

The Economist,

WEEKLY COMMERCIAL TIMES,

Bankers' Gazette, and Railway Monitor:

A POLITICAL, LITERARY, AND GENERAL NEWSPAPER.

Vol. IX.

SATURDAY, MARCH 1, 1851.

No. 392.

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The Political Economist.

THE MINISTERIAL CRISIS.

PARLIAMENTARY EXPLANATIONS.—LORD STANLEY'S BAIT.

THE grave events of the past week may be summed up in a very few words. In our last number we announced that Lord John Russell's Government had virtually resigned on the preceding night. On Saturday morning that resignation was formally tendered to the Queen, and graciously accepted. Lord Stanley was immediately summoned to the Palace, and called upon to form a Government. After a lengthened audience with the Queen, his Lordship declared himself unable then to accomplish that task. On the same day Lord John Russell was again summoned to Her Majesty, and was commanded to attempt the reconstruction of a Ministry upon a broader basis, including in it eminent members of both houses, who habitually supported the most essential measures of his late Government. In consequence of this command, negotiations were immediately opened between the Noble Lord, Lord Aberdeen, and Sir James Graham, which, from the explanations since made, would no doubt have led to a favourable conclusion but for one measure now before the House, viz., the measure aimed at the late Papal Aggression. In respect to that question, Lord John Russell could not continue a Minister and do nothing, while Lord Aberdeen and Sir James Graham were both equally firm in the opinion that it is unwise to take any legislative step whatever. The result of this negotiation became known to Lord John Russell a very short time after the house rose on Monday. It therefore only remained for his Lordship to repair to the Palace immediately, and to inform Her Majesty of the failure of the attempt. On Tuesday morning Lord Stanley was again summoned, and intrusted with the task of forming a Government, which he undertook. From Tuesday morning till Thursday afternoon his Lordship was engaged with his friends and supporters in that attempt,—when he, too, was obliged to abandon the task as hopeless. From the explanations which were last night made in both houses of Parliament, it appears that no further step has been taken, except that Her Majesty has had recourse to the advice of the Duke of Wellington, whose counsel has been, as we understand it, to pause. Thus the matter stands at this moment, Parliament being adjourned until Monday.

But has the country gained nothing from this ministerial crisis of a week? More, we will venture to say, than it could have gained from the next two years Parliamentary conflict. Will any

portion of the country continue to be any longer deluded and misled as to the possibility of restoring Protection? Will they any longer be persuaded to petition the Queen to dissolve Parliament, or to look forward to the natural termination of the present Parliament, as the certain means of restoring Protection? Their Parliamentary leaders have had the Government of the country offered to them twice in one week; they accepted it unconditionally. A dissolution was at their will, and why have they shrunk from it? Simply because they found the only measures on which they were entitled to take power utterly defenceless. Simply because some of the most sensible and leading men on whom they relied as Ministers would not consent to form a Government on the principle of imposing an import duty on corn. But it is clear that no man of the party, having regard to his honour and his pledges, could have consented to form a Government on any other principle. The formation of a Government thus became simply impossible. Is the principle itself, then, not to be abandoned? If not, then for what purpose will the agitation be kept alive? Do the Protectionists ever expect to come to office under more favourable circumstances than lay at their door during the last week? They had not snatched the Government from the late Ministers by a Parliamentary majority which would have entitled their adversaries to have commenced, from the first day they were in opposition, an uncompromising and harassing opposition. On the contrary, Lord Stanley had declined on the Saturday to form a Government. On the Tuesday **i** was forced upon him, all other combinations having failed. To a Ministry of necessity thus formed, the greatest forbearance must have been shown by all parties. Ample time must have been allowed for the preparation of measures, and necessary votes must have been given to enable them to carry on the Government in the interim. No body of men, then, ever assumed office under more favourable circumstances, so far as the immediate cause of the formation of a Government was concerned. Are we not then entitled to ask, if they ever expect circumstances to be more favourable? And if not, is Protection for ever to be abandoned? It will no longer do to say that the Parliament is a Free Trade Parliament, and does not represent the country. If so—if the Protectionist leaders did really believe that the country is with them, why did they not appeal to it? Why leave the Government in the hands of a party whom they assert does not represent the country? No, the events of the past week have roused them to new reflections,—to wiser and truer convictions. And we hope that the pregnant lesson will not be lost on the country.

But Lord Stanley had proceeded so far in the formation of a Government. It is not with the persons of whom that Government was to be composed, but of the principles on which it was to be founded that we have to do. The persons, therefore, we pass over. The leading principle, so far as Lord Stanley explained it in the House of Lords last night, was to be the imposition of import duties on corn, and the relinquishment of direct taxes. As we said a week ago, "This would be a perfectly consistent policy to come from that quarter. The Protectionist policy is to impose import duties, not to repeal them: to repeal direct taxes on property, not to maintain them." Lord Stanley knows that the Income Tax is unpopular. His intention was to use all the surplus in reduction of that tax, and to impose a duty on corn equal to a sum which would enable him to repeal the remainder of the property tax. Call the surplus 2,000,000*l*. The balance required from corn duties would have been 3,500,000*l*. Last year the total quantity of corn, flour, and meal of all descriptions imported was 9,000,000 quarters, or something more than 7s 6d a qr on every description of grain. But of the 9,000,000 qrs of grain imported last year, about one-half, or 4,500,000 qrs, consisted of barley, oats, Indian corn, and other inferior grain, upon which such a duty would be nearly prohibitory; while even upon wheat it would very materially curtail the quantity imported: for, if not, of what benefit would such a duty be to the home agriculturist? Where, then, the certainty of the revenue? Again, the imports of grain may be considerable in

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every year under Free Trade, but who will venture to say how much they may, even under that system, fluctuate from year to year? As yet it has been tried only with those of the most favourable harvests in Europe, which have occurred since 1835. But under such a duty as 7s 6d a qr, who will pretend to say how much grain will be imported in the best of years, and how much that quantity must vary from year to year? What statesman but Lord Stanley would base his finances on so uncertain a foundation?

But were there no financial objection to such a proposition, (which to our mind is alone fatal to it,) there is an economical objection of the gravest character. The Income Tax is no doubt objectionable in many respects, and its repeal is a very tempting bait. But has Lord Stanley moved so many years in public life, and has not yet learned that, before the English people accept a bait, they count the cost? What is the cost of Lord Stanley's bait? An import duty of 7s 6d a quarter on foreign corn! It does not rest there. Why do the farmers covet an import duty? Not to add to the Exchequer. That is no concern of theirs. It is to raise the price of home-grown corn. If not, then what are Corn Laws to them? Under some circumstances, it cannot be denied that an import duty on corn would add the whole amount of that duty to the price of home-grown grain. Some contend that there are circumstances and times when such would not be the effect to the full amount. We will not stop to consider that question now. But, even for the sake of argument, admitting that a duty of 7s 6d the quarter raised the price on an average by 5s a quarter, what would then be the cost to the country of such a measure? The lowest calculation of the quantity of grain of all kinds grown at home is 70,000,000 quarters; the quantity imported for this calculation is taken at 9,000,000 quarters, making in round figures an entire consumption of 80,000,000 quarters, which, if raised in price by but 5s a quarter, would involve a cost to the country of 20,000,000*l* a-year, as the price for which 3,500,000*l* is to be remitted from the Property Tax!!! The Protectionists flatter themselves that when their project becomes public people will flock to their standard, under the banners of "IMPORTS ON GRAIN, AND A REPEAL OF THE INCOME TAX"!!!

But this is not all. The whole surplus of 2,000,000*l* is to go in the same direction. No Timber Duties are to be repealed. The Coffee Duties are not to be equalised. No attempt is to be made to deprive the Window Tax of its only objectionable quality. A reduction of the Tea and other excessive duties must be postponed for ever. All further reforms in the Tariff (and what are still required are sufficiently numerous) are to be relinquished. The Excise Duties as they stand must have the stamp of perpetuity placed upon them. Should the country quietly be bribed by a repeal even of the Income Tax into a submission to such serious sacrifices,—into a relinquishment of such enormous future advantages? The contemplation of such a project only shows how little Lord Stanley even now knows the country—how little his views are consistent with its true interests. The people know too well what a mighty engine of fiscal reform the Income Tax is in the hands of the State; they feel too well how much it has already accomplished for them, to wish to relinquish it one hour before all those reforms are perfected which it is destined to accomplish. The public voice will soon undeceive Lord Stanley.

THE WINDOW TAX.—METROPOLITAN CUPIDITY.

We have seldom been so disgusted (it is the only word which in our conscience we can use) as at the recent conduct of a certain portion of our countrymen in regard to the Window Tax.

It will not be denied that there was never a period when the shopkeepers and inhabitants of large towns were so well off as they are at this moment. They have reaped the full advantages of the legislation of the last ten years. Free Trade has thrown benefits into their possession more than its most sanguine friends ever expected. Trade is everywhere good. The necessities and luxuries of life are, many of them, half the price they were ten years ago. Their income has increased as their expenditure has diminished. There is at least less pretext than at any former period in the history of this country for saying that this is a suffering class.

But they had a grievance in the Window Tax. We admit it, though it was monstrously exaggerated. But give them the whole benefit of that grievance. What was it? Let their special advocates in Parliament tell. What were the terms of the motion placed on the table of the House of Commons, not a week before the Budget was produced, by Lord Duncan? "*Inasmuch as the present mode of assessing, levying, and collecting taxes on air and light, in England and Scotland, interferes most prejudicially with the health and sanitary condition of the inhabitants of Great Britain, THEREFORE it is expedient that the Window Tax should be repealed.*" Now Lord Duncan is a young nobleman of great earnestness, of singleness of mind and purpose, of unimpeached character, of unstained honour. That in his hands, at least, these reasons for repealing the Window Tax were a mere pretext for other ulterior and covert objects, we will not for a moment allow ourselves to suspect. And we only regret that he has been pressed, by a dishonest clamour out of doors, into such a situation as for

one moment to expose himself even to the suspicion of those who do not know him better, of having been made a tool of ulterior and hidden designs clothed under plausible pretexts. The events of the last fortnight sufficiently show that all the popular anxiety, so pathetically urged by metropolitan representatives in past sessions on this subject, meant really nothing more nor less on the part of their constituents (we will not say so of the honourable members themselves), than a saving of so many pounds a-year of a direct tax on their houses.

Can there be any doubt of this? Did the proposal of Sir Charles Wood not entirely meet the objection asserted in Lord Duncan's motion for the repeal of the Window Tax? Was any restriction on air and light "prejudicial to health and sanitary condition" left? No; but the pretence had not altogether succeeded as had been wished. The tax had not been altogether wrong from the Exchequer. But in the proposed modifications no class of persons would, to say the least, have been injured, and that is a great deal to say when a great sanitary evil is to be remedied. Nay more; there is no one that would not have been benefited to at least *one-third* of the amount of his present Window Tax; while thousands of persons would have been relieved of the tax altogether.

But then there would have been great inequalities in the system. No doubt of it. But any one who has carefully examined the subject would have been satisfied that the inequalities would have been at least much less than they are now. This, however, would have been a matter of detail for discussion on the bill in Committee, and did not affect the principle of the proposal, which simply affirmed the proposition of Lord Duncan, "*that the present mode of assessing, levying, and collecting taxes on air and light interferes most prejudicially with the health and sanitary condition of the people;*" and that a direct tax on house property, which has existed so long that every owner has inherited or purchased, and that every tenant occupies in relation to it, and therefore is perhaps the last tax which either policy or justice at any time, and especially under the present circumstances, would justify the abandonment of. We say nothing of the particular mode in which these objects were proposed to be accomplished. If we find fault at all, it is that so large a sum as 700,000*l* was proposed to be sacrificed. This, we think, the true objection, and not that the whole surplus of 1,900,000*l* was not abandoned to so indefensible a project. If the country party had come forward and asked Parliament to relieve them of the Land Tax, we could have at least understood it. We can imagine them using the argument, that while Free Trade has made shopkeepers and townspeople prosperous and happy, it has at least hit them hard, and we could imagine them begging that the surplus of the year should be devoted to a relief of their sufferings. We could not have admitted the argument or the claim, and Parliament has decided that it would not admit them. But that the prosperous class should ask to absorb the whole surplus in the relief of a direct tax, of which they have no right to complain, except in a sanitary sense, surpasses all former experience of clamorous rapacity.

The most amusing part of this affair was, that so soon as it was known that the Chancellor of the Exchequer proposed to remedy every evil in the Window Tax, which Lord Duncan's motion implied, and even went further, inasmuch as it relieved every person of at least a third of his present payment (which may have been a necessary, but to our minds a much-to-be-regretted sacrifice of revenue,) petitions poured into the House of Commons from the Metropolitan Communities expressive of surprise, astonishment, and indignation, not that the Window Tax interfered with "air and light" and "sanitary condition," but that they were not to be relieved wholly of the payment. The veil was at last thrown aside. The pretext on which the agitation had been carried on for years was abandoned; and then it appeared that the real terms in which Lord Duncan's motion should have been worded, in order really and truly to express the meaning of those out of doors whose cause he represented, but on very different grounds on his part, were as follows:—

"Whereas, a large class of her Majesty's subjects, occupying shops and houses in the metropolis and other large towns, and having great influence in parochial vestries and over popular members of Parliament, have been from time immemorial subject to a direct tax upon the houses which they occupy, assessed according to the number of windows in each house, and subject to which the rents of their said houses were fixed; and notwithstanding the legislation of the last ten years has been such as in a peculiar degree to improve the condition of the said classes,—yet considering that there are some good reasons which humane persons can urge against the said tax in relation to the health of the poorer classes of the community who occupy lodgings in large houses and in thronged parts of the city, and whereas those rich and prosperous classes possess great means for a clamorous organisation against the payment of their just share of taxes, therefore it is expedient entirely to repeal the tax on houses, known by the name of the Window Duty."

Of late years we have heard much of the merits of direct taxation, and much of the evils of taxes on industry, on raw materials, and of protective duties. Fortunately, legislation has already done much by means of the former to remedy the most glaring defects of the latter. But though much has been done,

much still remains to be done; and till that work is completed, we shall see with the greatest regret a single shilling wasted in such reductions as the Window Duty, much less the abandonment of the entire tax. Who is the Minister that could venture to retain an Income Tax to enable him to repeal so just a tax as a direct and established impost on house property? If the Chancellor of the Exchequer has committed an error at all, it has been in giving any credence to the pretext which out of doors has been urged against the Window Tax. We perfectly agree with him that the objects he had in view were worthy of a great effort. But it may turn out that the unreasonable cupidity of those who most urged the objections has already rendered it impossible for any Minister to do even so much as Sir Charles Wood designed to do. This we will venture to tell the people of Marylebone, Finsbury, and Westminster, that they will not find a Minister who will consent to sacrifice 1,900,000*l.* in order to relieve them of one of the least objectionable taxes in our whole revenue system, "light and air" excepted. We shall yet see how much they have profited by their "surprise and indignation."

REGAL AND REVOLUTIONARY REACTION.

THE triumph of despotism seems complete. The reaction in favour of tyranny of 1851 seems as irresistible and excessive as was the reaction of license in 1848. From every part of Italy and Germany we hear of nothing but a relapse into the old path of clumsy, brutal, and mediæval oppression. The old armour is burnished up. The old weapons, useless from rust, and ridiculous from their antiquated fashion, are called forth from forgotten arsenals. All the obsolete and discredited expedients of kingcraft are again resorted to with no visible distrust of their efficiency. Constitutions are proscribed under any form or in any degree. The press is subjected to the censorship, the admission of foreign works prohibited, and the sale of any unauthorised books visited with the severest penalties. The most respectable friends of freedom are visited with ignominious punishments. Untaught alike by living experience or by written history, the monarchs of Italy and Germany appear resolved to teach us "what men on thrones can dare," and to convince all who hoped that they might have gleaned some wisdom from the past,

—"That, of all earth's ravening things,
The only quite untameable are kings."

The result of the Dresden Conference is not yet certainly known. It appears that the autocrats have met with more opposition than they anticipated from the minor States of the Confederation in working out their own wicked will. But the general nature of the resolutions arrived at, when despots on principle, like the Emperors of Austria and Russia, concoct schemes with despots by temper and infirmity, like the King of Prussia, cannot admit of much doubt. Already it has leaked out that the treatment of Hesse is a sample of the treatment which every semblance of a constitution in Germany may expect to meet with. Austria has explained in the most unequivocal language her opinion, that representation in any form is a vexatious and impracticable element, and cannot be admitted into the Confederation of Central Europe. Prussia, true to her slippery and duplex policy, has spoken in the same tone. The remonstrances of the minor States, more liberal, more honest, and more disposed to profit by the lessons of the last few years, appear to have been contemptuously disregarded. Every step which has been taken since 1815 towards a more popular and less autocratic system of government is to be deliberately retraced; and a new Holy Alliance—more unhallowed than the old—to be constructed on the ruins of abortive constitutions. It is rumoured, and with much probability, that Prussia, Austria, and Bavaria are even now preparing to march into Switzerland, and cancel by external force all the democratic movements which have been effected since 1847. Russia, in the meantime, stands chuckling by, rejoiced to see her game played by her puppets, without any expense or trouble to herself.

In Italy vengeance and reaction have their full swing. The poor Pope, shocked and panic-stricken by the issue of his former deviations into right and justice, has sunk back into his cradle, and ecclesiastical oppression and incapacity have resumed their ancient sway, and are exercising in every department, and over every interest, an influence even more deleterious than before. The King of Naples, recovered from his fright, and exasperated by his temporary defeat, is surpassing himself, and executing justice after the fashion of his vindictive and ungenerous race. He has just condemned to the gallies for life the chiefs and leaders of the constitutional movement of 1848—a sentence which has spread consternation and disgust through the whole kingdom. In addition to this, he is sedulously endeavouring to suppress all intellectual light and activity in his dominions. No book containing, or suspected to contain, any thought or matter, is allowed to be sold. Thousand upon thousand of volumes have been confiscated. "Macaulay's History of England" is as sternly prohibited as the "Bible." Every thing is in the "Index expurgatorius." All newspapers, except the *State Gazette*, have been suppressed, and a dull, leaden, ominous silence pervades the land.

It is difficult to believe that the Rulers of Italy and Germany

can suppose it possible to trample out freedom by such means as this; that a people who have once tasted the joys of liberty, or known, for however brief a period and in however limited a measure, the advantages of self-government, can ever rest under the dark shadow of irresponsible despotism? The lesson they should have learned from the events of 1848 and 1849, is the danger of allowing their subjects to grow up utterly unaccustomed to that freedom which, by accident or effort, is certain one day to be theirs—utterly untrained to use, with moderation or for good, the powers which any chance convulsion (as little foreseen as the Revolution of February) may put into their hands. Having recovered the authority which they had so much abused and so nearly lost, their chief anxiety should have been to exercise their subjects in the difficult path of constitutional self-government, under a strong supervision and control, while the power of exercising that control yet lasted. Instead of this, they have stepped back into the past; drawn more tightly than before the bonds of repression and restraint; and the only lesson they have taught their subjects is one which, on the next occasion, they will not be slow to remember nor averse to practise, namely, to show no forbearance and to give no quarter—to leave to their oppressors neither the means nor the persons for vengeance or reaction. It is painful to hear patriots say (as we have heard more than once), "When our turn comes again, we will not make our old mistake of mercy and moderation." It is more painful still not to be able to gainsay them.

While, however, the despots of Europe are doing all in their power to arouse and to justify the revolutionary patriots of Europe, it is not to be denied that the patriots are doing all they can to excise and irritate the despots. Both parties have played and are playing into each other's hands with fearful unanimity and zeal. Both are co-conspirators against the cause of rational and legal freedom. The democrats played their game as ill in 1848, as the autocrats are playing theirs in 1851. There was scarcely a mistake they did not commit—scarcely an advantage they did not forego—scarcely an opportunity they did not throw away—scarcely a sober worshipper of freedom whom they did not disgust by the grotesque and hideous idols they set up for adoration. The Germans threw away their chances by pursuing the wildest follies ever dreamed of by unmanageable ideologists. The Milanese cast down their liberty when they had achieved it (much to their own amazement) by an hysterical convulsive start, by their supine indolence, their senseless conceit, and their foolish jealousy of, yet reliance on, Charles Albert. The Romans had attained much freedom, and were on the way to the acquirement of much more, when the French revolution dazzled them with its deceptive splendour, and dissatisfied them with their own more moderate successes; and in an evil hour they quarrelled with their Pontiff, and set up for themselves. And the Sicilians, intoxicated with their victory, refused to consolidate their position, and neglected to close with terms which may not be again within their reach till generations have gone to sleep in the benumbing atmosphere of despotism.

They do not seem much wiser now. That incorrigible conspirator—that indefatigable element of mischief—Mazzini, seems in league with the Emperor of Austria to damage and bring trouble on the peaceful and the free. By making Switzerland his head quarters, and collecting round him refugees and revolutionary agents from all nations, he is affording the despots of Germany a fair excuse for assaulting and crushing Helvetian liberties. He was mainly instrumental in preventing a timely peace between Sardinia and Austria, while Lombardy might yet have been saved. He then used all his influence with the liberals of Rome to urge them to extreme views and measures. Everywhere and always he has been the enemy of moderation and of timely compromise; and is accordingly both feared and hated by the constitutional liberals of Italy, whose vessel he has more than once shipwrecked. He is a fanatical and incurable republican—sincere, high-minded, but desperate—regarding everything as worthless which stops short of his own Utopian ideal—trampling down as relentlessly as the Car of Juggernaut every scheme, every theory, every man which stands in the way of its realisation. He is the best friend Francis of Austria can number among either enemies or subjects. While in England he was indefatigable in recruiting for some project which he had in reserve; now staining his name irretrievably by writing it side by side with Ledru Rollin's in addresses to the democracy of Europe; now issuing prospectuses for an Italian loan, which—strange to say—he has somewhere and to some extent succeeded in obtaining: the loan to be payable when Italy is a free and united republic. He is now concocting, there seems little doubt, some new outbreak in some part of the Peninsula, and it is said that Garibaldi is on his way to join him with a band of Transatlantic desperadoes. Of course Austria is well aware of these machinations, and has her eye upon those engaged in them; and if not prevented by timely interference, some senseless insurrection will be attempted, which will give Austria and Naples ample excuse for fresh and still sterner severities. More blood will flow on the scaffold, if not in the field, and will lie at the door of the reckless and remorseless Mazzini.

In all this confusion, one thing is especially worthy of remark; the only country which retains what it gained during the revolu-

tionary crisis of 1848, and seems steadily advancing in the course of constitutional liberty, and genuine, social, and mental emancipation, is Sardinia—the country against whose monarch the indignation of Mazzini is especially directed, as having betrayed or lost the cause of Lombardy. If Lombardy had done its duty in 1848, fought for itself, and stood manfully and firmly by Piedmont, it might now have been a sharer in its freedom and its hopes. The contrast is instructive: Mazzini, the uncompromising, has ruined every cause with which he has allied himself: the Marquis Azeglio, the representative and long-tried advocate of moderate Italian liberalism, is Prime Minister of the only Italian state that is not a very sink of despotism.

The alarming disposition shown by Austria, Prussia, and Bavaria towards the utter extinction of constitutional freedom throughout Central Europe, seems to call for a still closer union between the only Representative Governments which remain, viz., France, England, and Sardinia; for Spain and Portugal, notwithstanding their forms, can scarcely be considered as genuinely such. If these Governments will steadily and honourably hold together, and refuse to permit any interference with the rights and independence of Switzerland, at the same time, discountenancing the practice of allowing it to be made a hotbed for the nourishing of plots against friendly powers—a barrier, effectual and immovable, will be opposed to the further advance of arbitrary designs, and a harbour of refuge and security provided where the oppressed may find a shelter, a welcome, and a home, and whence such freedom as alone is fit to be desired and capable of being maintained, may gradually spread as time and maturity may afford an opening.

WILL OUR SHIPPING DECAY?

AMONG the many names which have been suggested for high office under Lord Stanley that of Mr G. F. Young, the great public champion of the Protectionists, has been unaccountably forgotten. We beg to refresh the memories of our contemporaries of that political faith, and assure them that their agitation has thrown no man to the surface who has risen higher above the surges, and remained longer buoyant, than this respectable shipowner. He has traversed the country in all directions, and spoke at countless meetings, for them. He much deserves their gratitude, and it reflects no credit on them that he who has performed the greatest labours is not thought of for one of the highest posts. His last exhibition was at Waltham on Wednesday, when, to our surprise, he admitted that the statements made in Parliament by Sir James Graham and Lord Wodehouse were substantially true, and that the evils of Free Trade had fallen very slightly hitherto upon the owners of land. To our still greater surprise Mr Young did not say one word about the decay of our shipping. He dilated on the condition of the agriculturists and of the colonists—on our exports and imports; but he did not allude to his favourite topic. This is the more extraordinary, as a letter was recently addressed to him by D. C. Aylwin, Esq., of the firm of Messrs Aylwin and Co., of London, and late of Calcutta, to show that his most ingubrious views are realised, and that the decay of our shipping is inevitable. From Mr Young's silence on his favourite topic for declamation, we are inclined to infer that he is awakening to correcter views, and, fearing possibly that the responsibilities of office may be cast on him, is becoming cautious in his statements.

The letter of Mr Aylwin is dated the 10th ult., and on the 13th Mr Labouchere made a statement in the House of Commons concerning our shipping quite sufficient to check his opponents in advertising to the subject. The right hon. gentleman showed that, in spite of the predictions of certain great prophets, the total tonnage of ships inwards and outwards for the last three years was as follows:—

	Tons.
1848.....	10,000,000
1849.....	11,500,000
1850.....	12,001,000

There was between 1848 and 1850 an increase of 1,401,000 tons. He admitted that British tonnage had declined a little as might be expected. We had opened our trade and foreigners had naturally entered it. But British ships had by the same means been enabled to share in foreign trade, and if the number had diminished which entered our own ports, the number which entered foreign ports had increased. In 1850 the number of British ships which had arrived at New York from Hayti, Cuba, Brazils, China, and other places, whence they could not before the repeal of our Navigation Laws have carried cargoes, was no less than 146 of 30,829 tons. Those are the arrivals in only one port; and no doubt when the returns are obtained from all the other ports, we shall find a corresponding employment of British ships in the trade of foreign countries more than equal to the increase of foreign ships in our trade. Corresponding to the increased employment for our ships, the right hon. gentleman showed that the number of ships built and registered in 1850 was 689 of 133,000 tons, against 730 of 117,000 tons in 1849, and 847 ships of 122,000 tons in 1848, an increase in the two years of 11,000 tons, but a decrease in the number of ships; so that the shipowners are having a larger and better class of ships built, not for the home but the foreign trade. They will sail them with more economy. As Mr G. F. Young had facts of this

class before him, we are not surprised that he did not indorse Mr Aylwin's statements, and sailed away to the more vague griefs of landowners and farmers.

These are some of the general facts in the recent history of our shipping; but Mr Aylwin has put forth a special case to which our attention has been directed by more than one correspondent; and, because it is special, even if wholly true, cannot be of so much value for the general argument as he and others assert. His remarks apply altogether to California, and California is so completely at present an exception to the general course of trade, that even if all his statements were unexceptionable, they would prove nothing either for or against a policy founded on general principles. In one respect, California is a very remarkable refutation of one of his statements. He says nearly at the commencement of his letter:—"It was my opinion that, by opening our door for an extra supply of tonnage, without, at the same time, providing and calling into existence a corresponding amount of goods to be carried, we should necessitate a considerable reduction of freight." But though a Legislature may open doors, or, in less figurative language, remove restrictions on the carriage of goods, it never can provide a greater amount of goods to be carried. That is done by farmers, manufacturers, and merchants; and, judging from experience, we conclude that a Legislature never opens a door to the industry of man, or never removes a restriction from industry, but the open door is soon crowded with goods. California is not provided for us or for society by the Legislature that opened a door for the employment of tonnage; the English Parliament did not call it into existence; but about the period that it opened the door for the employment of so much more tonnage, it happened that a new trade was called into existence. According to Mr Aylwin, 1,200 vessels were despatched from different ports of the United States to California in 1848-9, of which, upwards of 600 were abandoned at San Francisco; and in 1850 nearly 1,100 vessels were so despatched. Coeval then with our opening "the door to the employment of an additional tonnage," there arose a new demand for ships, such as never before occurred perhaps. There were goods and passengers to be carried, and fortunately there were vessels to carry them without interfering with any other trade, which would not have been the case had the sagacious Mr Aylwin's advice been followed, and the door kept shut, because he did not see how the Legislature was to provide or call into existence more goods to be carried. In other instances, as in this, he may trust to farmers, merchants, and manufacturers, and learn from this example, that if he acts justly, according to general principles, when he deals with a nation's affairs, he will promote the public welfare. In his trade he may calculate as closely as he pleases, and will probably not err if he trust no further than he can see; but in the affairs of nations, though he see not how the effect is to be brought about, he may be sure that the Legislature will never open a door to industry, but it will soon be filled with the products of human skill.

We are indebted to the *Morning Chronicle* for an official statement of the number of vessels cleared out from the ports of the United States, from Jan. 1, 1850, to Jan. 1851 for California, and the number actually was 565, or very little more than the half of 1,100 vessels which Mr Aylwin mentions. It may be supposed, therefore, that in 1848-49 there were not quite so many sent as 1,200; but on these fictitious statements Mr Aylwin grounds all his apprehensions of the ruin that is to befall our shipping engaged in the trade eastward of the Cape of Good Hope. He assumes, that of the 1,100 ships he says were despatched to California in 1850, "no less than 850 will find no chance of local employment;" and he affirms they must proceed "to Calcutta, China, and other places, eastward of the Cape of Good Hope, seeking return freights, and ready to bring home cargo at any rate they can get, as from their having obtained from 6l to 10l per ton for their outward voyage, from the United States to California, they can better afford to accept any rate that will just cover their actual return expense, rather than undertake in ballast the long and dangerous voyage round Cape Horn."

Now admitting that there is no exaggeration in Mr Aylwin's statements, it is well known that a trade is springing up between California and the Australian Colonies, and between California and the ports of South America on the Pacific. The food of San Francisco requiring a considerable number of vessels to import it, is obtained in a great measure from these sources. We do not take up a trade return or a commercial circular from China or any part of the East Indies, but we find departures to California as well as arrivals from California. In the circular, for example, of J. M. Smith and Co., dated Shanghai, Dec. 20, it is stated that two American vessels are loading for California, and several American vessels sailed between Nov. 25 to Dec. 17, not one of which was bound to London or Liverpool, but all for New York. From Canton, in the month between Nov. 26 and Dec. 27, four vessels at least sailed for California. When we add this demand for shipping to carry on the totally new trade of California with all the ports of the Pacific, of India, and of China, to the shipping Mr Aylwin admits will be required for carrying guano, whaling, and coasting, we must conclude that his alarm at a vast superabundance of vessels in the Pacific is founded, like his apprehension of there being no increase of goods to be carried when the

door was opened to an increased tonnage by the abolition of our Navigation Laws, on his ignorance. He knew nothing of the sources whence these goods were to come, and he knows nothing of the new trade that is growing up between California and other countries. If we had any apprehensions, they would rather be that the new trade which must arise between the population on the shores of the Pacific and the islands in that sea and the continent of Asia will want ships rather than that there will be more ships than can find remunerative employment.

When Mr Aylwin attempts to frighten people by such far-fetched imaginations, he should remember that there are facts by which to test them. The twelve hundred sail of vessels which went to California in 1848-1849 should have had a sinister effect on the employment of British ships in 1850. The facts, however, according to the statement of the East India and China Association, lead to an opposite conclusion. The total of British ships from and to places within the limits of the East India Company's charter was:—

CLEARED INWARDS.		
	Ships.	Tonnage.
In 1843.....	858	406,479
1850.....	926	442,793
Increase in 1850.....	58	36,314
CLEARED OUTWARDS.		
	Ships.	Tonnage.
In 1849.....	1,128	522,056
1850.....	1,173	562,495
Increase in 1850.....	45	40,439

There is much more to excite hope than apprehension in those facts. As to the rate of freights which alarms Mr Aylwin, it was by the latest accounts—From Canton to England 2l; “but many fine American vessels are offering at 1l 10s all round, which is likely to be the rate.” From Shanghai to England, “3l 10s for tea and 4l for silk.” From Bombay the rates of the day for London “are 2l, 2l 5s, and to Liverpool 2l, at which several engagements have been made: to China Rs 13 to 13½ per candy are obtainable.” “From Calcutta, for a few days after the departure of the last mail, the freight market continued rather quiet. Subsequently a fair demand for tonnage sprung up, considering the scarcity of country produce; but rates remained unaltered until the 28th ult., when increased firmness on the part of consignees forced an advance of about 2s 6d per ton on sugar to London, bringing up the quotations of that article to 3l, but to Liverpool no change occurred. Since the commencement of the year the desire to engage has become more eager, and slightly higher rates have been paid for sugar as well as for saltpetre, both to London and Liverpool, and consignees are now looking for a further advance. The amount of vacant tonnage is not large, and if produce had only been more abundant, rates would decidedly have been higher.”

In those statements brought by the last India Mail there is only one evidence of the competition of the Americans affecting our shipping. In Canton they are offering at 1l 10s all round, lowering the rate apparently 10s per ton, and that is the great competition which is to ruin our shipowners. It may be noticed, however, that the rates from Bombay are higher than the rates from Canton. They are on the average, therefore, nearly equal, and the lowest rate offered by the Americans from Canton is 1l 10s. In Mr Chapman's work on the “Cotton and Commerce of India,” there is a statement collected from a variety of sources of the freights of cotton from India, and according to that the freight from Bombay in 1842 and 1843 was from 1l 10s to 3l 15s, and from 1l 10s to 2l 15s; the present rate, therefore, at which the Americans offer their ships is not unexampled nor unusual. We may add, to calm the apprehensions of such men as Mr Aylwin, that before the Navigation Laws were touched, the rate of freight from Bombay had fallen from 14l or 16l—the rate in 1814—to 1l 10s or 2l 15s in 1842. That enormous reduction—not merely of 25 per cent., but 12l 10s out 14l—took place under the monopoly of the Navigation Laws, before the door was opened to the Americans, and before California had provided an outward freight of such a high rate as to make the return freight, according to Mr Aylwin, of little importance.

