

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, MARCH 29, 1856.

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Review of the Week.

THE struggle now is, to close the Conference without leaving open any great question that can disturb the Governments of Europe. Paris is filled with rumours that are inexplicable, except upon the supposition that the Plenipotentiaries are more anxious to agree amongst themselves than to attain the particular objects of their own Governments; yet difficulties confessedly arise in putting the finishing stroke to the Treaty of peace. We were to have had it last Saturday; it is now promised indefinitely. The continental Governments which are to be parties to it are, in almost all cases, threatened with troubles in their rear. The pressure upon the Russian Government is an old story; the state of Berlin is such as to show that Prussia must dread any extension of the contest to the centre of Europe. A Government whose Tory Opposition causes its Ministers of Police to be shot; whose agents are now trying to hush up further suicides or duels; whose other agents are selling the reports of its own spies upon its own ministers and its own royal family—for amongst the documents lately in the market was a report upon the Prince of PRUSSIA to General GERLACH—is certainly not in a position to confront any turn of affairs in Europe that might call out the populations. Since 1848 the Prussian Government, which then created a transient popularity, has been treacherous, arbitrary, and it is now contemptible; its own officers and the parties favoured by its own King setting the example of treating his authority with contumely.

NAPOLÉON the THIRD at present commands the situation; and yet even in Paris there are little incidents of a disagreeable kind. The press begins to show its teeth in spite of warnings, suppressions, fines, and imprisonments. The polished and discreet Chief Editor of the *Débats*, M. DE SACY, a Member of the Academy, is summoned to the Police to answer for a few words of just and honest reprobation, addressed to the foulmouthed intemperance of abuse lavished on all independent men by the immaculate M. GRANIER DE CASSAGNAC. The sprightly

Figaro expiates its name, if not its wit, by suppression, in the name of *good morals*. Nevertheless, some good journals contend for a revision of that electoral law, which simply serves the right of voting against the Government candidate. A case under this law is actually before the Court of Cassation, and affords a comment on the authenticity of the eight million votes.

Turkey, which was the object of the treaty, has its own local difficulties. Some of its Christian clergy are protesting against the *hattee-shereef*; and some of its Turkish patriots are protesting against the proposal to distribute the army of the Allies in different portions of the territory. The Principalities constitute an unmanageable part of the Turkish question. To leave them as they are, is to leave them exposed to the same kind of insidious invasion which Russia has carried on so long. To unite them would be to render them independent of the Porte, and to effect that "spoliation" of territory which it was the object of the war to prevent. Yet the Roumanians are canvassing support in many parts of Europe for their independence; not *semi-independence*, but absolute separation from the Porte. They have five millions, they say, who, in race and ideas sympathise with the Anglo-Latins of Europe, and constitute the proper vanguard of civilisation in that quarter. They have rivers available for military and commercial purposes; they could exist as a nation, if they were not forbidden by the conspiracy of Governments; and they now claim their independence in the name of policy as well as justice.

Austria, who is affecting to arbitrate between contending states, is herself between two fires. It is reported—and with great probability—that Russia resents that act of "immense ingratitude" which Swarzenberg foresaw—that hostile alliance with which Austria has repaid the power that retained Hungary for her. There are those who expect that, as soon as the war with the Western Powers is concluded, Russia will be found somewhere in Hungary, or Galicia, or on the Military Frontier, unsettling the tenure of Austrian Power over the Slavonic populations.

In the meanwhile Austria has been called upon

by one of her protégés to exhibit her unchastised arbitrary policy in Italy. We have no doubt that, if she could have deferred that demonstration, she would have done so. But there was no help for it.

Parma has been placed under martial law and handed over to the keeping of an Austrian General, because one man—a Lieutenant BORDI—has been assassinated in the streets. The very statement looks like a contradiction in terms. Of course the most arbitrary government could not, for such a reason, make martial law usurp the function of criminal law. There must be something more than the assassination of the man; and we believe it. BORDI was an officer of a military commission which was established in 1854 to deal with rioters during a temporary dearth of provisions. The commission has subsisted ever since—a sufficient proof that Parma has *not* been so tamely submissive as some pretend. LANATI, the President of the Commission, was assassinated; GOBBI, another officer, was severely wounded; GIOVANNINI has been reported among the persons killed, but erroneously. It is evident, however, that the report was not a simple fabrication: there must have been a reason why GIOVANNINI was marked for destruction. There is a method in these things. It is impossible to disconnect these political assassinations from the assassination of the DUKE, though that was, at the time, said to be the result of a personal squabble—a tavern dispute. It is a fact, however, that, at that time the people of Parma were prepared to rise: they only deferred the movement; but they could not induce the person who was appointed to dispose of the DUKE to defer his part of the entertainment, and he proceeded alone. Parma has not yet risen; but its state has compelled Austria once more to exhibit the mode in which she is ready to put down any Italian protestations that are too much for the native Government.

In the meanwhile the *Wanderer* is persistent in affirming that some "Italian question" will be brought before the sub-committee for the Peace Conference, or before some new assembly to be held in Paris.

Absolute tranquillity is the character of the own country. There is scarcely an agitation that



keep alive for a day. The administrative reformers attempted a demonstration in St. Martin's hall, but so feeble were they, that they only hoped to carry their affirmation of the necessity for administrative reform by adopting an amendment of Sir JOHN SHELLEY for Parliamentary reform; and even then it was a drawn game between themselves and the proposal of the People's Charter.

The Potteries, rallying round the flag of OLIVIERA and cheap wines, have been more successful in a holiday demonstration on behalf of reciprocal trade with France. "Cheap china for France, cheap wine for England," was the Staffordshire cry; and Mr. OLIVIERA has gained the support of an important manufacturing province.

The Church welcomes the PRINCESS ROYAL amongst its "confirmed" members, but that accession of strength is compensated by a jar or two here and there. While cheap editions of CAIRD'S sermon—on "Religion in Common Life," printed by her MAJESTY'S command, and preached in the pulpits of so many "persuasions,"—are circulated among the million, the attempts of sectarians to re-unite are thwarted by the stronger impulses of sectarian individualism; and the Bishop of BANGOR is seen positively suppressing an attempt to extend the service of the Established Church in Wales—so jealous is he of any clergyman or layman who shall go before him in his duty.

Chief Justice JERVIS is quarrelling with the country gentlemen who try to evade the duty of providing his lordship with javelin men, state pageantry on his arrival in the streets, and other little attentions. The judges themselves, indeed, had rather set the example of waiving some of these antiquated customs; they had, for instance, entered towns by rail, and not in state coaches, and in Liverpool they have permitted the juniors of the bar to provide themselves with private lodgings, much to the relief of the same juniors; but they will not tolerate the absence of the javelin men. And why should they? If the country gentlemen who have conspired in an association desire to get rid of some of the charges of their local state and dignity, they ought at least to make compensation to the public. They profess the desire to accommodate the arrangement of their duties to the spirit of the age: let them carry out the principle. Let them, for example, accompany the proposal to relieve them of the charge of javelin men, and to place it upon the ratepayers, with a proposal to extend the Parliamentary representation to all ratepayers who shall pay for javelin men. The object of their association would then be carried at once by popular acclaim.

But we have not yet arrived at that recognition of equitable exchange in public affairs. The *quid pro quo* is the last thing that your politician is willing to surrender. That principle is only carried out in nefarious trades, like that Hamburg commerce of which we have some further evidence this week. It is not carried out at the great Palace of trade upon Cornhill. One of the underwriters has come before the public this week, with a statement that these acute gentlemen are entirely over-reached by the shippers, by their own agents, and by each other. The frauds of shippers and merchants are systematically aided by the agents of LLOYD'S, and facilitated by the reckless negligence of the underwriters themselves, who take all kinds of risks at the lowest charges, and gamble in insurance as earnestly as they would in cards. The trade, says Mr. WATTS, is actually decaying under these practices. Not only are individuals retiring, but whole bodies are leaving the business; and, what is more surprising, these assertions are positively true. The meeting of underwriters listened

and acquiesced; despised the small palliatives that Mr. WATTS suggests, but had no others to suggest of their own, and were content to drift into destruction—a splendid example on Cornhill of the manner in which we "practical people" manage our affairs.

SPEZZIA.—The creation of a permanent Board of Admiralty in Piedmont is the forerunner of the removal of the naval administration, the arsenal and the dockyards to Spezzia—an important station, which Napoleon I. intended to make the Toulon of Italy.

THE RUSSIAN UNIFORM is undergoing certain changes. The lulinet will be abolished in favour of the French kepi; and the coats will be supplanted by the polou-kaftan, a sort of frock imitated from the French. The long grey great-coat will be retained.

BURGLARY AND CAPTURE OF THE BURGLARS.—Shortly before three o'clock on Friday morning, a daring burglary was committed at the Effingham Saloon, Whitechapel-road, and three of the burglars were captured on the premises by the police. The proprietor (Mr. Morris Abrahams) retired to rest shortly after twelve o'clock, when the premises were securely fastened back and front. On the following morning, a police constable saw a light in the bar and heard a noise which excited his suspicion. He obtained the assistance of two other constables, and, upon forcing the front door, which was easily opened, they discovered three men behind the bar. They made an effort to escape; but, by the determination of the constables, the three burglars were secured, though not without a desperate struggle. One man had a quantity of silver and copper money in his pockets; and the other two had a considerable portion of tobacco in their possession. They were well-known expert thieves, and belonged to the Wentworth-street gang of burglars who infest the metropolitan and suburban districts. They had packed up a quantity of wearing apparel for removal. Several attempts have been made on the premises during the last fortnight.

CHIEF JUSTICE JERVIS AND THE JAVELIN MEN.—The "javelin men" having been dispensed with at the Norfolk Assizes by the High Sheriff, Mr. Chief Justice Jervis, in charging the jury, called attention to the circumstance. He said:—"I am told the High Sheriff has been persuaded by an association which he has joined to take the course which has been followed on this occasion, and I hope and trust the association will support him as men of honour and gentlemen in that course. I find there are no javelin-men or attendants of the Sheriff to keep order in the court and neighbourhood. In answer to my inquiries, I am furnished with a paper, which purports to be the rules of an association to diminish the expenses of gentlemen who are to serve the office of sheriff; and amongst others I find this rule, which calls for serious observation:—"The keeping of order in the courts of sessions and assizes being essential to the due administration of justice and the proper conduct of county business, an arrangement may be made by which the county police may be employed in lieu of javelin-men, and be paid by the county for such extra duty." In other words, the ratepayers of the county of Suffolk are to relieve the gentry of the county from the burden of an office which it is their duty to serve; the property and lives of the public are to be deprived of the natural protectors which the law affords; and those who are so inclined—knowing that the police are engaged at the Assizes, as it may be upon this occasion for a whole week—may make an inroad into the county, and commit their depredations without check or control. The thing cannot bear inquiry or investigation for a single moment; it is wholly illegal. The object of the association—I entirely absolve the sheriff from any participation in it—is to save the pockets of its members from the expense of javelin-men. It is my duty to take care that it is not done; and I therefore fine the sheriff £100, which I trust the committee of the association who persuaded him not to have the ordinary attendants will pay for him."

REAL ESTATE IN TURKEY.—Some Australian capitalists, says the *Mercure de Souabe*, propose to avail themselves of the rights recently granted to Europeans to acquire real estate in Turkey. A society is being formed to effect vast requisitions of land in the European provinces, especially in Roumelia.

M. DE SCHERELLE.—A letter from Copenhagen states that M. de Scherelle intends defending himself before the Supreme Court of Kiel, against the charge brought against him by the States of Holstein.

A SINGULAR SPECTACLE now presents itself, which has not been seen for the last half century; the Zuydersee, in consequence of the long continuance of northerly and easterly winds, is almost dry. Between Geneminden, Blockzijl, Lemmer, Kampden, and Har derwyk the bed of the sea may be crossed dry-footed.

THE WIND-UP OF THE WAR.

THE BLOCKADE IN THE BALTIC.—Commodore Watson has declared Libau and all the Russian ports in the Baltic in a state of blockade. By the latest accounts from the Gulf of Finland, which extend to the middle of the present month, that part of the northern sea was completely blocked with ice, and the ships were obliged to postpone penetrating much beyond the island of Dago.

SUFFERINGS OF THE FRENCH ARMY.—The French admit the present mortality in their army to be one hundred and twenty a-day, and on some days considerably more. The rigour of the army, in the Baidar Valley, suffers the most. I am assured that the deaths there have reached one hundred *per diem*. Last winter was far severer and more trying than this; so that the natural deduction is, either that the French suffered far more than was known during the trying five months from the beginning of November, 1854, to the end of March, 1855, or that the preparations for this winter and the sanitary precautions taken have been very inadequate. I do not hesitate to say that the French army is being expended at least as rapidly as it was by shell and shot during the severest part of the siege. A sanitary commission's investigation of the French camp would reveal a startling amount of suffering. Insufficient shelter and covering, and a deficiency of vegetable food, readily account for the sickness that prevails. Of course, everything we can spare is freely placed at their disposal. They have availed themselves to a considerable extent of our offers of service, but I was surprised to learn that they declined a quantity of warm clothing offered to them the other day, saying they did not want it.—*Times Correspondent*. [The *Moniteur* denies the existence of distress among the troops.]

AN ACTION ON THE COAST OF SIBERIA.—The *Journal de St. Petersburg* of the 16th inst. publishes an account, taken from a maritime magazine, of an attack made on the 3rd of October, 1855, by an English squadron on the east coast of Siberia. The English squadron consisted of the Sybil, Encounter, and Hornet.

A RUSSIAN MILITARY SCANDAL.—The *Invalides Russes* announces that the Emperor, having been informed that the battalions which were sent from the division of the depot of the 6th corps d'armee in 1855 to complete the troops in the Crimea were not properly armed, and were unfit to continue their march, published an order of the day on the subject on the 12th inst. In that document, the Emperor severely censures Generals Marin and Von Brine, and they will be punished.

THE WAR IN ASIA.—Omar Pacha is, it is said, to move with his army on Erzeroum. Ismail Pacha is increasing the army of Anatolia. General Mouravieff has received reinforcements by way of the Caspian Sea and Tiflis.

THE ANGLO-ITALIAN LEGION.—The second Regiment of the Anglo-Italian Legion embarked at Genoa on the 20th on board an English ship bound for Malta.

THE WALL OF SEBASTOPOL.—The Allies have commenced the demolition of the enclosure wall of Sebastopol.

NICHOLAIEFF.—A letter from Nicholaieff, in the *Moniteur de la Flotte*, gives some details of what is going on at present at that place:—"Two days back, a commission, composed of five persons, and presided over by one of the heads of the Board of Admiralty, arrived here from St. Petersburg, charged with the task of taking an inventory of all that the dockyards and arsenals contained. The Grand Duke Constantine is, it is said, to arrive here in a few days to inspect the proceedings of the commission. The materiel lying in this establishment, considered capable of being turned to account, is to be transported to the Baltic, after having been classified and duly marked down in the books of the commission, article by article. Already all the utensils for manufacturing gunpowder and the materials from the artillery depot have been loaded on carts belonging to the military baggage train, and are to set out without delay. The navy school for the sons of the nobility, the school of maritime engineers, and that of the naval artillery, are already evacuated. Similar measures are to be applied to Kherson."

THE PEACE.

The public, it seems, were a little too sanguine last week in believing that the treaty of peace would be signed on Saturday. It has not yet been signed, owing to a difficulty which arose almost at the last moment. This difficulty arose from Prussia demanding that she should sign the treaty on precisely the same terms as the other Powers. The Prussian plenipotentiaries were first admitted on Saturday at about four o'clock; and it is said that they immediately manifested their displeasure at not having been summoned before that late hour, as the Congress had been sitting since the morning. One of plenipotentiaries, according to the story, then said that the Prussian ministers were of course to be admitted on equal terms with the others—a position

which was disputed by Lord Clarendon; and hence the difference. Since then, according to the *Times* Paris correspondent, "An arrangement has been proposed by which the Allies should sign one protocol, while a second should be drawn up to which Prussia and the Allies should affix their signatures. This, if I am correctly informed, has been adopted, and the Congress is now occupied in the redaction of both protocols." In the meanwhile a telegraphic despatch has been or will be sent out, to suspend hostilities in the Crimea until further notice.

Great dissatisfaction is felt by the Sultan at the complexion assumed by the Paris Negotiations with respect to the affairs of his empire. It appears to have been desired by the Allies to insert in the treaty of peace the Sultan's late decree ordering certain important reforms touching the Christian population of Turkey; but the Sultan objects to this as binding him to a certain form of administration in his own independent territory. Aali Pasha has therefore been instructed to oppose any such insertion; and it would seem that the idea has been abandoned. Another difficulty has arisen from the question of the Danubian Principalities. When the Sultan was informed that the Plenipotentiaries were debating on the union of the two provinces, great excitement was felt at Constantinople. A formal protest, against even the discussion of this question, was sent by electric telegraph, after a great many efforts to the contrary on the part of the French and Austrian ambassadors at Constantinople, and of the Sultan's own ministers.

PUBLIC MEETINGS.

ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM MEETING.

A PUBLIC meeting was held at St. Martin's-hall, Long Acre, on Tuesday night, in order, in the words of the advertisement, to "consider the necessity of a vigorous effort to counteract existing abuses in the administration of the affairs of the country, to expose corrupt influences and favouritism in Government appointments, the consequent inefficiency of the public service, and enormous increase of taxation." Mr. Smedley, the High Bailiff of Westminster, presided, but the attendance was very scanty. Mr. Bell, who attended as one of a deputation from the Administrative Reform Association, proceeded to defend that body from the charges which had been brought against it. He said it had been described as coming forward at the wrong time; but, for himself, he had never heard of any reform being proposed, but some one said it was "the wrong time." The unfitness of many of the candidates for public offices had been shown by the Civil Service Commissioners, who stated that out of 1,078 candidates for appointments there were only 676 who were at all capable of performing the duties of the offices to which they aspired, while 300 were rejected because they could not read, write, or spell, or were deficient in geography, or were otherwise totally incompetent for the public service. Mr. Bell concluded by moving a resolution condemnatory of this evil, and claiming the support of the meeting for the Administrative Reform Association. Mr. H. G. Robinson, who seconded the motion, regarded Administrative Reform as one of the stepping stones to Parliamentary Reform. Sir J. V. Shelley, M.P., moved by way of amendment an addendum to the resolution, setting forth "that a complete and permanent removal of existing abuses can only be expected as the result of a reform of the House of Commons, including vote by ballot." Mr. Finlan, a chartist, then came forward, and at first experienced some difficulty in gaining a hearing, the Bailiff stating that the meeting was confined to the electors of Westminster; but the auditory decided otherwise. He affirmed that the House of Commons is corrupt, that the electoral body is corrupt, and that it is clearly the duty of the people of England "to remove the whole lot;" and he concluded by moving a resolution in favour of a reform of Parliament in accordance with the six "points" of "the charter." Some uproar succeeded; and, in answer to a question from a Mr. Davy, Mr. Bell defined the objects of the Administrative Reformers to be the throwing open of all situations under Government to public competition, and the abolition of the existing system of making it necessary that candidates for examination should be nominated by Members of Parliament. A few words were addressed to the meeting by a person calling himself a tutor, who stated that he had examined candidates for appointment in the War Department, and that he was convinced that "the most intolerable corruption" prevails. Mr. Bell, having accepted Sir J. V. Shelley's addendum, Mr. Finlan's amendment was first put, and rejected. The original resolution, including the addition, was then put, and was also negatived, the chairman observing, "Neither the original motion nor the amendment is carried." The meeting accordingly broke up amidst much laughter.

M. KOSSUTH ON THE AUSTRIAN CONCORDAT.

M. Kossuth, on Wednesday evening, delivered the first of two lectures, at the Spa-fields schoolroom, Exmouth-street, Clerkenwell, on the "Concordat

between the Pope and Francis Joseph of Austria, with special reference to Hungary in general, and the Protestantism of Hungary in particular." The Rev. Mr. Thoresby presided. M. Kossuth, who was received with loud cheers, remarked that the Concordat was, on the part of the Pope, a daring and dangerous manifestation of aspiration to universal supremacy, and, on the part of the Austrian Emperor, a shameful surrender of the most sacred rights of the crown, the clergy, and the people. To Hungary the consequences would be very serious. That country had always displayed a bold opposition to Papal pretensions, both before and after the Reformation. After taking a general survey of the causes of the Concordat, of which he reserved the details for the next lecture, he proceeded to sketch the peculiar characters of the Pope and the Emperor of Austria. Kingcraft and priestcraft were united in them for the suppression of liberty. In conclusion, M. Kossuth pointed out the troubles which the triumph of the Concordat in Hungary might in time bring upon England, and quoted a remark made upon the subject by Oliver Cromwell.

The meeting separated with three cheers for the lecturer.

FRAUDS ON UNDERWRITERS.

A large attendance of members of Lloyd's took place on Wednesday at the annual meeting in the Subscription Room, Royal Exchange, in consequence of notice of a motion for considering the present condition of the underwriting business. Mr. Baring, M.P., was in the chair. Mr. Watts rose and introduced the motion by a statement of facts and arguments. He called attention to the increased risk for which underwriters are now responsible. First, there is the great change made in the size of mercantile vessels; the unwieldy and dangerous class of vessels now employed; the clipper nuisance and danger; the use of iron in the construction of large ships; the difficulty of procuring competent captains and mates; the impossibility of manning ships with able-bodied British seamen; the necessity of making use of undersized, drunken, outport and foreign lubbers, quite unfit for seamen's duties, thanks to legislative tinkering of the laws by ignorant statesmen, for the most part set in motion by interested adventurers; and, above all, the increased risk of collision, arising from the introduction of steam, and the reckless sacrifice of safety to speed. A shameless system of imposition was practised on the underwriter; there was an organised system of premeditated fraud in the guise of claims for particular average, for damages by sea water, which was rapidly identifying itself with ordinary business, and against which the underwriter had no sufficient protection. It was impossible to write goods to any port in the world without having a claim made for alleged sea damage; and the extent and audacity of this system indicated a condition of commercial morality perfectly appalling. Shippers and manufacturers looked not to the profit of the markets so much as to the profit they could extract from the pockets of underwriters by manufactured claims for pretended sea damage. The proposition he had to make was for the meeting to agree to establish a board of investigation, to which all doubtful and disputed claims should be referred. The decision of this board should be binding, either for the claim to be paid or resisted out of a common fund. He also proposed that a register of claims, the names of parties, and the nature of the claims, be kept for the use of the members.

The motion, on being put, was declared to be negatived.

FREE TRADE WITH FRANCE.

An open air meeting was held on Tuesday at Hanley. It was convened by a new society, formed by gentlemen connected with the Potteries district, and called the Anglo-French Free Trade Association. The chief object of the meeting was to discuss the necessity of reducing the duty upon foreign, especially French, wines, in order to obtain from France and other countries a reduction of the duty upon pottery. Mr. Oliveira, M.P., had been invited to attend, and so had several members of Parliament who are favourable to the objects sought by the association. The procession from Stoke was joined by the Hon. F. L. Gower, member for the borough; Mr. Smith Child, M.P., Mr. Oliveira, M.P., Mr. McGregor, M.P., and several of the large manufacturers of the district. Mr. Albut, the chief bailiff of Hanley, presided; and the meeting was addressed by Mr. Bodley, Mr. Smith Child, M.P., Mr. Oliveira, M.P., the Hon. F. L. Gower, Mr. B. S. Brough, and Mr. J. McGregor, M.P., who spoke in favour of the objects proposed by the association. Resolutions in accordance were unanimously carried.

THE HANWELL AND COLNEY HATCH LUNATIC ASYLUMS.

A special meeting of the magistracy of Middlesex was held at the Session-house in Clerkenwell on Thursday, to consider plans for the enlargement of the Hanwell and Colney Hatch Asylums. Sir Alexander Spearman moved, "That the report of the committee and the recommendations therein contained, which suggest the measures by which addi-

tional accommodation to the extent of 600 beds for patients may be provided at the county asylum at Hanwell, at an expense not exceeding £67,300, be approved, and that the report, together with the plans and estimates, be referred back to the committee, with directions to bring the whole matter under the consideration of the Secretary of State for the Home Department, in order that his sanction may be obtained, if it shall appear to him that this mode of providing additional accommodation for the pauper lunatics of the county should be adopted under the direction of the Court."

Mr. N. Laurie conceived that the extension should be much greater, and that accommodation should be made to the extent of 3,000 for each asylum. He remarked:—"It is said that drunkenness is the great cause of the increase of lunacy; but what is the fact? Drunkenness is on the decrease; but reference to the statistical table appended to the report will show a cause of insanity which is greatly on the increase, and that is distress—loss and anxiety in trade, to which causes from thirty-five to forty cases set forth in the tables are attributable. A great battle is being fought in this large town, by men and women, in keeping starvation at arms' length."

The motion was agreed to.

LORD SHAFTESBURY AT MANCHESTER.

The Earl of Shaftesbury having accepted an invitation to attend a public meeting of the Young Men's Christian Association at Manchester on Tuesday evening, the operatives connected with the late short-time movement availed themselves of the opportunity of waiting upon his Lordship to confer with him upon the nature of Colonel Wilson Patten's bill for amending the law relating to the fencing of machinery. The interview took place at the Albion Hotel, Manchester, on Monday evening. The operatives expressed themselves desirous of not throwing any obstacles in the way of the proposed measure so far as it referred to the modification of the law affecting machinery, but appeared to have a vague idea that advantage might be taken of the opportunity for smuggling into the bill provisions at variance with the Ten Hours' Act. Lord Shaftesbury said he did not think there was any cause for that apprehension, and he advised the operatives not to oppose the measure.

The Earl afterwards proceeded to a meeting of short-timed delegates, at the Cotten-tree Inn, Ancoats, at which about two hundred men and women were present. Mr. Paul Hargraves took the chair, and Mr. Thomas Maudesley read an address, thanking his Lordship for the services he had rendered to the factory operatives by his advocacy of a restriction of the hours of labour. The Earl of Shaftesbury expressed his gratification at learning the good results of the measure which he had been instrumental in passing; and Lord Ashley afterwards briefly addressed the meeting.

On Tuesday evening, Lord Shaftesbury addressed the Young Men's Christian Association at the Corn Exchange, dwelling at some length upon the evils of what he termed diseased commercial activity, leading to that competition by which young men in shops are taught to make the worse appear the better article, and by which the customer is seduced in a variety of ways.

MR. LAYARD AT ABERDEEN.—At the re-inauguration of Mr. Layard as Rector of Marischal College and University, Aberdeen (to which we briefly alluded last week), he addressed the students on the reforms which he conceived were necessary to enable the Universities of that city to compete, not only with Scotland, but with England. A union of the Universities he conceived to be vitally necessary; and he stated that the Lord Advocate, on the part of the present Government, has promised to introduce a bill and issue a commission. He believed that the educational system in the Scotch Universities is in some respects superior to that of England; and, with proper reforms, he "had good hopes that in no part of England will Scotland be surpassed." Mr. Layard announced two prizes to be given by himself to the students—1st, for an essay "On the Influence of Liberty and Commerce on Literature and the Arts, as illustrated by the Greek and Italian Republics." Prize, a copy of his own works. To be competed for by the students in divinity, medicine, and law. 2nd, "Whether Despotism or Free Governments are more likely to pursue an aggressive policy towards other States; the discussion of the question to be illustrated by references both to ancient and modern history." Prize, a complete set of Hallam's works. To be competed for by the Arts' Classes.

LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE MECHANICS' INSTITUTIONS.—The annual meeting of the Lancashire and Cheshire Association of Literary and Mechanics' Institutions, took place on Saturday at the Manchester Athenaeum. The Bishop of Manchester presided, and was supported by Mr. James Heywood, M.P., Mr. Thomas Bazley, president of the Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Oliver Heywood, Mr. Malcolm Ross, Mr. J. A. Nicholls, and other leading gentlemen of the neighbourhood. There was a good attendance of

delegates from the eighty towns brought into union by this association, and the meeting was the largest yet held. The meeting unanimously agreed to a motion ordering "That it be an instruction to the central committee to consider and report on the possibility and desirableness of holding examinations of the students in mechanics' institutions in union with this association, in Manchester; and of giving prizes for different subjects and degrees of proficiency."

AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS.—The Right Hon. R. Hamilton Nisbet and Mr. James Banks Stanhope, members for North Lincolnshire, met some of their constituents at the Corn Exchange, Boston, on Wednesday, to give their opinion on the Agricultural Statistics Bill which will shortly be brought forward in Parliament. Neither objected to such a measure in the abstract; but they pointed out what they conceived to be very objectionable features in the Government Bill.

OUR CIVILISATION.

AN IMPUDENT BISHOP: OUR EPISCOPAL "CIVILISATION."

"Virtue with so much ease on Bangor sits,
All faults he pardons, though he none commits."
SIR RICHARD STEELE.

A "VERY pretty quarrel" has been going forward during the last two months between the Bishop of Bangor and the Hon. W. O. Stanley, M.P., on the subject of a memorial recently presented to the former, and signed by twenty clergymen and some hundreds of laymen, including three members of Parliament. The memorial in question referred to the continuous estrangement of the mass of the people in Wales from the Church of England, and expressed an opinion that this alienation was in a great degree the result of the insufficient number of services provided for the spiritual wants of the people in many of their churches on Sunday, rather than of any decided objection to the tenets of the Church of England. The memorialists felt compelled by a sense of duty to avow their belief that, in numerous instances, only one service and sermon are provided in those churches where, on the ground of population and revenue, two services could by law be enforced. Though they could easily point out many instances of such neglect, they refrained from any mention of individuals, in the hope that the Bishop would make inquiries into the statements, and, in the event of their being found accurate, would take steps as by law empowered to remedy the evils.

