

Alfred Edmund Salloway, Esq. Editor.

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.

THE boiling of the national constituencies, in order to extract from them the concentrated representation of the House of Commons, is going on at a red heat, and the change in the relation of parties which we noticed last week has continued as the compound has remained under the process of cooking. There have been new severances and new reconcilments. A moral of the Minister has been, perhaps, the most conspicuous fact yet before us. Lord PALMERSTON, as Lord MALMESBURY says, "is the popular Minister of the day;" but, as always happens with the most popular man, when his prestige does not rest upon the present pursuit of some great public object, but upon a personal liking, a piece of clever acting, or any fancy of the hour, Lord PALMERSTON is the slave of his popularity. He appeared to have everything his own way. He succeeded in dissolving the House of Commons on a question of his own choosing—for such it really was; since he might have superseded Mr. COBDEN's motion by announcing that he had superseded Sir JOHN BOWRING, and had appointed Lord ELGIN over his head. The prorogation took place on Saturday, some days sooner than it was expected by those who were not behind the scenes. The dissolution, which according to the circulated report was to have taken place on Monday, was proclaimed on the very same Saturday. Of course it was for the interests of the Government to accelerate the election as much as possible, and they exercised the power of acceleration. Lord PALMERSTON was the favoured guest of the Lord Mayor on the Friday, and he made a very telling speech. His own address, written with his own hand, according to his own will and pleasure, was before the electors of Tiverton and the electors of the United Kingdom on the Tuesday. There were no signs of flinching in either composition. He still braved his enemies; still talked, though in more circuitous terms, about "combination;" still insinuated that his opponents in the China debate, instead of being actuated by conscientious principles, wished to step over the humiliation and degradation of their country into place. He has, however, not failed to do some lip-homage to reform, and some pen-homage, too; for, reluctantly as he may do it, he not only declares himself for "progressive improvement," but for "well-considered reforms."

Nevertheless, the signs that the Government was not going to dictate at all the elections have in-

creased. Although this or that eminent independent Liberal may be in danger during the next few days, it is quite evident that the constituencies generally, like those that have already elected their representatives, are to a great extent consulting themselves rather than Ministerial dictation.

The greatest feud has been that between Lord JOHN RUSSELL, as head of the Independent Liberals, and Lord PALMERSTON, as the chief Ministerialist Liberal—the one following reform, the other following himself. But the change in the City has been complete. The public there, including the unenfranchised, showed a strong disposition to resent the attempt to "let down Lord JOHN easy." His brother has appeared amongst those advocating his claims to consideration as an old servant. Some of the Jews had talked coldly about supporting him at present; and this drew forth a feeling of indignation, that the Jews, of all people, should forget who had been most persistent in enforcing their claims upon the House of Commons. Then it was discovered that the London Liberal Registration Association had undertaken to do the business of the electors for them, and to declare that the City should only have commercial men, the very idea that the City has always scouted. Commercial men it wants amongst its representatives, but it also wants to maintain its position as a political power in the country. London City is not only an aggregation of the members of the Stock Exchange, of shopkeepers, and of ratepayers; it has at various times in our history stood forward as the champion of political rights; it has in later days crowned alliances by entertaining foreign statesmen and foreign monarchs; and the representation of the City, therefore, should be compounded of statesman and of merchant. The London Liberal Registration Association quite underates the importance of its own constituency, and the electors have been rather angry at being taken in and done for in that fashion. The consequence is, that many men who a fortnight ago felt cold to Lord JOHN, have been warmed into indignation at the unfair treatment of him, and are going to give him plumpers to-day.

As to the elections about the country, it is quite impossible in this place to follow the ins and outs; nor does it matter. We have no general result to report; we can no more expect to influence the electors, who are now in the frenzy of the movement, than we could reason with a jockey in the middle of a race. But one thing is plain—that the Tories will be Tories still; that the larger number

of Liberals, while they are content to vote for Lord PALMERSTON in the present spring, are still Liberals; and they are asking the candidates whether they will vote for extension of the suffrage, for ballot, for shorter Parliaments, and so forth. Some of the well-known statesmen will be deprived of the two letters at the end of their name—"M.P.;" we shall have some new men, and it appears that we shall have some really good men—for instance, we shall have Sir ARTHUR HALLAM ELTON. It is possible, that a more popular election will make a new man of a promising Member who has already sat in Parliament—the Honourable ARTHUR GORDON, whom Tories and your starched Whigs are calling "Chartist," for the thorough-going liberality of his principles. These were known before, if the young man had but the confidence of his own position, and could bring it out; and a day seems to be coming when the opportunity will be afforded for discussing matters of that sort. For, although the new Parliament will, amongst the unknown, comprise, probably, a large number of adventurers, it may also comprise some rather stronger politicians than we have been accustomed to. But most certainly the temper of the time is making an opportunity, for the politicians in or out of Parliament, of reviving the question, whether we cannot make the House of Commons a little better than it is?

While the constituencies are making the House of Commons that must in turn make the Ministry, not only are our relations with foreign countries very materially altering, but the relation of foreign countries to each other and with their own institutions are in a state of unsettlement, rendered strikingly conspicuous by the intelligence and official documents this week. In the inaugural address of President BUCHANAN we have the evidence that a strong man has come to the head of the American Government, who will at once control domestic factions, and use the energy of the Republic in execution of the policy that he thinks just and desirable. But at the very time that he takes the chief command, the Supreme Court pronounces a judgment which alters the relation of the Nation to a fully important race, the Negro. In the opinion of DRED SCOTT, a Negro who claimed freedom on the score of residing in a free State, from which slavery was excluded from the Missouri compromise, the Supreme Court has decided that the Missouri compromise exceeded the powers of Congress by its invasion of State rights and sovereignty, and that men of the African race are not

citizens of the United States. They are foreigners, therefore. There have been formerly foreigners in the Union who were not citizens of the United States,—they were the German "redemptioners," who were sold before their own faces without knowing it, because they could not speak the language. There is a difference between those men and the Negro, in the fact that the Negroes can speak the language, and that they are already marked by their colour with a peculiar badge. Thus they better know their position, and can less escape it. And the decision of the Supreme Court, which deprives them of any counteractive to the power of their owners, calls forth new dangers in the slavery question. Contemporaneously with this event, also, is the seizure and fining of two Negroes—British subjects—for being at large in Norfolk, Virginia, without authoritative leave. We do not at all anticipate that that last incident will give rise to difficulties. A similar case took place at Charleston; and while this country suspended action upon it at the instance of the Federal Government, the State Government, we believe, ultimately took up the subject, and placed it on a better footing.

The reception given by the New York Chamber of Commerce to Lord NAPIER shows how anxious the Americans are to maintain a real *understanding* with the people of this country. But all these circumstances prove how important it is to have at the head of our own affairs a Minister that accords with the opinions and interests of this constitutional and commercial country, and acts in a manner that we can all comprehend.

To turn from the West to the Easternmost part of Europe, we have a very curious occurrence—the issue of a notification by the Turkish Government of conditions on which European foreigners shall be allowed to colonize the provinces of the Ottoman Empire, more especially Roumelia. The conditions are advantageous. The emigrant will require a capital of nearly 60% ; but with that he will have many of the advantages of a new country with the opportunity of an old. What a seed to sow in that Mussulman-Christian Empire!

The interruption of diplomatic relations between Austria and Sardinia raises the question how we stand with reference to those two States. The letter of the French Envoy at Rome to Count WALEWSKI, whether of old or new date, throws light upon the subject. We seem to be implicated in some arrangements or managements in Europe not very consistent with straightforwardness, with the progress of constitutional government, or with English interests.

A new idea—"the Scandinavian Idea,"—has attained sufficient proportions to alarm the Danish Government. It is a project for uniting all the sections of the Scandinavian race under one monarchy. And here again something is going forward to alter the relations of the Baltic States with each other, if not their internal institutions.

Meanwhile, the two sections of the Bourbon family—VALOIS and ORLEANS—have split again, to the express regret of HENRY V. They cannot agree, it is said, about the flag which they will use when they get at the monarchy again.

We may laugh at the follies of foreign nations, but they might tell us to look at home. Here we find a miserable beer-shop keeper in Staffordshire penally condemned for obtaining money under false pretences—the man having screwed thirty pounds out of a farmer on the pretence that he would cure the man's family and flocks of witchcraft. Witches abound in Staffordshire and Warwickshire; there were several in court at the trial. Thus we see that persons whose property gives them a right to the franchise,—a right denied to men that could turn such superstitions inside out,—are amongst the easiest dupes of the witches.

Nor is the joke limited to humbler men or mere rustics and farmers. Here is the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council sitting in grave judgment upon the question, whether or not there shall be candlesticks and crosses in certain churches, lace or fringe upon the drapery of those churches: both sides attaching the gravest importance either to the presence of the lace, or to its Protestant prohibition;

and the Privy Council is invoked to decide that question of buttons.

The fun becomes tragic when we see the rising importance of the Fraud interest. It is becoming quite powerful, and even where fraud has not established itself, commerce is acquiring the new aspect very extensively. This week we have had exposures of the London and Eastern Bank, which carried on banking transactions with India, and had a paid-up capital of 250,000%. In three years since its establishment it has lent to its own Directors and Manager 290,000%. Then there is the London and Paris Bank, whose banking operations appear to have been limited to a preliminary expenditure of 14,422%, and there the shareholders stop—and very prudent are they too. Sometimes shareholders go on to make dividends; a very hazardous process in these days. Then there is the Australian Agricultural Company, with a paid-up capital of 380,000% and 700,000 acres of valuable land, yet, without immediate resources—the shareholders suddenly discovering the activity with which they have collectively distanced the constable. Then there is the North of Europe Steam Company, with a capital of 500,000%, declaring a dividend of 8 per cent. on a realized loss of 50,000%; the proceedings having been duly certified by an eminent accountant, and the Managing Directors having expatiated on the flourishing condition of the enterprise.

The Board of Trade returns show an immense increase of our exports on the first two months of the present year; although the exports last year were unprecedented in the aggregate. The wealth of the country, therefore, goes on increasing, and some persons we know are making enormous fortunes. There is a vast amount of disposable wealth, and it is thrown about so carelessly that gentlemen may get hold of it, even when they are in Whitecross-street, to set up Banks withal. For it turns out, on the final examination of Mr. ESDALE, Governor of the Royal British Bank, that JOHN MENZIES, Esq., was actually in Whitecross-street when the Bank was first commenced, and he was first appointed to the Secretaryship. And our readers will remember that Mr. MENZIES was rather among the victims than the victors. Yet the disclosures in the Court of Bankruptcy respecting that model bank continue with increasing interest, and the public is looking with great curiosity to the examination of Mr. ARSLEY PELLATT, M.P.

POLICE SERMONS ON THE MARRIAGE LAW.

WHILE legislators potter and compromise on the great question of a reform of the existing laws affecting marriage and the position of women, and while the constituencies are in the din of that contest which will probably end in an equal amount of pottering and compromising with respect to this and other questions, the police-courts from day to day furnish us with evidence of the necessity that exists for placing the relationship of husband and wife on some footing which shall not leave the latter in the position of a mere slave to the brutal tyranny or fantastical caprice of the former. The Hon. Felix Drawley, M.P. for the Scilly Islands, may protest before high Heaven—and the House of Commons—that, if the indissoluble bond of wedlock be made dissoluble at any lower tariff than that now fixed by law, morality will straightway give up the ghost. The same worthy gentleman's uncle, the Bishop, may assure the House of Peers that a grand convulsion of the universe has been expressly arranged for, if Parliament should attempt to put asunder those whom the parish priest hath joined—unless in accordance with the aforesaid highly respectable scale of prices, determined by the wisdom of our ancestors. In vain! Mrs. Smith goes before the Westminster magistrate with a broken head, the complement of twenty years of ill-usage from her husband; Mrs. Barney O'Shallaghan—with one eye out and the other shut up—appeals to the Clerkenwell dispenser of police law against the violence of her lord and master; and the M.P. and the Bishop are shattered to pieces by the rude, stern facts.

A case of more than usual pertinence was heard at Worship-street towards the close of last week. John Sweeney is a working man (not that working men are the only persons guilty of these outrages), and it would appear that he entertains objections to religion. He enforces his infidelity in much the same manner as that in which religious bigots enforce their faith—by physical violence, and a prohibition of the right of discussing such matters. For his wife was one morning talking religion to her

children, who were speaking of the end of the world. She was "talking good words to them," as she stated to the magistrate; and the daughter was saying she put her trust in God, when the husband, who seems to put trust in nothing but his own strong arm, leaped off the bed on which he was lying, swore at his wife "for talking to the children so," struck her on the top of the head, and knocked her down. He then kicked her all over the body, and dragged her about by the hair of the head. The son, a boy between fourteen and fifteen, interfered, and was thrown across the room against the wall, so that his nose was broken. The daughter was also seriously injured; and the frightened children at length got the aid of a policeman, who came in time to save life, and to hear the father threatening to "jump his son's inside out."

Well, John Sweeney has got six months' hard labour in the House of Correction, and when he comes out he will have to find good bail for another term of like duration. But what then? The time will speedily arrive when John Sweeney will be at liberty again to enforce his own notions of religious freedom after his own fashion, because Mrs. Sweeney cannot come up to the price required for setting aside Heaven's ordinances. And the Hon. Felix Drawley will again edify his Scilly constituents, and his uncle the Bishop will once more comfort the House of Peers, by standing up for the sacred character of that compact whose only solvent is gold.

The case is not unmatched, as our readers well know. A day or two after, a similar charge was heard at Clerkenwell, ending in the same sentence, and other cases have been brought forward during the week. But mere punishment will be simply nugatory while the Honourables and the Bishops have it all their own way.

THE KNIGHTSBRIDGE CHURCH CASE.

THE judgment of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council on the appeals of Liddell v. Westerton, and Liddell v. Beal, from the Court of Arches, was delivered last Saturday. The Lord Chancellor, Lord Wensleydale, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Cornwall, Sir John Patteson, Sir W. H. Maule, the Archbishop of Canterbury, and the Bishop of London, were present.

The judgment stated that their lordships have come to the conclusion that crosses, as distinguished from crucifixes, have been in use, as ornaments of churches, from the earliest periods of Christianity; that when used as mere emblems of the Christian faith, and not as objects of superstitious reverence, they may still lawfully be erected in architectural decorations of churches; that the wooden cross erected on the chancel screen of St. Barnabas is to be considered as a mere architectural ornament; and that, as to this emblem, they must advise her Majesty to reverse the judgment complained of. Another question is, whether the stone structure at St. Barnabas is a communion table within the meaning of the Canons and the Rubric; and their lordships are clearly of opinion that it is not. With respect to the wooden cross attached to the communion table at St. Paul's, their lordships are clearly of opinion that it is not consistent either with the spirit or with the letter of the regulations; and they recommend that upon these points the decree complained of should be affirmed. As to the credence tables, their lordships advise a reversal of the sentence complained of. Next, as to the embroidered cloths, it is said that the Canon orders a covering of silk, or of some other proper material, but that it does not mention, and therefore by implication excludes, more than one covering. Their lordships are unable to adopt this construction. An order that a table shall always be covered with a cloth surely does not imply that it shall always be covered with the same cloth, or with a cloth of the same colour or texture. In this case their lordships do not see any sufficient reason for interference, and they therefore advise the reversal of the sentence as to the cloths used for the covering of the Lord's table during the time of divine service, both with respect to St. Paul's and to St. Barnabas. The last question is with respect to the embroidered linen and lace used on the communion table at the time of the administration of the Holy Communion. The Rubric and the Canons prescribe the use of a fair white linen cloth, and both the learned Judges in the Court below have been of opinion that embroidery and lace are not consistent with the meaning of that expression having regard to the nature of the table upon which the cloth is to be used. Although their lordships are not disposed in any case to restrict within narrower limits than the law has imposed the discretion which, within those limits, is justly allowed to congregations, the directions of the Rubric must be complied with; and, upon the whole, their lordships do not dissent from the construction of the Rubric adopted by the present decree upon this point. They therefore advise her Majesty to affirm it. As the judgment in these cases have been materially altered, and such alterations ought to have been made at the hearing in the Arches Court, so much of the sentence of that Court on each case as awards costs against the appellants must be reversed; and in those proceedings, as well as in the present appeals, each party must bear his own costs.

As the various points were disposed of, there was a slight attempt at applause; but this was at once checked.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

Saturday, March 21st.

THE PROROGATION.

THE two Houses met for the last time on Saturday at two o'clock, for the purpose of hearing the announcement by Commission of the Royal Assent to various bills, and of being formally dissolved. Very few peers were present in the House of Lords, but some interest was excited by the presence on the Episcopal Benches, in the rear of the Bishops of London and Carlisle, of Ferukh Khan, the Persian Ambassador, who had recently arrived in London, and who was attended by his suite.

The Commissioners—viz., the Lord Chancellor, Earl Granville, the Earl of Harrowby, Lord Stanley of Alderley, and the Marquis of Breadalbane—were seated upon a woolsack immediately in front of the throne.

In obedience to the summons delivered by Black Rod, the Speaker of the House of Commons, accompanied by Lord Palmerston, Sir George Grey, Mr. Lowe, and several other hon. gentlemen, presented himself at the bar shortly after two o'clock.

The Royal Assent was then given to the following Bills:—The Speaker's Retirement, Exchequer Bills (21,049,700), Consolidated Fund Appropriation, Commons' Enclosure, Commissioners of Supply (Scotland) Act (1856) Amendment, Income-tax, Indemnity, Copyhold and Enclosure Commissions, &c.; Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction, Lighting of Towns (Ireland) Acts Amendment, Customs Duties, Racehorse Duty Act Amendment, Pauper Maintenance, Extra Parochial Places, Mutiny, Marine Mutiny.

The LORD CHANCELLOR then read the following Speech in the names of himself and the other Commissioners:—

"My Lords and Gentlemen,

"We are commanded by her Majesty to inform you that, in releasing you at this early period from your attendance in Parliament, it is her Majesty's intention immediately to dissolve the present Parliament, in order to ascertain in the most constitutional manner the sense of her people upon the present state of public affairs.

"Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

"We are commanded by her Majesty to thank you for the liberal provision which you have made for the exigencies of the public service during the period that will elapse before the new Parliament, which her Majesty will direct immediately to be called, shall have been able to give its deliberate attention to these matters.

"My Lords and Gentlemen,

"We are commanded by her Majesty to express the satisfaction she feels at your having been able during the present session materially to reduce the burdens of her people.

"Her Majesty commands us to assure you that it is her fervent prayer that the several constituencies of the United Kingdom, upon whom will devolve the exercise of those high functions which by the constitution belong to them, may be guided by an allwise Providence to the selection of representatives whose wisdom and patriotism may aid her Majesty in her constant endeavours to maintain the honour and dignity of her Crown and to promote the welfare and happiness of her people."

The Commission for the prorogation of Parliament having been read by the Clerk at the table,

The LORD CHANCELLOR formally prorogued Parliament until Thursday, the 30th of next April.

In the HOUSE OF COMMONS, much merriment was excited by the SPEAKER saying, "Members waiting to be sworn will come to the table." Straightway, The O'DONOGHUE advanced, and, amidst considerable laughter, took the oaths and his seat for Tipperary, for which place he was elected only a few days previously.

NAPLES.

MR. DUNCOMBE asked whether, since the withdrawal of the legations of France and England from Naples, any overtures had been made by the King of Naples to the English and French Governments for the return of those embassies; and, if so, whether those overtures were likely to be acceptable to the two Governments? He asked this in consequence of the appearance in the papers that morning of a statement that an envoy has gone from Paris with a view to settling the differences which exist between the Neapolitan Government and those of England and France.

LORD PALMERSTON replied that no overtures, properly so called, had been received by the English and French Governments from the King of Naples since the discontinuance of diplomatic relations. An indirect intimation had, however, reached them that the Neapolitan Government was anxious to know whether, if the King of Naples were to carry into execution the convention made with the Argentine Confederation, under which the political prisoners now retained in the prisons of Naples were to be banished to the Argentine Republic, that would be considered by the two Governments as a substantial beginning of that more moderate system of government which they wished to see established at Naples. Speaking only for the English Government, he (Lord Palmerston) did not think that clearing the prisons of Naples by sending the prisoners into banishment in South America, with the intention, no doubt, of replenishing those prisons by means of fresh arrests

(hear, hear), would be such a change of system as could be considered as accomplishing the purposes for which diplomatic relations were broken off. (Hear, hear.)

TREATY WITH MOROCCO.

LORD PALMERSTON laid on the table a treaty which our minister at Tangier has concluded with the Sultan of Morocco, by which great facilities are secured for English and European commerce throughout the dominions of that potentate.

THE ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH TO INDIA.

LORD PALMERSTON, in answer to Mr. BOWYER, stated that the protection of the line of electric telegraph in the Turkish territories is part of the general system of police established by the Turkish Government in that portion of the empire.—The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER added that the English Government is in no respect answerable for the construction of the telegraph, or for its protection from injury by the Arab tribes.

CAPTAIN WOOD.

Captain ARCHDALL, who had previously presented a petition from Captain Wood, late paymaster of the depot battalion at Winchester, complaining that he had been called upon with the assistance of only one clerk to discharge duties, in the performance of which two paymasters and seven clerks had afterwards been engaged, and had thus been compelled to resign, thereby losing his chance of an additional pension of 2s. a day, moved for the production of copies of the correspondence which had taken place between Captain Wood and the War Department from the date of his appointment to the present time; but, upon it being represented to him by Lord PALMERSTON that the order, if made, would be of no value, owing to the dissolution of Parliament, the motion was withdrawn.

DESTITUTION OF SOLDIERS' WIVES AND CHILDREN AT COLCHESTER.

Sir DE LACY EVANS asked whether any steps had been taken to relieve the destitution of the wives and children of the soldiers who are quartered in the camp at Colchester?—Lord PALMERSTON replied that he was quite sure that the War Department had every disposition to make all practical arrangements for the relief of this distress.

The members were then summoned to the House of Peers, to be present at the Prorogation, and, on their return, after hearing the Royal Speech read over, as usual, they crowded round the Speaker to bid him farewell in his official capacity. And thus terminated the brief session.

The Royal Proclamations officially announcing the dissolution were published in a Supplement to the London Gazette of Friday week, and the writs were issued last Saturday.

A PARVENU'S FUNERAL.

"EVEN in our ashes live our wonted fires," said Gray, when musing in the country churchyard; and that some people who have worked their way out of poverty into riches like to blazon the fact even on their path to the last home of their mortal bodies, or that their relations love to blazon it for them, was shown in a singular action brought at the Kingston Assizes last Saturday. The plaintiff was an undertaker, named Alexander, and the defendants were the executors of one Hayton, whose funeral Alexander supplied. The claim made for that ceremony was no less than 405*l.*; but the defendants paid into court 225*l.*, and denied further liability.

Hayton was formerly a person in a humble position of life, but by successful railway contracts he succeeded in amassing a large sum of money, and at his death, which took place in last December, he was represented to be worth between 40,000*l.* and 50,000*l.* One of the defendants, Mr. Kirby, was a surgeon who attended Hayton in his last illness, and he was named one of the executors of his will, and engaged Alexander to conduct the funeral. The ceremony appears to have been performed in the most extraordinary and extravagant manner. The deceased was placed in a brass-bound coffin, and there was a sort of "lying in state," after the body was screwed down; and for the expenses connected with this ceremony, among which was a charge for a new suit of clothes, a black silk scarf, and hatband and gloves for a person to "show up" the company who came to see the "lying in state," a very considerable sum was charged in the bill. Another item was 169*l.* for "re-membrances" in the shape of scarfs and gloves, and "elegantly embossed cards," which were sent to sixty-six persons.

The defence was that the expenses were not incurred on the authority of the executors, and that it was absurd to supply silk scarfs and black gloves to a number of 'navvies' who attended the funeral. The jury, however, returned a verdict for the full amount claimed.

Mr. Alexander has written to the *Times* to dispute the accuracy of the items "brass-bound coffin" and "new suits of clothes and black silk scarf for the man in attendance to show the coffin." There were no such entries in the bill. "The 'navvies' who followed the deceased to the grave were his old confidential foreman and men, and were selected by Mr. Shelley, one of the executors. The brothers of the deceased and his residuary legatees have authorized me to state they are perfectly content with my charges, and much annoyed that my bill should have been disputed by the executors."

THE GENERAL ELECTION.

THE PREMIER'S MANIFESTO.

TO THE ELECTORS OF TIVERTON.

GENTLEMEN,—Parliament having been dissolved in order that the electors of the United Kingdom may have an opportunity of expressing their opinion on the existing state of public affairs, I present myself to you as a candidate for the continuance of that confidence with which, as your representative, I have so long been honoured.

The question which is submitted to the judgment of the country is, which shall be the men to whose hands shall be committed the destinies of the nation, and whether that charge shall continue to be confided to the present Administration, or whether it shall be transferred to that aggregation of hitherto discordant elements by whose combined action on a late occasion a vote of censure was passed upon her Majesty's Government.

The claims of the present Administration to the confidence of the country rest upon facts and events which will form an important chapter in the history of these times.

We undertook the conduct of affairs, in obedience to the call of our Sovereign, at a moment of no small difficulty, in the midst of a great war, and when those men who had heretofore been looked up to as the leaders of parties had for various reasons declined the responsibility of office, or had been unable to form such an Administration as was in their opinion equal to the crisis. We carried on with energy and vigour the war in which the country was engaged, and in hearty co-operation with our gallant allies—the French, the Sardinians, and the Turks—we brought it to a successful termination, and the result was a treaty of peace which accomplished the objects of the war, and which secured for the Allies conditions which some of those to whom I have alluded had deemed it unreasonable to propose and impossible to obtain.

In the execution of the stipulations of this treaty difficulties in regard to matters of great importance arose; those difficulties, by firmness in negotiation, her Majesty's Government mainly contributed in a satisfactory manner to remove, and the full attainment of the objects of the treaty in regard to the matters in which those difficulties related has thus been secured.

At the beginning of the recent session of Parliament we announced our intention of taking off the war portion of the income-tax, and we proposed a budget which was approved by a majority of eighty votes.

The Persian war, which had originated in aggressions and breach of engagement by the Persian Government, was put an end to by a treaty of peace concluded at Paris. Our diplomatic relations with the United States had been replaced upon their usual footing by the appointment of Lord Napier and his departure for Washington.

Papers had been presented to Parliament explaining the reasons why the British and French missions had been withdrawn from Naples, and no notice had been given of any motion to be founded on those papers.

Upon none of these matters did the Opposition deem it possible to found any successful attack on the Government.

But events of much importance had happened in China, unforeseen by her Majesty's Government, and not the consequence of any steps taken by them.

An insolent barbarian wielding authority at Canton had violated the British flag, broken the engagements of treaties, offered rewards for the heads of British subjects in that part of China, and planned their destruction by murder, assassination, and poison.

The British officers, civil and naval, on the station had taken those measures which appeared to them to be proper and necessary to obtain satisfaction and redress, and her Majesty's Government had approved the course pursued by those officers in vindication of the national honour and for the assertion of our national rights. A combination of political parties, not till this last session united, carried a resolution declaring the course pursued by our officers in China unjustifiable, and consequently censuring her Majesty's Government for having approved that course.

But, if that course was unjustifiable, the British Government, instead of demanding an apology, ought to make one, and instead of expecting satisfaction ought to offer compensation to the Chinese Commissioner, and this course the combined opponents of the Government, if their Parliamentary victory had installed them in office, must in consistency have been prepared to pursue.

Will the British nation give their support to men who have thus endeavoured to make the humiliation and degradation of their country the stepping-stone to power?

I confidently assert that such will not be the answer that will be given to the appeal now made to the electors of the United Kingdom.

We offer to the country a Government founded upon far different principles. Abroad, it will be our earnest endeavour to procure peace, but peace with honour and with safety; peace with the maintenance of national rights, peace with security to our fellow-countrymen in foreign lands. At home, our guiding principles will be: judicious and well-regulated economy, progressive improvement in all that concerns the welfare of the nation.

the continued diffusion of education among the people, and such well-considered reforms as from time to time may be required by changes of circumstances and by the increasing growth of intelligence.

On these grounds I present myself to you, and I anticipate with confidence the result of the share which you are about to take in the solemn decision which the constituencies of the United Kingdom are about to pronounce.

I have the honour to be, gentlemen, your obedient and devoted servant,
PALMERSTON.
94, Piccadilly, March 23.

THE NOMINATIONS.

The WESTMINSTER election took place on Thursday. Sir DE LACY EVANS and Sir JOHN SHELLEY appeared on the hustings in Covent Garden, and addressed the electors; but there was an absence of excitement, as no other candidate presented himself, Mr. Westerton having retired from the contest, on account of his stipulations—namely, that his success should be guaranteed, and that his expenses should be paid—not being fulfilled. In the course of his address, Sir De Lacy Evans was asked "What about the Princess Royal's dowry?" To which he replied, "Oh, I'll take care about that." "Will you vote for 70,000l. a year?" asked the voice. "Oh, no," replied Sir De Lacy; which declaration was received with cheers. The two candidates were elected by show of hands. Several of the persons present had the appearance of being non-electors.

A stormy nomination meeting took place on Thursday at NOTTINGHAM, when Mr. WALTER (chief proprietor of the *Times*), Mr. PAGET, and Mr. ERNEST JONES, the three candidates, made long speeches, and there was a great deal of sparring between the first and the last with reference to the services of the *Times* newspaper, and the nature of Mr. Jones's land scheme, which Mr. Walter earnestly denounced. The opinions of these two gentlemen are sufficiently well known. Mr. Paget, it should be added, is a Liberal, who supported the Government in the late China vote, but who is ready to give his countenance to Mr. Locke King's plan for enlarging the county representation. He is desirous to see a reduction of the army. The show of hands was in his favour and that of Mr. Jones. A poll was then demanded for Mr. Walter, to take place on Friday (yesterday). During the proceedings, a good deal of commotion was caused by the presence of a body of Chartists.

The nomination of the candidates for Bedford also took place on Thursday. Mr. WHITBREAD, Captain STUART, Mr. BARNARD, and Mr. SMITH, the four candidates, having addressed the electors, the show of hands was declared to be in favour of Captain Stuart and Mr. Smith; and a poll was then demanded on behalf of the others.