The advocates of monopoly make a great outcry about the employment of foreign vessels in our trade. In 1850 there entered inwards:—

	Ships.	Tonnage.
Total	31,249	6,113,394
Whereof English	18,723	4,078,544
Foreign	12,521	2,034,852

Or in this year, when the late change has had, like all such changes, a greater effect than it will probably hereafter have, the foreign ships employed in our trade are about 40 per cent. of the whole, and the foreign tonnage about 32.7. Of the United States, however, the trade was carried on in 1849 by—

	Ships.
Total	20,290
Whereof American	11,208
Foreign	8,992

Or the foreign vessels engaged carrying on the trade of the States, whose vessels are to ruin our trade, was 44 per cent. of the whole. Mr Labouchere stated in the speech already referred to, that the total number of British vessels that entered the port of New York in 1850, amounted to 961 ships of 252,000 tons. In the trade circular of Mr Mure, of New Orleans, dated February 1, a list is

given of vessels loading for Liverpool, of which 15 are British and 1 Dutch, leaving the Americans only 10. Mr Aylwin's apprehensions can have no foundation when British vessels can thus fairly and successfully compete with American vessels in a trade open to both.

He has taken, as the foundation of his reasoning, the high freights paid on vessels taken up for California when the demand was sudden and excessive. The abolition of the Navigation Laws which opens the trade to America for English vessels—and several have already carried tea from Canton to New York—gives to them a full share of the general rise of freights which may be occasioned by the Californian trade; and the general competition of American vessels in that and other trades will prevent the rate of freight in that trade from rising higher than the ordinary and average rate. It is stated, in fact, that the last advices from New York quote the freight from there to San Francisco about 5l per ton, not much above the freight of vessels from Liverpool. It is perfectly clear, therefore, that the rate of freight to California cannot—coasting trade though it be—remain permanently higher than the rate of freight in other trades, and consequently American ships will not continue to have the great advantages of those extremely high rates to California, on which all Mr Aylwin's apprehensions and reasoning are founded. Instead of the new trade to California lowering the rate of freight for English ships, it is plain that they will share, in consequence of the Navigation Laws, in the advantages of the general rise of freight which that new trade must cause. Mr Aylwin admits that were legislative restrictions removed, we can build and sail our vessels cheaper than the Americans can build and sail their vessels. That being his opinion, and the existing competition between their vessels and ours in all trades bringing the rate of freight for both to one common level, the variations from which are determined by the peculiar circumstances of each voyage, his apprehensions of the ruin of our mercantile marine, deduced from the exceptional case of the enormous rates of freight paid on vessels going to California in 1848 and 1849, are as baseless as those of the vulgar who occasionally believe, under the influence of religious charlatans, that the world is on some particular day to be destroyed.

THE PAPAL AGGRESSION BILL.

In the masterly speech of Sir James Graham on the ministerial crisis last night, while he explained his unalterable convictions of the impolicy of legislating on the subject of the late Papal Aggression, yet, with his accustomed candour, he admitted the impossibility of any Government existing who were prepared to remain passive and to do nothing. On that ground we understand the Right Hon. Baronet to have stated that Lord Aberdeen and he were obliged to decline the attempt to form a Government. Right or wrong, the expression of opinion has been too distinct in England and Scotland to admit of any other conclusion. This dilemma, in which the party to which we refer would be placed, we saw with deep regret, from the moment Lord John Russell resigned; for to us they were the only other statesmen to whom we could look with any security for the maintenance of a policy which we deem in the first degree essential to the welfare of the country.

But what does that fact teach us? We are not now going to argue upon the Papal Bill. It is enough for our present object that the people of Great Britain were all but unanimous upon the subject, be they right or be they wrong. There are many who complain of the bill only because it has led to the present crisis, and to the overturn of the Government, which we at once admit it to have done. But, then, we ask those who reason thus to reflect what would have been the result if we had had a Government which thought it to be its duty to do nothing? Parliament would have met. Three-fourths of the members, both for themselves and their constituencies, were already compromised. Such a Government must have been defeated on the Address to the Crown by an overwhelming majority. A change must have taken place under circumstances which rendered compromise impossible. Lord Stanley would have appealed to the country on the double cry of Papal Aggression and Protection, and a Parliament answering to one or both of these cries would have been returned which would have given the Protectionist Minister a majority probably of two to one.

Men must deceive themselves who think that, were an election going on at this moment under such cries, a single member would be returned for any important English town left free to do nothing; or for any English county, probably not bound to vote for both. What, then, would have been the prospects of religious freedom—what the prospects of our commercial policy?

We do not urge these views as any answer to those who entertain a conscientious and unalterable objection to the present bill. We do so only to those who complain of it as the cause of the present crisis. There are times when public men must abandon views at all risks, in obedience to their conviction. But it is quite plain, that the Government of a country with a representative constitution is simply impossible by men, however great otherwise, [at least at the moment; whose views, however right

they may be, are so far in opposition to those of the country. No man can hide from himself the enormous dangers of such legislation; but equally no man can be insensible to the still greater dangers of altogether refraining.

AN AMNESTY IN FRANCE.

ALL French politicians seem alike in one respect. They conceive that Government must be in all things implicitly obeyed, and must regulate all things. For them it is "one and indivisible." If it admit disunion, it stops or falls to pieces. It is like a watch that won't go, if every little pin and wheel is not in the proper place, and properly adjusted to every other part of the machine. They are notoriously a logical-minded people, and starting from the admitted necessity that there must be a Government to insure the safety of society, they carry out the principle rigorously to the conclusion that society is endangered by the Government not being everywhere and at all times supreme over all things—over men's opinions as well as their acts. Accordingly, they have no toleration. The Socialists cannot stop short of getting the Government in their hands, and revolution and rebellion are accordingly justifiable in their eyes. The Conservatives in like manner cannot stop short, for safety's sake, of controlling opinions, and so they shackle the press, and fancy society cannot be secure, because M. Ledru Rollin and his co-revolutionists write in *Le Proscrit*, and *Le Vote Universel* publishes appeals to the people. Their only confidence is in the strong arm of the law. The guillotine is the extreme representative of their system of Government. It is based on terror, and if those who administer it have not a complete command over that instrument, they are disposed to regard the Government as impracticable.

In France this theoretical and traditionary error is the less excusable, inasmuch as the French are more moved by generous impulses than by apprehensions. Lamartine knew well this characteristic of his countrymen, and acted on it most successfully to carry France through the calamitous crisis of 1848; but he fell back on the theory like the rest when the momentary impulse faded away, and relied on intolerant coercion to secure power when it was established. So the present Ministry of Transition, deriving all their ideas of the Government from their practices in administering its subordinate departments, can see no other means of safety but to put down every opposing power and every adverse party.

An amnesty has lately been proposed in the Legislative Assembly—a most needful measure, helping to bury in oblivion the sad consequences of errors common to all. But the Ministers reply—We cannot grant it, the Socialists are yet too strong, the affiliated societies are so numerous, the revolutionary spirit is still so active, a commercial crisis is we are afraid depending, which, throwing people out of work, may increase the distress now felt by the agricultural classes, generate discontent, and hasten another revolution. But surely amnesty will not increase the discontent, will neither hasten nor aggravate the commercial distress, will not excite the revolutionary spirit, will not augment the affiliated societies, nor increase the strength of the Socialists. On the contrary, the refusal of the amnesty increases discontent. It gives many persons cause to dislike and to hate a Government, they might otherwise have no wish to oppose or to overturn. The repression avowed by the Government as the principle of its acts, creates the exploding or resisting force to overcome it. In proportion to the compression is the danger of the explosion; and as no Government can hermetically shut up a nation, as an engineer shuts up gas in a hollow ball by a power superior to its own, the more it attempts compression, the more it provokes and the more it is sure to cause the disaffection and insurrection it lives in dread of. Good policy suggests that socialism and red republicanism and affiliated societies should all speedily be buried in oblivion. The Ministers are resolved, however, to keep them alive by recognising their existence, and holding them up to the world as a means by which the Government may be overturned. The politicians of France, like the Bourbons whom French wits ridicule, forget no theory and learn no facts. In spite of experience, they think France can only be preserved in peace, and the existence of the Government secured, by the crushing machine of Louis Philippe, the iron sceptre of Bonaparte, or the guillotine of the Revolution.

THE RABIDNESS OF PROTECTIONISTS.

WHAT the country has escaped from by Lord Stanley's inability to form a Ministry, is faintly shadowed forth by the speech of a Mr Ball, of Burwell, at a meeting called by the High Sheriff of the county of Cambridge, in compliance with a requisition numerously signed, and held in the Corn Exchange, Ely, on Thursday. The place of meeting, we are told, was crowded in every part; and there was a large attendance of agricultural labourers. At a meeting so collected and so crowded Mr Ball said, amongst other things:—

"In answer to the threat of Sir James Graham the agriculturists ought to wave aloft the banner of Protection, inscribed with the motto '*Resurgam*.' Was it not horrible to have class set against class by a Privy Councillor? He believed that there

were numbers in this country who would prefer marching against Manchester to marching against Paris. Let them take the language of *The Times*, which the other day said they would resist Protection to the last appeal. Let them say 'Amen' to it. It was a hopeful thing that Lord Stanley was at the head of affairs. Let them recollect his lordship's injunction to agitate the country and wait the command of 'Up, Guards, and at them.' That time had now come, and the reply should be, 'On, Stanley, on.' Let them risk all, brave all, and dare all, to be reinstated in that position of which they had been so wrongfully deprived."

There are shrewd suspicions abroad, which have been too rather plainly expressed, that the labourers were sent into the workhouse at Barham, in a neighbouring agricultural county to Cambridge, to get up a riot as a demonstration in favour of Mr Disraeli's late motion. If there are any foundations for those suspicions, would it not warrant a further suspicion that gathering labourers at a meeting for an object adverse to their interests, and inflaming their passions by such appeals, is a part of the same system? We are to be terrified, it appears, as all other devices have failed, into submission to the reimposition of a bread tax. The landlords have been so accustomed to extort high rents and have appanages provided for their children by law, that they are to "risk all, brave all, and dare all" to be reinstated in these time-honoured privileges. By not having Lord Stanley at the head of the Government, the courage, however, of the men who are ready to march against Manchester will probably be cooled. Stanley will not lead them. The call, "On, Stanley, on," whether to invade Manchester or any other manufacturing town, cannot be answered, and we shall be able to preserve freedom for industry and enforce justice against all without being obliged to fight. Mr Ball and his backers will cool down when they find the Protectionist attempt to form a Government has vanished in mist, and we shall be saved from a civil war or an insurrection by the impossibility of forming a Protectionist Ministry.

TIMBER DUTIES.

(From an eminent Timber Merchant.)

THE possible change of Ministry, and with it the reversal of the proposed approximation to free trade in wood, causes great anxiety in the trade, and business consequently rests in suspense.

As the Colonies have been looking to the abatement of protective duty on wood sooner or later, it could not have been more opportunely timed than now, whether it be an equalisation of foreign and colonial duty on a low scale for revenue only—which would not be felt in consumption, if reduced to one-third of the present differential rate—or the ministerial plan of retaining half the present differential rate, though the former seems preferable for revenue and a final settlement. The Colonies of British America have greatly progressed in their wood trade with us, and are now especially making rapid strides in the frontier trade with the United States. They are becoming to a certain extent independent of the British Isles as their sole customers, and with Free Trade would compete with Norway, Sweden, and other countries on the Baltic, in supplying France, Holland, and the Mediterranean ports with wood. Reciprocity with those countries would soon enable the Canadas to compete successfully in their wood trade, and the supply for this market suffer no abatement. From British America only an unlimited supply of wood be obtained. The North of Europe has no capacity for that great increase of supply, which might be otherwise assumed possible, under the abolition of differential duty. Inland distance, or difficult lines of water communication, are insuperable limits to the supply of wood, except at great cost, and these exist generally in the North of Europe; whereas, by the great lakes and rivers of America, a natural outlet is open from the primeval forest to the sea.

FLAX COTTON.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Morning Chronicle* gives the following detail of the experiments now being made at Bradford, in pursuance of Chevalier Claussen's process, which has just been specified:—

About four cwt of the flax in the straw, grown in the neighbourhood of Bradford, and purchased by Messrs Quitzow and Co. at the price of 4/ per ton, was placed in a large stone vat, provided with a false bottom, and suitable steam pipes for heating the liquid used in saturating the flax to the required temperature. The flax then having been placed in the vat, a quantity of water, about sufficient to cover the material, was let in, together with such an amount of solution of caustic alkali as imparted to it the strength of rather less than one degree of Twaddle's hydrometer. The steam was then let in to the vat, and the solution brought into a boiling state, in which the straw remained immersed four hours. It was stated that the solution must be used at a lower temperature, with a corresponding prolongation of the time of immersion, but that in no case need it exceed two days. According to the existing modes of preparing the flax by the ordinary processes of steeping, the time required would range from three to five days to as much as from three to six months. The advantages possessed by this mode of saturating the fibre over the existing modes of preparation by steeping, in addition to the great saving of time

effected, are, that the fibre is always uniform in strength and entirely free from colour, thereby greatly facilitating the after-process of bleaching either in the yarns or in the cloth. A more complete severance of the fibres is also obtained, and the subsequent process of scutching is effected with half the labour usually employed, and with a considerably less amount of waste in the shape of "tow," than by the ordinary modes of preparation.

The object of employing the alkaline solution referred to is to decompose and remove the glutinous or gummy matter which connects the fibre with the woody portion of the plant, and also to remove the colouring or extraneous matter contained in the straw, without allowing the matters so discharged to stain the fibre. Of the glutinous matter which adheres to the fibre, it appears that about 17 per cent. is insoluble in water, and can only be removed by a solution of caustic, soda, or potash, or other alkaline liquors, from which it is obvious that the existing modes of steeping, whether in hot or in cold water, are not capable of producing that perfect clearness of the fibre or complete separation which it would be desirable to obtain. In order to complete the process of adapting the fibre for spinning on ordinary flax machinery, after having remained a sufficient time in the alkaline solution, the liquid was drawn off the straw, and the fibre placed for about two hours in a water slightly acidulated by sulphuric acid, the acid employed being in the proportion of about one-half per cent. The acid thus formed combines with the free alkali still remaining in the straw, forms a sulphate of soda, the excess of sulphuric acid completes the decomposition and discharge of the glutinous or colouring matter originally contained in the fibre and straw, without in the least degree affecting the strength of the fibre required for the purpose of manufacture, while the straw which has been thus impregnated with the alkaline salts employed in the solution, after having been removed by the subsequent operation of scutching, forms a manure of the most valuable character. It is not necessary, however, that the flax should be immersed in the alkaline solution while in the straw, or in the state in which it remains after the removal of the seed, but it may be advantageously employed after it has been partially broken or flattened, by passing it between a pair of rollers, or subjected to the action of a common "breaker." In cases where it may be found inconvenient to transport the flax in its more bulky state, the grower may, without injury or deterioration to the fibre, remove some portions of the straw, and retain it for consumption on the farm. This partial operation he may alter by purely mechanical means, and without resorting to the obnoxious and disagreeable process of steeping. The flax thus partially cleared is suitable not only for the preparation of long fibre, and adapted to the ordinary flax machinery, but also of the short fibre, adapted to spinning on cotton, silk, or woollen machinery.

The preparation of the long fibre having been completed, the next process shown was that of "cottonizing," or transforming the flax fibre into a woolly cotton-like substance. In order fully to understand this very beautiful part of the invention of Chevalier Clausen, it is necessary to explain that the flax fibres, which are of a cylindrical or tubular character, are placed around the stem or woody part of the plant, and are held together by the glutinous or gummy matter above referred to, and the object of the first process described is to facilitate, by the removal of this glutinous substance, the separation from each other of the individual fibre around the stems. This separation having been attained, the fibres are divided into lengths suitable to the purposes for which it is required, by a machine constructed for the purpose, and similar in its mode of operation to the ordinary chaff cutting machine. Some of the material so divided or cut was then placed in a solution of bi-carbonate of soda, in which it was allowed to remain a sufficient length of time to become perfectly saturated, and to allow of the liquid entering into, and permeating by capillary attraction through every part of the tubes. Having been sufficiently saturated, the fibres were taken out of the solution and placed in a vessel containing dilute sulphuric acid, of about the strength of one part to 200 parts of water. By the action of the sulphuric acid on the carbonate of soda with which the fibres had been saturated, carbonic gas was immediately developed, which, by its expansive power, caused the tubes to split into a number of riband-like filaments, possessing the character and appearance of the ordinary cotton wool. This splitting process may be applied to the flax either in the straw, the wood of which will have afterwards to be removed by machinery, or in the state of long fibre prepared by alkaline solutions, or steeped according to the ordinary modes, as well as to the fibre when divided into short lengths for the "cottonizing process." The decomposition of the carbonate of soda with which the fibre had been saturated was also produced by electric agency, and was followed by the same evolution of gas and splitting of the fibre as was produced by the solution of sulphuric acid, or which might have been effected by exposing the materials saturated by the bi-carbonate of soda while in a state of moisture, to the action of burning sulphur, placed in any suitable chamber or stove. After this splitting of the fibres has been produced, it has all the appearance of fine cotton wool, and may be dyed and manufactured in every way precisely the same as cotton or wool.

Agriculture.

PRACTICE AND PRINCIPLES OF LAND DRAINAGE.

In no department of agricultural management has there been greater advances made during the last fifteen years than in the drainage of land, and so wide is the extent of land requiring to be drained, so great the improvement effected by drainage, and yet so many are the obstacles and impediments to complete drainage, that no effort should be spared to extend the practice by increasing and inculcating correct and accurate knowledge of the subject. For that purpose we propose to avail ourselves of the fourth and concluding part of Mr Henry Stephens' valuable new edition of "The Book of the Farm," just pub-

lished, in which he enters largely and practically into the subject of land draining. We have also before us one of Richardson's Rural Handbooks, entitled "Land Drainage, Embankment, and Irrigation," by James Donald, which contains a correct and compendious statement of the whole subject. The improvements effected by draining retentive soils are numerous; the superfluous water before stagnating in the land is carried off, and vegetation is not checked, either by redundant moisture, or by the chilling evaporation through which, as the spring advances, wet land, when undrained, becomes relieved of its water. Then the facilities of culture are increased by drainage. Heavy land can seldom be so much altered in its character by draining as to be worked in wet weather or in all seasons, but it may be made so much drier than in its natural state as to render the periods during which it is necessary to keep off the land of much shorter duration. But the crowning benefit of draining is, that it renders the crops on strong land far less dependent upon season, while it at the same time increases their bulk and improves their quality, and enables the farmer to grow a greater variety of crops than he could safely attempt before his land was drained. The main obstacle to effective drainage is the expense. Independently of the mere work of draining, most heavy land districts are so encumbered with trees and hedgerows, the removal of which is nearly indispensable, that an expensive preliminary improvement, something akin to clearing a forest, must be first undertaken.

Draining itself, however, is a work of much cost, that is, on the strong clay soils where it is so necessary to good cultivation. And on this point we apprehend many earnest improvers have been misled themselves and have misdirected others. We meet with estimates for deep draining strong arable land at the cost of from 2l to 3l per acre, for which it assuredly cannot be done if all the actual expenses be brought into charge. Thus Mr Mechi states his cost of draining at 2l 9s 6d per acre, the drains being laid at the average depth of four feet. But then his drains are 40 feet apart, so reducing the cutting to 64 rods, and the number of tiles used to 1,100 for the acre. He also charges only 12s per 1,000 for pipes and 3s for cartage, items of outlay which few improvers will be able to keep so moderate.

Now, it seems to be reduced to a reasonable degree of certainty, that on really stiff clays the drains cannot be safely laid wider than from 24 to 30 feet apart as the extreme width, and at that distance a drain much less than four feet in depth cannot be relied on to render the land completely and quickly dry. The cost of tiles differs greatly and the cost of labour somewhat in various districts, but we believe it will seldom happen than four foot drainage, 24 feet apart, can be executed for less than from 5l to 7l per acre. On this part of the subject Mr Stephens says:—

The cost of draining with tiles depends on the price of labour and of tiles in the district of the country where the draining is to be executed; and the cost per acre depends moreover on the number of drains made in that extent of area. Tiles cost generally about 20s per thousand, and soles are always half the price of the tiles. Pipe-tiles cost from 12s to 22s per thousand, according to their length and bore—the length varying from 12 to 15 inches, and the bore from 1 to 2½ inches. Main-drain pipe-tiles vary in the same proportion. The want of confidence in pipes is wearing away, so that they are now manufactured to the largest extent at the tile works. Pipe-tiles are now always made with machines. I think it unnecessary to give the cost per acre for draining, as it depends entirely upon particulars which are apt to fluctuate; but it is necessary to give the cost of certain particulars of expense which must be incurred in draining, over and above that of tiles and the cutting. These particulars are furnished by Mr George Bell, Woodhouselee, Dumfriesshire, who drained his entire farm from 1827 to 1847, and they are as follows:—

	£	s	d
Carriages of 38,000 common tiles, at 3s 4d per 1,000	6	6	8
Carriage of 1,587 main tiles, at 5s per 1,000	9	7	10
31 days' work of man and horse laying down tiles, at 5s 6d per day	8	10	6
Work of women loading and unloading the carts	2	3	0
39 days' work of a man laying soles and tiles	2	5	0
30 days' work of a woman assisting him, at 8d per day	1	0	0
3 days of plough work, at 8s per day	1	4	0
Cost for 13 acres	21	17	0

— 1 acre of drains 15 feet apart

1 13 7½
So that 17 13s 7½d per acre should be added to the cost of pipe-tile drains at 15 feet apart. The cost of loading and unloading, laying down and laying in pipe-tiles, is only half of that for tiles and soles; but how much less the entire particulars should cost I cannot distinctly specify, but should think that 17 per acre would be a fair allowance when using pipe-tiles.

He says the true cause of most of the bad farming to be seen arise^s from the neglect of draining, and that most farms require more or less draining; and he thus enumerates the benefits derived from draining:—

The physical benefits derivable from draining are numerous and important. The existence of moisture in the soil being easily detected by its injurious effects on the crops, the advantages derived from draining are also best indicated by its good effects upon them. On drained land, the straw of white crops shoots up steadily from a vigorous braid, strong, long, and so stiff as not to be easily lodged with wind or rain. The grain is plump, large, bright-coloured, and thin-skinned. The crop ripens uniformly, is bulky and prolific, more quickly won for stacking in harvest, more easily thrashed, winnowed, and cleaned, and produces fewer small and light grains. The straw also makes better fodder for live stock. Clover grows rank, long, and juicy, and the flowers large and of bright colour. The hay wons easily, and weighs heavy for its bulk. Pasture grass stools out in every direction, covering the ground with a thick sward, and produces flesh and milk of the finest quality. Turnips become large, plump, as if fully grown, juicy, and with a smooth and oily skin. Potatoes push out long and strong stems, with enlarged tubers, having skins easily peeled off, and their substance mealy when boiled. Live stock of every kind thrive, evince good temper, are easily fattened, and of fine quality. Land is less occupied with weeds, the increased luxuriance of all the crops checking their growth. Summer fallow is more easily cleaned, and much less work is required to put the land in proper order for the manure and seed; and all sorts of manures incorporate more quickly and thoroughly with the soil. Thorough-drained land is easily worked with all the common implements. Being all alike dry, its texture becomes equal, and in consequence, the plough passes through it with uniform freedom; and even where pretty large stones interpose, the plough easily dislodges them; and moving in freer soil, it is able to raise a deeper furrow-slice,

which on its part, though heavy, crumbles down and yields to the pressure and friction of the mould-board, into a friable, mellow, rich-looking mould. The harrows, instead of being held back at times, and starting forward, and oscillating sideways, swim along, raking the soil into a smooth surface, and entirely obliterating the horses' foot-marks. The roller compresses and renders the surface of the soil even, but leaves the part below in a mellow state for the roots of plants to expand in. All the implements are much easier drawn and held; and hence, all the operations are executed with less labour, and of course more economically and satisfactorily. All these effects of draining I have observed in my own experience. Draining converts bad land—which is land resting in a natural state on a subsoil retaining surface-water until it stagnates—into good land—which is land resting in a natural state on a subsoil pervious to surface-water. Draining, in thus curtailing the limits of bad, necessarily extends those of good soil; and it makes rain our friend instead of our enemy—taking all its benefit, and avoiding all its injury. But draining is found to be beneficial not only to the soil itself—to the processes of labouring it—to the climate in reference to the crops—and to the growth of trees, but also to the health of the labouring population. Another physical benefit derived from draining, is the retaining of moisture at the bottom of the drains for the use of plants in very dry weather. Water is so retained, not in a stagnant state, for the surplus will pass off by the ducts of the drains, but in a fresh state, sufficient to moisten the subsoil and no more; which moisture is ready to be carried off by the ducts when fresh rain falls, and to be elevated to the surface in dry weather by the capillary force. Whenever drought desiccates the surface soil, and consequently forms innumerable fissures in it, the prominent points of soil readily absorb the dew and moisture from the air, while the capillary force brings the water from below to occupy the fissures.

In connection with draining land, Mr Stephens adverts to a result which seems to be shown by some experiments recorded in the transactions of the Highland Society; namely, that the largest increase in produce ensues immediately after drainage, and that the produce declined on the second rotation. Thus on an acre of land before draining, the barley produced 23 bushels 3 pecks, and in the first rotation after drainage the barley crop advanced to 33 bushels 1 peck, but in the second rotation it declined to 29 bushels 1½ pecks; and the oat and grass crops showed similar results. This was on inferior land; on good land the effect was the same, but the decline of produce in the second rotation was in a less proportion than on the inferior land. This experiment was in Linlithgowshire, and we apprehend it must have been made on a soil containing much inert vegetable matter, which immediately after drainage became in fact manure, and was used up. On strong clays, according to our own observation and experience, there is a progressive improvement, year by year, after effective draining, arising, it would seem, from the gradually increasing permeability of the soil. This of course refers to land well cultivated and properly manured.

TURNIP GROWING.

THE following interesting and valuable observations have been drawn from Mr Elliot, of Hardgrave farm, by our observations upon the report of the Lockerbie Farmers' Club:—

To the Editor of the Economist.

SIR,—I have only to-night observed a paragraph in the ECONOMIST of the 15th inst., headed "Turnip Growing," in which you make some very correct and excellent observations on the cultivation of the turnip, and quote largely from a report made by the inspectors of the turnip crop weighed by the Lockerbie Farmers' Club. There is, however, one observation which you make regarding the manure applied to the turnips on my farm, which, if not corrected, may mislead. You say "Exorbitant dressings of manure do not seem to produce any corresponding increase on the crop. Thus, on Hardgrave farm, 15 yards of farm-yard manure, with 2½ cwt of Peruvian guano, applied per acre to Swedes, produced 40 tons 5 cwt to the Scotch, and 31 tons 19 cwt to the imperial acre; while on Hillside farm, 30 cubic yards of farm-yard dung, 1½ cwt Peruvian guano, and two cwt of dissolved bones, produced 32 tons 11 cwt Scotch, and 25 tons 16 cwt imperial acre;" and then you proceed to say, "Indeed, it has been proved by experiments, made by Mr Pusey, that manuring beyond a certain point does not materially increase the root crop." Your statement as to the manure given on my farm is here incorrectly stated, the manure which I applied to the turnip crop extending to nearly 100 acres, being for each Scotch acre 15 yards of farm-yard dung, 2½ cwt Peruvian guano, 1½ bushels dissolved bones, 12½ bushels ground bones, ½ of a bushel bone savings from a button manufactory, and ½ of a bushel of super-phosphate of lime from Mr Ramsay's works, Derwenthaugh, Newcastle, and the manure to the turnips on the farm of Hillside being as stated by you and quoted above. From this you will observe that upon my farm there is a great variety of manures applied, with only a small quantity of each kind, the expense of the whole, however, when united, being perhaps equal to Hillside. I think it right to correct this statement, otherwise it may lead to serious evil, as I feel perfectly satisfied that it is only by a liberal application of manure that heavy or profitable crops of turnips can be raised, although I am equally satisfied that, by a judicious admixture of manures, heavier crops can be raised at the same expense, than by a heavy application of one particular kind, inasmuch that I am convinced, from extensive experiments, that as heavy a crop of turnips can be raised with the mixture I have applied, at an expense of 4l per acre, as can be raised by applying any one kind of the manures mentioned at an expense of 6l per acre. I trust you will give this explanation a place in your next paper.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,
ROBERT ELLIOT.
Hardgrave, Ecclefechan, Feb. 22, 1851.

SPIRIT OF THE TRADE CIRCULARS.

(From Messrs R. and W. Moffatt's Circular.)

London, Feb. 22, 1851.

The extreme flatness which has for more than two months past prevailed on the market, continues unrelieved; the wholesale dealers appearing more than usually determined against entering into fresh purchases, whilst the orders from the country still come forward so slackly and to such limited extent. These circumstances of depression have been increased by the continued heavy arrivals, and by occasional forced sales made on account of speculative holders, which have resulted in a further decline of ¼d on common, and of ½d to 1d on blackish leaf congous: the fine ones of the new import are at present quite unsaleable at their nominal rates, say 2d to 3d below the opening prices for them. Oolongs are 1d to 2d cheaper: in scented teas, the chief business has been in orange pekoe, the common kinds of which show a decline of 1½d per lb: in flowery pekoes scarcely any sales have been effected, and rates remain nominal. The market for green tea has been yet heavier and more depressed than that

for black. Canton young hysons and spurious gunpowders are 1d, and good and fine qualities of young hyson 1d to 2d lower; whilst for imperials and gunpowders of the same class there is a continued demand, at fully previous rates.

Besides an auction on the 14th inst. of 600 packages of Java congou, which were bought in, there have been three public sales this month, viz., on the 29th January, and on the 6th and 20th inst., containing together 26,900 packages, of which 7,000 sold: in that of the 29th ult. Oolongs went 1d to 2d lower; in the last, good and fine young hysons sold at slightly easier rates.

(From Messrs Witherby and Hanson's Circular.)

London, Feb. 22, 1851.

CURRENTS.—Since the date of our last report, the arrivals have consisted of four direct cargoes, and of about 150 tons from Germany, making the total importation this season, direct and indirect, to amount to about 9,150 tons, which is about 1,150 tons more than to the corresponding period of 1850, but about 2,750 tons less than to 23rd February 1849. Of about 8,500 tons of direct importations, a very small part has been of island growth. The arrivals have been very light at Liverpool.

In February 1850, commenced the first serious falling off in the London clearances, which continued without any intermission till the month of July, by which time prices had receded to the range which existed prior to the advance caused by speculative purchases in the middle of January. The deliveries in London from 19th January to 18th February 1850, were consequently only 350 tons, whereas during the like period of this year they have been 900 tons. In 1849, however, they had reached 1,000 tons, and in 1848, 900 tons. The total clearances in London during seven weeks, from 1st January to 18th inst. have been 1,300 tons, whilst last year, from 1st January to 31st March, during thirteen weeks, they were only 1,200 tons, in face of importations during that period to the extent of about 3,000 tons.

The purchases throughout the month have again been almost confined to Morea fruit of ordinary quality and doubtful condition, received direct and from Germany, and sold at 1s to 2s per cwt below our lowest quotation. Of such description little now remains unsold. Importers do not show any disposition to press their fruit, and although but few sales may have been effected at a decided advance in price, there is altogether a better feeling in the market, the low prices having called the attention of the trade to the article. The stock is at this date about 500 tons more than 31st December last, and about 500 tons in excess also of that at this date in 1850.

RAISINS.—Every description of raisins has been dull and unsaleable since Christmas, excepting Denias for wine making. Whilst currants were falling off in consumption last year, raisins increased considerably, the Government returns showing that of the United Kingdom in 1850 to have been 10,945 tons, against 9,690 tons in 1849, being an increase of 1,260 tons in 1850. The decrease in currants in 1850 was 1,400 tons. There have been so few sales for some time past that our quotations are nominal. The stock of raisins is about the same in extent as at 31st December last, and prices are such as must cause a great increase in the consumption.

(From Messrs Gibson, Ord, and Co.'s Circular.)

Manchester, Feb. 21, 1851.

From the commencement of the year to the close of last week, we had one of the duldest periods on record in this market, with almost daily declining prices, until we had reached a comparatively very low point. Since Monday last an active demand has existed, more particularly for the better classes of 40-inch shirtings, of which some heavy purchases have been made, at advanced rates, and generally both goods and yarns have participated in the improvement. Our market closes to-day with a more cheerful feeling; at the same time we may remark, that there is considerable hesitation, on the part of operators to distant markets, in entering into engagements in the present uncertainty as to the supply of cotton, and which must continue in a greater or less degree until this important point is reduced to something like certainty. On the subject of the crop we have no new feature to present—our advices, from parties on whose information and judgment we place the greatest reliance, lead us to expect no greater production than that of last year; and, looking to the smallness of the receipts (only 36,000 bales more than at same period in last season), and the inducement held out by high prices to press it forward, we incline to the same opinion.

The aggregate sales of the month in 40-inch shirtings fall far short of an average; from the date of our last circular to the close of last week, they had been on the smallest conceivable scale, but since that time very considerable sales have been effected, and at an advance of fully 3d per piece on the low rates previously current. Still our quotations will show a serious reduction on those of December, more particularly in 6 and 7 lbs, then worth 6s 10½d to 7s, and 7s 10½d to 8s respectively, now 6s 1½d to 6s 3d, and 7s 3d to 7s 4½d. Of these two descriptions our stocks have accumulated, whilst of the higher reeds the quantity held is comparatively small, the buying of the past few days having been almost exclusively of 64 reeds and upwards. In 9-8 shirtings some speculative purchases have taken place, induced by the tempting concessions offered by manufacturers; but from the regular trade very little demand has existed. Stocks, since the commencement of the year, have accumulated to some extent. 7-8 printing cloths have been greatly depressed throughout the whole of the month, and prices have given way 3d per piece. Madapollams have attracted little attention and may be bought cheaper, relatively, than any other article—stocks too are heavier. Long cloths and T cloths have been quiet, and may be had at 3d per piece less than in the two previous months, a reduction much under that in most other articles, arising from the lowness of stocks consequent on a diminished production during the last twelve months. Domestic have had little inquiry, and in most descriptions may be had at a reduction of ¼d per yard. Grey jaconets have fallen since December fully 10 per cent, and have been sparingly dealt in since that time. White jaconets, caubrics, and fancy muslins continue to be neglected.

From Messrs Wm. Jas. Thompson and Sons' Circular.

London, Feb. 21, 1851.