To this temperate representation (which the memorialists conceived would enable the Bishop to express his wishes to the clergy of his diocese with the greater authority), a reply of a most singular nature was given. The right reverend prelate acquits Mr. Stanley of any intention of insulting him, but says he knows who concocted the petition, the authorship of which he attributes to the Rev. P. C. Ellis, whom he accuses of "presumption and folly." He greatly regrets that a gentleman like Mr. Stanley, with whom he had been on terms of friendship for many years, should have given his countenance and support to that "self-willed and wrong-headed man, Mr. Ellis." The document, "called a petition," was in fact "a violent attack and bill of indictment against himself" (the Bishop); but it was not Mr. Ellis's first offence, as he had formerly been admonished by the Bishop to desist from his "improper and indecent publications in newspapers," to which admonition Mr. Ellis had sent a "silly and impertinent reply." The Bishop intimates his willingness to inquire into separate cases of neglect, but he will not resign into other hands "the authority and discretion belonging to his station." The letter contains some further stones for pelting at Mr. Ellis, who is taxed with "presumption, folly, self-conceit, self-will, and impenetrable obstinacy." Mr. Stanley replies that he did not act on the suggestion of Mr. Ellis, but simply carried out certain views which he had been advocating for years. The Bishop writes again on the 9th of February, stating that he shall prosecute Mr. Ellis in the Court of Arches for his insubordination and disobedience in publishing the "so-called petition" in two of the local newspapers. He concludes by declining any further correspondence; but Mr. Stanley on the following day writes to intimate that Mr. Ellis had nothing to do with sending the petition to the newspapers. The Bishop then transmits another letter, in which he says that it makes no difference whether Mr. Ellis was a principal or an accessory: he (the Bishop) must still require a public retraction; and he is astonished that Mr. Stanley should vainly defend "this man." On the 16th ult., the Bishop says that Mr. Ellis has endeavoured to justify his conduct; and he hopes that Mr. Stanley will soon see his error in having been led into "a foolish and mischievous agitation." Mr. Stanley (Feb. 18th) briefly regrets that the Bishop should have so entirely misunderstood the purport of the petition; and once more disavows any intention of dictating to him. But the Bishop, with a pertinacious resolution not to accept Mr. Stanley's explanations,

again writes (Feb. 19th), for the chief purpose, as it would seem, of pouring forth the vessels of his wrath upon the "factious and undutiful young clergyman." He adds that, instead of proceeding against Mr. Ellis in the Court of Arches, he intends to proceed against him by a commission of inquiry, "deeply regretting the being compelled to make such an exposure of Mr. Stanley's weakness and want of reason" as will be involved in the "necessary production of our late correspondence." On Feb. 20th, Mr. Stanley writes for copies of his letters. The Bishop, in reply, says he will send copies of the letters in a few days; and states that, on consideration, he shall not proceed against Mr. Ellis by a commission, but by letter of request to the Court of Arches. "In stating the ground of the charge I bring against Mr. P. C. Ellis, I shall make no other mention of your name, nor bring forward any other part of my correspondence with you."

From the date of this communication (February 22nd) to March 7th, it would seem that no further correspondence took place; but the Bishop's indignation had probably been simmering, for it boils over again at the latter date—the episcopal wrath being this time launched at the head of Mr. Stanley himself, who is accused of conduct "highly disrespectful and offensive" to the right reverend correspondent, and "discreditable" to himself, Mr. Stanley. That gentleman is told that his assertion with respect to having made similar representations before, is "merely a flourish of high-flying nonsense and palaver, with which you endeavour to varnish over in glowing terms your meddling in matters out of your own province, and with which you are altogether unacquainted." The phrases, "wilful ignorance," "assurance," and "astonishing boldness," are flung at Mr. Stanley. That gentleman is told that he "remembers to forget" a reply by the Bishop to a certain pamphlet on the subject of the Church in North Wales. Lord Montague, who some years ago made a speech on the same subject in the House of Lords, is described as being, "as the saying is, as pleased as Punch with his own performance." Mr. Ellis and his "dups" are alluded to; and the Bishop is surprised that Mr. Stanley should have ventured to "bother" him with his "idle boasts," or should have supposed that he "was fool enough to be frightened with them." He is also surprised at Mr. Stanley's "assurance" in asserting that the petition was signed by various members of Parliament; and he concludes thus:—"Knowing, as is generally known, the pertinacity of your adherence to your own opinions, however absurd and unreasonable, and the stubbornness of your self-will, I cannot expect that you will confess yourself to be in the wrong; but I hope that you will feel it, and that the lessons of self-knowledge and self-control, which I have been endeavouring to teach you, will have a wholesome effect on your future conduct." In the remaining correspondence, Mr. Stanley begins his letters "My Lord Bishop," instead of "My dear Lord Bishop;" and, on the other side the "My dear Sir," is changed into "Sir." The Bishop speaks of the gentlemen whose signatures are attached to the petition having been "entrapped" into appending their names; and with another disavowal by Mr. Stanley of any offensive intention, and some arguments in support of his conduct, the correspondence concludes. In the Bishop's letters, two especial characteristics may be noted: firstly, a resort to that coarse and ungentlemanly mode of address which is common among churchmen; and, secondly, a pertinacious refusal to believe the statements of Mr. Stanley.

PRISON-BREAKING EXTRAORDINARY.

Two prisoners have escaped from the Model Prison, Pentonville, in a most astonishing manner. One of them is a relative of the notorious Hackett, who broke out of the same gaol some years ago. How they succeeded in opening the lock, in which nothing appears disturbed, is utterly unknown; but, after opening the door of the cell, they must have walked along several passages, where they found an iron trap door, weighing three hundred weight. This they must have forced up, and thence got on the roof of a low building. Having scaled a lofty wall by means of a ladder made of what shoemakers call wax ends (which must have taken them a long time to construct), they reached the roof of the prison, but even then had to descend and ascend six times before they were entirely free. The ladder was found hanging on the outer wall. The fugitives were in their prison dress; but they have not been yet discovered. One was a shoemaker; the other a bricklayer. An officer of the prison has been suspended.

Another escape, quite as extraordinary, has occurred at the new gaol, Southampton. A man named Anderson was awaiting his trial at this prison, when he determined to get off if possible. In the absence of the governor of the gaol, he contrived, about noon, to open the lock of his cell door by means of the plate used to denote his gaol number: the lock, when afterwards examined, exhibited marks of great violence. Several workmen were employed in erecting a shed for a treadmill in the yard; and Anderson arrived here at the moment when the men

had gone to dinner. He then took a shovel, heaped up a quantity of earth, placed on that a mortar-board, and on that a scaffold-board; and then, by means of a short ladder, and a scramble up that part of the wall to which the ladder did not reach, he effected his escape. For some time this man either was, or pretended to be, suffering from rheumatism. Like his London rivals he has not been recaptured.

Crime has lately increased in England to an alarming extent; and now it seems we cannot even hold our criminals when we have got them.

IRISH ROWS.

A Mr. EDMOND O'GRADY has been brought before Alderman Finnis, at Guildhall, on a charge of assaulting Mr. James Hamilton Kelly, in the Green Dragon public-house in Fleet-street. Mr. Kelly was struck twice in the face, apparently with some instrument, and he bled a great deal. Mr. O'Grady, who exhibited much excitement at Guildhall, and who expressed himself in a melodramatic manner in set speeches, admitted the charge, said he would do the same thing again on the like provocation (and so, he added, would the alderman if he had the feelings of a man in him), and accused Mr. Kelly of interfering in his private affairs, of maligning him, and of "blowing the horn of discord" among his friends. He had offered his adversary "a fair meeting at twelve paces," but he refused. Therefore did Mr. O'Grady determine to take the law into his own hands; "and, by —, I blackened his eye." He added that it was only a common assault, and the alderman "might fine him if he liked." His manner was so outrageous, that the magistrate was obliged to threaten him with punishment for being drunk. Mr. Kelly admitted that there had been some "unpleasantness" in Mr. O'Grady's affairs, into which he had unfortunately inquired. Alderman Finnis observed that a most unwarrantable attack had been committed. "Yes," said Mr. O'Grady; "upon me." Ultimately, he was fined £5, and ordered to provide two sureties of £50 to keep the peace for six months, or to go to prison for two months. At this he seemed surprised, and said to the alderman that he could give securities "for all eternity to persons when they behave themselves; but," he added, "if you were in the same position, I would treat you in the same way." He was then removed.

William Hoare, an Irishman, is under remand at Westminster, charged with assaulting Michael Walsh, a fellow-countryman, with a hatchet. Walsh, though he had suffered severely on the head, said, after giving his evidence, "He's a sister's husband of mind, and I don't want to press the charge."

Another Irishman, named Michael Hogan, has appeared before the Thames magistrate on a charge of seriously injuring James Chapman, a policeman. Chapman has served for twenty years, and is a remarkably steady and well-conducted man; but he is now so terribly crippled that he will be obliged to quit the police, and will not be able to go about except on crutches. He found Hogan in the course of the night intoxicated and making a disturbance; and, the officer having declined to see him home, Hogan pulled off his coat and hat, seized the policeman round the waist, threw him, and kicked his leg as he fell. The constable heard his limb snap like the crack of a whip, and he called for assistance. Hogan was then taken into custody by another policeman. He put in a statement when being examined before the magistrate, from which it appeared that he had been in the army, had deserted, received the Queen's pardon, after some years' imprisonment, and started from the Portland convict establishment, for London, on his way to Ireland. Near St. Katherine's Docks, he was met by some strangers, who made him drunk, and he said that he recollected nothing of the assault. He added that he had a wife and three children anxiously waiting his arrival, and he therefore "humbly begged mercy and forgiveness." He was committed for trial.

THE WHOLESALE TRADE IN SEDUCTION.—A letter was submitted on Tuesday to Alderman Carden at the Mansion-house, with reference to the frightful system of exporting and importing young girls for immoral purposes. It was addressed to Mr. Marks, Chief Minister of the West London Synagogue of British Jews; and the writer, who wished his name to be suppressed, said:—"From what has come under my own observation both in Hamburg and other parts of Germany, as well as in Liverpool, there is no doubt that there is a large and regular traffic carried on between this country and Germany in exporting English girls and importing Germans. One of the persons most actively engaged in this infamous traffic is a woman residing in Liverpool, where she keeps a notorious house of ill-fame. She is called —, but I believe that her real name is —, and it is a well-known fact that she makes several journeys to Hamburg in the course of a year, taking with her English girls and bringing back Germans, generally speaking, of tender years—say sixteen; and I have heard that on some occasions she has had children as young as fifteen

There can be no doubt that this is known to the police, but I do not think they have any means of stopping it or interfering. I may also observe that the principal place where this traffic is carried on is Hull, from which Manchester and Liverpool are both supplied."

DE LUNATICO.—The Rev. James Charles Ward has appeared before Mr. Henry at Bow-street, on a warrant alleging that he is a lunatic. He had addressed letters to Sir George Grey and Lord Palmerston, as well as to the Queen, complaining that certain grievances of his had not received due attention, and that for six years past he had been the victim of a system of persecution. His landlady was called to prove his handwriting, but professed her inability to do so. A detective police-officer was then called; but Mr. Ward, by means of a very long and ingenious cross-examination, showed that the officer had only seen him write a few words. It was therefore ruled that he could not be considered a competent judge. Mr. Yardley, clerk to the Commissioners of Police, said Mr. Ward had called on Sir Richard Mayne, and that his statements were very rambling. He was remanded for a week; during which time he will be at liberty.

DESPERATE COINERS.—Five well-known coiners have been examined at the Southwark police-office on a charge of manufacturing a large amount of counterfeit money. The police surrounded a house in Unicorn-court, Borough, and two of them entered. When on the stairs, they encountered three of the coiners, Jackson, Kitchen, and Brown, and a dreadful struggle ensued: Jackson was extremely violent, kicking and knocking the police inspector, and seriously injuring him. Brown in the endeavour to make his escape, jumped over the heads of the officers, and came in contact with Serjeant Brennan, who was running to their assistance, and they both rolled down the stairs. Another man was also seen to rush from the room, and he succeeded in making his escape by jumping out of the window. A body of police was afterwards sent for from the Stone's-end station to secure the prisoners; after which, several moulds and other materials for coining were discovered in the house. The whole five were committed for trial.

SHARP PRACTICE.—A Mr. Smith, a lawyer, brought an action at the Kingston Assizes against a farmer named Winder, to recover £1,500, advanced upon a bond executed by Mr. Winder. The facts may be briefly stated thus:—Mr. William Winder, the defendant's son, had made arrangements some six years ago to purchase the Blue Posts public house in the Haymarket, London, for £1,500. Finding he had not got the money, he applied to Mr. Smith, who is a solicitor in Chancery-lane, to advance that amount on property belonging to his wife. The lawyer consented, on Mr. William Winder undertaking to give a mortgage. Shortly before the day for payment of the money, Mr. Smith said he had not had time to prepare the necessary deeds, but added that he was ready to advance the amount if a bond were given him as security until the mortgage was completed. A bond was therefore drawn up, and executed by the elder Mr. Winder, his son, and a friend. It appears, however, from their own admissions, that they did not read over the document, and that they signed it on the representations of Mr. Smith; but they all understood that it was to be merely a temporary security until the mortgage should be ready. About two or three months afterwards, a regular mortgage deed was executed; but Mr. Smith never gave up the bond. Mr. William Winder subsequently became a bankrupt, and Mr. Smith took possession of his property under the mortgage deed, and is still in receipt of the rents. Nevertheless, he brought his action against the elder Mr. Winder, on the strength of the bond, for the amount that had been advanced. Previously to this, there had been a good many legal proceedings between the parties, and one of Mr. Smith's bills for costs amounted to £600. No witnesses were called for the defence, but it was contended that the bond was perfectly legal, and the claim just. Mr. Baron Alderson, in summing up, said it was a serious matter to destroy the effect of a solemn instrument such as the bond, and he lent to a verdict in favour of Mr. Smith; but the jury, after some deliberation, said they found a verdict for the defendant, Mr. Winder, because they were of opinion that the mortgage deed had not been acted on. The judge declined to receive this verdict, and told the jury they had better reconsider the matter, and that they were not bound to give any reasons for the decision they might come to. They therefore again retired, and in about a quarter of an hour came into court a second time, and gave a verdict for the defendant.

A CAT PLAGUE.—Miss Rushton, a lady living in the neighbourhood of Lambeth, who is said to possess some property, was summoned at the police-office to answer a charge of keeping her house in so filthy a state as to be a nuisance to the surrounding inhabitants, and dangerous to the public health. She appeared with a wretched, diseased cat under her arm. In the course of a rather long examination, it transpired that, in consequence of the nuisance-inspector

of the district, having received a written complaint from several of the dwellers in the neighbourhood, through an officer of the Board of Guardians, he went to examine Miss Rushton's premises. Having forcibly entered the house at the back, as he was unable to gain access any other way, he was sickened by the malaria of the place, and, on entering one of the back rooms, he found it full of cats. The animals were evidently in a wretched condition; they appeared half-starved and affected with the mange. The whole house was infected as with a plague by the deposits of these animals, which appeared to be confined to the room in which they were found. On seeing the cats, the inspector called Miss Rushton into the room, and asked her how many of those animals she had got. She answered that she once had twenty, but had not then got above half that number. Mr. Willman informed the parish authorities, and also the parochial medical officer of the occurrence, when the latter visited Miss Rushton's premises, but, being unable to learn anything satisfactory from the owner, who seemed unwilling to make communications, and who appeared to be of unsound mind, the inspector was advised by the parish to take out the present summons. Mr. Elliott said that humanity towards the unfortunate woman herself should lead to an immediate abatement of the nuisance complained of, and he therefore ordered it to be removed within a week.

AN UNNATURAL SON.—Stephen Stone, a ruffianly youth, who has frequently been charged with felony, has been sent to prison for twenty-eight days for endeavouring to strangle his father, and for threatening to cut his throat.

THE MURDER AT EXETER.—The case of Mary Weeks, the young woman who was convicted at the recent Assizes for the wilful murder of her illegitimate child at Exeter, and whose execution was stayed in consequence of a jury of matrons having pronounced her "quick with child," has excited much interest in the city of Exeter, and efforts are being made to obtain a commutation of the sentence. The jury have memorialised the Queen on the subject, stating that they believed the culprit committed the crime under the influence of Thomas Warren, the principal witness against her, and to whom, it will be remembered, she was about to be married; and that she was labouring under so much excitement and trouble at the time that she was temporarily irresponsible for her actions. An opinion prevails in Exeter that she will not be executed, but that her sentence will be commuted to transportation or imprisonment for life.

CHILD-MURDER.—Emma Mussett, a married woman, has been sentenced to death at the Norfolk Assizes for the murder of her newly-born infant. There seems to have absolutely no motive for the act.—Elizabeth Seddell has been found guilty at Liverpool, of the murder, by a course of brutal ill-usage, of her step-daughter, aged four years. Sentence was deferred.

STANDING IN ANOTHER MAN'S SHOES.—Two labouring men, named Pierce and Kyffin, had a quarrel at a wedding at Llanfair Talhaiarn, a village in North Wales. Pierce subsequently disappeared; and Kyffin asked some men who were present if any one of them "would stand in Pierce's shoes." A man named Williams said Pierce had behaved very well to him, and therefore he would. A fight then ensued, and Kyffin was killed, apparently from a kick. On the trial at the Derbyshire Assizes, the jury found a verdict of Not Guilty, the foreman adding that they considered "the deceased's neck was broken by the fall." The Judge: "Do you believe, gentlemen, that his death was caused by the fighting?" Foreman: "Yes, it was; but we think he brought it on, and that it was entirely his own fault. We think that the provocation the prisoner had is certainly something—" The Judge: "If you believe that, then it is an untrue verdict. You think death was caused by the fighting, and yet you find the prisoner not guilty. It seems to me that by such a verdict you are violating your own oaths." A second consultation, occupying a few minutes, only resulted in a confirmation of the original verdict. His Lordship then ordered Williams and the two seconds to be discharged.

THE MURDER BY A SOLDIER IN THE GERMAN LEGION.—Hans Hansen has been tried at the Bodmin assizes for the murder of Charles Jacobi under circumstances detailed in last week's *Leader*. He was found guilty, and sentenced to death.

A BOY INCENDIARY.—Fusadale Blow Pope, a boy thirteen years of age, has been committed for trial, charged with breaking open a cashbox, and stealing a bundle of bills of exchange to the value of £10,000, the property of Mr. Paris Sinanides, merchant of Coleman-street-buildings, his employer. He was also charged with attempting to set fire to the premises.

A PLACABLE MAN.—John Willes has been tried at Bodmin on a charge of criminally assaulting a little girl six years of age, the daughter of his employer. When the father was informed of the circumstance, he told Willes that he had committed an act that would transport him, but, as he respected him, he would forgive the offence if he would leave the neighbourhood. Willes said he could not go, and shortly afterwards he made an attempt to cut his throat,

which his master prevented. The father afterwards gave the prisoner money, to enable him to leave, and Willes consented to go; but, a few days afterwards, he was found in service in the neighbourhood, and he was therefore given into custody. The jury found him guilty. The prosecutor then said that the prisoner had been a very respectable servant, and had conducted himself in a very proper manner until this occurrence; he therefore begged to recommend him to mercy. However, he was sentenced to six years' penal servitude.

AN INSOLVENT FIRE INSURANCE OFFICE.—An action has been brought at Kingston by the Protestant Fire and Life Insurance Company against Mr. Beaumont, the managing director of the County Fire Office, to recover the sum of £2,300 upon two policies of fire insurance effected in the Protestant Office, and transferred to the County. It appeared that the former company issued fire as well as life insurances, but that they were in the habit of transferring the fire policies to other companies. Among those handed over to the County Office in November, 1854, were the two in question, which were effected by a person named Middleton upon his stock-in-trade and a building at Hull. The whole of this property was destroyed by fire on the 18th of December last; and it appeared that, upon Mr. Beaumont being called upon to pay the policies, as it was contended he was bound to do under his agreement, he declared that he was not liable. The present action was therefore brought to try the question. The agreement was contained in a letter written by Mr. Beaumont, in which he consented to take the policies upon certain conditions; and it seems to have been afterwards understood that the arrangement should be carried out. In the course of 1855, several applications were made by Mr. Beaumont to the Protestant Office for the amount of the premiums that were due upon the policies transferred to the County. At that time, according to the admissions of Mr. Bain, one of the Board of Directors, when cross-examined at the trial, the Protestant had very little money at their bankers; but he said they had "as much as £50." Mr. Cundy, the solicitor to the County, had told them that, if the premiums were not paid, the company would not accept any fresh policies; and he also threatened legal proceedings. The fire at Mr. Middleton's occurred, as stated, on the 18th of December, 1855; and on the 21st of that month, Mr. Bain sent to the County Office a cheque for £49. When this was stated by Mr. Bain on the trial, Mr. James, counsel for Mr. Beaumont, said:—"Now I ask you, upon your oath, sir—and I advise you to be cautious—whether you sent that cheque until after you had heard of the fire?" Mr. Bain answered:—"I had not seen any letter from Mr. Middleton, but I think I had heard of the fire before I sent the cheque for the amount of the premiums that were due." (He had just before asserted that he was not sure whether the cheque was sent before or after the fire.) "I think I heard the fire at Mr. Middleton's talked about in the office; but it was not on account of the fire happening that I sent the cheque. The money ought to have been paid before; but people do not always pay accounts the moment they are due, and this was the only reason for the delay. The fire at Mr. Middleton's was mentioned in the office, and then it was proposed that I should send a cheque for £49 to the County. It was my own private cheque, and the amount was paid out of my own funds, but I was the treasurer of the company as well as the chairman, and it was all the same thing." In answer to further questions, he said that he could not tell how much they had got at their bankers at the time; it was as much as £49, but he could not say how much more. He "believed" fresh policies had been issued within the last few days; but he could not say to what amount. At this point, Mr. Baron Alderson said it seemed to him that the examination was fast verging towards a criminal charge, and he therefore reminded Mr. Bain that he was not bound to answer any question that he thought might criminate himself. Mr. Bain further said, in answer to Mr. James:—"I know that an action was tried at York last week, in which Mr. Middleton sought to recover the amount of his policies from the company, but I am not aware that the company pleaded that they had no money to pay him with. I have heard there was such a plea. I cannot say whether a claim for £12, arising out of a fire at Plymouth, was made upon the office, and they were unable to pay it. I am not certain about it. Mr. Elderton, secretary to the Protestant Company, admitted in cross-examination that he heard of the fire on the 19th of December; that the cheque was sent on the 21st; and that it was not until the 24th that he wrote to the County to inform them of the fire, and requested them to send their surveyor to investigate the matter, as it was one of the cases in which they were interested. In his speech for the defence, Mr. James showed by the deed of settlement of the Protestant Company that the County could not legally enter into such an agreement as the one that had been suggested, and that they had the opinion of a high legal authority to that effect; and Mr. Beaumont was called to prove that the persons connected with the Protestant Company were per-

fectly well aware of the fact.—The Judge accordingly directed a verdict in favour of the defendant; and this was given.

A WIFE CASE.—Considerable interest has been excited at the Swansea Assizes by the trial of a disputed will case. The action was in the form of an issue directed by the Master of the Rolls, for the purpose of ascertaining the opinion of the jury as to the validity of two wills bearing date respectively the 8th of February, 1854, and the 12th of July of the same year, made by Mr. Thomas Thomas, of Wern-gaiach, Glamorganshire. The plaintiff was the widow of this gentleman, and the defendant was his brother. The late Mr. Thomas had inherited his property from his father, who died intestate. The other members of the family were therefore excluded from participation; and Mr. Thomas seems, when making his will in February, to have desired to remedy this state of things, and to consider the claims of each member of the family. The widow asserted that he afterwards expressed his dissatisfaction with the will; but of this there was no proof, and on the other side it was stated that Mr. Thomas expressed a hope that, after his death, his brother would take care of the document, to prevent his wife and her brother getting hold of it. In July, 1854, he was taken seriously ill. It then appeared that he was desirous to make another will: at least, Mr. Price (a friend and medical adviser of the family, and a very eccentric man, who has previously figured in trials in this part of the country) wrote to a lawyer, Mr. Overton, to come and draw out a will. Mr. Overton went, and found the testator in a state of great physical depression. The lawyer objected to make the will; on which Mr. Price said, "If you won't do it, I will undertake it." Mr. Overton then made the draft of a will; but, not understanding Welsh, he made it partly through the interpretation of Mr. Price. The will was read over to the testator; he assented to it, and affixed his mark, being too weak to sign his name. In order further to authenticate his mark, he placed his pen on the seal, and repeated the words, "I deliver this as my act and deed." This transaction took place in the dead of the night; and a girl, living in the house, who usually went to bed after ten, had been sent at seven, and had gone reluctantly. A few hours afterwards, Mr. Thomas died. It was contended that his brain was paralysed at the time he signed the will, and that he was not competent to perform such an act. The latter will bequeathed all the testator's property to his three brothers and his three nephews, leaving his wife a life interest in it. The jury declared that it was not valid; and a verdict was therefore given for the defendant. In the course of the trial, Mr. Price, who dresses after the ancient Welsh fashion, and who wore a pistol stuck in his girdle, said, in answer to the cross examination of Sir Frederick Thesiger, counsel for the defendant, that he had conducted a *post-mortem* examination of his father. He added:—"In our profession, the same as in yours, when we are called upon to discharge our duty, we look upon people not as fathers, or mothers, or sisters, or brothers, but as sticks and stones. When I determine to do anything, I do do it: I am not half-and-half."

INGENIOUS RASCALITY.—James Metcalfe was charged at Worship-street with fraud. For a long time past, the prisoner and a number of other persons, who are manifestly acting in concert, have been in the habit of going round to the shops of tradesmen, and, after selecting some trifling article, worth a penny or two pence, tender in payment for it a coin so closely resembling a sixpence that in nine cases out of ten the fraud is undiscovered, and the spurious coin taken. Upon closer inspection, however, the coin will be found to be slightly defective on the reverse, and this is intentionally cast so, as the effect, upon a prosecution, is to take the coin altogether out of the class of spurious imitations of the current coin, and reduce it to a mere medal; and the utterer, of course, gets discharged without punishment. In the present case, the man went jauntily to the station, anticipating a favourable result; but the inspector on duty, knowing the fruitlessness of detaining him for uttering, entered the charge on the sheet as for fraudulently obtaining goods by offering a medal which he well knew to be perfectly valueless. This succeeded; and the ingenious rogue has been committed for trial.

BIGAMY.—A man named David Williams, alias Daniel Wilson, a stockbroker, has been committed for trial on a charge of bigamy. Some time ago, he was brought up at Worship-street on a warrant by the officer of St. Luke's parish, charged with refusing to support his wife and two children, who were thrown on the workhouse. He defended himself by saying that the woman was not his wife, and had no claim on him; and he was discharged. He was then arrested for bigamy, of which he appears to be guilty. When before Mr. D'Eyncourt, he cross-examined the witnesses in a rude and insulting manner, even leaning over the bar and pushing some of them aside; for which he was severely reprimanded by the magistrate.

PUNISHMENT AFTER SIX YEARS' ESCAPE.—A ruffian has just been tried and found guilty of a

ferocious assault upon a police superintendent at Wenlock races in July, 1849, after committing which he escaped, and was not seen again until last October, when he was arrested, after a desperate struggle, by the successor of the injured man, who was so disabled as to be obliged to retire from the police force. The desperado was sentenced to six years' penal servitude.

THREE REBELLIOUS STOMACHS.—Three men, named Buckingham, Fleming, and Burtonshaw, were charged at Bow-street with stealing a railway rug. A policeman related Fleming's previous acts of theft, which had included on one occasion fourteen pounds of bacon, and expressed his opinion that he was determined not to starve. On this, Fleming said: "That's right; I don't intend to do so when I come out of prison next time. I can get no clothes, or else I could get work. I have not tasted anything, with the exception of a little bit of bread and cheese, since Thursday." (It was then Saturday.) Mr. Henry: "What are you?" Fleming: "A groom. I came from Jersey last November to try to get a job, as I was told I could get good work in London. What am I to do? I can't get work; I can't get any relief; I won't starve. I've got a character that would get me work; but look at the state I'm in. Who'd employ me?" Mr. Henry (to Buckingham): "What have you been doing for the last few months?" Buckingham (pointing to the rug): "That's what I've been doing for the last two years." Mr. Henry: "And never got apprehended?" Buckingham: "Never. I'm willing to work, but I can't get any." Mr. Henry: "What are you?" Buckingham: "My father was an actor; so I suppose, as I have followed that profession, I must say it's mine; but I have been working at the Pimlico wheel-works, where I lost two of my fingers." Mr. Henry: "Well, can't you get your living honestly?" Buckingham: "No; honesty and myself appear to have fallen out of late. There's but two ways of living in London—either honestly or dishonestly; and if you can't live one way you must take the other. I'm determined not to starve while I'm in the land of the living." Burtonshaw stated that he had been starving about for some time, and in a prison he should get something to eat, which he couldn't out. Mr. Henry: "Have you been to the relieving officer?" Burtonshaw: "Yes; but he wouldn't give us anything. He told us to go to our parish. I should like to know where that is." Mr. Henry: "Well, you all seem determined to steal, so I shall remand all three of you till Tuesday next; to gain some information about you, on which day I shall commit you to the sessions." Fleming: "Thank ye. I hope you'll order us a bit of something to eat; we're all starving." Mr. Henry gave directions accordingly to the gaoler.

EXECUTION OF THOMAS JONES, THE MURDERER OF DR. HOPE.—This man, who was a convict at Portsmouth, and who murdered the medical attendant while he was examining his chest, was executed on Saturday morning. He was very repentant for some time before his death; took the Sacrament on the Friday, and, on the previous Tuesday, addressed the annexed letter to the friends and relatives of the murdered man:—"It is impossible for me to express the feelings of deep sorrow and shame with which I reflect on the wicked deed of mine which has deprived you of one so near and dear to you. I feel I cannot depart this life without this expression of my sorrow, even though it may be suspected or spurned, as I deserve it should be; but as it will be too late when this reaches you to ask you to forgive me, I can only entertain the hope that your Christian charity would have afforded me that comfort if there had been an opportunity. May you be found on the Day of Judgment amongst those who shall be saved.—THOMAS JONES."