On the same day, the Coventry candidates were nominated. The candidates were—Mr. ELLICE and Sir JOSEPH PAXTON (Liberal), Mr. MELLOR, Q.C. (Palmerstonian), Mr. MORGAN TREHERNE (Conservative), and Mr. R. J. PHILLIMORE (Liberal-Conservative). The show of hands was declared by the Mayor to be in favour of Mr. Ellice and Sir Joseph Paxton; and a poll was demanded on behalf of the others.

The Hon. A. F. KINNAIRD was on Thursday returned without opposition for PERTH.

The BATH nomination was on Thursday. The candidates were—Mr. TITE and Sir ARTHUR HALLAM ELTON (Liberals), and Mr. A. E. WAY (Liberal-Conservative). Mr. Tite having referred to what he had already done in Parliament, Sir A. H. Elton addressed the electors, and said that a Government was wanted which would carry out Liberal principles, improve the constitution, and maintain England in the state of glory to which she had attained. He was an advocate for vote by ballot, and for the extension of the suffrage, and for the application of something like an education test to the exercise of the franchise, by giving it to professional men, clergymen, barristers, surgeons, and artists, though they might be only lodgers, and not occupiers of houses. He would have the smaller boroughs assimilated, and their number of members transferred to populous counties and cities, or their boundaries extended. He was friendly to the present system of Government aid for education, and was opposed to any merely secular system of instruction. He also advocated cheap law, and legal reform generally. He was not ashamed of the old watchwords of the Whigs, "Peace, retrenchment, and reform," but was ready to advocate them, if returned to the House of Commons.—Mr. Way defended the designation by which he intimated his general political principles. A "Liberal-Conservative," he said, was a man who desired to uphold the constitution established in 1688, yet who was willing to grant all well-considered reforms. He was opposed to the ballot and to any present extension of the suffrage, and would support Lord Palmerston.—The show of hands was largely in favour of Mr. Tite and Sir A. H. Elton, and a poll was demanded on behalf of Mr. Way, and appointed for yesterday (Friday).

The nomination of the WINDSOR candidates took place on Thursday, when the show of hands was declared to be in favour of Mr. GREENFELL and Mr. VAN STRAAT (Palmerstonians). A poll was then demanded on behalf of Mr. RICARDO.

The HERTFORD nomination was also on Thursday.

The choice of hands fell on Mr. COWPER (Liberal and Palmerstonian) and Sir MINTO FARQUHAR (Conservative and Palmerstonian). A poll was then demanded for Mr. CHAMBERS, and was appointed for Friday (yesterday).

MEETINGS.

Mr. HORSFALL and Mr. CHARLES TURNER, the Conservative candidates for LIVERPOOL, appeared before a considerable body of the electors in Pitt-street Ward last Saturday. The former defended Lord Palmerston's conduct in connexion with the China question; and both referred to various matters of a politico-religious tendency, and indicated their determination to act from an ultra-Protestant and Church of England point of view. A vote of confidence in them was then passed.

The Right Hon. ROBERT LOWE having declined to stand for MANCHESTER, on account of his not desiring to sever his Parliamentary connexion with Kidderminster, Mr. JAMES ASPINALL TURNER, a new candidate, has come forward, and last Saturday morning addressed a meeting of the constituency at the Corn Exchange. His statement of his opinions was extremely vague, and amounted to little more than a promise, conveyed in general terms, that he would "promote the cause of civil and religious liberty," and that he is "a friend to progress." Sir JOHN PORTER, another candidate, also spoke in a similar dubious strain. He disagreed with the late vote on the China question. He would support Lord Palmerston "in every just and necessary war," but would not support any Government unless it would carry out progressive reform. He was willing to take up the opinions expressed by Mr. Gibson. Although he did not think the ballot would be as useful as was expected, he was willing to give it a trial. A working man said he wished to put a question to the candidates; but the Chairman advised him to attend the ward meetings, and decided against it; and he was told that, not being a requisitioner, he had no right at the meeting. Another working man said he wished to warn the committee that conduct like that would not do. He was not a voter for Bright and Gibson, but there were many electors wavering and undecided, and he would caution the committee that it would not do to carry things with such a high hand. A vote of confidence in the candidates was passed.

The Right Hon. E. ELLICE, one of the members for COVENTRY in the late Parliament, addressed his constituents last Saturday from the balcony of Craven Arms in that city. He defended Lord Palmerston's policy on the China question, but admitted that it would perhaps have been a more prudent course on the part of Sir John Bowring had he contented himself with making reprisals, and then waited for instructions from home. However, he thought they could not in England judge properly of the circumstances of the case. He hoped the ranks of the Liberal party would remain unbroken.

Mr. ROEBUCK made a long speech at the Town Hall, SHEFFIELD, on the night of Friday week. Mr. HADFIELD, his colleague, was also present, but uttered only a few words. Both gentlemen were received with loud and long-continued applause, and were presented with an address of confidence signed by 15,000 persons. In addressing the audience, Mr. Roebuck said that, though he was by nature an indolent man, and inclined to peace, his life had been one long political contest; he had been ever at work and ever at war. He observed on that occasion an absence of familiar faces; and, although those whom he missed said that they deserted him only on account of his late vote, he believed that "the accident was sought for, and that they endeavoured to find a cause of complaint, and were glad to discover one." Mr. Overend, a new candidate, had said that he was of exactly the same principles as himself (Mr. Roebuck); but, at the general election of 1852, he had proclaimed that his opinions on all subjects were precisely the reverse. With respect to his and his colleague's vote on the budget, Mr. Roebuck gave this explanation:—"We believed that the people of England in 1852 had been taxed to a point beyond which taxation ought not to go, 52,000,000l. being paid for the business of our Government. Of this, about 26,000,000l. went to pay the debt; the other 26,000,000l. went to carry on the ordinary business of the Government. In 1857, in a time of peace, we found the expenditure increased 12,000,000l., very nearly one-half of the whole amount expended upon the public business in 1852. Now, I speak for my hon. friend and myself when I say we thought this to be a greatly exaggerated increase, and that we should be doing a good service to the public if we referred back the budget to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, in order that he might reconsider the expenditure and cut it down. Therefore we voted in favour of Mr. Disraeli's motion on that ground, and on that ground alone." Mr. Roebuck then went over the whole ground of the China dispute, and justified the vote he and his colleague had given on that question. On his observing that for that vote he had lost the confidence of many of the voters of Sheffield, there were cries of "Never!" "Only a few!" "Only six!" He then continued:—"England is to me that which I cannot explain. I have been an exile, gentlemen. I have heard her name mentioned when I have been on a foreign shore, and the very name has thrilled through me. There is something connected with her glorious name that has lifted me up,

and made me, small as I am, feel myself a big man. (Cheers.) I felt that in my person England was there. And to see her renown cast into the dust—degraded, bemired, made dishonourable by persons who never ought to have borne power in her name (cheers)—made me ashamed, and in your name I declared that the shame should not attach to her. (Cheers.) Did I do wrong, gentlemen? ('No, no.') The time will come when that vote will be looked upon as a great instance of the right feeling of the House of Commons of England. Looking back through the history of my country, there are times in which I think good men must have felt their hearts sink. Comparing small things with great, I can fancy that the great Milton, when he saw the popular tide turn in favour of the Stuarts—he who had rendered himself immortal by his writings in the cause of his country and of freedom—I can fancy that he must have felt bitter shame to see the fabric of liberty he had aimed to rear destroyed. I have thought what must have been the feelings of Burke when he lost his seat for opposing the popular will as to the American war. The popular will overrode the wisdom of the senator, and we lost America. When Fox opposed the French war, how his heart must have sunk at seeing the popular will overrule him in opposing what I will call the frantic feeling of the country! He was overruled, and we have 800,000,000l. of debt in consequence, and the nephew of Napoleon on the throne of France. Well, I say, comparing small men with great, ours is a similar case. We have opposed the popular feeling of the people of Sheffield in this matter, because we think they are wrong. I never was so certain in my life that I was right as in this matter. I have no interest in leading you wrong. I have no place to hope for or to protect. I am not in the Ministry, and have no hope of forming part of any Administration." (Cheers.) Some of his friends had advised him to retire from public life, saying that he was old and worn out; that was to say, they wanted to take his place. Parodying a phrase of Jeremy Bentham, he thought that was "an interest-begotten kindness." He was "no orator like Brutus—Brutus being Mr. Overend;" but he would tell them, without subterfuge, that he was in favour of an extension of the suffrage, of vote by ballot, and of making all men equal before the law, whatever may be their religious creed.—A vote of confidence in Messrs. Roebuck and Hadfield was unanimously passed.—Mr. Roebuck and Mr. Hadfield have addressed several other meetings.

Mr. OVEREND, the Conservative candidate for Sheffield, addressed a meeting of electors on Monday night, and entered into a vindication of the Chinese affair. The proceedings terminated in a vote adverse to Mr. Overend's claims, which was carried by a large majority.

Mr. W. N. MASSEY, Under-Secretary for the Home Department, addressed the electors of SALFORD in the Town Hall on Monday evening; Mr. Oliver Heywood in the Chair. The candidate said he believed Lord Palmerston's Government would endeavour to satisfy the moderate and reasonable wishes of the people of this country by proposing a measure of reform, or it would not much longer have the humble aid of such men as himself, or the aid of much greater men. He (Mr. Massey) had voted and should vote for the ballot on every opportunity. He had always been a friend of civil and religious liberty. As a member of the Church of England, he should do all in his power to check the innovations lately introduced in that Church. From conscientious conviction he voted against Sir Joshua Walmsley's Bill for opening places of amusement on Sundays. He should oppose a Maine Liquor Law, as being "all nonsense." A large majority intimated their satisfaction with these statements.

Mr. COBDEN addressed another meeting of electors at HUDDERSFIELD last Saturday. It will be recollected that an alarming accident brought the meeting on the previous Thursday night to a hurried and premature conclusion. On the present occasion, the assembly took place at the Gymnasium Hall, where there was a crowded attendance. Mr. Cobden was received with immense cheering. After apologizing for the weakness of his voice, which was caused by his addressing 5000 or 6000 persons in the Free-trade Hall, Manchester, on behalf of his friend John Bright, and after recapitulating his arguments on the Chinese question, he spoke of the ballot and suffrage, to which he had before alluded. He said:—"Connected with these there was an organic change necessary of as great importance as either, and that was the redistribution of electoral power in the country. It was possible to extend the franchise to any extent, and yet contrive to hand over the power to a few families, as in the palmy days of the rotten borough system, by giving two seats to Ripon and one to Huddersfield, Salford, or Dundee. The franchise ought to be distributed according to the population and wealth of a district, and in England it would be found that wealth increased in proportion to the population, forming the rule for an equal allotment of electoral power. Ireland would be an exception to this rule, but Ireland was an exception and an anomaly in almost everything; and there they found that population had little reference to wealth. He was in favour of shortening the duration of Parliaments from seven to three years, his reasons being that few were aware of the extent to which a House of Commons might be coerced by the threat of a dissolution. (Hear, hear.) Lord Palmerston, during a considerable portion of last session,

and the whole of this session, had exercised a factious sway over the House of Commons by the consciousness of having the power of dissolution in his hands. Why were members afraid of going to meet their constituents? One main consideration was the enormous expenses in which they were mulcted for the elections, especially in Scotland, where, even with the purest constituencies, the members were subjected to heavier legal and other charges than in England. If we had three years' instead of seven years' Parliaments, the Parliaments would come to be considered as of *bona fide* duration; for it must be a great crisis indeed that would render necessary a dissolution before the time, and there would not be the same capricious exercise of the power of dissolution. This reform, coupled with that of the ballot, would save a vast amount of turmoil and strife, as the effect of the ballot would be to put an end to the practice of canvassing at elections, and the more frequent recurrence of elections would be considered by men of all parties as a great boon. He observed that his hon. opponent (Mr. Akroyd) had a plan for permissive ballot; but he (Mr. Cobden) was for compulsory ballot. He would make everybody vote by ballot, with permissive open voting—that was, any man who chose to put the name of his favourite candidate, Cobden or Akroyd, on his hat or on his back was at liberty to do so. (*Cheers.*) He afterwards stated that he was “in favour of household suffrage, the rate-book to be the register, and every man rated to the poor to have a vote. (*Rounds of applause.*)” He was of opinion that, if a leader in the position of Lord John Russell were to introduce a Reform Bill, with the ballot included, he would trip up the heels of his opponents, take the wind out of their sails in a very clever and very successful way, and break the ranks of his adversaries in the counties. (*Hear, hear.*) The qualification for members was only a fiction, and he would vote for its abolition, as in Scotland.” Mr. Cobden then went over several other political grounds, including the late Russian war, which he said had had no other effect than to increase the standing armies of Europe, and press down the peoples. In answer to questions put to him, he stated that he should, after their recent vote in favour of the Canton massacre, vote that the Bishops be excluded from the House of Lords. He should not vote for the opening of the Crystal Palace or Crystal Palace grounds on the Sunday, nor would he vote for the Maine Law. Mr. Shaw, constable of Huddersfield, proposed, and Mr. Thomas Mallinson seconded, Mr. Cobden as a fit and proper person to represent the borough; and the resolution was carried by an overwhelming majority. The result was received with rounds of applause.—Mr. Cobden addressed another meeting on Tuesday night, with the same result.

A meeting of electors at COLCHESTER was addressed on Saturday by Major the Right Hon. WILLIAM BERESFORD, one of the candidates for North Essex. That gentleman explained his reasons for not going with his party in the recent China vote. Those reasons were chiefly contained in a letter which he had written to some Conservative friend, and portions of which he read to the meeting. “In the first place,” wrote the Major, “I do not like the company which you have lately been keeping or endeavouring to keep. I will not enter into the controversy of whether it is a coalition or an agreement, or an approximation. I do not like such company. It must bring discredit, and will bring bad principles with it. In the next place, I foresee and fear very disastrous results to our military position at Canton and to our national prestige if a resolution of the House of Commons should go out, repudiating the conduct of our forces there. Beware of that. Further, I must look at the consequences of such a vote in its results here at home. A change of Government is unavoidable; nay, you acknowledge that such is the object in view. Here I must confess that I am opposed to turning out an existing Administration unless I see plainly a fair chance, at least, of establishing in its place a better one, which has a reasonable prospect of holding its ground. Now Lord Derby has proclaimed to the country that he cannot form such a Government with Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Sidney Herbert. If he has had no communication (as I am told) with them, how can he make sure that they will not again decline? and if they do join, will not such a coalition bring more discredit than strength with it? Another and a very strong objection which I entertain to the change at this moment is the conviction in my mind that the first act of this coalition, as a Government, will be to cut down the military estimates, and to reduce the army again to that state of inefficiency from which it has only just emerged—an inefficiency for which both Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Sidney Herbert were in some degree accessory and answerable for.” Mr. DUCANE, the other Conservative candidate, also addressed the meeting, observing that, though he thought the conduct of Sir John Bowring reprehensible, he was inclined to support Lord Palmerston in prosecuting the war vigorously, and bringing it to an honourable and satisfactory termination. Resolutions were then adopted, pledging the meeting to do all in its power to secure the return of the two candidates.

Mr. SANDARS, the new candidate for DUBLIN, addressed a public meeting of the electors of the borough in the Old Town Hall on the evening of Friday week. He confessed that he had asked and obtained the support

of Lord Dudley, as he was sure they would have considered him a foolish person if he had not solicited the countenance of one who exercised such great political influence in the district; but he was perfectly unshackled. He then professed principles of a moderate Liberal shade; and a resolution approving of his views was carried by a small majority.

An adjourned meeting of electors of SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE was held last Saturday afternoon at the Swan Hotel, Wolverhampton; it was attended by about fifty representatives of the leading interests of the district. Mr. Sidney Cartwright, of Wolverhampton, presided. Mr. WILLIAM MATHEWS, an iron master near Dudley, and a Mr. J. W. FOLEY, son of the Mr. Foley who represented East Worcestershire in the last Parliament, expounded the principles on which they solicit the suffrages of the voters. Both are Liberals, in favour of an extension of the suffrage, vote by ballot, and the abolition of compulsory church rates. The former, however, is opposed to the admission of Jews to Parliament, while the latter favours it. The names of two other candidates, who are now absent from England—viz., the Hon. F. CALTHORPE, and the Hon. ARTHUR WROTTESELEY—were mentioned, and a statement of their political sentiments was made to the meeting. Mr. Mathews was at once accepted as a candidate, and a division then took place on behalf of the other three candidates, when there were—For Mr. Foley, 25; the Hon. Arthur Wrottesley, 19; the Hon. F. Calthorpe, 1; and the meeting pledged itself to vote for Mr. Mathews, and Mr. Foley. The chairman was authorized to publish throughout South Staffordshire the decision to which the meeting had come, and to recommend Messrs. Mathews and Foley to the general constituency for election.

The Liberal party of NORWICH held another great meeting on Friday week in St. Andrew's Hall. Lord BURY and Mr. H. W. SCHNEIDER, the Liberal candidates, attended the meeting, and were received with great enthusiasm. On the following day, Lord Bury and Mr. Schneider attended in the Corn Exchange, and were favourably received. The farmers and merchants present in the Exchange were also addressed by Mr. Charles Buxton, on behalf of his brother, Sir EDWARD NORTH BUXTON, who is now a candidate for the representation of East Norfolk with Major-General WINDHAM. Business was for a time suspended, and the scene was one of much animation and interest.

Mr. JAMES WYLD addressed a large meeting of the electors of BODMIN in the Guildhall on Thursday week, Mr. Sergeant presiding. He said that, though on many great questions of policy he should support Lord Palmerston with all his strength, yet, as representing an independent constituency, there were times and seasons when he might differ from him, and he was sure that such was the nobleness of Lord Palmerston that he would not seek a support given without thought or discrimination. A resolution approving Mr. Wyld as a candidate was unanimously agreed to.

The electors of FINSBURY had a crowded meeting at the London Mechanics' Institute on Monday, when Mr. DUNCOMBE stated his political principles, and promised that he would vote for an equalization of poor-rates and land-tax. He then defended Lord Palmerston from the charge of being a Tory. The proceedings concluded by the passing, amidst acclamation, of a resolution pledging the meeting to return Mr. Duncombe free of expense.—Mr. Sergeant PARRY, Major REED, and Mr. COX, the other candidates, addressed the constituency on the same day in various parts of the borough.—Mr. WILLIAM COX addressed the Finsbury electors on Tuesday evening, and spoke in favour of the ballot, the admission of the Jews into Parliament, innocent Sunday recreations (though on this subject he would bow with submission to the opinion of the Bishops), a reform of the bankruptcy laws, and a 5*l.* franchise. He would not vote for the extravagant annuity of 70,000*l.* a year to the Princess Royal. He agreed with Lord Palmerston's conduct in connexion with the China question, but dissented from nine-tenths of his political opinions. A resolution to support Mr. Cox was passed amidst loud cheers.—Mr. Cox addressed another meeting of his supporters on Thursday.

Mr. Sergeant PARRY and Major REED, ex-M.P. for Abingdon, again addressed the electors of Finsbury on Wednesday night. Both are Liberals.

A district meeting of the supporters of Baron ROTHSCHILD, Sir JAMES DUKES, Mr. CRAWFORD, and Mr. RAIKES CURRIE, candidates for the City of London, was held on Tuesday evening, at 21, Cannon-street. The chairman, Mr. Ingram Travers, said that a great apathy exists in the City as regards the election, and that probably only a small number of the electors will vote. Nothing of importance transpired in the speeches of the candidates; but some amusement was created by Mr. Currie denouncing Lord John Russell's reference to him as “a young man from Northampton,” which he described as a specimen of “that miserable pigmy wit” for which the noble Lord, he said, is distinguished.

Another meeting of the supporters of the four confederated candidates for London took place on Wednesday. There was also a gathering of the adherents of Lord JOHN RUSSELL, at which the brother of that noble-

man, Lord Charles James Fox Russell, gallantly defended the claims of his kinsman. In the course of his speech, he said:—“With regard to the question of the ballot, he had authority to state that the vice-president of the Ballot Society in the City, the treasurer, and several of the committee, had determined to support Lord John Russell, notwithstanding his opposition to the ballot. (*Hear.*) But was his brother so determined an opponent of the ballot as some gentlemen seemed to suppose? He had heard his brother say that in the abstract he was favourable to open voting, but that he might be driven to the ballot. (*Disapprobation, and a cry, ‘He never will be.’*) What did his brother say at the London Tavern the other day? He understood him to say that, when Mr. Hume stated that only one man in seven enjoyed the franchise, he thought it only right that the other six should know how the elector voted. But his brother now went a step further. He wanted to carry a large extension of the franchise; and when two men out of seven, instead of one out of seven, had the power of voting, the argument against the ballot would not be quite so strong in his brother's mind as it was. (*Applause, and partial disapprobation.*) . . . It was only last night that his brother, not speaking upon the China question, but alluding to Lord Palmerston's address to the electors of Tiverton, said, ‘He is a little hard upon us here, for he says that no one ventured to impugn the policy pursued by the Government at Naples. But I took exception to it on the first night of the session, and spoke to Lord Minto on the subject; but I did not do more, because if I had brought forward a motion, the Tories would have voted with us, and we should have put the Government in a minority.’ This would show that his brother had no *animus* against Lord Palmerston.”

Another meeting of the supporters of Lord John Russell was held at Crosby Hall on Thursday. The proceedings presented no features of interest.

Mr. LOCKE, one of the candidates for SOUTHWARK, addressed the electors on Monday, and indicated his approval of Lord Palmerston's foreign policy, as well as his (Mr. Locke's) intention to support the further extension of the franchise, the abolition of church-rates and Jewish disabilities, the spread of education, the opening of the British Museum, &c., on Sundays, vote by ballot, the abolition of the law of settlement, the equalization of the poor-rates, and other measures of enlightened progress. A vote of confidence was unanimously passed.

Mr. PELLATT appeared before his Southwark constituents on Tuesday evening, vindicated his recent opposition to the Government on the China question, and obtained a vote of confidence.

Sir CHARLES NAPIER addressed his Southwark supporters on Wednesday night. He approves of Lord Palmerston's conduct with respect to the Chinese business, but thinks the people should refuse to support his administration unless he shows himself a genuine Reformer.

Mr. ROUPELL met his LAMBETH constituents on Monday. He declared himself in favour of a more democratic House of Commons, and of any measure tending to advance the interests of the working classes, to lessen their hours of toil, and lengthen their hours of intelligent recreation, to abolish the truck system, and to protect children in factories from the demoralizing effects of excessive labour. He denied that he was an ultra Palmerstonian. A resolution expressing confidence was passed with only two dissentients.

The friends and supporters of Mr. WILLIAMS, at Lambeth, were addressed by that gentleman on Tuesday evening. A resolution was passed, pledging the meeting to support his candidature to the utmost.—Mr. Williams also addressed his constituents on Thursday.

Mr. WILKINSON explained his opinions to a meeting of Lambeth electors on Wednesday evening. He justified his vote in favour of ministers on the China question; intimated that there are great difficulties in the way of readjusting the income-tax; said he would support Sunday recreation; and accused Mr. Williams of being very changeable in his opinions.

At STOCKPORT, on the evening of Friday week, Mr. KERRAW, who spoke at considerable length, explained his reasons for not voting at all on Mr. Cobden's motion in reference to the China question. On carefully perusing the papers relating to that subject, he felt that he could not conscientiously support the Government in the course that had been pursued, while, on the other hand, he felt that by voting for Mr. Cobden's motion he might be aiding to overthrow Lord Palmerston's Government to make room for a Tory Administration.—Mr. J. B. SMITH explained the grounds on which he voted for Mr. Cobden's motion. He considered that he was not sent to Parliament to vote with the Ministry under all circumstances. The Government whipper-in once complained that he had not voted with the Ministry on a certain occasion. He replied, “I always vote with you when you are right.” “Thank you for nothing,” was the rejoinder; “we most need votes when we are in the wrong.” He wished to know whether Lord Palmerston would yield the ballot, extension of the suffrage, shortening of the duration of Parliaments, and reduction of taxation. He considered that Lord Palmerston could not ask for support until he had answered that question satisfactorily. Votes of con-

fidence in Messrs. Kershaw and Smith were passed unanimously.

Mr. JAMES HANNAY addressed the men of Dumfries on Friday week. He denied that he was a follower of Mr. Disraeli, or a Tory of the old school, or a protégé of Lord Stanley, though "an admirer of that young nobleman," and a supporter of those measures of a sanitary and social character with which his Lordship has identified himself. He disapproved of the bombardment of Canton, and did not attach any value to the proposals for extending the suffrage as a means of elevating the people, which is to be effected rather by spiritual means.—There is some talk of a third candidate—Mr. JAMES CAIRD, of Baldoon, the well-known agriculturist—coming forward.

Mr. RICH and Mr. WYVILL met their constituents of the borough of RICHMOND (Yorkshire) on Friday night. Mr. Rich, after explaining the principles which had influenced him in his Parliamentary career, referred to his neutrality on the Chinese question. He thought that Sir John Bowring had not only exceeded his instructions, but had positively acted against them. He had withheld his vote because an injustice had been committed by our Plenipotentiary, but he did not vote against the Cabinet because that wrong was not of their doing. To no Minister would he give a passive adhesion, although Lord Palmerston would receive his general support. The hon. gentleman said he was favourable to an extension of the county franchise, and to the discontinuance of church-rates, but he was opposed to the ballot.—Mr. Wyvill cordially approved the measures which Ministers had taken with regard to the Chinese question, his opinion being that Sir John Bowring had no other course open to him, and Lord Palmerston no alternative but to support our representative in China. He himself was in favour of an extension of the franchise, but he would make it go hand-in-hand with the education of the people. To free trade he had always given his decided adhesion, and he was prepared to carry out the principles of free trade to their fullest extent.—The meeting was adjourned without any resolution having been agreed to.

The TOWER HAMLETS electors were addressed on Tuesday evening by Mr. AYRTON, the new candidate, who pronounced in favour of an extended franchise, vote by ballot, short Parliaments, and the abolition of all religious establishments, as relics of ages long past, when men were so ignorant that they all believed alike in religion, or, if they dissented, were burnt to death. He thought one-tenth of the proposed 70,000£ would be more than enough for the Princess Royal. A vote of confidence was carried unanimously.

Mr. BUTLER, the "resident candidate" for the Tower Hamlets, and Sir WILLIAM CLAY (Liberals), met the electors on Wednesday, and expounded their opinions in full.

A requisition, numerously signed by the electors of the Tower Hamlets, was presented to Mr. J. G. Holyoake, publisher, of Fleet-street, to offer himself as a candidate; but, as the presentation was subsequent to the address of Mr. Ayrton, Mr. Holyoake deemed it his duty to refrain from dividing the extreme Liberal party in the borough. Mr. Holyoake addressed a meeting at the White Raven, Raven-street, Whitechapel, on Thursday evening, in the course of which he acknowledged the ability with which Sir William Clay dealt with the church-rate question, but remarked that he had failed to make a convert of Lord John Russell. With regard to Mr. Butler, he said that gentleman was, no doubt, the resident candidate, but he should leave the borough more frequently to attend to his parliamentary duties. He advocated the election of earnest Reformers, who should insist upon national suffrage as the best measure of state education, and as a measure which would render national education inevitable—upon civil and religious freedom, which should include all who had a conscience, — and upon the establishment of home colonies on waste lands, so as to save poor-rates and train useful emigrants. It was the choice of members without responsibility which led to administrative incapacity. They should choose men who had zeal as well as honour, who were earnest as well as able, who would work as well as vote, who would lead as well as represent, who would not only preserve the character of the constituency, but make their principles a power as well as a name in the nation. — A resolution was passed regretting the unselfish decision of Mr. Holyoake, and expressing a hope that he would allow himself to be put in nomination on a future occasion.

Messrs. VILLIAMS and THORNELY addressed a public meeting of their constituents in the Corn-Exchange, WOLVERHAMPTON, on Monday evening. Mr. Henry Walker, chairman of the committee, presided. They were supported by all the influential members of the Liberal party in Wolverhampton, and the large hall was thronged with electors. Additional interest attached to the meeting from the circumstance that Mr. KETTLE, who had been a candidate, resigned that afternoon, and left the borough in the possession of the sitting members, who have retained it during twenty-three years. After the delivery of addresses, a resolution expressing the utmost confidence was passed by acclamation.

A meeting at EDINBURGH, of the original Liberal Committee, held on Monday, presided over by the Lord

Provost, discussed at some length the respective merits of Lord Palmerston and Lord John Russell. Resolutions were carried, affirming that the committee would support no candidate who would not support Lord Palmerston, and expressing confidence in Mr. BLACK.

The electors of the KILMARNOCK BURGHs were addressed on Monday by Mr. BOUVERIE, who defended our proceedings at Canton, and indicated a general agreement with Liberal principles.

"On Monday evening," says the *Times*, "GREAT YARMOUTH was the scene of a demonstration in favour of the Liberal and Ministerial candidates, Mr. TORRENS M'CULLAGH and Mr. E. W. WATKIN. A public meeting, convened by handbill, was announced to be held in the Corn Exchange at eight o'clock, and, as that building became inconveniently crowded at the hour named, it was intimated from the platform that the candidates would speak from the balcony in front of the Star Hotel, the Liberal head-quarters. In a few minutes, a crowd of from 4000 to 5000 persons had assembled, and, although the night was excessively cold, the speeches delivered were received with interest and enthusiasm throughout the proceedings. Blue lights were occasionally burnt from the balcony, and the sudden glimpses thus afforded of the eager and upturned faces below were singularly picturesque." The addresses of the candidates do not demand special notice. The meeting pledged itself to support both gentlemen at the poll.

The friends of Mr. CHAMBERS and General CODRINGTON held a meeting at the Mitre Tavern, GREENWICH, on Monday evening. Mr. James Laing was in the chair. The proceedings of the meeting were characterized by great unanimity, and resolutions were agreed to expressing confidence in General Codrington and Mr. M. Chambers, and constituting a committee to ensure their return. On Tuesday evening, the General and Mr. Chambers addressed a meeting of electors held at the Five Bells, Hatcham. Their addresses were very favourably received, and a resolution was adopted pledging the meeting to use every exertion to secure their return. On the same evening, Mr. TOWNSEND, an undertaker, whom numerous placards announce as the "resident" candidate, and who appears to stand upon the local interest, addressed a numerous meeting in the Lecture-hall, Greenwich. All the candidates are sanguine of success.

