

By Alfred Edmund Yalloway, 18th 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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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1856.

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## Review of the Week.

THE Lords are succeeding admirably in showing that they have the privilege of being inaccessible to reform. Whatever irregular attempts a timid Lord Chancellor may make in trying to reconcile the House to the actual wants of the age,—whatever very moderate course Lord GREY may advise for correcting the irregularities of the Chancellor and the gross deficiencies of the House, the Peers that rally round Lord LYNTHURST are firm in refusing to be reconciled or amended. They are making a collision with the Crown, as if for the purpose of filling up time with exciting conflicts, should the Conference at Paris result in peace. It is clear that they had already, before the present week, exhausted their precedents and their arguments: we were in as good a position for deciding on the point at the beginning of last week as at the end of this. The facts are extremely simple. The House of Lords has retained to itself the function of judging in the last resort, after it had permitted the judges to depart from it. It now exercises its supreme judicial authority with Peer judges, when it has them at hand, and when it has them not, with ordinary judges, who sit and whisper the proper adjudication to some lay Peer, while he stands up and, puppet-like, delivers the oracle. There is a difficulty in multiplying the Law Lords, for these reasons: They must be clever enough to have attained a great eminence in their profession; they must be rich enough to provide for the sons that come after them, if the peerage be hereditary; and when they are appointed, they must be in such condition of health as to make it probable that that they will last long enough to make it worth while to appoint them. As it is, a Law Lord cannot be created for a few years' service, except under condition of his possessing sufficient money to provide for a long line of Lay Lords after him; for the succeeding Peers do not relapse to the bar, and therefore do not ascend again to the Bench. A temporary addition to the judicial part of the House has hitherto been followed by a permanent addition to the non-judicial part. The Wensleydale creation corrected that practical anomaly

by appointing a competent judge without the condition that his non-judicial and perhaps incompetent sons should sit in the House. We have no exact precedent for such a step; but it would seem, from the collective effect of the precedents, that the power does reside in the Crown. Lord LYNTHURST, however, without any precedent, proof, or principle to support him, invites the House to a declaration of opinion that the creation of a life peerage is illegal, and that the life peer cannot sit or vote in Parliament. Thus the judicial bench of the House cannot be created except under the same conditions that have kept it in its scandalously ineffective state. If we are to have a more complete court of appeal, Lord LYNTHURST and his followers say, it shall not be within the House of Lords. Rather than admit such an improvement, they will mutiny against the Government and Crown. They claim to be perfectly independent of the law, for they virtually announce that they have determined to decide the law for themselves, and they are resolved to exclude the Peer whom the Crown has added to their number. It is, therefore, a rebellion of the Lords which Lord LYNTHURST has invited.

The mayors and magistrates have got up a rebellion against the police legislation proposed by Sir GEORGE GREY. They have held a meeting at Herbert's Hotel, in Palace-yard, illustrious for the Anti-Corn-law gatherings; as if they expected to carry the principle of non-protection for peaceable citizens by starting from the same point as the principle of untaxed corn for the million. The cases, however, are not parallel. Half of the English counties have adopted the County Constabulary Act; and it would not be very oppressive if the other half of the country be required to follow the example. The boroughs have a rather better case, though it is probable that they do not resist upon that which is really the most reasonable objection. There is little doubt that one cause of irritation amongst the borough notables is that provision in the new Bill which would exclude policemen from voting at municipal and parliamentary elections. Think of striking off some of the votes by which the aldermen and councillors, with their favourite members, have taken their

seats! The reasonable objection might be to the interference of the Secretary of State in borough business, to modify the regulations, pay, and uniform. Yet there are manifest advantages in obtaining some kind of unity in the action of police over the entire kingdom. However that may be, the attempt at a police improvement has called forth a strong impulse of "local self-government," or local self-non-government, as the case may be.

Yet more trouble has been caused to the Government by an event of the future. Mr. LAYARD has had standing for some time a notice of motion on the state of the Army before Sebastopol. On the appearance of the report from the Sebastopol Commissioners, he shaped it into what amounted to a virtual vote of censure on Government for giving promotion to those officers whom the Commissioners had had convicted of misconduct, particularly pointing, of course, to Quartermaster-General AIREY, General of Division Lord LUCAN, and Brigadier-General Lord CARDIGAN. AIREY, who failed as Quartermaster-General in the Crimea, is appointed Quartermaster-General at home. CARDIGAN, who could not contrive to get his horses and food together in the Crimea, is made Inspector-General of Cavalry in the United Kingdom. LUCAN, guilty of complicity in the bungling charge at Balaklava, the danger of which he did not share, gets a grand colonelcy; and Colonel GORDON, accused of minor offences in the East, obtains a minor appointment at home: so accurately does promotion apportion itself to culpability! Mr. LAYARD seemed likely to take a strong ground in the House of Commons, by the simple force of the facts; but Ministers have come across him with a diversion. They have announced the appointment of a military commission to inquire, with closed doors, into the conduct of the officers accused by the Crimean Commissioners. The precise meaning of this diversion does not appear in the public announcement, or in Lord LAYARD's "statement" to the House of Commons. It implies a confession of weakness in some part of the case, but the design can only be silence or misdirection.

This year, whether it be peace or war, will be required to meet the demands of the public—most likely more than was wanted last year.



NEWSPAPER

Government has begun borrowing, but only to a small amount; deferring a larger operation until after the Conferences. It borrows £5,000,000; and relieves the Exchequer Bill market by funding £3,000,000; effecting both operations at a price equivalent to £90 Consols—the Government's own price. The state of the Money Market and the absence of mystery precluded much chaffering on the part of the moneyed men, who only deal as agents in an open market.

The House of Commons was invited by Sir JOSHUA WALMSLEY to pass a resolution which would have opened the British Museum and the National Gallery on the one day of leisure for the working classes. The debate was in the main good. Some very startling truths were told in the course of it; some extremely sensible statements of the real merits of the case were set forth by Lord STANLEY. On the other side, the arguments used were something more than respectable. Gentlemen contrasted the Sunday experiences of beer-drinking Munich and of gay Paris with the morality professed by those who desired to open places of art as auxiliaries to the Church. And Lord PALMERSTON, telling the House that both sides exaggerated, proposed a direct negative to the motion instead of an amendment; not as a settlement of the question, but really the best mode of declaring the question to be unsettled. The House of Commons therefore, refused, by an overwhelming majority, to make that very small concession to the liberal spirit of the day. And this has happened some years after the opening of Hampton Court proves that, if not directly conducive to an æsthetic morality, the concession to the working classes is harmless, and in some degree beneficial. The manifest reason for this vote is, that the middle classes, amongst whom sect has its strongest hold, command the representation, but that the working classes are not represented at all, or only in amateur fashion, by men of good sense like Sir JOSHUA WALMSLEY or Lord STANLEY, having no footing in the House, because they have given up any determined endeavour to obtain the suffrage which is their right. The working classes must take this question of the Sabbath into their own hands, determined amongst themselves how they will spend the day, and defy the law to prohibit them. That point, however, we will show forth more distinctly next week.

The history of the week with respect to the Paris Conference is almost entirely prophetic. We have only the arrival of the Plenipotentiaries notified among the fashionable movements; nothing official as to their collective action; this, of course is inevitable. Count ORLOFF arrived the last. Business will not begin till next week. But, already, there are signs which, if we trust them, would indicate a very interesting sequel to the Conference, whether that sequel is to be peace or war. For one thing it is quite clear that the two sides at the meeting are not so far approaching each other as they were supposed to have done. The Russian intentions are still locked in mystery. The selection of Baron BRUNOW is regarded as a blind, and the Muscovite ORLOFF is probably the real bearer of the Imperial will. On the other hand there are some signs got up that the Western Powers do not intend to yield to the treacherous mediations of Central Europe. Prussia stands excluded; Austria is subjected to that humiliating equality with Piedmont against which she is understood to have protested, and to have protested in vain. She is even making a compliment to Sardinia by a professed amnesty for Lombard refugees resident outside the Austrian States, that is, chiefly in the Sardinian States; a compliment which secures to Austria the

advantage of *suspending* questions between herself and Sardinia during the Conference, to be taken up again when convenient to Vienna. Still the Conference has already done much to stamp the actual position of Sardinia in Europe, and to extend her influence far beyond the proportion which her territories occupy on the map. It is not many years since we heard a distinguished and popular member declare that, in the movement of society towards equality and the fusion of all classes, the day had arrived when individual influence had finally ceased, and we should no more see men stamp their own will upon the progress of events. Since that opinion we have had LOUIS NAPOLEON establishing himself; and now we see the efficacy of personal influence in the development of that constitutional state which has had a CHARLES ALBERT for its king, which now possesses VICTOR EMMANUEL, and whose head minister is CAVOUR. A suspicion has gained ground in Germany that the Austrian Emperor has succeeded in winning over to himself the French Emperor; that LOUIS NAPOLEON is somewhat anxious to slide away from his close alliance with England, to take up with the young Emperor of Austria, and to form an entirely new combination in Europe. *Credat Judeus!* Let ROTHSCHILD risk his millions upon that expectation if he likes! The supposition, however, has given rise to another speculation, and it is affirmed, with some probability, that Prussia intends to make advances towards Sardinia for the purpose of a counteracting combination. The King of Prussia once said, "It is on the Po that the Rhine must be defended." And looking to the possibility that Austria might assist France in recovering the Rhine boundary, FREDERICK WILLIAM is represented as hinting, that he would endeavour to regain Lombardy for Northern Italy, if Piedmont will assist in preserving to him the Rhine. This is calculating too fast, but it is an unquestionable fact, that the force of personal character which has endowed Piedmont with a Constitution, which has made her politically independent of Rome, and which has put her in a most remarkably healthy social condition in the North of Italy, is also acquiring for her King and Statesmen a position amongst the Powers of Europe, is making her the object of compliments from Austria and of overtures from Prussia; and the Western Powers aid her in assuming a position of practical equality at that Conference, to settle the great European question of the day, from which Prussia is excluded.

While the Russian plenipotentiaries have been travelling to the Conference at Paris, they have been amused by the way with the accounts of the blowing up of Fort St. Nicholas, at Sebastopol. The arsenal is destroyed; the forts on the northern shore remain, but they are comparatively useless. The question now is, why spare Nicholaieff? And it is rather largely inferred, from the repetition of an article first published by the equivocal *Sidole*, in the official *Moniteur*, that one of the stipulations at the conference will be the demolition of Nicholaieff by the Russians themselves, as the officers of the Western Powers under a treaty peace; the interests of Sweden at Bomarsund being as much guarded as the interests of Piedmont or Turkey. The reprint from the *Sidole* may be taken for what it is worth. The Paris Government knows how to play off one journal against another—when to let Granier de Cassagnac preach divine right, the *Débats* lecture on prudent Conservatism, and the *Sidole* to blow the tantarara on the trumpet of Imperialism, whether to the tune of "*Marlborough*," or "*Partant pour la Syrie*."

The record of crime this week is full indeed.

There appears to be a perfect passion amongst the mothers of murdering their children, whether to be rid of a trouble or of an expense is a debatable question. Thieves abound; the burglar and the garrotter are becoming a terror both in town and country; and directors and speculators are committing suicide: but there are conspicuous cases that stand quite before the front of all the ordinary crimes, manifold as they become. There is the Islington murder—a story, it would seem, of comparatively respectable life amongst the middle-classes. The wife of an engraver, who lives in a well-furnished house, amongst the smaller and genteel streets of that modest neighbourhood, a woman who is at least sufficiently well off to keep a servant, brings a young girl into her house at night, leads her down into the coalcellar, and there coolly cuts her throat. It turns out to be her own child, born before marriage! The probable motive for the act was a housewifely desire to save; and the well-furnished state of the house showed the regard that the woman had for appearances. Appearances go for so much now-a-days!

The other case is still more startling. A policeman wandering over Hampstead-heath early on Sunday morning, finds the body of a gentleman which must have lain on the heath all night. The man had poisoned himself, but he had done it in epicurean fashion, with sugar and essential oil of almonds; and a silver milk-jug proved that he had been able to use choice instruments for his tasteful mode of ending life. It must, therefore, be some "distinguished" man; and truly enough it turns out to be Mr. SADLER, the member for Sligo, a well-known member of West-end society, a director in many promising projects, a Lord of the Treasury under Lord ABERDEEN. He had been implicated formerly in some strange election matters, had been compelled to resign his lordship in the Treasury on account of some manoeuvre played with a voter at the last election; but he had been open-handed, his thousands freely flowed, he lived in style, and he died as we have said. The inquest stands adjourned, in order that evidence may be brought forward to justify a verdict of "Temporary insanity." Perhaps the disease of mind was more than temporary. Mr. SADLER had evidently become involved in commercial speculations, which might have doubled—perhaps quadrupled—his fortune, but happened to go the other way. The stories afloat are not yet authenticated. He is said to have left confessions, and the public awaits with anxiety these posthumous memoirs of a successful man at the West-end.

STATUE OF MR. BAINES.—The execution of the statue of Mr. Baines, about to be erected at Leeds, has been entrusted to Mr. Baines, of Osnaburg-street. Exclusively of the pedestal, which is to be of Sicilian marble, the artist is to receive £800 for his labours. When completed, the statue will be placed in the vestibule of the new Town-hall of Leeds.

THE COINAGE.—A return issued on Saturday shows that the sums advanced last year from the consolidated fund for the purchase of bullion for coinage amounted to £250,000, while the amount paid into the Bank of England to the account of the Exchequer in repayment of advances from the consolidated fund was £300,000. The total amount advanced for buying bullion since 1837 inclusive is £4,868,629, and the total amount so paid into the Bank of England is £4,770,000.

A MALTA ROMANCE.—The child of a Mr. and Mrs. Evans, lately at Malta, on their return from Egypt, fell out of a boat in which, together with his parents, he was crossing from Villetta to Vittoriosa. Mr. Robinson, chaplain to the forces, was following in another boat, and instantly plunged into the sea, and rescued the child, though with great difficulty, as the water was rough. Mr. Evans, to evince his gratitude, sent the clergyman a cheque for £500, which of course was returned. It afterwards turned out that these two gentlemen are relatives, who, in consequence of differences in the family, have not seen each other since boyhood.



## IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

Monday, February 18th.

## THE WENSLEYDALE PEERAGE.

FURTHER discussions on the legal bearings of this case took place in the HOUSE OF LORDS, and Mr. Smith, clerk of the House, and Mr. Sharpe, were examined with respect to precedents. In the course of the discussion, the LORD CHANCELLOR read a letter from Lord Wensleydale, declining to appear by counsel before the committee. Further proceedings were adjourned to Friday at five o'clock.

## PIRACY IN THE CHINESE SEAS.

In answer to the Earl of ALBEMARLE, who presented a petition from the native and European merchants of the British settlements of Singapore, praying for protection for their trade from piracy, EARL GRANVILLE was understood to say that orders had been sent to India to put smaller vessels on the station, but no reply had yet been received. Some time ago, application was made by the Admiralty for some assistance from the East India Company's navy, but it was difficult to give it at that time, in consequence of the transport of cavalry regiments from Egypt; but already one steamer had been despatched for the purpose, and he was in hopes that by this time more efficient measures had been taken to suppress piracy in those seas.

## THE ATTACK ON THE REDAN.

In the HOUSE OF COMMONS, MR. PEEL, in answer to MR. LAYARD, explained the circumstances connected with the brevet rank, published in the *Gazette* of the 2nd November, particularly as regarded the names of those officers who had distinguished themselves in the attack on the Redan. General Simpson had been requested by Lord Hardinge to send distinct lists, but instead of doing this he had sent lists supplied by commanding officers, leaving it to Lord Hardinge to make the selection. That selection had been made, and brevet rank conferred.

## COURT OF CHANCERY (IRELAND) BILL.

On the second reading of this bill, MR. S. FITZGERALD moved that it be read a second time that day six months. The proposal to transfer the business of the Encumbered Estates Court to the Court of Chancery was impracticable; and, as many new offices were created by the bill, its operation would be far from economical.—The motion was seconded by MR. PORTLAND URQUHART; supported by MR. MCCANN, MR. WHITESIDE (who denounced the bill as the greatest job that had been laid on the table of the House for a quarter of a century), COLONEL DUNNE, MR. MO MAHON, and MR. NAPIER; and opposed by the SOLICITOR-GENERAL for IRELAND, by MR. DEASY, MR. ELLICE, MR. SERJEANT O'BRIEN, MR. BLAND, MR. FRENCH, and SIR ERSKINE PERRY; while MR. GEORGE, MR. MALINS, MR. CAIRNS, MR. GEORGE BUTT, and MR. KENNEDY, promised their sanction to the bill, provided that it, together with the other bills on the same subject, were referred to a select committee—a course which MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN considered unnecessary, believing that a committee of the whole House was quite capable of dealing with the details.—In resisting the amendment, the SOLICITOR-GENERAL for IRELAND contended that, with an additional staff, the Court of Chancery is quite capable of doing the extra work confided to it, and denied the charge that had been made of the Encumbered Estates Court being largely in arrears as regards its work. He had no objection to submit the bill to the scrutiny of a select committee, but he could not consent to send to the same committee MR. WHITESIDE's five bills, as in many important respects they differ essentially from the bill under consideration.—This course was objected to by MR. DISRAELI as ungracious.—Finally, the amendment having been withdrawn, the bill was read a second time, and referred to a select committee.

## THE ECCLESIASTICAL COMMISSION.

On the motion of SIR GEORGE GREY, a committee was appointed to inquire into the present constitution of the Ecclesiastical Commission in England, into the working of the acts by which its existence has been prolonged, and into the expediency of consolidating with it the Church Building Commission.

Tuesday, February 19th.

## THE SUNKEN RUSSIAN SHIPS AT SEBASTOPOL.

In the HOUSE OF LORDS, in answer to some questions and observations by the Earl of Hardwicke, LORD PANMURE said that nothing gallantry and science could effect would be left undone to insure the destruction of what is above the water in Sebastopol or beneath it.

After some routine business had been gone through, the House adjourned.

## THE REPORT OF THE CRIMEAN COMMISSIONERS.

In the HOUSE OF COMMONS, LORD WM. GRAHAM having asked the Under Secretary for War whether Sir John McNeill's report was communicated to the authorities at the Horse Guards on its arrival in this country, and, if not, what were the reasons which induced the Government to withhold it, MR. PEEL replied that there were two reports, the first of which

was not communicated to Lord Hardinge, inasmuch as it concerned a branch of military administration entirely under the War Department—namely, the commissariat: the second report Lord Panmure had given directions should be published and distributed, which had been done.—Colonel NORTH asked whether the published report contained everything which was supplied by the Commissioners, and, if it did not, whether the Government intended to publish what was withheld?—MR. PEEL remarked that there was no intention to present the report in any other shape than that in which it had appeared.

## BANK CHARTER ACT AND PRIVATE BANKS.

In answer to MR. HENRY BAILLIE, the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER stated that, in the event of there being no objection on the part of the Bank of England, he should be prepared to bring in a bill for continuing the arrangement (which would expire this year unless renewed) by which the Bank agreed to pay to those private banks which consented to withdraw their paper circulation one per cent. per annum upon the average issue of those banks in the three previous years, and to continue the same on the existing conditions.

## MASTERS AND OPERATIVES.

MR. MACKINNON renewed his annual motion for a Select Committee to consider the inconvenience felt from the want of equitable tribunals whereby differences between masters and operatives might be amicably adjusted; and also to ascertain whether the Conseils des Prud'hommes in France had answered the purpose for which they were established. He had, during the preceding week, met the representatives of 40,000 workmen—all very loyally disposed—who were dissatisfied with the present state of the law, which does not provide any fair and cheap tribunal to appeal to in case of dispute. The establishment of such a tribunal might lead to the saving of much money, and to the removal of difficulties between employers and employed.—SIR GEORGE GREY said he had no objection to such an inquiry, provided it was undertaken with a full knowledge of the nature of the foreign Conseils des Prud'hommes. He agreed with MR. Mackinnon in thinking that tribunals such as he had suggested ought to be established; but he protested against its being supposed that they ought to regulate wages.—MR. MACKINNON repudiated any such intention; and the motion was agreed to.

## THE STATUTE LAW.

MR. LOCKE KING moved a resolution that there be prepared, under the direction of the Clerk of the Parliaments, an edition of the statutes at large for the use of the House, omitting all such statutes and parts of statutes as are expired or have been expressly repealed; and that, in the place of the statutes or parts of statutes repealed, there be inserted the titles of the statutes repealed, the numbers and abstracts of the clauses repealed, with a reference to the statutes by which they are repealed. The arguments in favour of his motion advanced by MR. KING were similar to those of MR. NAPIER and SIR FITZROY KELLY during last week in connexion with their motions for legal reform.—The motion was seconded by MR. EWART.—THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL observed that there were many objections to accomplishing the work of legal reform in so mechanical and petty a manner, and therefore hoped the resolution would not be pressed.—A similar view was taken by SIR FITZROY KELLY; and some observations, partly favourable to, and partly opposing, the motion having been offered by MR. STUART WORTLEY, MR. WATSON, and MR. GEORGE BUTT, MR. ROBERT PHILLIMORE moved, by way of amendment, the omission of the words "under the direction of the Clerk of the Parliaments," and "for the use of this House," which was negatived, and, on a division, the main question was thrown out by 164 to 63.

## MINISTERS' MONEY (IRELAND).

MR. FAGAN moved a resolution that the House immediately resolve into a committee, to consider the act 17 and 18 Victoria, c. 11, with the view of amending the same, so far as respects the tax thereby enacted to be levied, in lieu of "Ministers' Money," in order that the tax may be wholly abolished. It had been said that the arrangement was a "compromise;" but the benefit was all on one side, and it was an aggravation of the evils suffered by the eight towns in Ireland upon which the tax was levied. The revenues of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners were amply sufficient to meet the demands of the tax.—MR. HORSMAN, on the part of the Government, said he would not object to MR. Fagan bringing in a bill for the amendment of Sir John Young's act, which he believed had, in some respects, not worked satisfactorily.—MR. NAPIER taunted the Government with having a few days previously stated that they had no measure in preparation, and with having acted in a mean and unmanly fashion—an imputation which LORD PALMERSTON repelled.—LORD JOHN RUSSELL advised MR. Fagan to bring in a bill; to which MR. Fagan consented.—LORD NAAS thought that the Government had not fairly stated what were its intentions; Admiral JONES opposed the motion; and MR. MEAGHER, MR. MAGUIRE, and MR. SULLIVAN, asserted the necessity for absolute repeal of Sir John Young's Act.—

After some observations by MR. BLACK (the new member for Edinburgh) in favour of repealing a similar Scotch tax, the annuity tax, leave was given to bring in the bill.

## COMPENSATION TO TENANTS (IRELAND).

MR. GEORGE HENRY MOORE obtained leave to bring in a bill to provide for compensation to tenants for the improvement of lands in Ireland.

## REFORMATORY SCHOOLS (SCOTLAND).

MR. DUNLOP obtained leave to bring in a bill to make further provision for rendering reformatory and industrial schools in Scotland more available for the benefit of vagrant children.

Wednesday, February 20th.

## MEDICAL PROFESSION BILL.

On the order for the second reading of this bill in the HOUSE OF COMMONS, LORD ROBERT GROSVENOR, while declining to oppose its further progress, objected to certain provisions the effect of which would be to exclude homoeopathic physicians, and to give a monopoly to the regular medical practitioners, though Dr. Forbes had said that the present state of medical science in this country requires complete revision, and other eminent doctors had had doubts as to the efficacy of medicines. By this bill, however, every medical man must belong to some college, which could strike his name off the register, and, being thus struck off, he could not recover costs of medical attendance, nor could he hold an office in any hospital or infirmary. Securities should be given for the impartial exercise of the large powers accorded to the medical body.—SIR GEORGE GREY agreed that precaution should be taken to prevent arbitrary exclusion, and thought the bill needed consideration in committee.—After a few remarks from MR. HENLEY, MR. NAPIER, and MR. HEADLAM, the bill was read a second time.

THE DRAINAGE ACTS AMENDMENT BILL went through committee.

Thursday, February 21st.

## BOARD OF INQUIRY INTO CRIMEAN AFFAIRS.

In the HOUSE OF LORDS, LORD PANMURE made a statement with respect to the charges brought against certain officers in the Crimean Report. He said:—"I think it right to inform your Lordships that her Majesty, by the advice of her ministers, has appointed a Board of general officers to inquire into certain matters which were adverted to in the Report of the Commissioners sent to the Crimea for the purpose of making inquiries. This Board is to receive explanations on the subject of the complaints made respecting officers who have been adverted to in the report of the commission, and to inquire into all the circumstances connected therewith."

A discussion ensued, which was initiated by LORD HARDWICKE saying that he thought the step should have been taken long ago by the Commander-in-Chief; in reply to which, LORD PANMURE made some statements similar to those given by MR. PEEL in the House of Commons on Tuesday night, in answer to LORD W. GRAHAM. He stated that the Board now to be constituted would examine witnesses, and hear the defence of the officers who are impugned.—EARL GREY thought the Government was committing itself to a very unusual course, and that the appointment of the Board was an implied censure on the Crimean Commissioners. The original mistake was in not allowing LORDS LUCAN and CARDIGN, SIR RICHARD AIREY, &c., an opportunity of defending themselves.—LORD BROUGHAM expressed similar views, and held that the Court of Inquiry ordered after the Convention of Cintra (which EARL GRANVILLE quoted as a precedent) was no precedent, as in that case there had been no previous inquiry.—In the House of Commons a similar statement was made by LORD ALMERSTON, who added that the officers forming the Board would not include any who had served in the Crimea, and that the proceedings would not be open to the public.

## THE WAR DEPARTMENT AND THE HORSE GUARDS.

THE EARL OF DERBY moved for the production of any papers limiting or defining the respective duties and powers of the Secretary of State for War and the Commander-in-Chief of the Army. The position and duties of these functionaries were very difficult to be understood; but it would seem that, in time of war, the authority of the Secretary for the War Department was such as almost to make him a dictator over his colleagues. The relationship of his duties to those of the Commander-in-Chief was as vague and contradictory as before the recent changes—a state of things which is very likely to result in collision between the two departments, and a consequent paralysis of the public service. He wished to know whether the late alterations had left to the Commander-in-Chief a full control over the discipline, patronage, and promotion of the army? whether the bestowal of honours and distinctions, the appointments to foreign garrisons, and the movement of troops, rests with the Commander-in-Chief or with the Secretary for War? whether honours awarded in the field, on the recommendation of the commander on the spot, and sanctioned by the Commander-in-

Chief at home, are still forwarded to the Secretary of State to take the pleasure of the Crown upon them, or whether the Secretary of State could disregard the recommendations of the Commander on the place of action? and whether the responsibility of the appointment of the Earl of Cardigan and General Airey rests with Lord Hardinge or the Secretary of State? Moreover, was it true that Lord Hardinge never received the report of the Crimean Commission till it reached his hands, as a member of that House?

Lord PANMURE repeated the explanations he had already given with respect to the report which he received last June, being too meagre for the Government to act on. The duties of the Secretary for War include the civil administration of the army—the Commander-in-Chief, subject to the approval of the Government, arranging all measures relating to discipline, patronage, and promotion. With regard to the higher promotions of the army, it is the practice of the Commander-in-Chief to obtain assent of the War Secretary. For the appointments of the Earl of Cardigan and General Airey, he was as responsible as Lord Hardinge.—After a few observations from Lord HARDINGE, who expressed his approval of the Board of Inquiry, Lords GREY and DERBY signified their satisfaction with the explanations that had been given, and the latter withdrew his motion; after which the House adjourned.

#### NATIONAL EDUCATION.

In the HOUSE OF COMMONS, Lord JOHN RUSSELL gave notice that, on that day fortnight, he would propose resolutions on the subject of national education in England and Wales.

#### THE CRIMEAN REPORT.

In answer to Colonel NORTH, Mr. FREDERICK PEEL said that certain returns prepared by one of the Commissioners relating to the nature and severity of the diseases in the Crimea, with the view of their forming part of the report, together with some remarks that he had made upon them, were not included in the report, because the other Commissioner objected to their insertion, on the ground that they were not within the scope of the matters which the Commissioners were appointed to investigate.

#### THE CAVALRY SADDLES.

Mr. MONSELL, in answer to Sir JAMES FERGUSSON, explained the circumstances connected with the unsuitableness of the saddles and bits supplied to the 2nd Regiment of German Cavalry. The articles in question were supplied according to a pattern approved of by the Commander-in-Chief. The failure of the saddles arose from the unavoidable use, by the contractor, of unseasoned wood. To prevent the like in future, the Government had resolved to keep in stock a sufficient supply of properly seasoned wood. The bits would be discontinued. Mr. Monsell went into other details relative to certain articles of clothing also found to be unsuitable.

#### SUNDAY OBSERVANCE.

Previous to the debate on Sir JOSHUA WALMSLEY'S motion, nearly an hour was occupied in the presentation of petitions for and against the contemplated opening of the British Museum, &c., on Sundays. The latter infinitely outweighed the former, and may be said to have poured in imperfect torrents. They appear to have emanated chiefly from Sunday school teachers and scholars, and from religious bodies. Some petitions from working men in various places in favour of the opening were presented. "These exponents of the national mind," says the *Morning Post*, "reached the House in cabs and trucks, and other available means, causing a good deal of excitement as they rolled along Parliament-street."