THE HAZARD OF THE DIE.—A burglary was committed at the latter end of last June at the house of Mr. Samuel Howard at Hauxton in Cambridgeshire. The old man was severely ill-treated, and his wife was so frightened that her nervous system has not yet recovered the shock. Between eight and nine hundred sovereigns were stolen from the house; but these sovereigns were for the most part stamped with the figures of St. George and the Dragon, which were commonly used in the reign of George IV. Here, therefore, the police had a clue. About the middle of October, a policeman was told by a friend of a bird-catcher named Bowman that the latter had been robbed of £190. Inquiries having been made, Bowman was taken into custody. It appeared that he had been concerned in the robbery at Mr. Howard's, together with a man named Barker, and one Robson, an ex-policeman. A few days after the robbery, Robson had called on his friend Bowman, and expressed a hope that he had found a safe place to hide his gold; to which Bowman replied, "Thank you, yes; I have placed it behind a birdcage in my bedroom." The ex-policeman availed himself of this knowledge, gained access to Bowman's bedroom, and stole the sovereigns; then called upon Howard, expressed commiseration for his loss, hoped the rascals would be found out, took an affectionate leave of him, left the country, and has not since been heard of. Barker, in the meanwhile, lived with great extrava-

gance, and spent a great deal of money on a woman with whom he contracted an intimacy, though he was a married man. On the police going to Bowman's house to arrest him, Barker was observed to listen at the outer door, and he also was taken into custody. Previously to this, he gave forty sovereigns to his wife, that she might take care of them. Twenty of these were put by the wife into a bag, and thrust into her little girl's bosom; the other twenty she asked a female friend to keep, as "she did not know what the police were hovering about for." The friend accepted this charge, and thus became *particeps criminis*. Subsequently, the sovereigns were found on the little girl; and they were all of the George and the Dragon die. Several other sovereigns with the same device had been spent by Barker, as it was afterwards ascertained, in purchasing a pony and gig. The woman charged as an accomplice was acquitted; but Bowman and Barker were found guilty, and sentence of death was recorded. The reporters give a picture of Bowman, from which it would seem that he rivals the Bravo of Venice in hideousness. He has an immense protuberance on one side of his face, which is partly black and nearly obscures one of his eyes; his mouth is drawn completely on one side; and, aware of the horridness of his aspect, his chief delight has been to thrust his face against ladies and children, to frighten them.

A DESIRABLE VILLA.—An action has been brought at the Kingston Assizes by a Mr. Cattermole against a man named Hodgson. The former had saved about £500. One day, Hodgson asked him if he had not some money lying idle; to which Cattermole answered that he had some at the London and Westminster Bank. Hodgson then said that he was a fool to keep his money there for one and a half per cent. when he might get five per cent. by advancing money to a person named Durnford on the mortgage of a villa residence in Loughborough Park. Cattermole subsequently handed over £400—nearly his all—on the mortgage in question, and for eighteen months received the interest regularly; but Durnford then told him he should pay no more, and shortly afterwards absconded. The plaintiff, who represented that he had acted entirely upon the representations of Hodgson, and had never even seen the property that was the subject of the mortgage, instituted inquiries, and found that the "splendid villa" was a very badly constructed office; that the "lawn," which had also been spoken of, was merely a piece of grass plot before the house, a few feet square; and that the "coach house and stable," which the defendant had likewise put forward as an additional enhancement of the property, were merely a miserable shed, and a stall only fit for a pony, made out of old tea chests. The premises were finally put up to auction under the mortgage and realised £250, and, after the costs and expenses had been deducted, all that remained was the sum of £160. The present action was brought to recover the difference between that sum and the amount that had been advanced by Mr. Cattermole. It further appeared that Durnford was heavily indebted to Hodgson, and it seemed that some of the notes paid by Mr. Cattermole to Durnford were afterwards seen in possession of Hodgson. A verdict was given for the plaintiff: damages, £150.

SWEETENINGS FROM HOLYWELL-STREET.—Five of the low booksellers who infest Holywell-street—including the notorious John Dugdale, and a woman, Mary Elliott—have been apprehended and committed for trial, at the instance of the Society for the Suppression of Vice, for vending prints of a corrupt nature.

IRELAND.

MR. EDMOND O'FLAHERTY.—A curious circumstance relative to the forgeries of Mr. Edmond O'Flaherty was mentioned incidentally at the half-yearly meeting of the Midland Great Western Railway (Ireland) on Thursday week, that being the first occasion on which it obtained publicity. Lord Castlemaine, one of the shareholders, asked the chairman to explain an item which appeared in the accounts under the head of "forged transfers." The Chairman, in reply, said that fifteen shares were disposed of under a forged power of attorney, by a gentleman who had left the country. That transfer had all the appearance of being genuine, so much so that he understood that the gentleman whose name appeared as that of the witness was not at all satisfied that he himself had not written it. The party to whom the shares belonged naturally applied to the board to have them reinstated. The matter was carried to a tribunal at Galway, the case was tried, and the company were defeated, and they were obliged to restore the shares that had been fraudulently transferred in his name. Lord Castlemaine: "I wish to know who that person was." Chairman: "I have no difficulty in saying it was Mr. Edmond O'Flaherty." A voice: "I was thinking it was." The amount of the forgery was £405.

ARCHBISHOP CULLEN AND THE PRESS.—The *Nation*, the *Tablet*, and the *Weekly Telegraph*, have been expelled, by order of Archbishop Cullen, from the reading rooms of the Catholic Young Men's Society, on

account of the rebelliousness of the two first, and, with respect to the last, as an exhibition of "impartiality," the *Telegraph* having always been a zealous supporter of ecclesiastical authority. Since this act of expulsion, the *Tablet* has changed hands, the new editor and proprietor being a Mr. John E. Wallis—an Englishman, it is said, and one of the Oxford converts.

AN EVICTING LANDLORD DEFEATED.—The ejectments brought by Mr. Allen Pollock, the purchaser of a property in the county of Galway, against his tenantry on the Cregg estate, have been a second time defeated owing to legal informalities. The number of individuals whom these ejectments would throw upon the world is 2,700. Mr. Pollock is a Scotch gentleman, who purchased the Cregg estate and other Irish properties in the Encumbered Estates Court; and his object is stated to be to change the position of his tenantry from that of land occupiers to that of day labourers, he himself opening a large market for labour.

SUICIDE OF AN ENGLISH ENGINEER IN IRELAND.—Mr. Frederick D. Mansfield, of London, an engineer employed at the Bandon railway, has committed suicide. It seems that he made an ineffectual attempt to hang himself some time previously. He had been suffering for a long while from a violent headache and inability to sleep, which he attributed to the distressed state of his mind.

THE WEATHER AND THE CROPS.—The weather continues uninterruptedly favourable for the agriculturist, and a greater breadth of land has been placed under cultivation than was ever the case at this period of the season in former years.

THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY.—The total subscriptions towards the funds of the University in St. Stephen's-green, collected since the month of January, amount to £1,710. A church in connexion with the College is about to be erected on a scale of magnificence never before attempted in Ireland. In accordance with Dr. Newman's wish, the building is to be in a style of architecture almost unknown on this side of the Alps—an Italian basilica. The walls are to be encrusted with Irish marbles of various hues, and with mosaic paintings, above which large subjects in encaustic are already being prepared from the works of the early masters in the studios of Rome. Preparations are also in progress, and at great expense, for the musical part of the administration, and a Dublin ecclesiastic of great experience is understood to be engaged in the necessary arrangements for the selection of a choir of first-class excellence.

A MURDER FOR THE HONOUR OF ST. PATRICK.—A fair held at Ballyconnell, Cavan, on St. Patrick's Day, was attended by those scenes of drunken brutality common to Irish festivities; and a man, named John Gallaher, was killed. He observed some ruffians beating a boy, when he begged them to desist; on which they turned on him, and, with short sticks loaded with lead, beat his skull in. It is thought that the boy also will die. Some men have been arrested on suspicion.

ARCHBISHOP CULLEN'S FRANKINCENSE TO THE FRENCH EMPEROR.—A *Te Deum* was performed last Sunday at the Roman Catholic metropolitan church, Dublin, in thanksgiving for the birth of an heir to the French Emperor. Archbishop Cullen presided, and abundantly exalted Napoleon for having "restored peace and order to a long distracted country, conferred the greatest benefits on religion," and restored the Pope. The Empress is also praised for her charity and piety; and the French are described as being "branches of the same mystic vine" as that to which the Irish belong.

THE IRISH JUDGES.—Addresses continue to pour in upon the three judges whose capacity for the discharge of their duties was lately questioned in the House of Commons by Sir John Shelley. The latest manifestation that has appeared in print is one from the Mayor and corporation of Londonderry to Baron Pennefather and Mr. Justice Torrens.

THE ENCUMBERED ESTATES COMMISSION.—A notice was issued on Monday by the Encumbered Estates Court, announcing that no further postings for sales of estates would be signed by the Commissioners after Thursday, the 26th day of June next. The arrears of business, however, which still remain to be disposed of must necessarily occupy a great deal of time, and it is very probable that a vast addition will be made to the business before the end of the ensuing month.

AMERICA.

The news from the other side of the Atlantic this week is extremely meagre. In the Senate, on the 10th inst., the bill appropriating 3,000,000 dollars for increasing the armament and munitions of war, and for the manufacture and alteration of arms, in accordance with the recent recommendation of the President, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading by a vote of 22 against 12.

According to documents submitted to the Senate on the 10th inst., the instructions to Commodore M'Chulay, commander of the United States' home squadron, issued in April last, after the Spanish frigate *Ferrolana* had fired into the United States

steamer *Eldorado*, were to the effect that, in case of a similar outrage committed on a vessel rightly bearing the United States' flag, he must promptly interpose and resist the exercise of the assumed right of visitation, and repel the interference by force. The Executive takes the ground that the conduct of the authorities of Cuba, in hailing and searching American vessels, cannot rest on the plea of territorial jurisdiction over the high seas in the vicinity of the island of Cuba, as the United States' Government denies the existence of any state of facts to warrant the exercise of belligerent rights.

A resolution directing the Committee on Foreign Affairs to consider the expediency of reporting a bill effectually abrogating the treaty with Denmark, and repudiating the payment of the Sound dues, was adopted in the Senate on the 7th inst.

A bill in the Kentucky Legislature, to establish a patrol on the Ohio river, to prevent the escape of slaves, has been referred to a special committee. Mr. Nuttall advocated the bill. He said 100,000 dollars' worth of slave property had escaped from the border counties since Christmas.

A Dutch fleet has arrived at La Guayra, it is said, to demand indemnity from the Venezuelan Government for demands of Dutch merchants whose houses were sacked and whose persons were maltreated last year by the populace of the city of Coro. Advice from Hayti of February 26th, state that the Emperor Faustin returned to the capital on the 14th, and immediately issued a proclamation to the effect that he had been obliged to "retrace his steps for a time." From Japan, *via* California, we hear that the city of Jeddo was destroyed by an earthquake on the 12th of November. 100,000 houses were in ruins, and 30,000 lives had been lost.

THE ORIENT.

PERSIA.

THERE is some prospect of Russia mediating between England and Persia, if we may credit a statement in a letter from St. Petersburg, the writer of which says:—"Colonel Bartolomei—who was sent by General Mouravieff to the Shah of Persia, in company with the Ambassador charged to announce to the Persian Prince the accession of the Emperor to the throne—has returned here from Teheran, by Tiflis, where he stayed some time. He has been received by the Emperor. According to this officer, Persia is in such a state of disorganisation that it cannot in any way be relied upon, and there only remains to urge it to the promptest possible reconciliation with England."

ABYSSINIA.

The new Emperor of Abyssinia, Theodosia I., is said to entertain vast projects of conquest. He has already taken possession of the territory of Hurrua, near his states, and has given the government of that province to an Englishman named Bell, who has long been in his service.

INDIA.

Le Nord denounces the annexation of Oude as an abominable spoliation, attempted to be justified by "lying pretext."

Dost Mohammed, the Khan-Serdah of Caboul, has, it is said, taken possession of the province of Kandahar. Persian troops are marching against him.

CONTINENTAL NOTES.

FRANCE.

The *Moniteur* publishes the official documents relative to the birth of the Imperial Prince. The letter to M. Achille Fould is as follows:—"M. Achille Fould, Minister of State,—As the Empress, our much beloved spouse, is approaching her confinement, we have ordained that, as soon as she feels the first pains, you shall be apprised thereof, to proceed to the Palace of the Tuileries to the room appointed for you, that you may be introduced into the chamber of the Empress at the moment of her delivery. Our wish is that, with the aid of the President of our Council of State, you may draw up the act of birth conformably to the 8th article of the *Senatus-Consultum* of the 25th of December, 1852, and the 13th article of the Statute of the 21st of June, 1853. We have selected as witnesses his Imperial Highness Prince Napoleon and his Highness Prince Lucien Murat. Whereupon, M. le Ministre, I pray God to have you in health and His good keeping.—Done at the Palace of the Tuileries, March 12. NAPOLEON." The communications to Prince Napoleon, Prince Lucien Murat, and M. Abbattucci, Keeper of the Seals, are of the same nature. These documents are followed by an official statement to the effect that the injunctions of the Emperor were duly carried out; and the statement is signed—"Napoleon, Prince Napoleon, Prince Murat, Princess Mathilde, Princess Baciocchi, Princess Caroline Murat, Prince Joachim Murat, Countess de Montijo (Duchess of Penmarzand), Achille Fould, J. Baroche, Abbattucci."

The Roumains (natives of Wallachia and Moldavia) now resident in Paris have addressed to Count Walewski a memorial praying for the union of those provinces, as a first step to reforming them.

Several condemnations have recently taken place by

the Tribunals of Correctional Police in the departments of France of persons found guilty of propagating false news.

Prince Jerome is now so far recovered that no more bulletins will be issued. The Empress is also sufficiently well for the bulletins to be withdrawn.

The Paris journal, *Figaro*—which has lately fallen into disgrace for the freedom of its witticisms—has published a burlesque petition to the Imperial Baby, to intercede in its behalf. For this course, it quotes a precedent from Napoleonic history:—"Forty years ago, a prince was born in the Tuileries. A few days after this event, a person came to the palace with a petition for the King of Rome. The Emperor, your ancestor, willed that this petition should be presented to his heir in person. Then he said to the petitioner, 'What answer did the King of Rome make?' 'He said nothing, sire; but, as silence gives consent, I am justified in thinking that the prince grants my request.' Napoleon ratified the tacit agreement of his son." The Paris Correspondent of the *Daily News* says that "M. de Villemessant, the *redacteur* of the *Figaro*, has been summoned to appear before the director of public safety, to be taken to task for the extraordinary freedom of his petition to the Imperial Prince. I hear that M. Villemessant defended himself so cleverly that he will probably carry his point. It is curious that, of the three principal editors of the *Figaro*, one is an Orleanist, one a republican, and one a legitimist. I hear it stated to-day that an amnesty for all press offences will be published immediately."

The widow of the late Heinrich Heine writes to the *Debats* respecting the proposed erection of a mausoleum over the remains of her husband:—"I cannot permit any one, Monsieur, to share with me the duty of preparing a last and pious resting place for the man of genius who did me the honour to associate his life to mine, and who preserved for me, up to his last hour, his best and most affectionate sentiments."

The French Minister of War is at present engaged in effecting a complete codification of all the military and naval laws and regulations.

The Tribunal of Correctional Police of Tours has recently been condemning to fine and imprisonment several so-called "sorcerers" who have been imposing largely on the credulity of the peasants by charms and potions.

A protest signed by twenty-five French Bishops, has been sent by Cardinal de Bonald, Archbishop of Lyons, to the Pope, against the resignation (forced on him by the Government) of the Bishop of Lugon. The protest is said to be rather strong, and the Cardinal declares that, if the Bishops are to be thus forced to resign when the Government wish it, they will in reality be nothing more than public functionaries removable at pleasure. The Bishop of Lugon, who is now at Rome, has been appointed by the Pope a member of the Congregation of the Index.

PRUSSIA.

It is said that Prussia has the intention of effecting a complete reconciliation between the courts of Vienna and St. Petersburg, and that there will be an interview between the Emperors of Austria and Russia and the King of Prussia in some town near the borders of the three countries.

The *Berlin Moniteur* (*Staats Anzeiger*) contains an order addressed by the Minister of Commerce to the Committee of the Stock Exchange, forbidding brokers to buy or sell shares in foreign undertakings when the same are not fully paid up. Brokers disregarding this injunction will forfeit their privileges.

The subscription opened for the family of the late M. de Hinkeldey, Director of Police at Berlin, amounted on the 18th to about 60,000 francs.

Count Canitz, who was announced, about three weeks ago, to have killed himself, and afterwards to have fallen in a duel, now turns out to be alive and well.

The editor of the *Kreuz Zeitung* recently affirmed to a circle of guests at the Russian Minister's *soiree*, that "the theft of private papers at Potsdam was organised in the Prince of Prussia's palace," and that "measures must soon be taken to give the prince another *entourage*." One of the bystanders communicated this to the Prince, who requested the Minister of Justice to have the ex-editor proceeded against for calumny. It was found, however, that the informant could not swear to the exact words; and the Prince was advised that the indictment could not be maintained. On this, the Prince's adjutants and the gentlemen of his household, who felt themselves personally insulted, determined on challenging the alleged calumniator; but the Hinkeldey duel just then took place, and it was thought advisable to allow the matter to be passed over.

THE DANUBIAN PRINCIPALITIES.

The courier sent from Jassy to Count Walewski, with a petition for the union of the two Principalities, has been arrested at Czernowitz. Public manifestations are interdicted. The *Star of the Danube* is suppressed.

RUSSIA.

A great deal of coquetting has been going on lately between France and Russia. At a recent reception, according to a letter from St. Petersburg in the *Con-*

stitutionnel, some high compliments were paid to the French and their present ruler. "To one of the groups, composed of members of the corps diplomatique, the Empress said, 'The war has only been an accident, or rather a misunderstanding. It will not have changed in any way the good personal relations between the Russians and the French, who have some remarkable points of resemblance. They have certainly fought too long, but it has been always with courtesy and humanity. France and Russia, at the conclusion of peace, may hold out the hand to each other, may esteem and love each other as in the past; for, although the struggle has been warm, it has been carried on in all honour and without hatred.' The Emperor Alexander also spoke in the most affectionate manner of Napoleon III., and did full justice to the acts of his government and to his love of peace, which, he added, 'is as sincere as my own.'

AUSTRIA.

The ceremony of "the washing of feet" took place in the chapel which is attached to the Imperial Palace on Maundy Thursday. The Emperor, after having served them at table, poured water over and wiped the feet of twelve of the poorest citizens in the city.

The Austrian army is to be reduced by nearly two thousand men.

We understand (says the *Augsburg Gazette*) that a number of Austrian officers will shortly proceed, under the command of Colonel von Fligely, to Wallachia and Moldavia, where they are to map the ground which was completely surveyed last year throughout the Principalities.

Some discussion has taken place as to whether the Papal Nuncio is to be allowed to act as President of the approaching synod of Austrian bishops. It has been supposed that, as he is not one of the Austrian episcopacy, he will not be permitted to fill that office; but there appears a probability that the Government has conceded the point, in order to avoid any conflict with the Church. The Austrians are, in fact, at present mere slaves to the Pope. The *Volkshfreund*, the organ of the Severinus Union, after maintaining that the bishops, in the government of their sees, are only responsible to God and the Pope, adds, "In temporal matters the bishops are bound to obey the Emperor, exactly as the Emperor is bound to obey the bishops in spiritual affairs."

ITALY.

Mazza, the police bravo of Naples, has just published a document in which he deliberately defends absolutism as the only system of government possible in the kingdom of the Two Sicilies, and as the choice of the people themselves, who repudiate all other means of rule as "illusions."

An attempt has been made on the life of the Auditor of War at Parma (Lieutenant Bordini), while walking in the streets with a friend. In consequence of this, the Government has issued a proclamation, placing Parma in a state of siege, and ordering domiciliary visits, the disarming of the inhabitants, and the expulsion of all individuals who have not obtained leave to reside in those localities.

OBITUARY.

SIR HENRY POTTINGER, the hero of the Chinese war of 1841, died at Malta early on the morning of the 18th inst. in the sixty-seventh year of his age. He was descended from a very ancient Anglo-Saxon family, said to have sprung from Egbert, the first King of England. The stock, however, had been naturalised in Ireland for some generations, and Sir Henry was a native of that island. He went to India, as a cadet, in 1804, and for more than seven years was Judge and Collector of at Ahmednuggar, in the Deccan, and for fifteen years longer was Political Resident at Cutch and Scinde. He was made a baronet in 1839. After the war between China and England, consequent on the disagreements with reference to the opium trade, had broken out, Sir Henry Pottinger, in conjunction with Sir William Parker, was appointed a mediator, and a treaty was concluded in 1842, of a very advantageous character. Sir Henry was rewarded by the Grand Cross of the Order of the Bath, and, in 1844, a pension of £1,500 a-year was settled on him by a vote of the House of Commons. He has held the post of Governor and Commander-in-Chief at the island of Hong-Kong, at the Cape of Good Hope (where he was succeeded by Sir Harry Smith), and at the Presidency of Madras. The last post he quitted in 1854. Sir Henry was much respected both in public and private life.

NAVAL AND MILITARY.

THE MISSING PACIFIC.—The *Desperate* and *Tartar*, two steamers, are to be despatched in search of the missing *Pacific*.

BAD NEWS FOR GOOD EARS.—Under this heading, we read in the daily papers:—"Her Majesty, it is said, has been pleased to sanction the Scots Fusilier Guards having a corps of pipers, to consist of one piper-major and six pipers to each battalion. Their dress will be similar to that of the 42nd Highlanders, but it will be some little time yet before they will appear in the front of the regiment, as it requires

time to organise them." It is well known that at least half of the so-called "Scots Fusilier Guards" are not Scotchmen at all, but Englishmen, whose ears and feelings ought certainly to be considered in the matter. To what extent is the present slavish subjection to Caledonian self-love to be carried?

THE JOSEPHINE WILLIS.—The divers employed under the superintendence of Captain Nott, R.N., special agent to Lloyd's, have this week succeeded in recovering from the wreck of the *Josephine Willis* a quantity of passengers' luggage, also the effects of Captain Canney, and a box of jewellery of considerable value. The effects of Captain Canney were restored to his widow, free of all salvage charges. Weather permitting, the divers will resume their work early next week.

SHIPPING DISASTERS ON THE NORFOLK COAST.—A strong east wind blew for several days last week on the Norfolk coast, and several serious casualties occurred among the shipping. The *Grenett*, a Hanoverian vessel, was lost off Yarmouth with all hands. The *Hero*, a schooner, from Rye for Newcastle, parted from both anchors in Lowestoft south roads, and was obliged to run upon the main opposite the Royal Hotel. The *Henry*, a brig, from Montrose for London, also drifted on the main near Pakefield Lighthouse; and other minor disasters are reported.

SIR CHARLES WOOD, as First Lord of the Admiralty, attended, together with other Lords of the Admiralty, a review of the fleet at Spithead, on Tuesday.

STORM IN THE BLACK SEA.—A telegraphic despatch, dated Constantinople, March 24th, was posted on Wednesday at Lloyd's, briefly announcing another terrible storm in the Black Sea, which appears to have been severely felt in the vicinity of Kustendje, between Varna and the mouth of the Danube. It broke out on the morning of the 14th inst., and continued with fearful violence for forty-eight hours, in the course of which no less than six English barques and five brigs, chiefly employed in the Transport Stores Service, and ten foreign ships were wholly wrecked. The crews of the English vessels were all saved.

AFRAY AT THE COLCHESTER CAMP.—The 38th Regiment (Connaught Rangers) and the Essex Rifles have been creating some rather serious disturbances at the Colchester Camp. Some irritating reflections, it seems, were cast on the former by the latter, and a "row" ensued. On this, the men of the 11th Regiment, who had formerly been on good terms with the militiamen (from whose ranks several recruits had joined the 11th) sallied forth to the assistance of the Irishmen. After a time, the disturbance was quelled; but it was found necessary to prevent the communication between the belligerents by a double line of sentries round the huts. Some other minor scuffles have taken place.

THE INQUIRY AT CHELSEA HOSPITAL.—The commencement of these proceedings has been postponed.

FIRE ON BOARD THE SCREW STEAMSHIP VESTA IN THE THAMES.—This vessel was on Sunday morning discovered to be on fire. It appears that three Custom-house officers were engaged looking to the loading of the ship, when one of the officers perceived smoke issuing from the hatchway. Upon the revenue officers going below, they found that the ship, in the under part of the lower deck, was in a blaze. The fire spread with such rapidity that in the course of a few minutes one hundred bales of hemp were ignited. On the steam lower float arriving, the engine was set to work, in spite of which, the fire continued to spread, and at length rushed up the hatchways and fired the combings. After three hours' hard work, the firemen subdued the flames. One hundred bales of hemp were destroyed, and the whole of the remainder of the cargo considerably damaged by fire and water.

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE COURT.—Mr. Albert Smith had the honour of performing on Tuesday night before the Queen, the King of the Belgians, the Duchess of Kent, the Royal family, and the party assembled at Windsor Castle.

MR. JOHN BRIGHT, M.P., is now on a visit for a month to Ben Rhydding. His general health is good, but he has overworked his brain, and he needs repose.

AUSTRALIA.—We have advices from Sydney of the 22nd of December. The large exportation from England to New South Wales of articles of luxury, consequent on the discovery of gold, which, it was thought, would create an unlimited demand, has caused a temporary glut and consequent depression in trade; but no serious alarm is felt. "A material change," says the *Daily News* Sydney correspondent, "has just taken place in the representative system of this colony. The Legislative Council, heretofore collective and nominee, has been superseded (or is about to be) by a Parliament—no longer a mere adjunct of the vice-regal government, but an independent body, subject to the same rules and regulations as the Imperial Parliament of Great Britain and Ireland, to which, however, it will be still responsible in all matters except those immediately colonial. The officers of the government will be subject to

change with that of the administration whenever, as in the mother country, a collision occurs deprecatory of official management. The Governor, Sir W. T. Denison, was sworn into office on the 19th as 'Governor in Chief of New South Wales,' his previous title being 'Governor General.' His Excellency has prorogued the Council with a speech from the vice-regal chair of state, and a dissolution of that body will follow at an early date. The railway from Sydney to Parramatta (fifteen miles) having realised to the utmost the remuneration calculated upon, the continuance of the line to Liverpool has been commenced." Two white colonists at Wide Bay, on the north-east coast of the colony, have been murdered by the aborigines. A military force has been despatched to the scene of the outrage. A great fire has occurred at Ballarat, by which a whole street has been burned down, and several persons have been killed. Shortly afterwards, a severe thunder storm, with floods of rain, burst over the town; a good many dwellings were carried away, and some lives were lost.

EFFECTS OF FASHIONABLE BONNETS.—An eminent medical gentleman in London, writing to a friend in Bristol says:—"I have to lament the great increase, amongst the female part of my practice, of tic-doloureux in the forehead, loss of sight, and great suffering in the ear, induced, I firmly believe, from the present absurd fashion of dressing the neck instead of the head. During the past month I have been in attendance upon two lovely girls, with the tic-doloureux in the forehead, and several others with similar complaints. It is high time that the frivolous bonnet of the present day should be done away with."

REPRESENTATION OF GREAT GRIMSBY.—Lord Worsley, who dates from the infantry barracks at Canterbury, has addressed a letter to the electors of Grimsby, acknowledging the receipt of a numerous signed requisition from them, soliciting him to become a candidate for the representation of the borough whenever a general election may take place. His lordship accepts the invitation, considering it not only an approval of the liberal political opinions of his family, but also a recognition of the interest his father (the Earl of Yarborough) has taken in the prosperity of the town. His lordship adds that, if elected, it will be his aim to maintain the same liberal policy.

EASTERN COUNTIES RAILWAY PROPERTY.—The Railway Proprietors' Association have appointed an "Eastern Counties Railway Defence Committee," consisting of all members of the committee of the association holding Eastern Counties stock, and are petitioning Parliament against the bills of that company, by which, they say, "a complete indemnity is given to the directors for all past deeds, right or wrong, and a power is vested in them to raise an additional £800,000 on mortgage, without limitation of interest, for the avowed purpose of lending it on Norfolk and Eastern Union securities, which are only marketable at a great discount, or of expending it on branch lines. Powers are also sought to saddle the shareholders with increased liabilities for the Tilbury and Southend lines, and the dividends on the ordinary stock will be suspended if certain branches are not completed in five years."

SINGULAR ACCIDENT.—A few days ago, a collier boy, whilst riding on an underground railway train of five coal waggons, in a coal pit belonging to Messrs. Knowles and Scott, at Kersley, near Bolton, was strangled under singular circumstances. He lay upon the last waggon of the train, the bottom of which was formed of laths of wood, with interstices between them of some inches wide. A worsted comforter was round his neck, the ends of which got through the interstices, and, wrapping round one of the axles of the waggon, drew his head firmly down upon the bottom of the carriage, and strangled him.

PROPOSED WORKING MAN'S COLLEGE AT HALIFAX.—It is proposed to establish a Working Man's College at Haley-hill, Halifax. The prospectus states:—"A committee of working men skilled in their particular trades will exercise a general superintendence over the college. The course of instruction will include the following subjects:—Reading, writing, grammar, geography, arithmetic, algebra, geometry, mechanics, mensuration, drawing (as applied to the arts of industry), &c. As far as possible, the instruction will be made to bear on handicraft trades."

