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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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Review of the Week.

A NOTICE which amounts to 'a first warning' has been issued by the *Moniteur* to the English journals, for the "calumnies" which they have levelled at high persons in France. The expression is understood to indicate articles censuring the excessive joint-stock speculation in Paris, persevering assertions in some of our journals that the Bank of France was about to suspend cash payments, remarks on the illness of the Emperor, from which he has recently recovered, and gossiping stories about the free manners which the Empress has assumed. Since there has been nothing in the English journals about the persons of the French court, or the policy of the Government, half so scandalous as the criticism or the gossip about our own Court or public affairs has not unfrequently been, the warning in the French official organ is supposed to have some ulterior purpose, and its most likely effect is to damage that good understanding between the two countries which it exhorts our contemporaries not to injure. It certainly implies that the Ministers of the Emperor NAPOLEON have suddenly and avowedly taken up a position hostile to this country.

They have succeeded in frustrating any aid which our Government might have been inclined to give to the liberal cause in Italy. If we could have made any demonstration in return for the help which Sardinia lent to us in the Crimea, we have suffered ourselves to be led away—first, by the proposal to make the demonstration against Naples rather than Rome or Austria; secondly, by delays in the attack upon Naples; and thirdly, we may guess, by a stultification of the parade of fleets against Naples. The official correspondence between the French and Neapolitan Governments, published in the *Moniteur*, tells us plainly that King FERDINAND will not yield further than to substitute politeness for rudeness towards the Western Powers; and that the Western Powers, for whom France speaks, will not molest him so long as he will be polite.

There are innumerable reports and counter-reports as to the question whether Turkey has or has not demanded the evacuation of the Principalities by Austria. The French Government, it appears, desires to hasten that evacuation; Turkey wishes to keep the Austrians upon the Danube until Russia shall have settled the boundary there.

The British Government stands by Austria. AALI PACHA wavered, and the Sultan threatened to place REDSCHID PACHA over his head; a threat which appears to have been effectual, for AALI PACHA retains his place, and the French papers almost avow a grudge because we have beaten their representative in Constantinople.

Russian invasions are usually most dangerous when they are *not* carried on sword in hand. Much of the Russian territory has been won by peaceful encroachments; the victory which she lost by arms in Sebastopol has since been gained by craft in the chamber of diplomacy; and now, after imposing upon France and England heavy war taxes, repayment of which they do not exact, she is invading their money market by a heavy railway rate. A contract for the construction of a ~~large system~~ of railways in Russia has been ~~made~~ ^{one} of the commercial associations ~~was~~ ^{is} competing for the purpose. It is generally supposed that the successful association is that headed by M. STIEGLITZ, and comprising the names of PEREIRE, HOTTINGUER, and BARING. The sum estimated is 40,000,000*l.*, to be spread, say, over ten years; an estimate which supposes that the communities of Western Europe, especially England, France, and Holland, would be contributing at the rate of 4,000,000*l.* a year for ten years, towards the resources of Russia; and it seems to be settled that Russia has really succeeded in obtaining this great subsidy.

It has been remarked that the great capitalists of Europe, whose business it is to deal in ventures and losses, always manage to cover their own retreat: they are only the go-betweens; the losses always fall on some of the communities for which they profess to act. It is understood, too, that in this kind of agency some of the most eminent statesmen of Paris take part; a fact which materially influences the diplomacy and foreign policy of France. The *Crédit Mobilier*, two or more of whose directors figure among the Russian concessionaries, is reported at last to have taken a contract for Spanish railways, about which there has been so much coquetting.

Messrs. Fox, HENDERSON, and Co. have just been obliged to suspend cash payments, mainly because they have lost 70,000*l.* by the exercise of their right to construct the Zealand railway in Denmark. Zealand keeps the railway; Messrs. Fox, HENDERSON, and Co. come away with the loss, and suspend cash payments. There was a report in France that the speculators had gone too

far, and that the Bank of France would suspend; the Bank goes on as usual, but it is an *English* firm which suspends. "The man recovered of the bite, the dog it was that died." These are the realized 'blessings of peace'; they are, in fact, the very object for which the French commercial classes were so anxious to conclude peace. Those classes have newly launched into speculation. The new aristocracy of the Imperial Court is rapidly making its fortunes in the game; but they are threatened with interruption.

Sir ROBERT PEEL, who has just been visiting Russia, and who, as a member of our Government, must know more than most people, has solemnly announced, at a Staffordshire public dinner, that we are "on the edge of a volcano"—meaning that we are at a point just before the probable renewal of war. Sir ROBERT appeared to allude both to the recommencement of Russian hostilities and to the state of affairs in Italy; and he spoke with marked suspicion of leading French statesmen.

At the meeting of a religious society, Earl FORTESCUE expressed the strongest admiration for the conduct of the Piedmontese Government, which has rendered the jurisdiction of the Church subordinate to civil authority. This feeling exists extensively in England, and it is possible that Englishmen may yet feel some degree of resentment should they discover that Italian interests have been systematically betrayed in order to promote the designs of Parisian statesmen upon an alliance with the Northern Courts and vast operations in the joint-stock market.

There can be now very little doubt about the election of Mr. BUCHANAN to the American Presidency. The state election in Pennsylvania shows that his party possesses an overwhelming majority over the united party of FILLMORE and FREMONT, specially combined to carry that particular election. Now those parties will *not* combine in the Presidential election, and the reader can judge, therefore, how Pennsylvania will go. Pennsylvania was the grand point of doubt. With its large number of votes it effectually settles the question, short of some wonderful dramatic surprise which we have no means of foreseeing.

This certainty has effected some change in the feeling here. The *Times*, which on American matters has effectually represented our Government, on Wednesday recapitulated Mr. BUCHANAN's offences—conspicuously, his supposed holding of pro-slavery opinions, and the participation in the Ostend Conference, at which the prospective ap-

propriation of Cuba was recognized as constituting a military necessity should the United States be threatened. But having discharged its mind of these old griefs against Mr. BUCHANAN, the *Times* puts on an official air of official welcome to the New President. "Whatever his antecedents, whatever his professions, we will persist in believing that the chief of the people of America will, when once elected, rise to the dignity of his position, and, casting off his more questionable antecedents, will know how to maintain at once the dignity of the Republic and the respect due to the feelings and interests of foreign and friendly Powers."

In domestic affairs we have not much to report; the concessions which the Government and Parliament endeavour to palm off on London in lieu of a general municipality, have been illustrating the absurdity of their own creation by their bungling. They have laid before Sir BENJAMIN HALL, the Minister of Public Works, a project for discharging the sewage of London into the Thames at Halfway-reach—a compromise between the sending it beyond reach of the tide and giving it to the tide to be brought home again. They have declared their incapacity for putting down gas-works, which the medical officers of London say should have notice to quit. At present the gas-works manufacture their commodity for consumption in two ways—as a material for lighting the streets, and as air for breathing. In the latter capacity, the gas combines with other ingredients to produce that 'etiolated' condition which makes the Londoner known wherever he goes. The proprietors of the gas-works, however, and some of their friends declare that gas is not unwholesome.

The record of crime and violence is rather copious. Robson's trial has been hanging over his head, with divers technical delays, from day to day. Amongst the trials of the Central Criminal Court has been that of GEORGE FOSSEY, who was said to have conspired with NEARY to defraud a Mr. WALKER, by making false entries of goods delivered. The evidence was a wonderful disclosure of cooking accounts, or "sticking it on," as the witness called it; but the case broke down by the total untrustworthiness of the witness, who was familiar with the "sticking it on" process.

Burglars and footpads are rising in importance as a class, and have made their influence felt throughout the whole metropolis, from Kingsland to Brompton, chiefly, at present disporting themselves in the suburbs. Men have been garrotted or pitch-plastered by parties of marauders in the immediate neighbourhood of other persons, who were quite unaware of the crime at their very elbows. Paddington Green has been the scene of some of these attacks—an extremely small piece of land constantly traversed by passengers. The footpads do not yet compel their victims to dance minuets for their amusement; but they are arriving at something like the skill of the Thug, who can kill a man at a dinner party without the fact being known to the waiters.

The murderous attack upon CORE was somewhat different. It was a surprise by an audacious man, who had become totally reckless; and men who are reckless, courageous, and clever, can always accomplish any one outrage upon which they set their minds. A strong active dragoon like MARLEY can easily enter the shop of a quiet tradesman and beat the man to the verge of death. In this case, however, MARLEY had a most unexpected accomplice. CORE was just recovering—just able to articulate, and to ask for food, when some medical officer in the hospital connived at the impatience of the police to confront the all-but dying man in his bed with the ruffian who had assaulted him. They tormented the patient, to the verge of fainting and fever, with examination, 'to promote the ends of justice.' They had very nearly promoted the end of CORE; and the chief surgeon of the hospital, Mr. BARNARD FOLT, has put forth a formal statement that this outrage upon a patient was committed in his absence. It is not likely that such an offence would again be committed.

GENERAL GUYON.

We briefly announced last week the death, at Constantinople, on the 13th ult., from cholera, of one of the noblest heroes of the late war—one of the most devoted soldiers of freedom whom the Hungarians, in their struggle for independence in 1849, counted among their foreign and voluntary auxiliaries—Richard Debaufre Guyon, Lieutenant-General Count de Guyon in Hungary, and Karschid Pacha in the Turkish Empire. It would be disrespectful, however, both to the memory of so fine a nature and to the reader of these pages, if we forbore to take further notice of the valiant man whose loss England, Turkey, and Hungary alike deplore. We, therefore, run briefly over the chief events of his life.

He was born at Walcot, Bath, on the 31st of March, 1813, and was the third son of Captain Guyon, R.N., of Richmond, Surrey. His remote origin was French, the family being descended from the noble Languedoc house of Guion de Geis. A military or naval tendency seems to have run in his immediate family, for not only was his father, as we have stated, a sea-captain, but his elder brothers, who are still alive, entered respectively the Royal Navy and the Indian army. Richard Guyon's first military experiences were in the Austrian army, where, at eighteen years of age, he served in a regiment of Hungarian Hussars. He attained the rank of captain, and in 1838, having been united to Baroness Spleny, daughter of Field-Marshal Spleny, commander of the Hungarian Life Guards, he retired to a large estate near Pesth, possessed by his wife, where he lived for some ten years in the pursuit of agriculture. On the invasion of Hungary, in September, 1848, by Jellachich, the Ban of Croatia, who undertook to carry out the despotic and treacherous designs of the Austrian Emperor, Captain Guyon at once offered his services and was appointed Major of a battalion of Honveds, or militia. He soon distinguished himself at the battle of Schwechat, fought on October 30th, when, though the general result was disastrous to the Hungarians, Guyon, with singular courage and determination, captured an important position (Mannswath) after three separate assaults. For this, he was made a colonel on the field of battle. He then, says a memoir in the *Daily News*, "took command of the rear-guard of the Hungarian army in its retreat into the interior; he saved the baggage and military stores at Ipolsag, and succeeded in carrying away the gold and silver stores in the mining districts, and the stocks of gunpowder, which were indispensable for the continuation of the contest."

"On the 5th of February, 1849, took place the most heroic episode of the Hungarian war, the storming of the defiles and heights of Branyiszko, defended by General Schlick and an army 25,000 strong. General Gorgey, who had observed with jealousy the rising reputation of Guyon, determined to sacrifice him on this occasion. He therefore by a flank march separated himself from the corps of 10,000 men commanded by Guyon, and left the latter in the very face of General Schlick. The heights possessed by the Austrians were deemed impregnable, but the genius and determination of Guyon speedily dispelled that illusion. In the night, a portion of the Hungarian army was employed in dragging a part of the unlimbered artillery up the snow and ice-covered sides of a height which commanded the defiles occupied by the Austrian General. This was effected without discovery. The next morning, Guyon formed his columns of assault, placed the remainder of his artillery to the rear, in order to mow down the cravens if necessary, and then sounded the charge. A fearful contest took place, but before mid-day the Austrians were in full flight, and their camp, with considerable spoils, remained in the hands of Guyon."

Being appointed to the command of the fortress of Komorn, he succeeded in entering it by clothing a squadron of his Hussars in Austrian uniform, having previously endeavoured in vain to pass the enemy's lines disguised as a Jew pedlar. At the battle of Temesvar, which, by bringing the united forces of the Austrians and Russians to bear on the patriots, crushed the Hungarian cause, Guyon distinguished himself, as usual, by the most reckless bravery. Twice, at the head of ten thousand Hussars, he pierced through the lines of the enemy's infantry and artillery, and dispersed their reserve. But the Hungarians were forced to retreat, their artillery being exhausted. The war was thus disastrously terminated; and Guyon, with some of the other patriots, penetrated into Wallachia, where the protection of the Sultan was thrown over them. A command in Damascus was given to the English hero, with the rank of Lieutenant-General and the title of Karschid (the Sun) Pacha. He refused, however, to renounce Christianity; and he was the first who obtained the rank of a Turkish Pacha without fulfilling that condition.

"At Damascus, Guyon was rejoined by his wife and family, who had been detained captives in Austria. His possessions in Hungary were confiscated by the Vienna Government, and he, with Bem and Kmety's soldiers, was hanged in effigy. The generosity of the Sultan enabled Guyon to reside with comfort in the delicious spot where he commanded. He undertook several successful assaults on the rebellious Arab tribes of the neighbourhood, and restored the country around Damascus to perfect tranquillity. Soon after the breaking out of the Eastern war, Guyon was appointed head of

the staff of the army of Anatolia, in spite of the opposition of the Austrian Ministry. He at once proceeded to Erzeroum and Kars, where he found the Turkish army in a state of complete demoralization, consequent on three successive and terrible defeats. Guyon succeeded in reorganizing this army, and by dint of extraordinary exertions he placed it once more on a footing of resistance. But the peculations of the Turkish pachas, and the systematic opposition of the Commander-in-Chief, Zarf Mustapha Pacha, broke Guyon's spirit. In August, 1854, Zarf attacked the Russians at Hadgi-veli-khoi, but was defeated with great loss, owing to the plans of Guyon being disregarded. During the entire Crimean campaign he remained in constrained inaction at Constantinople, and he is now dead, with a name untarnished by the exertions of his enemies, and a history which will be ranked among the splendid episodes of English valour. His courage, his romantic daring, his thorough devotion to any cause to which he attached himself, his soldierly generosity and self-abnegation, give to his character and his deeds something of a poetical colour, over and above their deep historical interest; and he almost seems to realize the conception of his namesake, the knightly Sir Guyon of Spenser's chivalric poem.

We understand that Mr. Kinglake, whose admirable life of the General is known to most readers, was in the act of collecting subscriptions with a view to presenting Guyon with a sword. Now, alas! the only tribute possible is that of affectionate regard for his memory.

The funeral took place in the English burial-ground at Scutari on the 15th ult., with all due military honours. Mr. Blackstone, the Embassy chaplain, performed the service, and many of the hero's old companions in arms during the Hungarian war were present at the ceremonial.

BANQUET TO MR. HERBERT INGRAM, M.P.

THE inhabitants of Boston gave a banquet to their member, Mr. Herbert Ingram, on Thursday week. The town presented a very holiday appearance; the church bells rang, the town bands paraded, the shops closed early; banners were hung out, and the archway forming the approach to the Corn Market was decorated with dahlias, forming the word "Welcome!" The dinner took place in the hall of the Corn Exchange, and Mr. Ingram was most cordially received. After several preliminary speeches, the chief guest of the evening addressed the meeting at great length, taking a general view of current politics, and of his own parliamentary career since his election last March. In the course of his remarks, he observed:—"I stated on the hustings that I intended to support the Government of Lord Palmerston, and I gave that Government my vote for the estimates it submitted. The best proof of confidence is to trust a man with your money. I must say, however, that the present method of spending the public money is very unsatisfactory. Parliament cannot hope that Ministers will look upon the expenditure very carefully. They have enough to do to keep a majority in the House. After the money is once voted—say, for instance, 'a sum not exceeding 10,000,000l., granted to her Majesty for the use of the Army.'—Parliament from that moment has no control over it. The various departments may buy bad shoes, bad clothing, bad swords, bad guns; and Parliament does not even receive an account of the sums expended until after a year. Now, I think it would be desirable to have Select Committees composed of members who would undertake to inquire into, and even inspect at times, the accounts and stores of the various departments. It must be admitted that our expenditure has gradually increased of late years; and it is quite time that we should be satisfied that we get full value for our money." (*Hear, hear.*)

Mr. Ingram's connexion with the *Illustrated London News* naturally led to the presence at the dinner of several literary gentlemen, and among the speakers were—Mr. G. P. Taxford, of the *Mark Lane Express*, Mr. Shirley Brooks, Dr. Mackay, and Mr. Mark Lemon. The non-literary speakers included Lord William Lennox, Captain Richardson, and several gentlemen of local celebrity. Mr. Mark Lemon, in replying to the toast of "The Ladies," made a very sparkling little speech. He said:—"Your hon. member (Mr. Ingram) told you a short time since, and I have no doubt told you truly, that one of the proudest moments of his life was that which decided his election as the representative of the men of Boston. What must be my feelings when I find myself suddenly elected the representative of the ladies of Boston? (*Hear, hear.*) I am thus not only a member, but at the same time the Speaker, of the House of Ladies. The proceedings of the House of Commons, gentlemen, affect your business generally; but the proceedings of the House of Ladies affect not only your business but your bosoms. (*Low laughter.*) In the House of Commons they take into consideration the ways and means—in the House of Ladies, I think, gentlemen, you know pretty well that the same thing is done. (*Renewed laughter.*) The question of peace or war sometimes agitates the House of Commons—the House of Ladies is not always exempt from the consideration of the same important question. Divisions occupy no inconsiderable portion of the House of Commons, and I regret to add that they are not altogether unheard of in the House of Ladies. (*Low laughter.*) I know, however, from old experience, how attached

are the men of Boston to my constituents, the ladies of Boston. Twenty years ago, when I was here amongst you, almost every young man had a sweetheart, nearly all the middle-aged gentlemen had wives, and certainly all had mothers (*renewed laughter*); and I must say that not Mr. Ingram only, but the English nation, is indebted to the ladies of Boston for having produced such a fine collection of voters as I have now the honour to thank for the kindness with which they have listened to my remarks."

It is always pleasant to see a recognition of the services of the press; and more especially when, as on this occasion, the representative of journalism is a gentleman who has done much for the popularization of knowledge, taste, and liberal ideas, by the most largely-circulated and widely-welcomed of papers.

ACCIDENTS AND SUDDEN DEATHS.

THOMAS SMITH, a working man employed in repairing a window in one of the upper stories of the Admiralty office, Somerset House, suddenly lost his footing and fell on to the pavement of the yard beneath, a depth of sixty feet. He was taken immediately to the hospital, but he died a few minutes after his admission. An inquest was held, and a verdict of "Accidental Death" returned.

A private in the 55th Regiment has met with a very severe accident at the Farnborough station of the South Western Railway. He was standing on the platform waiting to get into one of the carriages of the train to London, when he slipped and fell between the wheels of the engine. Both his legs were horribly mutilated, and he was conveyed to St. Thomas's Hospital.

A working man, named Williams, was crossing the Bristol and Birmingham branch of the Midland Railway at Mangotsfield, when he was knocked down by a passenger train, and the wheels passing over him, he was instantly killed.

The crew of the Norwegian steam corvette Nornen were recently firing from a vessel at a mark on the beach of the island of Osteroen, when one of the guns, a 30-pounder, burst, and the splinters killed on the spot the captain, M. Bonnevie, and the first-lieutenant, Baron de Finn-Wedeljarsberg; they also wounded five sailors, one mortally and the other four very seriously. The man who fired the gun escaped uninjured.

An explosion took place early on Monday morning in the West Bute dock, Cardiff, on board the Prussian barque Frederic Retzlaff, from a light taken by a coal trimmer to commence his work, which ignited a quantity of hydrogen gas escaping from the coal on board and confined by the hatches being down all Sunday. The vessel was blown into a complete wreck; two of the crew were killed on the spot; the mate of the Pandora, lying alongside, was killed by a portion of the wreck falling on his head; and ten men were taken to the infirmary by an engine of the Taff (Vale) Railway Company. The first mate was blown into the dock and was got out of the water with difficulty; the second mate was blown through the roundhouse on to the quay, and escaped with slight injury; one of the crew was blown from his bed through the ship's side, and was found unhurt. The ship took fire, but the flames were soon extinguished. She remains, however, almost a wreck. The windows of the adjacent houses were broken and blown in, and the shock, which was felt four miles to the westward of the town, was of such violence that many persons thought it was an earthquake. An inquest has been opened, but is not yet concluded.

The greater part of the water having been pumped out of the flooded mine at the Bryn Mally Colliery, and the choke damp having been dispersed, the bodies of three men and a boy, out of the thirteen persons submerged, have been discovered. A subscription has been commenced for the families of the deceased, and a large amount has been already sent in.

A very dense fog which spread over the metropolis and other localities on Wednesday, and lasted through the whole day, caused the loss of several lives. Many persons in the streets received injuries from being knocked down and trampled upon by the horses. About ten o'clock at night, a man carrying a lighted flambeau was knocked down by a vehicle in the Waterloo-road, and was much hurt. Serious accidents took place on the London and South-Western Railway. At Wimbledon, a man, who had been for some time employed as signalman, endeavoured to signal the eleven A.M. express down train, and was in the act of crossing the metals, when the engine of the train struck him on the lower part of the abdomen, hurled him over the rails, and his body was then forced a distance of at least fifteen yards. The next fatal case was that of a man named Watkins, who was employed at the points near the Wandsworth station. He was crossing the line to display the signals, and, not hearing the train approaching, was knocked down and instantly killed. The railway guards describe the fog as having been more dense than for some years past. Much damage has been done to the river craft by collisions.

A collision of a singular character, being nothing less than the running of a train into its own engine, occurred during the fog on the London and North-Western Railway. The train consisted of about thirty waggons, some of them heavily laden with iron, which left Birmingham for London at ten o'clock on Wednesday morning. This

train was drawn by one engine, but immediately behind that were two 'dead' engines, as they are called, which only served to increase the weight of the train, without aiding in its propulsion. The line from Blisworth to Wolverton is on an incline, in descending which the engine became detached from the train and ran on without it for some distance. The driver then appears to have slackened speed, or to have reversed his engine, and the train, running down the incline with its own momentum, dashed into the engine, overturned one of the 'dead' engines, knocked another off the rails, and committed great havoc among the carriages. The rails of both lines were twisted and dislocated for some twenty yards, the wreck and debris strewn about in all directions, and the telegraph communication on one side the line broken. Pike, the fireman of the engine, who was seriously injured, was conveyed to a farm-house in the vicinity, and Jonathan Oscar, the driver, to a neighbouring cottage. The former has sustained a fracture of the left arm, together with severe injuries about the chest and on one of his legs. Oscar was scalded but not seriously. The fog was not dense at the time; but it increased afterwards. The obstruction on the line owing to delayed trains was quite unparalleled.

An explosion of fireworks, attended with fatal consequences, occurred at Rashediffe, near Huddersfield, on the night of Friday week. John Shaw, a clothdresser, has for years been in the practice of making large quantities of fireworks for sale, and was so engaged on the night in question, with his wife, son, and daughter, and his grandniece, aged seven years. They were seated in a small room at the back part of the dwelling of Shaw, with two naked candles burning close to where the family were at work. A basin of water was placed for Shaw to deposit the candle-snuffs into; but a dreadful explosion occurred from the snuff from one of the candles igniting some loose powder. Upwards of seventy pounds of powder and other dangerous articles used in the manufacture of fireworks were in the house, and the whole of the workers, except Mrs. Shaw, were burnt and otherwise injured by the explosion; and the young girl was so seriously scorched, that she died the same evening.

A little girl, about seven years of age, daughter of Mr. Day, of the Angel Inn, Heckford-bridge, was sitting at work a few weeks ago, when she fell from her seat, and a pair of scissors which she had in her lap penetrated her chest. She rallied for some days, but one morning complained of a pain in her chest, suddenly dropped down, and expired.

The upper story of a warehouse at Tewkesbury, employed for the storing of wheat has fallen through, owing to two infirm beams which supported it suddenly snapping. A boy who was in the granary came sliding down on the top of the grain towards the door; a man who was just leaving the room on the basement was struck violently on the arm, and driven out at the door by the force of the falling wheat; and two other persons—one a proprietor and the other a labourer—were completely and instantaneously buried. Blood was flowing from the ears of Mr. Rice, the proprietor, and, as he had been extricated from under a beam, it was plain that fracture of the skull had taken place. Newman, the labourer, had evidently died from suffocation. The floor had about twenty-seven tons of grain upon it; and this was heaped the highest about the centre of the room.

A Highland shepherd, named Macleod, has been killed by falling down a steep precipice while endeavouring to rescue a sheep which had got to a place among the rocks from which it could not return. Macleod descended by means of a rope tied to his middle and guided by two men above; but, on reaching the spot, he appears to have untied the rope and to have fallen together with the sheep. Both were killed. The man had been warned by his employer not to venture on so perilous an enterprise.

The boiler connected with the blast engine at Dalry Ironworks exploded one day last week, and the bricks and other material used in fixing it in position were projected into a house situated at thirty-seven feet distance. Five of the family were injured, three of them mortally. These were the mother, a son, and a daughter. The boiler was an old one which had been in use about thirteen years; but it had been recently repaired.

Seven persons are now lying in a dangerous state in St. Thomas's Hospital, while many others are at their own homes suffering from severe wounds, arising from a collision which took place on Thursday night on the Greenwich Railway. The passenger up and down trains to London and Greenwich started, the one at five minutes past nine and the other somewhat later, when, as the train from London was crossing the line to run into the terminus at Greenwich, the self-acting points failed in their operation, and the consequence was that as the two trains were running on the same line, a frightful collision took place. Seven of the passengers were seriously injured; but no lives were lost.

AMERICA.

The pro-slavery party has carried the elections in Kansas and in Pennsylvania; in the latter state by decisive majorities, while in the former the Free-soil men did not vote at all. The so-called democratic party has also triumphed in the municipal election at Newark,

New Jersey. The few returns from Ohio are favourable to the Republicans.

The general intelligence from California is unimportant. Messrs. John L. Durkee and Charles E. Rand have been tried on a charge of piracy for assisting in the removal of the State arms from on board the schooner Julia, in the harbour of San Francisco, during the reign of the Vigilants. The jury returned a verdict of acquittal after only five minutes' deliberation. A suit has been brought against the Panama Railroad Company to recover 20,000 dollars damages for injuries received by the accident of the 6th of May last. A number of other persons were awaiting the result of the action. Judge Terry has resumed his seat upon the bench. In Oregon, several engagements have occurred between the whites and Indians. A supply train, en route to the camp at Walla Walla, was attacked by about seventy-five Indians. The party escorting the train, on the attack being made, unpacked their animals, formed a circular breastwork with the packs, huddled their animals together, and defended themselves. The travellers, however, were obliged to fly, leaving their packs and several of their animals behind them, besides having three of their number wounded, and several of the beasts killed.