Colonial produce still continues to labour under extreme depression, the evident effect of the step lately taken by the Bank of England in raising the rate of discount, and thereby checking the speculation which was so confidently anticipated at the commencement of the year, and which the easiness of the money market was so calculated to encourage. The general apprehension also that the Bank might further have advanced the rate, has also sensibly affected our markets. The demand for sugar during the month has been moderate, importers have only sparingly brought forward their goods, and have evinced but little anxiety to realise, while the trade has acted with great caution, and purchased merely as their necessities required. Prices have in consequence suffered; the low descriptions in most instances have gone off at a reduction, and the quotations for the fine and grocery kinds have been scarcely maintained, while the grainy sorts have been still less in demand, the large importation of Dutch refined having operated prejudicially against them, and caused a fall of 1s per cwt. The Netherlands Trading Company have advertised a sale of

43,000 baskets Java, their entire stock, for the 6th March. Coffee has again been dull, and has suffered considerably. The announcement, in the beginning of the month, that the next sale by the Dutch Trading Company will consist only of 270,000 bags, being far below the general estimate, for a time gave an appearance of stability to the market here, but this continued only for a short period, for notwithstanding that importers withheld their goods, holders of second hand parcels pressed forward, while quotations drooped, and extreme dullness was the result. The intention of the Chancellor of the Exchequer to introduce the "Budget" early in the session, and the general anticipation of a change in the duties, conjointly tended to affect the market, which presented a more excited appearance. The proposed alterations, however, recommending an equalisation of the duties on colonial and foreign, by a reduction to 3d per lb, have to many been a source of disappointment. The change in the duty on foreign chicory is a matter of no moment, while the home-grown article is still to be untaxed, and the admixture of it being thus openly sanctioned by the Government, hence there now prevails a general dullness with a falling market. Native Ceylon, for which previous to the financial statement being made, there were buyers at 48s, subsequently changed hands at 44s, but has since been sold at 45s per cwt, while the business transacted in plantation has been very moderate, quotations showing a decline of 3s. With the exception of Mocha, foreign has been in very limited demand, and, contrary to expectation, since the proposed equalisation of the duties, has not experienced any improvement in price and little in inquiry. Mocha however has advanced about 8s on the late reduced rates. Rice has been very dull, and has fallen 3d per cwt for the Madras kinds, while Bengal barely supports former terms.

Foreign Correspondence.

From our Paris Correspondent.

Paris, Feb. 27, 1851.

We had two political demonstrations during this week, one of the ultra Bonapartists, and the other of the Republicans, but the public tranquillity was not troubled. It was announced that the Bonapartists intended, on Friday last, to have come in a great number before the National Assembly, and to have demanded a presidential dotation and the prolongation of the powers of Louis Napoleon. Some assemblages were formed beyond the barriers, and it was said that more than 20,000 men would participate in the manifestation. The Elysee was not apprised of the project of the Bonapartists until it was about to be executed. But Louis Napoleon understood that it would do him no good, and it would, on the contrary, endanger his popularity. The Prefect of Police took accordingly hasty measures to prevent it, and numerous policemen were sent to the barriers, in order to disperse the assemblages, so that Paris was scarcely informed of the danger which public peace had incurred.

The Republican manifestation took place on the anniversary of the 24th of February. There was magnificent weather, which had invited every inhabitant to walk on the Boulevards. The Republicans had assisted in the morning at a religious service which had been celebrated at Notre Dame church by the Archbishop of Paris; many late members of the Provisional Government assisted at the mass, and among them M. Cremieux, M. Garnier Pages, M. Bethmont, M. Armand Marrast, M. Pagnerre, &c. More than 40,000 wreaths and flower garlands were strewn upon the column of the Place de la Bastille. But every thing passed off very quietly. The Prefect of Police refrained from prohibiting this homage of the patriots to the victims of February, as they did last year when they excited a manifestation which lasted more than a fortnight.

Louis Napoleon saw with a sort of pleasure the manifestation of the Republicans, as he considered it as a kind of answer to a sort of manifesto, which was published some days ago, in the name of the Count de Chambord. That manifesto is a letter addressed by the Pretender to M. Berryer, on account of the speech that legitimatist representative delivered at the Assembly during the sitting of January 17. The following are the principal passages of that letter:—

"How happy I am that you have so well requited my own feelings which agree perfectly with my language and conduct of every time. You have remembered it; that is indeed the politics of *conciliation, of union, of fusion*, which is mine, and you have so eloquently explained—politics which forget any dissensions, any recriminations, and past opposition, and requires for every body in time to come in which each honest man feels himself in full possession of his personal dignity.

"As the representative of the fundamental principle of monarchy, I know that that monarchy would not answer to all the wants of France, if it were not in harmony with the social condition, the manners, the interests of the country, and if France did not acknowledge and accept its necessity with confidence. The equality before the law, the liberty of conscience, the free access of merit to all employments, honours, and social advantages, all those great principles of an enlightened and Christian society are dear and sacred to me as to you, as to the whole of France. To give to these principles all the necessary guarantees, by institutions conformable to the wishes of the nation, and to found in accordance with it a regular and firm Government, by placing it upon the basis of the hereditary monarchy, and under the care of the public liberties, at once *strongly regulated and loyally respected*, such would be the only aim of my ambition. I dare hope, that with the help of all the good citizens, of all the members of my family, I shall fail neither courage nor perseverance to accomplish that national restoration which is the simple means of restoring to France those long prospects of futurity, without which the present, though tranquil, remains disquiet and is smitten with sterility."

The idea of a fusion between the two branches of the Bourbons is clearly hinted at in the preceding letter. But the Count de Chambord is only willing to receive the Princes of Orleans in his favour on condition that they will renounce any claim for the Count de Paris. That is no fusion at all, as the fusionists demanded that the Count de Chambord should immediately adopt the Count de Paris as his apparent heir to the Crown of France.

Some Orleansists are, however, ready to submit, and among them, M. Duchatel, M. Guizot, and M. Moligier. But it finds a great opposition among the majority of the Orleansists, and it is quite certain that the Prince of Joinville and the Duchess of Orleans persist in refusing their assent, so that the fusion will yet find great difficulties.

The Committee of the Assembly have not taken into consideration

the proposition of 189 representatives of the Montagne and of the Left, who demanded a political amnesty. M. Vaisse, the Minister of the Interior, who was heard by the Committee, declared that there was but an appearance of tranquillity throughout the country, and there was a secret agitation, that the secret societies were reorganising themselves, that the democratic papers which had disappeared made attempts to reappear, that the refugees of Geneva had directed and executed the conspiracy of Lyons, that France was on the eve of an industrial and commercial crisis, that the manufacturers of Roubaix diminished the hours of working, that in Belleisle the convicts had revolted because they had received the same dishes during two days, &c.

This pretence of the Minister was indeed exaggerated. He wanted to frighten the majority of the representatives to obtain the rejection of the proposition; but the language of M. Vaisse contrasted strongly with M. Germiny's glowing picture of trade, when a fortnight ago he brought forward the budget for 1852.

The Minister of Justice has also published the result of the Electoral law of March 31, 1850:—

Electors inscribed before the Law of March 31, 1850.....	9,618,037
Electors inscribed in execution of that law.....	6,809,281
The number of electors erased was	2,808,756

The following are the variations of our securities from Feb. 20 to Feb. 26:—

	f	s	d
The Three per Cents have declined from	57	80	to 57 70
The Five per Cents	95	50	95 40
Bank Shares	2	30	0 2222 50
Northern Shares.....	477	50	475 0
Strasbourg.....	368	25	365 0
Rouen	665	0	650 0
Havre	275	0	270 25
Marseilles.....	192	50	190 0
Nantes have improved from	259	0	253 75

HALF-PAST FOUR.—There was to-day a better tone on our Exchange, and the principal securities were rather firm and improving. There was a discount of 35,000f of rentes, which had been sold for the account of the end of March, so that the titles were very rare upon the market. Our speculators did not consider the Ministerial crisis of England as a cause of the distrust for our securities.

The 3 per Cents, varied from 57f 75c to 57f 90c; the 5 per Cents, from 96f 50c to 96f 55c; the Bank Shares from 2,225f to 2,220f; Orleans were at 822f 50c; The Northern Shares at 475f; Strasbourg at 365f; Nantes at 253f 75c; the Central at 410f; Rouen at 650f; Marseilles at 192f 50c.

Correspondence.

PAUPERISM AND CRIME.

To the Editor of the Economist.

SIR,—Under the title of "Transportation not Necessary," we have lately had an "Essay on Crimes and Punishments," from the pen of Mr Adderly, M.P. for North Staffordshire. Although the author of this essay recognises poverty as a fertile source of crime, and that a time of scarcity is sure to be accompanied by an increase in the violations of the right of property, yet in tracing back the effect to the cause I conceive he hardly goes below the surface; for the question to be solved is—Why this, the richest of the nations of Europe, should at the same time be pre-eminent among them for the number of its paupers and criminals, so that while a heavy tax has to be levied on the public for the support of the one, the number of the others is so overwhelming that we find ourselves quite unable to deal with them at home, and to get rid of them, attempt to thrust them upon other communities which happen to be our dependencies?—a measure, I should say, quite unjustifiable. I believe this is the only country in Europe which at present has recourse to a penal colony system for the purpose of getting rid of its convicts; every other, although they may have their difficulties, seems to be able to keep their numbers sufficiently under without having to resort to such an expensive remedy. Why cannot we do so also?

Mr Adderly—as a cure for the disease—as a means of morally improving our population—prescribes the usual remedies of education, emigration, and imprisonment, all of which, I believe, will be of no avail, unless we can remove the original cause of the evil; that is, the constant state of excess of population beyond the means of subsistence; or, as I think it would be more correctly expressed in saying, from the means of subsistence being kept in a constant state of deficiency in proportion to the population. What we want to know is, whether this state of things is according to the order of nature, and that it is useless to contend against it, or if it is the effect of any errors and defects in our social system which may be remedied by legislative measures?

I am one of those theorists who believe that the British Isles, cultivated as they ought to be, and all waste land brought into cultivation, would support several times the present number of inhabitants, and that the extensive destitution which prevails amongst us, and the large importations of food which have annually to be made, arise from the want of the application of capital to the land, occasioned by the laws of entail, of mortmain, and of primogeniture, which, while they favour the accumulation and retention of property in the same hands, obstruct or entirely prevent alienation and division, thereby putting a stop to that commerce in landed property which would naturally take place; and which would cause it to pass out of the possession of those whose means were impaired or exhausted, into the possession of fresh capitalists, who would be enabled to make that outlay upon it which is required to keep human food increasing at the same rate as human beings. It must be obvious to every one that the law of entail often retains land, sometimes in the hands of men deficient of capital, at other times in the hands of those who are embarrassed by debts; and while it would be most beneficial, both for the living proprietor and for the community that he should part with it, the true interests of both are set aside, and the law shaped to gratify the ambition of some one who may have long been dead, and whose connection with the world has long since ceased. The well-being of the living is thus sacrificed to the gratification of the ambition of the dead.

As for mortmain land, it does not receive its proper quantum of capital, because there is no one having a private interest in it. It is most frequently under the charge of trustees, whose only reward for their trouble is the honour, but who receive no part of the profits, and who reap no benefit by its improvement and the increase of its produce. It is, therefore, generally left to take care of itself, or to fill the pockets of some temporary possessor, who has no interest in it.

permanent improvement. I am aware that there are not a few writers of the present day who advocate that the land should be a common property, every one receiving their due portion of its produce; others, that it should be a Government property, leased by Government to tenants, the rental to form a national revenue. On the contrary, I am of opinion, that every acre of land ought to be private property, because the right and interest given to the private proprietor lead more to improvement and increased production than any other system, and that food and population will be kept more on an equality than they would, were the land a Government or a common property. I also conceive, instead of nearly preventing it as it does at present, it is desirable the law should be such as would lead to proprietor farming, so that the cultivator of the soil should have a permanent interest in the land he occupies, having no one to share in the fruits of his industry and enterprise, but reaping the whole benefit himself. Alienation and division should in no way be forced, but neither should they be obstructed or prevented; and while every one should be protected in acquiring and accumulating wealth to any amount in an honest and lawful way, whether in land or capital, and should be permitted to leave it to whomsoever he pleased at his death, every man's power over his property should cease with his existence, for the land is not the land of the dead, it is the land of the living, and should be entirely at their disposal. The laws of entail and mortmain create a virtual monopoly; they retain the great mass of the landed property in the hands of a few families and a few corporate bodies; and have annihilated that most useful class of men, the yeomen of England, the small proprietors who cultivated their own estates.

The true interest of society is, that these laws should be abrogated, and a complete free trade established, so that there may be no obstacles to land coming in contact with capital; and till this is done, I believe there will be no diminution of pauperism and crime—no improvement in the moral and physical condition of the people.

Although I do not approve of it, I would not interfere with the custom of primogeniture, because I am of opinion, as a rule, the best policy is to leave every man to do as he likes with his own; but when the law is called in to act in cases of intestacy, as the object of every law ought to be to do justice, it ought to make an equal division, because the rights and claims of children to the property of their common parent are equal.

A CONSTANT READER.

FRENCH FLOUR—A CUSTOMS REGULATION.

To the Editor of the Economist.

SIR,—In your last number an article, headed "Agricultural Distress," ends thus:—

"And the cause of this pressure of French flour on our market seems to be caused by the superior machinery the French millers have erected. We suspect that we are a good deal behind in this department of mechanical enterprise," &c.

Allow me to remark, that though there are some very fine mills in France, this is rather the exception than the rule, and that on an average the French mills are not superior to the English. But in France they are very few corn merchants or dealers, the corn trade being exceedingly unpopular, and the wheat markets are consequently nearly monopolised by the miller. Were there in France, as in this country, a class of buyers who would buy and ship the "wheat" to us, I fancy the French miller would not have so great an advantage.

But I shall take this opportunity to state one grievance which the London miller has great reason to complain of.

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Supposing a London miller imports weekly 1,000 qrs of French or any other foreign wheat, and the foreign miller 1,300 sacks of flour, being the produce of 1,000 qrs of wheat. The London miller will pay, irrespective of duty, in one year—

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I am a free trader, but think this is not quite fair play.—I am, sir, your obedient servant.

A LONDON MILLER.

London, 24th February, 1851.

THE NATIONAL PUBLIC SCHOOL ASSOCIATION.

To the Editor of the Economist.

SIR,—Permit me a few lines of further explanation.

In noticing Mr Cobden's views of compulsory education, you have failed to remark the distinction between a compulsory school law, and a law to enforce a moral obligation. It is a moral obligation on the part of parents and guardians to qualify a child to become a good citizen, as far as they have the means of doing so; but this duty may be discharged by education at home, or by education at a private school; and in neither of these cases is the state called upon to interfere.

It is otherwise where the duty is altogether and wilfully neglected; where, for example, the vagrants of our towns train up their children to get a living in the streets. In such a case the neglect of education, gratuitously provided, may fairly be considered a misdemeanour; and although, as I said before, the National Public School Association has pronounced no opinion on the subject, you would be quite right in representing the friends of secular instruction generally as agreeing to this extent with Mr Cobden. I may add that they are agreed with other authorities than Mr Cobden;—authorities which the readers of the ECONOMIST have been accustomed to hold in respect. The principle is thus stated by Mr Mill:—

"There are certain primary elements and means of knowledge which it is in the highest degree desirable that all human beings born into the community should acquire during childhood. If their parents, or those on whom they depend, have the power of obtaining for them this instruction, and fail to do it, they commit a double breach of duty; towards the children themselves, and towards the members of the community generally, who are all liable to suffer seriously from the consequences of ignorance, and want of education in their fellow-citizens. It is, therefore, an allowable exercise of the powers of Government to impose on parents the legal obligation of giving elementary instruction to children. This, however, cannot fairly be done without taking measures to ensure that such instruction shall be always accessible to them, either gratuitously or at a trifling expense."

Allow me to remove a further misconception.

In reasoning upon the objects of the National Public School Association, you confound college education with elementary instruction, and convey an impression, perhaps without intending it, that we would throw upon the rates the expense, not only of primary schools, but of universities. This is so far from being consistent with the facts, that many of us—I for one—regard our universities as relics of monastic institutions utterly unfitted for the wants of the age; and I quite coincide with you in the opinion that the kind of education usually given in colleges has been very much overdone. Were it not so, the principle would still be indefensible of compelling the peasant to contribute his quota to the salary of the Greek professor required by the peer. Your remarks upon the college education of the continent accord with those of political economists. Long ago Jean Baptiste Say pointed out the inconvenience of multiplying "dans les professions lettrées plus d'individus que ces professions n'en peuvent nourrir." But remark the conclusions drawn by the same distinguished writer in favour of a state provision for elementary instruction:—

"Ce qui n'est pas dans l'intérêt des particuliers, et ce qui est dans l'intérêt du public, doit être exécuté aux dépens du public. Il en est de cela comme des grandes routes. Nous avons vu qu'aucun particulier ni même aucune compagnie de particuliers, ne peut y trouver assez de profits pour en faire l'entreprise à ses frais; et que cependant les avantages qu'en retire une nation, sont infiniment supérieurs aux avances qu'exigent ces grands travaux. Le premier pas, peut-être le seul indispensable, pour civiliser les classes inférieures, est de leur enseigner la lecture, l'écriture, et les premiers notions du calcul."

Your alarm lest school-rates should add to the power of the church, I think, is groundless. A school-rate would affect tithes as well as other property, and could not therefore increase church revenues. The rabid protectionist you mention, as a rector and a large landowner, would have to pay both upon his tithes and rents; and I am mistaken if, to save his money, he would not cheerfully part with all the influence we shall give him. That influence of course must count for something, but your argument applies to the present system more than to the new. A clerical landowner now exerts himself to establish a church school to put down a chapel school, and by intimidation and bribes of clothing, &c., succeeds. He could not succeed so easily in putting down a public school, because a public school would not be dependent upon voluntary payments. He could not pervert the school to clerical purposes, because its object would be confined to secular instruction. He could not restrict instruction to the Catechism, (as in some so-called "National" Schools,) because the Catechism would be excluded.

I admit that there are abuses of local patronage inseparable from our present parochial organisation, but they are not found of a very serious nature in America; and our present parochial organisation may, for educational purposes, here, as in America, give place to a better. The Economist should aid us with its advice in seeking to obtain the best possible. Upon this head there are many questions open for discussion. We have to determine the best means of securing an independent audit and inspection; and the proper limits of a local and central executive, respectively, have yet to be defined. The question of principle I trust this explanation will set at rest.—I am, your obedient servant,

Fairest, Wrotham, Kent, Feb. 22, 1851.

W. E. HICKSON.

* Principles of Political Economy. By J. S. Mill. Vol. II., page 521.

† Cours Complet d'Economie Politique. Vol. II., page 335.

[We are quite willing to leave the last word to Mr Hickson. We must only guard ourselves against the supposition that we look on Mr Mill as an authority, and must express our surprise that Mr Hickson should quote a dictum of M. Say as of any value in the teeth of our own turnpike roads and magnificent system of railways.—ED. ECON.]

THE CRYSTAL PALACE.

To the Editor of the Economist.

SIR,—I had prepared a letter for your columns on the subject of the Exhibition building, when the account appeared of the experiments with the tramp of a large mass of human beings in simultaneous movement to induce vibrative effect. The experiments were satisfactory enough as to their kind, and may tend to dissipate any alarm caused by croakers, from the mere fact that the galleries form but a small proportion of the building; and, moreover, are likely to be occupied so largely with counters and light goods, that there will be a comparatively small space for human vibrators. But, as this is not the whole question relating to the Exhibition building, I will, with your permission, venture to criticise it, having so far back as the year 1845 proposed in print a similar building, with a view to economical advancement in dwellings, one of the most important questions growing out of this new class of structure. When the Exhibition question was first mooted, it indicated a new era dawning on mankind that was worth watching, to guide into the most profitable channels, by simple means, as the descendants of the old Scandinavians determine the creation of new lands, by wadding stakes with straw ropes in the currents of the sea shore to catch the silt.

In April, 1850, there appeared an article in the "Westminster Review," entitled the "Industrial Exhibition." The object of the writer was to deprecate the then prevalent idea of making a mere temporary building, distinctly stating that, even supposing there were no exhibition whatever, still it was desirable to erect a permanent building as a great Metropolitan Conservatory or Winter Garden. The writer went on to propose, that "the materials for construction should be chiefly iron and glass, materials incombustible, and by which a large space may be covered in as cheaply as by any other. Wrought iron would be used for the rafters, girders, and columns—cast iron for ornamental tracery, where strength is not needed—rough plate glass, hail proof, would be employed in the roof, and common window glass in other cases, sometimes stained or painted, to diminish the intensity of the light and vary the effects. . . . The architect has to arrange a system of flues for warming the building without open fire places, and to contrive corresponding means of ventilation for preserving an equable temperature."

This was the original proposition in print for the present glass palace, which Mr Paxton has carried into effect. The variations are, that the floor and roof are of timber—the girders and columns are of cast iron—the glass is plain, and shaded by calico or linen cloth—and there is yet no apparent provision for warming.

Objections without number have been made to this building—that it is unsafe—that the columns are brittle and may be broken off by the force of the wind—and that the vibrative effect of crowds in the galleries may throw the building down. Moreover, that it is unsafe by reason of risk of fire. This appears to have resulted in a very high rate of insurance. The risk in reality is in the wooden floor, with sufficient air spaces to convert it into a wind-furnace of fierce intensity, "if there comes a hot June." But this is capable of simple remedy, by earthing up close to the boards, say from column to column, in compartments, to prevent the spread of the flame. Otherwise, it would be like the New York houses, built in blocks, without party walls—one house on fire, the whole block is burnt. Another risk is alleged from the calico covering, from "fools scattering fire." But chemical treatment can easily render calico incombustible.

With regard to mechanical strength, the question lies in a very short com-

pass. Without entering into the question of the theory of a "table framing"—put forth in proof of its stability—further than to remark that they are the longest and brittlest table legs ever yet seen, there is another and simpler view of the case. Let us regard each column as the mast of a ship. The mast has no strength to stand vertically till the shrouds and rigging are applied, for we know that when a vessel capsizes, the severance of the windward rigging insures the breaking of the mast. Now, this principle has been practically applied in the Exhibition building by the application of diagonal iron ties, or rigging to the heads and heels of the columns alternately, and also to portions of the roofs of the transept and centre aisle.

If these diagonal ties be multiplied sufficiently, the question of strength vanishes into absolute certainty of its sufficiency as regards any internal vibration; and as for the effects of wind on the exterior, there can be little doubt that the glass would be blown in laterally, and the roof blown up vertically, ere the building could be turned on its side, just as there is no chance of a ship being capsized, if the sails be blown from their bolt ropes.

That the building is not such a building as will be erected in 1860, when better appliances shall exist, may be easily admitted,—that it might have been better with existing appliances, may also be admitted. But we should rather look to the other side of the question. How much has been accomplished at so very short notice? Five years only have elapsed since Sir Robert Peel freed us from the incubus of the "glass excise." To have made a Crystal Palace after so short a lapse of time, is a proof that there is more of the "real grit," "the rock of the Harzgerberg" in the present race of Englishmen, than there is in Brother Jonathan, who never knew a glass excise, and will now make Crystal Palaces, of possibly larger size, in imitation.

The question of the architecture is largely mooted. And here I again quote from the "Westminster Review":—

"A great storehouse or repository has to be erected, and as this in itself will be a principal feature of the Exhibition—one, moreover, which will most assuredly be criticised by foreigners as the latest evidence of the amount of skill we have acquired in the arts of construction—it should be a building worthy of the nation.

"To this end, it is not necessary that the structure should be one of massy material, elaborate decoration, and corresponding cost. . . . The design of the building should be original as its object. It should not be suggestive by association of the idea of a pyramid, a temple, or a palace, for it will not be a tomb, a place of public worship, nor a mansion of royalty. The object should determine the design. That is to say, the design should be altogether subservient to the uses of the building, and should be of the kind that would express them, or at least harmonise with them."

The present uses of the building are, to afford space, cover, and light, to show off the largest collection of objects of art, manufacture, and produce, in the known world. The future object will be to show plants, and afford a winter exercise ground in a temperate atmosphere.

Therefore, all possible lightness of structure consistent with security is desirable: in fact, it is not desirable to see anything but the objects the structure encloses. Such is the structure of green-houses and aviaries, and such is the aim of the London shopkeepers. Within, the building gives the impression of a large bird-cage. It is a huge scaffold, with very slender poles, but very beautiful withal. The proportions are so good that one might fancy the large trees in the transept to be Chinese dwarfing.

The building is Chinese in its character. It is impossible to stand within it, and behold the combination of slender columns, and horizontal galleries, and angular open work, without being conscious of this. It is a huge cane pavilion, fit for the reception of birds, plants, flowers, and fountains. The brokers' shops show many a type of it in the square bamboo seats brought from "far Cathay." The very columns at their interjoinings, at a short distance, look like bamboo joints. The arch ribs of the transept wear the aspect of an elastic piece of timber, bent to form, and held in position by diagonal wire-work, like a large cage; and had the whole been painted in imitation of cane, it would probably have been more in harmony with the mass of objects that will be placed inside. It is a structure that could practically be executed with some of the hard-wood slender palm trees, with some variation in the form of the girders, and to imitate the natural colours in the painting, would violate no sense of propriety or taste. The existing barbaric colours are probably Chinese enough, but the smallness of surface precludes all effect save from outline, unless on the external boarding of the lower tier. However, the "plinish," as the Scotch call it, will overlay this.

As the original proponent in print of a glass and iron fire-proof building for the Exhibition, to serve afterwards as a winter garden, I may be permitted to suggest what the next building should be, if art keeps pace with imagination.

External walls of glazed or glass bricks of large size, such as people now begin to see possible, made to interlock. Pavement of sawn slate laid on dwarf walls, with warm air below, admitted through proper openings. Columns of cast iron of sufficient size, vitrified inside to prevent the sulphurous rain of winter eating them away, as is now the case with most rain pipes. Glazed outside with a coloured vitrification, perhaps deep Roman purple—a paint for eternity. Girders of wrought iron mouldings, above and below, stiffened with panels of carved and perforated cast iron, vitrified on the surfaces, and of deep section, to require no tie-rods. Roof of vitrified wrought iron, light, flat, and channeled, in squares like a Greek roof, every square being covered with a single sheet of glass, slightly convex for strength, and with deep edges turned down to lap into the channels, as a ship's hatch into its combings, giving ample scope to Mr Owen Jones for the disposition of colours in large masses, and involving no risk of breakage from expansion and contraction.

All this is as perfectly practicable as the present building. The processes are all in existence and need only combining and extending. When the "World's Fair" shall be over for the first season, people will begin to reflect on what might have been, had time and leisure been given to the permanent instead of the ephemeral. Possibly Manchester will be the first to realise a building of gorgeous beauty in the rude north, that shall have more permanence than the granite strength of Egypt or the marble splendour of Periclean Greece. As the enamel is to the oil painting, so will our future architecture be, to that which is passing away. The coating of iron with glass is the next step in our metallic progress.—I am, sir, yours faithfully,

1 Adam street, Adelphi, Feb. 18th, 1851.

W. BRIDGES ADAMS.

Imperial Parliament.

PRINCIPAL BUSINESS OF THE WEEK.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—Monday: Ministerial Explanations. Tuesday:—Marriage Affinity Bill negatived on second reading.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—Friday:—Ministerial Explanations. Monday:—Ministerial Explanations.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Monday, Feb. 24.

The Marquis of Lansdowne made a statement to the house with regard to the ministerial crisis. On Saturday last, in consequence of divisions which had taken place in the lower house, the Government had been induced to tender their resignation to Her Majesty. In the course of the same day Lord Stanley was invited to attend at Buckingham Palace, and after an audience with Her Majesty stated that he was not then prepared to form a Government. Lord John Russell had then been requested to reconstruct an administration,—a task in which he was still engaged. Such was the condition of affairs; and, in conclusion, he could only say that he spoke as a member of a Government which in fact existed no longer, and that he was its representative only for the purpose of making this communication to the house. (The noble lord then sat down, after moving that the house at its rising should adjourn to Friday next.)

Lord Stanley said it was not his intention to make any comment on what had fallen from Lord Lansdowne. He could only say that he had on Saturday the honour of a lengthened audience with Her Majesty, in which he fully and unreservedly expressed his opinion on the state of the country. Nothing could exceed the graciousness and kindness of Her Majesty during that audience, but he should ill respond to that kindness were he in the present state of affairs to reveal anything that had passed on the occasion. He should, however, be prepared to state fully what had passed as soon as the present crisis was over.

Lord St Germans trusted the the house would meet for the purpose of considering his Marriage Bill; and after some discussion it was agreed that it should be taken into consideration on Tuesday.

Their lordships then adjourned.

Tuesday, Feb. 25.

The Earl of St Germans, in moving the second reading of the Marriage Affinity Bill, described it as a measure which had last session obtained the sanction of the other branch of the legislature, failing only on account of the late period at which it had come up to their lordships' house. He proceeded to adduce a multiplicity of testimony and a variety of arguments to sustain the conclusion that marriage within the degree of affinity sanctioned by this measure was neither contrary to the Levitical nor the canon law. Such unions were permitted in nearly every protestant state of Europe, were sanctioned by the Romish, and not prohibited by the Greek, churches. In a social point of view, the prohibition was more dangerous than the permission; on the moral question, the advantages lay on the side of relaxation; and as a matter of right, it would be the greatest legislative tyranny to enforce the restrictive law.

The Archbishop of Canterbury founded his opposition to the bill upon his interpretation of a verse in the 18th chapter of Leviticus. He moved as an amendment that the bill be read a second time that day six months.

The Bishop of Exeter concurred in believing the proposed measure to be contrary to the tenor of scripture, and characterised as incestuous the marriages it was designed to legalise. He justified the assent he had given to Lord Lyndhurst's act of 1835, which he had supported, not because it substantiated all past, but because it prohibited all future, unions within the objectionable degrees.

The Bishop of St David's doubted whether the scriptural prohibition to the marriages in question was anything but inferential. Yet he considered that as a matter of expediency and state policy it was better to forbid such unions, as they were now forbidden by law, and did not believe that the law had been inoperative, as was asserted.

The Bishop of Norwich, without asserting that the proposed bill would infringe the scriptural canon, opposed it on the ground of its tendency to encourage immorality. The question was one which might be left to the decision of the women of England, 99 in every 100 of whom he believed to be decidedly opposed to any removal of the existing restrictions.

Viscount Gage thought the opposition to the bill was inspired by a morbid sensibility. The present prohibitions were sources of great hardship and misery to individuals.

Lord Campbell apprehended that the bill was prompted by factitious agitation got up by parties who had themselves violated the law, and worked by the usual and professional machinery. He contended that marriages coming within the scope of the bill had been prohibited almost invariably in Christian countries, and were repeatedly declared illegal and incestuous by the English law. If such unions were not prohibited by the present statutes, he considered that a new enactment ought to be passed for that special purpose. Objecting, in much detail, to the principle of the bill, the noble and learned lord hoped it would be rejected by a decisive majority.

The Bishop of London wished to correct the impression which had become public, that he had changed his opinion with regard to the bill. He still disapproved of its intended relaxations, and repeated some of the scriptural and moral arguments that had been quoted against it. In his belief the agitation in its favour was confined to the manufacturing districts.

Lord Brougham opposed the bill, as did the Bishop of Ossory; and, after a brief reply from the Earl of St Germans, their lordships divided on the question that the bill be read a second time. Contents, 16; non-contents, 50; majority 34.

The house adjourned at a quarter past 11 to Friday.

Friday, Feb. 28.

Lord Broughton (late Sir J. C. Hobhouse) took the oaths and his seat.

The Marquis of Lansdowne then rose to explain the state of the Ministerial crisis. On Monday last he had had occasion to address their lordships, and to ask them to give time for the reconstruction of a ministry, he had hoped for the last time. He had stated on that occasion that Lord J. Russell was engaged in the reconstruction of the Government, and he had hoped that the crisis would have been passed by this day. Lord John Russell had entered into negotiations with a noble earl opposite, and with Sir James Graham. The negotiation had failed; and then Her Majesty had applied to the noble earl opposite, who had declined to form an administration. The attempts at the reconstruction had failed, not in consequence of any personal difference between the parties engaged in the negotiations, but from honest and honourable difference in principle. Those attempts having failed, Her Majesty applied to the noble earl opposite to form an administration, which he declined. Her Majesty then applied to the noble lord (Stanley), and yesterday afternoon the noble lord informed Her Majesty of his inability to form an administration. Her Majesty had then consulted him (the Marquis of Lansdowne) as to what course it would be proper to pursue in a state of things so novel and unprecedented, and this morning Her Majesty had sent for a noble and illustrious duke, who was not now in the house, in order to obtain his advice and opinion on the present important and delicate state of affairs. He would not sit down without stating that it was most consolatory in the present state of affairs to know that the difficulties and differences which had prevented these negotiations from succeeding, had been differences and difficulties not of any personal nature, but were the natural results of honest differences of opinion.

The Earl of Aberdeen felt called upon, after the statement of the noble marquis, to explain to their lordships what had been the course of conduct which

permanent improvement. I am aware that there are not a few writers of the present day who advocate that the land should be a common property, every one receiving their due portion of its produce; others, that it should be a Government property, leased by Government to tenants, the rental to form a national revenue. On the contrary, I am of opinion, that every acre of land ought to be private property, because the right and interest given to the private proprietor lead more to improvement and increased production than any other system, and that food and population will be kept more on an equality than they would, were the land a Government or a common property. I also conceive, instead of nearly preventing it as it does at present, it is desirable the law should be such as would lead to proprietor farming, so that the cultivator of the soil should have a permanent interest in the land he occupies, having no one to share in the fruits of his industry and enterprise, but reaping the whole benefit himself. Alienation and division should in no way be forced, but neither should they be obstructed or prevented; and while every one should be protected in acquiring and accumulating wealth to any amount in an honest and lawful way, whether in land or capital, and should be permitted to leave it to whomsoever he pleased at his death, every man's power over his property should cease with his existence, for the land is not the land of the dead, it is the land of the living, and should be entirely at their disposal. The laws of entail and mortmain create a virtual monopoly; they retain the great mass of the landed property in the hands of a few families and a few corporate bodies; and have annihilated that most useful class of men, the yeomen of England, the small proprietors who cultivated their own estates.