AN OFFENDING CLERGYMAN.—A writ from the Lord Bishop of Durham was affixed last Sunday to the doors of the parish church of Darlington, suspending the perpetual curate (the Rev. A. J. Howell) from the duties of the curacy for two years. This step has been taken in pursuance of the report of a clerical commission, promoted by two of the principal inhabitants, on the allegation of drunkenness, which commission sat about three months since.

CHURCH-RATE OPPRESSION IN GLAMORGANSHIRE.—Several seizures for church-rates have recently been made in the night at Neath in Glamorganshire. Some hundreds of persons surrounded the officers, shouting, yelling, firing off pistols, and kicking about fire-balls. A Lent lecture was being delivered in the

church, to which edifice the people ran, and greatly terrified the congregation by their manifestations. The churchyard-gates were locked, and not only the rector, but some of the auditory, had to be escorted home by the police.

AFFRAY WITH COOLIE EMIGRANTS.—Some Coolie emigrants, to the number of two hundred, on board the ship Samuel Enderby, from Macao to Havannah, made a desperate attack, while off the island of Java, on the crew. They had not previously exhibited any disaffection, and it does not appear that they had any real cause of complaint. They were eventually overpowered.

STREET PREACHING.—A gentlemanly-looking man, having the appearance of a clergyman, and giving the name of Edward Jones, was charged at the Marlborough police office with obstructing the thoroughfare in Chapel-street, Tottenham-court-road. A policeman said he found five hundred people gathered about him, listening to his religious exhortations. He refused to "move on," and was ultimately taken into custody. Before the magistrate, he denied having caused an obstruction, for he had only "a quiet circle of about eighty paying devout attention to the Word." On a previous occasion, he had been informed by a police inspector that he might pursue his street meditations. Mr. Bingham, the magistrate, said it was quite clear that no man had a right to obstruct a thoroughfare "by holding forth what he termed the word of the Lord; for, as no two persons agree on the subject of religion, if the millions of this great city were each to set up his own view of Divine authority, to supersede the jurisdiction of the magistrate, nothing but anarchy would ensue." He therefore approved the act of the policeman; but as Mr. Jones had no intention of violating the law, he was discharged on entering into his own recognisances not to renew the inconvenience.

FIRE AT WAPPING.—An extensive fire, which has destroyed a considerable quantity of property, unattended, however, with loss of life, broke out last Monday, at the Black Boy Tavern, High-street, Wapping. About three o'clock in the morning, smoke was seen by the police to issue from the crevices in the window-shutters; and they therefore attempted to alarm the inmates. It was a long time, however, before they could succeed in arousing the family, and it was not until the flames had made such progress that no one in the house could get down the stairs, and that the inmates were not aware of their danger. A ladder was brought by the Thames police, no other escape then being at hand; and three persons were safely got out of the house. Express messengers were sent to all the nearest engine-houses, and presently the Brigade of the East London Company arrived on the spot, and the officers soon set their mains vigorously to work, together with those of the lower steam-float on the Thames. After a while, the wind carried the flames on to the roofs of the neighbouring houses, the occupants of which fled, taking with them all their household effects. It does not appear, however, that these buildings were much destroyed or injured by the fire; but the tavern, together with its furniture and stock-in-trade, was all but destroyed.

JUVENILE REFORMATORIES.—A preliminary meeting has been held at the Town Hall, Manchester, with a view to petitioning Parliament to facilitate the formation of Reformatory Institutions, to support them at the public expense.

WHITTINGTON CLUB.—The members of this institution are about to celebrate the eighth anniversary by a grand ball at the Freemasons Hall, on Thursday evening next. We understand that the money required for the completion of the new building has been all subscribed and paid, and the date of re-opening will very shortly be announced.

THE PUSEYITE CONTEST IN KNIGHTSBRIDGE.—Mr. Westerton was on Tuesday re-elected to the churchwardenship of St. Paul's, Knightsbridge, after experiencing some opposition from a Mr. Tuck, a florist and coal-merchant. Party feeling, as usual, ran high; placards were posted by the Puseyite section, denouncing Mr. Westerton as disloyal to the Queen and an enemy to the Church of England; and on the other hand, many jokes were distributed at the expense of Mr. Tuck. The meeting for the purpose of the election was held in the parochial school-room, when the numbers were found to be so great that it was feared the floor would break down, and Mr. Liddell, the chairman, was asked to adjourn the meeting to the open air; but he refused, saying that he must proceed according to law, and take the chance of an accident. Ultimately, however, it was agreed that the meeting should be held in the yard at the rear of the school-house. Here, after some discussion, loud calls were made for Mr. Tuck, who did not appear, and Mr. Westerton was declared duly elected. In the course of his speech proposing Mr. Westerton, Dr. Baring accused Mr. Liddell of having broken faith in first promising that he would remove the offensive ornaments in the church if legal means were taken to compel the removal, and then, when a faculty for that purpose was obtained, appealing against it. Mr. Liddell said he was only anxious to ascertain what the law was. When he had ascertained

that, he should be ready to bow to the law. (Laughter, and cries of "You must.") Dr. Baring added that, directly the question now pending was settled, he was prepared to break ground afresh, and to raise some new question for the consideration of the courts.

A FRIGHTFUL ACCIDENT occurred at the London Docks on Thursday. Two young women paid a visit to a brother of one of them, who is a clerk on the establishment, for the purpose of being shown over some of the buildings to witness the working of a machine known as "the hydraulic lift," and other contrivances for superseding manual labour. While the brother was engaged in another part of the warehouse, after cautioning them as to the danger attending the slightest carelessness on their part, they inadvertently got too near the aperture through which the hydraulic machine travels up and down to the various compartments of the warehouse. Holding their heads over this hole, under the belief that the machine was not then at work, the instrument suddenly came down, killing one of the women, and dreadfully injuring the other.

DEMOLITION OF THE LAST GIBBET.—A day or two ago, the last gibbet erected in England was demolished by the workmen employed by the contractors making the extensive docks for the North-Eastern Railway Company upon Jarrow Stake, on the Tyne. A pitman, who murdered a magistrate during a strike in 1832, was the person for whom the gibbet was erected.

THE LAST SCOTCH HANGMAN.—A man named John Murdock is just dead, after nearly reaching ninety years of age. He was "paid by the job," and used to take a grim pleasure in his work. The last man he hanged was executed as late as 1851.

A MAN KILLED BY A PIECE OF COAL.—Two men at Liverpool had an altercation, when one seized a piece of coal, and threw it at the other, who dipped his head, and avoided the missile. The coal, however, struck a third man on the temple, and knocked him down. He went home, but, in spite of medical aid, died in the course of a few days.

SUICIDE OF A CLERGYMAN.—Mr. C. F. R. South, a Church of England clergyman at Glasgow, has committed suicide by hanging himself. On the previous day (Monday), he was observed to be singularly excited. In the morning, he said he should never address them again, but he came again in the afternoon, and was then so disturbed and wild that his friends removed him. He must have destroyed himself, from some unknown cause, in the course of the night.

MR. WALTER SAVAGE LANDOR AND M. KOSSUTH.—A communication from Mr. Walter Savage Landor has appeared in the *Times*, recommending a subscription for M. Kossuth, whose circumstances are embarrassed. To this, the Hungarian exile has replied by declining the assistance, the suggestion of which, while acknowledging "the noble generosity of the intention," he considers "extremely injudicious and uncalled-for, inasmuch as, whatever be my private circumstances, I am wont to consider then the sacred domain of family life." He can therefore "find no words to express his deep mortification and regret." Glancing at a leading article in the *Times* with respect to himself, M. Kossuth says:—"As to your remarks on the 'immorality' of the struggle which it has been my destiny to lead, you must allow me to say this much in return—that you must be perfectly ignorant as to its nature and character, or else you could not think of perverting historical truth to that extent."

CONGRATULATIONS ON THE IMPERIAL BIRTH.—The London Court of Common Council, and several other municipal bodies, have voted addresses of congratulation to the French Emperor on the birth of his son and heir.

THE OATH OF ABJURATION.—A motion has been proposed to the Court of Common Council, for soliciting the Government to obtain a repeal of the law requiring the oath of abjuration to be taken by persons appointed to public offices.

THE MORMON EXODUS.—Three hundred men, women, boys, and girls have started from Birmingham for Liverpool, there to take ship for the Mormon territory at Utah. Nine hundred will leave in the vessel for the same destination.

ACCIDENT ON THE WIMBLETON AND CROYDON RAILWAY.—A man has been run down on this railway while crossing the line, and has been killed. The engine was about twenty yards off when the driver saw him. The latter blew his whistle, and shut off the steam; but the man was deaf, and does not seem to have been aware of the train until it was on him.

LADIES AND THEIR PETS.—A gardener, named Emery, has recently obtained £60 damages as the result of an action at the Warwick Assizes against a clergyman, two dogs belonging to whose wife had bitten him. Lord Campbell directed that the dogs—Pepper and Mustard—should be called; and they were placed on the table. Several witnesses proved that the dogs were notorious biters. Mr. Serjeant Hayes, for the defence, asked, in the event of ladies' dogs being "put down," "what would become of the

whole female sex?" To which Mr. Bittlestone, counsel for the plaintiff, replied that ladies might very properly, and more naturally, reserve their caresses and affections for worthier objects than lap-dogs.

HEALTH OF LONDON.—In the week that ended on Saturday, the total number of deaths registered in London was 1,213, of which 638 were deaths of males, 575 those of females. In the corresponding weeks of the ten years 1846-55, the average number was 1,164. This number, if raised by a tenth part for comparison with last week's deaths, which occurred in an increased population, becomes 1,280. The present rate of mortality is therefore less than the average. The mean temperature of the air fell below the average on Tuesday the 4th inst., and has continued more or less below it every day since that date, with the exception of four days last week. That this unusual coldness has to some extent affected the public health is shown by the deaths from diseases of the respiratory organs, which were in the last three weeks successively 191, 223, and 281. Of 26 deaths from scarlatina, half occurred in the north districts, principally Fancras, Islington, and Hackney; while of 58 from typhus and common fever, 18 occurred in the east districts, chiefly in White-chapel and Mile-end. Four deaths from typhus and "fever" occurred in the workhouse, St. Peter, Walworth, besides two from whooping-cough; and four occurred from the same disease in Chelsea, north-west sub-district, two of these in the workhouse, Mr. Faulkner, of the south sub-district of St. Giles, registered two deaths from typhus in the workhouse, and he states that the deceased persons were not regular inmates, but "when brought in were suffering from the fever which appears to have prevailed lately in the parish. A few houses have each had several cases, and the assistant-surgeon has been attacked by the disease." In North St. Giles, at 29 A, Crown-street, a woman died of typhus; Mr. Simpson, the registrar, writes that four persons have been attacked by the fever in that house, and three have died. In last report, a woman was stated to have died at the age of 104 years. In the returns for last week, another remarkable example of longevity is recorded. A woman who had lived at 4, William-street, Dorset street, Clapham-road, died on the 17th inst. of "decay of nature; diarrhoea (three days)," at the age (as stated) of 103 years. She was the widow of a gardener. Mr. Edwards, the registrar, mentions that her illness was caused by hearing of the death of her son, a man 61 years old, who died in Guy's Hospital, where he had undergone an amputation. She was previously in good health and in possession of her faculties, and assisted in the last week of her life in the usual domestic duties. The age of old persons is, however, often exaggerated, and such statements are not to be received without doubt, unless they are confirmed by a register of birth or baptism, or other satisfactory evidence. Last week, the births of 889 boys and 838 girls—in all 1,727 children—were registered in London. In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1846-55, the average number was 1,565.—*From the Registrar General's Weekly Return.*

SUDDEN DEATH OF AN IMPOSTOR.—A man has been drowned at Northstoke, near Bath, almost immediately after attempting to impose upon another by means of a begging letter. On Thursday week, a stranger at a public-house in the village of Upton was observed to inquire for the names of several of the principal inhabitants in the vicinity; he was next seen to write a letter, to which he appended two forged signatures. He then proceeded to Northstoke, where he presented the letter to a farmer living there, named James Taylor. Perceiving at once that the letter was a forgery, and that the whole affair was an imposition, Mr. Taylor threatened to give the man into custody, upon which the latter struck Mr. Taylor a violent blow on the head with a stick he had in his hand. He was prevented, however, from striking any more blows by Mr. Taylor forcing the stick from him. He then ran away and plunged into the river Avon, where he attempted to swim to the opposite bank; but some men at one of the wharves, seeing Mr. Taylor in pursuit of him, pulled him out. Nevertheless, he managed to escape from them, and again jumped into the river, when, having swam a short distance, he suddenly sank, and was seen no more until his body was discovered the following day (Good Friday). He was by trade a saddler, and had formerly lived at Barnstaple.

A MALEVOLENT ATTEMPT.—A bar of iron was found a few days since on the Hereford Railway by the driver of an up-train. It was lying on the down line, on which a goods train was expected at full speed in a few minutes; but the obstruction was removed in time, and a reward has been offered for the discovery of the perpetrator. These malevolent offences have become common of late.

EASTER DINNER AT THE MANSION-HOUSE.—This annual banquet took place on Monday. The Duke of Cambridge responded to the toast of the royal family; and he also acknowledged the toast of "the Army and Navy." Lord Wodehouse acknowledged the

compliment to the Ministers: "the House of Peers" was responded to by Lord Monteagle, and "the House of Commons" by Mr. Gladstone, who observed that the Crimean war "will stand in no small degree conspicuous in history for the purity of the motives with which it originated, for the fidelity and honour of the alliances by which it has been carried on, and, he ventured to add, for the rapidity with which the political and moral objects in view have been achieved." He also expressed a hope that, on the conclusion of peace, the House of Commons would address itself to "the re-establishment of the equilibrium of the public finances, and the reform of her military establishments." Sir John Pakington proposed the health of the Lord Mayor, and hinted at the necessity for municipal reform, which the Lord Mayor, in acknowledging the toast, said the City would not oppose, to a reasonable extent; "but, on the other hand, if members of Parliament found that the corporation had not abused its powers, they at least should not destroy that which had lasted through so many ages, and which connected the past with the present."

STATE OF TRADE.—The advices from the manufacturing towns regarding the state of trade during the week ending last Saturday present no material alteration. At Manchester, there has been an improved demand, consequent upon the accounts by the overland mail, and prices have been fairly supported, notwithstanding the recent heaviness of the Liverpool cotton-market. At Birmingham, the iron-market remains dull, and the question of interest for the moment is as to the probability of a reduction in prices being decided upon at the approaching quarterly meetings. The general manufacturers of the place are likewise inactive, the orders from the United States being still small, although stocks are low both in that country and at home. The Nottingham report describes continued confidence, a further improvement in the home demand, and an upward tendency in quotations. In the woollen districts there has been no alteration, and the people continue to be well employed. The Irish linen-markets are likewise steady, and the purchases are numerous, both for home consumption and exportation.—*Times*.

ASSAULTS ON WOMEN AND CHILDREN.—A return of convictions and sentences in 1854 and 1855, under the act 16th and 17th of Victoria, chap. 30, for the better prevention and punishment of aggravated assaults on women and children, has been published by order of the House of Commons, on the motion of Mr. Dillwyn, M.P. It appears that at Bow-street 41 ruffians were convicted of these cowardly outrages, all of whom (save one) were committed to prison for periods varying from three weeks to six months; the exceptional one was fined £15. At Clerkenwell Police-office there were 134 convictions; at Greenwich and Woolwich, 66; at Hammersmith, 45; at Lambeth, 30; at Marlborough-street, 70; at Marylebone office, 40; at Southwark, 49; at the Thames Police-court, 118; at Westminster, 48; and at Worship-street, 209. These convictions took place in 1854 and 1855. The offences are not precisely defined, except at Hammersmith, where 27 persons were convicted of assaulting their wives, 1 person of assaulting his sister, 3 of assaulting children, and 14 of assaulting strangers.

DEATH BY A CRICKET BALL.—Henry Simpson, a child nine years old, son of Mr. Joseph Simpson, inspector of ways, was recently looking on at a game at cricket, when he was struck on the right ear by a ball with such force as to produce insensibility, and subsequently death. A jury has since returned a verdict of Accidental Death.

THE SURREY GARDENS.—The Surrey Gardens company has obtained her Majesty's patronage, and the company has consequently been registered as "The Royal Surrey Gardens Company." The contractors for the music hall are Messrs. Scott and Cornwall, and Mr. Forrest (many years landscape gardener to the late Duke of Northumberland, and from whose designs the magnificent conservatory was erected at Lion House) is superintending the garden improvements. The committee are certain of being able to avail themselves of the coming season.

FINE ARTS AT THE CRYSTAL PALACE.—It has at length been determined by the committee of the Crystal Palace to devote a portion of the building to form a gallery for the exhibition of pictures. They are to be the works of living painters of all the schools in Europe.

REPORT OF THE ENGLISH ECCLESIASTICAL COMMISSION.—The eighth general report of this commission, just presented to Parliament, states that during the past year the Bishops of Bath and Wells, Durham, Gloucester, Lichfield, London, and Worcester have, in consideration of money payments, transferred to the commissioners portions of their episcopal estates. An arrangement has been made for fixing the incomes for one of the present and for the future canons of Salisbury Cathedral, and for revising the arrangements respecting the income of the dean of the same church. Endowments have been provided for the archdeaconries of Berks, Carlisle, Lewes, and York (East Riding). The sales and purchases of leasehold interests have been effected by the commissioners on terms in general accordance with the recommenda-

tions of the Lords' Committee on Church leaseholds in 1851. The income of the Common Fund has been restored to its ascendancy, and in the case of the current year it will so increase as to yield a balance applicable towards making better provision for the cure of souls. The total number of benefices permanently augmented by the commissioners amounted on All Saint's day last to 859, with a population of 2,364,620, while the annual grants payable in respect thereof amounted to £46,427 a-year in perpetuity. Five districts have been constituted under the Church Endowment Act. The total number of districts constituted by the commission up to the 1st of November last amounted to 247, and their population to 862,752; and of these 202 have been already provided with chapels, and have so become new parishes. The incumbents have thus become entitled to an annual income of not less than £150, to say nothing of surplice fees and other dues. The annual payment by the commissioners is thus raised to £34,513, subject to further increase.

OMNIBUS IMPROVEMENTS.—The first instalment of the improvements promised to the public by the London General Omnibus Company is to be paid forthwith. The company are about to put on lines of omnibuses for short distances, starting from the Flower Pot, Bishopsgate-street, or some other convenient place for correspondence with Charing-cross; thus connecting the whole of the eastern with the western end of London. The fares will be reduced, and vehicles will be employed of a much larger description than those in present use. The company intend to confer the appointments of conductors to these omnibuses (worth on an average 28s. a-week) on wounded Crimean soldiers. With this intent, the directors of the company have lately had several interviews with the Army and Navy Pensioners' Employment Society. Sergeant Pearce, of the Scots Fusilier Guards, who served through the Crimean campaign, and whose lectures to the militia have been favourably noticed in the newspapers, has received the first appointment as inspector to the London General Omnibus Company, at a salary of £100 per annum.

EXTRAORDINARY ACCIDENT.—Mrs. Hughes, of the Packet Hotel, Voryd, and one of her daughters, were sitting by the fire in the bar of the hotel, on Saturday last, when a bottle containing half a pint of turpentine, which unfortunately happened to be on the mantel-piece, accidentally broke; the inflammable contents burst into a blaze, and the daughter's clothes caught fire. She was dreadfully burnt, and her clothes were almost entirely consumed. She still remains in a most precarious state.

CHARITABLE CONGRESS OF ALL NATIONS.—Circulars have been issued to the friends of progress in all countries, inviting them to meet at Brussels in the month of September, 1856, "to discuss the means of ameliorating the condition of the working classes."

DULEEP SINGH IN A COALPIT.—His Highness the Maharajah Duleep Singh, who is now on a visit to Lord Haltherton, the Lord-Lieutenant of Staffordshire, at Teddesley-park, near Stafford, has, during the past week, been taken over a coalpit on the estate of his host.

FIRE AT MANCHESTER.—The cotton mill of Mr. Threlfall, spinner and manufacturer at Salford, Manchester, has been destroyed by fire.

CIVIL SERVICE SUPERANNUATION COMMITTEE.—Mr. Bromley, Accountant-General to the Navy, gave some evidence before this committee on Tuesday, when he read a letter from a clerk in the receipt of a nominal salary of £160, showing that out of that amount must be paid superannuation fund, £8, as well as the income-tax, security, and other expenses, leaving him only £116 10s. 4d., to feed, lodge, and clothe himself and family of five persons. After citing another similar case of a clerk in the receipt of a salary of £260 a-year, Mr. Bromley proceeded to say that it would be proved to the committee by the evidence to be given by Dr. Farr and others, that the deductions made from the salaries were much larger than were required to form the superannuation fund, and larger than would be required by any insurance office to secure the same pensions. In the case of the civil servants of the Crown, there was no provision for their widows and families, and most distressing cases were constantly occurring in consequence.

A WILD BEAST.—James Cooper, a timber-dealer at Lower Homerton, has committed a very brutal assault on a publican. Cooper and his father have frequently had violent quarrels, and the son has more than once been in prison for violence to his parent. His last term expired very recently, and, entering a public-house, he found his father there. The old man, fearing an assault, went out, pursued by his son, who missed him, and, returning mad with rage, began dashing the pewter water-jug on the ground. The publican remonstrated, and the young ruffian fell on him, and savagely ill-used him, till some strangers dragged off the furious desperado and gave him into custody. He was heard to threaten to "do" for the publican as soon as he got his liberty; and he has been committed for trial by the Worship-street magistrate.

Postscript.

LEADER OFFICE, Saturday, March 29.

THE CONFERENCES.

THE question of the Principalities is still throwing obstacles in the way of the Conferences. Turkey is not inclined to yield. Still, it is hoped that the treaty will be signed on Monday.

LATEST FROM THE CONTINENT.

The resolutions concerning Wallachia and Moldavia, agreed to in the conference at Constantinople (says a letter from Bucharest in the *Austrian Gazette*), continue to produce considerable agitation here, the more so that Prince Stirbey had, before the opening of the Conferences, embodied the general wishes of the populations of the Principalities in a statement sent in, and containing the following four points:—

1. Moldavia and Wallachia to be united into a single state;
2. The succession to be hereditary;
3. All kinds of protectorate to be abolished, and the guarantee of the great Powers substituted instead;
4. Moldo Wallachia to be a neutral territory.

The Greeks offer great obstacles to the execution of the recent Turkish reforms.

The *Times* correspondent at Constantinople says:—"The improvement in the French hospitals is still continuing. Evidently, the sickness must have reached its climax, and for the last few days a regular decrease shows itself, which excites hopes for the better."

AMERICA.

The *Baltic* has arrived at Liverpool with despatches from New York to the 15th inst. There are no tidings of the *Pacific*. The Kansas Free State Legislature was organised on the 4th. The Governor counselled entire obedience to the Federal authority. Everything was quiet, but an outbreak was anticipated at any moment. Rifles and cannon intended for the Free States men had been captured at Lexington. 28,000 bales of cotton had been destroyed by fire at New Orleans.

PERSIA.

Mr. Murray, the English ambassador in Persia, is still at Tabriz.

It is reported that the differences between this country and Persia have terminated—the Persian Government having made an *amende honorable*. Mr. Murray will, therefore, shortly return to his post at Teheran.

DEPARTURE OF THE KING OF THE BELGIANS.—The Belgian monarch will, we believe, quit England this day (Saturday.)

EXPLOSION IN SPITALFIELDS.—The boiler of a steam-engine in some saw-mills in Spitalfields exploded yesterday (Friday) morning, forcing itself through several walls belonging to adjoining premises, entirely destroying a cow-shed and stabling in the rear of premises, passing through a private house in the same street, knocking out the entire front of the house, and at length passing downwards into the cellar, burying itself into the earth to so great a depth that scarcely more than four or five feet from the surface was visible. No lives were lost, but several persons were severely injured.

THE TRIAL OF WILLIAM PALMER.—The trial of William Palmer will not take place at the April sittings of the Central Criminal Court, as is generally supposed. It is considered as settled that it will be postponed to the next sessions of the Central Criminal Court on the 15th of May. It is also understood that the three Chief Justices will preside on the occasion.

PARTIAL FALL OF A WAREHOUSE.—A portion of a paper mill in Cottage-row, Bermondsey-road, fell to the ground on Monday afternoon. From twenty to thirty women and girls were on the premises at the time, but were not hurt, the wall having fallen outwards, owing to the pressure of some bags placed against it.

LOVE-LORN AT FIFTY.—A widow residing at the village of Douchy (Loiret) has suffocated herself by lying down in a large trunk, and closing the lid. Disappointed love is said to have been the cause of the act.

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

H.—We have forwarded "H's" letter to Mr. Landor. He will have seen that M. Kossuth declines the proposed subscription.

ERRATA.—In our last number, in "The British Historians," for "Lady," read "Livy;" in "Civilisation in Bombay," for "Fennimore," read "Trannion," and for "Scotretariah," read "Secretariat."

The Leader.

SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 1856.

Public Affairs.

here 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.

AFTER THE WAR.

THE dilemma of the Plenipotentiaries at Paris is not so serious as to admit of a doubt of peace. It is not a difference of policy that postpones the signature of the Treaty, but a diplomatic punctilio, arising from the claim of the King of Prussia to be recognised as one of the High Contracting Powers. He has been invited to record his adhesion to the principles of the special settlement between Russia and the Western Powers; he withholds his assent on the ground that he should sign as a negotiator, a participant in full, in the action of the Council of Plenipotentiaries. This, at least, is the colouring given by public rumour, to the delay which has undoubtedly taken place. But it is not an insurmountable, or even a grave, difficulty. If, as is understood, the English Cabinet alone objected to the admission of Prussia on her own terms, that is not an obstacle likely long to interrupt the progress of the pacification. The momentum of Continental Europe, of every government, and of nearly every nation, is against the continuance of the war. Whatever have been Lord CLARENDON's instructions they will be set aside. England, which asserted no principle when it was at her option to lead France into the conflict, cannot now insist on a point of etiquette, to humiliate the Government of Prussia. She has too uniformly practised the attitude of subordination to overcome, at this juncture, the will of her great military ally, in his own capital, with Austria and Russia assenting. Besides, no intelligent politician would risk, for a moment, the issue of the negotiations, for the sake of wreaking a caprice on the Prussian King. We assume, consequently, that the Conferences will result in peace; because all the powers represented, except, possibly, Great Britain, are determined upon the cessation of the war. We only regret that our statesmen have raised a protest to which they cannot and dare not give effect. It is a gratuitous humiliation of their diplomacy—a humiliation they could ill afford.

When, after this half-developed war, the public opinion of Europe sums up the consequences, it will assign some political disgrace to England, and many political tricks, successfully contrived, to France. It will gradually become known to the world, as it is already known to statesmen, that Lord CLARENDON was sent to

the Conferences with instructions he was compelled to forego; that an open clause in the conditions designed to cover the result of expected successes in the Crimea, was turned to the advantage of Russia, after the capture of Kars. Indeed, when the Treaty is promulgated, we have little doubt that, beyond extorting from the Government of Russia a formal submission to the public law of Europe, it will be a vague and illusory document. The boundary question will be left unsettled, beyond the mere admission that *there is to be* a new Danubian frontier; the political settlement of the Principalities will be deferred; perhaps the sinister suggestion of our Turkish Ally will be adopted, and the rights conceded to the Christians of Turkey will not be placed under general guarantees. Practically Russia will be what she was before, except that her relations to Turkey will be altered, and, in a diplomatic sense, amended. If there be a meaning in treaties, it is impossible that she should soon again repeat her attack on the Ottoman territories. That is a point established; and, strictly speaking, it fulfils the original objects of the war. It does not fulfil, of course, the hopes of enthusiasts, or the schemes of political philosophers; but, in this instance, popular disappointment is the obvious result of immoderate expectation.

If we endeavour to estimate, precisely, the result to Great Britain of the Russian war, we are baffled by the uncertainties of the future. We have gained nothing. But, from the lessons we have learned, we might, were we a wise and earnest nation, gain immeasurably. It was never desired that territorial advantages should follow the challenge we gave to the ambitious policy of the Emperor NICHOLAS. All that was possible was the achievement of pure glory—not animal exultation after victories, but a heightening of our character, of our *prestige*, of all that constitutes moral power, which is the subtle, but unswerving basis of political power. Failing this, failing to exalt our naval and military reputation, merging our political and diplomatic existence, for a time, into that of France, exposing a thousand vices in our administrative system, proving that our Constitution admits of the preference of incapacity to talent, of aristocracy to merit, what can we do to save a remnant of advantage from the Russian war? What, but to abolish the organisation that has broken down, discard the principles that have disgraced us, rely on the manliness and virtue of the nation, and be loyal to the spirit that has made us what we are. We have contracted unnatural ties. We have forsaken things we once cherished to adore a strange phantom of lawless power; but it was never by such recalcitrations that England became powerful by sea and land, and took a leading position in Europe. After the war, there comes the work of peace, the thorough reformation, not only of our military, marine, and civil establishments, but of the influences by which they exist; of the electoral system, which fills Parliament with factions, adventurers, and jobbers—of the Cabinet system which renders political government the exclusive estate of a few families—of forty families, by the average of the last hundred years—of the Army system, by which merit is accidentally and rank systematically advanced—of the Civil Service system, by which the stupidity of one generation is made the precedent of another—of every public department which fosters incapacity for the sake of corruption at the expense of the community. Finally, and most essentially, that body of national opinions must be quickened and purified, which sanctions political immorality, which is selfish, lethargic, and sceptical. This is the one needful reform—the

one conspicuous evil, illustrated at every crisis by the total neglect of what are contemptuously and vulgarly styled abstract principles. The Corn Laws were repealed not because they were unjust, but because the poor were starving. Catholic Emancipation was conceded, not because it was the right of the Catholics, but because a rebellion blackened in the gaze of Parliament. The public never cared for Military Reform, until men, horses, and equipments, perished in the very midst of war, under a system that had lasted, unrebuked, during forty years. It is not to be expected that the populace should comprehend these things, or be awakened to their import without such a mechanical illustration as was supplied in the crisis of 1854, on the plateau before Sebastopol. But the professed politicians, the statesmen, the agitators, what did they say of Reform? It was only in the penny almanacks that, before the outbreak of the war, the English nation was warned that its military institutions would be failures in the hour of need.