A public meeting of the electors of SOUTH HANTS, residing in Portsmouth, took place at St. George's Hall on Tuesday evening, to hear Sir JERVOISE CLARKE JERVOISE explain his views; Mr. Alderman George Sheppard in the chair. Sir J. C. Jervoise having addressed the meeting, it was moved by Mr. B. W. Carter, seconded by Mr. W. J. Cooper, coroner, and carried unanimously—"That this meeting, having heard the opinions of Sir Jervoise Clarke Jervoise, is of opinion that he is a fit and proper person to represent the Liberal electors of the southern division of this county in Parliament."

The potentate of Drury Lane Theatre, Mr. E. T. SMITH, having retired from Bridport, has put up for BEDFORD, the electors of which town he addressed on Monday night on Liberal principles, and was rewarded by a vote of confidence, though not without opposition. His assertion that he was certain to be returned at Bridport, but that he had given up his chance for the sake of the people of Bedford, was received with cries of "Gammon, Smith!"

The electors of MIDDLESEX had a meeting on Tuesday evening, when Lord ROBERT GROSVENOR defended his voting with Mr. Cobden on the recent occasion, and expounded his already well-known religious opinions. Mr. ILANBURY, the other candidate, followed, defending Lord Palmerston, and indicating for himself a Liberal programme, including the ballot, and Mr. Locke King's bill for extending the county franchise. A Voice: "What about the 70,000£ which is to be voted to the Princess Royal on her marriage? Answer that, Lord Robert." Lord Robert Grosvenor said he had heard nothing about it. All he could say was, that, if such a proposition was brought before the House of Commons, he must ascertain the reason for proposing it before he could give any answer. (*Cheers and laughter.*) A resolution expressing confidence in both candidates was unanimously carried.—The two candidates also met their supporters on Thursday.

Mr. J. C. COBOLD and Mr. HENRY J. SELWYN, the Conservative candidates for IPSWICH, addressed the electors on Wednesday evening. Three cheers were given for both gentlemen.

Sir CHARLES WOOD appeared on Wednesday before the electors of HALIFAX. He explained and vindicated the policy of Government with reference to China, the nations of the Continent, and home affairs. With respect to Mr. Locke King's motion, he said:—"The Government had thought it necessary to oppose this measure, not because they thought an extension of the county suffrage undesirable, or that they had any objection to the 10£ franchise in counties. The greatest proof of that was that in the bill introduced in 1853 was contained a provision for extending, with certain qualifications, the 10£ franchise to counties. He would tell them why the Government objected to Mr. Locke King's measure. They did not think that every exten-

sion of the franchise was desirable. The old freemen were retained by the aid of the Tories, against the wish of the whole Liberal party; and the Chandos clause in the Reform Bill, which was also the work of the Tory party, placed the representation of the counties in the hands of the landlords. Let them look at the effect of introducing the 10£ franchise into counties without any restriction. Why, they could by that franchise establish tens and hundreds of votes which would be used just as the landlords might direct. (*Hear, hear.*) Take the 10£ householders of Doncaster, for example. Two-thirds of them, he would assume, are of Liberal opinions, and one-third are Conservatives. Suppose a Tory landlord were to make cow-house votes; he could place a stable in one field, a cow-house in another, a pigsty in another, and so on round his estate. One field he could apportion to his butler, a second to his footman, a third to his gardener, and so on through all his servants and labourers, and swamp the independent electors of the whole neighbourhood. (*Loud applause.*) Desirous as they were to extend the franchise, Government could not consent to a measure like this without some protection against this system of manufacturing votes and converting counties into close boroughs in the hands of the landlords." (*Applause.*) Sir Charles acknowledged that measures might be taken against this; but he mentioned it to show that the Government was only opposed to an impolitic extension of the suffrage.

Mr. J. E. DENISON and Lord ROBERT CLINTON, the candidates for NORTH NOTTINGHAMSHIRE, have addressed the electors of that division. It is thought that Lord H. Bentinck will, after all, be nominated by some of his more enthusiastic supporters.

A numerous and influential meeting of the electors of the Gravesend district of WEST KENT was held in the Assembly Room of the Literary Institution, on Thursday night. Messrs. WYKEHAM MARTIN and JAMES WHATMAN, the Liberal candidates, addressed the meeting at considerable length in explanation of their political principles and of the grounds upon which they had respectively supported the policy of Lord Palmerston in the Chinese question. Both gentlemen pledged themselves to a continued support of the general policy of Lord Palmerston's Administration so long as it sustained the national honour, and acted in support of the Liberal principles, particularly the extension of the franchise.—The meeting cheered the speeches of the candidates, and unanimously adopted a resolution to the effect that it would use every exertion to promote their joint return.

The adjourned meeting of Messrs. MILNER GIBSON and BRIGHT's supporters at MANCHESTER, took place on Wednesday evening, at the Free Trade Hall. It is calculated that at least seven thousand persons were present; and a painful interest was excited by the announcement made by the chairman (Mr. George Wilson) that Mr. Cobden, who was expected to address the meeting, was utterly exhausted by his efforts during the previous seven or eight days, and that he was then in Manchester, suffering from intense affliction of the brain, in consequence, as his friends believed, of his exertions in behalf of the people. Mr. Gibson then addressed the meeting, and a vote of confidence in him and Mr. Bright was carried all but unanimously, and with great applause. The proceedings terminated with three cheers for the Queen, and three for Gibson and Bright. In the meanwhile, an open-air meeting outside the hall had passed another vote of confidence in the candidates.

The contest in SOUTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE is increasing in intensity. On Wednesday, Lord ALTHORP personally canvassed his constituents in Syrosham and Brackley. At the latter place, he addressed a meeting at great length. After a general review of the state of parties, and an ample exposition of his own Liberal principles, his Lordship concluded by saying that he was an advocate of civil and religious liberty. He thought that every one should have perfect freedom in his religious views; and he did not think the State should tax a man heavily, or at all, for the support of views which he did not hold. If they did him the honour to return him to Parliament, he would go unpledged to anything.

A Liberal candidate for SOUTH ESSEX—Mr. R. BAKER WINGFIELD—has come forward in opposition to the two Conservative candidates and late members, Mr. T. W. BRAMSTON and Sir W. BOWYER SMITH. He met the Liberal electors on Wednesday night, when a vote of confidence in him was passed, though not without some opposition, owing to his saying that he was opposed to the ballot and to the abolition of church-rates.

A crowded meeting of the electors of WORCESTER was held at the Guildhall on Wednesday night, to hear an exposition of principles from Mr. Alderman SIDNEY. That gentleman addressed the meeting at great length. He said he would not be returned as the tool of any party in the House of Commons. A great number of the constituencies returned members to Parliament solely that they might vote as party leaders dictated to them, and not as the people required of them. If they returned members merely to support any of the leading interests in Parliament, they were encouraging them to vote in support of faction; and he expressed an opinion that the legislation of the last ten years was a disgrace to the British statute-book. He himself had been a

working man, and was well aware of the hardships of the present system of rating to the poor.

The people of BIRMINGHAM, under the presidency of their Mayor, assembled on Wednesday night, to the number of nearly 7000, to hear their members, Messrs. MUNTZ and SCHOLEFIELD, whom they had invited for the purpose. The members both defended their votes upon the Chinese war, but denied having given them from attachment to Lord Palmerston. After a discussion of three hours, the following resolution was passed: "That this meeting, strongly disapproving the attempts that are being made to obtain the election of a new Parliament upon the mere question of adherence to Lord Palmerston, and being of opinion that the principles of civil and religious liberty and progressive reform are those that should be maintained by Messrs. Muntz and Scholefield, considers them entitled to the support of the electors."

The late members for SOUTHAMPTON, Messrs. B. M. WILLCOX and T. M. WEGUELIN, addressed a public meeting of the electors on Tuesday evening, at the Victoria-rooms. There was an immense assemblage, including all the leading members of the Liberal party. Admiral Sir Henry Prescott occupied the chair, and the two candidates having explained their Parliamentary conduct, a resolution of confidence in them was carried with the unanimous acclamations of the whole assembly. A resolution was also unanimously adopted, approving of the foreign policy of Lord Palmerston, but urging him to pay more attention to internal reform.

A meeting of the electors for the borough and district of WALLINGFORD was held in the Corn-exchange, on Tuesday evening, to hear the addresses from Mr. MALINS, the late member, and from Captain SARTORIS, the new candidate. Both are Liberals; but the former condemns, while the latter upholds, our operations in China.

Mr. H. W. WICKHAM, the Conservative candidate for BRADFORD, addressed about 1800 persons at St. George's Hall on Tuesday night, when a resolution, pledging the meeting to use every exertion to return him, was carried without a dissentient.—General PERRONET THOMPSON has addressed ward meetings of the electors and non-electors during the week. In his addresses, he states that he is a friend and supporter of general, and almost universal reform—reform in the representation, reform in the indirect taxation pressing upon the poorer and working classes, and reform in the secret diplomacy of Government. He would vote for no money being granted from the public purse for any religious purpose; but, regarding Mr. Miall's motion, he would deal with the funds which belong to the Irish establishment, and devote them alike to all denominations. He is a supporter of the ballot and the extension of the suffrage. He would reduce the 10l. to a 5l. qualification, and even go to a 2l. 10s. one afterwards. He is a supporter of State education, but opposed to church-rates, in lieu of which he would place a Bishop or two on half-pay. He also expresses his disapprobation of capital punishments.

Sir FREDERICK THESIGER and Lord ROBERT CECIL, the late members for STAMFORD, met their constituents on Tuesday night. The former ridiculed the Government for the immense number of bills—some twenty at least—which had been introduced only to be withdrawn during the session of 1856; taunted Lord Palmerston with yielding whenever he saw a strong opposition; and said that his programme was of the vaguest and most ridiculously unmeaning kind. Lord Robert Cecil spoke to the same effect; and both were well received.

AMERICA.

The Republicans in the Senate are expressing dissatisfaction with the formation of the committees, considering that the Democrats, who have obtained a majority of five-sevenths, have too great a preponderance. Mr. Crittenden has introduced resolutions in opposition to the new maritime code of the European Powers with reference to privateering, and in favour of the complete exemption of all vessels engaged in commerce and their cargoes from seizure in time of war. It was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

The Washington correspondent of the *New York Courier and Enquirer* states that the English treaty has been referred to the Committee on Public Affairs, and that the determination appeared to be to act upon it. The President is said to have expressed a wish that the Senate would act immediately on the matter. The Mexican treaty has been rejected by the President.

The Supreme Court of the United States has pronounced judgment in the "Dred Scott" case. It is to the effect that the plaintiff, Dred, being of African blood, is not a citizen of the United States, and therefore not competent to sue in a court of the United States. The seven Democratic Judges pronounced for the slavery of Dred; the two Whig Judges for his freedom. The tribunal, observes the *New York Times*, "decides that the ordinance of 1787, so far as it prohibited slavery from the north-west territory, was unconstitutional; that the Missouri Compromise, so far as it excluded slavery from the Louisiana territory north of 36 deg. 30 min., was unconstitutional; that Congress had no power to prohibit slavery from any portion of the federal territory, nor to authorize the inhabitants thereof to do so; that negroes are not citizens of the United States; and that

the residence of a slave in a free state does not affect his legal condition upon his return to a state where slavery is allowed by law. Thus, at one blow, all the legislation of the country, from the formation of the constitution to the present day, against the extension of slavery, is swept away."

The Secretary of the Navy has ordered the United States steam-frigates Niagara and Mississippi to be equipped for sea with all possible despatch, as these vessels have been selected to assist in laying down the Atlantic telegraph cable between Newfoundland and Ireland, in compliance with the act just passed by Congress.

The body of Dr. Kane lay in state at Baltimore.

Lord Napier, our new representative at Washington, has been waited upon at the Clarendon Hotel, New York, by a deputation from the Chamber of Commerce of that city, to congratulate him on his arrival, and to express the sentiments of friendship towards England entertained by the majority of Americans. His Lordship replied in the same cordial spirit. A similar welcome was given to Mr. Dallas by the merchants of Liverpool on his arrival at that port.

Walker's troops at San Juan have forced their way up the river, and captured a steamer, arms, and ammunition.

A "difficulty" at Washington, ending in the death of one of the parties concerned, is thus related by the *New York Herald*:—"During the immense pressure at the President's levee, Colonel Lee, a member of our city council and a clerk in the Pension-office, seized a gentleman by the collar, and charged him with picking his pocket. The gentleman charged was Mr. David Hume, of Alexandria, a highly respectable merchant. Next morning, Mr. Hume, accompanied by Colonel James C. Walker, reading clerk in the House of Representatives, proceeded to the Pension-office to explain and satisfy Colonel Lee that he was mistaken in supposing him a pickpocket. Lee, however, was fixed in his opinion that Hume had attempted to steal his pocket-book, whereupon Hume struck him with a stick, and in return was shot dead by Lee. The whole affair transpired in a moment, and before any one had supposed there would be a serious difficulty."

"A private letter from Cadiz," says the *Times*, "mentions that, according to the latest advices from the Gulf of Mexico, the forts of Vera Cruz had fired on the boats of the Spanish frigate Ferrolana, though war was not yet declared. The commander of the frigate demanded an explanation of this act of hostility. It is added, that the commandant on the American station had anchored in the roads, and that there were several ships of the French and English squadron in those waters. The Mexicans boast that in case of war they can count on assistance from the United States."

The Buenos Ayrean Government addressed a note to her Britannic Majesty's Acting Consul-General, apologizing for their note of the 6th of January, 1853, to the Hon. Capt. Gore, enclosing him his passport, and requesting that both the note and the passport might be considered as withdrawn. In consequence of this apology being accepted, the English flag was saluted on the 1st of February, and the compliment was returned by her Majesty's ship Harrier.

A disagreeable affair with respect to some black seamen who are English subjects has occurred at Norfolk, Virginia. Two free negroes, on board the English barque Billow, were arrested in that city for being absent from their vessel without leave. The Mayor ordered that they should be flogged; but the punishment was afterwards commuted to the payment of the costs of arrest and the other usual charges. The captain consented; but the English consul, Mr. G. P. R. James, the well-known novelist, demurred on the ground of the men being English subjects. The Mayor, however, insisted, and gave Mr. James the option of paying the charges, or submitting to the punishment of the negroes. The consul, of course, paid the money, but under protest.

The money-market at New York continues active.

CHINA.

THE OPERATIONS AT CANTON.—"Further papers" relative to the proceedings of her Majesty's naval forces at Canton were laid before the late Parliament a few days ago, and published on Saturday. The correspondence, as may be supposed, relates exclusively to the details of the operations of the English forces at the seat of war. The most remarkable paper is a "notice" (purporting to be) issued by the whole district of Sing-an (San-on), peremptorily prohibiting the supply of provisions to the "English barbarians." The preamble, so to speak, of the "notice" recites that "the English outlaws, running riot in rebellion and bearing themselves contemptuously and insolently to China, had for a series of years committed more crimes than hairs can be plucked from the head to number;" yet, notwithstanding their unbearable insolence, the Chinese Government was mercifully pleased, when they treated for peace, to extend to them "extraordinary favour, to forgive them their past offences, and to allow them to trade at Victoria and other parts of Hong-Kong." Instead of repenting (as it behoved them) of their faults, "a heart of mischief lay within (the English);" "their cupidity was

insatiable." After sundry accusations of outrage and violence, the culminating offence of the English—the attack on Canton—is denounced; "rude as the boar, and eager as the wolf, they have pushed their rebellion far." The high authorities of China, however, were still liberal and indulgent, and, in a Christian spirit, refused to retaliate, until at length "the brute nature" of the English, waxing more and more ferocious and perverse, they ventured the length of scaling the walls and entering the city. "They are a poison to life. Their crimes have reached the highest point." Accordingly, a meeting of the gentry and *literati* of the whole district was convened on the 11th of December, at which the supply of food was strictly prohibited. But the religious proselytism of the English is the last feather that breaks the back of the over-burdened Chinese camel. "Among their simple youth are some who have been tricked by the devils into a profession of Christianity, to the misleading of mankind, the delusion of the people, and the great injury of morals. No time must be lost in burning their heterodox books and driving out both teacher and disciples."—*Times*.

SMUGGLING IN CHINA.—Some correspondence relative to consular interference for the prevention of smuggling in China was presented to the late parliament a few days before its dissolution. Viscount Palmerston, when Foreign Secretary of State, wrote to Sir George Bonham in May, 1851, respecting the expediency of devising effectual means for stopping the system of smuggling prevailing in China, and especially at Shanghai. The smuggling appears attributable to the remissness and corruption of the Chinese authorities, and on the twofold ground of a certain clause in the treaty of 1100-munchae, and of the omission of the China Government itself to act up to the manifest intention of the existing treaties. Lord Palmerston determined to withhold for the future all interference on the part of the British consular authorities for the protection of the Chinese revenue. The Government of her Majesty came to this decision with reluctance, but, as the Chinese authorities would not do their duty in preventing dishonest traders from defrauding the Emperor of his just dues, the British Government could no longer order her Majesty's consuls to do that for the Emperor which his own servants did not deem it necessary to do.—*Idem*.

OUTRAGE BY CHINESE PIRATES ON AN ENGLISH SAILOR.—An extract from a letter from William Rae, dated Hong-Kong, December 31, 1856, has been communicated to the *Times* by the writer's brother. It states:—"Last August, I took command of a lorch in the coasting trade. I left here on the 10th of September for Chinchew, with a valuable cargo, but when within twenty miles of that port was boarded, and after a severe struggle was taken by Chinese pirates. My mate and several of the crew were killed; I received a shot through the leg, a severe cut on the head, and three other wounds, and was made prisoner. The vessel was taken, plundered, and ultimately burnt; what became of the remainder of the crew I never learnt. I was carried some distance into the interior and treated brutally. I shudder now to think of it. Sick, lame, and weary, I was goaded almost to madness; my wounds undressed, and suffered to remain so; no one to assist me. I dared not complain. What little the barbarians gave me to eat was thrown at me. At one time, I gave all up for lost. Why they suffered me to live so long I cannot say; but it will take too long to tell all the horrid tale; suffice it to say, after being a prisoner among them for nine long dreary weeks, suffering and enduring all that man could suffer, I at last made my escape to the coast, and, after five days spent in toil, pain, and starvation, was picked up by a vessel bound here, where I arrived on the 7th of this month in a state which may well be conceived; all that I had in the world was an old shirt, pants, and hat. I applied to the authorities here and stated the case, when a man-of-war steamer was despatched up the coast, but has since returned with no tidings, the pirates leaving no vestige whereby they might be traced. I was immediately sent to hospital, where I have been ever since."

CONTINENTAL NOTES.

FRANCE.

THE report of the Minister of State on the Budget of 1858 has been presented and read. It shows an excess of receipts over expenditure to the amount of 25,000,000 francs. This surplus, it is recommended, shall be applied to the redemption of the floating debt.

The *Moniteur* states that the Emperor Napoleon had an interview with M. Escher, President of the National Council of the Swiss Confederation.

The third conference on the affairs of Neuchâtel took place at Paris on Tuesday. Dr. Kern, the Swiss Plenipotentiary, was present for the first time. What transpired is not known.

Father Ventura has been attracting considerable attention by his denunciations of courtly vice. His sermon last Sunday in the chapel of the Tuileries was singularly bold. Addressing the Emperor, he said that even if his life were moral and edifying, it would no suffice unless he drove from his presence all whose lives were the contrary. He observed that his Majesty was in error if he supposed that his private acts were confined

to the walls of his palace; on the contrary, he lived in a house of glass. The father then denounced those who sell the favour or protection of the court for gold, and who thus get rich by iniquity. The sermon has been much talked about.

A bill is spoken of for prohibiting people from bearing titles of nobility to which they have no right. It is proposed to make the assumption penal. The flourishing of these "titles" in the eyes of servile persons is said to be a great aid to swindling adventurers.

Matraccia, the Italian who was some short time back condemned to death by the Court or Assizes of Aix for a series of extraordinary murders at Marseilles, was executed in the latter city last Saturday morning. He exhibited considerable firmness and religious fervour; and solicited and obtained permission to take with him to the scaffold a favourite parrot in a cage, when, addressing it, he said, "Your master is about to die, and he embraces you for the last time." He then begged forgiveness of the people of Marseilles, and in a few minutes more was dead.

SPAIN.

The journal *El León Español* announces that the Government has determined to raise the state of siege in all the provinces of Spain, including Catalonia. It is confidently stated that the Papal Nuncio to the Court of Madrid has quitted Rome in order to assume his functions.

The Château de Galeras, in Alicante, has been assigned to General Prim for his residence during the six months' "arrest" to which he has been sentenced by court-martial. The Captain-General of Madrid has sent him passports to travel from Toledo to Alicante on his parole.

PORTUGAL.

After a ministerial crisis of a fortnight's duration, the Portuguese Cabinet has been reconstituted as follows:—The Marquis Loulé, President, Minister of the Interior and of Foreign Affairs; Viscount Sa da Bandeira, Minister of Marine and of War; Senhor Avita, Minister of Finance; Senhor Ferrer, Minister of Justice; Carlos Bento, Minister of Public Works.

PRUSSIA.

With reference to the Neuchâtel question, the *Indépendance Belge* publishes the annexed telegraphic despatch from Paris, dated the 20th instant:—"The Prussian Minister has just received the instructions which he awaited from his Government relative to Neuchâtel. They are to the effect, it is said, that King Frederick William will consent to treat upon the bases proposed by the Conference on the following conditions:—"The title of Prince of Neuchâtel will remain attached to the Crown of Prussia. The benevolent institutions at Neuchâtel shall be maintained and guaranteed. The revenues of the royal domain shall continue to be paid to the King for four years. The produce, which amounts to about 100,000 francs a year, will serve to indemnify the Royalists for the sacrifices and losses they have undergone. His Majesty renounces the maintenance of the *bourgeoisie*. Switzerland will have to proclaim a general amnesty, and the Royalists compromised since 1848 are not to be molested on any grounds whatever."

"The settlement of the Neuchâtel question," says a letter from Berlin, in the *Post Gazette* of Frankfurt, "encounters a fresh difficulty from the circumstance of the agnates, or younger branches of the House of Prussia, refusing to consent to a renunciation of the Principality. Without their consent the renunciation of the King would not be valid."

A melancholy scene occurred in the Chamber of Deputies at Berlin on the 17th instant. Herr Otto, a respected and influential member of the Catholic party, while speaking in the debate on the budget of the Minister of Public Worship, was overpowered with sudden illness and fell to the ground insensible. He was carried into an adjoining apartment, where, in spite of all the remedies that could be applied, he expired in a few minutes.

TURKEY.

The Ottoman Government has issued an important decree relative to the colonization of the waste lands in Turkey, by which decrees foreigners are to be enabled to acquire property in those lands.

CIRCASSIA.

According to the *Journal de Constantinople*, the English steamer Kangaroo was captured by Russian gunboats, with Mehmet Bey on board. This statement, however, is at war with a previous report, which said that the expedition effected a landing on the coast of Circassia with perfect success; and the *Journal de Constantinople* has itself made the same announcement since the report of the capture by the Russians. The safe arrival of the expedition, indeed, is now beyond a doubt.

M. de Boutenief, the Russian Ambassador at Constantinople, has demanded the appointment of a commission to inquire into this expedition to Circassia.

The Turkish Government will set on foot the desired investigation. Mehmed Bey's adjutant has been arrested, examined, and set at liberty after two days' imprisonment. Baron Stein, now Ferhad Pacha, and Ismail Pacha, have been also arrested and interrogated.

Accounts from Tiflis state that the Russians have achieved some success against the Circassians, having penetrated to within thirty versts of Schamyl's camp.

DENMARK.

Prussia (says a despatch from Berlin) refuses to refer the decision of the question of the Danish duchies to the Western Powers, as desired by France and England, on the ground of its being a purely German matter. It is thought that Austria will also refuse.

ITALY.

Chevalier Pinelli (says the *Indépendance Belge*) left Naples on the 12th for Rome, and will proceed thence to Paris and London, with the view of bringing about the resumption of diplomatic relations between Naples and the courts of England and France.

The Turin *Gazette* officially announces that the Sardinian Legation at Vienna has been recalled. This measure very naturally arises from the recall of the Austrian Legation at Turin, announced in the *Gazette* two days before.

The King of Naples has recently introduced into his prisons a new instrument of torture, called "the cap of silence," the object of which is to prevent the wearer speaking. It consists of an ingenious complication of steel bands and leathern straps, capable of such terrible constriction, when fastened round the head, that the victim faints with the pain.

STATE OF TRADE.

THE accounts from the manufacturing towns for the week ending last Saturday show no material variation, the attention of all classes having been directed to the approaching elections. At Manchester, the markets have been steady, but without animation. The Birmingham report mentions the receipt of improved orders for iron from the United States, while there has also been a full export demand for other goods. At Nottingham, business has been well sustained, both in hosiery and lace, and a great spring trade is relied upon. In the woollen districts there has been dulness.—*Times*.

In the general business of the port of London during the same week there has been increased activity. The total number of ships reported inward was 238, showing an augmentation of 95. These included 54 with cargoes of grain, rice, &c., 22 with cargoes of sugar, and 3 from China with tea and silk, comprising 24,784 packages of the former, and 4800 bales of the latter, worth about half a million sterling. The number of ships cleared outward was 130, including 11 in ballast, and showing an increase of 9.—*Idem*.

OBITUARY.

WILLIAM HENRY PLAYFAIR, the architect, whose genius was chiefly employed in the decoration of the Scottish capital, died on the morning of Thursday week, after a long illness which had for some years paralysed his limbs. He was a native of London, where he was born in 1789. His father was an architect before him, and his uncle was the celebrated mathematician and natural philosopher, Professor John Playfair.

Dr. H. J. SYMONS, formerly vicar of Hereford, and chaplain to the Forces and to the late Dukes of Kent and Cambridge, died suddenly from disease of the heart last Saturday morning in a railway carriage near Gainsborough. He had lately been officiating for another clergyman, and the exertion is thought to have accelerated his death. He was a person of some mark, if only from the fact of his having read the funeral service over the famous General Sir John Moore.

THE ROYAL BRITISH BANK.

THE examination of Mr. Edward Esdaile was continued on Wednesday, when the late governor read a statement in defence of the management of the bank, in which he declared that, though the directors might have acted injudiciously, they had done everything for the best. He had joined the bank early and continued with it, and he thanked his God he had left it with clean hands. (Laughter.) Mr. Esdaile was then examined at great length by Mr. Linklater. He stated that he never availed himself of the funds of the bank. The money advanced to the Wandle Water Company had been repaid with interest. He had not any conception that there were two thousand pounds due on that account. He was a director of the company. It appeared from further cross-examination that a circular, proposing to take an establishment near Chancery-lane for a bank, and purporting to be signed by the secretary, had been issued in December, 1855. Mr. Paddison, the secretary, here said that he was repeatedly ordered to leave the room in consequence of some special matter; and he now learned for the first time that such a letter was written. Mr. Linklater declared there was no imputation against Mr. Paddison, who had given most valuable assistance in the investigation. Mr. Esdaile further acknowledged that Mr. Cameron was in the bank for "use," and he himself for "ornament." (Laughter.)—The proceedings were adjourned for another week.

A meeting in connexion with the Royal British Bank took place last Saturday at Vice-Chancellor Kindersley's chambers, before Mr. Pugh, his chief clerk. A call of 75l. per share was declared on all those shareholders who have been placed on the list since January; but, through the insolvency and absence from this country of the shareholders liable to pay, it is expected the call will scarcely realize 1000l. altogether.

OUR CIVILIZATION.

WITCHCRAFT IN STAFFORDSHIRE.

A STRANGE story of superstition and ignorance, with accessories which seem more in harmony with the days of the celebrated imposition of the Woodstock Devil than with these times, was unfolded at the close of last week at the Stafford Assizes during the trial of a man named James Tunnickliff, a beer-shop keeper, who was charged with obtaining several sums of money from Thomas Charlesworth, a farmer, on the false pretence of ridding him from certain influences of witchcraft.

Charlesworth is a young man who recently married against his mother's desire. She had been living with him and keeping his house; but, a few months after the marriage, she left. She wished to take her two younger sons, who were mere boys, away with her; but Charlesworth said she should not, and there was a quarrel on that ground. On leaving, she is said to have threatened that the cheese should all fall to pieces, and that the dairymaid should be ill; that her son and his wife should rot in their beds, and that nobody should help them. Some of these doleful results were not long in happening. Great was the ruin of cheese; lamentable the megrims of the dairymaid. Now there was a wise man working on the farm, named Sammons, and a wise woman in the neighbourhood, one Mrs. Willatts; but, inasmuch as the core of wisdom consists in the acknowledgment of superior mental powers when they are manifestly apparent, these erudite persons referred Thomas Charlesworth to the beer-shop keeper, Tunnickliff, as to a person learned in the art of defeating witchcraft. To Tunnickliff, therefore, did the farmer pour forth his sorrows; and the beer-shop keeper undertook, for a consideration, to bring the great capacities of his intellect to bear on the case. He went over to the farm, and pronounced that the cows were bewitched; also two horses, the farmer himself, the farmer's wife, the dairymaid, and the cheese-kettle. Having made this weird inventory, he came to a business view of the case—to a statement of terms. The cure of the cattle was valued at 3s. 6d. each beast; that of Mr. and Mrs. Charlesworth and the dairymaid, at 5s. each. It was necessary that the names of the cows should be supplied; and this was done. Another stipulation was that the maid should be sent away, or she would become "a wanderer"—which appeared to be reversing the probabilities. The word, however, seems to have some mystical or ghostly signification. Another alleged consequence of the maid's remaining would be her death; and accordingly she was dismissed. In the course of a few days, Farmer Charlesworth was "took very ill" as he was going home from the wizard's beer-shop. He had shooting pains in his chest; his head was "very bad"; and, on getting home, he began to shiver and shake. Tunnickliff was sent for, and prescribed brandy—to which antidote to witchcraft there seems never to have been any objection on the part of the patients. More money was paid; and, in all, the beer-shop keeper appears to have netted about 30l. by the transactions.

