

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 Parliamentary proceedings on the first night again exposed the mendicant condition of Lord DERBY's Government. The illustration of the drowning man clutching at straws always carries with it a certain amount of compassionate interest, but really Mr. DISRAELI's wild dash at the straw thrown to him by Lord JOHN RUSSELL to keep his head above water on the wreck of the India Bill is too ludicrous an incident to be contemplated with any sort of gravity. Lord JOHN proposed that before proceeding with either of the bills—Mr. DISRAELI's or Lord PALMERSTON's—resolutions embodying the principal suggestions should be laid before the House, in order that the Commons might be actually taken into consultation. It can be seen at a glance how this course removed a danger for Ministers, an opportunity for the late Ministers; Mr. DISRAELI seized it with unconcealed gratitude. His bill is pronounced from one end of the kingdom to the other to be a miserable failure; but it is the very best that the present Ministry can offer, and they snatched with delight at the means put within their reach of getting free from the responsibility of defending the indefensible. One thing has been especially remarkable since the reassembling of the House, and that is the bold and direct speaking of the foremost speakers on all the leading topics of the week. Lord JOHN RUSSELL's speech on Monday was a strong example. He went at once to the point, and dealt with the Derby Indian Bill as if everybody's mind were made up to reject it in its present form. Mr. DISRAELI appeared to have nothing to say against that assumption, but eagerly fell in with Lord JOHN's views, and, in fact, he has to thank Lord JOHN for keeping him in office—for a while longer.

The course taken by Lord JOHN will be better understood if we bear in mind that he is just now holding aloof from the party of which he is the natural head, but that he represents the general opinion of the country on the Indian question. That that opinion will prevail is not to be doubted; his policy is far-seeing then when he places himself at the head of public opinion, which will shape and control the action of the Liberal party, and ultimately call upon him to take the command of it. To follow the course suggested by Lord JOHN RUSSELL will be to ensure a more complete and unbiassed discussion of the measure called for by the country for the transfer of the government of

India from the Company to the Crown than would be possible, considering the position of the Government and of the Opposition, with its conflicting feelings on the question of a leader.

The Navy estimates moved by Sir JOHN PAKINGTON on Monday night opened up the question of our national defences, and showed, almost beyond dispute, the wastefulness of a too restricted expenditure. Whatever the need for looking closely into the disbursements of the country with an eye to saving, the efficiency of all the national services is a subject of more vital interest, and it was not unnatural that, at the present time, when there is good reason for looking into the state of our coast defences, and of our naval power, Mr. WILLIAMS should find only twenty-five supporters of his views, according to which we should at this moment reduce the expenses of our army and navy to the standard of 1835. The voice of the public would decidedly be raised against a reduction which would react upon the safety of the country. What we want is, that the national defences should be placed in a state of completeness, but that, whatever the sum required, it may be laid out in such a manner as permanently to secure the object for which it is given. The country never begrudges money for money's honest worth.

Among the weak points in the present Government, of that class which belong to essential discord between the several members of it, is the difference of sentiment even more than opinion on the subject of law reforms. The present Attorney-General is one of the most active men in promoting a very extensive reform in our law, in a consolidation of the statutes; and no man has done more to render that course possible and intelligible than Sir FITZROY KELLY. He is supported, it would appear, by the Solicitor-General; for Sir HUGH CAIRNS has this week introduced a very excellent law reform. It is a bill to extend the powers of the Court of Chancery by enabling it to award damages, to take oral evidence, and to use the assistance of a jury. This is a grand step towards a simplification of our judicial system. It goes some way towards removing the useless distinctions between 'law' and 'equity,' and, therefore, towards a better classification of those courts in which the suitors, plaintiffs, or prosecutors, would most naturally range themselves—namely, courts dividing amongst them different kinds of business, but mainly under the guidance of the same fundamental principles of law and justice.

Above these two men,—good reformers in their own way though they are Conservatives—there is

placed one who has been a very powerful advocate and consistent politician, with commanding presence and a high respectable personal character; but since he has been elevated to the woolsack, that statesman's actions have not justified the hopes that the intelligent Tory barrister THESIGER would develop himself, as the Lord Chancellor CHELMSFORD, into a Law Lord fit to take his place amongst the reforming BROUGHAMS, LYNDHURSTS, and ST. LEONARDS, who have forgotten the distinctions of party in the one desire to amend their profession. Lord CAMPBELL has been very active in improving the law of libel. He had a bill before the House of Lords which would have extended the immunities of the press by enabling any defendant under an action to plead—except where positive injury had been inflicted—that the alleged libel was part of a *bona fide* report of proceedings before some constituted public body—namely, the two Houses of Parliament, Town Councils, or any meeting convened by a corporation under Act of Parliament. No doubt there are other meetings to which the same immunity should be extended; but this bill recognized a progressive extension of the principle, and it would have been easy, in a later session, to accomplish more by another act. Lord LYNDHURST showed up the bill for its shortcomings; but Lord Chancellor THESIGER put his thumb upon it, and extinguished it, because he objects to all such reform whatsoever.

Mr. LOCKE KING has improved the occasion afforded by the prosecution of Mr. AUGUSTUS GLOVER to announce a bill for abolishing property qualification, a step that will, in all probability, be taken sooner or later—later rather than sooner. Parliamentary reform is slow of progress; indeed, there is an almost constitutional dislike in the House to meddle with the question, of which we had an example on Tuesday evening, when the opinion of the leading members was strongly opposed to the measure suggested by Sir JOHN TRELAWNY, declaring it a high breach of privilege for a member to receive any species of reward in consideration of the exercise of his Parliamentary influence. This was a very mild and fitting sequel to the proceedings in the case of Mr. BUTT and MOURAD ALI; but how many men are there in the House who are conscious of agency, and who resent any infringement on 'free trade' in Parliamentary influence! However, one stride has been taken on the road to reform, in the passing of the Jew Bill, which once more leaves the Lords responsible.

The subject to which Lord CLARENCE PAGET



IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

Monday, April 12th.

THE two Houses of Parliament met for the first time after the Easter recess on Monday. In the House of Lords, Lord CRANWORTH, on the report of amendments on the TRANSFER OF ESTATES SIMPLIFICATION BILL, moved the rejection of the first clause of the bill, and the twelve clauses following and depending on it. After some discussion, in which the clauses were opposed by the LORD CHANCELLOR and the Earl of DERRY, they were negatived without a division. The report was then received.

The order for going into committee on the LAW OF PROPERTY AMENDMENT BILL was discharged, on the motion of Lord ST. LEONARDS.

Their Lordships then adjourned.

BANDS OF REGIMENTS.

In the HOUSE OF COMMONS, Mr. LAURIE asked whether some arrangement might not be made to relieve officers of the army from the expense of maintaining the bands of their several regiments.—General PEELE said the subject had received the consideration of the Commander-in-Chief, who was most anxious to reduce the expense of bands to regimental officers. He (General PEELE) was well aware that the reduction of twelve days' pay from the salaries of regimental officers for the expenses of the band is a great tax upon them; and he would do everything in his power to remove the grievance.

THE BUDGET.

The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER intimated his intention of making his financial statement that day week.

THE GOVERNMENT INDIA BILL.

On the report of the Committee of Supply, Lord JOHN RUSSELL observed that, if the Government India Bill were pressed to a second reading, and all the numerous objections to it were discussed, that discussion would have injurious effects. It would be desirable that the House should arrive at a conclusion without debating the subject in the form of a bill. In 1813, preliminary resolutions were proposed by the Government and adopted by a committee of the whole House; and that seemed to him the most convenient course to be adopted now. If the Government did not think fit to adopt that course, he should propose resolutions embodying the chief points of a measure for the government of India.—The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER admitted that the proposition of Lord John was very convenient, and conducive to the public interest; but the late Government had proceeded by way of a bill, and as it seemed that the feeling of the House was against delay, the present Administration thought it better to introduce a measure at once. The Government would not shrink from proposing resolutions, unless (which would be more agreeable to himself) Lord John Russell would do so, for which the earliest day possible should be fixed.—Lord JOHN RUSSELL said that, although he had offered to propose resolutions, it was an office which belonged properly to the Government.—Sir CHARLES WOOD agreed in this view, but doubted the advisability of proceeding by resolution at all. The precedent of 1813 was not applicable to the case in hand.—Mr. ELLICE, senior, also thought that the resolutions should be proposed by the Government.—Mr. WALPOLE reminded the House that Mr. Disraeli had not shrunk from the responsibility of proposing the resolutions.—Mr. ROSS DONNELLY MANGLES implored the House not to mingle a party spirit in the debates on this important question.—Mr. AYTON objected to proceeding by way of resolution, and thought the House ought to consider both the bills, and reject one or both, if it pleased.—Lord PALMERSTON was opposed to the suggestion made by Lord John Russell, which is contrary to the ordinary practice of the House, and would be an inconvenient proceeding.—The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER explained that what he had said was, that he could not undertake the responsibility of introducing the proposed resolutions, without the sanction of the House and the permission of Lord John Russell. If he had acted differently, it would have been contrary to the forms of the House, and at variance with the conduct of a gentleman. He would place the resolutions on the table of the House, so that there should be ample time to consider them before discussion; and he proposed that the discussion should take place that day fortnight.—Mr. BOWEN asked what was to be done with the bill of the Government? Were the resolutions to be different from the bill, or the same? If different, was the bill to be given up? If the same, was the House to have two discussions?—Sir BENJAMIN HALL also inquired whether the Government would proceed with the second reading of their bill; or would they abandon it and bring in another founded on the resolutions?—Mr. HOSKINS thought the House was now only seeing the beginning of its difficulties. The fact that there were two bills before the House, and the proposition to consider the whole question in committee, only showed the inherent difficulty of the subject. The ordinary course of English proceedings in analogous cases was, first, to put down the motion; next, to inquire into the cause; thirdly, to apply a remedy. What was now going to be done? We were going to apply a remedy, and take

called the attention of the House on Thursday evening is one upon which so vast an interest hangs, that, although he did not entirely make good the grounds upon which he stood, we are glad that Government have determined to investigate the matter. Lord CLARENCE PAGET calls for a thorough reformation in the present system of lighting and buoying our coasts and harbours, which, he maintains, are not even yet fitly furnished, though we pay heavily. There was great diversity of opinion on the subject, and much disputing of facts; but enough was proved to warrant the granting of a commission of inquiry. It ought to end in the abolition of tolls, and the establishment of a complete lighting system at the national expense.

Lord BURY has moved for papers on the subject of the Straits settlements—the islands of Penang, Singapore, &c.—with the view of placing them under the control of the Colonial-office instead of the Indian Government, with which, indeed, their natural connexion is not very obvious. The motion was agreed to, and possibly we may hear more of the subject—a propos of the Indian Government Bills; though there is still a reluctance to make the change, because, forsooth, these once 'penal' settlements are now so largely peopled by mongrel Asiatics, European blackguards, and other 'scum,' that they are thought to be better placed under the arbitrary rule of India than the constitutional rule of the Colonies. But are there no merchants in Singapore—no independent settlers in Penang?

The straightforward speaking which we have noticed was freely applied to the subject of the passport-system, discussed on Thursday night in the House of Lords. In laying upon the table the correspondence between the English and French Governments on the subject, Lord MALMESBURY admitted that the restrictions demanded by the French Government were useless, and that, in fact, nothing was accomplished but the support of a 'great passport interest;' but with this conviction in his mind, why should he not have gone further in his endeavour to do away with the inconvenience so notorious since the new Foreign-office regulations have been in force? But, adding to the number of persons empowered to recommend others to the Foreign-office as eligible to receive passports, the real inconvenience is hardly touched; it is the obligation to find sponsors at all which is most offensive to the English mind. Now it is proposed to make anybody your sponsor—your lawyer, clergyman, or medical man; so that the warranty is about as good as if any one on the grand stand vouched for the horse's pedigree and age.

The presence of Mr. WILLIAM NICHOLSON, late Premier of the Government of Victoria, Australia, was, on Wednesday, the occasion of an entertainment in celebration of the introduction of the ballot into our Australian colonies by that gentleman. The speeches made went to prove what has been so often proved before—namely, that the ballot is the most reasonable method of recording votes; Mr. NICHOLSON bore witness to its successful operation in Australia at least.

Among the public events of the week must be noticed a deputation which, on Thursday, waited upon Lord DERBY on the subject of the abolition of the paper duty, the disadvantages of which, with reference to trade and education, have been again and again repeated. Lord DERBY agreed with much that was urged against the continuance of the obnoxious tax—but, in the present state of the Exchequer, it was out of the question to ask Mr. DISRAELI to give up 1,200,000*l.* a year. If the present Government remained in office for two or three years, &c.

Naples holds by the legality of her proceedings in the seizure of the Cagliari, and in that spirit has sent an answer to the demands of Count CAVOUR. This is no more than was to have been looked for, and is, doubtless, what was expected by Sardinia, whose Government has given a significant sign of preparedness to say more on this ugly question: it has ordered home all its military officers absent on leave. On our side, too, there has been ordering home, not military but diplomatic; Mr. ERSKINE, who took upon himself to

misrepresent the views of his Government in this matter, and by whose interference such a load of 'misconception' and difficulty has been piled upon it, has been ordered home to undergo an inquiry into his conduct, which will, perhaps, be found not to have been so 'extraordinary' as it has been represented to be. Meanwhile, acting upon the advice of the law officers of the Crown, Government has demanded compensation for the illegal detention of the two English engineers; but it still delays taking any steps on the international question of outrage done to the flag of an ally; the law officers having still 'papers' to digest before giving an opinion. It is still, then, to the spirit of Sardinia that we shall have to look for a solution of the difficulty, and of her spirit we have a new manifestation in the protest which she has entered against the proceedings of the Commission empowered by the Treaty of Paris to regulate the navigation of the Danube, and which has virtually handed over the navigation of the river to the states bordering it. There is no doubt that the view taken by Count Cavour is the correct one, and there can hardly be any doubt that the authority arrogated by the riverain Commission will be set aside by the Paris Conference, to which, fortunately, its acts have to be submitted for ratification.

The arrival of the Duke of Malakoff at Dover, on Thursday morning, was attended with circumstances that must have made the event extremely satisfactory to the old soldier; he was no sooner on shore than he was welcomed by a little crowd of companions in arms, whose welcome he received in a way that said he at once found himself at home in England. All will be well if that feeling continues.

The success of our operations against Lucknow is put beyond doubt by the telegrams which have come to hand during the week, which, though they do not complete the story, give us with sufficient clearness all its main features. The whole of the city was in the hands of the Commander-in-chief, who was rapidly reducing things to order, both within and without the walls. The great landholders had tendered their submission, and the villagers were resuming their ordinary labours. So far all is well. With regard to the 50,000 Sepoys who have fled, towards Rohilcund for the most part it is believed, they may offer a desultory resistance of some duration, but they are not likely to be able to make any great stand; and on every side our troops are moving upon them. One very satisfactory circumstance in connexion with their flight from Lucknow is, that they left too precipitately to carry off any artillery; in that respect, therefore, we shall pursue them with immense advantage.

NAVAL AND MILITARY.

THE STRANDED AMERICAN VESSEL.—The American barque Petrea, Captain Samuel Osborne, bound from Havre to New York, which ran ashore off Chichester Harbour, on Sunday week, with two hundred and seventeen French and German emigrants on board, was, by dint of a week's exertion, floated last Saturday morning, and turned into Portsmouth harbour for repairs. Seven of the emigrants have made a declaration to the receiver of droits at Arundel, which is to the effect that they consider the cause of the wreck to be attributable to the want of sobriety and negligence of the second mate (officer of the watch), who drank nearly a bottle of rum when leaving Havre; and this caused him to neglect taking soundings after twelve o'clock at night. They also complain that the master did not allow them sufficient provisions and lodgings after they were landed. One of the passengers, an old man, went on board last Saturday, and accidentally fell down the hatchway into the hold. His life is despaired of.

MILITARY PUNISHMENT.—Private John Dodd, of the 84th Regiment, was on Monday morning subjected to fifty lashes at the Spur Battery, Chatham, for an assault on his sergeant. He was then taken to the hospital, after which he will be imprisoned for eighty-four days.

MILITARY REWARDS.—The troops comprising the depôts attached to the 1st battalion at Chatham Garrison were assembled on their parade-ground on Monday afternoon, for the purpose of witnessing the presentation of a silver medal, with a gratuity of 15*l.*, which had been awarded by direction of the Duke of Cambridge to Sergeant-Major Brammall, 82nd Regiment, for good conduct and long service. Good-conduct medals and gratuities of 5*l.* each have also been awarded to privates Morrison and Davis, belonging to the 82nd Regiment, for long and meritorious service.

THE ROYAL WELSH FUSILIERS.—On Monday evening, two hundred and forty non-commissioned officers and men of the 23rd Royal Welsh Fusiliers, in charge of Captain F. F. Vane, proceeded from the depôt of that corps, at Chatham, for Newport, Monmouthshire, for the purpose of forming a second battalion of that regiment, which is to be raised in Wales.

precautions against a recurrence of the evils, of which we had not yet inquired the cause.—In replying to Sir Benjamin Hall's question, the CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER said that he certainly had no intention of abandoning the bill, which he thought would be likely to be improved by the discussion on the resolutions, and would probably in the end become the law of the land.—The report on Supply was then agreed to.

THE WAR ESTIMATES.

On the proposition to go into Committee of Supply, Mr. WILLIAMS complained that the war estimates for the year (20,300,000*l.*) were larger by millions than any that had ever come before the House—7,257,000*l.* more than presented to the unreformed House in 1830, and 8,000,000*l.* more than under the Government of Lord Melbourne. He moved, by way of amendment, that the estimates be referred to a select Committee.—Sir JOHN PAKINGTON opposed the reference to a select committee, and promised to explain the estimates in committee of the whole House.—The House divided, when the amendment was defeated by 161 to 24.—The House then went into committee of supply, Mr. FITZROY in the chair.

THE NAVY ESTIMATES.

Sir JOHN PAKINGTON, in laying his statement before the House, said that, "on the first vote, 'number of men, wages of seamen and marines,' the estimate was higher than of late years, or of last year; but the Government felt that their predecessors in office took a bold and wise course, and he could not propose any reduction. Twelve months ago, the vote was 33,000 seamen and marines, 2000 men for surveying purposes, and 5700 for the Coast Guard. At a late period of the year, 2000 more seamen were added, so that, for the year 1857-8, the total number was 42,700. For 1858-9, the late Government asked an increase of 2000 for officers and seamen to man our ships, and of 1000 for the coast-guard service. Of this number, however, 680 was merely a transfer from the civil service to the military. The total vote for the year, then, was 2,401,559*l.* When, some time since, he asked for a vote on account, he stated that there were something like 1000 men on the books beyond the last vote; at the present moment there are borne on the books 1621 more than the last year's vote; and 1318 men are required in addition. The present state of our force in East India and China is satisfactory. In 1856, it consisted of 17 ships, with 332 guns, and manned by 3151 sailors: now there are 75 ships, with 953 guns, and 11,863 men. Several of the ships are on their way home; but there would still remain a force of 69 ships, with 789 guns, and 10,300 men. A great increase had also taken place in the force on the coast of Africa, for the suppression of the slave trade. In 1855, we had there 20 ships, with 134 guns, and 1957 men; now we have 29 ships, with 215 guns, and 3363. So that, including the six ships now on their way home, we have now between 15,000 and 16,000 of our whole naval force in those two squadrons. But the state of things at home is far less satisfactory; and Government are of opinion that it is far better to ask Parliament for aid in supplying the deficiency than to attempt to conceal a fact which must be known to every Government in Europe." We have the noblest ships that ever floated on the sea; but many of them are not fully manned. "In accordance with the recommendations of the Duke of Northumberland's committee, the 'continuous service' system and the 'naval volunteers,' or 'marine militia' system, had been adopted with the very best effect; and within a fortnight or a month at least, we could put to sea twenty vessels to cruise in the Channel. But this could only be done in case of a national emergency; and it was not creditable to the country that we should not have the means of sending a ship to sea except under such circumstances. He was in hopes to be able to meet the case by the extension of the continuous service men." Sir John Pakington then condemned the conduct of the late Government in discharging 8000 of these men, under the pressure of the cry of 'economy.' The immediate result was, the loss of 8000 most efficient hands; and the moral effect was still worse, as it induced men enlisted for ten years to believe that they could be discharged at any moment. The Government are unanimously of opinion that England should never be without a Channel squadron; and he hoped that, before the summer is over, we shall have such a squadron. He deprecated the dismantling of our war ships not a year ago; but he did not wish to exempt himself from blame on the subject, as the course in question had been taken by the Government under pressure of the House. The present Ministry is endeavouring to repair that error, into which they would not fall again. He thought that ships should be put into commission for five instead of three years. The number of men and boys proposed to be voted was 59,818. 1,027,857*l.* would be asked for victualling the navy, being an increase of 165,159*l.* on the sum which was voted last year. "It was not the intention of the Government to ask for a vote for more than 10,800 men for dockyards, being the number asked last year. This estimate would be 50,000*l.* below that proposed by the late Government for the present year; but if, at the close of the summer, he found that the money was not sufficient, he would ask for a further sum of 50,000*l.* He also proposed to reduce the vote of the late Government for naval stores by 75,000*l.*,

which sum was made up of 15,000*l.* for general stores, 10,000 for fitting ships by contract, and 50,000*l.* for steam machinery. He should state upon this subject that it was the intention of the Government to issue a small commission to investigate the condition and care of steam machinery. The next vote to which he would refer was 694,618*l.* for new work, which he proposed to reduce by a number of small items, amounting in all to 108,756*l.* The sum of 495,500*l.* was asked by the late Government for the transport service, and this sum he proposed to reduce by 85,000*l.*, 45,000*l.* for freight, and 40,000*l.* for fuel, consequent upon this reduction. He had been enabled to effect this reduction by a number of hired ships having been paid off in China. The total difference between his estimates and the estimate of the late Government for 1858-9, was 318,756*l.*, and the total reduction, as compared with the estimates for the year 1857-8, was 618,845*l.*"

Sir CHARLES NAPIER condemned the reduction in the number of men last year.—Sir CHARLES WOOD could not agree with the reductions indicated by Sir John Pakington, and the same view was taken by Mr. DRUMMOND, Mr. BENTINCK, and Admiral WALCOTT.—Mr. CORRY vindicated the course taken by the Government in their desire to reduce expenditure.—Sir GEORGE PECKELL regretted the Government had not given them any information with regard to keeping up gunboats on the coast of Africa and the coast of Cuba.—Lord CLARENCE PAGET advised the Government to pause in the construction of enormous ships.—Lord PALMERSTON differed from this recommendation, and observed that our dockyards are inconveniently small, and that some of them should be reconstructed if they are to hold the line-of-battle ships that are being built. Their machinery should be also enlarged; for it is obviously useless to build large vessels if we have not the means of repairing them.—Sir JOHN ELPHINSTONE considered that the recently constructed gun-boats were failures, and that the competitive system would not be beneficially applied to the navy, if made a preliminary to appointments.

Sir JOHN PAKINGTON having replied, Mr. HORSMAN said that the Government needed no apology for adhering to the estimates of the late Government; on the contrary, he should not have objected if they had asked to increase them. It seemed, from all the statements made that evening, that, while calling ourselves the first of maritime nations, we are no longer masters of the sea. With respect to France, it appeared that, while she has forty ships of the line, we have forty-two; but the ships of France are of greater force and of a much more convertible description than ours. They had all heard of the enormous works at Cherbourg and of the railway to that arsenal, which would be open in the course of the summer. The French have a fine army and a naval conscription; and with these two arms they could, between Cherbourg and Toulon, man a fleet and despatch an expedition in an exceedingly short period of time. Napoleon once said that with twenty-four hours' possession of the Channel he could conquer England; and the first naval authorities are of opinion that an invasion of this country under such circumstances would be a very serious affair indeed.

Mr. KINNAIRD thought that the vote on half-pay and retirement required revision. He believed that the principle adopted in France—that of retirement at a certain age—was the best that could be adopted.—Mr. WILLIAMS observed that the expenditure now asked for was only 600,000*l.* less than that demanded by Lord Aberdeen. He believed that the present Government had been greatly misled by the extravagant estimates of their predecessors.

The vote was then agreed to; as were also the following:—1,401,559*l.* for the wages of seamen and marines; 577,357*l.* for depots for seamen and marines; and 70,000*l.* for the offices and contingent expenses of the Admiralty-office.

The CHAIRMAN then reported progress; the House resumed; and the OATHS BILL having been read a third time, and passed, amidst much cheering, and some routine business having been despatched, the House adjourned at a quarter to one o'clock.

Tuesday, April 18th.

LIBEL BILL.

In the HOUSE OF LORDS, Lord CAMPBELL moved the second reading of this bill. The bill is founded on the recommendations of the Committee to which, during last year, some defects of the present law had been referred. The measure consists only of three clauses: one relating to the immunity from actions for libel to be given to the publication of the debates of Parliament; the other two defining the protection to be extended to reports of ordinary public meetings. At present, the law gives such a protection only to the published proceedings of the courts of justice; but this immunity the bill proposed to extend.—The measure (explained his Lordship) will not in the remotest degree affect the privileges of Parliament. But the proprietors of newspapers are still liable to prosecution for publishing words spoken in Parliament if they are libellous. When the same matter transpires in a court of law, the publishers are not liable to any action for recording it, if done faithfully and without malice. Why should they not have an equal degree of immunity for reporting the debates of the Houses of Legislation? The third clause

of the bill defines the public meetings to which his Lordship wished to see the same principle applied.

Lord LYNCHURST condemned the bill as inadequate. The attempt in the third clause to define what shall be considered lawful meetings left many points undecided; and he therefore recommended the omission of that clause altogether, so that the bill should apply to all meetings called for a lawful purpose. Commenting on the absurdity and injustice of the law as it at present stands, his Lordship said:—"A man attends a public meeting, and makes a speech of a most malicious character. He sees the reporters taking down every word. He knows it will all be published—he makes it for the very purpose of having it published; and yet the law cannot take hold of him. (*Hear, hear.*) The reporter, on the other hand, is wholly intent upon taking down accurately what he hears; he has no opportunity or time for consideration; he sends away his slips as fast as he writes them; and, if he revises the report, he does it in the utmost haste. He has no malicious motive, and, indeed, he may not even know the point upon which the calumny turns; yet he is made the scapegoat. Nothing can be more unjust. (*Cheers.*) The principle of the distinction between written and verbal slander obviously does not apply to reports. If a man dictates the slander, and it is written down and published, then the person who dictates is liable. Now, it is quite true that a person in making a speech does not give any express authority for its publication; but everybody knows that his intention is that it shall be published. What is wanted is some machinery by which to supply this trifling link in the chain, and so to make the author of the calumny responsible for it."

Lord WENSLEYDALE strongly objected to the bill, and moved that it be read a second time that day six months.—The LORD CHANCELLOR thought that the proposer of the measure was bound to furnish some proof of real inconvenience caused by the existing state of the law. That had not been done, and therefore the bill ought not to pass the second reading.—Lord CRANWORTH contended that the inconvenience of the present law in certain cases had been distinctly proved.—Lord CAMPBELL replied, and the House divided, when the bill was thrown out by 35 to 7.

Their Lordships adjourned at nine o'clock.

NEW CHELSEA-BRIDGE.

In the HOUSE OF COMMONS, Mr. BRADY asked the Chief Commissioner of Works if he was aware that foot-passengers entering on the New Chelsea-bridge are compelled to pass over whether they desire it or not, and then to pay a second toll to be allowed to return; and, if so, did he propose taking any steps to remedy any inconvenience so unprecedented?—Lord JOHN MANNERS said, that the present arrangements relative to the New Chelsea-bridge were made with a view to meet the public convenience. (*Cries of "Oh, oh!" and laughter.*) No less than 30,000 people passed over the bridge last Sunday; and if they had been allowed to go half-way and turn back, great inconvenience would have resulted. Of course, if it were found that that did not suit the public, an alteration would be made.

THE MEDITERRANEAN TELEGRAPH.

The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER stated that no arrangements had yet been concluded to effect the object of extending the Mediterranean system of telegraphs to Alexandria and for bringing India into telegraphic communication with this country; but he hoped that in a very short time arrangements embracing that object would take place. He added (in answer to an inquiry by Mr. WYLLIE) that arrangements were pending between the Austrian Government and the Government of her Majesty upon the subject, but that the giving of a monopoly to the Austrian Government did not form part of those arrangements.

OUR REPRESENTATIVE AT TURIN.

In reply to Mr. WISE, the CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER said there was no intention to recal Sir James Hudson from Turin, but that Mr. Erskine, the Secretary of Legation, had been recalled to this country to answer for his conduct, and had been suspended.

THE SETTLEMENTS IN THE STRAITS OF MALACCA.

Lord BURY called attention to the condition of the settlements in the Straits of Malacca (viz., Penang, Singapore, and Malacca), commonly called the Straits Settlements, and asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether there would be any objection on the part of Government to except the Straits Settlements from the action of the bill for placing the territories of the East India Company under the control of the Crown, and to place them in the immediate charge of the Secretary of State for the Colonies. The Indian Government uses these settlements as convict stations, and the respectable inhabitants complain of being obliged to receive all the scum of Madras, Bengal, and Bombay, as well as to pay the expenses of the convict establishments and the military forces.—In addition to the question which he had put upon the paper, he should conclude by making a motion for the production of any correspondence that had passed between her Majesty's Government and the East India Company upon the subject of the settlements in the Straits of Malacca.—Mr. BAILLIE said it was impossible for her Majesty's Government to deal with the subject without first communicating with the East India Company; inasmuch as the settlements referred to form

a great convict establishment, which cannot easily be removed without a good deal of inquiry and preparation. With regard to the grievances complained of in the petition referred to by the noble Lord, he denied that they were generally well founded. The trade and commerce of Singapore had increased no less than seventy-five per cent. within the last six years, and that he held to be a sufficient refutation of the complaints generally made by the petitioners. He hoped the noble Lord would be satisfied with this explanation, without going further, or pressing for any correspondence, if there were any in existence, on the subject.—Mr. HORSMAN said there was no reason why Singapore should be governed in India. Ceylon is nearer to India, and yet it is treated as a colony. Hong-Kong might as well be put under India.—Sir JOHN ELPHINSTONE described, from personal knowledge, the lawless state of the mixed native population of Singapore, and agreed with Mr. Baillie that the placing of the settlement under the Colonial Office would impose a very great burden on this country.—Mr. MANGLES thought no such transfer should be made till the opinion of the Indian Government has been ascertained.—The motion was agreed to.

THE STADE DUES.

