

# THE EXAMINER.

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## THE POLITICAL EXAMINER.

If I might give a short hint to an impartial writer, it would be to tell him his fate. If he resolves to venture upon the dangerous precipice of telling unblinded truth, let him proclaim war with mankind—neither to give nor to take quarter. If he tells the crimes of great men, they fall upon him with the iron hands of the law; if he tells them of their virtues when they have any, then the mob attacks him with slander. But if he regards truth, let him expect martyrdom on both sides, and then he may go on fearless; and this is the course I take myself.—DE FOX.

### INCOME-TAX INCONSISTENCIES.

We confess that the more we see of the Whig reasoning for supporting the Income Tax, notwithstanding the strongest disapproval of it, the less we understand it.

Upon Mr C. Buller's motion for the fairer adjustment of the Income Tax, Lord Howick declared—

"Even if the right hon. gentleman did not make the revision of duties which he proposed, still the large sum produced by the Income Tax could not be spared without imposing some new tax to keep up the amount of the finances."

This is the plea of necessity, not set up by Ministers, disavowed and contradicted by them, but made the ground of their Whig opponents' support of their hateful tax.

But if the Income Tax were necessary, if it could not be taken off without laying on new taxes, why in that case does not Lord Howick oppose the removal of taxes less galling and onerous, the abolition of which must lengthen indefinitely the occasion for the Income Tax?

In rational consistency with his own views he should resist the whole of Sir Robert Peel's scheme, or *experiment*, as he prefers terming it, for it would be better surely to continue the glass, cotton, auction, and sugar duties as they are, than by repealing them to perpetuate the necessity for the greater evil of the Income Tax.

The mode of recruiting the revenue which Mr Goulburn recommended in lieu of the Whig budget of '41, the Whigs might not inconsistently and unreasonably adopt now—"Leave things alone." If you cannot do without the Income Tax at present, do nothing till you can. Remove it first, and as soon as possible, and take other reductions in their order of importance as circumstances may permit.

But presently Lord Howick's case of necessity vanishes, and it appears that the Income Tax is continued merely to shore up the monopolies of corn, sugar, and timber—

"He did not hesitate to avow his firm conviction, that if the Government had been prepared to go through a careful review of all the burdens so pressing on the country by means of taxes levied, not for the public service, but for the supposed benefit of particular classes, and if they had been prepared to deal with them on a proper footing, they might have given effectual relief to the consumers among the industrious classes, and might have left the finances in such a state that before the three years now fixed for the duration of the Income Tax had passed over, the whole revenue they might have lost in this great experiment would have been recovered. He was persuaded this was the result which an accurate examination of the financial protective system would leave on the mind of any impartial man, and therefore he hoped that, before the next general election, which would take place before the Income Tax was renewed, the electors of England would consider whether it was worth while to go on paying the Income Tax for the purpose of maintaining the protective system. That was what the question came to at last. They had agreed to put on the Income Tax for the purpose of enabling them to bolster up a little longer that system which the Government had told the house was contrary to common sense."

Then why in the name of wonder does Lord Howick vote for it? So long as he and others of the party generally opposed to the Ministry, support the Income Tax, they enable the Government to maintain the monopolies. As Mr Hawes has contended, while the Ministry has the resource of the Income Tax, it will evade the fiscal reforms, involving the repeal of all restrictions, which are the only other means by which the revenue can be made equal to the expenditure of the country.

One half of Lord Howick's speech very satisfactorily answers the other. In the outset he asserts a necessity, in the end he shows that no necessity exists; that the choice of Ministers to perpetuate the monopolies entails the Income Tax, which, but for that evil option, might be dispensed with, and the revenue restored by the rallied energies of commerce and industry.

Ministers talk plausibly of the excellent effects of relieving the springs of industry in the articles of glass, cotton, &c., and it would only be necessary to extend the same enlightened views to corn, sugar, and timber, and the occasion for the Income

Tax would vanish altogether. The plea that the thing is indispensable is then but a pretence belonging to the dishonesties of the Peel budget; the Income Tax being but a consequence of maintaining the great monopolies, and men who vote for it should in strict consistency vote also for the monopolies of which it is the last hideous offspring, the bad prop of their vicious old age.

We have, we confess, always a preference for the reserved part of every plan. When the Scotsman saw his pint of wine decanted into a vinegar cruet from a quart bottle, he asked the landlord whether the wine in the bottle and the wine in the decanter were exact moieties, and being assured that they were so, he said, Then give me the half in the black bottle, for I fancy that most.

In the division of fiscal relief, we want the half in the black bottle. We would compound for glass duties, cotton duties, nay, even auction duties, a little longer, to have in lieu of their repeal the removal of the corn, sugar, and timber restrictions, which, amongst other great benefits, would relieve us of the odious Income Tax. While this mode of maintaining the revenue is admitted to be practicable, and only to be rejected in favour of the monopolies, it is either utterly idle or deceptive to talk of the Income Tax as a fiscal necessity, it being in truth but the vicious consequence of a dishonest choice preferring class interests to the public welfare.

Two questions arise upon the Income Tax; the first, whether the tax should be imposed at all, and the second, whether its enormous injustice, in the inequality of its pressure on precarious incomes, should not be corrected? Sir Robert Peel insists, of course, on the *maximum* of injustice. When it is proposed to take the value of incomes at so many years' purchase, and to apply the tax to the interest of the amount, Sir Robert Peel is full of alarm at the extension of the inquisitorial power which would be requisite for the working of such a plan. Let him make his mind easy on this score. His scruples and tenderness are in this instance quite misplaced. If people must submit to an inquisitorial power to ascertain the amount of their incomes, they will not object to the extension of that power for the valuation of their incomes, to the end of diminishing the assessment. Prying, the result of which is a tax of 3 per cent., is very offensive; but prying, carried a little farther to lighten the tax to 1½ per cent., would be far from disagreeable to the patients. If there must be an inquisition, no one will quarrel with giving it such range as may produce a fairer and lighter assessment. It is now only carried so far as to combine the vexation with the *maximum* of injustice.

But the House of Commons is for the most part composed of men of property, and the men of property are quite content to lay on the men of industry more than their share of the burden, that they (the men of property) may bear less. If professional and trading incomes were taxed at the rate of 1½ per cent. less, it might be requisite to tax property at 1½ per cent. more, and hence a fairer adjustment of the tax is declared inadvisable.

When the monstrous unfairness of the House Tax was exposed, the alternative was either to raise the tax as it bore on the rich so as to make it equal, or to repeal it altogether, and the decision of the gentlemen with large mansions was very promptly and peremptorily for the abolition rather than the fair adjustment, which would have fallen heavily on them.

The same course will be taken as to the Income Tax; its inequalities, favouring the rich and pressing severely on the industrious, will be obstinately adhered to, and whenever, by force of public opinion, there is no choice but to render the tax fair or to repeal it, the vote will be for its abolition. We have to do with men stern and resolute in sparing themselves, and wonderful stoics as to sufferings in which they have to share.

Mr C. Buller, at the close of his most able speech, observed—

"The right hon. baronet objects to many amendments lest we should not get through this business before the 5th of April. But what is the 5th of April or any other day compared to the importance of imposing 5,000,000*l.* of taxation in a just and equal manner? (Hear, hear.) I grant it will take time; but it is worth while to take time in such a case as this. (Hear, hear.) 'But,' says the right hon. baronet, 'pass the tax as it is now, and at the end of three years, if you don't like it, you can amend it.' But if we are perfectly convinced that at the end of three years we shall not only have to renew it, but amend it, why let the evils attached to it be prolonged to that period? *If my shoe pinches me, and I choose to walk about in it for twelve hours,*

*when I might ease it, I think I might very justly be called a simpleton for enduring so much unnecessary pain.*"

But the difference between the House of Commons and the public in the matter is precisely the difference between the maker of the tight shoe and the wearer of the tight shoe. The shoemaker assures you it is an exact fit, that nothing can be better, and he bids you only have patience, only wear it a little longer, and you will be "enamoured of it", and will not think of any alteration.

It is ruled and settled in Parliament that an Income Tax is not to be made to fit. It is like the clothing of postmen, which, by some wonderful dispensation, is so arranged that all tall men have very short coats, all short men very long coats, all fat men very skimpy coats, all lean men very large coats. To fit the country with an Income Tax is then as much out of the nature of things as to fit a postman with a livery. A huge proprietor hardly feels his scrap of an Income Tax, while a professional starveling is overwhelmed and lost in his impost.

Sir Robert Peel says that at present he will not enter into the merits of direct taxation. It is quite unnecessary for him to do it now, because he has already so fully explained his views of the question. In 1833 he thus placed his opinions of an Income Tax on record—

"He thought that the noble Lord (Lord Althorp) had done well in not proposing an income or a property tax. Nothing but a case of extreme necessity could justify Parliament in subjecting the people of this country, in a time of peace, to the inquisitorial process which must be resorted to in order to render that impost productive; and to have recourse to such a machinery for the purpose of raising two or three per cent., would be most unwise."

"With respect to a tax upon property, as distinguished from a tax upon income, he very much doubted whether it would promote the interests of the labouring classes, because it would diminish the funds at present appropriated to the encouragement of industry and the promotion of labour, and it would ultimately be found that *the tax did not affect the person who paid it, so much as the labourer, by diminishing his means of employment.*"

"The application of the tax to Ireland would be attended with extreme difficulty. He really believed that this circumstance formed the main obstacle to the establishment of the tax. *It hardly could be contended that, if a property tax were established, Ireland should be exempted from its operation.* He wished to see Ireland as much favoured as possible consistently with justice; but to impose a property tax upon England and Scotland, and to exempt Ireland from its operation, would, in his opinion, however unpopular that opinion might be, be exceedingly unjust."

If the Whigs, instead of their budget of '41, relaxing restrictions, had proposed the Income Tax on these grounds, Sir Robert Peel would have vigorously and successfully opposed them; and in so doing he would not have failed to take credit for his consistency, reminding them that his were no new opinions taken up for the nonce for party purposes; that they had been deliberately formed, and that eight years ago he had commended the Whig Minister in power for not having had recourse to an expedient liable to such grave objections.

It will be remembered, however, that when Sir Robert Peel proposed the Income Tax in '42, he actually claimed the gratitude of the poor for having spared them, and laid the burden on the upper classes; and this he said, knowing full well, as he had stated in the speech above quoted, that "the tax did not affect the person who paid it so much as the labourer, by diminishing the means of employment."

But the Premier did not scruple to swindle the poor of their gratitude by false pretences. Whilst he was consciously adopting a measure taking away their bread, he, with a detestable and most treacherous hypocrisy, claimed their thanks for considerably and tenderly sparing them. How the Tartuffe is surpassed. Molière knew not the depths to which the character could grovel; he had conceived all the smoothness of the deceit, but not half the mean, heartless treachery of which it is capable.

The whole course of Sir Robert Peel's administration is, however, but a series of State sharpening. The word may be a coarse one, but it is the only

one which accurately represents the conduct. It is a tissue of deceits and false pretences for compassing objects, sometimes exercised at the cost of one class, sometimes of another. Not a move can the Premier make without deserting and sacrificing some dupes. No matter what direction he takes, whether right or wrong, there must be a betrayal of some who have confided in him. There is always the same *modus operandi*; when he wants to recommend a measure, he says something false about it, promises what can never be fulfilled, the grosser the figment the better. In '41 the pitiful Tariff amendments were to compensate the Income Tax. Now the repeal of the glass, cotton, and auction, and reduction of the sugar duties are to work the same miracle!

Mr C. Buller, with the happiest humour, exposed this monstrous deceit, showed how small was the benefit which the consumer had to expect from the improvements compared with the burden of the Income Tax—the pennyworth of bread to the sixteen shillings of sack—and remarked very justly on the stupid and fulsome propensity of certain members, who once called themselves Radicals, to exaggerate and bepraise Sir Robert Peel's measures, for merits which they are not only void of, but whose opposite vices they embody.