The true interest of society is, that these laws should be abrogated, and a complete free trade established, so that there may be no obstacles to land coming in contact with capital; and till this is done, I believe there will be no diminution of pauperism and crime—no improvement in the moral and physical condition of the people.

Although I do not approve of it, I would not interfere with the custom of primogeniture, because I am of opinion, as a rule, the best policy is to leave every man to do as he likes with his own; but when the law is called in to act in cases of intestacy, as the object of every law ought to be to do justice, it ought to make an equal division, because the rights and claims of children to the property of their common parent are equal.

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SIR,—In your last number an article, headed "Agricultural Distress," ends thus:—

"And the cause of this pressure of French flour on our market seems to be caused by the superior machinery the French millers have erected. We suspect that we are a good deal behind in this department of mechanical enterprise," &c.

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But I shall take this opportunity to state one grievance which the London miller has great reason to complain of.

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London, 24th February, 1851.

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In noticing Mr Cobden's views of compulsory education, you have failed to remark the distinction between a compulsory school law, and a law to enforce a moral obligation. It is a moral obligation on the part of parents and guardians to qualify a child to become a good citizen, as far as they have the means of doing so; but this duty may be discharged by education at home, or by education at a private school; and in neither of these cases is the state called upon to interfere.

It is otherwise where the duty is altogether and wilfully neglected; where, for example, the vagrants of our towns train up their children to get a living in the streets. In such a case the neglect of education, gratuitously provided, may fairly be considered a misdemeanour; and although, as I said before, the National Public School Association has pronounced no opinion on the subject, you would be quite right in representing the friends of secular instruction generally as agreeing to this extent with Mr Cobden. I may add that they are agreed with other authorities than Mr Cobden;—authorities which the readers of the ECONOMIST have been accustomed to hold in respect. The principle is thus stated by Mr Mill:—

"There are certain primary elements and means of knowledge which it is in the highest degree desirable that all human beings born into the community should acquire during childhood. If their parents, or those on whom they depend, have the power of obtaining for them this instruction, and fail to do it, they commit a double breach of duty; towards the children themselves, and towards the members of the community generally, who are all liable to suffer seriously from the consequences of ignorance, and want of education in their fellow-citizens. It is, therefore, an allowable exercise of the powers of Government to impose on parents the legal obligation of giving elementary instruction to children. This, however, cannot fairly be done without taking measures to ensure that such instruction shall be always accessible to them, either gratuitously or at a trifling expense."

Allow me to remove a further misconception.

In reasoning upon the objects of the National Public School Association, you confound college education with elementary instruction, and convey an impression, perhaps without intending it, that we would throw upon the rates the expense, not only of primary schools, but of universities. This is so far from being consistent with the facts, that many of us—I for one—regard our universities as relics of monastic institutions utterly unfitted for the wants of the age; and I quite coincide with you in the opinion that the kind of education usually given in colleges has been very much overdone. Were it not so, the principle would still be indefensible of compelling the peasant to contribute his quota to the salary of the Greek professor required by the peer. Your remarks upon the college education of the continent accord with those of political economists. Long ago Jean Baptiste Say pointed out the inconvenience of multiplying "dans les professions lettrées plus d'individus que ces professions n'en peuvent nourrir." But remark the conclusions drawn by the same distinguished writer in favour of a state provision for elementary instruction:—

"Ce qui n'est pas dans l'intérêt des particuliers, et ce qui est dans l'intérêt du public, doit être exécuté aux dépens du public. Il en est de cela comme des grandes routes. Nous avons vu qu'aucun particulier ni même aucune compagnie de particuliers, ne peut y trouver assez de profits pour en faire l'entreprise à ses frais; et que cependant les avantages qu'en retire une nation, sont infiniment supérieurs aux avances qu'exigent ces grands travaux. Le premier pas, peut-être le seul indispensable, pour civiliser les classes inférieures, est de leur enseigner la lecture, l'écriture, et les premiers notions du calcul."

Your alarm lest school-rates should add to the power of the church, I think, is groundless. A school-rate would affect tithes as well as other property, and could not therefore increase church revenues. The rabid protectionist you mention, as a rector and a large landowner, would have to pay both upon his tithes and rents; and I am mistaken if, to save his money, he would not cheerfully part with all the influence we shall give him. That influence of course must count for something, but your argument applies to the present system more than to the new. A clerical landowner now exerts himself to establish a church school to put down a chapel school, and by intimidation and bribes of clothing, &c., succeeds. He could not succeed so easily in putting down a public school, because a public school would not be dependent upon voluntary payments. He could not pervert the school to clerical purposes, because its object would be confined to secular instruction. He could not restrict instruction to the Catechism, (as in some so-called "National" Schools,) because the Catechism would be excluded.

I admit that there are abuses of local patronage inseparable from our present parochial organisation, but they are not found of a very serious nature in America; and our present parochial organisation may, for educational purposes, here, as in America, give place to a better. The ECONOMIST should aid us with its advice in seeking to obtain the best possible. Upon this head there are many questions open for discussion. We have to determine the best means of securing an independent audit and inspection; and the proper limits of a local and central executive, respectively, have yet to be defined. The question of principle I trust this explanation will set at rest.—I am, your obedient servant,

Fareast, Wrotham, Kent, Feb. 22, 1851.

W. E. HICKSON.

* Principles of Political Economy, By J. S. Mill, Vol. II., page 521.

† Cours Complet d'Economie Politique, Vol. II., page 337.

[We are quite willing to leave the last word to Mr Hickson. We must only guard ourselves against the supposition that we look on Mr Mill as an authority, and must express our surprise that Mr Hickson should quote a dictum of M. Say as of any value in the teeth of our own turnpike roads and magnificent system of railways.—Ed. Econ.]

THE CRYSTAL PALACE.

To the Editor of the Economist.

SIR,—I had prepared a letter for your columns on the subject of the Exhibition building, when the account appeared of the experiments with the tramp of a large mass of human beings in simultaneous movement to induce vibrative effect. The experiments were satisfactory enough as to their kind, and may tend to dissipate any alarm caused by croakers, from the mere fact that the galleries form but a small proportion of the building; and, moreover, are likely to be occupied so largely with counters and light goods, that there will be a comparatively small space for human vibrators. But, as this is not the whole question relating to the Exhibition building, I will, with your permission, venture to criticise it, having so far back as the year 1845 proposed in print a similar building, with a view to economical advancement in dwellings, one of the most important questions growing out of this new class of structure. When the Exhibition question was first mooted, it indicated a new era dawning on mankind that was worth watching, to guide into the most profitable channels, by simple means, as the descendants of the old Scandinavians determine the creation of new lands, by wadding stakes with straw ropes in the currents of the sea shore to catch the silt.

In April, 1850, there appeared an article in the "Westminster Review," entitled the "Industrial Exhibition." The object of the writer was to depreciate the then prevalent idea of making a mere temporary building, distinctly stating that, even supposing there were no exhibition whatever, still it was desirable to erect a permanent building as a great Metropolitan Conservatory or Winter Garden. The writer went on to propose, that "the materials for construction should be chiefly iron and glass, materials incombustible, and by which a large space may be covered in as cheaply as by any other. Wrought iron would be used for the rafters, girders, and columns—cast iron for ornamental tracery, where strength is not needed—rough plate glass, hail proof, would be employed in the roof, and common window glass in other cases, sometimes stained or painted, to diminish the intensity of the light and vary the effects. . . . The architect has to arrange a system of flues for warming the building without open fire places, and to contrive corresponding means of ventilation for preserving an equable temperature."

This was the original proposition in print for the present glass palace, which Mr Paxton has carried into effect. The variations are, that the floor and roof are of timber—the girders and columns are of cast iron—the glass is plain, and shaded by calico or linen cloth—and there is yet no apparent provision for warming.

Objections without number have been made to this building—that it is unsafe—that the columns are brittle and may be broken off by the force of the wind—and that the vibrative effect of crowds in the galleries may throw the building down. Moreover, that it is unsafe by reason of risk of fire. This appears to have resulted in a very high rate of insurance. The risk in reality is in the wooden floor, with sufficient air spaces to convert it into a wind-furnace of fierce intensity, "if there comes a hot June." But this is capable of simple remedy, by earthing up close to the boards, say from column to column, in compartments, to prevent the spread of the flame. Otherwise, it would be like the New York houses, built in blocks, without party walls—one house on fire, the whole block is burnt. Another risk is alleged from the calico covering, from "fools scattering fire." But chemical treatment can easily render calico incombustible.

With regard to mechanical strength, the question lies in a very short com-

pass. Without entering into the question of the theory of a "table framing"—put forth in proof of its stability—further than to remark that they are the longest and brittlest table legs ever yet seen, there is another and simpler view of the case. Let us regard each column as the mast of a ship. The mast has no strength to stand vertically till the shrouds and rigging are applied, for we know that when a vessel capsizes, the severance of the windward rigging insures the breaking of the mast. Now, this principle has been practically applied in the Exhibition building by the application of diagonal iron ties, or rigging to the heads and heels of the columns alternately, and also to portions of the roofs of the transept and centre aisle.

If these diagonal ties be multiplied sufficiently, the question of strength vanishes into absolute certainty of its sufficiency as regards any internal vibration; and as for the effects of wind on the exterior, there can be little doubt that the glass would be blown in laterally, and the roof blown up vertically, ere the building could be turned on its side, just as there is no chance of a ship being capsized, if the sails be blown from their bolt ropes.

That the building is not such a building as will be erected in 1860, when better appliances shall exist, may be easily admitted,—that it might have been better with existing appliances, may also be admitted. But we should rather look to the other side of the question. How much has been accomplished at so very short notice? Five years only have elapsed since Sir Robert Peel freed us from the incubus of the "glass excise." To have made a Crystal Palace after so short a lapse of time, is a proof that there is more of the "real grit," "the rock of the Harzgerberge" in the present race of Englishmen, than there is in Brother Jonathan, who never knew a glass excise, and will now make Crystal Palaces, of possibly larger size, in imitation.

The question of the architecture is largely mooted. And here I again quote from the "Westminster Review":—

"A great storehouse or repository has to be erected, and as this in itself will be a principal feature of the Exhibition—one, moreover, which will most assuredly be criticised by foreigners as the latest evidence of the amount of skill we have acquired in the arts of construction—it should be a building worthy of the nation.

"To this end, it is not necessary that the structure should be one of massy material, elaborate decoration, and corresponding cost. . . . The design of the building should be original as its object. It should not be suggestive by association of the idea of a pyramid, a temple, or a palace, for it will not be a tomb, a place of public worship, nor a mansion of royalty. The object should determine the design. That is to say, the design should be altogether subservient to the uses of the building, and should be of the kind that would express them, or at least harmonise with them."

The present uses of the building are, to afford space, cover, and light, to show off the largest collection of objects of art, manufacture, and produce, in the known world. The future object will be to show plants, and afford a winter exercise ground in a temperate atmosphere.

Therefore, all possible lightness of structure consistent with security is desirable: in fact, it is not desirable to see anything but the objects the structure encloses. Such is the structure of green-houses and aviaries, and such is the aim of the London shopkeepers. Within, the building gives the impression of a large bird-cage. It is a huge scaffold, with very slender poles, but very beautiful withal. The proportions are so good that one might fancy the large trees in the transept to be Chinese dwarfings.

The building is Chinese in its character. It is impossible to stand within it, and behold the combination of slender columns, and horizontal galleries, and angular open work, without being conscious of this. It is a huge cane pavilion, fit for the reception of birds, plants, flowers, and fountains. The brokers' shops show many a type of it in the square bamboo seats brought from "far Cathay." The very columns at their interjoinings, at a short distance, look like bamboo joints. The arch ribs of the transept wear the aspect of an elastic piece of timber, bent to form, and held in position by diagonal wire-work, like a large cage; and had the whole been painted in imitation of cane, it would probably have been more in harmony with the mass of objects that will be placed inside. It is a structure that could practically be executed with some of the hard-wood slender palm trees, with some variation in the form of the girders, and to imitate the natural colours in the painting, would violate no sense of propriety or taste. The existing barbaric colours are probably Chinese enough, but the smallness of surface precludes all effect save from outline, unless on the external boarding of the lower tier. However, the "plenishin," as the Scotch call it, will overlay this.

As the original propounder in print of a glass and iron fire-proof building for the Exhibition, to serve afterwards as a winter garden, I may be permitted to suggest what the next building should be, if art keeps pace with imagination.

External walls of glazed or glass bricks of large size, such as people now begin to see possible, made to interlock. Pavement of sawn slate laid on dwarf walls, with warm air below, admitted through proper openings. Columns of cast iron of sufficient size, vitrified inside to prevent the sulphurous rain of winter eating them away, as is now the case with most rain pipes. Glazed outside with a coloured vitrification, perhaps deep Roman purple—a paint for eternity. Girders of wrought-iron mouldings, above and below, stiffened with panels of carved and perforated cast iron, vitrified on the surfaces, and of deep section, to require no tie-rods. Roof of vitrified wrought iron, light, flat, and channeled, in squares like a Greek roof, every square being covered with a single sheet of glass, slightly convex for strength, and with deep edges turned down to lap into the channels, as a ship's hatch into its combings, giving ample scope to Mr Owen Jones for the disposition of colours in large masses, and involving no risk of breakage from expansion and contraction.

All this is as perfectly practicable as the present building. The processes are all in existence and need only combining and extending. When the "World's Fair" shall be over for the first season, people will begin to reflect on what might have been, had time and leisure been given to the permanent instead of the ephemeral. Possibly Manchester will be the first to realise a building of gorgeous beauty in the rude north, that shall have more permanence than the granite strength of Egypt or the marble splendour of Periclean Greece. As the enamel is to the oil painting, so will our future architecture be, to that which is passing away. The coating of iron with glass is the next step in our metallic progress.—I am, sir, yours faithfully,

1 Adam street, Adelphi, Feb. 18th, 1851.

W. BRIDGES ADAMS.

Imperial Parliament.

PRINCIPAL BUSINESS OF THE WEEK.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—Monday: Ministerial Explanations. Tuesday:—Marriage Affinity Bill negated on second reading.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—Friday:—Ministerial Explanations. Monday:—Ministerial Explanations.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Monday, Feb. 24.

The Marquis of Lansdowne made a statement to the house with regard to the ministerial crisis. On Saturday last, in consequence of divisions which had taken place in the lower house, the Government had been induced to tender their resignation to Her Majesty. In the course of the same day Lord Stanley was invited to attend at Buckingham Palace, and after an audience with Her Majesty stated that he was not then prepared to form a Government. Lord John Russell had then been requested to reconstruct an administration,—a task in which he was still engaged. Such was the condition of affairs; and, in conclusion, he could only say that he spoke as a member of a Government which in fact existed no longer, and that he was its representative only for the purpose of making this communication to the house. (The noble lord then sat down, after moving that the house at its rising should adjourn to Friday next.)

Lord Stanley said it was not his intention to make any comment on what had fallen from Lord Lansdowne. He could only say that he had on Saturday the honour of a lengthened audience with Her Majesty, in which he fully and unreservedly expressed his opinion on the state of the country. Nothing could exceed the graciousness and kindness of Her Majesty during that audience, but he should ill respond to that kindness were he in the present state of affairs to reveal anything that had passed on the occasion. He should, however, be prepared to state fully what had passed as soon as the present crisis was over.

Lord St Germans trusted the house would meet for the purpose of considering his Marriage Bill; and after some discussion it was agreed that it should be taken into consideration on Tuesday. Their lordships then adjourned.

Tuesday, Feb. 25.

The Earl of St Germans, in moving the second reading of the Marriage Affinity Bill, described it as a measure which had last session obtained the sanction of the other branch of the legislature, falling only on account of the late period at which it had come up to their lordships' house. He proceeded to adduce a multiplicity of testimony and a variety of arguments to sustain the conclusion that marriage within the degree of affinity sanctioned by this measure was neither contrary to the Levitical nor the canon law. Such unions were permitted in nearly every protestant state of Europe, were sanctioned by the Romish, and not prohibited by the Greek, churches. In a social point of view, the prohibition was more dangerous than the permission; on the moral question, the advantages lay on the side of relaxation; and as a matter of right, it would be the greatest legislative tyranny to enforce the restrictive law.

The Archbishop of Canterbury founded his opposition to the bill upon his interpretation of a verse in the 18th chapter of Leviticus. He moved as an amendment that the bill be read a second time that day six months.

The Bishop of Exeter concurred in believing the proposed measure to be contrary to the tenor of scripture, and characterised as incestuous the marriages it was designed to legalise. He justified the assent he had given to Lord Lyndhurst's act of 1835, which he had supported, not because it substantiated all past, but because it prohibited all future, unions within the objectionable degrees.

The Bishop of St David's doubted whether the scriptural prohibition to the marriages in question was anything but inferential. Yet he considered that as a matter of expediency and state policy it was better to forbid such unions, as they were now forbidden by law, and did not believe that the law had been inoperative, as was asserted.

The Bishop of Norwich, without asserting that the proposed bill would infringe the scriptural canon, opposed it on the ground of its tendency to encourage immorality. The question was one which might be left to the decision of the women of England, 99 in every 100 of whom he believed to be decidedly opposed to any removal of the existing restrictions.

Viscount Gage thought the opposition to the bill was inspired by a morbid sensibility. The present prohibitions were sources of great hardship and misery to individuals.

Lord Campbell apprehended that the bill was prompted by factitious agitation got up by parties who had themselves violated the law, and worked by the usual and professional machinery. He contended that marriages coming within the scope of the bill had been prohibited almost invariably in Christian countries, and were repeatedly declared illegal and incestuous by the English law. If such unions were not prohibited by the present statutes, he considered that a new enactment ought to be passed for that special purpose. Objecting, in much detail, to the principle of the bill, the noble and learned lord hoped it would be rejected by a decisive majority.

The Bishop of London wished to correct the impression which had become public, that he had changed his opinion with regard to the bill. He still disapproved of its intended relaxations, and repeated some of the scriptural and moral arguments that had been quoted against it. In his belief the agitation in its favour was confined to the manufacturing districts.

Lord Brougham opposed the bill, as did the Bishop of Ossory; and, after a brief reply from the Earl of St Germans, their lordships divided on the question that the bill be read a second time. Contents, 16; non-contents, 50; majority 34.

The house adjourned at a quarter past 11 to Friday.

Friday, Feb. 28.

Lord Broughton (late Sir J. C. Hobhouse) took the oaths and his seat.

The Marquis of Lansdowne then rose to explain the state of the Ministerial crisis. On Monday last he had had occasion to address their lordships, and to ask them to give time for the reconstruction of a ministry, he had hoped for the last time. He had stated on that occasion that Lord J. Russell was engaged in the reconstruction of the Government, and he had hoped that the crisis would have been passed by this day. Lord John Russell had entered into negotiations with a noble earl opposite, and with Sir James Graham. The negotiation had failed; and then Her Majesty had applied to the noble earl opposite, who had declined to form an administration. The attempts at the reconstruction had failed, not in consequence of any personal difference between the parties engaged in the negotiations, but from honest and honourable difference in principle. Those attempts having failed, Her Majesty applied to the noble earl opposite to form an administration, which he declined. Her Majesty then applied to the noble lord (Stanley), and yesterday afternoon the noble lord informed Her Majesty of his inability to form an administration. Her Majesty had then consulted him (the Marquis of Lansdowne) as to what course it would be proper to pursue in a state of things so novel and unprecedented, and this morning Her Majesty had sent for a noble and illustrious duke, who was not now in the house, in order to obtain his advice and opinion on the present important and delicate state of affairs. He would not sit down without stating that it was most consolatory in the present state of affairs to know that the difficulties and differences which had prevented these negotiations from succeeding, had been differences and difficulties not of any personal nature, but were the natural results of honest differences of opinion.

The Earl of Aberdeen felt called upon, after the statement of the noble marquis, to explain to their lordships what had been the course of conduct which

he had pursued in these negotiations. Her Majesty had sent for him on Saturday, and he had expressed his willingness to co-operate in the reconstruction of the Government. He had met Sir James Graham and Lord John Russell, and after mutual explanations Lord John Russell had laid before them the basis on which he proposed to reconstruct the Government, and had explained to them the several measures which he intended to propose. What those measures were he would then explain, because, after consideration, he believed that himself, and his right honourable friend, would have been enabled to accede to all of them with certain modifications except one. Their differences with Lord John Russell arose exclusively on the Ecclesiastical Titles Bill, and both his right honourable friend and himself felt an invincible repugnance to adopt any measure of penal legislation towards the Roman Catholic subjects of this country. To any legislation of that kind they were opposed. It was at all times exceedingly difficult by legislation to give a criminal character to acts which were indifferent in themselves, and it was more especially so when those acts assumed the appearance of the performance of a religious duty.

[LEFT SPEAKING]

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, Feb. 24.

On the motion of Mr Hayter, a new writ was ordered for Harwich, Sir John Cam Hobhouse having accepted the Chiltern Hundreds.

The order of the day for going into committee of ways and means having been read,

Lord John Russell rose to acquit himself of the promise he had given on Friday. After referring to the ministerial majority of 14 only upon Mr Disraeli's hostile motion—one which was obviously intended to take the conduct of Government measures out of Government hands—at the opening of the session, he characterised that majority as so small as calculated to weaken the ministry that obtained it. But if the majority then supporting Government had been united in a determination to maintain the commercial policy of the administration, its union might have atoned for its smallness. But on the 20th of February Government had been beaten by two to one. Under ordinary circumstances he might have attributed this to accident, and he accused no member of voting upon that occasion, except with reference to the question then before the house. But the whole of the financial and other measures of the session were before the house, and he had come to the conclusion that Government was not in a condition satisfactorily to conduct the business of the country, and he also thought that, with the Government in such a position, it was undesirable that the house should enter into financial questions. It was disadvantageous to be continually liable to defeat. He had, therefore, assembled the members of the cabinet, and stated to them his opinion that they ought to resign, and all had concurred, except the Marquis of Lansdowne, whose absence had rendered it necessary for Lord John Russell to ask the delay from Friday until last night. The Marquis had met Lord John Russell at the Palace on Saturday morning, and having signified his concurrence in Lord John's opinion, the latter had formally tendered his resignation and that of his colleagues. Her Majesty had accepted such resignation, and sent for Lord Stanley. The same afternoon Lord John Russell had been again sent for to the Palace, and informed that Lord Stanley had stated to the Queen that he was then unable to form an administration. Her Majesty had then desired Lord John Russell to reconstruct an administration which should have the confidence of that house, and this task he had felt it his duty to undertake. It would not be proper for him to make any further statement then, but he moved an adjournment till Friday, by which time he should either have succeeded, or abandoned his attempt.

Mr Disraeli said that it was matter of notoriety that Lord Stanley had been sent for, and when his lordship had Her Majesty's permission he would make a constitutional statement of what had passed. Meantime he could only say that Lord John Russell's assertion that Lord Stanley had stated to Her Majesty that he was unable to form an administration—

Lord John Russell: Unable, then, to form one.

Mr Disraeli: The correction did not touch his point. His conviction was, that upon consideration, Lord John Russell would regard his statement of what had passed in regard to Lord Stanley, as not being founded on what had really occurred. [This observation brought down protectionist cheering.]

Lord John Russell had no doubt that Lord Stanley would at the proper time make a statement of the circumstances which had occurred; in the meantime he (Lord John Russell) believed that the statement Lord Stanley would make would bear out the words he had used.

Mr Roebuck warned Lord John Russell, that as he had to reconstruct the ministry, upon him rested the responsibility of the question whether we were to have again to fight the battle of free trade.

The house adjourned immediately.

Friday, Feb. 28.

The Speaker took the chair at four o'clock.

The interior of the house presented the same appearance as on Monday evening; the benches below and above the bar were crowded with honourable members, as were also the side galleries.

Colonel Gilpin took the oaths and his seat for Bedfordshire.

Sir G. Tyler also took the oaths and his seat for Glamorganshire.

Lord John Russell entered the House of Commons at half-past four o'clock. As he walked up the lobby he was the object of much attention. He held in left hand an official box, and led by his right a child in a Scotch cap and dress, one of his own children, whom he took into the house with him.

On the motion for the second reading of the Ecclesiastical Titles Assumption Bill,

Lord John Russell, amid the most profound silence, rose and said—Sir, in moving the postponement of this order of the day, I will take the opportunity of stating to the house what has occurred since I asked them on Monday to adjourn to this day. Before I do so I think it necessary to notice a contradiction to a statement which I made on Monday last. (Great cheering.) I then stated that Lord Stanley having been sent for by the Queen had stated to Her Majesty that he was not then prepared to form a Government, and that I was then required to repair to Buckingham Palace. I received a contradiction to that statement in terms very peremptory, and in a manner not very courteous. I feel it due to my own honour to state, in the first place, that nothing was further from my intention than to misrepresent the conduct of Lord Stanley. For that noble lord I have the greatest possible respect. Therefore, I should be sorry indeed if anything which fell from me did not give a correct representation of what that noble lord had stated. It was quite necessary that I should state a reason why, after having once taken leave of my Sovereign, I was again required to repair to the Palace; that it was necessary is obvious, from the various statements circulated—statements, some of them previously to the honourable gentleman's contradiction, and some of them subsequent—(cheers)—which represented that noble lord as anxious to form a Government, and myself as

having endeavoured to force myself into the presence of my Sovereign, when that noble was engaged in that task. (Cheers.) And what, sir, then occurred? His Royal Highness Prince Albert wrote to me a letter on Saturday afternoon, and, by the permission of Her Majesty, and also of his Royal Highness, I will now read it to the house:—

"Lord Stanley has, after a conversation with Her Majesty, declined to undertake the formation of a Government at present, until it is clear no other Government could be formed. The Queen has sent for Lord Aberdeen and Sir James Graham, and she wishes to see you immediately."

I could, sir, do no other, on receiving that letter, than conclude that Lord Stanley had declined for the present to form a Government, until it was found that no other Government could be formed; and I ask whether there was any misrepresentation in stating, two days after receiving this letter, that Lord Stanley was not prepared at that time to form a Government—and used the words "not then prepared?" (Loud cheers.) Sir, every one who has been admitted to the presence of Her Majesty is aware of the courtesy, of the memory, and of the precise truth of everything which falls from her;—(Loud cheers)—but, sir, though I received from Her Majesty an account of what passed at her interview with Lord Stanley, I do not rest solely on Her Majesty's statement, but I rest on the statement of the interview which Lord Stanley sent to Her Majesty in the course of the same evening, and of which she permitted me to read the extracts which bear on the point in question. And let me observe, that if I state these particulars to the house, it is in consequence of the contradiction of the honourable gentleman opposite. (Great cheering.) After stating to Her Majesty the position of the three parties of which the house is composed, he (Lord Stanley) observed that the present administration had never met with any defeat at the hands of Lord Stanley's political friends. Lord Stanley then went on to state that he would only consent to form a Government in the event of no coalition being formed. He believed that an administration formed under such circumstances would be more likely to meet support, than one formed without time for reflection. Now I ask whether these extracts did not bear out my statement that Lord Stanley was not prepared to form a Government? I will now state, that having been desired by Her Majesty to construct an administration, and at her Majesty's request I obtained interviews with both Lord Aberdeen and Sir James Graham, I feel it right to say, that no personal consideration stood in the way of the formation of a Government composed of those whose opinions appeared to prevail in the House of Commons. With respect to the several points of public importance on which we deliberated, although there was not any perfect agreement, yet there did not seem to be such a diversity of opinion as might not by further communication have been removed. There was one question—the Papal aggression—on which it appeared impossible that we could agree. I think it quite necessary to proceed with that bill. Lord Aberdeen told me that he thought respecting the late aggression on this country no legislation at all was necessary. Upon that point there was so wide a difference of opinion that it was evident that no Government could possibly be formed by the coalition of such parties. (Hear, hear.) I again repaired to Buckingham Palace and informed Her Majesty of the difficulty which had occurred, and laid before her a full statement of the state of affairs. The effect of that information to the Queen was that Her Majesty's desire led to a communication with the right hon. gentleman, the member for Ripon (Sir J. Graham), with the hope that I might be able, with his assistance, to reconstruct the Government by such an infusion of new strength as would give force and efficiency to the ministry. We were agreed on most of the great topics of public affairs, and I did think, that if an interview was fairly conducted we might come to some general accord upon subjects on which a difference of feeling prevailed. The interview was abortive, and I was, therefore, again obliged to resign the commission for the formation of a Government with which Her Majesty had been pleased to honour me. This morning I was informed that Her Majesty had received the letter from Lord Stanley which I have read to the house. Placed under that difficulty, Her Majesty had, most wisely, as I think, sent for an old friend of the Crown, who is not more eminent for his distinguished services abroad and for the glory of his military achievements, than he is for the constitution of his country (the Duke of Wellington). I trust that I have said enough to assure the house that the representation of the right honourable gentleman the member for Bucks, (Mr. Disraeli), that Lord Stanley was prepared to form a Government, was incorrect.

Lord John Russell, after defending the ministry from the accusation of giving up the conduct of affairs at a time of difficulty, proceeded to state his opinions on the three questions which have mainly occupied the public mind. Referring to the establishment of free trade, he disclaimed all credit beyond that of having carried further the policy initiated under Sir R. Peel. Turning to the Ecclesiastical Titles Bill, he said—I still hold the opinions which I expressed on the introduction of that bill. It is my opinion that the assumption of these titles was an assumption of power on the part of a foreign prince which it was impossible for us to pass by unnoticed. But, sir, with respect to the bill we had introduced, looking to the past proceedings in the Irish Courts of Law, there are some of its clauses which ought not to be pressed to the fullest extent. Therefore, if that bill were proceeded with, I should be ready to make all such alterations as should prevent any of the interference which seems to be dreaded. I own that when I see a man of such moderation as Archbishop Murray objecting to the provisions of that bill, I will say I am quite ready to examine and go into the provisions of the bill, and see whether the objections which have been stated really do exist. (Hear, hear, and laughter.) There is another question of very great importance upon which, on the occasion of a late debate, on the 20th instant, I made a statement to the house on the subject of extending the franchise. It is fit that I should state to the house that the subject has been under the consideration of the cabinet during the late recess, but myself and my colleagues came to the unanimous determination that it would not be right to introduce a measure on that subject in the present session. As, however, a general election must take place in 1853, we determined that 1853 would be the latest time that such a measure could be introduced. With respect to the question itself, I have to say that having for ten years before the Reform Bill was introduced devoted my attention to the subject, and having made many motions between the years 1821 and 1831, having had a great share in framing the Reform Bill, I am perfectly satisfied with the general working of that bill. I do not see that it has produced any of the consequences of overturning the Constitution which were prophesied of it. But in respect, however, of any future measure which may be introduced upon the subject, I think you must proceed with the greatest caution. I think the general disposition of the Reform Parliament has produced a fair representation of the intelligence, the wishes, and the industry of the people. I should dread any change which might be introduced in the representation which deprived the House of Commons of that conservative element which ought to belong to it. I cannot conceive that a House of Commons merely representing numbers would act in harmony with a Monarchy, an hereditary House of Peers, and an Established Church. I think it ought to be the object of any one who approaches this subject not to create a House of Commons which should be a separate power, but it should be his object to do as we did in 1831, to endeavour to give to the

people a greater interest in their institutions, and at the same time to improve the general representation. After some further remarks, the noble lord sat down amid much cheering.

Mr Disraeli rose and was

[LEFT SPEAKING.]

PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS.

- 23 Poor relief (Ireland)—return.
- 24 Naval medals—report, &c., &c.
- 25 Bank of England—annual accounts.
- 27 Income tax—return.
- 37 Trade and navigation—accounts.
- 47 Liverpool and Wallasey gunpowder magazines—Copies of memorials.
- 34 Bills—Sunday trading prevention.
- 38 — Compound householders.
- 39 — Hops.
- 43 — Salmon brood (Ireland).
- 44 — Highways (South Wales).
- 45 — Ecclesiastical titles assumption.
- Clergy reserves (Canada)—papers.
- Turnpike trusts—reports of the Secretary of State.
- 40 Poor relief (Ireland)—return.
- Turnpike trusts—reports of the Secretary of State.
- 41 East India (revenues and charges)—general abstract view.
- 32 Bill—apprentices and servants.
- 53 Piracy (Borneo)—copy of instructions.
- 46 Bill—prerogative court (Ireland).
- 52 Poor law (Ireland) rate in aid—return.
- 35 Private business—first report from committee.
- 48 Army estimates.
- 30 Bill—improvement of towns (Ireland).
- Turnpike trusts—reports of the Secretary of State.

News of the Week.

COURT AND ARISTOCRACY.

HER MAJESTY and the Royal Family continue at Buckingham Palace. On Wednesday the Queen held a levee (the first this season) at St James's Palace.

In the foreign diplomatic circle several presentations to Her Majesty and Prince Albert took place.

The members of the Russell Ministry were in attendance on the Queen at the entree.

The presentations were not numerous.

THE MINISTERIAL CRISIS.

Shortly after the delivery of Lord John Russell's statement to the House of Commons, on Monday afternoon, another interview took place between his lordship, Lord Aberdeen, and Sir James Graham. This last deliberation resulted in the abandonment of the attempt to reconstruct an administration under Lord John Russell, with the additions from the late Peel cabinet. Upon the announcement to Her Majesty of the failure of this combination the Queen was pleased to desire Lord Aberdeen to undertake the formation of a cabinet; but this task was respectfully declined on the ground of the want of parliamentary strength.

On Tuesday, a second summons was addressed by Her Majesty to Lord Stanley, who appears to have accepted the commission to form a Government without further hesitation. He remained in conference with Her Majesty from eleven to twelve o'clock, and then proceeded to call upon Mr Disraeli, and subsequently on Viscount Canning. The Viscount had another interview with his lordship in the afternoon. Lord Stanley also received a royal letter in the evening, to which he at once replied. The Earl of Aberdeen had visited his lordship, and subsequently the Earl was called upon by Sir James Graham.

On Wednesday at an early hour Lord Stanley had another audience with the Queen. Mr Gladstone on his arrival from Paris at midday had a brief interview with Lord Stanley, and subsequently visited the Earl of Aberdeen, with whom he had a long conference. Lord Aberdeen also received visits from the Duke of Newcastle, Viscount Canning, and the Right Hon. Edward Ellice. After the levee the noble earl was visited by Sir James Graham, who remained closeted with his lordship for more than two hours.

Viscount Canning paid a visit to Lord Stanley after the levee.