An important scientific exploring expedition is now on its way to the scene of its active labours. It is composed of Professor E. C. Francis, of Iowa; Professor N. E. Moore, late President of the Iowa State Lyceum of Natural History; Professor Silliman, son of Professor Silliman, of Yale College, and one or two other scientific gentlemen. The object is a thorough exploration of the fauna, flora, and geological character of parts of South America.

Many people are leaving Kansas for fear of famine. Another attack is expected from the "Missouri ruffians." Governor Geary has caused to be arrested and confined in Leecompton, on the charge of murder in the 2nd degree, one hundred and seven Free State men, who are mostly under the charge of Colonel Titus. A party of Kansas emigrants, chiefly from Ohio, Illinois, and Wisconsin, to the number of about three hundred, including women and children, on arriving at Taber, Iowa, received intelligence of the approach of Governor Geary, with two hundred and fifty dragoons, to oppose their entrance into the territory. They determined, however, to proceed on their journey till fired upon; and it was expected they would meet the troops at Little Nebraska River. There has been an election riot at a fire in Philadelphia, ending in the death of a man.

The news from Mexico has reference chiefly to revolts, conspiracies against Comonfort and the Government, and insurrections of the Indians. The *New York Times* announces that diplomatic relations have been suspended between Great Britain and Mexico, in consequence of the failure of negotiations on Bacon, Forbes, and Co.'s case. The Government has suspended payment on the Vera Cruz Custom House. Large sales of confiscated Church property have been made, and it is expected the Treasury will soon be replenished.

A dinner has been given to Mr. Peabody at New York. One of the toasts was—"Great Britain and America—the beautiful mother and the more beautiful daughter." Remarking on the banquet, the *Times* New York correspondent writes:—"It is curious to see how the love of the mother country permeated the whole proceedings—filled the toasts, flavoured the speeches, and touched the audience. The flags of Britain and America drooped together from many a triumphal arch, their names were woven together in many a motto, the prayer for their hearty union formed the burden of many a speech and many a sentiment. One fact came out in one of the speeches which ought to have some interest for British officials. It seems that when the second American Arctic Expedition was projected, Mr. Henry Grinnell offered to Congress the use of his vessels, if they would man and equip them, to proceed in search of the then unbound Franklin. Mr. Peabody, anticipating the usual laxity of Congress, came forward with an offer of 10,000 dollars to fit out the expedition. The offer was not accepted at the time. Subsequently, however, application was made to Mr. Wetmore (Mr. Peabody's friend) to know if it was still good; and on communicating with Mr. Peabody the money was paid and the expedition fitted out."

The extreme advocates of slavery in the South have assumed a bold attitude, and taken their stand upon entirely new ground. According to several quotations made by the *Pittsburg (Pennsylvania) Gazette*, a Free-soil paper, from pro-slavery journals and the speeches of pro-slavery men in the South, there is now a seriously propounded suggestion for enslaving all working men, white as well as black! Thus writes the *Richmond Examiner*:—"Until recently, the defence of slavery has laboured under great difficulties, because its apologists (for they were mere apologists) took half-way grounds. They confined the defence of slavery to mere negro slavery, thereby giving up the slavery principle, admitting other forms of slavery to be wrong. The line of defence, however, is now changed. The South now maintains that slavery is right, natural, and necessary, and does not depend upon difference of complexion. The laws of the slave States justify the holding of white men in bondage." Another pro-slavery paper, the leading one in South Carolina, says:—"Slavery is the natural and normal condition of the labouring man, whether white or black. The great evil of Northern

ree society is that it is burdened with a servile class of mechanics and labourers unfit for self-government, and yet clothed with the attributes and powers of citizens. Master and slave is a relation in society as necessary as that of parent and child, and the Northern States will yet have to introduce it. Their theory of free government is a delusion." The *Richmond Inquirer* thinks that "the experiment of universal liberty has failed"—that it is "unnatural, immoral, and unchristian," and must give way to that system which is "old as the world, universal as man," viz., the slave system. "Free society!" exclaims the *Muscogee* (Alabama) *Herald*. "We sicken at the name. What is it but a conglomeration of greasy mechanics, filthy operatives, small-fisted farmers, and moon-struck theorists?" The people of the northern States are "the northern hordes," and they are "hardly fit for association with a southern gentleman's body servant." The *South Side Democrat* has "got to hating everything with the prefix 'free,'" and "abominates" the New England free-schools "because they are free." The *Alabama Mail*, alluding to the shooting of an Irish waiter by the ruffian Herbert (a Democratic Congress man, who, on being tried was acquitted), says:—"It is getting time that waiters at the North were convinced that they are servants, and not 'gentlemen' in disguise. We hope this Herbert affair will teach them prudence." Senator Butler (the uncle of Mr. Preston S. Brooks) proposes to disfranchise all men who do not possess a certain amount of property in negroes or land, and says that this may already be done legally in South Carolina; and the *Day Book* (one of the two papers in New York which support slavery) suggests that the children of native Americans, Germans, and Irish, whose parents cannot support them, should be sold into slavery. Why do the men holding these opinions call themselves "democrats?"

A banquet has been given to Mr. Preston S. Brooks in South Carolina, at which he was presented with a stick (not, however, across his back) having the motto, "Use knock-down arguments." Several threats of disunion, should Fremont be elected, were uttered.

THE NEAPOLITAN QUESTION.

THE correspondence between France and Naples, in connexion with the reforms suggested by the Governments of Louis Napoleon and of her Britannic Majesty, was published in the *Moniteur* of Saturday last. The first document is addressed by Count Walewski to Baron Brenier, the French ambassador at Naples, and is dated May 21st. The Minister states the opinion of the Emperor and his Government that "the present state of affairs in Naples, as well as in Sicily, seriously endangers the peace of Italy" and of Europe. The subject was, therefore, brought before the attention of the Congress of Paris, and an appeal is addressed "to the Conservative spirit of the Government of the Two Sicilies itself," which is requested to make the French Government acquainted with the measures it may think fit to adopt. "According to our notion, the Government of Naples is wrong in the choice of the means for maintaining tranquillity in its States, and it appears to us urgent that it should stop in the false path upon which it has entered. We think it superfluous to point out to it the measures best suited to obtain the end which it doubtless has in view; in an amnesty wisely conceived and honestly applied, or in a reform in the administration of justice, it will find means suited to the wants which we confine ourselves to point out to it." Further on, the Count observes:—"In abstaining to take notice of our warnings, the risk will be incurred of prejudicing the sentiments with which the Government of the Emperor has never ceased to show itself animated towards the Court of the Two Sicilies; and, consequently, of provoking a coolness that would be much regretted."

In reply to this communication, Commander Carafa writes to the Marquis Antonini, the Neapolitan Minister at Paris, under date June 30th. He observes:—"No Government has the right of interfering in the internal administration of another State, especially as regards its administration of justice. The measure imagined for the maintenance of peace, for the suppression and prevention of revolutionary movements, is the very one calculated to create revolutions; and, should any public disturbance take place here or in Sicily, it will precisely have been caused by such a measure; and it would provoke it by exciting to a high pitch the revolutionary feelings, not only in the States of the King, but in the whole of Italy, by this inopportune protection granted to the principal agitators. The King, my master, has at all times exercised his sovereign clemency towards a great number of his guilty or misguided subjects by commuting their punishment or revoking their sentence of exile, and his benevolent heart suffers inexpressible anguish at finding that most men of this description are incorrigible, so that, if formerly our august master had it in his power to show his clemency, he is now compelled, much against his will, in the interest of the public welfare, to relinquish exercising it in consequence of the excitement produced in Italy by the ill-advised suggestions of those Governments which the enemies of order look upon as their protectors." On the 26th of August, Commander Carafa addresses Baron Brenier to the same effect, and writes:—"It is needless to call to mind on this occasion that the kingdom of Naples was the first to resume its tranquillity after the late sad events without foreign aid,

and by the sole action of the King's Government. The advice of friends is always gratefully received; but even friends ought to understand that what is good for one country may not be good for another. The wisdom of the King may always be relied upon, for he, better than any one else, is acquainted with circumstances and opportunities; and surely the Imperial Government has never failed to recognize this indispensable freedom of action." The last document is addressed by Count Walewski to Baron Brenier, on the 10th of October. Again asseverating that the advice offered proceeded "solely from the exalted idea of the maintenance of order and in the general interests," and observing that the reply of the Neapolitan Cabinet "is couched in a spirit which he abstains from qualifying," Count Walewski thus concludes:—

"You will, therefore, M. le Baron, have the kindness, on receipt of this despatch, to take the necessary measures to leave Naples with the members of your legation. Similar instructions have been sent to the English Embassy. You will hand over the archives of the legation to the Consul of his Imperial Majesty. Moreover, and to provide eventually efficacious protection to French subjects residing in the kingdom of the Two Sicilies, a French squadron will be kept in readiness at Toulon (see *tiendra à Toulon*), where it will be within reach to receive the orders that it might be found requisite to transmit to it in case that it should become necessary to entrust to it, in the interests of our fellow-subjects, the care of supplying the deficiency caused by the absence of official protection. To be prepared at the proper moment for such an eventuality the commander of this squadron has instructions to send occasionally one of the vessels placed under his orders to visit the ports of Naples and Sicily, when the captain of such vessel will place himself in communication with our Consuls. With a similar object in view it is the intention of her Britannic Majesty to station a squadron in the port of Malta."

CONTINENTAL NOTES.

FRANCE.

THE Countess Charles Fitzjames has expired from the effects of the burns which she received nearly a month ago. This accident was caused by the Countess treading on a lucifer match, which set her dress on fire, whilst walking in her garden.

The Correctional Tribunal of Paris, on the 30th September last, condemned M. Paganelle, a priest under sentence of interdict, to a month's imprisonment for violating an order of expulsion for two years from the department of the Seine, issued by the Prefect of Police. On the 22nd ult., the Imperial Court was occupied with M. Paganelle's appeal from that sentence. His defence was that his expulsion was the result of the intrigues of some of his clerical brethren. The President would not allow him to proceed in this way, saying it was disrespectful to the Church. He then accused the court of wishing to suppress the liberty of defence, of wanting to ruin him, to assassinate him, and to make a martyr of him. The court having confirmed the decision of the court below, the abbé rushed out of the place with wild gesticulations, the President observing that he must be mad.

The *Moniteur de l'Armée*, in a paragraph detailing measures taken by the Emperor's orders for the more speedy distribution of Queen Victoria's Crimean medals to the French soldiers entitled to them, states that the fastenings of the medals, not having been yet furnished by the British Government, will be distributed at a later period.—Oh, omnipotent Circumlocution-office! Oh, prevailing teachers of "how not to do it!"

Among the Spanish refugees in France who have profited by the recent permission granted to Count San Luis's friends to return to Spain is General Luca, formerly a captain-general of a province. He has just left Paris for Madrid.

A fire broke out on Friday week in the old theatre in the Palace of Fontainebleau; but it was speedily got under, and no great damage was done.

The oldest general in France, and even (as some say) in Europe, Baron Despeaux, is just dead. He entered the army in 1778, and his commission as General of Division is dated in 1794.

The vines in most of the wine districts in France are said to yield badly. The Bordeaux crops are especially scanty.

More arrests of workmen have taken place at Paris, in consequence of the strikes. Menacing placards have been posted: these sometimes are worded in the interests of the Legitimists, sometimes in that of the Orleanists, and sometimes in that of the Red Republicans.

The Paris papers have been ordered to abstain from giving, indirectly or implicitly, the difference between the real price of bread and that at which it is sold to the public.

The *Charivari* is said to have full permission to caricature the Paris proprietors.

AUSTRIA.

The following is an extract of a circular of the Steam Navigation Company of the Danube, which has lately been much talked of. It is addressed to the inspectors and captains of the company:—"We learn that foreign vessels are about to ascend the Danube as far as Belgrade, in order to establish business relations there. If

those vessels should meet with any accident by which human life is endangered, you must render them every possible assistance. But, except in that case, the said steamers are not to be assisted in any way, either by allowing them to enter our ports or landing-places, or by furnishing them with pilots or coal, &c., even on payment."

It is stated that the military priest (Feld Superior) who, by order of the Commander of the Army Corps in Moravia, buried Lieutenant Meissl in the churchyard at Gräfenberg, has lost his place. The officers of the regiment in which Lieutenant Meissl served got up a subscription for the poor priest, and received a reproof for so doing. It is also whispered that Count Schaffgotsche, the Commander of the Army Corps in Moravia, is in disgrace, and likely to have the command of some remote fortress.—*Times Vienna Correspondent*.

SPAIN.

General de Meer has sent in his resignation as President of the Supreme Tribunal of War and Marine, and General Santos de la Hora has been appointed in his stead.

The reorganization of the army and militia has been resolved on. In an exposition, signed by General Urbistondo, the new Minister for War, of the causes which have necessitated the measure, it is remarked that the military forces have not been found large enough either for their home duties or in reference to the proportions which ought to be maintained with the armies of other nations. The 30,000 men of the militia are to be incorporated in the regular army, which is to undergo a new distribution.

The *Madrid Gazette* of the 20th ult. contains a decree granting an amnesty to all who took part in the insurrections of last July. The parties receiving the royal clemency are declared to have been led away by "deplorable errors and equivocal situations." Another decree restores to their rank and places those persons who were deprived of them in June and July, 1854, at the time of the O'Donnell insurrection.

A royal decree in the *Madrid Gazette*, of the 21st ult., enacts that "the circular of the Council of Ministers, dated the 27th August, 1854, relative to her Majesty's august mother, shall be repealed, and remain without effect in all its parts."

It now appears probable that Marshal Serrano will remain at Paris as the ambassador of the new Government.

A decree has been published fixing the floating debt at 640,000,000 reals. Various reasons are advanced in the report upon which the decree is founded, to prove that the sum of 440,000,000 reals, at which the debt had been fixed, was not sufficient.

Some slight symptoms of agitation have been apparent at Barcelona, but the Liberal press had advised the people to keep quiet, and no serious apprehensions were entertained.

M. Hügelmann, late editor and proprietor of the *French Journal de Madrid*, a Bonapartist organ, has sold that paper, for a large sum, to the Crédit Mobilier authorities.

ITALY.

We read in a letter from Civita Vecchia:—"Since the 14th of October the steam-corvette Centaur, six guns, and the gunboat Osprey, four guns, have been in our port. They belong to Admiral Dundas's squadron, and are placed at the orders of her Britannic Majesty's Legation at Naples. The French steamer Vésuve passed in sight of Civita Vecchia on the 15th inst. M. Desault, diplomatic Attaché, was on board bearer of the note which Baron Brenier had to present to the Neapolitan Government."

Count Cavour has been presented with a gold medal, sent to him by the inhabitants of Rome. It is about an inch and a half in diameter, and bears on the obverse the bust of the Count, with the inscription "To Count Benso di Cavour," and on the reverse the words "For the defence of the oppressed Italian people at the Congress of Paris, MDCCCLVI, Grateful Rome."

The ecclesiastical authorities at Rome have gone so far lately as to prohibit the introduction into the Pontifical dominions of the semi-official organ of the Austrian Government, the *Corriere Italiano*, which, published at Vienna, answers the purpose of an official journal for the Italian provinces. But, the Austrian officials having given it to be pretty plainly understood that they did not intend to submit to such a censorial proceeding, the Roman Government was obliged to readmit the offending publication, with a proviso, however, that it must not be taken amiss if in self-defence the official organ of his Holiness's Government should in future correct any misstatements upon Roman matters appearing in the Austrian journals.—*Daily News Roman Correspondent*.

The Austrian Government having found that the director of police at Venice, one Blumenfeldt, was a man too much given to adhering to legal forms and formalities, has suddenly given him six months' leave, and replaced him by Franceschini, who was chief of police at Parma until the other day.—*Times Turin Correspondent*.

A Signora Virginia Boccabadate, of Modena, youngest daughter of the late celebrated contralto of the same name, has appeared at Turin in the part of *La Traviata*, and has produced a great sensation.

The Empress Dowager of Russia arrived at Genoa on

the 23rd ult. She was received at the station by King Victor Emmanuel, who, riding on horseback alongside her carriage, escorted her to the royal palace. Afterwards, the troops of the garrison and the National Guard marched past in silence, on account of the state of health of the Czarina.

The first foreign regiment in the pay of the Pope is being disbanded. Already more than one hundred men have left Rome, and by the end of the year some five hundred more will follow. They will pass over to the service of the King of Naples.

Baron Brenner has quitted Naples. The parting interview with the Neapolitan Minister for Foreign Affairs was very friendly; and assurances were given that every care should be taken of French subjects.

The customs' union between Parma and Austria has been dissolved.

SWITZERLAND.

"The envoys of the great Powers accredited to the Swiss Confederation," says the *Paris Presse*, "have, we are told, received instructions from their respective Governments to express to the Federal Council the wish or expectation that those citizens of Neuchâtel who were arrested on the 3rd and 4th of September, should be shortly liberated, adding, at least as regards some of the Powers, the offer of mediation to procure an amicable settlement of this question. The reply to this communication was that the Federal Council was well disposed to propose an amnesty in favour of the men compromised in the insurrection of September, but on the express condition that such an act should be intimately connected and subordinate to a full settlement of the Neuchâtel question in every point of view in the sense of a definitive enfranchisement of the Canton of Neuchâtel from all foreign domination."

In connexion with the same subject, the *Débats* publishes the substance of the note addressed by Prussia to the other Powers. The most important parts run thus:—"Subjects of the King have been arrested and imprisoned because they failed in an attempt to re-establish the royal authority, disowned for eight years through the disastrous influence of foreign revolutionists, who imposed their will upon the great majority of the inhabitants of Neuchâtel. It is intended to try and condemn the authors of that attempt; the King will not permit it, as it would be at the same time a blow against his authority, a denial of his rights, and an insult to his personal dignity. The fact alone of the arrest and imprisonment of the King's subjects is already an insult to his authority, an insult which becomes daily more serious. This must at once be put a stop to. The King can no longer delay providing for the case, and the Federal Government remains obstinate. There still remains the recognition of the right of sovereignty claimed by the King. No one questions that right; the allies of the King not having as yet succeeded in their negotiations with the Federal Government of Switzerland, the King desires to know how they intend to act, supposing they think themselves called upon to act at all. . . . At the same time that the Berlin Cabinet invokes the support of the Powers which signed the Protocol of London, it has made a statement of the facts to the Governments of Bavaria, of Wurtemberg, and of the Grand Duchy of Baden, with a view to make sure that they will not give any assistance to Switzerland, nor oppose the passage of a Prussian army through their territory should it become necessary to take military possession of the canton of Neuchâtel; and it informed those Governments that the question would be shortly submitted to the German Diet, which would be called upon to give its opinion." The text of this circular has since been published. The general upshot is the same as that just given; but the language is less strong, and there is no allusion to marching an army through some of the German states. The despatch, however, mentions that the Prussian Government "reserves itself for more serious measures against the Swiss Government, according to the result of the latter's compliance with the requisitions addressed to it."

THE DANUBIAN PRINCIPALITIES.

The following statement appears in the *Paris Pays* and *Patrie* in identical terms. It was of course communicated to those two journals by the Government on the receipt of a despatch from M. Thouvenel, which is considered at Paris to establish the triumph of French diplomacy at Constantinople after a long struggle with Lord de Redcliffe:—

"An important communication which reaches us today gives a totally new aspect to the question of the occupation of the Principalities, which has been so warmly discussed for some time past. According to private information, which we have every reason to believe correct, the Porte protests against the maintenance of the Austrian corps of occupation in the Principalities. At the same time, the Ottoman Government demands the recall of the English vessels from the Black Sea. These ships, according to the Turkish demand, are to leave at the end of this month. If this news should be confirmed, as we believe it will be, Austria will no longer have the slightest pretext for prolonging the occupation. Since the argument upon which she relied, namely, the consent of Turkey, now fails her, she will, no doubt, readily withdraw her troops at once."

The *Constitutionnel* contains an announcement to the

same effect, though in rather different terms; but the official *Correspondenz* of Vienna denies the truth of the assertions. The latter paper, after arguing the question at some length, proceeds:—"Having shown that the prolonged stay of the imperial royal troops and of the Turkish forces in the Principalities is based on the same legal foundation as is the stay of the English fleet in the Black Sea, it follows as a matter of course that the occupation will cease as soon as the cause for the same has ceased to be—that is, the occupation will cease as soon as the frontier question is arranged and settled. The settlement of the internal affairs and the future organization and government of the Danubian Principalities are in no connexion with the occupation, and the interest which the imperial royal Government takes in the prosperity and peace of those countries will be shown by her friendly understanding with the other great Powers, and in particular with the Sublime Porte. The settlement of the question of the Danubian Principalities cannot be adduced as a reason for the prolongation of the occupation." The French official press, however, renews its assertions; and considerable bandying of contradictions has been going on between the Paris and Vienna Government organs during the week.

The *Presse d'Orient* of the 16th ult. states from Constantinople, that the commission for settling the Bessarabian frontier question, after a new study of the locality, have found a satisfactory solution of the point in dispute at Bolgrad.

RUSSIA.

Accounts from Russia contradict the reports published by the Constantinople journals of a victory having been gained over the Russians by Sefer Pacha, at the head of a considerable army of Tcherkesses.

General Gortschakoff has received orders from the Emperor of Russia to immediately commence the works for the establishment of a railway from Lowicz to the Prussian frontier near Thorn.

MONTENEGRO.

The Governments of the Sultan and of Prince Danilo (says the *Corriere Italiano* of Vienna) have come to a resolution to submit their affairs to the arbitration of such of the great Powers as are interested in the matter. The military movements have been suspended, and conferences have taken place at Constantinople between the Divan and the French and Austrian ambassadors in order to bring about a definitive settlement of the differences.

HOLLAND.

We learn from a letter from the Hague, in the *Emanicipation*, that in the last budget a sum of 31,825,600 florins in Government bonds and securities is down as having been withdrawn from circulation and destroyed.

GERMANY.

The election for members of the Legislative Assembly of Frankfurt took place on the 18th ult. It gave for general result 1433 votes for the candidates of the democratic party; 1166 for the constitutional party of Gotha; and 216 only for the old Conservative party. The triumph of the democrats, as regards the number of votes obtained, would thus (says a letter from Frankfurt in the *Paris Constitutionnel*) appear to be secure; but the new organic law guards against such an eventuality, and the votes given are not cast up in an *ensemble* of figures, but by the total obtained in each of the three categories of electors—the union of two constituting the majority of the three. The candidates of the Gotha party have thus been elected.

SWEDEN.

The King of Sweden's speech on the opening of the Diet, on the 23rd ult., contains the following paragraphs:—"Two commissions, consisting of an equal number of Swedes and Norwegians, have just drawn up the draft of a bill for regulating the commerce and navigation between Sweden and Norway. A mixed commission is occupied with fixing the contingents which each country has to provide for the defence of the independence and for the maintenance of the common glory. An enlightened toleration for the faith of others, based upon the love of one's neighbour, and inspired by an indomitable conviction, constitutes the essence of the dogmas of the Protestant Church. The ancient laws which impede the freedom of worship must therefore give way, so that the community may be in harmony with the constitution. Bills for the abolition of the punishment of exile, and for reforms of the criminal code, will be laid before you."

THE ORIENT.

INDIA.

By the last mails from the East, we learn that tranquillity generally prevails throughout India. The rainy season has closed favourably. Preparations for the expedition to the Persian Gulf continue, and great efforts are being made for driving the Persians out of the territory they have invaded. A great deal of mystery still hangs about the state of affairs at Herat; but a rumour that the city has fallen before the Persians is discredited. The French Ambassador at the Court of Persia, who has arrived at Constantinople, on his return from Teheran, is said to have prevailed on the Shah to make peace with England. The deaths by cholera in

the Punjab are enormous, and there have been very serious inundations in the North. The Indian money market is easy, but the subscriptions for the West Loan have not been filled up.

Still more wonderful accounts than those already received continue to be published respecting Colonel Jacob's rifle-shells. One of them has shattered a very massive box filled with gunpowder at a range of 1800 yards.

A translation of a letter in the Khas language from Jung Bahadoor, Prime Minister of Nepal, to the late British Minister at the Court of Kattmaundou, has been published in the London papers. It contains an account of recent hostilities between Nepal and Thibet, ending in the defeat of four Thibetan kings or rajahs, and the conclusion of a peace which is to confer peculiar advantages on the Nepalese.

SIAM.

The latest accounts from Siam state that the French Envoy has concluded a treaty with the Siamese King. After leaving Siam, the French mission will proceed to Turon for the purpose of trying to open negotiations with the Cochinchinese Government.

CHINA.

The intelligence from China is of the most meagre description, there being no further news of the progress of the rebellion, nor any domestic facts of general interest. Trade, for the most part, appears to be tolerably prosperous. The ship *Emigrant* has struck on a rock in the harbour of Amoy, and has been completely lost, with its entire cargo. All hands were saved.

OUR CIVILIZATION.

HIGHWAYMEN AT OLD BROMPTON.

"G. E. H.," residing at Brompton, writes to the *Times*:—"Have the burglars of Notting-hill, whose exploits 'Mantrap' and 'Revolver' so lately recorded, emigrated to our hitherto secure and quiet neighbourhood? If so, they have now assumed the profession of highwaymen, and have taken to breaking heads instead of breaking into houses. The other evening two ladies—one young and lovely, the other not so young and not so lovely—were, report says, knocked down and robbed, close to the Boltons, in Brompton. Their purses and watches were taken from them, as a matter of course; and, as a matter of course, too, £25 was not to be found. An evening or two after this occurrence, a gentleman was maltreated in like manner in the vicinity of those new roads called Albert-road and Cromwell-road, connecting Brompton and Kensington. He was so severely hurt that he did not recover his senses for some time; his watch he has not yet recovered. The roads are dismal and dreary enough at nightfall. Lamp-posts here have no existence; an Egyptian darkness reigns around, un-influenced by a single gas-burner. The virgin soil has never felt the pressure of the lamplighter's light step. Yet they are magnificent roads; or, at least, might be made so."

This account is in no degree exaggerated; and the wonder really is, not that footpads have at length resolved to honour Old Brompton with their presence, but that they have so long delayed to do so. The neighbourhood, in fact, is one of extensive open spaces (divided between market-gardens and large private grounds shadowed with trees), of narrow hedge-bordered lanes, unlighted and unpaved, and of the half-finished new roads mentioned by "G. E. H." There is hardly a communication from Kensington to Brompton which is safe at night. The rates are heavy, but the police are few; and the footpads, as a natural consequence, rejoice with a great joy not to be exceeded.

A "HUE AND CRY" LIBEL.