Practically, the war leads to few results that affect the external relations of Great Britain. But, collaterally, singular political developments have appeared—the French alliance, the Sardinian participation in the attack upon Russia, the revival of the Moldavian and Wallachian national claims, the internal reforms of Turkey, and other results which can only be imperfectly represented by the Treaty of Peace.

The Treaty will be a deception, but to reasonable politicians, not a disappointment. It will be the expression of French Imperial policy. Great Britain made war at the instigation of France, makes peace at her bidding, and cannot expect to record, in a diplomatic convention, political successes which she has not gained, and which she has not deserved to gain.

PRUSSIA AND THE PRINCESS ROYAL.

We do not see how the royal family of England could have contracted a marriage for this engaging Princess more advantageously than with the heir, in the second degree, to the powerful Protestant, and, in a certain degree, constitutional throne of Prussia. Without reckoning above its value the political liberality imputed to the nephew of FREDERICK WILLIAM, he and his House are beyond the reach of a Concordat, and it is more to the interest of England to be related, through its royal family, with the only first-class Protestant monarchy, than to be compromised with any pervert of a Popish line, or to quarter on its pension list any of the miniature dukes and princes of Belgium or Germany. Leaving France and Austria out of the question, the one being governed by a Thunderstorm, the other by a Roman Catholic despot recently married, what are the reigning families of Europe? The heir presumptive to the Belgian throne is already married; Sardinia is a Catholic kingdom, governed by a widower, whose eldest son is scarcely fourteen years of age. The Tuscan Grand Duke is a slave of the Papacy, an absolutist on a petty scale. The King of Naples, Catholic and despot, is naturally in league with the worst despotisms of Europe. If Spain were not excluded from an English alliance by her religious institutions, the heir to her crown is a princess four years old. Portugal, again, enjoys that constitutionalism which is consistent with the domination of the Roman Church. Great Britain herself has not a prince to spare, nor is it the recognised practice of Courts to pass by the opportunity of a royal marriage without going abroad for new relations. The Princess, then, must search the Baltic kingdoms or the kingdoms of Germany for a husband. The heir-apparent to the Lutheran

throne of the Swedes is married, and has a family. The uncle of the King of Denmark is to succeed to his mutilated dominions, perhaps to a convulsion and a war.

The Low Countries possess a constitutional throne, of which the heir apparent is a youth of sixteen years of age; but the Government of Holland stands in a state of almost complete isolation, takes little or no part in the political affairs of Europe, concentrates its attention on the East and West Indies, and rarely corresponds with the British Cabinet, except in a tone of expostulation or jealousy. The German Courts, with their exuberant growth of princes remain—the pantomime royalties of Hesse, Gotha, Coburg, and Brunswick. There is Baden, where the young prince FREDERICK reigns as regent in the name of his incapable brother; Wurtemberg, where two Russian princesses have found husbands; Hanover, with its perpetual crisis, and its heir-apparent, a child of eleven years; Saxony, which Russia once proposed to incorporate with Prussia, and which Prussia considers as half her own; Bavaria, which gave a miserable king to Greece. This king, the puppet OTTO, will, in default of personal issue, bequeath his crown to Prince ADALBERT of Bavaria. Which from this procession of royal names would the liberal and suspicious public select to bestow on the Princess Royal? For our part, while royal families are of importance to the commonwealth of England, we desire to see the union of strength with strength, and cannot discover any advantage in linking an English princess to some obscure dangler of a German Court, without a name or a heritage. Prussia is a great military power, with maritime tendencies, and it may not be long before Great Britain will be solicitous to gain her friendship. Day by day, the Russian influence strikes root in Paris; day by day, France is more closely knit to Austria; ultimately, the policy of England may be strongly counteracted by a undeclared confederacy of the absolutist powers. Now Prussia, notwithstanding her natural leanings to a Russian policy, has never abandoned the forms of constitutionalism. The King, whatever his disposition may be, finds it impossible to suppress the authority of the Chambers, and he, being now aged, and not in vigorous health, must soon, in the course of nature, leave the throne vacant for his successor. That successor, presumptively, is his brother WILLIAM, a military pedant, who despises the press, the academies, the liberal parties of the kingdom, and who, in all probability, will have to contend with a Revolution, or to establish an absolutism inherently hostile to all that is educated and intelligent in Prussia. He has never consented to take the oath of the Constitution, not being versed in the casuistry taught to exiles by our semi-official press, which explained last week, that refugees swearing allegiance to the French Empire were by no means prohibited from perjury. He himself, however, is neither a young nor a healthy man, and his son FREDERICK WILLIAM NICHOLAS CHARLES, twenty-six years of age, who is said to derive many liberal traits of character from his accomplished and amiable mother, is his natural successor on the Prussian throne.

It is the disaster of Europe that the policy of nations should depend on the character of individuals; but the Great British people has itself to blame if any family ever again enjoys the power of endangering its safety or honour. What with CROMWELL's axe and the Bill of Rights, something has been done in this country to change Prerogative from a reality to a fiction. The royal authority is now only the hand on the dial plate of the Constitution; it must work in harmony with Parliament; it is

the representative of electoral majorities. Why then is the public disquieted by the prospect of a Prussian alliance? After the war comes the duty of Reform, when it will be for the real liberal party to see that the educated opinion of the country obtains a true representation. When that task is accomplished, what will it signify whether Prussian influence thrive at the Court of St. James, or whether the royal family is inclined to favour the intrigues of Berlin in preference to the intrigues of France or Austria?

Prussia has for some years pursued a policy which renders it very important to establish relations of sound friendship between her government and that of Great Britain. Since the battle of Jena it has been obvious to her statesmen that a geographical position such as hers, inviting invasion is a cause of perpetual danger and weakness. Thus, Prussia has been compelled to seek new outlets on the sea, in addition to her confined and inconvenient ports on the Baltic coast. From Oldenburgh, therefore, she has obtained the cession of the harbour, the mole, and the site of a fortress, at the mouth of the Jahde, in the North Sea, where at this moment the foundations of an effective marine, military, and commercial, are being prepared. In this way a new maritime power may grow up in Europe, competing at least with either of the Baltic kingdoms. Great Britain can entertain no jealousy by such a development on the part of Prussia; but other States, which have profited by her geographical isolation, may not witness without regret such preparations as these of a new basis of her military independence and commercial prosperity. It is for England, while the continent is in the possession of irresponsible monarchies, to cultivate the alliance of the most liberal, and among the most liberal decidedly is Prussia. Besides, the Germans are not in a political lethargy; a great national party is in formation, at the head of which the young PRINCE may, or may not, be found.

Whatever may be his disposition, whatever the political influences dominant in Prussia, where else could a husband be found for the PRINCESS ROYAL? Or, is it essential to our constitutional liberties that she should remain a spinster.

THE SIGN AT BANGOR.

If there be a thing to which Christian communities cannot be brought, it is concord in conduct and unity in creed. There is scarcely a quarter of the Christian world that is not at the present moment stirred by the most vehement agitation—vehement, in proportion as the power of the ecclesiastical bodies has declined. We have watched the proceedings of the Pope under favour of the Austrian Government. The PONTIFF has procured from the Emperor FRANCIS JOSEPH a new permission to exercise despotical authority throughout the Austrian dominions, and the priests are exercising their power with so minute, as well as imperious a demeanour, that their rule becomes instantly intolerable, even to the Government—except in Italy. The Austrian Government is obliged to apply some kind of moderator to the newly-stimulated zeal of the priests.

In a small way the same kind of spirit is shown in Ireland, where Archbishop CULLEN is putting down even journals favourable to the papal sway; driving them out of reading-rooms, and otherwise endeavouring to abolish them from the world. He has visited with his displeasure the *Nation* and the *Weekly Telegraph*; and the *Tablet* is only rescued from extinction by acquiring a new proprietor and editor in Mr. JOHN E. WALLIS, an Englishman who has been converted to the Roman Church. The exiled papers are faithful to the Pope, but not enough so—not slavishly enough.

We can scarcely boast of more unity in this country, where the newest manifestations are certainly not favourable to concord. Some gentlemen, clerical and lay, of high position and earnest enthusiasm, have been for some time engaged in the endeavour to frame a plan for re-uniting various nonconformist bodies to the Established Church. They propose to begin with the Wesleyans, and they have actually constructed a memorial to the two Houses of Convocation, suggesting a plan for the redemption of Wesleyans to the Established body. The drift of this memorial is, to beg from Convocation the removal, not of obstacles to the admission of Wesleyans, but of objections which the Wesleyans may entertain against the Establishment—the want of sufficient sanctity in the ministers of the Church; the necessity of discontinuing class-meetings; the necessity of separating from the Wesleyan body; and the delay in actually obtaining orders under the Established Church—three years. The gentlemen who framed this scheme held their meeting in the fashionable rectory of St. James's; they are understood to have the approval of the Bishop of London; and how are they met by the Wesleyans? The *Watchman*, organ of the Wesleyan Conference, speaks thus of the plan, with a studied charity:—

"Few, indeed, are the members of the Church of Methodism who could be transplanted into the consecrated ground of the Church of England without injury to their inner life. We refrain from saying more. The crude report of the committee we do not wish to fling in the face of their Church. We are unwilling to permit ourselves an allusion to the doctrinal divisions, the portentous heresies, the Romanism and Rationalism, which darken large spaces in the territory of the Church of England, and which sit impersonated upon her Episcopal bench or in her University chairs. Before even 'individual ministers and other members of the Wesleyan body' are asked to join the ranks of the Church of England and march along with her, they ought to know whither she herself is going; and that we fear is what the sagest 'individual minister or other member' of the Piccadilly committee can in no wise tell."

What does this language mean? We can put it in a very short and peculiar form. When certain members of the Church of England, high in position, and active in spirit, make these overtures towards reconciliation with an outlying Christian body, whose founder himself regretted the schism from the Established Church, the organ of the Wesleyans, putting on an extremely charitable, not to say condescending air, replies—virtually replies, "Go to—Bath!" Let the reader re-peruse the extract, and say if this is not almost the *literal* meaning of the words which we have quoted.

Nor is it only within this country, it is within the body of the Church itself that the same discord is flagrant, tumultuous. Scarcely a week passes without some proof of the volcanic state of the Church. We have this week a Welsh report. The Established Church has extended into Wales as it has into Ireland, and there are its ministers. It was quite late in the day that they discovered the necessity of preaching to the Welsh in Welsh; and the Bishop of St. DAVID's has earned just respect for his efforts to secure a preaching in Welsh to the Welsh. How would the Roman Church get on if its emissaries came over to this country and preached the word, according to their construction, only in Italian or Latin, among the working churches, say, of London or Manchester? Not only does the clergyman preach in a foreign language, but the Church, which ought to invite the attendance of the Welsh, remains for them with closed doors, save once in the week—once on the seventh day. Is not this absurd? Some gentlemen connected with the Principality have been moved by the Reverend P. O. ELLIS, a young clergyman, and assisted, not for the first time, by Mr. W. O. STANLEY, to attempt an im-

provement by throwing open the church doors twice if not thrice on the seventh day. The Welsh *must* go to some kind of religious meeting; and, literally excluded from the Church, they have rushed into the meeting-house, where they are the prey of any rhapsodist that can go about seeking whom he may devour—Mormon, Ranter, or Jumper. Who is it that objects, however, to the very modest form of Church extension now proposed? Our readers, of course, can guess. Who could it be but the Bishop of the diocese? He rates Mr. STANLEY for "high-flying nonsense and palaver," "blunders," "self-deceit," "wilful ignorance of self;" while he informs that honourable gentleman that Mr. ELLIS, though a "meritorious young clergyman," is "contumacious," "turbulent," "factious," "undutiful," "insubordinate," and "insolent." The reason for these epithets is, that after Mr. ELLIS had been told by his Bishop that the movement was "historically" wrong, he was self-willed enough to embody the proposal that he had so earnestly at heart in a memorial to the Bishop! This is the insolence, this the insubordination—and this is the Bishop of BANGOR's view of his duties as an Overseer of the Church of England.

There is a reason for this general unrest. With the advance of free discussion there has come a reaction against that absolute infidelity which suppressed discussion fosters. The religious instinct is stirred; the religious spirit looks abroad. The authority of sect declines, and the people decline to exchange one sect for another. If they do change, it is to abandon sect for a Church which is greater than sect. And out of the disruption of sect, who cannot see signs that the Church of the nations is gradually forming itself? So death is the prelude to a larger life.

MARTIAL LAW AT PARMA.

AGAIN the protest of the Dagger is made at Parma against the domination of an Austrian army, for virtually, Parma is an Austrian city. The public sentiment of the West is shocked by the report of Assassination in that city, usurping the functions of moral force. It is natural that Englishmen, living under a Constitution, with a police force merely trained to protect life and property, and a military force for purposes of parade in time of peace, and of defence in time of war, should be indignant when men take blood vengeance for their national wrongs. We cannot write the apology of political assassination. But can our humane sympathisers realise the condition of the Italian subjects of Austria, and not understand why they shoot and stab, how they are maddened, how in a country where the law does not exist for their benefit, they spurn the law, and treat as a criminal every representative of their oppressors? To judge fairly the acts of an Italian liberal, the Englishman must suppose himself in the Italian Liberal's place. He must suppose himself governed by a foreign army, with an insolent soldiery in possession of his native city, with no law for his protection; a police that dogs his steps, insults him, goads him, and may, at any time, arrest him on no stated charge, and keep him, with discretionary malice, in prison. This Government, placing itself above all law, is outlawed in the hearts of the people, whom it perpetually irritates and defies. The Italian sees his wife or daughter flogged, his son hanged without a pretext of legality, and what is there monstrous in the terrible logic of revenge, which tempts this man to kill a spy, or a brutal officer, or an infamous judge? Make what comments you may, on the assassinations at Parma; they only prove that the system under which Austrian

Italy and the satellite Duchies are governed must come condignly to an end, and that no pacification of Europe can be lasting which provides no solution of the fearful crisis there arising. A Government which has reigned in its Italian provinces for forty years, without conciliating the population of a single town, and is forced perpetually to renew the state of siege, cannot be durable. Yet we hear of further reductions of the Austrian army forced upon the Ministry of War by the hopeless embarrassments of the Treasury. And such are the Powers that give peace to Europe.

As to the desperate men who stab the oppressors of their country in Parma, what can we say, unless, with BURKE, we "pardon something to the spirit of liberty."

A FRENCH AGGRESSION.

THE French Government, under cover of the Alliance, has projected the military occupation of Madagascar. It pretends to have interests to defend in that island, and to inherit from preceding governments certain political and commercial claims. In threatening the independence of the population, it professes to act under a sense of injury, though we have heard of no formal demand for satisfaction, addressed to the native power, therefore of no contumacy on the part of that power. These, however, under the public law of the world, are the recognised preliminaries of violence. If a descent be made upon Madagascar without clear justification, we must hold it to be piracy, and a sort of piracy which the British Government is interested in preventing.

Of course, the French have no real pretence for attacking Madagascar. They want the island, and, being "cordially allied" with the only power that is concerned in prohibiting the aggression—except, perhaps, America—the opportunity seems auspicious. But, every objection that applies to the opening of the Isthmus of Suez, by a canal in the hands of the French, applies as directly to their occupation of Madagascar. Firstly, it would be a pretext for maintaining a powerful French squadron in the Indian waters, and for securing good harbours and roads, as outposts on the Indian ocean. Then, in the event of a war, what would be easier than for the possessors of Madagascar to excite a Kaffir insurrection, and to supply the enemy with money, arms, and ammunition? But, which is more serious, a naval station at Madagascar would constitute a guard set over the Red Sea, the Gulf of Buzire, the entire Indian Ocean, even on the track of our Australian trade. Egypt, Algeria, and the Mediterranean, will be hemmed in one side, the parallel of Aden will be established on the other.

New military necessities will thus be created along our Oriental ocean frontier. What are the defences of Bombay; what has been done to prevent the bombardment of Madras from the sea; what protection has been secured to the mass of wealth that floats on the Hooghley? With an European war and the French at Madagascar, the capitals of the three Presidencies must rely on the chance that a French squadron in the vast Indian water could not find its way to the coast, unintercepted by the British squadrons. Our annals prove that such confidence may be a fallacy.

In projecting the occupation of Madagascar the French by no means abandon their favourite scheme of a short canal between the Mediterranean and the Red Sea. It may be that British influence at Constantinople will permanently deter the SULTAN from giving his sanction to the enterprise; but we know what political pertinacity can accomplish. Two points of attack upon our Indian Empire will thus be established. Yet

it is rumoured that the British Government will offer no opposition to the project. There will be no difficulty in showing, as we shall, that if this be English policy, it is one of infatuation and danger; and that when the French Government threatens to seize upon Madagascar, they are acting on a paltry pretext in pursuit of a formidable political design.

TRIAL OF WILLIAM PALMER.

WE do trust that the trial of WILLIAM PALMER is not to be made an occasion of mere forensic and medical gladiatorship. A man's life is at stake, and his character, not as a citizen only, but as a human being. The object of the prosecution, then, is not to convict WILLIAM PALMER, in spite of all advocacy and evidence on his behalf, but to bring a murderer to justice, if a murder has been committed. Nor is it the legitimate object of a legal defence to exonerate a guilty prisoner at all hazards, but to rebut false accusations against an innocent man. The solicitors and counsel on both sides, therefore, ought to go to their responsible duties calmly, and even generously. But, judging by the result of Mr. SMITH's perfectly reasonable application to be furnished with an authentic copy of Dr. TAYLOR's report and depositions, it would appear as if the conductors of the prosecution felt a personal interest, not in the elucidation of a terrible mystery, but in the conviction of WILLIAM PALMER. Who is at the bottom of this sinister refusal? Is it the Counsel who has been promised the brief? Is it an assurance office? Is it Dr. TAYLOR, whose professional testimony is in danger of scientific refutation? The *Lancet*, in a very able and pointed article, implies that Dr. TAYLOR's conclusions, on the subject of the antimony found in the body of ANNE PALMER, were rash, ignorant, and fallacious. Dr. TAYLOR said, that antimony being detected in the body, must have been administered a few days before death. The *Lancet* replies:—

"The importance of the point at issue will be at once seen if we reflect upon the logical consequences of such a conclusion as that arrived at by Dr. TAYLOR. Antimony is found in a dead body, therefore antimony must have been taken within a short period of death. Now, if we assume it to be proved that no antimony was prescribed by a medical practitioner during the last illness of the person whose death is the subject of inquiry, there arises immediately a *prima facie* proof that it was administered for a nefarious purpose, and some one connected with the deceased might be placed in custody upon a charge of murder. No effort, then, should be spared to set this question at rest. We raised it with no special reference to its bearing upon the charge against WILLIAM PALMER. We have carefully avoided any discussion of the evidence as bearing upon that particular charge. It is because the question is one of general interest that it presses for solution.

"Feeling this very strongly, and being more anxious that the truth should be ascertained and the stream of justice should be pure, than that legal forms and technical precedents should be too rigidly observed, we should be glad to see every possible facility given for the thorough investigation of the subject before the day of trial, in order that the scientific witnesses for the prosecution and the defence might be enabled to bring before the Court such full and precise information as may set the question for ever at rest. We, therefore, think—reserving all opinions as to points of legal formality—that the application made by Mr. SMITH of Birmingham, the solicitor for the defence, for the written reports of Dr. TAYLOR, containing a record of the circumstances and the deductions by which he arrived at his

conclusion, ought to have been granted. Technically, indeed, these reports may not form substantive portions of the depositions which the prisoner has a right to be furnished with; but on the grounds we have stated, we cannot but feel that it is a matter for just regret that the means of repeating the experiments and testing the reasoning of Dr. TAYLOR are withheld. The objection raised is that all this is matter for cross-examination at the trial. This is, in fact, to leave a question which requires careful examination and deliberate research to the chance information of the witnesses summoned and the skill of the barristers employed. Such a course is not the most conducive to the discovery of truth; it is scant justice to the prisoner."

In these representations we entirely concur. Our readers well know that we have no morbid sympathy with poisoners or genteel criminals. But WILLIAM PALMER is a British citizen, accused of murder. If convicted, he must die on the scaffold. He says that he cannot defend himself without being furnished with a copy of the medical evidence adduced against him. What is medical jealousy, or forensic etiquette, compared with Justice?

Open Council.

[IN THIS DEPARTMENT, AS ALL OPINION, 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.

(To the Editor of the Leader.)

PERMITTED TRAFFIC IN ENGLISH GIRLS.

SIR,—It is not long since England was started out of a dream of complacent imbecility by discovering the horrors and degradation which her Sons were encountering in the distant East. She has now a yet more humiliating lesson to read, in the far deeper horrors and fouler degradation which her Daughters are daily exposed to nearer home. Is it necessary that she should have to drink yet deeper of the cup of infamy before what moral life there still is in her will be roused into resolute and effective activity? Let us be well assured, that just so much infamy as is needful for such purpose will be poured out to her with stern and judicial accuracy. Or has she no such moral life still circulating in her veins? no heartfelt reverence for domestic purity? no honour worth defending but what can be noisily vaunted in the battlefield?

By the prompt energy of Sir R. W. Carden, a statement of facts has been elicited and laid before the public, by which it appears that there is now existing—not some unprecedented and solitary horror, which once done cannot be undone, but—a skilfully organised System of horrors, pursued steadily, continually, and with perfect immunity; a kind of social Institution of Infamy; a methodical and efficient confederacy of foulest villany, with its "rights of capital," its "vested interests," its precedents of trade, its official sanctions and support; and having for its avowed purpose neither more nor less than a merciless and extensive traffic in the souls and bodies of innocent English girls. The general bearings of this subject have been pretty faithfully commented on by the press of this country; and I am encouraged by the tenour of the remarks in the *Leader* of last week, to hope that a few further comments which seem to be called for may not be unacceptable.

The facts of the case which has been the occasion of calling public attention to this subject, are briefly these: A young girl, sixteen years of age, of good character, the daughter of respectable industrious parents, was on her way to Hackney to inquire after a situation to which she had been recommended. She was accompanied by a female acquaintance, who, also, was going to her regular occupation. At the corner of Finchurch-street they were met by a Belgian Jewess, who appeared to be known to her companion; and who asked them in a friendly manner to go with

her to see two or three young girls like themselves. They, thinking no harm, consented; and the girl, whose story has now been made public, was finally induced, not it seems without many misgivings, to accept a good situation which was promised her in Hamburg. She was taken, with two other girls to whom she had been introduced, on board a steamer which lay near St. Katharine's Wharf. The vessel, however, had not proceeded far before her diffident and modest demeanour, contrasting with the bold address of her companions, caught the notice of one of the engineers, who called her aside and expressed his regret to see a girl of her respectable appearance in such company. A passenger on board, and the captain of the vessel, also gave her a similar caution, and told her, plainly and earnestly, the purpose she was taken for.

They all bear witness that she was both shocked and terrified at what she had heard, and had evidently no idea of the peril to which she was exposed. The woman who had brought her out, tried hard to persuade her not to listen to, or believe them; but she refused to have any further conversation with her, and made up her mind not to stir from the ship until she returned to England.

In the meantime, however, her father had discovered where she had been taken, and immediately applied to Sir R. W. Carden to assist him in recovering her. The magistrate at once sent two officers to make such arrangements as would be necessary to meet the case, and to telegraph to Hamburg, in order that the vessel might be searched on its arrival, and the poor girl protected. Accordingly when the vessel arrived, the police, who were on the look out, immediately came on board and took all the parties concerned into their own custody. But for what purpose? To rescue the poor victim? to help the helpless? to defend the innocent girl from her foul seducers? It was for no such purpose that the Hamburg police took the affair into their own hands. The telegraphic message only served to apprise them that a fresh cargo of English female flesh and blood was arriving for their inspection; and they at once took official possession of their consignment, which they straightway conveyed to their own depot, with a shrewd eye to the profit to be realised by the transaction. Further than this, "there seemed to be no notice taken of the telegraphic despatch ordered by Sir R. W. Carden." One of the officers whom that magistrate had instructed to act in the matter, and who seems to have acted throughout with a most praiseworthy intelligence and promptitude, followed in the next vessel. When he got to Hamburg, he proceeded with all speed to the police-station. He was received there "in a very formal manner by the prefects or inspectors," who seemingly were not at all gratified at having their trade interfered with, by what they probably looked at as a London opposition concern. "They refused to hear anything but what concerned the particular parties who had just arrived." They told him that the procuress, with whom they were clearly on the most friendly and confidential terms, had "explained to their satisfaction" that the girls had engaged themselves to her expressly to follow "a course of prostitution;" and they evidently considered their only duty to be, to see that the hell-hag had her rights, and to take care that the wretched girls were prostituted accordingly. For this purpose, they were evidently ready to render every assistance. But when he assured them that the girl in question had been decoyed over by false representations and deceitful promises, and that she had had no notion of the dreadful fate that was in store for her—to all such protestations of her innocence and simplicity, they replied with an incredulous smile and a continental shrug. They even referred to their friend, the procuress, in support of a got-up charge of theft, which she had malignantly preferred against her struggling victim, in order to warrant their using force to subdue her. In every way these Hamburg police aided and abetted the infamous procuress, and used their official authority and power to accomplish the foul destruction of the innocent girl she had snared into their hands. And, of course, in every case, the more innocent the poor girl thus left helpless to them, the more is it worth their brutal while to take a little extra trouble with her. The police-surgeon himself is the accredited agent and active assistant of these brothel-keepers, who inspect their wares, and pronounces them fit or unfit for their market. "The revenue of the city is greatly assisted by prostitution." And "the criminal doctor, as well as the officers of the police, seem to be on a very good understanding with the characters who travel between Hamburg and London upon business of the kind." Owing to the resolute resistance of the poor girl in question, our officer got there, happily, in time to rescue her from their perfidious care, which he at last succeeded perfectly in doing.

But suppose these Hamburg police had thus got her in their power, and no one had appeared with authority to demand her back. Can there be any sane question, that by one foul means or another, her destruction would have been accomplished? Let it

be freely admitted that, but for her own folly and indiscretion in suffering herself to be persuaded and guided by a stranger, she would probably never have got there—and what does it prove? That she thereby forfeited all claim to the sympathy and protection of her country? Is there an Englishman so secure in his own wisdom and wariness that he could wish such measure meted to himself? Let us honestly recollect the struggles poor girls now have to get a living at all: and if we cannot, or will not, even attempt to help them by a wiser and safer guidance, let us, at least, not taunt them for following, in their helplessness and inexperience, such guidance as they can, foolish though it may sometimes be.

But now let us pass from this individual case, and consider that it forms but one instance in the working of an extensive and skilfully organised traffic. Let us call to mind the diabolical dexterity, the multifarious deceptions, the snares, and plausible inducements which are so tracherously and cunningly employed by these worse than pirates, to inveigle innocent, unhappy girls to their ruin. And it will suffice to add, that it is precisely the most innocent, the most inexperienced and guileless, which form the most coveted merchandise in their infernal and most detestable markets. No purity of heart can secure any Englishman's daughter from falling the next victim of this fearful trade. Let her only become destitute; be left without protection, and without any experience of the depth and foulness of human treachery; and the more beautiful her character in all female excellences, so much the more threatening will be her miserable destruction. Let these poor girls' infamous betrayers only succeed in decoying their victims into Hamburg; and we are, to our utter amazement, informed they can forthwith reckon on the vigilant and zealous co-operation of the Hamburg police, for the completion of their work. Well would it be for the honour of England if this were all that could be said. But it is not all: it is not even the first thing for England to consider.

The officer who was sent over, succeeded, as I said, in saving one poor girl. He then "waited upon Colonel Hodges, the British Consul," to apprise him of the facts he had discovered; evidently expecting that he would be giving Colonel Hodges startling information which he could make some official use of, but he was mistaken; "he soon learned that the Consul was perfectly aware that the atrocious traffic had been carried on for some time, and constantly lamented, &c., &c., &c. We are also told, "the Vice-Consul added his testimony to that of his inferior, and mentioned several heart-rending cases, presenting new features of the horrors of the prostitution thus apparently sanctioned." So that, taking them at their own confession, there seems to be no possibility of doubting that these two gentlemen, Government Officers, Consul; and Vice-Consul, appointed to watch over the interests of British subjects in Hamburg, were perfectly familiar with the atrocities which were daily and systematically practised upon these poor, snared, defenceless girls, and yet could stand tamely looking on, "constantly lamenting." We have of late heard much of official incapacity; but has anything yet been exposed equal to this?

Now, suppose that instead of thus trafficking in the souls and bodies of innocent English girls, execrable smugglers had been carrying on a flourishing trade in any other contraband English exports—would the English consul still have considered that the alpha and omega of his duties consisted in "constantly lamenting?" The humble officer already alluded to evidently took a different view of the case, and urged "that the authorities in London, by whom he had been sent, were anxiously expecting the interposition of the English consul" in a matter so gravely affecting the honour of England, and the well-being of English subjects in Hamburg. Whereupon the English consul blandly replied that "nothing would give him higher gratification than the power of checking so monstrous an evil, but that the immediate interference of Lord Clarendon would, in his opinion, be necessary before much good could be effected in the way of counteraction; and that it would be advisable to present a memorial to that minister for—" for what? an instant and peremptory suppression of the intolerable, unutterable iniquity? Alas, no; simply for—"an inquiry into the case!" Can anything be imagined more utterly and audaciously imbecile? How is it that the British Consul had not himself communicated with Lord Clarendon on the subject? And, if he had so communicated, how is it that we now discover, with amazement and horror, that young innocent girls are at this very time being shamefully and helplessly sold in the shambles of Hamburg; while the English Consul has no other duty than to look tamely on with official serenity, and "constantly lament their deplorable condition?" Has England any honour left worth fighting for, while such unspeakable degradation is connived at, or confessedly permitted by her own Government?

