhibited it to the full. The late Administration had been tardy in going to war, and the present Government ought before now to have made use of the Indian army. If that were not shortly done, the sooner the present Government went the better.—Captain GLADSTONE and Mr. ELLICE spoke against, and Mr. MUNTZ for, the motion.—Mr. SIDNEY HERBERT defended the late Administration, and threw doubts upon the validity of much of the evidence taken before the Sebastopol Committee, owing to the (perhaps unintentional) exaggeration of many of the witnesses, who relied too much on camp gossip.—Sir GEORGE GREY denounced the conduct of the supporters of the motion as factious. Sir John Pakington and Mr. Whiteside would have taken office under Lord Palmerston when he formed his ministry; but they now bitterly opposed him.—After an appeal from Lord JOHN MANNERS to the Government not to narrow the issue by supporting the previous question,

Lord PALMERSTON criticised the strange conduct of Mr. Roebuck in specially censuring those very ministers who were not engaged in the details of this war. A ministry, no doubt, is collectively responsible as regards the general management of a war; but the details lie with the departments. The expedition to Sebastopol was perfectly justifiable; and he, individually, when Home Secretary, had done all that was requisite with respect to the militia, 38,000 men belonging to which were under arms at the end of last December. Of this number 18,000 had entered the regular army. The army was in a bad condition in November. Was it in that condition now? He should vote for the previous question, because the inquiry of the Sebastopol Committee was not perfect; but, if the motion was put, he should meet it with a direct negative.

Mr. DISRAELI having taunted the Government with its endeavours to evade the main question, and Mr. ROEBUCK having made a few caustic remarks, the House divided, when there appeared—For the previous question, 289; against, 182; majority, 107.

MAYNOOTH.

On the order for resuming the adjourned debate upon Maynooth College, Mr. FAGAN moved that it be again adjourned, and, after some conversation, the motion was carried, upon a division, by 97 to 88.—Mr. KIRK then moved that the debate be adjourned for three months; and, upon a division, this motion was carried by 93 to 90; so that the question is disposed of for the session.

THE SALE OF SPIRITS (IRELAND) BILL was read a third time and passed.

The House of Commons, on Wednesday, adopted certain recommendations made by the Committee on Standing Orders. THE EPISCOPAL AND CAPITULAR ESTATES BILL was then withdrawn by the Marquis of Blandford, on account of the lateness of the session; and the House went into Committee on the DWELLINGS FOR THE LABOURING CLASSES (IRELAND) BILL, and adopted some clauses.

SCOTCH EDUCATION BILL.

In the House of Lords, on Thursday, after a conversation as to the proposed pensions to the families of officers, in the course of which Lord PANMURE promised that the returns relating to the subject should be speedily laid before the House, Lord BROUGHAM presented two petitions against the Scotch Education Bill, and urged the Duke of Argyll to postpone the measure.—The Duke of Argyll declined to accede to this proposition; and, after a lengthened speech, in which he entered fully into the details of the bill, moved that it be read a second time.—The Duke of Buccleuch enumerated the many objections which he felt it to be his duty to entertain against the bill, and moved that it be read a second time that day three months.—Lords BROUGHAM and EGLINTON followed on the same side. Ultimately the bill was rejected on a division, in which the numbers were—For the bill, 1; against it, 86.

The evening in the House of Commons was occupied by the adjourned debate on Mr. Roebuck's motion, which will be found in another column in continuation of the opening debate.

A CALCULATING GIRL.—The *Ayr Advertiser* gives an account of a little girl who makes mental calculations of the most abstruse kind. Among other questions, she was asked to cube 795, and give the quotient of that product divided by 19. The product, 502,459,875, and the quotient, 26,445,256 11-19, were both correctly given. In the performance of this last heavy question, her teacher begged to be allowed to give her the square upon the board to assist her memory. She did not avail herself of it.

THE WAR.

A SERIES of sorties by the Russians against both the French and English positions—but chiefly against the former—is nearly the sum total of the news from the Crimea during the past week. The first of these attacks took place on Saturday night, and was directed against the French Rifle-pits in front of the Malakoff; but it was energetically repulsed. The attacking force consisted of three or four Russian battalions. In retreating, they carried off many killed and wounded: the loss of the French is stated at nine killed and eleven wounded. On Sunday, the attempt was repeated; and the result is thus described by General Pelissier:—

"July 16, 11 P.M.

"The enemy, who had for some days in vain endeavoured to stop our left approaches in front of the Malakoff Tower, attempted last night to drive us back. They were repulsed by the first division of the second corps.

"Three times the Russians threw themselves upon our trenches with their usual shouts, and after each attempt they were compelled to retreat by the steady fire and calm attitude of our soldiers, leaving behind them many of their slain upon the ground.

"The general of the trenches, Vinoy, had made most excellent arrangements, which greatly contributed to this success."

The *Patrie* of Thursday evening says that news had been received that morning to the effect that the Russians attempted another sortie on Wednesday night about ten o'clock against the batteries of Careening Bay, and that they were driven back. On Thursday, Lord Panmure received intelligence that on the previous day a sortie made on the left (English) attack was repulsed with only three casualties on our side.

The French trenches opened against the Malakoff were, on the 3rd inst., within two hundred and fifty metres of the enemy's position. The Russians, on their side, were increasing the number of their batteries, and connecting together their different works; and the videttes on the Tchernaya had observed a degree of activity among the army of observation of General Gortschakoff. The Russians, moreover, have received reinforcements; and the army of Poland is said—though whether truthfully or not remains to be seen—to be marching for Sebastopol. General Canrobert has returned to the Tchernaya.

The news from Asia is not of the most encouraging kind. The situation of the Turks at Kars is said to be grave, as the town is threatened by a large body of Russians, who greatly outnumber the Turks. General Mouravieff, the Russian, is stated to have 36,000 men at his command; but, according to the *Moniteur*, the town is not invested, though other accounts represent it as being so. Zaïm is the basis of the Russian operations. Mouravieff, who is regarded by some as the best general in the Russian army, is sparing no pains to reduce the place: heavy torrents of rain, however, have impeded his operations. The direct communication of the Turks with Erzeroum is cut off; but it is expected that the Turkish general will retreat on that city. He has applied for reinforcements; and 15,000 men will be at once sent.

Generals Pelissier and Simpson both announce that cholera is rapidly decreasing in their respective armies. Colonel Casati, however, the chief of the Piedmontese Staff, has died of this distemper; but Omar Pasha, who was attacked, has recovered. Colonel Ansaldi has succeeded the younger Della Marmora.

Up to the latest dates, nothing of importance had occurred at Eupatoria or Yeni-Kaleh.

THE LATE LORD RAGLAN.

A military correspondent of the *Daily News* writes:—"At four o'clock of the day of Lord Raglan's decease, as his staff was about to go for their usual ride, they were informed that he was much worse. They immediately repaired to where he was lying. He seemed surprised at seeing them, and inquired the reason, which they stated as delicately as they could, when, with a most amiable smile, he assured them they were mistaken, for he was much better, and in a day or two would be about again. They felt their anxiety relieved, and went for a ride, leaving him in peace. He afterwards raised himself in bed, and called twice or thrice, 'Frank, Frank!' (meaning Lord Burghersh), turned round, and so died, with a most beautiful calm and quiet expression on his face."

General Pelissier issued the following order on the occasion of the death of the English commander:—

"Death has just surprised in his command Field-Marshal Lord Raglan, and has plunged the English army in grief. We share the regrets of our brave allies. Those who knew Lord Raglan, who were acquainted with the history of his noble life, so pure, so rich in services rendered to his country—those who witnessed his bravery on the fields of Alma and Inkerman, who remember the calm and stoical grandeur of his character during this severe and memorable campaign,—all men of heart, in fact, must deplore the loss of such a man.

"The sentiments which the Commander-in-Chief expresses are those of the whole army. He himself several feels this unforeseen blow. The public sorrow falls most heavily upon him, as he has the additional regret of being forever separated from a companion-in-arms whose cordial spirit he loved, whose virtues he admired, and in whom he always found loyal and hearty co-operation."

"PELISSIER, Commander-in-Chief.

"Head-quarters before Sebastopol, June 29."

THE OBSEQUIES OF LORD RAGLAN AT THE CAMP.

A despatch from General Simpson, dated July 7, gives an account of the last honours paid to the remains of the late Commander-in-Chief at the scene of his labours and his death. The body was removed from head-quarter to Kazatch Bay on the 3rd inst. "In the courtyard of the house (says General Simpson) was stationed a guard of honour of a hundred men of the Grenadier Guards with their drums and regimental colours; fifty men with one field officer, one captain, and one subaltern from the Royal Sappers and Miners and from each regiment, lined the road from the British to the French head-quarters—a distance of about a mile; a squadron of cavalry was stationed on the right of the line, two batteries of artillery and a squadron of cavalry on the left of it; the infantry were commanded by Major-General Eyre, C.B.

"The road from the French head-quarters to Kazatch Bay was lined throughout the whole way by the infantry of the French Imperial Guard and of the 1st Corps bands were stationed at intervals, and played as the procession passed, and field batteries (French) at intervals, on the high grounds right and left of the road fired minute guns.

"At the wheels of the gun-carriage rode General Pelissier, Commander-in-Chief of the French army; his Highness Omar Pasha, Commander-in-Chief of the Ottoman army; General Della Marmora, Commander-in-Chief of the Sardinian army; and Lieutenant-General Simpson, Commander-in-Chief of the English army.

"The body was received on the wharf by Admiral Bruat and Rear-Admiral Stewart, C.B., and a large number of officers of the combined fleets. The launch of the British flagship, towed by men-of-war boats, conveyed the coffin to the Caradoc, the boats of the combined fleets forming an escort; and the troop and battery of the Royal Artillery included in the escort formed upon the rising ground above the bay, and fired a salute of nineteen guns as the coffin left the shore."

THE BALTIC.

The bombardment and destruction by an English squadron of Nystadt, in Finland, appears not to be a fact. A Hamburg letter of the 11th inst. says:—"The statement was circulated by the captain of a small vessel coming from the Gulf, and the Swedish telegraph immediately forwarded it in all directions. To-day, the event appears to be unfounded."

The same writer thus describes some of our recent operations in the North:—"On the 18th of June, the English cruisers cannonaded and levelled with the ground the telegraph of Porkkaland. After bombarding to no purpose the fort of Slava, they set fire to the neighbouring houses, and, having returned to the charge on the 20th, they completely destroyed the telegraph. On the 21st, having received a reinforcement of ships of war, the English reopened fire on the fort, and compelled the garrison to evacuate it. The commander, however, in compliance with his instructions, blew it up to prevent its occupation by the English. The fortified promontory at Kotka, between Frederikshamm and Lovisa, was attacked on the 20th by English gunboats detached from the squadron. They bombarded it for several hours, and succeeded in setting on fire a number of private dwellings, several commercial stores, and two barracks."

Admiral Dundas has communicated reports from Captains Gilverton and Storey, the former giving an account of the destruction of the fort of Svartholm in the entrance of the Bay of Lovisa, and of the accidental firing of the town of Lovisa the night following the visit of our ships; the latter chronicling the destruction of 20,000 tons of Russian shipping.

Admiral Dundas lately tried the range of a 32-pounder gun, when one of the shots reached more than 5000 yards, or upwards of three miles. It took exactly thirty-one seconds for its flight. Some subsequent shots alighted on the island of Cronstadt.

A small fishing-boat has been intercepted and cautioned by the allied squadron, within twelve miles of St. Petersburg and five of Cronstadt.

WAR MISCELLANEA.

THE TURKS IN THE DOBRUDSCHA.—The *Courier de Marseille* publishes a letter from Constantinople, the writer of which says:—"The Turkish army of Roumelia, which had been concentrated between Silistria and Roustchouk, has moved towards the Dobrudscha, which is the only point by which the enemy might attempt an invasion, Austria being still bound to protect the Principalities. From three to four thousand men have arrived at Toultscha, under the command of Hassan and Saly Pachas, and have fortified that place as well as Issaktscha."

THE RUSSIANS AT KARS.—On June 19 the Russians continued their movements to surround Kars with

27,000 infantry, 5000 cavalry, and 70 guns. The Turks, well provided, awaited the enemy with resolution, orders being given to hold out to the last, and, if necessary, to retire upon Erzeroum. The Turkish General demands reinforcements of men only. Up to June 30, nothing new had occurred at Yeni-Kaleh.

ENGLISH RECRUITING IN SWITZERLAND.—A letter from Berne, in the *Cologne Gazette*, says that the English minister in Switzerland has complained energetically to the National Council of the severity displayed by the police in preventing enlistments for the English Foreign Legion whilst recruiting for the Neapolitan Government is allowed to be carried on freely. The National Council, adds the letter, has, notwithstanding the complaints, directed the cantonal authorities to cause the persons who are accused of having made the enlistments for the English to be prosecuted.

THE RUSSIANS AT KARA-DAGH.—A despatch from the Russian General Mouravieff, dated the 5th (17th) of June, gives some particulars of a *reconnaissance* made the day before, terminating in a slight contest with the Turks, who retired beneath the batteries of Kara-Dagh. The Russian General estimates the Turkish loss at sixty men, and sets down his own at four killed and fourteen wounded. The despatch, however, is full of hyperboles—such as six Russian sotnias pursuing one hundred baski-bazouks and two regiments of regular cavalry, under the fire of artillery. This quite eclipses Falstaff's men in buckram.

THE FOREIGN LEGION.—The *Indépendance Belge* says, that all the officers of the first two battalions of the Foreign Legion enlisted at Heligoland have served during the revolutionary period against Denmark in the Holstein army. The same paper (or rather one of its correspondents) says that "England appears to attach more importance than ever to the preservation of that old Danish position (Heligoland) which the Congress of Vienna bestowed on her at the reiterated request of Lord Castlereagh. I have been assured that the English Government intends to execute the project of Lord Liverpool's Ministry, which had resolved to convert Heligoland into a first-rate fortress, intended to command the North Sea, as Malta and Gibraltar command the Mediterranean." This sounds rather doubtful.

RUSSIAN REINFORCEMENTS.—A correspondent of the *Augsburg Gazette*, dating "from the Polish frontier, July 6," enumerates the Russian troops now on their way from Poland to the Crimea, having been set free by the declared "expectant policy" of Austria. From the interior of Russia we learn that the entire first infantry army corps is on the march for the Crimea. These, however, are Russian reports.

REDUCTION OF THE AUSTRIAN ARMY IN THE PRINCIPALITIES.—Advices from Vienna announce a reduction in the Austrian army occupying the Principalities, corresponding to that which has just taken place in Galicia.

DEATH OF ADMIRAL NACHIMOFF.—A despatch from General Pelissier, of July 12th, says that, "according to the report of a deserter, Admiral Nachimoff was killed by a ball in the forehead the preceding day, in the Central Bastion."

FLAGS OF TRUCE.—An account appears, in an official paper published at Helsingfors, of the violation by the English of a flag of truce, at a place called Ruomo. It is to be hoped that this assertion will be disproved.

THE RETREAT "IN EXCELLENT ORDER."—The *Daily News* Crimean correspondent says that, so far from the retreat of the French on the 18th of June being "in excellent order," as General Pelissier averred, it was a panic-struck rout; and that of the English was only a degree better.

OUR CIVILISATION.

ASSIZE CASES.

JAMES DARBY AND JAMES ASHTON have been found guilty at the York Assizes of robbing and assaulting two old men, who in mid-day were conveying across Wentworth Park a large sum of money for the payment of the artisans at some neighbouring ironworks. The old men made a very brave resistance, and one was severely beaten about the head by a life-preserver; but he resolutely kept his feet on the rug of the chaise in which they were riding, and, the bag of money being thus hidden, it was passed over by the ruffians. Having found upon one of the old men a tobacco-pouch, which they imagined to contain a large sum of money, the thieves suddenly made off; but one was apprehended a few days after, and the other gave himself up.

THOMAS JACKSON has been found guilty of the manslaughter of George Lewis, a private of the 7th Hussars, at Sheffield, under circumstances which we detailed in the *Leader* of July 7. Jackson was sentenced to transportation for life.

WILLIAM JAMES, aged seventy, schoolmaster, was charged with feloniously forging and uttering to the Rev. W. P. Walsh, at Oxford, on the 10th of April, 1855, a certain paper writing, purporting to be the last will and testament of one John Couling, well knowing the same to be forged. The case having been proved, the prisoner was sentenced to hard labour for eighteen months.

BURGLARY.—At the Winchester Assizes, William

Holdsworth, with several aliases, and Thomas Cole, were indicted for breaking into the house of Miss Janet Hoyes, at Bitterne, near Southampton. From the statements made by Miss Hoyes and her two servants, it appeared that early in the morning of the 29th of November last, the house of the former was burglariously entered by four men, and property to the value of 140*l.* was stolen. Great violence was resorted to by the thieves, one of whom struck Miss Hoyes with a life preserver as she lay in bed, and threatened to murder her and set her bed on fire. The jury found the prisoners guilty, and they were sentenced to be transported, Holdsworth for life, and Cole for twenty years.

ATTEMPTED CHILD MURDER.—At the York Assizes, Mary Walker was found guilty of throwing her newly-born infant down a privy, and casting stones upon it. She was tracked by two men into the place, and the child was rescued. Her defence was that the child was born while she was in the building, and that it fell; but other evidence contradicted this. She was sentenced to eighteen months' imprisonment.

JOVIAL BURGLARS.—David Barnett and David Polack were brought before the Lord Mayor, charged with having been concerned (on Sunday the 8th instant) in robbing the premises of Messrs. Deane and Co., King William-street, ironmongers and jewellers, of watches and jewellery to a large amount. They were remanded for a week. The burglary was effected through the facilities presented by the neighbourhood of an uninhabited house, from the roof of which the thieves managed to enter by the skylight of the house of the prosecutors, which, as it was Sunday, was closed and empty. After having supped and shared some rum on the premises, the perpetrators returned with their load by the way they entered.

DANIEL MITCHELL, DAVIDSON, COSMO WILLIAM GORDON, and JOSEPH WINDLE COLE, have been again remanded.

CRUELTY TO HORSES.—The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals has within the last week brought several cases of cruelty to horses, by overworking them, before the magistrates. Mr. Forster, the superintendent of the society, said, in answer to the Hammer-smith magistrate, that the Society had prosecuted fifty cases during the past month, and in the past year the number of cases amounted to 461.

COURAGEOUS WOMEN.—At Worship-street, Samuel Harris and George Edwards, two notorious thieves, were charged with robbing a lady of her purse. They were detected and apprehended entirely through the courage of a lady and her servant, who happened to be passing at the time of the occurrence. Suspecting the prisoners from their conduct, they watched them, and on seeing one of them pick the lady's pocket, the servant girl collared the thief, charging him with the robbery; whereupon he dropped the purse, which the girl picked up and returned to the owner. The men then fled, but were pursued and overtaken by the two women, and again collared and held by them, in spite of a desperate resistance, until the arrival of the police, who finally secured them. The prisoners were committed for trial.

FATAL CASE OF STABBING.—Two Lancashire glass-blowers, named John Peters and Thomas Rose, having quarrelled as to which was the best glassblower, a fight ensued, when Peters covertly stabbed Rose five times with a clasp-knife which he had secreted in his hand. Rose died soon afterwards; and Peters has been committed for trial.

WIFE-KILLING.—Henry Watts, a beer-hop-keeper, in Spring-street, Paddington, was brought up at the Marylebone Police Court, on Tuesday, charged with having caused the death of Sarah, his wife, by throwing her down stairs. The court was much crowded during the inquiry, throughout which the prisoner evinced much anguish, and buried his face in his hands. The quarrel appears to have arisen from the poor woman interfering to prevent her husband punishing one of their children. The man, who was drunk at the time of the offence, and who, after the outrage, did his utmost to prevent medical assistance being procured by one of the female lodgers, was remanded.

WIFE-TORTURING.—Thomas Bickley, a cadaverous-looking young man, was sentenced, at the Lambeth Police Office, to three months' hard labour for brutal treatment of his wife, who had been seized with the pains of labour in a water-closet common to the public in the neighbourhood, where she had sought shelter after being kicked out of the house by her husband; and he had absolutely allowed her to be delivered without the care of a medical man.

MR. HENRY CROMWELL, a middle-aged man of gentlemanly appearance, and a well-known member of the turf, was brought up at Lambeth on Wednesday, charged with making a desperate attempt on his life by, in the first place, swallowing a large dose of laudanum, and, finding it had not the desired effect, attempting to dash out his brains with a poker. He stated, in answer to the magistrate, that he had fallen into great pecuniary distress, from having been a man of property; that his wife was dead; and that his daughter was kept away from him at school. The magistrate directed that he should be taken to the workhouse infirmary, until a

brother whom he had mentioned could be communicated with.

SIR J. D. PAUL AND MESSRS. STRAHAN AND BATES were again brought up at Bow-street on Wednesday, when Mr. Bodkin stated that the very voluminous books of the accused were in course of examination, and he therefore asked for a further remand. The prisoners will be brought up on Wednesday next *pro forma*, with a view to another remand for a week more.

JAMES MONROE was on Wednesday examined and remanded on a charge of robbing, on separate occasions, two sailors, one a Dutchman. The other, an Englishman, had been nearly strangled by him.

HOPE v. HOPE.—This cause of separation, promoted by Mrs. Hope against Mr. Hope on the ground of adultery and cruelty, was decided on Thursday in the Consistory Court. The cruelty had not been proved, but it appeared that the adultery had been clearly established. The husband, however, had likewise proved adultery on the part of Mrs. Hope; and under these circumstances Dr. Lushington, without hearing the arguments of counsel, dismissed the parties.

THEFT BY A GENTLEMAN.—At the Mansion House, on Thursday, James Oswald, a young man of gentlemanly address and appearance, and said to be connected with a highly-respectable family in Northumberland, was charged with having stolen clothes of the value of 10*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.*, the property of Moses and Son, of Nos. 2 and 3, Aldgate, outfitters. The prisoner, who, his solicitor said, was a medical gentleman of high attainments, was committed for trial.

CONTINENTAL NOTES.

THE FRENCH LOAN.—The *Moniteur* publishes the terms of the new loan. It is to be for 750,000,000*fr.*, open to public subscription from the 18th to the 29th of this month. Subscribers to have the option of 3 per cents. or 4½ per cents.; the 4½ per cents. to be issued at 92.25, with interest dating back from the 22nd of March, 1855; and the 3 per cents. to be issued at 65.25, interest to date back from the 22nd of June, 1855. Subscriptions to be received from 10 francs of interest, increasing by tens. If the subscriptions should exceed 750,000,000*fr.*, and the supplementary 30,000,000*fr.* for expenses, shares will be submitted at proportionate reductions, excepting subscriptions under 50 francs interest. In order to favour those who desire to place small amounts in the rente, the subscriptions to the loan of 750,000,000*fr.*, for 50*fr.* of rente and under, will not be liable to reduction. As, however, speculators might prevent the attainment of this object, the Minister of Finance has decided that, for sums of 50*fr.* of rente and under, "list subscriptions" shall not be received, and that one and the same subscriber shall not parcel out a larger sum into several demands for 50*fr.* tickets. Subscriptions made contrary to these regulations will be cancelled.—The subscription commenced on Wednesday. There were very large crowds at the Treasury and all the *mairies*; and the Bourse was acted on favourably by the eagerness of the public to subscribe.