There are wisecracks who, if they detect a particle of free trade as fine as a seed of cumin in a budget big with the West India monopoly, will at once accept and hug the whole as a free-trade scheme. They hold forth on the great advance in some minor instance, without casting a glance on the much greater retrograde step in a most important matter. They have a notion that there is a homage to their opinions in any little twopenny-halfpenny concession to free trade, and they magnify and extol it, and make it cover and expiate all sins. To men of this class Mr C. Buller administered this just and spirited rebuke—

"It is nonsense to call this a free-trade budget; it is nothing less than a monopoly budget. (Hear.) What I understand by a free-trade budget is one which removes the protecting duties. (Hear.) But what does the right hon. baronet do? He takes off the duty on straw-plait, and pig's bristles, and hog's lard. (Hear, and laughter.) What else does the right hon. baronet really do? The only protection with which he interferences is that in which the West India interest is concerned. He alters the protection, but he does the work of the monopolists more effectually. (Hear, hear.) He sweeps away the surplus he has at command, and establishes a scheme which he denominates free trade. Now, I say to my free-trade friends, remember the old adage, 'You can't eat your potato and have it.' (Hear.) Having swept away the surplus, and established his scheme of free trade, the right hon. baronet has cut away the ground from beneath your feet. You cannot have free trade without having a surplus. You cannot deal with corn, or butter, or cheese, or silks, and one or two other articles which I forget now, for less than two millions a year. I say, then, it is not for the interest of free trade that you should have that surplus swept away. (Hear, hear.) But for what, after all, do you do it? What is the position in which you stand? I address myself to my free-trade friends. You get the remission of the duty on glass, and of the cotton duty, by abandoning your warfare against the protective system. Don't you see that by so doing you are weakening your power for assailing that system which you wish to overthrow? I say it would be far wiser and better for the friends of free trade in this house to have stood on the ground they took in 1841 and 1842, and to have rejected all manner of propositions of this kind, and to have gone forth determined to relieve the commerce and industry of this country from the great fetters which protection had put upon it; and until they effected that they should not have suffered themselves to be diverted from their object by any other proposition. (Hear.) What do you gain by bowing so implicitly to the will of the right hon. baronet, and tossing up your hats in perfect ecstasy, delighted with any small promise of good which he holds out? Do you get any nearer your great object? No; you put it further from you. You are, in fact, playing into the hands of the monopolists. While you talk of free trade, and piously deal out your anathemas against all who differ from you, you are actually playing the game of the monopolists, and bolstering up their system of differential duties."

Mr Spooner's proposal to exempt sums paid for life insurance from the operation of the Income Tax; Mr Wakley's amendment, that landlords should not be charged for rents lost through fraud or insolvency; Sir R. Inglis's proposal, that incomes under 500*l.* a year should be assessed *minus* 150*l.*, giving them the benefit of the exemption to that amount;—all these attempts to mitigate the severity and injustice of the tax have been resolutely defeated by Ministers; and that not on the ground that this is not the time for the improvement of the measure, but on specific objections to the proposals.

From this specimen the public may then see that there never will be any amendment of the Income Tax; Ministers, upon the most wretched quirks and quibbles, having opposed the most moderate and reasonable improvements.

At the next general election candidates, to atone for what they have done, will be ready enough to promise amendment of the Income Tax; but their constituents must now be prepared to treat such promises with contempt, and to point to the foregone conclusion against a better adjustment of the burden.

The plain alternative is to get rid of the tax altogether, or to have to bear it with all its unequal pressure and injustice.

#### PEEL'S NEW WORSHIPPERS.

Mr Hume, who used to divide the House, with a minority ranging from a dozen to a dozen and a half, against the bad measures of former Tory Governments, has now discovered that it is idle to dispute the supreme will of Sir Robert Peel.

Upon Mr C. Buller's motion for the amendment of the Income Tax, Mr Hume asked—"What is the use of our bothering ourselves any longer, since the Right Hon. Baronet has declared that 'he won't alter the tax?'"

The slave in the East says, To hear is to obey; and so says the patriot Joseph Hume.

Observe, in this instance, the virtues of lubrication. Sir Robert Peel buttered Mr Hume handsomely the other day, and how supple and pliant he has become in consequence, hard and inflexible as it was once his nature to be.

But let us hear another authority. Mr Wakley is bound to say that "no question could have been brought before the House in a more statesmanlike manner than was the proposal of this tax by the Right Hon. Baronet, and the question 'was left to the determination of the House.'"

Sir Robert Peel, then, merely proposes the Income Tax in the most statesmanlike way, that is to say, with the grossest complication of injustice, and it is left to the free judgment of the House to accept or reject.

Here our doctors differ, Mr Hume holding it useless to dispute the will of Sir Robert Peel, Mr Wakley conscientiously believing that the matter is left to the discretion of the House.

'Hobson's choice' will no longer be a proverb. The House with the subservient majority has as free an option.

Now for Mr Ward, Sir Robert Peel's most fond and flattering admirer.

Ses moindres actions lui semblent des miracles,  
Et tous les mots qu'il dit, sont pour lui des oracles.

"Whereas his hon. friends near him talked a great deal about what they would do, the right hon. baronet did what he said. It was only justice to the present head of the Government to state, that when he said a thing it was done. But his hon. friends on the Opposition benches brought forward a great many very pretty propositions, while they never went beyond mere schemes; whereas the right hon. baronet carried whatever he proposed. That certainly was fortunate for the country."

Promise and performance are one with Sir Robert Peel. He is the man who never broke a pledge. Consistency is his grand characteristic. What he says he does, as Mr Ward so truly remarks.

He said he would never consent to Catholic Emancipation; he said he would never put into the lottery of legislation for a better Corn Law than that of '28; he said that an Income Tax was all that was inexpedient and unjust: and mark how faithfully his doings have accorded with his sayings.

The phrase that a man is as good as his word is a very foolish one. If Sir Robert Peel had only been as good as his word, he would have been good for nothing.

Sir Robert Peel in certain cases, however, is as bad as his word. Whenever he proposes anything enormously unjust and iniquitous, he does it, as Mr Ward says. And this is a precious merit in a statesman, and very "fortunate for the country," according to Mr Ward. There is no relenting, no compunction, no turning him from a bad purpose which he has the power to carry into effect. Beelzebub himself is not more stern in evil resolves, and highly satisfactory must this sort of determination be to the people who have to suffer the consequences.

#### INQUIRY INTO AGRICULTURAL DISTRESS REFUSED.

The farmers' friends will not hear of inquiry into the farmers' distresses. "Let ill alone," is now the maxim.

For thirty years long has this agricultural interest been helping itself to whatever seemed good to it, and it has managed matters so cleverly that every state of things has been detrimental to it, and when prices have been as high as 80*s.*, or as low as 40*s.*, the same groans have been heard.

The labourers are best off when prices are low, even with their scanty wages, which then command more food; but the unhappy farmer is doomed to be the victim whether there be abundance or scarcity, whether prices range to the highest or fall to the lowest. He knows only one certainty, and that is his rent. Amidst all fluctuations there is that one blessed thing fixed, and upon which he may count absolutely. It is the only thing he can be sure of amidst all the vicissitudes of the protective system.

Sir Robert Peel's last Corn Law was adjusted, as he explained, to fix the range of prices between 54*s.* and 58*s.*; upon this expectation the agricultural dupes have formed their engagements, and corn has for some time past been at 45*s.* There is, of course, much distress; how could it be otherwise?

Mr Bankes says that the reduction of the pro-

tection is the cause. Then why oppose the committee moved for by Mr Cobden,

"To inquire into the causes and extent of the alleged existing agricultural distress, and into the effects of legislative protection upon the interests of landowners, tenant-farmers, and farm-labourers"?

Let the Legislature know what it is about with agriculture. Let it ascertain and settle whether protection is good or bad, whether it is the bane or the essential of agriculture, whether it is the presence of it or the want of more of it that is the cause of the perpetual distresses of the favoured interest.

If protection be the bane of agriculture, it is not a slight diminution of the amount of the bane that can restore it to a healthy state. If it be its necessary support, give it more; raise the pivot of your scale, screw up prices to 100*s.* Do not let the landlords in that case fear to raise their rents.

If detrimental, fling it away altogether.

There is no resting where we are, a move must be made, either forward or backward. The agricultural interest cannot be suffered to linger on in its present difficulties.

When the quack Morison died he had arrived at a dose of 2,000 of his own pills, and his opinion was that they would have cured him if he could only have taken enough. Mr Bankes has the same faith in the protective quackery, and would argue that the cure was not effected because a sufficient dose of the poison could not be administered.

#### THE NEW STAGE.

There is no stage,—where are the actors? is a common cry.

There is a stage which fixes the most eager gaze, and there are actors who are followed with the intensest interest as they fret their little hour. The stage is the dock, and the actors are the assassins.

The day is rapidly approaching when persons of rank and fashion will have their stalls at the Old Bailey, their private boxes at the Central Criminal Court.

Ladies thronged Marylebone Police office to see Hocker as their grandmothers crowded to the playhouse, to see Garrick. It is customary to publish the names of fashionable visitors to the theatre, and we much wish we could give the names of the ladies who mingled in the mob to gaze at Hocker.

Some years ago grossly indecent farces were played at a certain theatre: in vain the press reprobated the indecency, it only drew the more; at last a newspaper gave notice that it would publish the names of the ladies who witnessed the performance, and the piece was very soon withdrawn.

A saintly Lady Mayoress took a large party to Newgate chapel to gratify their curiosity with the sight of a murderer at his devotions the day before execution. The decorous Sunday's entertainment was noticed, and the lady, who was not ashamed of the vulgar, morbid, unfeeling curiosity, was made ashamed of the public report of it, and there was an end of that indecency.

As large prices are known to be given for a gaze at murderers in police offices, prisons, and sessions courts, we should like to know how much more the same parties would have given to witness the murder itself.

What would have been the price of a first row on the wall of Belsize park, or for a peep through the casement of the cottage at Salt hill?

The thing might easily be arranged by an advertisement to this effect—

TO the Lovers of Excitement and Amateurs of Murder.—An opportunity now offers for a private view on reasonable terms. The affair to come off, pay or play, on the night of the ——. For particulars of place and the programme, apply to Y Z, 1 Rosemary lane.

We suppose that persons who throng to gaze at assassins would have no repugnance to witness the crime itself, for by the vulgar *éclat* which they give to the criminals they in no slight degree contribute to the encouragement and commission of other crimes of the same class. The followers and admirers of the bravado of one assassin make others.

#### THE FRENCH MINISTRY.

M. Guizot holds his ground, but does not gain any. He has still the majority, when all forces are mustered for a pitched battle. But his troops are volunteers, who are not always at their post, and who reserve both enthusiasm and steadiness for great occasions. On the other hand, the Opposition, all alive and alert by finding itself within a dozen or a score of the majority, presses on in undivided and vigilant mass to a triumph, which seems not far distant. A poor, little, unimportant law, for regulating the half-pay or retiring salaries of clerks and officials, has just been rejected by Opposition, merely to show their power and numbers; for objections to the law there were none, at least on the part of the Liberals. A dozen of these officials, discontented with some clauses of the law, came to the aid of the anti-Ministerialists, and M. Guizot was doomed to suffer one of those

petty affronts which the Tories loved to inflict upon Lord Melbourne towards the close of his Ministry.

Count Molé has made another personal attack on M. Guizot in the Chamber of Peers, which shows that he has not abandoned all hopes of carrying the Cabinet by storm. There was a strange similarity between the accusations made by Molé, in his very able speech, and those which Mr D'Israeli brought against Sir Robert Peel. Count Molé accused M. Guizot of not being really and rightly Conservative, of not understanding the knack of leading that powerful party, and of administering on the principle of concession to opponents rather than that of truth and fidelity to supporters. Count Molé and Mr D'Israeli are friends: they must have been reading out of the same volume. M. Guizot appears to us to have gone every Conservative length. He has upheld the Pieschi laws, the jurisdiction of the Court of Peers, and has not relaxed one iota of that rigid code. In monopoly and prohibition he has gone even further than land-owners, coal-owners, and manufacturers required. The only questions on which he has deigned to gratify Opposition were his Tahiti and Morocco expeditions, and his refusal to extend, and reluctance to continue, the Right of Search. He has been as anti-English in act as was necessary to keep his position, whilst he was certainly most Anglican in words, and compliments, and Royal visits. And it is to be doubted if Count Molé could manage Lord Aberdeen better.