On Thursday at 5 o'clock Lord Stanley proceeded to Buckingham palace, and at an audience of the Queen expressed his inability at the present moment to form an administration. After Lord Stanley had placed his resignation in the hands of the Queen, a despatch, written by his Royal Highness Prince Albert, was forwarded to Lord John Russell. Particulars of what has since transpired will be found in our report of last night's Parliament.

METROPOLIS.

HOUSE TAX AND WINDOW TAX.—On Wednesday a monster meeting of the ratepayers of the extensive parish of St Pancras, convened by the churchwardens, took place in the spacious Vestry hall, King's road, Camden town, for the purpose of considering the financial statement of the budget of the late Chancellor of the Exchequer, more especially in reference to the imposition of a house tax in lieu of the window duty. The spacious hall in which the meeting was held is calculated to hold at least 2,000 persons, and hundreds were unable to obtain admission. There were present Viscount Duncan, M.P., Lord Dudley Stuart, M.P., Sir B. Hall, M.P., Mr T. Wakley, M.P., Mr Jacob Bell, M.P., and a large number of members of the vestry and delegates from the various metropolitan parishes. The meeting throughout the proceedings was of the most enthusiastic and determined character, and the opposition to the proposed financial measures uncompromising.—On the same evening a similar meeting of the ratepayers of the united parishes of St Andrew, Holborn-above-Bar, and St George-the-Martyr, Middlesex, was held in the hall of the workhouse, Gray's inn lane, "for the purpose of considering" the proprietary of petitioning Parliament against the imposition of a house tax, and to reduce the general expenditure of the country so as to allow of the remission of many taxes which injuriously press upon the industry of the country.—And simultaneously a public and influential meeting of the ratepayers and other inhabitants of the parishes of St Margaret and St John the Evangelist, Westminster, was held at the lecture rooms, Vauxhall bridge road, at which a series of resolutions condemnatory of the obnoxious window tax, and the proposed scheme of the late Chancellor of the Exchequer, were unanimously passed.

MERCANTILE MARINE ACT.—Large meetings of sailors have been held at Ratcliffe to adopt means for securing the abolition of the late Mercantile Marine Act. Resolutions to the effect that a memorial, duly signed, be presented to the Board of Trade, soliciting the suspension of certain points of the act, were unanimously adopted; and it was arranged that a deputation should wait upon the Board of Trade.

EXHIBITION OF 1851.—We understand that the Executive Committee have issued the following notice to exhibitors:—"Whereas the 28th of February has passed by and several exhibitors have not yet taken their places in the building, either by sending their goods or erecting their fittings, and have failed to send in descriptions for the catalogue. The Executive Committee hereby give notice that the space allotted to such exhibitors will not be reserved to them, but assigned to other claimants, unless, such places are taken, goods sent in, and proper descriptions for the catalogue furnished forthwith."—Return of the number of packages received and placed in the hoardings of the countries to which they belong, up to Saturday, the 22nd February, 1851:—Foreign—Bavaria, 42; Prussia, 273; Switzerland, 99; Spain, 11; Sweden, 18; Saxony, 135; Belgium, 16; United States, 14; Mexico, 4; Peru, 1. Colonial—Canada, 304; Nova Scotia, 23; Guernsey, 8; Nassau, New Providence, 2; South Australia, 15. Total—965.

HEALTH OF LONDON DURING THE WEEK.—The official report says:—"The mortality of the metropolitan districts, which, in the preceding week, had declined to 1,086, has risen to a much larger amount than is usual at this period—the deaths registered in the week ending last Saturday having been 1,213. Taking the ten corresponding weeks in the years 1841-50, the only example of a greater mortality occurred in 1847, when the deaths for the week were 1,253; whilst the average of the ten weeks was 1,067. Correcting this average according to the supposed rate of increase in the population, it becomes 1,164, compared with which the present return shows an excess of 49. The births of 792 boys and 775 girls, in all 1,567 children, were registered in the week. The average in six corresponding weeks of 1845-50 was 1,426. At the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, the mean reading of the barometer of the week was 29.870 in. The mean temperature of the week was 42 deg. 5 in.

PROVINCES.

REPRESENTATION OF BEDFORDSHIRE.—On Monday, the Sheriff attended at the Shire hall, Bedford, to announce the state of the poll, when it appeared that the numbers were—For Colonel Gilpin, 1,562; for Mr Houghton, 558.

GLAMORGANSHIRE ELECTION.—The election of a member for Glamorganshire in the room of Earl Dunraven, who has accepted the Chiltern Hundreds, took place at Bridgend, on Tuesday, when Sir George Tyler was elected without opposition.

HARWICH ELECTION.—Mr Crawford is a candidate for the representation of this borough, vacant by the elevation to the peerage of Sir John Cam Hobhouse. Mr H. T. Prinsep has also offered himself.

THE SAILORS' STRIKE.—The sailors' strike terminated on the Tyne on Saturday, and on the Wear on Friday evening. Before closing the strike, and after hearing the report from the delegates sent to London to wait upon Mr Labouchere, the Tyne seamen came to the following resolutions:—"That the Board of Trade having suspended the 22 regulations, and given an assurance that the obnoxious clauses of the Mercantile Marine Act should be considered, and it being necessary to give Parliament time to act, the seamen agree to return to their employment and to sign articles at the shipping offices under protest." "That the seamen solemnly pledge themselves to support the Friendly Association in every legal way, and especially to secure the support and entry of all sailors sailing from the port who at the present moment are not members of the association; and also to aid in planting similar associations in every part of Great Britain and Ireland. The objects of the association are threefold. First, to maintain wages; secondly, to agitate the grand question of sailors' rights and to petition Parliament for redress; and thirdly, in case of Parliamentary inattention to or rejection of the sailors' petitions, to engage in an universal system of passive resistance, through which, by suspending the whole commerce of the country, the sailors may compel Government to do them justice."

CAMBRIDGESHIRE PROTECTIONIST MEETING.—On Wednesday a meeting of Cambridgeshire Protectionists was held in Ely, when the High Sheriff, Lord G. Manners, Hon. E. Yorke, M.P., Mr Hicks, and others, addressed the assembly. Resolutions in favour of a return to protection were adopted. Strong language was used, and a very triumphant spirit exhibited; but, as events have proved, somewhat prematurely.

REPRESENTATION OF HULL.—The Right Hon. M. T. Baines, president of the Poor Law Board, has announced that it is not his intention, at the next general election, to offer himself as a candidate for Hull in Parliament. Equal surprise and regret are felt among his constituents, as the return of Mr Baines by a large majority, in the event of a contest, was a matter of perfect certainty.

REPRESENTATION OF SOUTH WILTS.—We are informed upon authority, that in consequence of his great age and increasing bodily infirmities Mr John Bennett, the representative of the southern division of Wilts, has intimated to some of his political friends his intention to retire from Parliament, whenever a dissolution should take place.—*Salisbury Herald*.

IRELAND.

THE LEVEE.—His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant held his second levee for the season on Wednesday. It was observed that none of the Roman catholic bishops who usually visited the Castle on these occasions, and who are all now in town, were present.

MEETING OF THE BISHOPS.—The Roman catholic prelates assembled at the Presbytery in Marlborough street on Tuesday and Wednesday, to consider the bill to be adopted in reference to the "Ecclesiastical Titles Assumption Bill." Every act done, it is stated, was done without a dissentient voice. The address to the people of Ireland is not to meet the public gaze until the opinion of eminent counsel has been resorted to for a "full explanation of the effects upon the Irish catholic church that were likely to be produced by the bill proposed by the late Cabinet."

THE ANTI-PAPAL AGGRESSION BILL.—Lord John Russell was burned in effigy on Sunday night last in this town by the people, on account of his Anti-Papal Aggression Bill. The procession was preceded by a band, and the windows were broken in the houses of some protestant inhabitants. There was no other disturbance, nor any interference with the proceedings by the police.—*Tralee Chronicle*.

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL.

HOLSTEIN.

Berlin letters say that it is no longer doubted, that as soon as the definitive Government of Holstein is established, all the officers of the insurgent army who were serving before March, 1848, will be compelled to leave the country. In this list will be Duke Charles of Glucksburg and Prince Frederick of Glucksburg, though it is possible their exile may be continued only for a time.

Correspondence from Hamburg, of the 25th, states, as a fact beyond doubt, that Danish custom-houses have been established along the whole length of the Eider canal, and that the proceeding has caused considerable apprehensions for the future among the Holstein manufacturers, whose goods have hitherto entered into Schleswig free from any Danish imposts. The cloth manufacturers of Neuminster are about to petition the King of Denmark that they may be admitted into the Danish tariff union, as otherwise they will be unable to compete with the manufacturers in Schleswig and Jutland. The Danish distillers have been allowed a premium on all the spirits consumed out of the Monarchy, a policy which will have the effect of greatly injuring the distilleries in Holstein. The exportation of hay from Schleswig has also been prohibited, and consequently a want of this food will be felt by the Austrians should they be sent into Holstein.

A new loan, in the shape of an income-tax, not exceeding 4 per cent. will shortly be raised in Holstein, and the former loans (excepting the forced one of October, 1850) will be recognized.

DRESDEN.

The *Neue Preussische Zeitung* has letters from Dresden of the 23d inst. On that day a plenary sitting of the Conference was held, and various and voluminous opinions and protests on and against the reports of the first and second Committee were delivered by the agents of almost all the States. The kingdoms of Wurtemberg, Bavaria, Saxony, and Hanover were in favour of the Austrian propositions (to constitute an Executive Board of nine votes,) but the lesser States from Baden downwards combated these propositions. Bavaria, Wurtemberg, and Saxony have, moreover, entered a protest against the competency of the Congress eventually to return to the old Federal Diet. The sitting commenced at noon, and closed at half-past four, p.m., and its result was that a further term of fourteen days has been agreed upon, in which time the various states will provide further declarations or new propositions. When the post left, Prince Schwarzenberg, and Messrs. Buol-Schauenstein and Prokesch were closeted with Baron Manteuffel and Count Alvensleben.

PIEDMONT.

The *Croce de Savoia* of Turin of the 26th mentions a rumour that the three northern powers have addressed a note to the Piedmontese Government, demanding the expulsion of the Italian emigrants, the suppression of the liberty of the press, and of the tricoloured flag, and an immediate reconciliation with the Court of Rome. The *Croce* adds that the Piedmontese Government has refused to acquiesce in these demands.

SPAIN.

Accounts from Madrid, of the 21st inst, state that the Pope had presented the Queen with a splendid mosaic table and several valuable paintings of the Italian school.

The Tariff Junta held a first meeting on the 20th, at which the delegates of the manufacturers of Catalonia and several merchants of Madrid, chosen for the purpose, were present.

"This fact," observes the *Heraldo*, "shows that the revision of the tariffs, which it was believed the Government had renounced, has been revived, and that it is seriously contemplated to realise a reform, indispensable to raise the proceeds of the Customs to the amount fixed in the estimates."

PRUSSIA.

M. von Manteuffel was to arrive at Berlin, on the 24th, from Dresden. It was generally believed that the sittings are adjourned for a fortnight.

The debate on the new Press Law in the Upper Chamber continues. The late attempt of the police authorities to deter a publisher from printing a certain pamphlet, by threatening to deprive him of his business, license, or concession, though the subject was stopped by the Minister of Justice in the last debate, was revived to day. It may indicate what an incomprehensible power the police possesses to state that on this occasion the Ministry knew nothing of any official interference having been made, while the deputy who brought the case forward declares if it was not authorized in the usual way, the threat proceeded "from a still higher power," to which he could not more nearly allude. A letter was read from a publisher showing the fatal effect of the law on the book-publishing business. Even if a publisher refuses to print a book or pamphlet, it appears he is made answerable if it appears in any other quarter. The police "assume" that the first publisher to whom it was offered is privy to the printing, and will deprive him of his "concession" or permission to carry on his business.

The new difficulty that has arisen at Dresden, and the general uncertainty as to the result of the Conferences, have given rise to rumours of a war-like nature, but they are unfounded; they are but echoes of the alarm of November and December last.

AUSTRIA.

Count Buol von Schauenstein, Ambassador of Austria at the Court of St. Petersburg, has been appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at London.

In Vienna, on the 22nd instant, rumours were still rife of an Austrian expedition against Switzerland.

UNITED STATES.

Advices by the last mail state that the Committee of Congress on Foreign Relations have reported on the petition from the American Peace Society, which had been referred to them, that it would be desirable for the Government to secure a provision in its treaties with other nations, for referring all future difficulties to the decision of umpires before the commencement of hostilities.

Rumours were current in some of the journals that Sir H. Bulwer, on account of illness, was about to resign his embassy and return to England. Since our previous accounts little business of moment had been transacted in Congress, the only point being the introduc-

tion into the Senate, on the 10th, of a large number of petitions in favour of the Liberian steam line, and the adoption of a resolution directing an inquiry relative to the free admission of Pacific flour into California. On the question of the tariff no movement had taken place, but private letters, published in the New York journals, state, that on the 8th the Senate Committee on Finance reported the bill introduced by Mr. Hunter regarding the warehouse system.

The Pennsylvania Senate had passed in committee various resolutions relative to the establishment of a line of mail-steamers between Philadelphia, San Francisco and China, Norfolk and Europe. The United States frigate St. Lawrence, with the goods for the Crystal Palace, had not left New York, but was on the eve of departure. She was about half full. Much alarm had been excited by the discovery of a large steamer's wreck to the south of Cape Hatteras, but it was supposed to be that of a steamer previously reported as lost, namely, the America.

From the Lake of Nicaragua we learn that the steamer Director had commenced regular semi-weekly trips on the Lake Nicaragua, running the distance of 95 miles in 20 hours. The remaining 85 miles of river navigation to San Juan was accomplished in about the same time in bungs.

WEST INDIES.

Jamaica advices are to the 31st ult. From the first report on the progress of cotton culture in Jamaica, we learn that Mr. Williams, the manager, is sanguine of success, if ample store of labour be provided. On taking possession of Greenwall, there were already planted 17 acres of cotton, from which he anticipated obtaining three or more bales of white and nearly one of yellow wool, by the 1st of March. The expenses of the undertaking up to the 31st of December amounted to 172l 19s 2d. The Assembly had adjourned till the 11th of February, and would then be occupied with discussing the means for filling up the deficit in the income of the island. It appears that the liabilities of Jamaica have been annually increasing since 1847. And although the expenditure during the four years up to this time has been reduced to the extent of 86,000l, or from 304,658l in 1847 to 218,648l in 1850, still it has been in excess of revenue, and has left a deficit of 163,531l. And this is rendered likely to continue from the fact that revenue has been gradually on the decrease since 1847, and the total diminution up to 1850 has been from 240,000l to 180,000l. The liabilities of the island amounted on the 10th of October to 680,000l, and the House of Assembly had been forced to borrow money on exchequer bills and island notes to the extent of 58,000l, and to appropriate to the public use chancery and other deposits to a large extent.

From British Guiana the mail brings what the *Colonist* calls the most important and most numerously signed documents that were ever sent from the colony, being petitions for constitutional reform, agreed to at a great public meeting, and which had received over 6,300 signatures. The first of these is addressed to the Queen, which Lord Stanley is requested to present; the second is to the House of Lords, which is also intrusted to the same noble lord for presentation; and the third is to the House of Commons, and it is entrusted to Mr. Joseph Hume for presentation.

At St. Lucia the weather continued highly favourable to the work of sugar making, and crop had commenced pretty generally throughout the island.

In Antigua the weather had been favourable to the growing crop, and tended to enhance the prospects of the planters. Rain had been general. The atmosphere had been very cool and agreeable.

BIRTHS.

On the 21st inst., at the Castle, Parsonstown, Ireland, the Countess of Rosse, o

a son.

On the 20th inst., at Swanton house, Norfolk, the Hon. Mrs Delaval Astley, of

a son.

On the 25th inst., at Cheltenham, the wife of Lieutenant-Colonel Corbet Cotton,

of a son.

MARRIAGES.

On the 24th inst., at the parish church of Torquay, by the Rev. R. Wolfe, assisted by the Rev. H. Wainisly, Edward Potter, Esq., of Everton Brow, Liverpool, to

Caroline, eldest daughter of the late S. W. Bibbings, Esq., of Teignmouth.

On the 26th inst., at St George's, Hanover square, by his Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury, assisted by the Rev. Henry Howarth, B.D., the rector, Sir Henry St John Midway, Bart., to Helena, second daughter of the Right Hon. the Speaker of the House of Commons and Mrs Shaw Lefevre.

On the 12th of December, at Cawnpore, Captain Anson, 9th (Queen's Royal) Lancers, to Frances Elizabeth, eldest surviving daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel Manson, Commissioner, Bithoor.

DEATHS.

On the 23rd inst., at 15 Gay street, Bath, deeply regretted, Lydia, the widow of Sir

Alexander Seton, Bart., of Abercorn, N. B., and daughter of Sir Charles Blunt, Bart.

On the 25th inst., Sir William Owen Barlow, of Laureny, in the county of Pem-

broke, and of the Temple, Bart., aged 76.

On the 20th inst., at 5 Beutnick street, Manchester square, Lady Parker, wife of

Michael Bruce, Esq.

On Tuesday, the 21st inst., at 45 Wilton crescent, aged 24, the Hon. Frances

Charlotte de Ros, eldest daughter of Lord de Ros, after a fortnight's illness, unac-

companied by pain or suffering.

COMMERCIAL AND MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.

The dividend declared at the meeting of the General Steam Navigation Company this week was at the rate of 10 per cent., with a bonus of 2s 6d per share. The report and accounts were unanimously carried.

At a meeting of the Van Diemen's Land Company, held on Wednesday, a committee was appointed to investigate the affairs of the company, and to report upon the prospects of the undertaking, with a view to its abandonment if deemed advisable.

The half-yearly meeting of the Sunderland Dock Company, was held on Wednesday, at the Royal Exchange buildings, Sunderland; Mr G. Hudson, M.P. presided. The report stated that the trade and revenue of the dock had been found, during the few months it had been opened, in every respect most satisfactory. The following were the monthly receipts:—July, 1850, 19l 16s 10d

August, 1867 3s 1d; September, 4327 1s 7d; October, 5837 19s 11d; November, 6697 1s 10d; December, 8377 14s 2d.

The Danish Government has just made a reduction of 25 per cent. on the import duties on French wines and brandy.

In future the fee on the issue of a Foreign Office passport is to be 7s 6d, and they will be granted between the hours of twelve and four, on the day following that on which the application for the passport has been received at the Foreign Office.

Sir John Cam Hobhouse, Bart., is created a peer by the title of Baron Broughton de Gyfford, in the county of Wilts.

At a recent meeting of the Royal Agricultural Society, it was resolved that the cattle show for the present year shall be held in Bushey park, where the Commissioners of Woods and Forests have provided an excellent and convenient site for the purpose. The show will take place on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, the 15th, 16th, and 17th of July.

Letters from Constantinople announce Dembinski's liberation and arrival at that city.

On Wednesday evening, Mr Muready took his parting benefit at Drury Lane, and appeared, for the last time, in the character of *Macbeth*. The termination of his career was worthy of its length and splendour; there has been no such scene since the final leave-taking of his illustrious predecessor, John Kemble.

We regret to announce the decease of Joanna Baillie, a poet whose fame is indelibly inscribed on the annals of our literature. She was born in the year 1762, in the manse of Bothwell, near Glasgow, of which place her father was minister.

Intelligence has been received of the death of Commander Sir William Winnett, Knight, Royal Navy, governor and commander-in-chief of Her Majesty's forts on the Gold Coast.

The sale of season tickets of admission to the Great Exhibition which commenced on Thursday, at the Society of Arts, John street, Adelphi, is now proceeding very rapidly, upwards of 2,000 tickets having been already disposed of.

Literature.

LECTURES ON SOCIAL SCIENCE AND THE ORGANISATION OF LABOUR.
By JAMES HOLE. John Chapman, 142 Strand.

THIS volume is a collection of papers reprinted from "The Truth Seeker," and is unquestionably an able and eloquent exposition of the opinions of the Socialists. To us, however, its title carries the conviction that the author does not understand fully his subject. He would organise labour; he would regulate society; he infers, from the failure of attempts to do both, that both ought to be done; and sees not that the future which he describes and deplures makes it extremely doubtful whether the object proposed be within human power, and sees not that labour is already organised and society already regulated in a manner far superior to the conceptions of any human being, except as we may all perceive and learn the existence of the organisation and the order. No human intellect presided over that organisation of labour by which the cutler of Sheffield and the tea grower of China minister to each other's necessities, and satisfy each other's wants. No human intellect dictated that order which subordinates all the industrious classes to one another by their mutual services, while it makes them all co-equal and unites them all throughout the whole earth in one common bond of peace and mutual goodwill. No human intellect provided for that growth of knowledge, that increase of human beings, and that modification of human nature which have made our streets more peaceable as they are more crowded, our mutually dependent people more kindly as they have become more numerous—and it would clearly be impossible for us to exist in our present numbers, were this generation endowed with the hasty, arrogant, intolerant passions of their forefathers in the reigns of the Henrys and Edwards—and that has accumulated the means of supplying human wants even faster than human beings are multiplied. From the terrible abuses of authority in almost all states—from the misery resulting, and which is now rousing mankind to inspect the warrants of those who claim to regulate society, and to a certain extent to organise labour—Mr Hole infers that it is the duty of authority to regulate more, and regulate better. He is an opponent to *laissez faire*, or natural organisation and natural order; and because in old times politicians have superinduced on them a political organisation and a political order, pregnant with mischief, he would now have the Socialists try their hands at a pet scheme of political government. All his fine, eloquent observations and apt quotations are pervaded and vitiated by the fundamental error of aiming to regulate society because politicians have aimed to regulate it and have most signally failed. We regret to see great talents so misapplied; and unhappily Mr Hole is only one of many eloquent and well-meaning men who are now most diligent in expounding the error, that by certain acute and cunning contrivances in the interest of the masses—similar to cunning contrivances heretofore made in the interest of the few—the well-being of the whole can be promoted. The errors of the Socialists are the reaction, not the correction of the errors of past generations. The future of society will no more, however, be according to their fancies, than the present condition answers to the expectations and theories of Pitt and Sidmouth. We are surprised that the opening sentence of Mr Hole's lectures did not open his eyes to what he was writing. "Most of the actions," he says, "which man performs affect more or less intimately his fellow-men. In some respects society resembles a mass of fluid, which we cannot increase or diminish by a single drop without altering the relations of the whole. Society, in controlling and regulating the action of its members by means of rules and laws, expresses the necessity of rendering the action of each conformable to the interests of the whole." The drops, therefore, or rather some of the drops, instead of obeying the law of gravity, which pervades each and all, and rolling on one another and running together harmoniously, fancy they can regulate the whole of which they are only minute portions, and make the rolling and running of each drop conformable to the running and rolling of the whole. We cannot comprehend how any man can compare society to a fluid, of which

individuals are the drops, and yet come to the conclusion that some of the drops must dictate laws and regulations for the whole fluid.

"In pride, in reasoning pride, the error lies."

For the pride of the conquerors of old there might have been some ground; there can be none for similar pride in the Socialists of our time.

PROGRESS OF THE NATION. By G. R. PORTER, E. q., F. R. S. A New Edition. John Murray, Albemarle street.

THE reputation of Mr Porter's work is so firmly and deservedly established, and it is so well and so widely known, that it is only necessary to say the present edition brings down most of the statements to the end of 1849. The work has lost none of its clearness, and its utility is increased. Mr Porter promises a supplement, accompanied by remarks, to diffuse a knowledge of the results of the census, as soon as they are known. He justly remarks in the preface "that the evidences of general prosperity" contained in his pages "are as clear and conclusive in favour of free trade policy as any of its warmest advocates could have hoped to witness." "It is not too much, therefore, to expect," as he observes, "that the light thus thrown upon the subject will lead to the early abandonment of all remaining vestiges of restriction imposed under mistaken views by our ancestors." We may with greater reason expect that the advocates of free trade should consistently carry out their own principles, and not renew in another guise, and not extend in another form, that system of restrictions and regulations which was adopted with as excellent intentions by our ancestors as the modern plan of taking care of the people now advocated. The great principles of free trade are, that individuals best promote the interest of the state by promoting their own interest, and that each individual understands his own interest and is likely to promote it a great deal better than any government can understand or promote it—principles that should, we think, plain and homely as they are, now restrain a great multitude of pretended philanthropists and patriots from making the people happy and well-behaved after some fashion with which the philanthropists and patriots are in love. Mr Porter's book is, for us, extremely valuable, as presenting at almost every page very conclusive evidence that the best-meant intentions of those who have managed the national finances, regulated the national trade, and undertaken to provide for the national welfare, have ended in great national loss and vast social misery. The commercial history of Great Britain, as read and interpreted in his admirably compiled pages, is perhaps the most instructive book that ever was composed.

THE PARLOUR LIBRARY. Nos. LIII. and LIV. Simms and M'Intyre, Paternoster row.

THESE two numbers of the "Parlour Library" contain a novel, "Sir Philip Hetherington," and Mrs Howitt's translation of Lamartine's "Geneviève." We do not remember to have seen "Olivia," the former work, as the title page tells us, by the author of "Sir Philip Hetherington," but cannot say much in praise of this, except the negative, of being perfectly harmless. It is the history of several individuals, members of the *élite* of a cathedral town; and the glimpses it occasionally affords of the dull, inane, and unintellectual nature of that society is the most striking portion of the book, for the foolish kind old lady, the clever manoeuvring, or the steady well-principled mother, with daughters and their fortunes to match, the stupid good-tempered hero, or villain Major, are only such *fale* copies of stereotyped romance characters that they do not require mention any more than they can inspire interest in the reader. "Geneviève" is well known as a most pleasing specimen of Lamartine's writing, and if the good characters in the tale be described perhaps a little *too good*, we deem this not only pardonable, but positively praiseworthy, both as giving interest to the story and as encouraging aspirations after a higher state of being.

THE SAXON IN IRELAND; or, the Rambles of an Englishman in Search of a Settlement in the West of Ireland. John Murray, Albemarle street.

LIKE many others, the author of this work, a right-minded accomplished gentleman, had been betrayed by our late barbarous Corn Law into a reliance for success on one of the greatest acts of injustice that ever a legislature perpetrated and an intelligent people submitted to. The abolition of that unjust law, he hints not obscurely, compelled him to dispose of his land in England and seek another home. He accordingly visited Ireland to see if he could find a place there to settle in, and after exploring a large portion of the west of that country, he purchased an estate there under the authority of the court for the sale of the encumbered estates. He describes his property as situated in Erris, near Owenduff, and not far from Tullaghan bay, and "consisting of 345 acres: at present only 12 are arable, 26 tolerably inclosed meadow and pasture; and the remainder is in part black bog, of two or three feet deep, on a substratum of clay and gravel, and high land, occupying the entire of a lofty knoll, an offset of the adjoining mountains." In a wild place and among a wild people he has chosen his new home, and he would like it better, he thinks, had he not lived so happily in his English home. To succeed in his undertaking he must have energy and enterprise; but he will not be alone. There are other improvers and settlers in the neighbourhood. The Encumbered Estates Act—the court being called by the common Irish the *Lumber Estates Court*, and described by the author as wise and merciful legislation—is tempting other people into the country. It is his opinion, or at least his hope, that "Ireland has seen her worst days." "Her ample resources, her immense capabilities, are beginning to attract observation in England." "In the face of moral and pecuniary difficulties, enough to appal the stoutest heart, the proprietors are struggling manfully to perform their social duties to render their dependents comfortable, to visit the sick, to teach the ignorant,

to infuse upright and manly principles, to encourage cleanliness, industry, and moral progress. In fact, Ireland is becoming every day more alive to her faults, and also to her duties. She has been the victim of the most detestable system of serfdom that ever cursed any Christian country." That is very hopeful and encouraging; and if we could look for the regeneration of a country from the landowners doing what is regarded as their duty—if we believed that the prosperity of England were in the smallest degree owing to the landowners of England or our system of landownership—we should adopt his conclusions. But while it is plain that the Encumbered Estates Act will set the land free and give it more capable proprietors, something more is requisite, which Ireland may perchance borrow from her close communication with England, than a mere change in landownership, to promote civilisation. The change of proprietors is only one amongst many circumstances that will help to improve Ireland; and when all around her is making a rapid progress, it would be sad indeed to believe that Ireland had not yet seen her worst days.

The staple of the book is descriptive of the parts of the country the author visited; and though it is not marked by any peculiarly lively talents, nor any great profundity of thought or observation, it is replete with good plain common sense. It will be a great help to persons seeking, like the author, to settle in Ireland. His example is valuable, and his kindly observations about the people may inspire some of that confidence in them he feels himself. It is true of grown people as well as children that "the heart leaps kindly back to kindness." Nor are his remarks destitute of liveliness, though kindness is their prevailing characteristic. His description of a market day at Ballinrobe, which we subjoin, reminds one of Naples where it is said every "bargain's a battle."

MARKET DAY AT BALLINROBE.

For several miles we met the people returning home, many forming picturesque groups, the costume of the women being generally the blue cloak and scarlet petticoat. Notwithstanding the numbers that had left, the town was full when I arrived, and it was altogether a busy bustling scene. No one who has not visited these remote districts can have a conception of the noise, the jabbering, the perpetual movement in an Irish market. Every one seems as busy as if the welfare of the world depended on him solely; busy, that is to say, so far as shouting and talking, and violent gesticulation, can convey that idea. You would think, when two men are merely bargaining, that they were going to wage desperate battle on the nonce,—such earnestness,—such clapping of hands,—such bawling in each other's ears,—such retreating and advancing,—such scorn,—such defiance: and yet it is all in good-humour. "It's the way wid 'em," said my post-boy, as I expressed my apprehensions: "God bless you, sir, they're good friends entirely." Well, they may be good friends, and I do not the least doubt it; but a little admixture of English self-possession and quietude in doing business would be no disadvantage. A Saxon friend of mine, who attended a fair in the west with some cattle to sell, was determined to alter the system, at least in his own case. He named his price—a fair one—and refused to engage in any higgling. "Take them, or leave them," was his only answer to bargaining customers, and he returned home with the full money in his pocket, and the consciousness of having broken through an absurd and unseemly custom.

THE IONIAN ISLANDS UNDER BRITISH PROTECTION. Ridgway, Piccadilly.

A COMPLETE ACCOUNT is given of the Ionian Islands since they came under British protection in this pamphlet, and it does not make us feel any great delight with the conduct of our country. According to the author, Sir Thomas Maitland understood the people and governed them well, but Lord Seaton neither understood them nor governed them as they ought to be governed. He prepared the way by unworthy concessions for the insurrection his successor had to encounter. The author is not an advocate of Sir Henry Ward, but a discriminating judge of his actions, and he neither praises nor blames without reason. To all who wish to understand the condition of the Ionian Islands, and the many questions to which they have lately given rise, we recommend the perusal of this pamphlet. The subject is carefully elaborated, and the style is plain, clear, and sensible.

LAVENTRO; *the Scholar, the Gipsy, and the Priest.* By GEORGE BORROW. 3 vols. John Murray. Albemarle street.

It has been said that Lavengro has no object, and remembering that Shakespeare had probably no object in writing his plays other than to express his own thoughts and amuse the public, we thought it just possible that, for having no object, Mr Borrow's book might be all the better. But unfortunately it has an object, or, rather, many objects. "Among the many things attempted in this book," says the author, "is the encouragement of charity, and free and genial manners, and the exposure of humbug of which there are various kinds: the most debasing and the most cruel is the humbug of the priest." "Yet let no one think irreligion is advocated in this book." The particular humbug of priestcraft which he attacks is that of the Church of Rome. He is "a member of the Church of England, into whose communion he was baptised, and to which his forefathers belonged." It is not much recommendation to a book of adventure that the author places his religion in the foreground, nor does it give him much right to attack any religious humbug when he seems to have no other motive for clinging to his own, than that it is the religion of his country and the religion to which he was born. To deride the religion of Rome as Mumbo Jumboism and fetishism, and to have nothing better to say for his own religion than that he was born in it, that it is the religion of his forefathers and his country, is neither very tolerant nor very discreet. It may suit the temper of the times to attack the Romish religion, but Mr Borrow's book would have lost nothing had he omitted these naive avowals. The exposure of humbug, the recommendation of the free and easy manners of those who live on the roads, and the condemnation of conventionalism, are the predominant aims of the book. In carrying out his project the author has a hard word for various sects, professions, and classes. The persons most in favour with him are a travelling Welsh Methodist parson and his wife—both admirable portraits, and the latter a

most amiable and charming person; Mr Petulengro, the gypsey, and a heroine from the workhouse are also excellently drawn portraits. Our readers will obtain, from a quotation or two, some idea of the caustic remarks in which Mr Borrow indulges. At court, he says, "the language of the roads or gypsies would not serve for a means of secret communication, owing to its resemblance to thieves' slang." Neither would Hebrew; "it might be understood by half a dozen people in our vicinity." But Latin or Greek "might be spoken aloud at court with perfect confidence" of its not being understood.

ENGLISH HOSPITALITY.

"I thought the English prided themselves on their hospitality," said I. "They do so," said the man in black; "they are proud of showing hospitality to people above them, that is, to those who do not want it, but of the hospitality which you were now describing, and which is Arabian, they know nothing. No Englishman will tolerate another in his house, from whom he does not expect advantage of some kind, and to those from whom he does, he can be civil enough. An Englishman thinks that, because he is in his own house, he has a right to be boorish and brutal to any one who is disagreeable to him, as all those are who are really in want of assistance. Should a hunted fugitive rush into an Englishman's house, beseeching protection, and appealing to the master's feelings of hospitality, the Englishman would knock him down in the passage.

OUR UPPER CLASSES.

"Very fine people," said I, "monstrously fine people; so, at least, they are generally believed to be."

"He! he!" said the man in black; "only those think them so who don't know them. The male part of the upper class are in youth a set of heartless profligates; in old age, a parcel of poor, shaking, nervous paillards. The female part, worthy to be the sisters and wives of such wretches—unmarried, full of cold vice, kept under by vanity and ambition, but which, after marriage, they seek not to restrain; in old age, abandoned to vapours and horrors; do you think that such beings will afford any obstacle to the progress of the (Papal) church in these regions, as soon as her movements are unfettered?"

OUR MIDDLE CLASSES.