The returns of the Bank of France for the past month are extremely unfavourable, the stock of bullion showing a diminution to the remarkable extent of 3,340,000*fr.*, making a total falling off within the last three or four months of more than 5,000,000*fr.* The natural effects of this, however, have, in a great degree, been prevented from manifesting themselves by a further increase of 1,000,000*fr.* in the note circulation.—*Times City Art., Monday.*

The Extraordinary Legislative Session of the French Chambers came to a close on Friday, after the passing of a bill authorising the various new taxes demanded, as well as acts of a more local character.—The Paris correspondent of the *Daily News* says:—"The Report of the Committee on the Taxes Bill is, beyond all question, the most important parliamentary paper that has appeared since the abolition of 'parliamentary government.' The Committee appears to have studied the financial propositions of Government with deep attention; adopts the measures proposed, only with the qualification that they are to be essentially provisional, fixing a date by way of showing that what is said is meant; and presses upon the attention of the ruling power various independent suggestions. The first of these, I regret to say, is a peremptory demand for the repeal of one of the Emperor's Free Trade measures—that permitting the importation of foreign spirits. To their entire approbation of the provisions of the bill, which raise the excise duty on spirituous liquors, the Committee tacks an argument by one of its members, to which it gives its emphatic adhesion. The manufacturers of native sugar and alcohol complain bitterly, it is said, of the decree of Sept. 22, 1854, which admits foreign spirits at a small duty. Under the influence of this law, they affirm that in the majority of French distilleries spirits can only be manufactured at a loss. . . . Further, the importation of foreign spirits tends to raise the price of provisions, because grain, which would otherwise be imported in its natural shape, is used abroad for the purposes of distillation."

The Foreign Commissioners of the Paris Exhibition have passed a resolution, stating that the building is

now complete, and in every respect worthy of the hopes that had been conceived of it. A deputation of the Commissioners afterwards waited on Prince Napoleon, and presented to him an address to the same effect. The Prince made a suitable reply.

Montenegro continues in a state of disquietude. A letter from Trieste states that, in consequence of some disputes as to the rights of pasturage in the districts of Katunskanaja and Misich, the Montenegrins and the Turks have assembled on the frontier to the number of 3000 on each side, and were on the point of coming to a serious encounter. The French consul has had an interview with the Prince of Montenegro, who expresses a desire to be on terms of friendship with the Western Powers, but refuses to acknowledge the sovereignty of the Porte, and requires an extension of his territory.

A vessel under Turkish colours, commanded by an Ottoman captain, with a crew of seventeen men, mostly Greeks, was a few days ago the scene of a shocking crime. When off Malta, the sailors murdered the captain, his secretary, and another Turk employed on board. A fourth was also put to death between Zante and Cephalonia, and, once master of the vessel, the Greeks ran her into the Gulf of Corinth. The helmsman landed near Vitrinitza, and proceeded to Galaxidi, whence he returned with some of his relatives to take possession of the cargo, which consisted of a variety of goods; but, owing to the roughness of the sea, they could only carry off one heavy trunk. The vessel was afterwards brought to the deserted island of Amoulos, where the sailors set her on fire, after murdering a fifth person, who they suspected would denounce them. The remainder of the crew then escaped on to the mainland. Eight of the assassins, in attempting to join the band of the brigand Lucas Meloulis, were arrested by a detachment of soldiers sent in pursuit of that malefactor. The inhabitants of Distomo captured the four others, who are at this moment in the hands of justice.—*Letter in the Moniteur.*

The Hanoverian Chambers have been closed. M. Ellissen, the President, in closing them, made every reservation relative to admitted rights. The Chamber of the States separated with cries of "The Constitution for ever!" The Constitutional Committee of the Chambers has drawn up its propositions. In these, they throw great blame on the Ministry, beg the King to uphold the Constitution, and declare that they will not proceed to the examination of the measures of reform until all the documents connected therewith shall have been communicated to them, and the competency of the national representation have been formally admitted.

M. Véron has placed at the head of his new edition of the *Mémoires d'un Bourgeois de Paris* the following letter, which was addressed to him by the Emperor after the receipt of the first edition of that work:—"Palace of the Tuileries, March 8.—My dear M. Véron,—I have received with pleasure your *Mémoires d'un Bourgeois de Paris*, and I shall read the last two volumes, in particular, with the greater interest, as they sum up the faithful souvenirs of a man who has seen much, judged wisely, and related dispassionately. You may be assured that it is very agreeable to me to find in the writer who collects such useful materials for the history of our epoch the same person whose disinterested sympathy gave me, in times of difficulty, the important support of one of the first organs of the press. Accept my sincere thanks, and believe in my friendly sentiments.—NAPOLEON."

France, from a state of ultra-infidelity, has become ultra-religious, or we ought rather to say superstitious, for religion has nothing to do with the absurdity to which we are now alluding. The *Univers* (the press organ of the Roman Catholics) publishes a sonnet to the Virgin, composed by General Vergé, who, it appears, made a vow at the moment when he was leading his brigade to the assault of the Mamelon Vert, that, if he escaped death that day, he would openly acknowledge the dogma of the Immaculate Conception. A letter from his wife, received just before he went into action, in which she said, 'Promise me to make a vow to the Virgin,' was the cause of the General making the vow which he now publicly accomplishes.—Is there no refuge for France between the rankest materialism and the grossest forms of belief? Surely her many noble hearts and heads will take her on the right road at length.

The Nile (says the *Times* Egyptian correspondent, writing on July 6th,) is now at its very lowest point, and may begin to rise perceptibly in a few days. The railway works are progressing favourably, and by September or October the line to Cairo may be opened for traffic. One class of people who will derive much benefit from the railway are the thousands of *hajjis*, or Mahomedan pilgrims on the way to Mecca, who, at this season of the year, sometimes occupy three weeks or a month in reaching Cairo in native boats by the river. The cholera has committed great ravages among them at Cairo. Cholera, however, has now almost disappeared at Cairo, but prevails at Alexandria, particularly among the military.

The Turkish Government have granted an exclusive concession for a submarine telegraph from the Dardanelles to Alexandria. The cost will be 120,000*l.*, and the line could be completed in twelve months.

The object of M. Thouvenot's diplomatic visit to Con-

stantinople is said to be the creation of a better understanding than has existed for some time past between the late Grand Vizier, Redschid Pacha, and the French Government. The former has been accused, whether justly or not, of offering systematic opposition to questions involving the interests of France; and the name of Lord Stratford de Redcliffe has always been mentioned as taking the side of the Vizier against the representative of the Tuileries. Until these differences shall have been settled, it is said that Mehemed Pacha, the new envoy to Paris, and the son of Redschid Pacha, will not set out upon his mission.

The disturbances in Catalonia have been suppressed. The Queen has sanctioned the bill for a forced loan, and ministerial instructions for the execution of it are about to be issued. Several Carlists have been arrested at Madrid.

The text of the last declarations made by Austria to the Frankfurt Diet has been published in the *Indépendance Belge*. In this document, Austria reviews her conduct during the course of the negotiations; explains that she did not conceive herself justified in going to war in support of an interpretation of the Third Point, of which she did not approve; asserts that she will not agree to any peace which would not insure the carrying out of the Four Points, and that she will persevere to place Turkey under a general and efficacious guarantee. Her troops will remain in the Principalities until the conclusion of peace.—A correspondent of the *Indépendance Belge* gives the substance of the reply of the Germanic Diet, which is to the effect that no new measures are necessary, but that Germany will maintain provisionally the *Kriegsbereitschaft* (state of war-preparation) agreed to on February 8, 1855.

An immense fire broke out during the great fair at Novogorod, in Russia. It destroyed a great quantity of merchandise, to the value of 3,000,000 roubles.

The Spanish Cortes have adjourned, after voting the budget. Forty millions of reals are to be raised in foreign countries.

The Turin journals speak of a new attempt to effect a rising in the duchy of Modena. Seventeen arrests have been made at Spezzia.

The health of the King of Prussia is being slowly re-established.

Count Walewski (says the *Weser Gazette*) has sent to the French legations a circular, in which it is said that his Government does not any longer consider itself bound to the Four Points, all attempts to get them accepted by Russia having failed; and that, consequently, it has resolved to impose such conditions of peace as might be suggested by the results of the war.

The *Moniteur* announces that General Count Crenville, Austrian Military Commissioner at Paris, was received by the French Emperor on Wednesday prior to his return to Vienna.

General Letang, the Military Commissioner of France appointed to accompany the movements of the active Austrian army, has finally left Vienna.

Monsignor Franchi, the Papal Nuncio at Madrid, a short time since demanded his passports; with which request the Spanish Government lost no time in complying. The cause is said to be the measure respecting the sale of Church property, which has necessarily given offence at Rome, and against the acceptance of which Monsignor Franchi vehemently exhorted the Queen. But rumour speaks of his having been the centre of the recent Carlist plots; and, at any rate, the Spanish Government appear to be highly delighted at his departure.

NAVAL AND MILITARY NEWS.

MR. MATTHEW RICHARDS, master of the Glatton floating battery, was on Saturday tried by court-martial at Sheerness, on a charge of being drunk and incapable of performing his duty when the Glatton was at sea, on a trial trip. The court, considering the charge fully proved, the prisoner was dismissed the service.

MILITIA ENCAMPMENT.—The contracts for the new Militia encampment at Colchester have been entered into, and the works have commenced. Accommodation will be provided for 3000 men, each hut to contain twenty-five men.

AN ADDITIONAL CAMP is now being formed on Woolwich Common.

THE DUBLIN POLICE AND THE GUARDS.—An address has been issued at Dublin by Lieutenant-Colonel Hutton, of the Grenadier Guards, stating that the Government are desirous of having the services of the Dublin police in the Guards; and therefore the men are invited to enlist, at a bounty of eight pounds, each year's service in the police to count as a year's service in the army. The Guards have always hitherto been recruited from among the English population, with the exception of a few from the Scotch. It remains to be seen whether this introduction of competition from Ireland will be popular among the "Saxons."

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE COURT.—Princess Louisa and Prince Arthur have been attacked with scarlatina. They are going on very favourably. The same disease has declared itself in Prince Leopold, who was left at Buckingham Palace in consequence of a slight accident.

THE COMMITTEE ON THE ADULTERATION OF FOOD, DRINKS, AND DRUGS, obtained by Mr. Scholefield, met for the first time on Friday week, when Dr. Hassall, author of the work on the adulteration of food, &c., was examined. His evidence was confirmatory of the revelations recently made in the *Lancet*. Among other assertions, Dr. Hassall said it had been stated that gin is adulterated with acetate of lead; but of this there is no positive proof, although it is quite possible that such is the case. Oatmeal is often adulterated with barley-meal; and this has been considered as the cause of the illness among the children at the school at Tooting some years ago. Cases have been recorded of paralysis having been caused by snuff which has been adulterated by lead; and lead was also used in the adulteration of other articles. The witness recommended the establishment of a central board, with inspectors in all large towns, as a means of checking the evil. Other evidence of a similar tendency has been received on subsequent days.

AMERICA.—The people of New York, like the people of London, have been holding an anti-Liquor-Law meeting in their park. The speakers denounced the law as fanatical, unconstitutional, and totally inadequate to the promotion of temperance; and resolutions in accordance with these views were adopted. From the Salt Lake Valley we hear of gold discoveries on the Sweet Water, and of the people flocking in great excitement to the spot. Gold is also said to have been discovered on the headwaters of the Red River, in the territory of Arkansas. Judge Curtis has decided at Boston that a vessel which has acted as a tender to slavers, or been in any way connected with the transportation of slaves, though it may not have had one slave on board, must be considered as having been engaged in the slave-trade. The brig Porpoise has consequently been declared forfeited. The steamer Leeington, running between Louisville and St. Louis, blew up on the 2nd of July, and thirty-five persons were injured. Advices from the Havana to the 27th ult. speak of an outbreak at Porto Rico. The New York money-market is inactive. Trade generally is steady, but without animation.

INDIA.—The latest intelligence from our Eastern Empire speaks of little else than robberies committed in Scinde and elsewhere by gangs of native desperadoes. In some of these, the mounted police were severely handled; but several arrests have been made. The health of Lord Dalhousie is improving. The markets are dull. From Khiva, we hear of a collision between the Russians and the troops of the Khan, owing to some of the Khivans having carried off large herds of sheep and cattle belonging to the Russian forces which still remain in cantonments on the frontier of the Khiva territory. War continues between Khiva and Persia. "The Kokan troops," says the Bokhara correspondent of the *Delhi Gazette*, "have bravely held out hitherto against the Russians; but the numbers and influence of the latter are steadily increasing." The same writer states that "Five thousand Moollahs are employed all day and every day in praying for the triumph of the Faithful and the overthrow of Russia."

THE SUNDAY DEMONSTRATIONS.—Another meeting took place in Hyde Park last Sunday, but was an abortive affair, and seemed to indicate that the riotously-disposed are beginning to get tired of their sport. A man addressed the populace in a temperate and even sensible speech, exhorting them not to break either the law or the windows, but hoping that they would persevere in their meetings until they had got rid of the Beer Bill. The crowd afterwards left the park, and proceeded in the direction of Belgravia; but a large body of police, including a few on horseback with sabres by their sides, speedily dispersed them, and no material damage was done. One or two of the police were rather roughly handled; but they were aided by some gentlemen who were passing by. A few captures were made, and by six o'clock the park and the immediate neighbourhood presented very nearly their usual appearance.—Several cases both of rioting and of robbery, arising out of the Sunday meeting, have come before the magistrates, and have been summarily disposed of, or sent for trial. One of the cases of robbery, in which Commander Armytage, R.N., had his watch taken from him in Hyde Park, was attended with great violence.—The two Grenadier Guardsmen and the two boys concerned in window-breaking, near the Regent's Park, on Sunday week, have been sent to trial; and bail has been accepted. A great many applications for indemnity by the hundred for the window-breaking in Belgravia have been made; but the magistrates are of opinion that, before such a claim can be enforced, it must be proved that there was an intention on the part of the rioters to demolish a whole building.

THE COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO THE CONDUCT OF THE POLICE held its first sitting on Tuesday, when several witnesses were examined. The upshot of their evidence seems to show that the conduct of the police on the memorable 1st of July varied considerably at different times of the day, and that their worst acts of brutality were committed under the direct orders of Mr. Inspector Hughes, who rode about on horseback, and appeared to take a positive delight in stimulating his men to savage onslaughts on the people. He told the constables, according to one witness, to "knock the people off their rails;" and ordered that one man should be taken

into custody for laughing at him. Another witness said that the police rushed about "as in a play at Christmas." They seemed to be young, inexperienced men. Mr. Mair was examined, and stated that he was confined, together with others, in a small cell which had a convenience in it; that the cell was hot and close, and the smell so bad that he was obliged to lie on the ground, where the air was rather purer; that bail was refused by the inspector; and that every object was thrown in the way of his seeing his solicitor. Mr. Bruce, editor of the *Civil Service Gazette*, and who accompanied him to the station, was not allowed to give testimony in his favour.—The committee has sat again on subsequent days, when further testimony implicating the police was received. Mr. Inspector Hughes is stated to have appeared "raving mad," and to have ridden about, striking men and even women with his whip. Women were frequently knocked down by the truncheons of the police; and some men were thrown bodily over the railings among the crowd.

MR. GRENVILLE BERKELEY, late M.P. for Evesham, has been returned by a considerable majority for Cheltenham.

LORD DUNDONALD writes to the daily papers, to complain of the rejection of his plans by the Government. He observes:—"It appears, in reply to a question put for the fourth time in the House of Commons (on the 6th inst.), that 'my plans were referred to a Committee, and were so very obvious that they required no explanation from Lord Dundonald to render them perfectly intelligible;' but whether this facility of comprehension proceeded from circumstances compatible with their practicability and efficiency, or from their being manifestly absurd and beneath notice, does not appear. Thus the reply is another instance of the oracular mode of elucidating official questions of vast national importance!"

THE STATE OF THE THAMES continues to attract attention. The foul odours of the metropolitan stream, which are always bad enough, have become within the last month more than usually sickening, as any dweller on the banks, or traveller by steamboat, may testify. Above Hammersmith, dead fish may be seen on the banks. The cause of this state of things is said to be the cleansing of the bed of the Brent canal, which enters the Thames at Brentford, and the consequent emptying of the refuse into the main stream. The Lord Mayor on Monday called the attention of the City solicitor to the condition of the river, and directed him to make inquiries into the cause, and to report upon the most effectual and expeditious mode of abating the nuisance. On the evening of the same day, a meeting on the subject was held at Walworth, at which a resolution was passed for the formation of a committee to act as a deputation to Sir Benjamin Hall. A letter from a manufacturer on the banks of the Thames appears in one of the daily papers, in which mention is made of the thick black fetid deposit, with red and white worms, daily left in his water-tanks. On Tuesday, the engineer of the upper works of the Thames stated at the Mansion House that there is no foundation for the belief that the works in the Brentford canal have injured the water of the river. The evil, he thought, was attributable to the increase of drainage owing to the disuse of sewers, and to the long drought which had left the bed of the river without proper flushing.

MIDNIGHT OUTRAGE IN IRELAND.—Intimidation is again resorted to in Ireland. A shot was recently fired through the drawing-room window of Mr. Langley, J.P., a grand juror. Several panes of glass were at the same time broken, and the annexed "Rockite" notice was posted on the hall-door:—"Henry Langley, take notice, that if you put any person out of his ground who is able to pay his rent, you do it at your peril; you or sons will fall; there will be no safety for you even at your own fireside, as you will perceive." The family having retired to bed, no injury to life ensued.

A GREAT DRINKER.—An inquest has been held on the body of Captain John Bazley Forster, R.N., aged sixty-seven, formerly one of the examiners in the Audit Office. His man servant stated that he drank generally in one day between five and six quarts of porter, about a quart of spirits, consisting of gin, brandy, and rum, besides sherry and table beer. He was always in bed, and when witness left him at night he regularly placed by his (deceased's) bedside a bottle of gin, a bottle of rum, a bottle of brandy, a bottle of sherry, and a bottle of porter; and in the morning he found the contents of all considerably diminished.

THE THUNDERSTORM OF SATURDAY appears to have extended over a large part of the country. The rain was so violent that many of the streets at the east end of London were flooded for some hours. At Bristol, the storm was particularly violent, the lightning being so vivid that the captains of African and Indian ships in the port describe it as being the nearest approach to a tropical tempest that they have ever witnessed in this country. At St. George's, Gloucestershire, the lightning struck a house, and split it from top to bottom; at Oxford, the church of St. Ebbe was struck and severely damaged; and in Nottinghamshire a degree of mischief was done which is more particularly described in the ensuing paragraph.

FLOODS IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.—The neighbourhood of Nottingham, and several parts of the county, were

visited on two occasions during the last week with very violent storms of rain, accompanied by thunder and lightning. Corn to a considerable extent has been beaten down, and other crops have been injured by masses of sand and mud washed from the higher lands. In several villages, houses have been struck by lightning, or washed away; and in Nottingham itself, culverts have burst, and considerable damage has been done.

Postscript.

LEADER OFFICE, Saturday, July 21.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

A CONVERSATION took place between Lord LYNDEHURST and the LORD CHANCELLOR with regard to the withdrawal by the Government of the Testamentary Jurisdiction Bill, and other bills for the amendment of the law, the latter noble lord throwing the blame of the failure on the House of Commons.

THE SLAVE TRADE.

Lord BROUGHAM presented a petition from the Anti-Slavery Society, urging that measures should be taken to abolish the slave trade, especially to Cuba. The noble and learned lord eulogised the conduct of Brazil in this respect, contrasting it with that of Spain.

The Earl of CLARENDON stated the difficulties which attended this country's dealing with the question, but gave an assurance that the Government would do all in their power to suppress a traffic so inhuman.

Several bills were forwarded a stage, and the House adjourned at 8 o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

At the sitting a number of questions were as usual asked.

THE SCOTCH EDUCATION BILL.

The LORD ADVOCATE stated, in reply to Mr. LOCKHART, that the Government did not intend to introduce another bill on the subject of education in Scotland, in consequence of the Lords having rejected his bill the night before.

THE PICTURES AT HAMPTON COURT.

Sir W. MOLESWORTH, in reply to Mr. LANGTON, said that one of the pictures at Hampton Court was missing, and others had been damaged, and a reward had been offered for the detection of the offenders.

DECIMAL COINAGE.

The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER said, in answer to Mr. G. DUNDAS, that a Commission comprising Lord Monteagle and the Governor of the Bank of England had been appointed to inquire into the question of decimal coinage; but there was some difficulty in getting a gentleman properly qualified to fill the third place in the commission. It was not proposed to refer the question on weights and measures to the Commission.

BILLETING OF THE MILITIA.

Mr. F. PEEL stated, in answer to Mr. WELLS, that it was not intended to introduce any measure to prevent the billeting of the militia; but the formation of permanent camps would lead to a discontinuance of the system.

LABELLING THE WORKS OF ART IN THE NATIONAL GALLERY.

Lord PALMERSTON, in reply to Mr. EWART, said that he would give directions to have the works of art in the National Gallery, Hampton Court Palace, the British Museum, &c., properly labelled with short appropriate descriptions, so as to render them at once intelligible to the public.

THE DANUBIAN PRINCIPALITIES.

In reply to Mr. LAYARD, Lord PALMERSTON repeated the statement he had formerly given, that the Governments of England, France, and Austria were now wholly free to adopt any course they pleased with respect to the Moldavian and Wallachian Principalities. The guiding principle of any future arrangement would be to secure those Principalities from the exclusive influence of Russia, but the mode in which that principle was to be carried out must be left for consideration hereafter. A commission was now sitting at Vienna to inquire into the alleged grievances of the inhabitants of the Principalities.

SIR CHARLES NAPIER AND THE ORDER OF THE BATH.

Lord PALMERSTON, in reply to Mr. LAYARD, stated that Sir C. Napier had been offered the Grand Cross of the Bath, but to the great regret of the Government that officer had declined to accept it.

THE BRITISH TROOPS IN AFRICA.

Sir C. WOOD, in answer to Mr. BRIGHT, stated that no official accounts had been received with regard to the disastrous result of an encounter between the British troops and the natives on the coast of Africa.

METROPOLITAN LOCAL MANAGEMENT BILL.

After some discussion and amendments, this bill was read a third time and passed.

THE TURKISH LOAN.

Lord PALMERSTON moved a resolution sanctioning the guarantee by this country of the payment of the interest on the Turkish Loan. He urged the noble stand Turkey had made against Russia, and which had exhausted her finances, as a ground for England and France jointly, and severally guaranteeing the loan of 5,000,000*l.*, and asserted the resources of Turkey to pay the interest, particularly as a great portion of the Egyptian tribute would be devoted to that purpose. It had been arranged with Turkey that the whole revenue of that country would be pledged to the liquidation of the debt, and measures had been taken to secure the appropriation of the sum raised entirely to the purposes of the war.

Mr. RICARDO strongly objected to the loan, urging that it was, in fact, a subsidy, and he treated very lightly the joint and several guarantee with France. He intended to take the sense of the House on the question hereafter.

The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER denied that the loan was in the nature of a subsidy, and stated that the joint and several guarantee was the proposal of France, it having been agreed that if ever it was necessary for the two countries to pay the loan, it should be divided equally between them. He also urged that such a guarantee enabled Turkey to raise the loan on much easier terms than she otherwise could have done.

Mr. GLADSTONE described the proposal as perilous as well as unnecessary, Turkey having recently proved that she could raise a loan for herself; and the experience of former transactions of this kind showed that a guarantee of this nature soon resolved itself into an absolute payment of the debt.

Lord PALMERSTON replied to Mr. GLADSTONE's objection, urging that this was the only means of enabling Turkey to bear her part in the war; and he put the question on an international ground.—Mr. DISRAELI characterised the Loan as a direct advance of money, and expressed his doubts of the resources of Turkey to repay it, and he contended that the arrangement was one calculated to imperil our future relations with France.—Sir DE LACY EVANS supported the Loan as an assistance to Turkey, but hoped care would be taken that the money would be expended on the war.