Shortly after this, Tunnickliff came to live with Charlesworth; and it must be confessed that, coincident with the domestication of the witch-curer, the witchcraft seems to have increased. The wife was taken ill with shivering, and so was the baby. Tunnickliff accused certain persons of having entered into a kind of witchcraft partnership with Mrs. Charlesworth, senior; which was the reason why so much business was effected. He undertook to beat these wizards (always for a separate consideration), and he professed to bring one of them, an old man, to the farmhouse; but nothing appears to have resulted from this. Then he himself—even Tunnickliff, the terror of witches—was taken ill, and said the enchantment was on him. A certain man, named Cotton, living at Longton, was the cause of this; and he added that, if he did not go and encounter this man at his place of abode, he, the great Tunnickliff, should die. For the high favour of thus rescuing himself from premature dissolution, he demanded 3l. 10s.; but it does not appear whether he got it or not. "When he came back," said the victim, in his evidence at the trial, "he stated he was obliged to get the superintendent of police to break Cotton's door open, and that he (Tunnickliff) had been very ill at Longton, and obliged to have the doctor. He said it was through having had a contest with Cotton. He said he had seen Cotton, and that the police went in with him, and that Cotton was very stubborn." A few days after, he went to Derby; but Mrs. Charlesworth, seaming by this time to have some suspicions, went with him, to see if the wise man were "correct." On his return, he said he had had a contest with one Wilson, who had been very stubborn; but he would finish him in three days. At this time, he frequently prepared the food of Mr. and Mrs. Charlesworth and the new dairymaid, and took it to them. The last named entertained a suspicion that he drugged them; and this appears to be strengthened by the fact that in his house were afterwards discovered some leaves and some briony root. This root possesses irritating properties.

During Tunnickliff's stay in the house, the inmates saw and heard, or fancied they saw and heard, appalling sights and sounds; and, to keep up their spirits, which

often sank very low, the farmer and his wife had rather frequent recourse to the brandy and gin bottles. These sights and sounds were so well described by Mrs. Charlesworth in her evidence, that we here repeat her own words:—"On the 28th of April, 1856, we heard the cows all lament, the horses prancing, the dog howling, and a many strange noises. There was something about three o'clock that was louder than the dog. The men were called up. I asked the men to drive it away. I heard it no more. In the morning, I told the prisoner. He looked sleepy. He said he knew we should have an awful night, but he durstn't tell us for fear of putting us in bad spirits. One night he took a knife and plate, and asked me and my husband to go into a room with him and he would show us all our enemies; but we were too ill to go. He would not let Mrs. Copestake go with him. When he came out of the room, there was a blue-ness over him. When he went in, he said it would be either death or glory to him, and when he came out, he said he had succeeded. In bed one night, after I was asleep, I was snatched up as straight as I am now, and I was shaken all to death. The prisoner was in our room, sleeping there. We had no spare room. He said he would stay with us a few days till we were better. I asked the prisoner what he was doing, and he got out of bed and lit the candle. I was very ill. The prisoner came to the bed and brought my Bible. He said it had been with old Bull, of Yeaverley, and that was why I was shaken so. When I asked what he was doing, he said nothing was the matter; I must go to sleep again. When the prisoner came to me, I asked him to give me a little sip of brandy. I was better after that." In cross-examination, she stated:—"My shakings lasted for two hours. There were like cats fighting in the room. I can't tell what shook me, whether it was a spirit or not. No man could shake me as I was shaken. (Laughter.) I went better after the prisoner lighted the candle. A little spirits (brandy) soothed me, and I went better. (Laughter.) The yells were like unto a dog, but louder. The yell went away when my man (the carman) bid it go. He is not here to-day. We believed that we were bewitched from April, 1856, till February 11, 1857. I never take spirits, except when I have spasms. . . . My husband has brandy sometimes; he is so troubled with the wind. (Laughter.) I take it for the spasms, and he for the wind. (Laughter.) Brandy always relieves us. (Laughter.) One night there was an awful shake at the door, and we said the Lord's Prayer.

From the evidence of Ann Richardson, the dairymaid engaged after the first was dismissed, we gather some more particulars:—"On the night of the 11th of February, master was very ill, and we heard something come into the yard like a carriage. Something came in the passage like the wind. There was our dog, and the shape of another dog after it, all on fire. Our dog went behind the door in the yard with his tongue out. I did not see what became of the fiery dog. The prisoner on Sunday night asked me to make him some tea. I refused, because I thought he had dosed me or bewitched me." It seemed that the girl had felt sick and ill after taking some coffee which Tunnicliff had prepared; and the same results had ensued with her master. Mrs. Charlesworth's infant, indeed, died; but it is not imputed to Tunnicliff that he killed it. "He said," continued the dairymaid, "he had found out something about me and the cowman, and I gave him a bit of my mind. (Laughter.) My master only took a meat-spoonful of brandy when he was poorly. My master had had some drink on the 10th of February—some little. I don't know how a man looks when he has had some little—I leave that to your judgment how you look." (Laughter.) This was addressed to the counsel for the defence. "I could not think how the fire-dog got through the door. I did not smell any brimstone. Our dog sat behind the door with his tongue out. It seemed to me a quarter of a yard long." (Loud laughter.) Finally, the girl complained of Tunnicliff to her master; the farmer, getting worse, was obliged to send for a medical man; and, summoning up courage, ordered the great witch-tamer off the premises, and told him not to come on them again. "I don't believe in witchcraft now," he said at the trial. "I am all right now." He has gained, something, therefore, for his 30l.

The defence was that Charlesworth was labouring under an absurd delusion before he sent for Tunnicliff, and that he afterwards infected the latter with his own folly; that many of the delusions, and all the illness and shivering, were to be accounted for by the fact that he and his wife were suffering from *delirium tremens*, owing to their drinking habits; and that the money paid to the accused was for his services in farm work. Several witnesses were called to prove the drunken habits of Mr. and Mrs. Charlesworth; and, indeed, the former, in his cross-examination, while denying that he was a drunkard, had acknowledged to pretty frequent potations. "I got a little fresh sometimes," he said, "but not drunk. Sometimes I keep a bottle by my bedside. It contains brandy, or perhaps a little gin. Sometimes we have a little brandy, and sometimes a little gin. My 'missus' takes a little. (Laughter.) We take it if we are unwell, sometimes two or three times in the night." An ingenious legal point was also urged—viz., whether, as the alleged offence was obtaining money under false pretences, and as a false pretence must be understood as referring to some existing fact,

he promise to put an end to witchcraft could be so regarded, there being no such thing recognized by the law as witchcraft. Mr. Justice Willes said he would reserve this point, and consult with Mr. Justice Crowder on the subject. Having done so, he said that the opinion of both was that the objection was futile. Tunnicliff was convicted, and sentenced to a year's hard labour.

THE ASSIZES.

[Under this head, last week, owing to the wrong position of the paragraph relating to the burglary at Manor Oaks, it would seem that that case was tried at Bedford, instead of at York. The paragraph should have followed, instead of preceding, the next; which would have indicated the real place of trial.]

Hugh Orr, captain of the *Hannah Jane*, a commercial vessel, was tried at Exeter on a charge of wilfully murdering Edward Devue, on the high seas, on the 3rd of last July. The vessel was on its return voyage to England, and Devue, who was a black man and a native of Boston, United States, was the cook. It was alleged against the unfortunate man by the captain and some of the crew that he was very filthy in his habits, and that he tainted the vessel with a foul smell. While they were in the Senegal river, the captain and the mate commenced a series of unparalleled cruelties. Devue was frequently beaten with the "cat," struck with heavy instruments, and kicked. He was sometimes lashed down to the captain's chest by the thumbs, and then flogged on the bare back. He was tied up to the fore-rigging, his heels higher than his head, and beaten till the blood flowed from his mouth. This was done on the Sunday preceding the Thursday on which he died; but similar treatment seems to have taken place day after day for some weeks. The captain and the mate flogged the man by turns; and violence of other kinds was not wanting. He was struck over the legs with sticks, and his face was gashed and battered by a handspike and an instrument called a "lizard." The skin of his back became, in the language of one of the witnesses, "all knocked up, broken, and raw;" and his whole body was covered thick with sores. Sometimes his torturers would seem to relent a little, and would cause his skin to be oiled; but one day the captain ordered one of the seamen to scrub the cook's back, raw as it was, with a brush and sea water. The sailor refused; but this almost incredible act of ferocity was carried out by one of the ship's boys, according to his own relation at the trial. On one occasion, the captain gave the wretched creature forty-eight lashes, and the mate three hundred and sixty-six. Two days before his death, he received about the same number of stripes. "When he was dead," continued the boy, "the body was cut everywhere. The mate saw him lying on the deck the night before he died, and kicked him on the breast with his heavy sea-boots, and struck him with a large heavy block." With respect to the allegation of uncleanness, this witness threw a terrible light upon its cause:—"The man was clean till after he was beaten, and then he got dirty." Devue used to cry for mercy, and call upon the crew to come and help him; but they dared not interfere. When the vessel reached Rio Grande, the crew informed the consul there of the treatment the cook had received, and of his death; but the consul said he could not do anything in the matter. The ship arrived at Plymouth in December, and then an inquiry was instituted, which ended in the captain being sent to prison for trial. The mate had deserted at Rio Grande. The defence was that the witnesses had perjured themselves in many important particulars; that it was not probable that any application was made to the consul at Rio Grande, as that functionary would infallibly have sent the captain to England in custody; and that death resulted from the acts of the mate. The jury, however, found Orr guilty of manslaughter, and he was sentenced to transportation for life.

Two cases of alleged child murder by the mothers of illegitimate infants were tried last Saturday by Baron Channell at Kingston. Both ended in Acquittal as regards the imputed offence, with verdicts of Guilty on the ground of concealment of birth. The first case—that of Mary Ann Miles, a woman of thirty—was stopped by the Judge, after some evidence had been given, his Lordship observing that, although there was cause for grave suspicion, there was no evidence to show that the child was born alive, or that the wound in the throat was inflicted during life. The woman, it appeared, had been convicted of concealment of birth seven years ago, and was then sentenced to four months' imprisonment. She was now condemned to nine months' hard labour. With respect to the other woman—Eliza Brooker, aged twenty-three—several respectable witnesses gave her a good character for humanity and kindness. As she had been in prison since last October, her sentence was only three months' hard labour.

John Percival, a farm servant, aged twenty-two, has been Acquitted at Derby of the manslaughter of a boy named Robert Mitchell, on the 22nd of last December. The lad, it was alleged, was frightened to death by a foolish trick which had been played on him, so as to make him believe he had seen a ghost; but one of the doctors who attended on him during his last illness, following on the supposed ghost vision, said that the boy's constitution had been weakened by overwork, which would render any shock to the nervous system more serious, and it was not quite clear that the death was

caused by fright. It was also a question whether the act committed by the accused was unlawful; so he was discharged with a warning. He has been in prison since December.

James Cope, the assessor and collector of the land and property taxes at Darlaston, was charged at Stafford with obtaining various sums of money from divers persons by false pretences. He had been for two or three years in his late post, and the charge now made against him was that he had in numerous instances compelled parties to pay land tax who were not liable; and, with respect to the property-tax, he had surcharged various parties beyond the sum at which they were assessed. The defence was that the persons charged with land tax were really liable, and that the surcharges of property-tax might have been mistakes. A letter which Cope wrote to his uncle last Christmas-day, admitting misconduct of some kind (not precisely stated) with respect to the taxes, but expressing a hope that he should be mercifully dealt with on account of his "distressed wife and poor children," another of whom was expected every hour, was put in as evidence by the prosecution. The counsel for the defence loudly condemned this, and Mr. Justice Willes, in summing up, said he thought the letter would have been sufficient to touch a heart of stone, and wondered at the uncle giving it up. The jury returned a verdict of Not Guilty.

Thomas Wooten has pleaded Guilty at Derby to the burglary, recently detailed in these columns, which was committed at the house of the Rev. Joseph Nodder, at Ashover, on which occasion he was shot by the clergyman, and seriously hurt. He was condemned to transportation for twenty-five years, and received the sentence with a smiling countenance.

John Smith and James Miller were found Guilty at Cambridge of a highway robbery, of the garotte species, committed in that town, at eleven o'clock on the night of January 12th, on the person of a Mr. Ambrey, an undergraduate of St. John's College. John Johnson pleaded Guilty to being concerned in the same offence. Mr. Ambrey was rendered quite insensible by the attack; but the under porter of Jesus College, named Scott, who was passing at the time, succeeded in capturing Johnson after a desperate struggle. Smith and Miller escaped for the time, but were subsequently apprehended. James Williams, an old man, was charged, together with the others, on the ground of having received part of the stolen property; but he was Acquitted. The rest were sentenced to twenty years' transportation. The usual reward of 2l. was given to Scott for his courageous conduct.

John Spencer Noldwitt was tried at Kingston for wilful and corrupt perjury in falsely swearing, in an action brought nearly two years ago, that the acceptance to a certain bill of exchange, purporting to be his signature, was a forgery. The facts have already appeared in this paper. The jury Acquitted Mr. Noldwitt.

CRUELTY TO CATS.—A horrible case of cruelty occupied the attention of the Bow-street magistrates last Saturday. A dissipated-looking old woman was charged with skinning live cats. The details are too sickening to repeat; and it will suffice to say that the charge was fully proved, and that the woman was sent to prison for three months, with hard labour. This detestable piece of barbarity appears to be commonly practised by a set of wretches, who make it a trade. If the skins are taken off the animals after death, they are said to be deficient in gloss, and to be nearly worthless; but, if procured by the horrible process alluded to, they will fetch 2s. 2d. each. The public should refuse to buy any articles made of cat-skin, and thus cut away the market for so great a crime. — Another charge of the same kind was brought before the Worship-street magistrate on Thursday. A man named James Glander was discovered by some boys shooting the half-dead bodies of the wretched creatures on to a dust-heap. The boys stuck to him, though he flung one of them down; and he was given into custody. On being taken to the police-court, he was pursued by a furious mob, and it was found necessary to get the assistance of about a dozen policemen to protect him. He denied the charge, and exhibited a degree of excitement which looked like a disordered intellect. The magistrate remanded him for a week.

ATTEMPT TO UPSHUT A RAILWAY TRAIN.—An attempt was made a few days ago to upset a train on the Llanelli and Landilo Railway by altering the switches, so that the carriages should go off the line. The engine-driver, observing the mischief, promptly shut off his steam, and put on the drags and breaks. The speed was thus greatly slackened, and, though the train went on to the wrong line, no injury was done. The miscreant has not been discovered.

FRATRICIDE.—A man named George Edwards has murdered his brother at Malden. The act grew out of a quarrel caused by George refusing to do any work, and becoming a burden to the family.

AFRAY NEAR BARNSELEY.—The village of Smithley, about a mile from the Lundhill Colliery, Barnsley, has recently been infested by several marauders supposed to belong to an extensive gang of thieves, who have long carried on a series of depredations in the surrounding country. A few nights since, a terrible affray occurred between a police-constable of Wombwell and a number of ruffians in some fields belonging to a farmer living at

Aldam-house. The officer was on his beat at Smithley, when he heard the voices of men in a meadow in which was kept a number of sheep. Suspecting their intentions, he crept beneath a hedge in one of the adjoining fields, and closely watched their proceedings. It was not long before he saw three men drive the sheep into a corner of the field close to where he was concealed. Having done this, they caught two of the flock, when one of the thieves asked what they should do with them; to which another replied that they had better be taken to the other end of the field. This was accordingly done, upon which the constable immediately emerged from his place of concealment, and, armed with a heavy walking-stick, pursued the ruffians. By the time he arrived at the spot where they had gone, he could only see two of them, one of whom he struck with his stick, and the other he succeeded in handcuffing. At this juncture, a third man appeared, and gave a loud whistle, which was responded to by five other men, who came forward, armed with life-preservers and butcher's knives. A very sanguinary fight ensued between the thieves and the policeman, in the course of which the latter's walking-stick being broken, he snatched a life-preserver from one of his opponents, and used it with great effect. The affray finally resulted in the escape of all the ruffians, leaving the constable senseless and bleeding in the field. After a time he recovered, and managed with great difficulty to crawl to the nearest farm. He was frightfully injured all over, his head and face presenting one mass of deep cuts, and one of his shoulders being dislocated; besides which, two of his fingers had been cut off in the struggle with the men, and were afterwards picked up in the field, and a third it was found necessary to amputate. Scarcely any hope of the unfortunate man's recovery is entertained, as it is feared lock-jaw will ensue. Steps are being taken by the authorities at Wombwell for the apprehension of the ruffians.

DESERTION OF AN INFANT.—Mary Lynch, a young Irishwoman, was charged at Marylebone police-office with deserting her illegitimate infant. She was observed to throw the baby into a doorway, where it was found by a passer-by, nearly dead with cold, very thinly clad, and covered with vermin. It was taken to the workhouse. The mother alleged in extenuation that she could not induce the father to support the baby, so she threw it into the doorway of a house where she believed the father was living. She was committed for trial.

INGRATITUDE.—A man, named John Browning, recently called on Mr. Thomas Wilkinson, wharfinger, of Lower Clapton, and stated that he had been two days without food, and that he was utterly unable to procure employment because of his being a ticket-of-leave man, though the offence of which he had been convicted he had had no concern in. Mr. Wilkinson gave him a shilling, and said he would endeavour to give him some employment; but, in the course of the arrangements which were being made for that purpose, the man one day contrived to get into Mr. Wilkinson's pantry, and to secrete some of the plate. One of the servants gave notice of the fact to her master, who caught the thief on the spot, and gave him in charge. He was remanded by the Worship-street magistrate, before whom he was brought.

BURKING AGAIN.—The 'garotte' appears to be dying out, and this week we have a case which looks something like a return to the 'burking' of five-and-twenty years ago. William Hammond and William Saunders were brought before the Lambeth magistrate on Tuesday, on a charge of violently assaulting Mr. George Rankin, and covering his face with a thick layer of pitch, with intent to rob him. From the statement of Mr. Rankin, the left side of whose face was cut and contused in a very frightful manner, it appeared that on the night before he had been to an election meeting at the Surrey Gardens, and subsequently joined some friends, with whom he had drunk rather freely, and stopped out long beyond his usual time. On his way home, he got "picked up" by the prisoners, who claimed acquaintance with him, and offered their services to take him home. On arriving at a secluded place near the railway arch, Saunders gave him a desperate blow, which knocked him down, and deprived him of his senses for some moments. He called out for the police, and two officers happening, fortunately, to be close by, they rushed to his assistance. They found him lying on his back, with a thick layer of pitch or tar over his face, and the left side of it seriously injured. The prisoners denied the charge, but were remanded to a future day, when they were committed.

ROBBERY OF HEMP.—Samuel Walker Kirk, a warehouseman in the employ of Messrs. George and Henry Scovell, wharfingers, Tooley-street, and Mr. George Rowe, of the firm of May and Rowe, hemp merchants, &c., Parade, Plymouth, were charged at Southwark on Tuesday with stealing a large amount of hemp from the warehouse of the Messrs. Scovell. Mr. Rowe had dealings with that firm, and it is alleged that, by means of certain false entries, he contrived to possess himself of a larger amount of hemp than he had paid for. The hemp was the property of Messrs. Scott, Russian merchants, and was warehoused at Messrs. Scovell's. A certain portion had been purchased by Messrs. May and Rowe; but, according to the charge against Mr. Rowe, he and Kirk loaded more than he had any right to. Both were remanded for a week, but bail was accepted, and was, of course, forthcoming in the case of Mr. Rowe. Kirk

could not provide the necessary surties, and was locked up.

ALLEGED EMBEZZLEMENT.—Messrs. Hill and Brough, who were charged with having appropriated the amounts of two bills which had been sent to them as agents by Mr. Harrison, were discharged by the Lord Mayor on Wednesday, as they had given explanations which were considered satisfactory by the prosecutor.

INFANTICIDE.—A young woman, named Mary Price, has been committed for trial on a charge of drowning her infant son in the Regent's Park.

GATHERINGS FROM THE LAW AND POLICE COURTS.

A PAINFUL scene occurred on Monday at the Kingston Assize, in connexion with an action for the recovery of 106*l.*, brought by the firm of Davis and Co., warehousemen in the City, against a Mr. Catling. The liability was on account of a guarantee for the amount alleged to have been given by Mr. Catling, the debt being contracted by his son-in-law, George Hatton, who had been a draper, and had been furnished with goods by the plaintiffs. Hatton having been a bankrupt, the Messrs. Davis had refused to let him have any more goods on credit unless he would give a guarantee. This was furnished apparently by Mr. Catling, the document bearing a signature which purported to be his. In a little time, Hatton again got into difficulties, and could not pay his debts. Messrs. Davis and Co. accordingly sued Mr. Catling, who pleaded that the signature was a forgery. One of the witnesses at the trial was Mrs. Hatton, who gave her evidence in a painfully confused and excited manner. In cross-examination, Mrs. Hatton said she did not know where her husband was then; the last time she saw him was a week before, in London. She denied that her husband was in the habit of opening letters addressed to her father, but admitted that all her father's letters were addressed to their house. A letter was shown her which she admitted she had sent to her sister, and in which she implored her to ask her husband to intercede with Mr. Catling, and endeavour to induce him to pay the money, as, if there was any inquiry in a court, the result must be that her husband would be transported for fourteen years. She also stated in this letter that, if she was called into court as a witness, she did not think she should be able to go through with what would be required of her. She said that she could not explain what she meant by saying that, should there be any inquiry in court, her husband would be transported for fourteen years. Her object in writing the letter was that her relatives might intercede with her father, and induce him to pay the money. She endeavoured to evade the question as to whether she thought the signature was her father's, by saying that it looked like his writing. There had been a meeting of the family and other parties, to take into consideration the subject of the guarantee, at which it would appear that the father-in-law was implored to pay the money. The result of the action was that the plaintiffs were nonsuited.

The County Sheriff's Court at York, on Friday week, was engaged in hearing certain cases arising out of railway accidents, for which the sufferers claimed damages. The case of "Waterhouse v. the North-Eastern Railway Company," was the first. The declaration alleged that the plaintiff was a passenger on the railway, and that he sustained various injuries, in respect of which he claimed 400*l.* An action was brought, the defendants suffered judgment to go by default, and the only question for the jury, therefore, was what amount of damages the plaintiff was entitled to. Mr. Waterhouse was one of the passengers in an excursion train which was run into at Church Fenton station at midnight on the 25th of last July. He was seated in one of the carriages which was smashed to pieces, and sustained very serious injuries—viz., scalp wounds, contused shoulder, lacerated leg, and broken ribs. He is a young man, twenty-eight years of age, is married, and has one child, and it is doubtful whether he will ever be able to attend to business as he was before the accident. After a deliberation of two hours and a half, the jury assessed the damages at 2200*l.*—A similar case, "Brain v. North-Eastern Railway Company," was next heard, the plaintiff being the husband of one of the passengers who was killed by the accident. The defendants consented to a verdict for 1000*l.*, one half to go to the widow, and the other half to be equally divided among the children.—In a third case, "Nicholson v. the North-Eastern Railway Company," the defendants agreed to give 150*l.* in compensation for the injuries sustained.—An action against the South-Eastern Railway Company was brought at the Kingston Assizes, last Saturday, by a person whose leg was broken by the train moving just as he was getting out of a carriage, so that he was violently thrown on to the platform. A verdict was given for the plaintiff; damages, 60*l.*

With respect to the case of the girl who complained to the Westminster magistrate that she could not get christened, the Rev. Mr. Borrodale, the clergyman to whom she applied, waited on the magistrate, and said that the young woman was not respectable, and apparently only wished to be baptised as a means of facilitating her emigration. As she refused to receive proper instruction for the ceremony, and would not approach it in a fit state of mind, he declined to fulfil her wishes.

NAVAL AND MILITARY.

THE TROOPS FOR CHINA were inspected by the Duke of Cambridge at Portsmouth, previous to embarkation, on Monday.

LOSS OF VESSELS AND LIVES.—The weather on the coast of Valencia, Spain, has been very rough, and several vessels have been lost. A good many seamen also have been drowned. It does not appear that any English ships were among these.

FORTY VESSELS LOST.—During last week, no fewer than forty ships have been reported lost at Lloyd's, many having foundered with all hands. Among them were the barque Lord George Bentinck, Captain Irving, in which the captain, steward, and two seamen perished; the remainder of the crew, sixteen in number, suffered for ten days from want of food and water when they were picked up. The ship Hungarian, Captain Baker, which sailed from Liverpool, last October, for Philadelphia, with passengers, has not since been heard of. The Duke of Bedford, from Smyrna, for New York, and the A. B. Van Olinda, from Philadelphia, have also, it is believed, been lost, with all hands.

STORM AND WRECKS AT SUNDERLAND.—The effects of the equinoctial gales have been severely felt upon the north-east coast, and numerous wrecks have been reported. At Sunderland, four vessels have been driven ashore—namely, the schooner Effort, Captain Perkins, of Southampton; the schooner Hannah, Captain Larkson, of Arbroath; the brig Swan, Captain White, of Sunderland; and a Dutch bark named the Six Sisters, from Rotterdam. The crews were all saved by the use of the lifeboat and rocket-lines. On Monday morning, the Dutch bark went to pieces, and her cargo was lost.

AN ENGLISH BRIG BURNED.—The English brig Roscoe, laden with coal, took fire off Ghediz, near Smyrna, burned to the water's edge, filled, and went down. The crew escaped, with some of their property, and were afterwards taken on board the Brandon, French steamer, and conveyed to Smyrna.

SUPPOSED WRECK.—The late gales from the west and south-west were felt with great force on the exposed parts of the South Welsh coast, and numbers of vessels dragged their anchors. At Tenby, a large quantity of wreck has come ashore; also a mast and spars with sails partially set, too plainly indicating that some vessel has gone to pieces. This belief receives confirmation from the fact that seamen's chests have been picked up. At St. David's, pieces of wreck have drifted ashore. Nothing is known of these vessels, though it is believed that a large vessel has been lost on the coast.

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE COURT.—Ferukh Khan, the Persian Ambassador Extraordinary, who arrived in London at the latter end of last week, had an audience of the Queen, at Buckingham Palace, on the 20th inst., for the purpose of delivering his credentials.

THE COLLIERIES EXPLOSION AT LUNDHILL.—The coroner's inquest still continues, but without adding much to the facts already collected. A large quantity of water has been turned into the pit, and the temperature has gradually lessened.

MR. CHARLES MATHEWS'S BANKRUPTCY.—Cause was shown in the Court of Bankruptcy last Saturday against a rule which had been obtained by Mr. Allcroft, the librarian, upon Mr. Charles Mathews, the comedian. The rule had been granted upon an affidavit from Mr. Allcroft, in which it was stated that he was a creditor of Mr. Mathews upon the occasion of his last insolvency at Lancaster, and that, being informed that Mr. Mathews was in receipt of 80*l.* a week from Mr. Smith, of Drury-lane Theatre, under a settled agreement, he thought some part of that income ought to be paid into court for the benefit of the creditors. An affidavit from Mr. E. T. Smith, the lessee of Drury-lane Theatre, was read, in which it was denied that any yearly engagement with Mr. Mathews to perform for a salary of 80*l.* per week ever existed. The only engagement between them terminated on the 19th inst. Mr. Smith further stated that Mr. Mathews, being indebted to him 1200*l.* for money paid, as surety and otherwise, on his account, he only paid to Mr. Mathews, during the period of his engagement, 20*l.* per week, the remainder of the stipulated salary being withheld on account of the debt due to himself, and other debts from which Mr. Mathews had not been discharged under his petition. An affidavit from Mr. Mathews was also read. From this it appeared that Mr. Allcroft's debt was incurred prior to the last bankruptcy, and had been voluntarily renewed subsequently; that 2000*l.* out of 5000*l.* of the Lyceum debts had been wiped off by Mr. Mathews; and that, during his six weeks' illness, he had received no salary at all. Mr. Allcroft's counsel objected to Mr. Mathews's affidavit, because it contained personal reflections on Mr. Allcroft not warranted by the facts nor the occasion. Mr. Commissioner Phillips thought it would be better that Mr. Mathews should make another affidavit, confining himself solely to the matter connected with this rule. He considered that a perfect answer had been given, and, when another affidavit was filed, the rule would be discharged.

NEWSPAPER PROPERTY.—A circular has been issued by the solicitors to the assignees of Mr. Edwin Baldwin, announcing that the copyrights of the *Morning Herald*, *Standard*, and *St. James's Chronicle* newspapers are for

sale, and that they are ready to receive tenders for their purchase, either together or separately.

THE GOVERNMENT AND THE CITY.—The Lord Mayor entertained the Ministers at a banquet in Guildhall on the evening of Friday week, when Lord Palmerston and the Earl of Clarendon gave expositions of the foreign policy of the Government, of a nature already sufficiently familiar to the public, more especially at this electioneering season.

SEVENTEEN HOUSES BURNED DOWN, AND LOSS OF LIFE.—A serious fire broke out late on the night of Friday week, at Alverstock, about two miles from Gosport, by which seventeen houses were burned to the ground. A poor woman named Roberts lost her life in endeavouring to save some furniture, when the roof fell upon her. The fire was ultimately extinguished by the soldiers of the garrison.

CONVOCAATION.—The Convocation of the clergy of the province of Canterbury has been formally dissolved, and the various chapters and archdeacons will proceed to the election of proctors in the course of a few days.

ADVERTISING FOR CANDIDATES.—The following curious advertisement appears in the *Berwick Advertiser* of last Saturday:—"Wanted, a candidate for the representation of the county of Berwick in the Commons House of Parliament, the present hon. member not having, as yet, signified his intention of again coming forward. Parties of moderately Liberal principles, and having the other requisite qualifications, are entreated to make immediate application."

THE WEST INDIES.—The last mails bring very little news of general interest. At Barbadoes, the attention of commercial men was occupied with a project started by the "West India, North and South American Telegraph Company," to lay down a line of submarine telegraph, connecting the West Indies with the North and South American continents, the line then to be placed in connexion with the transatlantic line which is about to be laid down. From Martinique there are reports that the inhabitants of Gros Morne have been the victims of another fire, which befel them on the 2nd of February, and totally consumed the few houses which had escaped the conflagration of Christmas-eve.

THE IONIAN ISLES.—The elections have been declared void. The Chamber accuses the English Government of having tampered with the electoral lists. A dissolution is considered probable.