Mr. RICARDO rose to move that an humble address be presented to her Majesty, respectfully representing the injury to British commerce inflicted by the tax levied by Hanover on merchandize and shipping ascending the river Elbe, under the denomination of the State dues, and praying that her Majesty will be pleased to give directions to her Ministers to give notice of the termination of the treaty between the United Kingdom and Hanover, of the 22nd of July, 1844, according to the terms of the eighth article of that treaty. He observed:—"The great falling off which has recently taken place in our exports renders this a question of great importance. Last year, our trade with the city of Hamburg was upwards of 13,000,000*l.*, and, about twenty miles above that city, stands the little town of Stade, where all vessels, except Hanoverian, are required to bring to, and submit to a duty of 3 per cent. *ad valorem*, but which amounts to a much larger percentage on the produce of this country, before it is allowed to proceed to Hamburg to discharge its cargo. From a statement which he held in his hand, he found that on a cargo which went from Hull to Hamburg the toll varied from 66 per cent. to 168 per cent. upon the freight of the goods. Another inconvenience is that the British merchant is required to carry two sets of papers, and show papers which he is not required to do in any other country of Europe, and the ship is not even then allowed to return home without the leave of Hanover. Then, again, Hanover has made a political engine of the tax, for it has lately joined the Zollverein; and, while the tax is remitted in favour of other ports, it is retained in the case of Hamburg. It was said by some that the question is one which concerns Hanover and Hamburg rather than Hanover and England; but he maintained that such is not the case, since we send annually 13,000,000*l.* of goods to Hamburg, and the tax is the means of subjecting British commerce to delays, vexations, and annoyances; while there is no pretence for its maintenance upon the score of services rendered in return, since Hanover does not contribute one single farthing towards keeping the navigation open." The eighth clause of the treaty of 1844 seemed to contemplate that a time would arrive when the people of England would no longer tolerate such a tyranny.—The motion was seconded by Mr. BRAMLEY-MOORE.

Mr. HENLEY admitted that the payment of the tax is a grievance; but the legality of the impost, which Mr. Ricardo and Mr. Moore had questioned, is surrounded by considerable difficulties. The most prudent course would be to have the question investigated by a committee of that House. The Government would consent to the adoption of that course.—Lord PALMERSTON disapproved of the proposed course, and thought the Government ought to investigate the case with the assistance of its law officers, and afterwards propose the course it meant to adopt.—Mr. CLAY and Mr. HUTT recommended the redemption of the toll.—Mr. MILNER GIBSON observed that, before that is done, there should be a committee to ascertain whether it be worth while to do so.—Mr. BRISCOM thought the Government ought to express its opinions on the subject.—Lord ASHLEY said his constituents at Hull were prepared to pay any money rather than be subject to these dues.—Mr. S. FITZGERALD remarked that the speech of Mr. Ricardo must have satisfied the House that the question is not simply a legal one, but involves considerations which can best be dealt with by a committee; and he therefore hoped Mr. Ricardo would accept the proposal of Mr. Henley.—Lord HOTHAM recommended the same course, which Mr. Ricardo consented to adopt, and the motion was withdrawn.

REWARDS TO MEMBERS.

Sir JOHN TRELAUNY moved "That the receipt of any species of reward by a member in consideration of the exercise of his influence in that capacity is calculated to lower the dignity and authority of this House, and is a high breach of the privilege of Parliament." He adverted to a recent inquiry before a committee of that House, and urged the importance of protecting the British Parliament from even a suspicion that justice is sold there to the highest bidder.—After a pause, Lord HOTHAM observed that the subject was one of manifest

importance; and that there was a general belief on the part of the public that practices did take place which it was the duty of the House to endeavour to put a stop to.—Sir JAMES GRAHAM did not think any new resolution on the subject necessary. Distinguished members of that House, as agents for the colonies, had received pecuniary rewards for their influence. Mr. Burke had acted in this capacity; and so had Mr. Roebuck; but he must admit that the payment of money diminishes the worth of the advocacy.—Mr. J. D. FITZGERALD recommended that the matter should be allowed to stand on the old existing law of Parliament.—Mr. MELLOR likewise advised the withdrawal of the resolution.—Mr. MANGLES pointed out the evil effect upon the people of India of any act which might lead them to believe that their own proneness to corruption was shared by the ruling classes in this country.—Mr. W. J. FOX could not coincide with those who recommended the withdrawal of the resolution.—Mr. BRIGHT, on the other hand, opposed the motion, contending that there was no case for a new resolution, which might involve honest members in difficulty.—Mr. WALPOLE was of opinion that no new rule is necessary; that the old rule is better left as it is, since new words, tying up that rule, might hamper the House. The duties of members who are of the legal profession are well defined and well understood, and he asserted with confidence that no new rule is required in their case.—Lord PALMERSTON entirely agreed with those who consider that the present law of Parliament, which is known and understood, is sufficient for its purpose, and thought the resolution objectionable on account of its vagueness.—Sir JOHN TRELAUNY withdrew his motion.

JURIES IN IRELAND.

Mr. J. D. FITZGERALD obtained leave to bring in a bill to consolidate and amend the laws relating to juries in Ireland.

ENLISTMENT OF KROOMEN.

Mr. LOWE, in moving an address for copies of all instructions for the engagement of natives of Africa in the Indian service, and a return of the alterations in the annual Mutiny Act which such engagements would render necessary, referred to certain statements in the House of Lords relative to the enlistment of Kroomen for service in India.—Mr. BAILLIE assented to the motion, and added other papers.—Lord PALMERSTON was of opinion that a black corps would be extremely useful in India; but care should be taken to prevent any indirect encouragement of the slave trade.—The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER defended the conduct of the Government, and said that he had received the most contradictory statements relative to the qualities of Kroomen.—General THOMPSON said that the Kroomen are such indifferent riflemen that when they fire a shot they turn their heads and run away.—The motion as amended was then agreed to.

The report of the Committee of SUPPLY was brought up, and agreed to.

The CUSTOMS DUTIES BILL was read a third time, and passed.

The House adjourned at a few minutes to ten o'clock.

Wednesday, April 14th.

TENANT'S COMPENSATION (IRELAND) BILL.

In the HOUSE OF COMMONS, Mr. MAGUIRE moved the second reading of this bill, and observed that the question is not merely Irish, but Imperial. The insecurity of land tenure gives a sense of insecurity to the cultivators of the soil. The tenant in Ireland is completely dependent on his landlord, and the law is made an instrument of oppression and injustice. The law, therefore, must be changed, for it is the root of all social evil in Ireland.—The motion was seconded by the O'DONOGHUE, who insisted on the manifest justice of the principle of the bill—that of giving to tenants a legal claim to compensation for improvements, which had increased the value of the land. This had become for Ireland a social and political necessity.—Sir JOHN WALSH moved to defer the second reading of the bill for six months, and protested against founding a bill on *ex parte* statements. The effect of the measure would be to take away from the owner of the soil all property in it, by declaring that whatever value is given to it by labour and capital belongs to the person who bestows the labour and capital; so that in time landlords would no longer exist in Ireland, a mere rent-charge being substituted for ownership. He believed, from personal observation, that the hold which an Irish tenant-at-will has on his land is much stronger than that of an English tenant. The war between landlord and tenant in Ireland had arisen from the desire of the latter to subdivide lands—a remnant of the old pernicious habit of "fractionizing farms"; and, if the bill passed, the landlord would cease to have any interest in the soil.—Mr. J. D. FITZGERALD highly approved of the bill, though thinking some of the details imperfect. Those, however, would be for the Committee to consider.—Lord PALMERSTON differed from Mr. Fitzgerald. The measure would transfer from the landlord to the tenant that which both parties knew to be the property of the former. It would be a sweeping act of confiscation; besides which, a law restraining the proceedings of parties having mutual relations with each other is objectionable on principle. He should therefore vote against

the second reading.—The bill was further opposed by Mr. HASSARD, and supported by Mr. CAIRD, who contended that the property of the tenant is as much entitled to protection as that of the landlord.—Lord NAAS condemned the measure as transgressing the first rules and rights of property. On the motion of Mr. DEASY, the debate was adjourned to the 9th of June, and the House adjourned at twenty minutes past five.

Thursday, April 15th.

BARREL ORGANS.

In the HOUSE OF LORDS, the Marquis of WESTMEATH laid upon the table a bill for the suppression of barrel organs and other nuisances in the streets of the metropolis, and gave notice that on Tuesday he would present a petition from four hundred inhabitants of Belgravia on the subject.

THE MAILS BETWEEN HOLYHEAD AND KINGSTOWN.

In answer to a question by Lord DUNGANNON, Lord COLCHESTER stated that arrangements were being made for shortening the time of conveying the mails between Holyhead and Kingstown. A contract had been drawn up between the Government and the railroad and steam-packet companies, but had not yet been signed.

PASSPORTS.

The Earl of MALMESBURY, in presenting the correspondence between the English and French Governments on the subject of passports, described the circumstances that had occasioned it. After the attempt on the life of the Emperor, the French Government withdrew the permission given to French Consuls and agents to sign passports for English subjects travelling in France. This, however, had been unjustly complained of, as it was only fair that strangers should travel with a passport of the country to which they belong. The plan adopted by the English Government of granting Foreign-office passports on the certificate of a banker or magistrate was found insufficient, and it had been proposed that they should issue passports independently of the Foreign-office. But there was no statute by which they were bound to perform such a duty. To meet the difficulty, the Government proposed to increase the number of persons from whom certificates of identity could be obtained, on which application to the Foreign-office could be made. In addition to magistrates and bankers, as at present, all clergymen of different Christian denominations, physicians, surgeons, solicitors, and notaries, would be authorized to certify the identity of persons wishing to obtain passports. He thought it impossible that in any part of England a person could be of such obscure condition as not to be able to apply to some one in the seven or eight classes authorized to give a certificate. Agents would be appointed in the chief cities to deliver the passports of the Foreign-office; and the Government proposed to reduce the cost of those documents to 2*s.*

The Earl of CLARENDON said that the regulations of the late Government were only provisional. The whole system of passports is a great mistake. The French Emperor had attempted to do away with it some years ago, but was defeated by the difficulties made by his own Government.—Earl GREY said the present arrangements prove the inutility of the system. Where is the safeguard, when so many persons are authorized to give certificates to all who ask? Why not go a step farther, and empower the regular authorities in towns and cities to grant passports at once?—The Earl of MALMESBURY stated that they could not be compelled to do it, and the funds raised would not support more than six or seven agents.—Earl GRANVILLE believed that anything which reduces the system to an absurdity will be a benefit. Would the new arrangements apply to other countries as well as France?—The Earl of MALMESBURY replied that no other country has ever objected to a passport signed by the Secretary for Foreign Affairs.

THE ECCLESIASTICAL COMMISSION.

The Earl of DERBY laid on the table a bill embodying the recommendations of the Select Committee of 1836 on the Ecclesiastical Commission. The bill was read a first time.

Their Lordships then adjourned at a quarter past six. In the HOUSE OF COMMONS, Mr. SPOONER announced (amidst some laughter) that he should postpone his motion on Maynooth to that day fortnight.

THE NEW BRIDGE OVER THE THAMES.

Lord JOHN MANNERS, in answer to Sir W. FRASER, said he thought it would not be advisable to call the new bridge over the Thames close by the Houses of Parliament 'Sebastopol Bridge.' The suggestion was a little behind time, now that public attention is directed to the heroism of our countrymen in India. It would be better to retain the name 'Westminster-bridge,' that being associated with the place where the Legislative duties are performed. When the Emperor and Empress of the French visited this country three years ago, it was gravely debated whether the names 'Waterloo Bridge' and 'Trafalgar Square' should not be altered. The good sense of the country prevented that being done; but it would be unadvisable to give the proposed name to the new bridge. With respect to the question of erecting another bridge across the Thames, he could state that the Government had no such intention.

LIGHTHOUSES.

Lord CLARENDON PAQET called attention to the present modes of superintending the lights, buoys, and beacons on the coasts of Great Britain and Ireland, and to the

manner in which funds are raised to defray the expenditure thereon; and moved that the House resolve itself into a committee, to consider an address praying her Majesty to direct that measures may be taken for giving effect to the recommendation of the Select Committee on Lighthouses of 1845—namely, "that all expenses for the erection and maintenance of lighthouses, floating lights, buoys, and beacons, on the coast of the United Kingdom, be henceforth defrayed out of the public revenue." Our coasts are very badly lighted, at a great expense, and without any uniform system, while in France and in Scotland the expense is less and the result far better. He thought there should be a central board to attend to such matters, and that it should be under the immediate control of Parliament.

Mr. HENLEY wished that Lord Clarence had limited his motion to the management of the lights without touching the question as to who is to pay for them. The management of our system of lights is not so bad as had been represented, though, possibly, under a central management the whole expenditure might be reduced. A change of system, however, would entail a large outlay for superannuations. The Government would willingly issue a Royal Commission to look into the whole matter, with all its difficulties, which are not a few.

Mr. LINDSAY insisted on the injustice of taxing the shipping interest as a body for lights, which it is the duty of the nation to maintain.—Mr. LOWE agreed with Lord CLARENCE PAGET that the cause of the great expenditure for lights is the double government of the Trinity House and the Board of Trade; and so long as that double government exists, it will not be in the power of the Board materially to reduce the expenditure. Still, he disagreed with the motion, which he should oppose.—Mr. CARDWELL observed that a single Government means nothing less than that a large expenditure and the patronage it involves should be at once transferred to the Board of Trade. There is really no double Government and no divided responsibility. He should support the proposition for inquiry.—Mr. BENTINCK recommended Lord Clarence Paget to adopt the suggestion of Mr. Henley.—Lord PALMERSTON joined in the same recommendation. Further inquiry he conceived to be necessary before any steps were taken.—Mr. WHITE contended that the whole cost of the lighthouses should be transferred to the Consolidated Fund. Other nations set them the example of exempting their ships from light dues, and he thought they should follow it.—Mr. A. SMITH regretted that the accounts laid on the table of the House with regard to the expenditure by Trinity House were not as complete as they should be. There should be some reform in the constitution of that body.—Mr. R. N. PHILLIPS said he began to tremble for the Consolidated Fund, when he heard the proposal to transfer the cost of lights to it. If the system of transferring charges to it were to be continued, he feared it would "thaw and resolve itself into a dew." (Laughter.)—Mr. COWAN suggested that one of the reasons why the system of lights upon the French coast is superior to our own may be found in the fact that the compact nature of its shores renders the facilities for the erection of lighthouses much greater than can be the case in these kingdoms.—Mr. EWART could not concur in thinking it expedient that the whole of the proposed expenditure should be thrown upon the Consolidated Fund. It was, however, he thought, a question well worthy of the consideration of the Government, whether it would not be desirable to free the coasting trade from the operation of those dues which press so heavily upon it, and which amount to a sum of only 60,000*l.* per annum.—Lord CLARENCE PAGET, feeling satisfied with the assurance given by Mr. Henley, withdrew his motion.

TRIBUNALS OF COMMERCE.

Mr. AYRTON rose to move the appointment of a select committee to inquire respecting the expediency of establishing Tribunals of Commerce. The honourable and learned gentleman said that he should add to the terms of the notice he had given, the words, "and of otherwise improving the mode of procedure in actions and suits of a commercial nature." A tribunal of commerce in France consists of a body, including a judge who is a lawyer, and the chief magistrates of the district, who very much resemble a special jury in this country. This tribunal possesses sovereign powers in cases of commercial difference, and, in districts where such tribunals do not exist, a local judge, resembling very much a county court judge, takes cognizance of such matters. In cases exceeding 60*l.*, an appeal is given to the superior courts of the country. Mr. Ayrton was not prepared to say that this plan should be carried out in all its details in this country; but he might mention that such a tribunal exists in London, and he wished that other towns in England might, if they pleased, have the same privilege. He did not desire to point out any particular means for carrying out the object which he had in view, but asked for the appointment of a select committee, to devise means for conferring a great benefit, which is important, not only to the City of London, but to every commercial town in the kingdom.

The SOLICITOR-GENERAL, though not opposing the motion for a committee, reminded the House that, through the operation of County Courts, suits had been shortened to the very smallest limits. Commercial men in this country would not be satisfied with courts which

decide on a case in a day or two. They desire to have their differences decided by superior courts, and would not consent to submit them to a private tribunal.—Lord JOHN RUSSELL believed that some good might arise from investigating the subject, though he was very much of the opinion of the Solicitor-General that these tribunals would not be satisfactory in this country, so that he was not very sanguine as to the result of the inquiry.—Mr. J. D. FITZGERALD did not expect to be able to import these tribunals from foreign countries, but thought that some of their principles and forms of procedure might enable us to improve our administration of commercial law.—Colonel SYKES alluded to the outline of a plan drawn up in Calcutta by the free merchants and the native community, stating that in this scheme a decision would be obtained in twenty-four hours as to whether goods delivered corresponded with samples. This he thought a great advantage to commerce, and, considering that some such system could be beneficially introduced into this country, he gave his hearty support to the motion before the House.—Mr. McMAHON agreed with the Solicitor-General that the continental system of tribunals of commerce is a remnant of barbarous ages, and not suited to our jurisprudence. These tribunals had been tried in this country for centuries, and had proved an utter failure; but he approved of the inquiry in the hope that means would be devised for removing the necessity for an appeal from law to equity.—Mr. BLAKE denied, from personal experience, that tribunals of commerce in this country had proved a failure.—Mr. COLLIER supported the motion, believing that it would lead to more frequent circuits, and to judges visiting towns not visited at present. Mr. BUCHANAN considered that great advantage would arise from the establishment of tribunals of commerce, which would give decisions upon *rescissory* statements within twenty-four hours.—Mr. HORSFALL did not think that tribunals of commerce would have the advantages which Mr. Ayrton appeared to anticipate, but thought that a satisfactory county court system, based upon the tribunals of commerce, might be framed by the select committee to which the subject was to be referred.—Mr. AYRTON then briefly replied, and the motion was agreed to.

THE COURT OF CHANCERY.

The SOLICITOR-GENERAL moved for leave to bring in a bill to amend the course of procedure in the Court of Chancery. The objects of the bill are two, both having one end—to enable a suitor to obtain in one court the complete relief he required. One object is to empower the Court of Chancery, in applications for an injunction, or for specific performance, to award damages; the other object is to obviate a difficulty in that Court in trying questions of fact, by authorizing it to call a jury to try such questions, instead of sending an issue to a court of law, the witnesses being examined in open court. He proposed that for the present this power should be not compulsory, but discretionary, in the judge.—After a short conversation, leave was given to introduce the bill.—Lord JOHN MANNERS obtained leave to bring in a bill to confirm a contract for the sale, by the Commissioners of her Majesty's Works, of certain lands to the Commissioners of Chelsea Hospital.

The House adjourned at eleven o'clock.

PUBLIC MEETINGS.

THE COTTON SUPPLY ASSOCIATION.

THE strangers present at the annual meeting of this association were entertained at dinner at the Queen's Hotel, Manchester, on the evening of Friday week. Mr. Cheetham, M.P., presided, and Mr. Ashworth, in proposing "Success to the cultivation of Cotton in India," made some observations on that important subject. He remarked:—"They should expect better things from India than had hitherto come from it. The land tenure is the leading question. Hitherto it has been vested in the Company, and it has been next to impossible for Europeans or natives to obtain a yard of land that they could call their own. How is it possible to expect that India can be cultivated by servants at will, any more than we can expect large cultivation in England by capitalists or farmers who are tenants at will? But, worse than that, whilst in England even tenants at will have got some sort of nominal rent which they have reason to expect will satisfy the landlord, in India that description of rent which will satisfy the landlord is just what the collector chooses to take. Hence the poor Hindoo labourer on the soil has never known what is his own; the little capital he once possessed has been carried away piecemeal, from year to year, until at last the men who began life with a good house over their heads, end in a mud hut with scarcely food to keep himself alive. It might be asked, 'Is there any one left to buy land, now we have exhausted the people?' After the potato famine in Ireland, and the passing of the Encumbered Estates Act, it was found that Irishmen bought the chief part of the estates; and, perhaps, it might be found, after all, that there are people in India who possess the means to buy land when offered them. The East India Company have often been in want of money; they have something like 60,000,000*l.* of debt, and he believed a large portion of that belongs to India. If the Americans had followed our example, they would not have been sending us

three millions of bales of cotton. The Americans sell their land in fee simple, and provide roads, railways, and canals. Why, therefore, should we hesitate to demand that India should follow the example? And no doubt, if the example were followed, India would in due course of time supply cotton to an extent that would satisfy reasonable wants. They who made these demands asked for no protection; they asked only that obstacles should be removed."

Mr. A. J. Otway responded, and spoke in a similar strain. He denied some statements that had been made by Colonel Sykes, to the effect that large sums of money had been expended by the East India Company on roads. He believed that the roads are in a wretched state, and that the expenditure under the head of Public Works was chiefly for barracks and other military erections. The House of Commons, however, is now giving some attention to Indian affairs, owing to "the eloquence, vigour, and earnestness of one great man—Mr. Bright."

Other speakers addressed the meeting, and one of them—Mr. A. N. Shaw, late revenue commissioner for the north of India—asserted, in opposition to statements by the East India Company, that American cotton can be grown successfully in India, and that that country is the only one which can compete successfully with the United States.

Sir James Brooke, K.C.B., in responding to the toast of "Our Colonies and Dependencies as additional fields of cotton culture," said he was totally unqualified to speak on the subjects of cotton supply and cotton manufacture, but wished to call the attention of the meeting to the fact, that, whereas slavery exists in the cotton-producing districts of America, there is no compulsory labour in India. The natives of that country might refuse to cultivate cotton; they might prefer to cultivate sugar, or coffee, or anything else. "It would never do to speak merely of the enormous area on which cotton can be grown, and assume that cotton would be grown in consequence, because such was really not the fact. Wherever we could go in India, we should choose the best points—those most accustomed to our presence. There are plenty of them, and we should content ourselves with some of those districts longest settled, and where the tenure is least opposed to change. Probably some of the indigo districts in Bengal and Madras, where Europeans have been long resident, would supply an enormous quantity of cotton with the least violent changes."

MR. LINDSAY, M.P., AT TYNEMOUTH.

Mr. Lindsay has been addressing his constituents in the Albion Assembly Room; the Mayor in the chair. Alluding to the two India Bills before Parliament, he observed:—"Lord Palmerston's bill said there should be eight members of the council elected by the Queen; Lord Derby's said eighteen. From what he knew of the business of the East India Company, he was of opinion that eight are too few and eighteen too many, and that twelve would be a better number. With the qualifications he could not agree. As a man of business he knew them to be utterly impracticable and altogether absurd. For instance, one of them was that a man should have manufactured goods for, or shipped goods to, India to be eligible. Now a man might be engaged all his life in manufacturing goods for India, and know nothing at all about that country. (Hear, hear.) His friend the chairman manufactured a great many iron cables and chains, which were probably used in India; but did he thereby know more about that country than he would have done otherwise? Then another qualification was a residence of ten years in India, and there was a restriction as to districts. The residence he did not find fault with—he thought it essential; but he would not confine the selection to particular localities, for, if he could find a better man in Bengal than in Madras, he would at once take him. He would sweep away all these minute details, which would make the bill utterly unworkable, and would adopt the proposal to have men named in the bill as the members, and when they went out of office by rotation, he would have them appointed by the executive. Over the persons appointed he would put a check to this extent: that an address from both Houses of Parliament should at any moment, if they were not attentive to their duties, supersede them, and he would take away from them altogether that great stumbling-block of patronage. There was one clause in the bill of the present Government in which he heartily agreed: that was the one providing for the appointment of a committee to inquire into the finances of India."

VOTE BY BALLOT.

A *soirée* was held at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Wednesday evening, in honour of Mr. Nicholson, the founder of the system of voting by ballot in the colony of Victoria; Mr. Henry Berkeley in the chair. Sir Arthur Hallam Elton moved the adoption of a complimentary address, which was signed by Mr. Berkeley, Mr. Grote, Mr. Bright, Mr. Cobden, Mr. Milner Gibson, Mr. W. J. Fox, Mr. Miall, Sir Arthur Hallam Elton, and others. Mr. Nicholson then addressed the company, and thanked them for the honour that had been conferred on him. Speeches were afterwards delivered by Mr. Morley, Mr. Ayrton, Mr. Wyld, Mr. Roupell, &c., and the party broke up.

THE INDIAN REVOLT.

The whole of Lucknow is at length in our hands; but the worth of this victory is in some measure depreciated by the fact of a large number of the rebels having escaped. The final success was achieved on the 19th of March, when 117 guns were captured. About 2000 of the enemy were slain during the siege, and on our side eight officers were killed. The submission of the principal landholders has been accepted; and the townspeople and villagers, being protected, are resuming their usual occupations. Miss Orr and Miss Jackson, two of the English prisoners, are rescued. They have been well treated and protected by Meer Valced Alby Derejal. The rescue was effected by Captain Mitchell and Lieutenant Boole, with a party of Ghoorkas. About fifty thousand of the enemy have escaped, and, at the last advices, were making for Rohilcund and Bundelcund. The army was in pursuit; but, unfortunately, owing to the delay of Sir Hugh Rose's force for three weeks at Saugor, the line of troops intended to intercept the enemy in that direction could not be closed up, so that there is an opening for escape. In achieving our success we regret to say that Major Hodson has been killed, and Sir William Peel wounded. Sir Colin Campbell remains at Lucknow, restoring quiet and organizing the garrison. Great efforts are being made to reassure the population, who had fled in great numbers to the neighbouring villages. With respect to the other disturbed districts, a telegram from Malta states:—

"On the 21st of March, Sir Hugh Rose was within twenty-five miles of Jhansi. Thirty thousand rebels were said to be in his front. The Calpee mutineers have taken the fort of Chundaree, and made the Rajah prisoner. The rebels have crossed the Etawah, but have been driven back. General Roberts marched on the 10th of March from Nussereabad for Kotah. Whitlock's force remains at Saugor. The cavalry alone pushed on to Allahabad.

"The Bombay money-market was becoming tighter. Imports of all descriptions were in good demand. Cotton rising; freights steady."

The India House telegram, received on Thursday, states:—

"The rebels, in great force, with four guns, crossed the Ramgunga on March 18th, but have since retired to Fangoon. The rebels, who had crossed into the Rhat-terpoor Pergunnah, retired before Christie's column, and revenue collections have been commenced. All well at Cawnpore up to the 23rd inst. The Second Brigade of the Central India Field Force laid siege to the Hill Fort of Chundaree, on March 8. On March 17, the fort was stormed and taken. Our loss not great; one officer (Lieutenant Snoresby, Royal Artillery) is reported as killed, and one captain (Keating) as wounded. The Second Brigade was to march immediately to Salle Lehut, and join Sir Hugh Rose's column. A combined movement would then be made on Jhansi, which is only thirty-six miles' distance. Sir Hugh Rose's movements in the rear of the enemy's defences have caused great panic, and the whole of the Chundun districts and the Rajah of Banpoor's territory, on the right of the Letwa river, have been abandoned by the rebels. The Rajah's possessions have been confiscated by Sir Robert Hamilton. The rebels under Lala Sahib, brother of Nana Sahib, are in great force in Bundelcund. The Chief of Chamk Hundee, one of the great Patwar Dhun family, has been arrested, and his fort occupied.

"Commissioner Yeh reached Calcutta on the 22nd inst., and will be under surveillance until further orders. Mohundie Alo Khan, styling himself Prince of Rampoor, who was arrested on the 2nd, has been released from confinement, and required to live under surveillance."

In a Bombay telegram it is stated that Stewart's brigade captured Chundaree on the 17th of March. The disarmament of Guzerat is proceeding satisfactorily.

INDIAN ATROCITIES.

Conflicting evidence on this subject continues to be received; and it must be admitted that the negative side is somewhat strong. The *Times* of last Saturday contains the following letter to the editor:—

"Sir,—Observing, in your number of the 7th instant, a letter purporting to have come from me, as Mayor of Portsmouth, corroborative of Sepoy atrocities, in the case of a Mrs. Chambers, I beg to state that the communication in question was not forwarded by me or by my authority, and that the circumstances stated therein are, as far as I am concerned, devoid of truth.—I am, &c., C. E. SMITHERS.—Portsmouth, April 8th."

NOTES FROM LUCKNOW.

Mr. Russell, writing to the *Times* on March 2nd, says:—

"These Sikhs are hard fighters, but they are Asiatics, and are true to their instincts. It is generally thought in the country that the Sikhs took Delhi, stormed the Secunderbagh, and relieved the Residency; they are sedulous in circulating those reports of their own prowess

wherever they go. They say that the Lucknow people are more afraid of them than of us, and perhaps after the assault the fear may be justified. The Begum certainly does not conceal her apprehensions of the result of our operations, and is vehement with prayers and tears to the chiefs to make one great onslaught upon us ere we complete our batteries. Overcoming her timidity, she appeared in the field on the attack of the 25th [of February], mounted on an elephant, but, as that sagacious animal never remains within range, it is probable she was not a very near spectatress of the fight. On one occasion she astonished the durbar, and almost shamed them out of their senses. In an indignant harangue, with all the fire of Rachel making a grand *coup de théâtre*, she suddenly tore her veil from her face (which is said to be a very handsome one, by-the-by), and denounced them for their inactivity and for their indifference to the wrongs of their countrywomen. I am told one must be an Asiatic to understand the full force of this demonstration. What the poor lady will do when Sir Colin makes his appearance this morning at Dilkoocha, I cannot conjecture. If she could have but seen the troops march this morning she would have been anything but comforted. Lugard's division consists of the 3rd brigade, consisting of the 34th (part detached), 38th, and 53rd Regiments, and of the 4th brigade, formed of the 42nd Regiment, 93rd Regiment, and 4th Punjab Rifles. Most of these regiments are in an efficient state, but the Highlanders are conspicuous not only for their costume, but for their steady and martial air on parade and in the field. As they marched off in the early grey of the morning, with the pipes playing (really this time) "The Campbells are coming," one caught a vision of the interior of Lucknow through the dancing sheen of their arms. The chief inspected them, and seemed highly pleased with what he saw. As for himself, he wears a serviceable air which bespeaks confidence and resolution, and gives the notion of hard work and success. Everything about him is for service, even down to the keen-edged sabre in a coarse leather sheath, not dangling and clattering from his side and hitting the flanks of his horse from gaudy sling belts, but tucked up compactly by a stout shoulder-belt just over his hip."

The same writer tells an amusing anecdote of the perversity of our fair countrywomen:—

"These ladies and their little ones have been a most embarrassing ingredient in Sir Colin's calculations. At Lucknow, he was in a fever at the various small delays which they considered necessary, and, courteous as he is to women, he for once was obliged to be 'a little stern' when he found the dear creatures a little unreasonable. In order to make a proper effect, most of the ladies came out in their best gowns and bonnets. Whether 'Betty gave the cheek' a little touch of red or not, I cannot say, but I am assured the array of fashion, though somewhat behind the season, owing to the difficulty of communicating with the Calcutta modistes, was very creditable. Sir Colin got fidgety when he found himself made a *maître d'étiquette* and an *arbitre morum* among piles of handboxes, 'best bonnets,' and 'these few little clothes trunks'; but he sustained his position with unflinching fortitude, till at length, when he thought he had 'seen the last of them' out of the place, two young ladies came trippingly in, whisked about the Residency for a short time, and then, with nods and smiles, departed, saying graciously, 'We'll be back again presently.' 'No, ladies, no; you'll be good enough to do nothing of the kind,' exclaimed he; 'you have been here quite long enough, I am sure, and I have had quite enough trouble in getting you out of it.' The Agra ladies ought to have been ready long ago."