Mr. LAING, Mr. COBDEN, Mr. CARDWELL, Mr. WALPOLE, severally opposed the proposition, urging with much force the objections which had been taken to it.

Mr. WILKINSON supported it, and the CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER pointed out the position in which we should be placed with regard to our allies if the House refused to ratify the convention which had been entered into: and Lord PALMERSTON again addressed the House, replying to the arguments which had been used in opposition to the resolution.

A division took place.—For the resolution, 135; against it, 132: majority, 3.

THE MAYNOOTH COMMISSION.

Mr. SPOONER brought on a motion complaining that the Maynooth commissioners had given territorial titles to Roman Catholic Bishops, and allowed the evidence to go to Rome.

It was opposed by the Government, and on a division the numbers were—For the motion, 97; against it, 76: majority, 21.

The rest of the business was disposed of, and the House adjourned.

ANOTHER SORTIE.

The *Moniteur* of yesterday confirms the news of a sortie of the Russians on the 18th inst. against the Inkerman line of attack.

THE BALTIC.

Dantzic, Friday Morning.

The Geyser has arrived with the mails. Admirals Dundas, Seymour, and Penaud were at Nargen. Admiral Baynes, with the rest of the fleet, was before Cronstadt. On the 14th, the Raby gunboat, with the boats of the Arrogant and Magicienne, had a sharp affair at Wiborg. One officer and one man were killed, and ten wounded.

RUMOURS OF NEW NEGOTIATIONS.

A Vienna letter in the *Herald*, says:—"It is generally believed in this city that no great period will elapse before the Western Powers will proceed to make fresh propositions to Austria; and it appears tolerably certain that such a course would be well met by Austria." We doubt the offer being made.

Hanover, Thursday, July 19.

The resignation of the Cabinet is hourly expected. Count Platen, who has arrived from Paris, will, it is believed, be the new Premier.

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NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice can be taken of anonymous communications. Whatever is intended for insertion must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer; not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of his good faith. During the Session of Parliament it is often impossible to find room for correspondence, even the briefest. Communications should always be legibly written, and on one side of the paper only. If long, it increases the difficulty of finding space for them. We cannot undertake to return rejected communications.

ERRATUM.—In column 2, line 12, of our War matter last week, for "The remains of Lord Raglan have been consigned to the family vault at Badminton," read "will be consigned," &c.

FIVEPENCE is now the price for an UNSTAMPED copy of the *Leader*, and **SIXPENCE** if STAMPED.

A STAMPED copy of this Journal can be transmitted through the Post-office to any part of Great Britain as frequently as may be required, during fifteen days from its date, free of charge; but it is necessary that the paper should be folded in such a manner that the stamp be clearly visible on the outside.

The *Leader* has been "registered" at the General Post-office, according to the provisions of the New Act relating to Newspapers, and a STAMPED copy has, therefore, the privilege of transmission through the post beyond the United Kingdom on payment of the proper rate of postage.

The Leader.

SATURDAY, JULY 21, 1855.

Public Affairs.

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

THE DESPATCHES AND THE DEBATES.

It is satisfactory, amid the cloud of "ambiguous and uncertain language" in which the debates in Parliament are involved, to know that we have a Foreign Minister who represents the sense and spirit of the nation. With equal moderation and courage Lord CLARENDON, in his diplomatic capacity, has resisted every approach to a futile scheme of peace. His speech in the House of Lords, on a recent occasion, was so vague as to justify the suspicion that he, as well as some of his colleagues, had been infected with Austrian tendencies; and was at a loss to understand any practical objects for which the war could be pursued. But the papers last presented to Parliament clearly prove that he neither deceived the Austrian Government, nor permitted it to deceive him. From the first he stated and maintained that Great Britain and France had combined to dispossess Russia from her dangerous supremacy in the Black Sea, and that no dereliction from her engagements on the part of Austria would induce them to forego this object of their united policy. Plainer language a statesman could not hold. It must, we think, satisfy every one who does not believe with embittered refugees from the Continent and irresponsible blusterers at home, that a great military power can be ignored, and trodden down as contemptuously as the dust of Carthage, or the ultimatum of Nassau. In the Austrian Cabinet Austrian considerations

must prevail as long as human actions spring from human motives. It was for Lord CLARENDON to guard against the sacrifice of any European interest to this special policy. This, as far as the question of peace is involved, he effectually did. Whether, as the dead-weight of German neutrality leans more heavily on the Western alliance, the occupation of the Principalities will not constitute a source of new alarm, is a distinct issue, which must be separately discussed.

At present it is most important to observe the attitudes in which the several governments represented at Vienna are revealed in this correspondence. So far as Austria is concerned, we see no reason to retract any opinion we have expressed. It was not her intention, at any time, to support the Third Point. Her grounds of reserve had been carefully prepared, and were visible at the beginning. As early as the 3rd of April Count BUOL disclosed his knowledge that his government, contented with the solution of the First and Second Point, had no intention to press the Third. He asked what compromise the Allies would accept, and demonstrated to the sense of every rational being that Austria would, on no existing considerations, be dragged into the war. This being settled, his next effort was to persuade the Allied Governments and their plenipotentiaries, that Great Britain and France, rather than bear alone the burden of indefinite hostilities, should relax their demands, and surrender something for the sake of peace. With the plenipotentiaries he succeeded; with the governments he failed. In that "something" lay the point really at issue. This it was that Lord JOHN RUSSELL and M. DROUYN DE LUYDS were willing to abandon, but which the French and British cabinets refused to modify.

Lord JOHN RUSSELL, in fact, seems to have had his spirit drugged by the artifices of Count BUOL. In that Minister's apartments, a "conciliatory" atmosphere steeped in illusion the soul of the English plenipotentiary. He actually believed that the cunning German who sat gazing at him was sincere in his melancholy regrets, and in his candid confidences. Like an unpractised gambler, he listened to the condolences of men who were employed in outwitting him, and had it not been for the immediate disavowal of his conclusions by Lord CLARENDON, who can tell how deep we should now be sunk in the preliminaries of an ignominious peace?

We are the more inclined to accept as realities the clear and spirited expressions of our Foreign Minister; because, instead of retreating from the principles originally laid down, he has embodied them in a more definite form than we find in any of the earlier papers. The Emperor ALEXANDER THE SECOND, in his first proclamation, declared that his faith was pledged to fulfil the policy of his imperial ancestors. Lord CLARENDON takes up the challenge, and affirms that "the present war has been undertaken" to prevent him from fulfilling that policy; "in short, to quote the words of a recent Russian proclamation, to prevent, as far as Turkey is concerned, the accomplishment of the wishes and views of PETER, of CATHERINE, of ALEXANDER, and of NICHOLAS." Thus, then, the Allies have avowedly taken up arms to resist, not an exceptional and eccentric movement on the part of Russia, but to check her historical policy, and to fix along her whole eastern frontier a political restraint upon her expansive forces. In conformity with these principles, the British Government announces that the Four Points discussed at Vienna no longer of necessity constitute a

basis of negotiation. Russia having refused one, the Allies are released from all; the war in future will determine its own end. Now it is, at least, something to know that it circumscribes the Russian power, to confound its plans of aggression, bequeathed from monarch to monarch since the rise of the reigning dynasty, is an object not too positive to be comprehended in the policy of a British Minister. We have had enough of vague words and airy declamations. A second season draws near to its close; a third army may soon be required; alliances that seemed possible last year seem hopeless in this: it is time then, that in the despatches of our statesmen, if not in their speeches, we should find some explanation of the purposes to which all these energies are to be applied.

Lord PALMERSTON tells the House of Commons, in the same breath, that he agrees with Lord CLARENDON and can justify Lord JOHN RUSSELL. Too much stress should not be laid on these forms and fictions of parliamentary courtesy; but the recess is a hand, during which the war may be mismanaged, or the peace settled. The policy of the Cabinet, meanwhile, is set forth nowhere but in the circular despatch of the Foreign Minister, whose sentiments have elicited the marked approval of the Legislature.

Even in this document, however, only general terms are used. To apply or explain them minutely would be impossible; it will bewilder, while the contest proceeds, more legitimate definitions are offered of these vague and distant objects. Perhaps a still more important necessity is to arrive at some conclusion as to the means by which our effort are, in future, to be rendered more successful. What additional resources can France and England command? What new element can they bring into the field? What new alliances can they contract? Can they invent any method of disorganising the enormous military forces arrayed against their own? Or is there still faith in German aid? Count HARRIG, in his apology for Austria, printed last year, showed that the history of Europe since the peace of 1815 is the history of an attempt to consolidate the union of the three great monarchies—Russia, Austria, Prussia—against the liberalism of Western Europe. There were flaws in this bond, he said, but the cohesive principle was still too strong to admit of a dissolution of political partnership between despotisms, which can only exist by holding together. In this league, which survives the formal engagements of the Holy Alliance, a secret principle within has more power than all external ligatures; and even Germany, so jealous and so divided, remains intact when opposed as a conservative barrier against forces and ideas that disintegrate its thrones.

Russia leans on them, and they on Russia. Appreciating, therefore, the vital interest which civilisation has in putting limits to the political influence of the Russian Empire, we do not see how Reformers, liberticides, diplomatists of the old school, and the pupils of Vienna, can virtually give effect to Lord CLARENDON's declaration. If the war is to be continued for a high purpose, England may well adopt it; but if that high purpose is only to cheer the nation on until some old-fashioned diplomatic drop-scene falls and narrows the horizon, why engage the world in mortal conflict, which must corrupt mankind if it does not set them free?

MODERN FORTIFICATION.

It is quite probable that one of the greatest military results of the siege of Sebastopol will be a revolution in the art of fortification.

Whether the Allies take or do not take those astonishing works that have held them at bay now for ten months, the operations of the siege will have demonstrated the utility of earthworks for purposes of defence. From this point of view, therefore, and in this important department of warfare, the military art of modern times is likely to date from the siege of Sebastopol as from a new era.

It has always been the boast of engineers that any fortress can be reduced within a given number of days if all the rules of art be observed; and indeed, ever since the Turks invented the system of approaches by sap, the power of the attack has overwhelmed that of the defence. For many years the art of fortification has been studied with enthusiasm; the object being to recover for the defence that superiority which it enjoyed before gunpowder was invented. A most complicated and perfect system was the result; but it so happened that it was calculated mainly to resist an assault, and that it was powerless to resist beyond a given time a regular attack by cannon. The bastion system provided for an irresistible fire along the ditches and over the whole of the ground in their front. But at the same time the besieger in attacking the bastion, an angular work of solid masonry, could place his batteries in such a position as to rake the battery of the bastion and dismount all the guns, himself remaining exposed only to an oblique fire. While the cannonade continued the sap was pressed forward, until it arrived at the ditch of the fortress, when, the guns being silenced, it was not difficult to smash the wall of the bastion into a breach, and carry it by storm. It will be remarked that the superiority on the part of the besiegers consisted in the overwhelming fire they could bring to bear upon a given point. The question for the defenders, therefore, was how to construct works so as to force the besiegers to meet a direct fire, when the chances are that the fire of the fort will be superior. MONTALEMBERT proposed to build stone batteries in tiers; but to this it was objected that no stonework can stand against cannon shot, fired from guns almost or quite concealed from the besieged; and the objection was held to be fatal. Yet the sieges of Silistria and Sebastopol would seem to revive the plan, not, it is true, in stone, but in earth, and to give once more the system of defence a chance of regaining its superiority.

It is to Mr. JAMES FERGUSSON that we owe the revival of the theory of MONTALEMBERT, improved by the substitution of earth for stone, and to the Turks really that we owe the revival of the practice. In point of fact, Shumla is an entrenched camp defended by earthworks, and very little dependent upon stonework. The redoubts of Shumla have been long in existence, and were greatly improved in 1853-54. Next came Silistria. It was found in 1829 that the Russians obtained an immense advantage by seizing some commanding ground that almost looked into the walls. Upon this ground, the site of the Russian batteries in 1829, the Turks constructed earthen redoubts of the rudest kind; yet they resisted General SCHILDERS and the vast Russian army. But the new system received its fullest development at Sebastopol.

Mr. FERGUSSON's proposition is that earth should be used instead of stone; that the guns of the fortress should be so placed as to bring to bear upon any point a heavier fire than can be brought to bear upon the fort from that point; and that a ditch, wet or dry, encircle the works. This plan, pooh-poohed by our engineers, is in actual operation at Sebastopol. There, whether by design, or impelled by necessity, the Russian

engineer TODLEBEN has produced so perfect an illustration of Mr. FERGUSSON's plan that Mr. FERGUSSON himself cannot suggest any improvements. There are long lines of embankment, of great depth and width, broken into heavy batteries, in some places, notably at the Flagstaff and the Malakhoff, rising tier on tier. It is almost impossible to get an enfilading fire as in the bastion system. The consequence is that the fire must be direct; hence the necessity for guns not only equal, but superior in weight and number to the guns of the enemy; the Russians had heavy ship guns, we had lighter guns until this spring; their direct fire literally smashed that of the French—hence the failure of the bombardments. It is obvious that as long as there is earth, guns, and ammunition, there are numberless chances of defence, only limited by the stores of food. It is also obvious that embankments are cheaper, and what is equally important, more easily repaired than masonry. Thus, to a great extent, it may be fairly considered that the Russians have demonstrated the superiority of the FERGUSSON system of fortification over every other. Its simplicity is, probably, the obstacle to its adoption by our engineers.

But we must not forget that Sebastopol is an exceptional fortress, defended by an army, who have entrenched themselves around what really seems an inexhaustible arsenal, and having free communication with the resources of an empire on one side. In point of fact, the contest in the Crimea is between two armies, one defending itself behind earthworks, the other attacking from behind earthworks. Sebastopol is not an ordinary fortress, but a position. It also remains to be seen whether the effect of the fire of the Allies was really so contemptible in the second and third bombardments as the fanatical advocates of earthworks would have us believe. In the second bombardment the Flagstaff was rent from top to bottom, only a portion of one tier of guns remaining entire. The Malakhoff was nearly silenced, and remained so until the cannonade ceased, when it was repaired. The Mamelon was snuffed out very soon, although subsequently renewed. And in the last bombardment this redoubt was literally pounded to fragments by shot and shell. It remains to be seen, also, what effect both horizontal and vertical shell-firing will have upon earthworks, when properly applied.

Although we admit, with the writer on "Modern Fortification" in the *Edinburgh Review*, that the balance of practical argument lies on the side of the earthwork engineers, yet we do not think with him that "it has been proved beyond a doubt that an abundant supply of guns placed on earthworks may restore the superiority of the defence over the attack." And for this simple reason that the art of attack in the case of Sebastopol was taken by surprise, and may amply vindicate its old superiority in the next encounter, as it has begun to do during the latter part of the siege. We would also remark that extensive earthworks require something more than guns to defend them—they require more than garrisons—they require armies.

THE WAR IN ASIA.

THE Russian generals in the Caucasus and Georgia resumed operations in the spring on an extended scale. Powerful reinforcements had reached their several camps, and their line of attack threatened at once the whole area from Batoum on the coast of the Black Sea, to Bayazid on the Persian frontier. Between those points lay the towns and fortified positions against which the main efforts of the enemy were last year directed

—Akalkik, Kars, and a series of entrenched camps, the keys of Asia Minor. Should these be forced, the Russian troops would enjoy free quarters in the most fruitful provinces of the Ottoman Empire, and seriously menace some very important cities on the Black Sea. It is to be remembered, also, that Constantinople derives a great proportion of its subsistence from the Asiatic shore, which has, nevertheless, been defended hitherto only by the rudest levies of the Sultan. The only diversion to be expected was from SCHAMYL, who is now reported to be dead, and who is, at all events, pent up within a circle of roads and fortifications guarded by the enemy.

In England, the public has not bestowed much attention on the military situation of Turkey in Asia. Intent upon the siege of Sebastopol, it cares little to know why, though a few British officers have joined the Turks, General VIVIAN, with his embryo contingent, remains at Constantinople. It relies also on the spirit of the Circassian tribes, and trusts to the defensive capacities of the Ottomans themselves. Meanwhile General GUYON remains unemployed, and no intercession has been made for him, because "Austria was our ally." But the Circassians fight like Scythians, and have never undertaken to defend more than their own mountain citadels, and the Turks, in their Asiatic conflicts, have not emulated the achievements of their brothers in arms on the Danube. Among our latest intelligence is an account of nine thousand Turkish militia flying at the sight of the Russian standards, and disbanding themselves among the villages. Through their slight powers of resistance the enemy has made alarming progress, and has now assembled, within a few leagues of Kars, a force of not less than a hundred thousand men. The town is prepared for defence, but the enemy shows in greater power than was expected.

Englishmen, prone to judge all things from their own point of view, are inclined to regard with indifference the fate of an Armenian campaign. They forget that a position which the enemy undertakes to seize at any cost must be worth securing. The dispersion of the Turkish armies on the eastern side of the Euxine, and of the tribes which preserve a persecuted independence in the mountains beyond, has been incessantly attempted since the outbreak of the war. From an affair of policy, as it had long been regarded, it became a point of military importance, and on the opening of a new campaign warlike movements were commenced on a prodigious scale. A vast increase of the Russian armaments took place in Georgia, and on the lower plateaux of the Caucasus. These forces were distributed with a skill and celerity which explain the repeated visits of the imperial family to that province of the empire. Before the combined fleets broke the quietude of the Euxine, a Russian squadron incessantly patrolled between Soukum-Kaleh and Batoum. If other circumstances were wanting to prove the value set by the Czars upon this remote territory, they are supplied in the constant multiplication of hill-fortresses, in the huge military road which traverses the Caucasus, and in the numerous engineering works by which Russia has there sought to pierce the vitals of a tenacious nationality. Remark, also, her expenditure of revenue and of human life, in order to connect her Georgian districts with the rest of her empire; her waste of administration in half-settled plains, her military stations among the hills; her drain of blood in the struggle with restless tribes, and the constant straining of her strength to hold a *piec-à-terre* on that side of the Black Sea.

In truth, the free Circassian tribes, compressed within a narrow compass, form a wedge, which divides and weakens the Russian Empire. There the Czars have never enjoyed more than a fictitious or frail authority. The opportunity of the war has been seized, consequently, to throw additional forces into this long-disputed field. General MOURAVIEFF opened the campaign with fresh troops, computed at thirty thousand infantry, four cavalry regiments, and a proportionate number of guns. These, with the remnants of the former army, constituted a body of at least sixty thousand men, engaged along that important line, which includes the least defensible frontiers of Turkey and Persia. MOURAVIEFF undertook his enterprise under the most rigorous commands. He left St. Petersburg with a plan of operations drawn up under the eye of the late CZAR, and approved of by the best generals of the empire. He has since visited every regiment at its post, and prepared a simultaneous attack on those Ottoman cities which stand between him and the rich heart of Asia Minor. Meanwhile, in anticipation of a descent from the mountains, General BARIATINSKI has been employed, for three months, in keeping the Circassians in check, and has pledged his sword to the fulfilment of this duty. MOURAVIEFF, therefore, may confidently assault the unsupported Turks, the most demoralised of the SULTAN's army, the least enthusiastic, the worst armed, the worst officered. Indeed, though the first attack on Karadagh failed, the Russian journals have reported some conflicts in which these vagrant Mahomedans have been dispersed after the first collision with the enemy.

Whether or not these incidents have been exaggerated, it is impossible to expect many Turkish successes in Asia. It becomes, then, a question whether our Ottoman contingent, commanded by efficient officers, should not aid in the defence of that important territory. Of regular troops there may be none to spare; but the materials of an army abound on the eastern coast of the Black Sea, and some of our Indian captains, no doubt, could raise bodies of light horse and infantry, enough to cope with the Russian columns in Georgia. This is a matter more important than, on the surface, it appears. The Georgian territory is too limited and too difficult of access to be replenished with defenders. It is a limb cut off from the empire by regions only partially under Russian control; and, with the Armenian border occupied, the Russian army, adequately assailed, might be reduced to desperate extremities.

There have been occasions, in our military history, on which British armies have acted simultaneously over a vast area. In the Mahratta war our operations extended over a surface of four hundred miles square, and, when HOLKAR was assailed, four well-appointed armies within as many months were set in motion, and the conquest of half India resulted. We do not pretend to find any analogy between the case of HOLKAR with his half-barbarous levies among the Indian highlands, and the Russians on both sides of the Caucasus and in the Crimea; but the example serves to prove that when your military resources are great they may be safely divided, and that they may be divided to co-operate towards one result.

At all events the Turks, in their present condition, cannot be viewed as competent defenders of Asia Minor. Last year, with a few variations of success, they yielded the ground gradually to their assailants, who are now attacking them with superior forces, and who may take possession of Kars, or any other city, before the importance of their movements is perceived in Western Europe.

GENERAL GUYON.

MR. HENRY HERBERT has deserved well of his country in calling the attention of the Government to the case of General GUYON, a real soldier, and one of the finest horsemen in the world, who has for a year been kept by intrigues and false accusations without employment; and we can assure Lord PALMERSTON that he could make no appointment at once so popular and so just as that of General GUYON to some high command. We trust that the Government will not rest satisfied with showing sympathy in this case, but that they will act. Austria can now, at least, be no valid obstacle: and the Porte, by exonerating him from all blame respecting the loss of the fight at Kurukdere, has wiped away the stains with which calumnious intriguers endeavoured to cover his fame.

Few names in the Hungarian War of Independence shine with a purer or brighter flame than that of General GUYON. He saw it all. He was in the first field, he was in the latest fight; and with some brave companions carried his stainless sword across the Danube, while ARTHUR GÖRGEI surrendered his to the direst foes of his devastated country. We detract from no other soldier's reputation in urging the claims of GUYON upon the British Government; and all true soldiers will rejoice to think there is a chance that GUYON will be once more in the field against the Russians.

If we only cast a glance upon the pages of that splendid, chivalrous, and tragic romance—the War for the Independence of Hungary—we see records of the exploits of GUYON. He was a major in the maiden field of the revolution, Schwechat, and there, in the estimation of his malignant detractor, GÖRGEI, he, of all the officers, “had incontestably the greatest merit,” for he stood with the right wing at Manns worth, and won renown, when others fell rapidly away. It was after that disastrous fight that GÖRGEI met BEM for the first and last time, and in that brief interview, the latter generously remarked upon “the distinguished talents GUYON possessed as a general.” BEM, indeed, had reason to know, at a later period of the war, how daring, decided, and soldierly, was the young major of the National Guards. But not alone on the field of Schwechat did he shine out the true star of courage in the gloom of defeat. When GÖRGEI made his masterly retreat through the mountains in the depth of winter, it was GUYON's steadfastness that caused the army to effect a junction at Neusolh, in spite of difficulties interposed by the overflow of the Gran, the broken bridges, and deeply-inundated roads—a steadfastness that unquestionably saved the army. But the work was only half done. The object of the movement was to gain the Theiss and effect a junction with KLAPKA, between whom and GÖRGEI's troops stood Count SCHLICK, strongly posted on the Branyiszko Pass; and when GÖRGEI halted his division of 15,000 men at Leutschau, and passed his time half in dancing, half in a despairing reverie, General GUYON marched his 10,000 troops—with whom GÖRGEI considered it impossible to gain victories—against the Austrians, and drove them headlong from the defile. GUYON pursued his advantage with vigour, and thus it was that GÖRGEI's corps effected a junction on the Theiss with the main body of the Hungarian army.

