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The Leader.

A POLITICAL AND LITERARY REVIEW, MERCANTILE JOURNAL,
AND

RECORD OF JOINT STOCK COMPANIES, BANKS, RAILWAYS, MINES SHIPPING, &c.

VOL. IX. No. 456.]

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1858.

PRICE { UNSTAMPED... FIVE PENCE.
Stamped... Sixpence.

THE MADRAS IRRIGATION AND CANAL COMPANY.

(Incorporated by Special Act of Parliament.)

For Constructing, Maintaining, and Working (under the sanction and with the support of the Government of India) a comprehensive system of Irrigation Works and Navigable Canals throughout the Presidency of Madras and the neighbouring territories of Berar, Cochin, Hyderabad, Mysore, Nagpore, Orissa, the South Mahratta Country and Travancore; and also throughout the Lower Provinces of Bengal, when the necessary powers shall have been obtained. First capital, 2,000,000*l.* (with power to increase).

First issue thereof, 1,000,000*l.* in 50,000 shares of 20*l.* each, upon which a perpetual minimum interest of 5*l.* per cent. has been guaranteed by the Secretary of State for India in Council, all surplus profits being divisible equally between the Government and the Company; which arrangement is subject to be determined only by the Government purchasing the works constructed within six months after the expiration of each period of twenty-five years, at a sum equal to the market value of the shares of the Company on an average of the three preceding years.

Deposit, 1*l.* per share, to bear interest at the guaranteed rate from the day on which the same shall be paid into the Indian Treasury.

DIRECTORS.

CHAIRMAN.—JAMES THOMSON, Esq. (Messrs. Line and Co., Madras), Deputy-Governor of the Agra Bank, and late Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, Madras, and President of the Madras Bank.

Colonel PHILIP ANSTRUTHER, C.B., Madras Artillery. The Hon. PHILIP FLETCHER BOUVERIE, M.P. (Messrs. Ransom, Bouverie, and Co.).

Lieutenant-Colonel GRIMES, Madras Army, Chairman of the Oriental Inland Steam Company.

Colonel ARTHUR LAKE, C.B., late Superintending Engineer of the Kistnah Irrigation Works.

Lieutenant-Colonel ONSLOW, late of the Commission for governing Mysore.

Lieutenant-General Sir GEORGE POLLOCK, G.C.B., F.R.G.S., &c.

Major-General WESTROP WATKINS, Madras Army.

Consulting Engineer.—Colonel J. T. Smith, Madras Engineers, F.R.S. &c.

Auditors.—James Bonar, Esq. (Messrs. Small and Co., Old Jewry).

Bankers.—Messrs. Ransom, Bouverie, and Co., 1, Pall-mall East.

Solicitor.—John Mackrell, Esq., 34, Cannon-street West.

Secretary.—John Westwood, Esq., 34, Cannon-street, London, E.C.

PROSPECTUS.

The paramount importance and eminently remunerative character of works of irrigation in India have become, by long experience and well-ascertained results, established facts. Accordingly the Government of Madras, in May last, in a report to the late Court of Directors of the East India Company, after setting forth in the strongest language their beneficial effects and public utility, certified that "the returns from irrigation works are always considerable, and often immense," and the truth of this statement is placed beyond doubt by official returns made to Parliament in 1855.

By these it appears that the whole of the then existing works in the Madras Presidency (many of which were much out of repair, and to a great extent useless) realised, during a period of fourteen years, an average net profit of 63 per cent. upon the cost of their construction and maintenance; whilst the thirteen largest yielded during the same term a like profit of more than 120 per cent. Those works also which have been since undertaken but not yet completed—viz. on the Godavery and Kistnah rivers—have already produced large returns, which will shortly, it is stated, exceed 100 per cent.

Hitherto works of this nature have been executed by the Government only. But from the want of funds and a suitable and trained agency comparatively little has been effected, and it has now become impossible, at least for many years to come, to provide others out of the ordinary revenue. Much, therefore, remains to be done in this respect to meet the positive and immediate requirements of the country; in truth, it has been for many years past repeatedly recommended by members of the Legislative Council, by Government commissioners, by civil and military engineers, and by many others of high character and intelligence, that a vast number of new works which will yield returns equal to what has been above stated are imperatively required within the territories above named, and that in the Madras Presidency alone many millions of acres of good land are now lying waste, requiring only irrigation to render them eminently fertile and profitable, whilst immense volumes of water (and more than sufficient for the purpose required) flow by neglected to the sea.

Next to irrigation works, both in importance and in their remunerative character, are cheap means of transit. Their extension is also as largely and urgently called for, and it is a fortuitous circumstance, that in India these two essential elements of prosperity may be secured by one operation, for works of irrigation can in most cases be con-

structed, at a trifling additional expense, in the shape of canals, navigable by steamboats, the cost of carriage whereon will be far less than on common roads, and much lower than anything yet thought of for railways.

To aid the Government in supplying these fundamental wants throughout the several districts enumerated at the head of this prospectus is the object of this Company; and it may with confidence be asserted that no enterprise of the present day, however lucrative and useful, will bear favourable comparison with such an undertaking.

The tract of country proposed to be, in the first instance, thus affected contains 400,000 square miles, upon the whole cultivable portions whereof cotton, both indigenous and exotic, can be successfully grown, whilst the soil of extensive districts is pre-eminently qualified for its production. Within this domain there is also a quiet, orderly, and industrious population of upwards of 53,000,000, ready and indeed anxious to cultivate the land, immediately they are enabled by irrigation to do so.

One most important result which will flow from the development of the scheme here described will be the opening up, and rendering cheaply accessible to the coast, an area of cotton-growing land many times larger than the whole of the plantations of America, from whence four-fifths of our present supply is procured, so that if only a small portion of the land thus affected is employed in the cultivation of cotton, England will be entirely relieved from her present degrading dependence upon slave labour for its production. Further, the territories so improved will be enabled to compete successfully with other countries in the production and exportation of grain and seeds of all kinds, sugar, tobacco, and many other staple articles of commerce so valuable to Great Britain.

The formation and proposed objects of this Company were first notified to the late Court of Directors of the East India Company and to the Board of Control in February, 1857, from which time negotiations of a comprehensive character were carried on with those authorities, and continued with the Secretary of State and Council for India.

Pending these negotiations the Directors refrained from raising through the public any portion of the intended capital, but being firmly convinced of the sound and profitable nature of their undertaking, and of the ultimate success of their efforts, they proceeded upon their own responsibility to procure the requisite act of incorporation, and to adopt all other proceedings necessary to save delay, and to establish this Company upon a firm and sure basis. With this view they laid before the Court of Directors particulars of two highly promising and important projects in the Presidency of Madras as first portions of the scheme to be carried out, which projects are now under consideration by the local government.

The Directors are enabled to state that they have at length met with the desired support, and that this Company is now effectually established, and its scheme fully recognised by the home government of India, who, fully admitting the great and lasting advantages to be obtained by attracting private enterprise and English capital to works of public utility in that country, have conceded liberal and substantial terms of support to this the first attempt of that nature, including in such terms a perpetual guarantee of a minimum interest of 5*l.* per cent. per annum on the first issue of capital to the amount of 1,000,000*l.* as paid into the Indian Treasury, all surplus profits being divisible equally between the Government and the Company, which arrangement is to be subject to determination only upon the Secretary of State for India in Council giving notice, within six months after the expiration of each period of twenty-five years from the commencement of the present arrangement, of an intention to purchase the whole of the works then constructed at a sum equal to an average of the market price at which the shares of this Company shall have been selling in London during the three preceding years.

In addition to the works before referred to and proposed for construction in Madras, the Directors have submitted to Lord Stanley in Council other and no less valuable projects, and his lordship has referred particulars thereof to the Supreme Government of India for investigation and report.

All future issue of shares will be distributed pro rata amongst the then existing shareholders.

Forms of Application may now be had on application at the Company's offices, 27, Cannon-street, E.C., London; of the bankers, Messrs. Ransom, Bouverie, and Co., 1, Pall-mall East; and of the solicitor, John Mackrell, Esq., 34, Cannon-street West, E.C.; but no application will be considered unless a deposit of one pound on each share applied for is previously made to Messrs. Ransom, Bouverie, and Co. The deposit will be returned if the application is not accepted to.

Extract from minutes of consultation transmitted by the Government of Madras on the 15th May, 1858, to the late Court of Directors of the East India Company:—

"The Government express their unanimous, strong, and earnest advocacy, that all irrigation works which, on a comprehensive view of the wants of the country, may be deemed necessary to develop its undoubtedly great resources, be commenced at once boldly and on a large scale, be pressed forward throughout all times and under all circumstances, and be looked on and be practically treated, as in fact they

really are, as the most economical, because the most profitable, undertakings in which the Government could possibly engage. It is needless now again to bring forward the innumerable instances in which money has in the Presidency been most advantageously invested in irrigation works. The proceedings of Government have, in this respect, been only too desultory and vacillating, and it is confidently asserted that India could be placed in a position to pay all her own expenses and gradually discharge her debt far more readily and speedily by a judicious expenditure than by any scheme of retrenchment or reduction.

ATLAS

FIRE AND LIFE ASSURANCE OFFICE,
92, CHEAPSIDE, LONDON.

Established 1803.

And Empowered by Act of Parliament of the 54th Geo. III. c. 79.

DIRECTORS.

Chairman.—J. Oliver Hanson, Esq.

Deputy Chairman.—William George Prescott, Esq.

Sir William Baynes, Bart.

Arthur Edward Campbell, Esq.

Thomas Chapman, Esq., F.R.S.

Benjamin Buck Greene, Esq.

Joseph Grote, Esq.

John George Maclean, Esq.

Samuel Eustace Magan, Esq.

Captain Alexander L. Montgomery, R.N.

Joseph Pulley, Esq.

Arthur Augustus Rasch, Esq.

Auditors.—John Oliver Hanson, jun., Esq., and Philip

Ainslie Walker, Esq.

Actuary.—Charles Ansell, Esq., F.R.S.

Solicitor.—Thomas Browning, Esq.

Bankers.—Messrs. Prescott, Grote, Cave, and Cave.

LIFE DEPARTMENT.

The Accumulated Premiums are over 1,600,000*l.* And the Annual Income exceeds 184,000*l.*

Bonuses have been declared on Policies to an amount greater than the sum originally assured.

Premiums have been extinguished, where the parties assured have applied the bonus in reduction of the Annual Premium.

At the last valuation up to Christmas, 1854, there existed a Surplus of 268,691*l.*, which had accrued during the five years ending at that period—the whole of which Surplus belonged to the policy holders.

The next valuation will be made up to Christmas, 1859. Policies on the Participating Scale, in England or Ireland respectively, which may be effected before that date, will, if the parties be then alive, participate in the surplus in proportion to the time they may have been in force.

The sum of 3,130,975*l.* has been paid during the existence of the Office for claims under Life Policies, of which amount a very considerable part was for Bonuses.

Persons assuring in Great Britain have the option of

Participating Rates of Premium, or of

Non-Participating Rates.

The Directors beg to announce that the rates of Premium have been recently revised and readjusted in accordance with a long experience, and that

The New Scale will be found very advantageous to persons desiring to commence assuring early in life.

The Non-Participating Scale is particularly adapted to parties wishing to assure a fixed sum only, at a fixed rate of Premium, and on low terms.

Premiums may be paid Annually, Half-yearly, or by a limited number of Annual Payments. The last-named mode of Assurance originated with this Office in 1816.

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Renewals should be paid within fifteen days after the respective Quarter-days when they become due.

The Company undertakes the assurance of Property in the Manufacturing, Agricultural, and other districts, on favourable terms. Risks of extraordinary hazard on special agreement, upon survey.

An Allowance for the Loss of Rent of Buildings rendered untenable by Fire is one of the advantages offered by the Company.

Tables of Rates, forms of proposal, and any information useful to effect Life or Fire Assurances, may be obtained on application to the Office, No. 92, Cheapside, London, or to any of the Company's Agents.

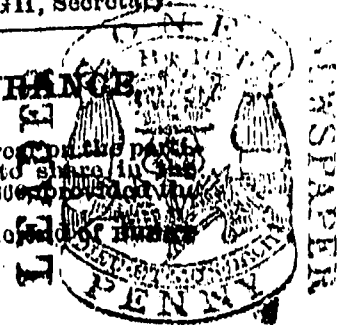
HENRY DESBOROUGH, Secretary.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

ROYAL-EXCHANGE ASSURANCE
August, 1858.

Life Policies effected during the present year, and participating scale will entitle their holders to share in the division of Profits at the end of the year 1860, provided the assurances continue in force.

FURTHER BONUSES will be declared at the end of FIVE YEARS.



PROSPECTUS.
THE
**SUB-SOIL & COTTAGE IMPROVEMENT
COMPANY (Limited).**

(Incorporated under 19 and 20 Vict. cap. 47.)

Capital £40,000.

In Shares of 12. each; deposit, 4s. per share. Liability limited to amount of share.

DIRECTORS.

Rupert Clarke, Esq., Reading, Coroner of the County of Berks.
Stephen J. Prescott, Esq., Walworth and Ringwood, near Deal, Kent.
Daniel Green, Esq., 11, Finsbury-circus.
Walter Newall, Esq., Clapham.
(With power to add to their number.)

Two seats at the Board will be reserved for election from the shareholders at the First General Meeting.

AUDITORS.

George Daniel, Esq., 18, Canonbury-square.
Henry William Sewell, Esq., Stoke Newington.

MANAGER—Edward Wilkins, Esq.

BANKERS—Union Bank of London.

OFFICES—Great Scotland Yard, Whitehall.

The advantages attending the employment of capital in the improvement of land are justly acknowledged; capital thus employed is, at the same time, the means of great social benefit, and productive to the investors of the highest rate consistent with perfect security.

Opportunities, however, for employing, individually, the smaller amounts of capital in this channel are necessarily limited. This advantage the present association will supply. The object proposed is as follows, viz.:

The working of a plan for increasing with certainty the produce of the soil, and by such means to bring into cultivation and render profitable lands hitherto entirely unproductive.

The value of the plan of sub-soil manurage, invented by Mr. Wilkins, has been fully tested, and it is especially applicable to the poorest lands. By the carrying out of this system Nature's own increase may, in many cases, be rendered twofold, and the crops, in a great degree, guarded against loss from the uncertainties of season and of temperature, whilst large annual crops may be taken from land now considered worthless.

Results already obtained form a basis of the fullest confidence for the project now brought forward.

The present company propose to carry out the plan, on an extended scale, for the growth (chiefly) of flax and hemp, Mangold Wurzel, and potatoes, being crops specially suited to this cultivation, and of an assured demand.

The former of these are crops of a very remunerative character, and of a great national importance. Farmers, however, are not induced to cultivate them, as they tend too much to impoverish the soil. Grown on the present principle, the soil is in no wise impoverished, and they can be produced year after year on the same land with unfailing success. Mr. Wilkins has even had two crops of flax in one year. For any quantity cultivated an immediate and certain market is open.

The Mangold Wurzel on this principle is a perfectly superior root to the ordinary mangold. From it the patentee has produced an excellent WINE, which can be sold at the rate of Two Shillings per gallon, and leave a net profit of over thirty per cent. Also (in mixture with flour) a wholesome and nutritious Bread, at one third less than the usual price. Neither of these important purposes can the ordinary mangold suffice. His weight of this crop has reached the unprecedented amount of sixty-nine tons per acre.

Of the last mentioned (potatoes) little need be said. They would be produced in greater weight, with almost certain immunity from disease; and (by means of Mr. Wilkins' patent process for extracting the germs for planting) of a large and uniform size.

NOTE—This patent has been purchased, independently, by the directors, and is the property of the company. It is submitted that certain and assured returns of a very remunerative character may thus be realised on the capital of the company.

The operations of the company will be as follow, viz.:

- 1st. The purchase or leasing, at a low rate, of land adapted to their purpose;
- 2nd. The preparation of such land on their system of drainage, whereby it will be rendered highly productive; and
- 3rd. The cultivation—or the resale at enhanced prices—of the land thus prepared.

Thus the advantage of a combination of capital and resources in such an enterprise is obvious; and after making a careful allowance for all contingencies and expenses, it is estimated a net profit of twenty to twenty-five per cent. may be realised.

The directors have selected, and obtained the offer on very advantageous terms, of a plot of 600 acres of land well suited to this purpose, and which could be laid down at the minimum price. On two-thirds of the shares being taken up, the contract will be completed, and operations on the first portion at once commenced.

A further adaptation of the same principles to the construction of Vine Boxes and Flower Vases has also been patented.

These patents also are vested in the company, and the eminent success which has attended the manufacture and trial of these articles affords further warrant for confidence in success on the larger scale.

The Directors can state that this branch of the business is already organised, and first-class agencies appointed in various parts of the country (England, Scotland, and Ireland). Every preliminary expense has been paid, and considerable orders, both for home and export, are obtained.

These articles are calculated to command a large and very remunerative sale, and will realise a handsome profit to the shareholders.

Improved Model Cottages will be built upon the company's property in connexion with allotments of land. This obtains a fair and certain interest for such capital, and would prove of incalculable social advantage to the tenants.

DANIEL GREEN, jun., F.S.A., Secretary.

December 5th, 1858.

Applications for shares must be made in the annexed form, accompanied with a payment to the bankers, or to the secretary, of the deposit of 4s. per share.

If a less number be allotted than applied for, the amount so overpaid will be returned in full.

Interest at the rate of five per cent. will be allowed on shares paid up in advance.

By the provisions of the Act 19 and 20 Vict., the liability of shareholders is limited to the amount subscribed for. Prospectuses forwarded on application.

FORM OF APPLICATION FOR SHARES.

To the Directors of the Sub-soil and Cottage Improvement Company (Limited), Great Scotland-yard, Whitehall.
Gentlemen.—Having paid to your credit at the Union Bank of London (or remitted herewith) the sum of _____, I request you will allot me _____ shares of one pound each in the above company; and I hereby agree to accept such shares, or any less number which may be allotted to me, to pay all calls thereon, and execute the deed of settlement when required; or in default of this to forfeit the deposit now paid.

Name in full _____
Address _____
Date _____

ESTABLISHED 1838.

**VICTORIA & LEGAL & COMMERCIAL
LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.**

No. 18, King William-street, City.

DIRECTORS.

BENJAMIN HAWES, Esq., Chairman.
THOMAS NESBITT, Esq., Deputy-Chairman.
Charles Baldwin, Esq.
George Denny, Esq.
J. C. Dimsdale, Esq.
William Elliott, M.D.
Robert Elliot, Esq.
J. P. Gassiot, Esq., F.R.S.
John Gladstone, Esq.
Aaron Goldsmid, Esq.
Sidney Gurney, Esq.
W. K. Jameson, Esq.
John Jones, Esq.
John Nolloth, Esq.
Meaburn Staniland, Esq.
Daniel Sutton, Esq.
Walter Charles Venning, Esq.
O'B. Bellingham Woolsey, Esq.

The business of the Company embraces every description of risk connected with Life Assurance.
The assets of the Company exceed 265,000l.
And its income is over 60,000l. a year.

Advances in connexion with Life Assurance are made on advantageous terms, either on real or personal security.
WILLIAM RATRAY, Actuary.

ALLIANCE

**BRITISH AND FOREIGN LIFE & FIRE
ASSURANCE COMPANY,**
BARTHOLOMEW LANE, LONDON, E.C.

Established 1824.

(Branch Offices: Edinburgh, Ipswich, and Bury St. Edmunds.)

Capital, FIVE MILLIONS Sterling.

PRESIDENT—Sir Moses Montefiore, Bart.

DIRECTORS.

James Alexander, Esq.
Charles George Barnett, Esq.
George Henry Barnett, Esq.
Charles Buxton, Esq., M.P.
Sir George Carroll.
Benjamin Cohen, Esq.
James Fletcher, Esq.
Charles Gibbs, Esq.
William Gladstone, Esq.
James Helme, Esq.
John Irving, Esq.
Elliot Macnaghten, Esq.
J. Mayer Montefiore, Esq.
Sir A. de Rothschild, Bart.
Lionel N. de Rothschild, Esq., M.P.
Thomas Charles Smith, Esq.

AUDITORS.—George J. Goschen, Esq., Andrew Johnston, Esq., George Peabody, Esq.

* * * The receipts for the *Renewal Premiums* due at Christmas are ready for delivery in town, and at the several Agencies.

FRANCIS A. ENGELBACH, Actuary and Secretary.

**LAW PROPERTY & LIFE ASSURANCE
SOCIETY.**

30, Essex-street, Strand, London.

Capital, 250,000l.

DIRECTORS.

Ralph T. Brockman, Esq., Folkestone.
Edward Wm. Cox, Esq., 38, Russell-square.
George Frederick Fox, Esq., Bristol.
E. B. P. Kelsey, Esq., Salisbury.
J. Mead, Esq., 2, King's Bench-walk, Temple.
H. Paul, Esq., M.P., 33, Devonshire-place, Portland-place.

EIGHTY PER CENT. OF THE PROFITS

divided among the Assured.
At the first division of profits in May, 1845, a bonus was declared, varying from Two to Eleven per cent. on the amount assured, and amounting, in many instances, to upwards of Fifty per cent. on the Premiums paid.

* * * At the Second Division of Profits in 1855, an EQUAL PRO RATA BONUS was declared.

Next division of profits in 1861.
* * * Every description of Life Assurance business transacted.

ACCIDENTS OF EVERY DESCRIPTION.

£1000 IN CASE OF DEATH, OR

A FIXED ALLOWANCE OF £6 PER WEEK

IN THE EVENT OF INJURY,

May be secured by an Annual Payment of £3 for a

Policy in the

**RAILWAY PASSENGERS' ASSURANCE
COMPANY.**

A special Act provides that persons receiving compensation from this Company are not barred thereby from recovering full damages from the party causing the injury; an advantage no other Company can offer.

It is found that ONE PERSON in every FIFTEEN is more or less injured by Accident yearly. This Company has already paid as compensation for Accidents 27,988l.

Forms of Proposal and Prospectuses may be had at the Company's Offices, and at all the principal Railway Stations, where, also, Railway Accidents alone may be insured against by the Journey or year.

NO CHARGE FOR STAMP DUTY.

Railway Passengers' Assurance Company.
Offices, 3, Old Broad-street, London, E.C.
WILLIAM J. VIAN, Secretary.

**THE LIVERPOOL AND LONDON
FIRE AND LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY.**

Offices, No. 1, Dale-street, Liverpool; and 20 and 21, Poultry, London.

Subscribed capital, 2,000,000l.

1856.	1857.	1858.
£222,000...Fire Premiums.....	£280,000...Increase...£57,000	
72,780...Life.....	110,300...Increase...38,000	
17,333...Life Annuities.....	27,000...Increase...9,000	
820,000...Funds accumu- lated and in- vested.....	1,088,000...Increase...268,000	

The Income of the Company now exceeds 450,000l. a year. The sums paid in settlement of losses exceed One Million sterling.

Fire Insurance, at home and abroad, at rates proportioned to the risk.

LIFE INSURANCE.—Prospectuses may be had on application, and attention is specially invited to the system of Guaranteed Bonuses in the Life Department, by which is secured:—1. Exemption from liability in partnership under any possible circumstances. 2. Bonuses, which are not contingent on profits, but fixed and guaranteed by the whole resources of the Company.

Fire Policies due Christmas-day should be renewed on or before the 9th January, 1859.

SWINTON BOULT, Secretary.

**NORWICH UNION FIRE INSURANCE
SOCIETY.**

Notice.—Christmas Renewals.—Losses by fire occurring during the fifteen days of grace are made good to the assured.

The business of the Company exceeds 66,000,000l. The duty paid to Government for the year 1855 was 78,301l., and the amount insured on farming stock 10,026,499l.

A bonus of three-fifths of the profits periodically made to parties insuring, who have thus from time to time received sums amounting in the aggregate to 400,000l.

The rates of premium are in no case higher than those charged by the other principal offices making no returns to their insurers.

For prospectuses, apply at the Society's offices, Surrey-street, Norwich, and 6, Crescent, New Bridge-street, Blackfriars, E.C.

FOR MUTUAL ASSURANCE.

**METROPOLITAN LIFE ASSURANCE
SOCIETY,**

No. 3, PRINCES STREET, BANK, E.C.

(Established 1835.)

DIRECTORS.

Peter Cator, Esq.
Francis Fox, Esq.
Richard Fry, Esq., Liverpool.
Robert Grant, Esq.
William Grant, Esq., Ports-
mouth.
George Harker, Esq.
Sir Benjamin Hawkes, K.C.B.
Frazer B. Henshaw, Esq.
John Laurence, Esq.
William J. Lescher, Esq.
James Lloyd, Esq., Birming-
ham.
Sir J. Paxton, M.P., Chats-
worth.
George Pearce, Esq.
Joseph Pearce, Esq., Darling-
ton.
Henry Sturt, Esq.
J. Ingram Travers, Esq.
Joseph Underwood, Esq.
George Vaughan, Esq.

EX-DIRECTORS. (By rotation.)

Daniel Burgess, Junr., Esq., Bristol.

James Dawson, Esq.

The ENTIRE PROFITS are applied exclusively to the reduction of the ANNUAL PREMIUMS of Members of Five Years' Standing.

The SUM ASSURED exceeds.....	£3,000,000
ANNUAL PREMIUMS.....	105,000
ACCUMULATED CAPITAL.....	840,000
ANNUAL INTEREST thereof (clear of Income Tax.....)	36,000
REDUCTION OF ANNUAL PRE- MIUMS already allowed.....	390,000
The Rate of Reduction for the Current Year is FIFTY-ONE PER CENT.	

HENRY MARSHAL, Actuary.

1st Dec., 1858.

NOTICE is hereby given, that the Annual General Meeting of the Shareholders of the British Life Association will be held at the Chief Offices, No. 32, Moorgate-street, London, on Wednesday, the 5th of January, 1859, at One o'clock, P.M., for the purpose of receiving the Directors' Report and Balance Sheet for the past year, the election of Directors and Auditors, the declaration of a Dividend, and for the transaction of the ordinary business of such Meetings.

By order of the Board.

JOHN MESSENT, Secretary.

16th December, 1858.

THE GREAT SHIP COMPANY

(Limited).

For Purchasing and Equipping the Great Eastern. Liability strictly limited to the amount of subscription. Capital, 330,000l., in 330,000 Shares of 1l. each. Deposit, 2s. 6d. per Share, on application for Ten Shares and upwards.

Less than Ten Shares must be fully paid up on application. Detailed prospectuses, full particulars, and forms of application for shares, may be obtained at the Offices of the Company, as under.

JOHN HENRY YATES, Secretary.
Temporary Offices, 79, Lombard-street, London, E.C.
November, 1858.

THE GREAT SHIP COMPANY

(Limited).

Notice is hereby given, that no application for shares in this Company will be received after Tuesday, the 23rd inst. By order of the Board of Directors.

JOHN HENRY YATES, Secretary.

Temporary Offices, 79, Lombard-street, London.

December 10th, 1858.

LOANS AND INVESTMENTS.

**WELLINGTON LOAN & INVESTMENT
ASSOCIATION**

(Limited), 3, Chatham-place, Blackfriars, London. Deposits received at 6 per cent. Interest, payable half yearly. Loans granted at moderate rates. Particulars of CHARLES W. ROE, Secretary.
N.B. Agents required in town and country.

THE LEADER.

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Review of the Week.

THAT the publication of the Royal Proclamation throughout India has been attended with immediate good results, seems to be assured by the latest news from Calcutta and Bombay. Not only have we evidence of the popular enthusiasm with which the reading of the august document was received in the great cities, but we have the more important assurance that already the amnesty accorded by the new ruler of India has done its work well with many of the rebellious chiefs. In Oude, where alone the rebellious fire still burns with sustained fierceness, many of the talookdars are accepting the royal grace accorded to them, and are giving up their forts, and what is more, their arms. The Rajah Loll Mahdoo Singh had given himself up and surrendered his fortress of Amety; and the Nawab of Banda had separated himself from the rebels and gone into General Michel's camp. But, not trusting alone to the mild influences of Royal Proclamation, both the Commander-in-Chief and her Majesty's Chief Commissioner in Oude, Mr. Montgomery, have taken stern measures of repression against the obstinately rebellious. While Lord Clyde promises consideration and protection to all who shall comport themselves peacefully, he threatens death and destruction to all who shall venture to offer armed opposition; and Mr. Montgomery declares that severe penalties shall be paid by all who are discovered to have concealed arms, ammunition, or other matériel of war.

There is very little actual fighting reported in these late communications, but what there is shows that the rebels are fighting because they have nothing for it but to die fighting. Tantia Topce, their one and only great leader, still fights and runs. By the last accounts we learn that he was in the Satpoorah hills, every outlet of which was closely guarded. We hear nothing more of the report brought by the previous mail, that he had sent to inquire the terms on which he might surrender.

The news from China is peculiarly interesting, since it conveys doubts as to the value of our late treaty. At Hong-Kong there is a growing feeling that the document is worth very little after all. According to the Hong-Kong light, the Chinese Government was only acting under the influence of temporary fears, and therefore not sincerely. It is said that the rebels having nearly exhausted the resources of the Government, it was not in a condition to offer a sustained opposition to the demands made upon it by the allied Powers. The British mind at Hong-Kong, however, has a tendency to look at the darkest side in Chinese matters.

What the next turn will be in the affairs, direct or collateral, of the Ionian Islands, seems likely to

be a subject for speculation for some time to come. The publication of Sir John Young's very free-spoken despatches immediately after the departure of Mr. Gladstone, was a surprise, capped by the discovery that the documents had been surreptitiously obtained and published without the sanction of the Government. These surprises were, however, small and tame compared with that of the verdict given by the jury which tried Mr. Wellington Guernsey for stealing the published documents. That a copy of the Ionian despatches was carried off from the table of Mr. Miller at the Colonial office, and that the only missing copy was sent by Mr. Guernsey to the *Daily News*, was admitted by his counsel, the eloquent and ingenious Serjeant Parry; but what of that? added the pleader; where was the felonious intention? And the jury-echo answered, "Where?" Perhaps no one of those who heard the verdict of acquittal delivered was more surprised than lucky Mr. Guernsey, certainly no one could at the moment have had a stronger sense of the "glorious uncertainty of the law" than Mr. Humphrys Parry.

Another of those elaborate monetary statements in which France is made to exhibit a prosperity not to be discovered by any other outward visible sign, has been laid before the Emperor by Monsieur Magne. The Empire is not only "peace," it is prosperity; there is no doubt of the fact—according to the Minister of Finance. Look at the funds, which, at one time, were down to 66, they are up to 73; railway obligations, again, they were as low as 265f., and they are worth 300f. Every branch of the revenue has increased during the year, and the proof of real prosperity is that, instead of setting aside 40,000,000 francs for the liquidation of the national debt, according to the arrangement of 1859, the sum of 60,000,000 francs will be applied to that purpose in 1860. This picture of French prosperity has only one drawback: it is not to be trusted.

No event has occurred during the week to lift the veil which, for the present, covers the affairs of Italy; but the probability of a rupture between France and Austria is becoming day by day a matter of graver speculation. In Germany the idea is a fixed one, and if the report of certain words, said to have been spoken by the Prince of Prussia, may be trusted, the threats of an Austro-Prussian alliance in opposition to the pretensions of France are something more than empty words. The Prince Regent is said to have declared that in the event of war, "if Germany cannot be one, she shall, at all events, be undivided in the struggle." Count Cavour, also, is reported to have sent round a circular to the Piedmontese representatives at foreign Courts, in which, while denying that anything has occurred to warrant the apprehension of immediate war, he says that, without speedy amelioration in the Governments of several of the Italian States, a

long continuance of tranquillity will be out of the question. In Rome we have positive signs of the rising turbulence; several arrests have been made, and the police are taxed to the utmost to watch for the least appearances of a popular outbreak.

At home we have something of the same duty to perform, but under very different circumstances. The Irish itch of treason is well-nigh dissipated, but lingers still in a few young bloods. The announcement that a number of arrests had been made of young men attached to secret societies, whose object was no less than to wrest the "Green Isle" from the hands of Queen Victoria, was received with surprise and not a little incredulity on this side of the Irish Channel. But the fact was soon established, and the probabilities are that Government will be found not to have acted without grounds in the steps which it has taken. There is something like a feeling of discomfort prevalent, arising from the fact that the arrested men have been committed to prison without a public examination; but, upon the whole, we are not at present inclined to question the proceedings of the Irish Lord Lieutenant. The prisoners, according to rumour, are to be tried forthwith by a Special Commission to be appointed for the purpose.

The Reform question is being actively debated in various parts of the land, and the labour will not be useless, if, as it is supposed, Ministers are waiting upon the public voice to guide them in the final adjustment of their measure. Mr. Bright's position becomes day by day one of greater responsibility, and without some unforeseen event arises to shake the popular confidence in him, which is manifested by repeated votes of public assemblies, he will hang like a threatening sword above the heads of Ministers on the introduction of their bill. At Edinburgh, on Wednesday night, he made it quite clear as to the position he intended to take on the Reform question, and as to the elements of the bill he is going to produce. His bill will repeal the Septennial Act, will secure the ballot, a more equal distribution of seats, a rating-suffrage in the towns, and a 10% vote in the counties.

We are not likely soon to hear the last of the cry, raised in the north, that the shipping interests of England are going to the dogs; it has been once more taken up in London, and is to be made to echo even to the ears of her Majesty. The ship-owners want the qualified protection afforded in "reciprocity;" they cannot, they say, hold up against the unrestrained competition of foreign countries without the reimposition of differential duties and all the rest of the Protectionist machinery; and so they have, in very humble accents, petitioned the Queen to issue an Order in Council depriving the ships of other nations, not trading with this country on a reciprocal basis, of the free-trading rights which they now enjoy. The shipping interest is the laggard in the field; while

every other commercial interest in the country has got on well under the rule of free trade, the shipping interest has "stood lamenting." But the signers of the petition are most anxious to "protest against any attempt to connect their application with any considerations of disputed systems of general commercial policy." How the connexion is to be avoided, neither Mr. G. F. Young nor his sympathisers gave the faintest hint; only they want to be protected—when every other commercial interest is unprotected.

During the week the new Divorce Court has been actively employed in the settlement of various matrimonial troubles, and the enormous need there was for such a tribunal is amply illustrated by the varied character of the cases brought before it. Its uses have not yet been tested to a tithe of the extent to which we may live to see them applicable; and the work it has done so far has not been all well done; but the establishment of the court was a great triumph of civilisation, and its development should be watched with jealous solicitude.

Home Intelligence.

POLITICAL FORESHADOWINGS.

MR. BRIGHT AT EDINBURGH.—On Wednesday evening a very crowded meeting was held in the Municipal Hall to hear Mr. Bright on the subject of Parliamentary Reform. After some general remarks on this question, of a similar character to those which he delivered at Manchester, Mr. Bright said he trusted that the measure of the present Ministry would not be like the feast of the Spanish host, very little meat and a great deal of tablecloth. The feeling for Reform was founded upon the steady growth of public opinion. The bill of 1832 was full of great results, and the greatest was, that it settled for ever the question whether the constitution required that the representatives of the people should be a fraudulent and sham one, or whether they should have the right to require from Parliament that fair and full representation which he hoped the meeting was there to demand. He did not think it was possible to maintain a law which shut out from the enjoyment of political rights five-sixths of the grown men of the United Kingdom. He proposed to take a wider and more rational basis than the present 10% franchise, which he thought would be safe, and for all purposes good and honest, representation; instead of the 5% rating proposed by Lord John Russell in 1852, he would prefer that every man who was an occupier and who was rated for the relief of the poor should be entitled to have a vote. Referring in ironical terms to certain articles in the *Times* newspaper on the subject of Reform, he remarked that the *Times*, which always went with the strongest, was now asking why he did not give the details of the measure of Reform which he was preparing on behalf of the people of England. He asked, in return, why the *Times*, which was always writing about Reform, did not insist that Lord Palmerston, when that nobleman was known to be preparing a measure, should state the details of his proposed bill. Of the House of Lords he said that if any one asserted that the four hundred temporal peers represented the individual interests only of those four hundred peers and their families, he placed the existence of the House of Lords on a most precarious foundation. There were four hundred men chosen, not by the people, setting up a right to dissent from, and reject year after year, as they had done, the beneficent and excellent measures passed by the representatives of the people. He appealed to the meeting if they wished an extension of the franchise—such an extension as would admit a large infusion of the working classes. (Cries of "Yes, yes.") Did they intend to keep the franchise as it was? (No, no.) Well, then, he thought he had a right to complain of those public writers who had on this question said they were for Reform, but that they were not for his (Mr. Bright's) Reform. He thought that every man who spoke or who wrote on this subject ought to discuss it without reference to his likings or dislikings to any particular individual. The question was a great and a solemn one, and if it were discussed as such, he believed ere long that the country would come to a very wise and satisfactory conclusion—a conclusion which would before long be ratified by Parliament. (Great cheering.) He asked them to compare the state of matters now to what it was in 1798. There were no riots and insurrections now as at that time; and was not this owing to the growing intelligence, education, and civilisation of the country, and the belief entertained by the people that they were not wholly disregarded by the Legislature from 1842 to 1846? And particularly to that of 1846, which repealed the Corn-laws, he attributed much of the plenty, happiness, and ease enjoyed by the people. In the changes that were wished in the representation he desired to keep to the ancient landmarks; and, warned by the experience of the past, their measure should be moderate in its strength, but it should be irresistibly strong in its moderation.

MESSRS. BRIGHT AND MILNER GIBSON AT MANCHESTER.—The much-talked of *soirée*, prepared with so much care by the local leaders, took place on Saturday, in the Free Trade Hall. Mr. George Wilson presided, and letters of apology were received from Lord J. Russell, Mr. Cobden, Mr. Villiers, Mr. Locke King, Mr. Layard, and Mr. Roebuck. Mr. Gibson combated Mr. Lowe's Kidderminster speech, and ridiculed the idea that the people do not want Reform. Mr. Bright began by contrasting the former conduct of the Tory party with its conduct in voting for corn-law repeal, and its present exertions to extend the political rights of the people. He denied that he desired to question the prerogatives of the Crown or of the House of Peers. His next proposition was that the House of Commons does not represent the country. There are 1,000,000 voters, yet 200,000 are allowed to elect one-half of the House of Commons. He denied a charge brought against him that he wants to "Americanise" us; and of "scores of writers" who have attacked his Birmingham speeches, he said, "if they were dressed in the garb that becomes them, they would be dressed in plush."

THE "TIMES" AND MR. BRIGHT.—In answer to the hon. gentleman's attack on the writers who differ from his opinions, the *Times* remarks:—"In the new dictionary, which we perceive will be speedily required, we must look for something like the following:—Worthy, *noun substantive*.—Agreement with Mr. Bright. Worthy, *adjective*.—Agreeing with Mr. Bright. Unworthy, *adjective*.—That which disagrees with Mr. Bright. Bright, *proper name*.—The same as Right, *quod vide*. Wrong. —That which is different from Bright. What Mr. Bright ought to be dressed in does not appear; but he has no doubt that all who differ from him should wear plush, and that a man who does so differ must be actuated by the vilest motives, the meanest selfishness, the basest servility, the most disgusting hypocrisy. Who can wonder that a cause advocated with such candour, meekness, and power of conciliation should find favour in the eyes of all men, and soothe, by the consciousness of universal approbation, the temper and feelings of its pacific and much-enduring advocates?"

MR. ROBARTS, M.P., AND MR. KENDALL, M.P.—At the Callington Agricultural Association, the members for the eastern division of the county were present. Mr. Robartes said he believed that no Reform Bill would suit the public that did not do away with the remainder of the nomination boroughs—whether Whig or Tory—and also very considerably extend the suffrage. He thought that unless something like a compromise were entered into with regard to the other details of Reform, it would be quite impossible to carry a bill. He wished it to be understood that he was for the ballot. Mr. N. Kendall said he did not think the country very ripe for Reform, but as promises had been decidedly given, no doubt a Reform Bill must be brought before Parliament. No one could deny the ability of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, whom he believed to be, take him for all in all, the first man of the day, though he was imprudent at times. In preparing the Reform Bill, Mr. Disraeli might go much further than he (Mr. Kendall) should like, and he might be compelled to choose between two evils—Scylla on the one hand and Charybdis on the other. He was afraid that he should either be compelled to vote for a Government measure which he did not like, or support something very radical indeed. The result of which would be that he would be placed in a most extraordinary fix. Whatever Reform Bill was passed it must not be a sham measure—it must be progressive. Without that they would only have a new Reform Bill proposed. Nothing upon earth, he added, should ever induce him to vote for the ballot.