A TRIAL for libel took place on Tuesday at the Central Criminal Court. Joseph Lane, an elderly man, was indicted for publishing the matter complained of in a paper called the *Police Gazette*, or *Hue and Cry*. He appeared to be very excited, and was about to make some statements before any of the evidence had been heard, when he was checked by his counsel, who said he would not defend him unless he was quiet. The prosecutor was a Mr. Salter, a solicitor, who, in the year 1814, was serving as clerk to an attorney at Chard, in Somersetshire. In that year he was professionally employed, at the death of a Mr. Hood, in going through the necessary legal formalities in connexion with that gentleman's will. The property passed under the will, and nothing more was heard of the matter till fourteen years ago, when Lane commenced a series of annoyances, under the pretence of having some claim in the property; and various legal proceedings against the late Mr. Hood's tenants were entered into by the accused. At length, he went to Mr. Burnaby, the chief clerk of the Bow-street police-court, and who was also the editor of a publication called the *Police Gazette*, or *Hue and Cry*, and requested him to insert an advertisement in that publication offering a reward for the apprehension of Mr. Salter upon a charge of forgery and uttering a forged will. Mr. Burnaby declined to sanction the issuing of such an advertisement unless Lane made an affidavit of the facts; and shortly afterwards he brought

a paper, in which he distinctly charged Mr. Salter with having forged the will of the deceased gentleman, and also stated that he had admitted the fact to him; and Mr. Burnaby upon this consented to allow a notice to appear in the *Police Gazette*, offering a reward of 50*l.* for the apprehension of the prosecutor. The affidavit also represented that Lane had made a charge at the Old Bailey against Mr. Salter of having forged a will, and that he had proved it to the satisfaction of the grand jury; also, that Mr. Salter had obtained possession of a large amount of property belonging to Mr. Hood, and that he (Lane) had obtained a judgment in the Court of Queen's Bench for the restitution of the property. This judgment arose from the following circumstance:—Lane had brought an action against the Bank of England to recover a sum of 139,000*l.*, which he alleged was in their hands at the time of the death of Mr. Hood; and the Bank authorities treating the matter with contempt, and not taking any proceedings, Lane "snapped a judgment," as it is technically called, for that amount. This was, however, immediately set aside. In consequence of the announcement which appeared in the *Police Gazette*, an officer actually went down to Chard for the purpose of apprehending Mr. Salter; but the inquiries he made speedily satisfied him that there was no foundation for the charge, and the prosecutor consequently escaped this additional annoyance.

The defence was that Lane, being an excitable, violent man, had acted rashly, under a real belief that the will had been forged. At the same time, it was admitted by the counsel for the defence that the charges against Mr. Salter were altogether incorrect. A verdict of Guilty was returned; but sentence was respited till next session. In the meanwhile, the prisoner will remain in Newgate.

THREATENING SIR RICHARD MAYNE.—A discharged policeman has been brought up at the Greenwich office for sending threatening letters to Sir Richard Mayne, chief commissioner of police. The man alleged in these letters that he had been tyrannically ill-used and oppressed by Sir Richard for the last three years, and that, owing to him, he had been unable, in spite of all his exertions, to obtain a living, however degrading: therefore, he was determined to make the chief commissioner "a living memento of his vengeance." During his detention in Maidstone Gaol, Casey, the accused, wrote a letter expressive of contrition, and stating that he had made the threats while in a fit of desperation, but that, having afterwards met with a friend who had instructed him in the means of getting a livelihood in the fish-trade, he had abandoned all evil thoughts, which had been induced by his deplorable situation. He further stated that the chaplain of the gaol had conversed with him, by which he had benefited, and now saw the error of his ways. Sir Richard Mayne not wishing to send the man for trial, he was simply required to find heavy sureties for good behaviour for the next year. These, of course, were not forthcoming; and Casey was removed, saying he should now be unable to follow his new course of livelihood for the benefit of his wife and family.

A ROMANCE OF EPPING FOREST.—William Jennings, a respectable and delicate-looking lad about seventeen years of age, formerly in the service of Messrs. William Stevens and Sons, wholesale stationers, Throgmorton-street, City, has been examined at Guildhall on a charge of stealing from his former employers a large number of gold pens, silver pencil-cases, and other property, to the amount of 250*l.*, together with 20*l.* in money. He appears to have broken into the premises and carried away the property during the night of Friday week. The police, having reason to suspect Jennings, arrested him at his father's house, when he said he had hidden some of the property beneath a tree in Epping Forest. On taking him there, the police found that the property had vanished; but the ground appeared to have been recently disturbed, and it is therefore probable that the things had been taken away. The rest of the stolen articles had been directed by the young man to a person of the name of Hooper, of Leeds; but they were intercepted at the Great Northern Railway station. Jennings stated to the police that, during the preceding week, he had picked ferns, made a bed with them, and slept in Epping Forest. He was committed for trial.

FORGERY.—Robert Wyatt, a gentlemanly-looking young man, who had been a clerk at a varnish manufacturer's at Battle-bridge, was brought before the Marlborough-street magistrate, charged with forging and uttering two cheques, one for 250*l.* and the other for 9*l.* 15*s.*, on the London and Westminster Bank, St. James's-square. He induced a fellow-clerk (who was not then aware that the accused had been discharged from his situation) to get the cheque for 250*l.* cashed at the bank; and the imitation of the signature, which was that of one of the firm by whom Wyatt had been employed, was so good, that both the clerk who took it to be cashed, and the persons at the bank, believed it to be genuine. Another clerk at the varnish manufactory related, in evidence before the magistrate, the extraordinary fact that he had frequently, when in the counting-house, seen Wyatt imitating the signature which he afterwards attached to the cheque. The culprit was

arrested by the police in a concert-room at Bath. He admitted his guilt, and said he was driven to it by distress, and that he was four days without a meal before he forged the cheque for 9*l.* 15*s.* He was remanded.

ROBBERY NEAR CAMBRIDGE.—A singularly daring robbery was committed about a week ago, at the works of the Fulbourn Lunatic Asylum, near Cambridge. When the foundation stone of that building was laid at the end of September, a glass cylinder, containing several current coins of the realm, was placed, together with a vellum scroll inscribed with the names of the committee of officers and visitors, in a concavity hewn out of a large stone block, on which the first stone of the Asylum was laid. This was secured by a quantity of masonry and brickwork being built around and over it. On the morning of last Sunday, it was discovered that two courses of brickwork above the corner stone, were demolished, supports being placed to shore up the remainder; the stone itself was removed, and had been evidently forced by some lever. The lower stone containing the coins, being thus uncovered, the glass cylinder and scroll of vellum were both stolen. From the skilful manner in which the robbery was planned and executed there is no doubt that the perpetrators were well acquainted, not only with the situation of the cylinder containing the coins, but also with brickwork and masonry. The wonder is that the robbers were not crushed by the fall of the heavy mass of brickwork above the stone, as the shores put in by them for supports, to enable them to remove the courses of brick, were not strong enough to bear the weight, and consequently the buttress parted from the portion of the main wall to which it was attached, to the extent of an inch. The thieves did not, however, get nearly sufficient in the way of booty to repay them for the labour they had undergone, as the total value of the coins in the cylinder did not amount to more than 2*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.* The vellum scroll was afterwards found in a hedge near the spot. The works of the building have been damaged to the extent of nearly 30*l.* A watchman is usually appointed to guard the premises, but on the night preceding the robbery he left at seven o'clock. A reward of 20*l.* has been offered for the apprehension of the thieves.

HOUSEBREAKING.—Two men have been examined at Exeter, and committed for trial, on a charge of breaking into a dwelling-house and stealing wearing apparel, jewels, &c. The robbery was of a very audacious character. It appeared that the family locked up the house, going out for a temporary visit, on the morning of Wednesday. At four o'clock in the afternoon, they received intelligence that the house had been broken into. Going home, they found that the thieves had entered through a back window; the rooms were ransacked, and an immense number of articles, some of them of great value, had been stolen.

ATTEMPTED MURDER IN THE HOLLOWAY MODEL PRISON.—A murderous attack has been made on Edward Beavan, one of the warders at the New Model Prison, Holloway. Thomas Dennis, the person charged with the offence, is a convict, who, after several summary convictions, was sentenced a short time ago from the Central Criminal Court to four years' penal servitude. He was taught the trade of shoemaking, but had latterly become very sullen. Having been punished, at the instance of Beavan, for breaking the rules by talking to some of his fellow prisoners while they were in their walks, he conceived a project of revenge, and a few days ago, as the warder was quitting his cell, he struck him on the back with some instrument which the warder at first thought was a hammer. A struggle then ensued, Dennis swearing that he would "do" for Beavan; but some other warders came to their comrade's assistance, and one of them took from his shoulder a sharp-pointed knife, on which blood flowed copiously. The knife had been given to Dennis a few days previously to aid him in his shoemaking; but he had sharpened it and added a handle. Being told some time afterwards that Beavan would probably die, he said it was a good job, and he hoped he might die. He was brought before the Clerkenwell magistrate last Saturday, and was committed for trial.

A BAD BEGINNING OF THE THIEVING SEASON.—Two men were given into custody a few days ago, by the proprietor of a linendraper's shop at Peckham, on a charge of stealing handkerchiefs. When taken into custody, they denied all knowledge of each other; but, after they had been locked up in different cells, a policeman heard one call out to his companion, "This is a bad job; I would not have had it happen for 20*l.*, particularly at the commencement of the season;" to which the other responded, "Nor would I have had it occur for any consideration." When searched at the station, no money was found on them. Having been brought before the Lambeth magistrate, they were sent to prison for four months.

ILL-USAGE OF CHILDREN.—Thos. Sharp, of Trenches Fields, Deptford, was charged at Greenwich, with beating his daughter, twelve years of age, with a heavy strap to which a buckle was attached. A woman living in the neighbourhood saw the man beating the child, who was entirely naked, one Sunday night. Shortly after this, the child was missed, and on Monday morning she was

found, still naked, crouched in a corner of a shed in an adjoining empty house. She appeared half dead from cold and the effects of violence, and had been concealed there during the whole of the night. Her person was also shockingly bruised. The defence was that she was thievish; but this was disproved. The father was then ordered to find bail in 20*l.*, to be of good behaviour for six months; but, being unable to do this, he was conveyed to gaol.—George Baileys has been charged at Marlborough-street with cruelty to a girl eleven years of age by lifting her up and dashing her on the pavement. The motive for this violence does not appear; but it was fully proved, and the scoundrel was sentenced to pay a fine of 3*l.*, or to go to prison for six weeks.

ATTEMPTED MURDER AT BERNONDESEY.—Patrick Griffin, a labouring man and a native of Ireland, has been nearly murdered in Thomas-place, Bernonsey, by three of his countrymen, named Richard Burchell, Abraham Burchell (brothers), and Patrick Ryan. Griffin's brother, John Griffin, a young man of twenty, was also severely injured; but he was sufficiently well to give his evidence at the Southwark police-court on Monday. According to his statement, some animosity existed between him and Richard Burchell, who had beaten him five or six weeks ago. On his brother Patrick going to see him last Saturday evening, he mentioned this fact, and Patrick replied that Burchell would not have ill-used his brother had he been present, and he added a threat of doing something to Burchell which should not please him. The brothers stayed for some time at a beer-shop, drinking, and subsequently they went to Burchell's house. John Griffin then challenged Burchell to come out, as his brother was there, and wanted to see him. The challenge was soon answered. Burchell issued forth, and, striking John Griffin over the left eye with a large piece of brick, knocked him down. He then appears to have turned his attention to Patrick Griffin, who had been shouting, "Come out! I'm here for you," and who was also knocked down, when a fierce struggle on the ground ensued. Both the Griffins were beaten and kicked, and Patrick was stabbed in the side with a knife, Abraham Burchell and Ryan assisting in the outrages. When at length John Griffin rose from the ground, he saw his brother stretched at full length. "I thought he was dead," he stated at the examination before the magistrate; "and I fell on him and kissed him. Some women in the crowd were calling out 'Murder!'" The injured man was then removed to St. Thomas's Hospital, and on Sunday he made a statement in presence of Mr. Burcham, the magistrate. According to this, John Griffin went to Richard Burchell's house to fight him, and the deponent (Patrick Griffin) endeavoured to get him away, but was attacked. He added that he had been drinking, but was not drunk, and that he might have said he would have Burchell's life before he went home, but that he did not think he had said so.—The three prisoners were remanded.

CHILD MURDER AT DOVER.—A young woman, aged about twenty-nine, living at Dover, and named Frances Wallace, is in custody under a charge of murdering her illegitimate child, a little girl five years old. The mother obtained her living as a laundress, and seems ordinarily to have been very fond of her offspring. The father of the child is the husband of the woman's sister, who has been kept in ignorance of the existence of the intrigue between the parties. Latterly, Mrs. Wallace, the murderess, has been very intimate with a carpenter named Bligh, to whom she communicated all the details of the story, even mentioning the name of the child's father, which she had never done to any one before. Afterwards, however, she became possessed of the idea that Bligh had gone up to London where her sister and brother-in-law lived and had revealed the fact of the seduction to the wife. Under a kind of frenzy produced by this idea, she cut her child's throat with a table knife, and nearly severed the head from the body. A revulsion of feeling appears to have immediately come over her, and she rushed out into the street, screaming, and alarmed the neighbours, who found her trembling and with bloody hands. She said she had murdered her child, and this was found to be the case. On being taken into custody, she expressed great remorse for what she had done, exclaiming to the policeman, as she held up her hands, which were covered with blood, "Oh, what a hardened wretch I am!" She likewise made repeated inquiries as to when the excursion train went to London, adding, "If that man goes to my sister's there will be murder upon murder." Alluding to the child in terms of endearment, she related that it had said to her on the preceding evening, "Put my sleeves in my frock, and yours in yours, to-night; and then you shall go to heaven, and not be burnt." She also observed, that the child, on coming down the same morning, said, "Mother, why did you get up so early?" On being examined before the magistrates, she exhibited great distress, and fainted more than once. She was committed for trial on a charge of murder.

THE OUTRAGE IN PARLIAMENT STREET.—Richard Cope, the shopman who was savagely assaulted on the evening of Monday week in his master's shop in Parliament-street, still lingers in the hospital, and hopes are entertained of his recovery. The culprit, who gives the assumed name of Jenkins, is a ticket-of-leave man. By

a singular coincidence, the man who, on hearing the cries of "Stop thief!" raised by the lad Lerigo, stopped him in Palace-yard and took him to the station-house, is the brother-in-law of Cope. The patient having rallied sufficiently on Tuesday evening to allow of questions being put to him, Mr. Jardine, the Bow-street magistrate, and Mr. Burnaby, the chief clerk, proceeded to the hospital, taking the man Jenkins with them handcuffed. Some of the medical authorities had given permission for certain questions to be asked; and Jenkins was accordingly, after a few preliminaries to calm the mind of the patient, placed at the foot of the bed. Cope was then asked if he knew the man, to which he faintly replied, "Yes." Being further asked how he knew him, Cope tremulously said, "That is the man who struck me." The next inquiry was whether he could tell what he was struck with; and to this he answered, after an anxious look at the culprit, "A life-preserver." Mr. Burnaby then inquired of the sufferer whether he could tell how many blows had been given him by the prisoner. Cope appeared anxious to reply more fully to this, but, after an effort, was only able to articulate "No." The chief clerk, after a short pause, next asked Cope whether the man had spoken to him before commencing the attack. The patient, whose utterance up to this point had been gradually becoming more imperfect, appeared excited by the question, and muttered some inarticulate sounds from which nothing could be gleaned. Mr. Marshall, the house-surgeon, here interposed, and said that a continuation of the examination might be prejudicial. Therefore, after the patient had tremblingly put his mark to the depositions, the prisoner and his attendants left the chamber. Subsequently, however, at the urgent request of the police, Mr. Burnaby, with the sanction of the medical gentleman, inquired of Cope if he had any previous knowledge of his assailant. The answer was a distinct negative.—Jenkins has been again examined before the magistrate, when it appeared that his real name is Marley, and that he has been in the Dragon Guards. He is the holder of a ticket of leave. The life-preserver which he employed for the attack has been found close to Canning's statue.

SACRILEGE.—Some robbers have broken into Trinity Chapel, Edinburgh, and stolen a small sum of money which they found there. The articles used in the communion service had been a good deal scratched in order to ascertain whether they were of solid silver; but, as they were found to be only plated, they were left. Two ticket-of-leave men are in custody on suspicion.—Another case of sacrilege has also occurred at Edinburgh.

A SHOT FIRED AT A RAILWAY TRAIN.—As the nine A.M. fast train from Southampton passed the Woking station on Tuesday, some miscreant either fired or threw a missile at one of the first-class carriages. It took effect upon the side window of a compartment in which two military officers, who had joined the train at Aldershot, were seated.—Lieutenant Caldwell, of the Military Train, and Mr. J. W. Johnson, attached to the depot at Winchester. The broken glass struck Mr. Johnson with sufficient violence on the side of the head to stun him, and his face was scratched severely. The police are making inquiries.

ATTEMPTED SUICIDE.—A middle-aged woman, named Wise, who appeared to be very ill, was charged at the Thames office with attempting to commit suicide by swallowing a dose of poison. In broken sentences, she said her father was a dissipated, drunken old beast, and had been in prison for writing a threatening letter to a gentleman. She had been driven to take poison by the ill-treatment of her friends. Her mother turned her out of doors. She was remanded for a week, in order that the gaol chaplain and surgeon should report on her physical and moral condition.

BACCHANALIAN LABOURERS.—Two navigators, named George Whittle and Patrick Darcy, were charged before the Lord Mayor with having stolen a quantity of sherry wine from the premises of Mr. Pitman, an insurance-broker, in Fenchurch-street. The men were engaged at work on the adjoining house, and in the course of their operations they were obliged to underpin the walls of Mr. Pitman's dwelling; through these they cut a hole of sufficient size to enable them to get at the wine in the cellar, and after drinking enough of it to intoxicate themselves in a very short time, they stole several bottles, and walked off. They had not gone far, when they were met by a policeman, who, perceiving that they had something more than their usual dress round their waists, stopped them and inquired what they were carrying. The men returned an evasive answer, in consequence of which the policeman searched them rather narrowly, and found concealed under the smock-frock of Darcy two bottles of sherry, and three more of the same on his comrade. Besides these, they had each got a tin can, filled likewise with sherry; but, on being apprehended, one of them threw away his can and broke it to pieces. They told the policeman that they had found the wine; but the latter inspected the premises on which they had been at work, and discovered the robbery and the mode in which it had been effected. The constable then took the two men into custody. When brought up at the Mansion House, they merely stated that they did not know how strong the wine was, but thought that, as they had met with it in course of their

work, there was no harm in tasting it. They were remanded.

MURDEROUS ASSAULT.—A case very similar to that of Cope, in Parliament-street, has occurred in the Grange-road, Kingsland. A burglary was committed on Monday evening at the house of a Mr. Rowlett in that road; and the brother of the householder, who was left in charge of the premises, detected the two burglars descending the stairs, about six o'clock. He grappled with one of them, but was at length thrown down in the passage, and struck with such violence with a life-preserver that he fainted for a short time. On recovering, he ran out, saw the man in the road, and again seized him, shouting "Murder!" but, feeling exhausted, was obliged to let go. The other thief, in the meanwhile, ran away; but was pursued by some cabmen and caught, on which he flung away a crowbar. The man who committed the assault was captured by a neighbour, aided by the cabmen. No police were present during the whole time to assist them. The two prisoners were remanded, but have been since re-examined and committed for trial, though several persons gave a high character to one of them (the one least guilty), and his employer, a printer, came forward in his behalf. On being committed, he became hysterical, and protested his innocence. Bail was tendered for him, and accepted.

A RUFFIANLY GRENADIER.—George Hyde, a private in the Grenadier Guards, has been sentenced by the Southwark magistrate to two months' imprisonment with hard labour for indecently assaulting women in the streets.

CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT.—The October sessions commenced on Monday, when the first case was that of Daniel Tower and William Graham, who surrendered to take their trial upon an indictment which charged them with obtaining money by false pretences and also with conspiracy. Tower, who was an attorney's clerk, had pretended to be a broker, and had illegally distrained upon some goods belonging to a man who owed the prosecutor some money. Graham's connexion with the affair seems to have been very slight and vague, and he was acquitted; but Tower was found guilty, and sentenced to nine months' imprisonment with hard labour.

Three men were charged with stealing 3*l.* from a till at the North Woolwich Station of the Eastern Counties Railway. They were found guilty, and sentenced to various terms of imprisonment and hard labour. Mr. Rilton, the counsel of one of them, having made a very ingenious, though futile, defence, the man, on leaving the dock, leant forward, and said, "I thank you, sir, for the defence you made for me."—The grand jury have returned true bills against Robson for the Crystal Palace frauds.—James Barnes, a labourer, and said to be a deserter from the Hussars, has been indicted for a burglary at Notting Hill. The evidence was entirely circumstantial, but appeared to be very strong against the accused. To the astonishment of every one, however, especially of the Judge, the jury acquitted him.—John Pratt, a genteel-looking youth, surrendered to take his trial upon an indictment charging him with stealing the sum of 98*l.* 10*s.*, the moneys of the Bank of Australia, where he was employed. He pleaded guilty, and, in consideration of his having expressed deep contrition, and rendered all the assistance in his power for the recovery of that part of the money that had not been made away with, was recommended to mercy by his employers. Sentence was deferred.—Richard Crump Barford has been found guilty of uttering four forged 5*l.* Bank of England notes to the keeper of a ham and beef shop in Leadenhall-street, named Day. The facts have already appeared in this journal. Sentence was deferred in this case too.—Mary Jones, a young woman, has been found guilty of uttering several forged cheques, and has been sentenced to four years' penal servitude.—George Shaw, a gold-better, has been condemned to the same punishment for a burglary in Bond-street.—John Smith, surgeon, a gentlemanly-looking man, pleaded "Guilty" to forging an order for the sum of 377*l.*, with intent to defraud. There were four other indictments against him, for attempting to obtain a bracelet and ring, valued at 120*l.* 15*s.*, some silk and a shawl, valued at 28*l.* The prisoner, when called upon to plead, seemed to be labouring under great mental excitement, and his whole appearance indicated a state almost bordering upon imbecility. He was sentenced to four years' penal servitude.—Octavius King, a corn merchant, pleaded guilty to two indictments for uttering forged acceptances to bills of exchange for the sums of 1450*l.* and 1500*l.* The facts appeared in this paper last week. Sentence was deferred.—Charles Faulkener, jeweller, was indicted for feloniously receiving seven hundred amethysts and other articles, the property of Richard Willis, well knowing them to have been stolen. He was found guilty, but sentence was not then passed.—Thomas Battersby, labourer, was indicted for uttering forged receipts with intent to defraud the South-Eastern Railway Company, to which he pleaded "Guilty." He was sentenced to six months' imprisonment.—Frederick Holmes, clerk, pleaded "Guilty" to an indictment for bigamy with Mary Thomas, and pleaded "Not Guilty" to another indictment for again marrying Mary Bacon, his wife being then alive. The latter charge being proved, a sentence of four years' penal servitude was imposed on the prisoner.

A MURDEROUS-MINDED WOMAN.—A woman named Harriet Collins, passing under the name of Graham, appeared at Marlborough-street charged with threatening the life of Mr. John Munroe Graham, an actor at the Princess's Theatre. She was sentenced last May to four months' imprisonment with hard labour for presenting a loaded pistol at the breast of Mr. Graham, under whose 'protection' she had at one time lived; and, on being discharged, she began again to threaten him. She now asserted that Mr. Graham had ill-used her, and squandered money she had earned by spending it among his profligate companions; but she promised not to annoy him again, and she was discharged on her own recognizances to keep the peace for six months. Mr. Graham said that, while she kept away from him, he allowed her 1*l.* a week.

THE CRYSTAL PALACE FRAUDS.—William James Robson the person charged with forgeries and frauds on the Crystal Palace Company, was placed at the bar of the Central Criminal Court on Thursday, and again yesterday, when a postponement of the trial to next session was asked for by his counsel, but refused. It will take place this day (Saturday). Robson, it is stated, will plead guilty to the charge of larceny, but Not Guilty to that of forgery.

CONSPIRACY.—George Fossey and William Neary have been tried in the Central Criminal Court on a charge of conspiracy for the purpose of defrauding Mr. Walker, Neary's master. The facts in this case appeared in the *Leader* at the time the accused were before the police magistrate. Neary, on the previous day to the trial for conspiracy, was convicted of stealing some money from the prosecutor. Both, however, were acquitted of the second charge, the Chief Baron having observed that he could not take upon himself to say that there was no case, but that he must say that the charge appeared to rest almost entirely upon the evidence of a witness (named Steele) who had said nothing about the transactions until three years afterwards, and then certainly under circumstances of great suspicion. It also appeared to him that the business of Mr. Walker had been conducted in a very loose manner, and that there really was no satisfactory evidence in the case to show that the quantity of timber charged for had not really been delivered.

FALSE PRETENCES.—Alexander Steinberg, of Bury-street, St. Mary Axe, who was described as an agent, was charged at Guildhall on Thursday with obtaining the sum of 1550*l.* from Mr. John Deputu, by means of false pretences. The prisoner is a broker, and the prosecutor a wine merchant, who has sometimes employed Steinberg. A few days ago, Steinberg obtained the 1550*l.* from Mr. Deputu under pretence of having a transaction in "chairs." It was supposed he meant chairs to sit on; but it now appears he really meant "shares." Mr. Deputu seems to have made no inquiries, but to have parted with his money with great reliance on Steinberg's honesty. The agreement was that the shares were to be bought again of Mr. Deputu by another person; but this person never came. The prisoner was remanded, and bail was refused.

THE CHARGE OF ASSAULT AGAINST CAPTAIN PLATT.—The charge of assault against Captain Platt, nephew of Baron Platt, was tried at the Brighton Sessions on Thursday. On the 31st of last July Captain Platt went down to Brighton, called on Mr. Lawrence, and requested some explanation and satisfaction in reference to something which he alleged the latter had circulated affecting the character of his wife (formerly an actress, Miss Louisa Howard). In the course of a warm altercation, Mr. Lawrence stated that he believed the lady in question was not the most immaculate person in the world; and as he (Mr. Lawrence), who had gone out of his house, followed by Captain Platt, was in the act of getting into his carriage, the captain struck him very violently with a whip across the shoulders and hand, causing the blood to flow very freely. Captain Platt now pleaded guilty, offered ample apologies, and undertook to contribute 100*l.* to the Sussex County Hospital, with which Mr. Lawrence is connected, and to pay all expenses. He was required to enter into recognizances to appear in court if called up for judgment; and, having done this, he left with his friends.

MURDER AT SHREWSBURY.—John Hollis, a waiter out of employment at Shrewsbury, has stabbed a man named Bromley. The murderer had been kicking and attempting to stab a girl with whom he was cohabiting, but of whom he had become jealous. Some men interfered, among whom was Bromley. Hollis struck him in the breast, having, though unseen by the others, a knife in his hand. The wounded man died immediately. Hollis is in custody.

HARRISON, THE LEEDS "WIZARD."—Harrison having been again examined on the charges detailed last week, was sentenced to nine months' imprisonment with hard labour; after which he is to enter into his own recognizance in the sum of 100*l.* to be of good behaviour for six months. Jane Harrison, first wife of the prisoner, then stepped forward to prefer two charges against him—first, of abandoning her and her children; and, secondly, of having been guilty of bigamy in marrying his present housekeeper, who calls herself Mrs. Brown. Upon this charge, Harrison was remanded.