FIRE.—A great fire broke out on Monday night shortly before nine o'clock at the warehouse of Messrs. Watkinson, upholsterers, 227, Strand, close to Temple-bar. It was some time before any engines arrived, and the fire attained very alarming proportions. The whole of the warehouse where the fire originated was gutted, and as many as eight of the adjoining dwellings were greatly damaged, in some cases almost destroyed.—A fire broke out on the premises of Mr. Wilson, naturalist, 391, Strand, a few doors from Southampton-street, on Tuesday morning. The police rescued the inmates. The fire was not subdued until the house was gutted, and the adjoining dwellings were damaged by fire and water. The cause is unknown, and the loss will fall on the Sun and other offices.

MR. MACGREGOR, late M.P. for Glasgow, is said to be in very distressed circumstances. A subscription is talked of.

LORD MALMESBURY AND LORD PALMERSTON.—Lord Malmesbury has published in the papers a letter to Lord Palmerston, severely criticizing the Premier's address to his constituents, given in another column. He accuses him of maligning his opponents, of misrepresenting facts, and of resorting to electioneering clap-trap. He makes this quotation from Lord Palmerston's address:—"An insolent barbarian wielding authority at Canton had violated the British flag, broken the engagements of treaties, offered rewards for the heads of British subjects in that part of China, and planned their destruction by murder, assassination, and poison. The British officers, civil and naval, on the station had taken those measures which appeared to them to be proper and necessary to obtain redress." He then proceeds to make the following comment:—"The inference which must be drawn from these lines is that all those outrages preceded our seizures of the ships, shelling forts, and bombarding Canton itself, and were the provocations to our aggression. This inference is not true, for, with the exception of the first one—namely, the supposed violation of the British flag on board the Arrow—all the others were subsequent to and in retaliation for our operations conducted without any declaration of war." Referring to the Mansion-house dinner, on Friday week, Lord Malmesbury says: "Was it decent to use the table at the Mansion-house as a hustings? For I find that at the Lord Mayor's dinner on the 20th instant, you are reported to have spoken thus:—'If those who voted against us had risen to power, what ought they to have done as the logical and inevitable consequence of their vote? They asserted that our proceedings were unjustifiable. . . . They must have paid the rewards which had been given for the heads of our merchants, and the cost of the arsenic which had been used in poisoning our fellow-subjects at Hong-Kong.' And this is the language of the Prime Minister of England at the banquet of the first magistrate of her capital, surrounded by foreign ambassadors and all the talent, rank, and wealth of his party. What they thought of this extraordinary insult to some four hundred members of Parliament is easily guessed and

known; but what would the most ignorant of our countrymen have said of your logic had you addressed them thus in an analogous case of possible occurrence? 'Two men quarrel, and proceed from words to blows; one is killed. The survivor is tried, his counsel pleads justifiable homicide, the jury give a verdict of manslaughter. Pending the trial, the relations of the deceased take up the feud, and poison those of the accused. The jury, logically, must pay for the poison.'"

ALDERMAN SIR WILLIAM MAGNAY IN A DILEMMA.—Alderman Magnay, on Tuesday, in the Court of Aldermen, alluded to certain charges against himself, and prayed that they might be investigated. He was at one time director of some company in Belgium, which got into contention with the Belgian Government, the directors being accused of appropriating the money of the shareholders. The directors were cited to appear for trial, and the trial resulted in an acquittal. The matter was investigated here by a committee of shareholders, who not only exonerated the directors, but thanked them for what they had done. Mr. Ashwell, the managing director, shortly afterwards went to Belgium, thinking all was then secure; but he was arrested, retained five months in prison without being allowed to see his legal adviser, kept in ignorance of the charge, and not tried until, by threats and intimidation, attempts had been made to force him to criminate himself and others. He was again acquitted; but the Belgian Government, in accordance with its constitutional right, appealed against this result, and Mr. Ashwell, Alderman Magnay, and others, received notice of a new trial. They did not surrender, and were sentenced to imprisonment for three years for non-appearance.—After some discussion, the matter was referred to the Committee of Privileges, to inquire whether Alderman Magnay was a fitting person to remain a member of that court.—The Alderman brought the same subject before the Court of Common Council on Thursday.

THE RECENT LOSS OF LIFE BY FIRE IN NEWINGTON.—The adjourned inquest upon the bodies of Emily Rayner and her four children was held on Tuesday at the Hourglass, Walworth-common. The proceedings (say the daily papers) derived some additional interest from the existence of a very strong feeling on the part of the inhabitants of the neighbourhood that some at least of the lives might have been saved had not the police prevented persons from rendering assistance; and almost the whole of the examination, which lasted all day, was directed to that point. The house still remains in the same condition as during the last inquiry, and has been visited by large numbers of people. The rooms present a very singular appearance; in some instances, the floors, although burnt through, remain standing with all the furniture in the most perfect order, but completely consumed, the whole crumbling to ashes under the touch. Downstairs, the supper had been laid, and still remains, but all the provisions on the table are burnt, and the various jugs and drinking vessels are fused or broken by the intense heat. The jury returned a verdict that Mrs. Rayner and her four children were accidentally burnt to death, adding to it the following expression of opinion:—"We, the jury, are of opinion that it is desirable, in all cases of fire where lives are endangered, that the police should not prevent the entrance of any person or persons who may volunteer their aid to rescue the inmates of such houses on fire; and we further strongly recommend that the police, on their way for the fire-engines, should, under no circumstances, lose time in obtaining a fire-escape, whether persons be known to be on the premises on fire or not." The foreman and the coroner, however, both stated that, in their opinion, no blame could be attached to the police.

Postscript.

LEADER OFFICE, Saturday, March 28th.
THE GENERAL ELECTION.—(YESTERDAY.)
CITY OF LONDON.

THE nomination took place yesterday. The chief speech was that of Lord John Russell, who said he had been induced to come forward again because he would not submit to the insolent dictation of the Registration Society. After touching on several points on which his opinions are well known, he proceeded to say that, "on the question of church rates, he did not think that anything could be done without a fair consideration of the claims of the Established Church. With regard to the ballot, he had nothing to add to what he had already said; but he had one or two words to say on the subject of foreign policy. First, as to his conduct at Vienna. The Secretary of State had not considered it right to produce the despatches he (Lord John Russell) had written, and without those despatches he felt that his case could never be fairly before the public. (Hear, hear.) It was his opinion that France, Great Britain, and Austria should combine for the purpose of securing Turkey. That proposal he made at Vienna, and in April last year Lord Clarendon signed a treaty for that purpose. He wrote from Vienna to propose that Russia should be prevented from occupying the Circassian ports. He thought that Turkey was exposed to more danger from the side of Asia than from any other quarter, and he was sorry that the proposal he made did not form part of the treaty. If it had been so, we should not

now have had the Russians in Circassia taking additional steps for the conquest of Turkey."—The show of hands was declared to be in favour of Lord John Russell, Sir James Duke, Baron Rothschild, and Mr. Crawford. A poll was then demanded on behalf of Mr. Raikes Currie.

MARYLEBONE.—The nomination here ended in the unopposed return of Sir Benjamin Hall and Viscount Ebrington.

FINSBURY.—The show of hands at Finsbury was in favour of Mr. Duncombe and Major Reed. A poll was demanded on behalf of Mr. Cox and Major Reed.

TOWER HAMLETS.—Mr. Butter and Mr. Ayrton received the greatest number of votes by show of hands; on which a poll was demanded on behalf of Sir William Clay.

GREENWICH.—The show of hands was in favour of Mr. Alderman Salomons and Mr. Townsend. Mr. Montagu Chambers and Sir William Codrington demanded a poll.

LIVERPOOL.—The writ of election was read at eleven o'clock yesterday, and the business of the nomination was about being proceeded with, when the side of the platform apportioned to the Liberal party fell with a tremendous crash. Mr. Ewart, the Liberal candidate, and several of his friends are slightly hurt. It is said that the supports were cut designedly by the Conservative partisans, and that the Mayor had adjourned the proceedings for two hours, to permit of examination and repairs of the platform. The excitement in the town was great.—*Globe.*

NORTHALLERTON.—The show of hands was in favour of Mr. Wrightson. A poll was demanded for the Hon. E. Lascelles.

WAKEFIELD.—Mr. Charlesworth was elected without opposition.

BLACKBURN.—Mr. Pilkington and Mr. Hornby (Liberal and Conservative) were elected without opposition.

BOLTON.—The choice by show of hands, fell on Messrs. Gray and Cooke. Mr. Barnes demanded a poll.

SALFORD.—Mr. Massey was chosen by the show of hands. A poll was demanded for Sir E. Armitage.

PONTEFRAC.—The show of hands was in favour of Mr. Oliveira. A poll was demanded by Mr. Monckton Milnes.

NEWCASTLE.—Mr. Headlam was chosen by show of hands. Messrs. Carstairs and Ridley demanded a poll.

BATH.—Sir Arthur Hallam Elton was elected yesterday. He was first by 41. The position of Messrs. Tite and Way is doubtful, the committees differing in their accounts. The declarations will be published to-day (Saturday) at ten o'clock. The contest was very severe.

MANCHESTER.—The show of hands was in favour of Mr. Bright and Sir John Potter. A poll was demanded for Messrs. Gibson and Turner.

MEMBERS RETURNED (YESTERDAY).

Thirsk: Sir William Galloway—Tynemouth: Mr. W. S. Lindsay—Thetford: The Earl of Euston and the Hon. Francis Baring—Boston: Mr. H. Ingram and Mr. W. H. Adams—Walsall: Mr. C. Forster—Tamworth: Viscount Raynham and Sir Robert Peel—Bristol: The Hon. F. H. Berkeley and W. H. G. Langton—Lynn: Lord Stanley and Mr. Gurney—Kendal: Mr. Glynn—Grimsby: Mr. Worsley—Whitehaven: Mr. R. C. Hildyard—Lewes: The Right Hon. Mr. Fitzroy and the Hon. H. B. Brand—Hastings: Mr. P. J. Robertson and Mr. F. North—Southampton: Mr. B. Wilcox and Mr. Weguelin have been re-elected—Malton: Mr. C. W. Fitzwilliam and Mr. Brown—Edinburgh: Messrs. Black and Cowan—Warwick: Messrs. Repton and Groves—Carnarvon: W. B. Hughes—Exeter: Mr. E. Divett and Mr. H. Gard—Salisbury: Major-General Buckley and Mr. W. H. Marsh—Wolverhampton: The Hon. Mr. Villiers and Mr. Thornley—Ashton-under-Lyne: Mr. C. Hindley—Durham: M. Atherton and Mr. Mowbray—Hereford: Lieut.-Col. Clifford and Mr. G. Clive—Leominster: Mr. G. Hardy and Mr. Willoughby—Tiverton: Viscount Palmerston, Mr. J. Heathcoat—Dundee: Sir J. Ogilvy—Greenock: Mr. A. Dunlop—Leith: Mr. J. Moncrieff, Hon. E. Bouverie.

CHINA AND PERSIA.

The latest advices from the East state that the Emperor of China disapproves of the war, and has given the Governor of Canton orders to conciliate the English.

A battle was fought on the 8th of February, about forty miles from Bushire, between the Bombay and Persian cavalry, which ended in the total rout of the latter, with the loss of 800 killed. The loss on our side was 10 killed and 62 wounded.

LATEST FROM THE CONTINENT.

(By Electric Telegraph.)

Königsberg, March 27.

The Russian Government have reduced their tariff. Woollens, cottons, cloths, and ribbons are reduced to one-half the present duties.

Copenhagen, March 27.

France recommends, in a diplomatic note, the settlement of the Holstein question by a European Congress.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Several communications for "Open Council" are unavoidably omitted this week, on account of the great pressure of matter consequent on the General Election. It is impossible to acknowledge the mass of letters we receive. Their insertion is often delayed, owing to a press of matter; and when omitted, it is frequently from reasons quite independent of the merits of the communication.

We cannot undertake to return rejected communications. Communications should always be legibly written, and on one side of the paper only. If long, it increases the difficulty of finding space for them. During the Session of Parliament it is often impossible to find room for correspondence, even the briefest.

The Leader.

SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 1857.

Public Affairs.

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

THE OLD PARLIAMENT AND THE NEW.

It is dead, and we may stamp on it; but we owe it some gratitude, nevertheless. The defunct Parliament, elected under Lord DERBY'S influence, voted that influence an anachronism, ratified the Free Trade Laws, opened some breaches in the statute book of commercial restrictions, gave a police to the counties, showed no unwilling or unpatriotic spirit during the Russian war. But it was an essentially unpolitical House of Commons. If it treated Toryism as an impossibility, it treated Liberalism as a joke; it was a foreign-policy Parliament, and what good has come of its meddling? Essentially, then, the House of Commons returned in 1852, claims for its epitaph only one line of conspicuous eulogy;—it would not suffer the principle of government to be degraded by the officious incapacity of a Protectionist Earl, and of the forty raw recruits whom he marched to Windsor to be sworn into the royal service. Even from that panegyric we are entitled to make some diminution. Any British Parliament, in this epoch, would have done the same. The constituencies would never dream of returning a Derbyite majority. So that the Parliament of 1852 did speedily, and did well, what any other Parliament would have done; and did little else, except in a hesitating, incomplete, insincere, and slovenly manner. The few practical reforms of the past five sessions are as nothing in contrast with the time wasted, the periodical cataclysms of talk, the hair-splitting, the official bell-ringing, and the perpetual Opposition rataplan. The Russian war, the Russian peace, the French alliance, the Sardinian alliance, the Swedish alliance, the demonstration against Naples, the quarrel with America, were among the great interests of the country during the period referred to; but what was the action of Parliament in connexion with those topics, as Lord PALMERSTON would call them? The war went forward with some pressure on the administrative departments though with none upon the Cabinet, the Treaty of Peace was signed, the French alliance was contracted and worked in several directions with several objects, the Swedish alliance was established and left fallow, Sardinia was lured into the Western League and emphatically snubbed, Great Britain travelled with France half way to Naples and quarrelled on the road; she was alienated from America and reconciled with her, and, had there been no House of Commons, arbitrary diplomacy could scarcely have been more irresponsible. Possibly the House of Commons has no constitutional right to

interfere; it may be that to interrupt the Executive would be a dangerous experiment; but the Senate of America exercises this prerogative, and we do not hear of negotiations becoming indelicate or difficulties insuperable on that side of the Atlantic, any oftener than in the Old World.

It is said that the elections have stopped litigation for a time, Englishmen being unable to fight more than one battle at a time. A perpetual state of general election might be cheaply paid for by the cessation of law proceedings; but we have remarked for many years past that whenever the question of Reform has been brought forward, England has invariably had some other battle in hand. That was the case with the old Parliament. Now, before the new Parliament meets, we hope it will be clearly understood that the particular engagement to be drawn on is that which concerns the franchise, the ballot, the electoral districts, and the other essentials of a serious Liberal policy. What else is there to settle? Mr. Lowe tells us, and the Tories tell us, that without labouring round any political Cape of Good Hope, we may take the direct route to social improvement by legislating on social questions. We heard of that fallacy long ago; it has never influenced the Liberal party; it may suit small feudalists and gentlemen who have grown so great as to be Ministers of State; but it is rubbish, and must sink in limbo. We are to have a Liberal Parliament; the Tory minority will be effectually reduced; the Liberals will be in supreme possession; and although Lord PALMERSTON may count upon a personal following of considerable strength, that will not enable him, without a policy, to hold his ground against whatever sections may combine to defeat the Administration. With a policy he may lead the House of Commons, since we are assured that scarcely one-third of that House will be composed of Tories. Lord PALMERSTON has issued a remarkably vague address. Its vagueness may serve one of two ends: it may shelter him against the accusation of having given the Reformers a pledge; or it may be interpreted by the Reformers as, "You lead, and I follow." Mr. DISRAELI'S declaration that Lord PALMERSTON is the Tory chief of a Radical Cabinet was false, as we said last week; since he is not a Tory among Tories, nor are his colleagues Radicals among Radicals. But in the sense that Sir GEORGE GREY is a Radical Lord PALMERSTON is a Tory; not an immovable one, however, but a man who has repeatedly assured his friends—we have reasons for saying it—that, upon hearing an unequivocal demand for Reform, he would become a Reformer, and yield to no one in his assertion of Liberal principles. He is a great administrator in fact; he can administer an agitation as well as a department; give him a policy, make him believe in it, and he is the minister to carry it out. His terms are—office, power.

The cordial Reformers cannot hope to make their way into the Cabinet until a liberal change in the representation has created for them a broader parliamentary basis. They must, therefore, employ the agencies at their command, and it matters not whether, under the force they exert, Lord PALMERSTON is driven out of Downing-street, or into a new Bill for improving the Representation of the People. If it be too early to photograph the new Parliament in contrast with the old, it is not too early to indicate this leading truth, that a powerful Liberal majority being certain, the natural chief of such a majority is a Liberal statesman, a Reformer from conviction or from necessity. We are calculating only for a period of transition—for only such will be filled by the Parliament of 1857.

WHO KEEPS UP THE POPE?

THE kind of contradiction that the French journals have given to the "Report from the French Envoy at Rome to the French Minister for Foreign Affairs," published by the *Daily News* last week, is a practical confirmation of that document. The paper was translated from the French into the English, it was retranslated from the English into the Belgian journals, and then the French papers are instructed to say that the text is "incorrect" and "altered." Of course it was changed in the process of double translation; but the *Daily News* reproduces the original text, and gives us the correct report made by M. DE RAYNEVAL to Count WALEWSKI. The newest objection is that the paper is old; but what then? Has Count WALEWSKI rejected the report of M. DE RAYNEVAL?

His principal assertions are these. The abuses in the Papal Government are such that he has never yet been able to discover them, only expressing facts which are elsewhere traceable to the imperfections of human nature, such, for instance, as the fact that the Custom-house officers will take something to drink from travellers. That there are brigands in the Roman territory is true, just as a diligence may be stopped in France, or a lady of the QUEEN'S household may be robbed of her jewels between London and Windsor. The Government of Rome is not clerical, since there are only 98 ecclesiastics in office to 5059 laymen. The POPE has done much in the way of improvements—draining marshes, buying up the depreciated paper currency, and endeavouring even to correct the administration: every one is acquainted with the catastrophe that ensued; and what happened then would be reproduced exactly in our day. Fundamentally the very principle of government is the point in dispute, and not the mode of putting it in operation. The existence of the Roman Government would have been of less importance, but "Catholicity itself is at stake." "Catholic unity would be impaired by the removal of the POPE." The Italians are very anxious for a constitution à l'Anglaise; "the example of Piedmont is turning their heads;" but they want the faculties for a constitutional government. They are not, like the Piedmontese, capable of military or monarchical principles. *Per contra*, the Piedmontese are not Italians, "they are an intermediary population, containing much more of the Swiss and French element than the Italian." The Italians cannot succeed in their projects without foreign support; to prevent that support, "the organs of the press in England and Sardinia should cease to excite the passions." This statement of facts appears to deprive the Roman question of a definitive solution, but M. DE RAYNEVAL does not think "that all the questions of this world must necessarily have a definitive solution." He is for procrastination. To remove the French troops from the Roman States would give the *coup de grace* to the temporal power of the Popes; M. DE RAYNEVAL, therefore, would leave the troops in possession, or would only withdraw them by successive diminutions, and "after being well assured that it is possible."

Nearly all the statements, except those which admit that the POPE is sustained by the French troops, and that to withdraw them would give the *coup de grace* to his temporal power, are statements which may be exactly reversed to arrive at the truth. The Papal rule is essentially subordinated to the clergy, its chief officers clerical. The abuses are obvious—corruptions wholesale, anarchy existing everywhere, save in some degree within the range of the French and Austrian

troops. PIUS IX. never attempted political reform. The Italians are quite capable of the monarchical principle: they have shown that they are so in Naples under a better King, in Tuscany under LEOPOLD VII.; they are showing it now in Piedmont and Genoa. M. DE RAYNEVAL does not deny that the Genoese are Italians; and the Piedmontese are so, notwithstanding his denial. Their race is not more mixed than that of the Italians in other parts of the peninsula. It is, however, a great admission that the Italians throughout Italy are actively desiring a constitution à l'Anglaise.

Let us see, then, what the confession of M. DE RAYNEVAL amounts to. It is this: If the Papal Government were removed, constitutional government would extend throughout the peninsula; the Papal Government would fall if it were not maintained by French and Austrian troops; the French and Austrian troops, therefore, prevent the extension of constitutional government. It is a form of government desired by the Italians, and incompatible with despotic tyranny, the imprisonment of multitudes, the torture of prisoners, the infliction of torture and death without trial, the embezzlement of the revenue for the advantage of the court officers, the universal suspension of municipal institutions, the impotency of the police, or the impossibility of reforming abuses.

Our own Ministers have admitted that the fleets did not go to Naples, because they apprehended that the arrival of the fleets would cause an insurrection. The English Government, therefore, confesses that it has retained the present King of NAPLES on the throne, in preference to the government which the people might substitute. M. DE RAYNEVAL tells us that substitute would have been a constitutional government.

Throughout the Austrian dominions the priests are exercising the most intolerable tyranny—displacing the Roman Catholic clergy, preventing marriages between Catholic and Protestant, except on the condition that all the children be Catholic; and thrusting the priest into the family with the most insolent and insulting investigations. (M. DE RAYNEVAL tells us that the Roman priesthood would lose, not its doctrine and spiritual truth, whatever that may be, or its zeal, but its "unity," its "temporal organisation," if the POPE were removed. There is a child's toy made of glass which has the property of breaking into minute fragments if the point be snapped off: according to M. DE RAYNEVAL, the Roman Catholic clergy throughout the world is like that toy, of which the POPE is the point. But this instrument of tyranny in despotic governments, this obstruction to constitutional government in Italy, this conservatrix of abuses, exists only while the POPE is kept in his place. The POPE is kept in his place by French bayonets. Our Government has sanctioned that French military support of the POPE, and has abstained from the step which would have displaced the POPE's coadjutor, the King of NAPLES. Such are the disclosures made or rendered complete by the report which M. DE RAYNEVAL has written for the information and guidance of Count WALEWSKI, and which the *Daily News* has published for the information and guidance of the English public.

PRESIDENT BUCHANAN AND HIS POLICY.

In the very first words that he has uttered officially, President BUCHANAN has made the force of his character felt, not only by the Republic but by foreign states, and has marked out the policy by which he intends to be guided. Those of our readers who

will take the trouble of comparing the inaugural address of the new President with our own sketch of the policy that we ascribed to him on his election, from a knowledge of his character and views, will perceive that our account is but the anticipation of the address.

We expected that Mr. BUCHANAN would prove to be President of no section of the Union; and now from either section he appeals to the whole Republic. We expected that the agitations by which one party or the other has endeavoured to filch the sanction of the Union for its own excesses would be met by calling forth the loyalty of the citizens in all parts of the Union to their own institutions; and he has done so. He has announced that to defend the Republic against extreme sections on either side, he will appeal to the Constitution as it was established by the Father of the Republic and his glorious fellow labourers, and as it is interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States. It is not by stretching the powers of the Federal Government that Mr. BUCHANAN intends to enforce his own policy, for he knows that the true strength of democracy lies in a generous conservatism. To repeat his own words, "a strict construction of the powers of the Government is the only true as well as the only safe theory of the Constitution;" but a strict construction of the powers of the Government soon brings to light the fundamental fact, that the federal authority is based upon state sovereignty. Each state is sovereign and independent in its local Government and institutions. At the formation of the Republic the separate and independent states delegated to the aggregate of the whole the powers to act for the whole, in certain matters. No one state has sufficient authority to undo that bond of union, or to withdraw itself from the federated republic; but each retains, unimpaired, the sovereign rights which it possessed before the delegation. It was a condition in the compact, that "a peculiar institution" should be left to the free choice of the several states. Congress has not acquired, and cannot acquire, power to predetermine the institutions of any state. In that respect the new state, or the new state in its preliminary form as a "territory," must be free to adopt or reject the institution of slavery, without the interference of other states or of the Federal Government.

This view of President BUCHANAN, drawn from the consideration of the institutions of the Republic, is confirmed by the decision of the Supreme Court in the case of DRED SCOTT. An appeal, therefore, to the charter of the Republic settles the question as to the right which any states had to interfere with the others on that subject. The Missouri compromise which attempted to dictate slavery to states south of a particular line, and absence of slavery on the north of that line, is inconsistent with the fundamental charter of the Republic; and any attempt to obtain the emancipation of slaves, or the exclusion of the negro race, in the form of a "Missouri compromise" or any other statute of Congress, must necessarily be a failure; because any attempt to enforce it in the last resort will again bring forth the conclusion that it is beyond the power of Congress.

If, then, the friends of the Negro desire to obtain any improvement in his condition, any restraints upon the extension of slavery, they must do it through the Government of the several states. They must work in accordance with the dominant opinion of each state, and they can only obstruct their endeavours by any defiance of state authority. The attempts of the Abolitionists to arouse civil war, or of any one slave state to rush a pe-

culiar institution upon a territory or state which does not spontaneously adopt it, is equally an invasion of the state sovereignty, of federal order, and of republican law.

In laying down these principles with a firm hand, Mr. BUCHANAN shows the limits into which the agitation for social improvements must be kept, unless the agitation is to become anarchy, and states are to be worked into civil war by the very instinct of self-defence.

The same principle is applied to other abuses of the Union. Too productive a revenue has already dictated a new tariff calculated to give a greater freedom to trade, while accumulating less of the wealth of the citizens in the public treasury. Mr. BUCHANAN purposes to take the surplus out of the hands of those who might employ it for corrupt purposes, and to expend it in the strengthening of the navy and sea-coast defences. He also protects the lands against a corrupt appropriation. That land should be given for railway purposes is most natural, where the rail itself is to pass over the land conceded; but that lands in one part should be given for sale to increase the capital of a line in another place is an evasion of the law. Yet that abuse has been carried out in several states; and those who know how the railway is the high road to jobbing can understand the manner in which the evasion has been worked. The new President does not intend to flatter either the State or citizens by an indulgence of corruption, but he is for progress and improvement; a military railway straight across the Union to the Pacific states is the shortest cut to a binding of the extreme west with the east. It may interfere with some enterprises for establishing a more circuitous route; but it is politically, as well as geographically, the most direct course, and we know from the experience of all parts of North America how it will open the Union for settlement, agriculture, and the internal commerce of the United States. In order to that pacific conquest of the desert, it is necessary that the great army of the settlers should be recruited. Some citizens, unduly jealous of any influences in the Union but their own, have set up the idea of deferring the citizenship of every emigrant until some very distant date—say twenty years. President BUCHANAN declares against this innovation; and his declaration will rally around him all the vast emigrant interest of the Union; while it will strengthen his army for the pacific invasion of the interior.

His foreign policy is marked by the same self-possessed energy. He will cultivate "peace, commerce, and friendship" with all nations, not merely as the best means of promoting material interests, but as the true loyalty to the spirit of Christian benevolence. Directness of conduct, frankness of diplomacy, and obedience to public law, are his rules. Forceful conquest he repels; the only territorial acquisitions which he will admit are those of spontaneous annexation, sought by the citizens of a kindred state, or acquisition made by honest purchase.

On the strength of these principles, we believe that President BUCHANAN will override sectional parties, by the overwhelming force of a united republic; as he will override foreign intrigue, by the overwhelming force of the American progress.

THE SCANDINAVIAN IDEA.

By the Scandinavian Idea is meant a project for the union of all the Scandinavian nations in one monarchy so powerful as to be independent of every foreign influence. The plan is not new; it had its origin not many years after the ratification of the settlement

of Vienna; but it continued long in a vague, uncertain form, and has only recently received a recognition from one of the reigning sovereigns of the North. The King of DENMARK, through M. SCHEELE, his Minister for Foreign Affairs, has addressed the Governments of France, England, Russia, and Sweden, in a circular repudiating, reprobating, and even ridiculing the Idea. That is to say, he repudiates it as hostile to Denmark, reprobates it as an attack on Scandinavian conservatism, and ridicules it as a poetical improbability. We do not find in M. SCHEELE's communication any proof that the King of DENMARK is so sincere in his disavowal of the Idea that he is never likely to countenance it, nor do we believe that, in the event of his conversion, he would meet with a unanimity of opposition from the Governments now addressed by his Minister for Foreign Affairs. Great Britain, for example, has no interest in the disunion of the Scandinavian peoples, nor would a British Cabinet be likely to interpose any obstacle in the way of a project that would circumvalate Russia in the North of Europe. We may mark in the Danish despatch the evidences of that reserve in which may lurk a secret predilection for the dangerous Idea. It is stated that the Danish monarchy is threatened by the possible effects of this agitation no less than by the controversy now pending between the Courts of Vienna and Berlin; but what if a prince should abdicate a Danish throne to possess himself of all the Scandinavian regalia? According to *Le Nord*, M. SCHEELE first describes the success of the scheme as impossible, and then as doubtful, the interests of two dynasties existing in opposition to it. Not necessarily of two dynasties, however, there being a chance of the promotion of one at the expense of the other. Is it certain, asks Denmark, that the consolidation of the three Northern kingdoms would guarantee the future independence of Scandinavia? National character, inconsistencies of constitutional law, personal jealousies, exist in opposition to the Idea; but it is undeniable that not only the King of DENMARK, but the King of SWEDEN also has hitherto, indirectly or otherwise, fostered and favoured the agitation—taken such advantage of it, explains M. SCHEELE, as would tend to promote friendly intimacy between the two nations, the interests of which are in many respects identical. Exactly; and why does Denmark, in her own name and that of Sweden and Norway, now publicly reject the Idea? Because the agitation has attracted the notice of foreign Cabinets, and may have contributed to shake public confidence in the stability of the established order of things, or even in the intentions of the Governments.

Our Government has no reason to regard the project with disfavour. Its success would deepen the basis of those guarantees established during the late Russian war by the defensive treaty with Sweden. The apparent difficulty would be to reconcile it with the personal pretensions of the two kings, colleagues and rivals in Scandinavia. But the King of DENMARK is only a temporary institution; he has scarcely any interest in the security of his successors, a few links connecting his heirless crown with that of the reigning house of Russia. Russia, however, is not the sole power that overshadows Scandinavia, Denmark especially. Between Denmark and Germany lies Schleswig, politically Danish, territorially German, and in that territory the sovereign claims of Denmark and the federal claims of Germany simultaneously act. Now, why should Denmark dread an Idea which proposes to render her invulnerable? Does the King really dread

it, however, or is M. SCHEELE's circular merely a shield thrown between him and the remonstrances of foreign powers? It is admitted that the agitation has drawn a dangerous attention upon itself, and upon certain foreign Cabinets. It would be good policy to explode the danger without injuring the Idea.