Mr. ROEBUCK said that, before Sir Joshua Walmsley proceeded to move his resolution, he wished to put a question to the Home Secretary. It appeared that the magistrates of Oldham—very learned gentlemen, he had no doubt—had a man brought before them last Monday charged with shaving on Sunday, and that these learned pundits inflicted a fine of 5s. for the offence. He wished to know whether the right hon. gentleman's attention had been called to this extraordinary manifestation of magisterial wisdom?—Sir GEORGE GREY said his attention had not been called to the matter, and until that moment he had heard nothing of it.—Mr. ROEBUCK said he had heard of it since he entered the House.

Sir JOSHUA WALMSLEY then moved:—"That, in the opinion of this House, it would promote the moral and intellectual improvement of the working-classes of this metropolis if the collections of natural history and of art in the British Museum and the National Gallery were open to the public inspection after morning service on Sundays." A desultory, but very temperate, debate ensued, in which the arguments on both sides were exactly similar to those employed on former occasions. In favour of the motion, Sir JOHN SHELLEY (who seconded it), Mr. MURDOCH, Lord STANLEY, Mr. HERWOOD, and Lord RUSSELL, urged that the physical, intellectual, and moral well-being of the working-classes would be promoted by permitting them, after morning service, to contemplate works of art and imagination; that their occupations preclude them from deriving

that advantage on other days; that, though a day of rest is an institution of incalculable advantage to man, we are not bound to observe it with an excess of gloom and rigour; that the want of innocent recreation on the Sunday has the effect of drawing working men into the gin-shop; that, however great a right Sabbatarians might have to spend their Sunday after their own fashion, they ought not to insist upon coercing others; that, while the rich man has his Sunday club and even his Sunday soirées, it is partial legislation to deny the poor man his Sabbath recreation; and that the immense number of the petitions against the motion was owing to their having been got up by corporate bodies. Mr. HERWOOD, in the course of his speech, took a bold and (as far as Parliament is concerned) novel position. He said:—"Twelve years ago, the subject of the creation of the world in six days, involving rest on the seventh, was seriously discussed at the meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science at York. (*Cries of 'Question!'*) The gentleman who introduced the subject was Dr. Cockburn, the Dean of York, the father of the excellent Attorney-General. The gentleman who replied to him was Professor Sedgwick; and he never heard anything more triumphant than the answer of the Professor to the Dean of York, for he clearly proved that the creation of the world had taken millions and millions of years, and that it was utterly impossible to have created it in any number of 'sixes' that could be conceived. (*Laughter, and cries of 'Oh, oh!'* and '*Question!*') The United Seceders of Ayr, in a petition which they had presented to the House, stated that the Sabbath had existed from the beginning of the world. They appeared to believe that the world was really made in six days, and that the Sabbath was coeval with the creation. Sir Roderick Murchison, or any other eminent man who understood the subject, would tell them at once that there was no foundation for any such theory; that it was an old legend among the Jews, carried down to our day. (*A laugh.*) The Legislature was placed in a difficult position, inasmuch as a large number of the constituencies wished their representatives to do something which was contradicted by the ordinary results of scientific research. (*Cries of 'Oh!'*) It was no secret that the date of the first books of the Bible was now held to be later than it was in old times; in fact, it was doubted whether Moses wrote the Book of Genesis at all." (*Renewed cries of 'Oh! oh!'* and '*laughter.*'")

On the other side, Mr. PELLATT moved, as an amendment on the original motion, "That, in the opinion of this House, more frequent opportunities should be afforded for week-day inspection of the National Gallery, Government museums, and works of art; also, that the British Museum should be open five days in the week, and especially on Mondays and Saturdays, those days being most convenient to the working classes." In opposition to Sir Joshua Walmsley and his supporters, it was contended by Mr. PELLATT, Mr. BAXTER, Mr. CROSSLEY, Mr. NAPIER, Mr. CAIRNS, Mr. ROUNDELL PALMER, Mr. EDWARD BALL, Mr. MUNZ, and Mr. WIGRAM, that the Sabbath is of divine origin and must be kept sacred from work; that the ultimate effect of granting what was desired by the motion would be to authorise the opening of theatres, shops, manufactories, &c., and to lead to the extinction of the day of rest; that there is at present a great desire on the part of large employers to trench on the Sunday of their labourers; that the observance of the Sabbath has probably been at the bottom of a large part of our national prosperity and even of our physical strength, not to speak of morality and religion; and that the State is bound to uphold the general sense of the country in this respect.—Lord PALMERSTON said he did not think the mere opening of two places of resort would of itself materially affect the observance of the Sabbath, or infringe its sanctity. But the objectors to the motion conceived that it was only a step to something else; and, as the majority of the country were against the opening of places of amusement on Sunday, and as it was most desirable to maintain the repose and sanctity of that day, he should vote against the motion. With regard to the amendment, he recommended its withdrawal, as he knew that the trustees of the British Museum are most anxious to make any arrangements which are consistent with the due management of the institution, for the purpose of giving the people additional facilities to view it.

The amendment having been withdrawn, after a reply from Sir JOSHUA WALMSLEY, the House divided upon the original motion, which was negatived by 376 to 48.

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

LONDON CORPORATION REFORM.—Some conversation took place, at a Court of Common Council recently held, on the subject of corporation reform, the result of which appeared to be that the Government has given an intimation that it has not yet been able to mature a bill with a view to that object.

## THE WAR.

A FEW dropping shots of war news continue to interrupt the mild talk of peace. The Russians still fire from the northern forts; and General Liders reports, under date of the 26th ult., that the Allies continue to fortify the Bay of Kamiesch. He mentions, also, that some affairs of outposts have taken place on the left flank of the Russian army. The Allies are about to complete the destruction of the Russian ships sunk in the harbour of Sebastopol. The French artillery, it is stated, has received orders on this subject. The ice has broken up in the Sea of Azof, and cruising has recommenced. Scurvy is making great ravages in the Russian army.

A part of the pashalic of Kars has been evacuated by the Russians, who have withdrawn a portion of their advanced posts, which had been extended on the side of Erzeroum, so that Hassan-Kaleh has since been occupied by the Turks. Great sufferings have been endured in consequence of snow and frost. The headquarters of Omar Pacha continue at Redout-Kaleh. The force under his command amounts to 32,000 men, who are well provisioned. Some alarm was created at Erzeroum by a report that three of the members of the council of the Government were in correspondence with the Russians, in consequence of which they had been banished from the city.

The *Donau* states that, when the news of the Swedish alliance reached Russia, it was debated in council whether war should not be declared against King Oscar; but the negative was finally determined on.

#### THE COWARDICE OF TURKISH OFFICERS.

THERE has been a distribution of honours and rewards to the troops engaged on the Ingour, a distribution which has offered an amusing illustration of the contrast between Western and Oriental notions. The officers who commanded in the action were ordered to send in lists of such of their subordinates as they deemed worthy of the Medjidie. Lieutenant-Colonel Ballard satisfied himself by a list of *thirteen* names. Osman Pacha, who had about the same number of killed and wounded, and whose force occupied a position scarcely of equal importance, sent in *two hundred and thirty!* The requisition of each officer was strictly complied with. Under Colonel Ballard, the men of real merit alone were decorated. Under Osman Pacha, every officer who either was or ought to have been engaged—those who ran away, those who remained at their post—all received the order of merit. Among the number were numerous pipe-bearers to the principal officers; but, under the Turkish system, rewards to these men are more ludicrous in seeming than in reality. An officer of any rank, when his troops are going into action, has his carpet spread upon the ground they are about to leave, dismounts from his horse, squats down, calls for his pipe, wishes his men God speed, and endeavours, more or less successfully, to deaden terror by the soothing influence of tobacco. The Chibouque-jee, compelled by respect to stand behind his master, is, of course, far more exposed to danger than he, and servants of this class who will do their duty within sound of fire-arms, and will constantly be ready with the solace so much needed by their employers, are not only highly valued, but deserve decoration at least as much as their employers. Together with the orders, some jewelled swords were sent to the officers of Osman Pacha; and of these swords one has fallen to the lot of a colonel who sought refuge in a hospital during the whole battle of the Ingour, and whom the surgeons vainly attempted to dislodge. Accustomed to the bravery of every class of our own troops, English readers will scarcely comprehend or credit the cowardice of Turkish officers. Some of those under the orders of Colonel Ballard sheltered themselves in a house during the action, and, when directed to join their men, objected, saying that there was no cover, and that they would be exposed to fire on their advance. It is reported that Colonel Ballard promised these men the cover they required, and that he actually afforded it, by taking them one by one behind him upon his horse, and thus conveying them to their posts of duty.—*Times Correspondent (Mingrelia).*

#### THE BLOWING UP OF FORT NICHOLAS.

General Codrington has communicated to Lord Panmure the annexed vivid account of the explosion of Fort Nicholas:—

Sebastopol, Feb. 4.

My Lord,—Marshal Polissier informed me a few days ago that this day Fort Nicholas would be destroyed; and he sent again to say that at one o'clock, p.m., the mines for this purpose would be fired. The view over the whole harbour is well obtained from the interior slope of the Redan Hill, and from other points within the Russian lines.



The day was magnificently clear; every sentry on the opposite side could be seen, every working party watched, every soldier that was lounging in the sun; occasional shot and shell were sent from the enemy to the Karabelnaia and the town, but otherwise nothing disturbed the usual appearance of quiet, almost of desolation.

On our (the south) side, we looked down on the large ruined barracks in front, on the inner creek of the Dockyard, the Quay, and the remains of Fort Paul, the spacious inlet from the harbour on our left, beyond which stand the roofless buildings of Sebastopol itself. There also is the well-remembered long line of pointed arches, the casemates of the interior of Fort Nicholas, of which the embrasures in double tier pointed to seaward and away from us.

It juts out into the harbour built on an inner tongue of land; Fort Constantine forming a similar but more outward defence for the sea approach on the north.

The scene and feeling of expectation were of great interest, for another tangible proof of power and success was to take place, and 106,000 lbs. of powder were in the several mines.

At the hour named a burst of smoke, dark and thick, rolled from our left of the building; it was followed by another; the heavy sound arrived, the stones were shot into the air and to the sea; the explosions of the extreme right and the centre mingled at little intervals into one drifting cloud, which veiled the destruction below.

The light of the sun played beautifully on the mass of smoke, of which the lower part lay long and heavily on its victim. The breeze passing it away over the remains of the town, showed that a low line of ruin was all that remained of the pride of Fort Nicholas, and one standing menace of the harbour lay buried under its waters.

The state of the docks has been given in detail in my letters. They are all destroyed, whilst the earth surrounding them is shaken into cracks; basins, docks, masses of broken granite, capstans, gates, beams of iron, and of timber, are tumbled into one mass of destruction.—I have, &c.

W. J. COBRINGTON,

The Lord Panmure, &c. General Commanding.

Some other striking details are furnished by the *Times* correspondent:—

"The day was extremely fine, the sky nearly cloudless; the white masonry of Sebastopol, beautiful even in those ruins with which the well-preserved but doomed fort conspicuously contrasted, lay silent and seemingly abandoned in the embrace of the bright green sea. Suddenly, forth gushed the smoke, not rapidly, but in heavy billows, rising and rolling one above the other as if the vapour were so dense that it had a struggle to ascend. Slowly it rose; so slowly that it was easy to imagine fantastical forms melting away but gradually. Immediately over the eastern explosion there hung for some seconds what seemed a mighty grey lion, with head, mane, and body perfectly defined in shadowy delineation. Others besides myself recognised the fanciful image, acceptable as the emblem of dissolving Russian strength, and presently replaced by other vague shapes. Upwards of twenty seconds elapsed before the explosions were audible in front of Picket-house-hill. There was so little wind that the smoke rose to a considerable height before it began to drift off in a south-westerly direction, and it rose, not in columns, but rather in heaps or domes such as are sometimes seen in the sky when clouds are piled on each other. The lower part of these heaps of vapour joined, and the scattered summits dispersed and mingled before the light north-easterly current, sooner than the centres blended, and so there remained a sort of loophole in the smoke, through which was seen a patch of the emerald water glittering in the brilliant sunbeams. The effect, of course very transient, was extremely beautiful. The whole mass of smoke then began to clear off, and the spectators impatiently awaited the moment when the windward extremity of the fort should be disclosed to their gaze. A sort of low grey spit was presently seen, but was almost immediately again overclouded by other explosions which now rapidly succeeded each other. There were seven in all, none of them much louder than the report of a very heavy piece of ordnance. When all the mines had been fired and the smoke cleared off, we saw how completely the French engineers had done their work. The long, massive, stone fort—certainly the most prominent object in a bird's-eye view of Southern Sebastopol—had totally disappeared, and in its place was a low flat bank of grey ruins, as nearly as might be, of the same colour as the smoke that had just been blown away from it, and of which some lingering remains still oozed and curled out from the rubbish. So important a feature was this fort, that its removal has made quite a change in the physiognomy of the town."

#### WAR MISCELLANEA.

SILISTRIA.—The Sultan has decreed that in remembrance of the courage and perseverance displayed by

the inhabitants of Silistria in 1854, they shall not be liable for three years to any taxes, nor to furnish recruits to the army. The surviving wounded are to receive a money indemnity, and all who took part in the defence a military medal.

THE NIGHTINGALE FUND IN THE CRIMEA.—The subscription to the Nightingale Fund collected from the army in the Crimea amounted, on the 5th of the present month, to £4,195 15s. 6d., which sum was on that day transmitted to England.

M. DE GIGANDES, Colonel of Artillery, who lately arrived from the Crimea, where he took an active part in the labours and perils of the siege of Sebastopol, died at Marseilles on the 15th inst. He had been dangerously wounded, and when convalescent had obtained leave to return to France for the complete recovery of his health.

MURDER IN THE CRIMEA.—A soldier named Day, has murdered one of his sick comrades while in bed—a man, moreover, from whom he had just received a kindness. He has been found guilty, and sentenced to be hanged. "There was difficulty," says the *Times* correspondent, "in finding a hangman; but a butcher of the First Division has come forward and offered his services. He is to receive £15, his discharge, and a passage home to England. We hear that he refuses his discharge, and wants only the money; but it will probably not be deemed proper to retain him in the service after his performance of so odious a task." There has been a report to the effect that Day will get off, owing to a flaw in the indictment. This, however, appears incredible, though a strange leniency has lately been shown in courts martial.

#### THE NEW GOVERNMENT LOAN.

A VERY large number of influential gentlemen connected with the monetary world attended the Treasury on Monday at one o'clock, for the purpose of hearing from the Chancellor of the Exchequer the particulars of the proposed new loan. The right hon. gentleman was accompanied by Lord Palmerston, and Mr. James Wilson, Secretary to the Treasury. Among those present were Baron Lionel de Rothschild, Sir J. L. Goldsmid, and Messrs. Cazenove, R. Thornton, Mullens, &c.

The interview commenced with the reading by the Chancellor of the Exchequer of the

#### PARTICULARS OF THE PROPOSED LOAN.

1. The loan to be for the sum of five million pounds.
2. For every £100 subscribed in money, the contractors to receive Three per Cent. Consolidated Annuities; and the biddings to be made in such annuities.
3. The interest on the Three per Cent. Consolidated Annuities to commence from the 5th January, 1856.
4. The days of payment, and the proportions of the contributions to be paid, to be as follows:  
On Tuesday, February 26th, 1856, deposit of £20 p.c.  
Thursday, March 13, " payment of 25 "  
Saturday, March 29, " " 25 "  
Thursday, April 10, " " 15 "  
Thursday, April 24, " " 15 "
5. For each instalment after the deposit, a proportional amount of stock to be created for the contributors.

The stock for the deposit to be created at the same time with that which will be due on the last instalment.

6. Scrip receipts will be issued by the bank in the usual manner.

7. The biddings to be made at the Treasury, on Friday morning, the 22nd of February, 1856, at ten o'clock.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer observed that so much related to the conditions of the loan. The Government further proposed to convert a portion of the unfunded debt into stock; but that operation would consist merely of the conversion of one class of securities into another. He then read the following particulars:

#### FUNDING.

The amount of Exchequer bills to be funded will be three millions.

The deposit will be twenty per cent., on the 26th of February.

The instalments:—

20 per cent. ....	March 13.
30 per cent. ....	March 29.
20 per cent. ....	April 10.
10 per cent. ....	April 24.

The contractor for the loan to have the option of contracting for the Exchequer Bill funding on the same terms as shall be accepted for the loan.

In the event of the contractors wishing for an option to pay money instead of Exchequer Bills, it will be received at £100 5s. money for every £100 of Exchequer Bills.

In the course of the conversation that ensued, the Chancellor of the Exchequer several times stated, in answer to questions that were put to him, that the Government did not intend to make another loan while the present is in course of payment. Mr. Thornton having remarked that it was evident the Government must be very much in want of money, Lord

Palmerston replied, "Of course we are in want of money, or we should not ask for a loan;" and Sir Cornwall Lewis said the public might draw what conclusion it liked. The interview then terminated.

The smallness of the loan, and of the amount of Exchequer Bills to be funded, caused considerable surprise.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer has since announced that, in consequence of representations made to him, the deposits will be fixed at ten, instead of twenty, per cent.; the additional ten per cent. to be payable as an instalment on Monday, March 3rd.

#### LORDS CARDIGAN AND LUCAN.

LORD CARDIGAN has published a long answer to the allegations made against him by the Crimean Commissioners, the results of which may be stated briefly. His Lordship is charged with declining to accede to a proposal made to him by Lieutenant-Colonel Mayow, Assistant-Quartermaster-General of Cavalry, to the effect that a detachment of the horses should be allowed to go down to Balaklava, where there was plenty of barley. In his reply, Lord Cardigan admits the want of forage, but asserts that there was none at Balaklava, and that, even had there been any, the troop-horses were unfit to perform the duties of fetching it. He also emphatically denies, in direct contradiction to the evidence taken before the Commissioner, the Commissary-General ever applied to him officially to send down troop-horses, or that any representation was made to Lord Raglan by that department; or that the same proposal was made to him either by Colonel Douglas, Colonel Salis, or any officer of the brigade. But he admits that, on the 24th of November, the Commissariat officer of the brigade proposed verbally to Colonel Mayow, for his Lordship's information, that the troop-horses should be sent for forage—a proposal he rejected, on account of the enfeebled state of the horses. His Lordship asks why, on the 18th of November, "when the Lieutenant-General of the Cavalry Division gave a variety of orders to the commanding officers of regiments as to the details of the duties of the brigade," Colonel Shewell, or any other officer, did not seize the opportunity to ask for permission to send the troop-horses for forage. Other opportunities, he asserts, were equally lost sight of. Quoting a statement of Colonel Doherty, that sixteen troop-horses fell dead while marching from one encampment to another, Lord Cardigan asks if this does not confirm him in asserting that the horses were not in a fit condition to bring up forage. On the 16th November, his Lordship adds, he suggested to the officers of the Light Brigade the necessity of their furnishing him with reports with respect to the condition of their men and animals, which was done, but very little mention was made of the condition of the latter; and he quotes a letter from Sir Edmund Lyons to show that he had made endeavours to obtain nosebags for the horses. The statement concludes by the production of several documents from Lord Raglan and others, testifying to his services while with the army.

Lord Cardigan has also communicated a statement to the *Times*, in reply to certain allegations contained in the letter of "A Civilian," addressed to that paper. He here says that he had no authority to move the Light Cavalry Brigade, unless he had an order to that effect from the Commander-in-Chief of the army transmitted to him through the General of Division. He also asserts that he generally visited the camp at least once a day, and sometimes twice; that it was not his duty to attend the sentries either by night or day, as they were only the usual camp sentries who ought to be visited by the orderly officer; that Lord Raglan advised him, when a friend of his brought a yacht, to sleep on board it, "which," adds the Earl, "was a sufficient authority for me to do so, and to feel confident that there was nothing improper in the measure." His Lordship concludes his letter by saying that there is "no correspondence in existence which can in the slightest degree reflect upon him."

Lord Lucan, as well as Lord Cardigan, has published a statement. The chief assertions he puts forth are, in the first place, that, contrary to the statement in the Report of the Commission of Inquiry, the stables for the horses of the cavalry were first begun early in December, "so soon as Lord Raglan could be prevailed upon to move them from the heights before Sebastopol to a permanent camp; and, instead of only completing in the middle of March, the eight hundred horses, of which the cavalry then consisted, were every one of them stabled on the 11th of February." His Lordship moreover states, in contradiction to the Commissioners' Report, that the services of every man available were employed in the erection of the stables; but that it was not always possible to obtain hands for that purpose, so much were the men occupied with other duties. He adds, that he "constantly visited the different camps himself," and that, being somewhat dissatisfied at the speed with which the men performed their work, he made them report progress daily to him. "I venture to observe," adds his Lordship, "that it was most creditable to the cavalry that, against every difficulty and obstruction, they

succeeded in stabling all their horses, when in the French army at the same time, whatever may have since happened, not one horse was under cover." In answer to an accusation made by the Commissioners, touching an interview he had with Colonel Griffiths, commander of the Scots' Greys, Lord Lucan relates that, after the storm of the 14th of November, 1854, Colonel Griffiths visited his lordship, and complained to him that his men and horses were greatly suffering. For many days previous to this, Lord Lucan had been in constant communication with Lord Raglan and the Quartermaster-General, representing to them both the miseries that the horses were then undergoing, and strenuously urging them to endeavour to place the beasts in more comfortable quarters. His Lordship adds that, before any stables could be built, the establishment of a permanent winter camp would have to be decided upon, "which would depend upon the state of the siege of Sebastopol, and the means of defence Lord Raglan had at his disposal to protect the rear of his position. Both Lord Raglan and General Canrobert felt that they could not spare the cavalry at that time, and detained them accordingly." It was determined, however, at the end of ten days, to fix a permanent winter camp in the neighbourhood of Kadikoi. Lord Lucan accuses Colonel Griffiths of using disrespectful language to him on receiving his answer to the complaint about the sufferings of his men and horses, in consequence of which his lordship threatened to place the colonel under arrest if he persisted in addressing him in that manner. "If Colonel Griffiths in his evidence (writes Lord Lucan) intended to say that he was threatened with arrest for expressing any anxiety about his horses, and not on account of his disrespectful manner in the conversation which followed, he has stated that which is as unworthy of him as it is untrue. At this time, no horse of my own, of my staff, nor do I believe of any of the regimental officers, was stabled." His Lordship rather warmly censures Colonel Tulloch and Sir John McNeill, especially the latter, for forming hasty judgments, and casting upon him imputations without investigating whether they were well founded or not; and he says in conclusion:—"I think it my duty to tender myself as a witness. No officer, so far as the Cavalry Division is concerned, can speak with equal knowledge and authority of all the circumstances and facts, and this report must continue very incomplete without my evidence."

#### THE PEACE.

The Conferences will open on Monday. The Plenipotentiaries continue to arrive, and the political world holds its breath with expectation. Count Camillo Benso de Cavour, representing Sardinia, reached Paris on Friday week. Count Orloff arrived on Thursday night, and Aali Pasha has reached Marseilles. The Sardinian envoys will attend on an equal footing with those of Austria; and the Plenipotentiaries will sit in the order suggested by the alphabetical sequence of their countries—Count Walewski presiding. The Porte, it is stated, will demand that the Principalities shall remain distinct, while admitting for each of them the establishment of a hereditary Hospodar. Lord Clarendon is reported to be very well satisfied with the French Emperor; and matters for the present look smooth. The fear that France is inclined to peace at any sacrifice, has also been in some measure dispelled by a significant press incident. The *Debats* published a strong pro-Russian article, showing that we cannot demand the destruction of Nicholas, because it is not on the Black Sea. To this, the *Siècle* replied by arguing that "it is not only the shores of the Black Sea that are to be liberated, but the Black Sea itself is to be emancipated, and, above all, the Ottoman Empire is to be placed beyond attack." These objects, it contends, cannot be effected unless the Bug be closed; and the closing of the Bug will be a mere mockery, if Nicholas "remain erect with its menacing arsenals." This article created much talk; and still greater was the sensation when the *Moniteur* reproduced it.

Baron Brunow, since his arrival in Paris, has admitted, says Rumour, that Russia stands in need of peace. The Czar has just given his approbation to the budget of the navy. It is remarked that it is only those portions of it which apply to the ports of the Baltic, the White Sea, and the Caspian Sea, that are provided for. The ports of the Black Sea and the Sea of Azof are not mentioned in the budget.

Some diplomatic papers, just published, show that Austria has done her best to introduce Prussia into the Conferences. Count Buol, in writing on the 20th of January to Count Esterhazy at Berlin, says, speaking of the directions given to the Austrian ministers at Paris and London with respect to the approaching peace negotiations:—"We, on our part, also considered it our duty, in submitting these communications to Baron von Hubner and Count Collorade, to direct them to propose to the cabinets of Paris and London an invitation to Prussia on the part of the three powers to take part in the Conferences. We shall not fail warmly to recommend this course of proceeding, and reckon with greater certainty on its being adopted, as it must give more firmness and durability to the peace about to be concluded."

#### SUICIDE OF MR. JOHN SADLEIR, M.P.

THE body of Mr. John Sadleir, M.P. for Sligo, was discovered on Sunday morning on a small mound on Hampstead Heath near the Jack Straw's Castle Tavern. It was first perceived by a donkey-driver, who informed the police. Lying by his side, the officers discovered a silver cup, together with a large-sized bottle, marked "Poison," and in his pockets they found money, in gold and notes, a case containing two razors, several lumps of sugar, which he had probably intended to take with the poison, and a slip of paper containing his name and address written in a firm hand—the latter apparently placed there with a view to the body being identified. The bottle which had contained the poison was not only labelled in several places, but the leather covering over the stopper was written thrice across with the same word. Mr. Sadleir was at his club (where nothing peculiar in his manner was noted) till half-past ten on Saturday night; after which he went to his residence in Gloucester-square, Hyde-park, ordered some coffee, and sat drinking it, while his servants went to bed. From the appearance of the bed-clothes, it is certain that he did not go to bed that night, but must have walked up towards Hampstead, and put an end to his existence. He was largely concerned with the Tipperary Joint-Stock Bank, which has failed; and this appears to have been the cause of suicide.

From the inquest which has been opened (but which stands adjourned till next Monday) it appears that Mr. Sadleir, about seven o'clock on Saturday evening, gave the butler a paper on which was written:—"Get from Maitland's a bottle of the essential oil of bitter almonds; I don't know the quantity wanted, but—but Kenyon writes to me to bring £1 worth. Pay my bill at Maitland's." Kenyon was stated by a gentleman present to be Mr. Sadleir's groom, and to have the care of his stud of hunting horses at Leighton Buzzard. Mr. Maitland was a chemist and druggist. Mr. Sadleir subsequently inquired about the poison, and it was at length brought by the kitchen maid, with a note from Mr. Maitland's assistant, requesting Mr. Sadleir not to let it lie about. The amount in quantity was about half a pint. In the course of the evening, a letter to Mrs. Sadleir, a cousin of Mr. Sadleir, directed to Clonmel, was put in the post by the kitchen-maid. As late as eleven o'clock on Saturday night, Mr. Norris, a solicitor who was very intimate with Mr. Sadleir, called on him, and found him haggard and excited, with bloodshot eyes, and an appearance of great restlessness, as if he was borne down with excess of business. He also seemed to have been weeping, and he frequently put his hand to his head. On going to his house on Sunday morning, Mr. Norris found a letter for himself; but he did not produce it on the inquest. The surgeon who made the post-mortem examination said he took about two ounces of oil of almonds from the stomach of Mr. Sadleir. Embedded in the coats of the stomach were numerous black particles, which he believed to be powdered opium. There was a degree of congestion of some of the organs; but for the most part they were healthy. The inquiry was adjourned, that the letter to Mrs. Sadleir might be produced.

In the course of the inquest, Mr. Maitland remarked that the essential oil of almonds is sold by every confectioner in the kingdom; to which Mr. Wakley the coroner, rejoined:—"A pleasant reflection for those who eat confectionery. Some custards that I have seen I know have contained the essential oil of bitter almonds in poisonous quantities."