STATE OF THE METROPOLIS.—Letters appear in the

papers, giving accounts of burglaries, murderous highway assaults, and other acts of violence at Peckham, Gray's-inn-road, and the neighbourhood of Gordon-square. In the latter locality, there has been an instance of forcible entrance into a house, about six o'clock in the evening, for the purpose of extorting money by violence. At that time there were only three women in the house; but they contrived to get the ruffian out. As usual, there was no police. What are we coming to?

SUICIDES.

A YOUNG servant-maid, living at Birmingham, named Elizabeth Barton, has committed suicide by drowning herself in a water-cistern attached to her master's house. Mr. Smith, her master, went out one morning to business, and returned home at five o'clock in the afternoon, accompanied by a friend. He rang the door-bell, but was not answered, upon which his friend climbed a wall and entered the house at the back, when he let Mr. Smith in from the street-door. They then searched the house, but could find no one. Mr. Smith, whose suspicions were now aroused, next went into the yard, where he discovered that the lid of the water-cistern had been removed. He sounded the vessel with a hoe, and found that it contained the body of some person. This was got out with the assistance of some of the neighbours, when Mr. Smith identified it as the body of his maid-servant. Life was quite extinct. The girl had been for some days past in a very low and desponding state in consequence of having learnt that a young man who had been courting her for several years, and by whom she had a child, was just married to another woman in London. It is supposed that this circumstance must have been the cause of her self-destruction. An inquest having been held, the jury returned a verdict of Temporary Insanity.

An old man, living in the service of the Rev. Mr. Cartwright, rector of Butcombe, in Somersetshire, has killed himself by cutting his throat with a pocket-knife. The poor fellow, who had for some time past been troubled with disease of the heart, was one day taken very ill. His master administered the medicines which had been prescribed for him, and sent him to bed. Not long after this, he was discovered standing in the middle of his bedroom with a clasp-knife in his hand, bleeding profusely from a wound he had inflicted across his throat. Being asked by Mr. Cartwright why he had done so, he said that he had committed the action in a kind of dream, and was hardly aware of what he had done. Every care and attention were paid to the sufferer, but he died a few days after the occurrence. At the inquest, the surgeon who had attended him during his illness said it was his belief that the man's sufferings from the difficulty of breathing were so great as to bring on a fit of momentary insanity, during which he lacerated his throat under the idea that he should relieve himself. The jury returned a verdict in accordance with this evidence.

STATE OF TRADE.

THE Board of Trade returns for September were issued on Monday morning. Notwithstanding the extraordinary amount of our exportations during the preceding three months, which showed an average excess of 2,000,000l. per month over the corresponding periods of last year, the total again presents a considerable improvement, the difference as compared with September, 1855, being 1,144,012l. The chief increase has again been in metals, the foreign demand for iron rails, as well as for manufactures of iron, copper, and tin, having been extensive. Cotton manufactures show no variation, but yarns of most kinds have been largely shipped. The total exports for the first nine months of the present year have amounted to 84,906,605l., against 69,226,887l. in the same period of 1855, showing an increase of 15,679,768l., or about 22 per cent. As compared with the same period of 1854, the increase has been 8,248,681l.—With regard to imported commodities, the chief feature continues to be the large increase in the arrivals and consumption of wheat, flour, and rice. Other articles of food and luxury have also been freely taken into use, especially coffee, tea, cocoa, sugar, wines, spirits, and tobacco. The imports of other goods have also been to a full extent. Of timber, both colonial and foreign, there have been full arrivals, and the consumption has likewise been heavy.—*Times*.

The following resolution has been adopted by the Committee of the Stock Exchange:—"Resolved,—That, in consequence of the extraordinary conduct pursued by the directors of the Crystal Palace Company in denying the validity of transfers of shares which had been registered at the office of the company, the committee will not recognize any further dealings in the shares, and direct that the name of the company be struck out of the official list." This resolution stands for confirmation on Monday next.

A letter has since been addressed by the Crystal Palace Company to the Committee of the Stock Exchange. It explains that the refusal of the company to admit the validity of certain shares was not intended as a denial of ultimate liability, and states that, in accordance with the opinion of counsel, it has now been determined to recognize them without further question. It

also announces an intention to change all the shares of the company into stock.

A few weeks ago, the workpeople at Messrs. Spencer and Horsfall's mill, Coventry, turned out for an advance of wages to the amount of one shilling each per week. Before leaving the mill, one of the weavers cut two warps in the loom. Messrs. Spencer and Horsfall have offered a reward of 10l. for the discovery of the offender; and the weavers themselves, in order to show that they deprecate the act, have offered a further reward of 5l. The firm having persisted in refusing the advance, several hundred hands are thrown out of employment. The *Coventry Herald* mentions what it calls a cruel, if not an illegal act, on the part of the firm, namely, the printing of the names of the turn-outs, and sending a copy to each warehouse in the neighbourhood, in order to prevent the men obtaining employment.

The suspension of Messrs. Fox, Henderson, and Co. took place on Wednesday. During the past year, the firm have experienced occasional difficulties, which were greatly increased by the reckless circulation of reports affecting their credit. By great efforts, they were enabled to maintain their position up to the present time; but the renewed pressure in the money-market, and the discovery of losses from heavy foreign contracts just finished, have now compelled them to call their creditors together. It is understood that upon the completion of their annual stock-taking and balancing, the house have found that they have suffered to the extent of about 70,000l. by the construction of the Zealand (Danish) Railway. Their total debts are stated to be about 320,000l., of which about half are unsecured.—*Times*.

NAVAL AND MILITARY.

BANQUET TO THE THREE REGIMENTS OF STAFFORDSHIRE MILITIA.—A county banquet to the colonels and officers of the three regiments of Staffordshire Militia (the first of which has been doing duty at the Island of Corfu, the second at Aldershot, while the third has remained at home and has sent 1000 men into the line) was given at the Shire-hall at Stafford, early in last week, by the lieutenants and deputy lieutenants of that county. The Earl of Harrowby presided; and besides his Lordship, the principal speakers were—Sir Harry Smith, Sir Robert Peel, Admiral Mainwaring, and the Earl of Lichfield. In the course of one of his speeches, Sir Robert Peel made some remarks arising out of his recent visit to Russia. He remarked:—"In Earl Granville, Government had one who, though carrying courtesy to its utmost limits, was not anxious to impress the Russian Court, as another ambassador did, that a different feeling prevailed towards Russia from what was really the case. (Hear.) He had seen assembled in Russia 120,000 of the finest infantry in the world. Those troops in stature and appearance exceeded anything he had ever before witnessed, and he had been over the whole of Europe; yet he had no doubt that the pluck of the English army would be a match for them. (Cheers.) He had visited the fortress of Cronstadt, and there was but one opinion, from the Grand Duke Constantine down to the youngest 'middy' on board the Vladimir, that, had the energy of the commander equalled the pluck of the British navy, that fortress at the present moment would be crumbled in the dust. (Hear, hear.) Sir Charles Napier had been through the whole of the fleet and fortress, and he gave it as his opinion that it was impossible to destroy the fortress. It was certainly very clear that it was impossible to attack Cronstadt with success now; but when the war commenced the case was very different, and if the man who commanded the fleet at Copenhagen had commanded the Baltic fleet, or if a man possessed of the spirit and capacity of a Nelson had commanded that fleet, he had not the slightest doubt that, as the fortress at Copenhagen yielded, so would Cronstadt have fallen." (Hear, hear.) Sir Charles Napier has since published a letter to Sir Robert Peel, in which he reiterates his old complaint of not being furnished with gun and mortar-boats and rockets.

PIRACY AND MURDER.—Three Sicilian seamen, named Giuseppe Lagava, Giovanni Barbalalo, and Matteo Petrich, have been examined at Portsmouth on the charge of piracy and murder on board the barque *Globe*, of Alfoa, of which we gave the details in the *Leader* of October 18.

REDUCTION OF THE ARMY.—A board of commissioners, from Chelsea Hospital, assembled at the invalid establishment, Chatham, on Friday week and Saturday, for the purpose of ordering the discharge of a large number of troops belonging to cavalry and infantry regiments, consequent on the reduction which is now being made in the army. Two hundred and fifty non-commissioned officers and men were dismissed, chiefly on account of wounds received during the Crimean campaign.

COURT-MARTIAL.—A court-martial assembled on board the Waterloo flag-ship at Sheerness last Saturday to try William Forster, sailmaker, doing quartermaster's duty in that ship. The charge against the prisoner was for having behaved, on repeated occasions between the 1st of May and the 6th of October, 1856, in a scandalous manner. The evidence has not been published, nor has the precise nature of the misconduct been specified; but it would seem to be of a peculiarly infamous character.

The court was of opinion that the charge against the prisoner was fully proved, and adjudged to him twelve months' imprisonment in the county gaol at Maidstone, with hard labour; after which he was to be discharged from her Majesty's service with disgrace.

THE AMERICAN FRIGATE MERRIMAC.—Mr. Andrews, Mayor of Southampton, paid an official visit to the United States frigate *Merrimac* on Monday. He was accompanied by the Sheriff, Mr. J. White; the President of the Chamber of Commerce, Mr. J. R. Stebbing; and a number of civic officials connected with the corporation. On arriving at and leaving the vessel, the Mayor received the usual complimentary salute from the guns of the frigate. Lord Palmerston, who happened to be in Southampton last Saturday with the French Ambassador and a party of friends, also paid a hasty visit to the *Merrimac*, but did not go aboard, the hour being late. On Tuesday, the ship was visited by Admiral Sir George Seymour, the Port-Admiral of Portsmouth.

MISCELLANEOUS.

PRINCE ALBERT, it is said, will shortly proceed to the Continent for some months. It is believed that he will make his principal stay at Geneva—a place offering peculiar advantage for the study of modern languages and for other branches of education.—*Daily News*.

MR. MILLS, M.P., stated at the annual meeting of the Evercreech Agricultural Society, held at Shepton Mallet, that the opinion he expressed on the subject of agricultural statistics when examined before a committee of the House of Lords, was this—that the farmers would gladly publish the number of acres they have in different cultivation, but that they would not consent to give any further information.

REWARD FOR COURAGEOUS CONDUCT.—A boy, aged fourteen, named Edward Perrin, received, at the National School, Henley-on-Thames, a handsome bronze medal, awarded to him by the Royal Humane Society for his courageous conduct in saving the life of a girl by rescuing her from the Thames after she had twice sunk. Nearly 30l. also, have been subscribed for him in the neighbourhood. This sum will be invested for him in the savings bank.

THE DUCAL PALACE AT BLENHEIM.—Some correspondence appears in the newspapers with reference to the alleged exorbitancy of the charges levied on visitors to Blenheim Palace and grounds by the head gardener and his labourers. Every party of six is obliged to have a separate ticket of admission; and on each ticket the head gardener, as he lets the party out at the gate, demands the sum of 5s., refusing to allow the visitors to pass unless they consent to pay that amount. "This he does," says "One who has been fleeced," in writing to the *Times*, "in addition to the moneys levied by the porter for letting you into the palace, by the housekeeper for showing you the state rooms, and by the porter's man for exhibiting the Titian Gallery, in which, by the way, there are no paintings by Titian." Mr. Alfred S. Churchill, writing to the *Illustrated London News* on behalf of the Duke of Marlborough, says that the family are greatly inconvenienced by the large number of persons visiting the grounds, and have to give up most of the habitable rooms of the mansion during the two visiting hours of the three visiting days during the week; that "the duke himself, who resides the greater part of the year at Blenheim, is obliged to regulate his movements and his drives by the apparent proximity of any of these numerous parties;" that visitors often smoke beneath the windows, lag behind, and otherwise misconduct themselves, and that "whatever may be charged goes entirely to the remuneration of those extra hands who are employed for the purpose of conducting the public round the place." Another correspondent of the same paper says, in reply to this, that "in one of the latest appeals to the judges against the decisions of the Commissioners of Taxes, the following case appears to have been decided and printed for the guidance of the commissioners in future:—The Duke of Marlborough was surcharged for extra gardeners. He appealed, and stated that he gave his head gardener 200l. per annum; and the expenses of labour beyond that sum were to be paid by the head gardener, who was to reimburse himself out of the money received from visitors to the gardens; therefore the extra gardeners did not belong to him (the duke), but to the head gardener, who contracted with him." This writer signs himself "A Commissioner of Taxes."—The Duke of Marlborough has written to the *Times* in answer to these attacks by "anonymous scribblers;" but the effect of his letter is little more than an admission of the truth of the allegations. His Grace says he has made a rule to the effect that a fee of one shilling for each person entering the palace shall be held sufficient, and that he has done his best to check exorbitant demands on the part of his servants; but he admits that these exertions appear to have been unsuccessful. With respect to the gardens, the head gardener has permission to charge twopence a head for each visitor, and no more.

LITERATURE AT A WORKHOUSE.—A few months since, it was decided by a majority of the guardians of a Welsh Union not to appoint a regular chaplain to the house, and the spiritual duties have since been performed by various Dissenting ministers of the town. The fol-

lowing is a *verbatim* copy of an entry made in the "Chaplain's Book" by one of these gentlemen:—"September 14. Attended and held Divine Service at the real Time The congregation very Fair and very attentive and it was indeed a Time Be remembered may God water There They Sowers and Seed."

MR. COLLIER, M.P., addressed his constituents on the evening of Friday week, on the chief political topics of the day. He gave a limited support to Lord Palmerston's Government, and advocated reform of many social, commercial, and legal abuses.

DEER-STALKING AND HIGHLAND DEPOPULATION.—Mr. John S. Blackie writes to the *Times* from the Edinburgh University, on the subject of the depopulation of the Braemar district for the advantage of the lovers of deer-stalking. He observes:—"What strikes a stranger most in the Braemar district, after he has recovered from his first stupendous admiration of mountains and pine-forests, is the great number of ruined houses that are everywhere prominent in the glens; that, in fact, many glens which had lately contained a considerable population of industrious peasants present nothing now but a solitude and a gamekeeper's house. To English sportsmen, of course, this must be a very agreeable spectacle; but to a Scotchman who loves his country, and who knows that the strength and the pride of Scotland were in her cottars, there can be few things more sorrowful. In no part of Europe, indeed, except in Greece, have I seen anything that so affected me with sadness as in these beautiful glens of my native Highland hills; and my enjoyment of the sublime and beautiful in mountain scenery was grievously marred by the constant contemplation of 'deserted villages' and green spots of grass, where the young soldiers that fought in Spain and Waterloo had nursed their heroism, now preserved only as a winter banquet for wild deer. But what affected me with a yet deeper sorrow was the universal feeling of despondency and hopeless despair that had taken possession of the remaining population. Every poor man in that district had some sad reminiscences of an abandoned home and of banished friends, and, when you entered into conversation with him with regard to his own future prospects, you were sure to learn that the man considered his fate as altogether dependent on persons in whose estimation one royal stag was of infinitely greater value than a hundred honest tenants."

CHILDREN POISONED BY LABURNUM SEEDS.—About a dozen young children at Otley, in the West Riding of Yorkshire, have been nearly killed by eating largely of seeds gathered from some laburnum trees which had been cut down in the neighbourhood. They were seized with rigidity of the limbs, closing of the eyes, and a livid appearance of the face. Surgical aid having been procured, emetics were administered, and the children recovered.

AN ANTIQUARIAN DISCOVERY AT JERUSALEM.—Mr. J. M. Bellow, who has been recently staying at Jerusalem, has written a very interesting letter to the *Times*, in which he states that he has been admitted into the sacred precincts of the Mosque of Omar (the site of Solomon's Temple)—an honour not usually conferred on Christians. While walking on a grassy platform, planted with olive-trees, in the neighbourhood of the mosque and of the south-eastern corner of the city walls, he made a curious discovery. He writes:—"I observed a small opening in the ground, where evidently a block of stone in an arch had fallen in, discovering a vault beneath. In the chamber in the foundations of the south-east corner of the walls (where, by the way, the Sheikh gravely showed me the recesses in which Zacharias resided, and the 'cradle in which he rocked the infant Christ'—a Roman niche, cut in marble, and laid on its back upon the ground; the circular head, as is common, being carved like a shell, and suggesting to the ignorant Mussulman an appropriate place for the head of the cradle), and in the very remarkable vaulted passages under El Aksa it is impossible to resist the conviction that the masonry, gigantic as the blocks of stone and pillars are, must, at least, be of Roman, perhaps even of Jewish construction. In examining them my mind recurred to the vault beneath the olive-trees, and it struck me that it must be much on the same level underground as the south-east chamber and the El Aksa vaults. I accordingly examined the whole of that platform of olive-trees very minutely, and I was enabled to satisfy myself that from the south-east corner of the walls, and from the Mosque El Aksa, the whole area stretching towards the Beautiful Gate is one mass of vaulted chambers. I came upon one vault, adjoining the walls, where the roof had broken in, and into which I vainly begged to be permitted to descend and explore. Enough, however, appeared in various directions to prove the existence of a series of vaults, and I discovered that the olive-trees above have in places struck through the roofs with their roots; they have then descended through the chambers beneath, and again taken root in the solid earth." Mr. Bellow considers that these vaults were necessary for the purpose of forming an artificial level between the various hills, on which to build the Temple or any other edifice.

DISCOVERY OF ANGLO-SAXON GRAVES.—A discovery of considerable interest, throwing much light upon the funeral rites of our Saxon ancestors, was accidentally made a short time ago in the garden attached to the residence of Mr. Charles Carill Worsley, at Winstar,

Derbyshire. While lowering a bank of earth for the purpose of making some improvements in the pleasure-ground, the labourers uncovered two graves at the depth of upwards of four feet from the present surface, each containing a human skeleton, lying on its right side with the knees drawn up and the head pointing towards the north-east. Some spear-heads, pieces of an earthenware vessel, a bead, and some other small manufactured articles, were also found. The remains are said to belong to the period dating from the end of the fifth to the eighth century.

DR. RAE, THE ARCTIC TRAVELLER.—A singular incident occurred at the Lochabar Agricultural Society's dinner. A gentleman, apparently a tourist, arrived (says the *Edinburgh Courier*) at the hotel just as the party were about to sit down to dinner; he asked, and was immediately granted, permission to join; throughout the evening he made himself particularly agreeable, and his health was proposed as the "Stranger," and very cordially drunk. On rising to return thanks, he said:—"In the course of my life, I have seen some rough days and many pleasant ones. I have lived ten months in a snowhouse without once warming myself at a fire; I have had my mocassins cut off my legs with a hatchet; I have had to kill my own food with my own gun, and I have been reduced to the necessity of living on bones; but all these things are easily forgotten when I meet such a pleasant party as that now around me. As I am an entire stranger to you all, and as I have received so much kindness from you, it is but fair that you should know who I am. My name is Rae, and you may have heard it associated with the Franklin Expedition." At this announcement, the astonished party started to their feet, and gave Dr. Rae a most enthusiastic reception. He had been on a visit to Mr. Edward Ellice, M.P., at Glenquoich, and was on his way to Castle Menzies.

EARTHQUAKE IN EGYPT.—A shock of earthquake was felt throughout Egypt on the 12th instant. At Cairo, two hundred houses were thrown down, and the remainder were nearly all damaged. The vast population had encamped outside the city. The shock was felt at Smyrna, and in many of the islands of the Levant.

IMPROVEMENTS AT BALMORAL.—During the last two days of the residence of the Court at Balmoral her Majesty and the Prince were engaged in giving orders for improvements at the castle, to be carried out previous to their next visit, and the laying out of new shrubberies and flower-beds in the grounds. The works are now going forward with spirit. The clock-tower at Balmoral Castle was furnished with its clock ere the Queen took her departure. The striking bell has a very fine tone, and can be heard at a great distance among the hills.—*Scotsman*.

THE LATE SIR H. R. BISHOP.—The friends of this late eminent composer, who for many years held the office of Professor of Music to the University of Oxford, have commenced a subscription, in order to raise a monument to his memory, and above all to purchase the ground that covers his remains, and thus prevent his grave from being forgotten.

CAMELS IN AMERICA.—Some camels have been recently imported into the United States for the purpose of conveying travellers, baggage, &c., over the deserts of Texas.

THE CITY GAS-WORKS.—The General Purposes Committee of the City Commission of Sewers presented on Tuesday their report on the question of the alleged nuisance caused by the City gas-works at Whitefriars. After giving a brief sketch of the statements on both sides, they conclude:—"After maturely considering the whole question, and being distinctly advised that neither under your own act of Parliament nor the Nuisances Removal Act have you any jurisdiction in this case, and feeling that it is rather for the magistracy of the City to prosecute an indictment in such a case as this than for you, because they have always been accustomed so to do, and because it is doubtful whether you would be legally justified in burdening your rates with the heavy costs of such indictments,—for these reasons we beg to recommend that you lay the whole of the evidence and documents in this case before the Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen, that they may direct such steps to be taken in the case as they may be advised." The report was agreed to, only two hands being held up against it.

THE FRENCH INUNDATIONS.—The Lord Mayor has remitted a further sum of 15,000*l.* to the fund for the relief of the sufferers by the French inundations. This raises the total to 850,000*l.* or 34,000*l.* sterling.

SUSPICIOUS DEATH.—The body of a Mr. Wilson, a merchant of Dundee, has been found in the Thames off Irongate-stairs, Tower. Twenty-four sovereigns, a 5*l.* Bank of England note, and a silver watch, were found on him.

BELLADONNA FOR LADIES' EYES.—The *Lancet* alludes in terms of just indignation to the sale of belladonna to ladies, for the purpose, as the vendors unblushingly advertise, of giving "brilliance, vivacity, and the power of fascination to the eye." The writer grants that it may have this power, but he adds that it is at the price of injuring the eye itself. If persevered in, it may lead to blindness.

THE AMERICAN DANCE OF DEATH.—The extraordinary story which we quoted from the *Times* two weeks ago under this heading has of course led to a long controversy and the expression of considerable doubt as to

the correctness, and even the veracity, of the writer. In answer to these criticisms, the correspondent has come forward with his real name. He is a Mr. Arrowsmith, an Englishman who emigrated to America in 1828 when a young man: the alleged events occurred last August. In connexion with these fresh particulars, the *Examiner* and the *Standard* make a strange blunder, being both under the impression that the duellings occurred in the year 1828, though at that time there were no railways either in the United States or in England, and revolvers were uninvented. This, however, by the way. The controversy does not seem to be yet terminated, as the *Times* of Wednesday contains a letter from a "New Englander," who shows that many of Mr. Arrowsmith's statements are inconsistent with well-known facts, and who believes that that gentleman has been hoaxed. He asks why he did not make the statements known at New York instead of in London. Alluding to Mr. Arrowsmith's assertion that such scenes as those he has described are of frequent occurrence in Georgia, the "New Englander" exclaims:—"What! does the man know what his words really mean? He actually says that five fatal duels and the murder of a child are by no means uncommon occurrences in that region, and that some one is killed on that line almost daily! Here, at least, is an assertion to which a direct denial can be opposed. This is no statement of a specific fact against which any 'general' denial is comparatively inefficient, but a broad allegation as to a condition of things said to be permanent and notorious; and I say, peremptorily and unhesitatingly, that this assertion alone is so rash, so monstrous, and so devoid of even the shadow of foundation, that, according to all general principles of testimony, it should invalidate the whole of the narrative."

THE NEW BISHOP OF LONDON.—The formal ceremony of electing the new Bishop of London took place on Tuesday in the Chapter House, St. Paul's-churchyard. The confirmation of the election will take place in the parish church of St. Mary-le-Bow next Friday, and the consecration in Lambeth Palace on the following Sunday.

REFORM OF THE CORPORATION OF LONDON.—A Common Hall was held on Wednesday for the purpose of receiving the report of the committee appointed on the 15th of April last to carry out the resolutions and petition then agreed upon, in opposition to the bill then in Parliament, entitled "A Bill for the better Regulation of the Corporation of the City of London," and to pass such resolutions as may seem advisable. The report having been read, a resolution adopting it was unanimously carried. Other resolutions, pledging the livery to oppose any interference with their just privileges, but at the same time to introduce all necessary reforms, were adopted, and the hall then broke up.

CLIMBING BOYS AT PRESTON.—A public meeting has been held at Preston to protest against the employment of climbing boys in sweeping chimneys. The Chimney Sweepers' Act is described as a dead letter in this locality.

LIABILITY OF RECTORIAL TITHES TO SEWER-RATES.—Mrs. Wood, of Wilford-villa, Ryde, in the Isle of Wight, was summoned on Monday before the Metropolitan Board of Works for the non-payment of 9*l.* 5*s.* Mr. Woolrych, the solicitor to the Board, said that Mrs. Wood resided at Wilford-villa, Ryde, Isle of Wight, and she had been assessed in the sum of 9*l.* 5*s.* in respect of two sewer-rates in the Fulham and Hammersmith district, under the Metropolitan Sewers Act, in respect to rectorial tithes in the parish of Hammersmith. She denied her liability; but the Board, having sought legal advice, were instructed that they could enforce the demand. Mrs. Wood did not appear either personally or by her solicitor, and a motion was carried, to the effect that a distress be issued for the recovery of the amount. The subject will probably lead to great litigation, as Mrs. Wood is said to be determined to try the question in a court of law.

CONSECRATION OF A ROMAN CATHOLIC BISHOP.—The Right Rev. Michael Desire Vesque, the newly-appointed Roman Catholic Bishop of Roseau, Dominica, was consecrated last Sunday morning at St. Mary's, Moorfields. Cardinal Wiseman officiated.

MR. CLARKSON, the barrister, died on the afternoon of Friday week at Brighton, after considerable suffering, arising from the formation of a carbuncle in the nape of the neck.

IRELAND.—THE NEW JUDGE OF APPEAL.—The Right Hon. Francis Blackburne, Lord Chancellor under the Government of Lord Derby, has been appointed Lord Justice of the new Court of Appeal under the act of last session.

CRYSTAL PALACE RAILWAY.—The first section of the West of London and the Crystal Palace line, from the Crystal Palace to Wandsworth, was formally opened or traffic on Thursday.

DINNER TO COLONEL LAKE.—A public dinner was given by the Mayor of Grimsby (Mr. Charles Bartholomew Moody) in honour of Colonel Lake, C.B., Aide-de-Camp to the Queen, &c., at the Yarborough Hotel Grimsby, on Wednesday evening. The Earl of Yarborough, the High Steward of the borough, and Lord Worsley, had accepted the Mayor's invitation, and proposed being present, but were prevented by the recent death of Lord Hawarden. The Mayor presided, and the Colonel had a very cordial reception.

TRADE WITH BELGIUM.—At a meeting of the Council of the Chamber of Commerce for the worsted district, held at Bradford on Monday evening, Mr. Titus Salt in the chair, the subject of the proposed alterations in the Belgian tariff was taken into consideration. A memorial addressed to Lord Howard de Walden, our minister at Brussels, pointing out the ill effects of the *projet de loi* in question, was adopted.

THE PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY has addressed a communication to the daily papers with a view to showing that during the last fifteen years its members have exerted themselves, with considerable success, to improve the education of chemists and druggists, prevent the adulteration of medicines, and put a check on the indiscriminate sale of poison. "The council believe," says the document, "that the exertions of the society in elevating the scientific character of pharmaceutical chemists will have more effect in checking adulteration, imperfections in medicines, and accidents from poison, than any penal enactment that could be passed; and that, however desirable it may be to provide facilities for the summary punishment of persons guilty of fraud, it is equally important, and should be the first object of solicitude, to regulate the qualifications of those who dispense medicines, and who ought to be sufficiently educated to be able to test the quality of their drugs and preparations."