27th March, 1856.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.,

H. L.

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*.

"MOVEMENTS" begin in abstractions and end in laws. A thinker promulgates a new idea, which other thinkers combat or defend; discussion clears the subject and prepares a path for it. Declamation, often not of a wise kind, gives the idea a passionate interest and advocacy. Finally, some one of a concrete practical mind begins to realize the abstraction, and proposes a specific measure.

The Woman Question has been much discussed since MARY WOLSTONECRAFT, and every year has been a year of progress. The amount of absurdity which has clogged the wheels of progress, which has disgusted well-wishers, and given antagonists fiercer antagonism, we may notice with regret, and with the reflection that such folly was inevitable on such a question. Still the progress has been decided: slow, yet certain. The best evidence we have seen that the question is passing from the region of speculation into that of actual legislation, we find in an entry in the *Law Amendment Journal*, which we here extract.—It is entitled "On the Property of Married women:—"

On presenting a petition to the House of Lords on this subject, signed by nearly 3,000 ladies. Lord Brougham made, among others, the following observations:—"He looked upon it as a great honour to have had this petition entrusted to him; and no one could doubt the absolute necessity of applying a remedy to the gross and grievous defects, he would not dignify them by the name of anomalies, of which the petitioners complained—defects which pressed upon the most meritorious part of the female community. A woman in humble circumstances, who had devoted herself to the support of her children, and by honest industry, hard labour, and skill, had amassed a sum of money, was liable to have it swept away in an instant by what, he was sorry to say, were at present the strict legal rights of a profligate husband. It might be said that it was her own fault to continue to be bound by the marriage tie. Was it? She had no power of getting rid of it when it became an incumbrance, unless she chose to pass the line which separated duty from guilt; and even then her husband could not get rid of her unless he had the means of prosecuting a divorce, first in the Ecclesiastical Courts, and then in this House. The first names to the petition were those of the able and instructive writer, Mrs. Jameson, and of another lady who had furnished not only innocent amusement, but also solid instruction to the community, Mary Howitt. He should feel satisfied that this petition had not been presented in vain if his noble and learned friend behind him (Lord Lyndhurst) would, after Easter, redeem the half pledge he had given last session, by applying the great powers of his practised understanding to this subject."

Sir Erskine Perry presented a similar petition in the House of Commons, and accompanied its presentation with some excellent remarks on the defective state of the law of England on this matter, differing as it does from the law of all other civilised nations.

We may add, that the very numerous signatures were obtained by the exertions of a few ladies, unaided by any organised agitation. We are glad to say that our society are fully alive to the importance of the subject; and that vigorous measures will be taken to press the subject still further on the attention of Parliament and the public. A meeting of the Personal Laws Committee was held at the society's rooms yesterday afternoon, to consider the question, and adopt a plan of operations—Lord Stanley, Sir Erskine Perry, and Sir Lawrence Peel, were present; and further aid of a most influential character is likely to be forthcoming. We understand that measures are being taken in other quarters to draw public attention to this subject; and we would only now express our willingness to receive communications from all who are interested in it, so that united action may ensure that success which divided councils, even in the best cause, do not always attain.

This is but a small measure to redress one of the many unjust laws which fetter the development of women. But let none of our enthusiastic friends despise the measure because it is small, and because it does not touch the "great question." To gain any legislative reform on the subject of women is an immense step. A few specific reforms of this kind will be the most effectual way of getting the whole condition of woman modified. Attack abuses in detail, and you finish by abolishing the source of the abuses.

The difficulties of experimental inquiry, especially in the complexity which attends all biological phenomena, can only be thoroughly appreciated by those who have pursued it. In Physics we can generally eliminate all the conditions, one after the other, until we come to those which are essential; but in Physiology we are seldom sure if in eliminating one condition we are not altering the whole nature of the problem.

Spontaneous Generation is one of the vexed problems of speculative Biology. From time to time it reappears with new facts, and is silenced, only to reappear again. In the present day there are very few who believe in the possibility of any but the simplest organisms being so produced, and not many who even believe so much. The upholders of the spontaneous hypothesis were considerably shaken by an experiment instituted by SCHULTZE, and recorded in the *Edinburgh New Philosophical Journal* for 1837. He found that if the decomposing substances, which always generate infusoria and fungi when the atmospheric air is freely admitted to them, be shut up in vessels to which the air is admitted only after passing through a red-hot tube, or through strong sulphuric acid, no animalcules or fungi appear. The experiment seemed conclusive. The germs of the fungi and animalcules were said to be 'floating in the air, and only developing themselves on meeting with a proper nidus.' By destroying these germs—which the sulphuric acid did without altering the air—all development was prevented.

We have already in these columns expressed our doubts of the conclusiveness of this experiment, although we are not prepared to affirm the truth of

Spontaneous Generation. It was enough for us that the passage of the air through sulphuric acid might very probably produce such a change in the conditions as to interfere with the development of life. What that change might be was indeed hypothetical; but not more hypothetical than the existence of the germs said to be destroyed. Our suspicions have been confirmed. In a letter addressed to the Academy of Sciences, and printed in the *Annales des Sciences* (vol. ii. p. 339, *Quatrième Série*), Mr. MORREN, whose experiments had quite another object, and who never mentions Spontaneous Generation, assures us that infusoria already formed *cease to live in air which has passed through sulphuric acid*; but that if before life is quite extinct, they are furnished with air which has not passed through sulphuric acid, they at once revive; and the green colour which had disappeared once more shows itself. This is final as regards the nullity of SCHULTZE's experiments. Sulphuric acid is proved to have such an action on air that the air will no longer support life. Instead, therefore, of saying sulphuric acid destroyed the germs which were floating in the air, awaiting a proper nidus, we must say it destroyed the conditions favourable to life. We must say so, because in MORREN's experiments the germs had *already* developed themselves before the altered air was admitted to them.

We are not aware that any one has made this application of MORREN's facts; but our readers will see that the vexed question of Spontaneous Generation is once more an open question. Some new experiment must be devised, one which will be an *experimentum crucis*. The man who devises it will have his name handed down to posterity in company with the TREMBLEYS, SPALLANZANIS, BELLS, and BERNARDS.

ANIMAL LIFE IN THE ALPS.

Sketches of Nature in the Alps. Translated from the German of F. Von Tschudi. Traveller's Library. 2 Parts. Longman and Co.

We have not often to say of a work, especially of a German work, that it might be longer with increase of interest; but, in the case of the abridgment of Von Tschudi's *Thierleben der Alpenwelt*, which has recently appeared in the *Traveller's Library*, we regret the omissions of valuable matter relating to the most interesting topics—and could willingly have exchanged some of the geography for a little more zoology. Nevertheless, the selection is full of interest, and we cordially recommend it to the notice of our readers. Von Tschudi is well known as a naturalist, and his book has had great success in Germany. It tells, indeed, of a region only superficially known; and of phenomena perennial in interest.

Von Tschudi divides the whole Alpine region into three circles, describes their several peculiarities, their vegetation, and their zoology; and this, not with the dull inaccuracy of a statistical compiler, but with the fervid glow of an out-of-door naturalist, who loves the scenes he has lived in. Hear him describing the terrible wind called Fön:—

No wind is better known throughout almost the whole mountain district of Switzerland than the Fön. It is not local, but general, and may be called a European, or, more strictly speaking, an African wind. For, as the polar circle would seem to be the fountain-head of the frigid north wind, and the Atlantic ocean of the humid west; so the arid sandy deserts of Africa gave birth to the hot south wind. Instead of sheltering us against this gale, as might naturally be supposed, the Alpine chain gives it additional force when it reaches the mountains; the hot current of air, instead of rising altogether above them, becomes chilled by the snow in its lower strata, which, thus condensed, rush impetuously into the valleys. Its visits are most frequent in the winter and early spring, when the air from the glaciers is keenest, and the valleys have not imbibed much of the sun's heat, so as to equalise the temperature more gradually. For the same reason it blows more violently by night than by day. The atmospheric phenomena which accompany it are very beautiful. On the southern horizon a light variegated veil of clouds is seen resting on the top of the mountains. The sun sets pale and lustreless behind the dark red sky, while the clouds continue to glow with bright purple tints. The night is sultry and dewless, with here and there a gust of cold wind. A reddish halo surrounds the moon. The transparency of the atmosphere causes the hills to appear much nearer than they are; the background assumes a violet tint. Far off is heard the rustling of the high woods and the roar of the swollen mountain torrents; a spirit of restlessness seems to be astir in the distance, and gradually it approaches the valley. The advent of the Fön is heralded by a few violent gusts, at first cold and raw. A sudden stillness succeeds; and then in bursts an impetuous, hot wind, rising sometimes to a hurricane. It prevails with varying force for two or three days, setting all nature in an uproar, hurling trees down the abyss, tearing rocks asunder, causing the streams to overflow their banks, unroofing houses and cattle-sheds. In short, it is the terror of the country.

Animals suffer under the influence of this wind, the dry heat of which at first stimulates, but afterwards relaxes the sinews. The chamois drags itself uneasily up the north side of the mountain, or gets into the deep clefts of the rocks. Cows, horses, and goats, wander about seeking in vain for fresher air; whilst the Fön dries up their throats and lungs. No bird is to be seen in wood or fell. The universal discomfort is shared by man, who feels a lassitude in his nerves and sinews, and an indescribable oppression on his spirits. Fires are immediately extinguished on every hearth and in every oven; and in many valleys watchmen go about to make sure that this precaution is observed, as a single careless spark might cause a disastrous conflagration in the dried up state of the atmosphere.

Yet although the Fön brings more danger in its train than any other wind, it is hailed with joy in the spring time; for it causes a rapid melting of snow and ice, and changes in a moment the aspect of the country. In the Grindelwald valley, snow two feet and a-half deep has often been melted by the Fön in twelve hours. It will effect in one day and night more than the sun can in a fortnight; and many a valley where the sun's rays do not penetrate, would lie in eternal winter but for the revivifying gale which disperses the recent snows and awakens vegetation. In some places the Fön is, in fact the one constituent of spring; and thus also the ripening of grapes in autumn, in some situations, entirely depend upon its action. In Uri, where it blows with considerable pertinacity, the inhabitants are indebted to it for the limited depth of the glaciers in their valleys and for the accessibility of their mountains at a much earlier season than in most districts of a like elevation. Happily, too, for mankind, the Fön is a very judicious melter of snow; and the enormous evaporation occasioned by its heat save

the low countries from dangerous inundations. On the other hand, it withers the apple blossom, and destroys the promise of fruit. If the north or west wind follow quickly upon the Fön, they precipitate the evaporation in violent showers of rain. But sometimes in the Higher Alps, more particularly during the autumn and early spring, this wind will blow gently for weeks together, accompanied by the most beautiful weather, whilst in the valley there is either no prevailing wind, or a slight breeze from the north. Hence the curious fact, that sometimes in December or January some spot lying high in the mountain will be found green and fertile, blossoming with spring gentians and inhabited by gnats and lizards; while down in the valley the pine branches groan under the weight of snow, and the stream is encrusted with ice.

He is great on the glaciers, the streams and avalanches, and tells us the novel and inexplicable fact, that men buried in the avalanche snow hear distinctly every word uttered by those who are seeking for them, while their own most strenuous shouts fail to penetrate even a few feet of the snow!

The chapter on the *Lammergeier*, or Alpine Vulture, is very striking; and in it the naturalists who love to expatiate on the "evidences of design," will learn with some disgust that, although the beak is so admirably "contrived" for tearing flesh, it grows so long in old age as "to hinder the animal from eating;" thus, if a hunter's bullet fails to terminate the robber's existence, Nature kindly undertakes the office by gradual starvation: for, the vulture is not a bird to live on air; he requires substantial food:—

The contents of the stomachs of lammergeiers which have been opened after death have created no little astonishment, and surpass all that has ever been related of the voracity and digestive powers of similar European birds of prey. One contained five bullocks' ribs, two inches thick and from six to nine long, a lump of hair, and the leg of a young goat from the knee to the foot. The bones were perforated by the gastric juice, and partly reduced to powder. But the most abundant feast was found in the stomach of a lammergeier killed by Dr. Schinz, which contained the large hip-bone of a cow, the skin and fore-quarters of a chamois, many smaller bones, some hair, and a heathcock's claws. It was evident that the bird had pursued and devoured these animals one after the other.

A bird with such an appetite had need have some power of purveying for it. When the prey is too large to be swooped upon and carried off, this is how it manages:—

If it sees an old chamois or a sheep or goat grazing near a precipice, it will whirl round and round, trying to torment and frighten the creature till it flies to the edge of the cliff; and then falling straight down upon it, not unfrequently succeeds in pushing it into the abyss below with one stroke of its wings. Diving down after its mangled victim, it will begin by picking out its eyes, and then proceed to tear open and devour the body. A lammergeier once endeavoured in this manner to scare an ox, standing on the edge of a steep cleft, over the precipice. He persisted obstinately in his efforts, but the quadruped was not to be terrified or roused from its native stupidity; and planting itself firmly on its legs, and lowering its head, it quietly waited till the assailant perceived the uselessness of his attempt. The bird has not unfrequently practised his precipitating manoeuvre upon huntsman whom it has discovered standing in hazardous positions on jutting points or ledges of rocks. Those who have been thus surprised have declared that the noise, together with the strength and rapid motion of the enormous wings have exerted a certain magical and almost irresistible influence over them.

Lovers of thrilling stories will thank us for quoting this:—

Equally frightful was the situation of a Sardinian who attempted to rifle a lammergeier's nest in the mountains of Eglesias. He was accompanied by his two brothers, who let him down by a rope; a common practice in places where the perpendicular nature of the rock does not allow of clambering down its face. Suspended over the tremendous abyss, he had taken four young vultures out of the nest, when the parents fell upon him simultaneously, like furies. He kept them off by his sabre, which he swung incessantly over his head, when suddenly the rope began to shake violently; he looked up, and to his horror discovered that in the heat of defending himself he had cut through three-fourths of its thickness. The remaining threads might snap at any moment, and the slightest movement on his part might precipitate him into the depths below. Slowly and carefully his companions drew him up, and he was safe. His hair, which was raven black (his age was about twenty-two), had turned white, it was said, in that half-hour.

The chapter on Chamois and Chamois-hunting, though interesting, is less novel; we pass on, therefore, to the Lynx, of whom it is said:—

Having sprung upon a beast it endeavours to tear it down; but, if unsuccessful, allows it to escape with perfect indifference, and returns to its branch without betraying a sign of vexation. It is not voracious; but it is sometimes rendered incautious by its love of fresh blood. If it has secured no prey during the day, it will wander at night to an immense distance, perhaps over three or four mountains; hunger giving it courage and sharpening its senses. On meeting with a flock of sheep or goats grazing, it immediately glides like a snake on its belly, seizes a favourable opportunity to spring upon the back of a victim, and kills it instantaneously by biting an artery in the neck. It is satisfied with devouring the intestines and part of the head, neck, and shoulders; and its peculiar method of destroying its prey enables the shepherd at once to identify the delinquent by whom his flock has been visited. * * * * When a trace of some sanguinary deed is discovered, the criminal is generally far away from the spot where it was perpetrated, and if pursued it escapes into distant regions. If, however, the sportsman succeeds in surprising it on the spot, it makes no effort to escape, and is easily shot. Like the wild cat, it remains lying quietly on its tree, and staring at its antagonist. An unarmed huntsman can deceive it by sticking up a few articles of clothing before it while he returns to fetch his gun. The lynx continues gazing fixedly at the clothes till the weapon is ready and the shot fired.

Von Tschudi indulges too much in the hypothetical so familiar to naturalists when he says that the Lynx is restrained from attacking domestic animals from "fear of discovery." The intelligence of beasts we willingly admit; but such forethought and knowledge as is implied to an animal abstaining from a certain prey from fear of discovery we must not be asked to believe.

Our familiar friend the Fox has a very good biography in these pages. His moral character indeed has never stood very high; but Reinecke is one of the agreeable scoundrels. He dislikes forming a retreat for himself, for he dislikes manual labour, and he generally contrives to dispossess the industrious but hypochondriacal badger of his quarters. See him at home:—

We do not often find the dwellings of our mountain foxes very artistically formed. They generally consist of one deep cavity, with two or three entrances connected with each other. The animals usually inhabit these quarters through-

out the year. Here, at the beginning of May, the female gives birth to from five to nine blind cubs, which she nurses and tends carefully. After the lapse of some weeks she leads out the pretty little yellow creatures, sports with them, brings them birds, lizards, and other small prey, and instructs them in the art of catching, tormenting, and devouring other animals. When they have reached the size of a half-grown cat, they lie in fine weather before the entrance of their home, morning and evening, waiting the return of their parents. An observer seldom succeeds in discovering the young family, as the mother is extremely watchful, and on hearing the slightest rustle will retreat, her cubs in her mouth, to the hole. In July the young foxes, full of hope, venture alone upon the chase, and at break of day try to surprise a hare or squirrel, or to allure a young heathcock, or, if they can find nothing better, a quail or golden-crested wren, or even a mouse into their hole, while the smallest among them will content itself with a worm or a cricket. They already imitate their parents, busily scenting with their long-pointed snouts the tracks on the ground, their delicate ears erect, their small, green, squinting eyes eagerly examining the landscape, and their soft woolly brush lightly moving as they step softly along. The young ones leave the parental home for good in the autumn, and live alone in their respective holes, till in the spring they look out for a companion for life.

Reinecke has a liberal appetite; no animal, dead or living, comes amiss. The prickly coat of the hedgehog is safe against his teeth, but not against his cunning; he torments and pulls the poor creature about so long that at last it unrolls itself and surrenders. If Reinecke has his leg caught in a trap, he bites it off, and runs away quite unconcerned; and after very severe wounds he recovers; indeed a single shot seldom kills him. Yet in spite of this tenacity of life, a smart blow on the nose kills him at once. Is not this singular? Indeed the variety in tenacity of life among animals is quite surprising: a slight wound kills a hare, an ibex, or a deer, but chamois, foxes, wolves, cats, and squirrels will bear very severe wounds.

We close our notice of this delightful book by an amusing anecdote of the Fox's cunning:—

A physician had a fox which he allowed to run about at liberty all day, and which never hurt a creature. It would run out into the woods and come back voluntarily, to be chained up at night. Remarking once that its collar was too wide, it slipped its neck out of it, patrolled about the neighbouring yards by night, and stole the poultry, returning always before daylight, and creeping back into its collar. It pursued this course with impunity for a long time, and, as it was always found in the morning chained up and harmless, no one suspected it, till at last somebody watched it, and discovered its tricks.

MRS. FITZHERBERT.

Memoirs of Mrs. Fitzherbert, with an Account of her Marriage with the Prince of Wales, afterwards King George the Fourth. By the Hon. Charles Langdale. Bentley.

THE Hon. Charles Langdale ought to be satisfied. Without obtaining from the strong room of Messrs. Coutts's Bank the documents there preserved; he has nearly completed the story of Mrs. Fitzherbert. His memoirs, therefore, must be consulted by all future biographers of George the Fourth. But the character of the lady is left exactly as it was; and if a touch is added to that of the King, it is a touch of the branding-iron. Mrs. Fitzherbert never was compared to Emma Hamilton, and never will be compared to Rachel Russell. She was a cunning, clever woman, with much ambition, and without much sensibility, who, surrounded by wary counsellors, acted upon calculation, and, on her way to fame and power, trod underfoot some things that women are supposed to prize. She had no heart, but adored respectability, and would not stand, even towards the heir of the throne, in an unrecognisable relation. If all this had not been long notorious, the Hon. Charles Langdale supplies a supplement of very convincing testimony. As we have said, it alters nothing; it only strengthens the view already accepted by history. What is here disclosed of the King exhibits him as a vulgar, weak-witted egotist, destitute of scruples, manners, and virtues, a prevaricator, a bigamist, and a hypocrite, to his own family at once a tyrant and a coward, and to the world at once insolent and deceitful. This was the man whom Mrs. Fitzherbert loved, and whom she wooed with adroit, retiring arts, always flying from his pursuit, yet never concealing herself in inaccessible obscurity. No, Mary Anne Smythe, who had been twice married when she became the "sweet lass of Richmond Hill," had learned much from her double widowhood. Too wise, perhaps too scrupulous, to become the mistress of the Prince of Wales, she was too ambitious to shrink from an equivocal connection, continued long after, in the face of the public, he had been married to Caroline and Caroline's successor.

The editor of this memoir has undertaken, not very judiciously, to vindicate the lady's fame. In as far as he is successful, his task was unnecessary; in as far as her reputation was ambiguous, his plea has been unsuccessful. It had not been left for him to prove that Mrs. Fitzherbert declined to live with the Prince of Wales unless as his wife; but it was not in his power to prove more. To assert a Roman purity for the lady who reconciled herself to the conditions of King George's polygamy, may be very amiable on the part of a kinsman, but is not very judicious on the part of an advocate. Mrs. Fitzherbert is acquitted. That must suffice. She does not leave the Court without a stain on her womanly character. Mr. Langdale, however, was tempted to put in his affidavit by a loose statement in Lord Holland's memoirs, by a misunderstood paragraph in Dr. Doran's lives of the Hanover queens, and by certain Quarterly criticisms. He indulges in some satirical insinuations against the courtly injustice of suppressing evidence that would compromise the name of George the Fourth, though it is necessary to establish the character of George the Fourth's first wife. But Mr. Langdale himself strikes obliquely and maliciously at higher names—at the name of Charles James Fox, for example, to whom he imputes, without reserve, the habit of public profligacy, and, by implications, the statement of a falsehood to the House of Commons. Surely the ambiguous allusion was unnecessary. If the Prince of Wales behaved to Mrs. Fitzherbert as a hypocrite and a poltroon, it was not the first or the last time that he exposed his total want of manly qualities. There is no doubt that he commissioned Fox to deny his marriage to the House of Commons; that he denied it himself, and afterwards "owned" it in a fit of cowardly dejection. The plain story is this: Mary Anne Smythe, born exactly a hundred years ago, was beautiful and fascinating, and married, first Edward Weld, of Lulworth Castle; second, Thomas Fitzherbert, of Surimerton. After these marriages she was left

before the age of twenty-five, a widow, with a good fortune, and a house on Richmond-hill. About four years afterwards, in the ripeness of womanhood, she became acquainted with the Prince of Wales, then a boy—a very foolish and petulant boy—of twenty-three. Her soft and white skin, her large clear eyes, her rich and abounding curls, her lovely figure, her winning and graceful ways, subdued the imagination of the booby Prince, who came repeatedly to Richmond, admiring and soliciting. Had she been a girl, the result might have been what the result usually is when royalty asks and commonalty is bashful. But Mrs. Fitzherbert was twenty-nine, with a battalion of Jesuits in her rear, and she "fought off" the fat Hanoverian. He, too, had his body guard, Kent, Onslow, Southampton, and Bouverie, who bled him to produce a romantic pallour, and probably gave him that safe stab which reconciled the "lass of Richmond Hill" to visit an unmarried gentleman at his own house. The Duchess of Devonshire played propriety, and the first mockery of marriage was performed between the fainting Prince of Wales and Mary Anne Fitzherbert. This, however, secured her no "position," she believed that George had actually attempted to immolate himself, though her friends suspected he had taken a lesson from the shepherd of Cervantes, who placed a wine skin full of bull's blood under his arm and stabbed it in presence of his faithless bride. However, that was not her object. She fled to Aix-la-Chapelle, to Holland, though never beyond reach of her royal Satyr, who followed her thick and fast with protests and passionate letters—one of which was seven and thirty pages long—full of mendacity and extravagance.

Lord Holland says, that "Mrs. Fox, then Mrs. Armistead, had repeatedly assured him, that the Prince came down more than once to converse with her and Mr. Fox on the subject; that he cried by the hour; that he testified the sincerity and violence of his passion and despair by extravagant expressions and actions—rolling on the floor, striking his forehead, tearing his hair, falling into hysterics, and swearing that he would abandon the country, forego the Crown, &c."

At last came the offer of marriage. The Catholic lady returned from the Continent, and, in her own drawing-room, in the presence of witnesses, was married by a Protestant clergyman to the Protestant Prince. The documentary evidence of this transaction remains at Coutts's Bank.

Lord Stourton says:—

The first signal interruption to this ill-fated engagement arose from the pecuniary difficulties of his Royal Highness, when, on the question of the payment of his debts, Mr. Fox thought himself justified by some verbal or written permission of the Prince, to declare to the House of Commons that no religious ceremony had united the parties. This public degradation of Mrs. Fitzherbert so compromised her character and her religion, and irritated her feelings, that she determined to break off all connexion with the Prince, and she was only induced to receive him again unto her confidence, by repeated assurances that Mr. Fox had never been authorised to make the declaration; and the friends of Mrs. Fitzherbert assured her, that, in this discrepancy as to the assertion of Mr. Fox and the Prince, she was bound to accept the word of her husband. She informed me, that the public supported her by their conduct on this occasion; for, at no period of her life were their visits so numerous at her house as on the day which followed Mr. Fox's memorable speech; and, to use her own expression, the knocker of her door was never still during the whole day.

George desired to be reconciled with Fox, whom he had duped, though, with characteristic turpitude, he afterwards denied the part he had taken. When he married Caroline he pursued his Mary Ann as he had done when she was Queen of Richmond Hill; and she resented his legal marriage, as she was wont to resent the shameless excesses of his youth;—ran away, stood afar off, coyly corresponded with her Jesuit friends, and with much compunction "and swearing she would ne'er consent—consented"—to live with a notorious profligate who recognised Caroline of Brunswick only as his official wife:

The next eight years were, she said, the happiest of her connexion with the Prince. She used to say that they were extremely poor, but as merry as crickets; and as a proof of their poverty, she told me that once, on their returning to Brighton from London, they mustered their common means, and could not raise £5 between them. Upon this, or some such occasion, she related to me, that an old and faithful servant endeavoured to force them to accept £60, which he said he had accumulated in the service of the best of masters and mistresses. She added, however, that even this period, the happiest of their lives, was much embittered by the numerous political difficulties which frequently surrounded the Prince, and she particularly alluded to what has been termed "the delicate investigation," in which Queen Caroline and his Royal Highness had been concerned.

At last he cast her off for Lady Hertford; at the death of Caroline he married once more, and Mrs. Fitzherbert, finding herself eclipsed at Court, accepted the conditions of her ill-chosen life, and, though ever hovering about the palace, especially after the accession of William the Fourth, never met "George P." again. Her last degradation was on the occasion of a royal dinner, when she was told by her "husband," "You know, madam, you have no place."

Having come to this resolution, she was obliged, on the very evening, or on that which followed the royal dinner, to attend an assembly at Devonshire House, which was the last evening she saw the Prince previously to their final separation. The Duchess of Devonshire, taking her by the arm, said to her, "You must come and see the Duke in his own room, as he is suffering from a fit of the gout, but he will be glad to see an old friend." In passing through the rooms, she saw the Prince and Lady Hertford in a tête-à-tête conversation, and nearly fainted under all the impressions which then rushed upon her mind, but, taking a glass of water, she recovered and passed on.

Whatever Mrs. Fitzherbert was, she was not the legal wife of the Prince of Wales. It is idle to say that, under the penal laws against Catholics, all unions contracted by them were disavowed by the law, unless a Protestant clergyman officiated to insult their faith. It was not in this sense that the alliance was null and void, because a Protestant clergyman was present; the Royal Marriage Act, which was known to Mrs. Fitzherbert as well as to the Prince, rendered it a seduction on his part, and a fatal mistake on hers. If her position satisfied her, it matters little whether the Papal Church approved the means by which she attained it. We are, of course, bound to believe that the document which came from Rome, did contain the Pope's assent; but why did she, "in a momentary panic," destroy this holy testimonial, so important to her character and of her co-religionists? The Hon. Mr. Langdale, however, shows, clearly enough, that his Church would not have annulled

the convenient marriage. But, to argue that the act was justifiable because the Church sanctioned it, it is to ignore the thousand scandals legitimised at Rome—Court divorces, tortures, assassinations, adulteries, and other violations of human and national law.

LIFE AND POLITICS IN SYRIA.

Syria and the Syrians; or, Turkey in the Dependencies. By Gregory M. Wortabet. 2 vols. Madden.