MR. DALGLISH, M.P.—At a public meeting in Glasgow, the hon. gentleman said:—"Having considered household suffrage in all its bearings, I do not see that it will be a fair representation of the feelings of the country. Under household suffrage, how many thousands of our most intelligent operatives and young men would be entirely thrown out of the franchise because they did not occupy a house? It would be gross injustice to deprive of electoral privileges young men who are coming forward to be the leading men in the city in their various professions, until they were able to keep a house of their own. We must have not only manhood suffrage, but as near an approach as possible to equal electoral districts. With regard to vote by ballot, I do not care much about it under the present state of the suffrage; but when it comes to be universal suffrage, then let us have vote by ballot by all means. I have always voted for vote by ballot, and will continue to do so. I have heard it said that the people care nothing about Reform. Gentlemen, thirty years ago, when reform agitation was carried on to such an extent, perhaps not 100 men in Glasgow had votes, and now there are between 15,000 and 16,000. These men are, no doubt, indifferent, but there are from 60,000 to 70,000 that have no votes. These men are anxious to have a vote, and you will find that they will agitate till they get one."

MR. CHARLES FORSTER, M.P.—At Walsall, the member for the borough said, in reference to the Reform Bill which they might expect the Government to bring forward, he thought the best test of the sincerity of the Government would be found in the manner in which the bill provided for the redistribution of seats. If

in conjunction with an extension of the privileges of the constitution to those at present without its pale, there should be such a distribution of seats as to give to the middle and working classes that fair amount of political influence to which they were entitled, such a measure would deserve the support of every genuine reformer. If, however, it should prove to be a measure intended to increase the influence of the counties at the expense of towns, such a measure would have his unflinching opposition.

METROPOLITAN MOVEMENTS.—A preliminary meeting of gentlemen anxious to promote the redistribution of metropolitan seats on an equitable basis, was held on Tuesday at the London Coffee-house. Earnest and able speeches were delivered by gentlemen representing various metropolitan districts, and a resolution was adopted in support of the objects of the meeting. Another meeting on the Reform question, crowded and enthusiastic in its character, has been held in the South-west Literary Institution. The resolutions included manhood suffrage and the vote by ballot.

PROVINCIAL MOVEMENTS.—At Congleton a Reform Association has been formed to render support to Mr. Bright. Manhood suffrage has been adopted as the basis of the Association, in the belief that by demanding this ultimate settlement a large instalment may be obtained at once. The people of Burnley have resolved to memorialise Lord Derby for the enfranchisement of their town, and they want household suffrage and vote by ballot as a means of making their votes general and effective. At Taunton a crowded assembly adopted resolutions in favour of the ballot. At a meeting in Leicester, the working and middle classes mixed themselves up together. The borough members were present, but did not speak. The Leicester people voted all the Reform points. On the franchise question, their resolution demands "manhood suffrage, or at least such an extension as shall include every household." An effective Reform meeting has been held at Basingstoke. Mr. Wilks was the principal speaker. At Rochdale the Electors' Reform Committee met a public meeting of Liberal electors on Wednesday, and reported that they had fixed upon Mr. Cobden as their representative in the event of an election, and the meeting unanimously ratified that choice. Mr. Cobden has declared that, in the event of a dissolution of Parliament, he will consider himself pledged, if elected, to sit for Rochdale.

SIR CHARLES WOOD, M.P.—The right hon. baronet presided, this week, at a meeting of the Halifax Mechanics' Institute, and took occasion to make a long speech on social progress. In the course of his observations he spoke of speeches recently delivered which were intended to promote a separation of classes, to alienate the people from the aristocracy, the poor from the rich, the workman from the master, and so on. Where such speeches were delivered, or by whom, Sir Charles did not say.

MR. MIALI.—This gentleman addressed the electors of Banbury on Tuesday night. He met with a very cordial reception, and the points of his speech were loudly applauded. Mr. Miall advocated less diplomatic intercourse with foreign nations, and a more hearty manifestation of popular sympathy with the people of other countries. He would maintain the national defences in an efficient state, but this he thought could be done at half the present expense. He advocated the separation of religion from the civil power; and, with regard to the Sunday question, he would support the law as it stood. His utterance on the Reform question was very decided. He would give the suffrage to the man, and, as far as the right to vote was concerned, he could draw no distinction between the electoral and non-electoral classes.

SIR A. H. ELTON, M.P.—The hon. baronet has addressed the farmers at Clevedon on Parliamentary Reform. He said that he would not support the manufacturing as against the agricultural interest, but would act with fairness towards all parties. He was for a large extension of the suffrage and the vote by ballot.

MR. HENRY DRUMMOND, M.P.—At a meeting of agriculturists at Guildford, Mr. Drummond said he would only mention one point on the subject of politics, because by politics he understood a fight between two factions, and he never cared for a fight of that sort. What we had to consider was, that other gentlemen should not come here and eat our beef and mutton; and this consideration was the more urged upon us by the concentration of troops on the coast of France opposite our country—a concentration far greater than had ever taken place before.

THE MANCHESTER MANIFESTO.

It having been announced that Mr. Bright, Reformer Extraordinary to Her Majesty's Government, would appear at Manchester on Friday evening last, and state his intentions for the benefit of the country, Mr. Punch has made immediate electric arrangements for receiving intelligence as to the destinies of the nation. He caused a wire to be carried from the Telegraph-office near Temple-bar to the left-hand side of his desk in Fleet-street, just between his letter-weigher and cigar-case, and having ordered a number of pages to be in attendance, in case of emergency, Mr. Punch calmly awaited the Manchester utterances. And this was the order in which they arrived:—

"Free Trade-hall, Manchester.
 "7 15 P.M.—Mr. Bright is up, and smiling affably."
 Mr. Punch dipped a pen into ink, and prepared for action.
 "7 30.—Mr. Bright announces that he will not dethrone the Queen, whom he compliments."
 Mr. Punch despatched a message to Osborne to relieve the minds of the Royal party.
 "7 45.—Mr. Bright will not touch the House of Lords, and, indeed, considers it beneath the notice of practical men. It is moribund."
 Mr. Punch wrote brief notes to the aristocracy, congratulating them.
 "8 P.M.—Mr. Bright reminds the audience that it is not he and his friends who have raised the question of Reform.
 Mr. Punch made a comical face.
 "8 5.—Mr. Bright states that he never saw the British Constitution."
 Mr. Punch made a contemptuous face.
 "8 15.—But considers that it was not meant solely for the monarch on his throne, or the peer in his gilded chambers."
 Mr. Punch nearly yawned, and thought of replying "Get on."
 "8 20.—Mr. Bright abuses the county proprietors."
 Mr. Punch observed, "Connu."
 "8 30.—Mr. Bright abuses the boroughs."
 Mr. Punch quite yawned, and sent out for some snuff.
 "8 35.—Mr. Bright abuses the House of Commons."
 Mr. Punch took a good deal of snuff.
 "8 40.—Mr. Bright abuses the Game Laws."
 Mr. Punch agreed, but didn't see how hares could vote, even with the protection of the Ballot.
 "8 45.—Mr. Bright announces that Reform is not only necessary, but inevitable."
 Mr. Punch again took up pen.
 "8 46.—Mr. Bright states that it is the Independent Liberals who habitually save the country by making Government impossible."
 Mr. Punch smiled intolerantly.
 "8 50.—Mr. Bright has decided that he will grant the Ballot."
 Mr. Punch took a note, but wished to hear more.
 "8 52.—Mr. Bright has decided that He will grant Household Suffrage."
 Mr. Punch, who only lives in splendid lodgings, felt furious.
 "8 55.—Mr. Bright taunts the aristocracy with being afraid of American institutions, when they gladly paid 10% to the American, Mr. Rarey, for teaching them the secret of horse-taming."
 Mr. Punch remarked "Bosh!"
 "9 P.M.—Mr. Bright compared himself to M. de Montalembert, whose praise of England was treated as Mr. Bright's praise of America is."
 Mr. Punch repeated "Bosh!"
 "9 10.—Mr. Bright admits that he has only given the faintest sketch of his intentions."
 Mr. Punch growled.
 "9 20.—Mr. Bright strongly urges upon the people of England to consider whether they really want Reform, and, if they do, what Reform; and then to hold meetings, and petition, and let him know what they would like, as he sees great difficulties in his way."
 Mr. Punch cast off the wire, and mixed himself an exceedingly strong glass of brandy-and-water, during the imbibition whereof he uttered several significant sentences, touching fish out of water, promises and performances, case of real distress, &c., and finally got rather maudlin in his compassion for J. B.—Punch.

GATHERINGS FROM LAW AND POLICE COURTS.

The Court of Queen's Bench was engaged on Saturday with two cross actions, "Weatherley v. the Duke of Beaufort," and "The Duke of Beaufort v. Weatherley," the first for assault, and the second for false imprisonment. Mr. Weatherley was present at the last Brighton races. He was on horseback, and in endeavouring to make his way through a crowd, his horse pushed his Grace of Beaufort, who was engaged in playing at the game of "Aunt Sally." The Duke immediately struck at the horse and his rider, and eventually unhorsed him. Mr. Weatherley thereupon sought for a policeman, who brought the Duke before the chief constable of the town, and the matter resulted in these trials. The jury found a verdict for the plaintiffs in both cases; for Mr. Weatherley in the action for assault, damages 100% ; and for the Duke of Beaufort in the action for false imprisonment, damages one farthing.
 In the Court of Probate and Divorce an important case, Keats v. Keats and Montezuma, has been tried. Mr. Keats, who was recently Sheriff of London, sought a dissolution of his marriage with Mrs. Keats, on the ground that she had committed adultery with a Spanish music teacher named Don Pedro de Montezuma. The defence set up was that the conduct of the lady arose mainly from ill-treatment on the part of her husband, and that he had forgiven and condoned the offence. The Judge's summing up was strongly in favour of the petitioner, and the jury, after a considerable delay, arising from a difference of opinion on the

part of one jurymen, returned a verdict to the effect that Mrs. Keats had committed adultery with Don Pedro de Montezuma, that Mr. Keats had not condoned the offence, and that Montezuma should pay to that gentleman damages to the amount of 1000% .—The Rev. Henry Cherry, rector of Burghfield, near Reading, has instituted proceedings against Mrs. Cherry for the restitution of conjugal rights. Some time ago Mrs. Cherry exhibited articles of the peace against her husband, accusing him of violent and brutal conduct towards her, and declaring that to protect her life she was compelled to conceal herself for two years. The husband was ordered to enter into sureties to keep the peace, and he now seems to have brought the case before the Divorce Court in order to defend his own character as well as to get his wife back again. Mr. Cherry's petition was decided in favour of the reverend gentleman.—A most revolting case came before this Court on Tuesday. A man petitioned for a dissolution of his marriage on the ground of adultery on the part of his wife, but the jury actually found that the petitioner had condoned the offence, and had received knowingly the wages of her infamy.

A very important case as affecting the conduct of the police has been brought before the police magistrates. Two young men charged two constables with having improperly interfered with them in the streets, and with having locked them up on a trumped-up charge. The case was investigated with great care by Mr. Corrie, who sharply reproved the policemen for their conduct, and fined the one who was chiefly responsible for the outrage.

Robert Johnston, the individual charged with inhumanity towards his children, and especially his daughter Frances, by which she was driven to attempt suicide, having completed his term of imprisonment, made a public appearance in the City on Saturday afternoon, and stated the case from his point of view, in a way which impressed the audience in his favour. It appeared pretty evident that Sir Robert Carden, who condemned him, had done so hurriedly, and, by refusing the application for an adjournment of the investigation, had prevented the defendant from calling evidence in his favour. The defence which Johnston made imputes bad conduct to his children. Before the meeting closed he replied to a number of questions put to him by the audience; and the proceedings terminated with a resolution expressing the conviction of the meeting that he had not recommended his sons and daughters to lead a life of infamy.

The police report affords another instance of the danger of jumping from trains while in motion, which occurred on the Greenwich line. The promptness of the station-master, in all probability, saved the offender, a female, from being crushed to death. The magistrate fined her 10s.

A mother and daughter have been charged before Mr. Selfe with poisoning a child with gin. They had given the poor infant five or six glasses, when it fell down motionless. The child is represented to be dying, and the prisoners were remanded for a week.

At the Marlborough-street police-court, Mr. Rarey, the horse tamer, attended to complain of the conduct of a firm at the West-end, who had used his name in connexion with some new food for cattle. He stated that his name had been improperly used.

At the Mansion-house, W. H. Cory was committed for trial on serious charges of forgery and fraud.

At the Guildhall two men, Perry and Browning, were charged with renting a house, and then removing and selling the fixtures and everything in the house that it was possible to make away with. Even the lead on the roof was not spared. The prisoners were remanded.

Kochanowsky, the Russian Baron, and his alleged confederate, have been committed for trial on the charge of being in possession of three engrossed plates intended for the manufacture of forged Russian notes.

Higgins and Davis have been charged with attempting to defraud and swindle Mr. Grunberg. Committed for trial.

An attempt was made to murder a wife on Tuesday, at Wellington-street, Stepney. The victim, Sarah Goodey, has been separated for some two or three months from her husband, and was in bed when he gained admittance to her room, locked the door, and attacked her with a razor. She made her escape after being severely wounded, and was conveyed to the hospital. The man was apprehended and taken before the magistrate at the Thames police-court, when he was remanded for a week.

The Rev. Alfred Poole lately took proceedings against the Hon. and Rev. Mr. Baring, with a view to obtain a public investigation into the charges brought against him. His solicitors made an application that the writ served upon Mr. Baring should remain in abeyance until it was known whether the rule nisi obtained against the Archbishop would induce his Grace to investigate the case. Were that done, there would be no necessity of another investigation in a court of law. This proposal was declined by Mr. Baring, but upon a hearing at Chambers time was granted upon the plea.

The sessions of the Central Criminal Court have been opened. In commenting upon the calendar, the Recorder made some important observations. With regard to one case of alleged immorality he said that, upon the assumption

of guilt, the case might be attributed to the overcrowded dwellings of the poorer classes of the metropolis, and to this point he wished specially to direct the attention of the benevolent and the humane. He also spoke of the evil of prize-fighting, and remarked that the parties who employed men to fight were the most deserving of punishment.—The boy, Edward Herbert, who was committed for breaking open his master's desk and stealing 51% , and then by a pretended revelation implicated three old and faithful servants, was sentenced to four years' penal servitude.—James Baylis was tried on a charge of uttering a forged bill of exchange. He had applied to some agents to discount two bills, one for 20% and the other for 40% , offering as a collateral security a policy of assurance which was admitted to be worth 72% . The charge of forgery could not be supported, and the judge directed an acquittal. Baylis was permitted to have the bills impounded, with a view to proceedings against a person named George Marshall, of whom he was stated to have been made the dupe.—Mr. William Hudson Guernsey was arraigned on the simple charge of stealing a few sheets of printed paper belonging to our Lady the Queen, or to the Secretary for the Colonies; and after it had been proved that he did so, just in the same way as it was proved before the police magistrate, his counsel, Mr. Serjeant Parry, contended that there was no case to go before the jury, as there was no evidence of felonious intention in the act of taking the papers. This was an admission that the prisoner certainly did take a copy of the despatches from the desk of Mr. Miller in the Colonial-office. In reply, the Attorney-General contended that the act was a larceny; but the jury did not think so, and the gentleman was acquitted.—Samuel Asquith, who killed George McDonald in a prize-fight, has been sentenced to three months' imprisonment.—The trial of Roper, on the charge of defrauding the insurance company, arising out of the burning of his house at Greenwich, has been postponed till next session.—Henry Rudledge was charged with a felonious assault upon his own daughter, and his second wife, the girl's stepmother, was charged with aiding and abetting him. The girl's evidence was of the most revolting character, but the jury discredited it, and returned a verdict of not guilty.—George Simpson was charged with stabbing Henry Goodwin, one of the warders of Coldbath-fields Prison. The jury found the prisoner guilty of intending to do grievous bodily harm, and the judge sentenced him to twenty years' penal servitude.

At the Court of Bankruptcy, the choice of assignees has been determined in the case of W. Lemon Oliver, stockbroker, of Austin-friars, whose case has been recently before the public in connexion with the fraud upon Miss Dance. It is stated that his debts exceed 10,000% , while the assets are but of trifling amount.—An application for certificate by Mr. Payne, formerly lessee of the Strand Theatre, made bankrupt as a bookseller, was totally refused.—On Wednesday, a renewed hearing was given to the application for certificate by Davidson and Gordon. Further evidence was given, eliciting, however, nothing of a novel or material character, and the sitting was again adjourned to the 23rd inst.

At the Liverpool Assizes, Stadtmuller and Wilhelm were arraigned on the charge of murdering a young woman at Manchester by attempting to procure abortion. Stadtmuller was admitted as approver against Wilhelm, and the facts of this tragical and revolting crime were then proved. The prisoner was found guilty, and sentenced to death; but as it appears the jury would have returned a verdict of manslaughter had such a verdict been possible, it is not likely that the capital sentence will be carried into effect.—Pollard, the proprietor of the *Wigan Examiner*, pleaded guilty to the charges of forgery preferred against him. Sentence, eight years' penal servitude.

CRIMINAL RECORD.

SUSPECTED FOUL PLAY.—An inquest has been held at Waltham-cross on the bodies of a young woman and an infant which were found in a pond. There can be no doubt, from the medical evidence, that both had met with foul treatment.

THE ANDOVER MURDER.—This crime is still wrapped in mystery. Emma Banks, the wife of the man already in custody, has been arrested, and both prisoners have been committed for trial, protesting their innocence. The theory of the prosecution seems to be this:—Mrs. Banks had attempted to steal a dress out of Mr. Parsons's shop. She was anxious that he should deny the fact, the rumour of which had gone abroad. They had interviews on the subject, the result being that on the night of the murder Parsons had gone to meet her in a retired spot for an immoral purpose, and that there the husband, who was cognizant, with the wife's privity, came stealthily upon him, and killed him.

THE MURDEROUS ATTEMPT AT BIRMINGHAM.—At the Warwick Assizes a young man named Timms was tried on the charge of having attempted to murder Mrs. Owen, a young woman to whom he was engaged. He was convicted, and sentenced to penal servitude for life.

MURDER AT NOTTINGHAM.—A Mr. Woodhead, landlord of a public-house near Nottingham, was killed dead in his own house, on Tuesday night, by some unknown assassin, who had concealed himself in one of the top rooms.

THE CRYSTAL PALACE.

THE directors of this company, in reference to a resolution of the Council of the Society of Arts in favour of decennial Exhibitions in London, and of an Exhibition to take place in 1861, have expressed their desire to co-operate with the Society of Arts in carrying out these objects, and are of opinion that the building and grounds of the Crystal Palace Company might be made available for the purpose, as they present advantages not to be obtained in any other quarter. It appears that the Board of the Crystal Palace Company have intimated that they are prepared to negotiate on the most liberal terms for the use of the means already at their command, and for the erection of such further accommodation as the Society of Arts might require for the proposed Exhibition in 1861.

The directors expect that a considerable addition will be made to the railway accommodation in connexion with the Crystal Palace by the year 1861; they allude particularly to the probable completion of the Victoria station at Pimlico, now in course of construction, and the proposed junction between the railways on the north and on the south side of the Thames.

The company held their half-yearly meeting on Wednesday, at the Bridge-house Hotel, when the report of the directors was approved of by acclamation, and a dividend at the rate of 2s. 6d. per share declared. This business passed off harmoniously, but the discussion on the policy of opening the Palace on Sunday provoked a most discordant discussion. The Sabbatarians had the worst of it, if not in argument, at all events in votes. It was a good-natured, and yet a terrible fight. The authority of bishops and archbishops was despised. Gauntlets were thrown down, which do not appear to have been taken up. The word "Sabbath" was not allowed to be uttered, but the word "Sunday" was reckoned permissible. Those who talked of Sunday observance, and yet kept carriages, cabs, omnibuses, and servants employed on the Sunday, were called "arrant humbugs." In this way the storm raged till nearly two hundred gentlemen were exhausted, and when the vote was taken, the motion to rescind the resolution for opening the Palace to shareholders was rejected by a majority of twenty-four. A ballot was, however, again demanded, and it was fixed to take place on the 12th of January and other days.

AN AUSTRIAN ALLIANCE.

REFERRING to the threatening aspect of Italian affairs the *Daily News* says:—"Austria would fain have us join in a confederacy against France. All Germany will be invited to join a new Treaty of Pilnitz in defence of legitimacy and the *status quo* of absolutist domination; and England is besought to become an accomplice. There is one paramount consideration which ought to weigh in point of policy with English statesmen against taking part on either side in the fray, if it is to come. Were we to do so, it would render inevitable the active interposition of Russia. This, on every account, is what we should most deprecate. While England and Russia remain neutral, there may be sharp contention on the plains of Lombardy, or elsewhere; but the industry, the arts, the commerce, and the moral weal of Christendom will be preserved from the calamities of a general war. The pecuniary resources of one-half of the nations of Europe will still be saved from ruinous waste; and the evils of war expenditure will be thereby lightened even for the countries where war may actually prevail. Navigation and trade may still be pursued with security, to a great extent, and the net sum of human misery will be greatly lessened. For ourselves, as a nation, it is impossible to forget that the first shot fired in anger between confederacies in either of which the Czar should be engaged, while the Queen of these realms took part with the other, would be tantamount to the undoing of all we have so lately suffered and done, to secure the integrity of the Ottoman Empire. Russia might, and probably would, be withheld from unsheathing the sword again, so soon after her late reverses, by the dignified example of reserve on the part of this country. But it is too much to suppose that she could remain passive or apathetic were all the other great powers of Europe once committed in deadly conflict. Her hour would then indeed have come, and it is ridiculous to imagine that she would be unconscious or apathetic. If it gave France, England, and Sardinia enough to do to restrain her single-handed aggression five years ago, what would the chances be of saving Turkey from partition if all these Powers were engaged elsewhere in deadly strife? Our manifest policy and duty is to abstain impartially, and to counsel and warn others to abstain in like manner."

IRELAND.

THERE appears to be no doubt that the Government is in possession of information showing extensive disaffection, if not treason, in Ireland. On Sunday, at Belfast, the police effected the capture of a Ribbon Lodge, comprising fifteen persons, who are of all ages, and of the class of working men. The society was assembled in a house in Croppac-street, and was sur-

rounded by an armed body of constables. We are not informed of the specific charge upon which the prisoners will be examined. The authorities have since apprehended sixteen other persons at Kenmare and Killarney on the charge of being members of the Phoenix Association. They are mostly young men of a respectable class, such as clerks, shopmen, and assistants. The capture was made with secrecy, but two persons against whom warrants are said to have been issued managed to make their escape. The prisoners were duly despatched to Tralee, under a strong escort of police, for committal.

The Rev. Dr. Cahill, in the *Weekly Telegraph*, addresses words of warning to his "fellow countrymen;" he tells them that "the Government are generally well informed on the organisation, the plans, and the very names of the leaders of secret societies in Ireland. It cannot be doubted that the proclamation issued in the end of last week by the Lord-Lieutenant has been called forth by the stringent necessity of the case. I have never known a similar proclamation founded on false information. The Viceregal authorities may occasionally make a mistake in the extent of the confederacy, or in individuals; but beyond dispute their knowledge of its originators, numbers, abettors, and silent friends, is most accurate."

A preliminary meeting of landed proprietors was held in Dublin on Saturday, to make arrangements for a general meeting of the landed gentry of Ireland of all parties, for the purpose of taking into consideration the defects of the law for the protection of life and property, and the amendments which should be sought for in the next session of Parliament.

A Belfast paper says "that the Phoenix Club was preparing to receive with open arms the regiment of American Militia which we lately heard so much about as coming to Ireland to see once more their native land. 'Colonel Ryan' was to command them, and their stay in Ireland was to be about six weeks. During that time they were to 'encamp' in the south and in the north. Great things were expected from these Yankee invaders, who would have endeavoured to spread as much disaffection and disloyalty as possible in the breasts of the ignorant people who would have flocked round them." According to the *Cork Constitution*, "the treason was carried much further than any one not engaged in it suspected. There have been nightly and daily drillings, pikes have been manufactured, arms have been imported, and the use of them has been taught. Government was not a minute too early in interfering; but it did wisely in waiting until satisfactory evidence was obtained."

Sir Mathew Barrington is at Cork, and his arrival is believed to be significant, as confirmation of the rumoured intention of the Government to issue a special commission for the immediate trial of the suspected parties. A large detachment of the Staffordshire Militia has left Cork to occupy the temporary barrack recently hired at Bantry. The artillery at Ballincollig are held in preparation for movement at an hour's warning.

The *Cork Reporter* states that Dr. Delany, the Roman Catholic Bishop of that diocese, has forbidden his clergy from hearing the confession of any member of a secret society, the right rev. prelate reserving all such cases for his own ear. It is said that in some parts of the country the well-known and harmless society of Odd Fellows has been banned by the Roman Catholic clergy, and that such members as belong to that communion are not to receive the rites of the Church any more than the associates of the Ribbon or treason clubs.

At a Court of Proprietors of the Bank of Ireland a dividend of 4½ per cent. for the half-year has been struck, making, with the Midsummer dividend, 9½ per cent. for the year. After making the dividend, a sum of 800£ remained to be added to the rest, which now amounts to 1,067,000£. The dividend at this time last year was 6 per cent.

ACCIDENTS AND SUDDEN DEATHS.

A DREADFUL explosion of fire-damp took place on Saturday afternoon at the Tyldesley Colliery, at Tyldesley-le-Banks, a few miles north-west of Manchester, by which it has been ascertained that twenty-five men and boys lost their lives, many of the men leaving widows and children to lament their loss. The explosion took place at a depth of one thousand yards below the brow of the pit, so that no noise was heard by those on the surface, nor was any gearing injured; but a miner who was below says that a noise like thunder was heard, and in a moment nearly all the colliers and drawers working in the mine were killed. It was some hours before any of the colliers could enter the pit, on account of the sulphurous vapour which filled it; but when it was entered at last, a shocking spectacle presented itself on every side, and portions of human remains torn from each other were found scattered about. The miners worked nobly to recover the bodies of their unfortunate companions. There were twenty-seven or twenty-eight persons in the pit at the time of the accident. The precise cause of the calamity is not yet ascertained. The inquest was opened on Wednesday. The Government Inspector has not yet completed his investigation, so that the jury did nothing beyond viewing the bodies and receiving proof of their identity. The inquiry was adjourned.

The steam-tug *Glowworm*, belonging to the underwriters, came into collision with the tug *Champion* on Tuesday night, off the Cumbries, when the latter went down, drowning the master, engineer, pilot, and fireman. The unfortunate men are all married, and belong to Greenock. The *Champion* was owned by the Greenock Towing Company.

THE SHIPPING INTEREST.

A MEETING of gentlemen interested in British shipping was held on Wednesday, at the London Tavern, "to take into consideration the ruinous condition of British navigation." Mr. Duncan Dunbar was in the chair, and the following members of the House of Commons were present:—Mr. J. C. Cobbold, Mr. Robert Ingham, Mr. John Mellor and Mr. A. W. Young, Mr. H. Paull, Mr. James Clay and Lord Ashley. The large room was crowded with representatives of London firms and delegates from the various ports of the kingdom.

The chairman said that the object of the meeting was to take into consideration the depressed state of the shipping interest. Some time ago the Legislature thought fit to repeal the Navigation Laws, but, whatever might be the various opinions as to the expediency of that course, he did not believe there was any one present who believed in the possibility of re-enacting those laws. He was anxious to disclaim, for the meeting, any idea of asking for a reversal of recent legislation on this matter.

Mr. G. F. Young moved the first resolution—"That British shipping is at present, in all its most important branches, in a state of most deplorable and ruinous depression, has been partly caused and is greatly aggravated by the unequal competition to which, by the repeal of the navigation laws, British navigation is now exposed with the shipping of foreign countries." After advertizing to his long absence from public life, the hon. gentleman proceeded to disavow, on behalf of the meeting, any intention of reviving the controversy of Free-trade v. Protection. It was of importance, even to obtain a hearing from the general public, that it should be distinctly understood that they had no intention of flying in the face of the decision which had been arrived at on that question, however erroneous some of them might think it. He was there, not to ask for Protection, but for simple justice. He did not wish for any new legislation, but merely that the law as it now stood should be carried into execution. Mr. Young then went deeply into statistics with a view to show that British shipping interests were severely suffering from foreign competition, and that America especially was making great progress at our expense. The evils of non-reciprocity were also strongly urged by him, and he concluded a long and eloquent speech by saying that for many years he had been an advocate of what were called the principles of protection; but he was neither bigoted to protection as a principle, nor to free trade as a principle. The navigation laws could never be reimposed in their integrity, and they ought not to be, but there was much of good in the navigation laws, and that good ought to be restored, or the maritime commerce of Great Britain must sink from the position which it had so long occupied.

Several other resolutions expressing the feelings of the body were unanimously adopted, and also a memorial to the Queen praying that she would issue an order in council depriving the ships of non-reciprocating countries from the unrestricted intercourse which now exists. It will be seen that the promoters of the meeting were anxious to divest it as much as possible of the character of a Protectionist gathering, and in the memorial to the Queen they "emphatically protest against any attempt to connect their application with any considerations of disputed systems of general commercial policy."

Another large meeting of shipowners and others interested in the shipping interest was held at the Sailors' Institute, Shadwell, when a resolution was unanimously passed in support of the Mercantile Marine Association.

NAVAL AND MILITARY.

GREENWICH HOSPITAL.—The vacant Greenwich out-pension has been conferred on Commander Henry Cress, who served as senior lieutenant of the *Menelaus* in the Chesapeake, and succeeded to the command of the same men and marines, landed to attack a body of American troops, on the death of Captain Sir P. Parker, in 1814. He has received the silver naval medal, and was gazetted in 1814 for his valuable services.

A NEW GUN.—An invention of Messrs. Armstrong, of Newcastle, has been satisfactorily tested at Shoeburyness, the projecting power of which completely distances that of any piece of ordnance hitherto known. At an elevation of 83 degrees it has sent a 32lb. shot a distance of 9600 yards, or more than five miles. The same range has been attained by a nine-pounder, weighing 16 cwt., of similar construction.

MAGNETIC EXPERIMENTS.—Sir Charles Pasley has paid a visit to the Royal Engineer establishment, Brompton, for the purpose of witnessing some experiments in blowing up mines by means of a magnetic current emitted from a series of magnets, the invention of Mr. Abel, chemist to the War Department. The magnets were arranged by Professor Wheatstone, and

the experiments, made in the presence of a large number of officers, were considered to be very satisfactory. The invention is likely to supersede the voltaic battery.

SELF-MUTILATION.—Private George Drower, 81st Regiment, who deliberately shot off his right leg at St. Mary's Barracks, Chatham, has since died at the garrison hospital from the effects of the injuries.

GOOD-CONDUCT MEDAL.—At Maidstone, a medal and gratuity of 5*l.* have been presented to Michael Doogan, a private in the 12th Royal Lancers, for twenty-two years' good conduct as a soldier. There was a general parade ordered for the occasion, at which were present drafts from the 12th Lancers, Doogan's own regiment, the Enniskillen Dragoons, the 9th Lancers, and the 14th Light Dragoons, accompanied by the band. A square having been formed, the warrant of the Secretary at War was read, and Doogan was then called from the ranks; Captain Miller placed the medal on his breast, and handed him the gratuity. The whole of the troops then marched past.

TRANSPORT FOUNDERED.—Advices have been received of the loss of the ship *Lady Hodgkinson*, Captain Young, on the coast of Malabar, while on her voyage from London to Bombay, with 361 soldiers. The telegram adds that she was "likely to go to pieces," but that the troops, crew, and part of the cargo were saved.

THE DESERTER TOLE.—The trial is concluded of private Thomas Tole, 1st Battalion 7th Fusiliers, on the charge of having deserted to the Russians in the month of January, 1855, and by the information he then gave caused the slaughter by the Russians of a number of his comrades. The court found him guilty of the treasonable crime, and sentenced him to be kept in penal servitude for life.

ST. MARTIN'S-IN-THE-FIELDS' LIBRARY AND READING ROOM

FOR THE WORKING CLASSES.

This Institution, situated in Castle-street, Long-acre, was founded by the late Vicar of St. Martin's, the Rev. H. Mackenzie, in the year 1852. It is supported by voluntary subscriptions, and a small annual payment of 5*s.* a year from the members. There are several classes for Vocal Music, Latin, French, Mutual Improvement, &c. &c. It has stimulated many young men to continue their studies. The Library contains 1200 volumes, and a series of lectures are annually delivered in the spacious school-rooms at the back of St. Martin's Hall.

On Tuesday evening, Edwin Canton, Esq., Surgeon to Charing-cross Hospital, delivered a lecture on "The Human Hand" to a large and attentive audience. The lecture was instructive, impressive, and eloquent—giving a general view of the anatomy and physiology of this organ, and pointing out its importance to the welfare of each individual man and the benefit of society. Mr. Canton alluded to the many points on which we should be grateful to our Divine Maker for so great a gift as the human hand, by the aid of which we are enabled to form weapons for our defence, rendering us superior to the most powerful animals; by which we have conquered the hostile influences of climate, and planted civilisation and the arts where our remote ancestors could only obtain a scanty and precarious existence.

The human hand, as Mr. Canton observed, was the great instrument by which Raphael, Michael Angelo, and a multitude of painters and sculptors, had transferred beauty and life to canvas and to stone. Our space will not permit us to give all that our scientific lecturer told us. After delineating the useful and ornamental powers of the hand, he proceeded to show the various organs of animals which bear analogy to the prehensile powers of the hand of man—the trunk of the elephant, by which this creature can pick up a pin or root up a tree; the tongue of the chameleon, which can be darted forth with the velocity almost of electricity to capture his prey; the tails of monkeys and other animals, by which they hold themselves while bounding from tree to tree. Altogether this was one of the most suitable and best adapted lectures for the audiences collected at such institutions as the St. Martin's Library and Reading-room, and we cannot conclude our pleasing task better than by recommending the managers of the Institution to secure the able assistance of Mr. Canton on some future occasion.

ELECTRIC AND INTERNATIONAL TELEGRAPH.—In paying a well-merited tribute to the arrangements of this company on the occasion of the Manchester meeting last Friday, the *Times* says:—"The first portion of the report was received at the telegraph-office at Manchester at 10 55 on Friday night, and the last at 1 25 on Saturday morning. The whole report, occupying nearly six columns, was in type at a quarter to three o'clock on Saturday morning, every word having been transmitted through the wire a distance of nearly 200 miles. This report was transmitted entirely by young girls. An average speed of twenty-nine words per minute was obtained, principally on the printing instruments. The highest speed on the needles was thirty-nine words per minute. Four printing instruments and one needle were engaged, with one receiving clerk each, and two writers taking alternate sheets. There was hardly an error in the whole report."

Foreign Intelligence.

CONTINENTAL NOTES.

FRANCE.

THE Gallican party in the French Church, it is said, realising a desire long entertained, have made arrangements for starting a new religious journal in opposition to the *Univers*, to be called the *Union Religieuse*.

The old laws of the feudal times against regrating and forestalling are still acted upon in France. The *Indicateur* of Bordeaux states that game having lately become very scarce and dear, the authorities instituted an inquiry. They soon discovered that certain individuals bought up all they could find, and kept back a large portion to raise the price, at the risk of it being spoilt. Proceedings are to be taken against the offenders.

It is not true that the commission of which Prince Napoleon is president has already decided that the French slave trade is not the slave trade. The only semi-official statement is that the evidence hitherto taken favours that conclusion. We are even told that the French Government have invited the presence of English naval officers, who have served on the African coast, in order to obtain their information and evidence upon the subject of the free emigration of negroes. It is stated also that Sir F. Rogers, one of her Majesty's commissioners for emigration, is about to proceed to Paris, and, with Lord Cowley's assistance, will endeavour to frame some convention by which the colonies of France may obtain a supply of coolies as fully protected in every respect as our own.

Senor Mon, Spanish ambassador to the Court of the Tuilleries, has been officially received by the Emperor of the French, who, to the address of the Spanish statesman, has replied with the assurance that France esteems the preservation of amicable relations with Spain beyond everything. The wishes of the Emperor of the French were doubtless consulted by Marshal O'Donnell before his selection of Senor Mon for ambassador was made.

The Court of Cassation has rejected the appeal made by M. de Curzon, M. de Maille, and others, condemned in October last. The condemned parties, it will be recollected, were Legitimists, who had sent a letter of sympathy to Henry V. They have got as much by their appeal as M. de Montalembert is likely to get.

SPAIN.

The Spanish officer (Alvarez), and the six Spanish subjects taken along with him by the Riff pirates, have been sent back by order of the Emperor of Morocco, together with the indemnity lately agreed to be paid by the Moorish Government for the Spanish vessels seized two years since.

On the 6th inst. the Queen of Spain signed the decree fixing the land forces of the country for the ensuing year at 84,000 men.

On the 6th inst. General Sanz brought forward his motion in the Senate for a vote of censure on the Spanish Cabinet, but, after an ineffectual effort to accomplish his object, he withdrew his motion, a circumstance that produced a very depressing effect on the opposition members of all shades.

In one of the late sittings of the Chamber of Deputies, Marshal O'Donnell seized an opportunity of making some observations in defence of the Cabinet against the insinuations thrown out in little preliminary debates, and gave a graphic history of the difficulties which his predecessors had met with in attempting to carry on the Queen's Government with a Parliament composed of a number of petty factions, each following a leader who could neither command nor obey.

It is stated that the building ground in the Puerta del Sol, at Madrid, had not been sold, no bidders having appeared on account of the excessive price at which the lots were offered.

The answer to the Queen's speech has (says the *Peninsular Correspondent*) been already drawn up, and read in the Senate. Two members of the committee who have had to report upon the speech have drawn up separate reports upon the clause relating to the pending questions with Rome—questions upon which it is most possible the principal interest of the debate in the Upper House will turn.

The provincial papers still continue to record disasters occasioned by tempests and inundation.

PRUSSIA.

Queen Victoria, it is asserted in well-informed circles, will repair to Berlin in the month of February, or earlier, to act as godmother at the baptism of her prospective grandchild.

The *National Gazette* gives some information regarding the measures to be brought forward next session. "What appears the most urgent," says the *Gazette*, "is to complete the constitution in its essential bases, namely, the organisation of the communes, districts, and provinces."

The costly silver *épergne* valued at 5000*l.*, presented by the city of Cologne to Prince and Princess Frederick William of Prussia as a marriage-gift, has been stolen; a servant succeeded in abstracting it from the so-called "Ancient Throne Room" of the Royal Schloss.

Though the thief has been discovered, the *épergne* is gone.

A letter from Florence states that the King's health has not improved there, and that the air of Florence does not seem to agree with him. He never goes out, and the Queen is seldom seen in public.

The central committee of the Bank of Prussia has decided that the discount on letters of exchange shall be lowered from 5 to 4 per cent., and advances on bonds (Lombard) from 6 to 5 per cent.

A letter from Berlin states that it is believed the Prince Regent will open the two Chambers in person, on the 12th of next month.

The last of the supplementary elections at Berlin has ended, after a very close contest, with the success of the most Radical of the three Liberal candidates, who alone were in the field.

The finances of Prussia are, speaking generally, in a very healthy condition. This is owing to the rapid development of the material and industrial powers of the country, which in all these respects is in the period of its vigorous youth. Notwithstanding, the expenditure of the Government more than keeps pace with revenue, which is due to the fact that the system of taxation continues at this moment precisely what it was thirty years ago; that it has never been adapted from time to time to the altered circumstances of national economy.

AUSTRIA.

The Austrians are aware that M. de Persigny is likely to take a trip to Italy, but the news has not produced the impression which might have been expected.

The exact strength of the Austrian army in Italy is known only to a few military men of the highest rank, but there is reason to believe that not more than 90,000 men are now in Venice, Lombardy, and the Papal Legations. There are 13 regiments of the Line with three, and 4 regiments with four, battalions, 10 companies of Rifles, 24 squadrons of mixed Cavalry, and an immense force of Artillery. In case of need a reinforcement of 12 regiments of the Line and 16 squadrons can be in Lombardy within a week.

It is stated that an Imperial ordinance relative to the colonisation of Hungary is about to be published, but there is reason to doubt the correctness of the report. The Austrian Government is exceedingly desirous to introduce German colonists into Hungary, but it must be well aware that it will be useless to invite German Protestants to emigrate unless the privilege of self-government in ecclesiastical matters is accorded to them. At present the air of Austria is not good for Protestants, as it is very heavily laden with the miasma which comes from Rome.

RUSSIA.

The Empress Dowager has been taken seriously ill. Information of the fact has been telegraphed to all the members of the imperial family now absent from St. Petersburg.