A brilliant campaign followed in the spring of 1849; and by a series of victories the Hungarian army once more arrived in sight of the Danube. Komorn was then invested by the Austrians. GUYON, with the laurels of many gallant deeds on his brow, was appointed governor of the fortress; and it be-

hoved him to find a way in. He did find one. From the field of Nagy Sarlo, he took a squadron of hussars, and he broke a way in through the hostile lines of the enemy, and carried with him a company of Austrian infantry—as prisoners!

It is thus we ever find GUYON. Let us take one more glance at our gallant countryman. In the battle of Temesvar, lost, it must be feared, mainly by the too daring rashness of BEM, where was GUYON? The day, as is known, was nearly won. The reserves of the Austro-Russian cavalry, 12,000 strong, were brought up to turn the scale; but GUYON, putting in motion 7000 Hungarians, charged them as they advanced, and drove them back in the utmost disorder. But at the critical moment BEM found his ammunition fail, and the Austrian General LICHTENSTEIN instantly seized the opportunity, and recovered his losses; but not before GUYON had once more led his famishing Hussars upon a gallant but ineffectual Bala-klava charge against one hundred and twenty pieces of cannon!

When GÖRGEI feloniously surrendered at Villagos, GUYON would not yield himself, but, at the head of a faithful few, crossed the Turkish frontier.

Five years elapse, and GUYON reappears. The Turkish army at Kars is dissolving away; GUYON arrives at Kars, labours heartily, untiringly, successfully through the winter; and again there is something like an army at Kars, and at least the beginnings of earthen defences on the Karadagh. The Russians cross the frontier, and defeat the Turks in a pitched battle; and the depraved, incompetent commanders impute the blame to the ablest man among them—to GUYON. He withdraws from the army; his conduct, and that of the besotted ZARIF, his superior officer, are investigated, and both are acquitted. And now no pretext can be found—not even the pretext that he was the subject of a military inquiry—which will justify, in the least degree, the exclusion of such an able and experienced officer from some important command. It is not for us to indicate what. As the leader of a division, GUYON showed that he knew his profession; as the leader of cavalry, he showed he knew when to use them. And if he is not competent for the highest posts—of which we can be no judge—he is at least competent for a high post of command, and we trust the British Government will see that he receive one; and that Lord PALMERSTON's expressions do not remain expressions only.

COMING REPEAL OF THE BEER ACT.

THE House of Commons is preparing, by a select committee, a broad confession that last year it underwent that humiliating process which is vulgarly called being bamboozled. It passed the Beer Act to starve people into stopping at home or going to church, by shutting all houses of public entertainment; this year it was about to stop all kinds of Sunday trading; but commonsense as well as common convenience having revolted against the whole class of legislation, the House has appointed a committee to ascertain whether or not there really was a case for passing the Beer Act. For that is the real question. And strangely enough the members appointed to inquire into “the working” of the act, are really inquiring into the original case! Still more strangely, the foremost witnesses that they summon before them are those public officers who are charged with the execution of the act—the Police Magistrates and the chief Commissioners of Police in the metropolis and in the City. The evidence which those officers give, com-

paratively slight and mild on the subject of the working, is forcible and conclusive on the non-existence of any original case for the statute. To sum up their evidence very generally, it may be said to amount to this: The act does not work worse than might have been expected. It has probably had some effect in checking the amount of overt drunkenness on Sunday. The worst part of its operation is its oppressive restriction upon persons for whom it was not intended at all. It is a great restraint upon the sober with only comparative restraint upon the drunkard; but the sober immensely outnumber the drunken. It is chiefly operative where it was not wanted, and since it does not reach the wealthy class, whose inn-keepers and club-managers can easily avoid the operation of the law, it has established a glaring case of class legislation, where the well-conducted of the humbler classes are put to gross inconvenience with no real benefit to anybody. The cases of actual drunkenness, says Sir RICHARD MAYNE, the Chief Commissioner of Police, in a population of 2,500,000 are in the proportion of one to 32,000; so that you place the 32,000 under restraint in order to have some hold upon the one! Let us for an instant imagine this case carried out upon some actual assemblage of men. We have an army somewhat above 32,000 in the Crimea: one man misconducts himself in that force, and because one man misconducts himself, General SIMPSON puts a very rigorous constraint upon the action of the whole army during every leisure hour; prevents its enjoying amusements, and debars it from food during a great part of the day. Is it conceivable that the army would not mutiny, or that the War Office should retain General SIMPSON at his post? Yet that is precisely the condition into which Parliament at home has forced Sir RICHARD MAYNE and all the Police Magistrates. There was a case against the one man, but in respect to him your remedy is doubtful; there was no case against the 32,000, in respect of whom alone the restraint is quite certain.

From the evidence that has already been collected, indeed, the case against the bill is completely established. It does not conduce to a better observance of the Sabbath, but it positively prevents the progress which was already making towards a better observance of the seventh day. The people were becoming soberer, quieter in their enjoyments, more disposed to attendance on divine worship; and if anything could check that extremely desirable progress, it was a compulsory Act which would render Sabbath observance offensive. The remark applies just as much to those who profess "a rational observance," "a day of repose," as to the open religionists. In fact, so far as the compulsion is concerned, the case of both is exactly the same. Both tell you that they only desire to be protected—the one to have his rest uninterrupted, the other to be free for attendance in the House of God; but both are free already. If the Epicurean, whose philosophy we do not in the slightest degree question, desires to rest, he can do so and welcome; if the Pietist feels an instinct for attendance on divine worship, let him go. What is it that hinders him? It is, he says, that if he close his shop, his next-door neighbour will open his, and take away customers; and the Epicurean or Pietist wishes his neighbour to be prevented compulsorily as he would be voluntarily. So this Epicurean desires to have a favour not sought by his neighbour, while both of them are to bear the expense. The Pietist wishes to make the sacrifice which he considers due to his Maker, but he asks the Legislature to guarantee him against any loss through the

sacrifice. His were the hands to lay the sacrifice on the altar, but the public is to pay the sacred piper! Such is the modern improvement on ANANIAS.

The fact is that the sacrifice is worth making on both accounts, and what is more, the public was rapidly strengthening itself in the resolve to render the sacrifice. A healthier taste was leading it to enjoy the repose; but in order to develop that enjoyment certain accessories were needed. The man confined to town feels the instincts of nature strong upon him, and seeks to expand his ideas as well as his lungs in a purer atmosphere; but if he would live, he must feed even while he elevates himself. He wants the conveyance to the place of his recreation, the place to recreate in, the sustenance to keep him alive; and it would be difficult to show that the attendance upon the public in these recreations is less "necessary," less beneficial than the attendance of the doctor on his patient or the pastor on his flock.

It is rather remarkable that drunkenness and Protestantism so habitually go together. The superficial moralist would say that it is because beer and the popular use of the Bible prevail in some countries. Is there, then, some necessary connexion between biblical studies and brewing? Is a taste for porter rising in Florence among the co-religionaries of the MADIAI? We doubt it. We deny that Lutherism is wedded to malt. There may, however, be, in the abuse of Protestantism, some tendency to foster the vice of Protestant countries; there may be a common cause both for the religious abuse and the social vice. The Protestant who refuses to admit the authority of the Pope, wishes to be pope over his neighbour; and though he will not let the Pope dictate diet to him on Fridays and Saturdays, or Wednesdays and Fridays, he will be the pope dictating diet to his neighbour. He scorns to eat fish at the command of any pontiff, but he decrees water for everybody else. In Switzerland they have passed a law on the sale of liquor; the United States originated the Maine Liquor Law, which Alderman Sir ROBERT CARDEN is associated with others to introduce into this country. Now it so happens that it has not occurred to the POPE that he can increase his influence or promote love of Christianity by debarring people from all kinds of recreation on the feasts of the Church; and the Italian peasantry, after attending at divine worship in the morning, can recreate itself in vineyards where wine flows like water, and go to bed at night as sober as if the crystal liquid had been drunk instead of the ruby. Protestantism would do well to take a leaf out of the book of Catholicism. As to attendance at public worship there is, we assure our readers, no possibility of making the comparison, so universal, so spontaneous is the attendance in Italy. We can only compare it for universality to the sobriety of the people.

Sir ROBERT CARDEN is the true specimen of the Protestant Pope. He is a member of the Maine Liquor Law Society, and he endeavours to enforce that law upon the people, partly on the ground that if a man drink a pint of alcohol it will make him drop down dead. Equally, we might say, there is iron in the blood, but if a man were to swallow the spike end of an area railing, he would never recover it. Are we then to discontinue the use of area railings, because, if men did what they never do, they would be killed? Sir ROBERT has a magnificent way of applying the law. In the first place, all who do not obey his law are reprobates. He would never open a public-house after ten o'clock at night, because, he says, "there are not ten in a hundred persons who enter public-

houses after that hour respectable people." "They are all to a considerable extent either robbers, thieves, prostitutes, or bad characters." The gentlemen who turn out at Verey's, or Simpson's, the Reform, or the Carlton, now know what Sir ROBERT thinks of them. "Is an honest man," asks Mr. BERKELEY, "never thirsty after ten o'clock?" "An honest man," says Sir ROBERT, "seeks his home and family before that hour." "But suppose he has no house, or home, or family?" asks Mr. BERKELEY. "Then I think he ought to have one." So Sir ROBERT, if we were to authorise him, would decree that no fermented drink should be sold, that no man should be in a tavern after ten o'clock, that every man should be married and have a family, under a penalty of being classed as a robber, a thief, a prostitute, or bad character. This is the way to make Christians. Like most Popes, Sir ROBERT can grant a dispensation to himself; he preaches, but does not practice, the Maine Liquor Law, and jocosely confesses, "I am no saint myself." Yet he who is no saint by his own freewill would make everybody else a saint by Act of Parliament and Police. Do we not see the direct consequence—that instead of multiplying saints, the CARDEN régime could only spoil any ready-grown saints to make them slaves or rebels? If parsons do their duty there will be plenty of attendance at divine worship, without any need for a parson-protecting police law; and the public will continue to be sober and more rational every Sunday, if Government will only let them. The Sunday holiday is only turned to a scowl when the thirty thousand who enjoy and use it are treated like the one miserable fool who abuses it, and does not enjoy it.

GOVERNMENT AND CIVIL SERVICE OF INDIA.

AFTER an unusually lengthened and successful career in the East, Lord DALHOUSIE is about to deliver the governor-generalship of India into younger, it will not be said into abler, hands. The annexation of the Punjab and Pegu, though the most brilliant illustrations of his viceroyalty, is by no means his lordship's best claim to the satisfaction of his fellow-countrymen, or to the gratitude of the people over whom he has so beneficently ruled. That Viscount CANNING will tread in the footsteps of his predecessor, and approve himself worthy of the important trust by other than quasi-hereditary reasons, we will not for a moment doubt. But at the same time we may be permitted to express a feeling of regret that the preoccupation of the Russian war should have diverted the attention of the Ministry and Parliament from the improvements that might now have been fittingly introduced into the government of India. It is impossible to impress too forcibly, or too frequently, upon the British public the necessity of reforming the entire system of administration that prevails in that vast dependency. One chief source of weakness appears to arise from the division of our Indian possessions into three semi-independent presidencies, distinct in civil and military matters, united only in a political point of view. From this heterogeneous arrangement much mutual jealousy naturally ensues, and the introduction of measures of local benefit is beset with absurd but impassable obstructions. In addition to these minor difficulties it may be remembered that the Government of British India, though nominally conducted by the Honourable Company, is actually centred in the Board of Control. A president of that board issued the supreme mandate that involved the country in the disastrous war with Afghanistan; and without the fiat

of this personage no really important question can be decided. The details of administration, indeed, have hitherto been confided to civil servants appointed by the directors, but even that exclusive privilege has recently been cancelled by throwing the service open to competition. It therefore only remains to do away with the fiction of a government that has neither subjects nor a governing class, and to establish the direct influence of the Crown over all its dependencies and possessions.

According to Sir CHARLES METCALFE, than whom there can be no higher authority, the two grand specifics to insure the stability of British rule in India, are a powerful army and colonisation. But it is absurd to expect that Europeans will permanently settle in a country where they are treated as a conquered race. There is no arena for an honourable ambition, no stimulant to exertion, no reward for exalted merit. The "interloper" can under no circumstances aspire to public offices and dignities. If he would afford a fairer chance to his son, he must send him to Europe to acquire a smattering of the literature of ancient European Republics, in order to fit him for becoming the instrument of a despotic government over a hundred millions of Asiatics. It is true that he enjoys the special privilege of being amenable only to British law dispensed by British judges; but these very courts are an anomaly, and have more than once seriously impeded the action of the Government. An improvement in this respect has been certainly effected by the last charter, but the machinery will never work satisfactorily until its motive power be one and indivisible.

The civil service, as at present constituted, is divided into two classes, or castes—the covenanted, and the uncovenanted. The former are the "twice-born," the favoured of Leadenhall-street, who enjoy the loaves and fishes, are entitled to furlough, and finally retire upon a pension of a thousand a year. The latter are hard-worked and indifferently paid, are eligible to no high office, can claim no furlough, and when incapable of further service are summarily dismissed—with a certificate of good conduct. To this inferior caste belongs the educational department, and the learned principal of a college stands lower on the official ladder than a beardless boy who has donned for the first time the blushing honours of a uniform. Many of these uncovenanted servants are gentlemen of good family, superior education, excellent abilities, and possessed of large local information. But in society they are not recognised, and the highest change they can hope to attain is that of assistant-magistrate. And here another absurdity is worthy of notice. The duties of a civil servant are financial and judiciary. The former being deemed the most important, the exhibition of a superior order of talent and energy is generally rewarded by a post in that department. But in ordinary cases the same person may be suddenly removed from one to the other, or called upon to discharge both at the same time. Then again, as the covenanted body is not sufficiently numerous to collect revenue and administer justice throughout the vast extent of territory under the British jurisdiction, recourse is had, not to the uncovenanted, but to the military service, and the ablest officers are taken from their regiments, and for a dozen or fifteen years converted into civilians. It is needless to observe how detrimental this system must be to the discipline of both men and officers, and to the general efficiency of the army.

Sir CHARLES METCALFE, indeed, was of opinion that every Company's servant should go

out a cadet; that there should be no separate civil service; and that men should be selected for civil duties according to fitness, remaining soldiers nevertheless. With all due deference to so high an authority, it may be asked how this profession of faith can be reconciled with the oftentimes repeated assertion that more European officers are required for the native regiments, and that everything depends upon the confidence the former are able to inspire into their men. It is surely more consistent with the dictates of experience and common sense that every man should adhere to his own profession, and that the military should confine themselves to military, as the civilians to civil, matters.

We would have, then, a Governor-General appointed by the Crown for a term of years, under whom Lieutenant-Governors should preside at Madras, Bombay, Agra, and Calcutta. There should be also but one army, under one Commander-in-Chief, however ungrateful such a measure might prove to the Horse Guards. The Civil Service might be advantageously divided into two branches—the financial and the magisterial—but without the faculty of interchanging. He who adopts the department of revenue must follow out his career; and in like manner the aspirant to the tribunal must qualify himself exclusively for his future magisterial functions. The degrading parsimony of the uncovenanted service can no longer be endured. Let every man who enters the Civil Service of the Indian Government be eligible to every post according to his merit, and let this be the only motive for selection. It may be objected that the cost of government will be thereby greatly increased. But are the existing salaries incapable of diminution? Is it impossible to obtain efficient magistrates and collectors for a smaller stipend than 1500*l.* to 2000*l.* a year, with an annual pension of 1000*l.* in prospect? Perchance men in whose veins the *sangre azul* flows may become yet more rare, but perchance also men of surpassing energy and ability may become much more numerous. India is no longer separated from Europe by a tedious and dangerous voyage of many months' duration, nor is the climate so fatal to life as travellers would have us believe. By the use of ordinary precautions health may be preserved during the average number of years supposed to be allotted to man, and a more reasonable mode of living repudiates the ostentatious extravagance that involved the last generation in debt in proportion to the magnitude of their salaries.

In addition to the Civil Service, properly so-called, there must be the judicial, and this likewise should be local. At present the judges, and even many of the barristers, are totally ignorant of the native languages, laws, and usages, and yet they are constantly required to adjudicate, or plead, between natives and Europeans. If one of the latter commit a crime at Peshawur, he cannot be brought to trial excepting in Calcutta, a distance of at least twelve hundred miles. The consequence is that even criminal offences are allowed to pass unpunished, because no one will willingly incur the expense, fatigue, and loss of time, incidental to the prosecution. This subject, however, cannot be better illustrated than by the following extracts from a minute drawn up by Sir CHARLES METCALFE in 1829:—

"We have seen a native of India, lately a servant of the King of Oude, but residing within the British frontier for refuge, arrested on a false allegation of debt, many hundred miles away from Calcutta, by an officer of the Supreme Court, and placed in the power of his pretended creditor and undoubted enemy, on some legal fiction of his being a constructive inhabitant of Calcutta, in consequence of dealings with parties residing there. . . . We

have seen property seized in the most remote provinces under the Bengal Presidency as the property of a bankrupt firm at Calcutta, and made over wholly to another firm of that place on a bond although creditors of the bankrupt firm, as claimants against it were present in those provinces although the transactions on which they claimed took place in those provinces; although the very property seized was properly their own, never having been paid for. The awe of the Supreme Court deterred the local authorities from attempting to maintain the right of the local creditors."

It is evident that such could never have been the object contemplated in the establishment of this court, although the abuse of its extraordinary powers might have been predicted by any one acquainted with the workings of the human heart. For the future all evils of this nature might be avoided by constituting an Indian bar and an Indian bench. The judges might be chosen exclusively from the local bar, and on the occurrence of a vacancy the latter might be called upon to nominate three candidates, one of whom would be selected by the Governor-General, subject to the approval of the Crown. As the immense extent of our Indian Empire would render it impossible for one set of judges to undertake the different circuits it might be found advisable to institute four courts, those of Calcutta, Madras, Bombay, and Agra, with perhaps a recorder at Lahore. One system of law might then be administered to Christian, Mussulman, and Hindoo, and the judiciary department of the civil service would be confined to the duties of stipendiary magistracy. By this means "the square men would be put into the square holes, and the round men into the round holes," and merit would form the only true distinction, the only road to honour and advancement.

CHANDERNAGORE.

SIXTEEN miles above Calcutta, and on the west bank of the Hooghly, stands the pleasant town of Chandernagore, the Chandernagora of the natives. With regard to beauty and salubrity of situation, it is in every way superior to the metropolis of British India, and the spacious parade by the river-side yields in nothing to the great ornamental works of the ancient rulers of the country. In the early times of the British Settlements this place formed the head-quarters of the French, whence they actively intrigued with the Soubahdar to effect the expulsion of their rivals from Bengal. But diplomacy failed in presence of superior energy and power, and after a stout resistance, Chandernagore succumbed to the broadsides of the Kent and the Tiger, commanded in person by Admiral WATSON and Pococke. However, on the return of peace, the fruits of conquest were with characteristic *bonhomie*, restored to the enemy from whom they had been so arduously wrested, and Chandernagore was again permitted to become a thorn in our side. It is true that the fortifications and garrison of the place are so utterly insignificant that a single battalion would at any time suffice to reduce it to submission. But this very circumstance tends to impress the natives with a mysterious awe for a power that, from so great a distance, can plant its flag close to the very capital of the redoubtable "Johr Koompanie's" dominions. They observe, too, that even the Supreme Court fails to inspire any dread within this enchanted spot. Let a man swindle his friend in Calcutta, defraud his creditors, or commit a misdemeanour, he need only flee to the shadow of the tricolor, and neither police-officer nor bailiff will disturb his slumbers. Nor is it by any means conducive to the morality of young men in Calcutta that so near at hand they can find every means and opportunity for indulgence in quasi-Parisian vicio. Aspiring

Eurasians especially love to be initiated into the "mysteries of Paris," as they are understood and exhibited at Chandernagore. And while this little town is a perfect nuisance to the British authorities, it is not of the slightest value or importance to the French Government. Should war ever again break out—may all propitious deities avert the omen!—between the Powers now so happily allied, Chandernagore would behold St. GEORGE'S banner floating over its walls within twenty-four hours after the intelligence had reached Fort William. Nor is it of any service to the revenues of France, for the expenses of its government exceed its incomings from every source. It is, therefore, a permissible hint that advantage might be taken of the cordial feeling now existing between the two nations to obtain the transfer of Chandernagore for a pecuniary or other consideration. Holland and Denmark were readily induced to concede their respective settlements, and we cannot doubt that the French would courteously follow their example. There can be no question as to the hearty co-operation to be expected from the Honourable East India Company in bringing about such a desirable result, and in any case it is a matter well worthy of the serious attention of Government.

WIFE AND NO WIFE.

A POSTSCRIPT to our paper on Mrs. NORTON'S pamphlet is suggested by a new pamphlet in the case of Mrs. TALBOT.* As frequently happens in this class of cases, justice is outraged in opposite ways. Here is Mrs. NORTON, who desires to be divorced from her husband; and she would have been so if she had been willing to admit as true an accusation of conduct which she regards as guilt. If she would confess herself degraded in her own eyes she might be free. It was indeed requisite that she should acknowledge an accomplice in an old friend—the Prime Minister of this country. Not having been proved to have committed a breach of the law, her character being at least judicially free from any taint, she remains under slavery to the man who accused her. It so happened that the evidence brought against Mrs. NORTON was of a kind which, if not true, must have been manufactured: it was judicially pronounced to be untrue. But if the conspiracy against her had been rather more criminal, then again she would have been free. There was in her case either an insufficient amount of offence against the law on her own part, or of successful conspiracy on the other side; and the result is, that she remains incapable of extricating herself from the bonds of a matrimony which she knows only in its disabilities.

The case of Mrs. TALBOT is exactly the reverse. No reader, we presume, can have perused the pamphlets of Mr. PAGET without rising from them convinced that the stories respecting Mrs. TALBOT'S conduct were absolutely without foundation. The Ecclesiastical Court in Dublin, however, taking such one-sided evidence as was produced before it, affirmed that she was guilty of the conduct ascribed to her. On the appeal, the leading judge in the Court of Delegates, happening to take up the pleadings instead of the evidence, pronounced that the judgment of the Court below was correct; and the Upper Court added another peculiarly logical *tour de force* to its grounds of judgment. "It has de-

clared that admissions made by Mrs. TALBOT were occasioned by the 'wandering of a diseased imagination, not based upon reality, and as such should not be received by a court of justice,' and has then quoted and relied upon them *because* they were *sincere*; in other words, because she was herself deluded by her delusions!" The result is, that Mrs. TALBOT is divorced.

The law leaves Mrs. NORTON undivided from her husband, but knowing marriage only in its disabilities. It leaves Mrs. TALBOT divorced, but knowing divorce only in its disabilities; and in this fate her husband shares. The manifest object of the divorce for him was to obtain another wife, and by that means the chance of an heir, who would intervene between himself and his nephew in the inheritance. By the fortune of Ecclesiastical Courts Mr. TALBOT has arrived at a divorce in that kind of tribunal. In doing so, however, he has been necessarily compelled, as a matter of form, to display before the public the evidence upon which he relies; and we can judge pretty well of its result if he should carry the case forward to the House of Lords; who can alone complete the divorce civilly.

"To that bar he must come," says Mr. Paget, "if he means to clear away the stigma which your lordship's emphatic condemnation of his witnesses, as 'infamous,' and for some motive, neither 'truth-telling nor trustworthy,' must otherwise affix upon his character."