WHEN the Turks were powerful, they were universally hated; now that they are feeble, they are universally despised. Wherever the relics of their authority remain, scorn and detestation invariably exist together in the mind of the subject race. The evidence against them is not reducible to Greek conceit or Armenian jealousy; to Syrian prejudice or Maronite bigotry. Whether by the Mahomedan sectaries, or by the Christians of the East, their rule is equally identified with rapacity, tyranny, and all the evils resulting from a feeble and insolent despotism. Their co-religionists in Egypt dislike them; they are distrusted by the Circassians; by the Maronites and Druses they are abhorred; the Greeks regard them with a scarcely human rancour. Any peddling smoker of cigarettes, surnamed Leonidas or Pericles, will tell you glowingly, how, during the war of independence, the Greeks took a ship crowded with Turks, and dragged every man on board to the bulwarks, where they cut his throat, and flung him into the sea. Such is the spirit of the people, though they might not all approve the ruthless illustration. But it tells irresistibly against the Ottoman system, that from one limit to another of their enormous empire, they have never, during the four hundred years of their dominion, conciliated one population submitted to their sway. A large proportion of the charges preferred against them by the Greeks are affirmed by sentimentalists in England to be libellous; but, if so, what? The Epanocastron of Smyrna has witnessed some scenes that might embitter the blood of a less vindictive race; and what can that government be, which all classes of its subjects, composed of distinct and jealous nationalities, conspire to libel? Moreover, since the outbreak of the war, when exact descriptions of Turkish morals, politics, and manners passed for calumnies, what Englishman has visited the East and not returned disgusted? The correspondents of the press, of all shades of opinion and feeling, have concurrently declared the governing class of Turkey to be corrupt, ignorant, helpless, destitute of public spirit, as well as of the administrative faculty, and in trade, industry, and general intelligence, utterly eclipsed by the Christian nationalities. The author of *The Thistle and the Cedar of the Lebanon*, who may be suspected, however, of carrying the dark lantern of Russia, presented in his picturesque and original volume a strong plea against the Government of the Porte. Mr. Gregory Wortabet, who, though arrogant and superficial, appears to possess national sympathies, confirms this view, and testifies to the malignant reputation of the Turks, among Maronites, Druses, and Christians. He is a native of Beyrout, and in that city his affections centre. There, he says, the commercial spirit of Phœnicia survives; all that is trusted to private enterprise prospers; but there is no lighthouse, no harbour, a tottering quay. Here, it might be supposed, the Syrian writes, in the bitterness of his heart, against the Turks, his conqueror, master, oppressor. But no. Though a Beyroutian, who talks exultingly of "the Syrian mind," the Syrian girls of more than Georgian beauty, the flowery lustre of the suburbs, and all the thousand and one enchantments that belong to the place and people, he has one serious admission to make:—

The people, generally speaking, are honest, and will pay if time is given them. It is said that the Mahomedan is more trustworthy than the Christian; *this fact is true*; and is thus accounted for on the same principle as the Christian of the interior is more honest than he of Beyrout, so is the Mahomedan of Beyrout honestest than his Christian neighbour. The spirit of duplicity which characterises the Christians of Beyrout, they have learnt from their intercourse with foreigners. Not so the Mahomedan; he is reserved, and has no interchange of habits and customs with the European population of the place, hence his *honest* predilections remain intact, and consequently are noticed to the disadvantage of the Christian. Take the Christian before Europeanism visited Beyrout, and he was as scrupulous and as honest as the Mahomedan. So is the Christian of the interior now. This is one of the evils which foreign influence has wrought upon the land.

Probably the tricks and evasions of trade are indigenous in Syria as elsewhere; but Mr. Wortabet's patriotism travels in search of an apology, and finds it in the West, whence the Javans say they derived their profligacy, the Negroes their drunkenness, the Red Indians their small-pox, the South Sea Islanders their hypocrisy. The West may take the imputation, and pass it on, for in Western sea-ports, knavery and vice accumulate more profusely than in "the interior," and they "who come down in ships" bring moral contagions. The reason is as palpable as the reason why cathedrals are generally surrounded by a vicious neighbourhood, a monument of the sanctuary laws.

Syria is divided into five pachaliks, or governments, of which Beyrout is one, the other four being Aleppo, Damascus, Acre, and Jerusalem. Each pachalik, as the name implies, is ruled by a Pacha, whose authority is almost as absolute as that of the Sultan, and more effective. He governs with the assistance of two divans, or Courts, besides the local tribunals; his revenue consists of the land rent farmed by the collectors, and of the poll-tax levied on all the population, and, until lately, with extra severity upon Christians. Events will show whether the abolition of this odious tribute is to be a reality, or an official deception. Mr. Wortabet remarks:—

I should like to wait and see the new laws pass into effect—the Christian, a soldier and an officer in the Turkish army, holding civil rank, his words respected all over the Turkish empire, his testimony in the interior as good as the Mahomedan's—ere I give them to the world as bona fide facts. Laws can be easily framed; but it is not such an easy thing with Turkey to carry them out; she has a fierce Islamism to contend with. And here I will say, that Turkey and Mahomedanism are daily becoming two distinct things. I doubt not that Sultan Abd-ul-Mejid and the better part of his cabinet mean well to their subjects; but what between the meanness of pachas who are easily bribed—a corrupt court which will not redress the wrong—a weak government which cannot promise the traveller safety in its dominions, and Mahomedan fanaticism—the most difficult

to deal with—the benevolent intentions of the government, if she has any, are frustrated.

The Druses and Metwalies, who, though sectaries, are not “unbelievers,” have always been eligible for military employment, a privilege which they seek, even at the cost of self-mutilation, to leave to the pure Mahomedans.

So far as to the politics of Syria, in which the new “reforms” are expected to operate with an influence equal to that of the soft climate, the convenient sea, the exuberant soil. Mr. Wortabet's report on Syrian manners is, as might be anticipated, in a different vein. He loves his nation, respects the men, adores the women, revels in sumptuous recollections. How beautiful to him is the Syrian landscape, the valley full of golden corn, the hill enriched by masses of flowers, and the fruitage of Eastern trees, the waters penetrated with light, the city with its gardens and terraces touched by the sun. How pleasant to him is the sight of a Syrian gentleman, clad with Eastern grace and Western polish. How “intensely thrilling,” more than pleasant, more than beautiful, is the lady of Damascus, with lustrous eyes, and black hair, and round white arms, who lounges amid Cashmere shawls and silken cushions, a vision of loveliness and jewellery. All these and many other graphic varieties are contained in Mr. Wortabet's narrative, which has, besides, some dead ballast of scriptural speculation, pert and shallow, and to be religiously skipped by the judicious reader. But we have, certainly, in this book, an original picture of Syria—a picture from which we may discern the actual state of its political and social progress.

THE ANTIGONE AND ITS MORAL.

The Antigone of Sophocles. Text, with short English Notes for the use of Schools. (Oxford Pocket Classics.) J. H. Parker.

“Lo! here a little volume but great Book”—a volume small enough to slip into your breast pocket, but containing in fine print one of the finest tragedies of the single dramatic poet who can be said to stand on a level with Shakespeare. Sophocles is the crown and flower of the classic tragedy as Shakespeare is of the romantic: to borrow Schlegel's comparison, which cannot be improved upon, they are related to each other as the Parthenon to Strasbourg Cathedral.

The opinion which decries all enthusiasm for Greek literature as “humbug,” was put to an excellent test some years ago by the production of the *Antigone* at Drury Lane. The translation then adopted was among the feeblest by which a great poet has ever been misrepresented; yet so completely did the poet triumph over the disadvantages of his medium and of a dramatic motive foreign to modern sympathies, that the Pit was electrified, and Sophocles, over a chasm of two thousand years, once more swayed the emotions of a popular audience. And no wonder. The *Antigone* has every quality of a fine tragedy, and fine tragedies can never become mere mummies for Hermanns and Böckhs to dispute about: they must appeal to perennial human nature, and even the ingenious dulness of translators cannot exhaust them of their passion and their poetry.

“E'en in their ashes live their wonted fires.”

We said that the dramatic motive of the *Antigone* was foreign to modern sympathies, but it is only superficially so. It is true we no longer believe that a brother, if left unburied, is condemned to wander a hundred years without repose on the banks of the Styx; we no longer believe that to neglect funeral rites is to violate the claims of the infernal deities. But these beliefs are the accidents and not the substance of the poet's conception. The turning point of the tragedy is not, as it is stated to be in the argument prefixed to this edition, “reverence for the dead and the importance of the sacred rites of burial,” but the conflict between these and obedience to the State. Here lies the dramatic collision: the impulse of sisterly piety which allies itself with reverence for the Gods, clashes with the duties of citizenship; two principles, both having their validity, are at war with each. Let us glance for a moment at the plot.

Eteocles and Polynices, the brothers of Antigone, have slain each other in battle before the gates of Thebes, the one defending his country, the other invading it in conjunction with foreign allies. Hence Creon becomes, by the death of these two sons of Oedipus, the legitimate ruler of Thebes, grants funeral honours to Eteocles, but denies them to Polynices, whose body is cast out to be the prey of beasts and birds, a decree being issued that death will be the penalty of an attempt to bury him. In the second scene of the play Creon expounds the motive of his decree to the Theban elders, insisting in weighty words on the duty of making all personal affection subordinate to the well-being of the State. The impulses of affection and religion which urge Antigone to disobey this proclamation are strengthened by the fact that in her last interview with her brother he had besought her not to leave his corpse unburied. She determines to brave the penalty, buries Polynices, is taken in the act and brought before Creon, to whom she does not attempt to deny that she knew of the proclamation, but declares that she deliberately disobeyed it, and is ready to accept death as its consequence. It was not Zeus, she tells him—it was not eternal Justice that issued that decree. The proclamation of Creon is not so authoritative as the unwritten law of the Gods, which is neither of to-day nor of yesterday, but lives eternally, and none knows its beginning.

Οὐ γὰρ τι νῦν γε κἀχθές, ἀλλ' αἰ ποτὲ
Ζῆ ταῦτα, κοῦδ' εἰς οἶδεν ἐξοτον φάνη.

Creon, on his side, insists on the necessity to the welfare of the State that he should be obeyed as legitimate ruler, and becomes exasperated by the calm defiance of Antigone. She is condemned to death. Hæmon, the son of Creon, to whom Antigone is betrothed, remonstrates against this judgment in vain. Teiresias also, the blind old soothsayer, alarmed by unfavourable omens, comes to warn Creon against persistence in a course displeasing to the Gods. It is not until he has departed, leaving behind him the denunciation of coming woes, that Creon's confidence begins to falter, and at length, persuaded by the Theban elders, he reverses his decree, and proceeds with his followers to the rocky tomb in which Antigone has been buried alive, that he may deliver her. It is too late. Antigone is already dead; Hæmon commits suicide in the madness of despair, and the death of his mother Eurydice on hearing the fatal tidings, completes the ruin of Creon's house.

It is a very superficial criticism which interprets the character of Creon as that of a hypocritical tyrant, and regards Antigone as a blameless victim. Coarse contrasts like this are not the materials handled by great dramatists. The exquisite art of Sophocles is shown in the touches by which he makes us feel that Creon, as well as Antigone, is contending for what he believes to be the right, while both are also conscious that, in following out one principle, they are laying themselves open to just blame for transgressing another; and it is this consciousness which secretly heightens the exasperation of Creon and the defiant hardness of Antigone. The best critics have agreed with Böckh in recognising this balance of principles, this antagonism between valid claims; they generally regard it, however, as dependent entirely on the Greek point of view, as springing simply from the polytheistic conception, according to which the requirements of the Gods often clashed with the duties of man to man.

But, is it the fact that this antagonism of valid principles is peculiar to polytheism? Is it not rather that the struggle between Antigone and Creon represents that struggle between elemental tendencies and established laws by which the outer life of man is gradually and painfully being brought into harmony with his inward needs. Until this harmony is perfected, we shall never be able to attain a great right without also doing a wrong. Reformers, martyrs, revolutionists, are never fighting against evil only; they are also placing themselves in opposition to a good—to a valid principle which cannot be infringed without harm. Resist the payment of ship-money, you bring on civil war; preach against false doctrines, you disturb feeble minds and send them adrift on a sea of doubt; make a new road, and you annihilate vested interests; cultivate a new region of the earth, and you exterminate a race of men. Wherever the strength of a man's intellect, or moral sense, or affection brings him into opposition with the rules which society has sanctioned, there is renewed the conflict between Antigone and Creon; such a man must not only dare to be right, he must also dare to be wrong—to shake faith, to wound friendship, perhaps, to hem in his own powers. Like Antigone, he may fall a victim to the struggle, and yet he can never earn the name of a blameless martyr any more than the society—the Creon he has defied, can be branded as a hypocritical tyrant.

Perhaps the best moral we can draw is that to which the Chorus points—that our protest for the right should be seasoned with moderation and reverence, and that lofty words—μεγάλοι λόγοι—are not becoming to mortals.

THREE NOVELS.

Maurice Elvington; or, One out of Suits with Fortune. An Autobiography. Edited by Wilfred East. Three vols. Smith and Elder.

In *Maurice Elvington* we have a careful study of modern life and manners, written in a pointed, scholarly style, but wanting in interest. The action is slow, and there are scarcely any events. Half of the first volume is occupied by the narrative of one incident, without dramatic variation: that of Mr. Maurice Elvington fancying himself a man of property, and being undeceived. In this slow, unprogressive way the story is told, until its quiet interludes, not graced by philosophical reflection, or seasoned with satire, reach a climax of monotony. Passing out of this phase of still life, *Maurice Elvington* degenerates in the third volume into a melodrama. The hero being married, and, after marriage becoming attached to his wife, resolves upon a voyage to foreign parts, and a slight engagement takes place between him and a negro, who is suppressed, however, by a blow from a broken spar. Then he sails into the purple tropics, under the Southern Cross with an Ayah on board, who has a rich sultry skin, and who listens to Mr. Maurice Elvington as he discourses sweet pedantry on India, Hemacuta and Meru, on the yellow rills, and golden lotus leaves of Sacontalas' paradise. But, after a burial at sea, this Ayah plunges into the sad ocean wave, and leaves the autobiographer to meditate on human passions and the Lady Venetia's beauty. A grave and a child rise in the retrospect of his career, and the tale ends mournfully. Yet it is only in the last volume that stage effects are introduced. The writer, who calls himself “Wilfred East,” seems to have exhausted in a first and second volume, his notes on town and country life, in chambers, abbeys, second-floors, cottages, and editors' rooms. Into these last he peers with an ignorant eye. Surely, it is a worn-out pleasantry to describe the representative editor as Mr. Simply, who conducts the *British Lion*, and whose Paris correspondence is composed with exclusive Cabinet details, near Lincoln's Inn. We are dealing, we assume, with a young writer, who, in his first novel, has drawn on college and chamber practice, and has thence looked curiously and intelligently at the world, who is at once a devotee of our modern satirists, and of those sentimentalists whose existence has been a feverish dream, who forgive, but never can forget. *Maurice Elvington* is certainly not a good novel; but it is a work of talent, its allusions are keen; the salient specialities of genteel and gentle society, are cleverly painted in. What we have said is the spirit of criticism. We wish to deter no one from reading the story: still less would we discourage Wilfred East, if he means to write another, and a better book.

Clara; or, Slave Life in Europe. With a Preface by Sir Archibald Alison. 3 vols. Bentley.

CLARA, as a picture of society, need not have been introduced by a preface of platitudes from the pen of Sir Archibald Alison. It is an original, varied, spirited story, boldly conceived, artfully constructed, pleasantly told. Then why submit Mr. Haklander to a quotation from *The History of Europe*, in which he is compared, by a confusion of critical analogy, to Dickens and Bulwer? Apparently, the four pages of soft and soppy advertisement are designed to illustrate the compiler, not the novelist, for who but one of Lord Derby's literary baronets would lay down as axioms, “that the conventional chains of civilised life are even more galling than the rude fetters of the African, and that many a white slave would have something to envy in the lot of Uncle Tom!” Let no dog bark; for Sir Archibald Oracle, waxing mighty in the line of his wrath, affirms that “it is to be feared that there is too much truth in this view of the effects of civilisation,” which “view” is that ballet girls are overworked, under-paid, and capriciously patronised. Now, it is a question whether this is an “effect” of civilisation in any other sense than the universal slavery of women among the uncultured tribes is an “effect” of barbarism, and whether dancers do not partake the common conditions of

social life, equally with other classes; but if Sir Archibald be disposed to philanthropy, what can we object, so that he be grammatical? At all events, we are glad that the preface, not the novel, is "by Sir A. Alison, Bart."

The curtain rises, as in a pantomime, upon a circle of young girls, coldly clad in gauze skirts, rose or green silk bodices, silver and flowers, who exhibit their white complexions, their supple figures, their light limbs, and all the attitudes of the fairy Allegro on and behind the stage of a theatre in a large German town. Here is the clue, the point, the moral, of the story. It is the contrast of before and behind the scenes, the glitter and the tissue, the tears and the poverty of the poor actresses and dancers who, "heart stifled," sing gay songs to thoughtless audiences. Sir Archibald Alison, who could have "done the reviews" to admiration on a cheap and popular, or on a dear and fashionable organ, points to Haklander's "picture of the ballet-dancers, and their fearful subjection to the caprices of the public; of the restraints, dullness, and etiquette of the Grand Ducal Courts, and of the licentious life of robbers." And, really, there is a glimpse of Eastern richness in the chambers of Cœur de Rose, and a dark Radcliffe horror in the revelations of the young judge, who consigns people to trap-doors and rivers, with all the implacable gentleness of an inquisitor. Clara is a violent, improbable, overwrought narrative, but it is original in style and matter, and has a sort of Dumas rapidity and variety which will enliven and refresh the reader in search of romances new.

The Letter and the Spirit, a Novel. By Professor H. 3 vols. Newby. Professor H— writes in *altissimo*, but with obvious pain. The spasms of *The Letter and the Spirit* are purely artificial,—incoherence without "spontaneity," to use the technicals of the elect. Amid the broken chapters—letters, fragments of diaries, harrowing recollections, may be discerned the symbolism of some philosophy in which Professor H— is a pupil or a master; but the subtlety has escaped our analysis. What latent moral, indeed, would have a chance in such a book as *The Letter and the Spirit*, which begins and ends with ravings, moanings, froth and riot beyond appreciation? The foreground is occupied by a dying woman, a frantic youth, and one of those large, rigid, peremptory men, who stand so well on the stage, and hurl people about so sublimely. Having studiously taken up their threads we prepare to enter the labyrinth, in spite of the howling wilderness of delirium after the first chapter but are all at once brought up by an interjectional episode—the first of several of extracts from the journal of a country curate. This person says "Ha!" "No! No!" "Oh!" "Oh there are confusing doctrines in the world—predestination—

What! free will—the doctrines of the schools, philosophy, the law of Christ, do they here agree? Can they be reconciled? Have I mistaken my mission—am I a poet-priest, or am I mad?—I must and will work my way to truth, should the path lay through hell fire—this host of passion—sense of weakness, Oh, my God!

This is on the last day of 1852; the first day of 1853 discovers the curate scratching off "Time, Time! Eternity! Ha! Ha!"

The barrier—yes, there are limits—yet there is understanding—are we free agents, rational, or irrational? What is law? Have we most of the angel or the brute? What is matter? What spirit? Do we understand the causes of action—compound and simple substances?

What is man? and what are flies? "Pish, pish! The light!" the curate answers. "What enlarged ideas, yet what a microscopic power of vision—great things and small. Ho! Ho!"

But the cosmogramic series includes "a cruise in the waters of the Lake of Fashion," as a relief to the vision of corpse pallours, madnecses and miseries of *The Letter and the Spirit*. But that ruthless curate, like a starving Brahmin, returns with his howl to the door, throwing in our faces the Ultimate, the Eternal, and Thomas Carlyle. Being too seriously disturbed by his profane metaphysics to attempt a clear exposition of plot or character, we must leave the volumes to the fearless reader with this peroration to Professor H—; that he may write a better book, and ought to try.

A NEW ENGLISH-GREEK LEXICON.

A Copious Praseological English-Greek Lexicon. Founded on a Work prepared by Dr. J. W. Frädersdorff. Revised, enlarged, &c., by the late T. K. Arnold, and Henry Browne, M.A. Rivingtons.

THE late Dr. Thomas Kerchever Arnold, in conjunction with Dr. Frädersdorff, projected this admirable Lexicon, which occupied seven years in its preparation, and four years in its passage through the press. Some years previously, Dr. Rost had produced his *Deutsch Griechisches Wörterbuch*, which suggested to Dr. Arnold and his coadjutors the idea of a new English-Greek Lexicon, containing, not the ordinary verbal parallels alone, but, as far as possible, the whole body of English and Greek synonyms reflected, in their finest variety, and faintest tints of meaning. Dr. Frädersdorff undertook to translate, adapt, and arrange the dictionary published by Dr. Rost, and this task, arduous and perplexing as it was, he performed with scrupulous exactitude. The materials thus prepared, were assigned to Dr. Arnold, to be wrought into an English-Greek Lexicon, but that well-known scholar died before a third of the volume was completed; and the Reverend Henry Browne, in November, 1852, inherited the labour.

Five-sevenths of the work were produced under his superintendence. Of course he enjoyed the advantage of having the vast mass of Dr. Rost's materials, not only translated, but analysed by Dr. Frädersdorff "in the order of the best English Dictionaries." But his additional labours were not small. First collating the Lexicon, word by word with those of Franz, Pape, and Ozaneux, he next criticised it with the aid of Liddell, Scott, and Yonge, whose works, however meritorious, did not supply what is presented in this volume:—

It remains to be observed, that numerous articles have been written quite independently of works already in existence. This has been done frequently, in those words of most common use and extensive signification in which the characteristic idioms of our language are most conspicuous; always, in the so-called "relational" or "form-words," whether verbs auxiliary of tense and mood, or pronouns and pronominal words, conjunctions, negative and other adverbial particles, and prepositions. If in some of these articles the length to which they have been carried may seem more suitable to a Grammar Manual

of Greek Composition than to a Lexicon, the Writer can only plead his desire to make this work as *practically* useful as possible. If this be a fault, at any rate he has consulted the advantage of the student at the cost of no slight trouble to himself, which might have been spared by sending the learner to seek out in the pages of Arnold, Jelf, or Madvig, the information which is here brought together at one view.

We are glad to find that the Rev. Mr. Browne admits the impracticability of producing a literally complete Lexicon. Not only in so far as one language differs from another in genius, in construction, in flexibility; but, in so far as one nation differs from another in character, habits, wants, culture, the difficulty is enhanced of finding parallel words with exactly identical meanings. Can an Englishman translate "*surveillance*" into his own tongue? But between an ancient and a modern, a living and a dead tongue—the disparity goes still further. The Greeks certainly did not have the same things that we have, therefore how could they have words to denote them? It is true that we force classical terms into use for our appliances and inventions; but to appropriate a word as a name is not to translate it or to find its equivalent in the living language. The editors of the Lexicon avow, also, that it may contain some errors, not arising from the insuperable difficulties of the undertaking, but from a careful examination of its general scope, and the articles on some words that bear a multiplicity of interpretations we are inclined to accept it as one of the best that has been produced for the use of teachers and scholars. If we are content with this generalisation, and dismiss the Lexicon without treating it upon a larger plan, it is not because the book is unimportant—for it is a monument of laborious and practical scholarship not of a common kind—but because, in journalism, it is wise to avoid erudite technicalities, as Mr. Browne and Dr. Frädersdorff would know—if they were reviewers themselves.

TRAVEL TALK.

Panama in 1855. By Robert Tomes.

Sampson Low.

MR. ROBERT TOMES received an invitation from the Directors of the Panama Railway Company, in January of last year, to accompany a deputation about to proceed south to celebrate the opening of the entire line from Aspinwal to Panama. To this expedition Mr. Tomes was nothing loth; so having bid adieu to his wife, and procured a brand-new note-book, he set sail for the great isthmus. But here his horizon was overcast. He found the new town, which owes its origin to the railway, surrounded by low, flat, unhealthy swamps, over which the "poisonous atmosphere hangs like a pall of death." The aspect of the inhabitants was not more cheering. "The features of every man, woman, or child, European, African, Asiatic or American, had the ghastly look of those who suffer from the malignant effects of miasmatic poison." The arrival of a horde of Californian voyagers is a great event at Aspinwal. Hotels deserted the day before swarm with this wild variety of the genus *homo*; and bar-rooms reek again with an atmosphere of gin-sling and brandy-cock-tail which the busy, bilious-faced bar-keeper, only yesterday prostrate with fever, shuffles across the counter in quick succession. Our traveller had to endure this purgatory for three days, when he started from Aspinwal to Panama by the rail. Seven miles beyond Mutachin is Culebra—the Summit the railroad people call it—since it is the highest point on the route, being 250 feet above high tide of the Pacific. "We had thus," says the observant Mr. Tomes, "been struggling up hill from Aspinwal at the degree of ascent of 61 feet per mile; and once at the top we were compensated by the more rapid descent to Panama of 70 feet per mile. Here had been the heaviest work on the line, where a mass of earth, 1,300 in length, and 24 feet in depth, containing 30,000 feet in all, had been cut through to make way for the lords of the creation; who were now so triumphantly steering onward in what we are pleased to term, in spite of bowie-knives and revolvers, the march of civilisation." The first ground for the railway was broken December, 1850; in July, 1852, only 23½ miles were ready for traffic; in December, 1854, the open line had reached Culebra or the Summits, and on the 27th of January, 1855, a locomotive passed over the whole road of forty-nine miles from ocean to ocean. After an agreeable sojourn at Panama, during which our traveller is proud to make the acquaintance of a scion of an ancient earldom, he returns to Aspinwal, finds the "Mess House" full, his own room appropriated to the *young English lord*, to whom he feels himself "bound to defer, being his elder by a dozen years or more, and only a republican." The book, notwithstanding much egotistical cant, has some readable pages, and gives an interesting account of the Panama Railway, and the country through which it passes.

Parisian Lights and French Principles. By James Jackson Jarves. Sampson Low. "In travelling, a man must carry knowledge with him if he would bring home knowledge," says Dr. Johnson. Mr. Jarves, however, belongs to that numerous class which think "no such thing." He goes to Paris, feels inspired to write, takes down forgotten books from the shelves of old libraries, patches up a series of articles on what he fancies Parisian life, sending them to *Harper's Magazine*; and, having exhausted the patience and credulity of Harper's special public, he throws himself upon the almighty patience and credulity of the public at large. His volume is a medley of the frivolous and the mean; where he is not ignorant, he is audacious. He attempts to draw a picture of Paris social and Paris architectural; but, failing, falls into the easier line of caricature. The historical passages are mere adaptations of traditionary twaddle. It was surely worth the while of a "democrat" before narrating stale anecdotes in the style of a weak-witted downer, to ascertain that he was "up to the mark" of criticism; for, example, his account of Mademoiselle de Sombreuil being compelled by the mob to drink a glass of warm blood fresh from the still writhing victims to save her father's life, is one of the ferocious lies of the Reaction. This and similar disproved anecdotes are raked up and told with all the unctious of the Faubourg St. Germain. Mr. Jarves' twitterings, accompanied by woodcuts that would shame the Seven Dials, are not of the kind to amuse or to inform.

New Zealand. By Edward Brown Fitton.

Stanford.

NOTHING is more difficult to find than good advice, unless it be the resolution to follow it. To emigrants leaving England to traverse twelve or sixteen thousand miles of water, and to drop down on an island about which they scarcely know anything, every detail of information, however subordinate, which

comes from a practical and experienced observer, is valuable. Mr. Fitton is not a speculative writer upon New Zealand and the advantages it offers to emigration. He is a colonial landowner, and was a resident in the colony; we may, therefore, take his testimony as that of an eye-witness. Mr. Fitton is not prejudiced in favour of one part of the North and Middle Island to another. He takes us through the six districts into which they are divided, describes Auckland, New Plymouth, Wellington, Nelson, the Canterbury settlement and Otago, and the peculiarities of the soil surrounding them, and explains whether they are more adapted severally for agricultural or grazing purposes. He sketches life and society in the colony, and gives us a slight history of the group from the time of its discovery to the present day. His remarks are always judicious. He would not have the emigrant too sanguine; he cautions him against the extravagant pictures that have been put forth, and supplies him with really valuable advice about emigrating. We may fairly recommend the work to all who think of seeking a home in one of our colonies, and wish to compare their respective claims. Says Mr. Fitton:—

Are you sure you are doing right in leaving your present home and occupation at all? No person who has ever enjoyed life in England would, I think, profess to prefer a colonial life, if he were sufficiently independent to be able to make a selection.

Those, however, he adds, "who have to make their own way in the world, will nowhere find so great an admixture of the agreeable society and civilisation of England, combined with facilities for making money and living economically, as in the settlements of New Zealand."

NATURAL HISTORY.

A Popular History of Birds. By Adam White. Reeve. MR. WHITE is fortunate in his subject, since "birds," he considers, are "among the most attractive of creatures." He has, moreover, treated it with sufficient skill to ensure the ready acceptance of his little volume. It is appropriate in design and execution, blending attributes which will recommend it to youthful students with elements essential to render it pleasing to those who read for amusement only. Mr. White's statements bear the impress of truth, tourists, explorers, and professors lending their testimony to the facts narrated. The author would have done better had he woven his materials into a more original form. Had the specimens afforded at intervals of his own unaffected manner been carried continuously on, his book would have had less the appearance of a compilation.

Mr. White borrows his illustrations of ornithology from the northern, the temperate, as well as the tropical regions. Among the splendidly-attired birds of Guiana, he mentions one which, from the singularity of its call, has earned the name of the Bell bird. It is of this bird that the "Wanderer in Demerara" so enthusiastically exclaims that "Actæon would stop in mid chase; and Orpheus himself would drop his lute to listen to it, so sweet, so romantic, so musical is the toll of this pretty snow-white Campanero." It is useful to the traveller, for invariably its note may be heard at noonday to the distance of three miles, tolling every three or four minutes. There is the Clock bird also, a resident in Western Africa, so named from the call it utters precisely at eight o'clock in the morning, at mid-day, at four in the noon, and at sunset.

Much information, imparted pleasantly, may be found in this contribution to Natural History.

Popular History of the Palms. By Berthold Seemann, M.A. AN entire little volume is deservedly dedicated to the Palm, one of the most elegant, useful, and extensive among the orders of the vegetable kingdom.

A poet has said that to every nation Providence has assigned a special tree affording subsistence and shelter, which may be justly affirmed concerning the palm, from the numberless uses to which it is applied. India has the fig, Switzerland the pine, and more favoured regions this Prince of Foliage, of which the great botanist exclaims in admiration, "Man dwells naturally within the tropics, and lives on the fruit of the palm; he exists in other parts of the world, and there makes shift to feed on corn and flesh."

Mr. Seemann, sympathising with this enthusiasm, and possessing, besides his general scientific qualifications, an entire mastery over his special subject, spares no pains to render it attractive, so that there are few who would not feel interested in the page she has enriched with the result of his varied researches. In addition to a diligent collection of facts relative to the nature and properties of the tree, we find numerous instances of the various purposes for which the palm is available, as well as of the traditions and superstitions attaching to it.