But whatever M. Guizot's merits, the French are decidedly tired of him; and in the *meilleure des républiques*, as poor Lafayette at first termed Louis Philippe's reign, a four years' tenure of office is quite sufficient to expend any statesman's stock of influence, talent, and respect. His Majesty is said to be singularly perplexed. He had built his hopes upon Molé, as one capable of continuing under another name the same policy and the same majority which has been for years dominant. But Count Molé has got too many Liberals and too few Conservatives harnessed to his car; and instead of supplanting Guizot in his lead of the right side of the Chamber, Count Molé has been dragged over to the left. The recent debate between Molé and Guizot was certainly a great proof of the power and influence of the King. It was to him they both addressed themselves, as the sovereign arbiter of their doctrines, making as light of the public or its opinions as if neither existed. "You are a bad Conservative," exclaimed Molé to his rival. "You compromise your party and the King, and your policy is merely a series of concessions to the Liberals, whom you affect to oppose." M. Guizot retorted the same accusation, accused Molé of scrambling to power on the backs of the Liberals, and declared that Molé in office would be but the *protégé* of Thiers and Barrot. Both thus agreed in admitting that Liberalism was the most heinous of all crimes, and the most damning to a Minister—a State maxim which must have been highly flattering to the two hundred members of opposition.

The King, it is said, wishes to re-appoint and get once more together, what is called a Cabinet of the 19th of October. This Cabinet had the Duc de Broglie for its head, and Thiers and Guizot for his Home and Foreign Secretaries—a powerful combination, could it have held together. It would be impossible now to restore such. But the King is said to think it possible for the Duc de Broglie to take Foreign Affairs and M. Guizot return to London, whilst M. Thiers and his friends should have the internal administration. But this would be giving to M. Thiers the management of the elections, a dangerous power to be entrusted to any one of whom the King was not more than sure. Count Molé is in the meantime a formidable obstacle. And how Louis Philippe may solve the difficulty in his wisdom must be a matter of conjecture, not prophecy.

#### PRINCE ALBERT'S PERILS.

Prince Albert and his equerry, Sir E. Bowater, are cantering up Constitution hill, two gentlemen apprise Sir E. Bowater that a man had pointed a pistol at the Prince, Sir E. Bowater sends his groom in search of a police officer, and lets the man quietly walk off, Sir E. Bowater waiting the return of his servant. The man, we need not say, was not to be found afterwards.

Sir E. Bowater omitted a very necessary precaution in this case. He should have put a little salt on the bird's tail before he suffered him to fly.

This is not Prince Albert's first alarm. On his visit to Bristol to see the *Great Britain*, a young lady threw a rose-bud at the Prince, and it was mistaken for a red-hot shot.

#### COUNT D'ORSAY'S DUKE OF WELLINGTON.

We have lately seen a work of rare merit, by Count d'Orsay. It is an equestrian statuette of the Duke of Wellington, which, whether viewed as a faultless resemblance, or as an exquisite work of art, is equally entitled to the highest praise. There is a simplicity and grandeur in this performance that stamps it at once as the creation of genius, while the skill which has enabled Count d'Orsay to vanquish the difficulty experienced by other sculptors, in giving

to a modern costume the classic elegance peculiar to the highest school of ancient art, calls forth our warmest admiration. In this statuette the calm dignity, the perfect repose of the figure, and the deeply contemplative expression of the countenance, are beyond praise; while the horse—the *beau idéal* of a charger—is made, as should always be the case, subordinate to its rider. We know that the Duke of Wellington has expressed the highest admiration for this work of art, and that his Grace's family pronounce it to be a perfect resemblance.—*Morning Chronicle*.

[We can heartily concur in this praise of a very beautiful work. The *subordination* of the horse to the rider is, as the critic observes, especially remarkable. It is, indeed, the only horse that has not thrown the Duke. But then it is, literally, the model of a horse.]

### THE LITERARY EXAMINER.

*Revelations of Spain in 1845.* By an English Resident. Two vols. Colburn.

This is a very clever book, of which the best portions are the non-political. In force and liveliness of manner, we have had nothing that so much reminds us of the late Mr Inglis's *Rambles in the Footsteps of Don Quixote*, as the purely descriptive parts of *Revelations of Spain*.

The book is clearly the result of considerable experience of the things described; and the writer appears to be still resident in Spain. This may account for his speaking with a less startled abhorrence than the casual traveller would display, of the political atrocities and disasters of that unhappy country. But there seems to us also, in that direction of his inquiries (excepting where he exposes the hollowness of the Carlist pretensions and the false sympathy about them in England), a certain want of sincerity or of candour. He thinks Espartero an honest and respectable man; and on every occasion sneers at him, or makes more serious objection. He thinks Narvaez a scoundrel; and omits no opportunity of assuring us that his rule has been favourable to English interests. The plain speaking is either too little or too much.

Of the young Queen his opinion is most unfavourable. Her defects, moral and physical, are exposed with unrelenting bitterness; and there is too much reason to believe, with absolute truth. She seems a miniature Ferdinand; but fonder of *bonbons* than of petticoats or embroidery. He at the same time tells us that her life is far from secure; that scrofula and dropsy have marked their victim; and that the best hopes of Spain rest with her charming and graceful little sister, the Infanta Luisa.

This is the pretty young lady whom the far-seeing Louis Philippe marked out for his Duc d'Aumale; and it is clear that the author, who reveals a French propensity among his other revelations, would be the last to object to that union; irreconcilable with any durable pacification of parties, or a safe constitutional settlement, as it would infallibly prove. This is not an instance of long-sightedness. One may be too near as well as too far off, where ambassador's offices are in the way more especially, to see with much exactness.

Apart from politics the author often writes delightfully. That his view is not very deep, we think we can perceive in his insufficient chapters on the clergy. But where manners and customs come in question, the *venta* or *posada*, dances and bull-fights, rogues and beggars, quacks and mountebanks, robbers and innkeepers, or the external aspects of life and scenery, nothing can be better, nothing more animated, more fascinating than the *Revelations*. We read in them of this strange country, as of the picturesque, semi-barbarous times of our own, five hundred years ago. The book is full of life and colour. The observation is quick, the drawing easy, the painting harmonious and fresh.

We could have wished to dwell further on these portions of the book. But even our extracts (rich as the volumes are in quotable matter) must be extremely brief.

#### A MADRID MOB.

"The Porte St Denis, and the Boulevard St Antoine, Guildhall and Ker-nington Common, are pale by the side of these brown and impassioned faces, these black and wiry locks like the snakes of Tisiphone, these moustaches of Barbary darkness, these ever-moving lines and ropes of facial muscle, strangely set off by the peaked black velvet hat which is universally worn; and the cloak, which even in his rags, the Manolo wears with the grace of a Roman senator, and the dignity (for he thinks himself no less) of a Castilian *hidalgo*."

#### A SPANISH REVOLUTION.

"It requires little to decide the Peninsular reformer to rush to the public square and make a new revolution. At times, he is so quick about it that he forgets to put on his shoes; a fact surprising to our Northern natures, but familiar to all who have witnessed an *alboroto* in Madrid, Barcelona, or Seville. A dozen *vivas*, the beat of a drum, three steps in advance—it is done!"

#### THE QUEEN AND HER BONBONS.

"The most striking characteristic of the youthful Majesty of Spain is her relish and constant use of *bonbons* and sweetmeats. Her papers of comfits strew the palace, her bags of sugar-plums visit the council-chamber, her *dulces* line the throne. . . . The degrees of ministerial favour may be estimated by the number of presents of confectionery, and the Minister of the Interior is *first fiddle* by right of four bags of sugar-plums, till the Minister of Grace and

Justice produces five sticks of barley-sugar. When she despatches business with her Ministers (which she does twice a week), she despatches a prodigious quantity of sweets at the same time; and the confection of decrees, and discussion of dainties, proceed *pari passu*."

#### NARVAEZ.

"General Don Ramon Narvaez, the successful hero of the day, looks precisely the daring, energetic, obstinate and iron-nerved soldier of fortune which he is. In habits, manners, and appearance, he is of the purest military breed; blunt and off-handed in his address, overbearing in disposition, slow to take advice, impolitic, violent, and very determined in his proceedings. His dark moustache has the rough campaigner's cut, and his pale, stern, and somewhat cruel countenance, betokens his unbending character. . . . He is sumptuous and showy in his habits, but not luxurious in his tastes, and is always ready in his food and drink to rough it like a campaigner. . . . Those who remember him an outcast two years back, expelled from Portugal upon the requisition of Espartero, a wanderer through the provinces of France, with broken boots that let in the wet, a greasy hat and a thin coat, which ill-protected him from the inclemencies of a severe winter, will appreciate fully the fairy-like change in his circumstances."

#### RECIPE FOR A PRONUNCIAMIENTO.

"Buy over three or four officers and a dozen sergeants of a regiment. Give twenty dollars to each officer, and a four dollar piece to each of the sergeants; give a *pequeta* to a blind news-hawker, and a well-invented tale of political rascality of any kind; distribute a score of rusty guns and pistols among as many *mauvais sujets*; appoint a particular hour for an explosion, and the thing is almost as infallibly accomplished as the recent blowing up of the Shakspeare Cliff at Dover."

And yet the writer is indisposed to admit that the early pronunciamentos against Espartero were "bought over" with the gold of France.

#### ABSURDITIES OF RESIDENT ENGLISH.

"I find 'John Duncan Shaw' metamorphosed into 'Don Juan Duncano Schau'—'Salter,' into 'Saltero,' and plain 'Paul Cross,' into 'Don Pablo Mariano Cross.' But the oddest of all these metamorphoses is that effected in a few years time in a person who, for political purposes, was desirous to appear as Spanish as possible; and he who went forth masquerading as 'Don Jacinto Rosel,' had some time before been little 'Jack Russell.'"

#### THE GREATEST LORD IN ENGLAND.

"An amusing sensation was created by the news of Espartero's having been invited to a public banquet by the Lord Mayor of London. Most Spaniards translated the word *Mayor* literally, according to its meaning in Castilian, 'greater,' and took it that the ex-Regent had been invited to dine by the *greatest* lord in England."

#### SPANISH EPITHETS.

"When the beggar goes forth to make his rounds, they say: *Vase por Dioscar*, 'He goes to God's-sake-ity,' or to beg alms for the sake of God. No other language has an equivalent for this forcible phrase, which might be paralleled in a multitude of instances. When the beggar proceeds from door to door, he is *menudeando*, 'little-and-little-afaying,' or collecting his fragments and coppers in a bag; and when he comes home, the neighbours say to each other (for Spanish women seem to have nothing to do but to gaze out of the window): *Ahora vase cucharecar*. 'There he goes to spoonify,' (meaning that he is about to convert his seraps into an *olla podrida*.)"

Mr Bulwer is often mentioned in the course of the *Revelations* with admiration and praise.

#### The Dispatches and Letters of Vice-Admiral Lord Viscount Nelson. With Notes by Sir Nicholas Harris Nicolas. The Second Volume. Colburn.

This memorial of Nelson's genius and service is continued with the excellent spirit that marked its commencement. No pains are spared to make it complete. We do not know a better edited book.