#### PUBLIC MEETINGS.

##### THE HUME TESTIMONIAL.

A CROWDED meeting of noblemen and gentlemen, members of both branches of the Legislature, took place on Saturday at Willis's Rooms, to consider the best means that could be adopted for raising a fitting memorial to the late Joseph Hume. Earl Fortescue was in the chair. The meeting was addressed by Lord Panmure, Sir Benj. Hall, M.P., Mr. Wall (Secretary to the Working Men's Hume Memorial Association), Colonel Sykes, the Duke of Somerset, Mr. Ewart, M.P., Mr. Edward Ellice, M.P., Lord Hatherton, Earl Granville, Lord Robert Grosvenor, M.P., and Mr. William Williams, M.P. It was decided that a subscription, limited to sums not exceeding £10 for each subscriber, should be opened for the erection of some public monument to Mr. Hume, and that a copy of the resolutions should be forwarded to the chairman of the Working Men's Committee upon the same subject, with the expression of a hope of their union and co-operation. Several noblemen and gentlemen were named as members of the committee, with power to add to their number. In the course of his address, Sir Joshua Walmsley said it had been stated at another public meeting, with respect to the Hume Testimonial, that Mr. Hume had sought or coveted the office of Privy Councillor. This, Sir Joshua said, he was in a position to deny. Mr. Ewart remarked, that he, in common with many other members of the House of Commons, had been under an impression that a monument within the walls of the House would be erected to their lamented friend. He might

perhaps be allowed to add that he trusted the day was not far distant when they would see the great hall at Westminster surrounded by the statues of those who have deserved well of their country.—At this, a voice in the body of the meeting exclaimed, "And Cromwell among them."

#### OUR CIVILISATION.

##### MURDER OF A GIRL BY A WOMAN.

THE homicidal mania continues, and the week just concluded has brought to light a murder of a very singular character. Charles Somner, an engraver, aged twenty-nine, and Celestina Somner, his wife, aged twenty-six, resided in Linton-street, Islington; and, about four o'clock last Sunday afternoon, Inspector Hutton and Sergeant Townshend went to this house, in consequence of information they had received, and asked the servant girl who opened the door the name of her master and mistress, of which they were then ignorant. Being informed, they proceeded into the passage, and, at that moment, Mrs. Somner came up the kitchen stairs and asked what they wanted. The policemen replied that they would tell her after they had looked into her cellar; on which she exclaimed, "Good God! what do you want to do that for?" At that moment, Mr. Somner came out of the parlour, and received similar answers to the questions he put. The police, in company with the man and woman, then went down to the kitchen; a light was procured, and Sergeant Townshend went into the cellar underneath the street pavement. The inspector remained in the kitchen, and shortly afterwards the sergeant returned, saying, "It is quite right; the body is there." On going into the cellar, the inspector saw the dead body of a female child, with its throat cut, and quite dead. The woman was then told she must consider herself in custody on suspicion of the murder; to which she rejoined, "Me? I did not do it; I know nothing about it." After a short pause, she added, "Oh, yes, I heard a noise outside the area railings last night; but," she continued, addressing her husband, "I did not tell you, dear, as I thought it would make you timid." The woman and her husband were removed to the station-house, and a search was subsequently made at their dwelling, where an old black gown, a lucifer-match box, a pair of women's stockings, and the pillow of the bed on which the servant girl slept, were found spotted with blood. The woman, on being taken into the searching room at the station-house, said, "What do you bring me here for? Is it to search me?" She was told yes, and then added, "Oh dear! that foolish girl has been talking. I have a cellar in my house without a plate. A girl was found there, stabbed with a knife. I cannot think how she came there, for my house was fastened up at ten o'clock last (Saturday) night." While the woman was searching, she discovered that the petticoat of Mrs. Somner was covered with blood. This the prisoner explained by saying, "I am subject to bleeding from my nose. I use my petticoat to it. My husband can tell you that he lent me a silk handkerchief."

Somner and his wife were examined at the Clerkenwell police-office on Monday, when the man was discharged, and the woman was remanded till next Monday. The evidence of the servant girl who lived in the house—Rachel Mont, about fifteen years of age—was so extraordinary that it must be given entire. She said:—

"I am a servant-girl, living in the house No. 18, Linton-street, Islington. I went into the service on the 15th of last September. On Saturday night my mistress went out about ten o'clock, but before she did so she came and said I was to go to bed. I did not go to bed, but sat up making myself an apron. That was in the kitchen. After my mistress had been out some time, I heard the key put into the street door; and then I put out the candle and got into bed. I heard my mistress come into the passage, and she had a person with her. She came to the top of the stairs and said, 'Are you abed, Rachel?' I made no answer. She then went up-stairs, and afterwards came down and drew the kitchen blind down. She then left the kitchen, and said to a little girl, 'Come down here.' The girl did so, and then my mistress went into the cellar and told the girl to come to her, but the girl stopped at the kitchen door. Mistress said, 'Come here; what are you afraid of?' They both came into the kitchen. The girl then said, 'I am not afraid, but it is a strange place to me—I have not been here before.' They then went out into the area, when the little girl said, 'Some one wants to cut my throat; when my mistress said, 'Suppose I was to cut it?' The girl said, 'Oh, you are going to kill me,' and then called out 'Murder!' This she called out several times, and said, 'The Devil will take you; the Devil will take you; you will kill me; you will kill me; I am dying; I am dying.' The girl then made a horrid noise, as if she was breathing hard, and my mistress said 'Hush!' several times. My mistress then put the candle out, came into the kitchen and walked up and



down in the dark several times, and said to herself, 'I will kill you!' She then got the lucifer-box, lit the candle, and went into the cellar again, and was there for some time, but I did not hear the girl speak again, and all was quiet. A short time after this, she came in, shut the door, and went upstairs. My master was out at the time, but he came home about one o'clock. He let himself in with a key. I knew it was about one o'clock, because I did not go to sleep for the rest of the night. I had seen the girl at the house one Sunday evening before. That was about a month ago. I knew it was the same girl, because I opened the street door and heard my mistress tell the girl to wipe her feet and go into the parlour. She went in, and my mistress and the girl went out, and returned with a box with three clasps. When my mistress went out with the girl, she had a large stone with her, wrapped up in a piece of cloth. My mistress told me to go to bed on that night, but I refused, when she took the girl away with her, and told me to stop up until she returned. That was the only occasion I ever saw the girl there. When my mistress went out on Saturday evening, she had the same dress on that she now has, but when she came into the kitchen she had an old black dress on. After all was quiet, my mistress came to my bedside and said she had been to market; that she had got change for half a crown, but that she would not pay me until Sunday morning. My mistress then went up to bed, and I did not see her again that night. When she was talking to me at my bedside, she appeared to be very white and much agitated. My mistress also said in the kitchen, while she was walking about, 'She will not tell any more lies about me.'

The surgeon who examined the body said that there were cuts on the left hand and arm, as if she had put them up to save her throat. Her right side also was very dirty, as if she had lain on that side while the throat was cut from the front, and then been pulled round.

Subsequent investigations made by the police seem to render it probable that the child was the illegitimate daughter of the woman, and that she was murdered because her mother had to pay a certain sum a-week for her maintenance, against which expenditure it is said the husband grumbled. Mrs. Somner has made a confession of the murder, which she says she effected with a knife; but she asserts that the child was not her own, but her brother's. Mr. Somner, who is a German, denies that he objected to the sum paid for the poor child's keep.

#### CHILD MURDER.

Two illegitimate children—the one five years, the other two years and a half old—have been drowned by their mother in the Uxbridge Canal. The mother, who is about twenty-five, has had three illegitimate children, one of whom, an infant, still survives. Elizabeth Ann Harris, the accused, left the workhouse on Friday week, and went to West Drayton, where she left the infant in charge of a little girl, her niece, alleging that she was going to put the other two to bed at the Railway Arms Tavern. She returned in about twenty minutes, saying she had done so; but she had been seen near the water with the children, and their bodies were subsequently discovered in the canal. On being taken into custody, and shown the bodies, she said they were her children, and she hoped they were happy. She has been committed for trial. A young woman, named Mary Branwell, is under remand at Marlborough-street, charged with drowning her infant in the Serpentine. When apprehended by the police, she told an improbable story to the effect that she had given up the child (which seems to have been illegitimate) to a gentleman who had found her crying in Hyde-park, and who had taken compassion on her, and that she knew nothing more of its fate. Distress appears to have been at the bottom of the act.—Elizabeth Webster, aged twenty-four, a miserable-looking woman, was charged at Clerkenwell, on her own confession, with murdering her infant. A policeman said:—"I was on duty in Portpool-lane, Gray's-inn-lane, about seven o'clock in the morning, when I found the prisoner lying down in the passage leading to a house fast asleep. I awoke her, when she said—'Lord bless me! I have done it.' I asked her, 'What have you done?' She replied, 'I have killed it.' I asked her, 'What have you killed?' She said, 'I have killed my child.' I inquired, 'Where is it?' She replied, 'It is at No. 7, Charles-street, Hatton-garden.' She then said she had lived there. I took her to the station-house in Bagnigge-wells-road. She had been drinking, and was very confused and bewildered." She added she had squeezed the child's throat. From inquiries, it appears she did not live in Charles-street, and it seemed probable she was suffering from *delirium tremens*. She was remanded, in order that inquiries might be made.—Islington has been the locality of another tragedy, since that which horrified the town at the commencement of the week. Mary Ann Carran, a servant girl, aged twenty-one, delivered herself of a child, of which it was not suspected she was pregnant, and, having nearly severed its head from its body, destroyed herself.

**A BARRISTER'S PUNISHMENT.**—In the course of a case which was heard on the 9th instant, before Mr. Kenyon Parker, examiner in Chancery, a Mr. Warwick Augustus Hunt, a solicitor, and one of the witnesses, was subjected to some very severe cross-examination by Mr. Jessel, who asked him several questions with respect to some alleged fraud. Mr. Hunt, having refused to reply on the ground that his answers would subject him to penalties, Mr. Jessel asked what penalties. The counsel on the other side said something about Mr. Hunt's name being struck off the Rolls; and Mr. Jessel rejoined, "And very deservedly too, perhaps; but that would not make it a criminal offence." After the examination, Mr. Hunt complained to Mr. Jessel that he had made statements he would not have made elsewhere; to which Mr. Jessel replied, "You are mistaken: if you attend at the hearing of the cause, you will hear much stronger observations on your conduct." The same afternoon Mr. Hunt called on Mr. Jessel in his chambers, in company with a gentleman, asked for satisfaction, and, on being ordered to leave the room, seriously assaulted Mr. Jessel. He was therefore given into custody, and brought up at Bow-street, where he was committed for trial.

**AN "INDEPENDENT" SWINDLER.**—John King Gurney, a young man who has been in business at Uxbridge as a cook and confectioner, and who has been greatly respected by his neighbours on account of being a strict member of the Independent chapel, and a zealous teacher in the Sunday school, has been examined before the Uxbridge magistrates on a charge of forging the name of Mr. David Bassett, corn-dealer, on ten bills of exchange, and thus fraudulently obtaining a sum of £360 from the Uxbridge Old Bank. The name of Mr. Bassett was signed on them as the endorser; and the bank, believing the signature to be correct, discounted them. Nine other charges of fraudulently signing names were preferred against Gurney by different persons; and the consideration of the case was adjourned.

**SHARKS AND GULLS.**—Martin Breen was tried at the Central Criminal Court for fraudulently obtaining from George Argent a watch and chain and the sum of £1 5s. 6d. The gentleman with the silvery name met Breen and another man in the streets, and was asked to buy some cigars at an extraordinarily cheap rate, as the vendors were "hard up." The offer being refused, Mr. Argent was asked to step over the way, and look at some things which had been brought from abroad; and, after some parleying, the gentleman of much faith went home, got some money, adjourned with his acquaintances to a public-house, and yielded himself up to the seductions of the moment. Gradually unfolding the marvels and splendours which their "hard-up" condition induced them to offer at ruinous sacrifices, the strangers produced a shawl, the story of which was quite a romance, in more than one sense of the word. It was described as having cost 16s. 6d. duty per ounce to bring it ashore; and it was made of camel's hair, and had been worked by Chinese nuns. Never was there such a shawl, except that one in the fairy tale which could be drawn through the eye of the finest needle; nevertheless, being "hard up," they would sell it to their friend, together with a gold chain and a chronometer, for £6 10s. The silvery gentleman was tempted, but, alas! he had not money sufficient; so he came to an agreement that he should give £1 5s. 6d., his own watch (a silver hunter), and his guard-chain (worth £4), for the treasure. This was agreed to, and he went away happy. So did the other parties; for the shawl was an English shawl, made of wool and cotton (worth about six shillings), and the chain was of brass gilt, and the watch was almost worthless. Breen's companion has not yet been arrested. Breen himself was found guilty, and sentenced to six months' hard labour.

**A DISORDERLY CLERGYMAN.**—A commission has been issued by the Bishop of Durham to inquire into charges of drunkenness against the Rev. Alexander J. Howell, perpetual curate of Darlington. The commissioners were the Ven. Archdeacon Thorp, the Rev. Messrs. Eade, Dyke, and Dugard, and Mr. J. H. Aylmer, a magistrate of Durham. The proceedings were conducted with closed doors, but the decision was given in open court. Archdeacon Thorp stated their unanimous opinion that the charges of drunkenness, and something like habitual drunkenness, had been so far proved as to present *prima facie* evidence against Mr. Howell, and it was their intention to make that report to the bishop, who would be morally and legally required to proceed against him. He would (the Ven. Archdeacon repeated) be not only morally bound, but legally bound to do so. The costs of the defence, it is said, have been met by a subscription in the town.—*Durham Advertiser*.

**EXTENSIVE ROBBERIES.**—Alfred Swinburne was charged at Worship-street with being concerned in several extensive robberies, and was remanded. A pawnbroker's assistant who gave evidence, said some of the property was pledged there by a woman named Ann Southey. This woman, who was a cousin of the prisoner, gave evidence, and it appeared that her name was Elizabeth; on which the magistrate remarked

that it is the habit of pawnbrokers to give all women the name of Ann—"and," said the magistrate's clerk, "some men too." This, of course, offers an obstacle to police investigation.

**A STORY OF A BOND.**—An action has been brought in the Court of Common Pleas against a cotton-dealer of Liverpool, named Martindale, to recover £2,000, money received by that individual to the use of the plaintiff, Mr. Litt, a gentleman living near Carlisle. In the course of last September, Mr. Litt felt uncertain as to how he should apply this money, and he was referred by a friend to a stockbroker of Liverpool, named Gladders, who recommended him to invest it in the purchase of a bond, value exactly £2,000, in the West Hartlepool Dock and Railway Company. Mr. Litt agreed to this proposal, and instructed Mr. Gladders to buy the bond, which he did, and shortly afterwards received the £2,000 purchase money, together with £10 for his commission, in the form of a letter of credit on Mr. Litt's bankers at Carlisle. About a week after this, Mr. Litt had a letter from the broker employed by the seller of the bond, demanding immediate payment of the money. In consequence of this, Mr. Litt went to Liverpool to Mr. Gladders, but, on arriving at his office, was told that Mr. Gladders was not in town, but that his clerk had an intimate friend who would tell Mr. Litt all he desired to know. This was Mr. Martindale, to whom Mr. Litt therefore went, but it was some time before he could learn from him much respecting Mr. Gladders. At length, however, Martindale, with some reluctance told him that he had got £1,947 of the £2,010 which he had sent to Mr. Gladders to pay for the bond. This he said he had received in payment of a debt that Gladders owed him, and refused to give it up. It afterwards appeared that, hearing of the purchase by Gladders of the £2,000 bond, Martindale requested the stockbroker to lend him the money for one day, saying that he wanted to buy some cotton which he had not sufficient money to pay for. Gladders at first objected, on the score of such a proceeding being, under the circumstances, unlawful; but, after a good deal of persuasion from Martindale, he consented, and placed in his hands £2,000, the value of the bond, retaining the £10 commission for himself. On the afternoon of the same day Martindale called upon Gladders, and told him that he had got a balance against him amounting to £1,947, which account he had come to settle. Gladders in vain reminded Martindale of his promise to repay the money in a day, and represented to him what a painful dilemma he should be placed in if the £2,000 were not refunded. Martindale replied that he could not keep his promise, and that Gladders should not have lent him the money. Gladders was therefore eventually compelled to take the £53 minus the £2,000, and afterwards went out of town to avoid the difficulties which he had brought upon himself by the transaction. Mr. Litt then brought the present action against Martindale. Mr. Hill, on the part of the latter, contended that there was no case against his client; but the judge ruled that Mr. Litt was entitled to recover the sum of £2,000. The jury therefore returned a verdict in his favour.

**ATTEMPT TO POISON.**—A farm-labourer employed by Mr. Thomas Wanklyn, of Hadnock, has been charged before the magistrate at Monmouth, with having attempted to poison a shepherd named Tomkins, also in the service of Mr. Wanklyn. For the better care of his sheep, Tomkins had temporarily occupied a small cot situated in the midst of his flock. Here he kept a bottle of cider with which he daily refreshed himself. One day last week, being thirsty, he went to take a draught, but had no sooner tasted it, than he thought it had a peculiar flavour, and therefore drank no more. Immediately afterwards he felt a burning sensation in his throat and stomach. His suspicions being aroused, he emptied the bottle, and there found some lumps of blue stone, partly melted. Having previously had a disagreement with the other man, Tomkins at once suspected him. He, therefore, obtained assistance, sought him out, and charged him with attempting to poison him. This the other denied; but Tomkins' suspicions being strengthened by the confused looks of the man, he persisted in his charge, and, on searching him, found in his pockets some sulphate of copper in lumps similar to those which had been previously discovered in the bottle. Upon this, the man was given into custody. Tomkins was afterwards taken seriously ill, but under medical treatment he rallied, and is now considered out of danger. When brought before the magistrate, the prisoner again denied the charge, and accounted for the sulphate of lead found upon him, by saying that he had picked it up on the road, tied in paper. He was fully committed for trial.

**THE GOLD ROBBERIES.**—At the further examination on Wednesday of John Hall, charged with being concerned in the gold robberies between London and Paris, a policeman said the prisoner had been committed for trial, as long ago as March, 1841, for receiving a gold watch which had been stolen, but that being admitted to bail, he had never surrendered

He was now again committed on this charge, and remanded on the charge of gold robbery.

**SPECTACLE-ROBBERIES.**—Gay, in his "Trivia," speaks of the ingenious thieves of those days who robbed gentlemen of their wigs. In these times, there are few wigs to steal; but there are plenty of spectacles with gold and silver rims, and on these our modern street ruffians levy blackmail. A Mr. Cohen was walking through Bishopsgate-street at an early hour of the evening with his wife, when a man rushed at him, drove his head into his stomach, and ran off, leaving Mr. Cohen breathless, in great pain, and without his gold spectacles. He pursued, seized hold of the man, or of a confederate whom he had with him, and, after a hard struggle, in which he was savagely ill-used, secured him. On the culprit being brought before the Worship-street magistrate, a gaoler said that this plan of robbery had lately come much into practice, and several persons had complained to him of having been robbed in a similar manner. About a fortnight ago, an elderly gentleman, while walking through the Hackney-road, was robbed of his spectacles in this way, the thing being done so quickly that the thief escaped; and, a few nights after, a man walked into a tradesman's shop in the same neighbourhood, where an elderly lady was serving behind the counter with a pair of gold spectacles on. The man was dissatisfied with the articles shown him, but mumbled his complaint so indistinctly that the woman could not hear him, and, being rather deaf, she leant over the counter to hear what it was that he said, and the man immediately whipped off her spectacles, and took to his heels. The accused, in the present instance, was remanded.

**SUPPOSED MURDER.**—A servant-girl, named Harriet Ward, mysteriously disappeared a few days ago from her place, and has since been found drowned in the Thames under suspicion of murder.

**MURDER OF A GAMEKEEPER.**—An under-gamekeeper on the estate of Sir J. T. Tyrell, M.P., near Chelmsford, has been shot dead by poachers. Two of his brothers, and two other men, are in custody.

**VIOLENT DEATH AT LIVERPOOL.**—A sailor has been found in the streets of Liverpool, dead of strangulation. The inquest has ended in a verdict of Wilful Murder against two men who were seen in his company. These men, who were present at the inquest, behaved very unconcernedly, and laughed at each other when the verdict was given.

**SELF-STRANGULATION BY A BOY.**—A youth imprisoned at Manchester for stealing iron has been found in his cell strangled apparently by his own hands.

**BURGLARY AT WIGTON.**—The house of an old couple at Wigton has been broken into, and the master and mistress seriously beaten. They contrived to escape and raise an alarm; on which the burglars fled without gaining anything.

#### AN EPISODE OF THE SECOND EMPIRE.

THE pomp of historical dramas is sometimes interrupted by episodic scenes of the prison and the scaffold. The contrast is effective. In like manner we may be permitted to intrude upon the tumultuous festivities of the Tuileries with the brief and unadorned recital of a scene that took place a few weeks since at Cayenne. Five years ago Victor Hugo wrote:—"Nothing will transpire, nothing will reach you; nothing! except perhaps from time to time sad tidings from beyond the sea, which will sound like a funeral bell upon the ear of France and Europe, announcing, such and such a prisoner is dead." These words were only too prophetic. Every ship that comes from those pestilential shores brings the death of a new victim to the success of the man whom the organ of Lord Stanley and of Mr. Disraeli delights to call "the preserver of right and order in Europe." The latest victim is one Peret, sometime mayor of Béziers, deported to Cayenne without trial, for having resisted the conspiracy of the 2nd of December, 1851. It appears that M. Béziers, accompanied by six fellow-prisoners, attempted to escape from that living tomb. They put to sea at night in a boat. Two hours after they were driven on the rocks. Peret, entangled in his cloak, was drowned. The six others survived. But what an existence! For two days they lived on what shellfish they could find on a desolate rock in the midst of an ocean that threatened every moment to overwhelm them. At last one of them resolved to risk his life for the rest. Seeing no succour come, he threw himself into the sea, and after three hours' swimming reached the land. Unhappily the land was French Guiana. He could only save his life on condition of surrendering himself a prisoner; his five companions were rescued from the devouring sea only to be cast into another dungeon. Tomb for tomb.

"The unhappy Peret," says a letter we have now before us, "has thus terminated a life of sixty years' devotion to the cause of liberty. A rich man, he might have lived at home quietly and prosperously; but he was one of those rare and generous-hearted beings, ever ready to make any sacrifices, feeling acutely that, whilst he was rich, many of his fellow-

creatures were perishing of hunger, and sparing neither his fortune nor his life to the cause of humanity. On the 2nd of December, he was one of the first to take up arms. When the cause was hopeless he remained for several days on the Spanish frontier, unwilling to believe in the success of the *coup d'état*. He was arrested, and well do I remember seeing him before the *Conseil de Guerre* three months afterwards. Never was there a sadder sight than that venerable old man, bent with age, as he gave himself up to the gendarmes to be handcuffed. You could see he was a man accustomed to a life of affluence and ease, and even in that moment his expression was resigned and almost serene. He departed on his long exile sad but calm, full of mourning, but not deserted by hope—strong in the justice of his cause—confident in the future. Who could have believed that he was bidding a last farewell to his wife, his children, and his friends? What historian will ever have the courage to count up the innumerable victims, the unknown dead of the 2nd of December?"

#### CONTINENTAL NOTES.

##### FRANCE

WE have received the following *resumé* of the state of Europe from a correspondent:—

##### JUPITER AMANS.

*Dedicated to Victor Hugo.*

"Le Petit" call not him who by one act  
Has turned old fable into modern fact.  
Nap Louis courted Europe: Europe shied:  
Th' Imperial purple was too newly dyed.  
"I'll have her though," thought he, "by rape or rapine,"  
Jove nods sometimes, but catch a Nap a napping!  
And now I think of Jove, 'twas Jove's own fix,  
And so I'll borrow one of Jove's own tricks:  
Old itching Palm I'll tickle with a joke,  
And he shall lend me England's decent cloak."  
'Twas said and done, and his success was full;  
He won Europa with the guise of Bull!

The celebrated German poet, Heinrich Heine, died at Paris on Monday night, after lingering for a long while in a state of complete bodily paralysis, but with his marvellous intellect unimpaired. He was buried in the cemetery Montmartre, and his body was followed to the grave by Alexandre Dumas, Théophile Gautier, Mignet, Paul de St. Victor, Alexandre Weill, and a great number of German writers and journalists.

The Countess Caumont Laforce has been murdered by her groom, who stabbed her with a pitchfork, in consequence of a violent quarrel he had had with her. The Countess was forty years of age, and somewhat eccentric. She resided in the Avenue des Champs Elysées. The assassin made no attempt to escape, but gave himself up to the commissary of police.

##### AUSTRIA.

Some account of an "annexation" to the Concordat is given by the *Times* Vienna Correspondent, who says that, "by order of the Emperor, a letter containing a detailed explanation of each separate article of the convention was addressed to the Pope, and mention was also made of certain demands by the Papal Chair which were refused by the Imperial Government. One of them was, that the 'preventive censure' should be re-established in Austria, but it was rejected, on the ground 'that long experience had proved it to be of little real use.' The Archbishop of Vienna was the author of the letter, and the ninth article in it is said to contain a passage which would seem to give the Italian bishops a right to interfere with the press which is not granted to their Austrian and Hungarian brethren." In the meanwhile, bigotry is rampant. The Archbishop of Vienna has refused to allow the Common Council of Vienna to erect a monument to Mozart, because worship of genius is a kind of idolatry—strange objection to come from the Church of Rome! And a work introduced into the schools by the Ministry of Public Instruction has been prohibited because it teaches that there was no deluge after the creation of man, as no fossil remains of human beings have ever been discovered."

A great gap in the Austrian railroad net (says the *Oesterreichische Correspondenz*), is about to be filled up. On the 8th inst., the Emperor granted to M. Ernest Merk, the Imperial Royal Consul at Hamburg, and to M. H. D. Lindheim, merchant, a privilege to construct a railroad from Vienna to Linz, and thence to the Bavarian frontier near Salzburg, on the one side, and to the Bavarian frontier near Passau on the other. The railroad, which is as important for Bavaria and Southern Germany as it is for Austria, will bear the name of 'the Empress Elizabeth Railroad.'

##### PRUSSIA.

A "Credit Institution" is about to be established at Berlin. It will be permitted to issue its own paper, bearing interest and payable to bearer. The capital is to be 30,000,000 thalers, in shares of two hundred thalers each, with liberty subsequently to increase the amount to 50,000,000. The managing committee will consist of large landed proprietors and bankers.

##### HANOVER.

There is a ministerial crisis in Hanover, the King

having determined to restore the Constitution of 1840 instead of that of 1849.

##### THE GERMANIC CONFEDERATION.

The declaration with respect to the approaching Paris conferences, presented to the German Diet by Austria on the 7th of February, contains the annexed passages:—"The high Government of the Confederation will recognise that the guarantees which the future peace must bring will not be the less precious, especially for Germany, by the development given to these points (viz., those contained in the preliminaries.) On the other hand, they will not disown that the said Powers, faithful to the principles the collective recognition of which constitutes the bond of their alliance, have conscientiously excluded any proposition which would not be fully justified by an incontestable European right, and which, for that very reason, would not be of a nature to be accepted with honour by each of the great Powers which divide between them, in the first rank, the responsibility of peace and of the prosperity of Europe. The Imperial Court entertains the firm conviction that this spirit of moderation and solicitude for the general welfare of nations will also prevail at the Conferences which will shortly open, and that, consequently, the right expressly reserved in the fifth point for the belligerent Powers to propose, in addition to the four points of guarantee, new conditions in a European interest, will not be exercised in a sense which might have the effect of again compromising the work of peace so happily commenced."

##### DENMARK.

The inextricable complications presented by the internal condition of the Danish monarchy, have ended in the overthrow of the ministry. The telegraph announces that M. Raasloff, the King's minister for the Duchy of Schleswig, has tendered his resignation, and has been replaced provisionally by M. Hall.

##### ITALY.

The Sardinian Government has received an intimation from the Government of Vienna that the latter is prepared to raise the sequestration from the properties of denaturalised Austrian subjects, provided they will return to their country and resume their citizenship. In case of their preferring to reside abroad, the Imperial, Royal, and Apostolic Government will consent to hand over their properties to their heirs and successors; and they are to have until the end of the present year to make their election. How Austria can continue to claim any authority over her "denaturalised" subjects, in the face of a law of March, 1832, which declares that "persons duly authorised to emigrate lose their quality of Austrian subjects, and for all and every effect of civil political law will be treated as foreigners," is one of the mysteries of diplomacy.

The British residents at Naples, travellers and merchants, have presented a document to Sir William Temple, our Minister at that city, complaining that they have to pay an income-tax to the Neapolitan Government far exceeding that which they pay at home. This abuse, they say, arises from the Neapolitan Mint making an exorbitant charge for exchange, instead of (as usual with other mints) paying the actual equivalent of silver, with an infinitesimal deduction only, to repay mint expenses.

The King of Naples has performed an act of grace in pardoning (on condition of his leaving the kingdom) an English sailor who had killed a Sicilian in the course of a disturbance. Sir William Temple had interceded for the man, who had been condemned to thirteen years' imprisonment in irons. It seems he did not strike the blow with *malice prepense*.

##### SPAIN.

Edouardo Abad, alias Lutgardo Abadia, has been executed for the murder of Mr. Fenton, an Englishman, in April last. An accomplice who witnessed the murder was sentenced to imprisonment for life; but it was part of his punishment that he should witness the execution of his comrade.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, in reply to a question put in the Cortes, announced that the negotiations with France about the precise limits of the frontiers had been brought to a satisfactory conclusion. The public sittings of the committee on the tariffs have been brought to a close.

There appears to be a tendency on the part of the Spanish Government to effect a reconciliation with the Holy See.