"He must bring the Rev. Mr. McClelland, and confront him with my brother and myself. He must bring his brother-in-law, the Rev. Mr. Collis and his witnesses, Joseph O'Brien and Susan and Mary Benn! He must bring Maria Mooney, to be again contradicted by Margaret Hall. He must bring Hester Keogh, to tell the arts that have been used to induce her to 'swear false against her mistress,' again to 'refuse to belie her, as Halloran and Finnerty had done,' again to tell how, during that horrible night, her mistress 'protested her innocence,' again to give her emphatic testimony to the falsehood of the charges brought against her. He must bring the Rev. Mr. Kemmis, and his confederate Mrs. Tennant, alias Mrs. Trueman. He must himself appear, attended by his chosen servants, Michael Halloran, the convicted forger! and Brien Finnerty, alias Dennis Delany!"

We can, as we have said, pretty well calculate beforehand the result of an appeal to the House of Lords. In the meanwhile, though Mr. and Mrs. TALBOT are divorced by the power of the Ecclesiastical Courts, they are undivorced by the civil courts; they are strangers to each other under the Ecclesiastical law, they are man and wife at common law; they are single so far as relates to any comfort or aid to each other, they are bound in matrimony so far as relates to their incapacity for seeking companionship elsewhere.

The law, therefore, retains Mrs. NORTON in bondage to the husband whom she has left, and who has advertised her in the public newspapers—the law retaining her in the bondage because she is not guilty. It has pronounced Mrs. TALBOT to be divorced on the kind of evidence that we have reviewed, and she is insane by consequence of the proceedings against her. Mr. TALBOT, who desired freedom for the sake of a new chance that he might have an heir, is referred to the House of Lords with such evidence as we have seen.

THE CONDUCT OF THE WAR.

WE have received from Brussels a copy of a pamphlet published at Geneva under the title of *Second Memoir addressed to the Government of his Imperial Majesty Napoleon III., on the Expedition into the Crimea, and the Conduct of the War in the East. By a General Officer.* In his seventh chapter the writer recapitulates, under the following heads, the blunders, military and diplomatic, committed hitherto in the conduct of the war; with special reference to the responsibility of the Emperor of the French, the prime author of the Crimean expedition:—

1. General adoption of the system of absolutist alliances in preference to alliances with nationalities.

2. Pursuit of the Austrian alliance.
3. Ready consent to the conclusion of a special treaty between Austria and Turkey.
4. Abandonment of the true theatre of war, the Danubian Principalities, the culminating point from which the Western Powers should have directed their operations of war and of diplomacy.
5. The idea of the Crimean expedition started by Austria, and accepted without reflection by the Allies.
6. The conception of the plan of campaign due to the Emperor, unacquainted as a politician with operations of war, and particularly with the general state of facts existing in the East.
7. The siege of Sebastopol by the southern side, and the winter campaign in the Russian territory.
8. Selection of Generals of streetfights and skirmishes, destitute of notions of geography, topography, and ethnology, without experience of practical strategy, and without knowledge of *la grande guerre*; relying on the bravery of their troops more than upon their own initiative.
9. Pursuit of the Prusso-Germanic alliance without any compensation offered either to peoples, or to sovereigns.
10. Systematically harsh demeanour towards the brave Piedmontese nation.
11. Unreasonable pressure upon the Cabinets of Copenhagen and of Stockholm, without offer of guarantees for the future.
12. Persistent rejection of the idea of an eventual re-establishment of Poland: as the vulnerable flank of Russia, and a continental *appui* given to the three Scandinavian States, Denmark, Sweden, and Norway.
13. Impolitic hostilities on the part of the combined fleets against the Finnish nationality, and useless violence against the Lapons and the Samoièdes: among other instances, the bombardment of Kola, 68. lat. N.
14. Majestic impotence of the naval campaign in the Baltic, and in the Gulfs of Bothnia and Finland.
15. Unlucky publication of an obituary article on the Czar Nicholas at the moment of the reopening of the negotiations on the basis of the guarantees accepted by Alexander II.
16. Publication of the military article of the *Moniteur*, on the Crimean expedition, discouraging to the officers of the army.
17. Publication of the diplomatic article of the *Moniteur*, on the negotiations, an article subservient to Austrian interests.
18. Bombardment of Sebastopol from the 9th to the 27th of April, without forces sufficient to risk an assault.

We have not space this week to enter into any detailed examination of these criticisms. There is more than one of them in which many of our political readers may be disposed, partially at least, to concur; there are others in direct opposition to the facts as they are generally known to political circles in London. We allude more particularly to the fifth charge, "*The idea of the Crimean expedition started by Austria.*" This seems a little inconsistent with the leading statement of the first "Memoir," repeated with emphasis in the second, that to the Emperor of the French *alone* was due the design of the Crimean expedition: a statement now universally accepted, and never officially denied.

On the other hand, the generally accepted fact is, that Austria objected last autumn to the Crimean expedition, because it carried off those forces which she desired to support herself in case of actual collision with Russia. It is even affirmed that, to prevent that removal of support, Austria offered to lead an advance into Bessarabia, thus anticipating by some months the tardy "cry of insubordination against diplomatic necessities," which, according to the "Memoir," was only extorted from the emotion of the Emperor of the French by the disasters of Inkerman, when he assured his army that a powerful diversion was "about to be effected in Bessarabia."

The fact that Austria did make some such offer seems to be indicated by the argument of our own Ministers against an advance into Bessarabia, on the ground that it would remove the British force from their legitimate base of operations—the sea. Now, considering the position which the English force would then have held in conjunction with the French, the Turkish, and the Austrian forces, this argument appears weak enough; but the same argument put forward in reference to the Austrian invitation, almost confirms the statement that such an invitation was made. This fact reminds us of what should never be forgotten, that we have at no time had a statement of the Austrian case. We do not know the Austrian official *per contra* to the statements of our own Ministers, nor is it possible to tell what influence the rejection of Austrian proposals, not discussed in Lord John Russell's conversations, may have had in causing the successive changes in the

* "TALBOT v. TALBOT.—A Letter to the Hon. Justice Torrens. By John Paget, Esq., of the Middle Temple, Barrister-at-Law. With a Report of the Judgment of the High Court of Delegates, delivered on June 14, 1855." London: Thomas Blenkarn, Law Bookseller, 29, Bell-yard, Lincoln's Inn. 1855.

policy of that Power, and in her relations with the West. No military elements were included in Count Buol's statements; and, we repeat, the case of Austria has never yet been laid before us, whatever opinions, or suspicions, we may be disposed to form of her inveterate political tendencies, her financial necessities, or her projects of aggrandisement.

PROFESSOR FARADAY AND THE THAMES. (From a Correspondent.)

ONE strange peculiarity of the Great Briton notable among many others is, that, after manifesting the most profound indifference with regard to matters intimately affecting his own interest and well-being, suddenly, when some great and celebrated hero takes notice thereof, he will fly off into a passion of bustle and surprise, so demonstrative as to induce the suspicion that he has hitherto been utterly ignorant of the matter in hand. This too with regard even to matters perfectly well known and popular.

Take the case of the river Thames, for instance. No man who has ever lived upon, or passed along the banks, crossed the bridges, been conveyed along the stream, or drunk the water of that river, but has known at any time these ten years past that it is little better than a drain, filled with corruption and the seeds of the most terrible disorders. This has been quite familiar knowledge to every Londoner, and has been canvassed both in House of Commons and private talk (not to speak of much writing in the newspapers) these many years past. Committees of the Common Council of the City, Conservators of the river and Boards of Health, assisted by all the science and experience of civil engineers, surveyors, and chemists, have been busying themselves about the matter, but without result. Proposals have been made to conduct the sewage into drains running parallel with the Thames, and so into a reservoir among the Essex marshes at a convenient distance from London, where it might be disinfected and sold for valuable manure; but this has been laid aside, after ascertaining that the cost was too enormous even for this wealthy country, and the conversion of the sewage into a marketable article impossible. And thus it is that the river Thames, amid a conflict of reports and surveys, measuring gentlemen with their tapes, and analysing gentlemen with their apparatus, has been suffered to seethe and stink on, diffusing miasma and mephitic vapour around.

Suddenly it happens that Professor Faraday, a *savant* of world-wide reputation, takes a voyage in one of the Citizen steamboats from London to Hungerford Bridge; the learned man sees, smells, and judges for himself, writes a letter to the *Times*, and lo! the whole press and population is in a ferment, as if the question had never been agitated before.

Now Professor Faraday, with all respect be it said, is not a chemist, but a natural philosopher: it is his speciality to deal with and investigate electric and magnetic phenomena. I doubt if ever he made an analysis in the whole course of his life. This is not urged in disparagement of him; for it is no more than to say of an eminent equity draftsman that he never conducted an Old Bailey case. In his province, Professor Faraday is one of the greatest, perhaps the greatest, man in the world; out of it, he is no better than any one else. I shall, therefore, take leave to investigate the Professor's story as if it were that of a mere ordinary man.

The Professor states, in substance, that he was struck with the condition of the river, its smell, the thickness of the water, and its opacity. To test the latter he adopted the ingenious expedient of dropping wet cards into the stream, and watching them sink. So opaque was the water that he lost sight of his cards before they had sunk an inch. With regard to the cause of this stench, density, and opacity, the Professor states that the paddles of the steamers rolled up "clouds of feculence;" but he details no experiment whereby he established the fact that feces formed the basis of the pollution. Unable to bear the stench of the river any longer, the Professor left the steamer at Hungerford Pier, and found the atmosphere of the streets, except near the gully-holes, very much purer than that upon the river. Such was, in effect, the log of Professor Faraday's voyage up the Thames, and the matter upon which he indited his letter to the *Times*.

Now, I flatter myself that if I had enjoyed the

honour of accompanying the Professor upon the river, I could have pointed out to him one or two facts which appear to have escaped his penetrating eye. Had his gaze wandered to the banks, instead of attempting to sound the impenetrable depths of the river, he would have noticed a strange phenomenon. He would have seen at the mouth of every one of the sewers, supposed to be pouring concentrated poison into the stream, a group of individuals following that humble, but not dishonourable profession called mudlarking, which consists in rummaging the turbid waves of the sewers for such waifs and strays as may be found there. This would have aroused the Professor's curiosity, for here were human beings existing in immediate contact with the poison in a concentrated form, which the Professor found too strong for himself, though in a state of high dilution. When, after landing, he smelt the sewage gases escaping at the gully-holes, did it not strike him that the greater part of those volatile gases, sulphuretted hydrogen and ammonia, had escaped long before the sewage found its way into the river?

But if the Professor, with the true spirit of that Bacon who died the martyr of an experiment, had prolonged his voyage to Vauxhall, a singular anomaly would have been manifest to him. After passing Westminster Bridge, he would have observed, that although the air was still more obnoxious from the exhalations of the bone-boilers and fell-mongers of Lambeth, the water (with the exception of a stream running in a line from the Vauxhall Gas-works) was remarkably pure. This, though the banks were as populous as before, covered with even a more sewage-producing population—the purlieus of Westminster on the right, and Lambeth Marsh on the left. Here he might have seen his cards a long way down.

The Professor, therefore, evidently hits upon a portion of the truth, and that not the most important. If sewage were the most potent infectant of the Thames, why should the stream between Milbank and Lambeth be purer than that opposite the Temple? In answering this question, I will take the liberty of offering a few facts to the notice of the Professor, which may, perhaps, convince him that when he made use of the word "feculence" he jumped at a conclusion in a rather unphilosophical manner.

The truth is that the gas-works on the banks of the Thames supply the largest and most powerful portion of the deleterious matter which infects its stream. Between Westminster and London Bridges are three very large gas-works, all of which, in direct contravention of the law, turn their refuse matter into the Thames. How many thousands of gallons this may amount to it would not be easy to determine; but it is quite certain that it consists of saturated solutions of sulphuretted hydrogen and ammonia, the very gases which render sewer exhalations dangerous. Why is not this prevented? The conservators of the Thames really have, or pretend to have a difficulty in discovering the pipes which pour the poison into the bed of the stream. Certain it is that those pipes are considerably below low water-mark, and as they have become imbedded in the mud at the bottom, the gases must saturate the mud and then the river, instead of escaping into the open air as at the mouths of the sewers. Some months ago the conservators did discover the waste-pipes of the City Gas Company, in Whitefriars, and obtained a judgment against them; but this judgment has never been enforced, upon the plea that to stop the pipes before other means of disposing of the waste were provided would have the effect of putting half the City into darkness, and so the nuisance is permitted to remain. The Professor may naturally ask how it is that the gas companies prefer to pour into the river, to the detriment of the whole population, liquids which, properly treated, might produce articles of commerce? To this we have no satisfactory answer: the fact, however, is that they do so.

The sewage of London finds its way into the river in such a high state of dilution that at the end of the great sewers little or no stench is perceptible. The Fleet Ditch, for example (by far the largest sewer open to the Thames), gives passage to such an amount of fresh drainage water from the high grounds of Hampstead, Highgate, and Islington, that the sewage forms a very insignificant proportion of its contents. A man may walk up this drain from the river-side to Islington without suffering any extraordinary inconvenience.

The advocates of the scheme for constructing large drains parallel with the Thames have not calculated the dimensions of the work needed. To contain the streams which pass out of the sewers (sewage and drainage), a tunnel twenty yards wide would be scarcely sufficient. The construction of such a tunnel would occupy an indefinite number of years, and would, during the period of its construction, entirely stop the wharfage trade of the metropolis. To construct such a tunnel between London and the Essex marshes, the sum of one hundred millions sterling would probably be insufficient.

It should, in conclusion, be noticed that the state of the Thames at the time of Professor Faraday's voyage was quite abnormal. A long drought will render any river more than ordinarily impure. Since that, we have had rain, and the Professor might see his cards for at least six inches down, at low water and opposite the Temple-stairs.

But the conservators of the Thames should be pricked on to execute justice upon the gas companies.

[The gas-works are part, not the whole of the cause. For the Fleet stank as well as the Thames, and in both the stink has now subsided. Foul cesspools, sewers of deposit, and drains of deposit, accumulating the filth of months, to be suddenly washed down *en masse* to the river, are the grand evils. Separate interception of sewage proper is the only permanent and complete cure. Rapid substitution of tubular drainage for cesspools and mansize sewers of deposit will progressively diminish these sudden eruptions of filth.—Ed. Leader.]

WHAT THEY ARE SAYING IN PARIS.

... "EXCEPT the Exposition, the subject that seems to excite the least interest in Paris at the present moment is the publication of the letters of Marshal St. Arnaud. The reasons are, partly, the known character of the man—repulsive and shallow, without any depth that even curiosity would care to explore, mentally and morally the development of an ordinary criminal—and partly the certitude that any genuine revelation would be intercepted by both private and public censors. Who cares, indeed, about any concocted account of an enthusiastic visit to the Morea, or wandering in the steps of Byron, when every one knows that the occasion of the young officer's absence from court was that in a moment of gambling distress and anxiety he cut the golden tassels from behind Charles Dix's throne and pawned them to a Jew? The whole career of this man, who was destined to drag the bravest sons of England to unnecessary slaughter, was full of traits of this kind; and if they are not oftener alluded to in conversation, 'tis because people have ceased to busy themselves much about the morality of any members of the Imperial court, living or dead. They are known and judged; and, generally speaking, the mention of their names is equivalent to a reproach.

"This common consent in dislike and contempt, however, produces a somewhat curious result. English travellers and tourists, who struggle into Parisian society armed with a stammering knowledge of French, hearing the names of St. Arnaud, and Morny, and Fould, and Persigny mentioned casually without any saving clause—just as a negligent Oriental might speak of Sheitan without a curse, or of the Prophet without a blessing—very naturally in their absence of information take to looking upon these gentlemen in quite a serious point of view—as if their positions corresponded with those of Raglan, Palmerston, or Clarendon. This mistake leads them sometimes into amusing collision with French wit—which, however, they rarely understand, drinking the sparkling and acid draught offered them, slowly, after it has subsided into the flat insipidity of a mental translation. Half the errors into which innocent travellers fall arise from receiving as statement what is meant merely for "chaff."

"As to the letters of St. Arnaud, however, the questions put concerning them are considered too bad, and provoke a kind of indignation. 'What sensation have they produced in France! *Mon Dieu!* Monsieur X. (speaking across the room, and thus attracting the eyes of "all the world"), here is a gentleman wants to know what sensation the letters of St. Arnaud have produced?'—'What letters?' Every one affected at first not to know the things were published; they had just seen some specimens in a preliminary puff of the *Moniteur*, but then the more candid admitted being aware of the fact that all officials of a certain rank had been requested to subscribe for a copy, as a

plement to the widow's pension, and predicted what has already turned out to be true, that the bookstalls would become acquainted with the cumbrous publication ere long.

"After this came a general outcry against our country for our reception of the Emperor, whom we are also charged with taking too much *au sérieux*. I am obliged to defend my countrymen at this point, and to say that, unless we refused to take France herself *au sérieux*, there was no help for the matter. Strange to say, they hate the Emperor more than they love their country. Every one brought forward fresh reasons for deriding France as a miserable, abject, contemptible nation. In reality there is a certain honourable pride at the heart of all this. They prefer being despised to being identified with their master; they are eager to proclaim themselves wiser lest they should be mistaken for valets.

"If there be any serious meaning in this publication, it is that it proves how anxious the Government is now to throw the whole responsibility of the Crimean expedition on the head of the deserted general. At one time the plan was claimed by the Emperor himself. Now, no one will admit having had any hand in it. The fact is, the Emperor is becoming desperately unpopular here; and any active opposition were possible, it would be in place. Everything that passive discontent can do is done. All the railway companies, anxious with the fury of capitalists—almost as rible as that of theologians—against the new Emperor, are determined to show their hostility to the Emperor by all safe means. It is rumoured that they have rejected Prince Napoleon's advances; they begged him to organise very cheap excursion trains for the Exhibition, which, in spite of the alliance it has at last attained, still languishes for want of public support. They may, however, be revailed upon in the Dick Turpin style before long.

"But all questions of this kind are quite thrown into the shade by the great discussion of the day on the comparative merits of Rachel and Laetitia. The general opinion is, that the latter is, though inferior in the powers of expressing certain violent passions—as anger, disdain, and despair—is far more varied in her aspects than the former. The truth is that both are very great. For Rachel, after the first season, she will probably resume her place—at any rate, a very high place—in public favour. She is now paying the penalty of certain faults of temper and conduct which have disposed critics eagerly to accept of her as a rival. Ristori is assisted in her struggle for reputation by the story of her romantic affection and early adventures with her pretentious husband. All unite in representing her as an ideal of private virtue. The French seem inclined to imitate with regard to her our enthusiasm for Jenny Lind."

ELEGANT EXTRACTS.

The following "pull" from the telegraphic summary of last Monday evening's debate in the Commons furnishes the future historian, or that contemporary posterity, the "intelligent foreigner," with a singular picture of our Parliamentary awkwardisms:—

"Lord Palmerston, replying, charged Sir E. B. Lytton either with deliberate insincerity or gross ignorance."

"7.0. Mr. Disraeli speaking—The noble lord had spoken commonplace bluster and reckless odontology."

"8.0. Mr. Roebuck charged Lord J. Russell with having forgotten his duty to England, to the House, to truth, and to honour; and Lord Palmerston with deceit."

IMPRATICABILITY OF ESTABLISHING A UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM OF COINAGE.—Since we have so altered the value of coins of the same name in various parts, how can we expect that other nations will refrain from doing the same? Where there is a double standard of gold and silver, they will be compelled against their will to appreciate or depreciate, as one or other coinage is leaving them, as the United States have done and are doing with our sovereigns and their own silver. To have an international money, therefore, appears altogether hopeless. The United States may or may not give up their dollar, or France the franc, as their moneys of account; but their being retained as the chief coin of circulation, or retained at all at their present value in silver, seems more than doubtful. We have nothing to gain upon the facilities already possess for the adoption of a decimal system by resting upon the chances of further changes in France, Austria, or other countries. Nothing can be more simple than the decimalisation of our coinage from the pound as it stands as the chief unit; and it is scarcely possible to conceive anything more chimerical than the adoption of any other unit than the pound. *Paper by William Brown, Esq., M.P., in the Journal of the Institute of Actuaries.*

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.

SUGGESTIONS FOR CONSCIENCE-STRICKEN SHOPKEEPERS.

(To the Editor of the Leader.)

SIR,—I have read the heart-rending case of your correspondent Mr. Holmes, that afflicted martyr to tender conscience and Sunday shopkeeping: who could read it without pity? It would melt the heart of a millstone or an economist. What an age art thou, nineteenth century—what a centre of civilisation, O London, where heavenly-minded shopkeepers, burning to worship God, are by a tyrannous mob forced to serve Mammon!

I was about to propose that modern reward of martyrdom a penny subscription, when it occurred to me to offer a remedy earlier, easier, and more speedy of practice. This is Saturday; when Saturday night arrives, suppose Mr. Holmes should resolve to forget Mammon, say for thirty hours; let him put up his shutters, shut his shop, and keep it shut till Monday morning; and perhaps in time, after so good a beginning in example, London might become an ideal Leeds. Should any mob in the interval disturb the devotions, or approach the sacred threshold of his castle, I for one pledge myself to cut my order, and join him in his march, not half-way 'twixt Exeter Hall and Hyde Park, but straight up to the door of the pious Lord who represents Grosvenor-square.

Meanwhile, anxiously awaiting the reported result of this simple experiment for the emancipation of the oppressed shopocracy,

I remain respectfully,

ONE OF THE MOB.

BREAKFAST EXTRAORDINARY.—The *Maidstone Journal*, in noticing the local swimming club, containing seventy-nine members, first-rate swimmers, &c., says:—"The first aquatic breakfast is to take place on Monday next, at seven o'clock, when every member will be required to partake of the repast in the river."

INCITING TO DESERT FROM THE FOREIGN LEGION.—Alfred Hills, tidewaiter at Folkestone, has been committed for trial, charged with inciting some of the men of the Foreign Legion to desert.

TORTURE IN INDIA.—The Torture Commission (says the *Times* Indian correspondent) has closed its labours at Madras, and has received the thanks of Government for the energy, judgment, and success with which its inquiries have been conducted. The Report cannot be made public in this country before it has been submitted to the authorities in England, but the inquiry is understood to have elicited facts which establish the existence of revenue torture in more than one district of the Madras Presidency. This is in direct contradiction to the statement which was published last week on the authority of a minute of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal.

THE OUTHWAITE TUNNEL, on the Manchester Railway, fell in on Saturday morning. Only about ten yards, however, out of three hundred were thus damaged, and no loss of life ensued.

FATAL ACCIDENT IN A PIT.—Two men, employed in blasting a pit in the vicinity of Crosshouse, Kilmarnock, were recently killed by the unanticipated explosion of one of the charges.—Four colliers have been killed in Dunkinfield, owing to some mismanagement of the engine which was drawing them up, in consequence of which they were hurled forward to a great distance.

EGYPTIAN DISCOVERIES.—Mr. John B. Greene, son of an American banker, has succeeded, notwithstanding the difficulties attendant on clearing away the palace of Medinet Habara, in discovering the celebrated Egyptian calendar, of which Champollion could only copy the first lines.

THE CROPS.—We continue to hear the most encouraging accounts of the crops, both in England and Ireland; and in the latter country the potato disease, which has not been absent for the last seven years, has not yet exhibited itself. In America, likewise, the harvest promises to be unusually good.

THE STATE OF TRADE in the chief manufacturing towns, during the week that ended last Saturday, may be described as quietly steady, being neither active nor depressed. There are no particulars of interest.

THE PRINCESS CZARTORYSKY'S CONCERT FOR THE POLES took place on Tuesday at the mansion of the Marquis and Marchioness of Breadalbane.