THE WORKSOP LABOURERS' FRIEND SOCIETY.—At the last annual meeting of the Worksop Labourers' Friend Society, of which Viscount Galway, M. P. for East Bedford and the Hundred of Bassettlaw, is the president, his Lordship, in replying to the toast of "The County Members," made a few observations, in which he argued against agricultural statistics and secular education, and in favour of juvenile reformatories. He was inclined to think the ticket-of-leave system had failed, and was the source of a great many burglaries and murders. After his Lordship's remarks, the Hon. W. E. Duncombe, the second member, urged on the meeting the necessity of improving the condition of the labourer.

AN ORNAMENT FOR THE CHURCH.—It is stated by the *Newcastle Guardian* that it is the present intention of Lord Ernest Vane Tempest to go into the Church, his family having several good livings in their gift. Being too bad for the army, he proposes to sweep himself into the dust-bin of "the Establishment!"

FIRE AT WAPPING.—Between six and seven o'clock on Monday night, a fire broke out at the premises in High-street, Wapping, in the joint occupation of Messrs. Carsen, Warren, and Co., bottle merchants, Messrs. Hart, sail manufacturers, and Mr. James Mackay, filter maker. The firemen were not able to subdue the flames for several hours. The injury is very serious, probably amounting to some thousands of pounds.

MR. RUSKIN ON THE TURNER BEQUEST.—Mr. Ruskin, the celebrated art critic, writes to the *Times* as follows:—"As active measures are being now taken to give the public access to the pictures and drawings left by the late Mr. Turner, you will perhaps allow me space in your columns for a few words respecting them. I was appointed by Mr. Turner one of his executors. I examined the will and the state of the property needing administration, and, finding that the questions arising out of the obscurity of the one and the disorder of the other would be numerous and would involve a kind of business in which I had no skill or knowledge, I resigned the office; but in the course of the inquiry I catalogued the most interesting of the drawings which are now national property, and respecting these the public will, I think, be glad of more definite information than they at present possess. They are referable mainly to three classes. 1. Finished water-colour drawings. 2. Studies from nature, or first thoughts for pictures; in colour. 3. Sketches in pencil or pen and ink." The writer undertakes, if permitted, to arrange and frame after a peculiar fashion, at his own expense, and within six weeks, one hundred of these drawings.

THE AUSTRALIAN AUXILIARY STEAM CLIPPER COMPANY.—About two hundred and fifty gentlemen, principally merchants interested in traffic with the colonies, met on Monday on board the steam-vessel *Istamboul*, now lying in the Victoria (London) Docks, for the purpose of inspecting her previous to her departure for Australia. This vessel is the first of a line of steamers intended for the Australian service. A *déjeuner* was provided on board, and partaken of by those who had been furnished with tickets. The Lord Mayor presided, and Mr. Gooch, who represented the company, gave some interesting details with respect to the vessels. He said:—"The introduction of small auxiliary steam-power in the original sailing clipper ships is the course which we have attempted in this company to carry out. We hold that economy in the first cost of the ship is important; and, secondly, economy in the working of it. We believe that we have in these ships economy in the first cost, and we believe that we shall have economy in the working cost." He had ascertained that they could bring two of these ships into use for the same sum of money (£5,000) as that required for one of the full-powered steam-ships. "The one ship with full-powered steam carried engines equal to 450 horse-power. Our two ships will carry engines equal to a combined power of 160 horse-power. The registered tonnage of the one ship was 1900 tons; our two ships are 2861 tons. Their capacity for carrying cargo was 450 tons upon the average. We carry

2800 tons. With regard to passengers, I believe that their one ship would carry as many as our two ships, and therefore I let that fall down. The quantity of coal consumed by the one ship upon the one passage—that is, from London to Australia—was about 1950 tons. The quantity of coals that our ships consume we estimate to be 300 tons. The cost of the coals, at 2l. per ton upon the average, which I believe is a very low one, upon the big ships, was 3900l. The cost of coal to these two ships is 600l. The value of the freight upon the cargo carried, taking it at 3l. per ton, in the one ship, is equal to 1350l.; the value of the freight upon the cargo carried in our two ships is equal to 8400l." (*Hear, hear.*) He anticipated that the ships will make two voyages to Australia and back—that is, four passages—in the course of a year.

WARLIKE STORES FROM THE EAST.—The whole of the stores, used in the late war, which were brought from Kertch and the East by the Turkish Contingent Engineer Corps, have been deposited at the Ordnance stores, Gun-wharf, Chatham, under the direction of Captain G. Allan and Quartermaster T. B. Thomett.

AMERICAN MURDERS.—Three very horrible murders have been committed at Bergholtz, a German settlement in the town of Wheatland. A Dr. T. C. Strange, his housekeeper, and his daughter, have been killed, apparently by an axe, by some person or persons unknown, and from motives which are not apparent. The corpse of the doctor was discovered about a mile from his own house, lying in a pool of blood in the roadway. The other bodies were found in the house.

THE AMOOR.—The scientific expedition to the new territory of the River Amoor has returned to Irkutsk, in Siberia, and reports that the country up to a distance of four hundred verstas—about two hundred and fifty miles—from the estuary is not at all adapted for colonization, as the soil is damp, marshy, and covered by thick and almost impenetrable jungle. A mercantile expedition has now gone to the Amoor, to ascertain the wants of the inhabitants, and see what produce of their own they have to give in exchange.

DEATH OF LORD SCARBOROUGH.—The Right. Hon. John Earl of Scarborough died at his seat, Sandbeck Park, near Tickhill, Yorkshire, on Wednesday last. The deceased peer, John Lumley Saville, Viscount Lumley, and Baron Lumley of Lumley Castle, in the county of Durham, in the peerage of England, and Viscount Lumley of Waterford in the peerage of Ireland, was born on the 18th of July, 1788, and succeeded as the eighth earl on the 21st of February, 1835, his father having been killed by a fall from a horse.

STAFF APPOINTMENTS IN THE INDIAN ARMY.—There have been rumours afloat respecting a measure of no common interest to the Indian army, which is said to be under the consideration of the East India Company, if it has not received the sanction of that body already. It is whispered that the officers of the Queen's army are to be permitted to enjoy a share of staff appointments which have heretofore been bestowed exclusively, or almost exclusively, upon officers of the Company's service. The report is, we believe, not wholly destitute of foundation.—*Overland Mail.*

MORE TROUBLE IN THE CHURCH.—Upwards of eighty benefited clergymen, in the diocese of St. David's, have memorialized Bishop Connop Thirlwall against the theological teaching of the Rev. Rowland Williams, the professor of divinity in Lampeter College. The protest is specifically directed against the teaching contained in the professor's sermons, published under the title of "Rational Godliness," the tendencies of which were pointed out about a year ago in the *Quarterly Review*, and have since occasioned much discussion.

A BEAR SHOT BY A LADY.—Miss Philbrick, a lady residing in Piscataquis county, having been annoyed by bears, set a trap for them. The morning after the trap was set, it had disappeared, and a trail was observed showing which way it had gone. Miss Philbrick procured her rifle, started in pursuit, and was not long in overtaking bruin with all his paraphernalia. A shot from the rifle soon terminated his existence, and Miss Philbrick had the satisfaction of receiving a good price for the "pet," in addition to the bounty allowed by the State.—*Canadian Paper.*

PUSEYISM AT EAST GRINSTEAD.—A public meeting of the inhabitants of East Grinstead has just been held, the vicar being present, at which resolutions were passed condemnatory of the Popish practices of the Rev. J. Mason Neale, the Principal of Sackville College. Representations have been made to the Bishop of Chichester, to the effect that Mr. Neale encourages confession and other practices diametrically opposed to the teaching of the Church; and the Earl of Delawarr, the patron, has been called upon to remove Mr. Neale from the headship of the college, in consequence of his religious principles and practices.

MILITARY SPORTS AT CHATHAM.—In consequence of the great success which attended the recent first attempt to introduce a variety of athletic sports and pastimes among the soldiers at Chatham garrison, they were repeated on a large scale on Thursday afternoon.

EXPLOSION OF A MINE.—During some engineering operations which were being performed on Wednesday at Versailles, a mine exploded, and killed one man and wounded two others.

Postscript.

LEADER OFFICE, Saturday, November 1.

NAPLES.

LETTERS have been received from Naples to the 27th. The legations were to leave on the following day for Rome by land, to embark on Friday at Civita Vecchia, and arrive on Saturday evening at Marseilles. General Lanza replaces General Gaeta as governor of Naples. Considerable military precautions continue to be adopted. The city was tranquil, but trade dull.

ENGLAND AND PERSIA.

Intelligence from Bombay states that the English expedition against Persia will probably not proceed to the Persian Gulf, the Shah having, it is said, yielded to the demands of Great Britain.

KING OTHO OF GREECE.

The *Univers* publishes a letter, addressed to it by the Abbé Caré, of Nancy, which contains the following passages:—"Monsieur,—With respect to assertions frequently made in the public journals relative to the religion of King Otho, I have to affirm positively that it is absolutely false that he has changed his religious belief in order to reign in Greece. His Majesty remains a believing and practical Roman Catholic."

CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT (YESTERDAY).

SENTENCES.—The young man Pratt, who pleaded guilty to embezzling 98l. 10s., the property of the Directors of the Bank of Australia, was sentenced to nine months' imprisonment, with hard labour.—Richard Crump Barford, convicted of uttering four forged 5l. notes at a ham shop in the City, was sentenced to six years' penal servitude.

CONVICTIONS.—Two men pleaded Guilty to two separate burglaries, and were sentenced, the one to six years' penal servitude, the other to eighteen months' hard labour.—George Chas. Robinson, formerly a policeman but lately discharged, pleaded Guilty to a charge of bigamy in marrying Mary Ann Read, having another wife living at the same time. The second wife recommended him to mercy on account of his good and kind conduct to her while they were together. He was sentenced to nine months' hard labour.

GENERAL GUYON.

Guyon is dead, and the English public is at leisure to reflect upon the treatment this 'gallant good' soldier received from the English Government. In the East his counsels were neglected, in the West his services were forgotten. A brilliant military leader, his genius was superseded during the first Armenian campaign by the concerted imbecility of Turkish pachas. He was then cast aside. The British Cabinet, as if inspired by Austrian sympathies, allowed him to remain no longer with the Ottoman army. He retired, mortified and disappointed, to Constantinople, and there, unrewarded and unhonoured by the country he had served, he died a painful death. This is the way in which we enlist and encourage the chivalry of our generation. If the name of Guyon becomes immortal, everlasting also will be the stigma of English ingratitude, which sought to disgrace this Bayard, who never fought in any cause but that of justice and liberty.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.—Considerable excitement and alarm prevail at the Cape, owing to the influence which a fanatic chief exercises over the religious superstitions of the Kafirs. This man prophesies great disasters to the whites.

THE MERRIMAC has sailed for Brest, thence to proceed to the West Indies.

CRYSTAL PALACE.—Return of admissions for six days, ending Friday, October 31, 1856, including season ticket holders, 11,336.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

THE MOON'S ROTATION.—W. Kenward's communication in our next.
THE SUBSCRIPTION FOR ITALY.—The lists arrived too late for publication this week. They shall appear in our next, with all others sent in before Thursday, and a general statement of progress.
"A Lombard."—Next week.

We do not undertake to return rejected communications. No notice can be taken of anonymous correspondence. 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.

The Leader.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1856.

Public Affairs.

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

OPINION IN ENGLAND AND GOVERNMENT IN FRANCE.

THE *Moniteur* has once more reiterated the complaints of the French Government against the British press. Once more, therefore, some explanations on this subject are due from us to our readers. Our opinions with respect to the French Emperor are well known. We have never, for a moment, retreated from them. But while we have been consistent, we have sought to be just, and if we have sacrificed opportunities of popularity by refusing to flatter the Empire, we have incurred the risk of offence and misconception by declining to represent the passions of defeated parties. When the growth of civilization in France was interrupted by the *coup d'état*, when every eminent Frenchman found himself, in his own country, a nullity, and, of necessity, a malcontent, there were strong temptations to the liberal journalist to identify himself with exasperated politicians and refugees, eager to breathe their bitterness against the usurping power. But we claim not to be reckoned among those who yielded to this temptation. It appeared to us—and we have not once or twice only laid down the principle—that an English journalist, writing of foreign politics, should be a critic, not a partizan; and we have always held it to be as irrational to adopt the animosities of parties abroad, as it is unmanly to extol every form of success, by whatever means obtained. We have sought, indeed, to represent that great constitutional party which is deprived of representation in France, and we say, with not a little pride, that among our readers are the most distinguished of those men who stand aloof from the disgraceful honours of the Empire. But the sympathy to which they appeal is not that of the libeller. LOUIS NAPOLEON became Emperor of the French; his government was, *de facto*, accepted by the nation; France submitted to be controlled, for a time, by his will, and it was not for any Englishman to constitute himself the champion of the Emperor's personal enemies. We have not consented, therefore, to authenticate inuendoes or lampoons on the personal habits of NAPOLEON III. But he is a public man, and, beyond most public men, liable to criticism. He is not inclined, we suppose, to disavow the responsibilities of his position. He is the State; he has undertaken to regulate every public transaction in France; by his own choice, by his own pretensions, he is answerable for all and everything that results from an official act within the limits of the Empire, or of its diplomatic influence abroad. Consequently, if, as his

friends and those who have access to him affect to believe, his will does not actuate all the proceedings of his Ministers, if he be wiser than WALEWSKI, and more conscious of his dignity than the *Moniteur*, that is a plea not admissible while the French constitution remains what it is. For the workings of Imperialism in France the Emperor is distinctly and directly responsible.

And by the workings of that Imperialism to what condition has France been brought? We have from time to time pointed out what we conceived to be the inevitable consequences of LOUIS NAPOLEON's policy. We have said—our pages are our witness—that the prosperity attributed to the Empire was showy, superficial, and deceptive; that France was being converted into a universal gambling-table; that the public works of Paris were constructed at the cost of the provinces and at the risk of a disastrous collapse; that trouble, discontent, and fear would ensue as soon as these false appearances began to vanish; that the industrious classes would want employment when the State could not give it to them; and that the financial system established by the confederates of the *coup d'état* was a delusion and a danger. If we recal these declarations, made long before the occurrence of the events which have justified them, it is not to claim the gift of prophecy, but to prove—may we not say for the honor of journalism?—that such statements are not made at random, or without a sense of responsibility. A calm and impartial study of passing incidents, and of the sure action of political principles, a determination to write independently, an honest use of sound information on contemporary affairs—this, indeed, was necessary before we could perceive whither France was drifting; but this is within the reach of every responsible and conscientious journalist. Within whatever sphere of publicity originated political criticism of such a character has a recognizable effect upon the public mind. This is our work, and this is our reward. Have we, then, said anything of France, under the *coup d'état*, which has not been amply justified? Of the names that make the glory of the living generation of Frenchmen is one to be found among the converts of the Empire? Does not the irrefragable logic of his position teach NAPOLEON III. that he must govern by repression, by artifice, in silence? What has become of the commercial and industrial prosperity which was heralded last year by officious adulation? Does any serious man believe that the Empire rests upon a surer foundation than uncertainty and the dread of change?

The English press is awakening to a perception of these truths, and publishes criticism instead of flattery. Whereupon the French Government takes alarm, and indites an ignoble paragraph endeavouring to criminate our Liberal contemporaries and ourselves as enemies of the alliance. If the accusation were not false, if we were not better friends of the alliance than the flatterers who conceal its real necessities, not another line should appear in our columns directed against the system of the Emperor. We have asked for an alliance with France when our Ministers have not been so ready to ratify it as they were when LOUIS NAPOLEON became Emperor by an act which proved his oaths and professions worthless. When France changed her form of government in 1848, the Republic sacrificed its foreign policy for the sake of a British alliance. What was the response of the British Cabinet? Sir ROBERT PEEL plainly implied what it was in his last memorable speech on the 28th of June, 1850:—"Sir, the most important point in the foreign policy of HER

MAJESTY'S Government I concurred in. I agreed with them in the recognition of the French republic, and as to the policy of recognizing the Government which appeared to be most conformable to the will of the French people. I go further, and say that I think such a recognition ought not to be a cold, reluctant acquiescence in an unavoidable necessity. I believe that, without reference to the constitution of the Government, the true policy is to maintain friendly relations with that great people on the other side of the Channel, to cultivate a good understanding with them, to show a disposition to place confidence in them. And it is because I concur in that policy, because I am favourable to the cultivation of a good understanding with France, that I now ask you, the Government, to give an account of your French relations, and to tell me how it is that such a correspondence has taken place as that which is laid upon the table of the House, and why it is that you have had these altercations with the people of France, who have shown a disposition to place in you a cordial and unlimited confidence."

Well, the British Government has displayed "a cordial and unlimited confidence," but not in France. Lord PALMERSTON'S confidence dates from December, 1851. We have trusted LOUIS NAPOLEON, have been led by him, have conferred upon him position and prestige. We have lent him our power, and he has used it to work out his own adventures. For, be it remembered, they who are most warmly attached to the idea of a French alliance are now forced to question the advantages and to count the costs of Imperial friendship. What has it gained for England? It has dragged her into a costly, ill-conducted, unsatisfactory war. It has forced her to sign an abortive and discreditable peace. It has made her subservient to the Empire of December the common sneer of Europe. On the other hand, what has it done for LOUIS NAPOLEON? His situation, which was at least ambiguous, has been made respectable. He has been launched into the company of 'legitimate' rulers. He has been allowed to show himself at the head of the British Government, and the worst suspicion arising from the cavillings of the *Moniteur* is, that having played out the hand of the English alliance, he desires to secure new sympathies by following another course of policy. But, if LOUIS NAPOLEON really meditated a withdrawal from Great Britain—which is scarcely credible—it would be difficult to indicate any positive evil that could ensue to the British nation. We do not yet feel ourselves weak enough to solicit Imperial protection. Even the free trade which we have invited is postponed to a time when the Empire itself may have ceased. Supposing, however, that the Empire exists until the law of nature destroys it—that is, until the death of LOUIS NAPOLEON—for beyond that the most rabid Bonapartist does not look—are we sure that we have reared the foundations of a durable alliance? Have we cultivated the sympathy of the French people? Have we respected their aspirations, or given them credit for probity and intelligence? Have we not stung them by congratulations to their political conqueror? Let us be sure of this:—loyal as NAPOLEON III. may be, were he to vacate the throne to-morrow we should find that our Government had not made a friend in France. Our policy towards the French people has been one of alienation; our policy towards the Emperor, so far from conciliating the Bonapartists, has disappointed them; for they cannot comprehend the necessity of a sentimental intimacy with England in preference to more congenial offers. They

would be in the right were it true that England is liberal abroad. But it is *not* true. The alliance that exists is between the Cabinets, and, that of England being subordinated to that of France, despotism on the Continent is in no way jeopardised. The basis of a real international compact does not exist. Such a basis can only be founded on similarity of institutions, on identity of policy, on sympathy, on the reciprocity of public spirit, and these materials of an alliance, which abounded when Sir ROBERT PEELE spoke of Lord PALMERSTON'S "cold and reluctant acquiescence," now form no part of the public system in France. Instead of placing our "cordial and unlimited confidence" in the heart and brain of France, we are colleagues of an Accident, and that Accident thwarts our policy when it cannot direct it. Even the diplomacy of the two Governments has taken diverging courses since the conclusion of peace. In the Black Sea, on the Danube, in Italy, the policy of LOUIS NAPOLEON is not that of the British Cabinet. It is not, then, the tone of the British press that diminishes the good understanding between the two Governments. That press, if true to its duty, will neither calumniate nor flatter the French Emperor. It will leave his personal character unassailed, so far as public interests are not concerned; it will even allow an oblivious charity to cover the antecedents of the only men whom he can find to serve him as his ministers and agents. But the domestic dangers of France, created by a spendthrift government, to satisfy a gang of gamblers, or to bribe the class that breeds sedition, can no longer be concealed. We pointed to them while they were yet in the future; we have lived to find our contemporaries pointing at them now. And if the explanation published on this subject renders it difficult for the French Government to carry on its system of economical imposture, to conceal gaps in the public credit which can only lead to national bankruptcy, let the *Moniteur* be well convinced that to hide the evil is to intensify it. Again we say, we cling to the hope of a French alliance, based on natural conditions; we are unwilling to sever even the limited official partnership that has been established. We avow the responsibility that attaches to every printed word; but if there be justice in history, it will never be said that the British press has broken faith with the French people by pointing out the infatuation and the recklessness of the Empire. We have taken a decided part, but it has not been the part of faction or of levity.

"YANKEE DOODLE" IN DOWNING STREET.

It is a cheering reflection for the people of this country, that the conduct of its Government has had no influence on our relations with the United States. It is humiliating to reflect that we preserve friendly relations chiefly because the Americans have gone straight forward in their course, the changeable course of our own Government being entirely overridden. We certainly have *not* succeeded in procuring the election to be President of a gentleman eminent in joint-stock enterprises; we have not succeeded in sending to the White House the agent of the Anti-slavery society; but the American people, setting aside the extreme factions on both sides, will on Tuesday next elect a man who will represent at home the entire republic, as he has worthily represented it abroad for so many years. We have before explained the grounds on which JAMES BUCHANAN has accepted the post of chief magistrate. He has refused to acknowledge the

dictation of the North to the South; he has refused to set aside the regular working of the ordinary political machinery in Kansas, because that working had been untoward in working for Northern interests. He knows well enough that the same regular working of the American laws will ultimately tend to check encroachments, whether from the North or from the South. The breaking down of the Missouri compromise was effected by the South through the supineness of the North; and the North, which should blame itself as much as the clever politician STEPHEN DOUGLAS, will, if it will devote itself actively to the vigorous means of political legislation, be fully able to recover the lost ground. The one essential condition to a fair settlement of the great difficulty of the Union, by the free opinion of the Union itself, is, that the Government at Washington should be lifted above faction, and should control affairs neither in a Southern nor in a Northern spirit, but in an American spirit. No man is likely to allay the asperities of either section of the republic, or to restore a more steady equilibrium than JAMES BUCHANAN.

He has obtained the confidence of his countrymen by the share which he had in exposing the small devices of our Government, in such instances as the enlistment question. His views with regard to the future are distinct; and, in the meanwhile, among the best acts of Mr. PIERCE'S administration is the settlement of a question which JAMES BUCHANAN did much to illustrate—the question of Central America. If our letters from the other side of the water are correct, that question has certainly *not* been settled in a purely Downing-street sense. We have already stated that our Government, after squatting on the island of Ruatan and claiming the possession of it against Honduras, had ceded that very island to the local claimants of the state of Honduras; a wonderful concession after all the vaunts of "No surrender!" But that is not all; our Ministers claimed an eternal right to protect that immortal state of Mosquito Indians; a 'nation' which has gradually dwindled to the vast census of 500 souls, more or less. Well, they have taken a partner in a joint protectorate, the partner being no other than the Government of the United States; the very 'party' whom 'we' wished to keep out! We claim some vague extent of territory for our gipsy protégés; we have now consented to define their boundaries. We denied the right of Nicaragua to the territory: we have now accepted a stipulation that the state of Nicaragua alone shall have the right to extinguish the right of the Mosquito Indians! This convention with the United States places our relations with the republic on a simple and satisfactory footing; but certainly it does not carry out the boastful policy which Downing-street professed.

These concessions have been made before a new party appeared in the questions between England and America, before a new light was thrown upon the iniquities of the South. An "Eye-witness" lately related, through the *Times* newspaper, his horrible experiences during a singular railway journey from Macon to Augusta, in Georgia. He knew not the names of the people, he said, for family names are not generally used in America; so he named the parties A, B, C, and so forth. He related how the train stopped in order that the passengers might accomplish duels with each other; how one man was shot and his body put into the luggage-van; how a young lady was bullied by various men in the presence of others; and how a child was killed because it cried for its murdered grandfather. And such events

were "common!" The story is not only false, but it is incredible. It was full of inaccuracies; it described travellers entering the train and alighting in such a manner that they would have started from the point of arrival and arrived at the point of departure. It described the train in a rapid journey as stopping at the pleasure of duellists; it declares such slaughter to be common in Georgia, oblivious of the fact that, if journeys were commonly so mortal, the population of Georgia could not last out the exhausting process. In vain, however, should we assure the writer that, as we now know, travellers went over the same line the day after the frightful occurrence and heard nothing of them. "Of course," he would say; "why make a wonderment about events so usual?" At first we supposed that the writer was some Moses Primrose whose fellow-passengers had twigg'd at once his simplicity and his timidity, and had cooperated in a solemn hoax; but a new solution is given of the mystery. JOHN ARROWSMITH attests his sweeping charge against the Georgians with his proper name; and the *Times*, we believe, is quite correct in saying that he is a respectable person. He has by his own account arrived at the mature age of forty-nine; he has also supplied us with some other biographical particulars. His wife had children, "for she was a widow;" and his own patriotism he attests by the conduct of his step-children. Good faith, mature age, frankness, and social respectability, characterized JOHN ARROWSMITH, who is known in Liverpool. At a very early stage in the inquiry the *Times* volunteered the assurance that it had had evidence of JOHN ARROWSMITH'S *sanity*: the *Times*, therefore, had spontaneously issued its own commission *de lunatico* in the case. We doubt, however, whether our great contemporary had procured all the evidence on the subject. Had it, may be asked, learned that JOHN ARROWSMITH was in this country some fifteen years ago, and that he then, as we believe, had the *same* story to dispose of? But he could not have got it into the *Times*; he had then no distinguished acquaintance in Liverpool—no illustrious member of Parliament to be go-between for him with the great journal. No popular Member who is ambitious to be an authority on American subjects with his large American connexions, was willing to be a medium for giving such a story to the *Times* and the English public. The tale has had one effect at least: whether it was concocted in "sanity" or in the love of hoaxing, it has shown the lengths to which anti-American feeling can stultify the shrewdness even of the *Times*. The story might have done mischief, if it had been circulated two months ago. As it is, Yankees will receive it, while they are in the heyday of a successful election, and they will only laugh. But it will fail to do mischief, precisely because the representatives of this country, in Cabinet, Parliament, and the Press, have totally failed to impress their own character upon our relations with the United States. England and America triumph, because English statesmen have failed, ludicrously failed.

THE LIBERAL BASIS.