##### TURKEY.

The Loan Commission recently proposed to the Government to issue in the market the bills which the latter was to draw on account of the loan. The Government accepted this proposal; and a downward tendency immediately took place in the rate of exchange, and the pound sterling fell by degrees to 144 piastres, though worth 150 in the bazaars. When the rate of exchange had reached this figure, "the Turkish Government, on the suggestion of the Loan Commission," says a letter from Constantinople, "offered to pay the creditors who had a claim on the proceeds of the loan, at the rate of exchange of the day. The speculators who never expected to be



paid so readily, and who besides thought that their bills would be thrown into the market, just in the same way as the few bills which the Government had drawn in the course of the week, readily consented, and continued to depress the rate of exchange, which fell down by degrees to 140, 138. The Turkish Government, however, instead of throwing its bills on the Exchange, as it had done with the former ones, paid the creditors with the bills directly at the fixed rate—namely, 144. You may imagine the rage of the financiers of Galata, who were thus taken in their own snare."

The English residents at Pera and Ortakoi are building churches for themselves.

The first conference concerning the Danubian Principalities was held at the French Embassy at Constantinople on the 10th inst.

The Sultan will decree the freedom of property in this sense—that Christians shall be empowered to acquire and possess real estate in their own names.

## HAITI.

Faustin I., alias Solouque, the black Emperor of Haiti, has been defeated and put to flight by the troops of St. Domingo. He is closely pressed by the insurgents, and it is doubtful if his authority can be re-established.

## AMERICA.

THE contest at Washington for the office of Speaker to the House of Representatives has at length terminated in the election of Mr. Banks, who all along kept ahead, and who finally obtained 103 votes, which, by adopting the plurality method, it was determined to make suffice. The other members were—Aiken, 100; Scattering, 11. The Know-nothings started objections to the legality of the proceedings; but these were over-ruled amidst a scene of the wildest excitement, in which ladies joined. Mr. Banks belongs to the Republican and Anti-slavery party, which has a majority in the House.

Nothing fresh has been received with respect to the disagreements with Great Britain; but there seems a probability of some difficulty with France. The French Government, it is said, has made certain representations in relation to some Russian vessels that had been transferred, since the commencement of the Eastern war, to citizens of the United States, being at the time of the transfer in American ports. A list of the vessels has been transmitted to the United States minister at Paris; and it is added that the French and English Governments have avowed their determination to hold them as lawful prizes of war if they are captured.

The Irishmen charged at Cincinnati with filibustering designs on Ireland have been acquitted. Mlle. Rachel has reached New York, on her way to France after visiting England. A sanguinary contest between the slavery and anti-slavery men has taken place in Kansas. The former attacked the latter, and committed great atrocities.

From Havannah we learn that, on the 1st instant two French frigates were in the harbour, but no English. The market there was dull.

The New York money-market, at the latest advices, was well supplied with capital, and mercantile paper of a high grade met with a freer currency at eight to nine per cent. for short, and twelve per cent. for long, dates. On call, six to seven per cent. were the rates. The prices of stocks had gradually closed with a downward tendency.

## IRELAND.

THE TIPPERARY JOINT-STOCK BANK.—Great and painful surprise has been created in Ireland by the failure of the Tipperary Joint-Stock Bank—an event which is supposed to have led to the suicide of Mr. Sadleir, M.P. for Sligo, who was concerned in it. Some particulars are furnished by the *Freeman's Journal*, which says:—"A sensation was made in the middle of the week by the announcement that the draughts of the Tipperary Bank on their London agents, Messrs Glyn and Co., had been returned with the answer 'not provided for.' The alarm was somewhat diminished on the Bank of Ireland, their Dublin agents continuing to pay, and a statement also appeared that the misadventure in London, was the result of accident. The course pursued by the Messrs Glyn, having thrown a doubt on the bank, produced its natural consequence—a severe and sudden demand for repayment from their numerous depositors to an extent for which there was not sufficient time for preparation. It is said, however, that all the branches have up to this fully met all demands; but we exceedingly regret to state that the Bank of Ireland has refused to pay their draughts. We learn that great exertions are being made to enable the bank to continue business, which we trust will be successful, as the stoppage of a bank having so many branches at the present season could not but produce a very bad effect." A petition for the winding-up of the bank was presented on Thursday to the Court of Chancery, at Dublin, and an order for hearing was made. The proprietors are chiefly English. The paid up capital amounts to £50,000 in £10

shares: the amount of deposits is believed to be very large. The list of shareholders of the bank appeared in the *Gazette* a few days ago.

ATTEMPTS AT ASSASSINATION.—A shot was fired at Mr. Lemon Armstrong, while returning from Sligo, in a jaunting car with his wife. He was struck in the back, but the wound is not dangerous. Two men are in custody, one of whom has been previously tried for murder.

THE IRISH BENCH.—It is stated that an address from the Irish bar to the Lord Chief Justice Lefroy and Baron Pennefather is in preparation, on the subject of the late motion in the House of Commons. A similar address from the attorneys and solicitors is in contemplation.

THE REPRESENTATION OF SLIGO.—The contest for the representation of Sligo borough will be a very sharp one. Mr. Robert Knox, of the London *Morning Herald*, starts as a candidate on Derbyite principles, and Mr. Somers will also, no doubt, be in the field. It is not true that Mr. McDonogh, Q.C., has already left town to canvass the electors of Sligo. The other candidates yet spoken of are Mr. Treston and Mr. P. Blake. The liberal electors have a decided majority in the borough.—*Daily News*.

## OBITUARY.

MR. BRAHAM, the celebrated English singer,—one of the most conspicuous names in the musical history of this country during upwards of half a century,—died on Sunday, at the age of eighty-two. He was born of Hebrew parents, whose real name was Abrahams; but he was a native of London, where he first saw the light in 1774. He was educated by the Italian singer, Leoni, and made his appearance as a public singer before the age of eleven. Afterwards, he became a professor of the pianoforte; re-appeared as a singer at Bath in 1794; received musical instruction from Rauzzini; appeared at Drury-lane in 1796, under the direction of Signor Storace; visited Italy, where he achieved great successes; returned to England, and sang at Covent Garden, and at the Italian Opera; and for a long series of years was the most popular of English vocalists. He has appeared within the last few years, and was celebrated for his singing of Handel's sacred music. In 1836, Braham opened the St. James's Theatre, which he had himself built; and in this way contrived to lose a large fortune. His declining years, however, have been passed in comfort, owing to the fostering care of his daughter, Lady Waldegrave.

THE DUKE OF NORFOLK.—This nobleman expired on Monday morning, at Arundel Castle, in the sixty-fifth year of his age. When Earl of Surrey, he was the first Roman Catholic who took the oath and his seat in the House of Commons, after the passing of the Roman Catholic Emancipation Act. He succeeded to the dukedom in 1842. His Grace had filled several offices in her Majesty's household. In July, 1839, he was appointed Treasurer of the Queen's Household, and made a Privy Councillor. On Sir Robert Peel's retirement from office in July, 1846, he succeeded the Earl of Jersey as Master of the Horse, which office he held until the formation of the Earl of Derby's ministry. On the Earl of Aberdeen taking office he was made Lord Steward of the Household, but soon afterwards relinquished that place to Earl Spencer, in December, 1853. In politics he was a staunch Whig. He dissented from the principle of the Papal bull of 1850, and the same year he renounced the Roman Catholic faith, and passed over to the Anglican Church.

SIR JOHN STODDART, D.C.L., late Chief-Justice of Malta, and Judge of the Admiralty Court of that island, died last Saturday, in his 84th year, at his residence, Brompton-square. He had been connected with the press in his younger years, and was the proprietor of a Tory journal of unfortunate history, called *The New Times*. Since his retirement from the bench, he published the first volume of a work on Universal Grammar, the second volume of which he has left unfinished. At a meeting of the Law Amendment Society, Lord Brougham, speaking with the authority of half a century's friendship, bore testimony to the learning, kindness, and integrity of the departed judge.

## NAVAL AND MILITARY.

THE ARMY ESTIMATES FOR 1856-56.—The Army Estimates for the year ending the 31st of March, 1857, were issued on Tuesday. The grand total amount that will be required for the financial year ensuing is stated to be £34,998,504, against the sum of £28,670,497 in 1855-56, thus exhibiting an increase of £6,328,007. The sum of £32,758,280 is required for the effective, and £2,240,224 for the non-effective service. The items are thus distributed:—viz., £10,950,398 for the land forces (246,716 in number); £3,150,129 for the embodied Militia; £88,000 for volunteer corps; £408,595 for the Army Works Corps; £169,026 for the War Department; £22,791 for "Head-quarter, Military Departments;" £514,141 for civil establishments; £915,301 for artificers' wages; £9,886,261 for clothing, barrack furniture, &c., provisions, forage, fuel, and light; £4,871,165 for

land and sea stores; £2,044,069 for works and buildings; £238,404 for the educational and scientific branches; £25,400 for rewards for military services; £67,000 for the army pay of general officers; £519,094 for the pay of reduced or retired officers; £220,420 for widows' pensions; £83,558 for pensions, &c., to wounded officers; £32,096 for "in-pensions;" £1,168,392 for "out-pensions;" and £124,264 for superannuation allowances. Of the sum voted last year, £13,718,678 was under the head of "army," £9,990,165 under "ordnance," and £4,961,654 under that of "commissariat."

THE CREW OF THE POLYPHEMUS.—A communication from the Admiralty states that the English Consul-General at Hamburg, communicating some news with respect to the crew of the Polyphemus, says: "I have great satisfaction in reporting that the Quartermaster Samuel Fletcher and fifteen seamen of the late Polyphemus, who were in the two boats, have been saved by a Danish vessel, and have just arrived from Hgerting. They will go in charge of the chief engineer, Mr. Wood, with the other men, to London this evening."

MILITIA DISTURBANCE AT NEWPORT.—Some privates of the Clare Militia, now stationed at Newport, Monmouthshire, have disturbed the town by exceedingly riotous conduct while in a state of intoxication. Several of the civilians were attacked; but ultimately the most riotous were captured, and the others were confined to their quarters. The riots were thus put a stop to.

THE QUEEN AT WOOLWICH.—The Queen and Prince Albert on Tuesday inspected the trophies captured at Sebastopol and now deposited at Woolwich. Her Majesty afterwards received a number of wounded soldiers recently arrived from the seat of war.

THE LOSS OF THE JOSEPHINE WILLIS.—The inquiry ordered by the Board of Trade into the loss of this vessel, and conducted before Mr. Yardley, the Thames magistrate, assisted by naval authorities, has terminated; but no specific result has yet been declared. The conduct of two of the sailors—Newham and Anderson—was highly praised by the magistrate and the other authorities.

THE SHIP MARIA.—Information has been received at Lisbon, by private hand, that the Maria, Captain J. H. Russell, of Liverpool, has been wrecked on the coast of Algarve, near Lagos, where she now lies. The hull still holds together, although the timbers are somewhat strained and open. In two or three days, should the weather continue fine, the whole of the cargo will perhaps be discharged, and there is a probability of the vessel being saved, and sent to Villa Nova de Portimao.

LIEUTENANTS HODSON AND MONTGOMERY.—"We learn," says the *Malla Beacon*, "that there is no chance whatever of any commutation of the punishment now undergoing by Lieutenants Hodson and Montgomery, and, moreover, that in all probability the commissions of both gentlemen will be sacrificed."

SHIPWRECK ON THE COAST OF SOUTH WALES.—The American ship "Great Duke" has been totally wrecked on the coast of South Wales. The captain and twenty eight of the crew have perished, and only three men survive.

## THE ROMANCE OF "THE TIMES."

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

CU. Y. TZ.—Votre associe est très inquiet; vos affaires s'arrangeront, mais vous ne devez pas vous absenter. Revenez ou ecrire, à votre ami, compatriote de M. L.

TÓ B. K.—Your absence and continued silence have caused the greatest distress to your family. Pray communicate with them immediately, and every possible measure will be taken for your advantage and interest. Longer silence will endanger your appointments.

DE L'EAU CHAUDE.—39.

M. C.—N, near York-road.—NO.

L A V E N D E R.

HEALTH and happiness.—Guests numerous. Presents 40. Friends and pensioners received mementoes.—Excelsior.

MR. MORGAN, or F. H. M.—Your letter of July last, received, in which you said you would shortly see me. Since then no tidings of you. Have left C. Am ill, and would much like to see you again. Answer through this medium, or by a letter addressed to me at 36, Walbrook, city, which will be immediately forwarded to me, when I will let you know where I now am.—P.P.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

THE COURT.—The Queen and Prince Albert, accompanied by the Princess Royal, Prince Arthur, and the Princess Alice, visited Mr. Barford's panorama of the interior of Sebastopol and of the fall of that city on Monday morning. The Queen held a levee (th first this season) on Wednesday afternoon, at St James's Palace.

**TWO OF A TRADE.**—*Le Pays, Journal de l'Empire* is terribly hard upon the poor black Emperor of Haiti, Soulouque, who has lately been routed by the troops of St. Domingo. The semi-official organ of the Second French Emperor abounds in cruel pleasantries on the atrocious and absurd burlesque of the first Napoleon, which the sable contemporary of Napoleon the Third has been perpetrating the last four years. "Unfortunately," adds the virtuous French journalist, "it has not been unaccompanied with cruelty and bloodshed." One might almost suppose that this remark was taken from some future history of the present French Empire. Mademoiselle Rachel once apologised to Doctor Véron for calling him *canaille*, by an assurance that he might consider himself henceforth "one of the family." Poor Soulouque, who is not perhaps as black as he is painted by the Imperial French journalist, may take this assurance for his own consolation.

**THE LATE ACCIDENT ON THE NORTH KENT RAILWAY.**—Richard Lawrence Beattie, the switchman who, by reversing the points to which he was attending, caused an accident on the North Kent line, has been tried at the Surrey Sessions, and found guilty. He was recommended to mercy on account of the immense mass of duties for which he was responsible, and of his previous high character. The sentence, accordingly, was imprisonment for seven days. The leniency of the sentence was received with marks of approval in court.

**THE SUNDAY QUESTION.**—A meeting of persons concerned in Sunday-school teaching was held at Exeter Hall on Monday evening, to protest against the proposed opening of the British Museum, the Crystal Palace, &c., on Sundays. The Earl of Shaftesbury was in the chair, and observed that, "in addition to the many temptations which now beset youth, Parliament is asked to throw another in the way." He feared that if the contemplated places were opened on Sundays, the theatres would soon follow. Several stormy meetings have been held in various parts of the country, generally terminating in the carrying of amendments in favour of Sunday amusements. A meeting was held on Tuesday evening at Exeter-hall, when, after some opposition, the resolutions in favour of strict Sabbath observance were carried. One of the speakers—Mr. Tritton, of the firm of Barclay, Bevan, Tritton, and Co.—contended that "not one hour of God's blessed day ought to be polluted by pleasure." It might be asked of this speaker why, if pleasure be a pollution, he confines his denunciation of it to one day in seven. Another speaker asked if looking at pictures had ever made any one virtuous.

**SIR CHARLES BARRY AND THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT.**—Sir Chas. Barry has written to the *Times*, complaining that, by the recent decision of the Treasury on his claims, his pay has been reduced by nearly £20,000. The present Government made an offer of four per cent. upon outlay, and a special recompense for the trouble and difficulties encountered by the architect in respect of the warming, ventilating, and lighting arrangements of the building. To this offer Sir Charles agreed, upon condition that certain extra services, not pertaining to his duties as architect, should be recognised; but the Government has not chosen to assent.

**SERIOUS ILLNESS OF MR. SERJEANT WILKINS.**—This eminent member of the bar was seized on Monday morning, while examining a witness, with spasmodic affection of the chest. He suddenly left the Court of Common Pleas, staggered into the adjoining lobby, and almost fainted. Medical attendance was speedily procured, and Mr. Wilkins was removed in a cab. At first it was feared that the attack would prove fatal; but he is now recovering.

**MANCHESTER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.**—A few days before the departure of Lord Clarendon for Paris, the directors of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce sent a memorial to his Lordship, in which they referred to the gross and culpable neglect of the interests of Commerce at the Vienna Conference of 1815, and expressed a hope that during the coming negotiations at Paris advantage would be taken by his Lordship of any opportunity that might arise to increase the number of outlets for British commerce, and promote its interests in any other way. A reply, promising most careful consideration to the suggestion, has been received.

**DEATH FROM MACHINERY.**—A sad accident, resulting in the death of Mr. Gibson, manager of the Glanraon Colliery at Mold, has just occurred. Mr. Gibson, finding that an engine he was about to set in motion needed a start, placed himself upon one of the spokes of the fly-wheel. The great accession of speed suddenly effected caused him to fall, with his head within range of the wheel, which, in revolving, caught his head and shattered it to atoms. He has left a wife and three children.

## Postscript.

LEADER OFFICE, Saturday, Feb. 23.  
LAST NIGHT'S PARLIAMENT.  
HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE WENSLEYDALE PEERAGE.

LORD GLENELG, in a speech of some length, moved that it be referred to the Judges to consider the legality of granting a life peerage to Sir J. Parke.

LORD CAMPBELL opposed the motion, arguing that the matter should be decided by parliamentary and not by judicial authority.

The LORD CHANCELLOR supported the motion on the ground that the best opinion as to the legality of life peerages should be obtained by the House.

The Earl of WINCHELSEA and Lord BROUGHAM opposed, and Lord GRANVILLE supported the motion.

The House then divided:—

CONTENTS.				
Present	...	...	...	62
Proxies	...	...	...	49

NON-CONTENTS.				
Present	...	...	...	97
Proxies	...	...	...	45

142

Majority against the motion ... 32

The House then went into Committee of Privileges, and Lord LYNCHBURGH brought on his motion to the effect that the patent granted to Lord Wensleydale was not such as to entitle him to sit and vote in the House.

Earl GREY then moved his amendment to the effect that the patent did confer such rights.

The debate then ranged through Earl STANHOPE, the Duke of ARGYLL, and Lord BROUGHAM.

The LORD CHANCELLOR concluded the debate.

On a division the numbers were—

For the motion	97
Against it	52

Majority ..... 45

The House adjourned at a quarter-past one.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

EDUCATION.

A CONVERSATION took place between Sir J. PAKINGTON and Lord J. RUSSELL, with regard to the resolutions proposed to be introduced on the subject of education, in which Lord JOHN said that he did not intend to ask the opinion of the House on the subject on the 6th of March; but, after laying them on the table, would postpone them till a future day for discussion.

THE KINGDOM OF OUDE.

Mr. OTWAY questioned the President of the Board of Control with regard to the annexation of the kingdom of Oude. He asked if Lord Dalhousie had ever given a direction to annex or sequester that country, and whether the feelings of the people of Oude were in favour of such a step.

Mr. V. SMITH said, for nearly fifty years the state of Oude had caused much anxiety to the Government of India, and last summer General Outram reported to the Governor-General that it was impossible that this state of things could go on; and the Government left the matter to the discretion of Lord Dalhousie, who had taken the responsibility of dealing with the question; but the matter was not so fully concluded as to enable him to lay the correspondence on the table.

Sir E. PERRY complained that the explanation was most unsatisfactory. Lord Dalhousie's policy was to annex all native States whenever an opportunity occurred, and it seemed in this case the matter was left in his hands. It was necessary that the House should give an opinion as to the soundness of that policy.

Sir J. W. HOGG hoped the House would not take Lord Dalhousie's policy as represented by Sir E. Perry, and denied some of the statements of Mr. Otway.

After a few words from Mr. J. G. PHILLIMORE, Mr. ROEBUCK advised the House not to trust too much to the denial of Sir J. W. Hogg, who had on a former occasion denied that there was such a thing as torture in India.

THE ROAD THROUGH ST. JAMES'S-PARK.

Sir B. BALL gave notice of a committee to consider the question of a communication from Pall Mall to Westminster.

THE LOAN FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, in Committee of Ways and Means, made a provisional financial statement. He said he estimated the revenue last year, including the Loan, Exchequer Bills at £80,339,000; and he estimated the expenditure at £81,895,000; but, in consequence of supplementary expenditure, it had risen to £88,000,000. £4,000,000 having been raised afterwards by Exchequer Bills, there was a surplus of £2,000,000, which had been applied to restore the balances in the Exchequer. The actual revenue for the year had, however, been £65,567,000,

leaving a deficiency of £2,000,000; but with the loan it reached £88,539,000, making a deficiency altogether of £1,600,000. The expenditure had been £90,000,000, and the total deficiency was £3,500,000. He then at length stated the various items of deficiency, and excess of expenditure. The actual cost of the army and navy in the war had been £74,549,000,000, being £43,554,000 more than the military establishments cost in the same time of peace, so that the actual additional cost of the war was the latter sum. Having to supply about £4,000,000, he should move resolutions for a loan of £5,000,000, which would be sufficient for the present quarter. It was probable that a further loan of £5,000,000 would be needed within the current financial year, making, with funded Exchequer Bills, an addition to the National Debt of £28,000,000. He then quoted statistics, to show how little the trade of the country had suffered from the war. He trusted the loan had been received on terms not disadvantageous to the nation, namely, at 90. He should also ask for permission to fund £3,000,000 Exchequer Bills.

After a short discussion, the resolutions were agreed to.

THE ARMY ESTIMATES.

On the motion for going into Committee of Supply on the Army Estimates, Colonel DUNNE originated a discussion on the general administration of the army, which he characterised as faulty in the extreme; and he was followed by Mr. Ricardo and other members, and after a strong protest from Sir DE LACY EVANS against taking such complicated and large estimates only thirty-six hours after they had been delivered to members, on an appeal from Lord PALMERSTON the House went into Committee.

Mr. MONSELL then moved the Army and Ordnance Estimates, the figures relating to which have already been made public.

Several Votes on account were taken, with some brief discussions.

THE OATH OF ABJURATION.

Mr. M. GIBSON obtained leave to bring in a Bill to abolish the oath of abjuration.

The House adjourned at twenty minutes to one.

THE RUGELEY POISONINGS.

It is understood that the Government has undertaken the prosecution of William Palmer. Mr. Bodkin has been instructed to proceed to Rugeley next week to take the depositions.

THE GERMANIC DIET.

The Diet has come to a unanimous vote in favour of the Austrian propositions, as modified by Bavaria. (The modification simply reserved the right to an opinion on the development of the fifth point.)

M. DE BRUNOW.

The *Gazette Universelle Allemande* states very positively that M. de Brunow will not return to Frankfurt, but, at the conclusion of a treaty of peace, will resume his former functions at the Court of St. James's.

THE PEACE.

I have been informed (says the *Times* Paris Correspondent), by a person whose authority I have little reason to question, and who could hardly be deceived on so important a subject, that the point which was expected to present the greatest difficulty during the Conference, namely, that of Nicholaieff, has been given up by Russia. If this be confirmed, I see no serious obstacle in the way of peace.

Letters from St. Petersburg state that the school of marine apprentices are to be transferred from Nicholaieff to Cronstadt. Orders will be given to stop the building of the vessel of the line *Witias*, 130 guns, at Nicholaieff.

Baron de Manteuffel has declared to the committee on the Prussian budget that the prospect of peace was exceedingly favourable; but that the continuation of their armaments by the belligerent parties, and the tone of Queen Victoria's Speech from the throne, obliged Prussia to direct her attention to the shores of the Baltic, to keep up her army on a war footing, and even to extend it if necessary.

THE LOAN.

There was a numerous attendance at the Treasury yesterday (Friday) morning, to take part in the bidings for the New Loan and Funding of Exchequer Bills. The Governor of the Bank of England having opened the envelope containing the *minimum* terms which would be accepted, and which were £111. 2s. 6d. Consolidated Three per Cent. Annuities, or equivalent to Consols at 90, Baron Rothschild withdrew for a short time to consult with his friends, and afterwards intimated that they accepted the Government *minimum*. He then signed the contracts on the part of the firm, and the proceedings terminated.

HOLSTEIN.

M. Bang, Minister of the Interior for Holstein, has followed the example of M. Rasmussen, and resigned. M. Simony, Minister of Justice, retains his functions provisionally.



## NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice can be taken of anonymous communications. Whatever is intended for insertion must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer; not necessarily for publication but as a guarantee of his good faith. It is impossible to acknowledge the mass of letters we receive. Their insertion is often delayed, owing to a press of matter; and when omitted, it is frequently from reasons quite independent of the merits of the communication.

We cannot undertake to return rejected communications. Our Title-Page and Index for Vol. VI, 1855, will be given next week. During the Session of Parliament it is often impossible to find room for correspondence, even the briefest.

# The Leader.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1856.

## Public Affairs.

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

### THE PAST AND FUTURE OF THE FRENCH ALLIANCE.

THE dangers and embarrassments of Great Britain only commence with the Conference or Congress of Paris. The crisis of maladministration is insignificant, compared with the crisis of policy. So long as the war lasted, in spite of the outcry against the sacrifice of our army, the misconduct of operations, the incapacity of commanders, and all the disastrous consequences inevitable from a system of favouritism, privilege, and intrigue, the public feeling, a compound of blindness and sympathy, of ignorance and pugnacity, was excited by passing events, and judged only of immediate results. The short-comings of the governing class were fitfully remembered and forgotten amid the tumult of the siege, and the successive hazards before Sebastopol. The nation pondered over the maps with all the wonder of a child just initiated into geography, read the correspondence from the Crimea with a bewilderment of indignation, relied on the might of England, was absorbed by the news, and never dreamed that while the Departments improved their administrative methods, the policy of England might involve more ruin than all the blunders of all the subordinate offices during a century. The public would listen to no political doubts. When the soldiers were fed and clothed,—when Mr. RUSSELL was satisfied,—when the English in the Crimea returned the hay they had borrowed from the French, all went merry; and the capture of the southern side of Sebastopol came to brighten complacency into joy. A large and various class were more directly concerned in the fortune and fate of sons and brothers in the field. The political epicureans, with eyes half closed, looked on in supercilious apathy. The enthusiasts and malcontents, more restless and dissatisfied than their fellow citizens, and scarcely less ignorant, held their breath, like gamblers, in the wild hope that a revolutionary apocalypse would burst upon Confusion. It was nothing to them that Courts and Cabinets, dreading revolutionary principles far more than Russian armies, sedulously restrained the war within political and diplomatic limits. They urged with frantic fatuity the prosecution of the struggle: they gave their strength to their enemies, and jeered at the timidity of less delirious politicians. Who but the desperadoes of the Revolution could hope that when the old monarchies of Europe were divided by differences of policy, they would call in the arbitration of an expectant democracy?

This was enthusiasm; but selfishness was also

in play. Whig intriguers, DISRAELITE lampooners, reviving the high-bred amenities of the *Satirist*, and husky Chartist spouters, produced a discord of execration against the Earl of ABERDEEN, because that cold but honest and sagacious statesman sacrificed power and reputation to his conscience, and laboured to save England from being dragged at the chariot wheels of the French Emperor. It was not, and is not, a reproach to him that he hesitated to identify the policy of his Cabinet with that of a man, who, after treading under foot law and right, and the institutions he had sworn to protect, after nameless and numberless infamies, came forward as the hero of a crusade in favour of the public law of Europe, and the civilisation of the West. Lord ABERDEEN knew that Great Britain was not prepared for war, that to take the field immediately would be to expose her resources to an ignominious contrast with those of France, to throw a band of brave men, and not an organised army, upon the enemy's shore.

Our readers will bear us witness that at the risk of whatever popularity or convenience might attach to fellowship with the common delusion, the *Leader*, from the first, abstained from joining in the howl which drove Lord ABERDEEN from office. We say now, as we have said before, that the day may come when the reasonable public opinion of this country will repent of its rash aspersions and more rash confidences, and will appreciate the motives of a statesman who feared to trust the honour of England to the keeping of the December Usurpation. Above all, the nation may regret having rushed into the arms of a giddy and cynical statesman, who sealed his complicity with that astounding crime before the blood was dry on the Boulevards. Lord PALMERSTON himself may wish that act undone, when he feels that he is a subordinate in his own Cabinet, and that his description of the French and British nations, as "having one Government with two Executives" was not exaggeration but Irony.

This war was, from the first, an act of French Imperial policy, and that policy alone has it subserved. We do not say that Russian ambition was not a danger and a menace to Europe; we say that no honest or far-seeing English statesman would have hastened to embark this country in a war by the side of a government to which all the heart and intelligence of France are in natural and ineradicable opposition. The time had come and passed—in 1849—the time must inevitably have come again, for a struggle between the principles that England represents, and the principles represented by Russia—it may be between the power and policy of England, and the power and policy of Russia. But that opportunity was not supplied when LOUIS NAPOLEON set his foot on the neck of the French nation. When legality had been trampled out in France in blood and terror, it was not a time to propose an armed alliance in the name of the public law of Christendom. The Russian Emperor, under a false interpretation of treaties, had, in the face of the world, violated a frontier. The French Emperor, in the darkness of the night, had violated oaths, laws, political and personal rights, human life, in the accomplishment of a flagitious ambition. Never was a moment more inopportune, more inauspicious for that alliance, which all intelligent men in both countries had desired since 1792, to which the Republic of 1848 had sacrificed its existence, and which we pray may endure as long as the nations. But when France had suffered that unspeakable injury, was it the best way to secure her friendship, by exulting in the success of the man who had reduced her, as far as a civilised nation can be reduced, to degradation?