The Grand-Duke Constantine of Russia is expected in Paris on Sunday next. It has been reported that his visit would not take place in consequence of the illness of the Empress Dowager, but her state is not believed to be so dangerous as to necessitate any change in his plans.

We hear that the Czar of Russia has dismissed M. Mouravieff, the Intendant of the Crown, because he secretly opposed the emancipation of the serfs.

According to a private letter from St. Petersburg, the "Noble Committee" there have just thrown cold water on the imperial project for the emancipation of the serfs. M. Nicanor has been consecrated Bishop of Czernagora (Montenegro) in the Isaac's Church at St. Petersburg. Soon after the ceremony the prelate had an audience of the Emperor, and he is now on his way back to Cetinje.

ROME.

A correspondent from Rome writes, on the 4th of December:—"If it rain five more days following, it will be as in the Deluge—it will have rained forty days and forty nights. Since the end of October we have not seen the sun. As was expected, the Tiber has overflowed its banks. The Ripetta, the Ghetto, and the Place of the Pantheon are inundated. The Pantheon presents a singular aspect. On the outside the columns rise from the bosom of the waters, and in the interior a vast liquid carpet covers the ground. A person might imagine that he saw one of those bath-rooms of the Thermes of Caracalla, the mosaics of which still exist. The water is upwards of four feet and a half deep."

Some uneasiness is felt in the Holy City on account of the surveillance kept up by the police. Two persons, formerly officers of General Garibaldi's army, have been arrested.

The Papal and French Governments have had more than one disagreement during the last few weeks. His Holiness thought of leaving the French Court without a Nuncio for a time, but the Emperor Napoleon did not approve the idea, and very unceremoniously communicated, his opinion to the head of the Church. The request of the Papal Government that General Goyon might be recalled met with a positive denial.

Cardinal Antonelli has declared war upon foreign correspondents, stops their letters in the post-office, and threatens to turn them out of the Eternal City.

At the Consistory, to be holden on the 20th, it is

probable that two new cardinals will be made. The Archbishop of Baltimore is spoken of as likely to be the first wearer of a red hat in the United States.

The Pope has offered up prayers for the success of the French arms in Cochinchina.

The agitation which has prevailed for the last two months in the north of Italy is beginning to be felt in Rome. Secret societies, it is said, are redoubling their efforts, and there are "signs, impossible to be defined," which indicate that "something is at hand." Both the Pontifical Government and the French General were excessively vigilant. The fortifications at Civita Vecchia are being actively carried on.

LOMBARDY.

A letter from Milan states that an attempt had been made to smuggle into Lombardy, across the Sardinian frontiers, a great number of incendiary pamphlets.

A letter in the *Corriere Mercantile* of Genoa states that the Italian Princes have made a military convention with Austria, by which they promise each other mutual succour in the event of certain contingencies occurring.

NAPLES.

Letters of the 28th of November say that an extraordinary spectacle may be expected this year. Vesuvius is cracking and opening at all parts from the base to the summit. Small craters vomit lava in all directions, without ceasing. It is feared that at the most unexpected moment an eruption will take place from the great crater, in which case the catastrophe would be terrible for Resina and Portici.

BELGIUM.

In the Representative Chamber a discussion arose on the predominance assigned in Belgium to the French over the Flemish language. Several members complained that the Government published its announcements in French where only Flemish was spoken, and that the French theatre was favoured by the local authorities in preference to the national one. The Government promised to take the subject into consideration.

HOLLAND.

In reply to an interpellation, the Dutch Minister of Public Worship, in the Chamber of Deputies, said the Government had done all it could on behalf of the Mortara family.

THE IONIAN ISLANDS.

A Vienna letter states that the Lord High Commissioner has sent in his resignation, but it is not yet known at Corfu whether it has been accepted by her Majesty's Government. Mr. Gladstone's explicit declaration that the protectorate of Great Britain would be maintained produced an extremely disagreeable impression on the National party.

A letter from Athens says that the Greek Government is no longer deceived with the idea of annexing the Ionian Islands to continental Greece. It appears that M. Tricoupi, the Greek ambassador at London, communicated with his Government on this subject, and clearly told the King (in a private despatch) that the British Cabinet had no intention of renouncing the protectorate of the Ionian Islands.

TURKEY.

It is stated that M. Sabatier, the French Consul-General, who has been sent on a mission to Jeddah, demands that Namik Pasha, Governor of Jeddah at the period of the massacre in that town, and who is suspected of having excited the mob on that occasion, shall be tried, and, if found guilty, punished on the spot, as an example to the population.

A correspondent of the *Times* says that active preparations are going on in Egypt for the construction of a canal from the Nile to Lake Timsah, on the line where an old canal for irrigation is supposed to have existed. These preparations have caused considerable uneasiness at the Porte, and have led to an animated correspondence with the Pasha of Egypt.

SARDINIA.

The Grand-Duke Constantine of Russia has been visiting the King of Sardinia. There was an extraordinary rumour at Turin that the Grand Duke had been *incognito* to Compiègne. A Turin correspondent of the *Daily News* says:—"There can be no doubt but that discussions have passed between the King, Count Cavour, and the Russian Prince, with regard to the contingent probabilities of European politics, and especially with respect to Austria and France. Constantine conceals from nobody his profound resentment against the House of Hapsburg. The rumours of speedy war continue here without abatement. I believe the substance of the verbal declarations addressed by the Sardinian Cabinet to the legations of several friendly Governments, particularly to the English, is that, since the condition of Italy becomes more serious and intolerable from day to day, it may give occasion to a war. These words are, in my opinion, susceptible of the following commentary—that France promises that any new occasion shall be taken hold of to proceed hostilely against Austria. And, indeed, that it is the intention of Napoleon III. to make war against Austria seems no longer doubtful; but when, and how, he means to proceed with that great undertaking, and in what manner to secure the neutrality of Prussia and England, nobody knows, or, rather, nobody can understand. The Lon-

bard newspapers acknowledge that great activity prevails in the arsenal at Venice, and that works are being hastened on at Pola, Mantua, and Verona. The castle at Milan, which is in the midst of the city, has been declared a fortress, and the owners of the adjacent houses have received notice that their tenements are liable to be demolished at the requisition of the military engineers. In consequence of many arrests having taken place at Pavia, a battery of cannon has been sent thither."

The Legislative Chambers of Piedmont are convoked by royal decree for the 10th of January next.

A disturbance occurred at Genoa on the 10th, the anniversary of the expulsion of the Austrians from that city in 1746. An inquiry has been set on foot by order of the Government, in order to ascertain on whom the responsibility rests.

SINGAPORE.

EXTENSIVE fortifications are in course of erection at Singapore, every available eminence being made the site for guns. The troops stationed there are healthy, but there is much small-pox amongst the native population.

The Bugis traders have arrived in large numbers this season, bringing the valuable products of the Archipelago.

INDIA.

IMPORTANT telegrams have been received this week, as well as the despatches by the overland mail. The Queen's Proclamation is giving general satisfaction throughout India. The Talookdars of Oude, encompassed by the troops of Lord Clyde ready to close upon them, gladly prefer accepting the Queen's grace to prolonging a contest of which they see the inevitable end, and surrendered their forts and arms. Lall Madho Sing surrendered himself and his stronghold on the 10th of November. Amety, in which this chief has hitherto defied the British power, was the strongest fort in Oude. Lall Madho Sing's example has been extensively followed. The Nawab of Banda has separated himself from the rebel cause, announcing that he claims the Queen's promise, which guarantees his life, and secures for him a full consideration of the circumstances under which he was induced to throw off his allegiance. The telegram adds that the remaining rebel leaders have given themselves up.

We hear, and we shall hear, of no more battles in Central India. Tantia Topee, who turning westward in flight from General Michel, has taken refuge in the Satpore hills, is no longer to be regarded as an active leader, and his capture is almost reduced to an affair of police.

The Indian papers report the public and ceremonious reading of the Queen's Proclamation at Calcutta, Allahabad, Lahore, and other important stations, accompanied everywhere with loyal enthusiasm. At Calcutta it was read in the English and Bengalee languages, from the steps of Government House, in the presence of a vast concourse of people. On the conclusion of the proclamation the royal standard of England was hoisted, the troops presenting arms, and the band playing the National Anthem. In the evening there was a general illumination of Calcutta and the ships in the port. On the 3rd inst. a meeting of the inhabitants of Calcutta was held to adopt an address to her Majesty. It was crowded by natives as well as Europeans; some Hindoo merchants made loyal speeches.

Mr. Halliday, the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, has sent in his resignation, and it is reported that Mr. J. P. Grant will be appointed to the vacancy.

RECEPTION OF THE PROCLAMATION.

The *Times* correspondent says:—"Genuineness of Asiatic feeling is always a problem, but I have little doubt it is in this instance tolerably sincere. The people understand an 'Empress,' and did not understand the Company. Moreover, they have a very decided notion that the Queen has hanged the Company for offences 'which must have been great,' and that fact gives them hope of future justice. Lastly—I am speaking of the masses, and repeating actual opinions uttered in my hearing—they think her Majesty inconceivably, and I am afraid a little ridiculously, honest for accepting her predecessor's debts. Immediately after the Proclamation appeared a *Gazette Extraordinary* announcing a change in the form of the promissory note, which completed native satisfaction."

THE INDIAN REVENUE.

Another letter says:—"The deficit for 1857-58 is stated in the Parliamentary return at 9,500,000. That of 1858-59 will be larger; for, though the million and a quarter stolen by the mutineers will not recur, there is a huge addendum to be made in the shape of the cost of new levies. Add the value of Government property destroyed which must be replaced, the claims for compensation, and the cost of refilling the arsenals, and you have a loss of at least 25,000,000 sterling in the two years. There is, then, the old deficit of 1857, 900,000, and the cost of 45 additional regiments of Europeans. No mode of calculation will reduce the deficit below 5,500,000 a year, to be met out of a revenue as yet unelastic. This, and not reorganisation, will be the

primary difficulty for Lord Stanley to meet, and if he succeeds without crippling our military strength—that is, without perilling the empire—he will have well earned the right to be considered the first of modern Indian statesmen. On this side of India he is already trusted as no President since Dundas has been."

CHINA.

We have intelligence from Hong-Kong to the 29th of October.

The Imperial Commissioners had arrived at Shanghai, and commenced negotiations for arranging the new tariff. Lord Elgin was actively engaged in securing the most liberal terms for commerce.

The news of the death of the Emperor of Japan is confirmed; he died of cholera, which disease was carrying off great numbers.

The United States Minister had returned to Shanghai from Japan, but some apprehensions are entertained for the French Plenipotentiary, nothing having been heard of the chartered steamer *Reni*, on board of which vessel his Excellency had embarked from Japan for Shanghai.

It is reported that the insurgents have lately issued from Nankin, and have taken several cities from the Imperialists.

The *North China Herald* gives the heads of the different clauses in the Russian treaty. One clause stipulates for the appointment of a commission to settle the boundaries of the two countries. This opportunity may be availed of by Russia to obtain considerable advantages, but otherwise her treaty only secures her the same privileges as other nations. It removes, however, the restrictions that existed against the Russians carrying on trade at the ports.

COCHIN CHINA.

A LETTER from Manilla bringing news of the French Cochinchina expedition down to October 11, says it was not thought probable at that date that any movement towards the interior of the country would be attempted for two or three months.

SIAM.

HER MAJESTY's steamer *Esk*, Captain Sir R. McClure, has proceeded to Siam, and her Majesty's surveying schooner *Saracen* has gone to survey the Malay coast, on the west of the Gulf of Siam.

Our latest accounts from Bangkok are to the 28th of October, at which date there were some apprehensions of a disturbance by the many Chinese settled at the capital. An additional guard of one thousand troops had for several nights surrounded the palace, and this precautionary measure would check the rebellious disposition of the Chinese, who at Sarawak and in the Straits of Malacca have displayed a turbulent spirit.

On the 18th October—the fifty-fourth anniversary of the first king's birthday—his Majesty gave a grand entertainment at the palace to the principal inhabitants at the capital. Among the guests was the British consul, Sir Robert Schomburgk, and the French and United States consuls. His Majesty invested Sir Robert Schomburgk with a gorgeous robe of state in proof of his friendship towards Great Britain.

Trade was not very active. There are now several mercantile firms established at Bangkok.

JAVA.

LETTERS from Batavia, dated October 25th, speak favourably of the coming crops. We have accounts from the newly-conquered Jambi territory, which speak favourably of the general health of the troops, and it is said the Netherlands India Government propose to raise to the throne the son of the dethroned king, but at present the son remains in concealment, probably doubting the sincerity of the offers made to place him on the throne.

Two European merchants were murdered by the pirates, and their vessel taken, but it was subsequently recaptured. The pirates had been brought to trial and sentenced, some to death, the remainder to twenty years' labour in chains.

WEST INDIES.

THE *La Plata* arrived at Southampton on Wednesday. She brings advices from Jamaica to the 27th November; the news is of little interest.

JAMAICA.

Trade continued dull, owing to the increased supplies of Halifax and American provisions. Railroad traffic had been suspended in consequence of damage done by the heavy rains, and the difficulty experienced in bringing produce to market had enabled holders of coffee and pimento on the spot to obtain full rates. Sugar was in good supply, and prices exhibited a further downward tendency.

The Legislature was steadily proceeding with business, but of no general interest out of the colony. The session was expected to close by the end of the year.

Heavy rains had inundated several parishes, damaging the crops, and sweeping away cottages with their inmates. Seven were drowned in St. David's parish, and

several lives were lost in Manchester. Slight shocks of earthquake were felt on the 18th and 19th.

GRANADA.

The Legislature had adjourned to February after three days' sitting. Some of the financial questions gave rise to warm discussions. There had been no lack of rain. Sugar-making prospects were good. Cocoa was coming into market briskly.

DEMETERA.

The weather had been very wet for some time past. It was feared that the sugar crop would be late this year, and scanty. The river was full of shipping, and freights low.

HAYTI.

The Paris *Union* says:—"Three years ago Souloque suddenly invaded the territory of the Dominican Republic. He was beaten, and a short time after an armistice was concluded between him and Santana, under the guarantee of France and England. The armistice expires on the 15th of February; war is therefore considered probable, and Santana is said to be very actively preparing for it."

MEXICO.

FROM Mexico we have advices down to the 18th November from the capital, and 21st from Vera Cruz. General Miramon had arrived at the capital, and Zuloaga was levying contributions to repair the fortifications. The Liberals had been successful at Zacatecas and elsewhere. Three Spanish and two French vessels of war were at Sacrificios, and the remainder of the French fleet, with Admiral Renaud, was daily expected.

AMERICA.

The steam-ship Canada has brought New York news to the 2nd inst. General Sir W. F. Williams has returned home by her.

The *New York Herald* states that there is no authority for saying that the Spanish Minister had notified to the United States Government that Spain had no ultimate design upon Mexico in sending her fleets into the Gulf. Her object, he says, is the same as that of England and France—simply to protect her citizens and rights. Orders have been sent to have the sloop of war St. Louis, lying at Brooklyn, fitted out as soon as possible, that she, with all the vessels that can be spared, may be sent into the Gulf to look after the interests of the United States.

The trial of Thomas Allibone, president, and T. A. Newhall, director of the Pennsylvania Bank, had commenced at Philadelphia on the 30th, on the charge of conspiring, cheating, and defrauding the said bank.

It was reported that Secretary Cobb was about to quit the Cabinet, and to succeed Mr. Dallas as Minister to London.

A letter brought by the steamer Quaker City says that a number of Nicaragua adventurers have landed about forty miles from San Juan del Sur. General Walker had suddenly disappeared from Mobile, and an impression prevailed that he was *en route* for Nicaragua.

The grand jury have reported that they found no bill in all the three cases against the crew of the slaver Echo. The counsel for the prisoners will probably move for their discharge, when the question of the constitutionality of the act declaring the slave trade piracy will come up for argument. The United States Attorney will endeavour to hold the prisoners.

The Jews of Philadelphia recently memorialised the President to interfere in the case of the boy Mortara. The Secretary of State, General Cass, in reply to the application, states that it is the settled policy of the United States to abstain from all interference in the internal concerns of any other country.

The British and French Ministers at Washington were said to be manifesting great interest in regard to the Mexican imbroglio.

An English gentleman, named Edwin J. Dickens, formerly engaged on the London press, had been found dead in his bedroom at an hotel in Jersey city. The coroner's jury found that he committed suicide by taking poison; but an investigation by the British Vice-Consul led that gentleman to believe that death was caused by an overdose of cyanide of potassium, which the deceased had been in the habit of taking for a violent cough under which he suffered.

The City of Baltimore has brought New York intelligence to the 4th inst., but there is little of importance. It is said that the Secretary of War will renew his recommendation for an increase of the regular army, as indispensable to the protection of extended frontiers and the maintenance of good order in Utah and the Indian country.

The new treaty between the United States and Japan had been received at Washington.

The President had received information from Japan that a full embassy from that country will make its appearance at Washington some time in May or June next. They will be brought over in an American steam-frigate.

A destructive fire had occurred at Rochester, New York, entailing a loss of 44,000 dollars.

A Democratic State Convention was in session in Virginia, striving to nominate a candidate for Governor.

The contest was very exciting, and was said to be the most bitter and virulent known in the political annals of the State.

SOUTH AMERICAN STATES.

By the Canada we have the important news that General Castilla, President of the Republic of Peru, had declared war, with the sanction of Congress, against Ecuador. A train had arrived at Callao from Lima, bringing a number of officers, who proceeded to Pura, Huarez, &c., to raise troops. General San Roman had also come down to despatch the Peruvian vessels of war in port at Callao to blockade the ports of Ecuador. Ecuador was preparing for a stout resistance, and it was thought that the contest would lead to serious complications with New Granada and other States. General Echenique, it was said, encouraged the Ecuadorians to war, in order to overthrow Castilla in Peru.

Movements towards revolution were observable in Chili. A fire occurred recently at Valparaiso, and the loss sustained through it was estimated at 60,000 dollars. The copper mines of Copiapo and Coquimbo continue to yield abundantly. The President of Chili had issued a decree directing the purchase, in behalf of the republic, of all available shares of the Valparaiso and Santiago Railroad. Trade was very dull, and silver coin exceedingly scarce.

Reports had reached Valparaiso of the discovery of very rich gold mines in the Argentine Confederation, about seven leagues from Mendoza, at a place called Canada Honda.

The La Plata brings news that business was very dull at Valparaiso, and the scarcity of silver coin was much felt. At Callao some excitement was felt about Ecuador, and extensive preparations were making to prosecute the war with vigour. An extraordinary bill had been presented to Congress, and was expected to pass into an act, proposing to recognise and pay all the debts of Vivanco during the revolution, to recognise all the officers of the army and navy in their full grades, no matter of what party, and pay all arrears due since out of commission, and all exiles to return home to Peru.

CENTRAL AMERICA.

The Congress of Central American Presidents will take place in the city of Guatemala this month, when a special agreement will, it is said, be made, by which, in case of invasion, the five Central American States will act in concert.

AUSTRALIA.

The chief items of news in the accounts from the gold-fields is the failure of the Fitzroy diggings at Port Curtis. A great rush had taken place to that spot, and the disappointment was excessive.

The Parliament of Victoria was opened by Sir Henry Barkly on the 9th October. The fate of the Reform Bill in the Upper House was looked forward to with much interest. It was understood to be the intention of the Ministry, in case this measure is again rejected, to demand a dissolution of Parliament. The Governor's speech was remarkable for a strong expression of personal opinion that the enactment of the measures which had failed to become law during the previous session was "absolutely indispensable." In announcing that the Reform Bill and the estimates were the two principal subjects the Legislature were called together to deal with, his Excellency stated that several other bills would be submitted to it, but not so pressed as to delay the general election.

On the 15th the Ministerial Budget was laid before the Assembly. "We have to congratulate the colony," says the *Argus*, "on the proud financial position in which it appears she stands. At this moment the colony is free of debt. She will have a balance in the present year over and above the expenditure of 307,879*l.*, available for the service of the year 1859."

Since the departure of the previous mail, Sir Henry Barkly had made a tour of a considerable portion of the country, having visited Belfast, Ararat, Clunes, Ballarat, &c. Everywhere his Excellency was received with demonstrations of loyalty.

Mr. George Coppin, the comedian, of the Melbourne Theatre Royal, has been elected a member of the Legislative Council for the south-western provinces.

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE COURT.—Her Majesty remains at Osborne. The *Court Circular* merely records the daily walks and rides of the Queen and her children. The Prince Consort shoots occasionally. The Prince of Wales returned on Thursday night from Berlin. His brother Alfred has been received in a very flattering way at Gibraltar and Tangiers; from the news we continue to receive it does not appear that the royal midshipman will have to "rough it" much.

PUBLIC HEALTH.—The state of health of the metropolis assumed a more favourable aspect last week. The number of deaths was 1581, being 207 less than the former week, though still some 200 above the average rate. The births for the week amounted to 1805.

LAW AMENDMENT SOCIETY.—On Tuesday an important letter was read from Lord Brougham on a defect which he considers exists in the Divorce and Matrimonial Causes Court. His lordship alleges that no provision has been made in the act for the detection of conspiracy or collusion between the husband and wife, and he appears to think that the only chance of protection to the court is to make the Attorney-General, or his representative, a party to all divorce cases. The adjourned debate on the unanimity of juries question was again proceeded with. Considerable differences of opinion were expressed, and ultimately the report of the committee was received.

DIPLOMATIC APPOINTMENTS.—The staff of the mission to China appears to be arranged. The Hon. Frederick Bruce is appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary. Mr. Horace Rumbold will be Secretary of Legation. The first paid attaché is Mr. William de Norman; and Mr. Horace St. Clair and Mr. G. Wyndham are appointed attachés.—Lord Napier is appointed to the embassy of the Hague, and Lord Lyons is despatched from the Court of Tuscany to Lord Napier's post at Washington. Mr. Scarlett is removed from Brazil to Tuscany, and Mr. Forbes from Saxony to Brazil. The new Minister for Saxony is Mr. Paget, now Secretary of Legation at Berlin.

ENGLISH GAME IN AUSTRALIA.—Attention is being paid to the introduction of game and song birds, natives of England, into Australia. Mr. Austin, of Geelong, now in this country, shipped last month ninety-two partridges, sixty-four pheasants, six hares, besides a goodly number of blackbirds and thrushes, for his estate at Darwon Park, near Geelong. An experienced game-keeper has gone out in charge. Several other shipments have lately been made, and there can be no doubt that gentlemen in the position of Mr. Austin are able to accomplish the successful introduction of game to the antipodes. We should like to see a general movement in the matter, and have little apprehension of such a scheme not meeting a hearty co-operation from a large body of colonists and the landed proprietors of England.—*Australian and New Zealand Gazette.*

MR. DISRAELI.—The Right Honourable Benjamin Disraeli is a godsend to the *Bohème des lettres*. He is the first of the race who has been trusted with the exchequer. He has frankly announced that he does not resign the principles or renounce the practices of the Ishmaelites of society. The god of red tape in religion and politics hates this Free Lance with its whole heart. He has defied the respectabilities, fought them on their own ground, and routed them ignominiously. He can afford to scoff with impunity at the leader of the Puritans, in the face of the Puritan English. Noble lords await his pleasure, and wealthy commoners—according to Eastern metaphor—tie his shoe-strings. Upon the whole, at the present moment he is perhaps the greatest man in the great metropolis—his cousin Rothschild not excepted. Young Mr. Disraeli was fluent and volatile as either; but the Chancellor of the Exchequer is a grave and solemn personage; very magnificent in the dignified deference he pays to the assembly which he rules, and to the beef-eaters of old England who sit behind his back. But the whole affair is a farce at bottom. Were he for a single moment to unloose the cat-like restraint in which he contains himself, he would inevitably burst into a passion of Jove-like laughter which would fright St. Stephen's from its propriety. The fierce wild light of the Ishmaelish wanderer would gleam from his eyes, and casting himself upon "The Daughter of the Eastern Sun," ere Spooner and Newdegate had recovered from their panic at the "excessive imprudence" of the minister, the Arab would disappear amid the dust of the desert. How can the politics of our puny societies affect a man like this? Talk of consistency or of inconsistency to the Bedouin sheik whom you have caught, and tried to tame! "What's Hecuba to him, or he to Hecuba?" Tory, Whig, Radical, are only names; but the conduct of war, of Government, of men, are realities that may satisfy the ambition even of a Hebrew King.—*Fraser's Magazine.*

MIDDLE CLASS EXAMINATIONS.—On Tuesday the University Middle Class Examinations for the county of Sussex was inaugurated by a public meeting held at Chichester. The Bishop of the diocese took part in the proceedings. The Examiner appointed to conduct the examination was also present. The advantages of the system were strikingly portrayed by the various speakers.

TITHES.—A speech has been addressed by the Rev. W. W. Malet to his parishioners, on the occasion of their visiting him at his parsonage to pay tithes and the rent of his glebe. He justified the continued imposition of these charges, on the ground that they were voluntary contributions on the part of the former owners of property. He also assailed recent legislation on the subject.

LORD CAMPBELL.—When Mr. John Campbell, student of theology in St. Mary's College, St. Andrew's, N.B., was working away at his Hebrew, or drilling the lads to whom he acted as tutor, and living sparingly on a few pounds a year, he would no doubt have thought it a tremendous thing if he had been told that he would yet be a peer—that he would be Lord Chief Justice of England—and that he would, upon more than one great occasion, preside over the assembled aristocracy of Bri-

tain. But as he got on step by step the gradation took off the force of contrast; each successive step appeared natural enough, no doubt; and now, when he is fairly at the top of the tree, if that most amiable and able Judge should ever wish to realise his elevation, I suppose he can do so only by recurring in thought to the links of St. Andrews, and to the days when he drilled his pupils in Latin and Greek. Student of Divinity, newspaper reporter, utter barrister, King's Council, Solicitor-General, Member for Edinburgh, Attorney-General, Baron Campbell of St. Andrews, Chief Justice of England—each successive point was natural enough when won, though the end made a great change from the Manse of Cupar.—*Fraser's Magazine*.

SPURGEON.—On Monday about 1000 of Mr. Spurgeon's followers held a tea-meeting at Park-street Chapel to aid the funds for the new tabernacle. The meeting was addressed by Messrs. Spurgeon, Hugh Allen, Davis, and others. Upwards of 800*l.* was collected and promised; hundreds of devotees were unable to gain admittance.

DR. DULCAMARA, M.P.—One human institution remains perennially unchanged—the institution of imposture. One man among us can boast of a field of action which never contracts or changes; that man is no other than our beloved old quack; our eloquent, our far-famed, our magnificent impostor, Doctor Dulcamara, M.P. Freed by the arrival of the autumn from his engagements on the politico-operative stage, this eminent and melodious public man has, of late months, been going his rounds gaily in provincial England. He has assumed a great variety of characters, taking especial care (for the Doctor knows his public intimately) to seek his originals in the world of rank and title, and never to impersonate any individual who stands lower than a member of the House of Commons. Now as a noble lord, now as a noble and learned lord, and now simply as M.P., he has been calling meetings all over England. Among other announcements, he has proclaimed his discovery of a new soothing syrup, to be taken largely in a great many table-spoonfuls, called "Social Science." (Wisely saying nothing whatever of the many years during which it was endeavoured, by hard labourers, to force that nostrum on his attention; or of his taking no heed of it until it by slow degrees became popular). He has referred, with his usual brazen self-complacency, to his long-established pills and powders, devoted to the cure of exhaustion and weariness in mechanics institutions, and artfully adapted never to attain the end which they profess to accomplish. He has revived with greater success than ever, that admirably-impudent performance of his which he calls "Giving an account of his stewardship to his constituents." And in each and all of these cases, he has once more achieved that amazing feat of oratorical jugglery on which the main foundation of his celebrity has from time immemorial reposed. In other words, he has talked for hours together without the slightest intermission, and, at the end of the time, has said—nothing. The one striking difference which we discern between the practice of this consummate conjuror on the metropolitan stage and his practice on the country platform, is, that, in the former case, he does actually produce his specifics as well as talk about them; while, in the latter case, he merely promises to produce them when he goes circuit again next year. That next year will come; the platform will be swept again for use; the water-bottle and tumbler will be set up on the little table; our Dulcamara's nearest friend and admirer will solemnly preside in an arm-chair; and the Doctor's audience will be just as unaccountably large, just as amazingly patient, just as unreasonably ready to believe, as ever. Wonderful institution of Quackery! Unrivalled, unblushing, unchangeable Dr. Dulcamara!—*Household Words*.

CURIOUS DISCOVERY.—Dr. Beck, of Dantzic, has found an antidote, or rather a counter-poison, for ardent spirits. It is a mineral paste which he encloses in an olive, and which once absorbed destroys not only the rising effect, but likewise the disastrous consequences of drunkenness. He tried several experiments on a Pole, an irreclaimable drunkard. The individual, named Radevil, swallowed three bottles of brandy in succession, and after each bottle eat an olive prepared by the doctor. He experienced neither the effect of drunkenness nor the slightest sickness.

TRACTARIANISM.—On Thursday a public meeting of members of the Church of England was held at Exeter-hall for the purpose of taking into consideration certain practices, bordering on the ceremonies of the Church of Rome, which are reported to be in use in the church of St. George-in-the-East, in that of St. Barnabas, Plimlico, and several other places of Protestant worship in the metropolis. Condemnatory resolutions were agreed to after considerable uproar.

THE ARMY CONTRACT INQUIRY.—In the course of Wednesday, Sir Thomas Hastings, formerly store-keeper of the Board of Ordnance, was examined at great length, and the chairman afterwards stated that the proceedings must be adjourned *sine die*. Some conversation took place respecting the publicity that had been given to the proceedings of the commission. It appears that this publicity has been of great advantage.

COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL.—A special Court was

held on Thursday, at which a voluminous report of the Coal, Corn, and Finance Committee, on the finances of the corporation, was discussed at great length, and unanimously adopted. An animated discussion took place on a report brought up from the City Police Committee recommending that 200*l.* per annum should be allowed to the Commissioner instead of a residence. The discussion assumed a somewhat personal character, and ultimately, instead of the report being adopted, it was ordered to be laid on the table.

A CASE IN POINT.—"Talk of introducing the 'Pointed Style' into the Public Offices," said Bernal Osborne to Sir Benjamin the other day; "look what a mess Bulwer Lytton has made of it!"—*Punch*.

SOCIETY OF ARTS.—On Wednesday, Mr. E. J. Reed read a valuable paper on the modifications which ships of the Royal navy have undergone during the present century. Mr. Reed rather objected to our devoting too much attention to enlisting every possible scientific appliance in our service, lest the very greatness of our power should cause the nations to combine against us.

NEW SAFETY LAMP.—Messrs. Wilkins and Co., the eminent constructors of lighthouse apparatus, upon whose perfect conscientiousness in their calling hang from hour to hour such mighty interests, furnish as the detail of a new safety lamp as follows:—In it the flame is surrounded completely with glass or talc. The gauze, which in the Davy lamp is continued from the level of the wick upwards, obscuring the light, commences here some three inches higher. The draught or circulation is maintained by the external air passing through the body of the oil-can by means of four large tubes around the wick, communicating with a lower chamber in connexion with the external air through the meshes of a fine metal gauze. Thus the circulation of air is kept up even better than in the Davy, in which the air is admitted on a level, and directly opposite the wick. Lamps have been designed to obviate the objection to the Davy on the score of the gauze surrounding the light, but the admission of air freely through the body of the oil-can has not been attempted until now. Two varieties of the new lamp are now being manufactured—one for use in situations where the existence of explosive gases may be remedied as soon as discovered, as in sewers, gas-works, &c.; and the other where men work continually in an atmosphere charged with explosive gas. In the first, the light is surrounded with a dioptric lens, which concentrates and emits the rays all round; in the second, the light is surrounded with talc or other indestructible light-transmitter, which will allow, as is sometimes required, the gas to inflame and fill the whole interior of the lamp, until it becomes red hot, when it will have to be substituted for a cold lamp, the operation being repeated as soon as the second lamp becomes too hot to be safe. The lamp has been in use by the Metropolitan Board of Works in the sewers on the south of the Thames for four months with success.

SHAKESPEARE IN RUSSIA.—A letter in the *Nord*, from St. Petersburg, eulogises in strong terms the performances of Mr. Aldridge, and states that in the celebrated scene with Iago the effect he produced on the St. Petersburg audience can be compared to nothing hitherto seen there, except that attending the performance of Rachel in the fourth act of *Les Horaces*. By way of a climax, the writer mentions that the young lady who had to play *Desdemona* was at the first rehearsal so terrified at the expression of the Moor's physiognomy that she rushed screaming from the stage, and only after some trouble could she be persuaded to resume her part.

SOUVENIRS DE L'EMPEREUR.—In addition to the reconstruction of the house at Longwood, in St. Helena, occupied by Napoleon I., and of his tomb, the French Government has resolved on having reconstructed in that island the house in which General Bertrand resided, and also on having a statue of Napoleon placed on an eminence in view of the sea. An engineer officer has just been sent out to execute these works on plans approved of by the Emperor.

EDUCATION IN THE EASTERN COUNTIES.—The middle-class examination instituted by the University of Cambridge—or rather the examination of students not members of the University, for the authorities deprecate the use of the term "middle class"—at Norwich, commenced on Tuesday, and has since been continued *die in diem*.

THE WESTMINSTER PLAY.—The selection for the present year is the comedy of *Phormio*. The prologue, spoken by Mr. Goodeve, the captain of the school, laments, as usual, the decease of "old Westminsters," with especial allusions to the Indian rebellion. The epilogue, which is smart and witty above the ordinary level, not only turns *Phormio* into a dancing-master learned in quadrilles and polkas, but makes Nausistrata put on a huge crinoline petticoat, and, what is more extraordinary, take it off again, in consequence of the derision which it occasions. Among the visitors who crowded the theatre on Thursday, were—The Lord Chancellor, Viscount Barrington, Sir G. Rose, Sir B. Hall, Sir W. Cope, Mr. Justice Willes, Archdeacon Freer, Professor Thompson, Professor Cockerell, Mr. Slade, Q.C., &c.

DR. BRIGHT.—This eminent physician died on Thurs-

day, after a short illness. The lamented gentleman received patients and was out in his carriage on Saturday, after which he complained of indisposition, and retired to his chamber, which he was destined never to leave again alive. The deceased was born in Bristol, in September, 1789, so that he was in his seventieth year. His second wife was a sister of Sir William Follett.

EUCLID OUTDONE.—M. Balogh, a Hungarian, asserts that he has managed to square the circle, and he has just sent copies of his work on the subject, which contains numerous diagrams, to the Academy of Science in Vienna and Paris, and to the heads of the Universities of Cambridge and Oxford.

STATUS OF A GENTLEMAN OF THE PRESS.—The *Geelong Weekly News* of the 3rd of September has an account of an indignation meeting of navvies, which was reported by a gentleman who "was accommodated with a giddy seat at the top of one of the wheels of a gig." The vehicle seems to have been driven about to various points during the proceedings of the meeting!

FLATTERING.—In the window of the library, No. 212, Rue de Rivoli, there has lately been exhibited an engraved portrait of Mr. Charles Dickens, with a beard à l'imperiale, sitting at a desk in a thoughtful position, and writing. The police entered the shop the other day and told the proprietor in very angry terms to take the engraving out of the window. They mistook Mr. Dickens's portrait for a caricature of the Emperor!

THE FAMILY OF ABBOTSFORD.—The announcement of the death in London, on the 11th inst., of the only son of Mr. Hope Scott, Q.C., cannot but interest the public. This child, the only living male descendant of Sir Walter Scott, whose name he bore, was only a year and a half old, and has survived his mother, the poet's granddaughter, little more than six weeks. An infant sister died here a fortnight ago, on the 3rd; and thus since the 26th October, the date of Mrs. Hope Scott's death, the afflicted father has had also to lament the loss of two children. Only one little girl remains.—*Scotsman*.

DHULEEP SINGH.—The Maharajah is at Vienna, under the travelling name of Captain Melville. His Highness has chartered a steamer belonging to the Austrian Steam Navigation Company, and is going down the Danube on a shooting expedition.

LIFE IN VICTORIA.—It must be a life singularly repulsive in its aspects to our Upper Ten Thousand. Those diggers—that horrid ballot—that odious republicanism—are the natural disgust and dread of the Dowagers and the "Dowbs." But somehow one fancies that the vigorous sons of freedom and adventure may find a certain attraction in a land which has no national debt, no oppressive taxes, and no restricted citizenship.—*Daily News*.

INTOLERANCE IN SWEDEN.—A Mr. Rechnittzer, a respectable tradesman, has recently been committed for trial before the Swedish courts of justice, on the charge of having brought over a member of the Lutheran Church to Baptist tenets, and of having administered to him the rite of baptism. This is an offence which, if proved, will entail banishment, and the confiscation of his property. The trial is fixed to take place on the 7th of February next. We understand that the Swedish Government is not disinclined to repeal the laws which now exist against conversions from Lutheranism, but that these laws are upheld by the Legislature.—*Leeds Mercury*.

LUXEMBOURG AND ROME.—The Chamber of the Duchy of Luxembourg four days ago held a sitting, in which the Government stated that the Papal Court before concluding a concordat wanted to be assured that it would not be rejected by the Chamber, and the Government therefore wished to have an opinion expressed on it. The Chamber resolved to discuss the matter first in its bureaux. It is stated that amongst other things the concordat makes Luxembourg an episcopal city, and that this will occasion an expense of 20,000*fr.* a year.

ICEBOUND.—The steamer *Edinburgh*, which sailed a short time ago from Leith, was frozen in at Cronstadt. It was feared that she would remain in that position for some months, and it was proposed, rather than bring the crew home, to place them on half-pay. The intelligence, however, has just arrived by telegraph that the ice has been broken up by a sudden thaw, and that the *Edinburgh* last Sunday morning was once more on her way to the port of Leith.

AUSTRALIAN MAIL SERVICE.—The Government of New South Wales have deputed an agent to visit England to confer with the Colonial-office, in conjunction with some representatives of the colony, already in this country, on the best means for establishing a mail steam service *via* Panama.

SCULLY v. INGRAM.—In this case steps have been taken on the part of the defendant to obtain a new trial—a motion for which will be made in the ensuing term, in January next. No public reference will, therefore, be made to the circumstances connected with it, which will be fully detailed in the course of future legal proceedings.

CRYSTAL PALACE.—Return of admissions for six days ending Friday, December 17th, 1858:—Number admitted, including season-ticket holders, 5888.

LITERATURE, SCIENCE, ART, &c.

LITERARY CHRONICLE OF THE WEEK.

THE *Publishers' Circular* (assuredly an authority upon such matters) solemnly assures us that "the past fortnight has hardly equalled its predecessor in the production of important books," and our own experience serves to confirm that opinion. The only book which has achieved anything like a great sale has been a volume of Sermons by Dr. Guthrie, one of the most popular preachers in Scotland. The subscription list to this piece of fashionable theology amounted to not less than eight thousand copies. The other books of importance during the week have been a pleasant, though, we fear, not over-accurate "Memoir of Beckford," the exquisite recluse of Fonthill, by an anonymous hand, currently reported to belong to him that wrote the "History of Wine," and is about to trace the mental lineaments of his old friend and fellow-labourer, Thomas Campbell; two volumes of personal and dramatic gossip from that good-natured and prolific, though not too powerful writer, Mr. Fitzball; the third volume of Prescott's "Life of Philip the Second," and some passages from his Autobiography by Lady Morgan. A collection of original and unpublished papers illustrative of the life of Sir Peter Paul Rubens, collected and edited by W. Noel Sainsbury, of H.M. State-paper Office, has also been published, as also the second volume of Arago's "Popular Astronomy," translated by Smith and Grant; and a volume on "Naval Warfare with Steam," by Sir Howard Douglas. Messrs. Chapman and Hall have published a very ornamental volume on the "History of Bartholomew Fair," by Mr. Morley, who wrote the "Life of Palissy the Potter,"—pretty to look at, as far as woodcuts and decorated binding are concerned, but may not quite satisfy antiquarian judgments. The *éditions de luxe* of the week are three very beautiful ones from Mr. Murray—one an edition of "Childe Harold," with a number of exquisite woodcuts by Mr. Percival Skelton; a new edition of "Lockhart's Ballads," and an entirely new edition of Wordsworth's "Greece," as beautiful as fine paper and good engravings can make it.