The volume before us comprises only two years; but eventful years in the life of the hero. From the commencement of '95 to the close of '97, included Hotham's actions; the blockade of Leghorn, and the affairs of Porto Ferrajo and the Island of Capraja; the evacuation of Corsica; the battle of St Vincent; the bombardment of Cadiz, and the attack on Santa Cruz; and other memorable scenes of Nelson's career. His promotions in the course of them were to the rank of Commodore, of the Second, then of the First class; to that of Rear-Admiral; and to a knighthood of the Bath. His tone throughout the dispatches is impatient; everywhere marked with a sense of neglect, and of rights withheld. The great warrior, controlled by skilful seamen but timid and less daring men, is vainly, from the first page of the volume to its last, "pawing to get free his hinder parts," like the chained beast of the poet.

The majority of the letters have been published before. But we take, from the hitherto unpublished, one of his delightful notes to Collingwood, written the day after the battle of St Vincent, and instantly answered by that noble-minded officer. On nothing do we dwell with such delight, amid all the grand and exciting incidents of the lives of these two heroes, as of their steady, deep, and unalterable affection for each other.

#### NELSON TO COLLINGWOOD.

"[Autograph, in the possession of the Hon. Mrs Newnham Collingwood. Upon this letter Captain Collingwood wrote, 'Nelson shifted his Broad Pendant into the *Irresistible*, his own Ship being so mauled.']

"*Irresistible*, February 15th, 1797.

"My dearest Friend,—A friend in need is a friend indeed,' was never more truly verified than by your most noble and gallant conduct yesterday in sparing the *Captain* from further loss; and I beg, both as a public officer and a friend, you will accept my most sincere thanks. I have not failed, by letter to the Admiral, to represent the eminent services of the *Excellent*. Tell me how you are; what are your disasters? I cannot tell you much of the *Captain's*, except by note of Captain Miller's, at two this morning,

about sixty killed and wounded, masts bad, &c. &c. We shall meet at Lagos; but I could not come near you without assuring you how sensible I am of your assistance in nearly a critical situation. Believe me, as ever, your most affectionate  
"HORATIO NELSON."

COLLINGWOOD'S ANSWER.

"Excellent, 15th February, 1797.

"My dear good Friend,—First let me congratulate you on the success of yesterday, on the brilliancy it attached to the British Navy, and the humility it must cause to its enemies; and then let me congratulate my dear Commodore on the distinguished part which he ever takes when the honour and interests of his country are at stake. It added very much to the satisfaction which I felt in thumping the Spaniards, that I released you a little. The highest rewards are due to you and *Culloden*; you formed the plan of attack,—we were only accessories to the Don's ruin; for had they got on the other tack, they would have been sooner joined, and the business would have been less complete. We have come off pretty well, considering: eleven killed, and fourteen wounded. You saw the four-decker going off this morning to Cadiz,—she should have come to Lagos, to make the thing better, but we could not brace our yards up to get nearer. I beg my compliments to Captain Martin: I think he was at Jamaica when we were. I am ever, my dear friend, affectionately yours,

"C. COLLINGWOOD."

We must also quote a charming letter written to Nelson on the battle of St Vincent, by the wife of a naval veteran, Nelson's early patron, Sir Peter Parker.

"Portsmouth, 15th March, 1797.

"My dear Nelson,—I cannot let Sir Robert Calder sail from hence without writing you a few lines. There are no expressions in the English language, that I am acquainted with, equal to convey the idea which I have of your gallant and meritorious exertions in your country's cause upon all occasions. Your conduct on the memorable 14th of February, a proud day for Old England, is above all praise; it never was nor ever can be equalled. All that I shall say is, that your mother could not have heard of your deeds with more affection, nor could she be more rejoiced at your personal escape from all the dangers to which you were exposed on that glorious day. Long may you live, my dear Nelson, an ornament to your country and your profession, is the sincere wish of your old commander Sir Peter and myself, and every branch of our family. Pray offer my most affectionate regards to your truly able and gallant Commander-in-Chief; he shall henceforth be my Valentine. I must request you also to remember me to dear, good Collingwood, in the kindest manner; I am very happy at the glory he has gained: remember me also to George Martin, and the whole of the invincible Fifteen that I have the honour of knowing. God bless you, my dear Nelson. Your affectionate and sincere friend,

"MARGARET PARKER."

Our last quotation must be the modest and manly letter in which Nelson solicited from Lord Chancellor Loughborough, the favour that his youngest brother might receive one of the livings held by his father, on his father's resignation of it.

"My Lord,—In addressing a letter to you some persons may think me wrong, and that I ought to have chosen the interference of a friend; but, feeling a conviction that if what I have to ask is proper for your Lordship to grant, I require, on the present occasion, no interest but your own opinion of my endeavours to serve the State. I therefore enclose my request, which, if your Lordship has the goodness to comply with, will be a small provision for the youngest son of my venerable father, and a lasting obligation conferred upon your most obedient servant,

"HORATIO NELSON."

We are happy to add that the Lord Chancellor granted the request in a letter hardly less happily worded.

*The Beauties of Jeremy Taylor, D.D., Chaplain in Ordinary to Charles the First, and late Bishop of Down and Connor.* Selected from all his Devotional Writings and Sermons; with a Biographical Notice, and a Critical Examination of his Genius and Style. By B. S., Esq., Barrister-at-Law. Newby.

The writings of Jeremy Taylor have procured him so distinguished a name for piety, learning, wit, practical good sense, and, above all, a certain tender and flowery eloquence, full of the richest fancy and expression, and wanting only the art and concentration of song to have converted it into poetry, that it was a surprise to us to learn from the Editor of this volume the fact of there having been hitherto "no selection of his works adapted for general perusal."

It shows what a fine writer he must be, to produce the impression he does from occasional specimens of him in the pages of others. And yet perhaps, waiting his present Editor, he has been fortunate in having the popular knowledge of him confined to those specimens. Unprofessional perusal of his entire works is out of the question, the interest of their abstruse learning and theology having become obsolete; and even such of his writings as contain what is calculated to interest every one, are crammed so full of scholarship and quotations that they are like gardens entangling the feet at every step with exotic overgrowth. The book before us is the result of a careful weeding; or the public would still have wanted a proper readable volume of Jeremy Taylor, fit to content themselves, and to do justice to his 'Beauties.' At the same time, the extracts made are not mere flowers here and there. Two of his most famous sermons, the 'House of Feasting' and the 'Marriage Ring,' are given almost entire; and the rest of the passages are a mixture of long and short, selected with care, and with an eye to variety as well as goodness.

We think it a pity the Editor included the one entitled the 'Punishment of the Wicked,' at p. 113, as well as two or three others of a like tone of contradiction both to the sweetness of the writer's nature and the benignity of his religion. Coleridge, who, as might be expected from so dulcet a poet, was one of Taylor's warmest admirers, did not scruple to call it an "infernal drench." There are pains and perplexities enough in the world, without its being necessary or wholesome for any one's mind to witness this sort of passion of reprobation. Let us hope, too, that the world is outgrowing the belief in its necessity.

In all the rest of the book nothing can be sweeter or more sensible than its general spirit. Indeed the mind of the reasonable and decorous Church-of-England reader must feel itself quite "refreshed," as the phrase is, at the sight of such a volume in these preposterous days of polemics, when, instead of seeing what can be done to sustain and exalt the true spirit of Christianity, there are reverend and right reverend divines who can but identify its vital interests with the success of a white piece of linen, and a bow towards a particular point of the compass! What would Jeremy Taylor have said to the prodigious nonsense? He, who had an ancestor burnt at the stake in behalf of the Reformation, and whose writings are as remarkable for their practical good sense, and their freedom from priestly foppery and self-seeking, as for their truly seraphical aspirations? He had to defend ceremonies and vestments in his day, because innovation was on the other side, and he thought it carried to a frivolous and tyrannical excess; but from the very passages he wrote in their behalf, as well as from the whole tenour of his works, it is clear that he would have been just as disgusted at innovations of an opposite kind, had he lived now. He did not care for the letter of the thing, either way; but he disliked and dreaded dictatorial novelties.

He says to the ministers of religion, "Do not trouble your people with controversies. Whatsoever does gender strife, the apostle commands us to avoid; and much more the strife itself. A controversy is a stone in the mouth of a hearer, who should be fed with bread. And it is a temptation to the preacher, it is a state of temptation."

Again: "Whoever troubles his people with questions, and teaches them to be troublesome, note that man. He either loves not peace; or he would fain be called Rabbi (master), Rabbi."

And here is a memorandum for clergymen too fond of having a finger in the pie of the church-plate: "It is a huge dishonour to the sincerity of a man's purposes, to be too busy in flugering money, in matters of religion."

But to leave these gentlemen to their congregations (who seem not ill qualified or indisposed to deal with them), let us indulge ourselves, and the reader, with a taste or two of our author's style, when he was writing upon subjects he liked. The first shall be an admirable piece of good sense on a reasonable degree of allowance in eating and drinking:

"Though reason be so strictly to be preserved at our tables as well as at our prayers, and we can never have leave to do any violence to it; yet the measures of nature may be enlarged beyond the bounds of prime and common necessity. For besides hunger and thirst, there are some labours of the body, and others of the mind, and there are sorrows and loads upon the spirit by its communications with the indispositions of the body; and as the labouring man may be supplied with bigger quantities, so the student and contemplative man with more delicious and spritful nutriment: for as the tender and more delicate and easily digested meats will not help to carry burthens upon the neck, and hold the plough in society, and yokes of the laborious oxen; so neither will the pulse and the leeks, *Lavinian* sausages, and the *Cisalpine* suckets or goblets of condit bull's flesh, minister such delicate spirits to the *thinking man*; but his notion will be flat as the noise of the *Arcadian* porter, and thick as the first juice of his country lard, unless he makes his body a fit servant to the soul, and both fitted for the employment.

"But in these cases, necessity and prudence, and experience, are to make the measures and the rule; and so long as the just end is fairly designed, and aptly ministered to, there ought to be no scruple concerning the quantity or quality of the provision: and he that would stint a swain by the commons of a student, and give *Philotas*, the Candian, the leavings of *Plato*, does but ill serve the ends of temperance, but worse of prudence and necessity.

"Sorrow and a wounded spirit may as well be provided for in the quantity and quality of meat and drink, as any other disease; and this disease by this remedy as well as by any other. . . . But this is not intended to be an habitual cure, but single and occasional; for he that hath a pertinacious sorrow, is beyond the cure of meat and drink; and if this becomes every day's physic, it will quickly become every day's sin. Then, it must always keep within the bounds of reason, and never seize upon any portions of affection. The *Germans* use to mingle music with their bowls, and drink by the measures of the six notes of music:

"But they sing so long, that they forget not their sorrow only, but their virtue also, and their religion: and there are some men that fall into drunkenness, because they would forget a lighter calamity, running into the fire to cure a calenture, and beating their brains out to be quit of the aching of their heads. A man's heaviness is refreshed long before he comes to drunkenness; for when he arrives thither, he hath but changed his heaviness, and taken a crime to boot.

"Even when a man has no necessity upon him, no pungent sorrow, or natural or artificial necessity, it is lawful in some cases of eating and drinking to receive pleasure and

intend it. For whatsoever is natural and necessary, is therefore not criminal, because it is of God's procuring; and since we eat for need, and the satisfaction of our need is a removing of a pain, and that in nature is the greatest pleasure, it is impossible that in its own nature it should be a sin."

Now observe how beautifully as well as sensibly he talks on the subject of Marriage. We here see him in his poetic moods, unable to stop the flow of his enthusiasm: borne along by his ever-welling conjunction, *ands*, upon the endless suggestions of his sweet experience and fancy.

"Marriage is the mother of the world, and preserves kingdoms, and fills cities, and churches, and heaven itself. An unmarried man, like the fly in the heart of an apple, dwells in a perpetual sweetness; but sits alone, and is confined, and dies, in singularity. But Marriage, like the useful bee, builds a house, and gathers sweetness from every flower, and labours and unites into societies and republics, and sends out colonies, and feeds the world with delicacies, and obeys their king, and keeps order, and exercises many virtues, and promotes the interest of mankind, and is that state of good things, to which God hath designed the present constitution of the world."

Again: how beautiful and wise is what follows. It should be hung up, in letters golden as the words, in every marriage household.