If earnest men are asking, as the *Nonconformist* says, when the calm of English politics will be over, it is time that they should prepare a policy. We have already seen too much energy thrown into the waste channels of agitation. The political leaders whom we have denominated Quietists in their relation to foreign affairs are warranted in deploring the loss of power resulting from isolated movements, and from the enthusiasm of men revolving round particular topics, and never

for a moment quitting their specialities to create a broad basis of reform. But it is not enough to lament this prodigality of personal exertion, raising small excitements on separate platforms, but giving no impetus to the great machine by which all political change, in this country, must be effected. We want a foundation, we want a leading object, and that can be no other than an improvement of our parliamentary institutions. Will Mr. MIALD calculate the 'work done' during the last ten years in connexion with the Church Establishment? Sir WILLIAM CLAY as to church-rates? Mr. BERKELEY as to the ballot? What better chance have the Jews of entering Parliament than they had in 1850? What way is made by the promoters of public education? Do we gain a step upon our ministers in the matter of foreign policy? Are our legal reformers satisfied with the results of their collective exertions? Do they who lament the declining efficacy of Parliament believe they have, at present, any chance of enforcing a remedy? Can any liberal member, however influential, hope to ameliorate the Poor-Law? No; Mr. MIALD may labour with his face to the East, and Sir WILLIAM CLAY with his face to the West. The annual debate on the ballot may dwindle down to an unanswered speech from Mr. BERKELEY, followed by a ministerial majority. Committees may sit, and investigate our continental relations, but nothing will be altered; because, while the reformers stray along diverging paths, each dwelling on his own infinitesimal project, the Conservatives, including the Whigs, bear down in compact masses. First, they beat Mr. BERKELEY, then they baffle Sir HENRY CLAY. Next they turn their extended front against Mr. COBBETT, who, having retired, leaves them free to engage with Mr. OLIVEIRA, who (may his shadow never diminish) desires to cheapen wine. We know not what these gentlemen would say were it seriously proposed to defer, for a time, the consideration of special topics, in order that the ground might be prepared by a large measure of political reform. They must be aware that, if they make any progress with the several 'interests' they have taken in charge, it is so slow as to be all but hopeless. Annually, they rally the same supporters, their minorities being smaller or greater according to the number of independent Liberals in the House. Thus, Sir WILLIAM CLAY has his steady adherents in the cause of church-rate abolition; Mr. MIALD is sure of a particular set to vote with him on 'voluntary' points, and these two reformers work together to a considerable extent; but where are they when other Richards are in the field? Their subject is not 'on,' so they are 'off.' It is to be doubted whether one member of the Liberal party could indicate the line of action that will be pursued by another during the next session of Parliament. A scheme of united action would take them by surprise. Yet this, it seems to us, is a necessary condition of success. It is the moral of our parliamentary history for the last twenty-five years. The Reform Bill was the prolific parent of a hundred practical reforms; another Reform Bill might be the parent of as many more. It would be vain, at this moment, to consider the necessity of such a measure, the public ear being closed to all discussions of the kind; but it is by no means the wrong time to press upon Liberal members of Parliament the adoption of general grounds, upon which they can work in union, and towards a general object. Political reforms are conquests, special reforms are prizes, to be distributed after the victory. If we desire to abolish church-rates, to introduce humanity into our poor-law, to amend our statutes

affecting industry, to purify our corporations, to get the work of the public done in a creditable manner by the servants of the public, we must have a parliament that is inclined to do these things, not a parliament which has repeatedly and pertinaciously refused to do them. A great political union might at this time preserve the country from many dangers, and ensure it much prosperity, and much real glory.

Why should not this union include liberal reformers in and out of parliament, and journalists agreed to labour for a common purpose, that the machinery of reform might be renovated and improved? It would be a sign of political health and morality. It is not altogether the public that is indifferent. The public gathers together upon invitation. Sound political leadership would not be long without a powerful following.

OUR FOREIGN ACCOUNT BOOK.

THE Paris *Union* does not share the apprehensions of the *Moniteur* that the calumnies of the English press will trouble the friendly relations of the two states, but it entertains the opposite fear, that "the two countries will be brought into an accordance of ideas which would place them beyond the ban of social instincts, and of all Europe." This indeed would be a frightful destiny. Imagine the two chief countries in Europe placed without the pale, not only of European civilization, but of the instincts of mankind! We look, then, to see the reason of this fear, and we find it thus stated: "France is the central point of the political world, England is perhaps the central point of the commercial world: these two contrary positions cannot give rise to the same tendencies, ideas, or passions, and if they become assimilated France must lose her genius." If we were conjuring up apprehensions we might anticipate the opposite results—that England was losing her genius; or, we might say, that England had lost her genius, some time since, when she abandoned CROMWELL'S principle of sturdy self-government and went into trade, leaving government to the upper classes. Prince ALBERT warned us the other day that "constitutional government was on its trial." He stated these things in his capacity as a guest of the Merchant Tailors: if he had consulted the English people, they might have told him that they had begun to give up constitutional government, as they found it interrupt them in trade. There can be no other reason why those who are nominally the 'servants' of the crown, and of the country, are at present carrying on the most important national affairs without letting the country know a word about it or have any clue to their actual position. What we are afraid of is, that our Government will ultimately be found accomplishing some betrayal of constitutional principles without any opportunity of preventing it. At present their position is perfectly unintelligible, and the guesses which we make only tend to sharpen our apprehensions.

Some difficulty has occurred on the Danube. This is intelligible enough in its nature, but not in its predisposing causes. Having let Russia outwit them in the Paris Conference, the Western Powers find they cannot settle the new boundary. Turkey does not wish Austria to remove her troops from the frontier before the boundary be settled, but Russia has won over France to demand the withdrawal of the Austrian troops "as soon as possible," in the letter of the Paris Treaty. Here, then, there is a difference between the Allies, which on the reassembling of the Paris Congress may frustrate the very objects with

which the late war was commenced; and our Government has drifted into such a position, that it finds itself relying upon Austria!

We have withdrawn our Ambassador from Naples, but not the more does King Bomba give in. What next are we to do? Are we to occupy some point of the King's territories? And if we do, what are we to do with it? For it is resolved, or supposed to be resolved, in deference to France, that we shall not run the risk of promoting an insurrection in Italy, so that we threaten the King and keep at a distance from him—a mode of treatment not likely to operate on his fears.

There is, however, a risk to which this country is exposed that would in no degree surprise the students of Napoleonic history and 'Ideas.' Count WALEWSKI at present is allowed to coquet with Austria and Russia in turn, and to put into the *Moniteur* those silly notifications which can have no effect but to offend the people of this country and to make the French people believe that we are hostile to them. It does not follow, however, that the Emperor intends always to let his agent have his own way; and it would occasion no surprise if he were to sanction a *coup d'état* on Italian ground, in the constitutional sense. He would then be the great patron and liberator of Italy; and England would be exhibited in the light of skulking in Italy for the fourth time—of skulking when the work which she had put the Italians up to just awaited its finishing stroke.

Count WALEWSKI's circular in the *Moniteur* makes some other reports which have not been contradicted by our Government. He implies that something has been settled in Greece. Now, what is that? That the Belgian Government has given some satisfaction on the score of the beggarly anti-Gallican newspapers which were published in Brussels. But what does this mean? Lord CLARENDON protested, in terms, against the allusions to the Belgian journals; and is it possible that the uncle of the QUEEN has been made to submit to the indignity of giving explanations on this point? If so, it is not the genius of France which is in bondage to the alliance, but the genius of England.

Some time since the English Government was braving every difficulty with America; then insolently refusing satisfaction on the enlistment question; insisting upon the right of appropriating Ruatan without any Legislative sanction in this country, and so proclaiming its resolve to stand by the beggarly Mosquito Indians to the last man. What do we hear now? That the Mosquito Indians have been taken under the joint protectorate of England and the United States, with power reserved for the state of Nicaragua to extinguish the titles of the Indians, while Ruatan—English territory—has been surrendered to the state of Honduras without the slightest authority from the Representatives of this country—indeed, without the slightest explanation.

The taxes of our people were raised for the purpose of the war. It seems probable that we shall be defrauded of the advantages of the war by the caprices or incompetency of our managers. We are still in close alliance with a country whose 'genius' insults our allies, including the near relative of our QUEEN, and insults our people through its press. We have been making some settlement in Greece agreeable to Count WALEWSKI. We have been giving up the territory of this country without the leave of Parliament. Sir ROBERT PEEL tells us that we are on the verge of a war—commencing somewhere, perhaps at the foot of Mount Vesuvius—without the slightest guarantee that the war will be consistent with the

public opinion of this country, or will even have objects which the people of this country desire. For anything we know, it may turn into a war to put down the Italians in the name of the Allies—namely, of France, Great Britain, and Austria.

THE FATIGUES OF THE SELF-GOVERNED.

SOME of the self-governed would like to be governed without so many appeals to their free will. They are poisoned by adulterations, and they want Parliament to protect them against the vendors. They are harassed by hearing of suicides, and they ask Parliament to guarantee the repose of their nerves by forbidding the sale of poisons. Of course, to forbid the sale of poison is to forbid the sale of medicine, since all medicine, taken in excess, is poisonous. They must have their health seen to, and be prohibited from living in close rooms or undrained neighbourhoods. The Supreme Legislature must, next session, indicate where the self-governed may bury their dead; must compel the vaccination of every individual in the realm (though some hold vaccination to be a form of murder, while others abhor it as irreligious); must, for the twelfth time, introduce a new code for the medical profession; must calculate the produce of the fields; must provide schools for the nation's children; must help the Metropolitan Board of Works to raise money, must do all that the self-governed cannot do for itself. These may be prudent schemes, but where are we to stop? We are not accustomed to put that question, considering that because we ought to stop at the end of two miles is no reason why we should not go a mile and a half. But the tendency is evidently a growing one. We saw, not long ago, how Sir GEORGE GREY was compelled to provide the counties with police. We have seen how the Home Office has placed the police magistrates under its control. We see Lord PALMERSTON widening the arena of his patronage by dealing with the aged bishops. We see Sir BENJAMIN HALL's authority ramifying far and wide among the local Boards of the metropolis. We have even seen the Marylebone Vestry, which was once called "the fourth estate," depriving itself of public sympathy in a contest with the Central Poor-Law Board. We are afraid lest in England we may soon have too much government. It was with a strange delight that some persons heard the anecdote concerning the QUEEN's objection to the appointment of Dr. TRENCH to a bishopric. They enjoyed the idea of Lord PALMERSTON, the representative of Parliament, being 'set right' by the royal prerogative. If the royal prerogative would go further than it went according to this anecdote (which is, of course, a compound of rumours and guesses), certain persons would be still more gratified. They are tired, and want rest. It appeals them to learn that, in America, serious things are discussed in a violent manner. We are all becoming very white-handed in England, and the public avows, with a yawn, that it is 'bored.' Whenever any matter goes wrong, "the Government ought to interfere." If a jury return a foolish verdict, wise people have long doubted whether we can adhere to the system of juries. If a session be fruitless, there is reason to believe that we have passed that period in our historical life in which parliamentary institutions are useful. If a particularly vile forgery is committed, it is to be regretted that capital punishment for such offences is no longer the law of the land. This disposition to revoke the social changes of the

century has made considerable progress, and finds expression, from time to time, in an indirect manner, and with ridiculous gravity. We have even heard a proposal that Government should take all the charities into its own hands, inspect the accounts of public companies, establish a Central Board of Management to regulate the proceedings of Railway, Bank, and Assurance Directors, and undertake a variety of other duties, to make up for a deficiency of good sense on the part of the public. But the self-governed will find that, by entrusting their affairs to Government, they effect a sacrifice of independence without a diminution of responsibility. They will have to protect their own interests, let the Legislature do what it will.

BRITISH EXPEDITION AGAINST KARRAK.

AT the opening of the present century the objects proposed to be achieved by British diplomacy in Persia were twofold—to raise up a counterpoise to the power of the Afghans, and to neutralize the influence of France. For some time previously, the invasion of India had been contemplated by the Afghan prince Shah ZEMAN, instigated as much by the golden promises of WUZEER ALI of Oude, as by his own ambition. To create sufficient employment for the hostile Shah within his own territories, was at that time deemed a matter of chief importance; and Lord WELLESLEY actively intrigued with the Court of Teheran to create a diversion in the province of Khorassan. In this his lordship encountered no great difficulty, as FUTTEH ALI SHAH had already avowed his intention of "conquering and reducing the countries of Candahar and Herat." Thus far, then, Captain MALCOLM found his mission sufficiently easy, though the subsequent dethronement of Shah ZEMAN was effected solely by the intrigues of his younger brother, Shah MAHMOUD, without either British or Persian aid. Captain MALCOLM even succeeded in the more momentous task of counterbalancing the prestige of NAPOLEON BONAPARTE, then in the full career of conquest, and by his immense largesses accomplished the expulsion of the French from the Persian territory. As time glided on, a Russophobia succeeded to the Gallophobia. There was little to be apprehended from our Gallic rivals so long as LOUIS PHILIPPE was sitting in his chamber, counting out his money. But NICHOLAS was Czar of All the Russias, and the cold shadow of the Cossack darkened Central Asia. It was undoubtedly through Russian counsels, supported by the promise of the engineering services of Baron ACHE, that an expedition was designed against Herat in 1832. The interposition of Mr.—now Sir JOHN—MCNEIL availed, however, to cause its postponement until the following year. In the autumn of 1833, MAHOMMED MIRZA was at length able to gratify his long-cherished ambition of leading a well-appointed army into Western Afghanistan. But the valour of the Heratees and the death of ABBAS MIRZA compelled him to raise the siege of their city, and return to his own Government.

On the decease of FUTTEH ALI SHAH in the latter part of 1834, MAHOMMED MIRZA was placed upon the throne by the united good offices of England and Russia. The ascendancy of the latter Power now became speedily apparent, though it was actually to the former that he was chiefly indebted for his elevation. The new Shah had no great cause, indeed, to be grateful to the Muscovite, but he had experienced his superiority in war. After the rout of Ganjah, nothing but the fleetness of his flying charger had saved him from death or captivity. The terror

of that moment never passed from his memory. And it must be admitted that the Russian Minister at his court spared no pains to humour his evil inclinations and to inflame his desire for martial glory. On the other hand, the British envoy was too honest and upright to advise him to his own hurt. He urged the Shah to stifle his ambition, and to devote his energies to the happiness and welfare of his people. It is not surprising that Count SIMONICH became a greater favourite than Mr. MCNEIL.

The people of Herat had furnished reasonable cause for the Shah's indignation. Notwithstanding the treaty they had concluded with FUTTEH ALI SHAH on the death of ABBAS MIRZA, they made frequent inroads into the Persian dominions, for the purpose of carrying off captives to sell in the markets of Bokhara and Khiva. But in 1837, Prince KAMRAN sent an ambassador to MAHOMMED SHAH, the bearer of rich presents and of most advantageous propositions. Nothing, however, would satisfy the Shah but the acknowledgment of his suzerainty, an indignity little likely to be accepted by the Afghan prince whose independence had been recognized by the defensive treaty concluded in 1809 with the British Government. The envoy from Herat had been especially instructed to solicit the good offices of the English Elchee, who appears to have exerted himself to the utmost to recommend mild counsels to the Shah. It was all in vain, and the envoy returned to his master with the assurance of the Shah's wrath, but of the Elchee's good wishes. Thinking it possible that the envoy might receive further communications from Prince KAMRAN while on his return homewards, Mr. MCNEIL sent a native servant of the British Embassy, to accompany him a few marches. Hearing, however, that an English gentleman was lying sick at Herat, the envoy very considerably took the Gholam the whole way, to give the invalid an opportunity of writing to his fellow countryman. The Persian authorities, therefore, arrested the Gholam as he rode back to Teheran on the plea that he was an emissary from the enemy. Mr. MCNEIL lost no time in demanding his servant's liberation and proper redress for the insult to the British flag. A long correspondence then ensued, conducted on the one side with admirable firmness, temper, and knowledge of Oriental character, and on the other with ultra-Oriental duplicity and subterfuge. The matter in itself would be comparatively unimportant were it not for the suspicious coincidence that on occasion of the present expedition against Herat a somewhat similar dispute has been got up by the subordinate officers of the Persian Court. It is probable that in both instances the object has been to betray the Elchee into an unseemly exhibition of temper, and thus divert his attention from more serious questions. In Mr. MCNEIL's case the artifice was easily baffled by that gentleman's long Eastern experience, but in the present instance it seems, unhappily, to have been more successful.

In the latter part of 1837, MAHOMMED SHAH sat down before Herat with 40,000 men and 80 pieces of artillery. The Russian Minister, Count SIMONICH, marked out the batteries, directed the guns, and planned the grand assault that was delivered on the 23rd of June, 1838, and which was so signally repulsed by Afghan valour, guided and confirmed by British skill and solidity. The defender of Herat was Lieutenant ELDRED POTTINGER, a young artillery officer in the Hon. Company's service, and one of the many heroes that service has produced. The failure of the assault would probably have sufficed to compel the Shah to return to his

own dominions, defeated and disgraced. But this step was rendered inevitable by the landing of a small British force on the island of Karrak, in the Persian Gulf. Lieutenant-Colonel SMITH, with 500 rank and file of the Bombay Native Army, and two 6-pounders, took possession of that islet on the 19th of June, and thence threatened Bushire and the very heart of Persia. That island is, perhaps, at this moment again in the occupation of British troops, and with a similar object in view. We are told, indeed, that Herat is an insignificant place, in the midst of sandy deserts, altogether unworthy of notice from this country. Such, at least, was not Mr. McNEIL's opinion, than whom no better judge exists of Eastern questions. Writing to Lord PALMERSTON after the siege had lasted seven months, he dwells upon the fact that, notwithstanding the Affghans had laid waste the surrounding country as far as possible, it was from the immediate vicinity the Persian army had almost exclusively drawn its supplies. Count SIMONICH had travelled thither in his private carriage from Teheran without inconvenience, and could, if he pleased, have continued his journey with equal facility to Candahar. No physical difficulty intervenes between that important town and the frontiers of Georgia. Even then the Russian minister had guaranteed the secret treaty by which MAHOMMED SHAH undertook to cede Herat to KOHUNDIL KHAN, the ruler of Candahar, as a feudatory of Persia. Had the Persian monarch succeeded at that time, it is nearly certain that he would have pushed his conquests further into Affghanistan, perhaps into Scinde, and thus have come into collision with our influence, if not with our actual power, in India. For these reasons, Mr. McNEIL emphatically expressed his belief that "it may be of the very highest importance to preserve the independence of Herat, or at least to prevent its being incorporated with Persia, and that if the Shah should succeed in taking Herat, we shall have reason to regret not having interfered to prevent it." DOST MAHOMMED's agent at the Persian Court, at that time, was well aware of the real motive for the solicitude displayed by Count SIMONICH in furthering the Shah's designs upon Herat. "The object of the (Russian) Elchee," he writes, "is to have a road to the English (in India), and for this they are very anxious." And he reminds his master that he holds a turnpike lower down "the road." The Dost is now a feeble and aged man. Already the reins of power are falling from his hands. Powerful chieftains have asserted their independence in every part of his dominions. And he must, indeed, be weak who now pays more than a nominal allegiance. At his death the bonds of union will be entirely snapped—an event that may happen this day or tomorrow, certainly within a very brief space of time. In the consequent confusion nothing would be easier than for the Persian forces to march from Herat upon Candahar, and thence upon Caubul. Russian influence, Russian money, Russian officers, will not be wanting at such a conjuncture. And thus, while the British Government was pluming itself on its rigid observance of the doctrine of non-intervention, its most formidable enemy would be virtually established on the confines of our Indian Empire. To meet such a catastrophe, the relief, or recovery, of Herat is indispensable, and to prevent the recurrence of these hostile demonstrations—expensive in themselves and disquieting to other nations—the permanent occupation of Karrak is much to be desired.

In conclusion, it is worthy of consideration whether it would not be both desirable and

just to confide our diplomatic relations with Persia to the discretion of the Governor-General in council. Desirable—because in the Hon. Company's service are men of great experience in the ways of Asiatic princes; and just—because on that Government devolve the responsibility and expense of atoning for the blunders committed by Western diplomatists.

PHARMACY REFORMS.

WE scarcely understand the object of a circular which has reached us from the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society. It is stated to be "to direct attention to the fact that the reformation which recent events have shown to be required, and towards which the force of public opinion is tending, was projected more than fifteen years ago by the society; that great progress has already been made by its voluntary and unassisted agency, and that all that remains to be done may be effected by means of the society if armed with more extensive powers and assisted by the public." The public, we imagine, will be glad to assist the society; but if the council desire to secure a legal control over the entire trade in drugs, we think it will be difficult to reconcile the Legislature to that proposition. It would be necessary to demonstrate that no monopoly would be favoured by such a project, and that joint-stock companies would not be kept out of the field. We are inclined to believe that the race of poisonous dispensers would be materially diminished by the establishment of great companies, importing pure drugs, and selling them, certificated, at reasonable prices throughout the country. But the Pharmaceutical Society has undeniable claims to the public gratitude. More than fifteen years ago the chemists and druggists projected a system for the education of dispensers. It had been abundantly proved that the physician might prescribe in vain if the apothecary made up for the patient a dose of adulterated drugs, put Torture into a composing draught and Death into a pill; or, to be satisfied with a less extreme illustration, sold medicines so stale as to be useless or so mixed as to be more deleterious than beneficial. Moreover, one dispenser might vend a particular drug of a quality so different from that vendid by another as to render a different proportion necessary in its administration. It was known, before the society existed, that the most ignorant persons were accustomed to deal in deadly acids, salts, and essences; but it never was and never will be known how many murders resulted. In 1841, therefore, the association was set on foot, with a board of examiners, and began at once to apply educational tests to individuals soliciting the privileges of membership. Two years afterwards a royal charter was obtained, the subjects of examination being chemistry, pharmacy, materia medica, and botany, including the practical manipulations of the laboratory and the dispensing counter, the modes of ascertaining the strength and purity of drugs, the tests and antidotes for poisons, the doses of ordinary medicines, and an acquaintance with prescriptions. A school of Pharmacy was founded in Bloomsbury-square; and professorships were established. In 1851 an attempt was made by a parliamentary enactment to bring the entire profession under the influence of the society, but this failed, though an Act was passed in 1853 recognizing the Pharmaceutical Society as a voluntary association for the examination and registration of pharmaceutical chemistry, and conferring upon persons so registered the exclusive right to assume or use the title of Pharmaceutical Chemist, Pharmaceutist, or any

other name, title, or sign, implying that they are registered, or members of the society. The Act does not interfere with the sale of drugs and the dispensing of prescriptions by incompetent persons; but it cannot be too widely known, that, in every neighbourhood, the public should seek out the "Pharmaceutical Chemist," or "Pharmaceutist," and buy of him. There is a qualified class, and it should be supported.

The Pharmaceutical Society has a right to this public recognition. We scarcely think it can work in any other way than it has worked, or that it can be vested with compulsory powers. The public will gradually acknowledge its usefulness, and avail itself of the protection offered. It is time that we should hear no more of poison being sold in pennyworths to children, or of persons in a state of frenzy being furnished with the means of suicide for the sake of the retailer's profit.

Open Council.

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

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

ASSURANCE FOR ASSURERS.

(To the Editor of the Leader.)

SIR,—“An Investigator” criticizes your article, “Assurance for Assurers,” by suggesting several questions which he fails to answer. What, then, is the insurable number of lives in Great Britain? I affirm that they who cannot afford to insure form a very small class; that the poverty and distress existing only prove the urgency and the value of assurance; that in this calculation females ought not to be left out of sight any more than males; that of infants, not of an insurable age, a large proportion will reach that age; and that those whose means place them above the requirements of assurance are very few. From personal knowledge I am able to say that the average of insured lives among the middle classes is remarkably small; and that of those who stand aloof, the majority do not reject the assurance system because they are too young, or too poor, or too rich, or too unhealthy, but because they are ignorant of its advantages, or insensible to them. As to Friendly Societies, of which there exist thousands of an unprofitable and illegal character, I trust the day may come when the young societies, adapting their rates to the requirements of the poor, will induce them to select more certain and beneficial investments. A sort of Conservatism prevails among the older offices, many of which were originally established for the rich, and the rich alone. It is little to the point to urge that certain companies are doing little business, and that their shares are depreciated in the market. Can “An Investigator” indicate a single healthily-constituted and skilfully-managed assurance society which has failed? You, I presume, referred to societies of this class, as you specially excepted the bubble concerns got up for the benefit of managers, solicitors, and chairmen. Moreover, you did not suggest, nor do I argue, that the business at present done by assurance companies might be divided amongst three times the number; but the field of action may, and, I believe, will, be extended within “the next half century” to a degree of which “An Investigator” has no conception. A great increase has taken place during the last ten years. New principles have been developed; new methods of benefiting the policy-holders, while living, have been discovered. Yet, as is remarked by the eminent Economist to whom you refer, few existing companies “seek to do business with the industrious classes or the smaller class of tradesmen.”

I am your obedient servant,
AN ECONOMIST.

ASSURANCE FOR ASSURERS.

(To the Editor of the Leader.)

SIR,—Permit me to remark on the increasing capacity of the population in connexion with assurance. As the number increases daily of those who read, of those who travel, of those who live out of town, &c., so will the numbers of those increase who assure their lives for the benefit of their families, purchase endowments for their children, &c. This is an element in the calculation which should not be omitted.

AN ACTUARY.

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*.

Has any one ever written an Essay on Dedications? If not, we suggest the subject to contributors, as one capable of very piquant treatment, and very amusing historical illustration. With the disappearance of patrons, dedications have ceased for the most part, or have merged into friendly salutations. There are still, indeed, a few extremely feeble writers who dedicate to Prince ALBERT and the Queen of HANOVER, as there are occasional pig-tails which still arrest the passing gaze in quiet provincial towns.

Should any ingenious reader of this ingenious journal follow our hint, and write the essay, let him by no means forget that marvellous dedication of EDWARDS'S *History of Birds*, which a writer in *Fraser* this month has given in a note:—

Though somewhat voluminous, it is a careful and interesting compilation. The "dedication" is a literary curiosity:—

"To God,

The one Eternal! the Incomprehensible! the Omnipresent, Omniscient, and Almighty Creator of all things that exist! from orbs immeasurably great to the minutest points of matter, this Atom is Dedicated and devoted with all possible gratitude, humiliation, worship, and the highest admiration of both body and mind,

"By His most resigned, low, and humble creature,

"GEORGE EDWARDS."

It appears that SOLOMON'S remark on the absence of novelty is true even of such freaks of madness as the dedication of an Epic poem to the Almighty, which was gravely perpetrated by a writer of our own day, but which we find to have been anticipated more than a century ago. The modern writer thought the Epic (we beg pardon, the Epopa) too high a thing to be dedicated to the Creature, therefore he dedicated his to the Creator. When the late GEORGE DARLEY heard of this, he stuttered out, "I hope he sent the presentation copy splendidly bound!"