Everybody now is talking of the coming celebration of the Burns' Centenary Anniversary. The projected feasts and festivities are innumerable, and each is to be garnished by its crown of small literary constellations who have promised their attendance. Some of the great Scotchmen of the day, Macaulay and Aytoun, will be present at Edinburgh; but the hospitable board of Glasgow will not be left ungraced, for Alison, Colonel James Burns, and a host of good men and true have promised to be present. That *avaḡ avdpwv*, chiefest of Scotland's sons, Henry Lord Brougham, denies, however, his presence to all these gatherings. Though France will none of him as a citizen, he yet apes the manners of a French *seigneur*, and hunts the boar at Cannes instead of encountering the same animal over the fair dinner-tables of his native land. Surely this most oratorical of Scotchmen owed something to that brother whose intellect God most brilliantly illumined with the true spark of poetry!

Talking of the Burns celebration, it is among the *on dits* in the literary world that the directors of the Crystal Palace, failing to get Mr. Thomas Carlyle as the arbiter of their poetical competitor, have secured the services of Mr. PETER CUNNINGHAM.

A good and useful man went from among us when Charles-Jean Delille gave up his life in pain on Monday morning last. As a professor of French, holding such a multiplicity of appointments that he might have been called a pluralist if he had not fulfilled them all with conscientious industry and zeal, and as the author of the best grammar and set of French class-books in existence, M. Delille will not be easily forgotten. His death, which was not unexpected, leaves open many valuable appointments, such as the French masterships of Christ's Hospital, the City of London and St. Paul's Schools, the Examinership of Eton, and other great public seminaries. Among the Winter Speeches delivered at St. Paul's School on Thursday last, according to annual custom, an elegant tribute to the memory of M. Delille, in the form of Latin

verse, from the pen of the head master, Dr. Kynaston, was delivered by one of the senior pupils.

The American mails bring news of the suicide of an unhappy man who went by the name of Edwin Dickens, and represented himself as a near relative of the author of "Pickwick." It appears that after introducing himself as an influential contributor to most of the great papers and periodicals in England, Mr. Dickens failed to obtain sufficient work on the American press to support himself with credit. Reduced to poverty, from which apparently there was no escape, the poor fellow put a period to his career by a bottle of poison, in the upper room of a New York hotel.

Mr. Ingram notifies that he is about to move for a new trial, and deprecates all comment until the result be known. Be it so. We have no object but to sustain the dignity and purity of the order to which Mr. Ingram belongs, and it is our earnest hope that he will succeed in putting a new aspect upon the business.

The book trade in America seems very brisk, and piracy thrives and thieves apace, in spite of Brussels Congresses. Of Mr. Carlyle's "Life of Frederick II." 3000 copies were sold in less than a month. It must not, however, be inferred that the legitimate home trade is not equally successful. Of Longfellow's "Miles Standish," not less than 25,000 copies have been sold. Of important works forthcoming we note the long-promised "Critical Dictionary of British and American Authors," by Mr. Alibone. It is to be published by Childs and Peterson, and will fill ten volumes in royal octavo. It is the work of a Philadelphia merchant, and has occupied him for many years. Judging from the specimens which we have seen, it will be the most complete work of the kind in existence, fully equaling in utility the "Bibliographical-Biographical Dictionary" of Ottinger. We also note a "Collection of Anecdotes of Love," by Lola Montes and a new edition of "Blackstone's Commentaries," by the Hon. George Sharswood.

FOUR MONTHS IN ALGERIA.

Four Months in Algeria, with a Visit to Carthage. By the Rev. Joseph Williams Blakesley, Vicar of Ware, Herts. Macmillan and Co., Cambridge and London.

We can readily imagine how, driven at short notice to seek health in the sunny South, Mr. Blakesley, in whom we have little difficulty in recognising the "Hertfordshire Incumbent" of the *Times*, came to fix upon a trip so full of interest to classical, geographical, and military student, as that to a land which has been peopled by nation after nation now obliterated, and has been trodden by the feet of armies from the remotest period of antiquity to the present day. All who remember the running commentary of the "Incumbent" upon the events of the Crimean war will be prepared to find that neither the campaigns of Scipio, nor the forays of Cavaignac in Algeria have escaped his notice, and that he has applied singular acumen and industry to the antiquarian researches hourly suggested to him during his visit. He seems to have lost little time; for in four months—a space soon frittered away in a land without railways or even decent highways—he made himself acquainted with the province from Bona on its Tunisian border to Oran on the side towards Morocco; visited every French station of importance; got up the history of the French wars; traced their military operations; took a sea-voyage to investigate the sieges and site of Carthage; and took notes enough, in the manner of every-day travellers, upon the appearance and customs of Moor, Arab, Kabyle, Jew, and Frenchman, to add the amusing element to a work which, independently, would be a valuable one.

The classical feature of the tour is, of course, prominent. So replete is the province with antiquities and historical associations, that no scholar of ordinary attainments could have visited it without having his attention constantly drawn to them; and to our author they of course were leading objects of interest. At Lambessa, the Lambesis of the Romans and the site of one of their important fortified camps, formed probably about A.D. 169, and now famous for its "Penitentiary," he seems to have made a discovery of marked interest. It

clearly appears, from an inscription over a hemicycle or circular settle within the Prætorium, that a club or association existed among the subalterns of the army for the purchase of steps and the assurance of annuities to its members on their retirement from the service:—

The inscription sets forth a resolution to which the members had come, on the occasion of furnishing their club with the statues of the reigning family, and of their tutelary deities; and the purport of it indicates the possession of common funds of considerable magnitude. It was the practice in the Roman army to allow every centurion to select a sort of deputy, or, as we might say, lieutenant, who, in the times of the Empire, was called his "optio."

It would appear from the inscription that this appointment conveyed with it some sort of claim to succeed the chief when a vacancy occurred, but that it was necessary for the claimant to procure a confirmation to his appointment from some superior, possibly the legate of the province, as the representative of the emperor. Appointments in all ages have involved the payment of bribes, or their successors, fees; and, apparently in reference to this necessity, the resolution in question determines that every member, on setting out for securing the object of his expectations, "ad spem suam confirmandam," shall be paid 8000 sesterces (about 62*l.* 10*s.*). If any one reaches the limit of military service, and is discharged, he is to be paid, every 1st of January, "ring money" to the amount of 6000 sesterces (46*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.*). Now this phrase is very remarkable, for Septimus Severus, whose name appears on the engaged column of the "Prætorium," is the very emperor who bestowed upon every Roman soldier the much-coveted right to wear a golden ring, or, in other words, gave him the social status of a gentleman. The "ring money," therefore, is in fact the pension enabling the veteran to keep up this position. The names of sixty-three "options" are inscribed on the pilasters of this hemicycle; and, as the author says, "nothing could more strongly mark the immense importance which the profession of arms had acquired under the despotic government of the Roman emperors."

At Carthage Mr. Blakesley was quite in his element. He set himself enthusiastically to the determination of the site of the harbour and the reproduction of the great siege, of which, he says, "the defence of Carthage was in many respects an anticipation of that of Sebastopol. In both cases the assailants were masters of the sea, and at first only of a few points on the land, while the besieged defended themselves by means of fortified camps established in commanding positions outside of the town."

With regard to the former point, it was the opinion of Dr. Shaw, as quoted by Gibbon, that the port faced the west, and that "the isthmus, or neck of the city, is now confounded with the continent; the harbour is a dry plain; and the lake, or *stagnum*, no more than a morass with six or seven feet of water in the mid channel."

Chateaubriand totally repudiated this theory, and was satisfied that the vast remains still apparent along the sea-board of the Bay of Tunis accounted sufficiently for the site of both city and port. Without entering into his arguments, or travelling over ground which Appian, Strabo, Polybius, Rollin, Shaw, Chateaubriand, and De Blaquière have still left enumerated, we may briefly say that Mr. Blakesley is of the Shaw party, and believes that the city stood as it were upon a broad promontory, connected with the main land by a kind of isthmus or neck of land two-and-a-half miles across. The ancient harbour was, he is convinced, on the western side of this, and formed a sea-lock of great extent, which subsequent changes have filled up and converted into a tract of marshy ground. The events of the siege by Scipio are compiled into a narrative, and commented on by our learned author with great scholarship and ingenuity. This division of the work will be read by classical students with peculiar interest; political readers will find enough to engage them in the sound political views expressed upon the colonisation and emigration and administrative systems of Algeria, while the general reader will find in his pages no lack of pretty word pictures and anecdotes.

Four Months in Algeria would, of course, have

been an incomplete book without a lion story, so we have more than one to choose from. Here is a tale of "a sociable lion":—

Two French soldiers set off one day to proceed to El Arouch, a settlement on the road between Philippeville and Constantine, to which there is a direct route from Jemappes, by a path through the bush. They did not start together, and the one who commenced the journey first was much intoxicated. After proceeding some distance, in the course of doing which he lost his sword, he felt himself overcome with fatigue, and stretching himself on the grass, fell into a sound sleep. His companion, who was perfectly sober, following after him a time, picked up his sabre, and at last found the slumberer on the grass. He gave him a kick, and called to him to get up, when, to his horror, there rose up—not the man, but a huge lion, that lay couched by his side, which he had taken for part of the trunk of a tree covered with grass. The sober soldier instantly ran off, under the impression that his comrade had been destroyed by the animal, after losing his sword, in an unsuccessful combat with it; but the lion, instead of pursuing him, resumed his place by the side of the still sleeping man. After a time, the latter awoke too, and got upon his legs, much astonished at discovering the company he had been keeping. The lion also again rose, but without any sign of ferocity; and when the soldier set off on his route, accompanied him, walking close by his side for several miles, as far as the immediate neighbourhood of El Arouch, where, probably because the forest there ceases, he turned about, and sought his old haunts again.

In the pasticcio of hunting adventures called those of the Lieutenant Jules Gérard, we remember to have read of self-denying lions, but this last story has certainly been, of late years, unapproached. We had marked for extract a sketch outside the gate of Constantine peopled with Bedouins in white, *tirailleurs indigènes* in blue, and blind beggars chanting verses from the Koran. Our readers would have been charmed, too, with the landscape in the gorge of the Oued Rummel, a stream on which Constantine sits astride. We might have raised a smile by extracting "the perfectly happy man," the mayor of the infant community of Fonduck, or the lively sketch of the extraordinary jugglers of Algiers, but that we are forbid by want of space. We must, however, squeeze in a photograph of a French colonist:—

In the course of my ramble on the flanks of the Atlas I came upon a cantonnier, whose case will serve as a very fair specimen of the small African landholders.

He had served in the army, and on quitting it, received an assignment of about ten acres of land, together with a building which had been used as a block-house. The land he made over to a Spaniard for three years as the price of clearing it; "for you conceive, monsieur," said he, "that I am so occupied here, that I have no time to do that sort of thing myself." I had found him smoking his pipe on the ground about a mile up the hills on the Aumale road. Two enormous ruts a foot deep gaped hard by, and the tool which he had brought ostensibly for the performance of his duties was the common mattock, which is used for getting up the stumps of the brushwood. This was stuck by his side in the grass, and no doubt had been so ever since his arrival on the scene of his labours. On my return by the same spot an hour later I found everything in *statu quo*, except that my friend was not smoking, but lying asleep on his back.

Mr. Blakesley seems of opinion that his cantonnier was a type of a class. It may be, and very probably is so; but doubt may arise whether the learned and accurate writer did not pass the scene of the poor man's operations at the beginning and end of his lawful dinner hour. The evidence is insufficient for a general conviction; therefore, cantonniers and colonists must for the present have the benefit of the doubt.

We have not half done with the author, nor have we the slightest hope that, were the space at our disposal doubled, we could do justice to his interesting performance; but we must here part from him with a hearty recommendation to our readers.

SELF-MADE MEN.

Self-Made Men. By C. C. B. Seymour.
New York: Harper Brothers.
London: Sampson Low and Co.

A book that is no book; made with the scissors, and not well made; scraps of biography taken without sifting, from cyclopædias, biographical dictionaries, newspapers, and the "Merchant's Magazine;" England, Italy, Germany, Denmark, and America, being the only countries which have been honoured by appearing through their representative celebrities; and sixty-two small lives being the whole number considered worthy of ranking under the general and false title of "self-made men"—such is the substance of the volume before

us. No object can be gained by such a publication—or rather re-publication, except to create a hot-house kind of ambition in the minds of ordinary schoolboys. The title sometimes means nothing at all, and at other times means too much. What is a "self-made man?" Certainly, not Burns, Andersen, Dickens, or any other great creative genius, who does his work without labour, effort, or preparation. No father of such sons has the power, if he has the capital and the will, of saying as he draws a cheque for a certain sum, "Go, my child, to the best university in the land, and write the world a poem or a novel that shall live." Ready money can do a great deal, but it cannot accomplish this. To give such men the credit of making themselves, is like telling them they have had an influence in forming the shape of their noses or the colour of their eyes.

If men of great industry and perseverance, like William Gifford, are to be erected as models of "self-made men," why not an army of scholars who have studied to good purpose in the very heat of college life? If the cobbler who rose to be editor of the *Quarterly Review* had started with rich friends, and an overflowing purse, it is possible he might have been swamped by the many temptations that beset a youth with large means at the universities. It may be that young gentlemen of fortune, who resist the many pleasures within their reach, and store their minds with piles of sterling knowledge, are more entitled to praise as "self-made men," than shoemakers and blacksmiths, whose books have been their only attainable amusements. The last have been strong, because never tempted; but the former have been stronger, because often tempted.

The cant about "self-made men" is popular and long-lived. The natural appetite for the wonderful creates a demand for miraculous histories, and the demand produces a supply. In proportion as a celebrated writer, thinker, or man of action has risen in after-life, so are his birth and parentage depressed. If he was born in a small house in the suburbs, it at once becomes a "low, mean hovel;" if his parents were struggling respectably upon somewhat straitened means, they are represented as "sunk in the most abject state of poverty;" and if the young genius starts in life as a junior clerk to a warehouseman, it is most probable his early position will be described as "a common shopboy to a shopkeeper." At a time when the great traditions of history are crumbling, one by one, under an earnest and honest investigation, it is more than doubtful if the incidents of the most recent literary biography would stand unshaken under the light of unromantic research.

The book before us is not a very reliable guide, for while the date of the present year stands on the title-page, and in the space devoted to Mr. Charles Dickens, we are treated with a gossiping newspaper paragraph upon recent domestic events; we are told that he still lives in a house in Devonshire-terrace which he left nearly ten years ago.

Most of the sketches are disfigured by criticisms and idle speculations, while the individuality of the subject-man is lost sight of, or is not stamped upon the page. Each biography is ornamented with a very rudely executed portrait; Mr. Dickens being depicted, as he never was, at the age of seventeen; and Amos Whittemere, the American inventor of the card machine, being handed down to posterity as a bloated Jack Sheppard who has grown too large for his cell.

THE FOSTER-BROTHERS.

The Foster-Brothers; or, a History of the School and College Life of Two Young Men.

Hall, Virtue, and Co.

THIS is another work on our educational system—embracing private schools and colleges—thrown into the form of a novel. Two lads, one the son of the high-born Adolphus Henry Plantagenet Brooks Hollis, of Bulbul-square, heir to a peerage, the other the son of coachman Birt, of Bulbul-mews, were born exactly at the same time. The coachman's wife, Sarah Birt, dies after giving birth to the boy, and a kind soul, the wife of a democratic tailor named Groves, who has just lost her own baby, takes charge of the little orphan. The high-born lady—who is blessed or rather cursed with a contemptible tyrant of a husband, depicted according to the pattern so much in favour with certain popular writers of the day, that is to say, with all the insolence and selfishness of riches and high life—being somewhat delicate in health, is induced by the family doctor, Sir Toby Ruffles, to have a wet nurse for her child. Mrs. Groves is engaged, but not until she has made

a stipulation that the two babes shall be brought up together in Bulbul-square—a stipulation which Mrs. Hollis readily complies with, as the mother, Sarah Birt, was once her favourite waiting-woman. To distinguish the plebeian from the aristocrat a piece of tape is tied on the arm of the latter, and as a further distinguishing mark the pleb is born with a mole under his left foot. The infancy of the pair passes without much to note, and nothing occurs until the period for going to school. Young Hollis first enters a proprietary school kept by Miss Priscilla Campbell, where he profits so little that he is taken away and sent to the establishment of "Dionysius Dickson, A.C.P.," who received a limited number of the sons of noblemen and gentlemen only, to prepare for public schools and universities. Here we have several "interiors" from the pen of Master Hollis, who, if capable of writing such accounts at twelve years of age as are attributed to him in the novel, certainly was a Crichton-like phenomenon of worldly precocity and satirical observation. These "interiors," though sufficiently graphic, will hardly be considered sufficiently truthful to pass with the world as examples of what is to be found among boys in similar establishments. From this school young Hollis goes to Winton (the author disguises under feigned names public schools of well-known reputation), and here the boy of twelve writes home letters that would not disgrace a man of twenty-one, giving by no means flattering descriptions of the scholastic system to which he is made amenable. From Winton he removes to Dimbledon, in order to qualify for admission to Sandhurst. Here, after undergoing incredible brutalities on the bullying system, he is initiated into scenes and abominations which we trust are mainly imaginary. He nearly concludes his experiences of Dimbledon by manslaughter, for in a fit of exasperation, on getting the head bully into a retired place, he, as he firmly believes, leaves him on the ground with his brains dashed out. Fortunately the youth escapes this misadventure, but, after a short period, certain delinquencies are found out, and he is obliged to quit the "cramming" school at Dimbledon. The university is his next step, and young Hollis enters with all the advantages of high birth, liberal allowance, and large expectations. In the mean time the education of the pleb Robert Birt has been progressing, through a presentation to a public school—Sensbury School—where a certain number of boys receive board and education gratis. We will not describe the foul and repulsive doings within the walls of this splendid and abused charity. We fear the writer has viewed school-life with a jaundiced eye; it must suffice to say that after a few days of inhuman torture Birt, on being sent at midnight by his tormentor to get a skull from a neighbouring churchyard, executes his task, but on his way back to his dormitory he passes the clothes room, he places the skull on a heap of clothes, he divests himself of the foundation uniform, resumes his own clothes, and makes his escape over the wall. The young tyrant, too impatient at the delay of his victim, creeps down to the clothes room, sees the skull in the dim rays of the moon, believes that Birt has hanged himself, falls into a fit from pure fright, and is found shortly afterwards with the skull in his hand, a drivelling idiot for life. It will be seen that the writer does not shrink at sacrificing probability for the sake of "strong effects." Birt makes his way in the world in rather a romantic manner, and at last finds himself, by the aid of kind and unknown friends, at college. Here he meets with his foster-brother Hollis, but no companionship takes place; Birt enacting the rôle of a democrat and Hollis the part of one of the "upper ten thousand," but still well disposed towards his less fortunate fellow mortal. We have many college scenes, and many phases of college life, with much truth mixed up with more exaggeration. The two young men—youths no longer—go on in their respective ways; Birt hard-studying and progressive, Hollis, more dashing in his temperament and position, but still making his way in the humanities. The examination day comes on; Birt and Hollis are among the candidates for high honours. The day before the examiners make their report, a startling secret is communicated to the young men. Mrs. Groves, just before her death, tells the lawyer that she changed the children from pique at something said by the Hon. Adolphus Hollis—that Birt is the aristocrat and Hollis the plebeian. The young men receive the announcement with different feelings—Hollis is overwhelmed, Birt cool as a cucumber. When the examiners announce their award, Birt is first, Hollis second. Birt magnanimously refuses to avail himself of the secret—he retains his own comparative insignificant position, and allows Hollis to keep his elevated rank. It will be seen from this resumé that the author is fond of violent contrast. He has a fair show of descriptive power, and can write with taste and feeling. But these good qualities are somewhat marred by a proneness to exaggeration. The delineations of school and college life are sufficient to bear us out in our criticism.

THE POST-OFFICE DIRECTORY.

The Post-office Directory for 1859.

Kelly and Co.

ONE often hears it observed that if it were desirable to impress a foreigner or rustic with a proper idea of the vastness and importance of London, he should be taken a balloon journey over it, transported on to some pinnacle of St. Paul's, or set adrift, like a cork in a torrent, at the confluence of dinner-bound citizens, who turn the Poultry and the Mansion-house into a human ant-hill about five P.M. Some would take the victim they patriotically desired to bewilder down the Thames, and oblivious of the hate-engendering filth and smoke, point triumphantly to the ships, the steamers, and the piles of warehouses. This last is perhaps the most ordinary method adopted by Cockneys in fine weather to put their country friends out of conceit with everything but London; but for dull, cold, murky December use, commend us to a new copy of the *Post-office Directory*. For might we not so prove to him, without risk of rheumatism, or much-dreaded *fluxion de poitrine*, how our people are as the sands of the sea—how vast are the wants we supply for ourselves and for others—how many are our dwellings—how infinitely more various our merchandise than that of other cities. Might we not, if arithmetically bent, and out of a situation, nail that miserable stranger to the table, compel clouds over him with strong Virginia, instead of the mild cigarette of his predilection, and flashing Geneva through the gloom, instead of *eau sucrée*, show him how many girdles round the earth could be made out of the aggregate length of the people here—how many times they would reach to the moon—how much money they might be worth in a lump—how loud would be the conglomerate roar of the hecatombs they eat at Christmas—how deep the lake of beer they drank? Should we not thus effectually stupify, stultify, and everlastingly shut up the said foreigner by aid of the *Post-office Directory*? But again another use occurs to us. Rusticus, who in the course of a long railway ride from Cornwall or Caithness, has been reduced to an apathetic or low, nervous state by the constant perusal of *Bradshaw* and other railway influences, should, after the internal application of warm restorative steak and port, be supplied in a quiet corner of some coffee-room with this monster sedative. The painful sense of endless, hurried going and coming, shooting and shunting, to-ing and fro-ing over immense spaces, of great engines and trains dragging, comparatively speaking, a few little inconsiderable people, would soon, by its help, be sponged from the mirror of his brain. He might then experience a gratifying consciousness of being embedded and cemented into a mass of humanity, of having people to lean upon in case of need, of having a position in the vastest sheaf of arrows or fagot of sticks in the world, from which, notwithstanding its size and the infinite number of its components, he could not, once implanted, be missed four-and-twenty hours without being inquired after. If, after thoroughly losing his way in the paradoxical maze of thought suggested, and tracing his route from Blackwall to Putney, so as to take in the Elephant and Castle and the British Museum, our traveller found that even the confusion made by Rowland Hill and D'Almeida, jun., in the King's-road, the New-road, and all the Albert, Alma, and Victoria-streets of London was cleared up by the Leviathan handbook, or armbook, before him, can we wonder that he should drop his innocent head upon its soothing pages and owe them happy slumber?

The *Directory* has now attained the bulk of 2370 pages: how many addresses it gives, for how many people, and how many for each, is, of course, a mystery; but they are as the sands of the sea. It was considered, a year or two ago, to be perfect. It should be, by this time, preterpluperfect; but we dare hardly say this, lest, perchance, we be short of an expletive next year. It has, in truth, been difficult for the proprietors to invent new charms for the blushing annual, but they have succeeded. They have carefully sorted stockbrokers of the Stock Exchange from others; have indicated, as much as possible, all chemists who are members of the Pharmaceutical Society, and all surgeons who are members of the college; and have detached the map from the body of the work, which is a notable convenience. In conclusion, we may briefly sum up the merits of the *London Post-office Directory* by calling it, not the *eads mecum* by any means, but the *Deus et Tutamen* of all Cockneys at home, country folks in town, and commercial people everywhere. It is one of the jolliest of our Christmas visitors, always rosy and always getting stouter. May its shadow never be less, for that shadow is but a measure of the increase and prosperity of Cockaigne. May its visits never drop off, for we regard them as an institution that we could not expect long to survive, and we have a particular interest in living to receive them.

ALMÆ MATRES.

Almæ Matres. By Megathym Splene, Esq., B.A.

Edinburgh: Hogg and Son.

THE writer of this book evidently knows his subject well and practically. We think, however, he has been more disposed to look for spots on the sun rather than to fix his regards on the sun itself. The work has reference to one of the great questions of the day, the education system, and it will do something towards helping forward that educational reform movement which is now in progress. The writer, we should infer, is evidently personally conversant with university life both at Oxford and Cambridge. He takes the reader step by step through the whole of the university process, from the first day of matriculation to the last, the training and the examination for the "great go." We have vividly placed before us all the varieties—and they are endless—of college inner life, and certainly the picture is not very bright or tempting, however faithful it may be, taken as it is from a particular point of view. One object of the work is to point out what reforms are still wanted to make our universities what they ought to be as the highest educational institutions in the kingdom. Among the minor reforms alleged to be needed are "a resident chancellor, a different class of visitors, and a power of appeal to undergraduates." In the catalogue of graver reforms are to be found an entire remodelling of the educational system and of the examination routine. A comparison is drawn between the German universities and the English to the disadvantage of the latter. We cannot help thinking that the author has been somewhat biased in favour of the continental system. We have heard those who have tested both, and who are well qualified to offer an authoritative opinion, give utterance to a decidedly opposite conclusion. But this kind of comparison has nothing to do with the question of whether our universities require further reforms. We trust the pictures of Oxford and Cambridge life given in this work are not to be received as rules but as exceptions. If we could put entire faith in them, we should at once call upon the Government to suppress the college system as a public nuisance. The book contains a good deal of useful information, and many of the suggestions are quite worthy of serious consideration.

STRUGGLES IN FALLING.

Struggles in Falling. By Henry J. Lester.

Richard Bentley.

WE have been fairly perplexed with this novel. We find it difficult, if not impossible, to assign to it its proper place in works of fiction. It combines the romantic, the marvellous, the melodramatic, and the prosaic, in a somewhat ultra and unusual way, and thus produces anomalies in situations, in persons, and incidents, that are sure to shock the sense of "fitness" in the minds of the least disciplined reader. We have mesmerism pressed into the service. We have an individual familiarly introduced into society who is a sort of *bête noire*; he is gifted with an "evil eye," by the aid of which he effects all sorts of *diablerie*; he succeeds in killing by inches a veritable man-of-war's man, a lieutenant in the British Navy; winning the heart of a beauty, and then killing her off in the way in which he disposed of the tar. The hero, Henry Vesci, is somewhat of a curiosity of his kind. He is inveigled into a Scotch marriage "unbeknownt," as the Irish would say; he will have nothing to say to his Scotch wife, but leaves Scotland after settling half his income on her. He then becomes acquainted with Agnes Delmar, a beautiful little fairy. He becomes desperately in love with her, and this love is warmly reciprocated. A declaration of mutual attachment is made as they are about to fall down a precipice together. The fall takes place, but the lady escapes comparatively unscathed, while the gentleman is all but smashed. He recovers, and in a short time is set upon his legs sound in wind and limb. He informs Agnes of his *mesalliance*, and a good deal of passionate but improbable sentiment is exchanged. Agnes, after many heart-trials, at last consents to marry a suitor. On the night before the wedding she is carried off by Vesci and seduced. She dies miserably, just at a time, however, when her seducer was in a condition to make an honest woman of her, his Scotch wife having suddenly died. Mr. Lester tells us at the conclusion that at some future day his pen will possibly resume the history here broken off. We prefer to wait for the conclusion, as the new contribution may, perhaps, induce us to say something different to what we should say, did we consider the eccentric but talented production before us was all that we should have.

HANWORTH.

Hanworth.

J. W. Parker and Son.

THIS tale originally appeared in *Fraser's Magazine*. Its merit fully entitles it to be reproduced in its present complete form. The most prominent cha-

acters in the drama are Edith Somers, Margaret Ramsay, and Lord Hanworth. Margaret Ramsay, beautiful and rich, is secretly attached to Lord Hanworth. Lord Hanworth is smitten with Edith Somers, handsome and portionless; and Edith Somers has given her heart to Charles Stirling, a worthy man, holding only a small Government appointment. The interest of the story is concentrated round these personages, and is made to depend on the mistakes committed by each and all before the real state of hearts shall have developed themselves. There are other individuals introduced, who, though they produce no very strong action on the plot or catastrophe, serve to diversify very agreeably and naturally the various scenes, and to place the descriptive and discriminating powers of the author in a very favourable light. The character of the spiteful, but polished, Lady Allerton—the witty and cynical, yet kind-hearted, Vernon—the author Charlton—the pompous Sir Simon Howell—have all individualities of their own, and display, on the part of the author, no mean insight into life and character as found in what may be termed good society.

THE TWO MOTTOES.

The Two Mottoes. By the Author of "Summerleigh Manor." J. W. Parker and Son.

A DOMESTIC tale is covered by *The Two Mottoes*. Dr. Aytoun has two children, Hector and Emmeline. He is of violent temper, but not of bad disposition. His son is violent also, and misunderstands his father. The daughter is gentle and timid, and does not fully comprehend her father's true disposition until after domestic calamities have unveiled it. Hector, enraged at his father's violence, runs from home, and goes to sea. Dr. Aytoun is seized some time after with paralysis, and then it is that his daughter's loving nature shines out, and at last subdues her afflicted parent to the exercise of fatherly love and confidence. Hector hears of his father's illness, and also of his changed nature. He hurries home, and receives his parent's blessing with his parent's dying breath. The tale is nicely told, and will excite a quiet interest to the end.

Arithmetic for Beginners. By Cornwall and Fitch. (Simpkin, Marshall, and Co.)—They are nothing less than public benefactors who lighten the labours and terrors of childhood when first introduced to the mysteries of numbers. The great want of ordinary arithmetical works, however elementary in their pretensions, is the want of sufficiently clear explanations. This little work proposes to remedy that disadvantage by the aid of copious explanatory examples, and certainly a glance into its method and arrangement will show that the authors have done their best to ensure success.

The Calamities and Quarrels of Authors. By I. D'Israeli. New Edition. (Routledge and Co.)—A fit companion to the "Curiosities of Literature," and a work that no library, public or private, ought to be without.

Fine Arts.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

MESSRS. ROWNEY and Co., whose colours in chromo-lithography have justly attained such a high reputation, have recently added some admirable specimens to their series, from works by Wolf, Pickersgill, Pyne, Alfred Clint, Goodall, and last, not least, that fine old hand, David Cox; the effects achieved in these works, by means of successive paintings in various colours, are truly marvellous; and a greater test of their sterling character could hardly be wished than is found in the versions produced in the "Old Funerary," the Ulysses and the Syrens, and others of Turner's masterpieces. Although the niceties of brush-handling, which we admire in great masters, are not to be obtained by the process employed, all that results from the judicious combination of colours is successfully realised by it. Messrs. Rowney and Co. have recently opened a gallery for the exhibition of a long series of works after English artists produced by this method—and a most interesting display it is, creditable, in every respect, to the art and enterprise of the country. In the room where this collection is exhibited, the proprietors also show some specimens of their process called *diaphanite*, or imitation of stained glass, which is now much used for the ornamentation of church and oriel windows. The effect of this process is that of great richness and fulness of tone, combined with an admirably transparent medium. A large picture of "The Immaculate Conception," with the Virgin, life-size, surrounded by clouds, groups of cherubs, enriched with wreaths of flowers, at her feet, is a striking object in the new gallery just opened.

Messrs. Fores, of Piccadilly, have just published

a fine mezzotint engraving by F. Bromley, after Grant's portrait of Sir James Scarlett, the Crimean hero. The portrait is manly and expressive—the very type of the old campaigner—his silver hairs doing honour to his grand martial brow. The chair in which he is seated is a fine specimen of ancient painting. This portrait was painted for the officers of the Dragoon Guards, who will, no doubt, be glad to see so faithful and spirited a transcript of it.

Music.

RIZZIO.

Rizzio. A Dramatic Ballad. The Words by H. S. K., the Music by Walter Maynard.

Cramer, Beale, and Co.

As a composition for a single voice this ballad is of higher purpose and attainment than any similar vocal work from the pen of an English musician it has yet been our good fortune to peruse. The poet has successfully condensed in the form of a ballad the subject matter of an entire opera, the verse being by turns narrative, descriptive, suggestive, and colloquial. If the poetry of Rizzio be deficient in lyrical character, the author undoubtedly exhibits higher attributes of his art—expression and feeling. Few composers would have ventured upon the difficult task of setting such lines to music; none but a gifted and cultivated composer could have succeeded.

We have not space, nor is it in the province of our columns to enter into a critical and æsthetical examination of individual works of art, but one of such rare excellence as the present requires no apology for a few observations; it deserves an unusual call upon the attention of our readers.

Mr. Maynard artistically commences his composition with a symphony that is in perfect keeping as to proportion and character with the work, and through it he epitomises the whole in a manner so skilful and felicitous as to recal the design of Weber in his treatment of the wonderful preludes or overtures to his operas.

The verse commences by Rizzio's declaration of love for the Queen. Mr. Maynard has set these lines to a melody after the modern Italian school. The melodic phrase is well sustained, and closes with an expressive and tender cadence; but we do not find it chaste, nor severe enough, for the classic form of this ballad. It would prove a very telling melody for a street *trovatore* to sing in his soft desire to wile away the heart of some fashionable prima donna's maid. The succeeding narrative verse is expressed by Mr. Maynard in accompanied recitative. We may here observe that with the exception of one line of poetry adapted to the melody sung by Rizzio, the composer has set the entire ballad continuously, avoiding any repetition of words that does not occur in the poem. Whether this be the effect of design or accident we care not to enquire: the charm is there.

After the recitative follows the denunciation of Bothwell and the assassins: the masterly treatment of this portion of the poem is an undeniable manifestation of rare ability in the composer. The melody, accompanied in pure counterpoint, is introduced several times under different phases: first, in the instrumental symphony without words; then, on two several occasions—in the revelries of Bothwell and the assassins; lastly, after the death of Rizzio, when the composer, by a change in the measure and colour of the melody, illustrates with much beauty and deep pathos the sad and lonely condition of the Queen. By these artistic resources, which appear almost a gift of inspiration, Mr. Maynard sustains the unity of his composition, which, under other treatment, would have proved fragmentary and disjointed—*rudis indigestaque moles*. Our admiration is again excited by the composer's excellent elaboration of the climax (the assassination of Rizzio), which, invested with considerable spirit and interest, culminates in a *point d'orgue* given in a few measured yet impassioned notes to be delivered by the unaided voice and declamatory power of the singer.

We confess our surprise at the many and high excellencies exhibited in this dramatic ballad, as former productions by Mr. Maynard—such at least as have come under our notice—yield but slight indications of the high capacity here manifest.

Our readers will infer that *Rizzio* is not a ballad

of a popular character; it is composed for the enjoyment of connoisseurs. An average performance of it demands the combined talents of a great accompanist and a great singer.

Theatres and Entertainments.

THE PALACE OF THE PEOPLE—MUSWELL HILL.

THE private exhibition of Mr. Owen Jones's designs for this national undertaking is announced to take place in St. James's Hall, on Tuesday, 21st, and Wednesday, 22nd inst. We understand that they are on the most extensive scale, and conceived, as well as executed, in a high style of decorative art. They will present views of the exterior and the interior of the proposed building, with some of its intended contents; and artists of eminence have been engaged in so finishing the coloured drawings that they will be more than ordinarily interesting. Considerable excitement now prevails in the densely populated suburbs commanded by the new Palace, with regard to the nature of the attractions to be provided for their amusement and recreation. We understand that ornamental grounds have been planned by Mr. Spencer, of Bowood, in such a manner as to include a garden in the Italian style, a French garden of the time of Louis Quatorze, and the old English garden, with its quaint clipped hedges and bowling-green. The "pleasance" will be encircled by a drive for carriages and equestrians, and a sheet of water will afford a scene for rowing matches and aquatic amusements. If the promoters receive anything like the support which they are led to anticipate from financial circles in general, and from the great railway companies, whose receipts the accomplishment of their plans will tend largely to increase, an institution will soon arise in the most beautiful environ north of London, which will combine the charms of a fashionable resort and a fount of healthy and mental and bodily amusement for the toiling myriads of our metropolis.

We shall certainly inspect Mr. Owen Jones's plans. That gentleman's celebrity induces us to think they will offer material for an interesting architectural and artistical report, as well as for one with simple reference to their apparent fitness for the end proposed.

COVENT GARDEN THEATRE.

This ample lyric establishment, replete with every necessary for the production of first-class operas, is now in the hands of Mr. Harrison, and his clever aides, Messrs. Murray and Brough, who know no rest from the labour of general arrangement, besides specially getting-up Mr. Balfe's opera of *Satanella*; or, *the Power of Love*, and the Pantomime. The former work, written, as we have before announced, in Mr. Balfe's best and lightest style, is to be produced on Monday next. The latter—unless some indiscreet heretic dislocates and precipitates the managerial arrangements of the theatres in general by rushing into the field with an ante-Christmas pantomime—will come in due course upon Boxing-night. We have on former occasions alluded to the radical changes it was the rumoured intention of the new management to effect in theatrical arrangements before the curtain. These rumours are now accredited from head-quarters, and deserve especial notice, for should Mr. Harrison have force as well as will to carry out his intentions, he will have deserved the thanks of generations of playgoers yet unborn for striking down the most flagrant abuse and removing the great obstacle to the certainty of seeing a play or hearing an opera in return for the regulated admission money, without payment of black mail for peace and quietness, in the shape of booking and box-keepers' fees. The official announcement, which cannot be made too public, as it might concern the comfort of all who by any chance ever enter the doors of a playhouse, and a twelvemonth ago might have been regarded as involving a maniacal revolution, runs as follows:—

Being of opinion that the price paid for admission to a theatre ought to cover all charges, and believing that extra claims, such as fees to box-keepers, &c., are generally, if not universally, objected to, the managers have determined upon abolishing all such extra claims. Private boxes, stalls, or seats in the dress circle, lower dress circle, or amphitheatre stalls (all of which are numbered, and will be retained the whole of the evening), may be secured beforehand at the box-office, at the same price as that charged at the doors, without any fee for booking.

A neatly printed programme of the evening's performance will be given to each person on entering the

theatre, and as all the box-keepers and other servants are paid by the management, there will be no excuse for any demand of money from the audience; and any servant making any such demand will be immediately dismissed.

All places secured at the box-office will be marked by a distinctive ticket, so that the public will be enabled to perceive at a glance what seats are at their disposal; and as all seats taken and paid for in advance are guaranteed to be reserved for the whole of the evening, the managers trust that the good feeling of the public will prevent any improper attempt to take these places when unoccupied.

Cloak-rooms will be provided, where ladies' bonnets, gentlemen's coats, &c., may be left, and where a low, fixed price (which will be conspicuously announced in the room) will be charged for taking care of each article. No person in charge of the cloak-room is entitled, on any pretence whatever, to make any claim beyond the price so announced.

Evening dress will not be required for the pit, amphitheatre stalls, or amphitheatre.

It is to be hoped—for we have not space for further comment—that the example set by the spirited managers of the English opera company will not be lost upon their confrères of other theatres.

DRURY LANE THEATRE.

The first Drury Lane season of the Pyne and Harrison opera management was brought to a conclusion on Saturday last with the performance of Donizetti's *Daughter of the Regiment*, for the benefit of Miss Susan Pyne. The fair lessee acquitted herself in the sparkling little part of *Marie*, with all the vocal and dramatic delicacy and finish we fully expected of her, and may rank without question henceforth in this as in other of her parts, side by side with the most renowned of her predecessors. A crowd of lay and professional sympathisers of course were present, and were most demonstrative in their manifestations of delight and admiration of the heroine of the evening, who was well-nigh overwhelmed with a pitiless storm of bouquets, not to mention a wreath of laurel, that might have served colossal brows; and a shrine or case that might have contained—for its contents did not transpire—a suite of diamond ornaments, a kilogramme of Parisian sweetmeats or *chocolat de santé*, or a portrait and an offer of the enthusiastic donor's heart. A good deal of disappointment was at first experienced by the announcement that Mr. W. Harrison was too unwell to sing; but that gentleman's admirers were in too great force, and the public too recognisant of his long-trying fidelity to engagements with them, to permit this feeling more than a transient existence. In the course of a few brief observations he offered at the fall of the curtain, in obedience to a general call for the company, it was so evident to all that the favourite was indeed an invalid, that the plaudits of the patrons whom he had but just disappointed were as warm as though he had won them by dint of vocal exertion, and must, as a tribute of genuine good feeling, have been infinitely more gratifying. The part of *Tonio* was read, as the bills have it, in consequence of the principal tenor's indisposition, by Mr. St. Albyn, whose voice, in the few opportunities allowed for its display—in consequence of his obvious inadequacy, at only a few hours' notice, to the concerted music—sounded so pure and good, and whose intention and capability were also so manifest, that they secured for him a very considerable amount of genuine approbation. If we are not mistaken, Mr. St. Albyn will have little occasion to regret the chance that threw in his way the reading of *Tonio*, though, the season being over, it was for one night only. Miss Susan Pyne, who was the *Marquise de Birkenfeldt*, was, as usual, valuable to both the musical and dramatic ensemble, and Mr. Corri made a capital *Sergeant Sulpizio*.