"Man and wife are equally concerned to avoid all offences of each other in the beginning of their conversation. Every little thing can blast an infant blossom; and the breath of the south can shake the little rings of the vine, when first they begin to curl like the locks of a new-weaned boy; but when by age and consolidation they stiffen into the hardness of a stem, and have, by the warm embraces of the sun, and the kisses of heaven, brought forth their clusters, they can endure the storms of the north, and the loud noises of the tempest, and yet never be broken. So are the early unions of an unfixed marriage; watchful and observant, jealous and busy, inquisitive and careful, and apt to take alarm at every unkind word. For infirmities do not manifest themselves in the first scenes, but in the succession of a long society; and it is not chance or weakness when it appears at first, but it is want of love or prudence, or it will be so expounded; and that which appears ill at first, usually affrights the inexperienced man or woman, who makes unequal conjectures, and fancies mighty sorrows by the proportions of the new and early unkindness. It is a very great passion, or a huge folly, or a certain want of love, that cannot preserve the colours and beauties of kindness, so long as public honesty requires a man to wear their sorrows for the death of a friend. Plutarch compares a new marriage to a vessel before the hoops are on. Everything dissolves their tender compaginations. But when the joints are stiffened and are tied by a firm compliance, and proportioned bending, scarcely can it be dissolved without fire, or the violence of iron. After the hearts of the man and the wife are endeared and hardened by a mutual confidence and experience, longer than artifice and pretence can last, there are a great many remembrances, and some things present, that dash all little unkindnesses in pieces. The little boy in the Greek epigram, that was creeping down a precipice, was invited to his safety by the sight of his mother's papp, when nothing else could entice him to return: and the bond of common children, and the sight of her that nurses what is most dear to him, and the endearments of each other in the course of a long society and the same relation, is an excellent security to reintegrate and to call that love back, which folly and trifling accidents would disturb."

The editor has done his part in the volume with the feeling of one who truly enjoys his author; and truly to enjoy such an author as Jeremy Taylor is a praise, as well as pleasure, on which a man may value himself. We recommend the reader to try it; always protesting nevertheless against such blots in good books, as those at page 113.

*The Vision; or Hell, Purgatory, and Paradise; of Dante Alighieri.* Translated by the Rev. Henry Francis Cary, A.M. A new Edition, corrected. With the *Life of Dante, Chronological View of his Age, Additional Notes, and Index.* Smith.

We believe the English are beginning to have clearer notions of the duties of a translator than they entertained in the last century. Then, provided a good master of versification could acquire knowledge enough of the original to pursue the thread of the narrative or discourse, and did not commit any palpable sin of omission or insertion, all was done. The notion, we will not say of entering into the spirit of an author, for that seems not to have been dreamed of, but even of fidelity to the text, in a very liberal sense of the word, was as loose as possible. Pope's *Homer* is a beautiful model, which only a man of his fine genius could have executed, of what a translation should not be.

In the manner of Pope, the English 'Classics' of the last century laboured to throw off a smooth, well written poem: that was the all-important object. They were not to go out of their way to fit the original author; he must fit them. They were the living, and he was the dead; the might was with them; and unless a check existed in their consciences, there was nothing to save an old Greek from a *Ramilies* wig, if the poet of 'Good Queen Anne' chose to put it on. They made the *Procrustes* bed to their liking, and *Achilles* and *Hector* must be adapted to it. The *Germans*, in their classical translations of ancient authors, pursued a course diametrically opposite. They went to work with all the earnestness, consciousness, and, we may add, not a little of the tastelessness, peculiar to the men of letters of that nation.

The German throws himself on a series of *Procrustes* beds, and is delighted to show how well

his limbs can fit them all. Voss's German *shall* be like Homer. Bothe *will* be like Euripides. Calderon wrote the greater part of his plays in *rime asonante*, therefore shall the version of Gries be in *rime asonante* also; notwithstanding the labour of picking out two or three score of words with similar terminations. 'Notwithstanding,' did we say? We should have said 'Because.' A German seeks difficulties of language as a fox-hunter seeks five-barred gates; a new metrical idiom involving difficulties yet unheard of, would be a luxury. How would the Platens and Rùcherts have lived, had not the Eastern ghazels or odes, with their incessant repetitions of the same rhymes, opened a field for their metrical ingenuity?

The worst of it is, that the German, in his pious determination to be Greek, or Spanish, or Persian, not seldom ceases to be German. He defies you to doubt his accuracy, either in metre or meaning; but he is often unreadable to all who are not masters of the original, that is to say, to all who stand in need of his assistance. Lend an ordinary German merchant Bothe's *Euripides* for his private perusal, and you will observe some exceedingly long faces.

But with all its faults, we lean with more favour to the German school of translation than to that so long prevalent among ourselves. Natural good taste and a superior mastery over language will operate with the faithful translator as a check against inaccuracies in his vernacular, but we do not see what is to stop the elegant versifier who allows himself licence at starting. It is irresistibly tempting, when a text offers difficulties, to jump out of them by a little addition, or a little subtraction, in the absence of anything like a rigid principle.

Mr Cary, the translator of *Dante*, adheres to the meaning of his author with scrupulous fidelity. On the table of the student of Italian his work may profitably lie for reference; while the mere English reader by its means, with little trouble, will become fairly acquainted with the matter, and receive a certain scholarly notion of the solemn manner, of the great classic of the dark ages. Pope's *Homer* tells us what the *Iliad* is about, but not *how* the story was told. In Cary's *Dante* we have the *what* and to a certain extent the *how*. At the same time we must frankly admit that the absolute reality of Dante—the rugged, intense, primeval character of his genius—seldom appears in the smooth verse of Mr Cary. In the absence of a higher effort, to which we shall presently allude, we think that this might possibly be best attained in a prose version; and we have been glad to hear that Mr Leigh Hunt, admirably qualified by genius and scholarship, has taken some such task in hand.

The metre of Mr Cary's version is the English blank verse: perhaps, in the way of poetry, the best that can be adopted, until a translator has courage enough to attempt *terza rima*: no slight undertaking in a work of this magnitude. As far as regards length of line, the *terza rima* is the same as the blank Miltonic verse, and the English rhyming heroic; and would doubtless be the most perfect form of a poetical translation of the *Divine Comedy*. A reproduction of Dante, in his original verse, would be a magnificent spectacle of language. Nor is it from the abstract notion of fidelity we speak. The recurrence of the rhyme in the *terza rima* produces a grand monotonous continuity, suited to the pomp and march of a solemn narrative or oration. The parts of the discourse seem firmly laced together into an inseparable whole, by the unceasing chain of terminations. The use of it, as an ordinary metre, is not confined to Italy. Many of the modern Germans use it with great effect for serious narratives. One of Lenau's poems in *terza rima* was admirably and tersely translated in the original metre, the other day, by Mr Oxenford, and appeared in one of the magazines. With our own poets, though one or two fine specimens were left by Lord Byron, *terza rima* has been little more than a curiosity.

The notes to Mr Cary's *Dante* are exceedingly valuable, and will assist even the reader of the Italian through many obstacles: for Dante's difficulties are not of language, but of allusion. Moreover, they are not too long. They give the required information, without seriously interrupting the reader in his course. We possess a foreign edition, compiled with care and talent, in which we are always afraid to look at a note, lest the chain of narrative should be snapped by the study of the themes presented.

Lastly, this version of the whole *Comedy* of Dante, being one of the *Standard Library*, costs no more than six shillings. Who shall say that this is not an age for the diffusion of literature? Mr Smith has also published an edition of smaller size, and more compact in shape. We heartily recommend both.

*Diary of Travels in France and Spain. Chiefly in the Year 1844.* By the Rev. Francis Trench. Two vols. Bentley.

This book has the interest which books and all

things else derive from a purpose. Mr Trench thought it his duty, as he travelled, to make himself master of the state of religion in France; and his inquiries and ministrations among the simple and earnest communities of the Protestant persuasion in the southern provinces, give a character to his book very much the reverse of commonplace. Mr Trench extended his travel to the Pyrenees also, and gives us some details supplementary to our excellent Borrow, on the Bible in Spain. He hits off a piece of scenery (in which he has occasional aid from a clever pencil), a picturesque point of history, and now and then a fragment of rustic character, with success. His sketch of the Chinon peasant's pride in her "petit bonhomme" (a little urchin of some four or five years old strutting about in a new suit) and "le premier jour de ses culottes," is very pleasant. Mr Trench has not a few of the prejudices of his profession, but he has none of its new-fangled fancies or pretensions. His religion is sober, earnest, and practical; and on the whole we have to commend and recommend his *Diary*.

*Impressions of Australia Felix, during Four Years' Residence in that Colony; Notes of a Voyage round the World; Australian Poems, &c.* By Richard Howitt. Longman and Co.

Vivid impressions; and those of an honest, clever man. Mr Richard Howitt has not a little of his brother William's resolute character and sharpness of view; but on the whole set in a kindlier neighbourhood, of sensibility and impulse. He has a taste for poetry and a talent for writing it; but where he most succeeds is in his prose pictures of nature. Here is the fresh and warm inspiration of a hearty love and enjoyment. The book contains also graver matter; sad disappointments, frustrated hopes. Australia was not Australia Felix to the sanguine adventurer. But he keeps a manful spirit throughout, and sets forth charges of colonial mismanagement in a way that will attract attention.

#### PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS.

The new number of the *Westminster Review* opens with an extremely able article on the great French economists, Turgot and Say. It includes a masterly sketch of the social results of the middle ages, and in what is said of Turgot's noble and unsuccessful struggle for the poor of France, points a moral just now invaluable, on the timely correction of injustice. It took millions of treasure and seas of blood, to purchase for France what Turgot's simple expedient of justice would have given her. With one exception, the rest of the *Westminster* articles are an avoidance of literary subjects, and the number closes with a third exposure (we have patience, and there is excellent matter, for as many more) of the giant job of the time, our worthy London Corporation. The excepted article, on Shakspeare and his Editors, is a clever re-opening of a somewhat exhausted question of commentatorial value; but the writer's lively exposure of other people's assumptions would be better for a little less assumption of his own. We cannot think it a position reconcilable by any train of argument, that Shakspeare thought *Macbeth* and *Hamlet* less worthy of publication than *Lucrece* and *Venus and Adonis*. He could not have written *Hamlet*, if he thought so. In his dedication to the *Adonis* he expressly contrasts it, slightly, with "graver labour:" in that to the *Lucrece*, he calls it "untutored lines." There is an easier solution to the difficulty of the non-publication of his collected plays during his lifetime (for many single plays were published), in the fact of his theatrical proprietorships, and the yet more important consideration of his apparently sudden death. And what does the writer mean by turning Partridge's famous criticism on Garrick's *Hamlet* to the disadvantage of the actor. "Garrick's truth," he remarks, "was truth to vulgar nature, and addressed to vulgar minds." It may have been so, but we must be excused for thinking it proved by Partridge. The critic had read Fielding imperfectly. It was not Garrick's knees that knocked together at terror of the ghost, as he sets forth, but Partridge's that knocked together at terror of the actor. And should the actor not inspire a terror in that awful meeting? Surely, yes. He should "horribly shake our dispositions," as he says his own are shaken. What Partridge afterwards observes, too, of "how his fear forsook him by degrees and he was struck dumb with sorrow," is a delicate and happy addition to Fielding's praise of his friend, which the critic had overlooked. Let us add that, without intending it, he has understated Theobald's merit in his famous *Falstaff* emendation. The change from 'a babbled of Mr Greenfield (as he puts it) to 'a babbled of green fields, is a different and easier suggestion than from a table of green fields (as the passage really stood). It was Pope who suggested Mr Greenfield, thinking it possible that the players might so have foisted in a direction to some prompter (a supposititious Mr Greenfield) for a table on which to put Pistol's parting cup before his journey to the wars! Whereupon Theobald

put Pope among the *Doubtful Editors*, and thereupon Pope put Theobald in the *Dunciad*.