The amusing article in *Fraser* from which we borrowed the passage just quoted is entitled "Sketches on the North Coast." In it the writer has a passage about the amiable Calvinism of Scotland, which ought to be circulated:—

To an Episcopalian, the society of indiscriminate Calvinists, who look upon him as given over to the enemy from his baptism, cannot be very entertaining; and you cannot feel peculiar cordiality for those who, could they get you into their clutches, would certainly send you, my dear Juniper, to the grass-market. A Scotch Puritan should keep to his column. He is out of his element in the society of the 'unregenerate.' Indeed, how, with his convictions, he can get through the business at all, it is difficult to understand. What do you think, for instance, this gentleman with the rubicund face, who sits beside you during dinner, and whose devotion to the good things of the table you have had occasion to admire—what do you think he believes in his heart? Do you know that, innocent and harmless as he appears on the surface, he sticks to a creed which asserts that the power of evil is inveterate and invincible; that the power of God is so feeble, that the dominion of the good must be for ever restricted and confined; that men (because they have not accepted an economy which from the beginning was limited to the 'elect') have been created, not for life, but for death, and that they will be eternally punished, not for any good it will do them, but to manifest the righteous and merciful nature of the Being who made them what they were? And the man who holds this consolatory doctrine sits at your elbow and consumes his victuals, and neither smoke nor flames issue out of his mouth! How can the starched neckcloth, and the black coat, and the spotless shirt-front cover such a furnace, and yet retain their unimpeachable propriety? It is a dreadful anachronism. One cannot help feeling that, in artistic keeping with such a creed, something shocking ought forthwith to happen. But the rubicund face continues unmoved, and having discussed your claret, it will leave you in the perfect conviction that you are on the high road to destruction. How, next morning in the marketplace, it will strive to overreach its neighbour—how it will grovel in the dust at the feet of Dives—how it will sell its own blood for filthy lucre—and yet how, with all these things, it will unite a certain sincerity in its tremendous convictions—is one of those mysteries of the human heart into which one does not care to penetrate.

In nothing is modern science so markedly distinguished from ancient science as in its clear perception of the difficulties of each problem. The greater our advance, the wider are our eyes opened to the difficulties of advancing; the more we attempt to verify, the greater doubt attends our verification. Formerly men guessed boldly, and seldom attempted to prove; now proof itself is subject to counterproof, and that again to severe criticism. Even when experimental proof came into use, men were satisfied with what now satisfies no one. As an example let us consider for a moment the very valuable paper in the *Annales des Sciences Naturelles* just published. It is on a subject, and enters into details which few of our readers would understand (*Recherches sur la Voie par laquelle de petits corpuscules solides passent de l'intestin dans les vaisseaux sanguins*); but we will place the problem and the solution in an intelligible form.

The vessels in which our nutrient fluids circulate—arteries, veins, capillaries, and lymphatics—form a system of closed canals, without any external openings. As there are no openings through which the food can pass from the intestines, but as the food indubitably does pass into the vessels, the first problem is, How can the food gain entrance? Physiologists answer this by showing that the food is first rendered liquid, every solid particle being rendered soluble by the process of digestion, and this liquid passes by endosmosis through the walls of the vessels. So far all is satisfactory. But the presence in the blood of insoluble solids—especially the presence of fat globules—and the whole question of the absorption of fat, was not to be

thus explained; accordingly, since 1843 Physiologists have been engaged in researches to ascertain through what avenues these solids have gained entrance. The first experiments seemed to prove that the vessels absorbed these solids, if very minute, almost as easily as liquids: molecules of charcoal having indubitably passed from the intestine into the blood. But against these experiments it was objected, and with force, that the molecules of charcoal were like so many needles, and could easily tear through the delicate walls of the vessels. Nor was this all. DONDERS and MENSONIDES, repeating the experiments, and taught by the spirit of modern science to doubt everything and examine every detail with suspicion, thought of examining their own blood and the blood of animals before trying the absorption of charcoal; and to their surprise they discovered therein corpuscles which were so like the molecules of charcoal as to be indistinguishable from them under the microscope. Is not this a curious example of the necessity for verification of every step? What was the use of trying experiments with charcoal when the blood already contained particles not distinguishable from charcoal?

The physiologists whose paper we are now considering—MM. MARFELS and MOLESCHOTT—feeling the necessity of some more rigorous demonstration, bethought them of employing substances which could not pre-exist in the blood, which were solids, and which could not tear the walls of the vessels. They selected blood corpuscles and pigment cells. The blood corpuscles of different animals differ much in size and figure, and are therefore easily distinguishable one from the other. Our authors first took the precaution of mixing the blood of a lamb with the blood of a frog, to see if they were distinguishable when mixed, and to see if they would remain separate. Having ascertained both points, they fed frogs on lamb's blood, and had the satisfaction of finding the blood corpuscles absorbed into the veins, and circulating in the vessels as foreign, distinguishable solids. The same result was obtained with pigment. We need not dwell further on the matter; the conclusion is enough, and that conclusion is: Minute solids can be absorbed. But if the reader wishes for a lesson in scientific evidence such as modern science demands, he will do well to study the whole details of this paper.

GERALD MASSEY'S POEMS.

Craigcrook Castle. By Gerald Massey.

David Bogue.

THOSE who have followed Mr. Gerald Massey's course as a poet will have noted an improvement which justifies the hope he expresses in the Dedication to this volume.

I pray you accept of this second effort as my best for the time being. In other years, God willing, I may win a touch more certain, and a larger reach, upon a harp of tenser strings.

Having from the first felt great interest in this young singer, and, while admiring the exuberant fancy he displayed, always warned him against the mistakes into which it led him, we may here frankly say that unless he does "win a touch more certain and a larger reach" the promise of his youth and the ambition of his manhood will never be fulfilled.

In *Craigcrook Castle* there is manifest advance. Without losing any of his exuberance, his felicity of expression, his lyrical feeling, he has considerably diminished the affectations, conceits, and absurdities into which a riotous fancy seduced his inexperienced style. But the advance is at present only negative. He has not gained new power. He has added no strings to his harp. He was a purely fanciful poet—one in whom Fancy usurped the place of Imagination, Thought, and Emotion; and such he remains. The beauties and the faults of this volume are, with rare exceptions, the beauties of a quick and graceful Fancy, and the faults of a Fancy uncorrected. In the descriptions of Nature we seldom see the things described, or feel the emotions they would excite in us if seen. Instead of vividly making present to us the objects themselves (as the objective poets make them present), or the emotions which sensitive natures feel in their presence (as the subjective poets contrive to call up within us), Mr. Massey presents us with the images which his active and capricious Fancy connects with the objects. We may admire his skill, but we do not share his feeling; the expression of his Fancy may be felicitous, but, even when it is most so, we are not enriched as we are enriched by a fine image of the great poets, who teach us to look at Nature with keener eyes and more delicate susceptibilities. For example:—

Midsummer Morn her silvery-gray
Rain-veil uplifteth fold on fold;
And, purple-flush'd, and topt with gold,
The white clouds kindle and float away
O'er violet-shadowed hills that stand
In cloudy crowns, and soft attire;
And, in a fragrant of fire,
Midsummer Morn floods all the land.

Did any one ever so consider Midsummer Morn before? Will any one ever so consider it again? When Tennyson spoke of "cedar-shadowy Ida," he called up an image which the mind could dwell on with delight; but when Mr. Massey calls the hills "violet-shadowed," he startles without pleasing; and the "fragrant of fire" which Morn is supposed to flood over the land neither recalls any feeling we have of Morning, nor endows us with a new image which Morning will call up again. Elsewhere he felicitously describes Morning in a couplet placed among lines which are more fanciful than felicitous:—

Up purple twilights came the golden sea
Of sunlight breaking in a silent surge.

This is an image which appeals to the reader's experience, and by it is ratified; the dawn does advance like a tide, and this likeness Mr. Massey has expressed in novel and happy phrase. But who can recognize anything in this?—

Like peering Children down some distant lane,
 What time with pomp and pealing pageant shows
 The Battle in its bravery blazons by,
 We peered into the passing world of War—
 Its crowning Heaven pulst with starry hopes—
 Its crowded Hell of red and writhing pain;
 With hearts that ached or burned, as kindled cheeks
 Flamed up in reddening shame, or bloom of pride,
 And told the story as the pictures rose.
 How England swooned beneath the kiss of Peace,
 And languisht in her long voluptuous dream,
 While weed-like creatures crept along her path.
 Where leapt of old proud waves of glorious life,
 The sluggish channels choked with golden sand.

The passages in italics are very bad, and unhappily recal many others of kindred badness, of which we will cite but this one, our object not being to insist on what is faulty so much as to point out the kind of fault to which the Fancy is liable when it plays with expression, careless of the idea expressed:—

In the green quiet of a neighbouring knoll
 There sat and sang a beauteous company;
Surging a soul-ache of deliciousness.

For those, and they are many, who think poetical language makes fine poetry this volume will be a rare treat. For those, and they are also many, who delight in the purely fanciful style of poetry, this volume has many pages of great beauty. We will cite an example or two as a set off against our objections:—

In that sweet season when the Year is green,
 And hearts grow merry as spring-groves full of birds,
 While life for pleasure ripples as it runs;
 And young Earth putteth forth the lovely things
 She hath been dreaming through long winter nights;
 Taking the May-tide in a golden swim,
 Her blithe heart singing for the flooding cheer;
 And field and forest clothed in tender leaf,
 Shower after shower, out-smile a livelier green;
 With dainty colour the kindling country dawns;
 Death lieth low; his hidden footprints bloom;
 Upon his grave Life dances all in flowers:
 And lying shell-like on our shore o' the world,
 Thinking to music played by hidden hands,
 We are caught up to listening ear of Heaven,
 That leaneth down maternal meek to hear
 Our inner murmurs of the eternal sea.

Still better this:—

The breath of Dawn brought God's good-morning kiss
 To bud and leaf and flower, and human hearts
 That like pond-lilies open heaven-ward eyes.
 Sweet lilies of the valley, tremulous fair,
 Peep through their curtains claspt with diamond dew
 By faery jewellers working while they slept:
 The arch Laburnum droops her budding gold
 From emerald fingers, with such taking grace:
 The Fuschia fires her fairy chandelry,
 And flowering Currant crimsons the green gloom:
 The Pansies, pretty little puritans,
 Come peering up with merry elvish eyes:
 At summer's call the Lily is alight:
 Wall-flowers in fragrance burn themselves away
 With the sweet Season on her precious pyre;
 Pure passionate aromas of the Rose,
 And purple perfume of the Hyacinth,
 Come like a colour through the golden day.
 A summer soul is in the Limes; they stand
 Low murmuring honied things that wing forth Bees;
 Their busy whisperings done, the Plane-trees hush!
 But lo, a warm wind winnowing odour-rain
 Goes breathing by, and there they curtsy meek,
 Or toss their locks in frolic wantonness,
 While a great gust of joy runs shivering thro' them;
 All the leaves thrill and sparkle wild as wings.
 Voluptuously ripening in the sun,
 The Meadows swell their bosom plump with life,
 To pasture sauntering sheep, and ruminant kine;
 And Kingcups spread their tiny laps to take
 The lavish largess showered down from heaven;
 And, garnering the warm gold, nod and laugh.
 The Birds low-crooning o'er their sweet Spring-tunes
 Still touch them with a riper luxury:
 That Blackbird with the wine of joy is mellow,
 And in his song keeps laughing, he's so jolly,
 To think how summer pulps the fruit for him.
 His Apple-tree hath felt the ruddy breath
 Of May upon her yielding leafy lips,
 And broke in kisses trembling for delight;
 Look how her red heart blushes warm in white!
 Deep after deep the generous heart of Spring,
 So golden-full of glad days, flusht in bloom,
 Ripe with all sweetness.

Happy lines abound, such as:—

Sunlight seeking hidden shadow, toucht
 The green leaves all a-tremble with gold light.

Or this:—

He knoweth Life is but another year
 And it will blossom bright in other springs.

But we need not indicate more of these, since no poetical reader will overlook them. To our tastes, however, were these beauties ten times as abundant, they would not prevent a sense of weariness and dissatisfaction, for we are unable to continue long in company with pure Fancy, we demand some thought or emotion to be excited in us. If, therefore, Mr. Gerald Massey is to win a place among our poets, to write verses which will live in

the mouths and memories of men, he must add two other strings to his harp—truth and passion. Faults of diction, faults of taste, faults of imagery, are as nothing compared with the want of these two; all poets are open to severe criticism, for all at times fall into mistakes and feebleness; but the qualities which give them power over our minds are those, and those alone, which appeal to and enlarge our own experience of truth and passion.

The greatest failure in this volume is in that section named "The Mother's Idol Broken," which from its subject ought to have been the greatest success. It sings of parental joy and parental sorrow; that is to say, it deals with elemental emotions such as all parents can profoundly sympathize with; yet Mr. Massey, who has felt the joy and the sorrow, writes of both in strains for the most part so entirely fanciful, remote, abstract—so wanting in the terrible realities of touch which passionate experience gives to poetic genius alone, but which universal feeling recognizes as true—that we read his poems perfectly unmoved. His quick Fancy is perpetually seducing him away from the real feeling, suggesting what can be said *about* the feeling, rather than giving utterance to the feeling itself. Now it is an obvious principle in art that the nearer the approach to reality in feeling, the simpler should be the expression; imagery which does not intensify chills the feeling. Let us read this lesson in the following extract describing the mother's woe:—

A softer shadow Grief might wear;
 And old Heartache come gather there
 The peace that falleth after prayer.
 Poor heart, that danced among the vines
 All reeling-ripe with wild-love wines,
 Thou walk'st with Death among the pines!
 Lorn Mother, at the dark grave-door,
 She kneeleth, pleading o'er and o'er,
 But it is shut for evermore.
 She toileth on, the mournfull'st thing,
 At the vain task of emptying
 The cistern whence the salt tears spring.
 Blind! blind! She feels, but cannot read
 Aright; then leans as she would feed
 The dear dead lips that never heed.

Beautiful is the first stanza, but the second runs away into mere caprice of Fancy; the third again is real, the fourth fanciful, and the fifth exquisite. But why is the fifth so beautiful? Because it intensifies our conception through a natural image expressed in the simplest and finest language. Had Mr. Massey never written more than that one fine passage, it is so fine that we should expect him to become a remarkable writer. If he will meditate the whole passage we have quoted, and by its light meditate the whole section, he will see the whole ground of our objection to the prodigal employment of Fancy where Fancy is necessarily an impertinence. The next best passage, one also having real touches, is this:—

O ye who say, "We have a Child in heaven;"
 Who have felt that desolate isolation sharp
 Defined in Death's own face; who have stood beside
 The Silent River, and stretcht out pleading hands
 For some sweet Babe upon the other bank,
 That went forth where no human hand might lead,
 And left the shut house with no light, no sound,
 No answer when the mourners wail without!
 What we have known, ye know, and only know.
 She came like April, who with tender grace
 Smiles in Earth's face, and sets upon her breast
 The bud of all her glory yet to come,
 Then bursts in tears, and takes her sorrowful leave.
 She brought us Eden just within the space
 Of the dear depths of her large, dream-like eyes,
 And o'er the vista dropt the death-veil dark.
 She only caught three words of human speech:
 One for her Mother, one for me, and one
 She crowed with, for the fields, and open heaven.
 That last she sighed with a sweet farewell pathos
 A minute ere she left the house of life,
 To come for kisses never any more.
 White Lily! how she leaned in love to us!
 And how we feared a hand might reach from heaven
 To pluck our sweetest flower, our loftiest flower
 Of life, that sprang from lowliest root of love!
Some tender trouble in her eyes complained
Of Life's rude stream, as blue Forget-me-nots
 Look sweet appeal when winds and waters fret.
 We saw, but feared to speak of, her strange beauty,
 As some hush'd Bird that dares not sing i' the night,
 Lest lurking foe should find its secret place,
 And seize it through the dark. With twin-love's strength
 All crowded in the softest nestling-touch,
 We fenced her round—*exchanging silent looks.*
We went about the house with listening hearts,
 And eyes that watcht for Danger's coming steps.
 Our spirits felt the Shadow ere it fell.

Quitting here the unpleasant task of criticism, we will quote two more specimens of his happier strain. The old thought is very felicitously expressed here:—

Not by appointment do we meet Delight
 And Joy; they heed not our expectancy;
 But round some corner in the streets of life,
 They, on a sudden clasp us with a smile.

And here is a charming lyric:—

"Like a tree beside the river
 Of her life that runs from me,
 Do I lean me, murmuring ever
 In my love's idolatry.
 Lo, I reach out hands of blessing;
 Lo, I stretch out hands of prayer;
 And, with passionate caressing,
 Pour my life upon the air."

In my ears the siren river
Sings, and smiles up in my face;
But for ever, and for ever,
Runs from my embrace.

"Spring by spring the branches duly
Clothe themselves in tender flower;
And for her sweet sake as truly
All their fruit and fragrance shower.
But the stream, with careless laughter
Runs in merry beauty by,
And it leaves me yearning after,
Lorn to droop, and lone to die.

In my ears the siren river
Sings, and smiles up in my face;
But for ever, and for ever,
Runs from my embrace.

"I stand mazed in the moonlight,
O'er its happy face to dream;
I am parched in the noonlight
By that cool and brimming stream;
I am dying by the river
Of her life that runs from me,
And it sparkles by me ever,
With its cool felicity.

In my ears the syren river
Sings, and smiles up in my face;
But for ever, and for ever,
Runs from my embrace."

LIFE IN ANCIENT INDIA.

Life in Ancient India. By Mrs. Speir. With Illustrations by George Scharf, jun., F.S.A. Smith, Elder, and Co.

This is an uncommon book in every way. Its covers of rich blue and gold, its tinted paper with gilded edges, its delicate and fanciful illustrations, did not prepare us for a number of Oriental essays, the results of genuine scholarship, and of extensive researches in a field partly new. Mrs. Speir has been an observer as well as a student, has lived in the East, has taken counsel in her speculations with Orientalists of the first rank, and has produced what may be described as a picturesque analysis of Indian society, before and after the age of Alexander. Her preliminary chapter, the least original, though not the least necessary part of the work, contains a sketch of India distributed into four divisions—the Punjab with the provinces contiguous, the peninsula, the plains of the Ganges, and Bengal. This classification of territories, it must be owned, is of the most arbitrary kind; but it assists Mrs. Speir in the completion of her plan, which is not geographical, but artistic.

A critical account of the Rig-Veda precedes some interesting speculations on the early history of the Hindu race. This singular people, first settling along the slopes of the Aravalli hills, and thence southward to the sea, appear to have brought with them many traditions from the country of their origin. They were called Aryas; they measured the land with rods, they ploughed the earth for barley, they carried away the produce of their fields in carts, they wore fine cloth, they wore earrings and finger-rings, they drove chariots with wheels and yokes of gold. Thus did an ambitious civilization grow upon the sumptuous Asian plains. The physicians of this society thought all healing virtues were possessed by water; that by water alone could human sufferings be allayed. Then, through the long vistas of poetical tradition, we see the Patriarchs on the Indus writing hymns, invoking the gods, making war on the predatory nations along the Aryan border. There were five classes of men, kings or chieftains, warriors, priests, agriculturists and mechanics, and, it is supposed, the aboriginal race, who stole cattle, but who possessed fields, cities, and gold, tempting to the intruders. In the Vedic hymns alone are traces of this history found; neither the Persian nor the Chinese annalists cast even the most uncertain light upon the infancy of the Hindu people in India; "and, consequently, when the Rig-Veda lets the curtain fall, a pause ensues of about six centuries."

After that immense lapse of time, the Aryas reappear; the Sanscrit is spoken, the Vedas are read once more; but the Aryas are now in possession of the great valley of the Ganges, and of cities in Oude and Tirhut. Their holy men sit on mats of sacred grass; they wear a quaint religious costume; they receive the homage of kings; they aspire to control all classes; they meditate over mystical doctrines of cosmogony and of immortal life. This immortality consisted, for the few and the most rarely gifted, of absorption into the divine infinite; inferior beings were born again as trees, beasts, kings, or gods, though this new life was far from eternal. Mrs. Speir presents, in connexion with the religious organization of the Hindus, a careful account of the four castes, of the Brahminical process of education, of the duties prescribed to rulers and warriors; but all this part of the picture is necessarily confused and dim. It is not until the Rayamana appears, when a glow of epic light suffuses the dusky East, its cities, gardens, shrines, its festivals, processions, and ceremonial solemnities, that the descriptions become real and clear. The Rayamana story is perfect in colour, admirable in construction, and illustrates, in wonderful detail, the varied characteristics of ancient Indian society.

Never did the human mind invent more fanciful distinctions than those of the Brahminical code, especially where it referred to punishments allotted in a future life. If a man stole grain in the husk he was doomed to be born a rat; if a mixed yellow metal, a gander; if exquisite perfumes, a muskrat; if potherbs, a peacock; if raw grain, a hedgehog. But if a Brahmin killed a Sudra, he only paid the fine awarded for the slaying of a cat, lizard, or crow. A Sudra, indeed, was valued as the sixteenth part of a Brahmin. He was forbidden to read the Vedas; they could not even be read, silently, in his contaminating presence. The industrious classes attained high proficiency in their several callings. Mrs. Speir quotes the strongest testimony on this point. We saw what the ancient Indian plough was, at the Exhibition of 1851. Their drill ploughs anticipated, by many centuries, the inventions of modern Europe. They understood the

system of double and rotatory crops, which Dr. Roxburgh believes the Western nations to have derived from them. They exhibited, also, the most positive proofs of social culture, by practising the refined art of adulteration. They smelted iron; they forged steel; they manufactured tires of metal for their wheels, and "it has lately been discovered that the famous Damascus blades were of Indian steel, manufactured in the West of India." Mr. Wilkinson has proved that the figuring of these swords depends upon the peculiar crystallisation of the *rootz*, the name by which manufactured steel is known in India. In 1851 a dagger, with pearls let into the centre of its blade, and a dagger with one blade within another, were sent to the Great Exhibition from the province of Delhi.

Then, in architecture, the Hindus far surpassed the Chinese, whose ancient arts have been converted, by some unaccountable process, into favourite subjects of modern flattery. The quarries are still to be seen whence the blocks were chiselled of which the grandest cities of the East were constructed. They were built into walls, colonnades, arches, and the most effective machinery was devised for lifting the immense monoliths employed by the Indian builder. In a social point of view, Mrs. Speir regards the antique Hindus with no little admiration. Women, in those ages, she is gratified to say, were not less free than in Troy or Judea. They were treated with as much respect as affection. They went to public feasts, they fought in battles; their opinions were solicited, if the testimony of the Upanishads be credited, by the king in council, and they were taught to expect immortality. But in the Brahminical code they are ranked with Sudras, children, and pupils; they might be chastised with whips or canes: yet even here they are promised the rewards of a future life.

One of the most useful chapters in Mrs. Speir's volume is that in which she remarks upon the existing aspects of ancient Indian institutions. Only one of the original castes survives—the Brahminical; the Kshatriya, Vaisya, and Sudra, as castes, are extinct. Even the Brahmins are not extant in their original character. They are often, as Professor Horace Hayman Wilson observes, illiterate and poor, and obliged to live by manual labour, while "men of low caste are frequently the influential religious guides of society." The Sudras, existing no longer as a caste, constitute an independent clan, proud of their origin, and utterly forgetful of their historic degradation. Sudras have been kings, and all the Mahrattas are Sudras; in many parts of India none but a Sudra is a scholar or an artist. Professor Wilson is, therefore, justified in saying that the Brahminical system of caste has utterly failed. Mrs. Speir has written a graceful and thoughtful book, to which we may confidently send the reader in search of an accurate and vivid picture of ancient Indian life. The first chapter excites an interest which is sustained to the end.

AGRIPPA THE MAGICIAN.

The Life of Cornelius Agrippa von Nettesheim, Doctor and Knight, commonly known as a Magician. By Henry Morley. 2 vols. Chapman and Hall.

In this biography of a once celebrated scholar, Mr. Morley worthily completes the series opened by the biography of "Bernard Palissy," and if there is a falling off in point of interest, there is assuredly none in point of diligence in collecting materials, and ability in using them. Mr. Morley has satisfactorily proved one thing on which he was bent, namely, that Agrippa, though he did write on Magic, was no Magician, no vulgar charlatan, but a various scholar, sorely tried by the world, leading a wandering, uncertain life, and dying miserably in exile, aged forty-nine, hated by priests, hunted by fools, and ill-treated by Emperors and courtiers.

Mr. Morley has taken pains—too much pains, indeed, if the paradox may pass; for had he confined himself more rigidly to the biography of Agrippa, and not dragged into it so many pages of historical digression and elucidation, the interest of his work would have been greater. Only a great master of the art can properly manage this historical scenery for the actors; in hands less able, historical scenery becomes wearisome without any corresponding advantage. We cannot say that a clear picture of the times is here presented; only a great many details about the times.

The pains Mr. Morley has bestowed on the analysis of Agrippa's works must on the contrary earn the gratitude of every reader. Probably these pages will be thought the most curious and interesting of the whole.

As a picture of the scholar's life in the early part of the sixteenth century this biography is very curious, and teaches us to regard with affection the restless, accomplished, satirical, and loving Agrippa, who is so fond of his two wives, his children, his friends, and his dogs; who is so ill-used by his third wife, by the priests, and by courts. A hard time he had of it, dependent on royal patrons who never paid his salary but used his talents; and very interesting it is to hear him speaking boldly out against the Emperor Charles V., who suffered him to be arrested for debt, because the imperial salary was obstinately withheld. This was the language he held in presence of his judges:—

"You would not," he said, "concede me time to pay my debts; you would not credit me with the pledge of the Emperor. Why am I to implore of you clemency, when you deny me justice? Do you account the Emperor one of those men who are not bound by their promises? In harshness, avarice, ingratitude, open breach of his written word, what excellent material you offer me for writing Caesar's praise. Tell me whether it is fit that I should be bound by oath to the Emperor for two years, as the keeper of his records, and, my dues from him being withheld, my service to him be compulsory? While I have been following him about for the last year as a beggar, I might have died of hunger had not the most reverend apostolic legate, Cardinal Campegio, sustained me. Possibly you may say that I share this evil with many others, that not I only live upon other people's tables, but that almost all the Emperor's retainers, satellites, and doorkeepers, even those of his chamber, do the same, whom we see going the round of other men's dinners, as seekers of table-talk or parasites, to the no slight shame of the Emperor himself. Here let me say I wish you sometimes heard what I hear very often; saw what I see. Certes, if you had at heart the credit of the Emperor, you would advise him otherwise, and would not let your eyes blink as they do at his avarice, as if it were not base in him to let his pensioners go ragged for lack of their pay, his nobles without salaries do suit to others for their meat, to suffer me, his historiographer, to be dragged into suits before you, and vexed with the terrors of a gaol, while I have Caesar for my debtor, and he being

passed over, you order me to beg among my friends the means of paying what I owe. What equity is this of yours—what justice?" Has he not, he asks, suffered enough contumely without being ordered now to beg for charity? "Either," he cries, "confess or deny that the Emperor is in my debt. If he owes money to me, take his pledge, accept him as my bail, unless you hold that he is unfit to be trusted. But if he owes me nothing, free me from my oath of service to him, and I will not only find wherewith to pay my creditors, but will soon turn this calamity into a matter of rejoicing." Just and bold speech, utterly unwise, doubtless, but would to God all men disdained, as Agrippa did, to cover honest feeling with false words. Such direct language being added to the general strain in the Vanity of Sciences and Arts, we need not wonder that the Emperor hated Agrippa to the death.