The cocoa-nut species, almost exclusively confined to the tropics, is especially distinguished. The Cingalese have a record in honour of its healthful properties. One of their devout Rajahs being stricken suddenly with a cutaneous disease, had in a vision this vegetable elixir revealed, to which, being guided by inspiration, he found in the delicious crystal liquid of of its nut an efficacy beyond that of Albana and Pharpar.

This celebrity, it is to be inferred, led to that singular custom observed among the Sandwich Islanders, who attached so much importance to the produce of the tree (sparingly yielded in their territory), that the privilege of partaking of it, as well as every other privilege, belonged only to the men. The women were forbidden under penalty of disobedience to the gods to touch it. The monopoly went on, till at length a female chieftain, more than ordinarily bold, defied the vengeance of men and gods by breaking the law and securing permanently the indulgence of eating forbidden fruit.

Popular Geography of Plants. By E. M. C. Edited by Charles Daubeny, M.D., F.R.S. THE Persian proverb says, "to know a flower one must know the spot where it grows." To facilitate the attainment of such knowledge is the design in this *Geography of Plants*, which in a series of pictures exhibits the peculiarities of vegetation according to various climates. Hence arises an interest which would otherwise be wanting to mere details of botanical information categorically presented.

We have the luxuriance of the tropics illustrated in the splendour of their coloured foliage, the richness of the lotus and the lily, and the delicate mimosa and myrtle, and turn from the emerald aspect of the temperate regions to the scantily clad north, where even the Polar zone is not entirely divested

of verdure. Of the lichen it boasts nineteen species, in addition to which are miniature willows and exquisitely blossomed heath, and numerous flowers varying in hue from white to purple.

Much speculation mingles with the facts collected as to the origin of the various characteristics of trees and plants peculiar to different localities, as well as respecting the transmutations observable in certain species and the influence of climate on vegetation, with which, as is inevitable, great uncertainty is associated.

Popular Garden Botany. By Agnes Catton.

A more decidedly practical tendency is discernible in this little production. In it the writer undertakes to assist those already interested in such pursuits in the cultivation of their own especial Flora.

To effect this, she has carefully arranged according to system the different genera, with descriptions general and scientific of their appearance and properties, so that the amateur may be guided to an enlightened selection for his garden. Thus only the hardy and half-hardy plants usually introduced are enumerated.

The Arts.

"PARADISE LOST" ON THE STAGE.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN PARIS.)

.... *Paradis Perdu*, the new play, which in virtue of its title alone raised immense expectations in Paris, will scarcely, as I think, raise also the fallen fortunes of that unlucky Theatre, the *Ambigu Comique*. Their last two dramas have not succeeded, and I cannot believe that *Paradis Perdu* will greatly enrich the treasury. I was at the first performance. The Theatre was crammed and the audience in a fever of expectation. The play began a little after eight and ended a little after one in the morning:—the "waits" between the Acts actually extending to forty minutes or more! Never did I see the amazing patience of a Parisian audience more severely taxed, or more wonderfully preserved. The "blouses" certainly howled from time to time, and whistled, and thumped the *Caira* (rather to my amazement) with their feet. But it was all good humoured; there was no vindictive hissing when the tardy curtain rose at last. Well, and the play? It is the joint production of M. M. DENNERY and F. DUGUE, and, with all possible respect for those gentlemen, I will venture to say that they never wrote anything so intensely dull as *Paradis Perdu* before in their lives. For the first three acts, MOSES, MILTON, and LORD BYRON have been laid under contribution. The council of the fallen angels, with a scene badly copied from MARTIN'S Pandemonium, made up the first act—taken from MILTON. Paradise, with Adam and Eve, and the Serpent, and the Apple, and the Angels with fiery swords, filled the second—taken from MOSES. "Life" on the wrong side of Eden, with the murder of Abel, composed the third—taken verbatim, as to all the points in the dialogue, from the "Mystery of Cain." The orgies of the wicked descendants of Cain, and the building of the Ark, occupied the fourth Act, taken from nobody in particular, and the worst act of all. The fifth Act was committed to the scene-painters and machinists, and contained all the fine effects, and presented the spectacle of the Deluge, in several "parts." This was the only striking portion of the play. The rising of the waters, the pouring and mingling of great cascades, the sinking of rocks with screaming people on them, the foundering of a boat, the engulfing of a whole family clinging to a tree, the floating of corpses on the surface of the water, the Ark on the horizon, and the Apotheosis of the heroine of the fourth Act, who drowns herself rather than give her soul to Satan—all made up a sufficiently exciting spectacle. Strict people in England will say the whole exhibition was blasphemous. If it is, surely the painting of the Deluge as a picture is blasphemous, and if I was wrong in sitting to see Adam with skins on, in a fresh-coloured garden of Eden, I can't understand how my respectable friends at home can be right in sitting to hear Adam sing in plain clothes in an orchestra, which they do when they go to hear the *Creation*. It is only the difference between different species of artistic versions of the Bible. Nothing could be less profane in intention than *Paradis Perdu*. It was decorous and devout even to dullness. Two things struck me particularly in connexion with it. The first was the total absence of any feeling for the supernatural, on the part of authors, actors, and scene-painters. All the spiritual conceptions presented by the subject were missed by everybody. *Satan* was acted with the manners of a polished French gentleman—nothing with an unearthly sound or look about it was said or done by him. *Paradise*, as conceived by the scene-painter, might have been a nook in Hampstead Heath. The only original thing put into the play by the authors was of the inevitable adulterous kind! In the third Act, when *Eve* appears as the mother of *Cain* and *Abel*, *Satan* makes love to her! They can't help it, these unhappy French dramatists. They must have their little adulterine interest, give them what subject you will. But I am forgetting the second thing that I remarked: this was that the play had one refreshing novelty. *Eve*, being the first woman, the heroine of *Paradis Perdu* could not talk to us incessantly about *Ma Mère*! All other French stage-heroines, within my experience, never succeed in getting that maternal dead weight thoroughly off their minds from the first Act to the last: it was delightful to know that we were safe from *Ma Mère*! whenever *Eve* appeared. She was a very nice woman, this *Eve*: acted very prettily and innocently, and had the most beautiful blonde hair hanging down, all over her, to below the waist. *Adam*, like *Satan*, was intensely gentlemanlike; so was *Japhet*, so was *Abel*, so was *Cain* even, in a brisk excitable way. Upon the whole, excepting the machinery of the Deluge, I should venture to say that you will suffer no great loss in England from respecting the national prejudices, and not having an adaptation of *Paradis Perdu*.....

EASTER MONDAY AT THE THEATRES, &c.

THAT great day for British "Gentdom"—Easter-Monday—is not what it used to be. Whether from increasing susceptibility to the East winds, or from more refined tastes, Greenwich Fair languishes; and, whether from managerial parsimoniousness, or from the enhanced glory of the Christmas pieces, the theatres do not, as of old, put forth a dazzling coruscation of splendid new spectacles. Perhaps the generation is getting more serious and

weighty, for it would seem that lectures and dioramas now flourish more than anything else on the people's well-loved Monday that follows "hot-cross bun-day"—if the reader will pardon that involuntary verse. We have, therefore, little to do in chronicling the entertainments that marked the commencement of the week.

DRURY LANE opened its doors for an operatic season; VERDI'S *Trovatore*, under the English title of *The Gipsy's Vengeance*, being the work which was selected for the entertainment of the Easter folks. Mr. TULLY was the director of the orchestra. Madame Lucy ESCOTT performed the part of *Leonora*; and the other principal singers were—Mr. HENRI DRAYTON as *Count De Luna*, Mr. AUGUSTUS BRAHAM as *Munrico*, and Miss FANNY HUDDART as *Azucena*. The musical sketch of *Marguerite* (the Marguerite of the "Faust" story) concluded the performances to the entire satisfaction of the audience.

The Spanish Dancers have reappeared at the HAYMARKET—not, as formerly, in a mere series of detached dances, but in a little ballet, called *El Gambusino*, containing a story of a Mexican gold-seeker, his perils and his love—a story gorgeously absurd, and pleasantly proposterous. Of the passionate, red-blooded dancing of the Senora PEREA NENA and her associates, we have hitherto, on more than one occasion, spoken in terms of high praise; and consequently need now only record the renewal on Monday evening of their long lease of popularity.—The PRINCESS's depended on its old piece, *Faust and Marguerite*, and on a new farce called *A Prince for an Hour*, which contains a piece of drollery for HARLEY, who plays a love-lorn Italian shepherd of the sixteenth century.—At the ADELPHI, Mr. WRIGHT reappeared in two stock pieces, followed by the Christmas extravaganza.—The OLYMPIC, also, renewed the burlesque, which, for the last three months, has delighted old and young; and at SADLER'S WELLS another of Mr. PLANCHE's brilliant rainbows of fancy and humour—the *Invisible Prince* of MACREADY'S

management at Drury Lane—was revived by Mr. G. A. WEBSTER (nephew of the Adelphi Webster), who opened the house for a brief season with a version of *The Marble Heart*, in which Mrs. LEIGH MURRAY and Miss M. OLIVER performed.—The SURREY entertained its visitors with a drama of London life, called *How we Live in the World of London*, founded on Mr. Mayhew's inquiries, stuffed full of horrors and startling effects, and revealing to us burglars, pickpockets, and area-sneaks, as virtuous and heroic as the JACK SHEPPARD—not of the Newgate calendar, but—of Mr. AINSWORTH'S romance.—ASTLEY'S simulated a steeplechase, with breathless escapes and deeds of daring; the VICTORIA rejoiced in two full-flavoured melodramas; the CITY OF LONDON produced an Israelitish spectacular opera (to please ladies and gentlemen "of the Hebrew persuasion"); and, at the STANDARD, Mr. HENRY MARSTON performed SHAKESPEARE'S *King John*.

The Exhibitions, as we have said, came out in force. The POLYTECHNIC, the PANOPTICON, the GREAT GLOBE, BURFORD'S PANORAMA, TUSAUD'S WAXWORK, &c., attracted large numbers through the whole day by their dioramas, instructive lectures, scientific and artistic miscellanea, Crimean relics, and faithful portraits of world-famous men and women. GREENWICH FAIR was riotous, dusty, east-windy, and drunken, as usual; and (as PLANCHE once said in a play-bill) *Sic transit gloria (Easter) Mundi*.

THE OPERAS.

THERE will again be two operas this season—thanks to the fire at COVENT GARDEN. Mr. GYE has taken the LYCEUM, the pit of which will be divided between two hundred stalls and two hundred of the ordinary seats; while the two tiers of boxes will be distributed into sixty private boxes. Mr. LOMLEY will re-open HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE; and we understand that he is endeavouring to engage Mademoiselle PICCOLOMINI—a lady distinguished alike for high birth and fine talents.

RUSSIAN POLAND.—A memorial to the Emperor of Russia from the nobles of Vilna in Poland, praying for the re-establishment of the University of Vilna, and for the use of the Polish language in all the schools of that district, has been sent back without an answer, though couched in the terms of the most profound loyalty. What are we to hope from the fine measures of beneficent reform for Russian Poland of which we have recently been told?

M. COUSIN.—"Some time ago," says the *Debats*, "we announced the early publication of a course of lectures, by M. Cousin, upon the 'Sensualist Philosophy of the Eighteenth Century.' The work, delayed by causes over which the author had no control, will appear in the course of a few days. We state this with pleasure to our readers, who will find in the teachings of M. Cousin, the eloquent defender of spiritualism, and a writer firmly resolved to maintain the liberty of the human intellect."

THE PRUSSIAN SPY SYSTEM.—A story was current in Prussia some time since, that the King, conscious of the system of espionage under which he lived, had the greatest difficulty, when on a visit to the Rhine last year, in communicating confidentially with an ex-Minister, who was at the same time one of his Majesty's oldest and dearest friends, and at last thought it necessary to appoint a meeting at a railway station, where the two could converse without fear of intrusion on their privacy.—*Times*.

SIMONIDES, the Greek forger of MSS., who has lately been in custody in Prussia, on a charge of fraudulently passing off certain spurious imitations as the genuine Uranios Palimpsest, has been acquitted, on the ground that he had not committed, nor attempted any fraud upon a Prussian subject, nor in Prussia. The real culprit as regards the attempt at fraud is a Saxon.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

BIRTHS.

BEAUFORT.—On the 26th inst., at Badminton, the Duchess of Beaufort: a daughter.
KENNEDY.—On the 23rd inst., at Clifton-place, Hyde-park, the Lady Augustus Kennedy: a son and heir.
KERR.—On the 22nd inst., at 51, Sussex-gardens, Hyde-park, Lady Frederic Kerr: a daughter.
SZULCZEWSKI.—On Good Friday, the 21st inst., in Sackville-street, Piccadilly, the wife of Captain Charles Szulcowski: a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

DASENT-HASTINGS.—On the 25th inst., at the parish church, Martley, Worcestershire, the Rev. Charles Underwood Dasant, M.A., of Trinity College, Cambridge, one of the Masters in King's College School, and youngest son of the late John Roche Dasant, Esq., Attorney-General of the Island of St. Vincent, to Sophia Margaret, eldest daughter of W. Warren Hastings, Esq.
FELLOWS-SMITH.—On Wednesday, the 26th inst., at St. James's Church, Dover, the Rev. Edward Fellows, second son of Thomas Fellows, Esq., of Money-hill House, Rickmansworth, Herts, to Susan Bingham, eldest daughter of G. Pitt Smith, Esq., of Claremont-place, Dover.
VERRAL-FRIPP.—On Tuesday, the 25th inst., at Hinton Court, Somersetshire, Charles Verral, Esq., of Weymouth-street, Portland-place, son of the late Charles Verral, Esq., M.D., to Mary Anne, only daughter of the late Rev. Samuel Charles Fripp, of Bristol, and granddaughter of the late Nicholas Pocock, Esq., of Great George-street, Westminster.

DEATHS.

CHURCHWARD.—On Tuesday, the 25th inst., of consumption, at No. 2, Grafton-square, Clapham, Rebecca, the eldest daughter of Richard Churchward, Esq., of Manor-street, Clapham, and St. Thomas's, Southwark.

COWPER.—On the 19th inst., at the house of the Rev. T. A. Cock, Rodney-street, Pentonville, in his 21st year William Harrington Cowper, Student of King's College, London, second son of Charles Cowper, of Wivenhoe, Esq., Member of the Legislative Council of New South Wales.
GENESTE.—On the 15th inst., in London, Sarah, the beloved wife of the Rev. Maximilian Geneste, of West Cowes.
REEVES.—On the 22nd inst., at his residence, Clapham, in the 82nd year of his age, John Reeves, Esq., F.R.S., L.S., and Z.S., formerly in the service of H.E.I. Company in China.

FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE.

Tuesday, March 25.

BANKRUPTS.—THOMAS SMITH and ELIJAH HEAFIELD Stainsby-terrace, Stainsby-road, Poplar—GEORGE WILLIAM KNIGHT, St. Andrew's-road, Limehouse, builder—WILLIAM ASHTON, Sloane street, Chelsea, chemist, druggist, and surgeon-dentist.—THOMAS JOHN COMBS, Lake-lane, Portsea, baker and grocer—BENJAMIN COOPER, Spring-gardens, Frome Selwood, Somerset, late of Trowbridge and Bradford, Wilts, clothier—BENJAMIN WOOD, Sheffield, boiler maker—WILLIAM SHIPMAN, 182, Deansgate, Manchester, baker and flour dealer—SAMUEL GREENWOOD, Deptford-road and Castle-street, Bishop Wearmouth, Durham, engine builder, grocer, and beer-seller—JOHN BEST, South Shields, spirit and porter merchant.

SCOTCH BANKRUPTS.—CHARLES GOODFELLOW, Dunfermline, grocer and spirit merchant—J. Wilson and Co., Leith, merchants and ship brokers—JOHN MUIR, Glasgow, commission merchant.

Friday, March 28.

BANKRUPTS.—HENRY ERMANNI FELLINGER, formerly of Red Lion-street, Holborn, flour merchant—MAXIMILIAN LASKER and GUSTAVE BITTER, New Basinghall-street, merchants—JOHN BUCK TOKER, Manchester, manufacturer of malleable cast iron—JAMES BAILEY, Wood-street, Cheap-side, merchant—JONATHAN THOMAS OWEN, Swansea, mathematical instrument seller—ROBERT LINCOLN, Mortimer Arms, Tottenham-court-road, licensed victualler—THOMAS EVANS, Wood street, Cheap-side, City, umbrella and parasol manufacturer—JAMES COOPER, Ryde and Wootton-bridge, Isle of Wight, grocer—WILLIAM BARKER Moss, Stamford, butcher—RICHARD POTTER, Haven Banks, Exeter, ship-builder—HENRY COLLINS, Ashford, Kent, carpenter and builder—JOSEPH HIPKISS, Tipton, ironmaster.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—ROBERT LATTES, Glasgow, and Ballycastle, Antrim, commission and iron merchant—JOHN CROLL, Glasgow, blacksmith—WILLIAM ROSENTHAL, Glasgow, bookseller, stationer, &c.—JOHN HENRY ARCHER, North Hanover-street, Edinburgh, insurance broker and dealer in shares.

Commercial Affairs.

MONEY MARKET AND CITY INTELLIGENCE.

London, Friday Evening, March 28, 1856.

Tue Funds continue very firm. The pressure for money is relaxing by degrees, and next week, if peace be officially announced, there will be an improvement in every description of Stock or Security. Railway Shares are much inquired after and the leading lines advancing in price. This is very noticeable in Leeds, Dover, Great Northern, and Midlands. Eastern Counties are flat, and this is likely to be the case during the present difficulties that this line has to contend with. In Foreign Stocks, Spanish and Mexican are firm. In Turkish Six-and-a-half there has been but little business; it remains at about last week's quotation, the Four per Cents, at 100, and in that there is likewise little doing. Shares in the Belgian railways are being bought largely; also Luxembourg and Antwerp, and Sambres and Meuse. The Great Northern of France is said to have taken the last named line under its protection—hence a rise of 23 per share in their property. Joint-Stock Bank Shares are rather dull. Ottomans and Egypts are about 1 prem. In Mines there is but little doing. Sortridge Consols, Lady Bertha, Trewetha, and Bassett, have met with a few buyers. This market has been unusually dull.

Money has been lent in the Stock Exchange at the rate of six and seven per cent, on Government Securities during the early part of the week. The Share account falls upon next Monday. Consols and French Shares closed very firm at half-past four this afternoon. Consols 92½, 1.

Aberdeen, 26½, 7; Bristol and Exeter, 88, 90; Caledonian, 60½, 1; Chester and Holyhead, 14, 15; East Anglian, 15, 16; Eastern Counties, 94, ½; Edinburgh and Glasgow, 58, 60; Great Northern, 93½, 4½; Ditto, A stock, 79, 80; Ditto, B stock, 121, 123; Great Southern and Western (Ireland), 104, 6; Great Western, 62, ½; Lancaster and Carlisle, 68, 72; Ditto, Thirds, 54, 63; Ditto, new Thirds, 5, 6; Lancashire and Yorkshire, 85½, 3; London and Blackwall, 74, 4; London, Brighton, and South Coast, 100, 101; London and North Western, 100, 101; Ditto South Ditto, 93, 4; Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire, 28, ½; Metropolitan, ½, ½ dis.; Midland, 72, 2½; Ditto, Birmingham and Derby, 42, 4; Newport, Abergavenny, and Hereford, 11, 13; North British, 33, 4½; North Eastern (Berwick), 76½, 7½; Ditto Extension, 64, 6½; Ditto, Great North Eastern purchase, 4, 3½; Ditto, Leeds, 13½, ½; Ditto, York, 55, 6; North Staffordshire, 6, 5½ dis.; Oxford, Worcester, and Wolverhampton, 26, 7; Scottish Central, 104, 6; Scottish Midland, 75, 7; South Devon, 13, 14; South Eastern (Dover), 70, 1; South Wales, 68, 69; Vale of Neath, 19, 20; West Cornwall, —; Antwerp and Rotterdam, 88, ½; Eastern of France, Paris and Strasbourg, 38½, 9½; East Indian, 22, ½; Ditto Extension, 21½, ½; Grand Trunk of Canada, 9, 8 dis.; Great Central of France, 5½, 6 pm.; Great Indian Peninsula, 21, ½; Luxembourg, 63, ½; Great Western of Canada, 25½, ½; Namur and Liege, 7½, 8; Northern of France, 39½, 4; Paris and Lyons, 50, 50½; Paris and Orleans, 50, 2; Sambre and Meuse, 13½, 14; Western and N.W. of France, 34½, 5½; Agua Fria, —; Brazil Imperial, 14, 2½; Cocas, 24, ½; St. John del Rey, 24, 6; Cobre Copper, 66, 69; Colonial Gold, —; Great Polgoth, 14, ½; Great Wheal Vor, 1, 0½; Linares, 7, ½; Lusitanian, ½, ½ pm.; Nouveau Monde, —; Pontigibaud, 11, 13; Port Philip, —; Santiago de Cuba, 34, ½; South Australian, ½, ½; United Mexican, 34, 4½; Waller, —.

CORN MARKET.

Mark-lane, Friday, March 28, 1856.

DURING the week the corn trade has been very quiet, though prices have not much declined. The supply of English wheat has been small, but there have been liberal arrivals of Foreign wheat and flour. The greater part of the numerous arrivals off the coast have been cleared off at the following prices:—Kalafat, Galatz, and Ibrail, 61s. 6d. to 66s., according to quality; a cargo of Danube Wheat, out of condition, was sold as low as 60s.; Saidi, 38s. and 39s.; Beheira, 38s.; and a mixed cargo, out of condition at 37s. In Maize very little business has been done. A cargo of Galatz was sold early in the week at 33s. A cargo of beans has been sold at 28s. The arrivals of oats into London have been quite equal to the demand, but prices are not lower than they were at the opening of the week, though the trade is slow. Barley, with a moderate supply, meets a slow sale.

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

	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.
Bank Stock .....	...	...	...	218	...	...
3 per Cent. Reduced .....	...	...	...	...	...	...
3 per Cent. Con. An.	92½	92½	92½	92½	92½	92½
Consols for Account	92½	92½	92½	92½	92½	92½
New 3 per Cent. An. ....	...	...	...	...	...	...
New 2½ per Cent. ....	...	...	76	...	75	76
Long Ans. 1850 .....	...	...	...	...	...	...
India Stock .....	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ditto Bonds, £1000	7 dis.	11 dis.	...	10 dis.	...	6 dis.
Ditto, under £1000 .....	...	...	6 dis.	6 dis.	10 dis.	11 dis.
Ex. Bills, £1000	1 pm.	1 dis.	par.	4 pm.	2 pm.	1 pm.
Ditto, £500	1 pm.	...	...	...	2 pm.	...
Ditto, Small	1 dis.	1 dis.	...	1 dis.	2 dis.	1 dis.

FOREIGN FUNDS.

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

Brazilian Bonds	103	Portuguese 4 per Cents.	...
Buenos Ayres 6 p. Cents	...	Russian Bonds, 5 per	...
Chilian 6 per Cents	104	Cents	105
Chilian 3 per Cents	68	Russian 4½ per Cents	95
Dutch 2½ per Cents	61	Spanish	40½
Dutch 4 per Cent. Certif.	96	Spanish Committee Cert.	...
Equador Bonds .....	...	of Coup. not fur.	...
Mexican Account .....	...	Turkish 6 per Cents	97½
Peruvian 4½ per Cents ..	78	Turkish New, 4 ditto	1½
Portuguese 4 per Cents.	...	Venezuela, 1½ per Cents.	...

ROYAL OLYMPIC THEATRE.—Under the Management Mr. ALFRED WIGAN. Monday and during the week will be presented the new and original Comedy of **STILL WATERS RUN DEEP**, as performed before the Queen at Windsor Castle. John Mildmay, Mr. Alfred Wigan, Mrs. Hector Sternhold, Mrs. Alfred Wigan. To conclude with the Fairy Extravaganza of **THE DISCREET PRINCESS**. Prince Richcroft, Mr. F. Robson; King Gander, Mr. Emery; Prince Belavori, Miss Maskill. Princesses Finetta, Babilarda, and Idelfonza, Misses Julia St. George, Ternan, and Marston; Mother Goose, Miss Stephens.

Commence at Half-past Seven.

WHITTINGTON CLUB.

THE ANNIVERSARY BALL will be held at the FREEMASON'S HALL, Great Queen-street, on **THURSDAY EVENING NEXT, April 3rd.** Particulars may be obtained at the Offices of the Club, 262, Strand.

HENRY Y. BRACE, Sec.

REOPENED, with many important additions to the scientific department.—Dr. KAHN begs to acquaint the Public that his celebrated Museum, which has been elegantly redecorated and enriched by many interesting additional objects, is **NOW OPEN** (for Gentlemen only). Amongst the new features of interest will be found a magnificent full-length model of a Venus, from one of the most eminent of the ancient masters.

The Museum is open daily from Ten till Ten. Lectures are delivered at Twelve, Two, Four, and Half-past Seven, by Dr. Sexton, and a New and highly-interesting Series of Lectures is now in course of delivery by Dr. KAHN, at Half-past Eight precisely, every Evening. Admission, One Shilling. No. 4, Coventry-street, Leicester-square.

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* The Proprietor undertakes, as usual, to insert Advertisements in Journals in any part of the World.

THE NEW VOICE LOZENGE.

MR. LEIGH SMITH, Professor of MUSIC and SINGING, in submitting his **VOICE LOZENGE** for the approval of the Public, begs to state that he has been induced so to do, at the request of his Pupils, numerous Acquaintances and Vocalists, who have experienced great benefit from taking them, in the removal of inflammation and various diseases, incidental to the throat, chest, lungs, &c. Mr. L. SMITH has, moreover, experienced their salutary effects, in the removal of an inveterate hoarseness, and a seven years' asthma, with which he was afflicted. They may be used as a Diaphoretic, as an Alternative, as an Aperient, as a gentle but very efficacious Purgative; and where there is an abundance of bilious acrimony and phlegm, they will sometimes at the commencement prove emetic, being the quickest way Nature has of relieving herself. So long as it may be required, they produce the natural evacuations, then act as a tonic, creating appetite and digestion, which is collaterally connected with strength. As they act upon the secretory and excretory glands which are subcutaneous (that is, under the skin in every part of the body) a gentle glow of perspiration is continually kept up so very essential in subsiding fever and inflammation. They are entirely composed of fruit, void of astringents, bitters, or minerals. As they cannot be taken wrong, each person must vary the quantity, according to age, constitution and disease, commencing One for a Child, and Two for an Adult. In case of a sudden attack of fever or inflammation, from two to four or five, dissolved in water, about the consistency of syrup, and taken as a draught, produces a powerful evacuation, and a very good effect is experienced in a short time. A CERTAIN CURE for BRONCHITIS.

To be had of Mr. LEIGH SMITH, 19, Tavistock-street, Covent-garden; and duly appointed Agents in Town and Country. Price 1s. 1d. and 2s. 9d. per Packet.

In the High Court of Chancery.
TRIESEMAR.—On the 29th of May, 1855, an Injunction was granted by the High Court of Chancery, and on the 11th of June following was made perpetual, against Joseph Franklin and others, to restrain them, under a penalty of £1,000, from imitating this medicine, which is protected by Royal Letters Patent of England, and secured by the seals of the Ecole de Pharmacie de Paris, and the Imperial College of Medicine, Vienna. Trieseemar, No. 1, is a remedy for Relaxation, Spermatorrhoea, and all the distressing consequences arising from early abuse, &c., and its effects are efficacious in youth, manhood, and old age; and to those persons who are prevented entering the married state from the results of early errors it is invaluable. Trieseemar, No. 2, effectually, in the short space of three days, completely and entirely eradicates all traces of those disorders which capnavi and cubeba have so long been thought an antidote for, to the ruin of the health of a vast portion of the population. Trieseemar, No. 3, is the great Continental remedy for that class of disorders which unfortunately the English physician treats with mercury, to the inevitable destruction of the patient's constitution, and which all the sarsaparilla in the world cannot remove. Trieseemar, Nos. 1, 2, and 3, are alike devoid of taste or smell, and of all nauseating qualities. They may lie on the toilet table without their use being suspected.—Trieseemar, Nos. 1, 2, 3, are sold in the cases, price 11s., or four cases in one for 33s., which saves 11s.; and in 45 cases, whereby there is a saving of £1.12s.; divided into separate doses, as administered by Valpeau, Lallemand, Roux, &c. To be had wholesale and retail in London, of Johnson, 68, Cornhill; Hannay and Co., 42, Oxford-street; and Sanger, 150, Oxford-street; R. H. Ingham, druggist, 46, Market-street, Manchester; H. Bradbury, bookseller, Deansgate, Bolton; J. Priestly, chemist, 52, Lord-street, Liverpool; Powell, bookseller, 15, Westmoreland-street, Dublin; Winnall, bookseller, High-street, Birmingham.

SISAL CIGARS, SISAL CIGARS, at GOOD-RICH'S Cigar, Tobacco, and Snuff Stores (established 1780), 407, Oxford-street, London, near Soho-square.—Box, containing 14 fine Sisal Cigars, for 1s. 9d. post free, six stamps extra: 1b. boxes, containing 109, 12s. 6d. None are genuine unless signed "H. N. Goodrich." A large stock of the most approved Brands.

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In England are to be obtained of PHILLIPS and COMPANY, Tea Merchants, 8, KING WILLIAM-STREET, CITY, LONDON.

Strong Congou Teas, 2s. 8d., 2s. 10d., 3s., 3s. 2d.

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"It was fitting that the author of the best analysis and investigations into the properties of this Oil should himself be the purveyor of this important medicine. I am satisfied that for medicinal purposes no finer Oil can be procured."

DR. LETHEBY,

Medical Officer of Health to the City of London, &c. &c.

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Chief Analyst of the Sanitary Commission of the Lancet, &c. &c.

"So great is my confidence in the article, that I usually prescribe it in preference to any other, in order to make sure of obtaining the remedy in its purest and best condition."

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