THE FIRST PRIVATE HALL AT OXFORD UNDER THE NEW ACT.—The Rev. E. A. Litton, M.A., Vice-Principal of St. Edmund's Hall, proposes, under the enabling powers of the recent act, to open a hall in Oxford for the reception of students. After a careful consideration of the probable expenses, 80*l.*, for the academical year, consisting, practically, of three terms, each containing

eight or nine weeks, has been fixed on as the lowest sum compatible with prudence.

THE COMMITTEE ON THE BEER ACT continues its sittings. A great many police magistrates have been examined; their testimony being generally in favour of some modification of the act, the inconvenience of which they consider to be great, while there is the utmost difficulty in defining the words "*bona fide* traveller." Alderman Sir Robert Carden, however, thought there should be still further restriction. Sir Richard Mayne, in giving some statistics of drunkenness, said that out of the London population of two millions and a half, the cases of actual drunkenness are only as one in 32,000. Mr. Daniel Whittle Harvey, Chief Commissioner of the City Police, was decidedly opposed to the act, and thought the time for keeping open public-houses on Sundays should be greatly extended.—On Thursday, Mr. Wakley, the coroner, and Mr. George Cruikshank, the artist, were examined. The former was opposed to the act, and the latter, of course, in favour of still greater restrictions.

HEALTH OF LONDON.—The deaths of 941 persons, namely, 515 males and 426 females, were registered in London in the week that ended last Saturday. In the corresponding weeks of the ten years 1845-54, the average number of deaths was 954. For comparison of the number now returned with the average, the latter must be raised in proportion to increase of population; and with this correction it becomes 1049.—*From the Registrar-General's Weekly Return.*

JAN HANNIK PRATMASTER, of Amsterdam, who recently absconded with Dutch securities to the value of 800*l.*, was apprehended on Monday in Liverpool, soon after having changed the notes at a broker's in that town. He was taken to the Bridewell, where he contrived to hang himself in the evening.

THE GOVERNOR OF GIBRALTAR AND THE PRESS.—A despatch addressed to the Governor of Gibraltar, by Lord Panmure, on the 5th inst., has been published. Sir R. Gardiner is informed that he appears to have "contravened the Royal instructions under which he was bound to act in several particulars," inasmuch as he did not publish a draught of the ordinance relating to the press a month before it was promulgated, or reserve it for the Royal assent. These preliminary ceremonies might, it appears, be dispensed with in case of urgent necessity; but Sir R. Gardiner is required to explain more fully than he has done what were the dangers he anticipated, and why such measures of prevention were of such immediate urgency on the present occasion.

DR. ARCHIBALD ARNOTT, who attended Napoleon at St. Helena, and who was with him when he died, expired a short time since at Kirkconnel Hall, in the 84th year of his age. He published in 1822 an account of the last illness of Napoleon, who had "conceived for him a very strong affection."

STATISTICAL SOCIETY.—We understand that, at the last meeting of the Council of the Statistical Society, Mr. Scargill was appointed to the office of Assistant Secretary, vacant by the resignation of Mr. Cheshire. A resolution was passed by the Council expressive of their great regret at the retirement of the latter gentleman.

MADAME CLARA NOVELLO AND THE BIRMINGHAM FESTIVAL.—Mr. J. Alfred Novello writes to the *Manchester Examiner and Times* to state that the reason his sister, Madame Clara Novello, will not sing at the approaching Birmingham Musical Festival, is that the committee have not, as stated by the Manchester paper, offered her the same terms as she received at the Norwich and Liverpool Festivals of last year (and which she is ready to accept), but terms such as she received when a girl before her marriage, and when she was only entitled to sing second and third-rate songs.

THE COMMISSIONERS OF SEWERS have resolved that the health and welfare of the metropolis require that the sewage and drainage, instead of being allowed to flow with daily-increasing pollution into the bed of the Thames, should be transferred north of the river to Barking Creek, and south thereof to or below Plumstead Marshes.

NEW ZEALAND was visited with a severe shock of earthquake towards the latter end of July. Several fissures have opened in the ground, and a few people have been killed.

A RAILWAY TRAIN from Mansfield to Nottingham was thrown off the rails last Sunday, and was precipitated down an embankment. The couplings broke, and the carriages were thus saved; so that no lives were lost.

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER.—An action is now being tried in Scotland between the nephew of the late Admiral Sir Thomas Livingstone, claiming to be his heir male, and Mrs. Fenton, who disputes the right of the nephew upon the ground that his mother was the sister of his father's first wife. This is met by several pleas; and among them by the allegation that there is nothing in the law of Scotland to legitimise the offspring of such a marriage. The case is exciting great interest in the north.

THE CLEVELAND IRON MINES.—In consequence of the recent discovery of immense supplies of ironstone in the Cleveland hills, in North Yorkshire, thirty smelting furnaces are in operation, or in course of construction, on the banks of the Tees.

Literature.

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

RUMOUR with its thousand tongues has so repeatedly announced the forthcoming of MACAULAY's eagerly-expected volumes that the public has become sceptical; at length, however, we are enabled to state on unexceptional authority that the third and fourth volumes are in the press, so that before the close of the year we may have them on our tables. This work alone would suffice to give an interest to the season. There will, however, be others, in spite of the war; among them TENNYSON's *Maude*, which is on the eve of publication, and a new poem by the author of *Festus*. GAYE also completes his *History of Greece* with a twelfth volume, which will contain a review of PLATO and ARISTOTLE. A new edition of POPE and one of SWIFT will appear in MURRAY's beautiful series of "British Classics," so that there is hopeful promise for readers, as they will see on turning over the advertisements of the *Edinburgh* or *Quarterly*.

Strange indeed is the activity indicated by these advertisements, and still more strange will it appear when contrasted with the timid solitary announcements of earlier days. Take up the last *Quarterly* and read the delightful suggestive paper of erudite gossip on "Advertisements," in which you will see pass before your eyes a panorama of the progress of this branch of industry. The writer has rummaged among the old newspapers, and, following the stream of time, contrives to present a sort of typical history of our civilisation, as indicated by advertisements:—

The very first advertisement we have met with, after an active search among the earliest newspapers, relates to a book which is entitled:—

TRENODIA GRATULATORIA, an Heroick Poem; being a congratulatory panegyric for my Lord General's late return, summing up his successes in an exquisite manner.
To be sold by John Holden, in the New Exchange, London. Printed by Tho. Newcourt, 1652.

This appeared in the January number of the Parliamentary paper *Mercurius Politicus*. It is evidently a piece of flattery to Cromwell upon his victories in Ireland, and might have been inserted at the instigation of the great commonwealth leader himself. Booksellers appear to have been the first to take advantage of this new medium of publicity, and for the obvious reason that their goods were calculated for the readers of the public journals, who at that time must have consisted almost exclusively of the higher orders. From this date to the Restoration, the quaintest titles of works on the political and religious views, such as were then in the ascendant, are to be found in the *Mercurius Politicus*: thus we have "Gospel Marrow," "A few Sighs from Hell, or the Groans of a Damned Soul," "Michael opposing the Dragon, or a Fiery Dart struck through the Kingdom of the Serpent." And in the number for September, 1659, we find an advertisement which seems to bring us face to face with one of the brightest names in the roll of English poets:—

CONSIDERATIONS touching the likeliest means to remove Hirelings out of the Church; wherein is also discours'd of Tithes, Church Fees, Church Revenues, and whether any maintenance of Ministers can be settled by Law. The author, J. M. Sold by Samuel Chapman, at the Crown in Pope's Head Alley.

Another glimpse of the great poet is caught at the Restoration.

It is clear there is a great commotion at hand; the leaves are rustling, and the dust is moving. In the very midst of it, however, we find one name still faithful to the "old cause," as the Puritans call it; on the 8th of March, 1660, that is, while the sway of Charles's sceptre had already cast its shadow from Breda, we find the following advertisement in the *Mercurius Politicus*:—

THE ready and easie way to establish a free Commonwealth, and the excellence thereof compared with the inconveniences and dangers of readmitting Kingship into this Nation. The author, J. M. Wherein, by reason of the Printers haste, the Errata not coming in time; it is desired that the following faults may be amended. Page 9, line 32, for the *Areopagus* read of *Areopagus*. P. 10, l. 3, for full Senate, true Senate; l. 4, for its, is the whole Aristocracy; l. 7, for Provincial States, States of every City. P. 17, l. 20, for *teite*, *citie*; l. 30, for *teite*, *teite*. Sold by Livewell Chapman, at the Crown, in Pope's Head Alley.

The calmness of the blind bard in thus issuing corrections to his hastily-printed pamphlet on behalf of a falling cause, excites our admiration, and gives us an exalted idea of his moral courage. In two months, as might have been expected, he was a proscribed fugitive, sheltering his honoured head from the pursuit of Charles's myrmidons in some secret hiding-place in Westminster, whilst his works, by order of the House, were being burned by the common hangman.

Curious it is to compare these beginnings of the art of advertising with the maturity of to-day. The *Times* newspaper, for instance, on a given day was examined, and found to contain the enormous mass of two thousand five hundred and seventy-five advertisements! The fortunes spent on advertising may be estimated by considering only a few items: thus, Professor HOLLOWAY spends no less than thirty thousand pounds a year in making known the existence of his pills and ointment. MORSE and SON spend ten thousand a year, ROWLAND and CO. ten thousand, DE JONCK ten thousand; not to mention MORTON or the publishers! But of the many curiosities of this curious paper we have only space to select the following:—

Some of the earliest notices of boxing-matches upon record, singularly enough, took place between combatants of the fair sex. In a public journal, of 1722, for instance, we find the following gage of battle thrown down, and accepted:—

CHALLENGE.—I, Elizabeth Wilkinson, of Clerkenwell, having had some words with Hannah Hyfield, and requiring satisfaction, do invite her to meet me upon the stage, and box me for three guineas; each woman holding half-a-crown in each hand, and the first woman that drops the money to lose the battle.

ANSWER.—I, Hannah Hyfield, of Newgate Market, hearing of the resolution of Elizabeth Wilkinson, will not fail, God willing, to give her more blows than words, desiring home blows, and from her no favour: she may expect a good thumping!

The half-crowns in the hands was an ingenious device to prevent scratching! A still more characteristic specimen of one of these challenges to a fisticuff between two women is to be found in the *Daily Post* of July 7th, 1728:—

AT Mr. Stokes' Amphitheatre, in Islington Road, this present Monday, being the 7th of October, will be a complete Boxing Match by the two following Championesses:—Whereas I, Ann Field, of Stoke Newington, ass-driver, well known for my

abilities in boxing in my own defence wherever it happened in my way, having been affronted by Mrs. Stokes, styled the European Championess, do fairly invite her to a trial of her best skill in Boxing for 10 pounds, fair rise and fall; and question not but to give her such proofs of my judgment that shall oblige her to acknowledge me Championess of the Stage, to the entire satisfaction of all my friends.

I, Elizabeth Stokes, of the City of London, have not fought in this way since I fought the famous boxing-woman of Billingsgate 20 minutes, and gained a complete victory (which is now six years ago); but as the famous Stoke Newington ass-woman dares me to fight her for the 10 pounds, I do assure her I will not fail meeting her for the said sum, and doubt not that the blows which I shall present her with will be more difficult for her to digest than any she ever gave her asses.—*Note*. A man, known by the name of Rugged and Tuff, challenges the best man of Stoke Newington to fight him for one guinea to what sum they please to venture. N.B. Attendance will be given at one, and the encounter to begin at four precisely. There will be the diversion of Cudgel-playing as usual.

We have long considered the *Quarterly* the model of a successful Review; and this opinion is of course determined by quite other qualities in the Review than those which would elicit our political, religious, or philosophical sympathies; we envy our antagonists their admirable organ, and should be too glad to see our friends rival it. The *Quarterly* has the art of presenting an attractive programme. It knows what are the articles read, relished, and talked about by the public. Giving up a certain space to political and theological subjects, it employs the remainder in agreeable essays, antiquarian researches pleasantly communicated, biography, and science; and thus claims its place on the drawing-room table as well as in the study. Take this number as a specimen: it opens with a biographical and critical paper on Archdeacon HARE, which is succeeded by a scientific paper ("The Circulation of the Blood"), poor indeed, and unworthy of the subject, but popularly written; this is followed by an article on "Sardinia and Rome," which is succeeded by a bit of topographic gossip, "The Romans at Colchester." "Sydney Smith" is another of the many articles called forth by the delightful Memoirs. "The Feast of the Conception" is meant for the theological. "Advertisements" we have already noticed; the "Supply of Paper" is crowded with startling facts on the danger we are in of having supplies stopped unless some ingenious man invent a substitute for rags; and the "Objects of the War" brings up the rear to harass Government, and delight the Tories.

No commendation from us is needed by the *Edinburgh New Philosophical Journal*, one of the few scientific journals this country has to boast; and although its contents are for the most part addressed to adepts rather than to the general reader, yet the general reader will do well to look out for it, as almost every number contains some papers which will interest him. Dr. JOHN DAVY's remarks on "Climate and Physical characters of the Lake District of Westmoreland" should be read, as also ANDREW MURRAY's paper on the "Natural History of Electrical Fishes." If the nerve-force should turn out to be electrical, these Fishes will become even greater objects of interest; the problem then will be: what determines this storing up of the force in fishes, which is nowhere traceable in animals? No particular family of fishes has the monopoly: sea water, fresh water, brackish water, each furnishes its species. The only peculiarity uniformly observed is that every electrical fish is without scales; and they all live in or close to the mud and sand of the bottom. Another paper by Dr. DAUBENT, on "The Influence of Vegetable Organisms in the Production of Epidemic Diseases," will, from the nature of the subject, attract many readers: his arguments are forcible in favour of the fungus theory of cholera, a theory which explains many of the anomalies of that disease, but which is not satisfactory to many physiologists, resting as it does upon very disputable and disputed hypotheses concerning fermentation. This occurs to us as a preliminary difficulty. If cholera be owing to the introduction of a fungus into the blood, chemical analysis should detect in the blood of cholera patients the presence of this fungus; for if the blood be in such a condition as to afford the requisite *nidus* for the growth of the fungus, the growth will be inconceivably rapid and the presence of the fungus unmistakable; and if the blood be not in the condition of a *nidus*, then the fungus introduced will not propagate, will not produce disease.

THE SPANISH CONQUEST IN AMERICA.

The Spanish Conquest in America, and its Relation to the History of Slavery and to the Government of Colonies. By Arthur Helps. J. W. Parker and Son.

SPEAKING of Lord Hailes's "Annals of Scotland," Johnson said, "Sir, it is a book which will always sell: it has such a stability of dates, such a certainty of fact, and such a punctuality of citation." These qualities no one will refuse to the *Spanish Conquest*, one of those laborious works which only a strong purpose, acting with sensitive conscientiousness, will ever produce in these days of cheap erudition and second-hand reference. We have no special knowledge from which to control the statements made by Mr. Helps, but we have experience enough of literature to know when a man is speaking from first-hand or from second-hand, when he is compiling from the original documents or compiling from the compilers. It is not alone the frequent reference to unpublished documents which testifies to the author's diligence; the reader feels in every page that the old chroniclers, not the modern historians, are followed. Nor is this visible merely in foot-notes and citations. The structure of the book tells of a thorough recasting of the materials in the writer's mind. He has been at infinite pains to make clear to himself, and then clear to the reader, every detail through which the narrative moves. He slurs over nothing. What he does not understand, he tells you is obscure; what he does understand, he represents in vivid picturesqueness. Thus, rising from the "stability of date, certainty of fact, and punctuality of citation," which is indispensable as an historical basis, we have a mode of presentation which vivifies the dry bones of history, and makes the past intelligible. Readers of *Friends in Council* and the *Companions of my Solitude* will be prepared to find in this History a

rare spirit of sagacious observation on life and character, expressed in a style of exquisite refinement and felicity; but while they will expect to find the charms of an essayist, they will not expect to find the painstaking erudition of an historian, and therefore have we made foremost mention of this quality. It is as learned as if it were the dullest of Dryasdust histories. It is as bright, picturesque, and thoughtful as if ancient manuscripts and vellum-bound folios had never lain beside the writer.

The first volume is an enlarged edition of the two volumes previously published on *The Conquerors of the New World and their Bondsmen*, which have been already noticed in this journal. The second volume, which is incomparably the best, is devoted to Las Casas—a new figure in History—and Cortes. It concludes with the siege of Mexico. Great has been the pains bestowed on Las Casas and his attempts at colonisation; for not only is Las Casas a great but neglected figure in the story of these times, he is interesting to the author as subservient to one of the great purposes of the book, which is to throw light on the question, to us so vital, of colonial government. Very picturesque is the description of the Pearl Coast and its inhabitants, but it is thrown in the shade by the graphic and original presentation of the religions of the New World, which, by an ingenious fiction, he contrives to picture to us as they may have appeared to a ship's crew sent out by the pious monarch of Spain to inquire into the matter. This ship is christened the "Santa Flor;" and the following are some of its discoveries:—

Accordingly, the "Santa Flor" not being fitted to receive slaves, nor intended to bring back gold and pearls, may have glided out very quietly from San Lucar, the rest of the population being intent upon their own business, and talking, when they had spare time, of the designs of France, or the schemes of Venice, or of that surely and sound theologian, the King of England.

The mariners of the "Santa Flor" would not have departed without confessing, and receiving the Sacrament. This done, they take their departure; and without any difficulty (for they have good charts on board, and, amongst other maps, that of Juan de la Cosa) they steer straight for Trinidad, and then round the south coast of that island, through the "Strait of the Serpent," at which point their investigations commence. Approaching Paria—the earthly Paradise of Columbus—however careful a look-out was kept, no idol and no temple would be seen. Here they find anchorage.

By night, sweet odours, varying with every hour of the watch, were wafted from the shore to the vessel lying near; and the forest trees, brought together by the serpent tracery of myriads of strange parasitical plants, might well seem to the fancy like some great design of building, over which the lofty palms, a forest upon forest, appeared to present a new order of architecture. In the background rose the mist, like incense. These, however, were but the evening fancies of the mariner, who had before him fondly in his mind the wreathed pillars of the cathedral of Burgos, or the thousand-columned Christian mosque of Cordova, or the perfect fane of Seville; and when the moon rose, or the innumerable swarms of luminous insects swept across the picture, it was but a tangled forest after all, wherein the shaping hand of man had made no memorial to his Creator.

Occasionally, grand and elaborate dances of men would be visible through the trees; but whether these were meant to express joy, or sorrow, or devotion, would be moot points with the mariners. The voyage is recommenced. They sail by the sandy shore of Araya, see the lofty cocoa-nut trees that stand over Cumana, pursue their way along that beautiful coast, noticing the Piritu palm at Maracapaná, then traverse the difficult waters of the gloomy Golfo Triste, pass the province of Venezuela, catch a glimpse of the white summits of the mountains above Santa Martha, continue on their course to Darien, now memorable for the failure of so many great enterprises—and still no temple, no great idol, no visible creed, no cultus.

Accustomed to a land at home where every height, seen dimly in the distance, might prove a cathedral tower, a church spire, a pilgrim's oratory, or at least a wayside cross, these religious explorers must often have strained their sight in order to recognise some object of a similar character. But on nearing the coast, and bringing dubious objects clearly into view, they would find nothing but the symmetrical aloe or the beds of prickly cactus, like fortresses on the sea-shore; or if they ventured further inwards, and entered upon the interminable llanos, they beheld nothing but a wide waste, like the track of a great conqueror, herbless and treeless, save where some withered-looking palms offered a light and mocking shade, standing up rarer than the masts of lone vessels on great seas.

From Darien to Panamá—from Panamá to Nicaragua—and still nothing to remind them of religion, unless it were the beauty of nature, and the town of Nombre de Dios, so named by Nicuesa in his extremity. Still, if they had landed, they might have found amongst the natives the knowledge that there was One God, and that some sort of sacrifices were offered up to him.

Soon, however, in sailing northwards, white buildings would be seen amidst the trees, bearing some likeness to truncated pyramids, and, in the setting sun, dark figures would be seen against the horizon on the tops of these pyramids, from whose gestures it would be sadly and reluctantly admitted by the horror-stricken crew that they were looking upon that affront to Heaven, a human sacrifice. Then some of the crew would be heard to regret (though it would be called a false philosophy by others) the poor and meagre religion of the natives of the Pearl Coast, where there were no temples and no statues; and where, when they landed, they found no cultus beyond that pertaining to witchcraft.

Again, a long extent of low-lying coast with dense forests coming down to the water's edge, but no signs of temples or of worship, until the Bay of Honduras is entered by these religious explorers, when lo! they come upon some buried city, buried so long ago, that huge trees have risen amongst its ruins, and gigantic parasites have twisted their lithe arms around columns, and thrown their shoots along peristyles, playing with the strange faces in stone, overshadowing winged symbols of power and sacrificial instruments, and embracing the carved imagery of fruits and flowers, their kindred. No living creatures, but the animals which have retaken their own, are to be seen there; and none remain to tell by word or gesture the meaning of the mounds of stone which for miles around render the burthened earth uneven and difficult to the amazed explorers, who return to their vessel with that involuntary respect for the new country which great antiquity engenders in the minds of all men, especially in those of the pious and learned, to whom, strange to say, the past is always more of a home for thought than the future. These do not forget the object of their mission, and note with care the buildings which seem to have been devoted to religion, and, seeing the ruins of pyramids, cannot divest themselves of the idea that these buildings have been sacred to no good purpose, and that the city has been condemned of God for its inhuman and bloody idolatries. If the religious explorers had the courage to make their way into the country, they came upon a people whose religious traditions must have reminded them of the fallen angels of sacred, and the Titans of classic story, which told of the rebellious nature of the elder children of a great deity, who had sought to create for themselves, and whose impious attempts had resulted in

the production of common household things,—cups, and jars, and cooking vessels; while their younger brethren, strong in their humility, were permitted to create man.

The crew of the "Santa Flor" resume their voyage, and still steering northwards, come to the mysterious island of Cozumel, where they are in doubt about the horrors which take place in the way of human sacrifices; and the beauty of all the buildings they see around them is repulsive in their sight. Little are these good men consoled by seeing the carved likeness of a cross in this island; and they moralise on the power of the Evil One, who is allowed for a time to indulge in mockeries and mummeries of sacred things.

Round the dry plains of Merida the vessel makes its way, and then across the Bay of Campeche to what will be Vera Cruz; and, wherever they catch a glimpse of land, they make out in the far distance those truncated pyramids which have already caused them so much horror.

Abandoning their vessel, these intrepid explorers move across the grand plateau of "New Spain" as it will be called, beholding the vast pyramids, of Egyptian form and magnitude, which were the boast and delight of Cholula, Tapantla, and Mexico, then called Temixtitlan. Shuddering, when they behold the unkempt priests, and hear, from afar off, the dreadful tones of the Mexican *teponastli*, our travellers creep onwards, no longer in any doubt of the nature of the sacrifices which those barbaric sounds announce—sacrifices reminding the more learned amongst them of the superstitions of ancient Rome, with all the minute inspection and parade of the creature sacrificed.

Stopping to investigate the mighty city of Temixtitlan, the scientific explorers are confounded at discovering so much knowledge of the stars, the nicest measurement of time, with great skill and adroitness in the mechanical arts, wise laws, even refined manners, in a spot which they now look upon as the head-quarters of a most blood-thirsty and thoroughly established idolatry. The wise men of this expedition, with all their experience at home, have not yet become accustomed to an assured fact in human life,—namely, that the utmost cleverness and sagacity in one direction may coexist with the utmost abandonment of thought in another.