Out of this unnatural complicity has sprung an alliance of convenience, not an alliance of the nations, of reason, or of mutual esteem; and, like other unions of like alloy, it may result in indifference, recrimination, and contempt.

Our populace, high-bred and low-bred, is in the habit of saying, with an air of overpowering confidence:—"We could not have refused the French alliance." Is not the phrase an admission of the worst doubts and ambiguities? An ominous fallacy lurks in the word ALLIANCE! A French Alliance does not mean a compact with an Emperor and a populace, but a concord of policy established between nations of reasoning men. We say that there is no reasoning Frenchman, who is at the same time honest, who does not abhor the *regime* of the Coup d'Etat, and suffer remorse for any act that may have facilitated its success. But there was no need to lose the alliance of France, even of Imperial France. England might have recognised, officially, her existing government; it is a sound principle to acknowledge every *de facto* Government that arises in that classic land of transformations. But, from a formal recognition, a friendly, and even cordial understanding, a perfect disposition to act with good-will and good faith, to an ostentatious and sentimental connexion of Courts and Cabinets—an hereditary monarchy, supposed at least to be enshrined in the hearts of a loyal people, embracing with ecstasy a Phenomenon of successful perjury and violence—from *that* to *this* was more than the one step that costs so much. After the Second of December, England, true to herself, her principles, her liberties, held Europe in the palm of her hand. All the reigning dynasties were distrustful of the French Empire; scarcely one was yet free from the menace of the Revolution. Great Britain might then have commanded the policy of Imperial France. But our Government has, from first to last, played into the hands of the French Emperor; in peace as in war, we have been content to act a secondary and subservient part. After setting up the idol, we fell down to adore it. We created opportunities, invented successes for him, and then, in servile amazement, crouched before his fortunes and his genius. The successive operations of the war have been so conducted, as to give all the *éclat*, all the *prestige*, all the aspect of power to France, and now, peace is to be concluded at a signal from our ally, in his capital, on his conditions, precisely at the moment when his harvest of glory is gathered in, and ours lies waiting for the sun. It is known that, for some time, confidential letters have passed between the Imperial Cabinet at Paris and the Court of St. Petersburg. The most courteous, nay, the most obliging dispositions have been professed: to repeat a memorable form of words, "Now that France is satisfied, Europe is content." These letters, the tenor of which is known, not at Vienna and Berlin only, but at Hanover, and throughout the circle of petty German princes, are probably less ambiguous than the recent communications between the French and British Cabinets.

Disinterested men in Paris regard with something like dismay the turn which the reaction in favour of peace is taking in that capital. Reconciliation with Russia is assuming vaguely the shape of a Russian alliance. Is the establishment of an identical policy between two great absolutisms to be one result of the Conference? To this probability, unhappily, other and more complex influences tend, which force us to acknowledge how widely and variously our aristocratic and exclusive system affects our national character in the sight of continental Europe. That a peculiar sympathy exists between Russian and

French society is a known and natural fact, ascribable to an affinity of tastes, habits and manners. In both, the same gaiety of life prevails, the same *insouciance*, the same light wit: to the Russian aristocracy Paris is a second home. In spite of the desolating traditions of the first Empire, this sympathy penetrates all classes. The soldiers of the two armies mutually respect each other; the officers are all Frenchmen by language and cultivation. The present war has not diminished this sentiment. The English army, if it is feared for the prowess of the troops, is the jibe of both French and Russians, for its ignorance, its clumsiness, the incapacity of its generals, the uncompanionable affectation, the reserve and *mauvaise honte* of its "officers and gentlemen." We do not, of course, concur in these disparaging extravagances, we merely cite them, for the moral they suggest;—the necessity of a reform in the constitution and education of our armies.

Another and a graver moral is to be found in facts, which all who are familiar with French society will attest; it is, that the only possible basis of alliance between two powerful nations is mutual respect and no unworthy concessions—a national, not a dynastic basis. We have alienated from us the oppressed and suffering intelligence of France, the confidence of those who once confided in our free spirit. We have made the French Emperor necessary to us, when we might have made ourselves necessary to him. And we have done this, we have insulted the nation, idolised the usurper, and not obtained the respect of the army, the sole support of that government, by which Peace or War is to be decided at the Tuileries. We have created many enemies, and no friends; we have taunted the French nation with its unfitness for liberty; we have acquiesced in a policy which is a development of the Coup d'Etat; humiliation has become our habit; while the prætorians, the sole arbiters of the Empire, ridicule our character, and hate our institutions.

We entreat our readers to take these conscientious words to heart, and to interpret them as they are written. We do not transcribe the just resentments of exiles, still less the mutterings of faction. Refugees, expatriated for defending the laws, cannot expect that their personal bitterness should tinge even the most liberal of English journalism. Sensitively responsible for every printed line, within whatever sphere of publicity it falls, we have not written malignantly, or at random. It is in a public spirit, and from ample information that we commend to the dispassionate consideration of thinking men these statements and these facts. Every honest principle is in danger when the permanent policy of England is subordinated to that of a Phantom autocrat in France, and when that autocrat, who obtained his position by violating every recognised law, is deified by the tawdry rhetoric of aristocratic hirelings as the guardian of Right and Order in Europe.

#### WHAT IS A CONFERENCE?

We can remember no European Conference that ever laid the foundations of a durable peace. A Congress signifies the deliberations of combined and victorious powers, dividing the political and territorial spoils of a completed war. A Conference has usually been a consultation of belligerents in search of a compromise. It is a diplomatic committee, convened *ad hoc*, not to define general principles, or to take cognisance of general European interests, but to decide a special case, within special limitations. After the armistice of Leoben, a Congress was proposed, which resulted in the treaty of Campo Formio, and gave a new form

to Europe. After the armistice of Pleiswitz, Conferences took place, ostensibly to determine the conditions of peace, but, in reality, to give the belligerents breathing time, to cement their alliances, and perfect their warlike preparations. At Erfurt, after the convulsions of 1849, a Conference was held, though by a part of the Germans it was affectingly styled a Congress, to arbitrate between Austria and Prussia, and to adjust their conflicting claims without appealing to the Confederate forces of Germany. But, the clearest illustration of the nature of a Conference was supplied by that which took place in 1854, at Vienna, where certain Points having been laid down as the bases of peace, the plenipotentiaries of Russia, Austria, France, Great Britain, and Turkey met to discuss those points alone, and not any broad scheme for the settlement of disputed questions of European policy, or for remodelling the political constitution of Europe.

The Conferences now assembled at Paris have a specific object, strictly defined in the Austrian plan of peace. But what if any one of the powers represented should propose to convert this diplomatic council into a congress, to remove the anomalies of the public law of Christendom, and to reconcile the Holy Alliance with the altered conditions of Europe? It is obviously important to the French Emperor that the clause in the treaty of Vienna, which excludes the BONAPARTES from the throne of Europe, should be cancelled under the sanction of the old monarchies. Napoleon the Third is not yet crowned. He is not yet anointed. Perhaps the Holy Father might be persuaded to visit Paris, and crown, with the grace of God an Emperor, created by a revolution, but justified and made legitimate by Monarchical Diplomacy.

#### TRIBUNALS OF INDUSTRY.

Mr. MACKINNON's motion in the House of Commons for a Committee to inquire into the propriety of establishing Tribunals of Industrial in England has been successful. This is a real advantage gained for the working classes, and may lead to the establishment of more equitable relations between them and their employers. Mr. MACKINNON has obtained an intimate knowledge of the sentiments of the general industrial body on this subject. In the course of last week he met the delegates of forty thousand working men, and he has received from all parts of the country encouragements to bring the question broadly into the public view. Sir GEORGE GREY did not object, as in former Sessions, that the necessary information has been obtained; for the memorandum he presented in 1854 only touched the externals of the question. What is now essential is to discover how far the system is practicable in England, and if it be impracticable where the fault lies. We are told by employers, that the mechanic is too unreasonable to submit his claims to an impartial arbitration. The artisan tells us, on the contrary, that his master is too proud and peremptory to discuss with him a point of industrial justice. It would be useful to test these ideas, to interrogate masters and men, that we may learn how far both are disposed to adopt a self-acting security against factory oppression, against strikes, against inordinate requirements on one side, and irrational claims on the other.

Is the difference between the English and the French and Belgian employers a difference of nature or of habit? Of habit, clearly; because the system is not old in Belgium or in France. Before the Revolution, masters and workmen in those countries possessed no means of settling their disputes, except by an appeal

to powers which almost invariably decided in behalf of the employer. The Conseils des Prud'hommes, suggested by the Republic, were adopted by the Empire—the first being established at Lyons, in 1809. There was not one in Paris until 1844. The entire number in France is about eighty. In no instance have they failed; in no instance have they dissolved from the apathy of the working class.

In the constitution of these tribunals, an equal weight is given to employers and employed. The president and vice-president, however, who are selected by the government, belong often to neither class. In England a local chamber of commerce, or a mixed committee, might elect these functionaries, so as to avoid the centralising tendencies of the French system. It would be unnecessary, perhaps, to impose any restrictions on the constituencies of these Councils of Labour, such as the three years' residence, and five years' license; but it would not be unjust to require that every member of the Tribunal should be respectably educated, and of a sober age. If we know anything of the great body of English workmen, they would not choose as their representatives in these judicial committees any other than calm and moderate men. To bring the illiterate, fierce, declamatory demagogue face to face with the master-manufacturer would be to prefer hostility to conciliation, and to render fair decisions impossible. Of course it would be judicious to create special as well as general tribunals, the first to sit daily, and to arbitrate without a semblance of coercion; the second to sit at intervals of a week or fortnight, and to effect compulsory settlements of all trifling disputes. Serious questions might be referred to a court of appeal. That the equitable adjustment of industrial interests between masters and men is possible is shown by the statistics of the councils in France. Up to the year 1842 there had been 184,574 cases submitted to the Prud'hommes. Not less than 174,487 were amicably arranged by the Councils of Conciliation. Of ten thousand referred to the general tribunal, one-half were withdrawn, three thousand were peremptorily settled, and nineteen hundred decisions were pronounced subject to appeal. Except in a hundred and ninety instances, however, neither the employers nor the men refused the judgment of their representatives, or made use of the privilege of appeal.

Such are the workings of the system, imperfectly as it has been organised in France. In Belgium the results have been slight on account of the limited number of the tribunals. In parts of Great Britain analogous principles have been adopted with success. Thus, the carpet trade in Scotland and the north of England, which, previous to 1839, was frequently agitated and impoverished by strikes, now convenes an annual meeting, composed of the masters and a delegate from the weavers of each firm. These delegates, at a preliminary committee, discuss their claims, which the masters themselves admit are often urged at the general meeting in clear language and with admirable temper. The result has been that during the last fifteen years the delegates of the carpet trade in the north of England have only once retired dissatisfied. In that instance, they begged their employers to reconsider their decision. This was done, and the dispute was satisfactorily concluded.

The ship-riggers of London illustrate, in another light, the efficacy of arbitration. They are all in turn masters and men—he being the master who obtains the contract. Having bargained with a shipowner to rig his vessel, for £10, or for £15, or £20, he engages assistance, and the proceeds are divided.



Should any difference arise it goes before the Thames police-magistrate, who has no absolute legal jurisdiction, but whose arbitration is all but invariably accepted. Not one dispute in a hundred is carried further. The employer of to-day knows that to-morrow he may be the employed, and thus it is the interest of all to establish a systematic moderation and equity in their mutual dealings.

These, however, are but imperfect plans. The carpet manufacturers only listen to the arguments of their workmen; they do not admit their votes. The ship-riggers happen to be a peculiarly equalised body. But the questions between the great capitalists in the northern and midland counties are more involved and serious, and are even now, we regret to notice, tending towards a general rupture. It is, in fact, impossible that good feeling shall ever be established between the two classes, until the views of the workmen are as fairly considered as those of their employers. It is intolerable that, while every other class of the nation progresses socially, the mechanic and the artisan should never enjoy a chance of earning more, or better, than the daily bread by which their families live. There is rising in the minds of the vast and intelligent majority a protest against the absolutism of capital—that capital in the defence of which army, militia, and police are enlisted. But the conviction is spreading also that hitherto the industrious orders have sought redress by rude and injurious methods. They have lost moral influence by the parade of physical force; they have enfeebled themselves by strikes; they have organised few industrial combinations; their trades are disunited, their strength is dispersed and frittered away in irregular efforts. In the north the principle of association has to a great extent been recognised; but in the south and west what are its results? And yet a mighty power is within the reach of the working classes—the same power by which the middle classes gained parliamentary reform and freedom of trade.

It is said that they contemplate a new political movement. But have they an object? have they a plan? or are obsolete cries to be revived by demagogues, “damned to everlasting fame,” by brick-bat agitation?

The subject of industrial tribunals is one that must be presented broadly and in detail to the working classes. We have some hopes that it will engage their attention, and that when Mr. MACKINNON'S Committee has published its report, public opinion will be ripe for the discussion.

#### NOBLE DISLIKE TO USEFUL LORDS.

WHAT is the House of Peers? Is it a body created by the Crown. Its members originally sat in the Assembly before it had a house, because the Crown wanted their support, or feared them; but, by degrees, the Crown extended this summons to others besides the Lords who held their land by a “service of barony.” The King called to the Assembly Knights of gentle blood, who became “Peers,” or “*pares baronum*.” By WHITELOCKE'S time, most of the Peers were created by letters patent, and scarcely any now exist that are not thus created. At the death of Queen ELIZABETH, the number of Peers was 59; before the reign of the First GEORGE had closed, 154 peerages had become extinct; from the reign of the First JAMES to the First GEORGE, 273 Peers were created; many have subsequently been placed in the House by the Crown; and so, to deny the prerogative is to deny the source of their own existence. If the prerogative is not sufficient, why have we any Peers at all?

If any particular restriction has been imposed on the prerogative, there should be a record of it. The Crown has exercised its prerogative in a great variety of ways. DUGDALE remarks that by the records it appears that the Lords Temporal were summoned in various ways: some were never called above once; some twice or more times; some during their lives, but not their descendants. The creation of life Peers has been repeated in the case of women as late as GEORGE the SECOND, but there have been restraints on the exercise of the royal prerogative in other respects. Originally, the Crown settled the representation of the Commons. HENRY the EIGHTH found only 147 constituencies returning 296 members; he gave the right of returning members to the county of Chester, to the town of Calais in France, a few towns in England, and a number of Welsh towns and counties. EDWARD the SIXTH created Grampound and other boroughs; “Leverpool” and Westminster figuring in the same list. Queen MARY continued the work, so did Queen ELIZABETH; and it was JAMES the FIRST who gave the representation to the two Universities of Oxford and Cambridge. Thus the House of Commons owes its creation to the Crown; but the royal prerogative, modified by the Revolution and the Acts of Union, has been distinctly superseded by successive enactments, including the Reform Bill. In like manner, the creation of Peers and their admission to the House of Lords, has been qualified and restricted, but here the qualifications are partial and specific. The Scotch Lords are elected for the Parliament and are limited in number; the Irish Lords are elected by their own body to Parliament for life, but the Crown is restricted from new creations, except in the proportion of one for every three peerages extinct, until the whole be reduced to one hundred in number. These restrictions upon the prerogative are specific and distinct. DUGDALE, PRYNNE, and WHITELOCKE have amply traced the earlier growth and practice of the prerogative. PRYNNE says, “the King may be said to elect the members of the Lords’ House, wheresoever he chooseth any person (as he may whome he pleaseth) and createth him a baron; which he may do by his writ, or by his letters patents: and the persons so created are thereby elected by the King (in effect) to be members of the House of Peeres in Parlemtent, and shall enjoy the rights and privileges of a Member of that House.” Even the Peers who have resisted the WENSLEYDALE creation have found themselves unable to deny the right of the Crown to give the title and dignity of a Baron; but evidently they have as little right to deny that the Crown has created their own House, and that the patent of creation is a ticket of admission. Let them deny the WENSLEYDALE patent, and what becomes of their own patent?

Manifestly the Lords think to stand upon some separate rights of their own, independently of the royal creation; but what are those rights? In the early days of the Peerage the Peers sat by the right of power, the most indefeasible of all rights. They were under the King, but practically, and in very fact, the “Lords” of the soil, the masters of the inhabitants, the governors of counties, and the House of Peers was *de facto* a council of the officers of the country. They are now the land-owners by an usurpation, actual property having been substituted for the feudal tenure, which was tenantry acquitted by military services and contributions to the State. What has become of that tenure now? The Crown no longer summons the Lords, existing *de facto*, but it has created before it summoned. Have the Peers, ceasing to be identified with the

land, acquired some other title in the affections of the country, in being identified with any of our modern institutions, in being of any peculiar use to the people? In no respect can the Lords establish any such title. The best they can show is simply that they are members of the House of Lords by creation. Their claim upon their country consists in their being where they are, and acting as they do. Place any man where they are, let him act as intelligently as they do, and he would have exactly the same claim upon the public gratitude. Is it possible to pretend that men of equal intelligence are not to be found outside the House?

The Opposition propose to limit the selection of able and useful men to the wealthy. A man's power of constructing consistent statutes, they say, of counselling the Crown wisely, and of judging upon appeals, depends, not only on his having a good income for himself, but on his being able to settle an income upon his children. This is judging of the capacity of the present legislator by the income of the successor he is going to have.

They propose one expedient for getting over the difficulty. The Crown, they say, must grant only hereditary peerages, but if the succession is a difficulty, they add, besides those who can provide heritable property, the Crown can choose those who will have no children. The capacity of the legislator and the Privy Councillor made out of Judge, is tested, in the first place, by the wealth of the peer's children, and in the second by his incapacity to have any children! Baron PARKE, they say, is just the man to endow with a heritable peerage, not only because he is a rich man, but because he can't have any heirs. The very legists who deny the validity of the WENSLEYDALE peerage, willingly recognise that part of Lord WENSLEYDALE'S claim which rests upon his having no son. This is certainly presenting the House of Lords in a new aspect for the respect and confidence of the public.

#### THE NAWAB OF SURAT AND THE EAST INDIA COMPANY.

IN the palmy days of ISLAM, the city of Surat was known to Indian Mahomedans as one of the gates of Mecca. Thousands and tens of thousands of devout pilgrims annually sailed from that port for the holy city. The commercial advantages of its situation were, moreover, so conspicuous and great that an English factory was established there at a very early period. And these western adventurers availed themselves of an opportunity to render an important service to their Mogul protector, by repelling an invasion of the Mahrattas sometime in the middle of the seventeenth century. About one hundred years afterwards, the civil Governor of the town besought the aid of the English in gaining possession of the castle and fleet, which by that time had fallen into the hands of the Mahrattas. At first the Bombay Government hesitated to take a step which might embroil them in hostilities with their powerful and turbulent neighbours. But when British subjects also were exposed to insult and outrage, they could no longer hesitate upon a course rendered necessary as well for their security as for the maintenance of their dignity. The castle and fleet were therefore seized in the name of the Emperor of DELHI, whose flag floated from the walls, and from the masthead of an English cruiser stationed in those waters. It must be admitted, however, that their vassalage was rather nominal than real. They not only undertook the military defence of the place, but they also interfered with its civil government. They allowed the Nawab, indeed, to retain his title and semblance of power, but the actual administration

of affairs was entrusted to a Naib, or chief manager, appointed by themselves.

Notwithstanding these anomalous relations between the NAWAB and the Bombay Government, no great inconvenience was experienced until the total wreck of the Mogul Empire. They had hitherto stood on parallel lines, which now threatened to converge. Only one consequence could possibly ensue. The weaker power must be absorbed, or effaced, by the stronger. The NAWAB saw, and submitted to, his fate. He consented to hold directly of the English, as he had formerly held of the Emperor of DELHI. The objectionable office of Naib was then abolished, and the NAWAB was permitted to mis-govern his people after his own fashion—his merchant-masters guaranteeing him against all foreign foes, in consideration of a certain annual subsidy. After a time, however, it was discovered that the stipulated sum was inadequate to the exigencies of the case. Frequent disputes thence arose; but the Bombay Government was spared the pretext for either violence or fraud by the death of the NAWAB, who was speedily followed to the grave by his infant son. The last reigning prince, it is true, had left a brother, who, according to the Mahomedan law, might reasonably expect to succeed to the Musnud. But the British Government apprised him of his mistake, by intimating that the office was not hereditary—the GREAT MOGUL having appointed whom he would at each recurring vacancy, they, as the successors of that illustrious potentate, were equally entitled to exercise their pleasure or discretion. Their requisitions were such as no prince could accept without hope of evasion; but to evade them, under such a military despotism as the British, was an idea too chimerical to be entertained. They were, consequently, refused; and the East India Company took possession of the revenues and government of Surat, conferring on the heir-apparent to that dignity the title of Nawab, and a pension of £15,000 a-year, for himself and his heirs for ever, or until such heirs became extinct. This is acknowledged by Mr. DUNCAN, the Governor of Bombay, who signed the Articles of Agreement, on the 13th of May, 1800, in the name and by the authority of the new Governor General, the Marquis of WELLESLEY.

The annuity of £15,000 was regularly paid the NAWAB, and, likewise, to his son and successor, until the death of the latter in 1842. Now, MEER AFZULOODEEN KHAN died without male issue, and also intestate. His two daughters had been married to the sons of MEER SURFARAZ ALEE, "a distinguished general in the service of his Highness the Gujowar," with the distinct understanding that these young noblemen should inherit the property of their father-in-law, and that one of them should succeed to his title. The question here naturally arises, had the NAWAB the power to make such an agreement? That he himself entertained doubts upon the subject is apparent from his letter to Mr. WILLIAMS, the Resident at Baroda. After announcing the marriage of his daughters, he says:—"I am exceedingly pleased with them (his sons-in-law), and have appointed them my successors. I request the same of the Honourable the Government, and for the same reason I beg of you to keep this matter in your reflection." Mr. WILLIAMS yet more clearly assumes that it rested with his Government to sanction or annul this settlement. These are his words:—"In this matter I write to you, as a friend, that I will use all the endeavours in my power with the honourable Government, in the object above cited; you should think of no omission

on my part, as a sincere friend." It does not appear what was the result of the Resident's application, or that he ever made any. However, on the death of one of the NAWAB's daughters her husband waived all claim to the succession, and his brother, MEER JAFFIER ALEE was left sole heir to his father-in-law. This prince unfortunately died suddenly from an attack of cholera, without having made a will, though his intentions in favour of JAFFIER ALEE had been long and universally known.

Sir GEORGE ARTHUR, then Governor of Bombay, declared in an official minute that the Government was "bound in honour and dignity to continue the pension of £15,000 to the NAWAB's family," and recommended that the amount should be divided between the surviving daughter and certain collateral members of the family. This recommendation was only in part acceded to by the GOVERNOR-GENERAL, who logically reasoned that if the office was extinct the pension should also expire, but his Lordship was willing to continue its payment as "a bounty." Strange to say, the Government of Bombay now declined to recognise MEER JAFFIER's claims "either as a bounty or a right." They went still further, and actually seized upon the private estate of the late NAWAB, and even upon the property he had presented in his lifetime to his daughter and her mother. Upon this MEER JAFFIER came to England, in 1844, and urged his claims upon the justice and generosity of the Court of Directors. That honourable Board decided, however, by a majority of one, that the GOVERNOR-GENERAL's opinion should be sustained, but the Chairman personally assured the claimant that only a small portion of the pension would be withheld.

Grateful for small mercies, JAFFIER ALEE returned to India only to learn that the local authorities set at naught the orders of the magnates of Leadenhall-street. The Bombay Government had the audacity and meanness to offer him a pension of £1,200, and the same sum for his two daughters during their respective terms of existence. And these payments were to be accepted as a definitive satisfaction of all claims. This glaring act of injustice necessitated a second appeal to the Court of Directors, in 1848, who repeated their former orders, and insisted upon their execution. The Bombay Government now resolved that £4,000 should be deducted from the annuity of £15,000, to represent the amount expended on State ceremonies, which would not be expected from the present claimant. This resolution, though manifestly arbitrary, would still leave a pension of £11,000; instead of which only £5,200 was actually paid.

Nor was this all. It has already been mentioned that the NAWAB's private estate was placed under sequestration soon after his decease. But seven years afterwards the Government discovered that they had acted illegally, and were liable to an action for damages being laid against them in the Queen's Bench. They, therefore, obtained from the Legislative Council of India a special act of indemnity, couched in the following terms:—"The Governor of Bombay in Council is empowered to act in the administration of the property of whatever nature left by the late NAWAB of SURAT in regard to the settlement and payment of debts and claims standing against the estate of the late NAWAB at the time of his death, and to make distribution of the remaining property among his family. And no Act of the said Governor of Bombay in Council in respect to the administration to, and distribution of, such property, from the date of the death of the said late NAWAB shall be liable to be questioned in any Court of Law or Equity." In other

words, the Legislative Council of India assumes to itself the power of suspending the fundamental laws of the British Empire. It pretends to deprive a British subject of the right of appeal. It might as well suspend the action of the Habeas Corpus Act in any individual case, or deny an accused person the privilege of being tried by his peers. But these acts of arrogance, this spirit of aggression, must ever be expected so long as the present system of Government prevails in India. If the authorities can screen themselves from investigation into their many deeds of arbitrary violence and oppression, it is vain to ask of the natives to revere the religion, to cultivate the civilisation, to respect and love the institutions, customs, or persons of their rulers. Unless the direct government of the Crown, acting through a responsible minister, be speedily extended to those immense territories, the British public will be perpetually startled and shocked by disgraceful exhibitions of cupidity, meanness, and insolent oppression.

In spite of this Legislative Council and its special acts, MEER JAFFIER ALEE has the spirit to appeal to the justice and good feeling of the British nation. It has long since been decided that he should receive one-half of £11,000 a-year—the other moiety being distributed amongst collaterals. But, as it appears by the "custom" of the family, which in India is held superior to either Mahomedan or Hindoo law, that these collaterals are not entitled to inherit, he demands that both moieties shall be paid to himself alone. He further asks that the decision of the Bombay Government with respect to the private property of the late NAWAB shall be referred to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.

These questions will be brought before the House of Commons on Tuesday next, when the representatives of the British people will have an opportunity of proving to their fellow-subjects in the far East, that no act of injustice can be perpetrated with impunity within the bounds of the empire, however powerful the oppressor, however insignificant the victim. A simple act of justice is sued for at their hands. They cannot, in the face of Europe, turn a deaf ear to the cry.

## Open Council.

[IN THIS DEPARTMENT, AS ALL OPINIONS, HOWEVER EXTREME, ARE ALLOWED AN EXPRESSION, THE EDITOR NECESSARILY HOLDS HIMSELF RESPONSIBLE FOR NONE.]

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

### THE NATIONAL GALLERY—THE NEW PURCHASE.

(To the Editor of the Leader.)

SIR,—I have seen to-day, for the first time, the new picture in the National Gallery, attributed to Paul Veronese.

As one of the witnesses examined by the "Select Committee on the National Gallery" of 1853, and as one of those who, in 1855, signed the "Protest and Counter-statement" against the report of that Committee, I now protest against the purchase, at any price, of a picture so bad, and so secured and repainted as the one in question.

To expend public money upon so worthless a picture, is not only a gross misapplication of the revenue, but it is also calculated to bring the nation into contempt, as establishing, presumptuously, that works of the lowest type are the most congenial to us, and that in selecting even these, we are incompetent to distinguish the genuine from the spurious.

It has been stated officially that one thousand nine hundred and seventy-seven pounds were paid for this picture. I will venture to assert, that no picture-valuer worthy of credit would appraise it at one-tenth of that sum; but, I repeat, that, at no price ought it to have been purchased. Even at a gift it would not be worth the space it occupies in the National Gallery.

Yours, &c.,

WILLIAM CONINGHAM.

Kemptown, February 20, 1856.



## 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*.

"MAN does not live by bread alone;" nevertheless bread, or its equivalent, is no contemptible adjunct to the means of life: a remark which was once made to a friend of ours by a French lady sitting next to him at dinner, and who, desirous of entering upon conversation while awaiting the soup, said, with the air of one communicating an important truth: *Monsieur, le pain et l'eau sont fort essentiels*. Had we been the happy mortal thus addressed, our answer would have been, *Et la viande, donc!* for although some flaccid theorists maintain that vegetables alone constitute the true regimen of man, the prejudice in favour of beef has its merit.