Great Britain, as a nation, can have no interest in the diplomatic by-play of the Northern Courts, or in the personal claims of the Swedish and Danish Kings. They are ready enough to encroach upon their subjects, and it is not surprising that Germany and Russia are eager to encroach upon them. But it may be that the question of the Danish succession will still involve a debate between the leading powers of Europe; while it is certain that the German monarchies are not disposed to relax their pressure in the affair of the Duchies. Russia, on the one hand, holds to her contingent right of succession to the Danish throne, in favour of which, many dynastic pretensions have, with the diplomatic assent of Europe, been set aside; while the Germanic Diet, affecting to treat the matter as one purely German, denies the right of Russia to interfere, and claims virtually to govern Schleswig and Holstein through the Cabinet of Copenhagen. The King, certainly, by uniting these provinces, and identifying them, politically, with the rest of his dominions, tears a branch from the Federal Council of Germany; but Germany, by prohibiting him, tears a branch from his prerogative; and as Schleswig-Holstein, unlike Neuchâtel, has not been able to resume its dignity as a member of the fraternal Federation, the dispute seems as far from a settlement as it was in 1849. This, it seems, is to be the fate of all the questions 'settled' in 1815.

We can only infer the existence of a secret disposition on the part of the Danish King and the British Government favourable to the Scandinavian Idea. But we anticipate the prosperity of that Idea, if wisely and vigorously developed. As the *Globe* hints, however, it needs the highest support at Copenhagen. When once understood, we are convinced that it will obtain the support of intelligent and liberal politicians in every part of Europe, for it promises a new guarantee against Cossackism. We see no danger, but, on the contrary, many advantages likely to accrue to liberty and civilization from the hand-in-hand progress of the Northern nations.

LIBERAL-CONSERVATIVES.

WHAT is a Liberal-Conservative? We all know what a Liberal means, or ought to mean. We all know what a Conservative means, or ought to mean. A Liberal means a Whig, and something more; a Conservative means a Tory, and something less. A Tory includes the Conservative as the greater includes the less; a Liberal includes the Radical as the general includes the particular. There is the Tory genus and the Conservative species; the Liberal genus and the Radical species. Every one of these has its essential properties and its accidental qualifications; every one has its contraries, its contradictories, and its opposites. Separating what is particular from what is general, what is simple from what is complex, what is accidental from what is essential, we arrive at last at an accurate division and at a clear definition. The process of all science is simplification, and the end unity. Apply these tests to the science of political parties, reduce the Liberal and the Tory into their simple elements, by a strict analysis put aside all but the essential quality, the *property* of each, and the result will be, we think, something nearer to a correct

classification than the cloudy political terminology which at the present moment distracts and mystifies every constituency in the kingdom. It is the fashion to pretend that 'party' is dead, that Whig and Tory are alike shadows of the past, and have no real, tangible existence in our waking world. It is not denied that a few ghostly Whigs, and a few Purgatorial Tories, may be seen (even after cockcrow) hovering about dim bow-windows in St. James's-street, and from time to time we hear of Pitt and Fox Club dinners, at which young gentlemen of family and parts from the upper world are indulged with a glimpse at the life and manners of Hades. But your true Whig, we are told, belongs to archæology, and as to your genuine Tory, only a Professor OWEN, with all his palæontological intuition, can put him on his legs again as he walked the earth in what Lord DERBY would call the prefossilite age.

Your living Tory calls himself a Liberal-Conservative, and your sublunary Whig meets him just half way, and exchanges salutations as a Conservative-Liberal. Now we believe that at the bottom of all the mystification there is little better than insincerity and false pretence. To this wretched sleight of words, or rather to the decay of principle that permits it, we owe in a great measure the stagnation of opinion, the echoless appeals of earnest Reformers, the feeble and halting legislation, the paralysis of Parliament, and the decline of public spirit, which it is becoming a platitude to pity and condemn.

Assuredly, we have not yet reached that consummate point in the science of government at which all diversities of theory are melted into the unity of practical perfection; our political and social laws are not yet brought so entirely into harmony with the laws of the Creator that we can afford to bury all antagonisms and forget all anomalies. We have still a work of resistance and of reconciliation to accomplish. We cannot shake hands with privilege and prejudice, while ignorance and pauperism are stalking through our streets. Let us, therefore, know who are the supporters of privilege and prejudice, and who of political and social justice. Good men there are, however mistaken, on both sides: but let us know who are with us, and who against us; who are for standing still, and who for moving on. We respect the good old Tory, and have even a liking for him, as we have for the good old English mastiff, now unhappily so rare. There was much of hearty, sound feeling in the old Tory. There was the ring of the true metal in his loyalty, and even in his prejudices there lurked a generous instinct.

The old Liberal, too, was a generous hater, and a sincere enthusiast in the cause of freedom. At all events, you knew *what* these politicians were. But your Liberal-Conservative, or Conservative-Liberal, whose creed is made up of the shreds and patches of all parties, who "accepts all sound Reforms," provided they are never embodied in bills, what is he but the type and representative of the shallow cynicism, the puny dilettantism, and the nerveless indifference of our day? An ingenious Frenchwoman classified men as men-dogs and men-cats, the man-dog being the brave, sturdy, affectionate, faithful, but somewhat awkward and obstinate animal; the man-cat, on the contrary, being the dexterous, adroit, insinuating, but false and feline nature; and she remarked that the man-cat was the more successful of the two. Now we are willing to consider the Tory as the dog-man of the political world, and the Liberal as the man-cat, but what shall we call the Liberal-Conservative, or the Conservative-Liberal? There is, to be sure, a

species of mongrel, half dog, half fox, but where the dog begins or the fox ends, it is impossible to pronounce. Is this the Liberal-Conservative? In one respect, indeed, the Liberal-Conservative resembles the lurcher: for his business is to poach upon the programme of both parties, to neither of which he belongs. He is either too ignorant and too indolent to have formed any principles and opinions at all, or he has principles which he has not the courage to avow, and opinions he is ashamed to confess. You will generally find the Liberal-Conservative to be a Tory who has his price, and the Conservative-Liberal a Whig for sale. But there is one effectual test for such nondescripts on the hustings. Let the constituency insist on knowing how the candidate will vote on the extension of the Suffrage or the Ballot. Yes or No is sufficient. As to the broader questions of national honour and national safety, we have all, let us hope, Tories and Radicals alike, the hearts of Englishmen. In this old country of beef and pudding and common sense, the extremest Radical has no fancy for a leap into the twentieth century in search of a "democratic and social republic," and the most bigoted of Tories acquiesces in the glorious Revolution of 1688.

THE CHURCH OF KNIGHTSBRIDGE AND THE LUTHER OF BROMPTON.

WE have a new judgment, higher than any yet obtained, in fact, the highest, in the matter of the furniture and millinery of the Established Church. The cases of "*LIDDELL versus WESTERTON*," and "*LIDDELL versus BEALE*," have been decided by the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, on appeal, first from Sir JOHN DODSON, Dean of Arches, then from Dr. LUSHINGTON, his superior. Both those learned men were so ultra-Protestant in their feelings, that the very emblems of Christianity itself excite revulsion and anger in their minds, because those emblems have been used by the Catholic Church. Sir JOHN DODSON pronounced the cross to be "a monument" of—what? The whole Christian world, from time immemorial, has considered it to be a monument of one great sacrifice. TOM PAINE and some others have pronounced it to be, what Sir JOHN DODSON calls it—"a monument of idolatry and superstition." And Dr. LUSHINGTON, alluding to the cross amongst other decorations of the Knightsbridge churches, launches out against "meretricious" ornaments. Of course Dr. LUSHINGTON knows the meaning of that word "meretricious," but how does he associate it in any way with a cross reverently used? He might associate it with a box of ointment, but even then reverence would make him hold his tongue. These two judges wholly and totally condemned the decorations of Knightsbridge. They go along with WESTERTON, and would reduce the church to nothing better than a washhouse. Against their successive judgments Mr. LIDDELL now appealed to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, where the case was completely reviewed; Mr. PEMBERTON LEIGH delivering judgment, and, in consideration of the doubtful state of the question before, dividing the costs between the two parties litigant. It is impossible, therefore, to have a more solemn decision, and now let us see what the effect is.

The Judicial Committee pronounces that crosses, as ornaments of churches, are permissible, and in fact strictly legal. The law and immemorial usage have sanctioned the cross as the emblem of the Christian faith. The cross on the chancel screen of St. Barnabas is admissible as a mere architectural ornament. Crosses used in divine service, or in proces-

sion, as instruments for the celebration of religious rites, partake of adoration, and are illegal.

The altar or communion-table must be of wood; it must be a *table*, suitable for the purposes of those communicants who used in old times to sit around it, and partake of the holy bread. No doubt the authorities of the Church have since pronounced that that was an improper mode of administering the sacrament; and the altar, taken back from the middle of the church, where it served the purpose of a table as much as the table at a tea-party, was restored to the east-end of the church, and surrounded by a rail in order that the communicants might not indecently come too near it, or use it for the tabular purpose aforesaid. Yet, such is the conservative character of English law, that the highest court of judgment now pronounces that the altar, although never moved, must be movable; because, although only used for the purposes of an altar, it must be called and deemed available for the purposes of a table. Casuists may comprehend the sense of this judgment, but we venture to say that ninety-nine out of a hundred persons in church will only be amused at the concatenation of incompatible aspects in which that piece of furniture at the east-end of a church should be reverentially regarded—as a movable table which must not be moved, and yet must be considered as the thing which would be in the middle of the church.

The credence-tables are allowed, DODSON and LUSHINGTON notwithstanding. These are side-tables, on which the bread and wine are placed before consecration. Protestantism, it appears, objected to the side-tables; but the Judicial Committee, which is rather broad church in its tendency at present, admits them. WESTERTON, indeed, appears to have laboured under the idea that LIDDELL induced his congregation to adore the side-tables! But it is obvious that Protestantism, sensitive as it is, cannot be endangered by the presence of dumb-waiters.

The altar must be of wood; it must be capable of being covered with a cloth; and therefore a cross fixed upon the altar must be removed, because it prevents laying the cloth. The French laugh at us for the superstition with which we English stick to dinner parties, and there is something singular in this distinctive fidelity to the table and tablecloth and the smoothness thereof.

By the Judicial Committee, it appears, Protestantism tolerates more than one covering on the table—a decision still borne out by the national analogy; therefore Protestantism tolerates "altar cloths." But there is one thing it will not tolerate. The cloth of "fair linen" used at the communion must not have lace or embroidery. The lace is dangerous to Protestantism; embroidery excites the feelings even to the extent of turbulent protestation in church. We may question the solemnity of a creed which considers lace essential to its completeness; but where is the strength of that creed which is troubled by lace? Imagine a poor lace-maker constituting either an auxiliary or an adversary to the faith!

Thus it happens when the best and most earnest men erect trivialities into a matter of importance. The truly pious clergyman, who rests his authority upon the shape of a tablecloth, or upon the use of lace, subjects himself to the rude handling of any materialistic churchwarden. The judgment, however, is really useful. While distinctly pronouncing that some few modes of ornamentation are not permitted by the canons of the Protestant Church, it leaves many other minor matters or trivialities to be adopted or not, according

to the taste of the persons managing the church. It appears to us that this judgment is correct, both in common sense and in the spirit of religious liberty. The proper furniture, whether of a private dwelling, a place of public business, or a church, depends in a great degree upon the taste of the persons who use the place. If one man finds red cloths, golden crosses, and a "dim religious light," fed by the pale ray of a tall candle, conducive to feelings of reflection, or even gratifying to his sense of material fitness for things spiritual, he is the happier, and the *better*, for having those circumstances which he desiderates. If, on the other hand, a Protestant—physically stout, perhaps, but morally feeble—finds his contemplation of eternity interrupted by the flutter of a piece of lace, his combativeness excited in the presence of eternity by obsolete contests between MARTIN LUTHER and the Pontiff, he is better without the suggestive circumstances. But what do these facts—and they are nothing but obvious facts—what do they dictate, save this, that LIDDELL should be permitted to go into one church furnished to his mind, and WESTERTON into another, the congenial "unfurnished apartments?" Why WESTERTON should rush into LIDDELL's spiritual lodgings in order to tear down the decorations agreeable to the LIDDELL family, but repugnant to the WESTERTON taste, we cannot understand; it is certainly not conformable to the spirit of religious liberty, or the tenets of the "broad Church."

TORY CASUALTIES.

FOLLOWING the example of the metropolis, the counties and boroughs are ejecting the Derbyites by scores. They are likely to gain a few seats from the Liberals, on account of family changes in various parts of the country; but, upon the whole, their losses are severe. In many places their nominees have declined the engagement. In fact, it is pretty well known that the Carlton Club, on account of circumstances over which it has had no control, is disposed to be somewhat stingy. Toryism, to say the truth, is not in a particularly solvent condition. Fifteen county seats surrendered in one day represent a terrible falling off since the palmy days of "Conservative corruption."

THE LIFEBOAT INSTITUTION.—The annual general meeting of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution was held at the London Tavern on Thursday week, Rear-Admiral the Duke of Northumberland, K.G., President of the Society, in the chair. The meeting was numerously attended. From the report, it appeared that the lifeboats belonging to, and in connexion with, the institution had, since the last report, saved the crews, consisting of 126 persons, of sixteen wrecks, and had proceeded to the assistance of many other vessels in reply to signals of distress. The Board of Trade return of the wrecks that occurred on the coasts of the United Kingdom during the past year states that the total number of wrecks in that period was 1153. The loss of lives from shipwreck in the same period was 521. It was, however, gratifying to find that the number of lives saved from shipwreck had been unprecedentedly large, 2243 shipwrecked persons having been rescued by lifeboats, shore-boats, and other means. The report of the institution was unanimously adopted.

A NEW PAPER FOR LADIES.—Under the title of "The Englishwoman's Review, and Drawing-Room Journal of Social Progress, Literature, and Art," we have received the first number of a new fortnightly periodical devoted to the consideration of all questions affecting the position of women. It is edited by a lady—Miss Eleanor Duckworth; it is published by one of the gentle sex; and female employment, says the prospectus, will be encouraged "in every department of the journal compatible with woman's work and capabilities." The number before us is a pleasant collection of essays, sketches, poetry, and miscellanea, with a sprinkling of such news as ladies love; all being coloured with a courageous yet perfectly feminine spirit. Miss Duckworth, indeed, disclaims being "strong-minded," and disavows any special mission; and herein will lie a great part of her influence.

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*.

THOSE of our readers who are interested in philosophy will be glad to learn that the logical and metaphysical lectures of the late distinguished Professor Sir WILLIAM HAMILTON, of Edinburgh, will shortly appear. They are to be published by Messrs. BLACKWOOD and SONS, under the editorship of the Rev. H. L. MANSEL, of Oxford, assisted by Mr. J. VEITCH, an old pupil of Sir WILLIAM's, who, we believe, had also something to do with carrying the new edition of DUGALD STEWART's works through the press. Mr. MANSEL's name is a guarantee of careful editorship, as he possesses in a high degree the philosophic insight and scholarly erudition indispensable for the work. He is, moreover, a professed disciple of Sir WILLIAM, and by directing attention to his speculations has contributed perhaps more than any other University man to revive the study of philosophy at Oxford. The lectures, which will probably extend to three or four volumes, are, we believe, left in a tolerably complete form; but whether any other papers are in a state for publication we have not yet heard. Sir WILLIAM must, however, have left a number of philosophical fragments; and we hope that in dealing with these, the editor will not be too fastidious, but, in the exercise of a wise liberality, publish as many as possible. Sir WILLIAM's whole method of working, so far as form is concerned, was evidently fragmentary, but as he always spoke in perfect knowledge of the subject, and from the most central point of view, the fragments are organic, and serve to illustrate what is left undeveloped in his system.

We do not recommend ladies who are in pursuit of Woman's Rights to 'submit the case' to M. P. J. PROUDHON. He has very little faith in the cause, which he says the "honourable *législateuses*" are "agitating with so much noise and so little success." He speaks of the "sort of crusade which certain estimable ladies in either hemisphere are carrying on in favour of their sex as a symptom of the general revolution of ideas now going on; but an exaggerated symptom, an *affolement* which belongs precisely to the infirmity of the sex, and to its incapacity for self-knowledge and self-government." This is pretty well to begin with. M. PROUDHON, we should here observe, is replying to a certain Madame J. D'HÉRICOURT, through the medium of the *Revue Philosophique et Religieuse*, a review with which we were unacquainted, but which we are now at liberty to suppose has the advantage of considerably strong-minded contributors on both sides of the question. It is in the pages of *La Razione*, "a weekly review of religious, political, and social philosophy," published at Turin (under the editorship of M. AUSONIO FRANCHI, sometime a distinguished member of the Roman Constituent Assembly), that we discover M. PROUDHON engaged in single combat with Madame J. D'HÉRICOURT. M. PROUDHON affects the forms of chivalrous courtesy when he assures his fair antagonist, "with all the respect due to her as a woman," that he "had not expected his own judgment to be so speedily confirmed by her petulant interpellation." He withdraws the word *affolement* (which he had employed in his former letter), "as it may have hurt your feelings, although you know it was not meant to be published." We think M. PROUDHON may well afford to withdraw the word of offence, since it is a substantive that has no place in any French dictionary, and owes its existence to the invention of this gallant and chivalrous pamphleteer. The verb *affoler*, if we mistake not, is seldom used but in the participle, to signify the sweet excess of passionate folly, or, as a second intention, the defect of a needle in a ship's compass when it refuses to point to the north. We do not, of course, presume to correct the terminology of M. PROUDHON, who no doubt, of malice prepense, invented the substantive in the sense of what TACITUS calls "*muliebris impotentia*," which may be interpreted "womanly impulsiveness, or want of self-control"—a charming defect of nature, and one, we are persuaded, the stronger sex would not willingly forego.

M. PROUDHON had been anxiously wondering whence this insurrection of women against "the paternal and mental supremacy" could have sprung. "Which of our manly faculties or virtues, or prerogatives"—perhaps, rather, which of our miserable weaknesses and pettinesses is it that they resent? "Forty false reasonings in your letter of eight pages" suggest the reply. A physical incapacity in the feminine understanding to apprehend the true relation of things. M. PROUDHON proceeds to dilate on this flattering discovery of his with a fulness of illustration and detail which we are not at all prepared to admire or to imitate; but the pith of his "demonstrations"—the result, it appears, of "very serious and very interesting studies"—is contained in the three following positions:—

1. That the difference of sex establishes between man and woman a separation ANALOGOUS—I did not say equal—to that which the difference of races and of species establishes between animals.

2. That by reason of this separation or difference, man and woman are not associated.

By *associés*, we suppose M. PROUDHON implies a perfect equality and reciprocity of moral and intellectual faculties.

3. That, in consequence, the woman cannot be called *citoyenne* except in her quality of wife of the *citoyen*.

In a word, I am in a position to establish, (concludes M. PROUDHON), by observation and reasoning, the fact that woman, confessedly weaker than man in muscular strength, is not in a less degree inferior to him in industrial, artistic, philosophical, and moral power: so that if the condition of woman is to be regulated, as you insist, by the same justice as the condition of man, *c'est fini d'elle: she is a slave*.

Surely this has the merit of frankness at least! If M. PROUDHON escapes the fate of ORPHEUS, it will not be for the sake of his *beaux yeux*!

We dare say he is perfectly convinced of the impregnability of his logic. But, as ALPHONSE KARR has acutely remarked—

On ne prouve rien aux femmes: elles ne croient qu'avec le cœur; c'est donc la persuasion, qu'il faut employer avec elles—ou plutôt, il faut leur plaire, car elles se laissent convaincre par celui qui raisonne et non par ses raisonnements.

Again:—

Il ne serait pas difficile de prouver que c'est une supériorité qu'ont les femmes de refuser de croiser le fer dans l'escrime ennuyeuse de la dialectique; à cette supériorité de n'accepter aucune raison elles joignent celle de n'en donner aucune, et de se contenter parfaitement, en exigeant qu'on s'en contente, de cette seule réponse, qui n'a pas l'air d'être concluante, mais qui l'est en effet, puisqu'elles n'y ajoutent rien: *parce que...*

We have every confidence, therefore, that M. PROUDHON will be nonsuited, and, for our part, we think he richly deserves it.

We are glad to find that M. JULES SIMON has collected into a volume the course of lectures delivered by him at the invitation, and in presence of, the Literary Society of Ghent last December, on Liberty of Conscience. Our readers will remember the highly-interesting and important discussions in the Belgian Chambers on the right of Professors to teach History and Philosophy, independently of episcopal censorship. It appears that two Professors of the University of Ghent, and the Literary Society in that town, had drawn down the thunders of the Church on account of their "false, bad, blasphemous, and heretical doctrines," as the Bishop of GHENT very naturally described lectures not sanctioned or approved by the Church Catholic, and not imbued with the spirit of absolute submission to Papal infallibility. The Literary Society, whose library actually contained Protestant works, was stigmatized by this mild and benignant Bishop as "anti-religious and anti-social, and their library as full of the most impious and immoral books." About the same time the Bishop of BRUGES issued a pastoral letter, in which the liberty of conscience was called "a false, pernicious, and extravagant doctrine," and the liberty of the press "horrible." These gentle words created some sensation in a country jealous of its freedom and of its constitutional rights, and on the opening of the next session of the Free University of Brussels, M. VERHAEGEN, the Rector, delivered an address, protesting with dignity and energy against the monstrous pretensions of the clerical party. Even in the Chamber, M. DE DECKER, a Catholic and Conservative Minister, was compelled to express his regret that a "blast of intolerance had passed over Belgium," and that purely clerical instruction would produce "a generation of idiots." The two censured Professors asserted their rights with equal energy, and finally M. JULES SIMON was invited to deliver a course of lectures on Liberty of Conscience in the great hall of the University of Ghent. It was in that hall that the esteemed Professor of Moral Philosophy defended the cause of human reason, of true religion, and of toleration, before an enthusiastic audience of more than three thousand Belgian citizens. These lectures are now preserved to us in a volume to which we shall take an opportunity to return. For the moment, we content ourselves with observing that these lectures are written in a deeply religious and reverent spirit, and may safely be recommended to the most timid (and intolerant) of Protestant readers nearer home.

M. MIRÈS, the great Parisian capitalist, holder of the Spanish Loan, proprietor of the *Constitutionnel*, and, for all we know to the contrary, decorated with the Order of the Golden Fleece, has rushed into immortality as the CURTIUS of the Bourse. After a recent visit to the *Gymnase* to assist at a performance of the *Question d'Argent*, M. MIRÈS was unable to contain the feelings of an indignant capitalist, and (vicariously it is supposed) sat down and took up the pen to indite a criticism in the feuilleton of the *Constitutionnel* on the piece, and a friendly remonstrance to the author, whom he twitted with treating speculators rather cavalierly for one who had himself *applied for shares*. We have now the reply of M. ALEXANDRE DUMAS the Younger.

Here it is, as we find it in the lively feuilleton of the *Belgian National*:—

MY DEAR MIRÈS,—We perfectly understand one another. When I am going to write a play, I shall have recourse to your good advice. When you are getting up a great affair, you will apply to me. But no nonsense, and, above all, let us beware of Spanish loans. Yours—A. DUMAS, FILS.

A HEAVY-ARMED GRAMMARIAN.

Modern English Literature: Its Blemishes and Defects. By Henry H. Breen, Esq., F.S.A. Longman and Co.

We have more than once had occasion to remark upon the weakness of style exhibited by authors who choose Style as their subject. We may add that writers on plagiarism are often impertinent, that critics of quotation are continually incorrect in their references, and that books on books, which should be the most entertaining of all, are frequently dull. Mr. Henry Breen has qualified himself, in his own opinion, to measure the capacities of modern English literature, to detect the flaws of style, the vicious mannerisms, the stolen passages, in the productions of our popular pens. He seems to aim at avoiding error by composing in a strain of low, level, sluggish monotony, and he certainly supplies himself with an amplitude of material from works of indifferent authorship, or of no authorship at all. To devote pages of analysis to paragraphs from Sir Archibald Alison, is almost as ridiculous as to blame Mr. Montgomery Martin for not being a literary purist. Mr. Breen's strength, however, lies in the department of scrutiny and exposure. Many a brilliant example of art is dappled by the

pencil-marks of his disapprobation. Under the head "Mannerisms" he disposes of characteristics generally. As an oration by Fox corrected by a modern elocutionist, so, we think, might be an Essay by Carlyle corrected by the new grammarian. He would rearrange the words, he would harmonise the pauses, he would round off the emphatic lines, and produce a very proper theme, precise, accurate, unreadable. Mr. Breen attributes a habit of correctness to the majority of French writers. The majority of English critics acquainted with French literature would differ from him; a fault of style, he says, is at once detected by the commonest French reader. Then what is style, or rather what is a good style? Not Sydney Smith's, because he sometimes repeats a proposition unnecessarily; not Hallam's, because a wrong word has run from his pen; not Carlyle's, because he has not anticipated Mr. Breen's objections; not Macaulay's or Gibbon's. Mr. Breen, however, has fallen into one grievous mistake. Few of the writers he has attacked were ever supposed to have produced models of composition. Sir Archibald Alison, it is agreed on all hands, is a vast, rapid, random compiler; the elder Disraeli is quoted for his anecdotes and observations only. Dr. Latham is a useful philologist, but why drag him into court to criminate himself in an affair of literary art with which he has nothing to do? Who is Harrison, who Walker? What nonsense to talk of Blair! We beg all the Breens to leave Mr. Jerdan out of the question. When Mr. Breen comes to acknowledged writers, he is less successful in his demonstrations, though scarcely less triumphant in his tone. How would he improve Hallam's phrase "religious and grammatical learning go hand in hand." He will, perhaps, find it easier to sport with Gilfillan and others of that denomination. But he assails Ossian. "I strike the harp in praise of Bragela, she that I left in the Isle of Mist;" "Let me awake the King of Morven, he that smiles in danger, he that is like the sun of heaven, rising in a storm." We should not wonder were Mr. Breen to propose "Allow me to awaken the King of Morven, a person who smiles in danger."

We may note one or two passages to which Mr. Breen objects, as examples of the pedantry which he would import into English literature:—

"A working man is more worthy of honour than a titled plunderer who lives in idleness."—COBBETT: *English Grammar*.

As if a man could not plunder and live, nevertheless in idleness. The mediæval barons, who sent out their mercenaries to ravage the land round their castles, were they not plunderers and idle?

Mr. Breen then picks up some Mr. Gatty, and pillories him for writing nonsense. But he revels chiefly in the works of Sir Archibald Alison, whose writings he may plough at pleasure. When he quotes Buffon, however, he should quote him correctly, and not attribute to him such a sentence as "Le style c'est l'homme," which Buffon never wrote. But the reader is waiting for specimens. This is Mr. Breen himself, pure and simple:—

Not only is the language, as written and spoken, a different language from what it should be: each trade, each profession, each association, each quackery, has a language and style of composition peculiar to itself. There is the mob-orator style invented by O'Connell; the knock-down style by Robins; the washy style by Rowland; the unctuous style by Holloway; the glossy style by Day and Martin; and the patchwork style by Moses and Son. There is, moreover, the naval style, the military style, the theatrical style, the Cockney style, the snob style, and the penny-a-line style. The intelligent reader is sufficiently acquainted with the Protean forms in which our excellent mother-tongue delights to disguise herself, and it is unnecessary to quote examples.

Quite unnecessary. Mr. Breen is next severe upon his contemporaries:—

Criticism has long ceased to be a separate province in the republic of letters. It is now parcelled out indiscriminately to every pretender, of whatever coterie or creed; and there is scarcely a newspaper in the kingdom that does not assert and exercise its right to review the literature of the day. The consequence is, that literary partisanship, which was confined at first to our great critical organs, pervades almost every branch of journalism at the present hour. One newspaper gives a favourable account of a book because it has received an advertisement from the author; another, because it has received none, declines to notice it. A third will eulogize it because it comes out under the patronage of a certain publishing firm; a fourth, for the same reason, will cry it down. Where there is no particular motive of interest to form or guide the reviewer's judgment, he contents himself with adopting the first notice that comes in his way. Some journal of weight originates an opinion respecting the new work; and the minor reviewer, without giving himself the trouble to read the book, adopts that opinion with such alterations as may be necessary to make it tally with the known principles of his journal. Should there be any gross errors, any palpable blunders, in the original notice, they are copied without suspicion of their existence, and often go the round of the press without detection.

Because a tenth-rate print passes one opinion on a certain book, and the *Athenæum* passes another, criticism is worthless! Mr. Breen's anecdotes, in connexion with this subject, are singularly stale and scanty. Jeffrey described the *Excursion* as a hubbub of ravings and incongruities. Wilson thought, or said, that the music of the *Pleasures of Hope* was caught from heaven, and that Miss Baillie's tragedies surpassed those of Æschylus. Hazlitt talked of Byron's dramas as gossamers, and of Moore's wild Irish harp as a musical snuff-box. Coleridge described the head of Mackintosh as an empty warehouse to let; and what then?

A more pretentious and a more commonplace book than this by Mr. Breen we have not often met with.

LATTER-DAY POETRY.