An address from the management to the public was extensively circulated through the house during the evening, in which the immediate removal of the company to Covent Garden Theatre was announced, and the lessees pleaded for a vote of confidence. That this will be allowed them *nem. con.* is, we think, a certainty. They have demonstrated in several instances, as they set out to do, that English operas by native composers can be performed to the enjoyment of native audiences by native artists. That they have not more often varied their programme is due to the amazing popularity of Mr. Balfe's *Rose of Castille* and *Bohemian Girl*, which assured their retention, and that when they have varied it this has been with the works of foreigners, is due—little as some of our readers may be aware of the fact—more to the dearth of native opera writers than to any desire of Miss Pyne and Mr. Harrison to strike the original colours under which they have acquired so much favour. They come forward, on the contrary, spontaneously to renew their implied covenant, to rise or fall, if possible, by English opera, in the following remarkable passage of their valedictory address:—

Though hitherto debarred, by the continued favour shown to works in our existing repertoire, from pro-

ducing very many novelties (a state of things we are far, indeed, from regretting), we shall be always happy to receive new works from native composers, and have made our minds up to produce, at least, one grand English opera each season; it being our ambition to furnish, in every sense of the word, a permanent home for native talent. We shall, therefore, esteem it a favour if composers, who have operas ready, will send them for approval, promising that they shall have the very best attention, and, if suitable, shall be presented with all care and completeness, and at the very earliest opportunity.

Comment upon this passage were superfluous. It contains a voluntary invitation, which its authors may not lightly repudiate, to the musical profession. With these it rests to accept or neglect it; but if the latter come to pass, let us hear no more of neglected native talent. We have now seen our friends of the English opera through their trial season at a first-class theatre—we hope a prosperous one—and here for the present we part from them, with our best wishes for an auspicious opening in their Covent-Garden home, and a merry season after Christmas.

HAYMARKET THEATRE.

A new and original three-act comedy, entitled "The Tide of Time," was produced here on Monday night. We were induced, by the well-established reputation, as well as the known acumen of the author, Mr. Bayle Bernard, to look for a more successful result than we can venture to record. The piece was, however, received in parts with considerable applause, and presented many situations which elicited marks of sympathy from a numerous portion of the audience. It comprises a social lecture upon the comparative worthiness of the workers and the non-workers in the upper walks of life, illustrated by an episode in the life of a certain *Mr. Pendarves*, a Shropshire squire. This *Pendarves* (Mr. Chippendale), a hard-hearted, cold-blooded gentleman of the middle-age comedy, who cannot fairly be held up to modern audiences as a type of the class to which he would to-day have belonged, is supposed to be about sacrificing the happiness of his daughter *Mildred* (Miss Reynolds), by allying her with an elderly Lothario, *Sir Dormer de Brazenby*, when, by an accident that will occur to travellers, her life is saved by *Mr. Spalding* (Mr. Howe), a young manufacturer in the guise of an artist, whom old *Pendarves* would regard at home in the light of mere "mechanical trash." Enamoured of his fair debtor, *Spalding* resolves upon closer acquaintance, and lays siege to the family. Conspiring amiably to this end with *Mr. Grainger*, solicitor to *Pendarves* (Mr. Rogers), he assumes for a while the name of *Brown*, and advances *Grainger* a large sum of money for the squire's use. His devotion makes an impression upon *Mildred*, who, at first all crinoline and fine-ladyism, turns a deaf ear to a fine flow of didactic sentiments which charm the pit and gallery, but soon afterwards adopts them, resolves to amend her ways, love her neighbour, even the poor ones, as herself, and to love *Mr. Spalding* especially. The course of their passion is, however, interrupted by the apparent ruin of *Pendarves*, whom the failure of a bank condemns suddenly to bitter retrenchment and a bed of sickness. This admits of the development and maturity of the great qualities of womanhood in *Mildred*. The proud damsel who scoffed in the second act at the notion of a Dorcas society and a basket of needle-work, has substituted in the third the modest apparel of the country lady for the flaunting trappings of the fashionable *lionne*—walks her eight miles a day on errands of mercy—is a ministering angel to her broken old parent—and thinks it no condescension to make lemon-puddings for the invalid. The latter, chastened by long sickness and adversity, and deserted by worldly friends, casts off the slough of false pride, endures without sense of degradation the financial assistance of *Spalding*, whom he finally allows to marry *Mildred*.

A thin underplot pervades the piece, in which the principal agents are a good-natured, fly-fishing enthusiast, *Molehill* (Mr. Buckstone), a blood-worshipping spinster, *Miss Sabina Crikhowell* (Mrs. Poynter), and the aforesaid *Sir Dormer de Brazenby* (Mr. Compton), the last two of whom are eventually joined together, no doubt for their mutual chastisement. All proper intention and industry were displayed by the artists we have named, as well as by Miss Fernan in the subordinate part of *Alice*.

It has been by some remarked that the players have been misfitted by the dramatist; but from such an opinion we must venture to differ, and draw from what we conceive to be a more probable case one plea for this and other performances which flail against hope and prediction to take the town by storm. It is more common now-a-days for authors to be fettered by compulsion to adapt their best characters and conceptions to the peculiarities of certain players, and to have their works subject to distortion by the necessity of introducing others, than for them to impose impossible conditions upon any theatrical troupe. There are few authors who, were such a thing possible, would not prefer the ability to

select a company for the performance of each separate work from among all the talents on the boards to the necessity of providing parts, situations, and even phrases, for the especial introduction and gratification of Mrs. This, Miss That, and Mr. T'other; and we have less doubt that Mr. Bayle Bernard is in this position than that he is fairly censurable, as some would have it, with having written a play that actors could make little of.

SADLER'S WELLS THEATRE.

The old-fashioned comedy of *The Wheel of Fortune* has been revived here, to give Mr. Phelps an opportunity of performing the character of *Penraddock*, rendered famous by John Kemble's personation of it. The stateliness of the original enactor and his fine manly emotion in the concluding scenes, are still the themes of admiration to the few who now remember the great actor in this part. We are not in a position to make a comparison between the present and the past performances, but can report that Mr. Phelps is forcible and dignified in the earlier portion, without any taint of stage assumption; and is masterly and affecting when the stern resolves of the modern Timon give way before rekindled emotion and awakened affections. The portrait itself is drawn faintly and feebly, but the acting supplies some force to it. A German misanthrope is ever of a very mild kind, and *Penraddock*, though not so besotted as the *Stranger* in his sentimentality, is yet but a very poor specimen of the great man-hating class. The play is very nicely put on the stage, and is well acted by Mrs. Charles Young as *Miss Tempest*, Miss Atkinson as *Mrs. Woodville*, Marston as *Sydenham*, Mr. Robinson as *Woodville*, Ray as *Old Tempest*, and Williams as *Weasel*.

THEATRICAL GOSSIP.

We retailed in our last impression a scrap of gossip to the effect that the popular comedian, Mr. Toole, might be shelved by the reappearance of the old Adelphi favourite, Mr. Wright. We are exceedingly glad to hear this is not the case—if it be not the case—and to find that the name of the former artist figures so prominently on the Adelphi posters this day issued, that even those who run may read it. Though by no means admitting that we should stand or fall, as if by absolute statements, by what we merely advance as "gossip," an article whose almost essence is untrustworthiness, we are pleased to be assured that no likelihood exists of Mr. Toole's losing that prominent position on Adelphi bills for which his talents qualify him, and which, once there, they would enable him to retain. We must, however, no more ascribe immutability to theatrical arrangements than strict accuracy to town talk.

The programme of Mr. Edward Falconer's, after Christmas operations, at the Lyceum, is inviting enough. It comprises the names of Mrs. Keeley, Mrs. Weston, Mrs. Charles Young, Miss Talbot, Miss Rosina Wright, Messrs. Emery, Charles Young, Garstin Murray, Fitzjames, and, as they say, a "host of other talent." We have already named the dramatic attractions in prospect.

DRAMATIC COLLEGE.—The *Illustrated Times* says:—"There would seem to be some hitch in the proceedings of those directing the affairs of the Dramatic College, and the principal impediment in the way of action appears to have been supplied by Mr. Henry Dodd, the gentleman whose name was received with such cheers by the meeting at the Princess's Theatre, as the donor of the land on which the college was to be erected. Nothing official has transpired: but if rumour may be credited, Mr. Dodd now transfers his gift with certain conditions, which the managers of the scheme cannot, in justice to the subscribers and themselves, accept. They have accordingly given Mr. Dodd a certain fixed time to rescind his recent proposition, at the expiration of which they hold themselves at liberty politely to decline the offer of the Berkshire land, and—out of the liberally-subscribed fund—to purchase some other building plot."

A CASE OF CONSCIENCE.—Some extraordinary proceedings are reported at St. Pancras. The assistant-surgeon of the workhouse, a young man, seduced some of the female inmates, and with the view of concealing his conduct, resorted to proceedings which resulted in the removal of one of the women to the infirmary. He then took to flight, and in his concealment was visited by the Rev. Mr. Pugh, the chaplain. The reverend gentleman, refusing to give up the address, has been dismissed, and three months' salary given him in lieu of notice. The circumstances were detailed in a letter addressed by Mr. Pugh to the vestry, with a view to avert his dismissal from office. The reverend gentleman states that he received a communication from the delinquent offering to disclose his hiding-place on a promise of secrecy being given, and requesting his spiritual aid as a clergyman. Believing the surgeon to be penitent, and that there was danger of his committing suicide, he gave the required pledge and dared not reveal the secret. It is stated that Mr. Pugh has laid the whole matter before the vicar of St. Pancras, the Rev. Thomas Dale, as rural dean, who has in his turn laid the subject before

the Rev. Dr. Sinclair, the Archdeacon of Middlesex, and the Bishop of London; Mr. Pugh has also consulted two eminent barristers, and all concur in the propriety of the course which he has pursued in this matter.

FLUNKETISM IN FRANCE.—The clever correspondent of the *Telegraph* thus describes the latest effort of the Parisian Jenkins:—"I hasten to acquaint you with a fact of European interest. The Prince Imperial appeared the other day in the reserved garden of the Tuileries for the purpose of healthful and innocent recreation. He was accompanied by a youthful companion, who took part in all his diversions. A liveried menial was in attendance upon the two children, plentifully supplied with toys of all kinds, which he produced as they were required. The governesses of the little Prince were in attendance to watch over his safety. Two white spaniels added to the amusement of the boys by running after various things thrown to them. A crowd, melted to tears by this touching scene, was assembled outside the railings of the garden. Such are the details of this interesting fact, much as they are related by the Paris journals. And yet somebody said the other day we had no Court newsman in Paris! As if plush did not follow power wherever it is installed! The French Jeames tells us, indeed, that people were struck with the 'robust health' and the 'vigorous constitution' of the Prince Imperial. Has he not shown his credentials in these two phrases alone?"

Postscript.

LEADER OFFICE, Friday Night, December 17th.

FRANCE.

It is asserted that M. de Montalembert has received a letter from the Count de Chambord, congratulating him on the independent attitude he has assumed, and expressing the sympathy of the head of the Bourbon dynasty.

Accounts have been received from Bangkok, the capital of Siam, to the 26th October, which mention the arrival there of M. de Castelnau, the French Consul, and his ceremonious public reception by the King.

SPAIN.

From Madrid telegraphic news has arrived to the effect that the Senate has commenced the discussion on the address, in reply to the Queen's speech. General Prim has withdrawn his amendment, which declared that Spain had not sufficient cause for entering into hostility with Mexico. The budget has been presented to the Chambers. It estimates the expenses at 1,786,000,000 reals, and the receipts at 1,794,000,000 reals.

ITALY.

A letter from Turin contains the following:—"The condition of Italy grows every day more serious and worthy of attention. All we see and hear inclines us to the belief that we are near the eve of a political crisis. It is certain that in Piedmont the rumours of a warlike tendency proceed from high sources. The King, Victor Emmanuel, has not, it is true, harangued the troops, as was stated, but it is undeniable that in a private conversation he observed that in the spring the Sardinian army would probably have occasion to again give proofs of their valour. In an authoritative quarter persons have been given to understand that war with Austria was not very remote. The National Italian Society has its centre at Turin, and its ramifications in Lombardy, Venice, Central Italy, and Sicily. The information which comes to us from our great neighbour would show that Piedmont is not without encouragement from the Tuileries. There is some intention of establishing a Muratist paper in Paris, and the future editor of it is already named. The paper is to be introduced surreptitiously into the Roman States, Naples, and the Marches. In the Lombardo-Venetian territory and the Pontifical Legations the public mind is excited to such a degree that it will be difficult indeed to prevent a serious movement from breaking out in the spring.

PERSIA.

Letters from Teheran of the 5th November state that a magnificent reception had been given to Feruk Khan, and that he is already occupied in preparing important reforms, both civil and religious. The official journal of Teheran has published a long article, pointing out the advantages which Persia will derive from her European relations. A special Ministry of Commerce has been created in Persia, and the direction of it has been entrusted to Mahmoud Khan, who is described as an enlightened man, and who three years since was Persian Chargé d'Affaires at St. Petersburg. The Persian Government invites European merchants, manufacturers, and farmers to establish themselves in Persia, where he offers them aid, favour, patronage, and protection.

ROYAL ENGLISH OPERA.

COVENT GARDEN.

(Under the sole management of Miss Louisa Pyne and Mr. W. Harrison.)

This new and elegant Theatre will be opened for its FIRST ENGLISH OPERA SEASON on Monday evening, with a new and original Opera by Mr. V. Balfe, entitled SATANELLA, OR THE POWER OF LOVE. Characters by Miss Louisa Pyne, Miss Rebecca Isaacs, Miss Susan Pyne, Miss Mortimer, Mr. Weiss, Mr. George Honey, Mr. A. St. Albyn, Mr. H. Corri, Mr. W. H. Payne, Mr. Bartleman, and Mr. W. Harrison. Conductor, Mr. Alfred Mellon. The Managers, in making permanent arrangements for the establishment of English Opera in London, have taken advantage of the improved construction of the audience portion of the new Theatre, and have made such arrangements as they trust will materially contribute to the comfort and convenience of their visitors. The Pit Tier and Grand Tier of Boxes will be converted into two Dress Circles, each chair will be numbered, and every person on entering will receive a ticket with a corresponding number, securing him a specified seat; a neatly printed programme of the performances will also be presented gratis to each person on entering; fees to boxkeepers, so generally exacted, will thus be avoided. Nor will there be any charge made for booking seats beforehand.

Private Boxes, Stalls, places in the Dress Circles and Amphitheatre Stalls, may be secured at the box-office (and retained the whole evening) at the same price as that charged at the doors.

Private Boxes, 12. 1s. to 32. 3s.; Stalls, 7s.; Dress Circles, 5s.; Amphitheatre Stalls, 3s. and 2s.; Pit, 2s. 6d.; Amphitheatre, 1s.

Doors open at Half-past Six. Commence at Seven.

ROYAL PRINCESS'S THEATRE.

(Farewell Season of Mr. Charles Kean as Manager.)

Monday, MACBETH.
Tuesday, MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING.
Wednesday, MACBETH (being the last time before Christmas). Preceded every evening by A FARCE.
On Monday, December 27 (Boxing Night), will be performed the Comedy of THE JEALOUS WIFE, followed by a New, Grand, Christmas Pantomime, entitled THE KING OF THE CASTLE; OR, HARLEQUIN PRINCE DIAMOND, AND THE PRINCESS BRIGHTYES.

THEATRE ROYAL, HAYMARKET.

(Under the Management of Mr. Buckstone.)

Last Four Nights of the renowned Spanish dancer Perea Nena, and last Four Nights of the successful engagement of Sir William Don, Bart. The New Comedy every evening.

On Monday, December 20th, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, to commence at 7, with the new and original Comedy, in three acts, entitled THE TIDE OF TIME, in which Mr. Buckstone, Mr. Chippendale, Mr. Compton, Mr. Howe, Mr. Rogers, Mr. Clark, Miss Reynolds, Miss E. Ternan, and Mrs. Poynter will appear.

After which, the new Spanish Ballet of THE INFLUENCE OF GRACE, by Perea Nena, Senor Monagas, Fanny Wright, and a numerous Corps de Ballet.

To which will be added, fourth time here, the Farce of THE TOODLES. Mr. Timothy Toodle, Sir William Don, Bart.; with a comic Pas de Deux entitled "The Pop and the Coquette," by Senor Monagas and Fanny Wright. Concluding with A DAUGHTER TO MARRY.

On Monday, December 27th, will be produced a NEW, GRAND, COMIC CHRISTMAS Pantomime, founded on a well-known German Legend, and in which Mr. Arthur Leclercq, Mr. Charles Leclercq, Miss Louisa Leclercq, Mrs. Leclercq, and Fanny Wright will appear. The Pantomime directed by Mr. Leclercq, and the Scenery by Mr. Frederick Fenton.

Stage Manager, Mr. Chippendale.

ROYAL OLYMPIC THEATRE.

(Lessees—Messrs. F. Robson and W. S. Emden.)

Last Four Nights before Christmas.

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday will be performed LADIES, BEWARE. Characters by Messrs. G. Vining and G. Cook; Mesdames Wyndham and W. S. Emden. After which, THE PORTER'S KNOT. Characters by Messrs. F. Robson, G. Cooke, W. Gordon, H. Wigan, G. Vining, H. Cooper, J. H. White, J. Franks; Mrs. Leigh Murray, and Miss Hughes. To conclude with A TWICE TOLD TALE. Characters by Messrs. W. Gordon, Lewis Ball, Misses Wyndham, Hughes, and Evans.

Commence at Half-past Seven.

CRYSTAL PALACE.—OLD CHRISTMAS

FESTIVAL.—Splendid Christmas Fare, Frolic, and Fun. Grand Pantomimic Fête in the Great Central Hall of Mince-Pie, by DYKWYNKYN, Monday, 29th December, 1858, and following days.

One Shilling, or by Winter Season-tickets, 10s. 6d. each.

Full particulars see the handbills.

CRYSTAL PALACE.—Arrangements for the

week ending Saturday, December 25th:—

Monday—open at 9. Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, open at 10. Admission, One Shilling; or by Season-ticket, available on every occasion to April 30, 1859, Half-a-Guinea; Children under Twelve, Sixpence.

DISSOLVING VIEWS and ILLUSTRATED LECTURES, by Mr. Pepper, every day at 1.30 and 3.30, in the New Lecture-room adjoining the Tropical Department.

On CHRISTMAS DAY there will be a Grand Miscellaneous Concert of Vocal and Instrumental Music.

Sunday—open from 1.30 till sunset to shareholders, gratuitously, by ticket.

ROYAL POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION.

PATRON—H.R.H. THE PRINCE CONSORT.—

Open as usual this week.

The Christmas Holiday Programme is replete with Amusements of a most attractive kind.

R. I. LONGBOTTOM, Esq., Managing Director.

DR. KAHN'S ANATOMICAL MUSEUM.

3, Titchborne-street, opposite the Haymarket, OPEN DAILY (for Gentlemen only). LECTURES at 3, 4, and 8 o'clock on important and interesting Topics in connection with ANATOMY, PHYSIOLOGY, and PATHOLOGY (vide Programme). Admission, 1s.—Dr. Kahn's Nine Lectures on the Philosophy of Marriage, &c., sent post free, direct from the Author, on the receipt of 12 stamps.

ROYAL LYCEUM THEATRE.

(Manager, Mr. Edmund Falconer.)

Will be opened for the season on Christmas Eve, Friday, December 24, when will be produced a new Burlesque, written expressly for the Lyceum Company, by Robert B. Brough, and entitled THE SIEGE OF TROY. The new and gorgeous scenery, by Mr. William Calcott. The principal characters by Mrs. Keeley, Miss Julia St. George, Mrs. Weston, Miss Portman, Miss Talbot, Miss Kate Saxon, Miss E. Romer, &c.: Mr. Emery, Mr. Charles Young, Mr. Ellerton, Mr. J. Rogers, Mr. Barrett, &c.: Miss Rosina Wright, Miss M. Charles, Miss M. Dalton, and a numerous Corps de Ballet will also appear. After the Burlesque, a New Comic Pantomime, replete with New Tricks and Mechanical devices, entitled HARLEQUIN TOY HORSE; OR, THE CREMORNE FETE. Clown, Mr. Charles Lauri; Harlequin, Mr. John Lauri; Pantaloon, Mr. Henry Lauri; Columbine, Miss Jenny Lauri.

The Performances will commence on Friday, Monday, and Tuesday, with the comedietta of TOO MUCH FOR GOOD NATURE. A Morning Performance of the Burlesque on Boxing Day, to commence at Two o'clock precisely. Doors open at Half-past One. Reduced prices—Dress Boxes, 4s.; Upper Boxes, 3s.; Pit, 2s.; Stalls, 6s.; Gallery, 1s.

Box-office open from Eleven to Five daily. Doors open at Half-past Six, to commence at Seven every evening.

OFFICE.

NO. 18, CATHERINE-STREET, STRAND, W.C.,

The commodious premises formerly occupied by the MORNING HERALD.

The Leader.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18, 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.

FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH FRANCE.

No feeling is deeper or more universal among the people of this country than that of amity towards France. As our nearest and most powerful neighbours, friendly relations with them must always be more important to us than the good-will of any other European community; and the mere fact that for the last forty-three years peace has been uninterruptedly maintained between us, abundantly proves that an equal sense of its value is entertained on both sides of the Channel.

There is only one thing which can really endanger the stability of this international friendship, and that is the attempt on the part of the Government of either to induce that of the other to forget its right of independent action and to adopt a policy which its own instincts would not have suggested. It is with states as with individuals—too compliant a familiarity begets contempt. The Cabinet of Lord Palmerston fell into this error, and it proved their ruin. It seemed, moreover, to endanger for a moment the maintenance of friendly relations between England and France, though the good sense displayed on both sides averted that calamity. Is it possible that the impressive lesson taught by the Conspiracy Bill is already forgotten? Since the conferences held at Compiègne and the return of his English political friends to this country, the Emperor of the French has caused certain interrogations to be put to Lord Malmesbury and his colleagues as to their intentions in the event of war in Italy. These interrogations are said to point unmistakably to the formation of an offensive and defensive alliance between England, France, and Piedmont, against Austria and Naples; and in the event of the English Government refusing—as refuse it assuredly will—the alternative is said to be not obscurely hinted at of a Russo-French alliance. We do not affect to know more of what is diplomatically going on than every one knows who possesses the ordinary means of correct information, and we should be heartily glad to be assured that the recent communications made through the Duke of Malakoff are capable of another interpretation. But it is useless to try and shut our eyes and ears to all that is saying and doing around us. Nobody doubts that a movement in Italy is contemplated in the spring, and nobody can wish to believe that either the French or Sardinian Government would entertain such a project

without in some shape communicating it to us. It is, in fact, mere prudery to pretend ignorance any longer in the matter. Napoleon III. and Victor Emmanuel have always boasted of their candour and good faith in their dealings with us, and we ought not to complain that they have deserved these epithets by the frankness with which they have recently made known their views. It must also be recollected that during the summer questions the other way were more than once addressed by Lord Malmesbury to M. Cavour as to the meaning of certain indications that were even then observable. The answers, we believe, however genuine and true, were not always satisfactory. The Piedmontese Government, while disclaiming any immediate idea of war with Austria, refused to enter into any engagements with its ancient enemy, and every day that has since elapsed the probability of a rupture has become more and more palpable. If France has bound herself, as it is morally certain she has, to support Sardinia, we have no right to complain; but if, on the other hand, we decline to break off relations with Austria, and to take part in the hostilities against her, France has no just cause to take umbrage thereat.

Were Lords Clarendon and Palmerston in power to-morrow, we do not believe that they would venture to advise the Queen or Parliament to embark in a war for the political reconstruction of Italy. They well know that the instincts of both the Court and the aristocracy would lead them to side with Austria rather than with France in such a struggle; and they are not the men to set at naught when in office the influences in question. But in opposition they may think it a fine stroke of political billiard-playing, to place their party rivals in the dilemma above hinted at, and Louis Napoleon, for whom they have sacrificed so much, may not be disinclined to oblige them by confidentially asking the Derbyite Cabinet a few embarrassing questions. "Will you engage with me to sustain Piedmont in all eventualities, and co-operate with me in punishing the incorrigible King of Naples?" He receives for reply that public opinion in England does not approve of intervention in the internal affairs of other states, and that Queen Victoria has no quarrel with the Emperor of Austria. "Well, then, will you give me a guarantee that England will not, in any event, take side with Austria?" Lord Derby cannot venture to give such a pledge, however sincerely he may deprecate all ideas that are incompatible with it. Were the Foreign Secretary to submit a despatch embodying such a blind promise for the approval of her Majesty, he would probably be told that this would be to place the disposal of Italy at the discretion of the expectant victor in the coming fight, and to surrender thereby the international dignity and independence of his country. But the thing is, in fact, impossible. To interpose without direct provocation in the domestic concerns of another state is contrary to the traditions and principles of our Government; but to tie our hands against all interposition, no matter what abuse may be made of success, or what selfish objects may be hereafter sought by others, would be to degrade the name of England in the eyes of the world. Our policy can only with propriety be one of present neutrality and future reserve. Our sympathies are with the Italians, and with all who lend them aid; but it is farcical for those who allowed Hungary to be crushed by foreign arms, and excused themselves on the plea that we had no cause of war with Austria, now to turn round and pretend to think that we ought to interpose by arms in the Italian peninsula, the relations between us and Austria remaining in every respect the same. We shall not be surprised, however, to hear the organs of the late Administration taunt Ministers by-and-by with an indecisive foreign policy. Under all the circumstances, any other than that which we have described would be culpable in the highest degree. It is no part of our duty, as a great and free people, to join with either Austria or France in the conflict with which Italy is threatened; and if the present ruler of France sincerely desires to keep well with us he will recognise the moral necessities of our position and not ask us to abandon them. The day may come, after battles have been lost and won, and belligerents have mutually exhausted their strength, when this country may wisely and beneficently interpose to secure for unhappy Italy some of those blessings that are now denied her. To do so effectually, however, we must reserve to ourselves the choice of time and opportunity, and the character of disinterested intervention.

THE IRISH ARRESTS.

It turns out that Lord Eglinton's proclamation against illegal societies was levelled not only at the Riband Society, which has signalled its revival by such murderous achievements, but against a new society called the Phoenix Club, which is perfectly distinct, and has very different objects. The existence of this society came on the general public of Ireland almost like a revelation, when numbers of persons were suddenly seized, conveyed to prison, and subjected to a private examination. This seizure has been made in bodies by the police, acting under central orders from Dublin. The men have been captured in batches of nine, sixteen, seventeen, and so forth, at Belfast, Bantry, Cork, Skibbereen. It is a peculiarity of the case that most of the prisoners are young men about twenty years of age; there is a marked distinction between them and the Ribandmen, in the fact that the Ribandmen are principally of the labouring or agricultural class, the Phoenix men are of the middle and shopkeeping class. Their conspiracy is said to be a revived form of Young Irelandism, and it has already advanced some considerable way in the preparation for its designs. According to a Cork paper the members of the Club have practised themselves in drill both by day and night, pikes have been manufactured in Ireland, arms have been imported from abroad, and their use has been systematically taught. Some of these drillings appear to be really childish in their method; a party of sixty is observed exercising in a field, a man passes in a gig, and the sixty disciplined ostriches think that they conceal their manoeuvres by lying down on the ground until the gig-driver has passed. The Irish, in fact, appear to retain with the propensity for conspiracy an absolute incapacity for carrying it out. They hide themselves in conspicuous places, they are so intent upon keeping the secret that they proclaim their secrecy, and are so proud of the victory which they intend to accomplish that they boast of it beforehand. The movement seems to have created surprise in Ireland, but our own surprise is, that the scheme should not have been known from the very first. If there have been boastings in the Green Island, we ourselves have heard analogous boastings in the United States, where the very plan and purpose of such a movement was more than adumbrated long ago. It may be that this Phoenix Club is something different, some new invention, but it is so like the counterpart of the projects hinted at by John Mitchell, that his vapouring ought to have pointed attention to these conspiracies, and has perhaps done so. Redoubtable sympathisers have spoken as if the manoeuvre, starting from the United States, would find a kind of *tête de pont* with an allied guard in Ireland; and it seems more than a coincidence if accordingly we find a new Phoenix Club in Ireland inheriting the projects of Young Ireland, and expecting a regiment of militia from the United States. It is most probable, therefore, that the Government has been acting upon sufficient information, and although we do not think it at all likely that revolutionists of the stamp belonging to the Phoenix Club would have succeeded in wresting Ireland from the rule of Queen Victoria, still they might have created boundless confusion in the Green Island; they might have given rise to some inconvenience to our relations in the West, and they might have offered the show of an opportunity for enemies still nearer home.

There was an admirable reason why the Irish refugees in the United States should fall back upon the old country; they have not made way in the Union; native Americanism has not taken kindly to the Irish party for various reasons. The Irish are content to occupy menial posts, and have not thus raised their race in the American estimation; they are frequently content to undersell their labour, a practice which has brought them into discredit in England, and has done so still more in America. They form gangs for the ruder kinds of work, such as navigators' business on railways, and it is rather remarkable that while they thus remain together they preserve, to a considerable extent, their allegiance to the emigrant priest. While the Irish race thus maintains its distinctive character in the Union it keeps itself in a subordinate grade. As soon as the Irishman succeeds he moves out of that condition, he becomes merged and lost in the general tribe of Yankees. For the most part he loses all distinctive characteristics; he ceases to undersell his labour, ceases to talk about old Ireland, ceases to be a slave of the priest, and

is only anxious to distinguish himself as an American citizen up to all the activities and privileges of the West. His banner ceases to be green, and becomes star-spangled.

A certain class of the political refugees who went straight from Ireland, or broke their parole and fled from Australia, found a certain degree of sympathy in the United States; but in many cases they forfeited it by two serious mistakes. It was an act of perverse patriotism to consort with the Irish who remained distinct, that is, with the lower order of Irish—not the way to rise in American estimation; and Mr. John Mitchell made the ludicrous blunder of endeavouring to flatter American prejudices by declaring not only his adoption but his worship of slavery. All loyal Americans regret the existence of that institution, forced upon the republic by their English predecessors, and they may repel malignant and inopportune suggestions of abolition; but when a foreigner professes to like it, they feel the same contemptuous resentment which a man feels to a base friend who flatters some painful foible that runs in the family; and Mitchellism has sunk to the lowest pitch of contempt. After this display alike of moral treachery, filthy taste, and intellectual stupidity, the ambitious Mitchells of the Irish tribe, therefore, found themselves like the Israelites in Egypt, and their ambition could only solace itself by the hope of returning to a congenial region.

Another irregularity of the West appeared to offer an opportunity for inventive and adventurous spirits. Having struck out the fashion of filibustering expeditions, Mitchellism sought its migration back to Ireland in the filibustering form; hence the bluster about some Colonel Ryan's militia regiment to raise the flag of revolt in Ireland. Young Irelandism, the remains of native "wild Irish" prejudice, has still survived in sufficient force to attempt a last struggle for existence. The Phoenix Club provokes discovery, and the latent conspiracy cannot refrain from flourishing its shillelagh.

Nor must we forget that the colonels—those uniformed bullies who have served some great persons in France, and have afterwards caused them so much trouble—distinctly pointed in their treasonable addresses to the possibility of injuring England by joining in an Irish revolt. The unrebuked existence of a Phoenix Club in Ireland, if it had gone a little further, might have invited, if not an invasion from France, at all events such movements in France as would have occasioned some embarrassment both to the English and French Governments. We have yet to learn, indeed, whether this view of the subject, suggested by the isolated facts which have come to our knowledge, in Ireland, in France, and America, are justified by the facts which the Irish police have obtained. Approvers, who appear to have been actively at work in the hopes of reward, are doubtful witnesses; but it is not likely that Lord Eglinton has made so serious a blunder as to take a Club for a Secret Tribunal or a band of Know-nothings treasonably plotting with foreigners.

FRENCH FINANCE.—THE MONEY MARKET.

WHATEVER mystifications M. Magne may have put forth in his budget for 1860, one very influential fact in it is the total want of even any pretext for now adding to the debt of France. He informs the world that the revenue of France increased in 1857—the accounts for which year were finally made up in August last—640,000*l.* more than was calculated on, though it was framed with an excess of 1,000,000*l.* above the calculated expenditure; that the revenue of 1858, which was calculated at 800,000*l.* above the expenditure, already exceeds the anticipated return by 3,000,000*l.*; and he anticipates, in spite of a "certain stagnation of business," that the "balance will be an excellent one." Since February last, Treasury bonds to the amount of 5,600,000*l.* have been redeemed, and the further redemption of the floating debt, decreed by the laws of the 9th and 19th of June, will be accomplished without any loan. We make no pretence to sift the Minister's figures; we take them on his assertion, and we refer to them and to the facts connected with them chiefly to throw some additional light on the general case in the money market to which we referred last week. The revenue of England will be more than the Chancellor of the Exchequer expected, the revenue of France is announced to be more than M. Magne expected. Austria has got over one great financial difficulty, and her revenue is increasing. Not only will no

loans be wanted by these and other Governments should they not quarrel they may all begin to reduce taxation, may all remit some of the property they most unreasonably extort from those they profess to protect, and may cause a still greater abundance of unemployed capital.

Still professing to place implicit reliance on M. Magne's figures, while we know that since 1847 the expenditure of France has increased from 64,000,000 to 70,000,000*l.*, we feel great astonishment, and so, we think, will our readers, at the very different condition of the French finances now and at that period when Louis Philippe could with difficulty provide for the expenses of the Government. In 1847 the expenditure was 10,000,000*l.* more than the revenue. In truth, he was driven from France because the nation was irritated by great and continued distress. How has it come about that France has incurred the heavy expense of a great but short war, the waste of a prodigal Government for eight years, and now has her finances in such a flourishing condition? Much of her increased war expenditure has been met by loans; so has much of our increased expenditure, so was the bulk of our expenditure during the great French war, and we must not, as a nation, condemn loans; and it can scarcely be doubted that the loans to the Emperor, raised chiefly in his own country, were as cheerfully subscribed to as were our loans. The total debt of France is now little more than a third of the debt of our country. When England incurred her large expenditure she was, by the inventions of Watt and others, then coming into full play, and, by the monopoly which the war gave her of the colonial and tropical trade, in a condition of great prosperity. Population actually increased somewhat faster during the war than after the peace. The corn-law was, in fact, more ruinous to the people even than war. It may, therefore, now be presumed that France is, and has been for some few years, comparatively in a prosperous condition. We are about to show that such is the case, and that the Emperor, with statesmen like M. Magne, is much more lucky in having to administer the Government when the people are prosperous, than wise for having brought about their prosperity.

We notice first that the railways opened in France at the end of 1857 amounted to 4509 miles; in 1854 the amount opened was 2912, so that in three years the increase is 1596 miles, and the greater part of the whole has been formed since the revolution of 1848. This great enterprise, therefore, which began in England, and for which France is indebted to England, was completely inaugurated there before the Emperor's accession to power, and his Government has enjoyed all the benefit of the increased wealth—which has been very great—they have promoted in France.

Next we notice that the tonnage of shipping entered inwards and outwards was, on the average, 1847-50, 4,638,470 tons, and on the average of 1854-56, 5,908,210 tons, an increase of nearly 28 per cent. in seven years. This increase of shipping has been accompanied by a corresponding increase in the value of the imports and exports from 108,207,521*l.*, the two together, in 1850, to 173,040,000*l.* in 1855. Of this trade, let us mention that the value of our exports to France increased from 2,400,000*l.*, in 1850, to 6,200,000*l.* in 1857. We have not the value of the imports from France before 1854. It was then 10,400,000*l.*, and, in 1857, 11,900,000*l.* France, therefore, like the other states of Europe, has been comparatively very prosperous within the last few years. To this the Emperor is indebted for the continuance of his power much more than to his own sagacity. Had the French been in as woeful a plight in 1858 as under Louis Philippe in 1843, even Orsini might have been welcomed as the originator of a change.

A part of this prosperity is to be ascribed to those gold discoveries which have given an impetus to industry and enterprise throughout Europe. A part also is the consequence of our own improved commercial legislation. The abolition of restrictions in one country is a general benefit to trade. With no country of Europe has our trade extended more than with France, and a great part of this increase can be traced to the change in our laws. In the three years prior to 1847, the annual import of meal and grain from France was less than 90,000 qrs.; and in the three years subsequent to 1848, the average was above 1,300,000 qrs. If the imports fell off in 1855-56-57, this was the consequence of the increased consumption in France itself, and the comparative superiority of our harvests in those years. The great imports to this country in

1849-52, from France, relieved the French markets, and prevented those complaints of ruin from low prices which the French made a few years before by the mouth of Marshal Bugeaud. Through all the variations of the French grain markets under the restrictive system, which have been very great, the agriculturists of France have been generally contented, as if the possession of land reconciled them to the evils of which tenant and high rent-paying farmers in other countries have so loudly complained. For three years their crops have been defective, but they have found relief in the increased demand at home. At present they, like our farmers in the two last years, have the double advantage of good crops and good prices. Not only corn, but wine, oil, and silk, are now tolerably abundant in France, and at present therefore the bulk of the French are, and are likely to remain, very contented. They are well off, and their modern history is full of proofs that they never become revolutionary till they are deeply distressed. Such facts, though too little noticed by those who believe that the proceedings of Governments are sufficient to account for all the changes in society, are well worthy of the attention of politicians. Everything depends on the social condition of a people, and however wretched and enslaved is the political condition of the French, they are now in a better social condition than at any period since the first Revolution. We could only despair, however, of the fortunes of the whole race, did improvements in the social condition of men lead, as some suppose, to a deterioration of their political condition. Modern history teaches a totally different lesson. The steady promoters and defenders of freedom have been the inhabitants of towns, and they have been the foremost in all social improvements.

Now, to say one word as to the influence of these circumstances on the money market. They all tend to show that, of late years, capital has increased unusually fast. All the Governments of Europe have been enabled to increase their expenditure very considerably, and, at the same time, almost every kind of industry has everywhere prospered. We say this while thoroughly aware of the temporary check from which many branches of trade are now suffering. In these few years, however, notwithstanding the increase of capital, the demand for it has been so great that the rate of commercial discount has been higher through a long period than has been before known in England within memory. It is obvious, however, that this great demand for capital which prevailed between 1852 and 1857 was occasioned by the great stimulus given to enterprise by the gold discoveries and the war demands of Governments. These latter have for the present ceased, and are not likely apparently again to be renewed; the former it is impossible to renew. Even other gold discoveries as rich as those of California and Australia would not excite the same fervour of enterprise. There is no cessation, however, to the increase of capital, on the contrary, little or none is now wasted on unproductive enterprises; saving has become almost universal, and, at the same time, these great demands for it have ceased. Only for ordinary and customary undertakings—providing us with food, shelter, and clothing, with some few new enterprises, laying down telegraphs and making rails—will capital now be demanded, and with only the ordinary businesses inactive, the ordinary and customary rate of profit, determined, in the long run, by the demand for subsistence and difficulty of procuring it, will or can be paid. Immense gains, such as those made in Australia, will not be made in the great works of supplying the food and clothing and the customary enjoyments of people; accordingly, profits will not be high, and the rate of interest cannot be high. As Governments are not likely to make fresh demands, no other or better than private security, except in those rare cases in which Governments lend a guarantee to some enterprises, can be given for loans. Private security, however, at present is of a doubtful character; credit has been shaken, and though on this account when money is borrowed higher terms will have to be paid for it, on this account, also, a very much less sum on the whole will be borrowed. On the one hand there is a rapid increase of capital; on the other there is, both from the cessation of the demands of Governments and the defective demands of private enterprise, a diminished demand for capital. We look, therefore, for the continuance of an easy money-market and for such a rate of interest as the diminished profit on business with a doubtful security can pay.

POLITICS OF THE TURF.

WHAT Japan is to Europe, what Almack's is to Clerkenwell, what Paradise is to the Peri, the Turf is to us common men. We who go down to Epsom by the rail, who do not know the name of the favourite till we get on the course, and forget it by the time we get back to town, look with simple reverence upon the aristocratic patrons of the turf as on beings of a superior class. It is not given to the profane vulgar to penetrate the mysteries of the "Olympian games." Let us stand aloof and catch whatever faint glimpses are vouchsafed to us of those exalted regions in which the blue ribbon of the turf is lost and won. It is some consolation to us, of the inferior orders, to reflect that even in the Olympian world all is not harmony. There are there, as elsewhere, two sides to the picture—two different aspects of the scene, according as you happen to stand before or behind the curtain. The princess with her glass shoes in the coach-and-four was not a greater contrast to Cinderella in the ashes than the sporting world at Epsom in its glory is to the same world in its difficulties before our courts of law. Perhaps, however, the force of the contrast arises from the imperfection of our mental vision. Evil, according to the Emersonian creed, is only a lower form of good, and it may be that the betting blackleg is only an inferior development of the sporting peer.