To the Emperor, this bold, unpaid author, sent a note, begging that if his clemency would not permit him to pay what he owed, he might have the benefit of his indignation in dismissal from his post and freedom to depart. High words these to send to an imperial debtor, words issuing from stung temerity! But who so bold as an unpaid author? The creditor courage is a known implacability; and when the creditor is at the same time an author, leonine audacity is nothing to it. They are not a savage race, the authors, nor, on the whole, a courageous race, but if you want to see spirit flaming in wrath, despise their writings, and withhold their money!

Agrippa was at all times free of speech. Hear how manfully he stands up for Luther against the Louvain theologians:—

THE UNCONQUERED HERETIC.

The manner in which, in this Apology, Cornelius Agrippa spoke of Luther to the men who were denouncing him for heresy, is the one feature of it interesting to the student of his life. That he swept with a strong hand through the webs of sophistry in which the monks endeavoured to entangle him, we may take easily for granted. But it was urged by the sophists that in his book he had called Luther "the unconquered heretic." Upon this head, what would he answer? "I know not," he said, "whether by chance there may not be some superstitious theologians who would grudge Luther the name of heretic, as one shared by him with the Apostle Paul, who, before Felix, professed that he served God after the sect which the Jews called heresy; but I make no doubt that our masters of Louvain approve of me for having called Luther a heretic, only it offends them much that I have called him unconquered whom they and their associates at Cologne were the first men dogmatically to condemn. But I am not ignorant that Luther has been condemned for heresy, only I do not see that he is vanquished, when to this day he gains ground in his battle, and reigns in the mind of the people which is won to him in spite of authority by the dishonesty, ignorance, malice, and falsehood of many of our priests, and monks, and masters. I speak of the event, not of the doctrine, against which, though it has been opposed in the best manner of the schools, judged with all strictness and subjected to the most august condemnation, all efforts end unprosperously." He proceeds to point out the defections to the side of Luther even from among the chosen champions of the Church. If Luther be conquered, he asks, why the cry for a general council? Why so much effort on the part, not only of priests, but of popes and great potentates? I know, indeed, he says, that Luther is most stoutly fought against, but I do not yet see that he is conquered. "First, there descended into this arena Hochstraten and Eckius, so fighting as to earn nothing but ridicule. Then succeeded monks, vociferating among the common people rude abuse of Luther; what did they thereby but scatter among the multitude those questions which before were discussed in Latin by the learned, and confined within the limits of the schools. So they impelled Luther to write in the vernacular, and heresy was then sown broadcast. The schools of Louvain, Cologne, and Paris afterwards came out with their bare articles and dogmatical censures, which, while they spread abroad the smoke and fire of books committed to be burnt—as if fire could put out fire—made Luther's works more to be sought after, more sold. At length there appeared the terrific bull of Leo, which is so much scorned by the Lutherans that they have not hesitated openly to jest at it, with contemptuous scholia and glosses. An Imperial decree was added, with no better success. The slaughter-houses were next opened: what else resulted but the cutting off heads from a hydra? Is this the conquest of Luther? I speak of the event, not of the doctrine, and I wish that Christ were not preached as religiously by some of these heretics as by our teachers. Was Arius conquered when his sect occupied more churches than the orthodox? Is Mahomet conquered when there are more men of his creed than Christians? Again, I say, I speak of the event, not of the doctrine. How have I sinned, then, if I have called Luther an unconquered heretic? Would that I lied, and that Luther had been conquered as happily as he has been boldly provoked to war. I wish he were not unconquered heretic, and even, also, conqueror of heretics, to the great shame of our teachers. For who conquered the Anabaptists? Who has withstood the Sacramentarians? Was it not Luther alone? Show me one writing out of your academies by which you have moved them so much as a finger's breadth. Of what use are you in the Church, if it be enough to say: We condemn, because so has the Church decided? (And to decrees of the Church our teachers fly whenever they are hardly pressed, and there abide, unable to produce the Scripture that defends them.) Certainly, rustics who have not learnt the alphabet, and idiots, can profess as much. If that sufficed for the reconquest of heretics, oh, now would I welcome Martin Luther, who, while our masters slept and snored, alone watched for the Church, and alone freed it from the strong and violent heresies of Anabaptists and Sacramentarians, who were getting possession of almost all Germany. But I seem here to approve of Luther, and herein I do, indeed, approve of him. But be not enraged; I approve of him as of the serpent in the iacac, which though in itself deadly, is in this form poisonous to poison." He ends by urging, that if they would conquer Luther they must conquer by arguments drawn from the Word of God; that if they must needs argue with fire and sword, they will provoke retort with fire and sword, and only make the storm blacker around them. They must use, also, against Luther better reasoning than they had brought against Agrippa, who professed himself a Catholic and not a Lutheran, and who, if he had fallen into human error, was not obstinately bent on persevering in it, and who had not fallen where he could not rise.

Well said, Agrippa! Nor is this without its sarcastic truth, in our days as then:—

As for my teaching, if I had planted thorny syllogisms, produced docks and thistles in my writing, with such salad on their lips the asses who have judged me would have found my produce to their taste, and have devoured these books of mine with pleasure. I have planted something higher than their reach, and they become furious against me. "I think, therefore, that in these days, my Eustochius, there is no bliss greater than ignorance, nothing safer than to teach men nothing, when almost nothing can be written at which there shall not be some to take offence; but they who teach and know nothing, or nothing but the meanest and the basest things, are far removed from this fear, from these dangers, for of little things large ruin is impossible; and he who grovels cannot tumble far; but he who seeks to climb the heights, seems to be seeking his misfortune."

One more specimen of his satiric style and we have done:—

NATIONAL CHARACTERISTICS.

"Who," says Agrippa, "that beholds a man strutting like a cock, with the bearing of a prize-fighter, an unruly look, an ox voice, austere discourse, fierce behaviour, a dress unfastened or torn, does not at once judge him to be a German? Do we not know the French by a well-ordered gait, mild gestures, bland aspect, fair-sounding voice, facile discourse, modest behaviour, and loose dress? We know Spaniards by their holiday step and behaviour, the high lifting of the countenance, the plaintive voice, the choice speech, and the exquisite attire. But we see the Italians rather slow of pace, in gesture grave, in countenance unsettled, low-voiced, captious in talk, magnificent in behaviour, and having a well-ordered attire. We know, also, that in singing the Italians bleat, the Spaniards howl, the Germans hoot, and the French trill. In speech the Italians are grave but crafty, the Spaniards polished but vain-glorious, the French ready but proud, the Germans hard but simple. In counsel the Italian is provident, the Spaniard astute, the Frenchman inconsiderate, the German useful. Over food the Italian is clean, the Spaniard choice, the Frenchman a free eater, the German clumsy. Towards strangers the Italians are obliging, Spaniards placid, Frenchmen gentle, Germans boorish and inhospitable. In dialogue Italians are prudent, Spaniards cautious, Frenchmen polished, Germans overbearing and intolerable. In love Italians are jealous, Spaniards impatient, Frenchmen fickle, Germans ambitious; but in hate Italians are secret, Spaniards are pertinacious, Frenchmen are threateners, Germans avengers. In transacting business Italians are circumspect, Germans laborious, Spaniards watchful, Frenchmen anxious; in war the Italians are stout but cruel, the Spaniards subtle and thievish, the Germans truculent and venal, the French high-spirited but rash. The Italians are distinguished by their literature, the Spaniards by their navigation, the French by their courtesy, the Germans by their religion and mechanic arts."

These passages have exhausted our space for the present, but we shall return to the volumes to cull from them some curious matter illustrative of the superstitions of the time.

A BATCH OF BOOKS.

We have several books on our table sufficiently important to call for notice, but which would scarcely bear separate treatment. The *Pictorial History of the Russian War* (W. and R. Chambers) is a carefully executed work, in which the main incidents of the diplomatic and military narrative are cleverly grouped, the story of the siege, in particular, being told with great animation. The volume is large, well printed, and bound in crimson cloth, with a gold emblazonment, and an excellent series of maps and illustrations. In *The Situation and its Masters; or, The Forces and the Future of Europe*, a book of eccentric appearance, an anonymous writer aims at developing a political theory in connexion with the existing aspects of the world. It is not easy to obtain a clue to his meaning; but "the men" indicated appear to be Louis Napoleon and Mr. Disraeli, while the scheme they are to carry out would seem to consist of a grand revolution, to be effected at a cost of fifty thousand lives. The author is violent, reckless, and affects a strange familiarity with bloodshed and with the infernal regions; but his work abounds in evidences of useful though indiscriminate reading. Had he been coherent in his method of explaining himself, he might have contributed serviceably to the political discussions of the day. We are sorry that a similar objection applies, though with far less force, to a volume on *Truth and Error*, by John Hamilton, of St. Ernans (Macmillan and Co.). Mr. Hamilton writes, in prose and verse, on the principles of Truth, and on the Causes and Effects of Error. He is amiable, earnest, bold in his ways of thinking, sometimes very vivid in his illustrations. But the drift of his teaching is often difficult to comprehend. The doctrine is set forth in snatches; the argument becomes confused while the author is trying to elaborate it. This is observable in the prose chapters. In the verse, Mr. Hamilton's ideas are totally unmanageable. Were it not that there are many signs of premeditation in the preface, and in the interludes of personal remark, we should say that the writer had sent to press a volume of miscellaneous memoranda. Another didactic book, but of a practical character, is *Scandinavia: its Hopes and Fears*, by G. Lallerstedt (King and Co.). This volume contains an able statement of all the political considerations involved in the projected union of the three kingdoms of the North—Norway, Denmark, and Sweden. The principle of this union, says M. Lallerstedt, is recognized by all the enlightened men of Scandinavia; the public mind has been thoroughly prepared for it; it was partly the motive of the agitations in Holstein during the revolutionary years. His account of Russian encroachments on Norwegian Finmark, of Finmark geography, of old disputes between Sweden and France, of the progress of Sweden since 1815, of the political ideas represented by "Scandinavianism" and of the national movement in Denmark, will possess an interest for many readers. A volume entitled *Characters and Incidents; or, Journeys through England and Wales* (King), by J. W. King, is of a different stamp. It is a pleasant, sketchy book, descriptive of familiar scenes and places, with occasional indiscretions in the form of "smart and satirical" sayings. One anecdote related by Mr. King is really good. At Huntingdon, within sight of Cromwell's house, he was told by a "respectable employer" that Oliver Cromwell lived all his life at St. Ives, and died there! *An Introduction to the Study of Aesthetics*, by J. C. Moffat (Sampson Low and Co.), is an elegant treatise by the Professor of Greek in the College of New Jersey, Princeton. The professor rejects Mr. Ruskin's proposal of the word *Theoretic* as a substitute for *Aesthetic*, but admits that the old term is far from satisfactory. His inquiries in connexion with the laws and the limits of art have been varied and extensive, and his treatment of the subject in its several branches proves him to be an original thinker as well as a zealous student. It is not often that American literature is so creditably represented in association with a topic so noble and yet so trite. Ancient and noble, also, is the topic selected by Madame Roxey Caplin in her volume on *Health and Beauty* (Darton and Co.). She writes, however, with good sense and taste, on the fashions that have afflicted the human form, pointing out the wondrous caprices of the modern fancy, and offering certain good and friendly counsels to ladies of all ages and nations. A book like this is sure to attract the class of readers to which it is specially addressed. May it work the reform which is the desire of Madame Caplin's mind! In the opposite hemisphere of literature, we have a cheap edition (Bentley's Standard Novels) of Emilie Carlen's

tale, *Woman's Life*; or, *The Trials of Caprice*. Who knows not the author of *the Rose of Tisleton*? We have but one thing to say of *Woman's Life*—let all novel-readers send for it; it will entertain and charm them; they will find in it nothing hackneyed, dull, or extravagant, but a beautiful story beautifully told. *Self and Self-Sacrifice*; or, *Nelly's Story*, by Anna Lisle (Groombridge and Sons), is an attempt by a young writer to illustrate the virtue of disinterestedness. We can approve her earnestness, and her intense sympathy with the model heroine, while wishing better success for her next essay in fiction. It is to be feared that the believing reader who purchases Mr. Bentley's *Wealth: How to Get, Preserve, and Enjoy It*, must learn some of the lessons inculcated in *Self-Sacrifice* before he can carry out the *modus operandi* therein prescribed. Let us note, also, the appearance of two cheap translations—Victor Hugo's *Hunchback of Notre Dame*, and Dumas's charming but disappointing story, *Nanon, or Women's War*, both published by Mr. Hodgson. From an American firm (New York, Francis and Co.) we have a handsome illustrated edition of Mrs. Horace St. John's *Life of Audubon*, which, curiously enough, is the only biography the Americans possess of their great naturalist. Among recent appearances let us mention, also, a fourth edition of the admirable volume on *The Mormons, or Latter-Day Saints*, edited by Charles Mackay. It has been enlarged, and carefully revised.

The Arts.

THEATRICAL AND MUSICAL NOTES.

THE second of the two operatic performances at HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE took place last Saturday, the first being on the preceding Thursday. The success, as may have been anticipated, was immense, the house being crowded to overflowing on both occasions.—During the whole of the present week, moreover, GRISI, MARIO, and their attendant satellites have been pouring forth their

THE MOON'S ROTATION.

(To the Editor of the Leader.)

SIR,—The letter of Mr. Best on the moon's rotation, which has appeared in the last *Leader*, will probably elicit many replies. I ask space in your "Open Council" for a few words on the subject.

Mr. Best lays down five conditions, which he says are *plainly indispensable* to axial rotation. The two first are perfectly correct, the third is a very cool assumption that the matter in debate is exactly and even *plainly* as stated by Mr. Best and Mr. Symonds. "If a rotating body," says Mr. Best, "have along with axial, either orbital or rectilinear motion, every side or part of the rotating body must be upon each side of the line of motion, and must be equally distant from that line, upon each side, once during every complete revolution." Here Mr. Best says very readily and easily, "either orbital or rectilinear motion," but these are very different things, and it is the difference between them that has set him astray in the present instance. That a body can have an orbital motion and always present the same face to one side of the line, and that in order to keep the face to one side of the line, or rather to a point in the centre, it *must* have an axial motion, may be proved, I think, by an illustration used by Mr. Best for just the contrary purpose. He says:—"We ourselves are carried in a circle about the earth, once in every twenty-four hours; but nobody ever dreamt of his having turned upon an axis within himself for that reason. When a ship circumnavigates the earth, it conforms to all the conditions of the moon's supposed axial motion; but it would appear very absurd to state that she turned upon an axis within herself, because of that circuitous journey."

Now I take it to be the fact that a ship circumnavigating the globe does turn once on her axis in the course of her journey. Let Mr. Best draw a circle to represent the earth, and draw the figure of a ship on what we will call the top of it, let him draw another exactly opposite, and will it not be plain the ship has taken a half turn? Will not the masts in these cases point in opposite directions? If the vessel could be thus turned upside down in any harbour before the eyes of Mr. Best, he would admit she was taking a turn on her axis, but the fact is not changed by her having taken some months and a journey half round the world to accomplish it.

In the same way if he will draw a likeness of himself on various parts of the earth's surface, he will perceive that he is making in his journey round the world what, if effected in one particular spot, would be called a regular somersault. In any part of his travels he will not be seen standing on his head, the law of gravitation will always keep his feet towards the centre; but let him compare his various positions with themselves, and see if the line of his body does not change exactly as it would if he had been turning on an axis as fine as a knitting needle.

Or let Mr. Best take a circular piece of wood and bore a smooth hole in the centre into which he can put his finger; let him attach the piece of wood with an iron rod to a given point as a centre, and turn the whole apparatus round, having his finger in the hole and keeping the palm of his hand always in the same

direction; then he will not only see but *feel* the piece of wood turning on his finger, in other words turning on its own axis; after which, perhaps, he will believe in the axial motion of the moon.

I am, sir, your most obedient servant,
Dublin. T. D. S.

FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE.

Tuesday, October 28.

BANKRUPTS.—GEORGE WILLIAM WOODS, Peckham-plumber—MARY SEACOLE and THOMAS DAY, jun., Tavistock-street, Covent-garden, and Ratcliff-terrace, Goswell-road, provision merchants—CONSTANTINE STEDDY, Deal, butcher—WILLIAM BLACKLOCK DAGNALL, Wood-street, City, rope manufacturer—WILLIAM HINMAN, Lamb's Conduit-street, licensed victualler—JOHN KINTON, Coventry, builder—THOMAS EDWARD JAMES, Cowbridge, Glamorganshire, wine merchant—RICHARD SLOCOMBE, Kentisbury, Devonshire, farmer—FRANCIS MARE, GEORGE KEENE, and EDMUND JOHN BARDLEY MARE, Plymouth, ironfounders—ABRAHAM SCOTT, Manchester, ironmonger.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—C. MACNAUGHTON, Edinburgh, commission agent—J. BLACKBURN and F. J. AUDLEY, Glasgow, hosiers—A. M'KENZIE, jun., Ullapool, Ross-shire, merchant—W. POLLOCK and D. GILCHRIST, Dumbarton, masons—W. CARMICHAEL, Auchtergaven, innkeeper.

Friday, October 31.

BANKRUPTS.—JOHN BECKWITH TOWSE, Lawrence Pountney-lane, shipowner—JAMES MERCHANT, Bristol, cooper—THOMAS HOLLAND, Fenchurch-street, tobacco broker—ROBERT JACKSON, jun., Lincoln, licensed victualler—THOMAS GIBBS, Burslem, publican—CHARLES POOLE, Brighton, livery-stable keeper—EDWARD WOOD, Bingley, Yorkshire, worsted spinner—HENRY QUINCY ANDREWS, Strand, American drug merchant—JOHN ARLISS, Plymouth, carrier—LOUIS COHEN, Bishopsgate-street-within, general merchant—ADOLPH LIEBESCHUTZ, Liverpool, tailor—NILS WILHELM WIKMAN, Minorities, shipchandler—EDWARD WADDINGTON, Preston, draper—GEORGE COWELL, Claypath, Durham, innkeeper.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—DAVID THOMSON, Tranent, merchant—ROBERT HAMILTON, Glasgow, tea and coffee merchant—ALEXANDER DUNCAN, Coupar Angus, banker.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

BIRTHS.

PARRY.—On the 25th of September, at Villa Nova, Barbados, West Indies (the residence of her father, the Hon. G. E. Thomas), the wife of the Rev. Henry H. Parry, Tutor of Codrington College, in that island, and son of the Lord Bishop of the diocese: a son.

GULLIVER.—On the 26th ult., at Great Berkhamstead, Herts, the wife of Edward Gulliver, Esq., R.N.: a daughter.

LOWE.—On the 27th ult., at the Observatory, Beeston, near Nottingham, the wife of E. J. Lowe, Esq., F.R.A.S., &c.: a son.

MARRIAGES.

MONCKTON-WHITE.—On the 16th ult., at Woodsetts, the Hon. Horace Manners Monckton, Captain 3rd Light Dragoons, youngest son of the late and brother of the present Viscount Galway, to Georgina, eldest daughter of Sir Thos. Woollaston White, Bart., of Walling Wells, Notts.

SARTERIS-BARRINGTON.—On the 28th ult., at Shrivensham parish church, by the Hon. and Rev. Robert Liddell, Alfred Sarteris, Esq., to the Hon. Mary Barrington, daughter of Viscount and Viscountess Barrington.

WALKER-CHAMBERLAIN.—On the 17th ult., at Kirk Bradden, Isle of Man, William, youngest son of the late Richard Walker, Esq., M.P., of Woodhill, Bury, to Ursula Jane Eliza, eldest daughter of the late Sir Henry Chamberlain, Bart., Royal Artillery.

DEATHS.

BAILEY.—On the 23rd ult., at his residence, Old Basford, Notts, Thomas Bailey, Esq., in his 72nd year, author of "Annals of Nottinghamshire," "Records of Longevity," and other works.

BROWNING.—On the 26th ult., at 3 o'clock A.M., at Woolwich, Colin Arrott Browning, M.D., Deputy Inspector of Hospitals, R.N., author of "The Convict Ship."

spring and summer harmonies to the autumn frequenters of DRURY LANE. This night will be the last of their brief season; and if there be not a struggle for places, we shall conclude that there is something in the advent of November inimical to the love of harmony.

The first of the SATURDAY CONCERTS, in connexion with which we made some remarks in our previous issue, took place last Saturday. The list of performers was not brilliant; but probably some more attractive names will be introduced as the series proceeds.

Mr. ROBSON has reappeared at the OLYMPIC in *Medea*. We are glad to find that he acted with all his usual energy and power, notwithstanding a very serious illness that he has had. The public has now again an opportunity of seeing him in one of his most striking performances.

At the HAYMARKET, we have had another revival of one of the comedies of past times, in the shape of REYNOLDS'S *Dramatist*. REYNOLDS, we believe, was one of the dramatic 'men of the time' about the commencement of this century whom LEIGH HUNT used to 'pound' into atoms beneath the critical pestle of the *Examiner*, for which youthful severities he has latterly expressed some remorse, though probably no newspaper writer of the present day would fail to do likewise were these dramas now produced for the first time. In connexion with this particular eccentricity, Mr. BUCKSTONE, Mr. CHIPPENDALE, Mr. W. FARREN, and the new American actor, Mr. MURDOCH, with Miss TALBOT for the principal lady, do their best to keep the audience in good humour; yet the thing passes off but heavily notwithstanding.

The committee for conducting the next musical festival, proposed to be held at Norwich in the autumn of 1857, have had a meeting within the last few days, when it was unanimously resolved that Mr. BENEDICT should be invited to act as conductor. It was also decided that the prices of admission should return to the old standard, viz., 12. 1s. for the patron's gallery, and 10s. 6d. for reserved seats in other parts of the hall. Steps are to be taken to obtain the usual guarantee fund, and application is also to be made to the Norwich town-council for permission to erect a new orchestra in St. Andrew's Hall, which is about to be repaired.

CLARKSON.—On the 24th ult., at his residence, Westfield-lodge, Brighton, William Clarkson, Esq., of the Inner Temple, barrister-at-law.

Commercial Affairs.

London, Friday Evening, October 31, 1856.

THE public has been investing all the week, and the general feeling is better. Occasionally (as when the *Moniteur* issues a ridiculous and absurd warning, and the *Times* answers it) the funds droop a little, but the appearance of the Money Market has become decidedly healthier. Money is easy inside the Stock Exchange for temporary purposes, and the arrival of the James Baines and the West Indian mail steamer, hourly looked for, will bring relief in the shape of bullion. The gigantic enterprises hinted at by Russia requiring forty millions of gold, will become a nine days' wonder if the *Crédit Mobilier*, which seems ready to dash at everything with your true gambler's spirit, is hindered from contracting to find capital. The French organ here in London hints at the scheme being discontinued and to be forbidden by the French Emperor. It would be a fine drain for the restless Parisian and London speculators to throw their money into, never to return. The Consols' monthly settling is now close at hand, and the heavy contango price of 1 per cent. that is asked shows it is a bull account. Before the day, however, many real purchases may be made and the present fiction converted into a reality.

Foreign stocks are all better, except Russian Fives, over which there hangs a heaviness. Turkish Six per Cent. close to-night at 90½, 91, and the Turkish Guaranteed Four per Cent. at 100½. Foreign Railway shares are nearly the same. A better feeling exists regarding Luxembourg and Belgian lines; Ceylon are about 1 premium; Great Western of Canada have recovered their depression, and have risen to 24½. 10s. per share. Heavy shares, such as Leeds, Midlands, South-Westerns, London and North-Westerns, all rule better. Great Northern and Dovers are likewise in demand. Joint-Stock Banks are very quiet, but little business doing in them. Crystal Palace shares are very heavy, owing to the committee of the Stock Exchange having to complain of the conduct of the directors, and wish regard to their transfers, and threatening the removal of the company from the authorized Exchange List. This matter, however, has been subsequently explained, and due notice given to the committee. Mining shares are in demand particularly. Sortridge Consols, Lady Bertha, United Mines (Tavistock), Alfreds, South Tolgus, and the Bassets.

The settlement for shares and foreign stocks has just taken place. The settlement was a very light one. Tomorrow being All Saints', is a holiday.

Aberdeen, —; Caledonian, 55½, 56; Chester and Holyhead, 34, 36; Eastern Counties, 91, 92; Great Northern, 92½, 94½; Great Southern and Western (Ireland), 114, 116; Great Western, 64½, 65; Lancashire and Yorkshire, 94½, 95; London and Blackwall, 63, 7; London, Brighton, and South Coast, 105, 107; London and North-Western, 104, 104½; London and South-Western, 104½, 105½; Midland, 79, 79½; North-Eastern (Berwick), 80, 81; South-Eastern (Dover), 70½, 71; Antwerp and Rotterdam, 63, 7; Dutch Rhenish, 14, 14½ pm.; Eastern of France (Paris and Strasbourg), 33½, 34½; Great Central of France, 34, 4 pm.; Great Luxembourg, 44, 44½; Northern of France, 36½, 37½; Paris and Lyons, 49½, 50; Royal Danish, x in; Royal Swedish, 1, 1½; Sambre and Meuse, 104, 104½.

CORN MARKET.

Mark-lane, Friday, October 31, 1856.

THE arrivals of English and Foreign Wheat on the spot are moderate. Hard Wheat is much in demand, purchases being daily made for the French Government at high rates. Kubanka is now worth 67s. to 68s. ex Ship here. The demand for other descriptions is not active, but prices are maintained. Only a few cargoes have arrived off the Coast. Taganrog Ghirka Wheat has been sold at 65s., 66s., and 66s. 3d., all arrived with good report, and a cargo of the same near at hand, with guarantee of condition, at 65s. Said Wheat at 60s. and 51s. 10s. Brail Maize has been sold at 35s., and a cargo out of condition 33s. 9d., both arrived; 36s. 6d. is now refused for Galatz and Odessa Maize. Barley of all descriptions is without attention. The supplies of Oats are small.

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS A MOST POTENT REMEDY FOR LIVER COMPLAINTS AND INDIGESTION.—Wm. Marshall, of her Majesty's Highland Regiment, has gratefully acknowledged to Professor Holloway the wonderful efficacy of this astonishing medicine. He suffered with liver complaint and all its attendant evils during fourteen years' residence in India; his constitution was so enfeebled that he was compelled to return home when he was induced to try Holloway's Pills, which effected a perfect cure, after the most eminent of the faculty failed to do him the slightest good.

RADIATING and REFLECTING STOVE.

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Credit is allowed for half the Annual Premiums for the first five years.

The following Table exemplifies the effect of the present reduction.

Age when Assured.	Amount Assured.	Annual Premium originally paid.	Allowance of 3 <i>l</i> . per cent.	Annual Premium now payable.
	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
20	1000	20 17 6	6 11 6	14 6 0
30	1000	25 13 4	8 1 8	17 11 8
40	1000	33 18 4	10 13 8	23 4 8
50	1000	48 16 8	15 7 8	33 9 0
60	1000	75 17 6	23 18 0	51 19 6

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30	1 1 3	1 2 7	2 5 5	2 0 7
40	1 5 0	1 6 9	3 0 7	2 14 10
50	1 14 1	1 19 10	4 6 8	4 0 11
60	3 2 4	3 17 0	6 12 9	6 0 10

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