STATE OF TRADE.

TRADE continued, during the whole of the week ending last Saturday, to be very depressed. In some places, a little animation was created by the demand for spring goods; but for the most part the excessive cold of the weather has checked business in that direction. "The firm of Mottram, Taylor, and Co., of Sheffield, merchants and manufacturers of saws, files, and edge-tools," says a communication from Sheffield, dated last Saturday, "have this week failed with 8200*l.* liabilities. They show assets equal to 20*s.* in the pound, and, making reasonable deductions for loss on forced sales, there is a probability that, after paying the secured debts (1200*l.*) in full, the estate will realize a dividend of 10*s.* or 12*s.* 6*d.* in the pound to the rest of the creditors. At a meeting of the creditors it was agreed that the estate should be wound up under an assignment. Considerable agitation exists in the coal district around Sheffield with regard to the proposed reduction of fifteen per cent. on the colliers' wages. The men have offered to work short time till trade improves, but at various meetings have expressed a determination to resist the reduction of wages. The West Staveley and West Silkstone Collieries have stopped, thus throwing out of employment between two hundred and three hundred hands. The proprietors, Messrs. Harrison, Muschamp, and Co., called their creditors together on Thursday. Their liabilities are 25,000*l.*"

In the general business of the port of London during the week ending last Saturday, the arrivals diminished.

The number of ships reported inward was 196, including 51 with corn, rice, &c. The number cleared outward was 129, including 25 in ballast; and those on the berth loading for the Australian colonies amounted to 64.

ACCIDENTS AND SUDDEN DEATHS.

MAJOR CROKER, of the Royal Miners Artillery, has been drowned, together with his coachman, in a fishpond on the Prideaux estate, near St. Blazey, Cornwall. The pond was overgrown with weeds, to clear which a flat-bottomed boat had been obtained. The boat upset, and the two occupants, becoming entangled in the weeds, were drowned.

A shocking occurrence took place at Alnwick, on Easter Monday. A pigeon match was held outside the town; and a man named William Young, having got into the line of fire, was accidentally shot in the breast. He died almost immediately afterwards.

Elizabeth Carter, a young woman of eighteen has been burnt to death. She had been decoyed from her home to a house in White Lion Court, Wych-street, which she made her temporary abode. A few days ago, while sitting by the fire, a part of her dress ignited, and she rushed out into the street enveloped in flames. A gentleman was passing by at the time in his gig, and the servant, snatching up the horse-rug, folded it round the girl, and extinguished the fire. He afterwards applied linseed oil, lint, &c., to the burns, and had the sufferer conveyed to King's College Hospital, where she died, after lingering four days. At the inquest (which terminated in a verdict of Accidental Death), the Coroner, at the recommendation of the jury, handed a small gratuity to the servant, but he generously gave it to the father of the deceased, who was present, and who was stated to be in indigent circumstances.

The adjourned inquest on the bodies of the persons who perished in the late dreadful fire in Bloomsbury was resumed on Tuesday, when some important evidence was given by Mr. Rogers, Lecturer on Chemistry at the St. George's School of Medicine. He stated that he had made a *post mortem* examination of the bodies, which presented no appearance of death from suffocation. The appearances were as if the bodies had been injected with arsenic. There were distinct traces of that poison. The vapours of arsenic would entirely prestrate the frame, and ultimately cause death. The cause of death he believed to have been the inhalation of the fumes of poisonous vapours in the first instance, and finally the inhalation of carbonic fumes. It appears that a Mr. John Calvert, a mineralogist and metallurgist, had some premises adjoining those which were destroyed, and from which they were divided by a brick wall up to a certain point, and a wooden partition above. In these premises he stored a large quantity of minerals, and some of these were destroyed by the fire, which penetrated through the partition. Several of the substances contained arsenic, which evaporated in the heat; and Mr. Calvert himself was slightly affected by the fumes on the occasion in question. Mr. Taylor, the leaseholder of the premises in Gilbert street, had promised to put up a substantial partition, but had not done so. Mr. Taylor, said Mr. Calvert, in giving evidence, "began his nightly rambles" at a late hour. "He was very frequently with his tenants, and they got drunk together." Evidence was afterwards received from Mr. Taylor himself, who said:—"He was in bed before ten o'clock on the night in question, and had not been at the house in Gilbert street after half-past nine in the morning, and he was not outside his house after nine o'clock in the evening. He could give no opinion as to the cause of the fire; but he believed it broke out in the large room, and he formed that opinion from an inspection of the premises. He was bound to insure both premises by the terms of his lease to the amount of 1000*l.*" The inquest was again adjourned.

A boy has been killed at the Tunnel Coalpit, Shevington, near Chorley. At eight o'clock on Monday morning, the browman saw the boy hanging by his hands to the cage which contained the full boxes, and which was then being drawn up the shaft. The browman called to the engineman to stop the engine; but, before that could be done, the cage had got into the framework at the pit-eye, and the poor boy was crushed to death. It is supposed that he had attempted to jump into the cage as it passed the top seam, and that he missed his aim.

IRELAND.

THE POLICE INQUIRY.—This affair, beginning in wounds and broken heads, seems to have terminated amicably. Colonel Browne underwent a long examination on Friday week, and, while being cross-examined, said that, in consequence of what had occurred, he had lost peace of mind, suffered a great deal of anxiety, and felt deep regret. "Therefore," he observed, "I have lost the engagement." He said that his men had been ill-treated for an hour or two before he had ordered them to charge, and that he himself had had some fifty dozen of stones showered on him. Two or three of his men, he admitted, had acted intemperately; but the whole police force ought not to be blamed. The blame, he said, should be thrown entirely on him.

regret for what he had done—"regret which go along with him to his grave." These remarks made under the influence of the most violent emotion, and, at their conclusion, the colonel left the quite overcome. The cross-examining counsel said he could not, "as a gentleman," ask Colonel any further questions after so handsome an answer. The young collegians who were present laughed, and so the matter has apparently come to

AMERICA.

continues to attract attention. General Lane signed the Presidency of the Constitutional Convention, which adjourned from Minneola to Leavenworth on the evening of the 25th ult. Charges of faction prevail; but the advocates of extreme measures are becoming more moderate. It is expected the Topeka (or anti-slavery) Constitution will be adopted, with some modifications. Sandy Hook, near New York, is to be fortified. The Navy Department atington has received despatches from Lieutenant Pisisi, dated Pisisi, February 17th and 22nd, saying he exploring party had returned to the Gulf of Mexico for want of provisions. Considerable ill-health attended, and Surgeon O'Hara was left at Pisisi to attend to the sick. On Lieutenant Craven's way down the coast, he met Lieutenant Michlan's division, who were running a level with great rapidity. Lieutenant Craven confidently expected that the survey would be completed by the 20th of March.

A number of volunteers for the Utah expedition is great. The War Department contemplates investing the force of the expedition to 5500 men, giving the command to an officer of a higher grade than Colonel Johnston.

Several battles have been fought in Mexico between constitutional forces and those of the Zuloaga government. General Parodi has retreated before General Osallos, of the Zuloaga party. Pronunciamentos are still the order of the day; but the Government of Zuloaga seem to be gaining ground. The Vera Cruz is under martial law. General Vial has issued a proclamation at Matanzas, declaring it a free port, and demanding the payment of five per cent. on all money due for church property.

In Yucatan we learn that the Indians, having taken the town of Bacalar, and ransom not being offered, massacred all the inhabitants. Peru and Chile are still in the throes of revolution.

Mr. Maxwell, a slave-owner, has been killed by his negroes, in revenge for having flogged two of his women. The murderers afterwards fled, but were pursued and captured, and will probably be executed. An American paper says that Mr. Maxwell was a healthy, "and a very honourable upright man, all unkind to his servants." The black women who flogged would probably give another account.

CONTINENTAL NOTES.

Arrow and unchristian feeling is to be conceived which regards with jealousy the progress of nations, and cares for no portion of the human race but that to which itself belongs.

DR. ARNOLD.

FRANCE.

A mission has been appointed to examine and report the best system for placing the French commercial in a state of defence, a question in which the Government takes great interest.

The Emperor reviewed, last Saturday, in the Court of Armes and the Carrousel, the 10th and 17th battalions of Rifles, the 1st, 52nd, 74th, 82nd, 84th, 85th, 88th, and 100th Regiments of Infantry. These were commanded by General Ulrich, of the Imperial Guard.

It is said that a serious misunderstanding has recently arisen between the Emperor and Prince Napoleon, but its details are given.

Mme Victor Hugo, who with her daughter has been in exile for some weeks past, has again left for Guernsey. It is said that Madame Hugo to the French capital (says she) was rendered necessary by the state of health of her daughter, who has been much benefited by the change of air.

Procureur-Impérial at Pau has ordered a prosecution against the authors of some scandalous statements regarding the honour of the Carmelite sisters in that

or Mazzini furnishes to the English papers some illustrations of the Reign of Terror now existing in

He writes:—"The work of persecution in France is going on silently, but unceasingly. Doomed men are continuing to roach-Marseilles every night, in the départements. They are conveyed, like the condemned, in cellular vans. The arrests were all planned. They took place simultaneously in all parts of the country a few days before the promulgation of the Law for the Safety, from old and recent lists of names, marked with the word 'Republican.' They are numerous. The Governor of Algeria writes, urging the places of confinement being chosen. Algiers

alone has already 700 prisoners. It is, in the midst of at least apparent tranquillity, a second and enlarged edition of the *coup d'état*. The ferocity in the execution of the orders is rivalling the Syllan despotism of the measure." He then gives several instances, of which the annexed is one of the most gross:—"M. Lebrun, a notary at Charot, arrondissement of Bourges, department of the Cher, was arrested at the end of his dinner. Struck by the suddenness of the measure, he was taken ill. He was refused all help, and was brutally dragged into the van. On the way, at St. Florent, he implored for a medical man, and was equally refused. On reaching the Maison d'Arrêt, at Bourges, his state was such that the gaoler declined to receive him. He was taken to the hospital, where, soon after, he died."

M. Migeon, the deputy who was recently prosecuted for electoral corruption, on account of his having offended the Government of which he had originally been a servant, is now undergoing his term of one month's imprisonment in the prison of Colmar—a sentence passed on him, not for electoral corruption, which charge has been abandoned for prudential reasons, but for the offence of illegally wearing the decoration of the Legion of Honour. A paper having stated that he had fled to Switzerland, M. Migeon writes to deny that charge. He only went to Basle until he received a guarantee from Government that he would not be treated in the same way as common prisoners. That having been given, he surrendered. He alleges that, "under pretext of arresting him, a search was made at his residence, in Paris, on the 31st of March, and that, on the pretext of electoral propaganda, all his letters were opened and read."

M. Persoz, Professor of Chemistry at the Conservatoire des Arts et Métiers of Paris, has just discovered a method by which photography may be applied to the ornamenting of silk stuffs. If a piece of silk be impregnated with bicromate of potash—a substance extremely sensitive to light—and then exposed to the influence of the sun, the parts touched by the rays of light will assume a peculiar reddish tint. For the production of a pattern, cut paper, containing the design intended, must be laid on the silk; and the result will be that the parts thus protected will retain the original colour of the stuff, while those exposed to the light will be changed. Rich patterns may thus be obtained on plain silks at a small expense.

The report of Baron Haussmann on the new embellishment of Paris, to which the Emperor alluded in his late speech, has been published. It is remarked (says a contemporary) that this new plan has a strategical feature, and the report makes no mystery of the fact. The opening of new streets branching off round the barracks of the Château d'Eau will have for effect to establish a direct communication between the fort of Vincennes and the centre of Paris. It may be remembered that, in 1848, what tended to prolong the struggle of the insurgents of June was the necessity for the Government to make such a considerable circuit to reach Vincennes.

The *Patrie* contains a long article on the decrease of the population in France, and on the decline in the physical powers of the inhabitants. It attributes this result to the insufficient food of the working classes, and to the discredit into which gymnastic exercises have fallen.

AUSTRIA.

The arrival of the Turkish commission in Servia has led the Austrian Government to adopt certain measures. A body of 4000 Austrians have been stationed at Semlin, and 6000 posted along the frontier. The Austrian consul-general had left for Temesvar, to concert with Count Coronini, the commanding officer in the Banat.

RUSSIA.

The Emperor has ordered that the Polish language be again used in matters of business by all the Imperial authorities in Poland.

A circular despatch has been sent by the Cabinet of St. Petersburg relative to the Christian subjects of the Porte. According to a letter from Berlin, Russia demands that the question of rayahs should be brought before a European conference. The present disturbances in the Herzegovine and in Bosnia, says the letter, entirely arise from the Porte not having executed the provisions of the Hatti-Humayoun, but as the completion of that ordinance constitutes an obligation based on the treaty of Paris, it is the right, and even the duty, of the powers who signed the treaty of Paris to exact that the position of the Christians in Turkey should be really settled, and without any restriction, according to the prescriptions of the Hatti-Humayoun. The Cabinet of St. Petersburg declares against an isolated intervention of Austria in this question, and remarks that, in consideration of the analogy of religion, an intervention of Russia would be better justified. Russia, however, does not express a wish to interfere, all her efforts being directed to bringing the question before a European conference, which, according to the treaty of Paris, has a right to decide it. The despatch enlarges on the complaints of the rayahs, and promises a series of special proofs, which will be furnished to the Russian agents accredited in Turkey.

There has been a slight modification in the Russian Ministry. M. Brock, Minister of Finance, retires, and is succeeded by M. Kniajévitch, formerly Director of the Treasury. M. Noroff, Minister of Public Instruction, also retires, and is replaced by M. Kovalevski, of

whose talents and qualifications the St. Petersburg journals speak in terms of high praise.

The emancipation of serfs is making great progress. The nobles of the districts of Orel and Tver, following the example of the other provinces, have solicited permission to form committees for regulating the enfranchisement of their serfs. The measure has become general.

ITALY.

It is the custom in Naples, at Easter, to release one or two prisoners from each province in the kingdom. This year, six-and-twenty captives have been liberated, and one of them is a person who, with his brother, was arrested on suspicion of having sold the spirits of wine in which the body of Milano was preserved. The brother still remains in gaol.

A story of oppression is told in a letter from Bologna:—"At Padua, a religious service was ordered to be celebrated for Orsini. The clergyman was not informed of the name of the person for whose repose he was called upon to pray; he was merely told to offer up mass according to the intention of the persons who paid him his fee. The police were surprised to find nearly the whole of the students of the University at the mass. They suspected the real state of the case, and prevented the priest from proceeding. The students began to chant the *De Profundis*, but were dispersed, and some were arrested. At Faenza the walls were covered with placards relating to Orsini, which the police tore down."

The King of Naples (according to a statement in Paris) has fitted out a squadron, composed of a ship of the line, three steam frigates, three steam corvettes, and two cutters, in anticipation of an attack from Piedmont.

The Sardinian Government has declared itself in favour of the Danube Navigation Act being revised by the Paris Conference. The meeting of this conference is said to be again adjourned to the end of May.

Mr. Hodge, whose friends have been feting him, has (according to a letter from Turin) addressed a note to Count Cavour, expressing his gratitude for the consideration and excellent treatment he has met with at the hands of the Government.

A treaty of marriage has been signed at Gaeta between the hereditary Prince of Naples and a Princess of Bavaria, the sister of the Empress of Austria. The marriage will take place next September.

The Turin *Indépendente* of April 12th, says that the majority of the Chamber met the preceding day, to come to an arrangement relative to the counter-project of the minority of the committee on the DeForesta proposition. It was agreed to in principle that conspiracy against, or attempts to take the life of, a foreign sovereign, or chief of a foreign Government, should be punished by hard labour.

A Roman brigand, named Vendetta, recently stole from the cathedral of Velletri, near Rome, an image of the Virgin, covered with gold, and decked out with precious stones, &c. He then sent in a written proposal to restore it on condition of immunity from punishment being granted to him, besides the release of his brother, who is condemned to death, and a pension of ten crowns a month. He did not here state that it was he who stole the image, but he said he knew who did. The Pope was communicated with, and directed that the first condition should be complied with, but not the other two. This did not suit the brigand, and the Madonna was not produced. In the meanwhile the people grew angry at the loss of their image, and the friends of Vendetta circulated a report that the Jesuits were guilty of the theft. A mob therefore broke into the neighbouring Jesuit convent, sacked it, and ill-treated the fathers. The suffragan bishop ascended the pulpit, and begged the people to be calm; but they would not listen to him, and, on his descending from the pulpit, Vendetta, armed with a poniard, went into it, and thus spoke:—"Be patient! The good fathers are innocent. It is I who stole the Madonna. But I will only restore it when the Government, to whom I grant a delay till Monday evening, shall have consented to the compact I have proposed to it. Be calm, therefore, and shout no more. I warn you, in conclusion, that my companions are armed as well as I." The conclusion of this wild story—which is like the plot of some Italian opera—is not yet known. A deputation from the municipality of Velletri have had an interview with the Pope, and troops have been sent to the spot.

SPAIN.

One of the creditors of the Government, to whom it applied in its financial distress in 1855, has sold the pledge given to him in security of the debt.

Carlist bands are reappearing in the mountains.

The committee of the Cortes charged to examine the bill on the press has introduced into it amendments favourable to freedom of discussion. One provision of the bill states that attacks directed against foreign sovereigns shall not be liable to prosecution, unless they apply to the sovereign of a country where a similar law is in force. The Queen has received in private audience Lord Howden, who communicated his letters of recall, and presented to her Majesty the Honourable Mr. Plunkett, attaché of the Legation.

TURKEY.

M. Richrath, a Prussian engineer attached to the

commission of the Danube, and a clerk belonging to the telegraph, have been the victims (says a letter from Taltcha, in Moldavia) of a most disgraceful attack. These inoffensive persons were assailed by a number of Turkish soldiers and porters, and beaten with sticks until they were in a state of insensibility. On being conveyed to their homes they recovered, but they are still suffering. The authors of this cowardly aggression were arrested by the persons who witnessed the assault and taken before the Kaimakan, who, however, set them at liberty. The commissioners and the consuls interfered, and have demanded the punishment of the guilty parties and the dismissal of the Kaimakan.

PRUSSIA.

The Prince and Princess Frederick William left Berlin on the morning of the 7th for Weimar and Gotha.

A royal decree, dated from Charlottenburg on the 9th, prolongs the powers of the Prince of Prussia as Regent for three months more. In making this communication to the Chambers, M. de Manteuffel added, that, according to the advice of his physicians, his Majesty ought to abstain from public business for some time yet, so as to assure the success of the treatment he is under.

The Prince and Princess Frederick William of Prussia (says the *Paris Patrie*) have received a magnificent present from the Emperor and Empress of the French. It consists of four paintings on porcelain, representing the Emperor, the Empress, Queen Victoria, and the Prince of Wales. These fine portraits have been placed in the State apartments occupied by the Prince in the royal palace at Berlin.

NORWAY.

A terrible conflagration has taken place at Christiania and destroyed a great portion of the city, and some of the public buildings, including the Norwegian Credit Bank, the contents of which, however, were saved.

THE TRIAL OF BERNARD.

THE trial of Simon Bernard, under the Special Commission, as an accessory before the fact to the murder of Nicholas Battie, and of a person, name unknown, whose deaths were occasioned in the recent attempt to assassinate the French Emperor, commenced on Monday. The court was crowded, and the proceedings excited great interest. The Judges were—Lord Chief Justice Campbell, the Lord Chief Baron, Mr. Justice Erle, Mr. Justice Crowder, and the Recorder. The Lord Mayor and several of the Aldermen and Sheriffs accompanied the Judges; and many persons of distinction were present on the bench. The prisoner looked somewhat careworn, but observed all the proceedings with keen interest and watchfulness. Upon being required to plead Guilty or Not Guilty, he said, in good English, but with a foreign accent, "I am advised by my counsel that this court has no jurisdiction to try me upon this indictment, and consequently I decline to plead." Lord Campbell then said that, if the prisoner declined to plead, the plea of "Not Guilty" would be entered for him. Mr. Edwin James (Bernard's leading counsel) applied to have the special commission read. Lord Campbell replied:—"We are all of opinion that the plea of Not Guilty must be entered. Let that be done, and now let the prisoner be asked whether he chooses to exercise his privilege of being tried by half aliens and half Englishmen." To this Bernard answered:—"I trust with confidence to a jury of Englishmen." The jurymen were then called, and some were challenged by the Crown, some by the prisoner. It was nearly an hour before the jury was formed and sworn. Mr. James then renewed his application that the special commission should be read.

The Lord Chief Justice said that was not the proper time to read it. It had already been read; and, if there was anything in it of which the prisoner could take legal advantage, he would have the benefit of it at a future time. Mr. James requested that a note might be made of his application, because, although it was true that the commission had been read on the previous Friday, it was not in the prisoner's presence, and he knew nothing of its contents.

The prisoner having been formally given in charge to the jury, the Attorney-General proceeded to open the case for the prosecution. He related, in a speech of two hours' duration, the facts of the case, as already unfolded in the proceedings at Bow-street; and concluded thus:—"It would be improper were I not to advert for a moment to something which has been intimated to me by my learned friend, namely, that great and important questions of law are to be raised in the course of this inquiry. That the question may be raised whether the prisoner at the bar be a subject of the Queen within the meaning of this Act of Parliament, and whether the murder which has been committed in Paris be a murder the accessory to which, one of the main agents in which, one of the causes of which, is punishable under this Act, I cannot attempt to conceal from myself. But, if it be raised, I think that I shall have no difficulty in at once satisfying their Lordships, both upon principle and upon authority, that one who dwells in this country, and who receives and enjoys the protection of our laws, owes an allegiance to its Sovereign which makes him that Sovereign's subject within the meaning of this Act of

Parliament. I shall be able, I have no doubt, to show that that proposition—which it would be fearful indeed to dispute when we consider the practical consequences which might result were it not so—is supported by high and incontrovertible authority. I forbear to say more at present, but I shall be prepared to meet the objection if it should be raised, and it will be for their Lordships to decide whether justice will be best obtained by determining the question here or by reserving it, together with any other questions that may arise, for the consideration of a tribunal which is composed of all the Judges of the land."

The Lord Chief Justice: "Any grave and important question of law which may arise during the trial may be reserved for the decision of the fifteen Judges."

Several French witnesses (chiefly connected with the police) were then examined, to prove the deaths of the two persons indicated in the indictment, as caused by the flinging of the hand grenades in front of the Opera-house, on the 14th of January. Mr. John Taylor, engineer, of Birmingham, then proved the manufacture of the shells, of which one was produced in court. They were ordered by Mr. Thomas Allsop, an Englishman, who supplied the models, and with whom the manufacturer corresponded during the progress of the work. Mr. Taylor made six of these grenades, and he said he believed the fragments which were now produced and shown to him had been portions of those which he had manufactured. Mr. G. Morrison identified Allsop's handwriting in certain letters produced. Jonathan Whicher, detective officer, said he had been looking for Allsop for the last five weeks, and had not been able to find him. John Rogers, a sergeant of police, described having searched the residence of Bernard, at Bayswater, where he found certain chemicals, a bottle containing something black, which smelt like coal-tar, and some old letters, one of which was produced. The witness said he had seen Bernard write, and he believed that the letter in question was in his hand. Mrs. Margaret Parker, the landlady of the house where Bernard resided, stated that she was in the room at the time the policeman said he had discovered the letter in a book, but she did not see him find it.

At half-past four, the court was adjourned until ten o'clock the following morning. The jury, as is usual in such cases, were taken to the London Coffee-house in charge of the officers of the court.

On Tuesday morning, Sergeant Rogers was recalled, and denied that the letter had been found in a book. He had found it folded up in a paper giving some particulars of sale of certain property. The letter was found on Sunday, the 7th of March, after Bernard was in custody. He had since made two reports to Sir Richard Mayne, one dated the 3rd, the other the 12th, of April. They were founded on notes which he had made at the time, and were perfectly correct. In cross-examination by Mr. James, the witness said:—

"In my original memorandum made on the Sunday, there is nothing about finding a letter, and there is nothing in it, therefore, to refresh my memory on that subject. In the memorandum relative to my second visit, there is an entry of finding a letter. I have been to Wyld's reading-rooms, at the corner of Cranbourne-street and Leicester-square. I have never gone there under the name of Roper. I was never asked my name at Mr. Wyld's, and I have never had occasion to give it."—"Did you go there as a spy?"—"I went by the direction of the Commissioners of Police to attend a public meeting there on the 9th of January. There is a debating room up-stairs where gentlemen meet and discuss."—"What did you go there for?"—"To take notes of who were there and what was said. I went in private clothes, and alone. I went up-stairs and passed without question into the debating room."—"What were they discussing?"—"M. Bernard was in the chair, and they were discussing political matters. I am a French scholar, and understand that language as well as I do English. It was an open, public debating room."—"Well, what was the subject they were discussing?"—"It was a question showing the difference between democratic and Imperial Governments."—"Between democracy and despotism?"—"Yes, and despotism."—"Where they showing the superiority of democratic government over despotism?"—"Yes. I stopped there about half an hour upon that occasion."—"Were there many English there?"—"I saw two or three."—"Will you swear there were not more? Be careful."—"I swear that I saw no more. There were between forty and fifty people there, probably. It is advertised outside the house that a debating society is held there every Monday evening. There is a news-room on the ground floor."—"Turn to your memorandum and refresh your memory as to what occurred on that occasion."—"The pocket-book that I have with me does not go so far back as that; but I made a report of it to the Commissioners."—"You went there as a spy, didn't you?"—"The Attorney-General: "It would be fairer to the witness, as well as to those who sent him, if you were to ask what his instructions were."—Mr. James: "Well, what were your instructions?"—Witness: "To attend that meeting and report upon it."

Cross-examination continued: "And what did you report?"—"That a number of persons were there, and that Mr. Bernard was in the chair; also, the nature of

the subject discussed."—"What did you say was the subject discussed?"—"I don't exactly recollect now. I have been to that debating room several times since. I went the next time on the following Monday."—"As a spy?"—"I went as directed."—"That is a plain English question: did you go as a spy?"—"The Chief Justice: "You had better get the facts from him, and you can draw any inference you please."

A long discussion ensued as to whether it was permissible to put the question broadly, "Did you go as a spy?" The Attorney-General strongly objected to it; but Mr. Edwin James contended that he was entitled to ask it. Such a question had been put on the trial of Hardy, and it was allowed. The Attorney-General rejoined that "his learned friend had no right to put a question, the affirmative answer to which would bestow an opprobrious name upon the witness, and upon those who instructed him. The province of the jury on that occasion was to receive evidence of facts done and things spoken which were relative to the inquiry; but not to receive the comments, or descriptions, or opinions on those things, of the learned counsel for the defence." After some further discussion, Lord Campbell consulted with the other Judges, and then stated that they were all of opinion that the question could not be put. Mr. James might designate the witness as a spy, if he pleased; but to put the question "Then you went as a spy?" would be irregular, because the witness would thus be called on to draw an inference from the facts.

Cross-examination continued: "Did you go there for the purpose of listening to what was said?"—"That was part of my duty."—"Did you represent yourself as one of the public?"—"I did not represent myself as anybody in particular. I walked into the room without interruption."—"Did you speak at the meeting?"—"No. On the second occasion when I visited the place, I went up-stairs in the same way as before. Political matters were discussed. I cannot recollect the subject, but I made a report upon it. The subjects discussed related generally to French and Italian matters."—"What did you hear? Something very shocking?"—"No, sir."—"Well, what was it?"—"I would not undertake to swear to the remarks I heard."—"What were they about?"—"You made a report you know."—"Political subjects."—"What political subjects?"—"the administration of India, or Parliamentary Reform, or what?"—"I do not remember. I made a memorandum, I believe, at the time, which I can get. I went again to the rooms on a subsequent occasion, and was refused admittance."—"Did Mr. Wyld tell you that you were a spy of the French Government?"—"He did not."—"That you'll swear?"—"Yes. I made a report that I could not get in."—"And these reports of what you saw and heard were made to the Commissioners of the English Police?"—"They were. I have made four or five such reports. I have not sent over any reports to Paris, and I have not written any reports in French."—"Were you paid for this duty by the English Government or by the French?"—"I am not paid for this particular duty. I receive a salary as police sergeant, and receive nothing extra for this duty. I have been in the police force seven years, and have been engaged in this way since November last. Part of my duty has been to watch the French and Italian refugees, and I may have made twenty reports to the Commissioners since I have been so engaged."—"Is this going on now—are you acting in this way now?"—"When I receive orders to do so."—"Did you receive a specific order for each specific case, then?"—"Yes, when I was to attend meetings."—"Have you been about with the French officers?"—"No, sir."—"Will you swear that?"—"Will you allow me to ask you in what capacity you mean?"—"Mr. James repeated his question.—Witness: "I have never been about on duty with the French officers. I have talked to them in the street since the trial commenced, and I have seen them at their hotel when I have conveyed messages to them from the Commissioners, or from them to the Commissioners. I have never been at any other meetings but those that were held at Mr. Wyld's debating rooms. The last report that I made on the subject, descriptive of the discussions which took place there, was about six weeks ago. The memorandum on which that report was founded is not in the book that I have with me. If I made a memorandum, I can find it; but I did not always make notes when I intended to make a report on the following day. When I last went to Wyld's rooms and was refused admittance I was accompanied by Sergeant Lockyer, of the detective force. I have a memorandum here of that visit. I will swear I have never been going about London with two Frenchmen for political purposes. I repeat that I have a regular salary as a police sergeant. I have never received any money from the French Government. That I will swear. I have not within the last two months received any money for my services in the police beyond my regular salary."—By the Lord Chief Justice: "I have not attended any other meetings than those at Mr. Wyld's."