M. PAYEN is publishing, in *La Revue des Deux Mondes*, a series of articles on Public Food, and in the number for February 1, there is one of great interest on Butchers' meat, which, although written with a view to the municipal regulations of Paris, contains many points of interest to other than Parisian readers. He undertakes, among other things, to disprove the vulgar notion that bones make good soup. The celebrated *Gelatine Commission*, some years ago, declared, as the results of many experiments, that gelatine was not nutritious; and this result has been repeated in almost every text-book of physiology as conclusive, and is adopted by M. PAYEN, who tests it in another series of experiments. Accepting the fact, we demur to the reasoning. But first let us state the fact. M. PAYEN boiled in one pot a portion of beef completely divested of bone, and in another the bone taken from the beef, with only a little salt. After five hours' slow boiling, the liquid from the beef was perfectly limpid, and of a light amber colour, having that aroma and delicate taste known to belong to good beef tea. The liquid from the bones was whitish-grey, troubled and opaque, having a very slight odour, and a not agreeable taste. Nothing could be more opposed than the two soups thus produced. In another experiment, he repeated this process with the addition of some vegetables, and even some drops of caramel. The beef-soup here maintained its delicious aroma, agreeably combined with that of the vegetables; its limpidity was the same, but its colour of course stronger. The bone-soup had a dominant odour of vegetables, but its troubled and opaque aspect made it very unappetizing. From these experiences M. PAYEN concludes that the prejudice in favour of the addition of bones to the soup is—a prejudice; and that, in fact, bones are not at all nutritious.

Now here we have to note a fallacy of some importance in physiology, and, what perhaps the reader will think even more important, a fallacy in the practical deduction. Two weeks ago we had occasion to show how empirical practice, as regards the feeding of cattle in early morning, was legitimized by science. Tradition was right, though it could give no reasons. We believe that the tradition respecting bone-soup is right, and that Science can show why it is right; although here, as in the case of cattle feeding, by pointing out the real cause it limits and defines the practice. Had physiologists considered more accurately what Nutrition really is, they would not so easily have made the mistake of supposing gelatine to be non-nutritious. Nutrition is, at bottom, nothing but assimilation; the process by which an organism selects from the substances in immediate contact with it those principles which are like its own; thus albumen is assimilated by albumen, and phosphate of lime assimilated by phosphate of lime; thus an animal in whose structure bone is a constituent element, must have phosphate of lime given in its food, or its bones will perish, for it cannot make phosphates, it can only assimilate them. As soon as this is clearly conceived the conclusion is inevitable, namely, that inorganic substances are as necessary to the nutrition of an animal as organic substances are; and when the *Gelatine Commission* declared gelatine not to be nutritious because animals fed on gelatine died rapidly of inanition, a fallacy was propounded; for even albumen itself, if made the sole food, would not prevent the animal from rapid starvation, and yet no one declares albumen not to be eminently nutritious. The truth is, no single element of food suffices for a complex structure. The organism can make nothing, it can only decompose and assimilate the products of such decomposition.

To apply this reasoning to bone-soup will not be difficult. Observation early showed that carnivorous animals devoured the bones as well as the flesh, and digested them; had they rejected them as they do hair and other indigestible materials, or as the *actinia* does the shell of the muscle or crab which it has swallowed (after carefully assimilating the flesh—the *actinia* has no bones or shell, therefore can find no use for these substances and rejects them) then, indeed, we might reasonably have supposed the animals did not find bones nutritious; but as they digest and assimilate the bones, we assert the bones to be indispensable. Feed a dog on meat without bones, and give him no biscuit or other food, in which are the inorganic substances he demands, and you will soon find him perish let your meat be ever so nutritious. CROSSART tried a similar experiment with pigeons: he deprived them of all chalk, except such as they took in the grains on which they fed; the consequence was that they all died of starvation. But do not let us quit the path of vulgar observation. On that path we have met with the fact that animals eat the bones; we shall further meet the fact

that housewives have from time immemorial boiled the bones with the meat, and found the soup better for it. Is this a prejudice merely? According to Mr. PAYEN, it is; but we think the practice eminently rational. Although bone-soup without meat will never be half so nutritious as beef-soup without bones, it nevertheless is not so valueless as theorists proclaim; and bone-soup with vegetables is nutritious, bone-soup with meat perfect. We want the gelatine; if we do not get it in soup we must get it elsewhere.

Of course the reader will understand that we are not arguing for the nutritiveness of bone as in the least equal to that of meat; we only argue for its due recognition as a nutritive substance. M. PAYEN seems disinclined to allow it any value. He, however, attacks another prejudice, and this time more successfully, in arguing in favour of cow-beef, as equal to and often superior to ox-beef. He also examines the influence of forage on the quality of meat; and lays it down, as a fact decided beyond dispute, that the superiority of French veal over the English (a superiority no one who has tasted the two will deny), in aroma, tenderness, and delicacy, is owing to the French calves being fed on milk so much longer than the English. He confirms the opinion that the milk of the cow depends for its qualities on the forage; thus when fed on plants containing little fat, or impregnated with disagreeable odours, such as cabbages and turnips, the cow gives a milk scanty in cream and without aroma. It is owing to the immense cultivation of Swedish turnips in England that our milk and butter are inferior to those of Brittany and Normandy.

We have said enough to make the reader curious to see *La Revue des Deux Mondes*, and consult M. PAYEN's article. If this week it has been our cue to speak less of the "food for the mind," let the cause be appreciated—we had none such to speak of.

## MODERN PAINTERS.

*Modern Painters*. Vol. III. Containing Part IV. Of Many Things. By John Ruskin, M.A. Smith, Elder and Co.

We have a kindness for Mr. Ruskin, derived entirely from the reading of his books. All men who think for themselves, or who have even wished to think for themselves on matters of Art and Literature, owe him a great debt of gratitude for valuable teaching and hearty encouragement. A writer who has brought long and arduous study, literary ability of the highest order, earnestness, courage, and extraordinary originality of view to the service of criticism on Art in this country, has deserved well of his readers, and has acquired very strong claims to their admiration and regard. Feeling this, we have no desire to dwell at length on what we believe to be, the inherent defects of Mr. Ruskin's mental nature. We can find enough that is good, true, and beautiful in all his books to atone for the blemishes which may deface them here and there—blemishes which we see with no unfriendly eyes—and which we sincerely deplore as obstacles that hinder Mr. Ruskin sadly in his own earnest and noble purpose of following the truth himself, and of teaching it honestly to the public.

The present volume, viewed as a literary achievement, is the highest and most striking evidence of the author's abilities that has yet been published. If it has all his former defects, it has more than his former merits. It shows the maturity of his powers of thought, and the perfection of his grace of style. Even where we differ with him most widely, even where we believe him to be most mischievously self-deluded, in his character of public teacher, we can still recognise the qualities of a great, if not always of a deliberate and impartial thinker. The minor defects of this volume we shall not attempt to particularise—for they are more than balanced by the minor beauties only: the main faults are, as it seems to us, first, a disposition on the author's part to see things too much in detail, to find out too many hidden meanings in the picture or poem which he is examining; and secondly, a tendency to believe in the infallibility of theory, which leads him, unconsciously, to substitute in some places sophistry for reasoning, and occasionally to make his comparisons (in the Irish phrase) "all on one side." In founding a theory on general views which are quite correct, Mr. Ruskin does not appear willing to admit the influence of exceptional and particular cases, and seems not to feel, and not to let his readers feel, the weakening effect on the universal truth of the theory which such cases must inevitably have. In the chapters on the "Grand Style," and elsewhere, at easily-recognisable intervals throughout the book, his desire to be infallibly right, and to prove his opponents to be infallibly wrong, leads him into exaggerations, intricacies, straw-splittings, and minute perversions, which would look like unfairness, if we did not make full allowance for the peculiar tendencies of the writer's mind; and did not always recognise his honesty of purpose. Has there ever been such a phenomenon in the world as a man with views indisputably right, or a man with views indisputably wrong? If there has, where in the whole history of human controversy can any proof be found of it?

However, after all due stress has been laid on Mr. Ruskin's faults, there must remain in his favour a large balance of admiration—a balance which he has greatly increased in importance by his present volume. He touches this time on such various topics, that his second title "Of Many Things," is much more expressive of what his book is really about, than the old title, "Modern Painters." The only modern painter who gets much attention is Turner. The Old Master whose spurious claims to admiration are exposed most convincingly and justly is Claude. The True Ideal and the False Ideal, the Use of Pictures, Medieval and Modern Landscape, are among the topics discussed with the widest reach of thought and the most eloquent persuasion of language. Mr. Ruskin presses Poetry into the service of illustrating his theories, as well as Painting. His comparison between the modern poets who have egotistically sought in their works to keep themselves before the reader, occupying him incessantly with their own joys and sorrows, and the delightful absence of all egotism of this sort in the poems of Scott, is most admirably drawn. In these passages, and in those relating to the French school of novel-writers, Mr. Ruskin nobly vindicates his courage, his vigorous originality of view, and

his exquisite powers of expression. We thank him for this, and we also thank him heartily for sustaining the cause of direct thought and honest sense, against the modern German school of philosophy with its "subjective," and "objective," its weary fulness of words, and its utter emptiness of meaning.

To give, however, anything like a satisfactory account, in detail, of the various subjects treated of in this volume, is impossible within the limits of a single notice. We beg our readers to go at once to the book. Not one of them but will get good from it—not one of them but will rise from it with the highest opinion of the abilities of the man who has written it, even in the passages where he may most shock their prejudices and ways of thought. We have referred already to the wealth of noble ideas scattered throughout these pages, and to the rare beauty, power, and eloquence of the language in which they are clothed. Here is a specimen passage, on true greatness in the painter, which ought to be read and remembered everywhere:—

We cannot say that a painter is great because he paints boldly, or paints delicately; because he generalises or particularises; because he loves detail, or because he disdains it. He is great if, by any of these means, he has laid open noble truths, or aroused noble emotions. It does not matter whether he paint the petal of a rose, or the chasms of a precipice, so that Love and Admiration attend him as he labours, and wait for ever upon his work. It does not matter whether he toil for months upon a few inches of his canvas, or cover a palace front with colour in a day, so only that it be with a solemn purpose that he has filled his heart with patience, or urged his hand to haste. And it does not matter whether he seek for his subjects among peasants or nobles, among the heroic or the simple, in courts or in fields, so only that he behold all things with a thirst for beauty, and a hatred of meanness and vice. There are, indeed, certain methods of representation which are usually adopted by the most active minds, and certain characters of subject usually delighted in by the noblest hearts; but it is quite possible, quite easy, to adopt the manner of painting without sharing the activity of mind, and to imitate the choice of subject without possessing the nobility of spirit; while, on the other hand, it is altogether impossible to foretell on what strange objects the strength of a great man will sometimes be concentrated, or by what strange means he will sometimes express himself. So that true criticism of art never can consist in the mere application of rules; it can be just only when it is founded on quick sympathy with the innumerable instincts and changeable efforts of human nature, chastened and guided by unchanging love of all things that God has created to be beautiful, and pronounced to be good.

Here is another paragraph, admirable for its far-sighted truth, on the interesting and difficult subject of the instinct for colour among savage nations:—

And this is the reason for the somewhat singular, but very palpable truth, that the Chinese, and Indians, and other semi-civilised nations, can colour better than we do; and that an Indian shawl and China vase are still, in invention of colour, imitable by us. It is their glorious ignorance of all rules—that does it; the pure and true instincts have play, and do their work—instincts so subtle, that the least warping or compression breaks or blunts them; and the moment we begin teaching people any rules about colour, and make them do this or that, we crush the instinct generally for ever. Hence, hitherto, it has been an actual necessity, in order to obtain power of colouring, that a nation should be half-savage: everybody could colour in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries; but we were ruled and legalised into grey in the fifteenth—only a little salt simplicity of their sea natures at Venice still keeping their precious, shell-fishy purpleness and power; and now that is gone; and nobody can colour anywhere, except the Hindoos and Chinese: but that need not be so, and will not be so long; for, in a little while, people will find out their mistake, and give up talking about rules of colour; and then everybody will colour again, as easily as they now talk.

And to end with, let us give a passage on "Grass," which for purity and beauty of thought and language has been surpassed by no writer—equalled but by very few, living or dead, in England, or out of it:—

Consider what we owe merely to the meadow grass, to the covering of the dark ground by that glorious enamel, by the companies of those soft, and countless, and peaceful spears. The fields! Follow but forth for a little time the thoughts of all that we ought to recognise in those words. All spring and summer is in them,—the walks by silent, scented paths,—the rests in noonday heat,—the joy of herds and flocks,—the power of all shepherd life and meditation,—the life of sunlight upon the world, falling in emerald streaks, and falling in soft blue shadows, where else it would have struck upon the dark mould, or scorching dust,—pastures beside the pacing brooks,—soft banks and knolls of lowly hills,—thymy slopes of down overlooked by the blue line of lifted sea,—crisp lawns all dim with early dew, or smooth in evening warmth of barred sunshine, dented by happy feet, and softening in their fall the sound of loving voices; all these are summed in those simple words; and these are not all. We may not measure to the full the depth of this heavenly gift, in our own land; though still, as we think of it longer, the infinite of that meadow sweetness, Shakspeare's peculiar joy, would open on us more and more, yet we have it but in part. Go out in the spring time, among the meadows that slope from the shores of the Swiss lakes to the roots of their lower mountains. There, mingled with the taller gentians and the white narcissus, the grass grows deep and free; and as you follow the winding mountain paths, beneath arching boughs all veiled and dim with blossom,—paths that for ever droop and rise over the green banks and mounds sweeping down in scented undulation, steep to the blue water, studded here and there with new-mown heaps, filling all the air with fainter sweetness,—look up, towards the higher hills, where the waves of everlasting green roll silently into their long inlets among the shadows of the pines; and we may, perhaps, at last know the meaning of those quiet words of the 147th Psalm, "He maketh grass to grow upon the mountains."

There are also several lessons symbolically connected with this subject, which we must not allow to escape us. Observe, the peculiar characters of the grass, which adapt it especially for the service of man, are its apparent *humility* and *cheerfulness*. Its humility, in that it seems created only for lowest service,—appointed to be trodden on, and fed upon. Its cheerfulness, in that it seems to exult under all kinds of violence and suffering. You roll it, and it is stronger the next day; you mow it, and it multiplies its shoots, as if it were grateful; you tread upon it, and it only sends up richer perfume. Spring comes, and it rejoices with all the earth,—glowing with variegated flame of flowers,—waving in soft depth of fruitful strength. Winter comes, and though it will not mock its fellow plants by growing then, it will not pine and mourn, and turn colourless or leafless as they. It is always green; and is only the brighter and gayer for the hoar-frost.

We had a point or two on which to dispute with Mr. Ruskin—especially in

relation to a passage in which he classifies painters (Chapter III. Section V) on a principle, as it seems to us, of the most lamentably mistaken sort. But after reading these last glorious sentences over again, we cannot find it in our hearts to dispute with the man who wrote them. We began this brief and imperfect notice in a friendly rather than a critical spirit—so let us end it. Mr. Ruskin has helped us to find a new joy in all our field-walks for the future. Let others part disputatiously with him, we will part admiringly and gratefully.

#### POPULAR SCIENCE.

*Orr's Circle of the Sciences: Organic Nature*, Vols. II. and III. Houlston and Stoneman.

ONE of the rare achievements in Literature is the exposition of a science in terms intelligible to the uninstructed, without any sacrifice of science. Works written *down* to popular ignorance are common enough, and mostly proceed from writers almost as ignorant as the public they pretend to enlighten; but works proceeding from the fulness of knowledge, and popular, because knowledge has given mastery, clear, because mastery of the subject enables the writers to escape from technical forms, and *translate* into the vernacular the language used by the initiated, are necessarily rare, for such knowledge and such expository power are rare. In the course of our duty we have repeatedly had occasion to examine and report on scientific treatises addressed to the public, and we cannot at present recollect a single example of such success as Dr. Edward Smith has achieved in the little treatise on *Botany*, which forms half a volume of the two named at the head of this article. We heartily recommend it as an admirable introduction to that delightful study. It is simple in arrangement, clear, systematic, sufficiently full, and yet brief. Dr. Smith is a master of the art of exposition. He sets down enough to make the student clearly understand the principles of the science, and he does not overload the memory and confuse the exposition with too many details. He writes an introduction, not an exhaustive treatise. The anatomy and physiology of plants are clearly expounded; and many suggestive details respecting the commercial uses of plants and their products, follow the exposition of each point. After presenting a concise yet satisfactory exposition of the structure and functions of plants, he proceeds to the classification of plants; and teaches the student how to identify any plant he may meet with. Three hundred and eighty diagrams, many of them quite new, illustrate the text. We have said enough to put the reader in possession of what Dr. Smith has attempted, and how he has executed it. We have read every word of his treatise, and have nothing but praise to bestow on his execution. There are, indeed, some points on which we cannot agree with Dr. Smith, but these belong more to general Biology than to Botany.

Thus Dr. Smith, in his section on the *raphides*, or needle-crystals found in plants, says, "Phosphate of lime is found abundantly in the bones of the animal body, but not in the precise form in which we observe it in *raphides*. We have no instance of oxalate of lime crystals in the body; but they are not unfrequently met with in the urine of persons both in apparent health and in disease, so that it has been inferred that they have been introduced with the food." MM. Robin and Verdeil, in their *Traité de Chimie Anatomique*, notice oxalate of lime as a constituent principle, and conceive it probable that it is formed in the animal, although its presence is always transitory, except in disease.

Elsewhere, speaking of the silicious substances found in plants, Dr. Smith says, "It must be clearly understood that this substance constitutes no part of vegetable structure;" in this he follows but the common mistake of supposing that the inorganic substances are *not* constituent elements of organic beings; but surely a little reflection will suffice to show that elements which are invariably found in an organism, and without which the organism would not be what it is, must be *constituents*. The bones of an animal, the skull of an animal, and the silicious coating of a grass, cannot be separated, and leave these organisms perfect. It does not affect the question to say the inorganic substances are merely *deposited* in the organism, and not themselves *assuming* any form of organisation. There they are, and are *constituents*, which we may compare to the deposition of untransformed vegetable substance in the animal body, forming an integral part of its tissue, shown to be probable in these columns three weeks ago, *à propos* of the *Leaf-insect* and caterpillar?

A great reformation is needed in Biology. The old ideas have been displaced by the discoveries every year widening our conceptions; and a new systematization of principles becomes necessary. Dr. Smith, for example, following the old idea, argues that "if analogies are truly founded upon *function* and not upon *structure*, we must admit, &c."—If, indeed! But to found analogies upon function would be to make havoc with all philosophy. On such a plan we might declare that the little masses of animated jelly which move by putting forth prolongations of their own substance, and retracting them again into the general mass (the *rhizopoda*) have *legs*, no less than the mammalia have; we must declare that the infusoria have *stomachs*, and the polypus *arms*. The analogies in these cases are simply *analogies* of function, but they are quite incompetent to such determinations, as the one employed by Dr. Smith in this passage:—"It is the fashion to state that endogens have no bark, since none is separable from the wood, and that the cuticle is simply the hardened exposed cells of the stem, with the ends of bundles of woody fibre intermixed. If analogies are truly founded upon function, and not upon structure, we must admit that there is a cuticle or external protective covering to endogenous stems." Observe, the question is, Have endogenous trees any *bark*? By bark a specific *structure* is meant; and to prove that the structure is present, Botanists argue that the *function* is present; which is like saying that the *rhizopoda* must have *legs* because they have the means of progression. It is this error of concluding the existence of an organ from the presence of a function, which has made comparative anatomists declare that those animals, in whom no nervous system can be detected, nevertheless, have the nervous matter in what they gratuitously called a "diffused state." No! analogies of function are analogies of function simply, analogies of structure are analogies of structure. If the reader should ask, how it is that inasmuch as *function implies organ*, the analogy of function may not be used to determine the existence of an organ? the answer is, that biologists are very loose and inaccurate in their employment of the



term function, sometimes meaning the activity of an organ, and sometimes merely the general property of tissue. But this question is too wide to be entered upon here. Mr. Dallas, in his treatise on the *Invertebrate Animals*, which is bound up with Dr. Smith's *Botany*, falls into the same philosophical confusion. He says for example, that the cilia which cover the bodies of infusoria are "moveable at the will of the creature." We do not make this a reproach to Mr. Dallas; he is but employing current language. But must he not admit that to speak of the "will" of an infusorial animalcule is somewhat startling, if the idea be realised; and, moreover, must he not, on reflection, admit that so far from the movement of these cilia being volitional, they are *incessant*—resulting, as we conceive, from the simple contractility of the tissue placed in an element which incessantly stimulates it?

Of Mr. Dallas's two treatises, that on *Invertebrate* and that on *Vertebrate Animals*, we cannot speak so confidently as of Dr. Smith's *Botany*, because we have not had leisure to read them with the same close attention; nevertheless we have read enough to be aware that it is no dull compilation, repeating with little variation what is to be found in every other handbook. It is clearly written, carefully compiled, well illustrated with diagrams, and executed with conscientious zeal. As an introduction to the study of Zoology it seems to be the very book which was wanted; and the cheapness of cost brings it within very moderate means; four shillings and sixpence secure Dr. Smith's *Botany* and Mr. Dallas's *Invertebrata*; another five shillings and sixpence will pay for the *Vertebrata*.

We have been thus circumstantial in our notice of these volumes, because it is very important that popular works of science should be, what they seldom are, popular and scientific; and because the treatise on *Physiology* in the first volume of this series is just what a popular work should not be. Let us add, however, that this first volume, which contains so poor an account of the principles of *Physiology*, contains an account of the *skeleton* by Professor Owen—*il maestro di color che sanno*—and a brief account of the *Races of Men*, by Dr. Latham. The three volumes thus devoted to "Organic Nature" make up a valuable series at a low price.

#### ANOTHER WAR BOOK.

Sevastopol. *Our Tent in the Crimea; and Wanderings in Sebastopol.* By Two Brothers. Bentley.

Of what we may call the amateur productions in the Crimean campaign, or rather a part of it, including the crowning struggle, this volume may be reckoned to stand among the best. It is the work, as the title-page indicates, of two brothers, inflamed somewhat with the common fever, who could not rest until they had seen what was doing in the Crimea. One brother, unfortunately, fell ill just before the last bombardment, and returned home invalided; the other was able to stay out the play; and he has given us an account which all will read with interest. They are "Travelling Gents," as the camp folks call them; but they are several grades above the "T. G." who concocted *Inside Sebastopol*. Consequently their volume is less taken up with flippant notes of travel over the well-worn Levantine and Italian routes; and as they remained longer in the Crimea, and had better guiding than that Munchausen of the Redan, so do we find that they give us more trustworthy descriptions of the scenes visible to the intelligent in the camp. The brother who remained the longer in the camp describes many things, and describes them well—as the field of Inkermann, perhaps the best non-military account of that battle ground, and the best outline of the battle, that has yet been published; a visit to the French trenches during the firing; a visit to the English trenches, under fire; sketches about the camp; the life-like portraiture of what could be seen on the 8th September; and some very fair accounts of the interior of Sebastopol. The style and manner of these volumes is without pretension. It is the style of the English gentleman, and convinces you, by its frank unaffectedness, that the author believes what he writes.

It would be unfair not to give some specimens and to call attention to the evidence of this witness in the matter of the Redan. Here is an account of a conversation over the breakfast-table of a French officer. Our readers will value it at this moment:—

There were present four officers, besides our host; all men who had seen rough service in Algeria. In deference to the ignorance of the two English civilians, the conversation turned at first on general subjects, but the bias was strong—too strong for a long restraint, and within a quarter of an hour discussions had arisen on purely professional topics—on the merits of the Minié, on the Russian shells that had caps instead of fuses—on the late battle, &c. I was struck, both on this occasion and others, by the invariable tendency of French officers in their intercourse with each other to converse on subjects connected with their profession. I do not refer to "promotion," or the "last line step," but to matters of a military scientific nature. Such is not the case in our army. There are, probably, two reasons for the difference. The French officer, in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred, has nothing but his sword to look to. His regiment is his home, and the army the object of his warmest attachment. Many of our officers enter the service as a gentlemanlike occupation for their younger years. They look forward to leaving it when tired of moving and of regimental life, or when the governor shall, in dying, leave his son the old estate. They are not domiciled in the army for good. Again, the French officer trusts, in a great measure, to his skill and knowledge to bring him into notice, and ensure his rise. The English officer looks to patronage or purchase. If he has interest or money—well; if not, the system acts like a damper, a dead drag upon efforts unrewarded, and knowledge without fruits. Our system gives us officers of a superior rank—of higher caste—and this has undoubted advantages; but the French army must possess a larger aggregate of professional talent. Would it be impossible to unite in one the good of each?

A scene from the visit to the French trenches during the siege carries you into the midst of the ticklish business:—

On nearing the extreme end of the ravine, where it meets the water in Caroon Bay, we came upon a large encampment of Zouaves, who formed the advanced guard against any attack from the harbour. They were, of course, close under the rocks situate to the west, the Russian fire coming from that side; and they were standing or lying about under the shadow of the hill, smoking and chatting in the most jovial way. The last curve of the ravine ere it reached the water was round a projecting rock beyond them; and half-way round the projection the furthest picket was stationed. A few yards more in advance brought you quite

close to the bay, and almost under, and full in view of the Russian riflemen stationed at La Pointe; and the ping of a bullet instantly warned you that those same riflemen were not asleep. Hence, it was impossible to obtain a view of the bay itself. There was no shelter round this projection as there was in the trenches. You came erect under the full and close fire of the enemy in front; and the most outlying Zouave gave a very significant smile when I asked whether that was as far as it was safe to go.

"The danger of the entire ravine," he said, "is not equal to those few feet reaching to the water. Parbleu! I should not recommend Monsieur to bathe, let the day be ever so hot."

It is worth seeing what our author has to say about the attack on the Redan. He was there and saw it—as well as the clouds of dust and smoke would permit. We do not take his testimony or his views without question, but they are worth considering, and the scene is well placed before you. It is near Stony Hill and the commencement of the left attack.

Here I found a French soldier seated on the ground just behind a heap of stones. He made room for me, and I sat down beside him. The wind was perfectly blinding; and, unprotected as my face was, (for I had no spectacles, as many had), it was absolutely painful; but I imitated the Frenchman, and crouched down during the severe bursts, only raising my head at the intervals of cessation. From this point I could see much better; but the want of a continuous view was very disheartening. The Frenchman told me that he had seen our gallant fellows get into the Redan, but he said he had only seen one attacking party enter, and that they had suffered most severely in the approach. "But you are sure they are inside?" I asked. "Oh, certain," he said; "and at the first pause of the wind you will see the musketry fire in the Redan." The roll of musketry pealed incessantly. It was like one continuous fire caused by machinery. When after a few minutes, I caught a sight of the Redan, I distinctly observed that there were two fires opposed to each other inside the work; and, as far as I could judge, ours was most stoutly maintained. At the same time, though the corpses lay thick about the abattis and ditch, and I could occasionally distinguish some of our men on the parapet, or in small and straggling numbers in the open, the space between the abattis and the Redan was perfectly bare of moving masses, and the Frenchman got into a violent passion. "My God!" said he, "where are your supports? Where are your reserves? Do they expect that handful of men whom I saw enter to maintain that place? Why, look—look," he said, "they are only in a narrow space round the angle—they have not advanced into the interior. Poor devils! how can they do it?" I tried to assure him that supporting parties had entered during the intervals when we could not see; but he far too well understood the business, and silenced me by every remark he made. "If any large numbers had supported," he said, "you would see their fire advance. It is, even now, only at the point where it was at first. Depend on it, you will lose the day unless reserves are sent up—and that quickly." The poor fellow muttered his imprecations in the most audible and, to me, the most painful manner. The scene—the thought of all that was taking place—the glimpses which showed that our blood was being spilt like water—worked a marvellous effect upon the mind, and my excitement rose to a pitch that was almost unbearable. I refused to believe that, once inside the Redan, our troops would be allowed to vacate it again, and we both directed earnest, searching looks towards the open space for the faintest sign of advancing troops. We saw that space perfectly ploughed with living shot. They swept across it in one continuous stream, sufficient, as I thought, to daunt any soldiers other than French or English from advancing through such a raining fire; but at every moment we fondly hoped to see masses of men emerge from the trenches, and advance to the help of their brethren in distress. "If we look for them so anxiously," said the Frenchman, "what must those poor fellows in the Redan do!" But they come not—and they never came! Nearly an hour did that Frenchman and I sit there, and during the intervals in which we were able to distinguish objects no one large body of men advanced to the support, though the firing in the Redan was continued with great obstinacy. I believe it to be true that one or two supporting columns *did* make an attempt, and reach the parapet; but it is equally true that the main body of the reserves never left the trenches. After a long interval, during which nothing could be seen, the Frenchman gave it as his opinion that we had retired from the Redan; and it seemed to me that Russian guns, which had certainly been silent while I had been sitting there, began to open fire from points near the salient angle. He considered this conclusive, and I could not but form the same opinion.

This writer does not impute cowardice to the troops or the officers. It will be remarked that he does not say the "supports" did not move up to the Redan, but that the reserves did not. He implies great blame to the British chief officers, who did not employ sufficient force to carry the work, although every division was burning to be sent into the Redan. He asserts, and no doubt correctly, that had we taken the Redan the Russian army would have been cut off; but he does not solve the question, whether any number of men that, by the most liberal computation, could have been sent against the Redan, could have taken it; seeing that they would all have had to run the gauntlet across the open space swept so closely by the enemy's fire; and that the Redan was open to the rear. The French trenches were close to the Malakhoff; the French soldiers dashed into that work, surprised the garrison at the time the relieving of the guard was in progress, and before the relief had marched in; and as it was closed to the rear, they were able to hold it with comparative ease and little loss compared to that on other points. The great loss sustained by the French was sustained in the attack on the Little Redan, where, although the head of their sap was within a few yards of the works, they encountered similar obstacles and failed in a similar fashion to the English at the Great Redan. We cannot quarrel, however, with our author for showing soreness at our share of the glory of the 8th September, because he shows it in a manner and language that commands respect, if it does not always produce conviction.