The first scene of sporting life to which we are introduced by our legal Asmodeus is the race-course of Liverpool. The plot, like that of all great dramas, is simple, the actors few in number. A Mr. Sinclair is the villain of the piece; a Captain Shaw is the virtuous victim. Mr. Sinclair, according to his own confession, is a betting man, and lives upon his wits, or upon his neighbours' want of wits, whichever the case may be. He is ready to lay the odds against anything, but being of frugal habits, resides in an apartment which costs him only the moderate sum of six shillings and sixpence weekly. His available assets were twenty-five shillings, a pair of dice with which he recreated his mind out of business hours, and a wife who possessed an allowance. Captain Shaw, by virtue of her Majesty's commission, is, or rather was, an officer and a gentleman, is also upon the turf, and risks his brains, or in default thereof his neck, by riding in steeple-chases. The gallant captain being present at Liverpool, and anxious to back a horse called Englemere at one of the local races, observed Mr. Sinclair in the crowd, offering the odds according to his wont and custom. With military impetuosity the captain took two to one from the stranger in ten-pound notes. The race was run, Englemere did not come in first, and Captain Shaw and his money were soon parted. Scarcely had the ten-pound note changed hands when it was discovered that the race, owing to some irregularity, was to be run again. This time Englemere came in victorious; but, alas! Mr. Sinclair considered it was more blessed to receive than to give, and was not forthcoming. So ended the first act. The second opened some four months later at Brixworth races. Captain Shaw and Mr. Sinclair were both on the spot, pursuing their usual avocations. Once again they met—'twas in a crowd—and Captain Shaw's eyes were upon Mr. Sinclair. The captain demanded the return of his money; Mr. Sinclair offered a composition of about ninepence in the pound, which was indignantly refused, and finally retired from the ring under the escort of a policeman. The stern official exceeded his duty, and marched Mr. Sinclair off to Northampton, loaded with a pair of handcuffs. Captain Shaw failed to prosecute, the charge was dismissed, and Mr. Sinclair brought an action for false imprisonment, and obtained 10% damages. Sympathy for either plaintiff or defendant is out of place. Mr. Sinclair has got his reward, Captain Shaw is a poorer, and we trust, a wiser man, but, to our ignorance, the moral of the story is plain enough: What business had a man of station and education to bet with a man without means or character? There is one thing worse than losing money on the turf, and that is, winning money from a Sinclair.

Our next episode of the turf introduces us to a higher sphere. We breathe a purer atmosphere, an aristocratic fragrance pervades our senses, we lose sight of our ordinary standards. In the presence of Henry Somerset, ninth Duke of Beaufort, all minor personages are reduced to an indistinguishable uniformity, and a Sinclair rises to the level of a Shaw. The possession of a dukedom, the mastership of the Queen's Horse, the owner-

ship of Badminton, a high position and an ancient lineage, might have paralysed the energies of ordinary men. Great are the fortunes of the Duke of Beaufort, but the duke is greater than his fortunes. He has devoted himself to the noble art of cock-shy, and, like all enthusiasts who put their heart and soul into a matter, he has succeeded in his high ambition. Tell could shoot an arrow without danger through an apple on a child's head, and the duke can knock a pipe out of a dummy's mouth without disfiguring the countenance. All great artists require a public. The other day, at the Brighton races, the Duke of Beaufort was exhibiting his peculiar talents amidst the plaudits of an admiring crowd. As often as the stick sped from the ducal hand, so often did the short clay pipe fall from the unwilling lips of the black doll who rejoiced in the designation of Aunt Sally. Four sticks a penny was the price demanded. What man with common feelings would have grudged his penny to witness the exhibition of aristocratic prowess? Unfortunately, there came by a rider whose soul was too dull to appreciate Aunt Sally's beauties. The gentleman in question, Mr. White Weatherley, bases his claim to the title of a gentleman on the ground that he has no trade or profession. He is something of a sporting character—does a little in the way of horse-flesh, and lives upon his friends. By some disastrous fate, at the very moment that the duke was in the act of demolishing "Aunt Sally's" pipe, Mr. Weatherley's horse struck the ducal shoulder. The blood of the Beauforts and the Somersets was roused—"Timere vel mutare sperno" is the motto of the race—and the Duke of Beaufort brooked no interruption, and knew not fear. Mr. Weatherley was converted into an impromptu Aunt Sally, and forcibly dismounted by the duke. It is not a pleasant thing to have a series of bludgeons discharged at your head and shins; it is not pleasant either to be consigned to an unmentionable place in the presence of an insulting populace—it can hardly be exactly pleasant even when you are struck by an aristocratic arm and damned by a ducal lip. This consolatory knowledge was, however, denied to Mr. Weatherley. For aught he knew he might have been insulted by a plebeian tradesman. He failed to recognise the indelible stamp of native aristocracy upon the face and form of the noble marksman, and, with fearful audacity, gave in charge the Duke of Beaufort.

With the true modesty of conscious merit the duke at first refused to give up his name. When, however, Mr. Weatherley learnt from the policeman the rank and title of his assailant, his feelings appear to have been somewhat modified, he reflected, doubtless, that discretion was the better part of valour, that fair words butter no parsnips, and that money damages would be a more effective cure for his bruises than a verbal apology. He left hot course, saw a doctor, and engaged a solicitor. The duke has had to pay 100% damages for the assault. Melancholy to relate, he might have had ninety-six thousand shillings at Aunt Sally for the sum that his three shillings at Mr. Weatherley have cost him.

Here, again, our sympathies are not called into question—the squabble is a discreditable one—Mr. Weatherley is no more of a popular hero than the duke is a credit to the aristocracy. In our opinion, Mr. Weatherley and the Duke of Beaufort are very much alike—the duke especially. A more serious consideration arises as to the effect that these and similar exposures are likely to produce on the public mind. We are no puritans, but yet a very small knowledge of the world teaches us that in the sporting world every description of roguery and blackguardism is the recognised order of the day. When we see that the turf numbers among its patrons our foremost nobles, and statesmen, and senators, we are prone to fear that the Government of the country may be pervaded by the sporting spirit. The race-course is not the fit school for the Cabinet.

THOUGHTS, FACTS, AND SUGGESTIONS ON PARLIAMENTARY REFORM.

No. VI.

THE popular remedy for intimidation at elections is the Ballot; the aristocratic device attempted to be set up as an alternative remedy is the system of Voting-papers. It is not denied by our lordly rulers that intimidation exists; the fact is too notorious to be gainsaid; they feel, therefore, the importance of having some counter-scheme to propose, which, while it seems to meet the evil, shall

not in reality lessen their power of controlling the votes of the poor and dependent. Pressure on the elector is of two kinds—that of the many around him when they get angry or excited, and that of the few who, as landlords, creditors, customers, or lawyers, in cold blood put on the “screw.” The two kinds of intimidation not only are different, but have a direct tendency to counteract each other. Whatever the faults of the ballot may be it goes directly against both, and in so far has the merit of fair play. But the system of voting-papers does not, and is not intended to, do anything of the kind. Its avowed object is to put an end to the means and opportunities of influence on the part of the many, while it leaves unchecked and untouched the various modes of quiet and silent pressure on the part of the few. That this is the view of its operation and tendency entertained by the class that desires to retain its unconstitutional power over votes at elections, will be made very plain by a brief reference to the history of the question.

The first occasion on which the voting-paper system was proposed in Parliament was the 8th of July, 1853, when Lord Shaftesbury, in the Upper House, introduced a bill for that purpose. He explained its provisions thus:—in every city and borough papers containing the names of Parliamentary candidates should so many days before the election be left at the dwelling of each voter, and should on the following day be called for and taken by the collector to the returning officer; the voter should mark with his initials the name or names of the candidates whom he desired to vote for, and if so minded he might refuse to return the paper at all; his signature was to authenticate his vote, and once returned to the collector he was not to be suffered to change or recall it. Lord Shaftesbury, who had voted against all reform in 1832, and who had invariably voted against every subsequent effort to extend the franchise or to protect the voter in the twenty years that followed, did not hesitate to commend this notable scheme to the adoption of the Peers. Lord Aberdeen was then Premier; he made no objection to the introduction of the measure, and when it came on for second reading said, that though he hoped it would not be pressed pending a promised Reform Bill, it possessed, he thought, great merit, and would in the preparation of the Government measure have the most favourable consideration of Ministers. Lord Hardwicke was sure that many persons of station would vote in the way proposed, who are now deterred by the turmoil of elections. Lord Wharncliffe praised the plan as the very best that was possible. The Marquis of Lansdowne and Earl Fortescue signified their approval, and Lord Grey would like to see the system extended to counties as well as towns, though he admitted the drawbacks and dangers involved in it. Content with the general approval of the Peers and the promise of Lord Aberdeen, Lord Shaftesbury agreed not to press the bill any further that session. The Russian war broke out the following year, and the excuse was availed of to put aside all schemes of domestic amelioration.

Soon after the new Parliament assembled in 1857, the voting-paper scheme was revived; Lord Robert Cecil giving notice in the Commons of his intention to move for a Committee to inquire into the best mode of carrying it into operation in county elections. This motion was opposed on the 4th of June by Mr. Torrens M'Cullagh, who went at great length into an examination of the practical working of the system under the Poor-law, and showed that even where political passions and temptations could not be supposed to prevail, it was accompanied by every species of corruption, forgery, and fraud. He cited various instances which had come before the public tribunals, in different places and at different times, in illustration of the general fact. At Swanscombe complaints were made in 1855 of gross irregularities in the election of guardians; an inspector went down from the Central Board, and after much inquiry reported that gross improprieties had been committed, no fewer than seventy-three persons having never had any voting-papers served upon them at all, and the motive assigned for such partisanship being that the locality in question was inhabited for the most part by the “enemy.” The election was thereupon set aside. Like complaints were next year made at Banbury, and for similar reasons there also the election was declared void. But even if all the voting-papers were duly delivered to the electors, who could prevent their being tampered with while they remained in the

voters' dwellings? In Lambeth two tradesmen, who were themselves candidates for the office of Guardians, were brought before the magistrates on a charge of having gone to a voter's house, and, on his wife's authority, changing the voting-paper he had left signed. The charge was proved, and they were sentenced to fourteen days' imprisonment. In the Union of West Bromwich, in 1854, five agents were indicted for tampering with the voting-papers in no less than 342 cases; they were found guilty, and sentenced to three months' imprisonment. At Bridport, in the same year, 49 cases were established in which the collector had either failed to collect the papers or to preserve them, and the commissioners declared the election void. At Bridgend, in Glamorganshire, candidates themselves were found to have obtained the voting-papers and kept them back, and the election was consequently set aside. In a single ward at Leeds, in 1852, it was found upon inquiry that 111 cases were tainted with forgery, as proved by affidavits. Again, in 1857, similar frauds had been discovered in sixty instances, and many more were suspected. It was no answer to say that detection and punishment followed upon complaint being made. Many complaints of grievous abuse were preferred, which failed of being legally substantiated; the proof was necessarily difficult, and the prosecution of such an inquiry took time and money. Six, nine, and even twelve months sometimes elapsed between the fraudulent return and its being finally declared void. In uncontested places the system of course worked without scandal or harm, but wherever it was exposed to the strain and tug of conflict it had proved wholly worthless and unreliable. Sir Fitzroy Kelly, Lord Ebrington, and others, endeavoured to weaken the effect produced by the facts above quoted, and the arguments by which they were enforced. But Lord Stanley and Sir George Grey having spoken in support of Mr. M'Cullagh's amendment, Lord R. Cecil deemed it imprudent to go to a division. The evil was thus, for the time, averted, but it were rash to infer that it has therefore been finally got rid of. The scheme is too plausible in theory, and practically too apt for its purpose, to be readily abandoned. It recommends itself to all the kid-gloved class of politicians as an effectual way of putting down the vulgar din and dust of popular elections. It would enable them to record their perfumed votes through the intervention of their footmen, instead of being obliged to take the trouble of sauntering down three streets and a half to a polling-booth, or riding three miles and a half to a neighbouring market-town, in order to tender their suffrage. For the rest of the community it would be the prolific parent of incurable distrust, intolerable espionage, infinite fraud, and irremediable oppression. The counter-vailing influence of popular feeling being absolutely withdrawn, the timid and the venal would yield without a struggle to the seductions of the tempter and the threats of the intimidator. The arts of corruption and menace would be plied unchecked and unobserved by the humble man's fireside; and when he had put his name to a political lie, he need not even fear the reproachful look of a neighbour, for his vote would be only known to the bailiff, or the briber, who had stood at his elbow, and the collector who received it at his hand. A more detestable or demoralising system never was invented by the selfish perversity of man.

BIOGRAPHIES OF GERMAN PRINCES.

No. VI.

FREDERICK WILLIAM I., ELECTOR OF HESSE-CASSEL.

THE reigning family in Hesse-Cassel are distinguished, even in Germany, by their self-willed and libidinous character, as well as by the grasping propensities which have for centuries urged them on to the committal of the most intolerable exactions, and to the practising of downright frauds on the public exchequer. Hesse-Cassel is the classic soil of petty princely despots of the fine old type. Its history has furnished the materials for that terrible tragedy of Schiller which is known in this country as *Louisa Miller*, and in Germany, since Iffland's day, under the title of *Cabale und Liebe*. Not only has the great poet laid the scene of his exciting drama at the court of the Elector, but the most stirring episodes, the most appalling situations he has there introduced, are but a faithful reflex of events as they passed in the unhallowed circle of that profligate dynasty. The lives of the Prince-

Electors have been, for a long succession of years, but one uninterrupted career of crime, tyranny, and unbounded licentiousness. They have freely bespattered themselves with every description of immoral filth. They have made their names famous as the torturers of their people, as traders in the blood of their subjects, as vampires preying on the national life of Germany.

Who is there that is ignorant of the sale of Hessian troops to the Tory Government of this country at the time when the rising republican freedom in America had to be bludgeoned to please our oligarchs at home? The Elector sold these men to England with as little compunction as if they had been so many heads of cattle, and coolly pocketed by the transaction upwards of 21,000,000 of thalers. This peculiar trading was conducted after a curious fashion: it being stipulated that the Hessian Prince was to be indemnified by a regular graduated scale for the casualties that might happen among the men he farmed out to fight other people's battles. Thus he received for a wounded subject so many thalers, whilst one downright killed, and done for, brought more still into the bereaved hands of this paternal prince. This clause in the dignified convention made it, of course, the interest of the Elector to let as many as possible of his dearly-loved subjects get knocked on the head by the American republicans. There is a *hand-billet*, or autograph letter, of the Elector Frederick II. still in existence, in which he expresses the charitable hope that “these d—d fellows,” his own troops, “will get themselves shot in sufficient numbers not to rob their own sovereign of his due profit from the treaty.” The system of thus selling the lives and services of their troops has been a recognised system at the court of Hesse-Cassel since the Thirty Years' War. Not a campaign was undertaken on the continent of Europe but the Elector there found a good opportunity for stepping in and doing a little bit of business in the man-selling line, haggling for the price of his subjects' blood, and finally handing over his eligible lot of Hessian combatants to bidders on either side. This was no unprofitable game in those days of dynastic contentions; and considerable, indeed, were the revenues brought in by these very legitimate mercantile transactions. The millions thus acquired were, appropriately enough, expended in maintaining troops of harlots, and in providing for the multitudinous offspring of the many Mormon unions of the reigning house. The people, as may be well supposed, rebelled frequently against this tyranny. Several mutinies broke out in the ranks of those who were thus unceremoniously sold as fighting machines to any customer willing to buy them. The Court, however, had a means as simple as efficacious of dealing with any exhibition of dissatisfaction. The approved custom on such occasions was to instantly shoot down those who made manifest their objections to the commercial arrangements of their Prince. There is one horrible passage in Schiller's play referring to these doings. It is that in which Lady Milford, the Elector's mistress, shudders at the sight of the diamonds presented her when she is told that they are the produce of the sale of thousands of citizens, some of whom had their brains blown out for refusing to be trafficked away into foreign service.

The late Elector, as well as the present one, are after the approved pattern of their race. They have both been famous for the free-and-easy life they have led; for the nonchalance with which they have ridden down the people; for the many political victims they have imprisoned or driven into exile; and for the amount of execration in which they are held by the whole country. We will not pollute our pen with a recital of the mode of life indulged in by the old profligate Elector. The worst days of the Regency in France, during the minority of Louis XV., were equalled, if not surpassed, in their enormity, at the Court of that petty fifth-rate prince. His *liaison* with the “Countess Reichenbach,” the details of which would not afford very edifying matter for perusal, has furnished the burden of many a seditious song in his principality. It is not our intention, for indeed the task would be an interminable one, to give any chronicle of the many “morganatic” and “left-hand” unions, and other varieties of polygamy, in which the old Elector whipped Brigham Young or any other dignitary of the Mormon creation. To such an extent, indeed, had his excesses arrived, that the lady who was unfortunate enough to be his legitimate wife fled the country. The various incidents of the “union” of the present ruler with

the wife, not widow, of the Prussian lieutenant, Lehmann, are also of a character not to be dilated upon here. In fact, to this chapter of the history of the Hesse-Cassel dynasty we cannot do full justice from the very difficulty it presents of handling so prurient a subject. Let it suffice that, both under the former and the present reign, the risings of the people, since 1830, had their origin principally in the exasperation occasioned by the dissolute and reckless life of the Court, and the consequent ruin of the welfare of the State.

The reigning Elector, Frederick William I., first assumed power by being installed as co-Regent with his father in 1831. In this capacity he performed his full part in the persecution of distinguished and even moderate men, whom the Government sought to implicate in sham plots, and thereby to ruin. Thus Jordan, the eminent professor of Marburg, and deputy of the University to the Chamber of Cassel, was confined in a dungeon for an imaginary conspiracy—the mere invention of some ministerial knave. Jordan had been an able advocate of the Constitutionalist cause, but had never taken part in any agitation of more advanced ideas. On the contrary, he was known for his disinclination to the latter movement. Yet, one morning, he was suddenly arrested, and shut up for no less than five years in “preliminary imprisonment,” as a captive “under examination!” This incident may serve to illustrate the guarantees of personal freedom which existed in Germany previous to 1848. Such a state of things as this gave birth to the proverb of a man being “condemned to a life-long examination.” After the “preliminary” five years of ceaseless interrogation had expired, the formal sentence of another five years of penal confinement was passed upon him. It was our lot to behold Jordan when he emerged from his dreary dungeon—the worn shadow of his former self—bearing the traces of his sufferings but too plainly marked on his attenuated person. This was the treatment bestowed upon moderate men formerly holding a high position in the country.

In 1847, the co-Regent fully assumed his father's place as sovereign. He took but a short time to render himself the dread and horror of his people. No wonder that in March, 1848, his persecuted subjects were among the most infuriated of the German people against monarchic rule, and, with arms in their hands, threatened the Elector with an immediate overthrow of his throne if he hesitated to accept the popular demands. The haughty arrogance of the Prince, on that occasion, assumed as absurd a form as was the case with King Louis of Bavaria, whose apostrophe to the “dirty boots” we mentioned in a former article. The turmoil of the insurrection being at its height, a deputation came to the Elector, demanding from him the appointment of a new Ministry, and offering as candidates the names of some men of the Opposition. Among these latter there happened to be a certain Liberal who pursued the calling of a leather-merchant, but who, from his consistent liberal course, had won the sympathies of the advanced Constitutionalist. He was therefore proposed to the Elector as one of the future members of Government. On hearing this, the Prince fell into a paroxysm of rage, which he vented upon those near him in that peculiar abrupt language which seems characteristic of European aristocracy:—“Leather-merchant Minister?” he exclaimed:—“Minister leather-merchant? No leather-merchant Minister!—no Minister leather-merchant!” Anything more coherent than this his royal indignation would not allow him to utter. He, however, had the mortification of seeing the leather interest after all triumphant for a time.

In 1850, the Electorate became the scene of an exciting constitutional struggle. The country, sick of the reactionary policy, the profligacy and defalcations of Government, arose in its anger. The Chamber refused the supplies for the public expenses. The whole administrative machinery was stopped. The tribunals, the magistrates of the towns, the very employés of the Elector turned against him. No man spoke a word in his favour. He fled from his capital to the frontier. It was a display, in miniature, of legal resistance on the part of an entire population such as has seldom been witnessed in history. The bayonets of Austria and Bavaria, however, made at last an end of the matter. All the leaders had to seek safety in flight, to escape the consequences of a charge of high treason.

Great excitement was also occasioned lately when Hassenpflug, the execrated Minister of the Elector, who had for many years squandered the public money, was convicted by a Prussian tribunal

of common fraud, forging of bills referring to public expenses, conspiracy to cheat the State, and so forth, crimes committed by him in one of his former administrative capacities. Seldom has a trial of a public man created more interest than this one did, directed as it was against a notorious embezzler of public property and violent reactionist.

More recently the Hesse-Cassel dynasty has obtained fresh notoriety by the resumption of prosecutions for “offences” committed in 1848,—prosecutions against individuals hitherto left unmolested. It seems that the old propensity of making political victims is again in progress of revival. The scandals of Court life also promise to renew their vicious vitality. This Hesse-Cassel dynasty, to all evidence, is one of the least capable of change for the better; and we should not wonder if, in some new commotion, their fate would be the least to be envied.

ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE.

FRANCE.

(From our own Correspondent.)

PARIS, Thursday, 6½ P.M.

DE MONTALEMBERT'S APPEAL.

ON Tuesday next the appeal of M. de Montalembert from the decision of M. Berthelin, of the Correctional Police, is to be heard, and that it will be successful no one believes. It is presumed the Crown lawyers will plead the pardon as a kind of *nolle prosequi*; whereupon the court will declare there is no case before it, and dismiss M. de Montalembert's appeal. So far as the public is concerned there will be an end of the matter; but M. de Montalembert's real punishment and sufferings will then begin, although he will neither go to prison nor pay 120*l.* fine. The English papers, I regret to say, appear to think that by the promulgation of “pardon” the author of the *Debate on India in the English Parliament* is freed from further pains and penalties; that the Emperor has retreated from the offensive position, and made such amends as it was in his power to do. They even go further; and, while counselling M. de Montalembert to accept the “pardon” as an apology, and say no more about it, intimate that persistence in the appeal will be henceforth regarded by the world as proof of a vain love of notoriety—as a morbid desire for martyrological distinction.

I am so confident of the gentlemanly feelings and love of fair play which pre-eminently distinguish the editors of English papers to feel sure that, when they learn the extraordinary position in which M. de Montalembert will be placed—so long as the Empire lasts—if the police judgment be suffered to remain recorded against him, they will be the first to approve and support his appeal. Shortly after Orsini's culpable attempt, a law was passed at the beginning of the year, familiarly known as “la Loi des Suspects,” according to which any one against whom a previous conviction may be recorded for political offences is to be placed under the surveillance of the “haute police,” and is liable to various degrees of punishment (imprisonment, banishment, or transportation to Cayenne) without trial or judgment during the remainder of his life. Now, M. de Montalembert comes within this category. The pardon merely liberates him from the penalties of the judgment, but the judgment itself remains in full force so far as it operates to make his liberty dependent on the caprice of the Government. Were M. de Montalembert so ill-advised and so ignorant of the nature of the “Loi des Suspects” as to follow the advice of his English friends, he would immediately be classed under the surveillance of the “haute police,” as naturally as butchers in Smithfield used to brand the sheep they intended for slaughter. As few Englishmen have any idea of what is meant by the surveillance of the high police, I will endeavour to explain some of its inconveniences, although conscious that my ignorance will prevent me from representing them in their true light.

So soon as the judgment is pronounced, it is forwarded with all the documentary evidence, called a “dossier,” to the police-office, to be produced on a future occasion as evidence against the party. M. de Montalembert will then be required to state where he proposes to reside, and will be informed that he cannot change his residence without previously being authorised by the police. He will be required to present himself once a week, maybe every morning, to the Prefecture of Police to sign a register to prove that he has not left the district assigned to him for his residence; and should he wish to go into the country for a day even he must give notice to the authorities, and provide himself with a special passport. He will be required to show himself to the policemen and police spies in order that his features may be engraved upon their memories. Every police-station in France will receive instructions of his being placed under surveillance, which signifies that he is to be narrowly watched. Night and day a watch will be set upon him. Opposite his doorway a spy will loiter in disguise, his servants will be compelled to report his every action,

and, perhaps, the lacquey, to whom he pays 40*l.* a year, will be in receipt of tenfold that amount from the police. Every letter addressed to him will be opened, and every one he gives to be posted will be subjected to the same operation. Should he wish to have a few friends to dinner he must apply to the police for permission, and will receive it solely on condition of receiving a police spy at his table as a friend. Most Englishmen will think this punishment enough. But this surveillance is trifling in comparison with the other risks to which M. de Montalembert will be exposed if the judgment be not quashed. Henceforward he is liable to be imprisoned or transported to Lambessa without warning, and without his friends being informed, until his death, what had become of him.

Would any Englishman accept a pardon which places him in so terrible a position? Would he not rather risk a great deal to obtain the reversal of the judgment and his consequent liberation from the surveillance of the “haute police?” I do not mean to say that M. de Montalembert will be subject to all these indignities and tortures, but he is liable to them, and that is enough to justify his appeal. Should Sir Francis B. Head or M. Leo Neulsort (a-nulcer he was called by a Cockney speaking French the other day), or the “base exception,” or “my grandmother,” be incredulous of the above statements, I shall be happy on a future occasion, if you can afford the space in your columns, to furnish irrefragable evidence. I can give the name of a director of a public company here who receives some 200*l.* a year from the police for his reports; of an American who also is employed by the police, and of numerous other cases. Nay, further, the “base exception” can learn from the “Citizen of the United States,” who acted, on a recent occasion, as one of its extraordinary correspondents, what kind of paymasters are the French police authorities.

The *Leader* was stopped last week, although some of your articles were reprinted in *Galvani*—how impartial!—and the same fate awaits your issue of Saturday.

FRENCH CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The recent publication, in your columns, of extracts from the statistics of crime in England, will, perhaps, render a brief account of the criminal statistics of France not altogether uninteresting to your readers, although, on a previous occasion, I gave an abstract of the figures. I can feel no hesitation or delicacy in touching upon the subject, for although the gentlemen who direct a portion of the French press may affect to consider remarks upon the interior condition of the country as intrusive and malevolent—the latter being a favourite epithet for whatever does not accord with their views—the source from which I derive my information is the report of M. de Royer, Minister of Justice, to the Emperor, and which has already appeared in the columns of the *Moniteur*. I presume this official document was inserted in the official journal of the Empire for public information, and, in spite of the new interpretation given to the law by the trial of M. de Montalembert, I imagine comparisons may be instituted, at least by Englishmen, for M. de Royer sets the example. This gentleman writes in his report:—“If, as there is room to hope, the criminal statistics, published by foreign nations, should shortly furnish us with the means to compare with exactitude that which passes in France under this head (‘arrests before trial’) with what is practised in other countries, I do not fear to affirm that it will be shown by this comparison that nowhere is individual liberty now more respected than in France; and also, that nowhere are the violations which it must suffer in the interest of society restrained within narrower limits. The number of accused arrested before trial (*inculpés arrêtés préventivement*), in 1856, has been 67,711 for all France. It is less, by 794, than the number of arrests made, in 1855, in the town of London alone.” Before proceeding any further, I am desirous of remarking that the italics are M. de Royer's own. They must evidently have been inserted with intention to place before the eyes of the public a contrast between England and France, and it is for doing no more than this that M. de Montalembert is imprisoned. Even-handed justice would require that her Minister in France, M. de Royer, should share M. de Montalembert's dungeon. But it would seem that the authorities here only partake of *Mrs. Malaprop's* opinion when the comparison turns to their disadvantage. In the other case it is highly esteemed, and no effort, not even the sacrifice of truth, is spared to encompass its institution. By the way, one is almost tempted to believe in Sheridan's second sight, for in his *Mrs. Malaprop* he has given the world the representative, the prototype, of the present régime. The curious in such matters may find food for their amusing speculations in investigating the influence of English comedy on French Imperialism; and *Malaprop* Imperator might not be a bad theme for the disquisitions of the learned *Smellfungus*.

To return to M. de Royer and his comparison. Should any of your readers think of this gentleman as was thought of the lady in Hamlet's tragedy, that, in not fearing to affirm, he “doth protest too much,” it would be charitable to suppose that the French Minister of Justice has not the remotest conception of personal liberty, and that he is totally ignorant of what takes place beyond the limits of the empire. It may require no great courage to “dare to affirm” in the *Moniteur*

that "nowhere is individual freedom now more respected than in France," because no one would be permitted to give a contradiction; but it does require that ignorance, which gives audacity to men who are not very courageous, or else that abnegation which no man who respects himself would consent to. I may also suggest, for the enlightenment of M. de Royer, that an increase in the number of commitments does not necessarily establish an augmentation of crime, but often, as in the United Kingdom, an increased vigilance on the part of the police.

I will now proceed to the consideration of the report itself, which embraces the quinquennial period terminating in 1856, but to the earlier years I do not propose to refer. The report separates crimes from felonies or misdemeanours (*délits*), and from simple police offences, and following the same division, it will be found that in 1856 the courts tried 4535 cases of crime, and convicted 4568 individuals. Compared with the results of 1854 this total shows a diminution of 990 cases, or 18 per cent.; compared with 1855 it shows a diminution of 263 cases, or a little more than 5 per cent. But this reduction has reference solely to crimes against property, those against persons have increased by 89, from 1613 in 1855 to 1702. M. de Royer congratulates himself on the fact that the augmentation has not occurred in the more serious of crimes against the person. The convictions of assassination, murder, and parricide have not varied, those for poisoning have decreased. But would not that state of society be better, and show more progress, wherein the crimes against the person had decreased, even if those against property augmented, than the one in which the reverse occurs as shown in the report? At all events it must be a safer if not a pleasanter one to live in.

Out of the total number—4535—of cases tried, 203 were for assassination, 95 for murder, 30 for poisoning, 18 for parricide, and 190 for infanticide. I confess to great ignorance of the criminal law, and do not probably sufficiently appreciate the nice distinctions implied by these divisions. The infliction of unlawful death, with what I believe lawyers in England call, in their Norman French, "malice prepense," I have always fancied to be wilful murder, whether it be perpetrated on parents, or children, or by person, murder, or assassination. In that case the number of murders brought before the courts would be 530 in 1856. I have no means of knowing from the report how many charges for this dire offence were not proven; but as I find the number of persons convicted to be greater than the number of cases—arising from two or more persons being concerned in some of the crimes—it may be fairly presumed that the number of criminals convicted was at least equal to the number of crimes charged. True, the report gives ten per cent. as the average acquittals pronounced on individuals charged with this crime, but this proposition will not enable us to arrive at an exact knowledge of how many murders were proven, nor of how many murderers were convicted. However, we shall be sure not to exaggerate if we deduct from the total number of cases tried the proportion of persons acquitted—ten per cent.—which would give 477 of these crimes proven. Now I find by a short paragraph, published in the *Times* not long since, that in 1856 "the crimes in England, where convictions were obtained, included 31 murders." If, for the sake of comparison, and to follow the example set by M. Royer, we contrast English and French criminal statistics under this head—taking, for the sake of round numbers, the population of England (including Wales) to be 20,000,000, and that of France to be 35,000,000—it will be seen that the proportion in England is 1 murder to 645,161 inhabitants, and in France 1 murder to 73,375 inhabitants. If, again, we take equal amounts of population in both countries, it will be seen that 9 murders were committed in France to 1 in England during the year 1856. Of course I do not vouch for the accuracy of these figures—they are what result from the official report; and one will be curious to learn M. de Royer's opinion of this contrast.

The remaining crimes tried were thus classified:—76 for blows and wounds, followed by death, but unpremeditated, 62 for blows and wounds of serious nature, 54 for blows and wounds on a parent (ascendant), 23 for rebellion and serious violence towards functionaries, &c., 181 for rape and offences against decency on adults, 650 for similar crimes on infants, 45 for false witness and subornation, 58 for coining, 499 for forgery, 1886 for offences against property (burglary, and with violence), 206 for incendiarism, 117 for fraudulent bankruptcies, and 148 for all other crimes. Passing from the nature to the locality of crime, it is shown that in fifty departments there was, in 1856, a reduction; in fourteen, a scarcely perceptible augmentation, and in twenty of the rest an increase which reached beyond twenty per cent. The departments in which crime has increased are:—Tarn-et-Garonne, 88 per cent.; Hautes-Alpes, 79 per cent.; Saône-et-Loire, 77 per cent.; Basses-Pyrénées, 73 per cent.; Pas-de-Calais, 68 per cent.; Corsica, 63 per cent.; Lot-et-Garonne, 48 per cent.; Hautes-Pyrénées, 43 per cent.; Drôme, 43 per cent.; Lozère, 38 per cent.; Ariège, 37 per cent.; Nord, 36 per cent.; Rhône, 34 per cent.; Isère, 33 per cent. In the department of the Seine the number of criminals in 1856 was 708 against 690 in 1855.

The average proportion of heads of population to 1 criminal in all France was 5885 in 1856, and 5522 in 1855. The heads of population to 1 criminal in each of the following departments were—in Corsica, 1891; Seine, 2454; Tarn-et-Garonne, 2972; Marne, 3235; Drôme, 3248; Lozère, 3520; Bouches-du-Rhône, 3533; Vaucluse, 3736; Haute-Garonne, 3945; Gers, 4115; Aube, 4361; Côtes-du-Nord, 10,025; Vosges, 10,676; Dordogne, 10,737; Côte-d'Or, 11,004; Isère, 11,089; Cher, 11,244; Hérault, 12,134; Haute-Saône, 13,016; Meurthe, 14,634; Ain, 18,546, and Creuse, 34,861. It would appear from this classification that, generally speaking, the agricultural districts of France produce more criminals than do the manufacturing ones,—leaving, of course, the department of the Seine out of consideration, which, from its comprehending the capital, is in an exceptional position.

CRIMINAL TRIALS.

Of the total number of persons tried—6124—in 1856, 2108 had committed offences against persons, and 4016 against property. Among them 5007 were men and 1117 women; 3067 were unmarried, 3670 were married, and 387 widows or widowers. The classification according to age gave 893 under 21 years; 3329 between 21 and 40; 1624 between 40 and 60; and 278 upwards of 60 years of age. Those born within the departments where they were tried numbered 4015; born out of, but inhabitants of the departments where they were tried, 1307, and 802 were neither born nor located in the said departments, or were without fixed habitation. Again, 3307 inhabited rural districts, 2519 urban districts, and 298 had no fixed homes. Of the persons tried there were engaged in agricultural labour 2210, trades' workmen, 2043; domestic servants, 438; merchants, traders, lodging-house-keepers, and tavern-keepers, 620; members of liberal professions, 435; and vagabonds, people of no calling or occupation, 378. The educational classification showed that 2698 were totally illiterate; 2332 knowing how to read only, or imperfectly how to read and write; and 346 of superior education. Of these 6124 accused committed for trial, the juries convicted 4568, and acquitted 1556. The punishments awarded on conviction were—46 sentenced to death; 248 to hard labour for life; 1051 to hard labour for fixed number of years; 971 to solitary confinement; 1 to banishment; 2221 to imprisonment; 6 to pay fines; and 24 infants, under sixteen years of age, acquitted, but sent to penitentiary establishments. Of the 46 condemned to death, 17 were executed; 1 (a parricide) committed suicide; 27 were remitted to hard labour for life; and 1 to solitary confinement for life. Moreover, 2945 were stated by juries to have in their favour extenuating circumstances. The assize courts judged, without the assistance of juries, 483 absent individuals accused of crimes, of whom 2 were acquitted, 22 condemned to death; 27 to hard labour for life; 287 to hard labour for stated periods of time; 144 to confinement; and 1 to civil degradation. This total included 200 robberies with violence; 94 fraudulent bankruptcies; 98 forgeries; 35 rapes, &c.; and 14 murders. This last catalogue presents as melancholy and curious a fact as any elicited by the report, for it proves that, in spite of passports and extraordinary police agencies, about one criminal in twelve manages to escape from justice.

I proceed now to the second class of offences. In 1856 the 261 correctional tribunals in France tried 181,610 cases, implicating 225,561 individuals. These totals show a reduction, as compared with 1856, of 7905 cases, and of 8802 accused. The offences and accused are thus classed:—Persons charged with evasion of tickets-of-leave, 3947; vagrancy, 6588; mendicity, 5232; rebellion, 3238; outrages and violence against public functionaries, 7601; offences against religion, and outrages towards its ministers, 238; assaults, 14,342; offences against decency, 3176; defamation, insults, calumnious denunciations, 4286; theft, 47,102; ordinary bankruptcies, 660; swindling, 3089; abuse of confidence, 3171; cheating as to the nature, quality, and quantity of goods sold, false weights and measures, 12,329; damage and destruction of harvests, trees, enclosures and animals, 1561; political offences, 990; distribution of printed books, &c., without authority, 215; unlicensed opening of public-houses and cafés, 1698; manufacture and possession of arms and gunpowder, possession and carrying of prohibited weapons (including loaded walking-sticks), 464; offences against game-laws, 24,685; rural offences and marauding, 1329; smuggling, 2187; infringement of fishery laws, 4699; employing postage-stamps a second time, 4054; other offences against the postal laws, 161; infringement of forest laws, 55,782; violation of carriers' laws, 1952; other offences, 10,985. It cannot fail to strike the reader, I think, how many offenders of the laws are created by the state's interference with the liberty of the subject and with the laws of common sense. The absurd custom-house restrictions and fetters on the press are the cause of more than one-tenth of the total offences, while the game and forest laws, which Mr. Bright would have the world believe are barbarous relics of feudalism confined to monarchical and aristocratic England, provoke nearly one-third of the whole minor crimes. The second usage of postage-stamps—of which, by-the-by, women are disproportionately guilty—is a curious feature; and the items of vagrancy and men-

dicity are signs that France is seriously affected with pauperism, which her statesmen pretend to ignore.

Out of the number of persons—225,561—proceeded against, 156,880 were at the request of the public prosecutor; 8819 by the public generally; and 59,862 by public administrations. The prosecutions resulted in the acquittal of 20,146 accused; the condemnation of 11,063 to imprisonment for one year and more; of 76,324 to imprisonment for less than a year; of 114,281 to punishment by fines; of 2156 infants, under 16 years of age, to houses of correction; and of 1591 infants to be sent back to their parents. The total number of persons imprisoned was, therefore, 89,543. As far as it was practicable to ascertain, there were 6905 accused under 16 years of age, 18,214 between 16 and 21, and 127,934 above 21. Previous convictions were recorded against 40,345 of the accused, which is a larger number than in any preceding year. Commercial probity does not seem to improve; for, M. de Royer says: "It is thus, in matters of fraud in commercial transactions, that old offenders increase every year in deplorable proportions." The results of the penitentiary system have not been favourable, according to the same authority; and, so far, agree with recent experience in England. Nearly two-fifths of liberated convicts, who answer to English ticket-of-leave men, are taken up and tried again before the expiration of the third year of their liberation. The penitentiary colonies, or farm-schools, are stated to show fewer relapses to crime; but that may result from their receiving the best, and the prisons the worst, cases. The third class of crimes, or simple police offences, brought before 2681 simple police-courts, included 402,914 judgments, which are 6417 more than in 1855. The number of persons implicated in these cases was 533,195, of whom 33,518 were acquitted; 470,815 were punished by fines; and 27,836 by imprisonment. With respect to 1026 the tribunals declared themselves incompetent; 48,384 judgments were rendered in the absence of the accused—another instance of the efficacy of passports—and 2463 persons were imprisoned for non-payment of fines.

The officers of justice in France are 18,484 gendarmes, divided into 3399 brigades; 1979 commissaries of police, 7009 agents of police, 2850 justices of the peace, and 34,155 rural guards.

Before quitting this dismal subject, there is one correction of a popular error which I should be glad to be permitted to make. M. Alexandre Dumas, and other writers equally as veracious, affirm, and ninety-nine Frenchmen out of a hundred believe, that Englishmen are more prone to commit suicide than any other people of the globe. Now the number of suicides committed in France in 1856 was, according to the report of the Minister of Justice, 4189, of which 3161 were men, and 1028 women. On the other hand, M. Buckle shows, in his work on *Civilisation*—quoting from the Registrar-General's Report—that during the same period in England the number of suicides was no more than 1182. If we institute a comparison, as in the former instance, it will be seen that in France there is 1 suicide for every 8355 inhabitants, and in England only 1 for every 16,937 inhabitants; so that for every Englishman who makes away with himself there are two Frenchmen and a fraction that commit self-slaughter.