The Attorney-General then said he proposed to read the letter from Allsop which had been found at Bernard's house. Mr. Edwin James and Mr. Simon objected, contending that a man could not be held answerable for any violent letter he might receive, in respect of which

he is a mere passive agent. The Lord Chief Justice, however, decided that it might be read, as being pertinent to the inquiry. The letter was then put in, and read by the Clerk of the Court, as follows:—

"River Head, Kent, Jan. 1, 1857.—My dear Doctor,—Many thanks for the two slips, which I return enclosed. I have not received any letters in reply to the communications you proposed sending to the friends of Italy. I hope that some answers have been received in London. I am glad to learn that any difference of opinion is limited to a single point. Difference of opinion is inevitable, exists in every army, but unity in action is necessary for success. However, I have every confidence in the future. The abominable miscreant of the 2nd of December seems to have reached his culminating point. Have you seen the withering contempt with which Smith O'Brien alludes to the Queen kissing this unconvicted felon, who is not likely to give much more trouble, even if he should escape the righteous retribution he so richly merits? If I was in California now, I would at once double the amount offered by Landor to the man who should perform an act of justice upon that most wretched caiff. It is a poor consolation to know that he is obliged to drink before going abroad to drown fear. He must be killed, and with him the system which he somehow seems necessary to keep up. I shall feel glad to hear from you as to Orsini's progress, and on any matter in which you feel an interest. When I am next in London, I hope you will give me another evening, if it can be so arranged as not to interfere with your more important avocations. Be kind enough to assure Orsini of my warmest sympathy and affectionate regard and respect, with the offer of my poor services at all times—I am, my dear Doctor, yours fraternally, T. ALLSOP.—May this new year see the first instalment of justice to the peoples—the dawn of life—true life to humanity."

Evidence was then received to show that Bernard had bought a certain quantity of absolute alcohol and pure nitric acid; that these are two ingredients used in making fulminating powder; that Bernard often talked about experiments in gas to a Mr. St. George Burke, whose children he was teaching; and that, through that gentleman, Bernard obtained for Allsop, from a Mr. Mason, a solicitor in the City, a loan of 4500*l.* on mortgage of some property near Reigate. This Mr. Mason was shown the letter from Allsop quoted above, and said he believed it was in the handwriting of the gentleman with whom he had the money transactions.

Eliza Cheney, a young woman about six-and-twenty years of age, dressed in black, who gave her evidence with some emotion, said she had been acquainted with Felice Orsini for about a year and a half. She was upper housemaid at the boarding-house of Miss Hockley, No. 2, Cambridge-terrace, Hyde Park, where Orsini boarded. Bernard frequently visited Orsini there; and, when the latter was away, Bernard would come to the house and receive his letters, except such as were marked "Private." Orsini left England on the 23rd of November; and the witness said she had since seen him in prison in Paris. When in England, he had worn a thick bushy black beard; but in France that had been shaved off. The Attorney-General: "Can you describe Orsini's appearance?"—"I cannot give you a better description of Signor Orsini than that which appeared in the papers." (*A slight laugh.*)—"Was he a good-looking man?"—"He was a very noble-looking gentleman, about forty years of age." In cross-examination, the witness said:—"I saw Signor Orsini three times altogether in prison in Paris. He told me when he left England that I was to give notice at Christmas to quit the house, because he should not require it any longer than March, as he was to be in Italy, and I was to go there and join his family. I had heard him speak of his intention to go to Italy. When Dr. Bernard called for the letters, after Orsini's departure, he often held conversations with me about Signor Orsini's going to Italy. I told the police that I had seen Dr. Bernard on the 17th of January after the attempt of the 14th on the life of the French Emperor was known in London."

The next important witness was Joseph de Giorgi, the keeper of the Café Suisse, who deposed to taking the grenades to Brussels, at the request of Bernard, and to their being fetched away from that city by the prisoner, who afterwards brought them back, and they were finally taken away by Orsini, who said he was going to Paris. Giorgi was given to understand that the instruments were connected with a new invention in gas. Orsini, before coming to the café, had been spoken of as "the Englishman," but Giorgi recognized him, as he had known him in London. A waiter at the Café Suisse confirmed this evidence; but neither could speak with certainty as to the number of holes in the shells. The Court then adjourned. Lord Campbell, previous to departing, intimated that the jury might take exercise in the morning and evening under a proper escort.

In the course of this day's examination, Mr. James constantly objected to the reception of various parts of the evidence.

Louis Righerzi, the proprietor of the Café Suisse at Brussels, gave evidence on Wednesday. He testified to the fact of Giorgi having brought the shells over to Brussels, and said that a strange gentleman, who mentioned having come from London, and who spoke very good Italian, alluded to the shells as a new invention in

gas. He confirmed the other statements of Giorgi. In cross-examination, he said:—"The articles I saw reminded me of the form of a pear. The drawing I made correctly described what I saw. The small holes were on the top part of the ball. I do not consider the article now produced to be shaped like a pear." Mr. James inquired whether the witness would state upon his oath that the ball produced was like those he saw at Brussels, or was one of the identical articles. The witness said he did not take particular notice of the articles he saw at Brussels. Mr. James insisted upon the witness stating whether he believed the ball, then produced, to be one of those he saw at Brussels; but the only answer that could be obtained from him was, that it was similar to the drawing he made at the time, and he at length said he could not swear positively to anything upon the subject.

Casimir Zeguerus, a waiter at the Café Suisse, spoke to having seen the balls or shells, which were like one he had been shown since. He was hired by "the English gentleman" (Orsini) to take them in a carpet-bag to Paris; and he did so, accompanied by the gentleman. After his return to Brussels, he saw Bernard there, and told him he had got safely to Paris; and Bernard replied that he knew it.

M. Lescroix, examined by Mr. Bodkin:—"I am the proprietor of the Hotel de la Monnaie at Brussels. The prisoner came to my hotel on the 25th of December, and he gave me a passport."—The Attorney-General called for the production of this passport, notice having been served upon the prisoner that it would be required.—Mr. Pollard, one of the managing clerks of the Treasury, who proved the notice to produce, said, in answer to questions put to him by Mr. James, that he believed the prisoner, when asked about his passport, said that the police had got all his papers.—The Attorney-General again called for the production of the passport.—Mr. James said they could not produce it. The police had got possession of all the prisoner's papers.—The Attorney-General said he was prepared to show that strict search had been made, and no such document was discovered.—The Judges expressed an opinion that such evidence should be given; but the Attorney-General postponed bringing forward the witnesses then, because one was absent.

Mr. Isaac Hollis, a manufacturer of fire-arms, at Birmingham, stated that two persons purchased two revolvers at his warehouse on the 29th of October. They were Pierri and Orsini, whom he had since seen in the prison of La Roquette, Paris. The revolvers were the same as those produced.—The son of this witness deposed to having sold a revolver to Pierri on the 23rd of November.—M. Francois de la Salle, director of the prison of the Grande Roquette at Paris, spoke to the identification of Orsini and Pierri by Mr. Hollis, senior.—Mr. J. S. King, clerk in the service of the South-Eastern Railway Company, proved the despatch by Bernard, on the 2nd of January, of a package addressed to M. Outrequin, No. 277, Rue St. Denis, Paris, by the railway. He made a verbal declaration to the effect that the package contained two revolvers, and some samples of pitch; and, in answer to some questions, said that he was going to Paris when "the other one" (pointing behind him) came back here. He also said, in French, pointing to a tricolor, "your good ally."—M. Outrequin, a silk commission agent in the Rue St. Denis, Paris, testified to having had a correspondence with Bernard (whom he knew) relative to the sale of some fire-arms, of Birmingham manufacture. Two cases of revolvers were sent him, and Orsini (who was passing under the name of Allsop) ultimately took one of the pistols away. During these negotiations the witness occasionally saw Pierri and Mr. Hodge, the English gentleman recently arrested in Sardinia.—Madame Outrequin said that the other pistol was taken away by Pierri.

Various police officers and foreign officials were next examined with respect to the passports of Bernard and Orsini. The evidence showed great confusion and laxity in the nature and management of these documents; and, with respect to Bernard's passport, it appeared that the police searched in vain for it after he was in custody, and that Bernard said it was burnt.

Eliza Rudio, the wife of Carlo Rudio, was the next witness. She gave evidence with respect to Bernard relieving Rudio in his poverty, and to his having had several interviews with Rudio previous to the latter leaving England. After he had left, Bernard told Mrs. Rudio, who was then living in London, to go to her grandmother's in Nottingham, and to live under her maiden name. "Bernard," she continued, "left me his direction before my husband went away. It was at the Café Suisse. He asked me if I had told anybody where he lived, and I told him 'No.' He said that was quite right. When he told me not to take any notice if I saw my husband's name in the papers, I asked him why his name should be in the papers. He did not make me any answer at all. He said, if any one asked me anything about my husband, I was to say I knew he was very well. He did not say anything more about it. I went away for Nottingham next morning by the train. I gave up my lodgings. While I was in Nottingham, I went by the proper name of Eliza Rudio. Before I left London, I had a letter from my husband. I did not notice whether there were any stamps upon it. One of

the lodgers in the house read it to me. I do not know where it is now. The letter produced was sent to me at Nottingham, on the day I left for London. I do not know what day exactly. It was sent to London after me." Evidence having been given to show that this letter was in Bernard's handwriting, it was read, after a protest from Mr. James, which was overruled by Lord Campbell. The letter was directed, "Eliza Booth, Poste Restante, Nottingham," and was dated, "London," and it stated that some benevolent people who knew her husband's family had authorized the writer to send her 2*4s.* on the Monday following. (The letter was written on Saturday.) They were resolved to give her and her child 12*s.* a week for their support as long as she behaved properly, as she had done before. The money-order which would be sent for 2*4s.* would be directed, "Eliza Booth, Poste Restante, Nottingham—sent by William Thompson."

At the conclusion of this witness's examination, the court adjourned. During her evidence one of the jury fainted, and for a time was removed from the court.

Mrs. Rudio was further cross-examined on Thursday, and stated that since the present proceedings her expenses had been paid by the police. In being re-examined, she said that she petitioned the Empress for her husband's life, and had since learnt that his life was spared.

Madame Mechenheim, an Englishwoman, married to a Belgian, and now residing in Brussels, was next examined, and testified to Pierri having deposited with her for a time a parcel which contained something metallic, with a hole in it, and of an oval shape. Pierri took this parcel with him when he departed for Paris.—M. Mechenheim confirmed this evidence, but said that the parcel seemed to him to be of a half-round shape.

Some clerks in the Bank of England, in the house of Mr. Spielman, foreign banker, Lombard-street, and at Roberts's, gave evidence with respect to the alleged conspirators obtaining various large sums in gold in exchange for notes. Two foreign witnesses were next examined, and strengthened the case against Bernard, Orsini, and Pierri, with respect to their possession in Brussels of the grenades and pistols. Mrs. Harriet Fay, the person at whose house the Rudios lodged, confirmed the statements with respect to the visits paid by Bernard to the place.

A great many French witnesses were then examined, to establish the circumstances in connexion with the attempt of the 14th of January. Frederick Williamson, of the detective force, next related the facts attending the apprehension of Bernard at Bayswater on the 14th of February. On the premises were found a pistol and a 'knuckle-duster.' Bernard asked to be allowed to go up into his room, but was refused permission.—Cross-examined: "Did not Bernard say, 'If I have done any crime against the laws of England, I shall suffer for it?'"—"He did not."—"Will you swear he did not?"—"I believe he did not."—"Will you swear he did not?"—"I will not."—"Did he not say, 'If you had been a French kidnapper, I would have shot you?'"—"He did not."—"Will you swear that?"—"I will."

A letter from Orsini was then read. It was dated Liverpool, April 7, 1857. It began "Dear Bernard," and was signed "Felice." It appeared chiefly to refer to the business of the lectures then being delivered by Orsini, and the expenses connected with them, and particularly to one which he had delivered in Edinburgh. The writer added:—"The propaganda of the Red and Company is progressing with extraordinary rapidity;" and he added that Mazzini was everywhere doing a great deal of good to the cause.

Two French police officers having proved that several francs were discovered on Gomez and Rudio on being arrested, the Attorney-General said that the case for the prosecution was complete.

Mr. James then said:—"The first point which I venture to submit to be reserved for the opinion of the fifteen judges is, that the prisoner is not one of her Majesty's subjects within the meaning of the 9th of George IV., cap. 81, sec. 7, which is the act that gives your Lordships jurisdiction to hold this special commission. The second point is, that the prisoner was not an accessory before the fact to any murder within the meaning of the aforesaid statute. The third is, that there is no proof of any murder having been committed within the meaning of that statute. The fourth is, that the murder to which the prisoner is charged by indictment to have been accessory before the fact is proved to have been committed by aliens upon an alien within the empire of France, and not by any of her Majesty's subjects or upon any of her Majesty's subjects. Fifth, that no evidence of any acts done by the prisoner on land out of the United Kingdom and without the Queen's dominions, or of any act done by any person in pursuance of any authority from him on land out of the United Kingdom and without the Queen's dominions, was properly receivable in evidence on this trial. Sixth, that the principal offence of murder charged in the first three counts is not alleged to have been committed by any of her Majesty's subjects. Seventh, that the letter of the 1st of January, 1857, signed 'T. Allsop,' was improperly received in evidence against the prisoner. Eighth, that by the special commission this Court is only authorized to inquire into and to try the prisoner on the charge of being an accessory before the fact to a

murder committed by Orsini and others upon Nicholas Battie and a person name unknown, and that it has no jurisdiction to try the prisoner on the charge of wilful murder as principal. Ninth, that the 4th and 5th counts, which charge the prisoner as a principal, set forth that the alleged murder was committed in Paris out of the Queen's dominions, and that the prisoner, being an alien, cannot be tried as a principal for an offence so committed."

The Lord Chief Justice: "There appears to be no objection to reserving any of those points except the seventh; but that point, as you must be aware, was argued before us, and we were unanimously of opinion that the letter was admissible."

The Court then adjourned.

Mr. Edwin James delivered his speech for the defence yesterday. He denounced in eloquent terms the changing of the charge against the prisoner from misdemeanour to felony, and said that the Government had sought, by means of a musty old law, to obtain from an English jury what they durst not demand from the representatives of the people in Parliament. Louis Napoleon—the real prosecutor—had himself conspired under shelter of this country; and now he sought to punish the victims of his own tyranny for doing the same thing. What was the crime committed by Orsini compared with that of Louis Napoleon, who had let loose a drunken and infuriated soldiery on an unarmed mob, and who waded through blood to the second Empire? "He did not deny that the prisoner had assisted Orsini in obtaining grenades; but that act was not inconsistent with the idea that he was taking part in the preliminaries for a general rising in Italy. Be that, however, as it might, before he could be convicted the prosecution must show beyond all doubt that the grenades used in Paris were those with which the prisoner was connected. Now, had they done this? He contended that the identity of the grenades had entirely failed. None of the witnesses could swear that the grenades produced in the course of the trial were like those which the prisoner produced in London and Brussels. The evidence of identity was in one respect suspicious, because the witness was under arrest in Belgium, and on the whole entirely defective. The descriptions given by the witnesses of those which were connected with the prisoners did not correspond with those found in Paris and now produced. After the attempt of the 14th of January there was no disguise or attempt at concealment on the part of the prisoner. He took the pistols to the booking-office. He gave his own name. He declared the contents of the box, and while doing so he made a remark wholly inconsistent with the belief that he was a party to the insane act of Orsini. It was said, however, that there was a letter found at the prisoner's lodgings, which went to prove that he must have had some knowledge of it. This letter referred to a society called the Friends of Italy, and despite what might be said in courts of law about the illegality of such combinations, there could be no doubt that they do exist. And who could in his heart condemn them?" Mr. James contended that the letter from Mr. Allsop proved nothing whatever against the prisoner. Mrs. Rudio, notwithstanding the drilling of the police, had given her evidence in a very straightforward manner. Why was not her husband brought over? "Why, because he would have told the jury that like Orsini he had aspirations for liberty, although a poor man, and he had joined an expedition to regenerate his native country; but that in a moment of impulse Orsini, who had undertaken its direction, turned away from the original purpose and made the cruel and dastardly attempt on the life of the Emperor." The statements of the wretched prisoners in France exculpated Bernard, and the evidence for the prosecution did not make out the charge. It had always been the boast of this country that the exile is here safe. Let it now be seen that an English jury would do its duty, even though six hundred thousand bayonets were glistening on our shores.—These closing remarks were received with applause.

The court then adjourned for half an hour. On its reassembling, the Attorney-General replied on the whole case, and in the course of his observations denied that the indictment was founded upon an old act of Parliament. It was passed in the last year of George IV., and the reason it had never been acted upon before was clear enough. Happily, this was the first case of this nature that had ever occurred in this country, and that was why the act had remained a dead letter until now. The Government had not acted on any foreign representations, but on its own sense of right. The charge was changed when the case was before the Bow-street magistrate, because new facts were elicited. Sir Fitzroy reviewed the whole of the evidence, and contended that it fully made out the charge.

The court then adjourned. The verdict will probably be returned to-day.

THE ASSIZES.

A 'ROUGH island story' was unfolded in an action tried a few days ago at Bristol, before Mr. Justice Crowder. There is a small island in the Bristol Channel called the Steep Holmes, which is farmed by an innkeeper named Harris, who with his family, are the only occu-

pants of the island, which is the resort of pleasure-seekers. On the 7th of September, a party of ladies and gentlemen went to the island, among whom was a young Italian lady, named Besozzi. Accompanied by a gentleman, she went through a certain door pointed out by the daughter of the hotel-keeper, ascended some steps, and took one of two paths which lay before them. There was nothing to indicate any danger; but suddenly a large bear leaped out of a kennel in which he was tied up, but which was close to the path, threw the young lady down, and bit her through her clothes and flesh to the very bone of the thigh. Mr. Gully, the friend of the lady, was quite unarmed; but he seized hold of the bear with his hands and tried to drag him off. The animal, however, retained his hold, and the screams of the victim brought up another gentleman with an umbrella. Still, the bear could not be beaten off, and it was not till a third gentleman arrived with a stick that the young lady was rescued. The bear then turned on the rescuer, who saved himself by rapidly leaping back. The young lady was terribly injured; she was confined to her bed for nine weeks; her nervous system was seriously shaken; and it was feared that she would be lame for life. The defence was that the bear was generally quite tame, but had been irritated that day; and that the young lady brought the attack on herself by going too near the kennel. The jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff, damages, 50*l*.

A woman has perished in a fire which burst out on Sunday night at a tavern in Bath. She had only come in on the previous evening, when she was discharged from the hospital as an incurable.

CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT.

CHARLES BENNETT, alias Townsend, carpenter; Eliza Jones, spinster; Richard Tutt, dealer; and William Jones, dealer, were indicted last Saturday, the female prisoner for stealing watches, jewellery, and plate, valued at 90*l*., the property of Henry Carlross, her master; the male prisoners with receiving the same property, knowing it to have been stolen. The woman Jones had obtained a situation as servant at the house of Mr. Carlross, by means of a false character. Mr. Carlross is a plater and gilder in Clerkenwell; and, after being in his house about a week, the woman absconded, taking with her a large amount of property. Other robberies of the same kind appear to have been committed by the gang. The jury acquitted Tutt, and convicted Jones and Bennett; the girl Eliza Jones pleaded Guilty. Tutt was then tried and convicted of having in his possession a watch stolen from a gentleman named Andrew Hay upon the occasion of the Princess Royal's departure, and found by the police at Tutt's house hidden under some barley in a jar upon a shelf in the parlour.

The trials of persons charged with passing base coin were brought to a close last Saturday. They had occupied the time of the Common Serjeant three entire days. The list of prisoners so charged was fifty-two—just one-third of the whole number sent for trial this session, and the largest ever known. The cases were all of the usual character, and the counterfeits in circulation represented each class of coin, those of the lesser value preponderating. In one case, a prisoner was charged with passing two farthings of the reign of George III. altered to represent shillings. The plan adopted was this: the farthings were beaten out the size of a shilling; the edge was then filed circular, and afterwards milled; the obverse or Britannia side was completely obliterated, and each piece was rubbed with a preparation of mercury.

Mr. Edward Auchmuty Glover has been found Guilty of the charge of giving a false account of his property qualification to sit as a member of Parliament. He was returned for Beverley at the last general election, but was unseated on this ground. He is now sent to Newgate as a misdemeanant for four months.

GATHERINGS FROM THE LAW AND POLICE COURTS.

THREE persons, described as warehousemen, were tried at the Middlesex Sessions last Saturday on a charge of obtaining goods under false pretences from a Mr. William Learoyd. That gentleman is a manufacturer at Huddersfield, and towards the close of February he received a letter, signed by one of the prisoners, but purporting to come from the firm of Bosanquet and Prescott, general warehousemen, Cross-street, Hatton-garden, requesting to be supplied with certain goods. These were sent, but it was afterwards ascertained that the prisoners pawned the property directly it arrived in London. Mr. Learoyd, coming to town, ascertained that the "general warehousemen" had only an apartment at the dairy, and the whole fraud was soon discovered. The prisoners were tried at the last session on a charge of stealing the goods, but the judge directed that that form of indictment could not be sustained. The defence now set up was that the transaction was merely one of debtor and creditor; but they were found Guilty, and sentence was deferred till next session.

In the Bath County Court, on Saturday, before Mr. J. G. Smith and a special jury, an action was brought by Mr. Wilson, M.P., of Claverton Manor, near Bath, one of the Secretaries of the Treasury under Lord Palmerston's administration, against William Bolwell, a miller, of Westbury Leigh Mill, for the recovery of

2*l*. 16*s*. 6*d*., two years' rent of land rented by him in the parish of Westbury. The defence was an extraordinary one—that Mr. Wilson had promised, at the election of 1852, to let the defendant have the land free of rent, if he would vote for him, or if he should be injured or lose his customers in consequence of voting for him. Bolwell, who had no legal adviser, was confirmed in his statements by his wife, who said she was present during certain alleged interviews. On the other hand, Mr. Wilson swore that no such promise had been given. The jury at once returned a verdict for plaintiff, and the foreman added, that they wished to express their unanimous opinion that no imputation rested in the slightest degree upon Mr. Wilson. His Honour thought the jury were quite right in so expressing themselves.

Mr. Alfred Firminger, a merchant, was tried at the City Quarter Sessions last Saturday on a charge of assaulting, on the Corn Exchange, a Mr. William Muggidge, brother of Alderman Sir H. Muggidge, on the 26th of February. The facts have already appeared in the *Leader*. The jury found the defendant Guilty, and the court sentenced him to pay a fine of 20*l*., and to enter into recognizances to keep the peace for a year. The money was at once paid.

William Ash, described as a photographic artist; Hannah Ash, his wife; and Charles Eaton, alias Montreaux, were tried on Monday at the Middlesex Sessions on a charge of breaking into the house of William Steward, a jeweller and watchmaker in High-street, Islington, on the 24th of February, and stealing a large amount of property, valued at about 850*l*.. At the same time, John Bosworth, a hawker, was indicted for feloniously receiving part of the same property. The robbery had been contemplated for some few months, and the premises had been watched night after night in order to ascertain whether they were left unguarded. Some delay also was caused in order that the confederates might have the assistance of an expert hand, named Ike, who, when the robbery was first designed, was in Maidstone gaol. This worthy having regained his liberty, and joined his friends in London, the robbery was effected. Jessie Norton, an 'unfortunate,' who lived at the time in Mrs. Ash's house, gave a singular account of the business in the course of her evidence. On the night of the robbery, about one o'clock, Mrs. Ash came in with a large bundle under her arm. "She came into my room," said the witness, "and put down a shilling, and said, 'Get something to drink; it's been a long time about, but it has come off at last.' She had a ring on, and I said it was a nice one. She said it was from the shop at Islington. She told me it would not have come off, only Oliver purposely quarrelled with a prostitute and got her locked up, which was to get the policeman on duty off his beat while the job was done. While the policeman was gone to the station-house, the robbery was done. They sat up all night drinking and arranging to dispose of the property. Next morning she told me they had been having pints of ginger brandy and old ale all night, and she expected a gentleman whom the 'corporal' [Elton] was gone for to call, as he was going to buy the things. Presently the 'corporal' came with a gentlemanly-looking man, who went upstairs with them. The 'corporal' came in first, and left the door open; the gentleman followed, and went into Ash's room. He was there two hours, and then went away. Mrs. Ash gave me some ginger brandy, and then said, 'I must go up-stairs, as they are dividing the money.' She had shown me a diamond ring. She had concealed some of the things from the others in her bosom. She showed me the marks left on her breasts by her keeping them there. Mrs. Oliver did the same, and they were going to divide the proceeds between themselves. A woman named Jeffries came with Mrs. Oliver, but Mrs. Ash would not let her in, as she was afraid that, being drunk, she would make a noise, and the police might come in. She laid hold of Mrs. Jeffries, dragged her into the passage, and forcibly took something out of her bosom, which she had concealed. That was part of the plunder." All the prisoners were found Guilty, and it was proved that Ash and Elton were old and notorious burglars. They were sentenced to penal servitude for fifteen years; the woman was sentenced to ten years, and Bosworth to three years.

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE COURT.—The Queen and Court returned to Buckingham Palace from Windsor on Monday. The Prince of Wales, attended by Captain the Hon. Dudley de Ros, Mr. Gibbs, and Mr. Minter, R.N., left Windsor last Saturday for Ireland. He will make a tour of about ten days in the neighbourhood of Killarney Lakes.—The Queen has been pleased to send the presents of the King of Siam for public exhibition at the South Kensington Museum, and Lord Palmerston has added to them the Siamese sword of state which was presented to himself.—It is now definitely arranged that the Queen will visit Birmingham in the middle of June. She will be the guest of Lord Leigh, at Stoneleigh Abbey.—The Queen held a Levée on Wednesday afternoon at St. James's Palace.

MARLBOROUGH COLLEGE.—The Council of Marlborough College have appointed George Granville Bradley, M.A., assistant master of Rugby School, and late Fellow of University College, Oxford, to be Master of Marlborough College, in the room of the Bishop Designate of Calcutta.

NORWICH CATHEDRAL.—The north side of this cathedral, next the episcopal palace, is about to be restored by the Dean and Chapter in accordance with the original design.

MR. JOHN FREDERICK FOSTER, chairman of the Salford Quarter Sessions, died suddenly, on Friday week, while attending a meeting of the Moravian Missionary Society at Chorley Church, Alderley, Cheshire. He was seized with a fit of apoplexy while playing a voluntary.

ITALY DURING THE MIDDLE AGES.—A lecture on this interesting topic was delivered on Tuesday at the Royal Institution, Albemarle-street, by Signor J. P. Lacaita, an Italian gentleman connected with England by marriage. The Signor spoke extempore, and exhibited great mastery over the language. The lecture was the first of a series, and was received with great applause.

MR. F. W. COBDEN, a brother of the celebrated Richard Cobden, died at Dunford, Midhurst, a few days ago, after a painful and protracted illness. He was in his fifty-eighth year.

Postscript.

LEADER OFFICE, Saturday, April 17th.

LAST NIGHT'S PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE CUSTOMS DUTIES BILL was read a second time, and the House adjourned at a quarter past five.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

COMMUNICATION WITH IRELAND.

In answer to Mr. DEASY,

Mr. G. A. HAMILTON said that the improved postal and general communication between England and Ireland required the junction of the London and North Western, and Chester and Holyhead Railways, and the Dublin Steam Packet Company; and last year an arrangement was made with those companies with that view. The contract was sent to the companies last February, but had not been returned to the Post-office. In a few days, however, it would be concluded, and the object would be accomplished.

THE CAGLIARI.

In answer to Mr. HEADLAM,

Mr. DISRAELI said that the Government had received the opinion of the law officers of the Crown, to the effect that the detention of Park and Watt, the engineers of the Cagliari, was illegal, and a despatch had been addressed to Naples, demanding compensation for the injuries that Park and Watt had sustained. With regard to the international question of the seizure of the vessel, the opinions of the law officers had not been received.

COMPENSATION TO PROCTORS.

In answer to Mr. HADFIELD, Mr. DISRAELI said that claims for compensation to the amount of 250,000*l.* per annum had been made by the Proctors of Doctors' Commons, under the late act for the abolition of the Ecclesiastical Courts.

NETLEY HOSPITAL.

In answer to Mr. WEGUELIN, General PEEL said that the reports of persons appointed to inquire into the probable advantages of Netley Hospital were very contradictory, and he had ordered further inquiry. The works had been stopped.

THE REFORM BILL OF THE LATE GOVERNMENT.

In answer to Mr. DUNCOMBE, Lord PALMERSTON said that last Session the late Government did pledge themselves to propose a Reform Bill in the present year, and it was their intention to redeem the pledge, but, considering the question of the Government of India was the most pressing subject, a bill with reference to that matter was brought in; the Reform Bill was not actually prepared when the Government went out of office, and it would not be in his power to lay it on the table. He did not think it would be proper that such a measure should be brought forward by any one but the responsible advisers of the Crown. He thought, from certain indications, that the present Government would bring in such a Bill next year.—Mr. LOCKE KING hoped that, as no measure for Parliamentary Reform was before the House, his two Bills to equalize the franchise and to abolish the property qualification would be allowed to pass.

PASSPORTS IN BELGIUM.

Mr. MONCKTON MILNES drew attention to the state of the passport system in Belgium, complaining of its stringency and inconvenience.—Mr. SKYMOUR FITZGERALD said it was true that in the last two or three days the system had been rendered more stringent in Belgium; but it did not cause so much inconvenience as was represented by Mr. Milnes. He referred to the statement of Lord Malmesbury on the previous evening, showing the increased facilities of obtaining passports from our Foreign-office.

NATIONALITY OF PRISONERS AT POLICE-OFFICES.

In answer to Lord ROBERT CRICIL, Mr. HARDY said that he would cause arrangements to be made by which the nationality of prisoners at police-offices would be ascertained.

THE GREEN PARK.—PARK FOR FINSBURY.

Lord ELCHO called attention to the alterations going on in the Green Park, where it was supposed there would be erected two public conveniences, or two shrubberies, either of which would spoil the park.—Mr. COX inquired whether anything was to be done with regard to a park for Finsbury.—Lord JOHN MANNERS said nothing had been done by him since he came into office in the Green Park, and the matter was under consideration; but he did not mean to have any shrubberies. With regard to a park for Finsbury, no steps had been taken by the Metropolitan Board of Works to make such a park.

THE WESTERN BANK OF SCOTLAND.

Mr. BRADY brought forward the case of the Western Bank of Scotland, and urged that the law should be set in motion against the directors.—The LORD ADVOCATE stated that no steps had been taken to lay informations before the Government authorities.—A discussion followed before the subject dropped.

THE NELSON MONUMENT.

Admiral WALCOT brought forward the subject of the state of the Nelson Monument.—Mr. DISRAELI said he would undertake that it should be completed.

The House then went into Committee of Supply on the Navy Estimates.

A CARD FOR MR. EDWIN JAMES.