"Their chief characteristic," said the man in black, "is a rage for grandeur and gentility; and that same rage makes us quite sure of them in the long run. Everything that's lofty meets their unqualified approbation; whilst everything humble, or, as they call it, 'low', is scouted by them. They begin to have a vague idea that the religion which they have hitherto professed is low; at any rate, that it is not the religion of the mighty ones of the earth, of the great kings and emperors whose shoes they have a vast inclination to kiss, nor used by the grand personages of whom they have read in their novels and mances, their Ivanhoes, their Marmions, and their Ladies of the Lake."

OUR LITERARY MEN.

"It is only in England that literary men are invariably lick-spittles; on which account, perhaps, they are so despised, even by those who benefit by their dirty services. Look at your fashionable novel writers, he! he!—and, above all, at your newspaper editors, he! he!"

"You will, of course, except the editors of the . . . from your censure of the last class?" said I.

"Them!" said the man in black; "why they might serve as models in the dirty trade to all the rest who practise it. See how they bepraise their patrons, the grand Whig nobility, who hope, by raising the cry of liberalism, and by putting themselves at the head of the populace, to come into power shortly. I don't wish to be hard, at present, upon those Whigs," he continued, "for they are playing our game; but a time will come when, not wanting them, we will kick them to a considerable distance: and then, when toleration is no longer the cry, and the Whigs are no longer backed by the populace, see whether the editors of the . . . will stand by them; they will prove themselves as expert lick-spittles of despotism as of liberalism. Don't think they will always bespatter the Tories and Austria."

These are specimens: other classes are described after a similar manner. At the same time, such remarks, though they abound, are not the staple of the book. It purports to be, and we believe it in a great measure is—we know it is in part—a personal history of Mr Borrow himself; but whether it be a piece of biography or wholly a fiction, or whether it be a mixture of fact and fiction, it is more amusing even than it is caustic. Lavengro, in truth, is one of the most extraordinary books we have met with for a long time. Mr Borrow's "Bible in Spain" and his "Gypsies in Spain" were both extraordinary books, and this, though not on the whole so pleasing as the "Bible in Spain," is more extraordinary than either of them. He characterises it himself as a "dream, partly of study, partly of adventure," with "copious notices of books and many descriptions of life and manners, some in a very unusual form." It has also many descriptions of individuals, portraits of old acquaintances, or of persons who have figured in the chronicles of the time, sketched in a masterly manner, so as instantly to remind us of the original, yet occasionally mingled with so much exaggeration as to make the portrait a caricature. The bookseller to whom the author brings a letter of introduction cannot be mistaken, nor can the gentlemen from whom he receives the letter, by any body conversant with the literature of the last thirty years. Neither can the teacher of Rhetoric, the well-known man who swung his arms about and tossed his body into violent contortions, while he sunk and lowered his voice far surpassing theatrical rant in praise of "simple nature," which he boasted he loved. Thelwall and Sir Richard Phillips with his philosophy live again in Mr Borrow's pages. We hear once more of the almost-forgotten John Thurtell, who fulfilled his Dukke-perin or destiny, and David Haggart, whom few English readers will remember. We have anecdotes of Haydon, who copied the head of the author for his Pharoah. The "Ring" has many reminiscences, and while some of its almost forgotten heroes are lauded to the skies, the crosses and tricks to get money for Jews and blacklegs, which brought the "Ring" into disrepute, are not forgotten. Besides the author's personal adventures in many parts of England, Scotland, and Ireland, the book contains some acute and unexpected criticism. It is a great mixture, much of it relating to low or common, and even extremely vulgar persons, but they are so introduced as to lose this characteristic, and be attractive. Something like genius is shown in interesting us again in such beings as Thurtell and Haggart. We should not consult Mr Borrow for opinions, nor rely on his pages for facts; but what he says of those we have known or have heard of, inspires us with confidence in his portraits of those we have not known or have not heard of. There are strange doctrines too in the book. Mr Borrow

is a believer in a kind of mental Mesmerism—an influence conveyed by the eye and the voice, and affecting animals as well as man; not so deleterious, but more powerful than the Mesmerism conveyed by passes, and employed to cure diseases or get reputation for charlatans. Our quotations give no specimens of the amusing and wild adventures which abound in Lavengro; for them we refer our readers to the volumes. We are not inclined to censure very severely a clever writer who makes a prevailing feeling against Rome a means of obtaining success, by an elaborate description of a Romish priest and the arts he employs, though the writer panders to a species of false enthusiasm, while he purports to assail such delusions. We smile at some of Mr Borrow's own credences, which seem to us as destitute of foundation as any of those he ridicules. But with a host of faults, with many passages which many readers will regard as positively offensive, the book is thoroughly interesting. There is much in it of gypsies, and of those who live on the roads; but it is new, for the adventures in which they are concerned are new, and novelty dressed up by Mr Borrow is always interesting. If the biography and adventures bear any resemblance to his own history, as we believe they do, his life must have been as extraordinary as his book. But whether they be wholly or a part imaginary, they are of commanding interest. They break off very abruptly, and every reader is disappointed at the conclusion. He wants more; and more Mr Borrow we believe means to supply. The three volumes contain little more than the beginning of his life, and the completion will be a labour of love for him and the delight of many readers. The work is, we presume, to be continued agreeably to the expectation of all who have read it.

FRANCIA: A Tale of the Revolution of Paraguay. From authentic Sources. By R. CLARENCE SHEPARD. Richard Bentley, New Burlington street.

A TALE derived from authentic sources implies that the extraordinary story narrated in this little book has a foundation in fact. It is a love story of the youth of Doctor Francia, the only one we ever heard of; and closes with a conspiracy and a tragedy in which his reputed son perishes. The tale has the advantage of being short, the incidents are numerous, the manners and customs of the people are fairly drawn, it may be read with pleasure for the amusement it affords, and with profit for the information it gives. There is about it something that reminds us of the tales and romances of the Ratsliffes and the Lewises of other times, but it will hardly revive the taste for their species of literature.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

- Tait's Magazine for March.
- Miscellaneous. By Wallbridge Lunn.—Shakspeare. Vol. I, part I.—The Popular Library. Routledge and Co.
- Chambers' Papers for the People. Vol. VII.
- Vacher's Parliamentary Companion for 1851.
- Borneo Facts versus Borneo Fallacies. (Pamphlet). By L. A. Chamerovzow. Gilpin.
- Land Drainage, Embankment, and Irrigation. By James Donald. Wm S. Orr and Co.
- The Colonial Magazine for March.
- The Farmers' Magazine for March.
- The Church of England Magazine for March.
- The New Monthly Belle Assemblée for March.
- The Sportsman for March.
- The Book of Nature, &c. By Friedrich Schoedler, Ph. D. Edited by Henry Medlock, F.C.S. Gilpin and Co.
- Rose Douglas, &c. By S. R. W. 2 vols. Smith, Elder, and Co.
- Military Memoirs of Lieutenant Colonel James Skinner, C.B. 2 vols. By J. Baillie Frazer, Esq. Smith, Elder, and Co.
- The Siege of Damascus; a Historical Romance. By James Nisbet. 3 vols. John Chapman.
- A Trip to Mexico, &c. By a Barrister. Smith, Elder, and Co.
- The British Officer: his position, duties, emoluments, and privileges. By J. H. Stocqueler. Smith, Elder, and Co.
- The Girlhood of Shakspeare's Heroines. Tale IV. Desdemona. By Mary Cowden Clarke. Smith and Son.
- A Popular Narrative of the Origin, History, Progress, and Prospects of the Great Industrial Exhibition of 1851. By Peter Berlyn. Gilbert.
- Penny Maps. Part VIII. Chapman and Hall.
- Familiar Things, &c. No. III. for March.
- The Scottish Temperance Review for March.

To Readers and Correspondents.

Communications must be authenticated by the name of the writer.

The letter from CLITHERO shall receive our best attention. W. C. C.—To the first question we answer, neither; but the difference of price at which transactions are negotiated by different people. To the second question the answers, Thursday, December 25th. From the great pressure of matter, we are obliged to leave unnoticed very many communications for the present week.

The Bankers' Gazette.

BANK RETURNS AND MONEY MARKET.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

(From the Gazette.)

AN ACCOUNT, pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th Victoria, cap. 32, for the week ending on Saturday the 22nd day of Feb. 1851:—

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes issued	27,762,085	Government debt	11,015,100
		Other Securities	2,984,900
		Gold coin and bullion	13,732,418
		Silver bullion	29,667
	27,762,085		27,762,085

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' capital	14,553,000	Government Securities, including Dead Weight Annuity	14,145,696
Rest	3,273,872	Other Securities	12,135,618
Public Deposits (including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts)	7,617,014	Notes	9,049,075
Other Deposits	9,497,519	Gold and Silver Coin	673,452
Seven Day and other Bills	1,062,436		
	36,003,841		

Dated the 27th Feb 1851.

M. MARSHALL, Chief Cashier.

The above Bank accounts would, if made out in the old form, present the following result:—

Liabilities.		Assets.	
Circulation Inc. Bank post bills	19,775,445	Securities	25,728,314
Public Deposits	7,617,014	Bullion	14,435,537
Other or private Deposits	9,497,519		
	36,889,979		40,163,851

The balance of assets above liabilities being 3,273,872l, as stated in the above account under the head REST.

FRIDAY NIGHT.

The preceding accounts, compared with those of last week, exhibit,—

A decrease of Circulation of	£264,169
An increase of Public Deposits of	452,530
An increase of Other Deposits of	73,840
An increase of Securities of	247,257
A decrease of Bullion of	37,964
A decrease of Rest of	52,908
An increase of Reserve of	160,351

The present returns show that the circulation decreased 264,169l, that the public deposits increased 452,530l, that private deposits increased 73,840l, that securities increased 247,257l, the increase being wholly of private securities, that bullion decreased 37,964l, that the rest increased 52,908l, and that the reserve increased 160,351l. The variations in the account are unimportant. The public deposits again begin rapidly to accumulate, and the Bank has made advances on private securities. There is no sign in these accounts of any deficiency of money, the bullion parted with being too trifling in amount to deserve consideration.

The Money Market has undergone no alteration since last Friday. It has partaken of the great dullness that trade at present labours under, and has not been active. Comparatively little business has been done and is doing, but the terms on which money can be placed at call and bills discounted are unaltered.

There has been a considerable demand on the Stock Exchange for money, with a view to the continuations, and it has been borrowed at a rate of interest varying from 10 to 40 per cent. for a period as short as a fortnight. The Bank has advanced money on stock at 2½ per cent.

The exchanges are all better, and the inducement to export gold has entirely ceased.

For silver there is no longer an active demand. No price is offered, and a fall in its value is anticipated.

The Stock Market has been dull through the week and prices flat, the market being influenced to a slight degree by the breaking up of the Ministry. To-day, the market has been nearly stationary. The following is our list of the opening and closing prices of Consols every day of the week, and the closing price of the other principal stocks last Friday and to-day:—

	CONSOLS.		Account	
	Money	Account	Money	Account
Saturday	95½ 6	96½ 4	96½ 4	96½ 4
Monday	96½ 4	96½ 4	96½ 4	96½ 4
Tuesday	96½ 4	96½ 4	96½ 4	96½ 4
Wednesday	96½ 4	96½ 4	96½ 4	96½ 4
Thursday	96½ 4	96½ 4	96½ 4	96½ 4
Friday	96½ 4	96½ 4	96½ 4	96½ 4
	Closing prices last Friday.		Closing prices this day.	
3 percent consols, account	96½ 4	96½ 4	96½ 4	96½ 4
— money	96½ 4	96½ 4	96½ 4	96½ 4
2½ percents	98½ 4	98½ 4	98½ 4	98½ 4
8 per cent reduced	96½ 4	96½ 4	96½ 4	96½ 4
Exchequer bills, large	53s 7s	53s 7s	53s 7s	53s 7s
Bank stock	214½ 15½	214½ 15½	214½ 15½	214½ 15½
East India stock	265½ 6½	265½ 6½	265½ 6½	265½ 6½
Spanish 3 percents	37½ 8½	37½ 8½	37½ 8½	37½ 8½
Portuguese 4 percents	34 5	34 5	34 5	34 5
Mexican 5 percents	33½ 4	33½ 4	33½ 4	33½ 4
Dutch 2½ percents	58 9	58 9	58 9	58 9
— 4 percents	91 2	91 2	91 2	91 2
Russian, 4½ stock	97½ 4	97½ 4	97½ 4	97½ 4

The Railway Market has maintained much firmness, to which the loans of the Bank, on easy terms, have contributed; and business in this market has been more active than in the Stock Market. The following is our usual list of the closing prices of the principal railway shares last Friday and this day:—

	RAILWAYS.	
	Closing prices last Friday.	Closing prices this day.
Birmingham and Oxford gua.	28½ 9½	28½ 9½
Birmingham and Dudley	8½ 9½ ex div	8½ 9½ ex div
Bristol and Ex-ter	87 9	85 7 ex div
Caledonians	11½ 4	11½ 12
Eastern Counties	7 4	6½ 8
Great Northern	17½ 4	18½ 4
Great Western	90 1 ex div	90 1
Lancashire and Yorkshire	58 9	57 8
London and Blackwells	7½ 4	7½ 4 ex div
London, Brighton, & S. Coast	97½ 8½	98 9
London & North Western	133½	130½ 1½ ex div
London and South Western	89 90	88 9 ex div
Midlands	61½ 4	61½ 4 ex div
North British	94 4	94 4
North Staffordshire	7 6½ dis ex div	6½ 4 dis

	Closing prices last Friday.	Closing prices this day.
Oxford, Worcester, & Wolver.	19 1/2	19 1/2
South Eastern	25 1/2	26 1/2
South Wales	25 1/2	25 3/4
York, Newcastle, & Berwick	24 1/2	24 1/2
York and North Midland	24 1/2	24 1/2 ex div
FRENCH SHARES.		
Boulogne and Amiens	8 1/2 ex div	8 1/2
Northern of France	14 1/2	14 1/2
Paris and Rouen	25 1/2 ex div	25 1/2
Paris and Strasbourg	5 1/2 dis	5 1/2 dis
Rouen and Havre	10 1/2	10 1/2
Dutch Rhenish	4 1/2 dis	5 1/2 dis

Messrs John Raiton and Sons recommend "frequent concise periodical publications, by each railway board, as practised by the Bank of England. The interests of railway shareholders," they add, "would be further served materially by either withdrawing proxy voting entirely, to secure better attendance at half-yearly and other meetings as they occur; or, by dividing the amount of the proxies in money value amongst those shareholders who declare their intention to attend any meeting where proxies are concerned, in proportion to the capital held by such shareholders. Directors, to make their services efficient, should now devote their entire time to the best regulation of the concern to which they are attached, and which require the steadiest care, and they should of course be paid for their services. It is not to be expected that persons having important business of their own can devote that attention to the indispensable duties a well-regulated railway concern requires, and under gratuitous and occasional service only none can possibly flourish, as all past experience evinces."

All the political interest which men feel is absorbed by the condition of Ministry, and the latest report, that Lord Clarendon had been sent for, and will be empowered to form a Ministry, is hailed with much satisfaction. It is thought that he is one of the few men who would be likely to receive a sufficient amount of Parliamentary support to carry on the Government without having recourse to a dissolution, which is regarded in the present circumstances of the country as an unmixed evil. Lord Clarendon's antecedents are all in his favour. He is pledged to no extreme opinions; he has conducted his Government of Ireland admirably. At the same time he is decidedly liberal, and a decided advocate for Free Trade. As it seems quite settled that Lord John Russell's Administration is not to continue, it is thought no better man to succeed him can be found than Lord Clarendon, who would unite all the liberals of all shades of opinion in his support. At the same time Lord John Russell's services are not forgotten; his loss is spoken of with much regret, and much gratitude is expressed for what he has done. A hope prevails that the present interruption of the functions of Government will not continue, for it disturbs the ordinary business of society, and creates doubt and misgiving for the future.

FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON AT THE LATEST DATES.

	Latest Date.	Rate of Exchange on London.	
Paris	Feb. 27	225 5	3 days' sight
		24 87 1/2	1 month's date
Antwerp	— 27	125 7 1/2 to 125 5	3 days' sight
		11 77 1/2	3 days' sight
Amsterdam	— 25	14 70	2 months' date
		m. 13 4 1/2	3 days' sight
Hamburg	— 25	13 3 1/2	3 months' date
St Petersburg	— 14	38 1-16d	—
Madrid	— 21	50 60-10d	3
Lisbon	— 19	54d	3
Gibraltar	— 15	50d	3
New York	— 11	9 1/2 to 10 per cent pm	60 days' sight
		2 per cent pm	30
Jamaica	Jan. 31	1 1/2 per cent pm	60
		1 per cent pm	90
Havana	Feb. 3	8 1/2 to 9 per cent pm	90
Rio de Janeiro	Dec. 15	30d to 30 1/2d	60
Bahia	Jan. 10	20d	60
Pernambuco	Dec. 17	29 1/2d	60
Buenos Ayres	— 13	5 1/2d	60
Valparaiso	— 26	46d	90
Singapore	Jan. 6	4s 9d to 4s 10d	60 days' sight
		... to ... per cent dis	1
Ceylon	— 17	2 1/2 per cent dis	6
		...	1
Bombay	— 17	...	3
		3s 2 1/2d	6
		2s 2d to 2s 2 1/2d	8
Calcutta	— 7	...	4
		...	1
Hong Kong	Dec. 30	5s 1d to 5s 1 1/2d	6
Mauritius	Oct. 19	7 per cent dis	6
Sydney	Nov. 2	2 per cent dis	30 days' sight

INDIA EXCHANGES.

Commercial bills at 60 days' sight per Co.'s rupee.	E.I. Company's bills at 60 days' sight per Co.'s rupee.	Amount of E. I. Company's bill drawn, Feb. 7 to 23.
Bills on s d s d	s d s d	£ s d
Bengal ... 2 0 to 0 0	... 2 1 to 0 0	83,893 13 3
Madras ... 2 0 1/2	... 2 1 0 0	16,388 11 11
Bombay ... 2 1 1/2	... 2 1 1/2 0 0	7,846 9 8
Total of East India Co.'s bills, from Feb. 7 to 23		108,128 14 10
Total of do from Jan. 7 to Feb. 23		297,658 1 6
Total of do. from May 7, 1850, to Feb. 23, 1851, (East India Company's official year commencing from May 1)		2,874,399 11 1
N.B.—Bills against indents from India and shipments to India vary according to the articles drawn against.		

THE BANKERS' PRICE CURRENT.

	PRICES OF ENGLISH STOCKS					
	Sat	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri
Bank Stock, 8 per cent	215 1/2	215 1/2	214 1/2	214 1/2	214 1/2	214 1/2
3 per Cent Reduced Anns.	96 1/2	97 1/2	97 1/2	96 1/2	97	97 1/2
3 per Cent Consols Anns.	96 1/2	96 1/2	95 1/2	96 1/2	96 1/2	96 1/2
3 per Cent Anns., 1726	98 1/2	98 1/2	98 1/2	98 1/2	98 1/2	98 1/2
3 per Cent Anns.	98 1/2	98 1/2	98 1/2	98 1/2	98 1/2	98 1/2
New 5 per Cent...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Long Anns. Jan. 5, 1850	...	...	7 1/2	7 1/2	7 1/2	7 1/2
Anns. for 30 years, Oct. 10, 1859	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ditto Jan. 5, 1860	...	...	...	...	...	7 1/2
Ditto Jan. 5, 1880	...	...	...	...	...	...
India Stock, 10 1/2 per Cent	265 6	261 6	263	262	262 1/2	262
Do. Bonds, 3 1/2 per Cent 1000, 60s p	55s 7s p	55s 7s p	...	...	51s p	54s 5s p
Ditto under 1000	57s 60s p	...	...	50s p	55s p	50s 5s p
South Sea Stock, 3 1/2 per Cent	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ditto Old Anns., 3 per Cent	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ditto New Anns., 3 per Cent	...	...	...	95 1/2	...	95 1/2
3 per Cent Anns., 1751	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bank Stock for acct. Mar. 11	...	...	...	...	...	...
India Stock for acct. Mar. 11	36 1/2	96 1/2	9 1/2	96 1/2	96 1/2	96 1/2
Canada Guaranteed, 4 per Cent	...	...	...	...	...	...
Excheq. Bills, 1000 1 1/2d	49s 6s p	49s 7s p	46s 50s p	46s 50s p	46s 50s p	49s 7s p
Ditto 500	46s p	49s 7s p	46s 50s p	46s 50s p	46s 50s p	46s 50s p
Ditto Small	50s p	49s 7s p	46s 50s p	46s 50s p	46s 50s p	49s p
Ditto Advertised	...	...	46s p	...	46s p	...

COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

	Time	Tuesday.		Friday.	
		Prices negotiated on 'Change.	Prices negotiated on 'Change.	Prices negotiated on 'Change.	Prices negotiated on 'Change.
Amsterdam	short	11 15 1/2	11 16	11 16	11 16 1/2
Ditto	3 ms	11 17	11 17 1/2	11 17 1/2	11 17 1/2
Rotterdam	—	11 17 1/2	11 17 1/2	11 17 1/2	11 17 1/2
Antwerp	—	25 25	25 30	25 22 1/2	25 27 1/2
Brussels	—	25 25	25 30	25 22 1/2	25 27 1/2
Hamburg	—	13 6 1/2	13 7 1/2	13 7	13 7 1/2
Paris	short	25 6	25 5	25 2 1/2	25 7 1/2
Ditto	3 ms	25 2 1/2	25 25	25 22 1/2	25 27 1/2
Marseilles	—	25 25	25 30	25 25	25 30
Frankfort on the Main	—	11 5 1/2	11 5 1/2	11 5	11 5 1/2
Vienna	—	12 5 1/2	12 5 1/2	12 5 1/2	12 5 1/2
Trieste	—	12 5 1/2	12 5 1/2	12 5 1/2	12 5 1/2
Petersburg	—	37 1/2	37 1/2	37	37 1/2
Madrid	—	49 1/2	49 1/2	49 1/2	49 1/2
Cadiz	—	50	50 1/2	50 1/2	50 1/2
Leghorn	—	30 60	30 65	30 62 1/2	30 67 1/2
Genoa	—	25 57 1/2	25 62 1/2	25 57 1/2	25 62 1/2
Naples	—	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Palermo	—	124 1/2	125	124 1/2	125
Messina	—	124 1/2	125	124 1/2	125
Lisbon	90 ds dt	53 1/2	53 1/2	53 1/2	53 1/2
Oporto	—	53 1/2	53 1/2	53 1/2	53 1/2
Rio Janeiro	60 ds sgt	...	...	...	...
New York	—	...	...	...	...

FRENCH FUNDS.

	Paris Feb. 24	London Feb. 26	Paris Feb. 25	London Feb. 27	Paris Feb. 26	London Feb. 28
5 per Cent Rentes, div. 22	F. C.	F. C.	F. C.	F. C.	F. C.	F. C.
March and 22 Sept.	96 75	96 80	...	56 50	...	...
Exchange	...	...	...	...	...	...
3 per Cent Rentes, div. 22	...	54 0	...	57 75	...	...
June and 22 December	...	...	...	...	...	...
Exchange	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bank Shares, div. 1 January and 1 July	...	2240 0	...	2230 0	...	...
Exchange in London 1 month	...	25 0	...	25 5	...	...
Ditto 3 months	...	24 87 1/2	...	24 87 1/2	...	...

PRICES OF FOREIGN STOCKS

	Sat	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri
Brazilian Bonds, 5 per cent	92 1/2	...	93	...	92	92 1/2
Ditto New, 5 per cent, 1829 and 1839	...	...	...	...	...	91 3/4
Ditto New, 1843	...	...	...	...	...	...
Buenos Ayres Bonds, 6 per cent	54 1/2	...	...	54 1/2	53	53 5/8
Cuba Bonds, 6 per cent	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chilian Bonds, 6 per cent	...	...	...	...	...	105 7/8
Ditto 3 per cent	...	65	...	...	...	...
Danish Bonds, 3 per cent, 1825	77 1/2	...	...	...	...	78 80
Ditto 5 per cent Bonds	102 1/2	...	103 1/2	103 1/2	...	102 4
Dutch 2 1/2 per cent. Exchange 12 guilders	...	...	...	...	...	...
Equador Bonds	3 1/2	...	...	3 1/2	...	...
Grenada Bonds, 1 1/2 per Cent	17 1/2	...	...	...	...	...
Ditto Deferred	3 1/2	3 1/2	4	4	...	...
Greek Bonds, 1824 and 1825	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ditto ex over-due coupons	...	...	...	...	...	...
Guatemala	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mexican 5 per cent, 1846, ex Jan. coupons	33 1/2	33 1/2	33 1/2	33 1/2	23 1/2	33 1/2
Peruvian Bonds, 4 1/2 per cent, 1849	80	8 1/2	81 1/2	82 1/2	82 1/2	82 1/2
Ditto Deferred	35 1/2	35 1/2	35 1/2	37 1/2	37 1/2	37 1/2
Portuguese Bonds, 5 per cent	87 1/2	...	88 1/2	...	...	...
Ditto 5 per cent converted, 1841	...	35 1/2	...	...	...	...
Ditto 4 per cent	...	33 1/2	...	34	33 1/2	33 1/2
Ditto 3 per cent, 1848	...	...	...	...	...	...
Russian Bonds, 1822, 5 per cent, in Sterling	...	...	113 1/2	...	114	114 1/2
Ditto 4 1/2 per cent	96 1/2	97 1/2	97 1/2	...	97 1/2	97 1/2
Spanish Bonds, 5 per cent div. from Nov. 1840	19 1/2	19 1/2	20	20 1/2	20 1/2	19 1/2
Ditto ditto ditto 1846	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ditto ditto ditto 1847	...	14 1/2	...	...	...	...
Ditto Coupons	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ditto Passive Bonds	...	4 1/2	4 1/2	5	4 1/2	...
Ditto 3 per cent Spanish Bonds	...	38	38 1/2	37 1/2	37 1/2	37 1/2
Venezuela 2 1/2 per cent Bonds	...	31	30	...	...	...
Ditto Deferred	...	11 1/2	11 1/2	11 1/2	12	...
Dividends on the above payable in London.						
Austrian Bonds, 5 per cent, 10 gu. p. £ st.	...	76 1/2	...	...	...	...
Belgian Scrip, 2 1/2 per cent	...	...	...	...	...	48 50
Ditto Bonds, 4 1/2 per cent	...	...	...	...	...	91 1/2
Ditto, 5 per cent	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dutch 2 1/2 per cent, Exchange 12 guilders	...	58 1/2	58 1/2	58 1/2	58 1/2	58 1/2
Ditto 4 per cent Certificates	91 1/2	91 1/2	91 1/2	91 1/2	91 1/2	91 1/2
Ditto 4 per cent Bonds	...	...	...	...	...	...

LATEST PRICES OF AMERICAN STOCKS.

	Payable.	Amount in Dollars.	Dividends.	London Prices Feb 28	Amer. Prices Feb. 4
United States Bonds	5 cent	1868	65,000,000	Jan. and July	108 1/2 9:20
— Certificates	6	1862	—	—	113
—	6	1867-8	—	—	104 1/2 5 116
Alabama	Sterling 5	1858	9,000,000	—	90
Indiana	4	1861	5,600,000	—	76 7 84
—	2 1/2	1861-6	2,000,000	—	33 1/2 44
— Canal, Preferred	5	1861-6	4,500,000	—	44
— Special do	5	1861-6	1,300,000	—	18
Illinois	6	1870	10,000,000	—	66
Kentucky	6	1868	4,230,000	—	102 1/2
Louisiana	Sterling 5	1850	7,000,000	Feb. and Aug.	96 xd 95
—	5	1852	—	—	—
Maryland	Sterling 5	1838	3,000,000	Jan. and July	88 1/2
Massachusetts	Sterling 5	1868	3,000,000	April and Oct.	105 1/2
Michigan	6	1863	5,000,000	Jan. and July	—
Mississippi	6	1861	2,000,000	May and Nov.	—
—	6	1871	—	—	—
—	5	1850-8	5,000,000	Mar. and Sept.	—
New York	5	1860	13,124,270	Quarterly	94
Ohio	6	1870	19,000,000	Jan. and July	106
Pennsylvania	5	1851-70	41,000,000	Feb. and Aug.	84 6 94 xd
South Carolina	5	1866	3,000,000	Jan. and July	89
Tennessee	6	1868	3,000,000	—	—
Virginia	6	1857	7,000,000	—	—
United States Bank Shares	—	1866	35,000,000	—	2 1/2
Louisiana State Bank	10	1870	2,000,000	—	—
Bank of Louisiana	8	1870	4,000,000	—	—
New York City	5	1860	9,600,000	Quarterly	93 xd
—	5	1856	—	—	—
New Orleans City	5	1863	1,500,000	Jan. and July	16 1/2
— Canal and Banking	6	1863	—	—	—
Camden & Amboy R. R.	6	1864	£225,000	Feb. and Aug.	92 1/2 xd
City of Boston	—	1864	—	—	—

Exchange at New York 110 1/4.

INSURANCE COMPANIES.

No. of shares.	Dividend	Names.	Shares.	Paid.	Price pr. share
2,000	3/10s	Albion	500	50 0 0	85
50,000	7/14s & 6/8s	Alliance British and Foreign	109	11 0 0	—
50,000	6/1 p c & 5/8s	Do. Marine	23	5 0 0	—
24,000	13s 6d & 6s	Atlas	50	5 10 0	17 1/2
8,000	4/1 p cent	Argus Life	100	16 0 0	—
12,000	7s 6d	British Commercial	50	5 0 0	7 1/2
5,000	5/1 p c & 5/8s	Clerical, Medical, and General Life	100	10 0 0	20
4,000	4/1	County	100	10 0 0	86
—	14s	Crown	50	5 0 0	15
20,000	5s	Eagle	50	5 0 0	6 1/2
4,651	10s	European Life	20	20 0 0	11 1/2
—	—	General	—	5 0 0	5 1/2
1,000,000	6/1 p cent	Globe	Stk.	—	135 1/2
20,000	5/1 & 5/8s	Guardian	100	45 0 0	56
2,400	12/1 p cent	Imperial Fire	500	50 0 0	245
7,500	12s	Imperial Life	100	10 0 0	18 1/2
13,453	17s 6d & 5/8s	Indemnity Marine	100	20 0 0	47 1/2
50,000	—	Law Fire	100	2 10 0	25
10,000	11/16	Law Life	100	10 0 0	45 1/2 6
20,000	—	Legal and General Life	50	2 0 0	4 1/2
3,900	10s	London Fire	25	12 10 0	17 1/2
31,000	10s	London Ship	25	12 10 0	17 1/2
10,000	15s p sh	Marine	100	15 0 0	6 1/2
10,000	4/1 p cent	Medical, Invalid, and General Life	50	2 0 0	2 1/2
25,000	5/1 p cent	National Loan Fund	20	2 10 0	24 1/2
5,000	8/1 p cent	National Life	100	5 0 0	—
30,000	5/1 p cent	Palladium Life	50	2 0 0	2 1/2
—	—	Pelican	—	—	—
—	3/1 p sh & 5/8s	Phoenix	—	—	155
2,500	11/16 & 5/8s	Provident Life	100	10 0 0	30
200,000	5s	Rock Life	5	0 10 0	6 1/2
689,220	6/1 p c & 5/8s	Royal Exchange	Stk.	—	215
—	6 1/2	Sun Fire	—	—	209
4,000	17/6s	Do. Life	—	—	48
25,000	4/1 p c & 5/8s	United Kingdom	20	4 0 0	34
5,000	10 1/2 p c & 5/8s	Universal Life	100	10 0 0	—
—	5/1 p cent	Victoria Life	—	4 12 6	5

JOINT STOCK BANKS.

No. of shares.	Dividends per annum	Names.	Shares	Paid	Price pr share
22,500	4/1 per ct	Australasia	40	40 0 0	—
20,000	5/1 per ct	British North American	50	50 0 0	—
5,000	7/1 per ct	Ceylon	25	25 0 0	—
20,000	2/1 per ct	Colonial	100	25 0 0	—
—	6/8 & 7/8d	Commercial of London	100	20 0 0	—
10,000	6/1 per ct	London and County	50	10 0 0	—
60,000	6/8 & 7/8d	London Joint Stock	50	10 0 0	—
50,000	6/1 per ct	London and Westminster	100	20 0 0	17 1/2
10,000	6/1 per ct	National Provincial of England	100	35 0 0	—
10,000	6/1 per ct	— New	50	10 0 0	—
20,000	5/1 per ct	National of Ireland	50	22 10 0	—
20,000	8/1 per ct	Provincial of Ireland	100	25 0 0	—
4,000	8/1 per ct	— New	10	10 0 0	—
12,000	15/1 per ct	Gloucestershire	—	—	—
4,000	6/1 per ct	Ionian	—	—	—
—	6/1 per ct	South Australia	25	25 0 0	—
20,000	6/1 & 5/8s	Union of Australia	25	25 0 0	—
8,000	6/1 per ct	— Ditto	—	2 10 0	3 1/2
60,000	6/1 per ct	Union of London	50	10 0 0	—
15,000	—	Union of Madrid	40	40 0 0	—

DOCKS.

No. of shares	Dividend per annum	Names.	Shares	Paid.	Price pr share
815,400	4 p cent	Commercial	Stk.	—	84
2,066,687	6 p cent	East and West India	Stk.	—	142
1,038	12 p sh	East Country	100	—	—
3,638,310	5 p cent	London	Stk.	—	116 1/2 15 1/2
300,000	3 1/2 p cent	— Ditto Bonds	—	—	—
1,352,752	3 1/2 p cent	St Katharine	Stk.	—	7 1/2
500,000	4 1/2 p cent	— Ditto Bonds	—	—	—
7,000	2 p cent	Southampton	50	50 0 0	14

COMPARATIVE EXCHANGES.

The quotation of gold at Paris is about 3 per mille discount, which, at the English mint price of 3/17s 10 1/2d per ounce for standard gold, gives an exchange of 25-10; and the exchange at Paris on London at short being 13-5 1/2, it follows that gold is 0-20 per cent dearer in Paris than in London.

By advices from Hamburg the price of gold is 423 1/2 per mark, which, at the English mint price of 3/17s 10 1/2d per ounce for standard gold, gives an exchange of 13-4 1/2; and the exchange at Hamburg on London at short being 13-5 1/2, it follows that gold is 0-53 per cent dearer in London than in Hamburg.

The course of exchange at New York on London for bills at 60 days' sight is 110 per cent; and the par of exchange between England and America being 109 23-40 per cent, it follows that the exchange is nominally 0-42 per cent in favour of England; but, after making allowance for difference of interest and charges of transport, the present rate yields no profit on the importation of gold from the United States.