The Lay of the Stork. By Miss Louisa Stuart Costello. (W. and F. G. Cash.)—We owe our readers some apology for not ere now noticing this pleasant little tale in verse. Whoever is fond of a romantic story, somewhat rose-hued in the matter of sentiment, told in flowing verse, that murmurs through its cadences like the voice of a lady singing to her guitar—whoever values poetry in proportion as it is non-exciting, and appeals rather to the taste than to the intellect or the emotions—whoever is pleased to read of valorous youths and fascinating maidens in a style which varies between Thomas Moore and Sir Walter Scott—will be charmed with the elegantly printed and gracefully written volume before us. If, indeed, we

were disposed to be severely critical, we might make some objections. We might stipulate for greater condensation and more power; we might object to the frequent obscurities into which Miss Costello's apparent facility of composition leads her; and we might show how that excess of luscious languor which seems to be inseparable from the Hibernian Muse becomes fatiguing after a time. But we choose to regard the poem as a contribution to those idle hours of mental unbending during which the poet Gray desired to lie upon a sofa, reading endless new novels of Marivaux and Crébillon; and in such moments the reader will be well pleased with Miss Costello's drowsy pictures of the Rhine-land and the warm, palm-shadowed East, and with her descriptions of the migrations of storks from climate to climate. The story on which the authoress has built her poem is very singular, and is thus narrated in her Introduction:—

A young German lady of eighteen, had a fancy, a few years ago, to discover to what region the storks repaired on quitting a northern climate, and for that purpose attached to the neck of a tame one a letter, in which she begged for an answer from whoever found it, informing her of the place where the bird alighted, and any other particulars attending it. The bird was shot by an Arab, in Syria, and her letter, copied by him, without understanding its language or import, was sent to the Prussian Vice-consul, at Beyrout, who courteously addressed the desired communication to the young lady.

Into this slight fabric Miss Costello has weaved a tale of the Russian war, introducing Miss Nightingale in the person of the young German lady, and giving her a martial lover, who is an Arab by birth and half by blood, but who on his father's side is heir to certain estates in Germany. The complexion of the story, however, is rather mediæval than modern. Here is a passage descriptive of the flight of the storks, which is delicately and vividly touched:—

"Hold, gondolier! what streaks of white
Mark the canal with waving lines?
Is it the rising sun, more bright,
That o'er awakening Venice shines?
It flashes, vanishes—too soon—
That meteor on the blue lagoon.
Ah! now I know—I see them fly—
The storks!—the storks are passing by."

Not even Venice tempts to stay:
St. Mark's gold domes fade fast away,
Fade all the rose-hued palace towers
Of fairy fret-work, all the aisles,
And left, amidst her roofs of flowers,
Alone, fair Venice sits and smiles.

Where a bright Asian city lies,
As if by genii planted there,
To dazzle Europe's wondering eyes
With all the East can boast of rare,
Gleaming, two silver seas between,
And guarding both, with lofty mien—
There pause awhile the winged band,
—Their ranks, as if by chiefs, review'd,—
In groups they form—await command,
—The word is given—the flight renew'd.

Queen Læta and the Mistletoe: a Fairy Rhyme for the Fireside. By George Halse. With Illustrations on Steel by the Author. (Addey and Co).—This is a Christmas trifle, written in a true Christmas holiday spirit, and treating of the mystic mistletoe and the fair ones under it (the right women in the right place), and of certain gentle fays who haunted a genial fireside, and worked a charm by which an orphan girl and a disappointed young student found solace in mutual love; also of the origin of the delectable rites—or rights—attached to the Druidical plant. The style of this poem is sometimes a little too much like that of the good fairies in Christmas show-pieces; but Mr. Halse has real fancy and feeling, as the following extract will show:—

Those fairies were not such as sing and sleep
Whole days in kingcups and the lily-bell;—
That chase the labouring honey-bee, or keep
Guard over dewdrops in the shady dell;—
That smooth the ruffled feathers in the breast
Of their companion, Robin, gaily drest;—
Nor like those fays that watch by fountain-side;—
Nor those that revel on a moonlight night,
Dancing round mushrooms;—nor like those that ride
On a bat's woolly back;—nor those that fright
Bewildered butterflies from underneath
Dock-leaves far-spreading, or the shadowy heath;—
Nor such as gem the spider's web with dew,
And guide to fertile spots the feathered seeds;—
Nor those whose task 'tis nightly to renew
The faded verdure of the pasture meads,
And build again the fungus, white or dun,
Between the setting and the rising sun.

These were the genial spirits of the Hearth,
Wakeful and watchful, consecrate to home;
The harbingers of concord and of mirth;
Endowed with wings, and yet forbid to roam.
—If they neglect their trust, and take to flight,
Their wings may on the instant fade outright!

The author's illustrations are very shadowy and elfish; caught, as it were, out of a land of vapoury moonshine.

Garlands of Verse. By Thomas Leigh. (Smith, Elder, and Co).—There is a deficiency of vital force and warm colouring in this volume; but the writer has a genuine vein of quiet and rather sad meditation, softened by a tender religious feeling, yet not wanting in sympathy with humanity and its earthly home, and always generous and noble in its aspirations. We quote two poems on the world to come, with the feeling expressed in which we entirely agree:—

QUESTIONING PARADISE.

With all our straying on the charm,
Our sloth and shrinking in the strife,
There is a glory in this life
Brighter than shines beyond the arch
Through which some gravely tell us lies
The Garden of God's Paradise.
This puny, creeping, dirt-clogged ant,
Striving to climb a stone in vain,
Falling, but striving yet again,
And winning on from want to want,
Is nobler than the moth some paint,
And say, "Such glory hath the Saint!"
Oh, shall we race for such a prize?
Or hope to quit our noble pain,
Earth's honour'd hardships, for such gain

As we in mortal life despise—
A dull flat swamp of dead repose,
Conquest exchange'd for lack of foes?
No hope, for all will then be won,
No love, for all will then be fair,
And mercy will have none to spare,
And zeal find nothing to be done—
Making our heav'n by stripping earth
Of all its glory and its worth.
Shall it be thus? Oh, blasphemy!—
Yet how it shall be otherwise
I see not; but not only eyes
Will lead us o'er the trackless sea;
'Tis lack of sight makes wealth of trust—
"Our God hath promis'd—He is just."

FURTHER.

Oh, for a deeper insight into heaven,
More knowledge of the glory and the joy
That there abide to crown the souls for-
given,
Their intercourse, their worship, their em-
ploy;
For it is past belief that Christ hath died
Only that we unending psalms may sing;
That all the gain death's awful curtains
hide

Is an eternity of antheming:
Or this prais'd rest—are we to sit for ever
Without more strife or subject of endea-
vour,
No toil, no action, no advance or growth,—
Inglorious ease and unimproving sloth?
Alas, too oft with thoughts of earth or
hell
We make our heaven less conceivable.

Mr. Leigh is always intellectual and refined; and the poem called "The Legend of Mount Pilate" contains a gloomy intensity of horror, which, though perhaps a little overpiled, is very impressive.

Of a similarly meditative and religious character is a volume entitled *The Lamp of Life* (Simpkin, Marshall, and Co.); but there is not so much of positive poetry, and the writer has too great a tendency to indulge in a kind of sermonizing, which makes his pages somewhat wearisome. Yet he has tenderness and grace, and seems to speak out of his own veritable strugglings for what he conceives to be genuine holiness. Great joy and satisfaction does he find in the late war, as it appears to present him with some special type of active piety for which he has long been yearning; but he is not fully happy till he loses his child, when he discovers "the ever-blessed Trinity" in Love, Action, and Sorrow. Such is the scheme of the volume; the execution we have just indicated.

Lonely Hours: Poems. By Caroline Giffard Phillipson. (John Moxon.)—The object of these verses is to show that Mrs. Phillipson (we believe we are right in giving her the married title) has a weary heart; that Mrs. Phillipson is tired of this world; that Mrs. Phillipson (for the volume is very autobiographical) has lost a great many friends, and finds life, upon the whole, a sad imposition, and is mightily inclined to agree with Solomon that "all is vanity and vexation of spirit," and is in a great hurry to get hence and seek a new settlement in a brighter and better sphere. All which fragments of personal history, Mrs. Phillipson conveys to us in the form of some appallingly sentimental verses, extending over 393 pages (foolscap octavo, long primer); wherein she discourses incidentally of sundry matters common to the poetical mind. Now, it is out of no cross-grained pleasure in telling an unpleasant fact to a lady that we speak of this volume as we do (for we claim to be gallant above all things, except truth); but we find ourselves compelled to state that these outpourings of Mrs. Phillipson's "Lonely Hours" are miracles of common-place. We are oppressed by the weight of vapid melancholy which is piled on us. If these wallings refer to any real and abiding sorrows which the authoress has endured, we bow to them in respectful sympathy; but they have all the appearance of being merely the offspring of that morbid affectation of poetical sadness which some persons seem to consider necessary to the poetical character. For why, if the fair authoress be really so contemptuous of this world, should she present us (by way of frontispiece) with a portrait of herself in fashionable evening costume, and with a general "Book of Beauty" appearance? But Mrs. Phillipson is once or twice jocose; and that is even worse than her dejection. Her merriment is more forlorn than the ghost of a bad pun which died of inanition; and we are driven to take refuge even in her sorrows. But, after reading a few dozen pages, a deadly languor comes over us; and we call faintly for roast-beef and bottled stout.

We link together two books of verses by working men—one an Englishman, the other a Scotchman. There is something touchingly beautiful in the sight of any rough toiler for daily bread solacing his life-long labour—perhaps taking much of the sting out of want itself, and lulling into temporary sleep many of the sordid cares of poverty—by the practice of verse-writing, and the habit, or the instinct, of poetical observation. For let it be noted that these humble lyrists, in by far the greater number of cases, do not abandon one of the prosaic duties of existence; do not yield to any sentimental folly that work is beneath them; but, after grappling with the stern and iron facts of life—the brawny giants with which the poor man is incessantly wrestling, and by whom too often he is thrown—charm their scanty leisure, or maybe glorify their toil itself while they are yet about it, with the spontaneous expression of their tendencies towards ideal beauty. Therefore have we read with interest and pleasure the two volumes now on our table—*Poems*, by Edward Capern, Rural Postman of Bideford, Devon (Bogue); and *Sparks from Nature's Fire: a Collection of Poems and Songs*, by James Little, a working shoemaker (Glasgow: David Jack). And first of Mr. Capern. For 10s. 6d. a week (until the publication of these poems induced the Post-office authorities to increase his salary by half-a-crown, and to grant him his rest on Sunday), this man of cultivated mind and delicate perceptions has for many years distributed the letters of a scattered district, which necessitated his walking thirteen miles daily—no great distance, certainly, for a healthy man, but one which demands a little more munificent pay than half a guinea, or even thirteen shillings, a week. But in the high-ways and by-ways, the woody lanes and green fields, the precipitous hill-

sides and stony valleys of Devonshire, Mr. Capern found food for poetical thoughts and sympathies. One of the most picturesque and romantic of English counties—now soft with pastoral verdure, and now rough with the grey and primitive tors—has fostered his naturally imaginative mind, and given to his verses their distinctive character. Those verses are of course not to be tried by the highest standards, but are to be regarded as pieces of fresh, rural beauty, coming to us like flowering boughs out of a hedge in spring time. Mr. Capern is not only proud of being an Englishman, but proud of being a Devonshire man; and he enumerates the county worthies in a poem which contains this strikingly picturesque and vigorous line:—

Speak out, old sea-dog, Drake—speak out!

And Mr. Capern glories in the part his countrymen played in the late war, and has written some stirring ballads on that subject; but he is most at home among the leaves and flowers, the bees and butterflies, the shade and sunshine, the atmospheric changes and breezy freshness of pastoral life, which he paints with a minute attention to details, yet with a broad general effect, and with a colouring which is at once bright and truthful. Let the reader judge by this extract from a poem about Mr. Capern himself, called "The Rural Postman":—

O, the postman's is as happy a life
As any one's, I trow;
Wand'ring away where dragon-flies play,
And brooks sing soft and slow;
And watching the lark as he soars on high,
To carol in yonder cloud,
"He sings in his labour, and why not I?"
The postman sings aloud.
And many a brace of humble rhymes
His pleasant soul hath made,
Of birds, and flowers, and happy times,
In sunshine and in shade.
The harvester, smiling, sees him pass:
There is real lyrical instinct here.

"How goes the war?" quoth he;
And he stageth his scythe in the corn or
grass,
To learn what the news may be.
He honours the good, both rich and poor,
And jokes with each rosy-faced maid;
He nods at the aged dame at the door,
And pateth each urchin's head.
And little he thinks as he whistling goes,
To the march of some popular tune,
That beauty grows pale at the tramp of his
shoes,
And sometimes as rosy as June.

How vital and true, also, is that image of the harvester! how impressive those lines about the tramp of the shoes! This passage, too, from a poem about the Redan, is very original and solemn:—

Like the crash of ships majestic, when they strike upon the seas,
Is the conflict of the combatants, and clamour on the breeze;
Like the lull of murmuring waters, when the wreck has settled down,
Is the after-battle stillness on the ramparts of the town.

All Mr. Capern's verses are not of equal value with these; but we could quote many more things worth knowing, if we had the space.

Mr. Little is also full of admiration of all natural and beautiful things, is a thinker of generous thoughts, and an exponent of strong national feelings, which, however, do not imply any disparagement of other nations. He has tenderness and energy; is full of passionate love for Scotland's hills and dales and flowers, her strong-armed, courageous men and handsome girls; and, like Mr. Capern, can stir the blood with some warlike notes about the Crimean struggle; as in these lines from a poem called "Inkerman":—

Brother of the harden'd hand,
Toiler in this sea-girt land,
Lift your head in manly pride,
And cast your abject looks aside.
Who stood foremost in the fight,
Where conquer'd was the Muscovite?
Who fought ever in the van?
Your Soldier Friends at Inkerman.

Serpent-like the foe came stealing,
Misty clouds his march concealing,
And his feet with silence shod,
Up the slopes he slowly trod:—
The brow is reach'd, O God of Battles!
Now the opening volley rattles;
Yet ne'er a cheek with fear grew wan
Among our host at Inkerman.

With these poets of the working class we may associate Mr. William Dale, a young writer who, "amid the bustle of business," has produced a little volume of verse called *Wild Flowers and Fruits* (Heylin). Mr. Dale's conceptions are rather vague and diffuse, and he has evidently written with too great a view to a provincial audience; but he is a lover of Nature, and wishes well for humanity. If he can learn to concentrate, to refine by frequent labour, and to bring every expression to the trial of a rigid and exacting judgment, he may produce a more clear and determinate effect on the reader's mind in a subsequent volume.

"An Indian Officer," who roars forth some *Miscellaneous Poems* (Saunders and Otley), is a very dull fellow, unless when he resorts to certain modes of expression suggestive of the mess-room, by which he produces an effect that is certainly odd, if not poetical. Indeed, he is an original in many ways. He has some notions of versification which we confess our inability to understand; he has peculiar views on the subject of abbreviations; he calls the first Emperor Napoleon, at the time of the Battle of Waterloo, "General Buonaparté," and he writes a ballad about the Balaklava struggle in a style which is a singular cross between a commander-in-chief's despatch and a jocose after-dinner narrative. Two stanzas are so remarkable as to merit preservation here:—

The Turks were taken by surprise,
And soon bolted from the Outpost,
To the tune well known in Eastern parts,
Of "The devil take the hindmost."

This hammering of cold iron, sir,
Soon made the seedy Russians fret;
For egad! they thought the De'il himself,
Was just tinkering for a bet!

If the reader wants more of the same kind, he will find it in the "Indian Officer's" pages.

Winter Studies in the Country (Philadelphia: Parry and McMillan) is the title of a little poem in octosyllabic measure which reaches us from America, and reminds us of the poems of description, and of quiet, indolent, happy contemplation, grave with a kind of pleasant moralising, which were common in England in the "Doddsley's Miscellany" days. The poetry is small; but it is cheerful, open, sunshiny, and observant of common things with a cultivated eye. It is singular to see so complete a reproduction of a style that has passed.

We conclude (though perhaps with some violence to our heading,

"Latter-Day Poetry") with two volumes of translations from the German which will be of service to those who, ignorant of the great Teutonic tongue, are yet desirous of knowing something of its poetry:—*The German Lyrist; or, Metrical Versions from the Principal German Lyric Poets*, by W. N. (Cambridge: Macmillan and Co.);—and *The Book of German Songs, from the Sixteenth to the Nineteenth Century*, Translated and Edited by H. W. Dulcken (London: Ward and Lock). The latter is very handsomely brought out, and is profusely, quaintly, and beautifully illustrated.

THE LAWS OF POLITENESS.

The American Gentleman's Guide to Politeness and Fashion. By Henry Lunettes.

Low and Co.

Good linen, plenty of it, and country washing, according to Beau Brummell, sufficed to constitute a gentleman. The Lunettes code, if more elaborate, is quite as silly. All Fashion Manuals that we have ever seen, indeed, are silly, all Guides to Good Manners, Hints on Etiquette, Rules for Correct Behaviour. They are, in general, the concoctions of ill-bred pedantry, and set forth such maxims as may be supposed to domineer in the minds of very foolish footmen and uncommonly inane lady's-maids. A book was lately published on the art of conversation, explaining the most approved methods of opening a dialogue. Thus, should you desire to know whether your companion at table has visited Damascus, it would be boorish to ask, "Did you ever visit Damascus?" while it would be Chesterfieldian to insinuate, "Doubtless your mind is well stored with experiences of travel." The individual who calls himself Colonel Lunettes is a conspicuous specimen of that sort of moral idiocy which accompanies a servile adoration of fashionable forms, the only palliating circumstance being that he knows no more of fashion than of syntax, and mistakes simpering for civility and bad anecdotes for good manners. "Never make offensive personal allusions while you are conversing," intimates this master of ceremony, who nevertheless caps a long list of commonplace stories about Johnson's dirty shirts and dangling hose, by informing us that Horace Greeley is never visible except when encased in a voluminous drab-coloured over-coat. From wit to wisdom: Colonel Lunette deprecates the American partiality for black dress clothes, so different from the taste of England, in which blue, brown, or green garments are quite as common. He has a notion that the British are generally an overwashed people, and that their hair is usually so closely cropped that they might be supposed to have suffered from an epidemic of nervous fever. Then follow certain incontrovertible axioms: that one should not wear too many diamonds; that one should not look like a travelling Jew; that one should avoid the similitude of a loafer; that one should not wear a plaid taking two men to show the pattern; that a gentleman cannot properly dress like a jockey; that a pocket handkerchief should not be as large as a sheet; the less absolute principle being next laid down, "Never wear a coloured shirt." Choose *Excelsior* for your motto, and avoid lemon-tinted gloves! If tall and rickety, assume a Talma; if brief and rotund, clasp a close coat about you. Moreover, do not imitate Sir Edward Lytton Bulwer, who, Colonel Lunettes informs "the American gentleman," appears in the House of Commons one day with black hair, eyebrows, and whiskers, and the next with light whiskers, eyebrows, and hair. We hope the American gentleman will profit by the information. Similarly, a great Union lawyer, originally a Green Mountain Boy, may be observed, "his broad pock-marked face luminous as a coloured lantern outside an oyster saloon," walking through the Empire City with a cloak turned wrong side out. Why not take example by Count Orloff, who, although a man of genius, wears an unexceptionably cut coat? Beware lest a red cornelian ring upon a fat finger resembles a cranberry jam in a setting of puff-paste. Incoherence is one of the privileges affected by Colonel Lunettes.

As to the American gentleman's wedding-dress, it depends on the hour at which the ceremony is performed. If in the morning, adopt a rich deep brown frock coat, black cashmere waistcoat with violet-coloured palm-leaf figure, black and cherry silk neck-tie, delicate drab trousers, and primrose gloves; if in the evening, a claret dress coat, white-ribbed silk waistcoat, black "unwhisperables," silk stockings, and shoes—be careful otherwise to have a well-appointed hat, faultless gloves, and immaculate boots, and wad a little if necessary, since "wadding is the homage which snobishness pays to symmetry." Parenthetically, if you are an emperor, do not hold out your hand for your mother to kiss, as did Napoleon. It is touchingly chivalrous, if you are a boy of sixteen, to kiss your mother and say, "Mother, you are the most beautiful and irresistible of your beautiful and irresistible sex."

However, when in claret, or rich brown cloth coat, hold up your head in the street; if you meet ladies and gentlemen together, bow to the ladies, and "include the gentlemen in a sweeping motion," but do not offer to shake hands with a lady in full morning costume should your glove be dark-coloured or your hand uncovered. Lift your hat to each, in succession of age or rank, with some such playful expression as—

"I am sorry my glove is not quite fresh, Mrs. —, but you need no assurance of my being always the most devoted of your friends" or "admirers," or "Really, Miss —, you are so beautifully dressed, and looking so charmingly, that I dare not venture too near!"—

which would be the perfection of chivalrous manners.

Herein is disclosed the perfection of social colloquy, as recommended to the American gentleman:—

A ready and graceful reply to a compliment may also be regarded as a conversational embellishment. It is not polite to retort to the language of courtesy with a charge of insincerity, or of flattery. Playfulness frequently affords the best resource, or the retort courteous, as in Lord Nelson's celebrated reply to Lady Hamilton's questions of "Why do you differ so much from other men? Why are you so superior to the rest of your sex?" "If there were more Emmas, there would be more Nelsons." One may say, "I fear I owe your commendation to the partiality of friendship;" or, "I trust you may never be undeceived in regard to my poor accomplishments;" or, "Really, madam, your penetration enables you to make discoveries for me." Then, again, to one of the lenient sex, one may reply, "Mrs. Blank sees all her friends through the most becoming of glasses—her own eyes." And to an older gentleman, who honours you with the fiat of a compliment, thus proving that it may sometimes be false that

"The vanquished have no friends."

"Really, sir, I do not know whether I am most overwhelmed by admiration for your wit and politeness, or by gratitude for your kindness." Or some phrase like this will occasionally be appropriate: "I am afraid, sir, I shall plume myself too highly upon your good opinion. You do me much honour;" or, "It will be my *devoir*, as well as my happiness, for the future, to deserve your commendation, sir;" or, "You inspire as much as you encourage me, dear sir; if I possess any claim to your flattering compliment, you have yourself elicited it." To a compliment to one's wit, or the like, one may reply: "Dulness is always banished by the presence of Miss —;" or, "Who could fail to be, in some degree at least, inspired in such a presence?"

A man who could talk in this manner must be, we think, the perfection of a fool. With ladies, however,

Though all mere silliness and twaddle should be regarded as equally unworthy of them and yourselves, yet, in general association with the fairest ornaments of creation, agreeability, rather than profundity, should be your aim.

If you ever happened to visit the scene of a mutilating railway accident, and picked up a young girl's foot with a boot on it, avoid alluding to that incident in the presence of ladies. Would Cuvier have talked in such presence of the modern dogs that found the mastodon in Siberia, and gorged themselves upon antediluvian beef? Should you poach on an irascible British gentleman's estate, and be caught in the fact, ask yourself cordially to lunch, and the British sense of humour will be tickled into conviviality. Above all, dread those peculiarities of American colloquial language which Colonel Lunettes affirms may be heard in very good society in the Empire State:—

"Do tell, Jul," exclaimed a young lady; "where have you been marvelling to? You look like Time in the primer!"

"No you don't," returned the young lady addressed; "you can't come it over dis chil!"

"No, no," chimed in a youth of the party, "you can't come it quite, Miss Lib! Don't try to poke fun at us!"

"You've all been *sparkling* in the woods, I guess!"

"Oh, oh," laughed one of the speakers, "I thought you'd get it through your hair, at last—that's rich!"

"Why!" retorted the interlocutor, tartly; "do you think I don't know t'other from which?"

"I think you 'know beans' as well as most Hoosiers," replied her particular admirer, in a tone of unmistakable blandishment.

"Everybody knows Jul's *some pumpkins*," admitted one of her fair companions.

"Come, Jul, rig yourself in a jiffy," said a bonny lassie, who had not yet spoken; "you are in for a spree!"

"What's in the wind—who's to stand the shot?" cautiously inquired the damsel addressed.

"We're bound on a spree, I tell you! You must be *green* to think we'll own the corn now! Come, fix up immediately, if not sooner!" So saying, the energetic speaker seized her friend round the waist and galloped her out of the room.

"To eat," Disraeli says, "really to eat, one should eat alone, in an easy dress, by a soft light, and of a single dish at a time." That sentiment is repudiated on the part of American gentlemen. They prefer the society of ladies, and are prepared to sit accordingly:—

It is then suitable to sit upright, with the feet on the floor, and the hands quietly adjusted before one, either holding the hat and stick (as when paying a morning visit), or the dress-hat carried in the evening, or, to give ease, on occasion, a book, roll of paper, or the like.

This "clotted nonsense" is contained in a bulky volume of professedly serious purport.

THE EVE OF ST. MARK.—PHOTO THE SULIOTE.

The Eve of St. Mark: a Romance of Venice. By Thomas Doubleday. 2 vols. (Smith, Elder, and Co.)—Mr. Doubleday is a particularly versatile writer. He has published a Financial History of England, a Letter on Ancient Northumbrian Music, an Essay on the Law of Population, a Political Biography of Sir Robert Peel, and this Romance of Venice. Contrary to our expectations, *The Eve of St. Mark* is an interesting story, vividly coloured, and not a little dramatic in its construction. The style is occasionally exaggerated, especially where Mr. Doubleday resolves to describe beauty in beautiful language, his portraits being more luxurious than natural; but the pictures of old Venice are careful studies from history, and the tale moves rapidly through a stirring succession of incidents. The appearances and disappearances of the mystic Validé are skillfully managed, as well as the dramatic circumstances of the Englishman's visit to the haunts of the pagan Esmeralda. Most readers would have preferred a less harrowing catastrophe; but Mr. Doubleday had the prophecies of time and place in view, and did not feel bound to force on a "happy for ever and ever" conclusion. The book is really a romance—a diorama of antique Venetian life, enriched by the tints of legendry, and heightened in effect by elaborate descriptions of architecture, furniture, costumes and manners, and glimpses into the wild world of mysticism which the dark-age philosophers loved to explore.

Photo the Suliote: a Tale of Modern Greece. By David R. Morier. 3 vols. (Booth.)—Mr. Morier has a perfect knowledge of modern Grecian manners, and, we should say, of Turkish character also; but that has not enabled him to compose an interesting tale. His Photo is a theatrical figure; his Angelica, dead and living, seems like a reminiscence of a hundred bygone heroines; the romance is made up of caverns, Klephtic fights, pistol shots, half-consummated executions, a beautiful woman bathed against her will in a Turkish harem to make her ready for the monstrous Turk, and a perpetually lengthening series of dialogues broken by snatches of Greek and Turkish, wanting at once in emphasis and euphony. No doubt the scenery is correctly painted; the character-sketches are often striking, but the story—it must be said—is dull. Indeed, it is to be regretted that Mr. Morier undertook to make heroes of the modern Greeks, even with such aid as Klephtic costumes could lend him. Photo, perhaps, was a beautiful boy, but what of one Apollo in a gang of felon-faced islanders and mountain banditti? The women are tigresses, without their terrible beauty. Mr. Morier has a theory, which he expounds in his third volume, concerning the duty of England towards the inhabitants of the Ottoman Empire, which

empire, as his account of it serves to show, is a mass of incurable imbecility and corruption. We cannot say, however, that he succeeds in demonstrating on behalf of the modern Greeks that peculiar national virtue, or those aptitudes for self-government, which recommend nations to independence. We should have welcomed more heartily a narrative of his travels and observations in Greece than this "Tale," which is tedious and uninteresting.

MR. W. H. RUSSELL IN SHILLING PARTS.

The British Expedition to the Crimea. By W. H. Russell, the *Times* Correspondent. With Plans and Illustrations, &c. George Routledge and Co.

THIS is the first of a series of twelve monthly numbers, at a shilling each, by which it is proposed to popularize still further those wonderful life-and-death pictures from the seat of the late war with which William Russell astonished and enlightened the world, carried terror into ill-managed camps, effected a revolution in the national judgment on affairs of war, and earned for himself an undying name in the annals of that short but fierce struggle with Russia. The new edition thus commenced is a condensation and revision of the famous letters, with additions suggested by later knowledge, and a casting of the materials into a more historical form, the divisions being into books and chapters, instead of into epistles. A standard character is thus given to the work; while none of its sparkle and picturesqueness is lost. A new portrait of the author accompanies No. I.; and there he sits, broad, massive, handsome, and keenly observant—a very embodiment of "the Thunderer."

The book is elegantly printed in demy octavo, and will make a handsome volume when completed.

The Arts.

THE LATE THOMAS SEDDON.

WE desire to draw the attention of our readers to the claims on public gratitude and respect of the widow and infant daughter left behind by a noble servant of art, who died in the pursuit of that spirit of truth to which he devoted himself with the heroism of a martyr. Though perishing at the age of thirty-five, and though debarred by circumstances from throwing all his energies into the form of art for which he had a natural tendency, the name of THOMAS SEDDON is known to many as that of a painter of great promise, who was remarkable for the unwonted and elaborate exactness of whatever locality or building he undertook to represent. Divesting his pictures of any individual impression, and setting aside the ordinary "adulteries of art"—the aiming at effect, the desire to please the ignorant spectator by romantic prettiness, or to conciliate the connoisseur by the set rules of composition—he produced results which have been pronounced by the best judges as rivalling photography in their minute and absolute truth. It was through this devotion of himself to his high conception of pictorial veracity that he met his death, leaving behind him those to whom he could bequeath nothing but the generous regard and care of his countrymen.

A committee has been formed, with a view to raising a subscription, out of which four hundred guineas will be applied to the purchase from Mrs. SEDDON of her late husband's oil picture of Jerusalem, the painting of which cost him his life. This work the committee intend to present to the National Gallery, where we think it will hardly be appreciated to the full. The Taylor Institution, Oxford, would perhaps be a better home for such a production, which would there find a warm and spontaneous recognition, as the school of art to which Mr. SEDDON belonged has always been applauded in the great collegiate city. It has also been resolved on to open during the ensuing month of May, an exhibition of Mr. SEDDON's works, which will be eligible for sale; and Mrs. SEDDON will be requested to accept any surplus which may remain after the payment of all necessary expenses. From Mr. W. M. ROSSETTI, the Hon. Sec. of this committee, we have received a document containing some very interesting particulars of the artist's short career, which we here reproduce:—

"As the son of a large furniture-manufacturer, Mr. Seddon sacrificed to family claims his own natural inclination from early years to become a professional painter, and was engaged, till the age of about thirty, in the design of furniture. His proficiency in this pursuit earned the silver medal of the Society of Arts in 1848.

"He became at the same time intimately acquainted with the needs of the art

workman; and it was to his strenuous efforts, seconded at first by a single friend, and afterwards by several artists, that the North London School of Drawing and Modelling, founded in 1850, owed its origin; a school which was for some years the medium of sound art-instruction to throngs of working men, and which, until Mr. Seddon's first departure to the East, remained in a flourishing condition. The exertions which he underwent in this cause produced an illness which permanently affected his health.