A correspondent suggests an important question with reference to the charge against M. Simon Bernard. "Supposing him to have sent the grenades to Paris, with a view to kill Louis Napoleon. Could he know that the grenades would be thrown when the Emperor was in the midst of a crowd? Could he have known that they would not be thrown at the Emperor when his Imperial Majesty was taking an unescorted ride? If not, how can it be argued that M. Simon Bernard is responsible for the deaths in the Rue Lepelletier? If he sent the grenades knowing they would be hurled into a popular concourse, he is guilty of murder; but has it been even attempted to prove so much?" According to Lord Campbell, the law holds a man responsible for a murder which he has not intended to commit, when it is the natural consequence of another murder designed by him but not perpetrated; but if M. Simon Bernard sent the grenades to Paris to assassinate Louis Napoleon, was it demonstrably 'natural' that, instead of attacking the Emperor only, Orsini should of necessity attack a multitude at the doors of the Opera?"

A MARITAL FACT FROM FRANCE.—Statistical returns, the Paris *Union* asserts, have just revealed the fact that there are now in France 1,800,000 young females of a marriageable age, who are on the look-out for husbands!

THE PRINCE OF WALES (says the *Dublin Evening Mail*) will not visit the Irish capital during his stay in Ireland.

THE CONTINENT.—Madame Orsini, with her two daughters, has, it appears, gone to Nice, and not to England, as was announced. She will probably reside in Florence, her native town, where her mother is living.—Ferukh Khan, the Persian envoy in Paris, has left for Marseilles on his return to the East.—"There is a prospect," says the *Morning Star*, "of settling the dispute about the Cagliari by arbitration, the King of Holland being spoken of as the arbitrator. The application of the principle to the settlement of international quarrels may prove a valuable precedent."—The French Emperor has left Paris for his estate of Mothe-Beuvron, in the Sologne.

Open Council.

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

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

THE DUTY OF THE LIBERAL PARTY

IN REFERENCE TO THE

IRISH NATIONAL EDUCATION QUESTION.

(To the Editor of the Leader.)

SIR,—Ireland has often been pronounced the battlefield of English political parties, and there are not wanting indications that it will maintain its character during the present session. The new Government has already been interpellated in both Houses as to its policy upon the important question of Irish national education. A combination of the aristocratic Whig with the Irish priest party, if but aided by the Liberals, may yet defeat the Government upon this very question.

As an English Liberal, resident for the last few years in Ireland, with opportunities of comparing the public opinion of this country with that of my own,

I am anxious that the party with which I sympathize should not be misled by false impressions, and the erroneous though positively expressed statements which will probably be made in Parliament and elsewhere. I am anxious, I repeat, that that party should not be induced, through a fear of siding with Tory ascendancy, practically to arrest the development of a healthy national education in this country, though as a result of 'Conservative' measures.

Well were it for Ireland, no doubt, and well for England, if public opinion had advanced to a perception of the injustice and political folly of Church establishments, and of a state religion. National education would not be the only popular question to be simplified and promoted thereby. But as even amongst themselves Liberals are not agreed upon this subject, we must accept existing institutions, and be careful, in our wish to deal possible justice to all, not to underrate the claims of the established sect to fair play, or still worse, in seeking to show our abhorrence of Tory principles not to wrong the people of Ireland. With your permission I will enter somewhat at large into the present state of national education in Ireland, after which I will venture to give my impression on the duty of reformers in legislating upon the subject.

The recommendation of the Commissioners of Education, in 1812, was to establish a system of schools in Ireland, to be conducted on independent principles, and to supplement the existing Protestant parish schools, which were also to be maintained and increased with a view of encouraging a generous rivalry between the two, whereby the education administered in both, it was thought, would be improved. In 1831, however, a national system was established upon the principle of compromise. The parochial schools were entirely thrown aside, and the Board of Commissioners composed of Protestants and Roman Catholics agreed upon a common scheme of education, which while it embraced the elements of useful secular instruction, included so much of the religious element as was common to the two creeds. This latter was embodied in lessons on 'the proofs of Christianity,' 'sacred poetry,' and 'extracts from the Scriptures,' compiled from various versions. These lessons received the formal though (as it afterwards proved) the insincere sanction of the late R. C. Archbishop Murray, one of the Commissioners under the Privy Council, and were reported to have received also the sanction of the Pope.

The Board strongly recommended the use of these religious and moral lessons during school hours, and it was thought that the basis of a mixed system of education for the rival sects had at last been found. Why has that mixed system, promising so much, not succeeded? For three reasons:—The non-adhesion of the Ulster Presbyterians; the non-adhesion of a large majority of the Established Church; and the departure of the Board from their primary rules in favour of the Presbyterians and the Roman Catholic party.

The Ulster Presbyterian Synod, in 1832, refused to countenance the national scheme, if the Scriptures were to be excluded from the schools in any way. They were then—in defiance of the Commissioners' own resolutions—allowed to draw up rules for themselves, which after receiving the sanction of the Board were to be binding. National Schools upon this principle are established in Ulster to the number of about 600, vested in local patrons.

The first plan of the Commissioners was to establish none but schools vested in themselves, and over which they were to possess supreme control. Having conceded, however, so much to the Presbyterians, they were prepared to do the same for the Roman Catholics, and accordingly they admitted, and continue to admit, with provisions for a very modified control on their part, a vast number of convent and other Roman Catholic schools to share in the advantages of the Government grant. The Established Church, rightly or wrongly, stood aloof, with a few marked exceptions, from the whole scheme as soon as the exclusion of the Scriptures was made a fundamental rule; and up to the present time it has not been treated with the same favour as the Ulster Presbyterians. The extent of the National system, in 1855, was as follows:—Vested schools, 1526; non-vested, 3666—total, 5192—i.e. the Board of Education could professedly carry out its normal system in 29 per cent. only of the schools connected with its management. In the remaining 71 per cent. the mixed 'National system' was and continues to be virtually abandoned. In this 71 per cent. are included 19 per cent. of Presbyterian schools in which the Scriptures are admitted without restriction—the remaining 52 per cent. are schools either attached to convents—in which the 'Ave Maria' is repeated every hour—to Roman Catholic churches in which sectarian instruction is admittedly mingled with secular—or schools in which Roman Catholics, chiefly priests, are the patrons, with Roman Catholic teachers and discipline, and where it is manifest the mixed system must be at a discount. Accordingly, in 1853, there were 1740 Roman Catholic schools out of 4704 in which there was no admixture of the

Protestant element, 119 Protestant exclusively, and 918 schools almost wholly Roman Catholic, in which the admixture did not exceed 5 per cent., making a total of 59 per cent. But at all events it may be argued these modifications were made to suit the condition of the country, and if a good secular education can be enforced in these sectarian offshoots, let the Commissioners not be harshly judged for this change in their system, the result of causes beyond their control. They will at least have the 29 per cent. of schools vested in themselves wherein throughout Ireland they can foster a model form of education, uniting all sects in friendly intercourse, and imparting in common with secular knowledge those unsectarian truths of religion and morality which are common to every form of Christianity. *Not so.* The party which has grasped, and successfully, at the control of education in France (in spite of the passionate eloquence of a Victor Hugo in the Assemblée Nationale, in 1850), in Austria through the Concordat, which raises at this very moment the war cry of sect in Sardinia, at the possibility of losing the control of its national education—the '*parti prêtre*' in fine—induced the Commissioners, in 1840, so far to reverse their order, that the moral and religious element, as contained in the 'Scripture extracts,' was not in future to be considered a necessary part of the regular instruction, and was to be omitted altogether, if any parent or guardian objected to its use. In 1842 any one child could effect the total exclusion of this element from any vested national school. In 1853 the 'Scripture extracts' were excluded from the authorised list of books, and the other two courses of lessons were to be used only before or after the regular school hours upon the requisition of any one child in the school. After this Dr. Whately and the Right Honourable Mr. Blackburne resigned their seats at the Board, and the National system has become split as it were into three sections, embracing Presbyterian, Roman Catholic, and secular schools, in which Roman Catholic influence preponderates.

The mixed system, as recommended by the Board, and as sanctioned by the Privy Council Committee of Education, scarcely exists. Why, then, should the Liberal party be called on to reject the claims of any school or system of schools in Ireland to the benefit of Government aid, upon the plea of interference with a successful (?) National scheme. Why should the Liberal party be induced to fight the battle of the Irish ultramontane priest against the diffusion of Scriptural schools, to which statistics prove the Irish Roman Catholic people have no bigoted enmity? The 'Kildare-place Society' support a number of schools throughout Ireland, in which between 80,000 and 90,000 children are at the present moment being educated, with the Scriptures constantly read; and of this number upwards of 15,000 are Roman Catholics. Is there any reason why these schools should be left to voluntary support—schools in which mixed education, with the consent of the parents, is, at least, better carried out than in the non-vested national schools? Is there any plea capable of weighing with the Liberal party why these children should be deprived of the benefit of Government inspection, of Government trained teachers, and school apparatus?

Is the Liberal party of England interested in withholding the Scriptures from the Irish people as a dangerous book, opposed to the spirit of progress, of independence, of good citizenship? Were the Christians of India the revolvers? Are the million and a half Protestants of Ireland the supporters of Ribbonism, and the admirers of the Sepoys? But let me not be mistaken; deeply as I have learned to modify my opinion of Roman Catholicism since my residence here, I would less than ever advocate a departure from even-handed justice. Let the national system be continued and extended, where practicable, in the '*vested*' form, but let all schools in which, say not less than thirty pupils attend, be admitted to all the advantages of connexion with the National Board, provided the teachers and the taught are submitted to a searching periodical examination in secular knowledge by competent and impartial inspectors. Under this modification, the Church of England schools on the one hand would receive their fair share of support, the Presbyterians would extend their system in Ulster, and the (Roman Catholic) Christian Brothers schools, so well spoken of in the south of Ireland, would also be encouraged and multiplied, while the State, through the healthy competition, would be more secure of having its children, whether Protestant or Roman Catholic, imbued with sound secular knowledge.*

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
AN ENGLISHMAN RESIDENT IN IRELAND.
Dublin, April 5, 1858.

* The sources of the above statistical information are the 'Evidence taken before the Select Committee of the House of Lords, 1854,' the reports of the 'Kildare-place Society,' and 'National Education of Ireland,' a pamphlet, by Dr. Dwyer Ferguson, late Assistant-Commissioner of the Endowed Schools Commission, 1858.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Several articles are unavoidably postponed this week. No notice can be taken of anonymous correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer; not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of his good faith. 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.

The Leader.

SATURDAY, APRIL 17, 1858.

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

EMANCIPATION OF THE LIBERAL PARTY IN PARLIAMENT

THE patience of the country is being tried, and its temper more than a little rubbed by the present state of things in Parliament. A Government holding office from day to day, in obedience merely to the tactics, or to the temporary necessities, of an overwhelming Opposition, is not a gratifying sight to the country at the present moment, when the most natural of its desires must be the possession of a powerful and unequivocally Liberal Government. It returned a large Liberal majority,—almost for a special purpose, it is true; but the inherent virtue which was in it impelled it to devote itself to larger uses than those for which it was originally intended; and that majority belongs still to the country, which looks to it for representation, in spite of the malversation of the leader for whose support it was brought together. Lord PALMERSTON neglected the cause with which he was specially entrusted, but his followers refused to become parties to his default. True to their trust, they remain on the field, but leaderless. But not only are they leaderless, they are apparently averse to making choice of a leader.

In Mr. HORSMAN's opinion, this is a position not altogether objectionable, and it is certainly one that may afford it serviceable experiences; but it is anomalous. The work which has to be done is done by incompetent hands, and results have in consequence to be accepted that are the reverse of satisfactory. From the hour of Lord DERBY's accession to office to the present time he has not made one step forward on the way towards firmer ground, but he has been obliged to accept conditions and to offer compromises humiliating to his opponents no less than to himself; the crowning humiliation to his government—at least so far—being the puerile eagerness displayed by Mr. DISRAELI on Monday night to get rid of the responsibility of the Indian Bill, by adopting the suggestions of Lord JOHN RUSSELL to bring the principles of the bill before the House in the form of resolutions, leaving the ultimate form of the measure to be determined in committee. Well might the House laugh when Mr. DISRAELI said it would be more agreeable to him if Lord John RUSSELL would himself propose the resolutions.

But to what end is the powerless Ministry of Lord DERBY kept in office? Until it is convenient to the Liberal party to decide between the claims of Lord PALMERSTON

and Lord JOHN RUSSELL to the premiership? The duty of the Liberal party at the present hour is of too pressing a kind to wait for conveniences of time or circumstance. Nothing has occurred to mend the position of Lord PALMERSTON since his removal from power, and but for the impossibility of uniting the independent members with the tenacious ex-officials, there could be no difficulty in at once placing the party under the leadership of Lord JOHN RUSSELL, who is the natural leader of the Liberal party, and who, upon the whole, possesses the confidence of the country. But what is to be done to secure the harmony and working efficacy of the divided party?

The answer to this inquiry is perfectly clear. Do not let us forget the real position of the country and of the principal questions under the force of prejudices against Lord PALMERSTON. What have been his antecedents? Let us remember that he has never been the leader of the Liberal party during any active career on the subjects of domestic policy. We do not believe that he is a 'traitor' to his country—that he betrays us to Russia, or intends to bring about the downfall of England. We admit a certain degree of verisimilitude in the great URQUHART epic, but some years back we accounted for it on principles which are quite sufficient; and it is against all logic to advance larger reasons than those which suffice. Lord PALMERSTON is not a statesman trained in the school of English government, but in the school of diplomacy; he belongs more to the diplomatic circle than to the circle of thoroughly English statesmen. His manner, as a political artist, has been shaped by the school in which he has been bred, and to which he has adhered throughout his life. It is a great art in that school to keep different powers or influences in such a state that they balance each other; and Lord PALMERSTON's 'spirited policy,' accompanied by great astuteness and prudence, has always tended to make the power of England felt without committing the country to positive courses. If he did so in the case of the Russian war, it was because the state of affairs at home offered a splendid opportunity for signaling himself; and a positive course happened to be peculiarly safe, as we have seen by the result; while we have also seen that he returned to a passive position as soon as possible. The time has passed by when a Minister of this kind is appropriate to the head of the Government. It has been for want of political guidance, and for too great reliance in diplomatic guidance, that he has deviated into those inconsistencies on other questions which have broken up the Liberal party. The Liberals went with him; he did not go with them; and as they were sent up by the country to follow his guidance on a question then paramount, they have too many of them somewhat slavishly construed their duty to follow him wheresoever he might go; countenancing him even while he applied diplomatic shifts to our home politics. The Liberal party, therefore, has been betrayed into a false position. The Liberal conviction and purpose of the country are, in point of fact, unrepresented at the present moment. Nobody expects that, if Lord DERBY were to fall into difficulties, he would resort to a dissolution; because a dissolution would most likely result in a sending up of a larger balance of Liberal members, impatient to put their opinion into action. On many accounts, a dissolution is a turmoil that should be avoided just yet; but the course for the statesmen to whom the lead of the Liberal party is lapsing is as clear as if they were to 'appeal to the country.' They must, in fact, appeal to the country by

another mode; and if they will consult the opinion of the people in the various forms of its manifestations—in the press, in public meetings, expressions at local meetings, in the declarations of local notables—they may learn, without a dissolution, what the result of a dissolution would be.

Any man versed in the politics of the country, who fixes his attention on the indexes of its present sentiments, can have no difficulty in discounting the dissolution. The chief questions which press upon the Government and Parliament of the day are the reconstruction of the Indian Government; the position of this country towards its foreign allies, sincere or false; and the strengthening of our constitution by admitting a larger number of the people within the Parliamentary franchise. There cannot, we say, be much doubt as to the opinion of the country upon these several measures. With regard to the India Bill, to be approved, it should be like Lord PALMERSTON'S, comparatively simple in its provisions; allotting to India a Secretary of State, responsible to Parliament, and assisted by men practically informed on Indian affairs, but so appointed as to be thoroughly independent, with a real control and a power of the initiative. The country has no desire at present to drive the Ministry into a propagandist policy on the European continent; but it does demand that our policy should be frank, intelligible, and straightforward; that it should be such as can be communicated to the country at each step of the proceedings; that when we threaten, we should mean what we say; that we should stand by our friends and let our treatment of foreign subjects be guided by the fundamental principles of our own constitution. A statesman who understands the history of Europe, and will only behave on each question as it arises in a truly English spirit, conducting the business in a business-like way, like an old English merchant, would have no difficulty in making the power of this country felt, or in winning the support of his own people. With regard to a Reform measure, the essential point is equally plain. All the indications of the day,—the declarations of the educational-franchise party, the petitions signed by the most respectable leaders in the country towns, statements at public meetings, and the tone of the press, proclaim that the country will not be satisfied without a substantial bill, but that the measure need not be complicated; on the contrary, the simpler the better. Different phrases have been used; but the general impression manifestly is, that, in one way or other, all resident Englishmen who have the responsibility of householders should be able to give their votes in the choice of the national representatives.

Such are the demands of the country; such is the work of the Liberal party. Let who will be its leader undertake to see that the work is executed thoroughly, and in the spirit indicated, and no party tactics or obstructive combinations would long withstand the expression of the country's will which would be evoked by the exhibition of selfish opposition on the part of an anti-Liberal minority.

THE INTRIGUE AND THE INDIA BILL.

We announced last week that the Ellenborough India Bill was in ruins. It is now to be pulled down and disposed of in lots. The whole of the dilapidated Alhambra, built up by Mr. Disraeli three weeks ago, is to be carted off in a series of resolutions, and Lord John Russell was at first invited to be the contractor. But this was a point beyond his purpose, which, to change the metaphor, was that of shunting the Ministry to a safer line of rails, and preventing a collision between the Palmer-

ston and Derby parties. There is very little mystery in this conduct on the part of the Whig expectant. He wants to gain time for himself, and to destroy the opportunity of his rival. His strategy, viewed alone, is not of that disgraceful character which would justify the gossiped sneer that we have a Castlereagh and a Castlereagh's wife in London. Granted that Lord John Russell has upset Lord Palmerston's coach, and disappointed the late Ministers; granted that he has worked a party engine for party purposes; granted even that he has struck hands with Mr. Disraeli—though this would be a violent assumption—there is no excuse for the shriek of virtuous horror raised among Lord Palmerston's followers. They have been hit; they have been balked; they have been baffled in a factious move, and they know it. Is it over India they groan? No; but because the door has been shut in their faces. They were making a party question of India, as Lord Derby made a party question of it before he came into office; and the probability is, that Lord John Russell's expedient will have an excellent result. Lord Palmerston must do something to warm his popularity, and the Indian Reform will be commenced with more deliberation than by the late or present Government. This, however, has nothing to do with Lord Derby's position, than which nothing could be more degrading. He is a Minister governing by the advice of his opposition; he is a Premier imploring an independent member of the House of Commons to take the most important business of the session out of his hands; his leader in the lower house, upon receiving a suggestion that he is not bound by the measure of his own Cabinet, springs to his feet and dashes it to pieces on the floor, even going so far as to hope that he may be relieved of the responsibility altogether. This situation would be inexpressibly humiliating to any Government; but it is doubly so in that of the Tories, who, for the last year, have been attempting to persuade the public that, if once restored to power, they would bring with them a miraculous budget of practical legislation. They brought in Lord Ellenborough as their Indian Minister; he sends in his bill, by the help of Mr. Disraeli; the bill is read by Parliament and torn to pieces by the press, and on the first evening after the recess the Tories sent their Tory colleague adrift, and hail a Whig leader to the rescue.

The best friends of the Cabinet have little confidence in its existence. Among the old Tory politicians who support it through traditional loyalty, and the indefinite Conservatives who scarcely know how to distinguish themselves from Liberals, the general tone of remark is most unfavourable to the chances of Lord Derby. It is felt that he can only get through the session by making a waiting race of it, by avoiding legislation, by postponing important debates, by standing prostrate, or like the Irish piper, playing first in the rear. He had a fortnight's grace during Easter; after that he claims a fortnight's additional delay, before resuming the Indian discussion; during next week he will only send down Mr. Disraeli with the Budget, which, as the party most fervently hopes, will be as unlike Mr. Disraeli as possible. Never was Toryism more evidently ashamed of its *gamin* representative than now, when he is Chancellor of the Exchequer for the second time, and has a financial scheme in his alembic. What will it be? a Rosicrucian compound, or an infusion of simples, after a receipt prepared by Sir Cornwall Lewis? It may be either, or both, precisely as Lord Ellenborough's India Bill was at once a mass of complexity and imperfection; but, even if the Budget passes, there will be the Indian chasm to leap, and, although Lord Ellenborough's Bill may be split into resolutions, and laid aside for next year, Lord Palmerston will press his own measure, and ascertain whether his old majority will follow him. We cannot hope that it will follow him so far as to restore the late ministry. We cannot blame Lord John Russell for narrowing the path of intrigue, and checking the triumphant return of a Minister who persuades himself that he is indispensable. But least of all can we comprehend how the Tory Cabinet is to exist in this state of perpetual paralysis and imbecility.

BALANCE-SHEET OF THE ANGLO-FRENCH ALLIANCE.

The Anglo-French Alliance gains nothing by being misunderstood. It has been made the subject of too many heroics on the part of England. We have heard more than enough of the loyalty of our great

ally, and some of us have been persuaded that the balance of results arising from this official partnership has been in our favour. It is time to acknowledge that, if benefits were weighed, Great Britain would kick the beam. From first to last the alliance has been subordinated to objects of French policy; the Imperial Government, so far from having established a claim upon the gratitude of this country, has been placed under the deepest obligations to our arms, to our diplomacy, and to the official and popular hospitality which secured for Louis Napoleon a British reception that was for him a passport into the palaces of Europe. The enthusiasm evinced on this side of the Channel was an overflowing of blind generosity mingled with a more immoral sentiment—the adulation of success; but it was never reciprocated from Paris, and the shouts of our streets came back even in echoes of irony. A change has fallen upon both nations. Public opinion has cooled down concerning the French alliance, ambiguous forebodings are afloat, and an eye is fixed upon the vast French army and the mustering squadrons at Brest and Cherbourg. In France, it has become the habit of imperial journalism to threaten and vituperate; but the importance of these manifestations should neither be denied nor exaggerated. Panic is an indiscreet counsellor, and false confidence is a traitor in the camp. We touch on these points, however, not so much with a view to eliciting the future probabilities of French policy, as to remark upon the opportunity afforded by the evaporation of popular sentiment in this country concerning the French alliance, to estimate that alliance at its actual value.

Louis Napoleon's pamphleteer has been vigorously answered by 'An Englishman out of Office,*' who takes to pieces his assertions concerning the origin of the practical amity supposed to exist between the Governments of France and Great Britain. The Emperor claims credit for himself for having created good-will where he found animosity, and raises a host of shadows that he may enjoy the glory of their dispersion. He had certainly good reason to be grateful. The unconditional hospitality guaranteed by our laws had saved him from the vengeance of a power which had not invented Cayenne or Lambessa as the punishments of liberty; but the question of gratitude was not the first to be solved. There was the necessity of conciliating his nearest and most powerful neighbour; there was self-interest to be consulted and common sense obeyed. The Empire was to gain a prodigious support without a sacrifice or even an equivalent. One of the oldest and best-established thrones in Europe was to become the stepping-stone by which a *parvenu* would rise to the rank of brotherhood with Kaisers and Kings. If Louis Napoleon gained his power in France by his own efforts, it was Great Britain that bestowed on him his influence in Europe. In his interest war was made against Russia; in his interest peace was concluded at Paris; and if, as the imperial pamphlet has said, France did not attempt to take advantage of the Indian revolt to embarrass the British Government by demands and exactions, 'An Englishman out of Office' has a right to reply, that Louis Napoleon might as well claim credit for not picking the pocket of an exhausted wayfarer. What has been the 'generosity' of France in not breaking the alliance? Why should he break it? Where would be his interest in breaking it? It has been his salvation, and to violate it would probably be his ruin. So long as he believes it profitable to himself, he will maintain it. Whenever he imagines its loss would be a gain, he will abandon it. He respects an alliance exactly in the same spirit as he respects an oath. Louis Napoleon may in one sense have been endangered by the proximity of England, with her nest of exiles, but, in another sense, he has benefited by the zealous activity of our police, and the friendly co-operation of our Foreign-office. This has not satisfied his alarmed jealousy. He would have the complicity of our tribunals carried so far as to limit the freedom of the subject by a series of preventive arrests, and the freedom of the press, not only by political prosecutions, but by a precautionary censorship. With that view he has instructed public opinion in France to utter its safe menaces and irresponsible warnings, and 'allowed' M. Veuillot to prophesy our speedy and supreme humiliation. "Who is it," asks 'An Englishman out of Office,' "that does

* "A Voice from England in Answer to *L'Empereur Napoleon III. et l'Angleterre.*" By an Englishman out of Office. Chapman and Hall.

not know that this menacing language, before it could have found public expression, must have received the private sanction of the supreme power in France?"

"The author of the French pamphlet, however, seeks to contrast past times with present; and in order to illustrate recent events, invites our attention to those of earlier days in the history of *'La Vieille Angleterre.'*

"We accept the invitation; and that the more readily, because an attempt has lately been made in France to misrepresent circumstances in the reign of William III., for the purpose of palliating those which have disfigured the reign of Napoleon III.

"Between the defender of English liberties and the destroyer of liberty in France we can recognize no parallel; but between the relative situation of the two countries in 1691 and 1858 a striking parallel there is.

"France at that period was with regard to England what England now is with regard to France—an asylum to the unfortunate and the disaffected. Plots were then incessantly formed by the exiled Court at St. Germain, and fostered by the French Court at Versailles, against the Protestant succession in England. Amongst these was one which bears a strange similarity to that which has recently horrified Europe.

"The conspirators were furnished with money and instructions at St. Germain. It was resolved to assassinate William by a discharge of blunderbusses and musketballs upon the royal coach, which contained sixteen persons. Simultaneously with the success of this criminal attempt England was to be invaded; and it was understood that, so soon as the standard of revolt had been raised within our shores, several thousand French troops would effect a landing. The French fleet was for this purpose sent to Calais.

"The plot was discovered before it could be perpetrated. The authors were arrested; the country was immediately placed in a state of defence; and the king summoned Parliament, to disclose to it the terrible details of a conspiracy at once more formidable and more ferocious than any heard of since the crime of Catiline. It was not alone the life of a popular sovereign, it was the liberties and religion of a whole people that had been imperilled."

"Nevertheless, when during the private negotiations for the Treaty of Ryswick it was proposed to insert into the instrument of peace some guarantee on the part of France for the prevention of similar conspiracies, and the removal from St. Germain of those English refugees who there formed a focus of intrigue, the *Grand Monarque*, 'who was every inch a king,' vehemently vindicated the privilege of asylum open in France to political misfortune, and declined to give the pledge proposed, upon the legitimate grounds that he could not make laws in France to protect kings of England.

"Is it then to be expected that measures which, in the seventeenth century, an absolute monarch refused to discuss, a constitutional government should, in the nineteenth century, agree to adopt?"

Louis Napoleon, the writer continues, has less to fear from assassination than from public opinion. He denounces the British press, which is beyond official control; but he does not calm the imperial and Jesuit press, which is under his hand, when it throws off its daily scum of insult and swagger. All journalism in France is, in one sense, official; and the more closely its organs approach the imperial throne, the more bitter are their revilings of the British name and policy. What has been the retort from London?"

"We wish particularly that notice should be given to the fact that, whilst the censure of public opinion, expressed in England through the press, has been frequently and severely declared as regards the acts of a particular government in France, no language save that of cordial sympathy and honest appreciation has at any time been uttered by our public journals in reference to France as a nation."

We respect the alliance, even although ignorant of "all that the Emperor Napoleon III. has been for England;" but international friendship only suffers when one great power is gratuitously subservient to another.

PARLIAMENTARY BUCKSHEESH.

WHILE, in the main, the feelings of the House of Commons and country were in unison with the negative conclusion of the inquiry into the case of Mr. Butt, the circumstances which led to the inquiry were of a character to open the more general question of the liability which overhangs professional members of Parliament to overlook the barrier between professional and parliamentary duty. The Committee acquitted Mr. Butt of the special allegations brought against him, and with the delivery of their report their functions were at an end; but not so the case itself, pointing as it did to a principle of corruption which might possibly be active in the House of Commons, even though its presence was not established in the particular instance. Sir John Trelawny's motion, then,

"That the receipt of any species of reward by a member in consideration of the exercise of his influence in that capacity is calculated to lower the dignity and authority of this House, and is a high breach of the privilege of Parliament," was not uncalled for.

The members of the legal profession are, from the nature of their private vocation, among those most exposed to temptation. A matter in which the professional services of a member have been engaged is carried on in a court of law; but circumstances suggest that, for the furtherance of the case in hand, it shall be brought to the notice of Parliament; the member has himself, possibly, suggested that course; naturally his client, or clients, will think of him as the most ready and best qualified person to be entrusted with their cause. There lies the point of danger. It cannot be a question that the danger is real; nor is it a question whether the present powers of the House of Commons are insufficient to guard its purity from injury. Out of the House, the feeling is far less assured than within its walls; in fact, as Lord Hotham said in the debate on Tuesday evening, the imputation is constantly made that money had been indirectly, if not directly, received by persons situated as in the hypothetical case just given. The popular suspicion of the existence of such corrupt practices is of old date and has had 'confirmation strong as proofs of Holy Writ.' Many examples have been made of Members, and even of men of high official standing, convicted of receiving bribes, or rewards, for services rendered in their parliamentary capacity; and, in 1695, those who were found guilty of tampering with the independence of Members, by offering bribes for their services, were held to have committed a high crime and misdemeanour, as "tending to the subversion of the English constitution."

Let the principle be adopted that Members of Parliament have a right to receive money from their constituents or clients for services rendered in the House, or even indirectly by means of their Parliamentary influence, and the very highest moral attribute of Parliament is lost to it—its independence. So highly is this independence prized by Parliament itself, that a majority of its members, professedly at least, hold their jealous watchfulness to be sufficient security. That is the question raised by Sir John Trelawny's motion. The case of Mr. Butt alone would be enough to show at least the danger which exists; for the report of the Committee simply affirmed that the charges brought against Mr. Butt were not proven—not that they were not true; and it did nothing to lessen the suspicion of the public that such cases are both possible and common.

In India, Mr. Mangles says, the princes will continue to believe that for money they may purchase the advocacy of Members of the English Parliament; for they can make no distinction between the legal and non-professional members of the House, and the offer of bribes is habitual with them; only pay a member his own price, they believe, and he will serve you. If that is so, the mere *amour propre* of the House of Commons is hardly a sufficient guarantee for the purity of its professional members, and is certainly no guarantee against the most injurious suspicions being entertained in India, if not elsewhere, of its general corruptibility. The reasonableness, also, of the demand for additional pains and penalties in the case of persons convicted of corrupt practices becomes manifest.