We have nothing from the master-wit in *Hood's Magazine*, but several interesting papers from the friends who have rallied round him in his illness. Mr Landor's 'Dante and Beatrice,' Mr Browning's 'Tomb at St Praxed's,' Mr Milnes' prose and verse, and a fragment 'From the Norse,' which is *aut Diabolus aut Carlyle*; take the lead in these. We are particularly glad to observe in the fragment of Mr Browning's poetry (which never wants for thought or passion) a steadier and more sustained versification. The sad announcement at the close of this magazine we quoted last week. If its worst anticipations are realized, the world will have to deplore the extinction of a true original genius in its best maturity; at the season of its ripest gathering.

*Blackwood* begins what will be a 'Sequel to the Confessions of an English Opium-Eater;' but is not yet. The article deals exclusively with passages of the writer's childhood, which he supposes to have a certain "hidden harmony" with his latest visitation from Opium-excess; and is ably written, though not unaffectedly. Livelier and more homely writing is in 'Practical Agriculture,' and 'North's Specimens of the British Critics;' Christopher being somewhat "crusty" with Dryden as he begins, but gradually opening his large heart, and writing *then* (in a style not less pleasant for a certain subduement) with corresponding wit and knowledge.

The *New Monthly* is rich with an Ingoldsby Legend; the 'Blasphemous Warning;' rhymed with irresistible point, and reasoned to a most sagacious moral. Nor are the 'Talleyrand Papers,' the 'Peter Priggings' Sketches,' and Mrs Trollope's novel, an inconsiderable *corps de reserve*, after the dashing exploit of Mr Ingoldsby. A kind notice of Mr Blanchard winds up the number, but not more kind than just. With *Fraser's* politics we do not meddle, but he has some pleasing papers (he is seldom without them) on purely literary subjects, and a very able and right-thinking comment on the 'Great Ward Business.' But what on earth can be the supposed interest of such details as we find in a 'Walk from London to Fulham.' Is it possible that any one can take interest in such intolerable trifling?

Trifling, *Jerrold's Magazine* is not; whatever its other defects may be. It is very much in earnest. The editor continues his wholesome contrasts of 'high' and 'low' in his 'History of St Giles and St James;' and there is plenty of matter and meaning, apt and suited to the time, in the 'Genii of Steam,' the 'Luxury of Light,' the 'Tally System,' and the 'Crimes of Quacks.' Mr Patmore continues his 'Recollections of Hazlitt;' and the 'Hedgehog Letters' are a smart and lively comment on the month's politics.

We have often thought, with the usual free way of thinking about an old school friend, that '*Lempriere*' would be a good subject for a quiz; and here the pleasant old drawler is, most irreverently quizzed in *George Cruikshank's Table Book*; the whim and mirth of which must nevertheless give place to the artist's graphic denunciation of the 'Folly of Crime.' A large and elaborate etching with this title, wonderfully executed by Cruikshank, illustrates Crime from its mean beginning to its monstrous end, and shows, throughout, its title to the Fool's-cap. The 'Stage Ladies' Maid' is as good as Mrs Humby in the part; and the stage-master, and stage-lover, in the woodcut, have a closeness to the truth which we shudder to think of. The best piece of literature in the number is the 'Song of the Months;' but altogether the *Table Book* is an unexceptionable half-hour's companion, easy and good-humoured, laughter-moving and laughter-loving.

Very different 'Revelations of London' are these in *Ainsworth's Magazine*; dealing with Rosicrucian mysteries and Radeliffian 'compacts;' but grimly fascinating, doubtless, to the lovers of such things. The paper on Mr Blanchard is very pleasing; being written with that earnest kindness, which, in criticism as in everything else, 'adds a precious seeing to the eye.' The number has altogether great variety and merit. Mr Hooton's ballad of 'the Mexican Merchant' is a powerful piece of verse, though with such occasional vulgarities of no-rhyme, as 'saw' and 'drawer;' and Mr Oxenford's 'Ghazels' from Rückert, are graceful exercises in a difficult and not profitable art. We must bring out of a more obscure corner in the magazine, a 'Sonnet on March.' The name affixed is 'Edmund Ollier;' probably a young writer, but with the true spirit of poetry in him.

The *Art-Union*, a monthly journal of pictorial criticism, and essays connected with the decorative arts, we should imagine very useful and interesting to those whom its subject matter interests. The information is full and various, and extremely well brought together. The *Polytechnic Review and Magazine*, though embracing the arts, is more especially devoted to science. The best articles in the present number are on 'Guano,' and 'Explosive or Projectile Expedients in War.' The mention of

guano reminds us that we must not omit honourable mention of the *Journal of Agriculture and Transactions of the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland*; of which the present number is the eighth in the new series. The opening article is an agricultural fallacy against Free Trade; but the papers on purely practical subjects are excellently written.

Finding ourselves in Scotland, let us look at the second part of Mrs Johnstone's *Edinburgh Tales*. Their kindly and cheerful spirit continues. A shrewd old-world experience, pleasantly corrected and enlarged with new-world knowledge, gives tone to the adventures of 'Governor Fox.' The veteran's brief parliamentary career, and continual but very genial mixture of liberality and intolerance, are highly amusing.

The second number of Mr Wright's *Archæological Album* is a manifest improvement on the first; and the project seems not unlikely to work well, and prove a valuable addition to our lighter historical and antiquarian literature. The *Library of Travel* continues Mr St John's analysis of the wonders of Egypt and Nubia; a subject for which no more competent inquirer could have been selected. Mrs Cowden Clarke's *Complete Concordance to Shakespeare*, by far the most useful of recent Shakspearian books, proceeds with admirable regularity, and redeems every promise of its commencement.

A cheap and cheerful little series called Burns' *Fireside Library*, though composed of works complete in themselves, may be classed with periodical publications. Among the best additions that have been lately made to it, are a nice selection of short tales modernized from the 'Gesta Romanorum,' a collection of Ballads from Percy and others, Fouqué's 'Sintram and his Companions' with clever little vignettes by Mr Selous, and a new translation of our old friend 'Peter Schlemil.' A different sort of library, claiming somewhat graver attention, is the *Catholic Series* issued by Mr Chapman: to which the latest additions have been a new impression of Mr Martineau's 'Rationale of Religious Enquiry,' and two spirited translations from the German of Strauss and Schelling.

Mr Knight's *Weekly Volumes* are continued with wonderful energy and wealth of resource. Since we last noticed them, the first volume of a selection from Plutarch by that excellent scholar Mr Long, a new edition of the well-known 'Pursuit of Knowledge under Difficulties,' some of Mr Craik's excellent writing on Literary and Commercial History, curious and instructive 'Memoirs of a Working Man,' a collection of pictures of English life from Chaucer, and of Spanish romantic story from the ballads of the Cid, have been added to the collection. Mr Knight's *Library for the Times* continues the 'History of the French Revolution,' and the fourth part of the 'Political Dictionary,' marks the progress of a most useful section of Mr Knight's *Books of Reference*.

As to Chambers' *Miscellany of Useful and Entertaining Tracts*, the reader will probably inquire further for himself, when we say that it is a very handsome volume (in gay binding, too!) of treatises and tales, well selected in the subjects and very intelligently handled, sold for a shilling.

## THE THEATRICAL EXAMINER.

### THE QUEEN'S THEATRE.

The opera has opened brilliantly with Verdi's *Ernani*, an Italian version of Victor Hugo's drama, and the ballet of *Eoline*.

We do not profess to be such penetrating critics as to judge decisively of the merit of an opera on the first hearing. We confess that we have seldom ventured to do so without having had reason afterwards to repent of our rashness, and very much to modify our opinion. The ear must have some acquaintance with music before it can fully perceive its merits; in every piece there must be some recollection of past passages and of coming ones to give the due effect to the sounds striking the ear. The relation of parts cannot, therefore, be felt on a first performance; hence it is, as every one knows, that good music improves on acquaintance, in other words, the acquaintance is necessary to the true comprehension of it.

As far, then, as we can presume to judge on a first hearing, we should characterize the music of *Ernani* as agreeable, and very clever in dramatic effects, but having in it no feature of originality.

In one of the most striking scenes our judgment was not at fault for want of sufficient acquaintance, as we recognized, with very little disguise, the notes of the Statue in *Don Giovanni*.

The new singer, Mademoiselle Rita Borio, from Madrid, has a voice of much richness, and a style at once correct and pleasing. She appears to be a good musician, and sings perfectly in tune (no common merit) without trick or any of the hackneyed mis-called ornaments, by which the bad taste of the performer obtains the applause of the audience. All is easy, smooth, graceful, and correct. Mademoiselle Rita Borio, as an actress, stands above mediocrity. In person she is rather

large, and bears what the French call a false resemblance to Ronzi Vestris of former years.

Moriani and Fornasari acquit themselves well in their respective parts, and the latter's acting in a character incarnating stern and sanguinary revenge, is of very considerable tragic power.

The ballet, *Eoline the Dryade*, is the most beautiful that we have seen for many a day; nay, we doubt whether its equal in the *mise en scene* has been seen except at the Academie Royale.

Mademoiselle Lucile Grahb, the first dancer, is in her style quite perfect. Her only disadvantage is her excellence. The *ars celare artem* is so complete, that the spectators do not appreciate the exquisite skill before them. The critic of the *Times* justly observes—

"Though a danseuse capable of performing astonishing feats—witness some of her revolving bounds—there is a quiet air about her that disguises her own merit. The light easy gracefulness of her movements approaches an appearance of nonchalance, and as she does not take her spectators by storm, they are disposed to overlook her consummate skill. But those who reflect on the character she assumed, and the emotions that were to be depicted, must, we think, come to the conclusion that it could not have been better done. The slight figure, the innocent sportiveness of her dancing, the neatness without effort of every step, completely realized the notion of a fairy creature of the most amiable kind. A fantastic *pas* by her and Perrot—the 'Mazourka d'Extase'—exhibited mental qualities worthy of the greatest names of the profession."

Mdlle Grahb's ease and grace in floating movements are of indescribable beauty; indeed, we have no hesitation in saying that she has already no superior in her art. Her pantomime, too, is excellent, but always so much within bounds, so true to the right expression, and never overdoing it, that spectators accustomed to exaggeration are likely to overlook its merits.

### PRINCESS.

We give the conclusion of our correspondent's remarks on Mrs Stirling's late performances at this theatre. Perhaps he has allowed too little for the foils which have set them off. The lady, being natural and intelligent, shines forth among those who surround her—"a good deed in a naughty world."

Sir,—According to my promise I will now state shortly the leading qualities which, in my judgment, distinguish Mrs Stirling from English actresses, and ought specially to appropriate her to Shakspeare.

The first, and though not the greatest, perhaps the most indispensable, is her power of recitation; which, though beautifully articulate and audible in all parts of the house, is as easy and natural as if she were talking in a room; and though ranging at will through every variety of feeling and expression, yet passes so gracefully from change to change that the sense of the rhythm and measure is never lost; always musical, never monotonous.

The second, which is higher and rarer, is the fulness and completeness with which she enters into the spirit of her part: the sense which never quits her, not only of her own situation, but of all the surrounding scene and circumstance. It is not only while she speaks or is spoken to, that she feels who or where she is; she feels, and feels in every nerve, all that is going on around her. When she was brought into the senate (in *Othello*) her consciousness of the threefold embarrassment of her situation (which, by the way, I never so fully felt before)—the first meeting with her father, the first publication of her marriage, the awful and unaccustomed presence—expressed itself, long before she spoke, in every action, as sensibly as words could do. When she was waiting on the platform for tidings of *Othello*, she seemed to be shrinking at the sound of the breakers against the bulwarks. She never forgets who are within hearing, nor whether she is under a roof or in the open air.