The total number of persons convicted in 1856 of having violated the law in France, and who were punished, therefore, appears, from M. de Royer's report, to have been 708,634, or 1 to rather more than every 49 inhabitants.

GERMANY.

(From our own Correspondent.)

December 15.

I PRESUME my letter of last week did not reach you by some irregularity. As regards news, it was no great loss, but as it treated of a subject which is still agitating the Hanse towns, the only quarters of Germany where a certain amount of free discussion is tolerated, and as the matter slightly affects the interests of Englishmen, it may, perhaps, not be amiss to recur to it. The object of the agitation is to give effect to the labours of the Gotha Congress, to which I have alluded in former letters, and to bring about the abolition of the guild system, which still flourishes in Germany as it did in the profound ignorance of the middle ages. The Prussian questions banished the subject of free trade and free labour from the minds of the commercial classes, but now they appear disposed to lend an ear to the teachings of the Congress. Although the focus of the agitation is the Hanse towns, they have not originated it—it has been forced upon them by the United States, whose Consul, some time back, claimed perfect reciprocity for American citizens in accordance with the conditions of a treaty entered into with the Hanse towns in 1828. This treaty declares that it shall be wholly lawful for the citizens of both contracting parties to transact themselves their own business by wholesale or retail in all the ports and places of the two countries—in short, that Americans should be as free to buy and sell in the Hanse towns as citizens of the latter are to do so in the United States. Notwithstanding the perspicuity of the terms of the treaty and its self-evident intention, the authorities of the Hanse towns had the assurance to dispute

it, and opposed the establishment of Americans for nearly a year after the right had been claimed, and it was not till Mr. Barnard, the then American Chargé d'Affaires at Berlin, authorised the Consul at Bremen to discontinue his functions, and refer the matter to Washington, that the authorities conceded the point. The consequence is, that Americans in the Hanse towns are favoured beyond all other nations, and as to become a freeman of the city, with the same privileges that United States citizens possess, costs from three to four hundred dollars, it follows that it is, by so much money, more advantageous to be an American—no trifling consideration for the generality of men who go abroad to seek their fortunes. By this treaty American captains are enabled to transact the business of their ships without the mediation of a broker, and are permitted to enter the ports without paying the dues to which other foreign vessels are liable. Now the people of the Hanse towns enjoy the same freedom to trade in England as they do in the United States, excepting in a few towns where the old effete tyranny of the guilds is not yet quite trampled under foot, but in all the great centres of trade they have exactly the same freedom as in the United States; and is it too much to ask that Englishmen should enjoy the same freedom in the Hanse towns, which are, it must be remembered, the London, Liverpool, and Glasgow of Germany?

The fact of the Americans enjoying privileges in certain parts of Germany which no other nations, not even Germans, enjoy, has naturally given rise to comments, and produced a state of feeling nearly allied to envious irritation. Some members of the Gotha Congress have taken advantage of this rare opportunity to stir up the people to make an effort to release themselves from the insolent tyranny of these uneducated and selfish monopolists, who absolutely begrudge and deny the poor man the right of gaining his bread by the sweat of his brow. I have no doubt, myself, that the free-labour men will be ultimately and shortly successful in their exertions to liberate their country from the yoke of the guilds, for when it becomes known to German citizens of the United States that they are free of the guilds, that they have all the privileges of the highest Bürgerrecht, there will be, very probably, an extensive immigration into the Hanse towns, and the monopolists will thus be completely overwhelmed, much to the profit of the Hanse towns themselves, which will become thenceforth the refuge of all oppressed Germans. This free-labour question, or, as the Germans term it, *Gewerbe-Frage*, is the real movement of the time in Germany—the Prussian question was a mere excrement; the advanced Liberals clearly perceive that the *Zunftwesen*, or guild system, is the root of the *Beamtenhum*, or official system: get rid of the first and the other will die of itself for want of nourishment. This was made evident in Prussia. To decoy Germans of the surrounding states into Prussia, the guilds were abolished; but the guilds being abolished, there was no need of official supervision, there was no need of passports, nor *Wanderbuchs*, nor cards of residence, nor alien tickets, &c. &c., there was an end to the whole host of official *Scheins*, or testimonials, that wear out the spirits and shoe-leather of the poor German workman—there was, in consequence of this abolition, no need of officials in Prussia, for their occupation was gone. This, of course, would never do, for the *Beamtenhum*, or "beadledom," is to despotism what the pulp of fruit is to the core, more especially in countries where no historical aristocracy exists; so M. Von der Heydt and partners set to work as quickly as possible to reorganise the guilds, in which, however, they have not been successful, nor are they likely to be, since the Gotha Congress have so patriotically stood forth to enlighten both princes and people.

The Ministerial, or as we must call it, after the Prince of Prussia's peroration, the Grace of God party, is now impressing it upon the Ministers that it is their duty to defend the prerogative of the Crown—the monarchical basis of the State, and, above all, the principle of the Grace of God Monarchy against any encroachments that may be attempted on the part of the Liberal *Landtag*. There are, however, certain questions which had better be left undefended, and among these is the Grace of God Monarchy principle. That the Prince or his Ministers should moot such a doctrine in philosophically atheistical Germany is inexplicable to me. They surely must know what the people have been learning and discussing since the first French Revolution—they surely must know to what extent Protestant churches are frequented by men! I wonder whether the advisers of the Prince have ever given themselves the trouble to go amongst the people to inquire what they thought about the Grace of God itself before asking them to believe in the Monarchy by the Grace of God. I think I speak truth when I assert that the great mass of educated Germans are either Atheists or simple Deists, and therefore any attempt on the part of the Ministerialists to defend the principle would only make a vexed question of that which admits of no argument, which is merely a matter of sentiment and faith, and must make itself felt. If there is a doubt about the sanctity of kings abroad, it is certainly the most prudent course to accept the fact without any comment whatever, for comment on the *Landtag* will lead to discussion, and discussion will set those a thinking who will become the easiest instru-

ments of a revolution. The safety of royalty in Germany is the ignorance and indifference of the peasants. The townspeople have long laughed at the Grace of God principle. When we see a small number of a nation like the *Kreuz Zeitung* party coming forward as loyalists and supporters of the monarchy *par excellence*, we may guess how the monarchy stands with the people, and we are reminded that just those very people who are loudest about their nationality—as the Greeks, Italians, Poles, and Hungarians—have no real nationality at all. From bigotry to disbelief there is but one step, as France clearly proves. No people were more loyal, or rather worshipped royalty more than the French, and no wonder, for the belief in the holiness of the king was instilled into them from their earliest childhood by the priesthood, yet no sooner did a doubt enter their minds than the Revolution immediately followed, attended by a rage as blind as had been their former bigotry. I think it, therefore, a bad sign when we hear the prince of the greatest military and officially fettered State of Europe threatening to put down hypocrisy in the Church, and almost in the same breath begging his Ministers to assist him in upholding the most ridiculous sham of the day—the Grace of God Monarchy—against the encroaching power of the people. The *Kreuz Zeitung* party are the worst enemies of the cause they profess to support, for they would subject to the torture of logic that which has for its foundation only fear, ignorance, and superstitious feeling. The mass of people know little and care little about their own rights, or the rights of king or parliament; if they did know their own rights and the origin of royalty, it would be rather a difficult task to tyrannise over them as we see is done at this moment. All that they know about royalty is, that they have inherited it, just as they have their religious confession. All that they know about their parliament is, that the members comprising it are permitted to meet in a large room at Berlin, and talk politics without being instantly packed off to prison. This ignorance and indifference is the bliss of the powers that rule, and they and their friends would act wisely to enjoy it in silence. This is an advice which, fortunately for those who seek the downfall of royalty, will not be followed by the noisy, thoughtless loyalists, and some debates may be expected in the coming parliament upon the subject of monarchy by the Grace of God *versus* monarchy by the will of the people.

Ernst Moritz Arndt, the great lyric poet of Germany, who is now eighty-nine years of age, has just been condemned (*in contumaciam*) by the Assizes at Zweibrücken (Deux Ponts) to a month's imprisonment and a fine of fifty guilders, for having, in his latest work, entitled "Wanderings and Ramblings with Freiherr vom Stein," slandered and insulted the Bavarian General Furst Wrede. In the passage for which he has been condemned, Arndt gives a relation of the conduct of the Bavarian General, when, as French Marshal, he occupied the castle of the Duke of Brunswick-Oels, how that he carried off all the silver service, and how for that reason Freiherr vom Stein once exclaimed, when he met the General at the country seat of Metzler, the banker: "I'll never sit in the same room with such a cursed thief." As soon as the fact of Arndt's condemnation became known at Bonn, where he dwells, the townspeople and students got up a torchlight procession in his honour. The old poet will not be otherwise than agreeably affected by the sentence, unless he chooses to pay a visit to the Bavarian park of Vaterland—a visit that would be extremely unwelcome to the Bavarian Government. I think for Der Alti Vater Arndt stands first in the hearts of all patriotic Germans, and his imprisonment, if it should not give rise to disturbances, would, at least, cause a very painful sensation indeed. It is, therefore, better, perhaps, for all parties that Arndt is enjoying his torchlight procession at Bonn instead of lying in a Bavarian prison. A few nights ago the royal palace at Berlin was burglariously entered and a valuable silver service, presented to Prince Frederick William on the occasion of his marriage by the City of Cologne, stolen from the grand saloon. It is said the thieves are caught.

In your last *Leader* there was an extract from the Berlin correspondence of a contemporary headed "Preservation of Mediæval Customs." I refer your readers to the extract in question, and venture to offer them a few remarks upon it. It is very possible that mediæval courts of equity are held in Holstein; mediæval is a wide term, and the custom may have come down to the people by tradition, from century to century, although I, for one, do not believe it for a moment; but I should very much like to know upon what authority the correspondent of your contemporary is enabled to assert that the Schleswig-Holsteiners, as the Germans designate the inhabitants of the two provinces of Schleswig and Holstein, are Anglo-Saxons *pur sang*? I am aware that it is an accepted historical truth that a people called in the Latin language *Angli* and *Saxones*, and in old English *Engla* and *Leaena*, or *Angles* and *Seaxes* according to the dialect, came from a part of the Continent which, upon the sole authority of Bede Venerabilis, lay between Geatun and Saxonom, which countries are supposed to be Jutland and Saxony; but if we, upon the authority of Bede, allow that these people did come from such a quarter, and that quarter was the present Angeln in the province of Schleswig,

then, by the same authority, it is utterly impossible that the present natives of that country are Anglo-Saxons *pur sang*, for Bede distinctly informs us that after the Angles and Seaxes had departed, the country became, and remained, an uninhabited waste; and that it continued to be "an uninhabited wilderness of vast solitudes and briny marshes" up to the eleventh century, we have the testimony of Adam Bremensis, the earliest and chief ancient historical authority of Germany and Denmark. It would be tedious, perhaps, and out of place here, to enter into the origin of the people of Denmark and its provinces, but I will just observe that some parts of the country were brought under cultivation by settlers from Holland so late as the sixth century, and these countries, as well as Germany, were indebted for their civilisation and conversion to Christianity to missionaries from England. The assertion of your contemporary's correspondent, that the German dialects spoken in Schleswig and Holstein are as near to Anglo-Saxon as can be, is not in accordance with fact. They bear no more, indeed less, resemblance to any dialect of Anglo-Saxon than do Danish or Flemish. It is exactly because the language of Holstein is German that the quarrel has arisen between Germany and Denmark. That the peasants who appear at such courts of equity should speak no pure *hoch Deutsch*, I can easily conceive, as can any one who knows that there are very few peasants in all North Germany that are able to speak the literary or high German language, which is, in fact, the language of the educated classes only. The word "Thing" is given as the name of this court, but I suppose it is a misprint for "Thing." The word was most probably introduced by the English missionaries, or their disciples, from the archbishopric of Bremen, which was founded in 785 by Wilhead of Northumberland. My chief object in noticing the extract from your contemporary's correspondence is to put your readers on their guard against receiving as authentic any accounts of customs, manners, or ethnological similarities tending to prove identity of race in Holsteiners and the English, or in the Danes and the English. The aim of such accounts is doubtless to excite the sympathy of the English people for one or the other people in the struggle which is going on at present between them. All discoveries of coins, stones with inscriptions, &c. &c., must be received with very great suspicion. That the reader may appreciate the value of the above warning, I would recommend a perusal of Mr. Worsaae's *The Northmen in England*, and Ernst Moritz Arndt's *Lectures upon the Peoples of Europe*. As the struggle between Denmark and Germany will probably very shortly recommence, we may look forward to more interesting accounts of ancient customs, with a view to prove their relationship to the English. At the same time, I have no intention, by these remarks, to cast any doubt upon the good faith of your contemporary's correspondent. He has, I believe, given a true description of what he has seen, but ceremonies may be concocted as easily as coins may be made and inscriptions upon stones cut. More has been done in this line than most people imagine.

AMERICA.

(From our Special Correspondent.)

NEW YORK, Dec. 4, 1858.

ON Monday next (Dec. 6) the Members of Congress meet for the despatch of "divers urgent and important business," and those members of the journalistic world whose function it is to manufacture *canards* and make "guesses at truth," have already ventured upon a discovery of the topics and tone of the President's Message. Although this document has already passed through the States press, it will not be given to the public of New York till Monday evening.

As to its contents, we are "assured" that the Message takes bold and earnest ground with reference to the Mexican affair, and that the chief magistrate will give warm expression of sympathy with the Liberals, "doubtless with the purpose of affording them the moral support they have asked at the hands of the United States, and which they certainly deserve." It is "believed" that no recommendation of intervention will be at present made, and it is "supposed" that nothing will be suggested that can interfere in the future with the establishment of the protectorate, if that shall be decided upon as the most practical means of saving Mexico from the future effects of her chronic revolution. It is also "understood" that the Monroe doctrine will be distinctly reaffirmed in the Message, by "very decided declarations that the United States cannot tolerate European intervention in the affairs of Central America, Mexico, or Cuba." There are speculations as to the course the President will take upon the Tariff question, as the differences of opinion between Mr. Buchanan and Mr. Secretary Cobb upon this point are well known to be wide and irreconcilable. The latter is obstinately opposed to any modification whatever of the tariff, and he has the support of the South upon this point. The President's views upon this subject are well known; he maintains that the tariff should be a revenue measure—that it should be such as will secure revenue enough for the expenses of the Government—and that it should be so arranged as to give incidental protection to home manufactures.

INDIA AND INDIAN PROGRESS.

THE BRIBERY MARKET.

THE LAST QUOTATIONS.

THERE are two institutions in particular in India which are curses to the country and demand reform—one is the amlah, and the other the police—and by which bribery, extortion, torture, and all the evils of bad government are brought to bear on the population, and to taint the character of our own administration. So long as these exist in their present shape, it is perfectly idle to rely on English judges and magistrates, or even to increase their number, for we cannot ensure the administration of justice. In the earnest desire to administer native law, and under the plea of administering it in the native languages, the amlah, or native legal functionaries, have been maintained in each court—the clerk or registrar, the treasurer or receiver, the summoning officer—in all their several grades and varieties, according to the importance of the court. The Government has made great exertions to ensure the purity of these officials by giving them regular salaries, and opening to them promotion to the highest judicial ranks, while all known cases of bribery or malversation have been severely punished. In the main, these efforts are fruitless, and the suitors are oppressed.

In some cases a native judge officiates, but much of the judicial business, civil and criminal, is transacted by Englishmen, who pass regular examinations in the native languages, and many of whom are very conversant with them. As to bribery of the English officials, it is enough to say their character has borne the severest tests, and is unblemished; but, notwithstanding, bribes are raised for them and in their names throughout the country. The amlah constitute the efficient agency for this, and all kinds of villany. Much of the procedure is by written documents, and the oral evidence, converted into depositions, takes that ultimate shape. By using a court language, which is in many cases not the vernacular, and in consequence of the variety of languages and dialects existing in some districts, the amlah acquire a technical mastery of the judge, who is shifted about from post to post every one or two years at some stations. As if this were not enough, the vilest scrip is used by the amlah, which neither suitors nor judge can understand, and by the perplexity so introduced the amlah and law agents profit.

To form some idea of the state of affairs we must go back to Scotland in the last century, or England two centuries ago; and the latter courts come near the type of those of India, and will give us a very good notion under other terms of the state of affairs. At that time some of the writs and proceedings were in Latin, some in Norman French, some in English, and this jargon was bandied about by numbers of functionaries high and low, each court or office having its own form of document and its own style of writing. These were called court hands, and the Court of Chancery had more than one of these scrips, and there were court hands for the Exchequer, the Pipe Roll, Hanaper, and Filazers, giving abundant employment to the attorneys, scriveners, law stationers, and court copyists. Thus machinery was provided for a system of regular fees, and special fees, and irregular fees, of which expedition fees formed no mean part. From this system it has been the work of the law reformers of the last half-century to emancipate us.

Now, in what is called the bribery system, as it was practised in England, and as it is practised in India, in Spain, in Naples, in Russia, and over a great part of the world, bribery for the simple purpose of giving an unjust decision, instead of being the main part of the system, as we suppose, constitutes a very small part, and in some countries is exceptional, or, indeed, does not occur; and in India, on the whole, the number of unjust decisions is comparatively few, as the judges are men of integrity. A system of open selling of justice is much less prejudicial to the suitors, because, if the cause be sold to the highest bidder, the loser has nothing to pay, and has only the verdict against him; but, under a well-organised scheme of bribery,

influence, and perquisites, both plaintiff and defendant, winner and loser, are amerced, and the winner may come worse off than the loser. The great engine of corruption is delay. Thus, a suitor appears to claim that a particular step in the cause be taken, but very conveniently the amlah, or corresponding officials, occupy so much time in complying with the requirements of his demand that he gets a shrewd notion their proceedings may be quickened if he so desire it, or if convenient to him, or embarrassing to his adversary, that they may be delayed. Some perquisites beyond the court fees effect this, or in France it is done as a matter of favour or influence. Each party waits on the judge, or official, to solicit him, or his wife, or his daughter, or his mistress, that his papers maybe expedited, or that he may have time to answer his adversary, as the application may be. It may be the matter of a bouquet or a jewel, a dish of fruit, or a fee, or a reciprocal service, but the principle of action and the result are the same. Now the amlah, like other species of the same genus, instead of being unjust, have a marvellous love of justice, and they treat plaintiff and defendant in the same style. Thus, any man who has a cause in any of the countries we have named, becomes a taxable subject, and is exposed to all kinds of exactions; the good things of his house, his garden, or his field are no longer for him or his family, but for the amlah and their families. When the cause is given in his favour, neither himself nor his adversary can longer endure the persecution, and it is within the limits of possibility that each may be ruined, for costs do not cover perquisites. In fact, each suit, however small, becomes, so far as delay and expense are concerned, a Chancery suit.

The police work upon the same system, but as they have greater engines of annoyance at their disposal, they are more oppressive. They can worry a prosecutor or make a man a prosecutor, annoy a witness, and get up cases of suspicion against the greater part of the community. It is this action which makes the police so odious on the Continent; and the common informer let loose among brothel-keepers or publicans in this country gives but a very slight notion of a legion of police exercising the like functions. An Englishman on the Continent may, with his passport, get an inkling of the way in which francs, florins, pauls, and roubles are picked up, but his experience is casual, while the local population are constantly subjected to this pecculation.

In the greater part of India it is the opinion of competent authorities that the police as a body are the greatest scoundrels in it, and that crime would be much diminished by the suppression of them, who are the main perpetrators of crime. To bribery it is notorious that they add torture, and so well is their character known to the Government that strenuous exertions are being made to supersede them by better men. After the suppression of the revolt, it is to be hoped the Government will be able to undertake the suppression of the police, and to carry out the reforms of Mr. Halliday and others. It has been thought by some zealous men that an efficient means of weaning the police from corruption is to increase their salaries; but it is very doubtful whether this measure is any more to be relied upon in India than in Russia, but on the contrary subjects the Government and the community to still greater loss, for the increase of salary causes an increased expectation and demand of perquisites proportionate to the enhanced importance of the man. A sagacious Emperor of Russia had a particular objection to increasing the salaries on the like experience. In fact, the fallacy of increase of salary under such circumstances is subjected to this practical test—that an increase of salary is only equivalent to promotion and increased pay, and the jemadar who has his salary raised does as he would were he promoted to darogah—exact higher perquisites. This is according to the nature of things, and he does it the more decidedly because his better salary countenances in the eyes of his superiors his making a better appearance. Thus the population of India in some places complain of the Queen's Government because it has made these bloodsuckers more voracious.

To speak of no others, the indigo planters have given evidence generally of the corruption of the amlah and the police, facts as notorious as to a resident is the state of affairs in a French department or a Spanish or Portuguese province. A correspondent at Magoorah, in the last *Dacca News*, reports that, whereas formerly a darogah with 27. 10s. monthly pay, when deputed or proceeding to some village for investigation of any case, except murder was content with 27. 10s., now, though their salaries have been raised to 77. 10s. and 107. per month, they will not take less than 157. or 207. to give a truthful report; and in the same way among the lower functionaries, but the details of which we need not quote. It might be thought that the limit of the market would be imposed by the people, and the old scale maintained, but the condition of the people is rapidly improving, and the police thus profit by it.

The remedy for all this is better men—English commissioners, superintendents, and inspectors of police. The grand remedy for the amlah is the use of the English language in the court proceedings, as recommended in his evidence by that eminent public servant, Mr. Francis Warden, and whose propositions are now being circulated by the Indian papers with general approbation. A subsidiary measure, well advocated by Mr. William Edwards of the Civil Service, in Wednesday's *Times*, is the use of the Roman character in all native documents in the law courts, so as to get rid of the cumbrous and mysterious scrip of documents 224 feet long, as lately recorded by us. Thus the judge would become independent of the amlah, and a direct communication would be established between the suitor and the judge.

THE INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE.—As there are at the present time vacancies in the establishment of the Secretary of State for India for eight writers, Lord Stanley has resolved to fill those vacancies by means of an open competitive examination. It will have been observed that, under the regulations which have been recently promulgated for the examination of candidates for the Civil Service of India, the maximum age, which, since the introduction of the competitive system, has been twenty-three, was reduced to twenty-two. Having regard, however, to the just claims of students who are now preparing for the expected examination in July next, many of whom this rule, if immediately enforced, would have excluded from the right of competing, the Secretary of State for India in Council has determined to suspend its operation until the examination in 1860. In July next, therefore, the maximum age for candidates will be twenty-three; and after that occasion, twenty-two.

INDIAN TELEGRAPHS.—The telegraph from Galle to Madras, through the submarine cable across the Straits of Manar, is now open to the public. A bit of the coast line between Madras and Calcutta is still imperfect, the bamboo posts put up in extreme haste and for a special purpose having rotted away. The overland mail of the 9th of October was, however, signalled from Galle to Calcutta, via Bombay, in twenty-four hours. The line from Kurrachee to Bombay is also complete, and there is not now an important city in India from which intelligence cannot be flashed to Calcutta in twelve hours. If you remember that India is as large as Europe, Russia included; that the entire country is within the range of the tornados; that our lines are all above ground; that we have just regained the North-West; and that the first idea of a mutineer is to cut the wire which conveys the "lightning mail," you will appreciate the energy and services of the department. All is now ready for the Red Sea telegraph, which is watched with extreme interest, notwithstanding a very general though vague notion that it will prove "an infernal nuisance." Indian merchants are too speculative altogether to appreciate certainty, while Indian statesmen abominate the idea of being puppets pulled by a wire.—*Times*.

EAST INDIA COMPANY.—At a Court of Directors held on Wednesday, Colonel Sykes, M.P., was unanimously elected chairman.

SALT TRADE TO CHINA.—Mr. Hindfield, secretary to the Chamber of Commerce, has had an interview with the Hon. Mr. Bruce, the newly-appointed Ambassador to China, who expressed much interest in this question, and promised his best endeavours to obtain concessions from the Chinese Government. He believed the Chinese people would be glad of the opportunity of using good salt, and both countries would undoubtedly be gainers by the trade.—*Liverpool Albion*.

COMMERCIAL.

SHIPOWNERS' COMPLAINTS.

THERE was a great gathering of shipowners on Wednesday. They had sent round the fiery cross, passed their little pattie cakes from hand to hand, and collected all their might to strike a great and sudden blow at the dominant principle of the age. They were in covert mutiny against Free-trade. If we had the pen of Homer or Walter Scott, we should sing of the great chief from the city, the gigantic Dunbar, who boldly put forward his Australian scouts, and kept his heavy transports in reserve, and was the worthily-elected king of the shipmen; we should sing of attendant members of Parliament who came to share the honour and the spoil, of the hero from Limehouse, the Ulysses of the host, cunning in council and bold in speech; but not being either Homer or Scott, we must refer our readers to the morning journals of Thursday, in which a full list will be found of all who came from Bristol and Brixham, from Whitby and Yarmouth, to do battle for Protection. Men from Cork were there, and men from Montrose; every part of the kingdom was represented in this new Parliament of the Master Mariners. We would feign record all their feats, but must humbly content ourselves by stating the impelling motive for their exertions and the objects to be obtained by them.

The shipowners are in great distress. Freights are uncommonly low. In Calcutta, in Singapore, in Rio Janeiro, in Melbourne, in London, American, French, Swedish, and Danish ships are seeking freight, all offering to carry goods. In all the harbours of the world ships of all nations are competing for freights, and freights are accordingly very low. The plain fact is that there are more ships to carry goods than goods to be carried. Shipping is over abundant, and its value, like all other things created by industry not properly adjusted to the demand for them, has fallen very considerably. This is the great, the undeniable fact, this impels the shipowners to come forward and utter their complaints; and to alter this fact is the great object of their exertions.

They propose to effect it by memorialising the Queen to carry out what is called the reciprocity clause of the present Navigation Act. Though the Parliament abolished the old navigation laws in 1849, it then inflicted another navigation law on the shipping; and though it further abolished the navigation law, as far as it related to the coasting trade, in 1854, it still left hanging on the shipping a remnant of the old restrictions. By the Act 16 and 17 Victoria, cap. 107, it was enacted that her Majesty, if British vessels are subject in any foreign country to any prohibitions or restrictions, by order in council, may impose such prohibitions or restrictions upon the ships of such foreign country, so as to place the ships of such country on as nearly as possible the same footing in British ports as that on which British ships are placed in the ports of such country. Thus the Parliament, in repealing the old navigation laws because they were proved to be very injurious to our shipping and our trade, incorporated into the new law the principle that restrictions are beneficial, and authorised her Majesty to inflict them if she thought fit. "Her Majesty" is only another name in this clause for her Ministers, and her Ministers being now old restrictionists who, it is supposed, would gladly reimpose restrictions if they had an opportunity, the shipowners appeal to them to give effect to this clause. They represent it as carrying out the law so that the result of this improper clause is to place the liberty of employing the most efficient carrier for goods at the mercy of the restrictionist enemies of the people. The shipowners ask to have the merchants prevented from employing foreign ships under certain circumstances, because English ships in some foreign countries must not be employed. How imposing restrictions on foreigners would supply more goods to be carried by our own shipping is not explained. Envy or jealousy of foreign shipowners, which is loudly disclaimed, might be gratified by such a proceeding. The old malevolent feelings of conflicting politicians and conflicting traders might be revived and strengthened, but it could only continue the depression of trade; and by lessening the merchants' profit diminish the quantity of goods to be carried.

Regretting deeply the depression of the shipping interest, we sincerely desire to see it raised; but no restrictions can serve this end. In one sense, the abolition of the navigation laws has contributed to bring about this excess of shipping. By opening a monopoly, the advantages of which were much overrated, it gave a great stimulus to ship-building everywhere. It undoubtedly increased competition, and competition led to many improvements. The art of ship-building and navigation have been more improved within the last ten years than in all the previous part of the century. All nations have partaken of the improvement. Ships make their voyages with much greater velocity and safety than formerly. The first impulse of competition and improved ship-building came in conjunction with a vast extension of our corn trade, and of every other kind of trade, the consequence of getting rid of restrictions. Coeval, too, with the introduction of competition in shipping were the gold discoveries, and from 1850 to 1857 the goods to be carried were equal to the ships to carry them. Freight rose as high then for good swift-sailing and steaming ships as it has now sunk. When the Crimean war came, our shipping, improved and magnificent as it was, was inadequate to do all the work required of it. Foreigners were then gladly admitted to share its labours. Foreign ships were engaged as transports, a service usually reserved for our own vessels, and till the close of 1857 all complaints against the abolition of the navigation laws were hushed. The competition introduced had only sufficed to promote necessary improvement and increase very much the amount of shipping.

The Swedes, the Danes, the Prussians, and all the seafaring nations increased the number of their vessels. They were needed. Our own shipowners were not behindhand in the race. In the seven years ended with 1857 they built and added to our shipping no less than 1,535,491 tons, exclusive of the foreign shipping they bought, which last year amounted to no less than 26,432 tons. So that in 1857 alone they added 276,902 tons to our already enormous carrying power. The great increase, then, in the quantity of shipping, and the great improvements in navigation, are the causes of the present great redundancy of shipping in reference to the business the shipping has to do. To place restrictions on some shipping would not lessen the discrepancy. Only time can restore the want of adjustment between the number of ships and the quantities of goods to be carried, which is the real evil suffered by the shipowners.

We admit that the shipowners are justified in complaining of foreign Governments. It is perfectly clear that the abolition of commercial restrictions and of navigation laws has conferred vast benefits on many foreign nations, and there can be no doubt that they would benefit themselves and us were they to abolish restrictions. This is the shipowners' opinion. They propose to stimulate foreign Governments to imitate us by subjecting them to a gentle coercion. But we cannot do this without giving up our own principle of freedom, and informing the world by our practice that we have found it injurious, and are obliged again to have recourse to the principle of restriction. This would be positively false. We have not found free trade injurious and restriction advantageous. Such a step we cannot take without damaging our reputation abroad, and without impeding the advance to freedom there which the shipowners desire. In their interest, therefore, and in accordance with their opinions, we must state positively that the measure they propose as a remedy for low freights and redundancy of shipping would end by increasing their sufferings.

We pointed out last week that the shipping interest everywhere is in a state of depression; and one fact which was stated very emphatically at the meeting, and over and over again, is that the shipping of all nations is everywhere in competition. Improvements in navigation and increase of shipping are common to all the nations of the earth. These Governments have fostered, and these they have scarcely any direct power to control. They have flourished, therefore, while the cultivation of the soil, the manufacture of raw materials, and the interchange of commodities, hampered in every state by fiscal and other regulations, have not

kept pace with the progress of shipping. These important businesses of society are out of adjustment, and they can only be adjusted by getting rid of the fiscal and other regulations which impede the progress of agriculture, manufacture, and trade. Society cannot possibly follow two rules adverse to one another, or be guided by two principles. The restoration of protection and monopoly, now that observing nations have learnt by experience the advantages of freedom, is impossible, and there is no alternative but to follow out, in contradiction to the shipowners' prayer, the great principle of perfect freedom.

GENERAL TRADE REPORT.

London, Friday Evening.

THE alterations in the markets in the course of the week have been very trifling. Business is remarkably steady and quiet. In Mark-lane and Mincing-lane, and in the markets throughout the country, though the business for consumption has been large the changes have been small. Only corn, which the damp weather has put out of condition, has again declined in price. Some whisperings against the low prices are heard in some quarters, but for any kind of price there can be no guarantee, and if the supply of corn, like the supply of shipping, be more abundant than the demand for it, the price must fall. How long merchants and others will be in learning the important fact that products pay for products we cannot say, but till they do learn it, and look more to the relative quantities of raw materials and manufactures than to the quantity of money, they will fail to adjust their business as it ought to be adjusted. It is, however, the fact, that as industry produces all wealth nearly as all wealth is periodically consumed and reproduced, it can only be the products of one species of industry which pay for the products of some other species; and till every branch of industry be regulated by this rule we may expect an alternation of partial gluts and partial famines.

The near approach of Christmas, of course, has its effect on the markets and on trade. In the manufacturing districts there is a seasonable amount of business doing, and, on the whole, appearances for the future are satisfactory. We believe the opinion is gaining ground that next spring will witness increased activity in every department of trade. It is quite certain that the transactions which have taken place within the year have been, on the whole, connected with the legitimate requirements of home and foreign commerce. It is quite certain that the amount of open speculation which was carried on in almost every department of trade has wholly disappeared, and that trade may now be described as in a thoroughly sound and wholesome condition. It is true, however, that the amount of trade, compared with preceding years, has been restricted and the profits small, but this state of things has been chiefly felt in the metropolis, and the solution of the circumstance is very easy: the crisis of last year, with the wholesale bankruptcies of rotten firms who, on the principle of "lightly come lightly go," spent freely in what may be termed articles of luxury, books, pictures, articles of vertu, &c., had the natural effect of depriving these special branches of business of some of their best customers, and we cannot wonder now at hearing that the book trade, jewellers, dealers in curiosities, and furniture manufacturers, are in an unusually dull year. However, it is complain of an unusually dull year. However, it is most likely that brighter days are before us, and that with the vast influx of gold and the revival of general commerce, we shall hear no more complaints from any trade or calling whatever.

MANCHESTER.—A fair amount of business has been transacted. The demand for goods and yarn is quite as active as last week and more general, and the markets wear a firm tone. Domestic, T-cloths, &c., continue in request. Yarns for the East to be shipped to Bombay, Calcutta, and China, and for Germany, have been in active demand. They have sold extensively, and the price has advanced 1d., and where wanted for immediate delivery, even more has been obtained. For the home trade, we understand a good business has been transacted at higher prices. In cloths the demand is unusually large, the manufacturers are asking higher prices, but as many are already under contracts until the end of the year, they do not show any willingness to undertake new obligations. The fabrics most in request are shirtings plain and figured, madapolams, jacquets, and other cloths, mostly suited to the Indian and China markets. In T-cloths a fair demand for the Levant trade exists, and sellers look for higher

prices. India cloths may be placed 1½d. per piece dearer, the last quotations 50s. to 80s.; mule, about 1½d. per lb., and 16s. to 20s.; India water twist 1½d. per lb. higher. For the home-trade cloths cannot now be purchased on the easy terms of last week.

LIVERPOOL.—The demand for cotton has not been very brisk, but a better feeling appears to prevail than was the case last week. The sales have somewhat increased, both for speculation and export. Holders have shown no disposition to press sales, and this has tended to make the market firm.

LEEDS.—No particular feature has presented itself this week; but though business has not been remarkably brisk, it has been very fair, and rather more in quantity than the average at this period of the year. The same may be said of Bradford and the cloth districts in the West of England.

LEICESTER.—The hosiery trade, which has been so unusually active in every department, has not been so brisk this week. But more is doing now than is usual at this time of the year, and manufacturers, large and small, have no reason to complain. Business appears to be in a sound and satisfactory condition, not only as far as the towns are concerned but the country districts also. The operatives appear to be generally well employed, and this is very encouraging. We understand that for choice lots of farmers wool high prices are asked and readily given.

NOTTINGHAM.—We wish we could make a more favourable report of the lace trade. Every department remains dull, and this slackness of business has been increased by the duty of stock taking. Two failures in the lace trade have occurred, and such is the dull look which matters wear that manufacturers are prudently producing as little stock as possible. There is, however, a hopeful feeling as to the future, and the trade seem to be of opinion that in a very few weeks the inactivity prevailing in all departments will give way to general employment. The hosiery trade still continues very good.

GLASGOW.—The cotton market has generally been quiet, and transactions are on a limited scale. The downward tendency of prices has been arrested and the markets are firm. The iron trade is steady, the inquiry is for immediate delivery warrants, shipping lots not being in request.

BIRMINGHAM.—Trade is not particularly good but it is fair for the season.

The coal districts are not yet quite pacified. Coal has advanced in price retail. The men on strike are lessening in numbers, and matters appear to be resuming their ordinary aspect.

RAILWAY INTELLIGENCE.

A SPECIAL meeting of the London and North-Western Company is appointed to be held on the 30th inst., for the purpose of considering an agreement under the Chester and Holyhead Railway Act, 1858, for the guarantee by the London and North-Western Company of interest on the debt and of dividends on the shares of the Chester and Holyhead Company, and for the purpose of sanctioning the purchase of the Chester and Holyhead Railway, or the amalgamation of that company with the London and North-Western Company. The terms fixed between the companies have been officially announced, and are as follows:—The London and North-Western guarantee on the original stock of the other company: In 1859, nil; in 1860, nil; in 1861, 11,000%, or 1 per cent.; in 1862, 22,000%, or 2 per cent.; in 1863 and thereafter, 27,500%, or 2½ per cent. The London and North-Western Company also undertake the charge of the Chester and Holyhead Company's preferential and capital debentures.

The Calcutta and South-Eastern Railway Company, connecting Calcutta with the new port of the Moolah, having obtained the Government guarantee of 5 per cent., the directors have fixed Wednesday next as the last day for receiving scrip for registration, and for the payment of the call of 1½s. per share which has to be paid into the East India Treasury forthwith.

The Punjab Railway Company have notified that no call will be required till after Midsummer.

Another extraordinary meeting of the Calcutta and South Eastern Railway Company is called for the 24th inst. to confirm the resolutions adopted at the meeting on the 24th ult. The directors have extended the period for the registration of scrip and payment of the call until the 4th of January.

CAMBRIDGE AND BEDFORD.—A new railway has been determined on. The line has been surveyed; the plans have been duly deposited in good time; and the proper legal notices have been given for applying for the bill in the next session. It will be called the "Cambridge and Bedford Railway." It commences its connexion with the London and North Western line at Bedford; crosses the Great Northern at Sandy; and it runs into the Eastern Counties near Trumpington.—*Cambridge Independent.*

NEW RUSSIAN LINE.—A St. Petersburg letter says

that an English company is endeavouring to obtain a license for a railway intended to connect Warsaw with Odessa, by way of Lembery. They will, in the first place, construct a road from Warsaw to Lembery, and Kamintec Podolski, that line running through the Austrian dominions for about half of the distance. The remainder of the way, it is hoped, will be advantageously performed by means of steam-ships on the river Dniester. The company have already commenced their investigations as to the navigability of the river.

PERNAMBUCO RAILWAY.—This Company have received from the Brazilian Minister 12,369%, the amount required under the guarantee of 7 per cent. on the working of the line from the 9th February to the 31st July last, calculated on the capital (375,000%) of the first section. The circumstance corroborates the intimation that the Government has authorised the company to look to it for the entire amount of the guarantee of 7 per cent., the Imperial Government undertaking the settlement of accounts with the provincial Government.

JOINT-STOCK COMPANIES.

A GENERAL court of the proprietors of Bank Stock, being one of the quarterly general courts fixed by the charter, is called for the 16th inst.

At the meeting of proprietors of the Bank of Australasia, the directors' report stated that, although the Australian markets have not thoroughly recovered from the shock occasioned by the crisis, the business of the bank maintained the sound and healthy character referred to in former reports. It is anticipated that the arrangement made with the Government of Victoria for the disposal of debentures for railway purposes to the extent of 7,000,000%, spread over a series of years, will become an additional source of profit to the establishment. No statement of profit and loss was presented, but the chairman remarked that the profits of the half-year would prove highly satisfactory.

An extraordinary general meeting of the Atlantic Telegraph Company was held on Wednesday, when a report from the directors was presented. The capital expended amounts to 379,029%, leaving a balance in hand of 7996%. The directors express a "sanguine hope" of a successful result to their application to Government for a guarantee of 4½ per cent. on the half million of further capital proposed to be raised, but they have not yet received the decision of the Government. The report also stated that defects existed at both ends of the cable, and that it would be necessary either to underrun or to raise it. The report was unanimously adopted. Mr. Whitehouse, the company's former electrician, announced that a second company had been formed, and that half of its capital had been paid up. He said he was ready to state the terms upon which the new company was prepared to amalgamate with the old. It was agreed that Mr. Whitehouse's proposition should be submitted to the directors.

The Port Phillip Mining Company have received from their resident director the sum of 1500%, which will complete the sum of 5000% necessary for the dividend.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

An Account, pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th Victoria cap. 32, for the week ending on Wednesday, the 15th day of December, 1858.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

£	£
Notes issued..... 32,852,470	Government debt.. 11,015,100
	Other securities... 3,450,900
	Gold coin and bullion..... 13,377,470
	Silver bullion.....