But, on more general grounds, it seems reasonable to ask additional securities for the purity of the House of Commons, or at the worst, for severer punishments for offences inimical to its reputation and independence. There are often vast personal interests involved in the measures discussed by Parliament, particularly in the cases of railway bills, the advocacy of which, by members even indirectly concerned, should not be tolerated, but should be punished upon clearly established proof. Again, members may receive rewards, not actually in money, but in equivalents; for example, by procuring appointments for constituents, the which services may bring to the members advantages even more solid than sums in hard cash. In all such cases the bounds of strict independence are overstepped, the dignity of Parliament offended; and in such cases, if it were possible to prove the offences, severe penalties should be inflicted.

The independence of Parliament cannot, in fact, be too jealously maintained, and every precaution consistent with individual freedom should be adopted

for its security. Possibly, at the present moment, the sense of danger is not strong enough, either within or without the House, to demand stronger guarantees than are in existence; but Sir John Trelawny's motion evinces a healthy watchfulness, which it is to be hoped will not be relaxed because the abuses caught sight of are not at present so offensive as to demand instant remedy. That there are abuses of the kind pointed out, and that grave consequences may come of their continuance, are certain facts; it may not be long before Sir John will have another opportunity for completing the reform to the desirableness of which those facts point.

We are under no danger of Six Acts or other Executive tyranny—only in danger of seeing national objects sacrificed to little occult trading objects.

THE WHOLE DUTY OF SPIES.

CONCERNING Sergeant John Rogers there is not a word to be said, except that he is a detective officer who acts upon his instructions. That the British Government employs spies is not the fault of Sergeant John Rogers. The system began long before he joined the police in 1851; but he seems to have been the unhappy agent of forcing its resemblance to continental practice almost to identity. These are the ashes within the purple and golden bloom of the Alliance. The infection of Paris has touched Leicester-square, the *proscrit* is followed by the *mouchard*, and in our universal hospitality we afford an asylum to the most vicious principle of foreign despotism as well as to the most unfortunate of its victims. It is now clear how the thunders that shook, not the arsenal, but the glasses on the Green Dragon tables, were reported to the Syracusan listener at the Tuileries. The whispering galleries of Imperialism extend under the Channel. John Rogers is a delator, and he perambulates the streets of London, quite in an unofficial friendly way, with French officers upon secret service. We have had these shadowless Schlemils of the Empire dogging wayfarers to their doors, haunting quiet streets, infesting public rooms, and taking notes of conversations and amateur debates, but we were scarcely sure that among these political eavesdroppers were gentry with British blood in their veins. It is good for us to know that so thoroughbred a Briton as Sergeant John Rogers is one of the class, and that he steps noiselessly into the society of strangers, to profit by their remarks. He is quite in the right to maintain a tranquil *incognito*, for were he identified, there might be a breach of the peace, which the whole world would of course deplore. It is the fate of devotion to be misunderstood. Even nobler members of the executive and ministers of justice than Mr. John Rogers have been compelled to wear their vizors down, and 'circulate' in the assumed humility of private citizens. Thus the eminent Mr. Calcraft suffered lately from the vulgar prejudices of a mob of gentlemen at an hotel, on account of his indiscretion in rattling upon a table, while waiting for kidneys and stout, a small chain with a hook attached, and a little coil of hemp carelessly enveloped in a silk handkerchief. Mr. Sergeant Rogers may console himself for the brutal bluntness of the questions put by Mr. Edwin James by remembering that other men have been honourable, and have endured. His duty is, it seems, from the admirable bit of autobiography extorted by Mr. Edwin James, to attend the meetings of debating societies—in plain clothes—to take notes of who are there, and what is said. He walks up-stairs; his name is not asked; he does not speak—it would be too bad in Mr. John Rogers to discuss 'democracy and despotism'—and, after all, he hears nothing 'very shocking.' Since November last, however, it has been part of his duty 'to watch the French and Italian refugees.' Lately, he has had official interviews with Eliza Rudio. Undoubtedly, the British Government is doing what it can to propagate suspicion. Since the French spies have been over here, Mr. Rogers has been engaged in conveying messages from the Commissioners to them, and from them to the Commissioners. Thus the alliance has gone so far as to result in a fusion between the British and the Imperial police.

THE RAILWAY, THE PRESS, THE SOLDIER, AND THE PRIEST.

THAT extensive camp, the Austrian Empire, finds itself rather puzzled sometimes how to reconcile any modern progress with its old and natural institutions—the cannon and the sword. Yet when all

the world and his wife travel on railways, the Austrian rulers must allow the civilians under their power some opportunity of making money enough to pay imperial taxes. In the Italian provinces the Emperor has allowed railways, but with something of the same fear that Rome tolerates the printing-press, and sanctions books printed *permissu superiorum*. An illustration is given at Milan. The line connecting Milan with the Sardinian frontier is making progress, and will be finished, it is thought, in the autumn. The company propose to build a magnificent terminus at Loreto, close to the gates of Milan; but the Austrians wish to occupy the site with 'eight little fortresses.' Those mere soldiers, the Austrian generals, men who have no ideas beyond the camp, who have not even a country to fight for, see in a railroad merely a possible route for an enemy, and to 'command the approaches' is a cardinal point in military tactics. The management of the railway is a secondary consideration; the regulation and despatch of passengers a small question. The saving clause is eight little fortresses. Imagine booking your luggage at the cannon's mouth, or some German *sabreur* stamping your ticket with the hilt of his sword. The idea of an irritable old Field-Marshal ruling a staff of railway officials is really worth considering as a kind of reform. A negligent pointsman would be bayoneted on the spot, passengers getting out before the train stops would receive a well-directed fusillade; a sluggish coal-train would be accelerated by the brigade of field artillery in full pursuit, and an express train would be brought to by a well-aimed cannon-shot. Another railway proposal of the Austrian Government beats Mr. Stephenson and his Chat Moss work to nothing:—

"The Austrian Government also wishes to establish a mine beneath the bridge of Buffalora, on the Ticino, where the Lombardy line and the Piedmontese line are to form a junction. It has requested the Sardinian Government to do the same on its own side of the river."

This is truly excellent. Our miserable English engineers have been blundering on from invention to invention as to the best way of stopping trains. Drags on the wheels, throwing sand on the rails, and other devices have been adopted, but they are all contemptible beside this grand Austrian proposition. Accidents are impossible when such a means of stopping headlong express trains are in the hands of the railway authorities. To fully appreciate the wisdom of this notion we must understand the peculiar position of any railway running direct from Sardinia to any part of Austrian Italy. The stoppage of *all* trains on this ill-advised route would, in our opinion, be the best plan; and no doubt some of the military managers of the road will keep their hands in by ordering "field practice this afternoon to blow up the 6.40 P.M. train from the frontier. Ambulances for wounded passengers to be provided; burial parties to be detached from the sixth military division." Heaven and the Kaiser can only know and appreciate the benefit to the empire of an occasional extinction of passengers from Piedmont, and when the spy system of Austria has acquired sufficient delicacy of detection, we may expect a brilliant bulletin:—

"Milan, Monday.—This morning an express train of ideas coming from the Sardinian frontier was blown up at Buffalora. We need not add that the ideas were subversive."

At Bruges, what Mr. Disraeli would call "the genius of the epoch," comes into competition with a very old institution. The newspaper comes face to face with the confessional. The Bishop of Bruges (may his pastoral crook never be straight!) has issued a circular to confessors regulating the injunctions to their penitents *in re* newspapers. The penitents, after being examined in the roll of ordinary sins, are to be asked what newspapers they read. If the publications are radical or heterodox, the penitent is not to receive absolution until he promises to abstain from the forbidden pleasure. The penance for disobedience is not laid down; to stand in a white sheet (quite blank) would not be inappropriate.

The confessors are instructed to condone some violations of the general rule:—Post-office-carriers may carry them about, and compositors may set up the type—for otherwise they would lose their situations. Magistrates are permitted to peruse, that they may prosecute, them; and 'men of letters' are to apply for permission to read them, that they may 'refute them.' This last clause is interesting. We would advise Lord John Russell, who is undeniably a 'man of letters,' to apply to the Bishop of London for permission to read the *Times* of last

Wednesday. He will find in it an article which he ought to refute.

The management of the clerical and Bonapartist press in Belgium and Paris shows how this mighty engine of freedom, as some people call it, is made the docile, mechanic slave of despotism. Some observers of the material progress of the world also anticipated that railways would overrun national distinctions and level high privileges, would make obsolete the baron's feudal fortress and the brigand's cave. We do not quite see the use of expecting mental or spiritual results from mere material novelties. The railway has not done so very much in this way. Aristocracy has its first class, and there are two other classes for the inferior castes. As to brigandage, the other day, in the Roman States, the brigands seized a station, signalled the train to stop, and robbed the passengers as adroitly and rapidly as the railway officials take tickets. Old, unreformed instincts of human nature triumph over the new ways into which an age of mud, iron, and machinery would bring us. As a compensation, we find that railways take little away from the romance of travelling. The old associations which hallowed the stage-coach and roadside inn now begin to cling to the train and the station. Lovers are expected by the express; 'the next station' and 'the down platform' are words which, commonplace as they read, quicken the pulsations of the heart when the traveller thinks of the beloved face he is hastening to see. When stage-coaches were first introduced, superseding family travelling-carriages, or when carriages themselves were brought in, superseding the saddle and pillion of lover and lass, husband and wife, the same feeling that the romance of travel was destroyed was mournfully expressed. Mrs. Slipslop, in 'Joseph Andrews,' denounces the vulgarity of the stage-coach, and intimates that she was not used to such a mode of travelling. Looking forward, we may expect the day when the romance of travel will be associated entirely with railways, and some new-fangled scheme of locomotion by air or magnetism will be denounced as unromantic and uninteresting. Then some Washington Irving of the Great Western will dwell with poetical pathos on all the dearly-loved features of the old-fashioned railway train, will describe how young and old welcomed its cheerful whistle; how favourite engines were tended by aged stokers who tearfully regretted the rage for reforms, how the wife and the sweetheart watched for the evening express until twilight faded into darkness and the starlight shone on the rails of the station, and how the retired station-master, surrounded by his grandchildren, told wild stories of the night trains—the little listeners asking to go next day to the British Museum to see a preserved specimen of the last locomotive.

THE NEW BELGIAN PASSPORT SYSTEM.

WHEN France had resolved to relax the severity of her passport system—intensified for a few weeks after the January attempt, and still painfully rigorous—it was scarcely to be expected that Belgium would adopt the measures adverted to last night by Mr. Monckton Miles in his question to the Chancellor of the Exchequer. We much regret that the new Belgian ministry has improved upon the example originally set by France, and added to the established restrictions on the intercourse between London and Brussels. Surely, Belgium has nothing to fear from her English visitors, from her close neighbours and cordial friends. As if her regulations were not already vexatious enough, it is now decided that no Englishman is to receive a passport from the Belgian authorities in London, as has been the practice hitherto, but that in all cases in which British subjects desire to visit Belgium, they must provide themselves with British passports. Great inconvenience is thus inflicted, since in almost every instance the system produces delay, difficulty, and embarrassment. What possible interest can be served by impeding the journey of an Englishman to Brussels, Spa, or Ostend? It is upon the French frontier that impediments might reasonably be anticipated, but why separate London and Brussels, the one fraternally linked with the other by an 'endless ladder' of steam-packets and railways?

We will cite two or three incidents of recent occurrence in exemplification of the system which we have described as a grievance. An English gentleman has a daughter living with a relative at Ostend. He received a telegraphic despatch announcing that the young lady was dangerously ill, and hastened to the Belgian Consulate at four

o'clock in the afternoon to obtain a passport. This the authorities were compelled by their responsibility to refuse. They referred him to the Foreign-office, where it was impossible that he could obtain his passport until the next day. Thus he lost the Dover boat and forty-eight hours.

Two English merchants arrived in London from Liverpool on their way to Antwerp, whither they were called upon imperative business, for a few hours only. In fact, it was essential that they should return to Liverpool upon the second day after their departure. Arriving in London without letters of recommendation, they applied at the Belgian Consulate. There they could obtain no passport, and for two hours' business they suffered two days' detention.

A City tradesman has a son at school at Brussels, and had an opportunity of running over to spend a Sunday with him. The new passport regulations took him by surprise, and he lost his trip altogether.

Will the Belgian Government persist in thus limiting the intercourse between Brussels and London, inconveniencing London, and inflicting heavy damages on Brussels?

THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

THE House of Commons was bewildered, on Tuesday evening, by a discussion on the Straits settlements. Lord Bury, who some weeks ago presented a petition from Penang, Malacca, and Singapore, asked whether the Government were prepared to place those dependencies under the direct administration of the Colonial Office, and complained that they had been oppressively treated by the East India Company. The case of the settlers may be succinctly stated. They occupy two islands and a peninsular station in the Straits of Malacca, the great channel of communication by sea between India and China, and Singapore, in particular, has attracted an enormous trade. The general value of the Straits commerce rose from four millions sterling in 1840, to fifteen millions in 1857. Originally the settlements established by the East India Company in the Malayan waters were of peculiar importance to that body in connexion with its monopoly of the Chinese trade; but these conditions having ceased, Singapore has been converted into a huge penal settlement. The necessity for this has also ceased, as Mr. Mangles admitted, since the Andaman Islands have been selected for penal colonization, and the Company does not appear anxious to retain its local prerogative. What the settlers desire, then, is that the Straits settlements shall be ranked among British colonies, with the prospect of a legislative council based upon their grand jury, and to this concession we think they are justly entitled. Their energies have fostered an immense traffic among the ports of Eastern Asia, and what has been their reward? That they have been deluged with the criminal classes of British India. We think, however, that Sir John Elphinstone might reconsider his description of the Bugis as among the most lawless and savage of Oriental barbarians. It is of Indian convicts and Chinese secret societies that the European community at Singapore complains, not of the pacific Bugis, who are the most industrious traders of the entire region, and who bring prosperity wherever their far-wandering flotillas anchor. The boldest of all the races in the archipelago, they are celebrated for their love of justice and fidelity to their engagements, and of all the merchants who carry their wares to the maritime mart of Dobbo, they contribute most to the active trade of the Malayan Archipelago. The sight of a Bugis fleet is invariably welcome at Singapore. Even the Chinese would be received without jealousy were the Government to keep them well in hand, and check the formation of their secret societies, for they are an enterprising race, and several members of the Chinese community at Singapore are among the most respected of the inhabitants. All persons locally acquainted with the Straits settlements will concur in the opinion of Mr. Mangles, that the mysterious organizations of those strangers should be vigilantly watched. Moreover, no one will deny that the immense number of tigers swimming to the island from the mainland constitutes an obstacle to its colonization; but surely Sir John Elphinstone exaggerated the difficulty when he described it as 'insuperable,' although he fell short of the mark when he said "scarcely a month passed without some native being carried off bodily by those animals." For a long time it has been computed that the lives lost from this cause at Singapore have averaged one a day. But a nation that builds breakwaters might

certainly protect from invasions of wild beasts an island the greatest length of which is twenty-seven miles. The Straits settlers generally wish to occupy a new and more independent position, and we have no doubt but that upon being ranked as colonists, they would undertake several charges which at present it would be sheer tyranny to impose upon them. They have nothing in common with the East India Company. They refuse its currency, they dislike its system of secret rule, they have been compelled to appeal against its interference on several important occasions, and although the whole subject of Indian government is to be discussed, the Straits settlements might well be taken exceptionally, and vested with privileges which will increase their prosperity without infringing any existing rights.

THE HOUSE OF COMMONS IN NEWGATE.

MR. EDWARD AUCHMUTY GLOVER has gone to Newgate for four months as representative of the House of Commons. Had that corrupt body stood in the dock, Mr. Justice Crompton would probably have passed a more severe sentence, for the least of the criminals stood before him as substitute, after the Chinese fashion, for the greater. Seriously, however, to convict Mr. Glover of perjurious misrepresentation was perhaps among the worst pieces of hypocrisy ever sanctioned by a British court of justice. Why, what had he done? Entered the House of Commons upon an imperfect property qualification—an offence notoriously committed by scores of honourable gentlemen. He stood upon a qualification vitiated by mortgages. Other men stand upon qualifications altogether fictitious, and make solemn oaths that they have an equitable right in rent-charges entirely nominal. An individual ambitious of becoming a senator, or with urgent private affairs pressing him to procure an exemption from arrest, puts himself forward as candidate for a borough. Some friend manufactures a qualification for him, or, in other words, hands over to him for a few days a property title worth 300*l.* a year. Of that money he never receives one farthing, but he swears himself to be 'worth' three hundred pounds sterling a year; swears that, upon his honour, he believes himself to be, to all intents and purposes, obeying the law, and by this whitening of a lie gains admission to Parliament. Then comes Mr. Glover to the table to be sworn, with real titles in his hand, but titles representative of encumbered estates, and so confused are his affairs, that a jury takes three hours to decide whether his error was unintentional or otherwise. A cry from Beverley follows him. Lawfully elected, he is not lawfully qualified. He is unseated. The House is astonished to learn that the late member for Beverley had sat upon a rotten qualification. In its supreme virtue it resolves to make an example of a political malefactor so atrocious, and with sorrowful severity orders the law officers of the Crown to prosecute him. He has been detected, and, to deter awkward offenders, he is imprisoned four months. To be a British Bank swindler is to deserve the Queen's Bench; but to be what scores of the members of the House of Commons are is to deserve Newgate. The property qualification has at all times been a farce, but the Central Criminal Court has now converted it into an instrument of revenge, private oppression, and Parliamentary duplicity.

A WORD OR TWO ON THE NAVY.

WE trust the day is far distant when the noblest service in the world—the British navy—will be made the victim of peace-dreamers or parochial economists. The wholesome jealousy of a standing army is not inconsistent with a desire that the army, as it stands, shall be as efficient as science and judicious expenditure can make it. But the navy is the national service, and no sane man, within the House of Commons or without, is willing to spare the means of maintaining our supremacy of the seas. Unfortunately, the departmental administration of this glorious arm has not always been worthy of a generous Parliament. Millions have been wasted in reckless experiments, jobbery and favouritism have vied with empiricism and incapacity in our dockyards, and a spirit of rash squandering or of disastrous penny-wise retrenchment has alternately presided at Whitehall. The present First Lord of the Admiralty has already, within a few weeks of his assumption of an office for which no one thought him fitted, gained golden opinions from all who have come in contact with him; and the approval of his official colleagues and

subordinates has been ratified by the House of Commons.

Nothing could be more clear, straightforward, and complete than Sir John Pakington's statement on Monday evening; nothing more worthy of a British Minister. Two great principles for the future guidance of our naval administration were established in the course of the debate on the Estimates:—

1. The maintenance of a force of continuous-service men.
2. Keeping ships in commission for a longer term of years.

These are real reforms, and touch the condition of the Navy in its vital parts.

The construction of ships is a question admitting of almost as many opinions as there are admirals in the service. But the *Times* has put the common-sense of the matter most forcibly in asking why the first naval power in the world should be content to follow in the wake of other maritime powers, instead of initiating the changes which science points out and necessitates?

We believe it is the opinion of those best qualified to judge, that the day of three-deckers is passing away, and that future naval engagements will be fought by light, swift ships, with few but heavy guns, and plenty of room to fight them; and that in attacking fortifications, floating batteries (such as those engaged at Kertch in the late war) will do the business. While we are chatting about naval affairs, we may be allowed to express our conviction that there is no immediate cause for alarm in the announced junction of the French squadrons at Cherbourg next July, though the occasion and the fact are highly suggestive. The fortifications at Alderney may be a costly delusion, but a submarine telegraph to that island will enable us to know at a moment's notice what is going on within the breakwater of Cherbourg. A good look-out can do no harm: with a Channel fleet and the flag of a William Martin or a Henry Keppel in command, we shall be able to give a good account of friends and foes.

STREET NUISANCES.—The Commissioners of Police have issued notifications, in answer to several complainants, to the effect that the police have received orders to suppress the dangerous game of 'tipcat,' and that every effort will be made to prevent loud street cries on Sundays near churches and chapels during the times of service. The Commissioners, however, have not the power to suppress Sunday trading altogether.

A SCARLET RAINBOW.—A somewhat singular phenomenon was observed in the neighbourhood of Wigton on the morning of Wednesday week. It was a rainbow of a brilliant red hue, in the west, opposite to the sun at rising, which was about five o'clock in the morning. Its appearance is described as very startling. Those who pretend to be weatherwise prophesy very great storms.—*Carlisle Patriot.*

MURDER NEAR TAUNTON.—An old man, named Bucknall, and his wife, were found on Wednesday morning in their cottage, dead—the man from a gunshot through the brain, the woman from a wound in the throat. The old couple were possessed of a little money. Their grandson has been arrested on suspicion.

MEETING OF MIDDLESEX MAGISTRATES.—The Middlesex Magistrates met on Thursday, when a discussion took place arising out of a notice of motion given by Mr. W. Payne. This motion expressed "horror and alarm" at the doctrines of assassination openly advocated in London, and called on the Government to adopt measures to prevent the country from incurring "the odium and reproach" of sheltering the murderer and the regicide. Mr. Cottrell had another motion on the paper requiring the clerk to expunge any notice of motion not having direct reference to business. This motion was carried, but Mr. Cottrell refused to withdraw his motion, and made a great fuss about it. However it fell to the ground, without even being being seconded.

THE HENDERSON FUND.—A subscription has been opened for the benefit of the widow and daughter of the late Mr. Henderson, of the firm of Fox and Henderson, the contractors for the Crystal Palace of Hyde Park and Sydenham. Mr. Henderson was a man of immense energy, and, at the time he was attacked and carried off, after an illness of only a few days, he was vigorously preparing to recommence the business which had been temporarily suspended. Such a man has a claim on the public purse, and we are sure that those who were near to him will not find that claim forgotten.

MR. DICKENS read his *Christmas Carol* on Thursday night at St. Martin's Hall in aid of the Hospital for Sick Children. The building overflowed with auditors. On Thursday, the 29th inst., Thursday, the 6th of May, and Thursday, the 18th of May, Mr. Dickens will read one of his well-known works for his own benefit.

MANSLAUGHTER.—A man named Gründell was killed in the neighbourhood of the new market, Copenhagen Fields, on Wednesday. He and another man, named Jones, had been beating carpets all day, and in the evening they sat drinking. A dispute arose with respect to paying for the liquor, when Jones felled Gründell to the ground, and he was killed on the spot.

THE PAPER DUTY.—A deputation waited on Lord Derby on Thursday, to represent to him the evil effects of the paper duty, and to request him to repeal it. His Lordship announced that he was personally favourable to the objects of the deputation, and that, if the Exchequer was in such a state as to justify a reduction of taxation, "he should approve very much of a proposition to take off the duty on paper."

ALARMING RIOT AND ATTEMPTED MURDER.—An alarming riot, accompanied with the use of fire-arms, took place at Messrs. Jobberns and Arrowsmith's brick and tile works, near Walsall, on Tuesday. A gang of from eight to ten fellows, carrying pistols and guns, broke into the premises between nine and ten o'clock at night, destroying the bricks and tiles. Some of the people at work endeavoured to prevent them, when they were fired at, and one man, named Gifford, was seriously, if not fatally, injured, one of the charges lodging in his forehead and right breast. The gang also attacked the works of Messrs. J. W. Beddow, adjoining, and committed extensive damage. They then made off, and at present remain at large.

THE EAST INDIA COMPANY.—The adjourned meeting of East India Proprietors, to consider the two India Bills, was held in Leadenhall-street on Tuesday. Colonel Wilkinson proposed a resolution condemning both bills, and authorizing the Court of Directors to adopt such measures as they might deem necessary either to ensure their rejection, or to obtain the insertion of such clauses as would be calculated to promote the interests of the people of India, and to maintain the rights and privileges of the Court of Proprietors. Mr. Mackenzie moved, as an amendment, that a petition should be presented to Parliament, praying it to carry into effect the principle of Lord Palmerston's bill, provided that arrangements be made to place the patronage beyond the control of the Government, by a well-devised scheme of competitive examination. Mr. Malcolm Lewin proposed another amendment, condemning both bills as vesting vast uncontrolled authority in the hands of a Secretary of State, and giving him a council which would really possess no power of independence, but would screen him from responsibility. After some discussion, in which Mr. Jones, Mr. Helps, and other proprietors took part, the Chairman (Mr. Mangles) supported the resolution, and promised that the Directors, who had seats in the House of Commons, would fight the battle of the Proprietors in that assembly, and would especially endeavour to uphold their cause when the House went into committee on the bill. The amendments were then withdrawn, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.—Sir Frederick Currie was on Wednesday appointed chairman, and Captain Eastwick deputy-chairman of the Company, for the ensuing year.

LIVERPOOL BOROUGH BANK.—It is understood that the directors of this bank have been served with notices of action by persons who bought shares on the strength of the official reports, and who now claim compensation for being defrauded.

MR. LAYARD.—By private letters received from Mr. Layard, dated Delhi the 28th of February, we learn that that gentleman, having travelled through the Nizam's dominions and the Rajpootana States, is on his way to Calcutta, and expects to arrive in England in the course of next month.—*Globe.*

NEW AUSTRALIAN BISHOPRIC.—The Government have consented to the erection of a new bishopric in Australia, the boundary of which will be a new province which has been marked out to be called "Bresbane," or "Moreton Bay," at present comprised in the diocese of Newcastle, which is the most extensive of our colonial sees, not excepting Calcutta and Rupert's Land.

ART EXHIBITION.—Messrs. Dickinson have opened a very interesting exhibition at their Art Galleries, 114, Bond-street, of their best works, now for the second time collected, consisting chiefly of portraits (many of them life size) of distinguished persons.

AT MR. BURFORD'S GALLERY, in Leicester-square, a panorama of Lucknow taken from the Residency, and commanding a view of the city and country adjacent, is now added to the panorama of Delhi, and both are well worth a visit.

ST. JAMES'S HALL.—Last evening, the Vocal Association, under the direction of Mr. Benedict, gave the second of their series of six subscription concerts. The first part of the concert consisted of Locke's music to *Macbeth*, as it was performed at Her Majesty's Theatre, on the occasion of the Bridal Festival performance.

THE SPY SYSTEM.—An advertisement of a "Private Inquiry Office," conducted by an ex-detective policeman, has appeared in the newspapers. This odious system is making perilous encroachments.

DEATH OF AN AFRICAN TRAVELLER.—The learned traveller, Baron von Neimans, of Bayreuth, in Franconia, who intended to make a journey into the interior of Africa, in order to ascertain the fate of Dr. Vogel, died at Cairo on the 15th of March.

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*.

THE first article in the last number of the *Westminster Review* is on a subject whose title will appear to many at first sight very like a contradiction in terms—'The Religion of Positivism.' It consists of two parts, contributed by different writers; the first being an outline of the religious idea and effort of the Positivists in its more general scope and aim, the second an analysis of M. COMTE's *Catéchisme de la Religion Positive*, recently translated by Mr. CONGREVE. While repudiating M. COMTE's minute and dictatorial elaboration of his scheme, the writers believe that the religious notions of Positivism will constitute, in some modified form, the Church of the future. Many who cannot share this anticipation, will readily admit the importance of the truth which the faith of Positivism reflects, though in a distorted and exaggerated form, and which the writers of the article strongly insist on—the necessity of connecting religion more closely with humanity, of finding for it a deeper social root, and investing with its sacredness the complex whole of human nature and human life. In this point of view the article in the *Westminster* strikingly coincides with a kindred one in the new number of the *National*, entitled 'Religion and Society: Paley and Channing.' Both signalize the supreme importance of developing the social or human side of religion (which, in the pages of the *National*, is Christianity) that Protestantism has so much neglected; and both in this faithfully represent the reaction to that one-sidedness which is the great religious aspect of the day. The article in the *National* starts from the French translation of CHANNING'S 'Life and Works,' which has recently been published in Paris, with a preface by M. RÉMUSAT, mainly for the purpose of quickening the deadened sense of spiritual and personal freedom in France.

The following passage indicates the weakness not only of CHANNING'S point of view, but of more than half the religious teaching of the present day:—

A common life must be the ground of close social union. Channing's teaching tended to make each man conscious of his own individuality—alike in its noblest and its most painful phases—more and more profoundly. He spoke of spiritual life too much as an aspiration, too little as a reality. He sometimes made men feel the infinite distance between themselves and God—the spiritual immensity across which the poor human will must cheerfully work its way—more keenly than the power which, if they would but recognize it, already worked in them. His was often the teaching of want: the aim was distant, the way was long, and for each man solitary. Even the fact of God's help had to be painfully realized by an effort of thought. He is apt rather to tell men what they ought to feel on the hypothesis of religion, than to explain to them what they do feel in the light of religious certainties. The 'thought of God' frequently takes the place in his writings of God. Of course this is often the state of any sincere man's mind. But realities, not thoughts of realities, are the basis of all union; facts, not hopes. And Channing, by the ideal cast which he teaches us to give to every spiritual influence that acts on the mind,—keeping it at arm's length till we have weighed and estimated its value,—often turns a certainty into an aspiration. We know how easy it is to doubt the existence even of the material universe, if we will not follow our first instinct to assume it, but begin instead to discuss what value we are to attach to our impressions; and it is certainly not less easy to turn spiritual realities into shadows or mere foretastes of the future, by holding aloof from the influence they bring.

We quote the following short passages, the first from the *Westminster*, the second from the *National*, to show the general identity of view in the two articles:—

The religion of the Positivist, then, is pre-eminently that which has man for its object, which believes in man, serves man, and reverences man, man, not as a personal and unrelated being, but man as that collective and independent existence made up of many lives and many men, which has lived in the Past, which lives in the Present, and will live in the Future. For individual man is a chimera. Man can only exist as a member of society. The wisdom, the wealth, the decoration and grandeur of life, are the inherited capital of past generations. As the natural blood of our forefathers circulates through our bodily frames, so the moral and intellectual blood of the ancient world has passed into our spiritual veins. The collective life of Humanity is the true religious idea.

Is not the greater part of our spiritual life as a matter of fact, still conditioned by the individual channels of human influence through which we have drawn it? Would 'progress'—would *life*, as we understand it,—that is, the growth of thoughts and faculties, all of which have immediate and direct concern with the society in which we are placed,—be longer possible if the very law of our being, the very condition of our conscience, the very spring of our piety, were annihilated by the annihilation of the other members of that living body of which we are part? It is the condition of human life that we could not be children at all without also being brothers. The social law of our being reaches, we are confident, to the deepest depth of our most solitary life. A man's individual life could not grow, nay, could not be that of a man at all, could he be truly cut off from the community of man; even in solitude and isolation it is the life of a social being so long as it is human.