"In 1853, he preceded Mr. Holman Hunt, by prearrangement, to the East, and was joined by him in Egypt. He returned to England in 1854, and, having married in the interval, he started again for Egypt in October, 1856, but had scarcely reached Cairo when an attack of dysentery terminated his life at the early age of thirty-five. It needs no professional acquaintance with art to appreciate to a certain extent the dangers and difficulties which a painter must have encountered who sat down on the spot, day by day for months together until his work was finished, to depict the landscape of Egypt and Palestine, undeterred by trying vicissitudes of climate, or the lawlessness of the inhabitants.

"The picture of Jerusalem, which it is proposed to purchase and offer to the National Gallery, and which, with others, was visited by many persons at the artist's studio in 1855 and 1856, includes some of the most remarkable sites of the Holy City: the Valley of Jehoshaphat, the Pool of Siloam, the Brook Kidron, Mount Moriah, once the site of the temple, now of the mosque of El Aksa, the Mount of Offence, the Tombs of David and of Absalom, the Mount of Olives."

The Rev. Canon STANLEY, author of *Sinai and Palestine*, testifies to the extraordinary accuracy of this picture; and Mr. Ruskin appends a memorandum, in which he says that Mr. SEDDON's were "the first landscapes uniting perfect artistical skill with topographical accuracy,—being directed, with stern self-restraint, to no other purpose than that of giving to persons who cannot travel trustworthy knowledge of the scenes which ought to be most interesting to them." Mr. Ruskin therefore regards these pictures as inaugurating a style of "truly historic landscape-art."

We feel certain that the public will respond to the appeal now made to them with all the warmth and practical benevolence which they invariably exhibit on such occasions. It only remains for us to say that subscriptions will be received by—The Treasurer, John Ruskin, Denmark-hill, Camberwell; the Union Bank (to Mr. Ruskin's account), 200, Fleet-street; or by any of the members of the sub-committee, viz.:—Mark Anthony, 18, Monmouth-road, Bayswater; F. Madox Brown, 13, Fortress-terrace, Kentish-town; Rev. William Elliott, 33, Great Coram-street; W. Holman Hunt, 49, Claverton-terrace, Lupus-street, Pimlico; D. G. Rossetti, 14, Chatham-place, Blackfriars-bridge; W. M. Rossetti, 45, Upper Albany-street, Regent's-park; Frederick Warren, 2, Duke-street, Adelphi; Thomas Woolner, 27, Rutland-street, Hampstead-road.

WOOLNER'S BUST OF TENNYSON.

IN Mr. DICKENSON'S rooms, 114, Bond-street, is to be seen at present Mr. WOOLNER'S bust of ALFRED TENNYSON. It is an admirable specimen of portrait sculpture. The individuality is conveyed with great force and distinctness. Like LELY in painting CROMWELL, Mr. WOOLNER has not softened any of the energetic, almost harsh, lines of the poet's face; has scarcely tamed the wildness of locks that seemed to defy stone; and the effect is that the fire of the soul is unquenched in the countenance. Yet the bust is simple,—or rather, we should say, *for* the bust is simple. Photography has not yet produced anything "in the round;" but if it could, it might produce something like this living counterfeit of the immortal man.

THEATRICAL NOTES.

Henry IV. has been produced on horseback at ASTLEYS—as a *pendant*, say ill-natured critics, to Mr. KEAN'S *Richard II.*, on a pony at the PRINCESS'S. But the ill-natured critics are wrong as to their facts, since Mr. KEAN does not ride a pony, but a Galloway.

Mr. ROBSON has achieved another great success at the OLYMPIC in the part of a half crazed old miser in a piece (from the French) called *Daddy Hardacre*. His passion and tenderness are of the most wonderful kind; but we must take an opportunity next week of criticising him.

Mr. DILLON has acted *Hamlet* this week. Even the *Times* admits that the passionate prevails over the thoughtful in his rendering. Now, without denying the element of hot blood in *Hamlet's* nature, it is obvious that he is chiefly remarkable for his speculative tendencies; so that by this alone we may take the measure of the LYCEUM manager's performance—especially when we recollect that his interpretation of passion is of a melodramatic kind.

We have to correct a mistake which we made last week in mentioning the new play at the HAYMARKET, which is in *four* instead of in *three* acts.

GOVERNMENT FINE ART EXHIBITION.—The travelling exhibition, comprising a selection of works of decorative art from the Marlborough House Museum, was opened at Liverpool last Saturday at the Old Post-office-place. It will be exhibited for some time, and the financial results will be devoted to the aid of the two Government Schools of Art in the town—one at the Collegiate Institution, and the other at the Liverpool Institute. The collection has received a very valuable addition in a case of exquisite antique and modern carvings in ivory from a local museum owned by Mr. Mayer, the spirited gentleman who purchased the Faussett collection of Saxon antiquities, and who is also the owner of one of the most complete Egyptian museums in the country.—*Times*.

PERSIA.—A three months' armistice, agreed upon between the English and Persian troops, has been concluded from the month of March. Official despatches announce that an insurrection has occurred in the Persian Tauris, of which province a cousin of the Shah is Governor.

FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE.

Tuesday, March 24.

BANKRUPTCIES ANNULLED.—HENRY NEWMAN KETTLE, High-street, Godalming, Surrey, grocer and pork butcher.—WILLIAM ATTEWELL WANE, Highworth, Wiltshire, grocer.

BANKRUPTS.—FRANK RENNISON, 21, Milk-street, Cheap-side, City, merchant and warehouseman.—TILDEN CHURCHMAN, Chatham and Sheerness, coal merchant.—ROBERT COLLENS, 104, High Holborn, and Talbot-inn-yard, High-street, Southwark, licensed victualler and hop merchant.—EDWARD CLARK LONE, 2, Cullum-street, City, oil and drug merchant.—EDWARD GRAY BROOKLEHURST, Liverpool, hose and strap manufacturer.—WILLIAM POPHAM DAVIS and JAMES DAVIS, Cardiff, Glamorganshire, slate, marble, and brick merchants.—GEORGE DAVY RICHARDSON, Carlisle, ironfounder.—THOMAS ATKINSON, Broadley, near Luddenden Foot, Yorkshire, woollen manufacturer.—RICHARD ENGLAND, Wilsden, Bradford, manufacturer.—SAMUEL ATACK, Leeds, builder.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—ALEXANDER DUNN and ROBERT DUNN, Glasgow, tinplate workers, gasfitters, and bell hangers.—JOHN BARR, Glasgow, engineer and iron shipbuilder.—THOMAS SIMPSON, Grangemouth, Stirling, baker.

Friday, March 27.

BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.—HENRY BLYTON, York-terrace, Ratcliffe, Middlesex, clothier.

BANKRUPTS.—BENJAMIN SMITH, Whitechapel-road, licensed victualler.—ANDREW HIND, Pleasant-row, Pentonville, tea dealer.—WILLIAM DICKENS EVES, Old-street, St. Luke, Middlesex, victualler.—JOHN MARSHALL, Railway Stations, coal merchant.—JOSEPH SKINNER, Great James-street, Bedford-row, auctioneer.—JAMES KENT, Kent-street, Portsea, rag merchant.—JOHN JONES ROBERTS, Liverpool, metal broker.—HILLYARD NICHOLS, Bedford, corn merchant.—BENJAMIN HORNBY, Hoylake, Chester, hotel keeper.—THOMAS BROOKE WAVELE, Adams-court, Old Broad-street, bill broker and commission agent.—WILLIAM JEFFCOATE, King's Heath, Worcestershire, baker.—JAMES SMITH, Wall-sall, marine store dealer.—THOMAS DILLON, Halifax, boot and shoe maker.—JOHN STEWART, Preston, ironfounder.—GEORGE LASHMAR, Brighton, seed crusher.—SOLOMON SOLOMON, Strand, tailor.—JAMES STEVENS TRIPP, Lombard-street Chambers, Clement's-lane, commission agent.—CHARLES JAMES, Loughborough, Leicestershire, victualler.—WILLIAM MEE, Leicestershire, fancy hosiery.—JONATHAN WRIGHT, Burnley, Lancashire, shoemaker.—EDWARD WATMOUGH, Manchester, draper.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—JOHN ROBERT FINLAY, Glasgow, commission agent.—WILLIAM and JOSEPH BROADBENT, jun., and Co., Glasgow, wool merchants.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

BIRTHS.

GIFFORD.—At Cirencester, Lady Gifford: a son.
ROUTLEDGE.—At Brixton, Mrs. Joseph Routledge: twin boys, one stillborn.
SHAW.—At Prestbury, Gloucestershire, the wife of the Rev. Morton Shaw, Rector of Rougham, Suffolk: a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

BRENDON-ATKINSON.—At Highgate, Major Algernon Brendon, Royal Artillery, son of John Brendon, Esq., of Treriffe, Cornwall, to Elizabeth Atkinson, stepdaughter of Josiah Wilkinson, Esq., of Highgate.
GAPE-YOUNG.—At Marylebone, George T. Gape, Esq., 3rd Regiment (the Buffs), to Emma Agnes, widow of Thomas Dermer Young, Esq., of the Grove, Hertford.

DEATHS.

BROOKE.—At Bath, R. Brooke, Esq., Senior Master (Retired List) of the Royal Navy, aged 85.
CURRIE.—At Rowton Hall, Chester, Mary, widow of the Rev. William Currie.
HOTHAM.—At Tunbridge Wells, Lady Susan Maria Hotham.

Commercial Affairs.

London, Friday Evening, March 27, 1857.

The turmoil and excitement of the General Election, has hitherto banished business from the Stock Exchange.

The Funds up to this forenoon seemed inclined to be firm, but sellers this afternoon have made them give way.

Railway heavy shares have been exceedingly buoyant all the week, those of the really progressive lines, Leeds, Midlands, South Westerns, East Lancashire, being most in demand.

Berwick, York and North Eastern, Dovers, and Caledonian have improved since last week. In foreign and colonial shares there has been a marked firmness, Paris and Lyons having been as high as 62½ per cent. share. Northern of France have risen with Centrals and Westerns. Grand Trunk of Canada are as high as 14½, and are going beyond Great Western of Canada in proportion.

Trunk Bonds have risen three and four per cent. Indian shares meet with good steady purchasers—those that have received a guarantee from the East India Company. Ceylon Railway and Riga shares are not so good.

The depreciation of Joint-Stock shares, particularly those which are established in Australia, is very notable. That favourite property, Union of Australia, has fallen from 74 7/8 to 54 5/8. Recent disclosures of the utter incapacity, not to use a harsher term, of the directors of certain Joint-Stock banks, make the public distrustful. The good account of the prospects of the Ottoman Bank has sent these shares to 1½ premium; but as the account approaches, there seems a desire to continue, and not take them up. Bank of Egypt are not in favour.

In miscellaneous shares, there have been a few bargains—in London General Omnibus, Australian Agricultural, &c. Mines are left untouched; the Cornish men are so busy with their election, that they have no time to waste upon shares. Turkish Six per Cent. stock is rising with the prospect of the declared dividend of three per cent. for the half-year being soon paid.

The wisecracks in the City, after having tried to laugh down or bluster at Lord John Russell's address, will probably end by electing him to-morrow.

It is with great pleasure that we see the announcement of a company which undertakes the important task of providing us with wholesome food. The recent discoveries made by analytical chemists of the revolting adulterations of almost every article of consumption have opened our eyes to the fact that we are practically reduced to this dismal alternative—that we must either starve or be slowly poisoned. Not without reason do we execrate the bakers of Hong-Kong, who endeavoured by poisoned bread to sweep off their enemies; but our own bakers are not free from impeachment on somewhat similar, if not quite such diabolical, grounds. And not only the bakers, but other tradesmen too. Even the druggist, to whom we go to be cured after his fellow shopmen have made us ill—even he, the representative of Esculapius, the ostensible devotee of Hygieia, the inheritor of the mantles of Galen and Hippocrates—even he "pestles a poisoned poison behind his crimson lights." Therefore are we glad to see that there is in existence such a company as "The London Unadulterated Food Company (Limited), for the Importation, Manufacture and Supply of Food, Drinks, and Drugs, in a pure state," with a capital of 100,000, in 5000 shares of 20s. each. Some admirable names are to be found in the lists of Trustees and Directors; as, for instance, General Sir John Forster Fitzgerald, K.C.B., M.P., the Right Hon. Lord Thomas Pelham Clinton; the Hon. E. H. Berkeley, M.P.; Captain W. Peel, &c. Dr. Letheby is to be the chief analyst, and the Company will bank at the Bank of London. If there is any doubt of the success of the undertaking, there must also be a doubt of the common sense of the English people.

Blackburn, 8½; Caledonian, 68½; Chester and Holyhead, 34; Eastern Counties, 10½; Great Northern, 90; Great Southern and Western (Ireland), 105; 107 x d.; Great Western, 63; Lancashire and Yorkshire, 101½; 102 x d.; London and Blackwall, 6; London, Brighton, and South Coast, 108; 109; London and North-Western, 104½; 105; London and South-Western, 103½; 103½; Midland, 82½; North-Eastern (Berwick), 80; 87; South-Eastern (Dover), 75; 76; Antwerp and Rotterdam, 7; 71; Dutch Rhineish, 1 dis. 1 pm.; Eastern of France (Paris and Strasbourg), 34½; 34½; Great Central of France, 24½; 24½; Great Luxembourg, 61; Northern of France, 40½; 41½; Paris and Lyons, 61½; 61½; Royal Danish, 18; 20; Royal Swedish, 14½; 14½; Sambre and Meuse, 94; 94.

CORN MARKET.

Mark-lane, Friday, March 27, 1857.

THOUGH the arrivals of English and Foreign Wheat have been very small, they are quite equal to the demand, and rates remain unaltered. The sales reported areas follows:—Taganrog Wheat 50s. 6d., Odessa Ghirka Wheat 53s. per 430 lbs., Saidi 44s. and 43s. 6d.; Galatz Maize early in the week at 37s. 6d., since then at 36s., and one of the same at 41s. 6d. to Spain; Ibrail Maize at 37s. 3d. and 35s., and one with inferior report at 31s. 3d. Of Barley sales have been made at 23s. 6d. from the Danube, 23s. 6d. and 27s. 6d. from Smyrna, 20s. from Salonica, an inferior cargo of Ibrail at 20s. 6d., and one from Egypt at 24s. 6d., all cost, freight and insurance. There is a fair demand for Barley, but the supplies are not large. The trade in Oats is slow, and prices rather in favour of the buyer.

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

	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Frid.
Bank Stock	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½
3 per Cent. Red.	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½
3 per Cent. Con. An.	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½
Consols for Account	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½
New 3 per Cent. An.	76½	76½	76½	76½	76½	76½
New 2½ per Cent.	76½	76½	76½	76½	76½	76½
Long Ans. 1860	222	222	222	222	222	222
India Stock	222	222	222	222	222	222
Ditto Bonds, £1000	5 d	5 d	5 d	5 d	5 d	5 d
Ditto, under £1000	5 d	5 d	5 d	5 d	5 d	5 d
Ex. Bills, £1000	4 p	4 p	4 p	4 p	4 p	4 p
Ditto, £500	4 p	4 p	4 p	4 p	4 p	4 p
Ditto, Small	4 p	4 p	4 p	4 p	4 p	4 p

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

Brazilian Bonds	103	Portuguese 4 per Cents.	107
Buenos Ayres 6 p. Cents	103	Russian Bonds, 5 per	107
Chilian 6 per Cents	103	Cents	107
Dutch 3 per Cents	103	Russian 4½ per Cents	107
Dutch 2½ per Cents	103	Spanish	107
Dutch 4 per Cent. Cert.	103	Spanish Committee Cer-	107
Ecuador Bonds	14½	of Coup. not fun.	107
Mexican Account	23	Turkish 6 per Cents	107
Peruvian 4½ per Cents	77	Turkish New, 4 ditto	107
Portuguese 3 per Cents	45½	Venezuela 4½ per Cents	107

ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA.

MR. GYE begs most respectfully to announce that the Royal Italian Opera will, during the ensuing season, be given at the Theatre Royal Lyceum. The Opera will open on Tuesday, April 14. The Prospectus with full particulars will be issued in a few days.

ROYAL OLYMPIC THEATRE.

Lessee, Mr. ALFRED WIGAN.
Monday, and during the week, will be performed a new Drama, entitled DADDY HARDACRE. Characters by Messrs. F. Robson, G. Vining, G. Cooke, and Leslie; Mesdames Stephens and Hughes. To be followed by the new Drama by Tom Taylor, Esq., called A SHEEP IN WOLF'S CLOTHING. Characters by Messrs. Addison, G. Vining, G. Cooke, Leslie, and H. Cooper; Mrs. Stirling and Miss Maskell. To conclude with an original Farce by Bayle Bernard, Esq., called THIEVES! THIEVES! in which Mr. F. Robson and Miss Swanborough will appear. Commence at Half-past Seven.

CRYSTAL PALACE.—GREAT HANDEL

FESTIVAL, under the special patronage of Her Majesty the QUEEN and H.R.H. PRINCE ALBERT.—THE THREE PERFORMANCES OF THE GREAT HANDEL FESTIVAL are now definitively fixed to take place as follows, viz.:—MONDAY, June 15, MESSIAH; WEDNESDAY, June 17, JUDAS MACCABEUS; and FRIDAY, June 19, ISRAEL IN EGYPT. At these performances the orchestra will consist of nearly 2500 performers, viz. 2000 chorists, and 500 stringed, and a due proportion of wind instruments. The entire musical arrangements are undertaken by the Sacred Harmonic Society, Exeter Hall. Conductor, Mr. Costa. In answer to numerous inquiries from parties anxious to secure eligible places for hearing these performances, notice is given, that applications for tickets for places, reserved and numbered as stalls, at One Guinea each for each performance, or at Two Guineas and a Half for one place for the series of three performances, can now be received, and the places secured in numerical order, at the Crystal Palace, or by letter addressed to the Secretary there; at the Temporary Offices of the Company, 79, Lombard-street; and at the Handel Festival Ticket-office, No. 2, in Exeter Hall, N.B.—No application can be attended to unless accompanied by a remittance for the price of the places applied for. It is requested that Post-office orders be made payable to George Grove, at the General Post-office, and that cheques be made payable to the Company, and crossed Union Bank of London. Subscribers for annual season tickets for the Crystal Palace are respectfully informed that such tickets will not be available for these performances.
By Order, GEORGE GROVE, Secretary.
Crystal Palace, March 21, 1857.

THE GREAT TOBACCO CONTROVERSY.

—Dr. SEXTON will LECTURE on this important topic daily, at Three and Half-past Seven P.M., at Dr. KAHN'S MUSEUM, 4, Coventry-street, Leicester-square. The Museum, which now stands wholly unrivalled in the world, and the rarity and completeness of whose contents have already acquired for it a European reputation, and obtained the warm commendation of the press in this and other countries, is open daily (for gentlemen only) from Ten to Four. A new Lecture is delivered by Dr. KAHN at Half-past Eight P.M. precisely. Admission, 1s.—Descriptive catalogues of the Museum, containing Lectures as delivered by Dr. KAHN, gratis to the visitors.

FRAMPTON'S PILL OF HEALTH.

The manifold advantages to the heads of families from the possession of a medicine of known efficacy, that may be resorted to with confidence, and used with success in cases of temporary sickness, occurring in families more or less every day, are so obvious to all, that no question can be raised of its importance to every housekeeper in the kingdom.

For females, these Pills are truly excellent, removing all obstructions, the distressing headache so very prevalent with the sex, depression of spirits, dullness of sight, nervous affections, blotches, pimples and sallowness of the skin, and produce a healthy complexion.

Sold by PROUT and HARSANT, 229, Strand, London, and all Medicine Vendors.
Price 1s. 1½d. and 2s. 9d. per box.

BLAIR'S GOUT and RHEUMATIC PILLS.

This preparation is one of the benefits which the science of modern chemistry has conferred upon mankind, for, during the first twenty years of the present century, to speak of a cure for the Gout was considered a romance—but now the efficacy and safety of this medicine is so fully demonstrated by unsolicited testimonials from persons in every rank of life, that public opinion proclaims this as one of the most important discoveries of the present age.

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And pronounced by HER MAJESTY'S LAUNDRESS to be
THE FINEST STARCH SHE EVER USED.
Sold by all Chandlers, Grocers, &c. &c.

GENUINE GARDEN SEEDS.—TIMOTHY

BRIGDEN, SEEDSMAN and FLORIST, 10, RAILWAY ARCADE, LONDON BRIDGE, begs most respectfully to inform his friends and patrons, that his unrivalled collection of Agricultural, Vegetable, and Flower Seeds is now arranged, and Catalogues will be forwarded, post free, upon application. T. B. further begs to state that he still continues to make assortments of choice Vegetable Seeds, in collections suitable for Gardens of every size, from Ten Shillings and upwards.

Ladies and Gentlemen not being able to call at the above Establishment, may rely upon their orders being executed with only First-class SEEDS.

All orders from unknown correspondents must be accompanied with reference or Post-office Order. Borough Branch.

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ON DR. DE JONGH'S

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Has now, in consequence of its marked superiority over every other variety, secured the entire confidence and almost universal preference of the most eminent Medical Practitioners as the most speedy and effectual remedy for CONSUMPTION, BRONCHITIS, ASTHMA, GOUT, RHEUMATISM, SCIATICA, DIABETES, DISEASES OF THE SKIN, NEURALGIA, RICKETS, INFANTILE WASTING, GENERAL DEBILITY, and all SCROFULOUS AFFECTIONS.

Sold ONLY in IMPERIAL Half-pints, 2s. 6d.; Pints, 4s. 6d.; Quarts, 9s.; and labelled with DR. DE JONGH'S Stamp and Signature, WITHOUT WHICH NONE ARE GENUINE, by many respectable Chemists throughout the United Kingdom.

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TO INVALIDS, MOTHERS, AND FAMILIES.

By her Majesty's Royal Letters Patent (the only patent for these preparations). Strongly recommended by the Medical Profession. ADNAM'S IMPROVED PATENT GROATS and BARLEY are manufactured by a process which entirely removes the acidity and unpleasant flavour, so universally found in similar preparations. They produce Gruel and Barley Water in the highest perfection, and being manufactured perfectly pure, yield food of the most light and nourishing quality for the Infant, the Invalid, and the Aged. The Barley also makes a delicious Custard Pudding, and is an excellent ingredient for thickening Soups, &c. The Patentes publish only one of the numerous testimonials they have received from eminent medical professors, relying more confidently on the intrinsic quality of the articles, of which one trial will not fail to convince the most fastidious of their purity and excellence.

(Copy.)
"Chemical Laboratory, Guy's Hospital,
February 19, 1855.

"I have submitted to a microscopical and chemical examination the samples of barley and groats which you have forwarded to me, and I beg to inform you that I find in them only those principles which are found in good barley; there is no mineral or other impurity present, and from the result of my investigation I believe them to be genuine, and to possess those nutritive properties assigned by the late Dr. Pereira to this description of food."
(Signed) "A. S. TAYLOR."

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To be obtained Wholesale at the Manufactory, Maiden-lane, Queen-street, London; and Retail in Packets and Canisters at 6d. and 1s. each, and in Canisters for Families at 2s., 5s., and 10s. each, of all respectable Grocers, Druggists, &c., in Town and Country.

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THE GREATEST DISCOVERY OF THE AGE, wonderfully surpass all other remedies for the cure of wounds. Edward Symonds, of Castle Eden, near Durham, has informed Professor Holloway he was suffering for many years with ulcers on his legs and different parts of the body, consequently he could not walk without the greatest difficulty, when, fortunately, through the medium of a friend, he heard of these invaluable remedies, and by steadily persevering in the use of both, he was again restored to health and strength.

Sold by all Medicine Vendors throughout the world; at Professor HOLLOWAY'S Establishments, 24, Strand, London, and 80, Maiden-lane, New York; by A. Stamp, Constantinople; A. Guidice, Smyrna; and M. Muir, Malta.

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ALEX. ROSS'S LIQUID HAIR DYE, easily applied, being the best in the world. Sold from 3s. 6d.; sent free for 54 stamps. ALEX. ROSS'S HAIR DRESSING, or DEPILATORY, for removing superfluous hair from the face, neck, arms and hands, 3s. 6d. per bottle; sent for stamps, free by post, 8d. extra. ALEX. ROSS'S ANTI-THALPES OIL, a sure restorer of the hair, 3s. 6d.; sent for 54 stamps. ALEX. ROSS'S FACE POWDER, or POMADORE, 1s.; free for 14 stamps. LIQUID ROUGE, 2s. 6d. per bottle, sent free for 36 stamps, by ALEX. ROSS, 1, Little Queen-street, High Holborn; Wholesale Agent, BARCLAY, Faringdon-street.

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There has been no Brandy made from Wine in France, either in the present year or in the preceding one. Owing to the successive failures in their vintages, the French wine grower gets a higher price for his wine, consumed as such, than he can realise by its being distilled into Brandy; and forasmuch as the Foreign Brandy of recent importations is but the product of British grain and beetroot spirits, the prestige hitherto exclusively enjoyed by French Brandy as having been distilled from a particular French wine no longer exists, and is no longer worthily assignable to it now that it is bunglingly made from other materials. The supply of wine for distillation into Brandy having failed, the French distiller is constrained to recur to a manufacture in which he needs the quarter of a century's experience which has been exercised upon that of **BETTS'S PATENT BRANDY**, to render his article respectably competitive, and he has not had it. Under these circumstances, the Messrs. Betts challenge that their **PATENT BRANDY** is superior to any now made abroad.

It is to the interest of the public and the Messrs. Betts that these facts should be widely spread, for recent importations are of a quality so inferior as to disgrace the name they bear, and are twice the price of **BETTS'S PATENT BRANDY**, which is supplied by the trade to private families in any quantity, down to the single cupped bottle. Excise regulations prevent its sale from the **DISTILLERY**, 7, **SMITHFIELD-BARS**, **ST. JOHN-STREET**, in any less quantity than two gallons.

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The peculiar characteristics of the wine are full body, fine flavour, and great richness, and is the **FINEST SHERRY** ever imported, and eminently suited to the palate of those who enjoy and appreciate a first-class wine.

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Table Spoons and Forks per dozen	38s.	48s.	60s.
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Tea and Coffee Sets, Cruet, and Liqueur Frames, Waiters, Candlesticks, &c., at proportionate prices. All kinds of replating done by the patent process.

CHEMICALLY PURE NICKEL NOT PLATED.

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The additions to these extensive premises (already by far the largest in Europe) are of such a character that the entire of **EIGHT HOUSES** is devoted to the display of the most magnificent stock of **GENERAL HOUSE IRONMONGERY** (including Cutlery, Nickel Silver, Plated Goods, Baths, Brushes, Turnery, Lamps, Gaseliers, Iron and Brass Bedsteads, Bedding, and Bed-hangings), so arranged in Sixteen Large Show Rooms as to afford to parties furnishing facilities in the selection of goods that cannot be hoped for elsewhere.

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GOLD WATCHES, Horizontal Movements, Jewelled, &c., accurate time-keepers, 3l. 15s., 4l. 15s., 5l. 15s., to 15l. 15s. each. Gold Lever Watches, jewelled, and highly-finished movements, 6l. 6s., 8l. 8s., 10l. 10s., 12l. 12s., 14l. 14s., 16l. 16s., to 40 guineas.

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Books for the Transfer of Shares in this Society will be re-opened on Wednesday the 8th day of April next. The Dividends for the year 1856 will be payable on and after Monday the 6th day of April next. By order of the Directors,
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PERCY M. DOVE, Manager.

JOHN B. JOHNSTON, Secretary to the London Board.

MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE.

SCOTTISH PROVIDENT INSTITUTION. The NINETEENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Contributors to this Society was held in the Waterloo Rooms, Edinburgh, on the 18th February. On the motion of Professor More,

ROBERT HUNTER, Esq., Sheriff of Dumbarton and Bute, was called to the Chair.

The Chairman alluded to the peculiar principles and advantages of the Institution, to its increasing success, as evidenced in the gratifying report subjoined, and, referring to the different agencies, spoke of London as follows:

"When I had the honour of addressing you from this chair, thirteen years ago, I spoke with diffidence of the expediency of establishing a branch in London, but hinted that it might eventually be effected. It has been effected, and with eminent success. Notwithstanding early difficulties and serious competition, we have, by perseverance, guided and enforced by assiduous and skilful local administration, succeeded in acquiring public confidence and favour, shown by the number of our members from every class, and by the amount of the sums assured. We know that the members have a zealous desire to promote our welfare, and we confidently anticipate that we shall not only retain the position which we have gained in the metropolis, but that our advance there will in a few years afford one of the most honourable and lucrative tests of the soundness of our principles, and the prudence of our practice."

REPORT BY THE DIRECTORS.

The report which the Directors have now the pleasure of submitting, presents a very satisfactory view of the progress of the Institution; the new business during the year being considerably in advance of that of either of the two last years.

The new proposals accepted have been 639 in number, assuring capital sums to the amount of 325,905£. The yearly premiums on the new business amount to 9274£ 7s. 4d.; and a further sum of 8735£ 5s. 1d. has been received for assurances by single payment, and for annuities contracted for in the year. The gross amount of premiums received was 88,079£ 1s. 4d., and including interest on the accumulated fund, the income of the year was 106,222£ 3s. 7d.

The claims on account of policies which have emerged during the year, by the death of 59 members, amounted to 36,360£ 7s., being considerably under the amount in the preceding year.

At the close of the year there had been issued in all 8424 policies, assuring 3,745,639£, besides annuities and miscellaneous transactions. The subsisting assurances were 2,911,522£ 3s., and the net yearly premiums corresponding to these 79,224£ 0s. 2d. The realised fund arising from accumulated premiums, was at 31st December last 445,317£ 4s. 7d., and the revenue from premiums and interest 98,763£ 10s. 2d.

The report having been unanimously approved of, thanks were voted to the directors, auditors, trustees, and office-bearers.

Full copies of the Report and of the Proceedings at the Nineteenth Annual General Meeting, may now be obtained (free) on application to the Head Office in Edinburgh; at any of the Society's agents; or at the London Branch, 66, Gracechurch-street.

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