The Commercial Times.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC.—GENERAL POST-OFFICE.—On and after the 1st of March next printed books, magazines, reviews, and pamphlets (whether British, colonial, or foreign), may be transmitted by the post between the United Kingdom and the British West Indies, Bermuda, Newfoundland, Hong-Kong (via Southampton), Malta (ditto), Gibraltar (ditto), at the following reduced rates of postage, viz. :—

For each packet not exceeding 1/2 lb in weight	0 6
Ditto exceeding 1/2 lb and not exceeding 1 lb	1 0
Ditto exceeding 1 lb and not exceeding 2 lb	2 0
Ditto exceeding 2 lb and not exceeding 3 lb	3 0

and so on, increasing 1s for every additional pound or fraction of a pound. Provided, however, that the following conditions be carefully observed :—1. Every such packet must be sent without a cover or in a cover open at the ends or sides. 2. It must contain a single volume only (whether printed book, magazine, review, or pamphlet), the several sheets or parts thereof, where there are more than one, being sewed or bound together. 3. It must not exceed two feet in length, breadth, width, or depth. 4. It must have no writing or marks upon the cover, or its contents, except the name and address of the person to whom it may be sent. 5. The postage must be prepaid in full, by affixing outside the packet or its cover the proper number of stamps. If any of the above conditions be violated, the packet must be charged as a letter, and treated as such in all respects. To prevent any obstacles to the regular transmission of letters, any officer of the post-office may delay the transmission of any such packet for a time not exceeding 24 hours from the time at which the same would otherwise have been forwarded by him. These instructions are not to extend to, or interfere with, the transmission of printed votes and proceedings of Parliament, or of printed papers allowed to pass by the post under the newspaper privilege, all of which will continue subject to the existing regulations.

Mails Arrived.

LATEST DATES.

On 24th Feb., PENINSULAR, per *Exeter* steamer, via Southampton—Gibraltar, Fe 7 1/2; Cadiz, 16; Lisbon, 19; Oporto, 20; Vigo, 20.
On 24th Feb., AMERICA, per *Canada* steamer, via Liverpool—Montreal, Feb. 9; Fredericton, 10; St John's, N.B., 11; New York, 11; Boston, 12; Halifax, 14.
On 24th Feb., CALIFORNIA, Jan. 2, via United States.
On 21th Feb., VALPARAISO, Jan. 2, via United States.
On 24th Feb., HAVANA, Feb. 3, via United States.
On 24th Feb., MEXICO, Jan. 16, via United States.
On 24th Feb., JAMAICA, Jan. 31, via United States.
On 26th Feb., WEST INDIES and PACIFIC, per *Medway* steamer, via Southampton—Grey Town, Jan. 17; Chagres, 25; Cathagena, 27; Honduras, 18; Havana, 23; Jamaica, 27; Hayti, 28; Demerara, 29; Trinidad, 31; Porto Rico, 31; Barbadoes, Feb. 1; Martinique, 2; Antigua, 3; St Thomas, 4; Valparaiso, Dec. 26; Cobija, 30; Lima, Jan. 8; Callao, 9; Guayaquil, 14; New Grenada, 17; Panama, 20.

Mails will be Despatched

FROM LONDON

On 1st March (evening), for WEST INDIES, MEXICO, VENEZUELA, and CALIFORNIA (Cuba, Honduras, Nassau, Chili, and Peru excepted; mails to these places on the 17th of each month only), per *Trent* steamer, via Southampton.
On 7th March (morning), for VIGO, OPORTO, LISBON, CADIZ, and GIBRALTAR, per steamer, via Southampton.
On 7th March (evening), for the MEDITERRANEAN, EGYPT, and INDIA, via Marseilles.
On 7th March (evening), for AMERICA, per *Arctic* steamer, via Liverpool and New York.
On 10th March (morning), for PORTUGAL, MADEIRA, CAPE DE VERD ISLANDS, BRAZIL, and RIVER PLATE, per steamer, via Southampton.

Mails Due.

FEB. 24.—Brazil and Buenos Ayres.
MARCH 3, via Marseilles.—Malta, Greece, Ionian Islands, Syria, Egypt, and India.
MARCH 5.—West Indies.
MARCH 5.—Mexico.
MARCH 5.—Western Coast of South America (Chili, Peru, &c.)
MARCH 8.—Spain, Portugal, and Gibraltar.
MARCH 13.—America.
MARCH 20.—Havana, Honduras, and Nassau.
MARCH 23, via Marseilles.—China, Singapore, and Straits.

WEEKLY CORN RETURNS.

From the Gazette of last night.

	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Rye.	Beans.	Peas.
Sold.....qr	78,215	71,327	31,902	47	6,438	1,763
Weekly average, Feb. 22.....	37 2	22 10	15 11	23 8	25 4	27 1
— 15.....	37 8	22 11	16 2	23 10	25 5	26 10
— 8.....	38 1	22 10	16 9	23 11	25 10	26 0
— 1.....	37 10	22 9	16 7	22 7	25 11	26 6
— Jan. 25.....	38 0	22 7	16 7	23 2	26 4	27 5
— 18.....	38 0	22 8	16 9	24 8	26 7	26 11
Six weeks' average.....	37 9	22 9	16 5	23 8	25 11	26 9
Same time last year.....	39 1	24 11	15 6	22 1	25 6	27 0
Duties.....	1 0	1 0	1 0	1 0	1 0	1 0

GRAIN IMPORTED.

An account of the total quantities of each kind of corn, distinguishing foreign and colonial, imported into the principal ports of Great Britain, viz:—London, Liverpool, Hull, Newcastle, Bristol, Gloucester, Plymouth, Leith, Glasgow, Dundee and Perth, In the week ending Feb. 19, 1851.

	Wheat and wheat flour	Barley and barley-meal	Oats and oatmeal	Rye and rye-meal	Peas and pea-meal	Beans & bean-meal	Indian corn and Indian-meal	Buck wheat & buck-wheat meal
Foreign ...	qrs 68,420	qrs 10,863	qrs 4,377	...	qrs 1,712	qrs 4,497	qrs 2,631	...
Colonial ...	31	1	...	...	1	...	...	...
Total ...	68,521	10,864	4,377	...	1,713	4,497	2,631	...

Total imports of the week 92,405 qrs.

COMMERCIAL EPITOME.

FRIDAY NIGHT.

The Corn Market continues dull, though the supplies have not been large. On Monday the price of wheat fell from one to two shillings. Large arrivals, however, are reported at Cork and Falmouth of vessels with grain from the Mediterranean, some of which have made very quick passages. Others have been long ago announced, and the expectation of their arrival has hung heavily over the market. With our present prices it is supposed these cargoes will return the importers no profit. Comparing prices in France with prices here, it does not seem that importation can pay at present, and it is confidently asserted that France has no more corn to spare, yet the markets do not rise in France. From the United States we learn that a dull feeling has pervaded the grain markets there since the beginning of the year. "With heavy, if not declining, markets," say Messrs Roberts Brothers, brokers at New York, "on the other side, and the steady maintenance here of prices at least 10 per cent. above those current in Liverpool, shippers have altogether retired from the market, and the very limited quantities cleared during the past fortnight show the languid state of the export trade. Some of the packet ships have had to take in ballast to complete their loading, and others have gone to southern ports."

With reference to the corn trade in France, the "Bankers' Magazine" for March has the following remarks:—

"We have before us at this moment an official paper in the *Moniteur*, in the form of a report, dated the 8th of February, 1851, from General Randon, the French Minister of War, to the President of the Republic, relative to the re-establishment of a system discontinued some years ago, for the purchase by the State of all the corn consumed by the army. The object of the report is to point out, that in consequence of the present most unusual cheapness of corn in France a large supply can be bought on decidedly advantageous terms; and that, to some extent at least, the absorption of so considerable a quantity of corn from an overstocked market will be a measure of relief to the agricultural interests of France, who complain loudly of the depreciation of their produce. The President of the Republic has confirmed the recommendations of the report, and ordered that they shall take effect from the 1st of April, 1851. The report says:—'According to the regulating table recently published by the Minister of Agriculture and Commerce, the general average price of the hectolitre (equal to 2.7512 imperial bushels) of wheat for the whole territory of France, which exceeded 14f on the 31st of December, 1850, had fallen to 13.78 on the 31st January, 1851. Compared with the general averages of all the years which have elapsed since the price of corn has been officially ascertained, in pursuance of the law of 1797, the present price of 13.78 is the lowest of all, not even excepting the average of 1809 (14f 86c) which was the lowest price of the last 53 years.'"

Let our farmers not forget that the French farmers have protection, and that protection cannot guard them against the effects of a succession of good harvests which has occurred in France; but it has the effect, by checking exportation at an early period, of enhancing the injurious effects to the producer of continued abundance.

From Rotterdam we learn that the Government of the Netherlands is about to submit a proposition to the Chambers for modifying the Corn Laws. The subject was to have been taken in hand before the close of the Parliament last year, but an opportunity was not found to carry the design into effect. What the modifications are to be are not announced, but they will give additional freedom to trade.

The Colonial Produce Markets are all dull, partly in consequence of the unsettled state of political affairs. The price of sugar, however, remains very firm. From Porto Rico we are informed, under date Jan. 28, that the first purchases of the sugar crop had been made at 3½ dols for good, and 3 dols for the lowest description, which is equal to about 17s 4d and 14s 10d per cwt, free on board, exclusive of freight. Freights are from 2l 10s to 2l 15s per ton. Several American vessels were waiting for cargoes.

In coffee there is nothing doing, all sales being paralysed by the announced and suspended alteration in the coffee duties.

In the tea market the feeling has improved, and the prices of common congou, for which there has been a demand, is in favour of the seller.

Cotton has sold this week at an increase of ½d per lb, and about 2,000 bags of Surat have changed hands. The circular of Mr Wm Mure, dated Orleans, February 1, says, with respect to the consumption of cotton in the United States, "The consumption of the mills in this country, north of Virginia, will be at least 15 per cent. less than the reduced consumption of last year, which was 487,000 bales, whilst the consumption of the mills in the Middle and Western States, which are principally employed in the manufacture of the coarser fabrics, will be at least 30 per cent. less than last year. Under these circumstances it is not an unnatural inference to anticipate that the exports to Europe from this country will be fully 250,000 bales more than those of last year."

The colonial wool sales terminated on Wednesday.

"The attendance of buyers," says Messrs D. Hazard and Son, "was not quite so large as on former occasions, but the spirited biddings, and the prices paid throughout, have established the firmness which has so long ruled in the market."

"The qualities and condition of the wools were much as usual, and we notice with pleasure an increased improvement in several flocks from the Cape of Good Hope, particularly among those from Table Bay, many of which are of very superior quality and in high condition, and were consequently rewarded by proportionate high prices."

Messrs Bradbury and Cook state in their circular that the quantity sold was 22,513 bales, and they add:—

"The unprecedented large quantity of second-hand wool, in an unsightly state, with which these sales have been heavily loaded, and to which staplers would not give their attention, coupled with anticipations of political changes that might unsettle and retard trade, have altogether had the effect of making the biddings lag much, and ultimately on some descriptions causing a reduction of 1d per lb, chiefly on Sydney wool, of which there has been a comparatively large supply, containing much burry and inferior wool."

"There has been no reduction upon Port Phillip wool that contained any combing, and the same remark applies to Van Dieman's Land wool."

"Cape wools, though next in quantity to Sydney, and comprising much that had been bought in previous sales, were in good demand, and went ½d higher than at last sales."

"There has been less competition for lambs' wool than usual, and the supply being large, prices have not ranged any higher than in September."

"Scoured wools have also been plentiful, but we can not perceive any variation from November prices."

"The imports here of colonial wool from 25th February, 1850, to this date, have amounted to 156,143 bales, the sales during the same period to 163,119 bales."

The Government contract for 6,000 tierces of pork was taken yesterday at an advance of about 30s per tierce over the previous contract in September last. The bulk of it is taken by Hamburg curers.

INDIGO.

The business in this article during the present week has been confined to purchases of no great extent, for actual wants. Full February sales' rates have readily been submitted to.

EXPORTS FROM THE PORT OF HULL.

From 1st January to 19th February, 1851, and the corresponding period in 1850. (Extracted from the Customs Bill of Entry.)

To—	Cotton Twist		Worsted Yarn.		Other Yarns & Threads		Cotton Goods		Wool-lens Goods		Other Piece Goods		Cotton Wool	
	1850	1851	1850	1851	1850	1851	1850	1851	1850	1851	1850	1851	1850	1851
Petersburg...pkgs.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hamburg.....	230	1769	254	584	199	545	1160	1400	523	571	181	216	169	1857
Bremen.....	20	...	...	...	1	1	12	...	3	3	36	...	65	...
Antwerp.....	1247	541	518	114	294	146	290	113	364	127	60	51	80	1598
Rotterdam.....	1551	1157	54	103	83	158	625	841	193	225	57	56	45	399
Amsterdam.....	29	54	6	6	17	19	170	223	50	68	8	8	...	...
Zwolle.....	96	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...
Kampen.....	170	129	2	3	2	4	17	35	3	3	...	...	...	...
Leer.....	504	152	...	...	5	2	3	4	4	10	1	1	...	25
Denmk, Swed., &c.	8	37	...	1	12	4	19	5	6	77	12	28	...	101
Other Euro. Ports	...	122	4	...	...	26	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
All other parts	303	...	...	...	10	199	141	...	5	...	43	...	...	...
Total.....	6236	3572	838	811	617	915	2495	2767	1147	1089	356	404	359	3983

—Messrs Brownlow, Pearson, and Co's Circular.

MARKETS OF THE MANUFACTURING DISTRICTS.

MANCHESTER, THURSDAY EVENING, FEB. 27, 1850.

(From our own Correspondent.)

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF THE COTTON TRADE.

Since our last report, a fair amount of business has been done in both yarn and cloth, at the full prices of last week; but it is quite evident that transactions would have been of a larger extent had there been no ministerial crises to occupy the minds of all parties. Who are to form the new ministry is the only thing speculated upon, and certainly during the whole of this week there has been no want of matter in the shape of telegraphic communications to excite speculation upon what the next will announce.

In yarn the chief transactions have been for India, our home trade, and Germany. The descriptions of cloth in best demand are those suitable for our Eastern markets and South America. Our home trade printers are also buying rather more freely, but they still complain of a great want of demand for prints.

The news received from America per last steamer respecting cotton has given the holders of cotton more confidence, and, as a matter of course, the same feeling is communicated to this market.

	Price Feb. 27, 1851.	Price Feb. 1850.	Price Feb. 1849.	Price Feb. 1848.	Price Feb. 1847.	Price Feb. 1846.
RAW COTTON:—						
Upland fair.....per lb	0 7	0 6	0 4	0 5	0 6	0 4
Ditto good fair	0 7	0 7	0 4	0 5	0 7	0 4
Pernambuco fair	0 8	0 6	0 5	0 6	0 7	0 6
Ditto good fair	0 8	0 7	0 5	0 6	0 8	0 6
No. 40 MULE YARN, fair, 2d qual.....	0 11	0 10	0 8	0 8	0 9	0 10
No. 30 WATER do do	0 10	0 9	0 8	0 8	0 9	0 9
26-in., 66 reed, Printer, 29yds, 4lbs 2oz	4 9	5 1	4 7	4 2	4 7	4 8
27-in., 72 reed, do, do, 5lbs 2oz	5 9	6 3	5 4	5 0	5 9	5 7
39-in., 60 reed, Gold End Shirtings, 37						
yds, 8lbs 4oz	9 0	8 9	7 9	7 6	8 3	8 0
40-in., 66 reed, do, do, do, 8lbs 12oz	10 3	9 9	8 3	8 0	9 0	8 7
40-in., 72 reed, do, do, do, 9lbs 4oz...	11 1	10 6	9 0	8 9	10 1	9 7
39-in., 48 reed, Red End Long Cloth						
36 yds, 9lbs.....	8 7	7 7	6 9	7 4	8 0	7 6

BRADFORD, Feb. 27.—In wools there is not any change from the long dull period we have had to observe, and the unexpected break-up of the industry has had the effect of diverting the attention of the spinners to political matters. Noils and brokes are still produced in such small quantities that there is a ready sale for them as made at full prices. The only consideration the yarn spinners have now to attend to, is to see with how little loss they can conduct their business. The prices of the raw material, and the cost of labour have kept up amazingly; for while the margin between tops and yarns is as near as at any previous period, wages have been reduced little or any. How long this state of things is to continue, time only will show, but we fear that, if of long duration, many serious disasters must follow. There is rather more doing in the merchants' piece warehouses, than a month ago, but as this had been previously provided for, it does not extend to increased activity in the Grey market, of which the manufacturers complain loudly.

LEEDS, Feb. 25.—The markets at the Cloth halls have been flat, both on Saturday and to-day, and the woollen trade generally is rather dull. There is no change worth notice in prices.

Huddersfield, Feb. 25.—We have had a very flat market to-day in the woollen trade, although the delivery of goods has been pretty large, but chiefly to order. There is nothing of any importance in the wool trade since our last, though it is generally thought that there is a slight deviation of price.

Macclesfield, Feb. 25.—We have no change to notice in the manufactured goods trade since last week; business remaining quite as dull as reported for some time past. Now, however, that the public sales have taken place, and their result is known, we may confidently expect that business will be done. At length some of the smaller commission-throwing concerns have been compelled to close; it being impossible for them to obtain work in the present flat state of the thrown silk trade. At the public sales held in London last week very little silk was bought; buyers, for the most part, purchasing by private contract.

HALIFAX, Feb. 22.—There was about an average attendance in our Piece-hall to-day, but rather more flatness was observable. The chief inquiry was for lastings of low quality, and for some descriptions of mixtures, also of low quality. For the finer fabrics there is very little demand. Of yarn and wool we have only to say that there is much indisposition to purchase; and the markets are consequently in a very languid state.

CORN.

LONDON MARKETS.

STATE OF THE CORN TRADE FOR THE WEEK.

MARK LANE, FRIDAY MORNING.
The supply of English wheat at Mark Lane last Monday was a very short one; a few samples were in improved condition, and these met a steady sale at fully as much money, whilst other sorts were taken off slowly, and in some instances at a decline of 1s per qr. The imports of foreign wheat were only moderate, the demand for which was confined to small quantities for immediate use, which realised previous rates; the quantity reported consisted of 1,550 qrs from Ancona, 173 qrs from Antwerp, 1,000 qrs from Bari, 1,900 qrs from Constantinople, 4,800 qrs from Odessa, 370 qrs from Rotterdam, and 143 qrs from Taganrog, making a total of 9,336 qrs. The arrivals of flour were 2,697 sacks coastwise, 4,523 sacks by the Eastern Counties Railway, with 7,164 sacks and 2,990 barrels foreign; for the best marks and brands a fair sale took place without any quotable variation in their value. The best malting barley was quite as dear and in good request; secondary sorts were taken slowly on much the same terms as the previous week. The sales of beans and peas were to a fair extent, and good dry parcels brought former quotations, particularly if adapted and fine enough for sowing. The arrivals of oats were on the whole moderately good; 995 qrs from our own coast, 2,911 qrs from Scotland, 2,100 qrs from Ireland, with 6,181 qrs foreign, the latter principally from France; all useful qualities were in fair request, and commanded as much money from the consumers.

The imports at Liverpool on Tuesday were good of flour, but limited of other articles. Fine new wheat supported prices, but the trade was dull, and all other sorts were 1d and 2d per 70 lbs lower: average, 39s on 301 qrs. Flour received 1s per sack for French, and 6d per barrel for American.

The imports of all grain at Hull were moderate, but the deliveries of wheat from the farmers were good, and the sales effected were at former rates: average, 35s 11d on 1,112 qrs.

The arrivals at Leeds were moderate; fine wheat sold steadily at barely as much money, whilst inferior parcels declined 1s per qr: average, 36d 1d on 1,474 qrs.

There were very limited fresh arrivals of wheat at Mark Lane on Wednesday, but a good import of foreign flour, with a moderate supply of other articles: there was no change in the value of wheat, and not many sales were effected. Barley was quite firm, and good malting qualities in request. Oats were taken by the consumers at Monday's currency.

The averages announced on Thursday were:—37s 2d on 78,216 qrs wheat; 22s 10d on 71,323 qrs barley; 23s 8d on 47 qrs rye; 15s 11d on 21,903 qrs oats; 25s 4d on 6,498 qrs beans; 27s 6d on 1,764 qrs peas.

The Scotch markets held during the week have been well supplied, and

prices have tended downwards generally, notwithstanding the condition of the samples of wheat offering had somewhat improved. At Edinburgh home-grown sold slowly: average, 37s 3d on 960 qrs. At Glasgow the imports of French flour were to a fair extent, sales of which were limited and in favour of the buyer as to price, which was also the case with wheat.

Birmingham market was shortly supplied with wheat; prices were unaltered for fine qualities: average, 38s 10d on 843 qrs.

There was a limited quantity brought forward at Bristol, and the millers took it off very slowly at previous prices: average, 36s 11d on 341 qrs.

The deliveries of wheat at Newbury were small, and trade was steady without change in value: average, 39s 3d.

At Uxbridge a falling off in the delivery of wheat took place, yet prices were the same as last week: average, 43s 8d on 547 qrs.

The fresh arrivals of English wheat at Mark Lane on Friday were quite moderate. There was a fair quantity of barley and oats from our own coast, and a few cargoes of the latter article from Ireland; but there has been a great falling off in the imports of foreign wheat and barley, with, however, a moderate addition of oats and good arrival of French flour.

Several vessels have arrived at Falmouth with wheat from Odessa, but the quality this season does not give the usual satisfaction of this article from thence; and such a circumstance, combined with the dull state of the English markets, tends to keep buyers of floating cargoes aloof. Prices range about 32s to 33s per qr for useful quality, cost, freight, and insurance included.

The few parcels of English wheat on sale this morning were taken by the town millers at Monday's currency, and the demand for foreign was limited, but it was not offered lower. Fine barley was rather dearer, and in fair request. Oats were in moderate demand to the consumers and supported prices.

The London averages announced this day were,—

	Qrs.	s	d
Wheat.....	1,640	at 39	10
Barley.....	2,115	24	0
Oats.....	7,353	17	0
Rye.....	...	...	...
Beans.....	917	24	7
Peas.....	384	26	2

	Arrivals this Week.				Flour.
	Wheat.	Barley.	Malt.	Oats.	
English.....	3,030	3,070	4,710	2,960	3,550 sacks
Irish.....	...	...	...	3,540	...
Foreign.....	900	1,830	...	8,140	{ 4,550 sacks ... bris

PRICES CURRENT OF CORN, &c.

BRITISH AND IRISH.		Per quarter.	
Wheat...Essex, Kent, and Suffolk, red, new	38 42	Old	40 44
Do do white do	40 48	Do	44 45
Norfolk and Lincolnshire, red do	36 42	Do	40 44
Northumberland & Scotch do	...	Do	44 45
Rye...Old.....	23s 26s	New	24 25
Barley...Grinding.....	19 21	Distilling	22 23
Malt...Brown.....	42 45	Faleship	48 53
Beans...New large ticks	24 26	Harrow	27 29
Do Old do	28 30	Do	29 31
Peas...Grey.....	27 28	Maple	28 29
White, old.....	26 27	Boilers	28 20
Oats...Lincoln & Yorks feed	17 18	Short small	19 20
Scotch, Angus.....	19 22	Potato	22 24
Irish, Cork, Waterford, and Youghal, black	15 17	New	15 17
Do, Galway 14s 16s, Dublin & Wexford feed	18 19	Potato	19 21
Do, Limerick, Sligo, and Westport	19 20	Fine	20 21
Do, Newry, Dundalk, and Londonderry	18 19	Do	20 21
Flour...Irish, per sack 30s 31s, Norfolk, &c.	27 29	Town	33 40
Tares...Old feeding.....	24 25	Winter	32 34

FOREIGN.

Wheat...Danzig, Konigsberg, high mixed and white	45 50
Do do mixed and red	43 46
Pomeranian, Mecklenburg, marks, red	41 46
Silesian, white	39 44
Danish, Holstein, and Friesland, do	38 40
Do do, red	35 40
Russian, hard.....	36s 37s
French, red	38 41
Canadian, red.....	41 42
Italian and Tuscan, do	41 43
Egyptian.....	25 28
Malze...Yellow.....	58 30
Barley...Grinding.....	18 20
Beans...Ticks.....	24 26
Peas...White.....	25 28
Oats...Dutch brew and thick	20 21
Russian feed.....	18 19
Danish, Mecklenburg, and Friesland feed	16 18
Flour...Danzig, per barrel 21s 22s, American	21 23
Tares...Large Gore 3s 36s, old 23s 25s, new	26 30

SEEDS.

Linsed...Per qr rushing, Baltic 44s 48s, Odessa	46s 48s	Sowing	64 68
Rapeseed...Per last do foreign 24s 25s, English	23s 25s	Fine new	26s 27s
Hempseed...Per qr large	35 36	Small	30 32
Canaryseed...Per qr 45s 48s	30 33	Trefoil	16 20
Mustardseed...Per bushel, brown	8 12	White	6 8
Cloverseed...Per cwt English whitew	38 54	Red	40 60
— Foreign do	30 52	Do	34 50
Trefoil...English do	16 20	Choice	21 22
Linsed cake, foreign	Per ton 6l 6s to 8l 0s, English per M	8l 0s to 8l 10s	
Rape do	4l 0s to 4l 4s, Do per ton	4l 6s to 4l 4s	

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL PRODUCE MARKETS.

TRANSACTIONS OF THE WEEK.
(For Report of This Day's Markets see "Postscript.")

MINCING LANE, FRIDAY MORNING.

SUGAR.—There has not been any improvement in the demand, and prices have undergone no material alteration during the week, buyers awaiting the large public sales of this day. A moderate amount of business has been done in the West India market, at last week's rates. 191 casks Barbadoes sold steadily from 41s to 44s for middling to good yellow. The present quotations of sugar are not generally more than 1s lower than at commencement of the year, excepting for inferior and soft descriptions. The deliveries for consumption continue steady. The stock on 22nd inst. was 52,002 tons, against 78,600 tons at corresponding date in 1850.

Mauitius — 4,416 bags submitted on Tuesday were chiefly sold at steady prices, as follows:—Fine grocery, 43s; low to good, 38s 6d to 42s; good brown, 37s to 38s; low to middling, 29s to 35s per cwt. The stock is reduced to 3,404 tons, against 9,766 tons at same time last year. Several cargoes have arrived.

Bengal.—2,764 bags found buyers at previous rates for white Benares, excepting the better kinds, which went rather cheaper in some instances: good, 43s to

43s 6d; low to good middling, 41s 6d to 43s per cwt. No grainy sugars were offered. The stock shows a further decrease.

Madras.—464 bags 38 casks sold steadily at last week's rates: low middling to good grainy yellow, 39s to 42s; low soft to middling, 32s to 37s; brown, 29s to 31s 6d; very low, 26s 6d to 27s per cwt.

Refined.—The market has been dull, owing to continued large arrivals of foreign goods, but the refiners have not accepted lower rates. Yesterday there was nothing offering under 48s 6d; middling to good and fine tilters, 49s to 52s. Wet lumps are worth 46s to 48s. Other goods have been dull. Treacle is selling at 12s 6d up to 20s. There is no alteration in the bonded market, and few sales have been made for export. Crushed is held at 28s 6d to 29s 6d. Dutch quiet at the decline last quoted. Loaves have been firm—10 lb, 33s per cwt.

Foreign.—The only transaction reported this week has been a cargo of Pernambuco, price not known. 711 boxes of washed Havana sold by auction from 38s to 42s for brown to good yellow. No public sales of Brazil or other kinds have taken place. The stock of foreign sugar is much reduced, and the clearances for home consumption are large.

MOLASSES.—Few sales have been made in West India this week.

COFFEE.—At the close of last week the market assumed a firmer appearance, but has since been quiet. Native C-yons sold last Saturday at 46s 6d, or 2s 6d advance from the late lowest point, and this price has been demanded during the week, an opinion being prevalent that some measures may yet be taken to check the extensive use of chicory. Plantation has been very dull. The deliveries have fallen off. 390 bales and half bales Mocha sold at a decline of 2s; from 65s 7s for fair clean garbled to good. Foreign has been dull. Yesterday 2,950 bags Rio, in public sale, were sold at and afterwards, chiefly at 43s for good ordinary. A floating cargo of St Domingo has been disposed of at about 43s 6d per cwt.

COCOA.—There have not been any public sales of West India, and Trinidad continues scarce. The stock is reduced to 146 casks, 2,970 barrels and bags. Prices of foreign are almost nominal.

TEA.—The trade have not shown any disposition to increase their stocks, and there is an absence of speculative demand in the face of continued large arrivals. Good and fine congenous are dull of sale at the late decline; there has been a steady demand for fair common, and some parcels in first hands have sold at 1s, or 1/2d advance on the last quotations; there appear to be further buyers. Scented teas are unaltered. Sales to some extent have been made in common Canton gunpowders by the recent arrivals, at fully former rates. In fine greens the business done has been limited. Two more vessels have arrived since the 20th inst. The total stock of tea in the United Kingdom on 1st Feb. was estimated at 40,024,000, against 46,300,000 lbs in 1850. The deliveries show a steady improvement.

RICE.—A moderate amount of business has been done in East India at 3d to 6d decline. 4,570 bags 993 pockets Bengal were nearly all sold: good middling to good white, rather broken, 9s 6d to 10s; broken, 8s 6d to 9s. The stock continues very large, although it is rather below that of last year at same period.

TAPIOCA.—200 barrels Rio sold at 3d to 4 1/2d per lb.

PIMENTO.—The market has become flat, and 422 bags in public sale sold at 5 1/2d for middling, being rather cheaper. A vessel has come in with 1,300 bags.

PEPPER.—The scarcity of common black kinds has prevented much business being done, and there are buyers at previous rates.

RUM.—The market remains in a quiet state, and few sales are reported at previous rates. The stock of West India shows a large reduction as compared with last year's at same time.

SALTPETRE.—A limited business has been done in East India, but prices remain without alteration, no public sale having taken place. The stock on 22nd inst. consisted of 2,851 tons, or 1,106 tons less than at same time last year.

NITRATE SODA.—2,021 bags offered by public sale were bought in at 14s 6d to 15s, but since partly sold at 14s 6d per cwt.

COCHINEAL.—90 bags Honduras were nearly all bought in at previous rates, the market being very flat: ordinary to middling silvers, 3s 6d to 3s 9d; blacks, 4s 6d to 4s 9d. 119 bags Tenerife about three-fourths sold from 3s 7d to 3s 8d for silvers. 40 bags Mexican silvers were partly sold at 3s 5d to 3s 6d per lb.

LAC DYE.—The market has been quiet. A few sales are reported in common and native marks at rather lower rates.

DREWOODS.—Several parcels red sanders have sold at higher prices.

DRUGS &c.—At the public sales, yesterday, large supplies of castor oil were offered: fine qualities at 5 1/2d to 6d went rather above the previous value, while seconds and most other kinds sold irregularly. The few small parcels East India gums submitted sold well. Fine China rhubarb partly found buyers at 2s 6d to 2s 10d per lb. Cubebs brought 7s to 7s 6s; very low, 6s to 6s 6d per cwt. Galls taken in: blue, 95s to 100s per cwt.

OTHER GOODS.—Gambier has been firm at the late advance, but not much business done; bales are held at 16s. A parcel middling Madras turmeric sold at 18s 6d to 19s. Cutch is quoted at 19s to 19s 6d per cwt.

METALS.—There is no change in the market for British iron. Scotch pig has been quiet, and prices are not so firm as last quoted. Some business is reported in spelter at 16 1/2 to 16 3/4d on the spot, but the market remains quiet. East India tin has been quiet during the week, yet the largest holders have not made sales under the late advance. No change in other metals.

HEMP.—All kinds of Russian, &c., are selling slowly at the quotations. Manilla is still scarce and bringing high prices. Jute remains exceedingly dull.

OILS.—The trade have shown rather more disposition to buy common fish. Several sales have been made in pale seal at the late decline; now 34/1s the nearest value. Southern is firmer, and rather more inquiry. Linsed has maintained the advance last quoted, with a steady demand; there are now few sellers under 33s 6d per cwt. Rape is quiet: foreign refined may be quoted at 35s 6d per cwt. A cargo of palm has come in.

LINSEED.—A limited business has been done, but the market is firmer, and 48s to 48s 6d for Black Sea demanded on the spot. Linsed cakes sell slowly at barely former rates: fine English made 7l to 7l 5s per ton.

TURPENTINE.—Spirits have been quiet; 31s 6d to 32s per cwt is demanded for British drawn.

TALLOW.—There has been a better feeling in the market, and prices show an improvement of fully 6d. This morning first sort Y.C. on the spot was quoted at 38s to 38s 3d, and the same to arrive in next month. Last week the deliveries were 1,911 casks, leaving the stock on 22nd inst. 42,691 casks, against 40,147 at same date in 1850.

ADDITIONAL NOTICES.

REFINED SUGAR.—The home market for refined sugar remains without any material alteration. Some large sales of Dutch loaves and lumps were made last week at 48s 6d to 51s. The bonded quite neglected for loaves and crushed. Treacle firmer, at 12s to 13s. Some few sales of Dutch crushed have been made this week—prices remain steady.

DRY FRUIT.—The sale in currants this week have been larger than of late, but still only in low-priced fruit. The clearances for consumption show a great increase upon those of last February. For raisins very little inquiry. Figs becoming rather scarce. The state of the fruit market generally is likely to improve.

GREEN FRUIT.—The market has improved for oranges, and the advance in price at the out-ports has had its effect in London; two cargoes of St Michael, sold by Keeling and Hunt at public sale went at an advance of 1s to 2s per box. Lemons sustain their value. Chestnuts are 2s per barrel dearer. Barcelona nuts dull of sale, the price at Liverpool being lower than in London. Seville sours in request.

SEEDS.—The trade in all grass seeds is slow, nor is there a probability of much activity until the question of duty is settled. All other descriptions meet a moderate demand, and the supply rather less than last week.

ENGLISH WOOL.—No alteration in the English wool trade as regards prices, and the market continues very quiet as to demand.