#### SAMUEL ROGERS' TABLE TALK.

Recollections of the Table Talk of Samuel Rogers. To which is added Porsoniana. MOXON [SECOND ARTICLE.]

WE resume our notice of this pleasant volume, and may begin by some theatrical glimpses:—

I saw Garrick act only once,—the part of Ranger in *The Suspicious Husband*. I remember that there was a great crowd, and that we waited long in a dark passage of the theatre, on our way to the pit. I was then a little boy. My father had promised to take me to see Garrick in *Lear*; but a fit of the mumps kept me at home.

Before his going abroad, Garrick's attraction had much decreased; Sir William

Weller-Pepys said that the pit was often almost empty. But, on his return to England, people were mad about seeing him; and Sir George Beaumont and several others used frequently to get admission into the pit before the doors were opened to the public, by means of bribing the attendants, who bade them "be sure, as soon as the crowd rushed in, to pretend to be in a great heat, and to wipe their faces, as if they had just been struggling for entrance."

Jack Bannister told me, that one night he was behind the scenes of the theatre when Garrick was playing Lear; and that the tones in which Garrick uttered the words, "O fool, I shall go mad!" absolutely thrilled him.

Garrick used to pay an annual visit to Lord Spencer at Althorp; where, after tea, he generally entertained the company by reading scenes from Shakspeare. Thomas Grenville, who met him there, told me that Garrick would steal anxious glances at the faces of his audience, to perceive what effect his reading produced; that, one night, Garrick observed a lady listening to him very attentively, and yet never moving a muscle of her countenance; and that, speaking of her next day, he said, "She seems a very worthy person: but I hope that—that—that she won't be present at my reading to-night."—Another evening at Althorp, when Garrick was about to exhibit some particular stage-effect on which they had been talking, a young gentleman got up and placed the candles upon the floor, that the light might be thrown on his face as from the lamps in the theatre. Garrick, displeased at his officiousness, immediately sat down again.

Of Mrs. Siddons we read:—

After she had left the stage, Mrs. Siddons, from the want of excitement, was never happy. When I was sitting with her of an afternoon, she would say, "Oh, dear! this is the time I used to be thinking of going to the theatre: first came the pleasure of dressing for my part; and then the pleasure of acting it: but that is all over now."

When a grand public dinner was given to John Kemble on his quitting the stage, Mrs. Siddons said to me, "Well, perhaps in the next world women will be more valued than they are in this." She alluded to the comparatively little sensation which had been produced by her own retirement from the boards: and doubtless she was a far, far greater performer than John Kemble.

Combe recollected having seen Mrs. Siddons, when a very young woman, standing by the side of her father's stage, and knocking a pair of snuffers against a candlestick, to imitate the sound of a windmill, during the representation of some Harlequin-piece.

Of Byron we hear often, but nothing very new or remarkable, except the following reminiscence of his *Memoir*:—

I remember that it contained this anecdote:—on his marriage-night, Byron suddenly started out of his first sleep; a taper, which burned in the room, was casting a ruddy glare through the crimson curtains of the bed; and he could not help exclaiming, in a voice so loud that he wakened Lady B., "Good God, I am surely in hell!"

There is considerable humour in this reply of Lady Jersey's:—

At a great party given by Henry Hope in Cavendish-square, Lady Jersey said she had something particular to tell me; so, not to be interrupted, we went into the gallery. As we were walking along it, we met the Prince of Wales, who, on seeing Lady Jersey, stopped for a moment, and then, drawing himself up, marched past her with a look of the utmost disdain. Lady Jersey returned the look to the full; and, as soon as the Prince was gone, said to me with a smile, "Didn't I do it well?"—I was taking a drive with Lady Jersey in her carriage, when I expressed (with great sincerity) my regret at being unmarried, saying that "If I had a wife, I should have somebody to care about me." "Pray, Mr. Rogers," said Lady J., "how could you be sure that your wife would not care more about somebody else than about you?"

What a glimpse is this of Moore, and how it explains his journals!

Moore is a very worthy man, but not a little improvident. His excellent wife contrives to maintain the whole family on a guinea a-week; and he, when in London, thinks nothing of throwing away that sum weekly on hackney-coaches and gloves. I said to him, "You must have made ten thousand pounds by your musical publications." He replied, "More than that." In short, he has received for his various works nearly thirty thousand pounds. When, owing to the state of his affairs, he found it necessary to retire for a while, I advised him to make Holyrood House his refuge: there he could have lived cheaply and comfortably, with permission to walk about unmolested every Sunday, when he might have dined with Walter Scott or Jeffrey. But he would go to Paris; and there he spent about a thousand a-year.

Singularly enough we have but few of the numerous good things uttered by Sydney Smith; here are two, both exquisite:—

He said that——was so fond of contradiction, that he would throw up the window in the middle of the night, and contradict the watchman who was calling the hour.

When his physician advised him to "take a walk upon an empty stomach," Smith asked, "Upon whose?"

Of the Iron Duke there are a few anecdotes; this is worth quoting:—

Of the Duke's perfect coolness on the most trying occasions, Colonel Gurwood gave me this instance. He was once in great danger of being drowned at sea. It was bed-time, when the captain of the vessel came to him, and said, "It will soon be all over with us."—"Very well," answered the Duke, "then I shall not take off my boots."

We have thus run through the volume, quoting as many titbits as our conscience will justify; there are more, but the reader must seek them in the volume itself. To these recollections of Rogers are added some recollections of Porson, given by Dr. Maltby to the editor; from these too we may steal a passage.

Porson was not more celebrated for his Greek than for his capacity in drinking. We suspect it was a disease:—

Tooke used to say that "Porson would drink ink rather than not drink at all." Indeed, he would drink anything. He was sitting with a gentleman, after dinner, in the chambers of a mutual friend, a Templar, who was then ill and confined to bed. A servant came into the room, sent thither by his master for a bottle of embrocation which was on the chimney-piece. "I drank it an hour ago," said Porson.

The great Grecian was seldom witty, but the following is worthy of Sydney Smith or Charles Lamb:—

He said that every man ought to marry once. I observed that every man could not afford to maintain a family. "Oh," replied he, "pap is cheap."

Very interesting it is to all of us who have toiled painfully, and not without some humiliation, over Thucydides, to learn that a Porson confessed to me and the present Bishop of Durham (Maltby), that he knew

comparatively little of Thucydides,—that, when he read him, he was obliged to mark with a pencil, in almost every page, passages which he did not understand.

And it speaks for his modesty and wisdom—in this case synonymous—that

He was a great reader of translations, and never wrote a note on any passage of an ancient author without first carefully looking how it had been rendered by the different translators.

It is amusing, though not surprising, to learn that Porson sent Thomas Taylor (the Platonist) several emendations of Plato's text for his translation; but "Taylor from his ignorance of the Greek language was unable to use them." People who have puzzled over Taylor's translations may now understand why they were puzzled. While on this subject of translation it may be worth recording that Rogers once asked Porson how long it would take him to translate the *Iliad* literally correctly into English prose. The answer was, "at least ten years."

#### THE DANES AND THE SWEDES.

*The Danes and the Swedes: Being an Account of a Visit to Denmark, and a Journey across the Peninsula of Sweden.* By C. H. Scott, Author of "The Baltic, the Black Sea, and the Crimea." Longman and Co.

THIS volume is *amusing*, because it abounds in anecdotes of Danish and Swedish life, incidents of travel, antiquarian glimpses, pleasantly tinted sketches of scenery, of architecture, of islands and lakes, of bridal rites, still redolent of the old Scandinavian fancy; and village interiors, shining and warm, and prim as toy cottages in Switzer valleys. It is *interesting*, because it treats of Northern politics, of the navigation of the Sound, of the relations of Denmark and Sweden mutually, and to the rest of Europe, of the armies and navies of the Baltic kingdoms, of their Court policy and popular tendencies,—attractive subjects now, although a gleam of peace has shot across the world. Mr. Scott, a practised traveller, visited the Scandinavian countries in 1850, and penetrated by an irregular route from Kiel through Schleswig-Holstein, and the Danish isles into Jutland, and across the Peninsula to Sweden, visiting Copenhagen, Fredericia, Elsinore, Gottenburg, Stockholm, the summer camp of the Swedes, and the Court of King Oscar. He had already investigated, in a liberal spirit, the history of the entire region, and qualified himself to speculate on questions the solution of which involve the political destiny of the North. His narrative, therefore, though commonplace in style, and blemished by dashes of flippancy, deserves the attention of the General Reader, G. R. being now moved by events to "read up" Scandinavia.

On his route from Altona, through Holstein, Mr. Scott remarked the prevalence of extraordinary industry among the population, and to the end of his journey, at Stockholm, saw evidences of the same prosperous enterprise. The poorest classes in the Danish and Swedish as well as the German provinces appeared healthy, contented, and independent. In their domestic economy they displayed a fantastic taste, and in their conversation an appreciation of national rather than of personal liberty. In the cities and seaports the middle and the indolent orders preserve their old characteristics—a love of magnificence, quaint but discreet humour, and a determination to maintain, against all comers, their political franchises. Successive princes have encroached on these rights, but successive agitations have regained them. The Russian and German Powers press enormously on the Scandinavian Courts; but the Governments know that the ancient constitutional machinery by which they rule is not yet obsolete. It has survived the violence of centuries, and still controls the policy of the Baltic Kings. Mr. Scott assigns the political precedence to Sweden. Denmark is approaching the crisis of her precarious history. The Government, it is true, has projected fresh developments of her commercial system and an enlargement of her navy; but it must be long before the Danish fleets can be what they were at the beginning of the century. From twenty-five to thirty line-of-battle-ships then left her ports, with frigates in proportion. Now she has only five of the first-class and six of the second, though from the extent of her coasts she has a seafaring population capable of manning such a fleet as Dundas took last year into the Danish and Swedish seas. The blow inflicted by England in 1807 has never been recovered, though, by the people, long forgiven. It half destroyed the influence of the kingdom; it laid a heavy burden on its treasury; it wounded the national pride; and is still spoken of with regret and emotion. But Mr. Scott declares the general sentiment is favourable to England. There exists, no doubt, a small Russian clique, influential through its activity, which is engaged in promoting the Russian succession to Schleswig; but the prevailing opinion is, that the political and material interests of Great Britain and Denmark are inseparably identified. In the event of an alliance against Russia, their gunboats and smaller vessels, with the admirable pilotage they command, would have been of particular value; while to them the adoption of a British policy would have constituted an act of protest against the menaces, not of Russia only, but of the German powers. It is to be remembered that during the Schleswig-Holstein war, an Austrian army came uninvited into Denmark, and that Prussia recommenced her intrigues to gain possession of a port on the Danish coast. Since that period, a reform of the general constitution of the kingdom has united more completely the German and Scandinavian provinces, though public liberty is still confined by a system of oligarchical restriction. In Mr. Scott's opinion, universal suffrage might safely be established in Denmark.

The Danish Government, empowered by the Treaty of Vienna to levy tolls on all vessels, except ships of war and yachts, passing the Sound, is now involved in a serious dispute with the United States on the subject of this anomalous impost. It is no doubt an ancient privilege under the sanction of a modern congress; but it has always been obnoxious to neighbouring States especially. First Holland, and then Sweden protested. Great Britain does not appear to have proposed the abolition of the tax, though it operates most injuriously on her Baltic trade, and confers a species of protection on that of Russia. At the commencement of the century, thirty per cent. of vessels passing the Sound were British; the average is now fourteen. To all objections Denmark replies, that besides instructing and maintaining pilots for the Baltic Sea, she keeps lighthouses, buoys, and signals on that dangerous coast; and that she enjoys the privilege as a compensation for her losses during the great war. That is to say, the dominating powers of the Continent



robbed Denmark of three-fourths of her dominions, and gave her in exchange the right to tax English, Swedish, and American commerce. Sweden lost nearly as much, gained only Norway, and is taxed in her own waters. The United States, which were unrepresented at the Congress, demur to the impost *per se*, and also on the ground that, while English cotton twist—of which nearly fifty million pounds are annually shipped to the Baltic—is taxed one per cent., raw cotton is taxed treble that amount, *ad valorem*. Of the political constitution of Sweden, Mr. Scott says:—

The constitution of the country invests the King with the right to declare and make war; but, by a singular contradiction, he is deprived of control over the necessary funds for doing so. By the fundamental law of the kingdom certain sums, called *Lilla Kreditivet*, or small credit, usually amounting to half a million dollars banco, or 41,666*l.*, and *Stora Kreditivet*, or large credit, of two million dollars, or 166,666*l.*, are voted by the Diet for annual extraordinary expenditure. The King and his council can dispose of the former on defensive works for the country or in unforeseen expenses, but the Diet exercises the right of investigating the accounts, and holding the council responsible for any misappropriation of the funds. The larger credit, however, can only be employed in case of imminent danger of the country being involved in war, and then only after the King, by the consent of his council, has called the States together, and obtained their approbation.

Thus it appears that, although possessing a nominal, the King of Sweden has no real power alone to enter upon an offensive war; we therefore believe that any engagement he may make for joining the Western Powers in the present European struggle, will be on condition of a ratification by the Diet. That he would obtain such a ratification is very probable, for the feeling of the Swedish people is strongly anti-Russian, while all their material interests are bound up with England.

This singular contradiction is no more than the English principle, that the Crown may declare war, but that Parliament may refuse the funds if the war be opposed to its policy. Mr. Scott argues that, by joining England in an attack upon Russia, Sweden would have gained immense advantages—the restitution of Finland, and, perhaps, the reversion of the Danish crown. The question of the Danish succession may, at no distant time, again imperil the general peace; Russia, Austria, and Prussia being parties to the existing settlement, to which the feelings of the people of Denmark are bitterly opposed. Already, in all acts of foreign policy, the Danes follow the Swedes; Mr. Scott believes consequently, that a Swedish alliance against Russia, would have been tantamount to a league of the Baltic powers.

We have been led by Mr. Scott into an *étude* on the politics of Scandinavia. We must find room, before dismissing his book, for a sketch of the Court at Stockholm:—

The doors were thrown open, and we followed the courtly train through a fine long gallery, crowded on each side by the assembled guests. We could now see a splendid range of apartments, of which this gallery was the centre, all handsomely decorated, and having richly-painted ceilings. A line of chandeliers hung from one end to the other of this noble suite, filled with thousands of burning wax candles, the rays from which were drowned by a flood of red and glowing light, that poured through the open windows, producing an unusual, strange, yet beautiful effect, to be witnessed in a high northern latitude alone under such circumstances, and at such a time of night.

Slowly we made our way towards the ball-room, which formed part of another elegant range, extending at right angles to the one we were traversing. By the time we reached it the dancing had commenced, and a hundred couples were gliding swiftly over the highly-polished *parquet*, in the giddy mazes of the *doux temps*, amongst whom the Crown Prince was most conspicuous. Whether the Swedes be unaccustomed to dance upon polished floors we know not, but certain it is that on this occasion we witnessed several very disagreeable falls, not, however, from any fault in the dancing, which was unusually good.

The ladies' toilettes were charming, and there were many among the fair Swedes who well sustained the reputation they have of being beautiful; still, judging from this assembly—a good criterion—we did not think the female aristocracy, as a class, so handsome or so pretty as the lower order of Swedish women. In the manner and bearing of the Swedish lady, however, there is nothing wanting; she is what the French call *si gracieuse*—that mingling of kindness with grace which produces fascination.

His Majesty is a handsome man with very dark hair, black eyes, an aquiline nose, and good forehead, denoting more than average intellect. His countenance is rather thoughtful in expression, but the prevailing tone is benevolent. A gentle inclination of the head, and a slight hesitation when speaking, denote only a slight amount of self-esteem, while an unflinching step, an easy carriage, and a dignified manner, give an imposing presence to a fine person.

The dancers of Stockholm, sliding to the floor, do not suggest a picture of royal dignity.

There is nothing very attractive in Mr. Scott's literary manner; but his volume presents a lively and interesting account of the Baltic States, and of their social and political aspects.

#### FIGS AND PIPES.

*Sayah; or, The Courier to the East.* By the Author of "Soldiers and Sailors."

Chapman and Hall.

A PLEASANT and fanciful little volume, taking us lightly along the route to the East, by way of Paris, Marseilles, and the Mediterranean. It has an Eastern colour; it treats of the fragrance of Eastern coffee, the softness of Eastern pillows, the beauty hidden behind Eastern lattices, of white and purple figs. But, among the author's topics, the figs are the most interesting, except, perhaps, the pipes. The fig of commerce is not the same that grows in incorrigible unripeness, against English walls; it is small, of a pale colour, not strong in flavour, but precious to the Smyrniote pickers, pressers, and packers. In England it is common to say, that he who has seen figs squeezed into a drum will eat of the fruit no more; but Mr. Herbert Byng Hall,—that is "Sayah's" name, we think?—affirms the contrary. He has seen the ripe figs fall from the tree, seen them collected, dried, packed with sweet bay leaves in horsehair bags, placed in dry storehouses, and then heaped, with wooden shovels, into broad flat baskets or trays. All this is fresh and pastoral,—and still more pastoral and fresh is the sight of the Greek girls sorting the large ripe figs for the market, and the men dipping them into water sweetened with bay leaves, and arranging them lovingly into boxes. Formerly, the drum was the only form of box known to Europe; but now

they are pressed into bijou cases of wood or pasteboard, within gilt and enamel, and under portraits of a thousand grisettes and blondes. Once within the box the fruit is said to ferment, and here tradition interposes its disagreeable fancies. Out of each fig, saith the Fancy of the East, is emitted a creature of that legless type, the worm; but Sayah, who would sit safely under his fig-tree, has examined several new cases, without verifying the legend, redolent as it is of ancient cheese. Still, the captains who carry figs to England, France, and America, declare that their decks are always covered with animalcules, which come and go, and no man knoweth whence they come or whither they go. We have little concern in the matter, seeing that the metempsychosis of the worm is past before the figs reach the London shops, so that we have the fruit without its posterity.

*A propos* of tobacco, Sayah remarks that, according to one notion, "meerschau" is nothing more nor less than a composition of clay, soft, when prepared, manipulated and moulded, but hard and durable after exposure to the air. More poetical traditions describe it as a petrification of the cream or froth of the Caspian Sea—exactly as the nest of the Indian sea-swallow is described by the Chinese. But deponent says that it is a mineral production, found at no great distance from the surface, principally near Broussa, and under the shadows of Olympus. Though yielded by a land of smokers, not a pound of it is sold in the native market. It is all packed and sent direct to Trieste, and thence to Vienna to be fashioned into those many shapes of elegance and ugliness well known to all classes of tobacco-consumers in London. Meerschau pipes, however, are often imported into Smyrna from the German factories. The true material, of course, is imitated by the mechanical forger, but, by adepts, the fraud is at once detected, as real "meerschau" absorbs the essential oil, which "composition" does not.

To a perfect meerschau pipe, an amber mouthpiece is essential—a mouthpiece of amber from the Baltic Sea. In the East it is still considered to be a sort of alchymised gum, or transmuted white of eggs. Of this substance, too, the thievish Greek has many imitations to sell, the best being of Bohemian glass; but the glass is hot, brittle, and disagreeable, while the amber is always cool, pleasant, and pure.

In such light gossip Sayah indulges; and to all who eat figs with wine, or prize an amber-tipped meerschau, his gossip will be agreeable.

## The Arts.

#### BURFORD'S NEW PANORAMA.

How much pictures and models have contributed to swell the war feeling, and bring about unanimity in the nation, we shall perhaps never know; but they must have been active influences. Simpson's sketches, Fenton's photograph's Burford's panoramas, all in their way, must have aided in feeding and awakening interest in the battle-fields of the East. Mr. BURFORD has established a new claim to be considered a public benefactor—he has produced a new panorama of Sebastopol.

In most respects, this new picture is superior to that exhibited last year. It has one great advantage over that—it has been painted mainly from photographs. Thus, the Malakhoff is presented as it appeared two days after the triumphant assault, and every plank, crack in the stone, displacement of earth, inequality, is reproduced from the photograph upon the canvas. In the same way, the Karabelnaia, the dockyard wall, several public buildings, Fort Nicholas, just blown up, and the surrounding scenery of cliff, and fortress, and sea, are fac-similes of the originals. The spectator is supposed to be standing in a Russian battery, and immediately beneath him is a transcript of its interior, guns, mantelets, gabions, traverses. From this battery he looks upon the lines of the Allies. The moment chosen is when the French have just stormed the Malakhoff and the English are scrambling into the Redan. This terrible combat is on your right as you face the Allied camp. In the rear of the Redan are masses of Russian soldiers, hurrying up from the Malakhoff; on your left are the Zouaves, sweeping like a torrent into that work, and crowning its summit with the tricolor. Beyond the Malakhoff lies the ruined Karabelnaia, and beyond that the blue waters of the harbour, crossed by the bridge of boats; still beyond that, the north side, and the Euxine bearing the British fleet forced to take no part. In front of the spectator are the extensive lines of the Allies, showing like tracks along the wide-spread hills. The painting is masterly; the sea is exquisitely touched—the contrast of its calm with the glare and hurly burly of the battle is very striking and refreshing. The atmosphere is also painted with rare skill; and the deception as to magnitude is more perfect, we think, than that of any panorama we ever witnessed. This picture is certainly one of the happiest efforts of Mr. BURFORD and Mr. SELOUS, and must attract great notice.

LYCEUM THEATRE.—The Pianoforte Makers' Dramatic Society intend giving their eighth performance on Monday evening next, in aid of some workmen who lost their tools at a recent fire. *Henry IV.* and *Raising the Wind* are included in the programme. The Society has enabled several unfortunate pianoforte makers to emigrate, and has also purchased permanent life-governorships of St. Mark's Hospital and Brompton Hospital.

COVENT GARDEN.—Professor Anderson has broken ground again, with popular English operas, introducing a Mr. Henry Haigh as a British tenor, who has made a favourable impression upon the general public in the *Bohemian Girl*. The Professor, who appears disposed to mark Scotland for his own, announces another favourite old Scottish play, in which he will personate the principal character. Observing this dramatic predominance of Caledonia, we are tempted to exclaim, O! for one hour of Samuel Johnson.

We regret to hear from Paris that M. Auber is seriously ill. The production of his new opera, *Manon Lescaut*, at the *Opéra Comique*, is delayed in consequence.

**THE PRINCESS GALITZIN.**—With reference to a statement recently made at the Marlborough-street police-office, to the effect that the goods of the Princess Galitzin, née Souvoroff, had been seized for debt, and that the lady herself was in the custody of a sheriff's officer, the Princess writes to a local paper at Brighton, in which town she resides, stating that she is the only Princess Galitzin now living in England; that the assertions made with respect to her are altogether incorrect; and that she remains voluntarily in this country because she has abjured the Greek church, and become a member of the Church of England. The Princess concludes by saying:—"Therefore, sir, I solemnly denounce every one of the statements of the anonymous female, of respectable appearance, and of Inspector Webb, as perfectly false—as a comedy played in the sacred vaults of justice, and as a trick, the hidden cause for which I keep for myself."

**THE LEOMINSTER ELECTION.**—The poll terminated on Tuesday, when Mr. Hardy, the Conservative candidate, was returned by a majority of 78 over Mr. Campbell, the Liberal candidate; the numbers being 179 for Hardy, and 101 for Campbell.

**THE LOCAL DUES ON SHIPPING BILL.**—The report of the Consolidated Committee on this bill appointed by the City of London was read on Tuesday in the Court of Common Council. It denounced the intention of abrogating the dues without granting compensation; and a resolution adopting the report was unanimously carried after some discussion. A petition to Parliament was also agreed on. Meetings with a similar object have been held at Newcastle-upon-Tyne and Liverpool; but the corporations of North and South Shields, Tynemouth, Sunderland, Durham, and Gateshead, have held meetings, and adopted petitions, in favour of the Government measure.

**THE CHARGE OF PERJURY AGAINST A LORD OF THE MANOR.**—This case, of which we gave the particulars last week, came on for further consideration on Monday, when Mr. Arnold, the Westminster magistrate, said he was of opinion that there was no chance of a satisfactory case being made out in this instance, and, therefore, he dismissed the complaint.

**MR. FITZGERALD'S BERKELEY** has brought an action against the *Alliance* newspaper for libel. The paper in question is an organ of the Sabbatarian party, and it imputed to Mr. Berkeley that he had unfairly packed his Parliamentary Committee on the Public-house Closing Act of 1854, and had called one-sided witnesses. These attacks were persevered in week after week. Sir Frederick Thesiger, on the part of the proprietors of the *Alliance*, admitted that the bounds of fair discussion had been exceeded, and offered an apology, which was accepted, and a verdict with nominal damages (five guineas) was given for Mr. Berkeley.

**THE FAILURE OF MR. SCOTT RUSSELL.**—A meeting of the Eastern Steam Navigation Company was held on Tuesday, at which it was stated that no difficulty can arise with respect to the property, &c., comprised in the vessel as it stands, the directors having taken the precaution to secure in their own right the ground on which the works have been conducted. The other contracts, it is also believed, are in a position to insure the interests of the company, even should Mr. Russell's affairs eventually pass into bankruptcy. The total amount of these engagements were put down at £332,250, of which the company have advanced £292,295, leaving about £40,000 to be paid on the completion of the contracts. The security possessed for their performance is 2,000 Eastern Steam Navigation shares, belonging to Mr. Russell, on which £10 per share has been paid, making an aggregate of £20,000, and which were deposited in the hands of the company. Some time previous to the stoppage, the company found great delay in the execution of the contract; and in anticipation of a break-down, and wishing to avert it, they made some prepayments to Mr. Russell on account of wages.

**SUSPENSION OF A GREEK HOUSE.**—The suspension has been announced of Messrs. Cambourglou, Leno and Co., one of the Greek houses engaged in the Danube corn trade. Their difficulties are attributed to the circumstance of many of their cargoes being detained in the Danube, and their friends express confident anticipations that the assets of the firm will be sufficient ultimately to meet all claims in full. Their uncovered liabilities are only about £20,000.

**THE MEXICAN BONDHOLDERS.**—Through their committee, announce that the President of Mexico has issued a decree establishing a new financial board of seven members, four of whom, including the chairman, are to be nominated by the Government, the fifth by the national creditors, the sixth by the manufacturers, and the seventh by the agriculturists. The 11th paragraph of the 1st article of the decree enumerates among the functions of the board that of "collecting the portion of the duties assigned to the foreign debt, and of remitting it to London to such mercantile house as the board may appoint."

**THE GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY.**—The half-yearly report of this railway has been published, and contains some points of general interest, owing to the dispute

between the directors of the line and those of other competing lines." The accounts for the half-year ended 31st December, 1855, show that the capital expended to the 30th June, 1855, was £10,905,717 5s. 3d.; the payments made during the half-year to 31st December, 1855, were £155,802 8s. 6d.; making the whole capital expended £11,061,519 13s. 9d. The balance of earnings beyond expenses is £320,773 8s. 10d., being larger by £14,003 8s. 2d. than the balance at the end of 1854. This balance, after being applied to the payment of rents and other fixed charges, interest on the mortgage debt, and to provide for dividends on the various preference stocks, which altogether amount to £185,461 4s. 9d., becomes reduced to £145,365 7s. 5d." Various circumstances have combined to keep down the dividend to a lower rate than the directors anticipated. "The available balance, however, admits of dividends upon the original stock at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum—or, for the half-year, 3 per cent.; on the B stock 3½ per cent. for the half-year—making 6 per cent. for the year 1855; and upon the A stock 2½ per cent. for the whole year 1855; and the directors recommend that dividends be paid at these rates, leaving the small surplus of £112 4s. 11d. to be carried to the next account. But if the company had also kept all that they have earned, instead of paying over about £31,214 to the London and North Western and the Midland Companies, under the agreement with those companies (known as the Gladstone award), and other £29,867 to other railway companies, under what was termed the "octuple agreement," the dividend on the original stock, after payment of preference dividends and mortgage interest, would then have been at the rate of about £5 8s. per cent. for the whole year 1855. Both these agreements terminated with the year 1855." The directors complain that the London and North Western, the Midland, and the Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire Railway Companies have begun an unfair competition against them, and have endeavoured to deprive them of a portion of the traffic to Manchester and the vicinity. At the commencement of the present year, deputies from the competing railways came to an arrangement, to which the Great Northern directors refuse to agree, though sanctioned by their deputy, alleging that their representative was not empowered to conclude any such terms.

**THE COUNTIES AND BOROUGH POLICE BILL.**—Meetings have been held at Westminster and Manchester against the bill. The Lord Mayor of York presided over the former, which was addressed, among other speakers, by Mr. Roebuck. At both meetings it was contended that the effect of the bill would be a dangerous centralisation; and motions expressing that opinion were carried. A deputation from the Westminster meeting has waited on Sir George Grey, who refuses to withdraw his bill.