£32,852,470

£32,852,470

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

£	£
Proprietors' capital 14,553,000	Government securities (including Dead Weight Annuity)..... 10,808,501
Reserve..... 3,100,444	Other Securities..... 15,988,503
Public deposits (including Exchequer, Commissioners of National Debt, Savings Banks, and Dividend Accounts)..... 9,526,771	Notes..... 13,106,215
Other deposits..... 12,606,131	Gold and Silver Coin..... 640,809
Seven Day & other Bills..... 703,802	

£40,550,203

£40,550,203

M. MARSHALL, Chief Cashier.
Dated the 16th day of December, 1858.

THE NEW TURKISH LOAN.—The Porte has placed in the hands of the commissioners for the new Turkish Loan the sum representing the interest and sinking fund for the past three months, as agreed in the contract. The destruction of the paper money has commenced. Cairnes to the amount of 68,518,750 piastres have already been burnt in the presence of the commissioners, Mr. Falconnet, Mr. Stanson, and their Turkish colleagues, and a further amount, making a total of about one million of piastres, will shortly be destroyed. The quantity already burnt represents 567,181%. setting at rest the question as to whether the paper money is really to be withdrawn. The stipulation has been voluntarily entered into on the part of the Government, that the Minister of Finance will account to the commissioners for the whole of the proceeds of the loan.

HOME, COLONIAL, & FOREIGN PRODUCE MARKETS.

REVIEW OF THE WEEK.

Mincing Lane, Friday Evening.

THE general features of trade, as connected with these markets, have not varied materially since our last. Importers show undiminished confidence; and, notwithstanding the recent heavy arrivals, avoid pressing them largely on sale. Buyers, on the other hand, are equally reserved in their operations, especially in such articles as from diminished stocks have an upward tendency; and with matters thus equally balanced current values are necessarily subject to but very slight fluctuations. From the same cause, however, passing transactions are of only moderate extent, and trade in general, although very slow, is very slow. The advices from producing countries, to hand this week, are not calculated to disturb this state of things, as they merely confirm those previously received, and as another week will bring us to the closing of the markets, any important change is not to be expected.

CORN.—Foreign advices excite very little interest, as the market is more immediately, if not exclusively, affected by local influences, the most powerful of which is perhaps the weather. With a humid atmosphere, the samples of English wheat at Mark-lane have again been deteriorated in character, and chiefly from this cause have sold 1s. lower in price. The few prime dry lots to be found could hardly be called cheaper. The general demand was, however, anything but brisk. Choice dry white was quoted as high as 49s. to 50s.; prime new, 46s. to 48s.; good runs, 44s. to 45s.; damp, 40s. to 43s.; prime heavy red, 42s. to 44s.; runs, 40s. to 41s.; common, 37s. to 38s. Foreign wheat has undergone very little change, the buying, as of late, being merely for immediate wants. The top price of Dantzig white was 54s. to 55s.; mixed, 50s. to 52s.; other imports, 42s. to 45s.; French red, 41s. to 43s.; Archangel, 31s. to 35s. Flour is held for late rates, at which but small sales are practicable. The top price of town made stands at 40s.; households, 33s.; country households, 32s. to 33s.; seconds, 30s.; Norfolks, 27s. 6d. to 28s.; French, 33s. to 35s.; superior marks, 36s. to 37s. per sack. American good and superior brands, 22s. to 26s.; sours, 20s. to 21s. per bbl. Barley of inferior quality has been pressed more freely on sale, and quotations are 1s. per qr. lower, whilst even the choice grades of both malting and grinding descriptions are less firmly held than of late. The few transactions in malt have been at about late rates, prime new Ware 67s. to 68s.; choice ship samples, 64s. to 65s.; inferior, 56s. to 60s. Beans, of which there have been some further arrivals from abroad, have declined fully 1s. per qr. A similar reduction in the value of peas has followed increase of supplies from Canada. With heavy arrivals oats have declined 1s. per qr.; Russian, 20s. to 21s. per qr. The market is pretty well cleared of floating cargoes, and prices are firmer.

CORN ARRIVALS.

	English.	Irish.	Foreign.
Wheat.....qrs.	6710	—	21,856
Barley.....	6971	—	18,831
Malt.....	18,842	—	—
Oats.....	12,800	—	48,517
Beans.....	880	—	1787
Peas.....	514	—	4438
Flour.....sks.	19,116	—	1636
Ditto.....brls.	—	—	611

LONDON AVERAGES.

	Qrs.	s.	d.
Wheat.....	2586	at	48 2
Barley.....	836	"	35 6
Oats.....	2861	"	24 0
Beans.....	252	"	34 10
Peas.....	106	"	50 0

SEEDS.—Arrivals this week are 9950 qrs., comprising 7400 East India, and 2550 St. Petersburg. Prices continue steady. Bombay seed at 55s. on the spot; Calcutta, 51s. to 53s. delivered, and 51s. 6d. c. f. and i., including bags. The St. Petersburg seed is going to store for higher prices. Several floating cargoes Taganrog have been sold at 51s. 6d. to 52s. for old, and 52s. 6d. for new crop, delivered U. K. Rape seed is in moderate demand for consumption and export. Calcutta, 54s.; fine Bombay, 63s. to 68s. 6d.; inferior to good, 45s. to 57s. per qr.

POTATOES.—With fair supplies, trade is very slow, except for the best qualities. York regents, 90s. to 100s.; Scotch regents, 60s. to 85s.; cups, 45s. to 60s.; French, 58s. to 55s.; Dutch, 50s. to 55s. per ton.

PROVISIONS.—The dead meat markets are beginning to indicate the approach of Christmas, the supply increasing and the quality improving. The beef trade is rather brisk and prices are higher, prime carcasses touching 4s. 4d.; good, 4s. to 4s. 2d.; middling, 3s. 8d. to 3s. 10d.; inferior, 2s. 8d. to 3s. 4d. Mutton, 4s. 2d. to 4s. 6d. for prime; 3s. 8d. to 4s. 10d. for middling; and 3s. 2d. to 3s. 4d. for inferior. Veal, 8s. 8d. to 4s. 8d., and a slow sale. Pork, 8s. 4d. to 4s. 8d., and in plentiful supply. Irish cured meats are unaltered in value. American lard, 1s. dearer.

LIVE STOCK.—The Christmas show of fat cattle on the "great market-day" was considered quite up to previous years. The point of commendation above every other was the useful and selling condition of the stock generally. For symmetrical perfection the Herefords and short-horns were said never to have been surpassed, and the Scots were pronounced finer than had been seen for years. The beef trade was brisk, and the prices obtained were rather above those of Christmas, 1857. Sheep were in large supply, and though equally well up in quality, met but a moderate demand. Prices were, however, pretty well maintained. There were but comparatively few pigs and calves at market, and they were sold at about late rates. On Thursday there was also a good show and an equally good trade. The following were the numbers at market and current prices:—

MONDAY.			
Beast.	Sheep.	Calves.	Pigs.
6,424	23,200	115	380
3s. 8d. to 5s. 4d.	3s. 8d. to 5s. 4d.	4s. 0d. to 5s. 0d.	3s. 0d. to 3s. 8d.

THURSDAY.			
2,170	5,700	308	200
3s. 8d. to 5s. 4d.	3s. 8d. to 5s. 4d.	4s. 0d. to 5s. 0d.	3s. 0d. to 3s. 8d.

SUGAR.—The market continues dull, and, as usual under the circumstances, prices have a lowering tendency. Only moderate supplies are, however, brought on offer, and any appreciable decline is, therefore, prevented. The protracted absence of business is restricting the deliveries, and although but a small proportion of the recent arrivals is as yet warehoused, stocks have somewhat increased. The principal transactions have included 2814 hds. West Indies; Barbadoes low to fine yellow, 38s. 6d. to 44s. 6d.; Tobago, 38s. 6d. to 41s. 6d.; crystallised Demerara, 42s. to 47s. 6d.; 2000 bgs. Mauritius, yellow, 41s. to 43s. 6d., brown, 35s. to 38s.; crystallised, 44s. to 46s.; 10,000 bgs. Madras grocery, part new crop, low to good yellow, 42s. 6d. to 46s. 6d.; native brown and yellow, 38s. to 34s.; 6000 bxs. Havannah, 41s. to 46s. 6d.; low to good yellow, 41s. to 46s. 6d.; 500 hds. foreign Muscovado, brown and yellow, 38s. to 43s. A floating cargo of No. 12 Havannah at 28s. 9d., and one of Macao at 25s. per cwt., both for the United Kingdom. To-day 1000 bgs. Manila sold at 39s. and a cargo Havannah, No. 13½ to 14, at 30s. 6d. for a near port.

COFFEE.—A moderate instalment of the newly-arrived supplies has been brought on the market, and found ready buyers at full prices, the sales having comprised about 800 cks. 300 brls. and bgs. plantation Ceylon, at 64s. 6d. to 75s. for fine, fine ord. to good mid. colour; 57s. for good ord. pale, and 63s. to 68s. for pea-berry. A few lots good ordinary native realised 50s.; a small pile of common to fair greenish garbled Mocha sold at 76s. 6d. to 79s.; long berry, 93s. per cwt. The Ceylon advices give the shipments at 11,166 cwts. for London, and 2333 cwts. for Liverpool during the mail.

OILS.—With better supplies prices of linseed oil are easier. There are sellers at 29½ 10s. to 29½ 15s. on the spot, and business has been done at 30½ for monthly deliveries all through next year. Rape oil is still a slow sale; foreign refined at 46½ 10s. to 47½; and brown, 42½ 10s. to 43½; English refined, 41½ 10s.; Bombay ground nut and Gingelly, 34½ 10s.; Madras, 39½. Olive oils are purchased sparingly, although quotations from producing countries come higher by every mail; Gallipoli offers at 51½; Corfu and Seville, 48½ 10s.; Mogadore, 46½ to 47½ 10s. Cocoa-nut is much neglected, but stocks are well held; Ceylon oil, 38½; Cochin, 40½ to 41½, and 43½ for an extra fine parcel. The shipments from Ceylon during the mail just received were 31,800 gallons for London, and 19,000 for Liverpool. Palm oil is in good supply, and fine Lagos offers at 41½. Sperm firm, at 91½ for colonial, and 90½ for American. Common fish oils are quiet; pale southern, 34½; pale seal, 36½ 10s.; and cod, 31½.

TURPENTINE.—There have been no arrivals of rough this week, but a sale of 1000 brls. has been made at 10s.; spirits are dull of sale at 89s. for American, including casks.

HIDES.—At the public sales of hides, to-day, 148,317 East India were offered. There was an improved demand, and nearly the whole found buyers at late prices. Those unsold consist chiefly of second light descriptions, for which there was comparatively less inquiry.

TEA.—Attention has been directed chiefly to the China intelligence. The shipments to the date of the present mail were 11,600,000 lbs., but the trade had opened at Canton, and rather large settlements had taken place. Opinion here is generally in favour of the article, and stocks are firmly held, but the market is inactive, the passing business being principally in the blackish leaf-kinds.

RICE.—Low qualities for feeding purposes, are in steady demand, and in all about 20,000 bgs. have been disposed of at fully late rates, principally at 6s. to 7s. 6d. for Rangoon. Fine Bengal is firm, the Calcutta shipments being still very small.

SALTPEPER.—The recent heavy arrival, and the large shipments at Calcutta have a depressive influence, and anything like quantity could not be placed except at decidedly lower prices. The week's business is extremely small, at slightly easier terms.

RAWHOL.—The market is firmer, and to-day an unre-

served sale of Valencia raisins went at 28s. to 30s., being a rise of 4s. to 5s. on the forced sales of the previous week.

SPICES.—Rather considerable supplies have been brought forward from the late imports, and although prices are in several instances easier, they are sufficiently strong to indicate a healthy market; 1800 pkgs. cassia lignea by the Hindoo, were brought to public sale early in the week, and obtaining bids only at the recent decline were withdrawn, and subsequently 1000 bxs. sold at an improvement of 4s. to 5s. per cwt.; middling first pile, 99s.; second, 94s. to 95s.; third, 92s. per cwt. Pepper is rather cheaper, but about 4300 bgs. have sold: Sumatra, 3½d. to 3¾d.; Penang, 3½d. to 3¾d. Small parcels white sold at 8½d. to 8¾d., and superior, 8½d. per lb. Pimento dull of sale at 3½d. to 3¾d. Nutmegs sold at 1d. to 2d. decline.

INDIGO.—The Calcutta letters confirm prior estimates of a deficient crop, and also report a high range of quotations. The market is consequently firm, and for East India descriptions full prices are offered, whilst an advance of 2d. to 3d. per lb. was realised, and a public sale of 105 snrs. Guatemala, cortes to sobres bringing 3s. 9d. to 6s. per lb.

COCHINEAL has advanced 1d. per lb. **SAFFLOWER** continues in request, and, for small parcels, higher prices have again been paid.

COTTON.—The demand has improved, and prices tend upwards. At Liverpool, the sales are 67,370 bales. Fair Mobile, ¼d.; Upland, ½d.; and Orleans, 1-16d. higher. Here the sales are 1050 bales. Madras, 5½d. to 5¾d.; Surat, 4½d. to 5½d. per lb.

JUTE has further advanced 15s. per ton, and a large business has been done on the spot as well as for arrival. The shipments at Calcutta continue heavy, but prices had advanced in consequence of the expected deficiency in the next crop. Hemp, of all description, is a slow sale. At Dundee, the price of flax has risen 2½ to 5½ per ton, the longest advance being on the finer qualities.

METALS.—The general character of the market is firmer, but, as usual at the closing of the year, any extension of business is only partial. Scotch pig iron has moved up to 54s. 9d. to 55s., but closed to-day a shade easier. Copper very firm, and a rise in the price of English generally expected. Fine Australian held for 110½ 10s. Lead rather more saleable. English pig, 21½ to 21½ 10s.; W.B., 22½ 5s. to 22½ 10s. After transactions to the extent of 1000 tons spelter at 21½ 15s. to 22½ for spring shipment, the market is firmer, and 22½ 2s. 6d. has been paid for arrival, whilst small parcels on the spot have made 22½ 5s. Tin less in demand, and easier to buy. Straits, 125½ to 125½ 10s.; Banca, 126½ to 126½ 10s. per ton.

TALLOW.—Up to yesterday mid-day the price was quite steady, 51s. and even 51s. 3d. had been paid for fine quality, but on change the market became flat at 50s. 9d. As usual at this season of the year the consumers buy as sparingly as possible, and our deliveries have been smaller in consequence; all purchases are however made for instant delivery, which appears to betoken want of stock, and a continued good demand after Christmas. We close rather firmer for delivery, spot 50s. 9d. to 50s. 6d.; all the year, 50s. 6d. to 50s. 3d.; January to March, 50s. 6d.; March, 51s. sellers; October to December, 1859, 50s. 6d. buyers. The public sales of 248 cks. tallow went off freely; Australian beef, 48s. 3d. to 49s. 3d. Town tallow, 53s. 6d.; rough fat, 2s. 9½d.; melted stuff, 37s. 6d.

NEW INVENTION.

A most useful little article has been registered in the shape of a needle envelope and case, a great improvement upon the old system of placing the needles loose in papers, by which a lady can select any needle she requires, and return it to its proper place without displacing or running the risk of losing the others. The invention has been registered by Messrs. Milward and Sons, of Redditch, whose improved oval-eyed needles obtained the medal at both the Paris and New York Industrial Exhibitions.

THE AUSTRALASIAN TRADE.—By reference to the statistical documents published by the Government in connexion with the trade and commerce of the country, and considering our Australasian possessions specially, we find that the total amount of imports from these colonies during the past year of 1857 was 5,815,805½, without reference to gold, which of itself was about 10,000,000½, and from these documents it appears that the aggregate for the year 1854 was 4,801,868½, consequently showing that there has been an increase during the last three years of 1,513,437½. The exports for the same period of 1857 gave a total value of 13,175,125½, while in 1854 it was 13,405,986½, so that last year was less by 230,861½, thereby indicating the advance made by these colonies to provide much of their own requirements. The different colonies, taken

individually, show that the imports from Victoria in 1857 amounted to 2,472,479½, and the exports thereto 7,511,110½, being 6,649,286½. British and 861,824½ foreign goods. From New South Wales the imports were 2,035,386½, and the exports thereto 3,596,595½, being 3,130,709½. British 465,886½ foreign goods. From South Australia the imports amounted to 653,180½, and the exports thereto 988,610½, being 913,117½. British and 75,493½ foreign goods. From Tasmania the imports were 563,113½, and the exports thereto 594,979½, being 509,242½. British and 85,737½ foreign goods. From Western Australia the imports were 43,927½, and the exports thereto 75,627½; being 65,740½. British and 9887½ foreign goods; and from New Zealand the imports amounted to 157,220½, and the exports thereto 408,204½, being 364,430½. British and 43,774½ foreign goods. We have already mentioned that the imports of gold are not included in these figures, but the exports of copper and other baser metals from these colonies form part of the aggregate sums. It is worthy of mention that while the production of the precious metal from the gold mines of Victoria have not advanced since 1854, the yield of copper from the mines of South Australia has considerably increased, the returns showing that the total value of copper imported in 1854 was 99,937½, while in 1857 it amounted to no less than 380,257½.—*Mineral Journal of December 11.*

ANOTHER TELEGRAPH.—A South Atlantic telegraph is projected. The line would start from Falmouth, and, touching at Cape Finisterre, Lisbon, Cape St. Vincent (with a branch to Cadiz and Gibraltar), the Canaries (with a branch to Madeira), the Cape de Verde Islands, and the islands St. Paul and Neronha, it will arrive at or near Pernambuco, in the Brazil. A land telegraph will continue this line through the Brazilian territory as far as Para, whence a submarine line will be carried to the British settlement of Demerara, in Guiana. From here a combination of land and submarine wires will be constructed through the principal West Indian islands to New Orleans, in the United States, where it will join the network of existing telegraphs belonging to the American companies.

OPIMUM.—On Tuesday night a great demonstration against the opium traffic was held at Leeds, the town in which Mr. Crawford delivered a speech in defence of the trade. His statements were ably answered by Mr. Edward Baines, Mr. Richard, and other speakers.

THE LESSER'S SCHEME.—The meeting at Paris for the purpose of regularly constituting the Suez Canal Company is to be held on Monday next. It is positively stated and generally believed that *boni fide* subscriptions have been obtained for the full amount of nominal capital.

WESTERN BANK OF SCOTLAND.—All the judges of the Court of Session, except Lord Murray, have decided that the decree sought by the liquidators of the Bank against the contributors who have not paid the late call of 100½ per share ought to be granted without notice to the parties, and on the *ex parte* statement of the liquidators; further, that the minute of the 4th of October, 1858, of the liquidators, stating the assets and liabilities of the bank, and intimated to all the shareholders, is *prima facie* evidence that a decree for the call would be just and beneficial, and that it will be competent to each individual contributory to suspend the decree, and raise the question of his special liability by suspension.

THE PUBLIC REVENUE IN FRANCE.—The French budget for 1860, just published in the *Moniteur*, cannot be regarded as a document of much importance, since it deals with a period the requirements of which at this moment it would be idle to scan in any country, and more particularly in France. According to his hopes, M. Magne will then find the revenue not only sufficient for the service of the year, but such as to afford the means of raising the salaries of the smaller public officials and the magistracy, whose fidelity is thus for the present inexpensively stimulated, and to yield an extra 800,000½ to be applied to the sinking fund. The rest of the statement is devoted merely to an *exposé* of the manner in which the budgets of the past four years have been kept free from deficits, and as no allusion was necessary to the heavy annual increase of debt by which that equilibrium has been maintained, the entire report will doubtless convey to most of the readers for whom it is intended an agreeable impression. "I may affirm," says M. Magne, "with more assurance than ever, that since 1854 the deficit of the budget, the primary cause of the floating debt, has not increased one centime." But capitalists cannot forget that France has added to her national debt at the rate of more than 12,000,000½ per annum for the last ten years. As this, however, cannot go on uninterruptedly, it may be hoped to operate as a warning in favour of peace and the advantage of cultivating commerce. M. Magne mentions that the budget for 1859 was formed with an estimated surplus of 820,000½, and that the recent experience of the revenue movements of the country tends to show that even a more favourable calculation might have been made. It would, therefore, appear obviously in the power of the Emperor to cease from this date the constant resort to the loan-market.—*Times.*

SHARES AND STOCKS.

Name of Company.				Name of Company.				Name of Company.			
No. of shares.	Amount of shares.	Amount paid up.	London.	No. of shares.	Amount of shares.	Amount paid up.	London.	No. of shares.	Amount of shares.	Amount paid up.	London.
T.	F.			T.	F.			T.	F.		
84543	12	10	Ambergate, &c.	68	68	68	Stock	48810	20	13	Ditto New
Stock	100	100	Birkenhead, Lancashire, and	7680	61	61	Stock	100	all	all	Ditto Bonds 1876
			Cheshire Junction	100	100	100	Stock	100	100	100	Ditto 1873 without op.
Stock	100	100	Bristol and Exeter	93	94	94	Stock	103	103	103	Ditto 5 p. ct., 1877, ditto
Stock	100	100	Caledonian	97	88	88	Stock	115	115	115	Madras guar. 4 p. per cent.
Stock	100	100	Chester and Holyhead	43	44	44	Stock	112	112	112	Ditto ditto 5 do.
Stock	100	100	East Anglian	17	17	17	Stock	117	117	117	Ditto 4 p. per cent. Extension.
Stock	100	100	Eastern Counties	64	65	65	Stock	115	115	115	Ditto Thirds ditto
Stock	100	100	Eastern Union, class A	48	50	50	Stock	133	133	133	Ditto Fourths ditto
Stock	100	100	— class B	33	34	34	Stock	86	86	86	Scinde
23000	25	25	East Kent	12	13	13	Stock	124	124	124	Ditto } guaranteed
Stock	100	100	East Lancashire	95	97	97	Stock	115	115	115	Ditto New } 5 per cent.
Stock	100	100	Edinburgh and Glasgow	68	69	69	Stock	107	107	107	Ditto Punjab
Stock	100	100	Edinburgh, Perth, and Dundee	108	108	108	Stock	30000	10	2s6d	Trinidad (limited) Scrip
Stock	100	100	Great Northern	94	94	94					
			— A stock	132	134	134					
Stock	100	100	Great Southern and Western (I.)	104	105	105					
Stock	100	100	Great Western	56	56	56					
18000	50	50	Lancashire and Carlisle	88	90	90					
18000	16	14	— Thirds	112	113	113					
24000	16	15	— New Thirds	112	113	113					
Stock	100	100	Lancashire and Yorkshire	98	99	99					
48444	16	6	— F. 16	6	6	6					
17500	9	7	— 9 p. shares	6	6	6					
11900	11	11	London and Blackwall	114	114	114					
Stock	100	100	London, Brighton, and South C.	96	96	96					
Stock	100	100	London and North-Western	91	91	91					
244000	12	7	— Eighths	96	97	97					
Stock	100	100	London and South-Western	38	39	39					
Stock	100	100	Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincoln	102	102	102					
50000	10	3	Metropolitan	74	76	76					
Stock	100	100	Midland	12	12	12					
Stock	100	100	— Birmingham and Derby	65	67	67					
20000	50	50	Midland Great Western (I.)	43	43	43					
22220	25	25	Newport, Abr., and Hereford	58	59	59					
Stock	100	100	Norfolk	94	94	94					
60000	50	34	Northern Counties Union	48	48	48					
Stock	100	100	North British	77	77	77					
Stock	100	100	North-Eastern—Berwick	103	103	103					
64115	25	16	— G. N. E. Purchase	103	103	103					
Stock	100	100	— Leeds	112	113	113					
Stock	100	100	— York	27	29	29					
Stock	100	100	North London	86	86	86					
168500	20	17	North Staffordshire	46	47	47					
Stock	100	100	Oxford, Worcester, and Wolv.	37	37	37					
Stock	100	100	Scottish Central	75	75	75					
Stock	100	100	Scottish N. Eastern Aberdeen Stk.	13	13	13					
Stock	100	100	Scottish Midland Stock	125000	100	100					
Stock	100	100	Shropshire Union	175000	100	100					
Stock	100	100	South Devon	20000	10	10					
Stock	100	100	South-Eastern	20654	20	20					
Stock	100	100	South Wales								
27582	20	20	South Yorkshire and River Dun.								
3273	20	18	Do								
Stock	100	100	Vale of Neath								
LINES LEASED											
AT FIXED RENTALS.											
Stock	100	100	Buckinghamshire	101	101	101					
Stock	100	100	Clydesdale Junction	105	106	106					
Stock	100	100	E. Lincolnshire, guar. 6 per cent.	144	145	145					
8000	50	50	Hull and Selby	112	112	112					
43077	12	12	London and Greenwich	67	67	67					
11136	20	20	— Preference	122	122	122					
Stock	100	100	London, Tilbury, and Southend	95	96	96					
82500	5	5	Manchester, Buxton, and Matlock	2	2	2					
Stock	100	100	Midland Bradford	100	101	101					
16862	50	50	Northern and Eastern, 5 per cent.	59	60	60					
Stock	100	100	Royston, Hitchin, and Shepreth	143	144	144					
78750	12	12	South Staffordshire	10	10	10					
Stock	100	100	Wilts and Somerset	93	94	94					
PREFERENCE SHARES.											
Stock	100	100	Bristol and Exeter, 4 per cent.	98	98	98					
Stock	100	100	Caledonian 10 p. 4 p. per cent.	105	105	105					

ENGLISH STOCKS.				ENGLISH STOCKS.				FOREIGN STOCKS.				FOREIGN STOCKS.			
Fri.				Fri.				Fri.				Fri.			
Bank Stock, div. 5 p. c. 1-year	2254			Do. do. Scrip	..			Austrian Bonds, 5 per cent	..			Russian Bonds, 1822, 5 p. ct. in 2 st	..		
3 per ct. Reduced Anns	97			Do. Bonds, 4 per cent., 1000l.	..			Brazilian Bonds, 5 per cent	..			Ditto 4 p. per cent	103		
Ditto for Opening	97			Ditto under 500l.	..			Ditto 4 p. per cent. 1858	95			Sardinian Bonds, 5 per cent	..		
3 percent. Consols Anns	97			Bank Stock for account Aug. 5	..			Ditto 5 per cent., 1829 and 1839	..			Spanish Bonds, 3 per cent	47		
Ditto for Opening	97			3 p. ct. Cons. for account do	..			Ditto 5 per cent., 1843	..			Ditto 3 per cent. Deferred	31		
New 3 per cent. Anns	97			Ditto for Opening do	..			Ditto 4 p. per cent., 1858	86			Ditto Passive Bonds	..		
Ditto for Opening	..			India Stock, for account do	..			Buenos Ayres Bonds, 6 per cent	..			Ditto Com. Cert. of Coupon not fd.	..		
New 3 p. per cent. Anns	..			Exchequer Bills, 2d. and 1d. p. day	38			Ditto Deferred 3 per cent	..			Turkish Scrip, 6 per cent	92		
New 2 p. per cent	..			Ditto 1000l.	..			Chilian Bonds, 6 per cent	..			Ditto 4 per cent. Guaranteed	..		
5 per cent	..			Ditto 500l.	..			Ditto 3 per cent	..			Venezuela 5 per cent	44		
Long Anns. Jan. 5, 1860	1 3-16			Ditto Small	..			Danish Bonds, 3 per cent., 1825	..			Ditto Deferred 2 per cent	17		
Anns. for 30 years, Oct. 10, 1859	..			Ditto Advertised 1 p.	..			Ditto 5 per cent. Bonds	..			[Divs. on above payable in London.]	..		
Ditto exp. Jan. 5, 1860	..			Ditto Bonds, A 1858 3 p. ct.	..			Dutch 2 p. c. Exchange 12 Guilders	..			Belgian Bonds 4 p. per cent.	..		
Ditto " Jan. 5, 1860	..			Ditto under 1000l.	..			Grenada Bonds, New Active, 2 p. c.	21			Dutch 2 p. c. Exchange 12 Guilders	..		
Ditto " April 5, 1865	..			Ditto B 1859	100			Ditto Deferred	..			Ditto 4 per cent. Certificates	..		
India Stock, 10 p. per cent	227			Ditto under 1000	..			Guatemala	..			Peruvian Dollar Bonds	..		
Do. Loan Debentures	100				..			Mexican 3 per cent	20			PARIS.	..		
					..			Peruvian Bonds, 4 p. per cent	..			French Rentes, 4 p. per cent	..		
					..			Ditto 4 p. per cent. (Urbarren)	..			Ditto 3 per cent	73f. 10c.		
					..			Portuguese Bonds, 3 per cent., 1853	43						

* Ex. Dividend, or ex. New.

* Ex. Dividend, or ex. New.

JOINT STOCK BANKS.

No. of Shares.	Dividends per annum.	Names.	Shares.	Paid.	Price per Share.
22500	20 p. per cent.	Australasia	40	20 0 0	..
10000	7 p. per cent.	Bank of Egypt	25	25 0 0	27
9000	5 p. per cent.	Bank of London	100	50 0 0	..
20000	6 p. per cent.	British North American	80	50 0 0	..
32200	5 p. per cent.	Char. of India, Australia, and China	20	10 0 0	41
4500	5 p. per cent.	City Bank	100	50 0 0	04
20000	6 p. per cent.	Colonial	100	25 0 0	..
25000	6 p. per cent.	Commercial of London	100	20 0 0	..
25000	6 p. per cent.	Eng. Scot. and Aust. Chartered	20	20 0 0	18
35000	6 p. per cent.	London Chartered Bank of Australia	20	20 0 0	21
20000	12 p. per cent.	London and County	50	20 0 0	..
30000	22 p. per cent.	London Joint Stock	50	10 0 0	..
50000	14 p. per cent.	London and Westminster	100	20 0 0	50
10000	10 p. per cent.	National Provincial of England	100	35 0 0	..
25000	16 p. per cent.	Ditto New	20	10 0 0	..

JOINT STOCK BANKS.

No. of Shares.	Dividends per annum.	Names.	Shares.	Paid.	Price per Share.
20000	8 p. per cent.	National Bank	50	25 0 0	..
25000	20 p. per cent.	New South Wales	20	20 0 0	..
50400	12 p. per cent.	Oriental Bank Corporation	25	25 0 0	21
25000	..	Ottoman Bank	20	20 0 0	..
20000	14 p. per cent.	Provincial of Ireland	100	25 0 0	..
4000	14 p. per cent.	Ditto New	10	10 0 0	..
12000	5 p. per cent.	Ionian Bank	25	25 0 0	..
12000	12 p. per cent.	South Australia	25	25 0 0	..
4000	..	Ditto New	25	25 0 0	..
32000	10 p. per cent.	Union of Australia	..	10 0 0	..
8000	20 p. per cent.	Ditto New	15	3 0 0	..
100000	..	Union of Hamburg	50	10 0 0	..
80000	15 p. per cent.	Union of London	100	20 0 0	..
3000	3 p. per cent.	Unity Mutual Bank	100	50 0 0	..
4000	3 p. per cent.	Western of London	100	50 0 0	41

MONEY MARKET AND STOCK-EXCHANGE.

FRIDAY EVENING.

BILLS are discounted at the Bank terms, 2½ per cent., which is the general rate. Money is easier to-day than it was yesterday and in the previous days of the week, and the probabilities are that it will become still easier.

The funds were firm to-day at the close of the market, though yesterday and to-day at the beginning they were weak. Consols closed at much the same prices as yesterday.

The telegraph brought an improvement in the prices on the Bourse at Paris, which had a favourable effect on our market, and gave all things a cheerful aspect.

Railways have been steadily rising through the week, owing to the favourable reports of the traffic on them; and the public, which has for a long time stood aloof, is beginning to invest in them. For the moment the Great Northern is less in favour than some other lines, while the Midland has been much sought after.

Altogether business in the public securities wears a more cheerful aspect than for some time past. There is no unfavourable news from the Continent; money is as abundant there as it is here, and the dealers in them, who have of late had but little to do, look forward to improved times.

It may be of some use to the members of the shipping interest if we state—though many of them probably know the fact already—that in Holland, according to recent accounts, the shipping interest is in a worse condition than has been known for a long period. There is so little employment for much of the shipping there that the shipowners forego all remuneration, happy if they can only find employment for it which pays the expense of preserving the vessels.

We are not surprised that all the dock companies have written to the *Times* to explain that warrants for goods in their keeping are as sound and securely as ever they were supposed to be. Such goods are never parted with but to the holder of the warrants properly endorsed by the parties who deposit the goods. We have no recollection of any such frauds being perpetrated by means of dock warrants for goods deposited with the companies; and till the time of Messrs. Windle Cole and Co. such frauds were, we believe, unknown. Accordingly, dock warrants, till that time, were esteemed a perfectly safe security, and great was the consternation when it was practically demonstrated that they could be vitiated. The dock companies have done well to explain the nature and vindicate the character of warrants, though the work was chiefly made necessary by the erroneous description of these documents which was put forth by the *Times*.

The arrivals of bullion in the week seem about equal to the exports, though the latter include 120,000*l.* as part of the loan to Chili, and 200,000*l.* expected to be sent in silver to India on Monday.

The very old banking firm of Roberts, Curtis, and Co. has admitted Mr. F. M. Weguelin and Mr. W. Cotton Curtis into partnership, the firm being in future Roberts and Co.

The cable of the Atlantic Telegraph Company has been underrun from Valentia to the extent of eleven miles and found uninjured. The defect in the cable is therefore further off, and we regret to learn that the finances of the company are insufficient to enable them to repair the deficiency or lay a new cable. What will be done the company cannot yet say, but the enterprise is of too much importance and too sure ultimately to succeed, not, on some terms or other, to be carried on. The company had a meeting on Monday, at which several projects were discussed and nothing decided. A second, however, called the South Atlantic Telegraph, has been announced, which is to connect the Land's End with Cape Finistère, Gibraltar, the Cape de Verd Islands, and ultimately Brazil and North America. This is the most gigantic plan of ocean telegraphs yet announced; whether it have a chance of success we will not undertake to say.

The Government of India is about to issue in London bills at three days' sight payable at Bengal and Madras, for interest on Government promissory notes previously indorsed in India for payment here.

The railway traffic for the week continues to show an improvement—another indication of not inactive business.

One of the earliest and most satisfactory examples

of English capital and enterprise to be extensively applied in India under the fostering care of the new Government, is the Madras Irrigation and Canal Company, of which the prospectus has just been issued. Of the wonderful utility of water in a country like India, no proof is now required. Fertility depends on it. The object of the company, which is incorporated by act of Parliament, is to form a complete system of irrigation and canals as a means of transport. The company contemplates extending its operations over a district of four hundred thousand square miles, throughout which cotton can be cultivated, while the canals will place the district in easy communication with the ocean. Hitherto such works have been undertaken in India by the Government exclusively, which has monopolised their immense advantages. Private enterprise, if duly protected, may succeed even better than Government, and the Government will not only protect this enterprise, it will guarantee the company a certain reward.

FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE.

Tuesday, December 14.

BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.

JOSEPH SAMUEL OUSTON, Kingston-upon-Hull, wine and spirit merchant.

JOINT-STOCK COMPANIES WINDING-UP ACTS.

THE PATENT CARPET COMPANY.—Petition for winding up, to be heard Jan. 5, at two o'clock at the Bankrupts' Court.

BANKRUPTS.

THOMAS WILLIAMS, Jermyn-street, dealer in wines and spirits.

DANIEL MESNARD, Park-street, Grosvenor-square, cutler.

JAMES and WILLIAM BARKER, Albany-road, Old Kent-road, builders.

JAMES TEBBUT, jun., Yeading Hayes, Middlesex, corn dealer.

HENRY RANGER PARTON, East Greenwich, Kent, grocer.

EDWARD ROBERT STANLEY, Kirby-street, Hatton-garden, jeweller.

ELIZA PERRINS, Saltley, near Birmingham, artificial flower maker.

JAMES HENLY (and not HENTY, as in former *Gazette*), Norris, Birmingham, paper dealer.

JOSEPH GOODBAEN THORNTON, Richmond, Yorkshire, watchmaker.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

WILLIAM OTTO WATSON, Glasgow, spirit merchant.

JAMES FINLAY, Newlands, Kinross-shire, farmer.

JOHN CARRUTHERS, Annan, innkeeper.

ROBERT and WILLIAM HILL, Hamilton, ale and porter dealers.

ALEXANDER SINCLAIR, Wick, fish-curer.

Friday, December 17.

BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.

WILLIAM WELLER, Woolwich, stonemason.

BANKRUPTS.

GEORGE ROGERS, Abchurch-lane, City, stockbroker.

FREDERICK EDWARD BEAR, Crown-row, Mile-end, tobacconist.

GEORGE HENRY VENABLES, Clapton's Mills, near Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire, paper-maker.

SAMUEL UNWIN, Nottingham, draper.

WILLIAM JACKSON, elder, Kingston-upon-Hull, soap-manufacturer.

THOMAS HASTINGS and SAMUEL HERON, Kingston-upon-Hull, drapers.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

ANDREW GILLESPIE, Edinburgh, merchant.

J. SMITH and Co., Helensburgh, Dumbartonshire, coal agents.

ALEXANDER WALLACE, Glasgow, wright and builder.

WILLIAM MILLER, jun., Springfield, Glasgow, oil merchant.

JOHN CAMPBELL, Queen-street, Glasgow, seed merchant.

WILLIAM M'LARTY, Invereloy, near Brodick, in the Island of Arran, grocer.

ELIZABETH CUTHBERTSON, Edinburgh.

ROBERT ROSS, Willowbank, near Wick, Caithness-shire, shipowner.

FINANCE IN FRANCE.—A principal topic of conversation during last week was the establishment of a great discount bank on a large scale, to be called the "Imperial Bank," or "Commercial and Manufacturing Discount-office." The statutes have been laid before the Council of State for its approval. The capital of the new establishment is to be 60,000,000*fr.*, of which one-third is to be applied to the discount of commercial bills having ninety days to run. The new establishment will be allowed to lend money on deposit of dock warrants, bonds, transferable securities, and on mortgages, to which a third of the capital is to be devoted. The last third of the company is to be employed, according to circumstances, in the support of public credit. The new Bank may propose for Government loans, may purchase Government *rentes* or railway shares and bonds,

but in all Stock Exchange operations it must purchase for cash, and never for time. The Government, some time since, proposed to the Directors of the Comptoir d'Escompte to increase their capital to 60,000,000*fr.*, on condition that the Government should appoint a Governor and a Deputy-Governor. The Comptoir would in that case have been charged with all advances on public securities, the negotiation of warrants and advances to the bakers' fund, and that of the public works executed by the city of Paris. The proposal of the Government was rejected by a majority of three votes.

THE COAL SUPPLY OF LONDON.—It appears that the importation of coals, culm, and cinders into the port of London in the past month were 271,088 tons, brought in 845 ships. In the corresponding month of 1857, the importations were 333,166 tons. The importations by sea have increased, while the deliveries by railways and canals have decreased, as compared with last year. The total receipts from all sources have been 4,013,397 tons in 1858, against 3,923,076 tons in 1857, leaving an increase of 90,321 tons.

CHRISTMAS CATTLE MARKET.—The pendant to the great cattle-show in the market at Copenhagen-fields presented one of the finest exhibitions of the kind witnessed in the metropolis for years. The number of short-horns was greatly in excess of all other kinds, and they were remarkable for beauty, breed, and condition. The Herefords ranked next; while smallness of bone and medium weight were the leading characteristics of the Devons. The show of Scots was a magnificent one, and not a few of that splendid breed were as heavy as their statelier neighbours. Neither the Welsh nor Irish supplies were remarkable, and the condition of the few foreign beasts brought forward was only of a middling character. The total import of foreign stock into London last week amounted to 4323 head, and it is computed there could not have been a less number in the market than between 5000 and 6000. The attendance of both town and country butchers was very large, and there was a fair, but not active demand, for all prime beasts.

DR. DE JONGH'S

(Knight of the Order of Leopold of Belgium)

LIGHT-BROWN COD LIVER OIL,

Prescribed, in consequence of its vast superiority over every other kind, as the safest, speediest, and most effectual remedy for

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12 Tea Spoons.....	0 18 0	1 4 0	1 10 0	1 18 0
6 Egg Spoons, gilt bowls.....	0 12 0	0 15 0	0 18 0	1 1 0
2 Sauce Ladles.....	0 7 0	0 8 6	0 10 6	0 16 0
1 Gravy Spoon.....	0 8 0	0 11 0	0 13 6	0 16 0
2 Salt Spoons, gilt bowls.....	0 4 0	0 5 0	0 6 0	0 7 6
1 Mustard Spoon, gilt bowl.....	0 2 0	0 2 6	0 3 0	0 3 9
1 Pair of Sugar Tongs.....	0 3 0	0 3 9	0 5 0	0 7 0
1 Pair of Fish Carvers.....	1 4 0	1 7 6	1 12 0	1 18 0
1 Butter Knife.....	0 3 6	0 5 9	0 7 0	0 8 0
1 Soup Ladle.....	0 13 0	0 17 6	1 0 0	1 1 0
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