COTTON.—A decidedly improved demand has been experienced this week, buyers having purchased with greater confidence than for some time past. Prices have advanced fully 40] per lb. Sales of cotton wool from the 21st to the 27th inst. inclusive:—2,600 bales Surat, at 4 1/2d to 5 1/2d, ordinary to good.

FLAX AND HEMP.—Flax and hemp again a week of quietness; hardly any sales made.

LEATHER AND HIDES.—The leather market this week, which was fairly supplied, evinced rather less buoyancy than in the early part of the month: there is not, however, any alteration to notice in prices. Light shaved hides, and light calf skins are scarce, and in good request. At the public sales of the past week, the greater part of dry Buenos Ayres and salted Rio Janeiro hides were withdrawn. Manilla hides brought 3 1/2d to 5 1/2d. East India kips for the home trade at a shade less than former sale; the description suited to exportation fully as high.

Imports from Jan. 1 to Feb. 27, 1851	304,542 hides
Do do Feb. 28, 1850	214,909 —
Sales do Feb. 27, 1851	326,500 —
Do do Feb. 28, 1850	235,000 —
Present stock, 160,000 hides.—Stock Feb. 28, 1850, 92,000 hides.	

METALS.—We have still to report a continued want of demand for all descriptions of metals. Spelter has been offered below our quotations, without finding purchaser. Lead still continues very firm in price, with every prospect of a continuance at the same rates. Copper with a fair home consumption, remains steady. Iron bolts, bars, and pigs are quiet. Tinplates are scarcely so much sought after.

POSTSCRIPT. FRIDAY EVENING.

SUGAR.—The market was steady, and the large public sales went off well at former prices, except for the better kinds of Mauritius, which sold at a decline of 6d. The transactions in West India by private treaty were only 105 casks, making the week's business 600 casks. Mauritius—Of 11,780 bags in the public sales, about 8,000 bags sold as above quoted: grocery mid to fine, 39s 6d to 42s; low to very good strong refining kinds, 38s 6d to 41s 6d; brown, 34s to 37s 6d. Bengal—3,056 bags all sold at full prices: good Dhubah, 43s to 43s 6d; Dacca, 42s to 42s 6d; white Benares, 40s to 42s 6d. Madras—3,153 bags were about half sold at full prices, from 38s to 37s for good brown to middling bright yellow; soft brown and yellow, 29s 6d to 32s 6d. Refined—The market was quiet.

COFFEE.—No public sales were held and the market closed with a dull appearance, scarcely any business being reported by private treaty.

COCHINEAL.—150 bags were chiefly taken in at previous rates. Honduras silvers 3s 6d to 3s 9d, a few blacks sold at 4s 4d to 4s 10d, low 3s 8d to 3s 9d; Mexican silvers taken in at 3s 5d, blacks 3s 7d to 3s 8d per lb.

LAC DYE.—40 chests ordinary were taken in at 8 1/2d per lb.

SAFFLOWER.—122 bales Bengal were bought in at 3/ 10s to 7/ 15s for ordinary to good.

JAPAN WOOD.—About half of 126 tons Manilla Sapan sold at lower rates, 10 1/2 12s 6d to 10 1/2 15s per ton.

HEMP.—388 bales ordinary Manilla sold at 32/ 15s to 34 1/2.

TALLOW.—The public sales went off with some spirit. 569 casks Australian nearly sold at 6d advance, from 31s 9d to 38s; 138 chs 176 bxs S. American part sold at 3s to 37s 6d.

ENSUING SALES IN LONDON.

TUESDAY, March 4.—2,400 bags Madras rice; 18 serons indigo; 312 bags cochineal 157 sabs tin.
WEDNESDAY, March 5.—3 1/2 tons Cape ivory.

PROVISIONS.

The butter market very quiet, both Irish and Foreign; the lowest qualities most in demand.

Very little bacon offering, either landed or on board. Some sales made for weekly shipments through March at 50s, part outside.

Comparative Statement of Stocks and Deliveries.

	BUTTER.		BACON.	
	Stock.	Deliveries.	Stock.	Deliveries.
1849	45,127	7,131	2,617	1,243
1850	32,208	8,301	5,472	1,841
1851	26,811	7,116	3,532	2,331
		Arrivals for the Past Week.		
Irish butter				5,135
Foreign do				6,469
Bale Bacon				2,688

NEWGATE AND LEADENHALL MARKETS.

MONDAY, Feb. 24.—During last week the arrivals of country-killed meat up to these markets were extensive, viz., upwards of 3,000 carcasses. To-day the supplies slaughtered in the metropolis are large, and of excellent quality. Generally speaking, the demand is in a very sluggish state, but we have no change to notice in the quotations.

FRIDAY, Feb. 28.—The general demand, owing to the large supplies on offer, ruled dull, on the following terms:—

At per stone by the carcase.			
	s d s d		s d s d
Inferior beef	2 0 1/2 2	Mutton, inferior	2 6 1/2 8
Ditto Middling	2 4 2 6	— middling	2 10 3 6
Prime large	2 8 2 10	— prime	3 8 3 10
Prime small	3 0 3 2	Large pork	2 6 3 0
Veal	3 2 4 0	Small pork	3 8 4 0

SMITHFIELD CATTLE MARKET.

MONDAY, Feb. 24.—Since this day se'n'ght, large imports of foreign stock have again taken place into London. The total supply has amounted to 2,229 head. During the corresponding week in 1850, we received 979; in 1849, 1,966; and in 1844, 1,546 head. The continued mildness of the weather induces the opinion that the arrivals will considerably increase towards the close of the month. The items for the week were—beasts, 475; sheep, 1,481; calves, 263; pigs, 7. At the various outports only 320 head of beasts; sheep, and calves came to hand, and those mostly in very middling condition. From Ireland the arrivals of stock for this market, by sea, were 12 oxen and 40 pigs.

Fresh up to our market, to-day, the receipts of home-fed beasts were unusually large, and of most excellent quality; indeed, at least three-fourths of them were extremely ripe. The prevailing heaviness in Newgate and Leadenhall—the result of increased supplies—had a most depressing effect upon the beef trade here this morning. All breeds of beasts were dull in the extreme, at a decline in the prices obtained on Monday last of 2d per 8lbs, and a total clearance was not effected. The highest quotations for the best Scots was only 3s 6d per 8lbs.

COMMERCIAL TIMES

Weekly Price Current.

Prices in the following list are carefully revised every Friday afternoon, by an eminent house in each apartment.

LONDON, FRIDAY EVENING.

Add Five per cent to duties, except spirits, tallow, sugar, nutmegs, and timber.

Ashes duty free

First sort Pot, U.S. p cwt 28s 0d 28s 6d

Montreal..... 28 0 28 6

First sort Pearl, U.S. 28 6 29 0

Montreal..... 28 6 29 0

Cocoa duty B. P. 1d p lb. For 2d.

Trinidad..... per cwt 47 0 56 0

Grenada..... 44 0 50 0

Para, Bahia, & Guayaquil 29 0 32 6

Coffee duty B. P. 4d p lb. For 6d

Jamaica, triage and ord.

per cwt, bond..... 46 0 48 0

good and fine ord..... 49 0 52 0

low to good middling 50 0 55 0

fine middling and fine 70 0 100 0

Ceylon, ord to good ord

of native growth..... 45 6 46 6

plantation kind, triage

and ord..... 40 0 46 0

good to fine ord..... 40 0 52 0

low middling to fine..... 34 0 80 0

Mocha, fine..... 68 0 75 0

cleaned garbled..... 62 0 65 0

ord and ungarbled..... 48 0 50 0

Sumatra..... 46 0 48 0

Padang..... 48 0 50 0

Batavia..... 48 0 50 0

Manilla..... 45 0 50 0

Brasil, ord to good ord..... 40 0 50 0

fine ord and coloury..... 41 0 43 0

St Domingo..... 45 0 46 0

Cuba, ord to good ord..... 42 0 45 0

fine ord to fine..... 45 0 60 0

Costa Rica..... 47 0 63 0

La Guayra..... 42 0 54 0

Cotton duty free

Surat..... per lb 0 4j 0 5j

Bengal..... 0 0 0 0

Madras..... 0 4j 0 6j

Pernam..... 0 0 0 0

Bowed Georgia..... 0 7 0 7j

New Orleans..... 0 7 0 8

Demerara..... 0 0 0 0

St Domingo..... 0 0 0 0

Egyptian..... 0 0 0 0

Smyrna..... 0 0 0 0

Drugs & Dyes duty free

COCHINEAL

Black..... per lb 3 6 5 0

Silver..... 2 4 4 0

LAC DYE

D T..... per lb 1 10 1 11

Other marks..... 0 7j 2 6

SHELLAC

Orange..... per cwt 43 0 50 1j

Other sorts..... 28 0 50 0

TURMERIC

Bengal..... per cwt 15 0 16 0

China..... 16 0 18 0

Java and Malabar..... 12 0 14 0

TERRA JAPONICA

Cutch, Pegue, gd, per cwt 18 0 19 0

Gambier..... 15 6 16 0

Dyewoods duty free

LOGWOOD

Jamaica..... per ton 3 10 4 0

Honduras..... 5 0 5 5

Campachy..... 6 10 7 0

FESTIC

Jamaica..... per ton 5 0 6 0

Cuba..... 7 0 7 10

NICARAGUA WOOD

Lima..... per ton 13 10 15 0

Other large solid..... 10 0 13 0

Small and tough..... 9 0 10 0

SAFAN WOOD

Bimas..... per ton 16 0 12 5

Siam and Malabar..... 8 0 12 0

BRAZIL WOOD

Unbranded..... per ton 18 0 50 0

Fruit—Almonds

Jordan, duty 25s p cwt, 1 s 1 s

new..... 6 10 9 9

old..... 5 10 6 0

Barbary sweet, in bond 2 13 2 14

bitter..... 2 2 2 3

Currents, duty 15s per cwt

Zante & Cephal, new 1 18 2 2

old..... 1 19 2 4

Patras, new..... 1 17 2 3

Figs duty 15s per cwt

Turkey, new, p cwt d p 2 2 3 0

Spanish..... 1 8 1 10

Plums duty 20s per cwt

French... per cwt d p 0 0 0 0

Imperial carton, new 0 0 0 0

Prunes, duty 1s, new d p 1 5 1 10

Raisins duty 15s per cwt

Denia, new, p cwt d p 1 13 1 14

Valencia, new..... 1 18 2 0

Smyrna, black, new..... 1 10 0 0

red and Eleme, new 1 15 2 3

Sultana, new, nom..... 2 15 0 0

Muscatel, new..... 2 3 3 10

Flax duty 1s

Riga, P T R..... per ton 0 48 0 0

St Petersburg, 12 head 0 0 0 0

9 head 0 0 0 0

Friesland..... 35 0 52 0

Hemp duty free

St Petersburg, clean, p ton 28 0 30 10

outshot, new..... 28 0 0 0

half cleaned..... 26 10 0 0

Riga, Rhine..... 31 15 32 16

Manilla, free..... 31 10 35 0

East Indian Sun..... 0 0 0 0

Hombay..... nom. 0 0 0 0

Jute..... 12 0 19 0

Hides—Ox & Cow, per lb

B A and M Vid, dry 0 5 0 7j

Do. & R Grande, salted 0 5j 0 4j

Brazil, dry..... 0 4 0 5j

dry salted..... 0 3 0 3j

Rio, dry..... 0 2j 0 3j

Lima & Valparaiso, dry 0 4 0 6j

Cape, salted..... 0 5 0 6j

New South Wales..... 0 2 0 4

New York..... 0 2j 0 3j

East India..... 0 0 0 0

Kips, Russia, dry..... 0 4 0 9j

S America Horse, p hide 0 9 0 9j

German..... do 0 0 0 0

Indigo duty free

Bengal..... per lb 2 9 6 6

Oude..... 3 6 5 0

Madras..... 2 8 4 5

Manilla..... 2 4 3 6

Java..... 4 6 5 9

Carraccas..... 3 6 5 6

Guatemala..... 3 6 5 5

Leather, per lb

Crop Hides .. 30 to 40 lb 0 9 1 0

do..... 59 65 0 11 1 4

English Butts 16 24 0 11 1 4

do..... 23 36 1 0 1 11

Foreign do .. 16 25 0 11 1 1

Calf Skins 20 35 0 10 1 4

do..... 40 60 1 0 1 9

Dressing Hides..... 80 100 1 0 1 4

Shaved do..... 6 8j 1 1

Horse Hides, English .. 0 9 0 12

do Spanish, per hide 6 0 11 0

Kips, Peterburgh, per lb 1 0 1 3j

do East India..... 0 8j 1 4j

Metals—COPPER

Sheathing, bolts, &c. lb 0 9j 0 0

Bottoms..... 0 10j 0 0

Old..... 0 8j 0 0

Tough cake, p ton £34 0 0 0

Tile..... 83 0 0 0

IRON, per ton

Bars, &c. British..... £ 5 15 6 0

Nail rods..... 6 12j 6 15

Hoops..... 7 15 8 0

Sheets..... 8 10 0 0

Fig, No 1, Wales..... 2 5 3 7j

Bars, &c..... 4 15 5 0

Fig, No 1, Clyde..... 2 4 2 5

Swedish, in bond..... 11 15 0 0

LEAD, p ton—Eng, pig 17 10 17 15

sheet..... 18 5 0 0

red lead..... 18 10 0 0

white do..... 24 10 0 0

patent shot..... 20 0 0 0

STEEL, Swedish, in kgs 14 15 16 10

in faggots..... 15 0 15 5

SPELTER, for p ton 16 2j 0 0

TIN duty B. P. 3s p cwt, For 6s

English blocks, p ton 88 0 0 0

bars..... 89 0 0 0

Banca, in bond, nom. 88 0 88 10

Straits do..... 88 0 0 0

TIN PLATES, per box

Charcoal, 1 C..... 32s 6d 33s 6d

Coke, 1 C..... 28 6 0 0

Molasses duty B. P. 4s 2d, For 5s 9d

West India, d p, ser cwt 14 6 17 6

Refiners', for home use, fr 13 6 18 0

Do export (on board) 6d 12 0 14 0

Oils—Fish

Seal, pale, p 25 gal d p 33 10 34 0

Yellow..... 32 0 32 10

Sperm..... 54 0 85 0

Head matter..... 91 0 92 0

Cod..... 38 0 38 5

South Sea..... 31 0 31 10

Olive, Galipoli, per ton 42 10 43 0

Spanish and Sicily..... 41 0 41 10

Palm..... per ton 28 10 29 0

Cocoa Nut..... 29 0 32 0

Seed, Rape, pale (Forg) 35 10 36 0

Linseed..... 33 10 33 15

Black Sea..... p qr 49.0j 49.0j

St Petersburg Morshank 48 0 49 0

Do cake (English) p r n 71.0j 71.5j

do Foreign..... 5 0 7 12j

Rape, do..... 4 5 4 10

Provisions—All articles duty paid.

Butter—Waterford new 84s 6d 0s 0d

Carlow..... 88 0 90 0

Cork..... 88 0 90 0

Limerick..... 88 0 90 0

Freiland, fresh..... 80 0 84 0

Kiel and Holstein, fine 90 0 102 0

Leer..... 0 0 0 0

Bacon, singed—Waterfd. 46 0 50 0

Limerick..... 0 0 0 0

Hams—Westphalia..... 50 0 70 0

Lard—Waterford and Li-

merick bladder..... 60 0 62 0

Cork and Belfast do..... 0 0 0 0

Firkin and keg Irish..... 48 0 84 0

American & Canadian 0 0 0 0

Cask do do..... 0 0 0 0

Pork—Amer. & Can. p b. 0 0 0 0

Beef—Amer. & Can. p te 75 0 99 0

Inferior..... 0 0 0 0

Cheese—Edam..... 36 0 42 0

Gouda..... 25 0 32 0

Canter..... 20 0 0 0

American..... 42 0 46 0

Rice duty B. P. 6d p cwt, For 1s

Bengal, white, per cwt..... 9 6 12 0

Madras..... 8 0 9 0

Java..... 8 0 12 0

Sago duty 6d per cwt.

Pearl, per cwt..... 18 0 22 0

Flour..... 12 0 15 0

Saltpetre Bengal p cwt 26 0 29 0

Madras..... 26 0 37 6

NITRATE OF SODA..... 14 6 15 0

Seeds

Caraway, for, old, p cwt 28 0 32 0

Eng. new 32s 34s, old 32 0 0 0

Canary..... per qr 47 0 49 0

Clover red..... per cwt 40 0 54 0

white..... 42 0 46 0

Coriander..... 14 0 20 0

Linseed, foreign, per qr 38 0 46 0

English..... 0 0 0 0

Mustard, br, p bush 10 0 14 0

The Economist's Railway Share List.

The highest prices of the day are given.

ORDINARY SHARES AND STOCKS.				ORDINARY SHARES, &c.—Continued.				LINES LEASED AT FIXED RENTALS.						
No. of shares.	Amount of share.	Amount paid up.	Name of Company.	London.	No. of shares.	Amount of share.	Amount paid up.	Name of Company.	London.	No. of shares.	Amount of share.	Amount paid up.	Name of Company.	London.
				M. F.					M. F.					M. F.
16600	50	50	Aberdeen	13 1/4	165000	20	6 1/2	Shropshire Union	3 1/2	10000	50	6	Berks and Hants Extension,	
95000	20	8 1/2	Ambergate, Not., Boston, & Eastern Junction	3 1/2	20000	50	50	South Devon	18 1/2	57000	20	20	5 per cent	7
55500	27 1/2	27 1/2	Birmingham, Wolverhampton, and Stour Valley	11 1/2	Stock	30	30	South Eastern	26 1/2				Birmingham & Oxford Junction, calls duly paid, or without a guarantee	29 1/2
Stock	100	100	Rristol and Exeter	11 1/2	56000	50	50	South Wales	27 1/2				— with a guarantee	24
Stock	50	50	Caledonian	11 1/2	37500	20	15	South Yorkshire & River Don	12 1/2				— without a guarantee	24
42000	50	50	Chester and Holyhead	2 1/2	26650	20	9 1/2	Taw Vale Extension	4 1/2	35000	20	15	Birmingham, Wolverhampton, and Dudley, calls duly paid, or with a guarantee	24 1/2
18671	50	45	Dublin and Belfast Junction	25 1/2	27500	20	13	Vale of Neath	4 1/2				— without a guarantee	24 1/2
22900	25	25	East Anglian (2 1/2 L. & E. and L. and D.)	4 3/4	12500	20	20	Waterford and Kilkenny	3 1/2				Buckinghamshire	17 1/2
10000	18	18	Eastern Counties	2 1/2	Stock	25	25	York, Newcastle, & Berwick	21 1/2	42428	17 1/2	17 1/2	East Lincolnshire, guar. 6 per cent	32 1/2
Stock	20	20	Eastern Union, class A (late E. U. shares)	7 1/2	126000	25	20	— Extensions	16 1/2	24000	25	25	Gloucester and Dean Forest	18 1/2
10800	25	25	— class B and C	4 1/2	Stock	50	50	York and North Midland	24 1/2				Hull & Selby	104 1/2
28000	25	25	East Lancashire	14 1/2									— Halves	52
35428	50	50	Edinburgh and Glasgow	35 1/2									— Quarters	24
Stock	50	50	Edinburgh, Perth, & Dundee	7 1/2									Leeds and Bradford	97 1/2
26000	25	25	Exeter and Exmouth	7 1/2									London and Greenwich	11 1/2
16000	10	21	Great Northern	18 1/2									— Preference	25
19746	5	5	— 1/2 shares, A, deferred	18 1/2									Lowest, guar. 4 per cent	16
of 25/1	1 1/2	1 1/2	— 1/2 shares, B, 6 per cent	11 1/2	38209	8 1/2	8 1/2	Aberdeen	8 1/2	6000	50	50	Northern and Eastern, 6 p ct	55
each	12 1/2	12 1/2	— 1/2 shares, C, 6 per cent	11 1/2	74514	10	10	Caledonian 10/10	5 1/2	16967	50	50	— 5 per cent	58 1/2
50000	50	50	Great Southern & West (I.)	43 1/2	...	15	15	Chester and Holyhead	16 1/2	6156	50	42	— New	50
Stock	100	100	Great Western	92 1/2	34285	3 1/2	3 1/2	East Anglian (3/10s), 6 p ct	2 1/2	14520	25	25	Preston and Wyre	43 1/2
69700	17	17	— New 17/16	15 1/2	...	5	5	— (5/7), 7 per cent	...	16740	12 1/2	10 1/2	— Halves (A)	19 1/2
18000	50	50	Lancaster and Carlisle	7 1/2	87532	7 1/2	7 1/2	— (7/17s), 7 per cent	...	40000	20	20	Reading, Guildford, & Reigate	21 1/2
18000	16 1/2	11 1/2	— Thirds	20 1/2	Stock	6 1/2	6 1/2	Eastern Counties Extension, 5 per cent, No. 1	7 1/2	32000	8 1/2	6 1/2	Royston and Hitchin	8 1/2
Stock	100	100	Lancashire and Yorkshire	58 1/2	144000	6 1/2	6 1/2	— No. 2	6 1/2	10668	6 1/2	2 1/2	— Shepreth Extension	4 1/2
19500	25	25	— Shares	14 1/2	Stock	10	10	— New 6 per cent	12 1/2	78750	12	9 1/2	South Staffordshire	6 1/2
136819	20	11 1/2	— Fifths	4 1/2	15000	20	20	Eastern Union Scrip (guar. 6 per cent)	18 1/2	2186	50	50	Wear Valley, guar. 6 p ct	25 1/2
71656	20	11 1/2	— West Riding Union	5 1/2	...	10	10	— Debenture shares	...	30000	50	50	Wilts, Somerset, and Weymouth	44 1/2
18440	50	50	Leeds & Thirsk	15 1/2	...	10	10	Great Northern, 5 per cent	13 1/2					
11190	Ar.	11 1/2	London and Blackwall	7 1/2	93080	12 1/2	12 1/2	Great Southern and Western (Ireland) Eighth	3 1/2					
28000	10	1 1/2	— Tibury Extension, Scrip	1 1/2	50000	6 1/2	2 1/2	Lancashire & Yorkshire, F. 20/1	4 1/2					
Stock	100	100	London, Brighton, & S. Coast	99 1/2	48444	20	6	— 6 per cent	13 1/2					
Stock	100	100	London & North Western	133 1/2	Stock	100	100	Leeds & Thirsk, Quarters, 1848	10 1/2					
168280	25	17	— New 1/2 Shares	23 1/2	7411	20	9	London, Brighton, and South Coast, pref. 5 per ct Stock, 1851, from 50/ Shares, E...	123					
45811	20	12	— Fifths	18 1/2	Stock	100	100	— Convert. 5 per cent, 1852	60					
70000	10	1	— £10 Shares M. & B. (C.)	4 1/2	1640	50	50	— New, guar. 6 per cent	138					
Stock	100	100	London and South Western	90 1/2	34142	50	5	London & South Western, New	7 1/2					
...	60	42 1/2	— New 50/	37 1/2	18000	25	25	Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincoln, Quarters, No. 1...	13 1/2					
...	40	34	— New 40/	31 1/2	87200	10	10	— New, 16/	12 1/2					
82500	16	5 1/2	Manchester, Buxton, & M. & L.	35 1/2	172300	6	2	— 6/	2 1/2					
Stock	100	100	Manchester, Sheffield, & Linc.	35 3/2	Stock	100	100	Midland Consolidated, Bristol and Birmingham, 6 p ct	120 1/2					
Stock	100	100	Midland	62 1/2	15000	20	20	Norfolk Extension	15 1/2					
77323	50	85	— New 50/ shares	19 1/2	21000	5	5	— Guaranteed 5 1/2 per cent	5 1/2					
Stock	100	100	— Birmingham and Derby	35 1/2	Stock	5	5	North British	5 1/2					
14000	25	25	Newmarket	5 1/2	19275	8	8	Shrewsbury & Birmingham, New guar. 5 per cent	10 1/2					
Stock	100	100	Norfolk	26 1/2	17500	10	10	Shrewsbury & Chester (Nor. W. Min.) 5 per cent	14 1/2					
9850	20	18	— New 20/	2 1/2	Stock	10	10	South Devon	14 1/2					
Stock	25	25	North British	9 1/2	20000	25	25	South Eastern, 4 1/2 per cent	14 1/2					
168800	20	17 1/2	North Staffordshire	10 1/2	Stock	10	10	York, Newcastle, & Berwick, Gt. N. of E. purchase	17 1/2					
5000	10	1	North & Sth-West. Junction	16 1/2	142395	17	5	—	4 1/2					
30000	50	50	Oxford, Worcester, & Wolvn	19 1/2	62950	25	10	York and North Midland, H. and S. purchase	9 1/2					
Stock	25	25	Scottish Central	18 1/2										
12000	25	25	Scottish Midland	10 1/2										
82000	15 1/2	13 1/2	Shrewsbury & Birm., Class A	8 1/2										
6000	26 1/2	All	Shrewsbury & Chester (Nor. W. Min.)	16 1/2										
15000	13 1/2	All	— Halves	8 1/2										
20500	20	20	— Oswestry	12 1/2										
27600	10	1	— New	1 dis										

OFFICIAL RAILWAY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

Capital and Loan.	Amount expended per last Report.	Average cost per mil.	Dividend per cent. per annum on paid-up capital.				Name of Railway.	Week ending	RECEIPTS.												
			1847		1848				Passengers, parcels, &c.	Merchandise, minerals, cattle, &c.	Total receipts.	Same week 1850	Traffic per mile per week	Miles open in							
			£	£	£	£								1851	1850						
£ 1,674,666	1,899,772	27.50	...	...	...	Aberdeen	Feb. 15	580	0	0	1201	0	0	815	19	72	66			
500,000	502,553	13.27	...	...	...	Belfast & Ballymena	22	361	14	9	239	0	1	600	14	10	37 1/2	37 1/2		
2,200,000	1,900,408	118.790	2 1/2	5	5	Birkenhead, Lancash., & Chester	23	647	3	0	297	15	6	1044	18	6	839	31	33	16	
3,000,000	2,909,621	33.830	4 1/2	4	3 1/2	Bristol and Exeter	16	2198	18	5	1025	9	3	2224	7	8	37	85 1/2	85 1/2		
5,400,000	5,150,030	34.700	...	...	...	Caledonian	2	2016	0	0	4028	0	0	6044	0	0	5856	28	160	160
4,333,332	3,896,565	41.452	...	...	...	Chester and Holyhead	16	1647	0	0	610	0	0	2247	0	0	1283	24	94 1/2	94 1/2
1,000,000	946,565	18.237	2 1/2	...	...	Dublin & Drogheda	20	645	11	5	174	16	10	820	8	3	710	15	83	53
450,000	442,000	58.223	7	7	7	Dublin & Kingstown	25	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
267,000	350,000	15.625	...	...	...	Dundee and Arbroath	23	179	13	1	116	4	11	325	18	0	...	...	...
700,000	849,499	17.725	Dundee, Perth, & Aberdeen	22	254	13	9	354	13	8	6	9	7	5	577	19	31	31
1,445,000	1,215,955	19.352	...	...	...	East Anglian	23	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2,000,000	2,889,218	49.814	3	6	3 1/2	Edinburgh & Glasgow	22	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2,333,612	2,708,129	34.143	...	...	...	Edinburgh, Perth, & Dundee	23	868	17	10	1061	15	3	1970	13	1	1942	27	71	71
13,000,000	12,786,996	29.711	5	3 1/2	1 1/2	Eastern Counties and Norfolk	23	5775	10	7	6505	9	7	2281	0	2	13850	38	322	322	
3,440,300	3,365,249	44.280	...	...	...	East Lancashire	23	1556	2	6	2202	13	4	3788	15	10	2504	47	79	75 1/2
2,416,333	2,098,634	22.091	...	...	...	Eastern Union	23	748	15	5	1068	12	5	1817	7	10	1776	19	95	78
4,300,000	4,087,198	23.763	6 1/2	3	1 1/2	Glasgow, South Western	15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
866,666	866,666	30.155	3 1/2	8	2 1/2	Glasgow, Paisley, & Greenock	22	554	5	11	385	6	5	939	12	4	879	47	12 1/2	22 1/2	
8,200,000	6,329,963	16.																			

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To Mr Keating, 79 St Paul's Churchyard.
(Copy)

26 Hertford street, May Fair, February 17, 1851.
SIR,—In reply to your inquiry, I have no hesitation in assuring you, that the Pulmonic Waters, Female Wafers, Antibilious Wafers, or Female Pills, that have so often been advertised with my name, are not mine, nor do I know anything of their composition, nor have I anything whatever to do with them, either directly or indirectly.
Your obedient servant,
CHARLES LOCOCK, M.D.

To Mr Keating.

AUSTRALIAN LINE OF PACKETS.

The undersigned dispatch a regular succession of first-class, fast-sailing British vessels, for SYDNEY, PORT PHILLIP, VAN DIEMAN'S LAND, &c. These ships have most superior accommodations for passengers, and sail punctually on their appointed days. Load at the Jetty, London Dock.

Ships	Tons	Commanders	Destination.	To sail.
Douglas	500	M. Rogers	Sydney	March 5
Sea Bird	500	D. Dreman	Adelade	— 8
Marmion	450	J. T. Peat	Hobart Town	— 15
Prince of Wales	450	J. Wilson	Launceston	— 25

For terms of freight and passage money, &c., apply to MARSHALL and EDWARDS, 34 Fenchurch street.



FOR LIMA DIRECT.—A

Regular Trader.—To sail in all March, the fine fast-sailing ship LOUISA, A 1, 1,033 tons register, WILLIAM CARPENTER, commander; loading in the East India Dock. This ship has most of her dead weight engaged, and has good accommodation for stowage passengers. For freight or passage apply to the Commander on board; to Messrs GLOVER and DUNN, 16 Chancery lane, Manchester; or to W. S. LINDSAY and CO., 8 Austin friars, or 54 Old Broad street.



STEAM TO THE CAPE

of GOOD HOPE, carrying Her Majesty's mails, leaving London on the 10th, and Plymouth on the 15th, of every month. The BOSPHORUS, 560 tons, Captain J. F. HALL, will leave Plymouth on the 15th March, at noon, with mails and passengers. For passage, apply to the General Screw Steam Shipping Company's Offices, 2 Royal Exchange buildings; for goods and parcels to Lafour, Laming, and Owen, 157 Fenchurch street, Rondon; and at Liverpool.



STEAM TO INDIA AND CHINA, via EGYPT.—Regular

Monthly Mail Steam Conveyance for Passengers and Light Goods to CEYLON, MADRAS, CALCUTTA, PENANG, SINGAPORE and HONG-KONG.—The Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company book Passengers and receive Goods and Parcels for the above Ports, by their Steamers starting from Southampton on the 20th of every month, and from Suez on or about the 10th of the month.

BOMBAY.—Passengers for Bombay can proceed by this Company's Steamers of the 29th of the month to Malta, thence to Alexandria by her Majesty's Steamers, and from Suez by the Hon. E. I. Company's Steamers.

MEDITERRANEAN.—Malta—On the 20th and 29th of every month. Constantinople—On the 29th of the month. Alexandria—On the 20th of the month.

SPAIN and PORTUGAL.—Vigo, Oporto, Lisbon, Cadix, and Gibraltar, on the 7th, 17th, and 27th of the month.

For plans of the vessels, rates of passage money, and to secure passages and ship cargo, apply at the Company's Offices, 122 Leadenhall street, London, and Oriental place, Southampton.

NOTICE TO SHIPPERS.—From April to November the rate of freight by these steamers will be FIVE POUNDS per ton.



BRITISH AND NORTH AMERICAN ROYAL MAIL

STEAM SHIPS, appointed by the Admiralty to sail between LIVERPOOL and NEW YORK, direct, and between LIVERPOOL and BOSTON, the Boston ships only, calling at Halifax to land and receive passengers and Her Majesty's Mails.

The following or other vessels are appointed to sail from Liverpool as under—

ASIA, for NEW YORK direct, Saturday, March 1.

CANADA, for BOSTON, Saturday, March 15.

AFRICA, for NEW YORK direct, Saturday, March 29.

Cabin passage, including steward's fee, £5, but without wines or liquors, which can be obtained on board. Dogs charged £5 each. These steamships have accommodation for a limited number of second cabin passengers at £20 each, including provisions. For passage or other information, apply to J. B. Foote, 52 Old Broad street, London; S. Cunard, Halifax; S. S. Lewis, Boston; Edward Cunard, Jun., New York; D. Currie, Havre; G. and J. Burns, Buchanan street, Glasgow; or D. and C. M'iver, Water street, Liverpool.

NOTICE TO SHIPPERS.—United States Mail Steamers from Liverpool to New York. From April to November inclusive the Rate of Freight by these steamers from Liverpool will be £5 per ton of 40 cubic feet, charged at four dollars and 80 cents to the pound sterling.



UNITED STATES MAIL

STEAMERS between LIVERPOOL and NEW YORK.

Goods for the "ARCTIC" cannot be taken after twelve o'clock at noon on FRIDAY the 7th March, nor can parcels be received after six o'clock in the evening of that day.

The rate of passage by these Steamers is Thirty-five Pounds; reserving six or eight of the largest State Rooms for Families, for which an extra price will be charged.

No berth secured until the passage money be paid.

The steam ships comprising this line are the ATLANTIC, Captain WEST; PACIFIC, Captain NYE; ARCTIC, Captain LUCE; BALTIC, Captain COMSTOCK; ADRIATIC, Captain GRAFTON. These vessels are appointed to sail as follows:—

From LIVERPOOL

ARCTIC SATURDAY, 8th March.

BALTIC SATURDAY, 22nd March.

From NEW YORK

BALTIC WEDNESDAY, 5th March.

PACIFIC WEDNESDAY, 19th March.

These ships having been built by contract expressly for the American Government service, every care has been taken in their construction, as also in their engines, to insure strength and speed; and their accommodations for passengers are unequalled for elegance or comfort.

An experienced surgeon will be attached to each ship. The owners of these ships will not be accountable for gold, silver, bullion, specie, jewellery, precious stones, or metals, unless bills of lading are signed therefore, and the value thereof therein expressed.

For freight or passage apply to EDWARD K. COLLINS, 74 South street, New York; or to BROWN, SHIPLEY, and Co., Liverpool.

Agents in London—E. G. ROBERTS and Co., 13 King's Arms yard.

Agent in Paris—L. DRAPER, Jun., 8 Boulevard, Montmartre.

Agent in Havre—G. H. DRAPER, 44 Rue de Bordeaux.