Once, being detained in a dense crowd in the square of the great temple, whither our explorers had gone disguised in Mexican costume, they become unwilling spectators of a human sacrifice. At first, they see six priests, five of them clothed in white, and the sixth, or chief priest, in red, and otherwise richly attired. Inquiring his name, they are answered, Tezcatlipuk, or Huitzilopochtli, and are astonished, knowing these to be the names of Mexican divinities, and not being aware that the chief priest assumed for the day the name of the god who was honoured by the sacrifice.

Scanning this group of priests more closely, the Spanish explorers discover that the priests are carrying to the upper area of the temple the body of a naked and living man. The long flights of steps are slowly mounted, and the unfortunate victim placed upon a large, convex, green stone. Four of the attendant priests hold him down by the arms and legs, while a fifth places a wooden instrument, of a serpent form, across his throat. The convex altar raises the body of the victim into an arched shape, and enables the chief priest to make, with more facility, the fatal incision, and to remove the heart of the victim.

The heart was then presented to the idol, being laid within his uncouth hand, or placed upon his altar.

It was a beautiful day on which I imagine the pious explorers to have been witnesses of this dread scene. The emeralds worn by the chief priest glittered in the sun; and his feathers fluttered lightly with the breeze. The bright pyramidal temples were reflected in the lake and in a thousand minor mirrors, formed by the enclosed waters in the water-streets. A busy pleasant noise from the adjacent marketplace was heard throughout the great square. The victim had uttered no sound. He knew the inutility of any outcry. In Mexico, priests, victims, and people, were alike accustomed to view such ceremonies, and this was one of the ordinary sacrifices. The expression of the faces in the crowd was calm and almost self-satisfied. All around was beautiful and serene, and it was hardly until the mangled body, hurled down from the upper area of the temple, had come near to the feet of the astounded voyagers, that they could believe they had really seen what passed before their eyes. Without saying a word to each other, they withdraw from the great square, and are no more seen in the streets of Mexico that day. If the passion for research did not suffice to conquer all disgust, they would, doubtless, have quitted the city on that evening; but a strange fascination retains them within its walls, and they regard, with still greater curiosity than ever, the marks of high civilisation and careful polity, which were to be seen in every district of that vast and unholy metropolis of the Aztecs.

There is more of this, but our extract is already too long.

The story of Cortes and the conquest of Mexico is not new like that of Las Casas, but we are much mistaken if it does not entirely change the reader's conceptions derived from previous historians, and give him in exchange a more vivid, as well as more veritable, idea of Mexico and of Cortes. The narrative is rapid yet full of detail, informed by a wise humane spirit, made picturesque by artistic use of erudition; as the reader may judge from a couple of extracts. Here is a bit from the description of Mexico:—

Who shall describe Mexico—the Mexico of that age? It ought to be one who had seen all the wonders of the world; and he should have for an audience those who had dwelt in Venice and Constantinople, who had looked down upon Granada from the Alhambra, and who had studied all that remains to be seen of the hundred-gated Thebes, of Babylon, and of Nineveh.

The especial attributes of the most beautiful cities in the world were here conjoined; and that which was the sole boast of many a world-renowned name formed but one of the charms of this enchantress among cities. Well might the rude Spanish soldier find no parallel but in the imaginations of his favourite Romance. Like Granada, encircled, but not frowned upon, by mountains; fondled and adorned by water, like Venice; as grand in its buildings as Babylon of old; and rich with gardens, like Damascus;—the great city of Mexico was at that time the fairest in the world, and has never since been equalled. Like some rare woman, of choicest parentage, the descendant of two royal houses far apart, who joins the soft, subtle, graceful beauty of the South to the fair, blue-eyed, blushing beauty of the North, and sits enthroned in the hearts of all beholders,—so sat Mexico upon the waters, with a diadem of gleaming towers, a fair expanse of flowery meadows on her breast, a circle of mountains as her zone: and, not unwomanlike, rejoicing in the reflexion of her beautiful self from the innumerable mirrors which were framed by her streets, her courts, her palaces, and her temples.

Neither was hers a beauty, like that of many cities, which gratifies the eye at a distance; but which diminishes at each advancing step of the beholder, until it absolutely degenerates into squalidity. She was beautiful when seen from afar; she still maintained her beauty, when narrowly examined by the impartial and scrupulous traveller. She was the city, not only of a great king, but of an industrious and thriving people.

If we descend into details, we shall see that the above description is not fanciful nor exaggerated. Mexico was situated in a great salt lake, communicating with a

fresh-water lake. It was approached by three principal causeways of great breadth, constructed of solid masonry, which, to use the picturesque language of the Spaniards, were two leagues in breadth. The length of one of the causeways was two leagues, and that of another a league and a half; and these two ample causeways united in the middle of the city, where stood the great temple. At the ends of these causeways were wooden drawbridges, so that communication could be cut off between the causeways and the town, which would thus become a citadel. There was also an aqueduct which communicated with the main land, consisting of two separate lines of work in masonry, in order that if one should need repair, the supply of water for the city might not be interrupted.

The streets were the most various in construction that have ever been seen in any city in the world. Some were of dry land, others wholly of water; and others, again, had pathways of pavement, while in the centre there was room for boats. The foot-passengers could talk with those in the boats. It may be noticed that a city so constructed requires a circumspect and polite population.

Palaces are common-place things to describe; but the abodes of the Mexican kings were not like the petty palaces of Northern princes. One of the most observant of those Spaniards, who first saw these wonders, speaks of a palace of Montezuma's in which there was a room where three thousand persons could be well accommodated, and on the terrace-like roof of which a splendid tournament might have been given.

There was a market-place twice as large as that of the city of Salamanca, surrounded with porticos, in which there was room for fifty thousand people to buy and sell.

The great temple of the city maintained its due proportion of magnificence. In the plan of the city of Mexico, which is to be found in a very early edition of the Letters of Cortes, published at Nuremberg, and which is supposed to be the one that Cortes sent to Charles the Fifth, I observe that the space allotted to the temple is twenty times as great as that allotted to the market-place. Indeed, the sacred enclosure was in itself a town; and Cortes, who seldom stops, in his terrible narrative, to indulge in praise or in needless description, says that no human tongue could explain the grandeur and the peculiarities of this temple. Cortes uses the word "temple," but it might rather be called a sacred city, as it contained many temples, and the abodes of all the priests and virgins who ministered at them, also a university and an arsenal. It was enclosed by lofty stone walls, and was entered by four portals, surmounted by fortresses. No less than twenty truncated pyramids, probably cased with porphyry, rose up from within that enclosure. High over them all towered the great temple dedicated to the god of war. This, like the rest, was a truncated pyramid, with ledges round it, and with two small towers upon the highest surface, in which were placed the images of the great god of war (Huitzilopochtli) and of the principal deity of all (Tezcatlipuk), the Mexican Jupiter. It is sad to own that an entrance into these fair-seeming buildings would have gone far to dissipate the admiration which a traveller—if we may imagine one preceding Cortes—would, up to this moment, have felt for Mexico. The temples and palaces, the polished, glistening towers, the aviaries, the terraces, the gardens on the house-tops (many-coloured, for they were not like those at Damascus, where only the rose and the jasmine were to be seen); in a word, the bright, lively, and lovely city would have been forgotten in the vast disgust that would have filled the mind of the beholder, when he saw the foul, blood-besmeared idols, with the palpitating hearts of that day's victims lying before them, and the black-clothed, filthy, unkempt priests ministering to these hideous compositions of paste and human blood. "Let the stern Cortes enter," is the cry which the amazed spectator would have uttered, when he saw these horrors, and thought of the armed men who were coming to destroy them. And yet this conjunction, which was to be met with at Mexico, of beauty and horror, is no new thing, and something very like it may be discovered in other guise throughout the world! Civilisation side by side with the uttermost horrors! Such is the contrast to be found in the present age too; and such, perhaps, in each of ourselves. And so, with some feeling of pity, even for a nation of cruel and bloodthirsty idolaters, we may contemplate the arrival of the Avenger as he makes his entry into Mexico.

The second shall be from the visit paid by Cortes to the Temple of the War-God in company with Montezuma:—

This request Montezuma granted with apparent pleasure. But, for fear lest the Spaniards should do any dishonour to his gods, as they had done in the provinces, he resolved to go himself to the temple; and accordingly he repaired thither with his accustomed pomp. On their way, the Spaniards visited the great market-place, which perhaps was the best means of learning, in a short time, the skill and riches of the people by whom they were surrounded.

In this vast area each kind of merchandise had its own quarter, and it would be difficult to specify any kind which was not to be seen there. To begin with the noblest and the most shameful merchandise, namely, that of human beings, there were as many to be found as "the negroes whom the Portuguese bring from Guinea." Then, every kind of eatable, every form of dress, medicines, perfumes, unguents, furniture, fruit, wrought gold and silver, lead, tin, brass, and copper, adorned the porticos and allured the passer-by. Paper, that great material of civilisation, was to be obtained in this wonderful emporium; also every kind of earthenware, salt, wood, tobacco, razors made of obsidian, dressed and undressed skins, cotton of all colours in skeins, painters' colours, building materials, and manure; wine, honey, wax, charcoal, and little dogs. Convenience was well considered; porters were to be hired, and refreshments to be obtained. One curious thing, which Cortes noticed, was, that every commodity was sold by number or by measure, and not by weight.

With regard to the regulations under which this vast bazaar was held, it may be noticed that the Mexicans had arrived at that point of civilisation, where fraud is frequent in the sale of goods; but, superior even to ourselves in this day, they had a counterpoise to this in a body of officers called judges, who sat in a court-house on the spot, and before whom all causes and matters relating to the market were tried, and who commanded the delinquents to be punished. There were also officers who went continually about the market-place, watching what was sold, and the measures which were used. When they found a false one, they broke it. This market was so much frequented, that the busy hum of all the buying and selling might be heard for a league off. Amongst the Spaniards there were soldiers who had served in Italy and in the East; and they said, that a market-place so skilfully laid out, so large, so well-managed, and so full of people, they had never seen. In considering the list of commodities which were to be sold there, and which may serve to make life tolerable, I note only three deficiencies—bills of exchange, newspapers, and books; but any one of these things indicates a civilisation of a higher order than the Mexican, and was reserved for some of the steadiest and subtlest thinkers of the great races of the world.

From the market-place the Spaniards moved on towards the temple, or to what, as before noticed, might have been justly called the sacred city, for even ere they reached the great enclosure, they came upon courts and enclosures, which, doubtless, were the precincts of the temple, and must have been in some way connected with its ministrations. At last they reached the polished surface of the great court, where not even a straw or any particle of dirt was suffered to remain. Amidst all

the temples which adorned this court one stood pre-eminent, where Montezuma himself was worshipping. On seeing Cortes, the King sent six priests and two of his principal nobles to conduct the Spanish Commander up the summit to the temple. When they came to the steps, which were a hundred and fourteen in number, the attendant Mexicans wished to take Cortes by the arms, and to assist him in ascending; but he dispensed with their aid, and, accompanied by his men, mounted to the highest platform, where they saw a horrible figure like a serpent, with other hideous figures, and much blood newly spilt. Oh! what a change from the wisdom of the market-place to the sublime folly and foulness of the temple!

At this moment Montezuma came forth from the chamber, or chapel, if we may call it so, where he had been worshipping. Receiving Cortes and his company with much courtesy, he said, "You must be tired, my Lord Malinché, after your ascent to this our great temple." But Cortes replied that "he and his men were never tired by anything."

Then the King took Cortes by the hand, and bade him look down upon the great city, and upon the surrounding cities on the border of the lake—those beautiful glistening satellites of the primary and pre-eminent Mexico. Cortes, however, does not tell us anything of the beauties and wonders which were to be seen in this view from the summit of the temple. It is the inherent curse of politic and foreseeing men, that they enjoy, and even recognise, the present so much less than other men do. The common soldiers looked down and gazed in all directions, noticing the temples, the oratories, the little towers, the floating gardens, and those light and graceful drawbridges, which were especially to be seen in the surrounding towns. It was then that a murmuring talk arose amongst them about Rome and Constantinople, and all that each man had seen of what was deemed, till this moment, most beautiful in the world. But, as Cortes looked down, what other thoughts were his! A poet speaks of "the cloudy foreheads of the great." The child and the rustic, in simple envy of those above them, who seem to them all-powerful, little dream of the commanding cares and hungry anxieties which beset the man who has undertaken to play any considerable part in the world. And, if ever there was a man who had undertaken a great part, without rehearsal, it was Cortes. The multitude of people moving to and fro, which enlivened the beautiful prospect in the eyes of the common soldier, afforded matter of most serious concern to the man who had to give orders for the next step in this untrodden wilderness of action. Even the hum of the market-place was no pleasant murmur in his ears, for he could readily translate it into the fierce cries of thousands of indignant warriors.

It is often happy for us that we do not know the thoughts of those who stand by us, or perhaps on this occasion, the lofty politeness of the sovereign and the warrior might have changed into an instant death-struggle as to which of them should be hurled down first from that platform, and complete the sacrifice of that eventful day.

Cortes, in whom Policy then only slumbered when Religion spoke to him, said to Father de Olmedo, "It appears to me that we should just make a trial of Montezuma, if he would let us set up our church here?" The wiser priest replied, that it would be very well to make that request if there were any likelihood of its being successful, but that the present did not appear to him the time for making it, nor did he see in Montezuma the humour to grant it. Upon this Cortes abandoned the idea, and merely asked the King to allow the Spaniards to see his gods. To this Montezuma, after having consulted his priests, consented; and the Spaniards entered those dread abodes of idolatry.

There is a family likeness in all idols; and, when the Spaniards had advanced within the little tower where the hall of the "god of war" was, they found two hideous creatures seated on an altar and under a canopy, large and bulky figures, the one representing Huitzilopochtli and the other Tezcatlipuk. The god of war had a broad face, wide mouth, and terrible eyes. He was covered with gold, pearls, and precious stones; and was girt about with golden serpents. In one hand he held a bow, in the other arrows. A little idol, his page, stood by him, holding a lance and a golden shield. On Huitzilopochtli's neck, a fitting ornament, were the faces of men wrought in silver, and their hearts in gold. Close by were braziers with incense, and on the braziers three real hearts of men who had that day been sacrificed.

All around, the walls were black with clotted blood.

On the left hand of the god of war was Tezcatlipuk, with a countenance like that of a bear, and with mirrors for eyes. A string of little demons encircled his waist. Five human hearts, of men that day sacrificed, were burning before this idol.

A third false deity, the "deity of increase," made half woman, half crocodile, gilded and jewelled like the rest, was to be seen, not in the same room with Huitzilopochtli and Tezcatlipuk, but, as it were, inniched above, in a recess that was formed in the highest part of the tower.

In this recess, too, the walls and the altar on which the idol stood were covered with blood. The smell of the great hall had been like that of some slaughter-house; but in the recess, the crowning horror of this accursed place, the detestable odour was so overpowering, that the only thought of the Spaniards who had ascended into this part of the building was how most quickly to get out of it. Here was a great drum made of serpents' skins, which, when struck, gave forth a melancholy hideous sound; and here were instruments of sacrifice, and many hearts of men.

It might be prudent, or it might not be prudent, but Cortes must give some utterance to his feelings; and we may well wonder at the reserve with which he spoke, rather than at his being able to refrain no longer. With a smile he said, "I do not know, my Lord Montezuma, how so great a King and so learned a man as you are, can have avoided to perceive (literally, should not have collected in your thoughts) that these idols of yours are not gods, but evil things which are called 'devils'; and that you and all your priests may be satisfied of this, do me the favour not to take it ill that we should put in the lofty recess of this tower a cross, and then in the hall where your deities Huitzilopochtli and Tezcatlipuk are we will make a compartment where we may put an image of Our Lady (this Montezuma had already seen), and you will behold the fear which those idols that keep you in delusion have of it."

But Montezuma and his priests were troubled and grieved at these words, and the King said, "My Lord Malinché, if you believe that it is your business to say such dishonourable things as you have said of my gods, I will not show them to you. We hold them for very good gods, and they give us health and rain, harvests and the weather, victories, and whatever we desire; it is our business to adore them, and to sacrifice unto them. I must request of you that no more words be uttered to their dishonour." To this speech, and to the alteration of aspect in the King, which Cortes noticed with the swift appreciation of a courtier, the Spaniard with an apparently gay countenance replied, "It is time that Your Highness and we should go."

To this Montezuma answered that it was well, but that for his part he must stay behind, to pray and make sacrifice for the sin he had committed in permitting the Spaniards to ascend the great temple, and for his having been the cause of injurious words having been uttered against his gods. Upon this, Cortes, with all due courtesy, took leave; and the Spaniards, descending with difficulty the deep steps of the temple, marched back to their quarters, sickened, saddened, and somewhat enlightened as to the nature of the men by whom they were surrounded.

Coming into the light of day, hearing the busy tumult of the market-place and the merry noise of children playing in the sun; then catching bright glimpses of the water, and looking at the unnumbered boats which plied along the streets; all that they had

seen in the dark and dismal charnel-houses of Huitzilopochtli and Tezcatlipuk must have seemed to the Spaniards an ill-omened dream. Years would pass away, and they would become veterans, covered with wounds and with renown, before they would have time to think over and to realise to themselves the full horror of the accursed things which they had looked upon that day.

The length to which these extracts have extended prevent our drawing more from these volumes, but the reader will have seen enough to stimulate his curiosity for the whole. There were several points upon which we should gladly have enlarged were greater space at disposal; but the foregoing remarks indicate in a general way our opinion of the book, and the extracts indicate its style, so that between the two our office of "Taster" to the public has been fulfilled. We must add, however, that the book is profusely illustrated with maps let into the text, and repeated from time to time, so as to save the reader the trouble of seeking them; these maps, mostly new-made, greatly facilitate our comprehension of the narrative, and are valuable documents.

THE MORALITY OF WILHELM MEISTER.

Wilhelm Meister's Apprenticeship. From the German of Goethe. Translated by R. Dillon Boylan, Esq. (Bohn's Standard Library.) H. G. Bohn.

PERHAPS Mr. Lewes's *Life of Goethe*, which we now see advertised, may throw some new light on the structure and purpose of the much-debated novel—*Wilhelm Meister's Apprenticeship*. In the meantime, we are tempted by the appearance of a new translation to give the opinion which our present knowledge enables us to form on one or two aspects of this many-sided work.

Ask nineteen out of twenty moderately educated persons what they think of *Wilhelm Meister*, and the answer will probably be—"I think it an immoral book; and besides, it is awfully dull: I was not able to read it." Whatever truth there may be in the first half of this judgment, the second half is a sufficient guarantee that the book is not likely to do any extensive injury in English society. Parents may let it lie on the drawing-room table without scruple, in the confidence that for youthful minds of the ordinary cast it will have no attractions, and that the exceptional youthful mind which is strongly arrested by it is of too powerful and peculiar a character to be trained according to educational dogmas.

But is *Wilhelm Meister* an immoral book? We think not: on the contrary, we think that it appears immoral to some minds because its morality has a grander orbit than any which can be measured by the calculations of the pulpit and of ordinary literature. Goethe, it is sometimes said, seems in this book to be almost destitute of moral bias: he shows no hatred of bad actions, no warm sympathy with good ones; he writes like a passionless Mejnour, to whom all human things are interesting only as objects of intellectual contemplation. But we question whether the direct exhibition of a moral bias in the writer will make a book really moral in its influence. Try this on the first child that asks you to tell it a story. As long as you keep to an apparently impartial narrative of facts you will have earnest eyes fixed on you in rapt attention, but no sooner do you begin to betray symptoms of an intention to moralise, or to turn the current of facts towards a personal application, than the interest of your hearer will slacken, his eyes will wander, and the moral dose will be doubly distasteful from the very sweetness in which you have attempted to insinuate it. One grand reason of this is, that the child is aware you are talking *for it* instead of *from yourself*, so that instead of carrying it along in a stream of sympathy with your own interest in the story, you give it the impression of contriving coldly and talking artificially. Now, the moralising novelist produces the same effect on his mature readers; an effect often heightened by the perception that the moralising is rather intended to make his book eligible for family reading than prompted by any profound conviction or enthusiasm. Just as far from being really moral is the so-called moral *dénouement*, in which rewards and punishments are distributed according to those notions of justice on which the novel-writer would have recommended that the world should be governed if he had been consulted at the creation. The emotion of satisfaction which a reader feels when the villain of the book dies of some hideous disease, or is crushed by a railway train, is no more essentially moral than the satisfaction which used to be felt in whipping culprits at the cart-tail. So we dismiss the charge of immorality against *Wilhelm Meister* on these two counts—the absence of moral bias in the mode of narration, and the comfortable issues allowed to questionable actions and questionable characters.

But there is another ground for the same accusation which involves deeper considerations. It is said that some of the scenes and incidents are such as the refined moral taste of these days will not admit to be proper subjects for art, that to depict irregular relations in all the charms they really have for human nature, and to associate lovely qualities with vices which society makes a brand of outlawry, implies a toleration which is at once a sign and a source of perverted moral sentiment. Wilhelm's relation to Mariana, and the charm which the reader is made to feel in the lawless Philina, many incidents that occur during Wilhelm's life with the players, and the stories of Lothario's loves in the present, preterite, and future, are shocking to the prevalent English. It is no answer to this objection to say—what is the fact—that Goethe's pictures are truthful, that the career of almost every young man brings him in contact with far more vitiating irregularities than any presented in the experience of Wilhelm Meister; for no one can maintain that *all* fact is a fit subject for art. The sphere of the artist has its limit somewhere, and the first question is, Has Goethe overstepped this limit, so that the mere fact of artistic representation is a mistake? The second: If his subjects are within the legitimate limits of art, is his mode of treatment such as to make his pictures pernicious? Surely the sphere of art extends wherever there is beauty either in form, or thought, or feeling. A ray of sunlight falling on the dreariest sandbank will often serve the painter for a fine picture; the tragedian may take for his subject the most hideous passions if they serve as the background for some divine deed of tenderness or heroism, and so the novelist may place before us every aspect of human life where there is some trait of love, or endurance, or helplessness to call

forth our best sympathies. Balzac, perhaps the most wonderful writer of fiction the world has ever seen, has in many of his novels overstepped this limit. He drags us by his magic force through scene after scene of unmitigated vice, till the effect of walking among this human carrion is a moral nausea. But no one can say that Goethe has sinned in this way.

Everywhere he brings us into the presence of living, generous humanity—mixed and erring, and self-deluding, but saved from utter corruption by the salt of some noble impulse, some disinterested effort, some beam of good nature, even though grotesque or homely. And his mode of treatment seems to us precisely that which is really moral in its influence. It is without exaggeration; he is in no haste to alarm readers into virtue by melodramatic consequences; he quietly follows the stream of fact and of life; and waits patiently for the moral processes of nature as we all do for her material processes. The large tolerance of Goethe, which is markedly exhibited in *Wilhelm Meister*, is precisely that to which we point as the element of moral superiority. We all begin life by associating our passions with our moral prepossessions, by mistaking indignation for virtue, and many go through life without awaking from this illusion. These are the "insupportables justes, qui du haut de leurs chaises d'or narguent les misères et les souffrances de l'humanité." But a few are taught by their own falls and their own struggles, by their experience of sympathy, and help and goodness in the "publicans and sinners" of these modern days, that the line between the virtuous and vicious, so far from being a necessary safeguard to morality, is itself an immoral fiction. Those who have been already taught this lesson will at once recognise the true morality of Goethe's works. Like *Wilhelm Meister*, they will be able to love the good in a Philina, and to reverence the far-seeing efforts of a Lothario.

TWENTY YEARS CONFLICT IN THE CHURCH.

The Twenty Years Conflict in the Church, and Its Remedy.