We have said that the 'Religion of Positivism' is a reaction against the one-sidedness of existing faiths, but it is a reaction as extreme and erroneous as that to which it is opposed. The reformer, the puritan, the mystic, the religious enthusiast of every age and country, reacting against a dead faith and a sensuous system, says "There is nothing but the Divine; we must become partakers of the Divine Nature." To such this blooming earth, so full of beauty and gladness, is—but a "waste howling wilderness," a "vale of tears;" this richly-furnished frame "a vile body," "sinful and accursed clay." Such a partial faith, however strong and wide-spread, must soon manifest its insufficiency. Outraged Nature will avenge herself; and on this partial exhibition Christianity has been left exposed to assaults, which, on a broader and truer interpretation, she might have successfully resisted. Reaction was inevitable, and we see it on all hands, and in

many various forms, that of Positivism being the most extreme. The Positivist, taking exactly opposite ground to the mystic, says, "There is nothing but the Human; there is no God but Humanity, and M. COMTE is his prophet;" and thus falls into error equally extreme and still more fatal. While the mystic destroys man the Positivist dethrones God, and each is guilty of unconscious blasphemy against the truth. Both God and man exist, and no faith can be really catholic which does not recognise and adjust these essentials of religion.

The *Westminster* has also a graphic and well-written article on the 'Boscobel Tracts,' and a striking one on 'Party Government,' to which we should probably revert in another place. Amongst other literary articles of interest in the *National* we may note as specially worth reading—the first, on MATTHEW ARNOLD'S *Merope*, and the last, 'The Waverley Novels.'

SHELLEY.

The Life of Percy Bysshe Shelley. By Thomas Jefferson Hogg. In Four Volumes. Vols. I. and II. Moxon.

WE have already spoken of this work as being valuable on account of the materials of which it is composed. Mr. Hogg knew Shelley intimately for some years; he possesses several letters from the poet to himself; he collects many anecdotes of his life and habits; and the friends and relatives of the departed genius have placed in his hands various documents which help to confirm what we already knew less perfectly. But here our commendation of the work must end. Of the spirit in which it is written we can only speak in terms of the severest reprehension. Mr. Hogg has chosen to turn a biography of one of the best and most generous of men into an occasion for snarling at and vilifying the friends of that man; and he has introduced into a work which should have been written in the largest and most liberal spirit a tone of petty egotism, a habit of depreciating all noble effort for the advancement of the world, such as would have wakened Shelley's astonishment and contempt.

Mr. Hogg, the gentleman who apparently esteems himself the only fit biographer of the Republican Shelley, is a Tory,—one who seems proud of that preposterous appellation; a thorough Church and State man; and a holder of the grotesque opinion that it was a pity the poet of Liberty did not take kindly to the five-bottle gentry, instead of mixing himself up with "vulgar, needy" Radicals! Well, perhaps in that case Lord Eldon would not have deprived the poet of his children; but the world would have lost one of the most fiery, seraphic, and golden-tongued advocates of human rights, one of the noblest utterers of divine dreams of progress. Mr. Hogg would have been all the more pleased, and posterity all the less. "The poor fellow," writes Thomas Jefferson, compassionately, "was very unfortunate in his political connexions." Perhaps, however, Shelley himself was the best judge of that matter, after all. Very astounding is it to be told that the clergy of the Church of England were well affected towards Shelley, knowing, as we all do, that the High Church organs in the press maligned him by every artifice of exaggeration, misrepresentation, and falsehood. And it is equally startling to find it asserted that the son-in-law and disciple of Godwin was essentially aristocratical in his feelings and opinions—a dreamer who took no interest in existing politics, but who merely amused himself with fanciful republics after the Platonic model. The 'Masque of Anarchy,' and the pamphlet in favour of Parliamentary Reform, shall settle that question. In the latter work, Shelley speaks of thrones and aristocracies as symbols of the world's childhood, necessary for a time, but doomed to perish.

It is impossible, indeed, to conceive any one more ludicrously unfit to be the biographer of the author of *The Cenci* than he who now comes forward, asserting his pretensions with such a huffing air. Whatever Shelley was, that Mr. Hogg is not; whatever Shelley was not, that Mr. Hogg is. The antithesis is complete; and of this we are certain—that the book before us would have given Shelley the deepest pain. It is the production of a very worldly-minded man. Great is the biographer's worship of power, position, and success; immense his contempt for any one below the level of a baronet or of an heir to landed property. To be poor is to be rascally; to work for your living—especially with your pen—is base and wretched; to be a Radical is to be "necessarily vulgar." The profession of the law has been degraded by the invasion of sordid middle-class people. Mr. Hogg writes in the spirit of a footman, and smiles with complacent admiration at his own pluck. His pen distils venom with a cruel disregard of the pain it may give or the injury it may cause; and he makes cowardly attacks under cover of a pretended delicacy which refuses to mention names while indicating persons, and which thus bars the opportunity of reply. A blighting cynicism crawls over the page, and darkens the beauty of the poet's character by its intercepting shadow. A biographer should be able to sympathize with the mind of him whose Life he writes; but Mr. Hogg, though a professed admirer of Shelley, has clearly no identity of feeling with him. Nor does he possess any of the other requisite qualifications. He is a washy critic and a clumsy writer, who apparently considers that the functions of a biographer are sufficiently discharged if he can spangle his narrative with pultry sarcasms and feeble wit.

Mr. Hogg speaks with astonishing insolence and presumption of several famous reputations; and often in a perfectly gratuitous manner. The members of the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge (among whom were such men as Lord Brougham, Lord Denman, Lord John Russell, Lord Althorp, Mr. Hallam, Mr. Rowland Hill, &c.) are described as a set of "conceited, self-satisfied" persons—"a knot of people who busied themselves for a time in diffusing, at a low price, in shabby pamphlets, what they accounted useful knowledge;" and greatly does Mr. Hogg rejoice that "the soup-kitchen of science" was "soon shut up"—which, however, it was not. Leigh Hunt is "a pert journalist" for having dared to call the Prince Regent "an Adonis of fifty." Sydney Smith was "a noisy, impudent, shallow, clerical jester," who "shot out cartloads of rubbish with an overpowering din," but sometimes said a good thing by acci-

dent. Campbell's 'Hohenlinden' is a "silly poem," and Campbell himself was "silly." This is the way in which Mr. Hogg splashes dirt to the right and left. He even revives the foolish cry about 'Cockney' writers, which had been very deservedly forgotten for some thirty years. But, with all this supercilious manner, the University-bred censor is not able to write decent English. For the instruction of 'Cockney' readers, we will gather a few flowers from this Oxford garden:—

"In the ancient world, the sacrilegious impiety of one who had disclosed the Eleusinian mysteries, *must be expiated by his death.*"

"An extreme freedom of opinion, or to speak more correctly, of declaration and discussion, together with a taste for chemistry, *had been acquired whilst Shelley was a schoolboy, by his intercourse and intimacy with a physician.*" &c.

"One of Mrs. Shelley's admirable novels, it seems, the date points out her wonderful invention, 'The Last Man,' had been advertised by the publisher in her name."

"This attempt, which many will condemn as strangely *barbarous* and utterly *barbarian*, was happily unsuccessful."

"He (Godwin) presently fell into a sound sleep, sitting very *forward* in his chair, and leaning *forward*, so that at times he threatened to fall *forward*."

But the work is open to more serious charges than those arising out of clumsiness of style. The materials are ill put together; the narrative is confused, abrupt, and fragmentary. The volumes, in fact, are not so much a Life of Shelley as a collection of personal reminiscences, some very amusing, and others rather trivial and garrulous. The writer is too fond of telling anecdotes about himself, which nobody will care to learn; and his perpetual efforts to be funny are very fatiguing and quite out of place. Mr. Hogg is so disagreeable a person himself that he even contrives, on the whole, to give us a disagreeable impression of the fine-natured poet. Shelley had in him an element of antagonism, which sometimes, it must be admitted, carried him out of bounds; and this is the very feature of his character which Mr. Hogg brings out most strongly. He makes, also, some statements which require further explanation. Shelley affirms in one of his letters to Godwin that his father wished to induce him, by poverty, to accept a commission in a regiment on foreign service, designing, during his absence, to prosecute the Atheistical pamphlet, to obtain a process of outlawry, and thus to make the estate, on his (the father's) death, devolve on Percy's younger brother. The poet also relates that he was twice expelled from Eton, and recalled at the instance of his father. These statements, and some others, Mr. Hogg says are purely imaginary. He does not accuse his friend of wilful untruth, but says his fancy was so vehement that he deceived himself. This is scarcely credible in such important events as those alluded to; and we must confess we are not disposed to receive Mr. Hogg's denial of the correctness of Shelley's statements with respect to his own life. The biographer's guesses in connexion with the more paradoxical features of his friend's character are worthless. He is quite incapable of forming any philosophical generalisation on such a subject; and accordingly his remarks do not in any degree add to our conception of Shelley.

The most valuable parts of the volumes are the letters of Shelley and of some of his contemporaries. Those of the poet himself chiefly relate to doctrinal matters—to questions of religion, politics, and morals. They show a mind painfully agitated and rocked by contending principles; but they confirm, what the world is beginning to recognize, that, in religion, the tendency of Shelley's intellect was towards Deism—a Deism of a very refined, spiritual, and Platonic nature. Mr. Hogg says that, so far from being materialistic, he was inclined to superstition; but that depends upon what is meant by superstition. Some correspondence between Shelley and Godwin in the year 1812, before they had seen one another, is very interesting. The young poet was in Ireland at the time; and, being shocked by the misery and moral degradation of the Irish, he had issued proposals for the creation of a number of societies which should meet and discuss existing grievances and their remedies. The older head of Godwin saw that this was likely to lead to insurrection, anarchy, and bloodshed; and he condemned the scheme, which Shelley, after some letters of argument, gave up.

Mr. Hogg has collected the materials for some future architect; but he has not the capacity to build the mansion.

SWITZERLAND AND THE REFORMATION.

Switzerland the Pioneer of the Reformation. By Madame la Comtesse Dora d'Istria. Translated from the French by H. G. Vols. I. and II. Fullarton and Co.

DORA D'ISTRIA is a princess of Rumanian origin, a native of Bucharest, twenty-nine years of age. Her education has been a compound of English and Oriental, of Attic and Spartan; she reads Plato in the original, and swims like a Lacedemonian. Her husband is a prince of an ancient Muscovite family, tracing his lineage to the Vikings, but her career seems to have been generally independent of any other influence than her own; she has wandered from Wallachia to Germany, to Italy, to Russia, to Switzerland, and is now engaged in completing the work of which the first two volumes are before us. It is a book exhibiting much talent and learning; it abounds in erudite allusion, and there is something of Eastern richness in the language: the sketches are animated and interesting, and from many sources the writer has gathered materials particularly curious and valuable. But the translator's enthusiasm carries him too far, both in eulogizing the countess and venturing his own interpolations, for, in the first place, he is extravagant, and, in the second, not a little obtrusive. It is true that Dora d'Istria's compositions, historical and controversial, have been extensively circulated in Europe, to be flattered and denounced by Protestants or Catholics; but she is by no means so illustrious as her English admirer believes, nor is her discretion so unimpeachable as he asserts. On the contrary, in the bitterness of her Eastern Church dogmatism—imputed to her for praise in the preface—she is singularly free in her quotations of traditional statements, and colours one page with blood as elaborately as she inlays another with ornate tessellations of eloquence. Her flowers of rhetoric are cultivated, and of southern warmth and fragrance; but in their excess their beauty disappears, and instead of writing history the princess

frequently constructs prose lyrics of gaudy and fragile texture. The form of her narrative favours this style of elaborate sentiment and superfluous decoration. It is addressed, in a series of letters, to a certain Naranda, who is apostrophized as having a poor morbid heart by one who has retired to the Swiss valleys to contemplate the fortunes of the people in the intervals of her own despair. Then the prospect widens into a picture of the lakes and mountains, and the rosy sky shadows into violet while John Huss comes upon the scene. Here the key-note is struck, and several varieties of type aid in giving emphasis to denunciations of Ultramontane atrocity. The sketch of Huss is critical, biographical, and polemical, and Dora d'Istria blackens zealously the faces of the Catholic persecutors. Her description of the Reformer's death is undoubtedly well calculated to stir again the passions that once raged among the descendants of the Albigenses, and possibly with concordats multiplying and Jesuitry militant in all its glory, it may be a useful work to popularize on the Continent a view of the Protestant struggles in Switzerland; but the acrimony of the relation is too evident, and it becomes painfully manifest that the authoress assumes to separate the angels of this world from the fiends, to number the angels on one side of the mountain and the devils on the other. From the martyrdom of Huss she passes into an interlude of poetical description, until a remembrance of the Inquisition drives her to Lecer's magnificent exaggerations concerning the three millions of persons put to death in cold blood by the religious orders. Again, however, the narrative floats brilliantly in autobiographical channels, bright with all that Dora d'Istria dreamed among turreted castles, rainbow-tinted cascades, the reflected disks of the stars, and the thunder of the Rhine past the rough rocks of Schaffhausen. These lead to an admirable dissertation on the chronicles of Swiss liberty, on the history of the Federal territory as influenced by its situation and physical geography, and by the battles fought by archers and shepherds against mailed armies and squadrons of nobles, who fled reeling across the ice at Morgarten. All this part of the work is nobly inspired, and forms a fitting study for the young, although the princess persists in breaking the thread to expatiate on gold-hued and carmine pebbles, on the notes of her guitar in a bower of blossoms, on a vision of the Ister that brings the name of Muller to her memory. Thus is introduced a sketch of that great historian's life, interspersed with quotations, and followed by an equally interesting notice of Zschokke, whose career was one of exuberant activity and romance. He was author of that remarkable and well-known phrase, "The history of past times is the knowledge of good and evil."

In a formal impeachment of the Romanist system, as developed in nunneries and monasteries, Dora d'Istria descends to details which she is forced to leave untranslated in the original Latin; and some readers will be startled, after glancing at the delicate and noble portrait of the authoress, to read her quotations from the register of the Council of Geneva concerning the crimes engendered by celibacy, and from the brief of Julius to the penitents of St. Clara. These were, perhaps, necessary to the completeness of her view; but they stand out in broad contrast with the passages written in lemon-scented ink, flowing from dove quills, and traced, we might believe, upon rose-tinted paper. The Lady of Istria is bold in her excursions, and after reading abominable records, sweetens her imagination in the breezes of the lakes. Once, indeed, she determined to ascend a mighty mountain, and in June, 1855, the Mönch in the Oberland chain was scaled for the first time by Dora d'Istria:—

When I announced my intention to ascend an unexplored peak of the Alps, there was a general feeling of amazement. Some imagined it was merely a caprice, which would be satisfied by the mere sensation it produced: others disapproved of such an encountering of dangers, and many could not be convinced that I was serious. No one, in fine, would believe such a project could be carried out. The agitation increased, when different telegraphic despatches summoned from their villages the guides who had the reputation of being the most resolute in their respective districts. One hope remained, namely, that those guides themselves would dissuade me from my enterprise. Accordingly, Peter was exhorted to relate to me all the dangers which I should incur amongst the glaciers. With the aid of telescopes I was shown the precipices of the Jungfrau. All the handbooks of Switzerland were placed on my table, and every one read the most terrifying passages, such as were most likely to discourage me. The contrary, however, happened; for my curiosity was so much excited by those accounts, that I burned with impatience to commence the journey. I could think of nothing except those deserts of snow which crowned the summit of the mountains.

I held a private conversation with Peter, and spoke to him with firmness, in order to strengthen his resolutions, and my words succeeded. "Whatever may happen," said he, "will you take on your self the responsibility?" "Certainly," I replied, and I gave him my hand, urging him not to be shaken by any remonstrance, and to encourage the guides on their arrival, so as to strengthen them against the influence of any third parties. He promised me to do so, and his face brightened up as he saw me tranquilly smiling. He left me to preside over the preparations for the expedition, and to get my dress ready for me,—a man's suit, composed of black and white checked woollen trousers, a buttoned-up coat, extending to the knees, a round felt hat, like those worn by the mountaineers, and a large and thick pair of boots.

We follow her up the mountain:—

We were in the midst of an immense desert, face to face with the skies and the wonders of nature. We ascended perpendicular blocks of stone, leaving snowy summits on our left. The way now became more and more difficult. We climbed on all fours, gliding along like cats, and springing from one rock to the other like squirrels. Frequently a handful of moss or brambles was our only support, when we found no clefts. A few drops of blood often stained, like purple flowers, the verdure we passed over.

This part of the narrative explains why the Rumanian princess has written a book so vigorous, bold, and entertaining.

THE WEATHER.

Observations in Meteorology. By the Rev. Leonard Jenyns.

Van Voorst.

It is an old and popular topic—the weather; but if the general gossip abroad would study his subject a little more profoundly, there would be more interest in a conversation upon the rain, the fog, or the sun. The world is perpetually talking of atmospheric variations, aqueous phenomena, the temperature and direction of the winds; but after all a few sentences

comprise the popular philosophy on these topics, and it may truly be said that in nothing are we more universally interested and of nothing more universally ignorant than the weather. Whatever Arago has written has not passed into the minds of those who discourse abroad, and remark upon the cold, gloom, damp, or splendour of the day. They leave unread all Butler's lore on isothermal lines, the centigrade scale, the minima and maxima of heat, anomalous currents, cirrus clouds, magnetic intensity, scuds, fogs, and cyclones. They neglect Kämtz, forget Humboldt, leave Drew upon the shelf, isolate Mr. Glaisher within a limited circle of students, and venture to observe that there will probably be rain, or that the east wind dries up the face. Now, it would be a great evil if, after the multiplication of treatises, people felt bound to converse in learned terms upon the weather, to quote Howard perpetually, or to keep Thomson in their pockets for consultation, to mark results daily at the homonymous hours, and never to lose a point in the progression from haze to nimbus; but it is desirable, since we must all talk of the weather, to know something about it, and here is Mr. Leonard Jenyns, late Vicar of Swaffham Bulbeck, in Cambridgeshire, who has kept a meteorological journal for nineteen years, and who has reduced to clear simplicity the voluminousness of his special knowledge. Swaffham Bulbeck is situated from seven to eight miles, east-north-east of Cambridge, upon the fenny borders of the county, and is about twenty feet above the level of the sea. At this place, during nineteen years, stood in an unchanged position one of Rutherford's self-registering thermometers; but although Mr. Jenyns's personal observations were local, his studies have been extensive, and he has supplied a most valuable contribution to the literature of meteorological science. The highest temperature registered was 89 degs. in 1846, the year of the highest mean—the lowest was 6 degs. in 1841; at Greenwich, during the same period, the highest was 9·2 degs., the lowest 4 degs. In a chapter of general remarks which will interest every reader, Mr. Jenyns brings together the entire fruit of his investigations. In the first place, he notices there is a difficulty in describing the weather in any set phrases without misleading. There may be drought with a high or a low temperature; the sky is often clouded for days without a drop of rain, and it is never more brilliant than during the intervals of showers. There may be a dense mist upon the earth, drenching everything with wet, while a bright sun is shining overhead. But certain rules are to be laid down. All changes of weather, as a matter of course, depend upon the winds, their steadiness or irregularity, and the quarter whence they blow. All fine seasons are accompanied by steady winds; during changeable weather the wind is variable, with two or more currents, one above the other. The east wind generally brings dryness and brilliance, blowing periodically for a certain number of days in the spring, and afterwards only returning at intervals. It is an excessive prevalence of this baleful wind that usually produces what is called a dry and fine summer. From the south, the wind rarely blows in this country for any length of time together—it commonly brings wet, by the precipitation of warm vapours, or by mixing with cross currents. Upon the grand problem of weather prophecies, Mr. Jenyns has a statement practically suggestive and useful:—

Doubtless it would be a great matter if we could always reckon upon the weather of any particular day or week for which our schemes of pleasure or business were set with as much certainty as we reckon upon the changes of the heavenly bodies predicted by astronomers. If the farmer, by consulting his almanac, could fix the exact time for sowing his seed or cutting his hay, so that in one case he might ensure rain following shortly afterwards to bring the seed up, in the other secure a dry period for getting in his harvest, he would have a great advantage over those who had no such authority to guide them in their operations.

But are we ever likely to arrive at this? To judge, indeed, by the weather almanacs, which yearly make their appearance in no small number, one might suppose that the science had already made sufficient advances to warrant the predictions of those who set themselves up to be prophets in this matter. But it is hardly necessary to warn the public against placing the slightest confidence in these publications, which have been so often exposed. In some instances these almanacs have acquired notoriety for a time by a few happy guesses about the weather, which have come right by a mere coincidence; but in the long run, if any one will take the trouble to compare them throughout with what really occurs, their predictions will be found just as often wrong as right, showing that they are grounded upon no trustworthy principles.

Some, indeed, pretend to base their foreknowledge of the weather upon the fore-known changes of the heavenly bodies above alluded to. They claim to be listened to on the ground that, the weather being under the influence of the moon and planets, and altering from time to time as these bodies alter their positions in respect of the earth and each other, we may safely draw our inferences about the former from knowing the exact places of the latter on any particular day or month we may have in view. But greater names than any which this class of meteorologists can boast have utterly discouraged all such theories. Arago, for one, in reference to the common notion of the weather being affected by the moon or comets, has expressed his belief that, if the latter have any influence at all, that influence is so small as to be almost inappreciable, and that consequently "the predictions of the weather can never be a branch of astronomy properly so called."

Mr. Jenyns denies that any law has been established with reference to the moon's influence upon the weather, and discredits the popular notions on this subject. He is equally sceptical with respect to the cycle theory, supposing a succession of changes in a given order dividing regular intervals of time:—

But setting aside cycles, no less than the supposed influence of the moon, the truth is, that the more the science of meteorology advances, the less hope there seems to be of our ever being able to foretell the weather with any certainty.

It is even impossible to predict what the weather will be after the lapse of a few hours:—

In order to predict with certainty if it will rain or clear up, a knowledge of the temperature of the upper region is requisite, and, as this is wanting, there must always be a great degree of uncertainty in our prognostications.

Our summers are at times rendered colder by the presence of ice-bergs in the Atlantic, and our winters milder by the more ample effluence of the warm Gulf-stream, which, in 1821, instead of terminating, as it usually does, about the meridian of the Azores, extended to the coast of Europe. In 1783, a peculiar haze, or smoky fog, hung over England for weeks together,

and materially influenced the temperature by intercepting the sun's rays. Mr. Jenyns adds:—

One thing is certain, that to whatever extent it may or may not be possible to foretell the weather, those alone, in general, can form a right judgment who are possessed of good meteorological instruments. It is necessary to insist on this, because we often hear reference made to fishermen, mariners, gardeners, and that class of persons, as knowing a great deal more about the weather than other people. These persons are much abroad in the open air, and are naturally much interested in knowing what the weather is likely to be. But they are often greatly under the influence of superstitious ideas, or guided by sayings handed down to them by their fathers, to which they attach more importance than to anything else. When this is not the case, and their knowledge is really the result of their own observations, they have still nothing but the direction of the wind and the appearances of the sky to guide them in their opinions.

This volume is one of original and popular as well as scientific interest. It places Mr. Jenyns among those who have really aided in elucidating a difficult subject of universal importance.

INSIDE CANTON.

Inside Canton. By Dr. Yvan.

Vizetelly.

A FRENCH ambassador, during his diplomatic intercourse with Ki-in, Viceroy of the province of Canton, having contracted what Dr. Yvan terms 'an intimate friendship' with that high functionary, was invited to sojourn within the walls of the city at the palace of the Mandarin Pau-se-chen. The author, who was physician to M. de Lagrené, went beforehand with an interpreter to prepare for his Excellency's reception, taking passage in a *fa-tung* or 'fast boat.' The Chinese seem born with a taste for both gluttony and gambling. They never lose a chance of inaugurating a feast. Marriages, births, burials, are all so many excuses for a banquet. It is the same in regard to games of chance, to which they devote themselves with a frenzy almost incredible. The Chinaman plays with dice, cards, his fingers; in his eyes all things are legitimate subjects for betting. Like the ancient Athenians, he fights quails as Europeans do game cocks, and the doctor and his fellow traveller witnessed during their passage incessant duels between these diminutive but pugnacious little birds. Instead, however, of being equipped with artificial steel spurs, as is the brutal custom with English cock-fighters, the Chinese quails were armed with steel beaks, by which means the duel frequently resulted in the death of both combatants.

Withdrawing from this barbarous spectacle the doctor betook himself to the fore-castle, where some sailors were cooking their meal, which partly consisted of fricaseed rats. The European reader is, however, invited to qualify his rather natural sensations of disgust at this heathenish sort of provent by the assurance that these esculent *rodentia* are brought from the rice-fields of Tchou-Kiang, far from the centre of population, far from the squalid drains of cities. Their feast concluded, the Chinamen take down a couple of bamboo cages shaded with leaves, two tiny palaces filled with green herbs, and sit down before them. Each cage is occupied by a single cricket, which their masters carefully take out and place at the bottom of a large porcelain bowl. The insects endeavour at first to escape, but the polished sides of their arena form an insuperable obstacle. The two backers are each provided with a long straw, which one of them thrusts beneath the nose of his champion. The latter, thinking the insult proceeds from his opponent, who all the while appears to be beating time with his antennæ, springs at his head, and tears off the horn on which he laid the guilt. Indignant at this unmerited aggression, the insect that has lost its horn flies at his adversary and lames him at the first blow. The disabled champion regards with stupor his fore-foot deprived of the right tarsus, and listening only to the voice of passion, seizes his assailant by the hair and drags him thrice round the bowl. But it is not Achilles with the body of Hector; for Hector, suddenly disengaging himself, falls with all his weight upon his adversary, crushes him in his embrace, and devours a portion of his head. After thus glutting his wrath, the victor takes up a position in the middle of the bowl and waits for a new assailant, but no other knight has the hardihood to show his colours. He then returns in triumph to his verdant palace, shaking proudly his solitary horn. A good deal of 'cash' appeared to change hands by the result of this unique species of gambling duello.

Landing at the city of Canton, the doctor and his interpreter take up their abode in quite a palatial residence called *The-Ki-Ian*—that is, 'Remembrance of Virtue Factory,' situate at the corner of 'Sound-of-the-Tide Street.' 'Ilan,' by the way, which Englishmen universally write and pronounce *hong*, is applied to all houses of the mercantile class. There the ambassador is introduced to 'Madame Li,' the legitimate wife of Pau-se-chen, his hospitable entertainer, and one of the most patrician beauties of the Flowery Land. This frail and delicate creature is compared to a sprig of jessamine swayed by the breeze; her handsome, tenderly chiselled features wore an expression in which smiles and sadness were blended, as if her thoughts were rosy-white as the hue which art had lent to her cheeks. Her eyes, like two black pearls, sent from behind the shelter of their silken lashes soft languid glances or sparkling rays of innocent womanly malice. Notwithstanding a little want of grace in its curve, her nose would not have disfigured a European countenance. Madame Li was ladylike after the manner of a charming girl; her dignity was infantine in its grace. And as on one of the great sofas of black wood she sat see-sawing her legs backwards and forwards, showing her feet encased in slippers broided with gold, and her ankles hung with bracelets, picking the leaves off an *eyulan* flower with her pretty little fingers, murmuring musically rather than talking, you could hardly help feeling as if you could eat her up like an orange-flower. Had she been decorated like a picture on rice paper, she could not have been more charming. A Chinese woman, to be seen as here painted, must be viewed in the gilded prison which man has made for her. You must watch her tottering along, screen in hand, over those brilliant floors which reflect her features; watch her seated in her porcelain chair, her little body swaying to and fro incessantly; watch her eating with the mother-of-pearl chopsticks which so well become her little fingers and her

little mouth. Remove these native conditions, the Chinese woman is a caricature; as the Turkish woman is a caricature, out of the harem.

Dr. Yvan tells us that all the Chinese of rank wear a thick ring on the thumb of the right hand, which embraces the whole of the second joint. No mandarin in an official visit can dispense with this ornament. It is a Tartar fashion, he says, which the conquerors have imposed on the dignitaries of the empire. What, however, he styles an 'ornament' is a contrivance for drawing the bowstring, which rests behind the bottom of the ring. Those terrible equestrian archers, who overturned the ancient dynasty of China by pouring into it in countless hordes, never appeared unequipped with bow and quiver and the other appurtenances of the art they loved so well. These pan-chi are of the number, being constantly retained, just as in Europe a dragoon never appears in public without his spurs. Toun, a gigantic Tartar general, the doctor says, wore an archery ring of rock crystal as transparent as the button of his cap.

Inside Canton is an amusing volume, destined, of course, to be superseded by the hosts of publications which will shortly appear from the pens of those who have had still better opportunities for research and observation—we mean the officers and private soldiers of our own expedition. Truthful yet marvellous necessarily will be the revelations of the inside life of those quaint barbarians, who amongst their other inexplicable vagaries compel every musketeer to *manufacture his own powder!* and in whose symbolical language the word 'government' is expressed by two characters signifying 'bamboo and stroke.'

NAPLES AND THE BOURBONS.

Naples and King Ferdinand. An Historical and Political Sketch of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies. By Elizabeth Dawbarn. Booth.

A *ROUGH* encyclopædia sketch has been compiled by Miss Dawbarn from Giamone and other obvious authorities, whence, however, the kernel of Neapolitan history is not to be derived. The real chronicle of Naples is to be traced in its rich series of state documents, of which some have been edited by Belmonte, though even these, we think, have been passed over by Miss Dawbarn, who has also, it would seem, neglected Capececiattolo and the Modena memoirs. From these and from the Sumonte, Reaumont, and De Santis histories, and the numerous body of collateral writings, might be constructed a narrative equal in interest to that of the Italian Republics themselves; but the subject has never been treated by an English pen with the same felicity and critical power as the era of the Medicis in Florence and Rome. Miss Dawbarn's volume is meritorious in so far that it presents a compendious and trustworthy account of events in Naples from the time of the Norman settlement in Sicily to that of the insurrectionary movements against Ferdinand II. It is neat, useful, and entertaining, and, so little Neapolitan history being extant in our language, it has a chance of popularity. Such a book, indeed, was wanted, so that Miss Dawbarn has rendered a service to general readers. We must point out, however, that when dealing with controverted passages she follows the devious beaten track, and supplies only a vulgar version, as is exemplified in her notices of the Sicilian Vespers and Masaniello's insurrection. Her view of Masaniello's character is marked by little critical insight, since she adopts the crude prejudices of courtly historians, representing the fisherman as totally illiterate, as weak enough to be seduced by adulation, and as the cause rather than the personification of the revolutionary spirit that made this Rienzi of the Lazzaroni formidable to the Bourbon throne. Miss Dawbarn has no historical warrant for her assertion that Masaniello's death was the signal of general pacification in Naples; on the contrary, a popular ebullition, taking place almost immediately afterwards, proved that the nation had not forgotten its wrongs although it had lost the leader who had enabled it to avenge them.

PUBLICATIONS AND REPUBLICATIONS.