**ATTEMPTED SUICIDE BY A LIVERPOOL MERCHANT.**—Mr. William Tatham, a Liverpool merchant—a young man with a newly-married wife—has cut his throat, and is not expected to recover. The event is stated to have been caused by heavy losses—the firm with which he was connected suffering severely by the failure of an extensive soap-boiling house, which suspended payments a few days ago, and also by a Bristol house in the African trade, which also stopped payment on the same day.

**RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.**—A coke train, on Monday, ran into a down passenger train from Manchester to Leeds, as the latter was crossing the up-line at the usual points. The passenger train was driven back some distance, but the passengers were not hurt. The stoker of the coke train, however, was severely wounded in the left foot. A very shocking accident has occurred on the Great Northern Railway near Doncaster. The driver of a train from that town saw, in the dusk of the evening, something on the line, which he afterwards found to be a child. The steam was turned off, and immediately afterwards Mrs. Gibbons, the gatekeeper's wife, was seen to run towards the child, which was her own. The driver, seeing the danger in which both were placed, reversed his engine; but it was too late. The buffer struck mother and child, killing the latter and shockingly mangle the former. No hope is entertained of the recovery of Mrs. Gibbons.

**RATIONS ON SHIPBOARD.**—A verdict for £37 10s., in addition to the sum of £12 10s. paid into court by the defendants, has been given against the proprietors of the ship *Shalimar*, the cook on board which, when bound from Melbourne to Liverpool, provided food which was almost uneatable.

**THE REVOLUTIONS OF 1848.**—A public meeting will be held by the "International Revolutionary Committee" at the Scientific Institution, John-street, on the 25th inst. to commemorate the European struggle of 1848. Liberals of all shades are invited to attend, "in order to cement the union of all those who, in the various democracies, struggle for the enfranchisement of the people from the oppression which now more than ever weighs upon all Europe. The admission is free. Mr. Fontaine superintends the arrangements.

**ADULTERATION OF FLOUR.**—Another flour-merchant has been fined for adulterating flour.

## BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

### BIRTHS.

**COCHRANE.**—On the 15th inst., at Bedwell-park, Herts, the Lady Cochrane: a daughter.  
**LINCOLN.**—On the 16th inst., at Riseholme, Lincoln, the wife of the Bishop of Lincoln: a daughter, still born.  
**UDNEY.**—On the 21st inst., at 29, Norland-square, Nottingham, the wife of George Udney, of Lincoln's-inn, barrister-at-law: a son.

### MARRIAGES.

**BROMLEY-FANE.**—On the 20th inst., Henry, eldest son of Admiral Sir Robert Hoare Bromley, Bart., of Stoke Hall, to Georgiana Ellen, youngest daughter of Vere Fane, Esq., Little Ponton Hall, Lincolnshire.  
**PAVITT-CUFF.**—On the 3rd of October, 1855, at Akaroa, New Zealand, Henry Pavitt, to Elizabeth, third daughter of John Cuff, Esq.; also, at the same time, Frank Pavitt, to Annette, fourth daughter of the above.  
**SANDEMAN-MONCORVO.**—On the 14th inst., at St. James's Church, Paddington, by the Right Hon. Lord Auckland, Bishop of Bath and Wells, Albert George, eldest son of George Glas Sandeman, Esq., of Hyde-park-gardens, and Chislehampton Lodge, Oxon, to Maria Carlotta, Perpetua de Moraes Moncorvo, eldest daughter of the late Viscount de Torre de Moncorvo.

### DEATHS.

**BASSANO.**—On the 1st inst., at Balaklava, of fever, in the 32nd year of his age, much lamented by his brother officers and friends, Christopher Bakewell Bassano, Esq., Staff Surgeon, son of F. M. Bassano, Esq., Apothecary to the Forces.  
**HITCHENS.**—On the 31st of December, 1855, at Gongo Soco, Minas Geraes, Brazil, Mr. William Hitchens, Cashier, and one of the Members of the Committee of Management of the Imperial Brazilian Mining Association.  
**HOLLINGWORTH.**—On the 19th inst., at the Rectory House of St. Margaret, Lothbury, the Ven. John Banks Hollingworth, for forty-two years rector of that parish, and Archdeacon of Huntingdon, in his 77th year.  
**KERR.**—In June, 1855, Henry Ashburton Kerr, third son of the late Lord Robert Kerr, and Commander of H.M.S. *Nerbudda*, which is supposed to have foundered at sea in a gale, off the south coast of Africa.  
**STODDART.**—On the 17th inst., at 13, Brompton-square, in his 84th year, Sir John Stoddart, formerly Chief Justice of Malta, and Judge of the Admiralty Court there; some time proprietor of a journal called *The New Times*.  
**TURNER.**—On the 25th ult., at Carthagena, Spain, Charles Walsingham Turner, Esq., British Consul at that city, eldest son of the late Edmund Turner, Esq., M.P., of Truro, Cornwall, aged 37.

## FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE.

Tuesday, February 19.

**BANKRUPTS.**—AUGUSTUS WHITTINGHAM, Woolwich and Old Kent road, cutter—JAMES WATRE, Brentwood, carpenter—JAMES TURNER, Bishopsgate-street and elsewhere, baker—FRANCIS LOUIS SIMOND, Cullum-street, merchant—CHARLES WOLF, St. Paul's-churchyard and elsewhere, cook—WILLIAM WELCH, Birmingham, packing-case maker—JOSEPH EDGE, Kidderminster, carpet manufacturer—THOMAS STURTON and EDWARD KEY, Holbeach, Lincolnshire, scriveners—DAVID P. DAVIS, Merthyr-Tydvil, general shopkeeper, WILLIAM MASSA, Sheffield, hatter—THOMAS BANN LIVERPOOL, clothier—HENRY ANDREW, Tyldesley, Lancashire, shopkeeper.

**SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.**—T. ROBERTSON, Glasgow, baker—W. RODGER, Glasgow, tea merchant—W. HORN, Glasgow, fletcher—T. BOWIE, Forres, shoemaker—W. KENNEDY, Edinburgh, grocer—A. WATT, Nungate, Haddington, farmer.

Friday, February 22.

**BANKRUPTS.**—HENRY MARTIN and SAMUEL FOOT, Battersfield, brewers—EENEZER DAY, Edgware-road builder—WILLIAM SMITH SLATER, Birkenhead, timber merchant—THOMAS DAVIES, Abergavenny, butcher—EDWIN RODGERS and JOHN FROST RODGERS, Walsall, Staffordshire, grocers—JOSIAH JOSEPH HATCH, Friday-street, furrier—THOMAS TURTON CLARKE and JAMES WADE, Huddersfield, woollen yarn manufacturers—WM. PAYNE, Jermyn-street, St. James's, hotel keeper—MARY CAROLINA BLOXSONE, Cardiff, wine and spirit merchant.

**SCOTCH SEQUESTRATION.**—JOHN GALBRAITH, Glasgow, miller.

## Commercial Affairs.

### MONEY MARKET AND CITY INTELLIGENCE.

London, Friday Evening, Feb. 22, 1856.  
The wants of the Chancellor of the Exchequer amount, after all, to 5,000,000 Consols and 3,000,000 Exchequer Bills. The loan has been taken at 90, and the scrip has been at 11 premium per cent. The buoyancy of Consols, notwithstanding the pressure for money, is very remarkable. It serves to show how soon the market will recover itself should a peace be patched up. The Conference, which commences next week, may be suddenly broken up; and the article in the *Steele*—if it meant anything serious—would seem that the Emperor of France will insist upon the abandonment of Nicolait. Will Russia consent? That Power must be more thoroughly beaten, and demoralised to a greater extent than any one has yet believed, if she consents. Assume the Conference over, and peace established, what steps will be taken to make Turkey reform herself? How many troops of the Allies will be permanently garrisoned in and about the shores of the Black Sea? The Austrian occupation of the Principality, and their brutal rule there—the question of indemnification, or none—here is a field of doubt—a mystery to speculate upon. At home, again, even with peace, there are a few thorns ready for the Ministry, and we should have had a dissolution at their first defeat, but they wait a "cry" to go to the country.

Consols—barring unlucky accidents—will probably see 93 all June, but beyond that they do not go.

In the Foreign Stocks, 6 per Cent. Turks keep a good price, and are inquired after. The New Turkish 4 per Cent. All railway shares are good, particularly Great Western and Birmingham. The sad circumstances attending the death of Mr. Sadler render it possible that he was embarrassed in his affairs, and have depreciated the price of the Royal Swedish Railway, of which he was Chairman. The directors have issued a notice warning members of the Stock Exchange from dealing in these shares, as there are several improperly issued. The new Bank Shares are somewhat lower in their respective premium prices. The great tightness of money, and the withdrawal of large amounts for the new loan, &c., has caused a fall in many of the spe-



culative affairs. The General Screw and North of Europe Steam Navigation Companies have held their meetings, and satisfactory dividends have been the result.

In the Mining Market there is but little doing; Crystal Palaces also quiet; London and French Omnibus Company's Shares are beginning to command more respect. The weekly returns now published are highly encouraging. At four o'clock Consols closed 91½; Scrip of New Loan, 1½; Turkish, 94½; New ditto, 100, 100½.

Aberdeen, 25, 6; Bristol and Exeter, 87, 9; Caledonian, 57½; Chester and Holyhead, 12½, 13½; East Anglian, 12½, 13½; Eastern Counties, 9½, 10½; Edinburgh and Glasgow, 52, 4; Great Northern, 92, 3; Ditto, A stock, 76, 8; Ditto B stock, 123, 125; Great Southern and Western (Ireland), 105, 7; Great Western, 59½; Lancashire and Carlisle, 72, 5; Ditto, Thirds, 6½, 7½ pm; Ditto, new Thirds, 6, 7 pm; Lancashire and Yorkshire, 81½, 2½; London and Blackwall, 7, 7½; London, Brighton, and South Coast, 96, 8; London and North Western, 100, 100½; Ditto South Ditto, 92½, 3½; Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire, 24½, 5; Metropolitan, 3½ dis.; Midland, 70, 4; Ditto, Birmingham and Derby, 41, 3; Newport, Abergavenny, and Hereford, 10, 11; North British, 29, 30; North Eastern (Berwick), 75½, 6½; Ditto Extension, 63, 6 dis.; Ditto, Great North Eastern purchase, 43, 23 dis.; Ditto, Leeds, 14½, 15½; Ditto, York, 51, 2; North Staffordshire, 7, 6½ dis.; Oxford, Worcester, and Wolverhampton, 23, 4; Scottish Central, 104, 106; Scottish Midland, 71, 6; South Devon, 11, 12; South Eastern (Dover), 65, 3; South Wales, 72, 74; Vale of Neath, 20, 21; West Cornwall, 6, 8; Antwerp and Rotterdam, 7½, 8; Ardennes, Eastern of France, Paris and Strasbourg, 38½, 9; East India, 21½, 2; Ditto Extension, 8½ pm; Grand Trunk of Canada, 103, 94 dis.; Great Indian Peninsula, 20½, 8; Luxemburgs, 47, 5; Great Western of Canada, 25½, 6½; North of France, 39, 4; Paris and Lyons, 49½, 50; Paris and Orleans, 50, 1; Sambre and Meuse, 9, 3; Western and N. W. of France, 33½, 4½; Agua Fria, Australian, 3½; Brazil Imperial, 2, 3; Cocacs, 2½; St. John del Rey, 26, 8.

## CORN MARKET.

Mark-lane, Friday, Feb. 23, 1856.

There have been but moderate arrivals of English and Foreign wheat and flour during the week, and factors hold firmly for its advance, to which buyers seem unwilling to yield. Many of the cargoes of Egyptian wheat off the coast have been disposed of at 40s. to 40s. 6d., and 41s. for Saidi; and 38s. to 38s. 6d. for Behaira. Some sales of maize arrived have also been made at 31s. for Foxonian, and 33s. for Galatz. The supply of barley has rather increased, and there has been an increased demand for shipment at prices fully equal to those at the opening of the week. A fine quantity of oats has arrived from abroad, but none from Ireland, and prices remain unchanged, with a very inactive trade. Beans and peas also continued unaltered in value. A cargo or two of Egyptian beans arrived has been sold at 30s. 6d., c. f. i.

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

	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.
Bank Stock	213½	214	215	215	215	215
3 per Cent. Reduced	90½	90½	91	91	91½	91½
3 per Cent. Con. An.	91½	91	90½	90½	90½	90
Consols for Account	90½	91½	91½	90½	91½	91½
New 3 per Cent. An.	91½	91½	91½	91½	92½	92½
New 2½ per Cent.	74	74	75	75	75	75
Long Ans. 1860	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½	3½
India Stock	223	225	224	224	224	224
Ditto Bonds £1000	2 dis.	2 dis.	7	7	7	2 dis.
Ditto, under £1000	3 dis.	2 dis.	7	7	7	4 dis.
Ex Bills, £10.0	3 dis.	2 dis.	5 dis.	5 dis.	2 dis.	4 dis.
Ditto, £500	1 dis.	3 dis.	3 dis.	par.	par.	3 dis.
Ditto, Small	par.	par.	3 dis.	par.	par.	3 dis.

## FOREIGN FUNDS.

(LAST OFFICIAL QUOTATION DURING THE WEEK ENDING FRIDAY EVENING.)	
Brazilian Bonds	94
Buenos Ayres 6 p. Cents	57
Chilian 6 per Cents	104
Chilian 3 per Cents	68
Dutch 2½ per Cents	65
Dutch 4 per Cent. Certif.	97
Equador Bonds	20½
Mexican Account	20½
Peruvian 4½ per Cents	81
Portuguese 4 per Cents	94
Portuguese 5 per Cents	106
Russian Bonds, 5 per Cents	94
Russian 4½ per Cents	43
Spanish	43
Spanish Committee Cert.	43
of Comp. not fun.	94
Turkish 6 per Cents	94
Turkish New, 4 ditto	100½
Venezuela, 1½ per Cents	100½

## THEATRE ROYAL, COVENT GARDEN.

## GREAT CARNIVAL BENEFIT!

PROFESSOR ANDERSON most respectfully begs to inform his friends and the public that his GRAND CARNIVAL COMPLEMENTARY BENEFIT and DRAMATIC GALA will occur on Monday and Tuesday, the 3rd and 4th of March. It will comprise Opera, Drama, Pantomime, Ballets, Melo-Drama, and a Bal Masque, *a la Jallien*, one payment giving admission to the whole series of entertainments, so that the visitors may participate in a round of uninterrupted amusement, more copious, varied, and attractive than has ever before occurred in London. In fact, it will be the first time in the history of entertainments in England that any such thing has been attempted. In America, on benefit occasions, and when it is desired by professionals to pay a mark of respect to a deserving benefactor, a Dramatic Carnival has been organized and attended with the most profitable results. The Carnival at Covent Garden will be an effort to realize, on English ground, that which American ingenuity and enterprise has already accomplished with success in the Transatlantic Theatres. For a single payment the visitor may enter the theatre after his morning walk, witness the last representation of the Great Pantomime of 1855, after that see a Farce, then enjoy a cold collation in the theatre, or quietly adjourn to his dinner, return to his seat and listen to the Opera, take tea in his box with his friends between that and the Ballets, enjoy a twenty minutes nap before the representation of the Drama of the evening, go home by the light of the moon, and be again in the theatre on the following evening to join in the frolic pleasures of the Bal Masque, and so bring to an end the Wizard's Carnival, commenced with being a spectator to the fun of the Pantomime, and terminating in being a participant in the hilarity of the dancers on the same stage whereon the Pantomime was enacted during the previous day. The whole of the various Artists who are to appear, and among them are those who take the highest rank in the Theatrical world have most kindly, and without reserve, volunteered their valuable services gratuitously. Every employee in the Theatre has, with similar good feeling, expressed a desire to contribute their services without fee or reward. The

Entertainment will extend over two days, Monday, March 3rd, and Tuesday, March 4th. The performances commencing on Monday, at 1 p.m., with the Great Comic Pantomime of 1856, entitled *YE BELLE ALLIANCE; OR, HARLEQUIN GOOD HUMOUR, AND THE FIELD OF THE CLOTH OF GOLD*. Henry the Eighth, Mr. Harry Pearson; Francis the First, Mr. W. Shalders; Clown, Mr. Flexmore; Pantaloon, Mr. Barnes; Harlequin, Mr. C. Brown; Columbine, Miss Emma Horne. The Pantomime to be followed, at 4 o'clock, by the Drama of Real Life, in Two Acts (with permission of T. Payne, Esq.), entitled *TIME TRIES ALL*, in which the whole of the Strand Company have in the most handsome manner offered to appear. Mr. Leeson (a Merchant), Mr. G. Cooke; Matthew Bates (his partner), Mr. Basil Potter; The Hon. Collander Yawn, Mr. Kinloch; Charles Clinton, Mr. F. Hall; Tom Tack, Mr. T. Clarke; Laura Leeson, Miss Herbert; Fanny Fact, Miss Somers. A lapse of Two Years between the 1st and 2nd Acts. To be followed, at half-past five o'clock, by the Scottish drama of GILDEROY. Jock Muir, Professor Anderson. At a quarter past seven o'clock, the favourite Opera of LA SONNAMBULA. Amina, Mrs. Henri Drayton (late Miss Lowe); Elvino, Mr. Henry Haigh; Rodolpho, Mr. Durand. Then at a quarter past nine (by the very gracious permission of E. T. Smith, Esq.), Mr. Charles Mathews will himself appear in the celebrated Drury Lane Farce of the GREAT GUN-TICK, supported by Messrs. Tibbury, Worrill, James Rogers, and Miss Oliver. After which, at half-past ten o'clock, Mr. Leigh Murray will appear, in conjunction with Professor Anderson and imitate Mr. Charles Mathews, Mr. Charles Kean, and Professor Anderson, in the New Squib of WHAT DOES HE WANT? The whole of the First Evening's Entertainments to conclude with a Grand Ballet, in which Mademoiselle Auriol, Emma Horne, and Mr. Flexmore will appear. The Second Evening (Tuesday, March 4), will be devoted to the Great Wizard's GRAND BAL MASQUE, which will commence at 10 o'clock. Doors open at 9 o'clock. The whole of the spacious pit will be entirely covered, the stage thrown into the *Salle de danse*, and the Carnival of 1856 brought to a close with befitting honour by a display of magnificence and fantastic costume hitherto unseen at any previous Bal Masque in a London theatre.

Admission—Private Boxes, as to usual prices, with tickets given to each occupant, to admit to the *Salle de danse* on the evening of the Bal Masque; Grand Balcony, 5s., with a ticket for the *Salle de danse* on the evening of the Bal Masque; Pit, 2s. 6d.; with a ticket for the Bal Masque evening as a spectator in the Upper Boxes, Amphitheatre, or Gallery; Gallery 1s., for the day. To persons not taking tickets on the Monday the admission to the Ball-room on Tuesday, will be, Ladies and Gentlemen, 5s.; Balcony, 3s.

THEATRE ROYAL, COVENT GARDEN.—LAST NIGHT OF THE ENGLISH OPERA.—This Evening (Saturday) will be presented Balfe's celebrated Opera of the BOHEMIAN GIRL. Count Arnheim, Mr. Durand; Devilshoof, Mr. Farquharson; Thaddens, Mr. Henry Haigh; Arline, Lucy Escott. In consequence of the great preparation for Professor Anderson's Great Carnival Benefit and Bal Masque on Monday and Tuesday, the 3rd and 4th of March, the theatre will be closed during the week (Thursday, February 28th, excepted), when the theatre will be open for the benefit of Harry Pearson, alias Harry the Eighth, when will be performed the Scottish drama of GILDEROY, a GRAND BALLET, and BLACK EYED SUSAN, for the last time.

Private Boxes, £3 3s., £2 2s., £1 1s., and 12s.; Grand Balcony, 4s. Upper Boxes, 2s. 6d., Pit and Amphitheatre Stalls, 2s., Gallery, 1s. Private Boxes and Seats in the Balcony, Stalls, and Upper Boxes may be secured on application at the Box-office of the Theatre, which is open, under the direction of Mr. O'BRIEN, daily from 10 to 5. Doors open every evening at Half past Six. Commence at Seven. Second Price at Nine o'clock.

ROYAL OLYMPIC THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. ALFRED WIGAN.

Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, the performances will commence with a new Comedietta, in two acts, entitled STAY AT HOME: characters by Messrs. G. Vining, Emery, F. Vining, Leslie, G. Murray, J. H. White; Miss Fanny Ternan, Mrs. Stirling, and Miss Bromley. After which the Fairy Extravaganza, entitled the DISCREET PRINCESS; or, THE THREE GLASS DISTAFES. Principal characters by Messrs. F. Robson, Emery, Danvers, H. Cooper, White Clifton, Coney, Franks; Misses Ternan, Marston, Maskell, Stephens, Maynard, and Julia St. George.

THURSDAY, FRIDAY, and SATURDAY, the favourite comedy of STILL WATERS RUN DEEP (as performed before the Queen at Windsor Castle). Mildmay, Mr. A. Wigan; Mrs. Sternhold, Mrs. A. Wigan. To conclude with the DISCREET PRINCESS.

MADAME JENNY GOLDSCHMIDT-LIND.

## EXETER HALL.

## THE NIGHTINGALE FUND.

It is respectfully announced that Mr. and Madame GOLDSCHMIDT will give an EVENING CONCERT OF SACRED and MISCELLANEOUS MUSIC, with Full Band and Chorus, at Exeter-Hall, on TUESDAY EVENING, March 11, 1856, the proceeds of which will be presented to the Nightingale Fund. On this occasion the seats throughout the Hall will be numbered and reserved, price One Guinea each. Applications for tickets received by Mr. Mitchell, Royal Library, 33, Old Bond-street. The places will be appropriated according to priority of application; and tickets will be ready for delivery on and after Monday, March 3.—Royal Library, 33, Old Bond-street.

DR. KAHN'S ANATOMICAL MUSEUM.

4, Coventry-street, Leicester-square. Open, for gentlemen only, from 10 till 10. Containing upwards of 1,000 models and preparations, illustrating every part of the human frame in health and disease, the race of man, &c. Lectures are delivered at 12, 3, and 5 morning, and half-past 7 evening, by Dr. Sexton, F.R.C.S., and at half-past 8, by Dr. Kahn. Admission 1s.

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**PROGRESS of the UNITY GENERAL ASSURANCE ASSOCIATION.**

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West End Offices:—1, New Coventry-street, Leicester-sq.  
It is with feelings of peculiar satisfaction the DIRECTORS of the UNITY GENERAL ASSURANCE ASSOCIATION submit the following statements respecting its progress and business during the year 1855, commencing 1st January, and ending 31st December last. It will be observed the amount of new business transacted during that period produces annual premiums exceeding £12,390. This is a very large result indeed, judged by the average amount of new business effected by other life offices, which varies from £3,000 to £5,000 per annum.

There is but one sure test by which the progress and soundness of a life assurance institution can be judged practically—viz., the amount of new business it secures. No other test is valuable or even useful for such purpose. Unless a life office continues year after year to obtain a large new business, it must rapidly decline and eventually cease to exist. STATEMENT of New Life Business of the UNITY GENERAL ASSURANCE ASSOCIATION, from 1st January, 1855, to 31st December, 1855:—

MONTHS.	Business Proposed.		Business Completed.		
	No. of Proposals.	Amount Proposed to be Assured.	No. of Policies.	Amount Assured thereby.	Annual Premiums thereon.
January, 1855.	100	39,946	65	19,350	£ 641 6 3
February, „	130	36,150	101	27,216	835 10 4
March, „	167	38,651	141	33,000	913 17 6
April, „	147	46,025	118	31,850	958 0 3
May, „	187	72,260	118	39,810	1,193 0 8
June, „	115	43,950	105	27,150	809 6 8
July, „	107	41,050	109	37,250	1,128 16 6
August, „	123	72,390	103	45,250	1,998 8 10
September, „	132	49,187	95	33,285	1,003 10 1
October, „	94	32,630	109	37,122	1,156 18 1
November, „	129	42,200	98	29,100	1,066 13 6
December, „	89	23,275	89	22,658	688 2 9
<b>Totals</b> .....	<b>1,520</b>	<b>£537,733</b>	<b>1,251</b>	<b>£383,141</b>	<b>£12,393 11 5</b>

This Table shows:—1. That in the year 1855, 1,251 new Policies have been completed and paid upon.  
2. That the amount assured thereby is £383,141.  
3. That the new Annual Premiums thereon amount to £12,393 11s. 5d.  
It is very gratifying also to know that the great bulk of this business is entirely free from loan operations, as the following analysis will show:—

	Policies.	Assuring.	Producing in Premiums.
In connexion with Loans	89	£50,866	£2,114 9 9
Unconnected with Loans	1,162	332,275	10,279 1 8
<b>Totals</b> .....	<b>1,251</b>	<b>£383,141</b>	<b>£12,393 11 5</b>

Such are the results obtained by the UNITY GENERAL during the year 1855. They are published as facts illustrating the power and influence of its connexions, and likewise the popularity of the principles propounded by it.

**MONETARY RESOURCES OF THE UNITY GENERAL.**

The following facts exhibit at a glance the perfect security offered by this Association to Assurers:

1. The number of Shareholders is .. ..	2,037
2. The subscribed capital is .. ..	£309,308
3. The paid-up capital is .. ..	£77,334
4. The number of Policies issued is .. ..	3,413
5. The amount assured thereby is .. ..	£1,162,967
6. The gross annual income from Premiums, including that of the TRAFALGAR LIFE ASSURANCE ASSOCIATION, now merged into the UNITY GENERAL, is .. ..	£37,497

To have achieved such a solid position in so short a period, and thus be enabled to command such extensive funds, is a success without precedent. It is attributable to many favourable circumstances. The close connexion of the UNITY GENERAL, with its powerful and kindred institution, the UNITY FIRE, whilst the third Unity Association, viz., the UNITY BANK, will be of considerable service to the others. All three institutions, viz., the UNITY, FIRE, the UNITY GENERAL, and the UNITY BANK, although perfectly separate as regards capital, liabilities, management, &c., will be conducted in the same buildings, and thus, while they feed each other with business, so will they promote economy, power, and an extension of their connexions.

**THE UNITY BANK.**

All the necessary capital for the UNITY BANK, amounting to £300,000, has been subscribed for, whereof £150,000 is paid up and invested. Nor has the capital stock been hurriedly allotted to persons for speculative purposes. The Directors have exercised the greatest care in this most important particular, and it is very satisfactory to know the Shares are all held by bona fide Shareholders in very small numbers. This fact is illustrated by the circumstance that up to the present period there are nearly 600 highly respectable Shareholders, whose names and addresses will shortly be published, together with an explanation of the terms and principles on which the business of the UNITY BANK will be conducted. The names of the various Gentlemen appointed as Officials to the Bank will also be published.

**COMMENCEMENT OF BANKING BUSINESS.**

The Directors of this Bank are not enabled to name the exact date on which the business will be commenced, in consequence of the uncertainty always attending the proceedings of the authorities at the Board of Trade. The event, however, is close at hand, and will be duly announced as soon as it is decided. It is gratifying to know that no difficulty whatever exists (with the exception of the usual formalities) to the UNITY BANK commencing operations in a very few days.

**UNITY GENERAL BONUS IN 1857.**

The first Bonus of the UNITY GENERAL will be declared in the year 1857, therefore all intending assurers desirous of participating are urged to make their proposals with as little delay as possible. The prospects of a large division are very good, arising not only from the great extent of business already effected, but also from the results that may be reasonably expected from the future.

Applications for forms of Proposals, Prospectuses, Agencies, and all other information, are requested to be made either personally or by letter, to any of the Local Managers or Agents throughout the country, or to

THOMAS H. BAYLIS, Managing Director, Unity-buildg., 8 and 10, Cannon-st. City. Jan. 30, 1856.

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Miss Nightingale postpones all consideration of details until her return to England enables her to digest and arrange them.

All necessary rules and regulations have been confided by the Committee, with the assent of the public, "to her experience, energy, and judgment."

The Committee announce that they have received a first instalment of contributions from the army in the Crimea, particulars of which will be advertised in due course.

Meetings have been held, and auxiliary committees formed, at Edinburgh, Manchester, Oxford, Bolton, Truro, Brighton, Sheffield, Devizes, Arundel, Winchester, &c.; and arrangements are in progress, by Mayors, &c., of various other corporate cities and towns, and by leading persons in towns not so represented, in order to co-operate with the Central Committee in London.

The Committee and the Honorary Secretaries will be happy to receive and attend to any communications with which they may be honoured.

Printed reports of public meetings, subscription lists, and other documents may be obtained by any applicant to the Secretary.

The Committee acknowledge, with exceeding gratification, the contributions of a large number of the clergy of various denominations; and refer with much pleasure to the large sums contributed by the army at home as well as abroad.

The Committee are also in communication with the authorities in the Colonies, from many of whom they have received offers of co-operation.

The Committee direct attention to the large results they have already obtained from the aggregate of small subscriptions, entered in "collecting books," which small subscriptions are especially gratifying and encouraging.

A fifth subscription list will shortly appear.

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