John Chapman.

THE writer of this honest and well-meaning little Tract must be a fortunate man, for he tells us that "he has himself proposed reforms in religion equal in extent to the reforms effected by Lord Bacon in science, and in no case was he ever met by a reply, or involved in any controversy." His present object is to heal the divisions in the Church of England, and avert that disruption which he justly conceives to be imminent between the Evangelical and High Church (and we should add the Latitudinarian) parties. The mode in which he proposes to carry out this object is certainly in the highest degree Baconian, or whatever else may designate philosophic comprehensiveness and simplicity. He would reconcile the two hostile parties by the effectual method of subtracting from the creed of each all the most vital and characteristic doctrines—Apostolic Succession—the Supernatural Efficacy of the Sacraments—Justification by Faith—Original Sin—and Predestination. For these tenets he would substitute, by way of compensation, the Right of Private Judgment, or the Authority of Reason and Conscience—Free Will—Responsibility, and man's power to perform good as well as evil. These changes are to be embodied in a Reformed Liturgy (of which an outline is given) by a Reformed Convocation equally composed of Laity and Clergy. To an arrangement so manifestly tending to obviate the inconvenience of doctrinal discrepancies, the writer thinks all parties would readily accede. In what theological Paradise has he lived?

The writer's general view of parties is clear and sensible. In particular, he sees the service which the High Church movement rendered to the cause of truth, by destroying the belief in the perfection of the Anglican Church. He is also quite correct in giving the same party credit for reasserting against the dominant Calvinism that doctrine of Free Will on which morality depends; though unhappily they asserted at the same time doctrines concerning the nature and effects of sin, of which it was justly said that, if they were true, it would be better to be a blade of grass than a man. We may add that some remarkable attacks on Bibliolatry were made in the "Tracts for the Times," the object of which was of course to exalt Church authority at the expense of the Bible, but which tended, in effect, to assist the emancipation of reason and the development of a critical spirit. The Newmanites in truth are not a little answerable for the encouragement of that love of truth, which, when they see its legitimate consequences, they will persecute, and are beginning to persecute already.

We cannot encourage the author to hope that his remedy will be accepted, or even that the spirit of charity and benevolence in which he tenders it will meet with a response. We would recommend him, instead of trying to reconcile the irreconcilable, to eliminate the essential, and avert the inevitable, rather to labour for the independent establishment of pure religious and moral truth, and the preservation of our moral and spiritual life, as individuals and as a nation, from that abyss of confusion into which ecclesiastical institutions and ecclesiastical creeds all over Christendom are too manifestly about to fall.

THE CUSTOM OF DUNMOW.

Ballads: Romantic, Fantastical, and Humorous. By W. Harrison Ainsworth.

Routledge and Co.

The Flitch of Dunmow. By W. Harrison Ainsworth.

Routledge and Co.

THE collected versification of Mr. Harrison Ainsworth's novels, from *Rookwood* down to his latest work—the fine historical fiction referred to in the title of the present notice—has furnished forth a book of ballads, classified as *Legendary and Romantic, Fantastical, and Humorous*. The romantic and fantastical disposition of Mr. Ainsworth seems always to have led him into slums and gaol-yards for a good deal of his legendary material, and into Dryasdust remains of antiquated phraseology for all his humour. Thus, instead of supposing that such and such a thing could hardly have happened, Mr. Ainsworth wots that it scarce mote have been, and is hilarious about it straightway. Excepting one or two of the songs here brought together, and notably the one called "Marguerite de Valois," in which the pretty refrain attributed to the Duchesse de Guise—"Margot, Marguerite (on bas)"—is very tunefully introduced, we never encountered a more worthless

heap of doggerel than this of Mr. Ainsworth's. So much for the book; and a sweeping condemnation is really, in this case, more merciful than the mildest form of detailed criticism could possibly be. Of an author himself no one likes to speak except in the way of compliment. But Mr. Ainsworth has just been challenging public notice by one of the most grotesque devices ever resorted to for propping a rickety reputation. Let us turn once more—only for a moment—to Mr. Ainsworth's book of songs, just to observe that the first and most absurd composition, among many rivals, is a ballad entitled "The Custom of Dunmow." This custom consisted in the delicate and appropriate bestowal of a fitch of bacon on any happy pair who should take oath, in public, that they had been ter-rew to each other for a specified time; and it would be, of course, a very great pity if a custom which belonged by chance to a rude and remote age, but which is so beautifully consonant with the feelings and manners of our own, should not be roused from a slumber into which it fell, some time ago, in consequence of the decline of national taste and sentiment. Mr. W. Harrison Ainsworth, who has done so very much by his writings to elevate the same national taste and sentiment, resolves, first, on "standing" the time-honoured reward of constancy; and next, on going the whole pig, and instituting a supplementary fitch—not because happy marriages are more numerous than formerly, or because people are more prone to mention their connubial felicities to mixed audiences, or because bacon is cheaper; but because "an opportunity occurs of celebrating the alliance of England and France!" A French literary gentleman is united to an English literary lady, on whom he dotes to the fond extent so desirable for the success of Mr. Ainsworth's puff. The next "feature" of this interesting event is a cheap excursion train, which was advertised to take people from Shoreditch and to bring them home again the same day, giving them ample time to see the French literary gentleman (weather permitting) climb the greasy pole, and the English literary gentleman (D.V.) present the bacon. And all this, or something like it, did actually take place last Thursday. The British Barnum, Mr. E. T. Smith, gave his congenial presence to the "rustic sports and festivities;" and a daily paper, with charming alacrity in the cause of "good old English" revivals, published, on the very morning of the event, a carefully prepared narrative, treating the affair as an accomplished triumph!

The weather was scarcely so mild as the bacon was warranted to be, and large piles of Mr. Ainsworth's new novel, the *Fitch of Dunmow*, were not sold at the different railway stations.

The Arts.

L'ETOILE DU NORD.

THE production of MEYERBEER's latest, we cannot say his greatest, opera at COVENT GARDEN, on Thursday, was the event of the season: it was in every respect what our friends over the water call a "solemnity;" we only wish our solemnities of home manufacture were half as amusing. We certainly incurred the charge of raising the expectations of our opera-going readers to a high pitch by our preliminary trumpet last week, but we have the satisfaction of feeling assured that the highest expectations were not disappointed. We spoke more particularly of the *mise en scène*, the orchestra, and the chorus: no one who was present at the Royal Italian Opera on Thursday will deny that the vast scenic, orchestral, and choral resources of that establishment were never more magnificently and triumphantly displayed. As for the *mise en scène*, we have been accustomed to miracles from Mr. BEVERLEY: we knew the prodigious fertility of expedient and the profound science of "effects" for ever to be associated with the name of Mr. A. HARRIS—the Napoleon of "Supers." But Mr. BEVERLEY has never enriched the stage with pictures more powerfully and delicately real than the Village on the Coast of Finland of the first act, and the Russian Camp with the mountain gorge in the distance, in the second act of the *Etoile du Nord*. Nor has Mr. A. HARRIS, whose exploits of generalship we well remember in the *Huguenots*, in the *Prophète*, in *Masaniello*, ever inspired his legions with more zeal, animation, and intelligence—ever disposed his groupings with more taste and judgment, with a finer eye for colour and variety of *pose* than in the two grand scenes which Mr. BEVERLEY has so brilliantly illustrated. The chorus too, which for the last few seasons had rather fallen off in spirit and correctness, has suddenly regained its old celebrity for vigour and precision of *ensemble*. The presence of the illustrious Maestro has worked wonders, and struck new life into the flagging pulses of the troupe. It has been like the face of "the Chief" to an army demoralised by inaction. We can easily imagine the effect of MEYERBEER's superintendence in stimulating the jaded energies of the theatre. Not only the prestige of the composer, but the unassuming kindness, the finesse, the *bonhomie* of the man must be irresistible.

As for the principals, let us at once, without any invidious prepossession, particularise LABLACHE as *Gritzenko*, a Calmuck converted into a corporal. Not one of his comrades would object to the first place of honour being given to the glorious veteran. Surely it is an example worthy of imitation—the zealous heartiness with which an artist, whose reputation has long been European, studies a minor part, full of very difficult, laborious, and complicated music, and by the admirable humour of his acting, and the masterly excellence and finish of his singing, gives a new importance to the part and a new pleasure to the audience. LABLACHE's make-up as a Calmuck was something terrific and Gargantuan in its grotesque savagery, and as the Corporal he reminded us

of a colossal Bonze. He acted throughout with the careful zeal, spirit and vivacity of thirty years ago, and the round richness of his voice contrast pleasantly with the hard, harsh tones of FORMES. Madlle. BOSIO looked interestingly as *Catherine*: once and again she even made a praiseworthy effort *act*; but she cannot get rid of that lady-like lassitude and indifference, which are redeemed by her graceful looks and manners, and by that exquisite voice clear and sweet as a silver bell, sparkling as a fountain.

Mademoiselle MARAI as *Prasovia* has made a decided advance in her art. She was always agreeable, intelligent, and conscientious, and her appearance singularly engaging; but on this occasion she looked a true Scandinavian beauty, all archness and simplicity, and she sang with a delicacy and elegance very lightful to the listener. The two *vivandières* were most effectively represented so far as music was concerned, by Madame RUDERSDORFF and Mademoiselle JENNY BAUER: perhaps, however, we observed a certain tameness in the latter, a certain excess of emphasis in the larger, lady. Returning to the gentlemen, let us say how charming in voice and aspect was GARDONI as *Danilow*, M. SCRIBE's version of the original MENSCHIKOFF, the pie-seller: how unaffectedly pleasant and refined was LUCHEST as *George Skawronski*. Peter seems odd we should be celebrating that imperial savage just now! claims sentence to himself. FORMES looked the character wonderfully, and played with remarkable force and intention: but in the tent scene there was a want of nuance, of transition in the acting, and he seems incapable of expressing tender emotions.

Need we add our testimony to the universal report of the success of the *Etoile du Nord* at COVENT GARDEN? It has been a success all over Europe; but the discharge of an honest critical duty—the duty we mean of expressing calm and serious opinion on the merits of a work without reference to the circumstances of its production, to the prestige of the composer—let us be permitted the audacity of expressing our conviction, which we have formed after hearing this opera repeatedly, and which we express with the deepest deference and humility, that the *Etoile du Nord* does not add a laurel to the brow of the illustrious composer of *Robert le Diable*. Let us forget for a moment that the *Etoile* is an opera of MEYERBEER's, and in momentary ignorance of the composer's name, let us ask our musical conscience whether its success belongs to the music or to the spectacle? Let us ask if there is in the music that coherence that continuity, that creative energy which belongs to works of genius. It is not fragmentary, patchy, ceaselessly clever and effective, seldom emotional and affecting? Is not tune sacrificed to trick, melody to noise, spontaneous feeling to ingenious combinations? No doubt all this abominable heresy of ours may be put down by the overwhelming appeal of the technical critics to the consummate science of the music. But we have not now to learn for the first time that MEYERBEER is a consummate musician. We only say on behalf of the unlearned public that no amount of cleverness will be accepted as a substitute for tune.

To say that the *Etoile du Nord* is the greatest work of the composer of *Robert le Diable*, of the *Huguenots*, and the *Prophète*, seems to us simply preposterous. We could not help fancying that the composer had thrown the scores of the immortal works into a crucible, and, like an alchemist, had worked the *Etoile du Nord* out of the fiery process. There is no law against a man stealing from himself, and there is probably nothing in the *Etoile* that does not belong to the composer of the *Huguenots* and the *Camp de Silésie*; but the effect is that of an opera put together, rather than composed. All this does not prevent us from recognising every moment the hand of the master in the grace, the strength, the fancy, the invention, the variety scattered over the opera with a prodigality that would exhaust fifty of his imitators. We take the liberty to judge MEYERBEER by the standard of his own works: to judge him by any lower standard is impertinence.

We are persuaded that the *Opera Comique* does not bear adaptation to Grand Opera. There is a certain charm to us in that form of opera in which the speaking is interrupted, at certain pauses in the action, by music: this charm is completely lost in recitatives. We miss M. SCRIBE's facile and sprightly dialogues with its thin but pleasant wit, and its sentimental ingenuity. After twenty minutes of recitative, we begin to apprehend the fate reserved for us by the "music of the future." This transplanting of the *Opera Comique*, which is music what the *genre* school is to painting, is as unfair to the composer as would be to compel a Watteau to paint his figures of heroic proportions.

But we have already exceeded our space: let us only add that the principal artists were called for after each act, and one after the other, and together, enthusiastically cheered; but that the triumph of the evening, a just and noble one, was reserved for the great composer himself, that modest and retiring man of genius, who has given to the Opera a grander destiny than to be an effeminate relaxation, or an idle luxury, and who has already taken rank with the Immortals in the Pantheon of the divinest of all Arts. We trust MEYERBEER will leave England impressed with the admiration and sympathy which have almost laid siege to him during his stay among us, convinced that we are not quite barbarians even in music, and resolved to write an opera expressly for Covent Garden.

Madlle. RACHEL is announced to appear at the ST. JAMES'S THEATRE, under the auspicious direction of Mr. MITCHELL, on Monday the 30th inst., in the great part of *Camille* in *Les Horaces*. On Wednesday, August 1, in *Phèdre* on Friday, August 3, in *Adrienne Lecouvreur*; on Saturday, August 4, *Andromaque*. As the celebrated *tragédienne* is en route to America, her engagement is necessarily limited to these four evenings. We shall be curious to see what effect the success of her great Italian rival may have had on Madlle. RACHEL. By the way, we must demur to the supposition that Madlle. RACHEL is accompanied by "several of the principal artistes of Paris." This is not quite accurate; she is accompanied by various members of the FELIX family, attended by a select suite of illustrious obscurities.

The proprietors of the Albert Life Assurance Company at their annual general meeting on the 16th instant, voted a sum of 1000*l.* to G. G. Kirby, Esq., their managing director, in recognition of his valuable services.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

BIRTHS.

BARRY.—July 12, at his residence, Forest-hill, Sydenham, Kent, the wife of Charles Barry, Esq.: a son.
HANSARD.—July 16, at No. 14, Park-square, Mrs. Henry Hansard: a son.

MARRIAGES.

DEAR—DEAR.—July 12, at All Saints, Huntingdon, Mr. Edmund Dear, of London, to Catherine, second daughter of James Dear, Esq., of Huntingdon.

WILSON—TODD.—July 17, at St. George's, Hanover-square, W. H. Wilson, Esq., late Captain 39th Regiment, to Jane Marian Rutherford, only child of the late John Todd, Esq., of Halmaby Hall, and Tranby Park, in the county of York.

DEATHS.

LE BLANC.—July 13, at the house of his eldest son, Clifton-down, Bristol, Colonel Le Blanc, forty-one years Major of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, late Lieut.-Colonel of the 5th Veteran Battalion, and formerly of the 71st Regiment, aged 79.

MANSFIELD.—June 28, at Sebastopol, of wounds received in the action of the 18th of June, Captain William Henry Mansfield, 44th Regiment, son of the late Alexander Mansfield, Esq., of Morristown, Lattin, in the county of Kildare.

FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE.

Tuesday, July 17.

BANKRUPTS.—JOHN WILLIAM MEARS, Croydon, clothier—JOHN and CHARLES ELLIS, Trinity-square, Bristol builders—WILLIAM WOOD, Wells-street, South Hackney grocer—GEORGE WILD, Oxford-street, grocer—THOMAS KEHLEY, Son, St. Mary extra, Southampton, butcher—THOMAS TOYNBEE, Slough, horse-dealer—JOSEPH and ROBERT DENT, Atherstone, Warwickshire, builders—ROBERT LYNHAM COURTNEY, West Bromwich, auctioneer—WILLIAM POOLE, Kingston-upon-Hull, provision merchant—ISAAC DENTON, Bradford, Yorkshire, draper—JOHN CRIPPIN and WILLIAM ROBINSON FORSTER, Rock Fort Cheshire, and Liverpool, ferry proprietors—JOHN GRIBST Liverpool, tobaccoist—FRANCIS LLOYD BAYLEY at SAMUEL MILLNER BARTON, Manchester, small ware manufacturers—THOMAS BOSTOCK, Manchester, maker-up.

Friday, July 20.

BANKRUPTS.—ELIZABETH MARY MULLER, Castle-street East, Oxford-street, picture dealer—JOHN WILLIAMS, Gravesend, pawnbroker—JOHN MIER, Nelson-square, Blackfriars-road, appraiser—RICHARD THOMAS, New Windsor, Berks, painter—PETER SHARLAND, Penzance, draper—EDWARD GREEN, Bath, tavern keeper—JAMES WESTLAKE OMBIN, Wellington, Somerset, wine merchant—JAMES WELLES, jun., Chelmsford, Berks, wheelwright—JOHN DAWSON, High-street, Shadwell, tobaccoist—JOHN STEWART, Manchester, manufacturer—GEORGE NELSON, Leeds, upholsterer—MICHAEL HORNER, Bermondsey-street, leather dresser—JAMES BORTHAM, Ashton-under-Lyne, Lancashire, painter, plumber, and glazier—GEORGE BEAUMONT, Manchester, warehouseman and manufacturer—THOMAS SLOPER, Stepney, auctioneer—THOMAS GEORGE SEAY and JOSEPH LANE, Old Broad-street, City, wine merchants—WILLIAM GRAHAM, Wingate Grange, Durham, grocer and draper—SAMUEL MOSES LOTINGA and NOAH SAMUEL LOTINGA, Broad Chare, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, merchants, &c.—WILLIAM A. EDWARDS and THOMAS WHITLOCK, Upper Thames-street, bottle merchants—FRANCIS BLACKWELL, Peterborough, Northamptonshire, currier and leather seller.

Commercial Affairs.

MONEY MARKET AND CITY INTELLIGENCE.

Friday Evening, July 20, 1855.

The Funds have been very steady throughout the week, hardly any business having been transacted. The great attraction has been centred in the Turkish 6 per cent. scrip. Immediately after the settling day the stock rose 3 and 4 per cent.; the highest price it has attained having been 93. A fortnight ago, when the Prime Minister gave his most disingenuous answer to Mr. Ricardo, the negotiation on the subject of the 4 per cent. loan of five millions must have then been going on, and people with Government information were buying largely, they arguing that Turkey must accept the loan, and that consequently as the 6 per cent. bondholders would have a preference, the stock was absurdly under its value. A large amount of stock was withdrawn from the market this last account, and the dealers who have always had a prejudice to the stock, must have been hit very hard. Viewing matters at the worst, the stock is worth per cent. £110, if not more, and the inclination is decidedly upwards. The dealers would gladly thrust it down, in order to recover a part of their losses. The discussion in the House of Commons to-night will perhaps to some extent affect the market. Peruvian and Mexican have been dealt in considerably this week, and even Venezuelan has been inquired after.

There has been an active demand for Spanish Three per cent. to-day, and the deferred stock is considerably higher. The markets as regards railways generally dull.

Consols at four o'clock, 91, 91½; Turkish 6 per cent. 91½, 92½; Peru 4½ per cent. 77, 79; ditto 3 per cent. 55, 57; Mexicans, 21½, 22½; Spanish Deferred Threes, 191, 191½; Russian 5 per cent. 99, 101; New French Loan, 3, 3½ premium.

Colonial, 63, 63½; Chester and Holyhead, 13, 14; Eastern Counties, 11½, 12½; Edinburgh and Glasgow, 57, 59; Great Northern, 91, 92; Ditto, A. stock, 69, 71; Ditto, B. stock, 125, 127; Great Southern and Western, Ireland, 100, 102; Great Western, 60½, 61½; Lancaster and Carlisle, 73, 78; Lancashire and Yorkshire, 81, 81½; London and North-Western, 90, 90½; London and South-Western, 85, 86; London and Brighton, 101, 102; Midlands, 70½, 71½; Manchester and Sheffield, 25, 25½; Berwick, 73½, 74½; Yorks, 49½, 50½; South Eastern, 61, 62; Oxford, 25, 27; North Staffordshire, 64, 65; South Devon, 13½, 14½; Antwerp, 91, 91½; Bombay and Baroda, 24, 24½; East Indian, 25, 25½; Ditto, Extension, 34, 34½; Grand Trunk of Canada, 4, 5½; Great Central of France, 44, 44½; Great Western of Canada, 21½, 21½; Great Luxembourg, 34, 35; Madras, 20½, 21½; Clarendon Copper, 1, 1½; Cobre, 63, 66; Linares, 81, 82; Santiago de Cuba, 5, 6; South Australian Copper, 1, 1½; United Mexican, 3, 3½; Waller Gold, 1, 1½; Australasian Bank, 84, 85; London and Australian, 194, 204; Chartered Bank, 4 dis., 4 pm; City Bank, 1 dis., par; London Bank, 1, 1½; Union of Australia, 72, 74; Oriental Corporation, 39, 40; Oriental Gas, 14, 14½; Pool Rivers, 24, 24½; Peninsular and Oriental, 64, 65; Screw Steam, 154, 156; Scottish Australian, 1, 1½; South Australian, 364, 374.

CORN MARKET.

Mark Lane, Friday Evening, July 20, 1855.

During the week, the supplies of English and Foreign Wheat has been moderate, and the little business doing is at the extreme rates of Monday. Norfolk Flour is 1s. dearer, sales being made at 5s. Barley continues firm, but the demand is limited. There has been a considerable addition to the supply of Oats since the early part of the week, and the trade is very languid. There are plenty of cargoes of Egyptian Wheat still off the coast, but they are held at prices above the ideas of buyers. A cargo of Sadi Wheat has been sold at 4s., c. f. & i., but there are now no buyers at the price. A cargo of Galatz at 70s. 6d., and one of Malaga at 33s. 6d.

BRITISH FUNDS FOR THE PAST WEEK.

(CLOSING PRICES.)

	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Frid.
Bank Stock	213	214	214	214	214	214
3 per Cent. Red.	91½	91½	91½	91½	91½	91½
3 per Cent. Con. An.	90½	91	91	91	91	91
Consols for Account	91	90½	91	91	90½	91
3 per Cent. An.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
New 2½ per Cent.	.....	.....	78	.....	.....	.....
Long Ans. 1800.	13-16	15-16	4	15-16	.....	.....
India Stock	230	230	230	232½	233	.....
Ditto Bonds, £1000.	37	35	34	36	35	.....
Ditto, under £1000.	37	34	36	32	35	.....
Ex. Bills, £1000.	23	23	21	23	22	.....
Ditto, £500.	27	27	20	23	22	.....
Ditto, £100.	27	27	.....	23	22	.....

FOREIGN FUNDS.

(LAST OFFICIAL QUOTATION DURING THE WEEK ENDING THURSDAY EVENING.)	
Russian Bonds, 5 per Cent., 1823.	100
Russian 4½ per Cent., 1823.	89
Russian 3½ per Cent., 1823.	184
Spanish Consol. Cert.	.....
of Coup. not fun.	.....
Venezuela 4½ per Cent.	30
Holstein 4½ per Cent.	93½
Dutch 2½ per Cent.	.....
Dutch 4 per Cent. Certif.	90½

ROYAL OLYMPIC THEATRE.

Lessee and Manager, Mr. ALFRED WIGAN.
Monday, and Tuesday, the performances will commence with a new Farce, entitled
PERFECT CONFIDENCE.
Supported by Messrs. F. Robson, and G. Vining; Miss Marston, Miss E. Ormonde, and Miss Bromley.
After which, the successful and original Comedy, called
STILL WATERS RUN DEEP.
Supported by Messrs. A. Wigan, Emery, George Vining, and Mrs. A. Wigan.
To conclude with
THE WANDERING MINSTREL.
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