THE most remarkable publication of the week, of course, has been '1848.' *Historical Revelations, inscribed to Lord Normanby*, by M. Louis Blanc. (Chapman and Hall.) This is really a volume of 'revelations.' The account of M. Louis Blanc's familiar intercourse with Louis Napoleon at Ham is of surprising interest. M. Louis Blanc prints a facsimile of the original proclamation of the Provisional Government to the French people. Alluding to England in his preface, in a tone of manly and touching gratitude M. Louis Blanc writes:—"It is no small honour to her that her language should be, at this moment, the vernacular of liberty, the only language in which free-men of every nation can interchange ideas and print their thoughts with any chance of finding a public allowed to read them. These are the reasons why I publish this book in English and in England."

Mr. Bohn has added to his Standard Library a volume of *Fosteriana*, consisting of Thoughts, Reflections, and Criticisms of John Foster, the Author of 'Essays on Decision of Character.' The present selection is edited by Mr. Bohn himself. In the same publisher's Illustrated Library, the latest volume is the *Orlando Furioso*, translated from the Italian of Ariosto, with Notes by William Stewart Rose, and illustrated with engravings on steel. This edition will be completed in two volumes.

A careful, elegant, and complete school edition of the *Andria* of Terence (Walton and Maberly) we owe to the refined and accurate scholarship of Mr. Newenham Travers, Assistant-Master in University College School, who contributes a notice of the life of Terence, an introduction to the metres of the play (particularly well executed), a summary elucidation of the scenes, and notes at once copious and succinct, helping the young student over all the grammatical, etymological, and idiomatic difficulties of the text, and turning a task into a pleasure as he reads.

We heartily welcome a new and popular edition of *Barchester Towers*, by Anthony Trollope, author of the 'Warden' and the 'Three Clerks.' It is published by Messrs. Longman and Co., in one neat volume, price 5s.

Ursula: a Tale of Country Life, is the title of a new novel by the fine and delicate hand of the author of 'Amy Herbert,' published by Messrs. Longman and Co. It is a dainty we must lay aside for leisurely digestion.

We have received the *Edinburgh* and *Quarterly Reviews* for April, late, however, to do more this week than register their publication.

A new political novel has appeared—*The Day After To-morrow; or, Morgana*, by William de Tyne, published by Mr. Routledge. It seems to be a book of disquisitions on the Lords, the Commons, the Church, several 'interests' and 'questions,' and so far as we have dipped into it of an original colour. We reserve it for examination next week.

Sir William Williams has told his countrymen to study the Art of War. That they may do this, Lieut.-Colonel J. J. Graham, late military secretary to General Vivian, has written an *Elementary History of the Progress of Art of War*. (Bentley.) It is designed to explain the composition of armies, the various military systems that have prevailed at different epochs and the generally acknowledged maxims of modern warfare. The volume, however, is not one for military readers only. It is popular, as well as scientific.

The history of a great Indian war, well told, is completed, in a third edition, by the third volume of the *History of the War in Afghanistan*, J. W. Kaye. (Bentley.)

Mr. Edward Sullivan, author of several light and lively narratives of travel in North and South America, India, Egypt, and the Crimea, sends us *Letters from India* (Saunders and Otley), addressed to Mr. John Tremay. They contain essays on Indian political, military, and social topics, a claim from us more than a passing notice.

A very fresh and cheerful book is *A Tramp's Wallet Stored by an English Goldsmith during his Wanderings in Germany and France*, by William Dutt (Darton and Co.) Of the twenty-eight sketches, dedicated to Charles Dickens, sixteen originally appeared in 'Household Words.' Full of truth and colour, the narrative is worth many ordinary volumes of tour and travel.

Among the most conspicuous new novels of the week has been *Sir G. d'Esterre*, by Selina Bunbury, author of 'Our Own Story'—2 vols., published by Mr. Routledge.

A pleasant volume, *The Sea-side and Aquarium; or, Anecdote and Gos on Marine Zoology*, written by Mr. John Harper, has been issued, with numerous illustrations. (Edinburgh: Nimmo.) Mr. Harper photographs the tinted world under the sea-surface, and contrives to render even the pinkies attractive.

The Rev. W. H. Fox, B.A., has edited a new and illustrated edition of a valuable work, *Buchanan's Christian Researches in India* (Routledge and Co.) with a variety of suggestive addenda.

We have from Leeds the reprint of a lecture by Mr. W. S. Forster, entitled *How we Tax India*, professing to describe the financial system of the East India Company.

To their series of *Photographic Portraits of Living Celebrities* Messrs. Maull and Polyblank have added five portraits, with biographical notices by Mr. Walford. The portraits are those of Mr. M. F. Tupper, Professor Faraday, the Earl of Rosse, Mr. John Gibson, R.A., and Mr. Charles Keble. The last is among the best; but the entire series is admirable. In character and expressions the portrait of Lord Rosse is as perfect as a photograph can be. While waiting for the development of a National Portrait Gallery we have one of a popular, though not common quality here which may hang upon ante-chamber walls, or fill drawing-room portfolios, so as to render familiar the faces of those whose names are honoured in England. We must, of course, have an occasional Tupper thrown in for effect.

Mr. J. G. Edgar is known as the author of a popular book entitled 'The Boyhood of Great Men.' As a companion volume, he has written *Heroes of England: Stories of the Lives of England's Warriors by Land and Sea*. (Kent and Co.) It contains a series of spirited biographical sketches celebrating the achievements of the Black Prince, Raleigh, Abercrombie, Moore, Nelson, and other English heroes.

The Arts.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.

AN intelligent foreigner remarked to us the other day, that after an attentive study of musical and theatrical criticism in the English press, he had come to the conclusion that our critics had formed themselves into a brass band, consisting of trumpets provided by the managers, concert givers, and entertainers, and blown at their discretion in a perpetual *lobgesang*. The result of this agreeable combination, he added, was somewhat monotonous, and whenever a rash innovator ventured to play upon an instrument of his own choosing, however modest in dimension and melodious in sound, the effect was not only discordant but offensive. Whether they manage these things better abroad we cannot say, but as it is not our ambition to belong to the brass band in question we are content to play upon our own recorder, to govern our own ventages, and give it breath with our own mouth.

The opening of HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE on Tuesday last for the regular season was distinguished by the production of one of those great works which are almost identified in this country with the reputation of the ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA. MEYERBEER'S masterpiece, *Les Huguenots*, is in truth a lyric drama demanding for its adequate representation vast resources, choral, orchestral, and scenic, besides some half-dozen first-rate dramatic artists in the leading part. It cannot be put on the stage in a haphazard experimental fashion, or as *cheval de bataille* for a particular singer, without incurring the risk of perilous comparisons. The Opera-going public have for some years past been accustomed to a magnificent ensemble in the representation of *Les Huguenots*, and the standard by which they are likely to test a rival performance is high and difficult. We could lose sight of this standard, we might, perhaps, be better qualified to do justice to the performance at HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE on its own merits under existing circumstances, we will simply pronounce an independent opinion of its deserts and defects. Its unquestionable deserts are a praiseworthy anxiety to do the best for the opera to the utmost extent of the capabilities of the stage, the orchestra, and the singers. There are new scenes, richly painted, with eye to what is called 'local colour,' or descriptive fidelity. There is evidence of careful, we do not say sufficient, drill in the chorus and in the 'business' of the scene. There is painstaking zeal and fervour in the conductor of the orchestra and more than average ability in his band. There is a principal tenor with

high reputation, well won and steadily preserved; and there is a prima donna all the way from Vienna, endowed with a fine and powerful voice, and thoroughly capable of doing justice to all her natural and acquired advantages. So much for one side of the account: on the other, we must deferentially observe that the performance on Tuesday last left very much to be desired. The orchestra under Signor ARDITI, of whom we were glad to speak favourably during the winter season, was frequently unsteady and coarse, and played strange tricks with the time in more than one instance; the chorus was too often all abroad, and in the celebrated *Bénédiction des Poignards* absolutely nowhere; here, too, the stupendous crescendo of the drums was entirely lost, and the whole effect of the magnificent tumult of harmony was suffered to degenerate into a dreary clamour and confusion.

In the lovely tenor air in the first act, *Plus blanche que la blanche hermine*, the delicious viola accompaniment was exquisitely played. Has Signor GIUGLINI added to his reputation by his singing and acting in the part of *Raoul*? His costume (and the same may be said of all the dresses on this occasion) was a ludicrous extempore composition such as Mr. NATHAN might supply at a moment's notice for a fancy ball. *Raoul* should be played with distinction and refinement of manner; characteristics in which Signor GIUGLINI is irremediably wanting. The quality of his voice is rich and cloyingly sweet; but it is a throat voice, and has little of that essentially virile tenderness which is the peculiar charm of MARIO's.

His *mise de voix*, or method of prolonging a note, is excellent, and he abuses it to such a degree that the whole character of an air is sometimes sacrificed to the applause which a good note is sure to command. His action is awkward and constrained, his gait heavy and *saccadé*. In the great scene of the third act all these defects were painfully manifested, and it was found that the agonizing charm of the situation had altogether vanished. Mademoiselle TRIENS, the new Hungarian prima donna, possesses all the attributes and acquirements of a highly gifted, thoroughly trained, and perfectly accomplished dramatic singer. Her voice is powerful and extensive, clear in the higher notes, clouded in the lower, completely under control, capable of rich and varied expression. Her 'reading' of the part of *Valentine* appears to be studied after Madame VIARDOT, and a better model could not be conceived; only the sacred fire of genius is wanting; all the rest is admirable, and Mademoiselle TRIENS is a positive acquisition to our operatic stage. The young lady who acted the *Page* was so paralyzed by stage-fright on Tuesday evening, that she made less than nothing of the charming air which was written for ALBONI. We hope, without believing, that it was only timidity that wisely suggested the omission of her second air, "No, no, no," to which, perhaps, the audience might have returned an involuntary echo. Madlle. ORTOLANI looked pretty and engaging as the *Queen*, but the excessive tremulousness of her whining intonation amounts to indistinctness of utterance, blurs every ornament, and smudges (so to speak) every delicate cadence. Signor VIALETTI is a very sufficient and able *Marcel*, conscientious, intelligent, and by no means ineffective.

On Thursday evening, after the opera, Mademoiselle POCCHINI, who made a sensation last year in the ballet of *Esmeralda*, appeared in a new divertissement, and was warmly received. The suppleness, vigour, and *aplomb* of her dancing, the fascinating self-possession of her manner, and the lithe elastic firmness of her feet, are no slight attractions. Her Majesty was present on Tuesday evening, and again on Thursday. Next week Mademoiselle PICCOLOMINI will appear as *Norina* in *Don Pasquale*, and shortly afterwards in VERDI's *Luisa Miller*, an opera well adapted to display her charms and graces to advantage.

ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA.

There is no longer any doubt about the opening of the New Theatre on the 15th of next month. *Les Huguenots*, imperishably associated with the glories of the old house, is announced for the first night, with MARIO, GRIST, and FORMES. The production of this Opera will at once revive and continue the tradition of the Royal Italian opera as the theatre par excellence of the grand lyric drama. Mr. GYE's prospectus is out; it is singularly free from affectation and *fanfaron-*

nade, and promises nothing that we may not fairly trust to see well performed. The list of engagements comprises all the old favourites, and alludes mysteriously to pending negotiations "with two young artistes of great promise" (not twins we presume). The return of TAMBERLIK, whose C sharp has been the rage of Paris, is glorious news, but perhaps the most interesting novelty is that of MARIO's first appearance in the part of *Don Giovanni*. Since the retirement of TAMBURINI there has been no adequate representative of the *Don* on the Italian stage, and it is a part requiring all the ease, refinement, and distinction of a gentleman, "native and to the manner born." It will not be the first time the *Don* has been represented by a tenor singer; GARCIA and DONZELLI have preceded MARIO in the part. We have little doubt that *Don Giovanni*, with its new and notable cast, will be the talk of the town, and one of the lions of the season.

Those of our readers who have lately passed through Bow-street, do not require to be told that matters are making astonishing progress within and without the new building. Relays of workmen relieve one another night and day; the stage is being floored, the boxes are being screwed down, the ceiling and proscenium are being laid and fixed, the walls are being 'faced,' the columns of the portico dropped and joined. Everything is being done at once by the unconquerable energies of Messrs. Lucas, the contractors, and a month hence London will possess a new and magnificent Opera House. All success attend it!

MISS ARABELLA GODDARD'S SOIRÉES.

MISS ARABELLA GODDARD, in her early and already brilliant career, presents a noble and encouraging example of the true beauty and dignity of Art, earnestly and devotedly pursued for its own sake. Richly gifted by nature, with uncommon faculties and graces above measure, unspoiled by the exuberant eulogies of admirers, undisturbed by the jealousies that accompany the rising of a reputation like the mists around the morning star, this young lady has, in her vernal years, reached the very summit of a profession crowded with celebrities; and, at the present moment, she may be said to take rank with easy pre-eminence among the first pianists in Europe. The series of *soirées* lately given at her private residence attracted a select aristocracy of lovers of classical music; but she has wisely enlarged the area (as they say in Parliament) of her audience, and the upper saloon at WILLIS'S Rooms was thronged on Wednesday evening last with a brilliant assemblage of rapt, attentive, and critical listeners, amongst whom almost every *virtuoso* in London and a host of notabilities in the various ranks of art and literature, sat silent and entranced. Surely such a gathering as this was a noble tribute of admiration and respect to the young lady who, to all her other rare qualifications, unites the rarer charm of an unpretending simplicity of manner not often perceived in the professional celebrities of the Continent. As a pianiste, Miss ARABELLA GODDARD is a perfect prodigy of deep and various learning; all forms of composition, the severely classical, the conventionally brilliant, are equally within her power; in all alike the mechanical difficulties are conquered with the same force and flexibility of hand; in all alike the touch is round, rich, and soft, the expression stamped with strength and grace, the reading bright with intelligence. Such is the correctness, and such the mechanical dexterity, that we are almost tempted to accuse a faultless accuracy of want of feeling. These *soirées* are the cream of the musical season. The next will be on the 28th instant.

The first *Matinée* of the Musical Union for the present season took place on Tuesday afternoon, at St. JAMES'S HALL, and it was readily perceived that Chamber Music had there found its choicest home. The executants were MM. MOLIQUE, GOFFRIE, HENRY BLAGROVE, and PIATTI. The pianist was M. OSCAR DE CINNA, a young pupil of CZERNY, bringing a high reputation from Vienna. The Orpheus Glee Union contributed two part-songs. JOACHIM, the violinist, is announced to play at the second *Matinée*, on the 27th instant. Mr. ELLA being his own critic, the attendance of 'the anonymous press' at his concerts becomes a sinecure.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

BIRTHS.

AINSLIE.—April 12, at Corfe, near Taunton, the wife of the Rev. A. C. Ainslie: a daughter.
BRAND.—April 12, the wife of S. E. Brand, Esq., of Thistle-ton House, Park-road, Stoke Newington: a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

ADEY—OLIVER.—April 13, at St. Marylebone Church, the Rev. F. W. Adey, Perpetual Curate of St. John's, Mark-yate-street, to Mary Brooke, daughter of T. Oliver, Esq., of Child Okeford, Dorset.
CHEFFINS—CRAVEN.—April 13, at St. Andrew's, Holborn, C. R. Cheffins, Esq., of Bridge-road, St. John's-wood, to Mary Ann, daughter of J. Craven, Esq., of Thornton, near Bradford, Yorkshire.

DEATHS.

COSTER.—April 7, at St. Leonard's-on-Sea, Elizabeth, the beloved wife of T. A. Coster, Esq., of King's Lynn, aged 64.
COULTER.—April 13, at Synges-street, Dublin, Anna, wife of W. Coulter, Esq., aged 61.

Commercial Affairs.

London, Friday Evening, April 16.

GENERAL absence of business is observable in nearly all the Stock Exchange markets, which have not improved upon the settlement of the account. The English funds have shown but little animation during the week, and have been heavy, notwithstanding the large amount of unemployed capital afloat, money being easily obtained at an almost nominal per centage for short loans—the gloomy aspect of foreign affairs checking the buoyant effect which this would otherwise exercise. The Railway market has been dull, London and North Western and Great Northern being flat on the failure of the attempt at mediation between the rival companies; the chairman of the Great Northern, Mr. D. Denton, M.P., refusing to consent to the vital point of fares and rates, proposing to refer that question to the traffic managers of the respective undertakings. It is to be regretted that the labours of the deputations have closed so unsatisfactorily, and the suicidal career of the companies recommended.

Blackburn, 9, 10; Caledonian, 83, 83; Chester and Holyhead, 35, 37; Eastern Counties, 57, 58; Great Northern, 101, 101; Great Southern and Western (Ireland), 98, 100; Great Western, 55, 55; Lancashire and Yorkshire, 87, 87; London and Blackwall, 6, 6; London, Brighton, and South Coast, 105, 100; London and North-Western, 92, 93; London and South-Western, 91, 92; Midland, 90, 90; North-Eastern (Borwick), 90, 91; South-Eastern, 90, 91; Antwerp and Rotterdam, 6, 6; Dutch

Rhenish, 4, 3; dis.; Eastern of France (Paris and Strasbourg), 27, 27; Great Central of France, —; Great Luxembourg, 7, 7; Northern of France, 37, 37; Paris and Lyons, 32, 32; Royal Danish, 15, 17; Royal Swedish, 1, 1; Sambre and Meuse, 8, 8.

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

	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Frid.
Bank Stock.....	220	220	222	220½	221	220
3 per Cent. Red.....	95½	95½	95½	95½	95½	95½
3 per Cent. Con. An.....	96½	96½	96½	96½	96½	96½
Consols for Account.....	96½	96½	96½	96½	96½	96½
New 3 per Cent. An.....	95½	95½	95½	95½	95½	95½
New 2½ per Cents.....	80½	80½	80½	80½	80½	80½
Long Ans. 1860.....	11-16	11-16	11-16	11-16	11-16	11-16
India Stock.....	223	220½	220½	220½	223	223
Ditto Bonds, £1000.....	22 p	21 p	21 p	20 p	21 p	21 p
Ditto, under £1000.....	21 p	21 p	21 p	17 p	21 p	21 p
Ex. Bills, £1000.....	38 p	38 p	38 p	35 p	35 p	30 p
Ditto, £500.....	35 p	35 p	35 p	35 p	35 p	35 p
Ditto, Small.....	30 p	30 p	30 p	35 p	35 p	30 p

FOREIGN FUNDS.

LAST OFFICIAL QUOTATION DURING THE WEEK ENDING THURSDAY EVENING.

Brazilian Bonds.....	Portuguese 4 per Cents. ...
Buenos Ayres 6 p. Cents.....	Russian Bonds, 5 per Cents.....
Chilian 6 per Cents.....	Russian 4½ per Cents.....
Chilian 3 per Cents.....	Spanish.....
Dutch 2½ per Cents.....	Spanish Committee Cor- of Coup. not fun.....
Dutch 4 per Cent. Certif.....	Spanish Committee Cor- of Coup. not fun.....
Equador Bonds.....	Turkish 6 per Cents.....
Mexican Account.....	Turkish New, 4 ditto.....
Peruvian 4½ per Cents.....	Venezuela 4½ per Cents.....
Portuguese 3 per Cents.....	

CORN MARKET.

Mark-lane, Friday, April 16.

We have had a good trade this week in all articles on the spot, and cargoes have sold readily at improved prices. English Wheat has advanced 1s. per quarter, and many holders have demanded 2s. or 3s. more than that which has checked business. English red Wheat is worth 45s. to 46s.; Brunswick, 46s. to 47s.; Holstein, 45s. to 46s.; French, 43s. to 45s.; Mecklenburg, 46s. to 47s.; white Belgian, 49s. to 51s.; Norfolk Flour, 30s. to 31s.; Paris, 35s. to 37s.; Normandy, 31s.; North of France, 34s. to 35s.; 2nd quality, North of France, 30s. to 32s. Barley has been in request both for grinding and malting: Of the former, the largest business has been done in Black Sea qualities, which bring 21s. 6d. to 25s. per 100 lbs. ex ship. The stock of English Malting Barley is nearly at an end, and Saumur is, therefore, much sought after at 33s. 6d. to 34s. 6d., according to quality. Oats are rather dearer also, with a brisk sale at the advance. Fine

Swedes are 25s. 6d. to 26s.; Rigas, 23s. 6d. to 24s. Of cargoes the following sales have been made:—Taganrog Ghirka, 42s. 6d.; Kalafat, 38s.; Saidi, 29s. 6d. to 31s.; Belera, 29s.; Odessa Barley, on passage, 21s. 6d. to 22s.; Foxanian Maize, 34s.

FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE.

Tuesday, April 13.

BANKRUPTS.—GEORGE BROWN PELHAM, Albert-street, Camden-town, builder—CHARLES MILNER, Cannon-street, tobacconist—THOMAS BLAXLAND, Maidstone, grocer—WILLIAM JONES, East Grinstead, Sussex, innkeeper—DAVID LOGAN DYER, Queen-street, Seven Dials, currier—BENJAMIN FRANCIS HALLOWELL CAREW, Little Grove-street, Lisson-grove, Paddington, cab proprietor—THOMAS FRANCIS, Cross-road, Islington, plasterer—ROBERT PAGE, Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire, coal owner, and Dover, grocer—GEORGE SMITH, Birmingham, grocer—HENRY JOSEPH LANCASHIRE, Dudley, Worcestershire, and Bilston, Staffordshire, spirit merchant—EDWARD WALES, Burslem, Staffordshire, coal master—THOMAS DEWDNEY, Bathford, Somersetshire, rag merchant—BENJAMIN HANSON, Huddersfield, cotton waste dealer—GEORGE COX, Wrexham, Denbighshire, grocer—JAMES ARKLE, Sunderland, currier—EDWARD OTTO STERN and HENRY DALWAY WHIT-CHURCH BALDWIN, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, merchants—BENJAMIN ARMSTRONG, Sunderland, ironmonger.
SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—A. CRICKSHANK, Bridge-end-mills, miller, and Auchengolech and Mollenhill, near Moodie's-burn, Lanarkshire, farmer—D. BAIN and J. ALLAN, Bower, Caithness-shire, joiners—R. FORSYTH, Juniper-bank, near Thurso, Caithness-shire, architect—R. FINLAY, Glasgow, house factor—R. STEVENSON, Old Monkton, Lanarkshire, farmer—M. WHITEHEAD, Airdrie, Lanarkshire, tailor—A. W. DUNN, Melrose, merchant—J. DOUGLAS, Thurso, Caithness-shire, farmer.

Friday, April 16.

BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.—SAMUEL BENNETT, Manchester, commission agent.
BANKRUPTS.—BOHTLINGER and Company, Liverpool, merchants—WILLIAM YOXALL, Ashton-under-Lyne, saddler—JOHN D. DICKINSON, Hastings, draper—WILLIAM WILD, Counter-street, Southwark, carpenter—JOHN PATCH, Northampton, grocer—JOHN THOMAS BARNES, Stratford, builder—THOMAS WORSLEY, Buxenden, Lancashire, cotton spinner—SPILSBURY BUTLER, Christopher BAKER, and CHAS. EDWARD BAKER, Birmingham, wire drawers—JOSEPH SULLIVAN, Bristol, tavern keeper—CHARLES HENRY STEWARD, Tothill-street, Westminster, corn merchant—THOMAS TAYLOR, Moddershall Mill, Stone, Staffordshire, flint grinder—CHRISTOPHER PYBUS, Catterick, Yorkshire, spirit merchant—CHARLES WILLIAMS, Cardiff, ship smith.
SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—MUR and Company, Glasgow, manufacturers—ROBERT JEFFREY, Stonehouse, Lanarkshire, innkeeper—ARCHIBALD WEIR, Glasgow, wine and spirit merchant.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE. EXTRA NIGHT. LES HUGUENOTS.

TITIENS, ORTOLANI, GIUGLINI, VIALETTI, ALDI-
GHIERI, and BELLETTI.
On THURSDAY NEXT, April 22, will be repeated Meyer-
beer's Grand Opera, entitled
GLI UGONOTTI.
and the new Ballet Divertissement, entitled
CALISTO; OU, LE RENVOI DE L'AMOUR,
in which Mesdmes. Pocchini and Annetta will appear.
Applications to be made at the Box Office at the Theatre.

ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA COVENT GARDEN.

MR. GYE has the honour to announce that
THE NEW THEATRE
will open on Saturday, May 15, on which occasion will be
performed Meyerbeer's Grand Opera

LES HUGUENOTS.

Valentina	Madame Grisi.
Margarita di Valois	Mdlle. Marai.
Dama d'Onore	Mdme. Tagliafico.
Urbano	Mdme. Didiée.
Marcello	Herr Formes.
Il Conte di San Bris	M. Zelger.
Il Conte di Nevers	Signor Tagliafico.
Meru	Signor Pierini.
De Cossé	Signor Polonini.
Tavannes	Signor Rossi.
Huguenot Soldier	Signor Soldi; and
Raoul di Nangis	Signor Mario.
Conductor	Mr. Costa.

Prospectuses with full particulars to be had at the
temporary Box Office, 24, Bow-street, where Boxes and
Stalls may also be obtained.

MR. ALBERT SMITH'S MONT BLANC.
NAPLES, POMPEII, and VESUVIUS, EVERY
NIGHT (except Saturday), at 8; and Tuesday, Thursday,
and Saturday Afternoons, at 3.—Places can be secured at the
box-office, Egyptian Hall, daily, between 11 and 4, without
any extra charge.

SOUTH KENSINGTON MUSEUM.—The
new rooms containing the collections of Ornamental
Art are now open to the Public daily.

DR. KAHN'S ANATOMICAL AND PA-
THOLOGICAL MUSEUM.
3, Tichborne-street, opposite the Haymarket. Open daily.
Admission, One Shilling.

Lectures by DR. KAHN at Three and Eight.
Dr. Kahn's Nine Lectures on the Philosophy of Mar-
riage, &c., sent post free on receipt of 12 Stamps.

THE BEST REMEDY FOR INDIGESTION.

NORTON'S CAMOMILE PILLS
are confidently recommended as a simple but certain
remedy for Indigestion, which is the cause of nearly all the
diseases to which we are subject, being a medicine so uni-
formly grateful and beneficial, that it is with justice
called the

"NATURAL STRENGTHENER OF THE HUMAN STOMACH."
NORTON'S PILLS act as a powerful tonic and gentle
aperient; are mild in their operation; safe under any cir-
cumstances; and thousands of persons can now bear testi-
mony to the benefits to be derived from their use.
Sold in Bottles at 1s. 14d., 2s. 9d., and 11s. each, in every
town in the kingdom.

CAUTION!—Be sure to ask for "Norton's Pills," and do
not be persuaded to purchase the various imitations.

BLAIR'S GOUT AND RHEUMATIC PILLS.

Price 1s. 14d. and 2s. 9d. per box.

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.

These Pills require no restraint of diet or confinement
during their use, and are certain to prevent the disease at-
tacking any vital part.

Sold by all Medicine Vendors. See the name of "THOMAS
PROUT, 229, Strand, London," on the Government Stamp.

KNOW THYSELF.—MARIE COUPELLE

continues to give her graphic and interesting delinea-
tions of character, discoverable from an examination of the
handwriting, in a unique style of description peculiarly
her own. All persons desirous of knowing themselves, or
any friend in whom they are interested, must send a spec-
imen of the writing, stating the sex and age, and enclosing
13 penny postage stamps, and a directed envelope, to Miss
Couppelle, 69, Castle-street, Oxford-street, London, and they
will receive in a few days a minute detail of the talents,
tastes, virtues, and failings of the writer, with many other
things hitherto unsuspected. All letters are considered
strictly confidential.

DO YOU WANT LUXURIANT HAIR,

WHISKERS, &c.?—COUPELLE'S ORNUTRIAR
is guaranteed to produce whiskers, mustachios, eyebrows,
&c., in two or three weeks with the utmost certainty,
strengthen weak hair, prevent its falling off, check greyness
in all its stages, and reproduce the hair in baldness, from
whatever cause. Price 2s. Sold by all chemists in the world;
or will be sent post-free, on receipt of 24 penny postage
stamps, by Miss Couppelle, 69, Castle-street, Newman-street,
Oxford-street, London. A toilet guide sent post free for four
penny postage stamps. "It completely restored my hair."
—Miss Davis. "My whiskers are now growing freely."—H.
Merry, Esq.

DEAFNESS, Noises in the Head. Turkish
Treatment by a Retired Surgeon from the Crimea
(who was himself perfectly cured). Just published, a book,
SELF-CURE, free by post for six stamps. Surgeon COL-
STON, M.D.C.S., 7, Leicester-place, Leicester-square,
London. At home from 11 to 4, to receive visits from
patients.

ALLSOPP'S PALE ALE IN IMPERIAL PINTS.

HARRINGTON, PARKER, and CO., are
now delivering the October Brewings of the above
celebrated Ale. Its surpassing excellence is vouched for
by the highest medical and chemical authorities of the day.
Supplied in bottles, also in casks of 18 gallons and upwards,
by HARRINGTON, PARKER, and CO., Wine and Spirit
Merchants, 53, Pall-Mall.
Feb. 1858.

PURE BRANDY, 16s. PER GALLON.—

Pale or Brown EAU-DE-VIE of exquisite flavour and
great purity, identical, indeed, in every respect with those
choice productions of the Cognac district which are now
difficult to procure at any price, 35s. per dozen, French
bottles and case included, or 16s. per gallon.

HENRY BRETT and Co., Old Farnival's Distillery,
Holborn.

UNSOPHISTICATED GENEVA, of the true

juniper flavour, and precisely as it runs from the still,
without the addition of sugar or any ingredient whatever.
Imperial gallons 13s.; or in one dozen cases, 29s. each,
package included.

HENRY BRETT and Co., Old Farnival's Distillery,
Holborn.

LANCET PURE BEER BREWERY.—

George Stanford begs to inform Private Families that
he can supply PURE ALE, STOUT, and PORTER at the
following prices for cash:—

XXXX Ale, 4½ gallons, 7s. 6d.; do. 9 gallons, 15s.

XXX Ale, 4½ gallons, 6s.; do. 9 gallons, 12s.

XX 4½ gallons, 4s. 6d.; do. 9 gallons, 9s.

Double Stout, 9 gallons, 15s.; 4½ do. 7s. 6d.

Porter, 9 gallons, 9s.; 4½ do. 4s. 6d.

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50	2 2 6	4 5 0	6 30	2 7 10	1 4 6	0 12 5	
60	3 6 8	6 13 4	9 30	2 8 2	1 4 9	0 12 6	

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THE TWENTY-FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT of the Directors of the MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY, together with the CASH ACCOUNT and BALANCE SHEET for the year 1857, showing the state of the Society's affairs on the 31st of December last, as presented to the General Meeting on the 17th of February, 1858, also Prospectuses, Forms of Proposal, and a list of the Bonuses paid on the Claims of the past year, will be delivered on a written or personal application to the Actuary, or to any of the Society's Agents in Great Britain.
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III. ITALIAN TOURS AND TOURISTS.
IV. PROGRESS OF ENGLISH AGRICULTURE.
V. MICHAEL ANGELO.
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