The third, and greatest, is what, for want of a better word, I must call the INDIVIDUALITY which she imparts to all her personations: the power of perceiving and portraying those undefinable peculiarities of character which, in Nature and in Shakspeare, make us feel that no two persons are exactly like each other. Try to describe any one woman, and there are a hundred others whom the description will fit as well; yet no one who knows her could mistake her for any one of them. You cannot state in words wherein the difference lies, yet you feel that the difference is essential. So it is in Mrs Stirling's acting. If she were to play first *Mrs Ford* and then *Mrs Page*; or *Regan* one night and *Goneril* the next; it would not be like the same person uttering different sets of speeches, but like two distinct persons bearing a strong resemblance to each other; distinct in the basis of the character, resembling in the accidents. And this I take to be the most Shakspearian quality which a player can possess: an excellence not to be attained but by a profound conception of the idea, and a perfect sympathy with the feeling of the poet, which implies no small measure of the poetic imagination itself.

Now, Sir, I know nothing whatever of Mrs Stirling except as an actress; never heard her voice except on the stage; and it is simply on behalf of judicious playgoers, who like to see Shakspeare worthily acted, that I ask why, if she possesses such qualities as these, she does not appear oftener in parts which bring them into play. Why is she condemned to waste such talents in throwing some human interest into such wretched trash as *Don Cesar de Bazan*, or so slight and thin a manufacture as the *Carbonaro*? The public, perhaps, as critics, are not prepared to rate her as highly as I do; but I observe that, though she does not draw down "repeated plaudits," she receives a great deal of the best

kind of applause—the only applause indeed that can be truly called hearty (for those "plaudits" express opinions rather than feelings), I mean the pleasure, sympathy, and natural interest with which she is always attended. The public feel that her acting is agreeable, and I am persuaded that (if they were but told to do so by a received authority) they would very readily think it fine.

THEATRES.

## FOREIGN NEWS.

### FRANCE.

On a ballot on the Pension Bill in the Chamber of Deputies on Monday, there were for the bill 188; against, 201; leaving a majority against Ministers of 13. The Opposition claim this as a great victory. The Ministry had sent letters to all their adherents, requesting their attendance to vote in favour of the law; but, notwithstanding all their efforts, they were left in a minority. The *Debats* of Tuesday and other Ministerial papers say that the bill was lost, not by the efforts of the Opposition, but because it was objected to by many Conservatives, who, though generally supporters of the Cabinet, oppose this measure from their connexion with the magistracy.

The Paris *Commerce* of Wednesday contains a paragraph from which it may be inferred that the King has consented to a dissolution of the Chamber of Deputies, and that the Cabinet will therefore try the chance of a general election. According to this journal M. Duchatel has succeeded in making the King believe that he can guarantee a large majority in a new Chamber.

FATAL DUEL.—A great sensation was created in Paris on Tuesday, by the announcement that a duel had that morning taken place, in the Bois de Boulogne, between M. de Beauvalon, one of the editors of the *Globe* (Paris paper), and M. Dujarrier, the director and principal proprietor of the *Presse*, which unfortunately proved fatal to the latter gentleman. The parties fought with pistols, and on the first fire M. de Beauvalon's ball struck M. Dujarrier in the right eye, and having penetrated into the brain the unhappy man fell dead on the instant. The seconds on the part of M. Dujarrier were M. de Boigne and the son of General Bertrand, and on the part of M. de Beauvalon, the Count de Clair and M. de Quivilliers. The cause of quarrel was not exactly known, but it is supposed to have reference to a series of bitter and personal attacks upon the conductors of the *Presse*, which have recently appeared in the columns of the *Globe*.

The two first volumes of M. Thiers's *History of the Consulate and Empire* have just appeared.

It is said that a new amnesty, including all the political prisoners not included in the last, has been agreed upon, and will be published on the 1st May next.

SWITZERLAND.—News from Zurich to the 9th inst. says—"The French Ambassador on the 6th informed the President of the Diet of a note from M. Guizot, couched, it is said, in terms similar to that of Lord Aberdeen, of Feb. 11. Thus, then, Switzerland has fallen under the regime of diplomatic notes whilst waiting for protocols, and it is the two great constitutional Powers of Europe that open the way."

SERBIA.—A letter from Belgrade, of the 24th ult., in the *Cologne Gazette*, assures us that Serbia is again in a very disturbed state, and that the emissaries of Prince Milosch are actively sowing the seeds of a new revolution.

LES PERFIDES ANGLAIS!—The Rouen journals state that the following curious notice was lately proclaimed by the town crier of Yvetot (Seine Inférieure):—"A considerable number of Englishmen being about to be employed on the railroad, the Mayor engages the ladies, both young and old, not to walk in the streets after nine o'clock in the evening."

RAILROADS IN ITALY.—The King of Naples has just ordered surveys to be made for two most important railroads, which, after having passed the Apennines, are to unite the capital with the two extreme points of his states from north to east. The first of these two grand enterprises, from the north, is a length of forty-four leagues, and is to run from Naples to Termoli, on the Adriatic. This line will also have a branch to Chieti. The second line, to the east, is not less than seventy-eight leagues, and is intended to be carried from Naples to Lecci, being eight leagues from the port of Brindes, on the Adriatic. The Duke of Tuscany is also endeavouring to obtain a communication as far as Ravenna, or Rimini, with the railroad constructed between Leghorn and Florence. The Sardinian Government is not less active in the formation of plans for railroads all through the Sardinian States.

CAPTURE OF SANTA ANNA.—After his unsuccessful attack upon Puebla, the General left a body of cavalry of 1,000 men at St Antonio, and fled at night with only four attendants. He was captured, however, by a small party of Indians, at the village of Hico, about three leagues from Calopa, whence they escorted him, their party having been reinforced, and delivered him over to the authorities. He was shortly afterwards removed to the Castle of Perote. The general impression is, that he will shortly be put upon his trial, afterwards banished from the country, and the whole of his property confiscated to the State. He was careless enough to write to some friends at Vera Cruz respecting his money and other treasures, and to give directions for their disposal. The letters were, however, seized, and an embargo laid upon the whole. Gen. Bravo, it is supposed, will be the new President. The country is now tranquil.

FIRE IN BARBADOES.—A great fire broke out on the 5th, in Bridge town, Barbadoes. It commenced in the part of the town principally devoted to commerce, and where the stores and houses are thickly studded. The buildings being built principally of wood, old and worm-eaten, the fire spread with the greatest rapidity, and de-

fied all human efforts to suppress it. The fire having been observed by Admiral Sir Charles Adam, he immediately landed his officers and the whole of his sailors, together with the fire-engines on board, and was instrumental in effecting a great amount of benefit by arresting the progress of the flames. The fire continued to burn with great fury for three days, and was, in fact, smouldering at the time the packet left on the 9th. The negroes stood by and looked on with the greatest apathy, and could not be induced to assist cheerfully. The Barbadians assert their loss will exceed half a million of money.

Mr Hume presented to her Majesty a petition under the seal and sign manual of his Highness Pertaub Shean, the deposed Rajah of Sattara, and the legal descendant of the great Sevajee, the founder of the Mahratta Empire. The Rajah prays her Majesty to be graciously pleased to extend to him that protection which he has a right to expect from the honour and justice of the British Government, viz., that he may be furnished with a copy of the charges and the evidence against him, which he has demanded, and which have hitherto been refused him, but on which he has, without a trial, or even a hearing—which the meanest of her Majesty's subjects has a right to demand—been deposed from his throne, and now remains an exile and a prisoner at Benares.

The *Gibraltar Chronicle* mentions the death of Mr Butler, the English Vice-Consul at Tetuan. The Consuls of Sweden and Denmark have resumed their duties at Tangiers.

Reschid Effendi, the Governor of Smyrna, has issued a proclamation, interdicting the issue of coin at more than its value as fixed by the tariff reducing the price of bread and meat, and subjecting bakers who shall sell by false weight to penalties. Instead of bastinado, which is the usual punishment, delinquents are to be obliged to close their shops one day for every drachm that their bread is deficient in weight.

#### COURT AND ARISTOCRACY.

**THE QUEEN AT CHRIST'S HOSPITAL.**—The Queen and Prince Albert went to Christ's Hospital on Sunday evening to attend divine service and witness the supper of the scholars in the hall of the establishment. The appearance of the hall, 200 feet long, 52 wide, and 47 high, lined with 800 scholars, was very interesting. Her Majesty sat in the chair of state, and as soon as the Royal party were seated, the usual ceremonial was gone through. It commenced with the singing of the first two verses of the 100th psalm by the boys. The lesson was then read. It consisted of a part of the 10th chapter of St Luke, from the 28th verse to the end. The usual prayers for Sunday evening were also read. The boys then sang a portion of the 139th psalm. Her Majesty joined in all these religious exercises with marked attention. Mr Newton next delivered the grace before supper, to which meal, frugal though it was, and taken at an earlier hour than usual, the boys applied themselves with a readiness that showed their appetites at least to be independent of the influence of Royalty. Their fare is of the simplest, consisting of bread and butter—familiarily known in economical houses as "bread and scrape"—with an allowance of thin beer. The table arrangements are equally simple. No knives and forks are needed, and their beer they drink out of wooden vessels. While the supper was going forward her Majesty and the Prince, followed by their suite, and attended by the chief officers of the institution, walked round the room, between the tables, looking on, apparently much amused at the celerity with which the supper was being removed. Not less rapidly were the tables cleared. Everything is of course done by rule in such a place, each boy having his allotted duty; and the Royal party had scarcely reached their seats again, ere not only the supper, but every vestige of the table-furniture, table-cloths, beakers and all included, had vanished as if by magic. The Queen seemed at once surprised and amused at the quickness and precision with which all this was done. It is the custom on occasion of these suppers for all the boys to walk in procession two and two past the chair of state, where they make their bow; accordingly the 800, preceded by the 12 "Grecians" and 12 "King's boys," passed before her Majesty in wards or dormitories, each headed by its respective nurse. Her Majesty witnessed the passage of the whole of this long train, bearing "the candlesticks," "the platters," the "bread-baskets," &c., of the supper-table, before she quitted the Hospital.

**THE ALLEGED ATTEMPT TO SHOOT PRINCE ALBERT.**—As many reports are at present afloat regarding this alleged attempt to assassinate his Royal Highness Prince Albert on Tuesday last, and these reports are all exaggerations, it becomes necessary to disabuse the public mind, and state the real facts of the case, which are these:—The Prince left the Palace on horseback by the garden gate shortly after twelve o'clock on Tuesday noon, attended by Sir E. Bowater (equerry in waiting) and a groom. The Prince had proceeded about half way up Constitution hill, when a man, who was standing on the pathway, presented a pistol (as it is alleged) at his Royal Highness. There appeared to be no attempt made to discharge it, and the action was unobserved both by the Prince and his equerry, but Colonel Knight, of 29 St James's place, and a Mr Arnold, were on the spot at the time, and having observed what passed, notified the same to Sir Edward Bowater. The man who had the pistol walked on towards Buckingham Palace, as did a man who was with him. Sir Edward Bowater despatched the Prince's groom in search of a policeman, but he failed to meet with one until he had reached Hyde-park corner, when he called police-constable Bolton, 57 B, to his assistance, and took that officer with him to the Prince's equerry. Sir Edward described the appearance of the man to the policeman, as did Colonel Knight and Mr Arnold. These gentlemen also accompanied the constable in search of the man. He was traced, through the

information of one of the park gardeners, to the little gate by the Duke of Sutherland's mansion, but here all further trace was lost. The man was described as being from 18 to 20 years of age, about five feet six inches high, of sallow complexion, with brown hair; he was dressed as a decent mechanic. The constable continued his search until he reached the Horse Guards, where he apprehended a man somewhat answering the description given him, and took him to Sir E. Bowater. That gentleman at once discovered that he was not the individual who presented the pistol, and he was immediately set at liberty. All further inquiry has proved fruitless. A description was despatched by route to the different police stations. The opinion of those acquainted with the fact is, that even supposing that a man did present a real pistol at the Prince, it was done without any evil motive. The Police Commissioners have, in consequence of this occurrence, placed an extra constable on duty on Constitution hill. It is a singular coincidence that on Monday night, about a quarter to twelve o'clock, as the Queen was returning from the French plays, and in the act of entering the Palace gates, a woman threw herself on her knees before the carriage, and called out, "Queen Victoria, save your country." The woman was removed in custody immediately. It was a miracle that she escaped with her life, as the horses were all but trampling on her when the coachman pulled up. It appears that this woman, who is about forty years of age, Irish by birth, and resides in the low part of Westminster, is well known to the police and soldiers on duty at the Palace and has been many times driven away from the Palace gates. She was taken to the station house in Gardiner's lane, but after a short confinement was set at liberty.

### IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

#### HOUSE OF LORDS.

Monday, March 10.

##### CIVIL DISABILITIES OF THE JEWS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR moved the second reading of the bill for removing the municipal and corporate disabilities of the Jews. The circumstances attending the rejection of Mr Salomons, as an alderman of the city of London, showed the impolicy of retaining a law which excluded from municipal honours a gentleman of the highest respectability, by which all public incentives to honourable conduct and the spirit of citizenship were diminished. The desirable object to be attained would be effected by omitting the words "on the true faith of a Christian" from the declaration required from a Jew on taking office. There were Jews amongst the aldermen of Birmingham, Portsmouth, and Southampton; and there might be amongst the aldermen of London, if the corporation chose, simply by varying the time at which the declaration was made, by which the party might come in under the operation of the annual indemnity bill. The bill before them would get rid of the anomaly, and place all the corporations in the kingdom on a level in this respect. He did not urge the matter as a great question of public principle, but simply on the ground of getting rid of an anomaly.—The Bishop of LONDON did not oppose the present measure, but held himself free to oppose, if he thought fitting, any further extension of the principle which would admit Jews into parliament.—The Marquis of LANSDOWNE hailed the bill, the principle of which he hoped would ere long be carried further.—Lord BROUGHAM expressed similar sentiments; as also did Lord CAMPBELL; but his use of the word "unanimity" was protested against by the Bishop of LONDON, who said that it was not to be supposed that he approved because he did not oppose the bill.—After a few remarks from Lords COLCHESTER and REDESDALE, the bill was read a second time.

Thursday, March 13.

The property and income tax bill, brought up from the Commons, was read a first time.—The Duke of WEL-LINGTON intimated that on Tuesday next he will move the adjournment of the house, for the Easter holidays, till the 3d of April.—Lord BROUGHAM complained that on Tuesday last the decision of the railway committee of the Board of Trade on the London and York railway had been known on the Stock Exchange as early as twelve o'clock, before the appearance of the *Gazette*, and that a great deal of business had been done in consequence. He moved for a return of the prices of shares of that particular company at 12 o'clock and at 4 o'clock of the particular day in question.—The Earl of DALHOUSIE replied that the railway committee did not meet for the purposes of decision until 4 o'clock of the day in question, and this, therefore, was a triumphant answer to the charge that the proceedings of the Stock Exchange were influenced in consequence.—Lord BROUGHAM, under the circumstances, withdrew his notice, but regarded the rumour as to the oozing out of information as a proof of the inaptitude of a secret tribunal for such a country as England.—Routine business was then proceeded with, advancing sundry bills different stages. The house rose early.

Friday, March 14.

Earl MINTO postponed his motion on the subject of Otahete till after Easter.

On the order of the day for the third reading of the Jewish disabilities bill,

The Duke of CAMBRIDGE begged to thank the Lord Chancellor for the introduction of that measure of amelioration, to which he thought the Jews were fairly entitled. He was warmly attached to the established church, but every measure of toleration which did not endanger it would receive his support. The bill was then read a third time and passed.

The stamp acts assimilation (Ireland) bill was read a third time and passed, after an assurance from the Duke of WELLINGTON that it would not interfere with the full consideration of the land commissioners' report.

The other bills on the table were advanced a stage, and their lordships adjourned till Monday.

#### HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, March 10.

##### INCOME TAX.

Mr C. BULLER proposed his amendment, "That the circumstances under which the renewal of the income tax is at present proposed, are such as to render it exceedingly improbable that parliament will have the power of dispensing with its continuance at the end of three years; and that

it is, therefore, the duty of this house to take care that the tax be imposed in a form in which its operation shall be less unequal and inquisitorial than it now is." After some amusing comments on the "noble self-reliance" of the ministerial side of the house in its blind adoption of the measures of the government, and a picture of the opposition side, which, with all its disposition to admire the prime minister, was "sharper set," he expressed his opinion that the leaders of the opposition, convinced as they were of the premanence of the income tax, might have assisted to continue it in a less oppressive form. A feeling was growing up in favour of direct taxation; but having to raise an annual revenue of 50,000,000L, our main reliance must be on indirect taxation. We should keep the property and income tax for extraordinary occasions; a state of war, for example; though he admitted that there were other occasions on which it might be imposed. Such an occasion might be found in a great fiscal experiment, where a large surplus enabled a minister to deal with great articles of taxation. There was the rare fact of a large surplus; and yet the golden opportunity it afforded Sir R. Peel had thrown away. British sugar in bond was 34s., which, with the 14s. duty, made 48s.; and Brazilian in bond was only 21s. Our taxes, also, on tea, multiplied its value four times; coffee and malt were doubled; all the leading articles of consumption, sugar, tea, coffee, soap, tobacco, spirits, were either limited in demand or exposed to adulteration and fraud. Yet because sundry articles of medicine and alum for bread, were admitted, the budget was called the poor man's budget! Tobacco and foreign spirits were undoubtedly legitimate sources of taxation; but our absurd system not merely deprived us of income, but converted them into the cause of nearly all the crime which arose out of smuggling and other offences against the revenue. He had looked into the reductions to be effected by the abolition of the cotton duty, and found that the poor man would be benefited in fustian by three halfpence, and the poor woman on calico for her gowns to a similar amount, making the entire benefit to them threepence annually. Let the poor, therefore, be grateful! True, there were other articles in the budget—as furniture woods, the reduction on which would be a compensation for the income tax, if all England were composed of new married couples, with a thousand a year and upwards. He warned the free-trade side of the house that the reductions on glass and other articles amounted to nothing short of abandoning—at least of weakening—their warfare against all protective duties whatever; and ridiculed the idea that the house would be left, three years hence, at "unfettered liberty" to deal with the income tax, when the duties on all articles from which a surplus was reasonably to be anticipated were swept away. No preparation was made for the possibility of years of bad harvests and commercial distress. Urging that the property and income tax, in its practical operation, fully justified his allegation that it was inquisitorial and oppressive, he concluded by proposing his amendment.—The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER criticised the indefinite nature of the amendment, which, at this late period, proposed to stop the bill by a proposition which left it open to every member to suggest what alterations he pleased. He vindicated the financial propositions of the government.

Lord HOWICK, though looking upon the income tax as a most objectionable mode of raising the revenue, saw no way of modifying it at once justly and effectually. He preferred a well-considered system of taxation on expenditure, which would fall equally on all classes, draw its largest amount from luxuries, and afford the greatest benefit to the working man. Protective taxes were now admitted to be taxes on the community for the advantage of classes, and he trusted that before the next general election, which would take place before the re-imposed income tax would expire, the public mind would be so enlightened as to compel a resort to a more rational system.—Sir R. H. INGLIS was in favour of capitalizing income, in order to levy the tax more equitably, or failing that, he would resort to his former proposition of confining the tax to all incomes above 150L (making that sum the starting point), as the benefits of the reductions in taxes would be but little felt by those whose smaller incomes still brought them within the limits of the income tax. He also regretted that in the budget so much consideration was bestowed on material wants, while spiritual and moral destitution was overlooked.—Mr WARBURTON re-urged his views as to the comparative equality of taxing variable and terminable, as well as permanent sources of income, and looked upon the income tax as one which possessed the great merit of keeping the people lively jealous and watchful, whereas indirect taxation was apt to render them apathetic.—Mr MONCKTON MILNES, though approving of direct taxation, was unwilling to limit the exchequer too narrowly to this source, as in that case the sensitive jealousy of the people, as to any increase, might compromise our honour in any emergency with foreign countries.—Mr HAWES, examining the details of the budget, pleaded that a much larger surplus would be at the disposal of the government, by which they could deal more largely with taxes on consumption, and obviate the necessity of the income tax, which was essentially unjust and inquisitorial.—Mr SPOONER concurred in considering it unjust to tax fleeting on the same terms as permanent income. He would take 150L as the *zero* of the tax. Differing, however, not as the principle of a property tax, but as to the details of its assessment, he could not support the amendment.—Mr HUME remarked that property in this country had, as compared with the continent, been hitherto subjected to a minimum of taxation, while the greatest amount of our revenue was raised from articles of consumption. He was in favour of direct taxation, as a means of relieving commerce and industry, and enabling us to compete in foreign markets—and therefore approved of the bold and statesmanlike course adopted by Sir R. Peel in his budget. The prime minister had refused to remove the inequalities of the income tax, and it was, therefore, of no use *bothering* themselves about it. (Great laughter.)

Sir R. PEEL, looking to the amendment and the speech of Mr C. Buller, regarded them as inconsistent. The one was pointed against the tax altogether; the other merely suggested modification. What would be the effect of one modification suggested?—that of making 150L the *zero* of the tax. It would be equivalent to returning to the 200,000 persons who pay the income tax the sum of 4L 10s. each, or reducing the tax in amount by nearly a million. The government, in taking off the duties on raw materials, favoured commerce; in repealing the excise on glass, removed impediments to the application of capital, science, and skill; and some of those who had smiled at Mr C. Buller's sarcastic description of the small benefit to be derived by the poor from the repeal of the cotton duty, had been amongst the most earnest of those who in deputations had urged on him the necessity of its repeal. Mirth had been made

of their taking off the import duties on the 430 articles of raw materials of the tariff; and they were taunted with admitting (along with other articles of hard names) alum, in order, as was said, to adulterate the poor man's bread. But alum was an important article in our manufactures, and he thought that the voice of the country was, on the whole, in favour of the selection which they had made. No doubt other taxes might be named which might be equally if not more beneficial to the labouring population; but, looking back to the distress of 1840 and other years, and to the rapid extension of our commerce in 1844 as compared with 1843, he was sanguine as to the favourable results of the remission of taxes bearing on the manufactures of the country. At the end of the next three years it would be for the house to determine whether or not it should be abrogated or still farther applied, in the shape of direct taxation, and the farther repeal of indirect.—Mr SHELL thought that if Sir R. Peel would only "tax his ingenuity," he might find a substitute for the inequalities of schedule D, at least on trades and professions. Tax the devolution of property by testament, as legacies were. There was not a speck of disturbance on the horizon. There was no pretence for the continuance of a tax which visited all men alike; assessed intellectual effort in the same way as property, and compelled it to contribute as income, which, derived from the funds, was as stable as the state, or from land, as secure as the earth. They taxed the prime minister, with 30,000*l.* a year, as they did the individual in the gallery who reported his speech, and whose income depended on health. He concluded by a vehement denunciation of the injustice of the tax.—Mr COBDEN considered that the quietude of the people under the circumstances was owing to its being cunningly mixed up with considerations of financial reduction. The last thing which a man would willingly submit to his neighbours—or even to his wife—was his last year's balance sheet; and yet in the north, as he illustrated by instances, the most vexatious and inquisitorial questions were asked, and the heaviest surcharges submitted to, rather than undergo farther trouble. As a free trader, he repudiated all connexion with such an income tax as this, for the sake of the reductions to be made, which were intended to keep up the delusion that the government was in favour of free trade. The whole of Sir R. Peel's policy, since he came into power, had tended to the shutting up of two of their greatest markets—that of North America, by the duty on corn; and of South America—the Brazils—by the duties on sugar.—Lord J. RUSSELL, advertent to Mr Hume's intimation that it was no use *bothering* about the income tax if Sir R. Peel refused modification, thought that if the prime minister were the *Petruchio* of Liberalism, the member for Montrose was unquestionably the *Catherine*, as he seemed so effectually tamed by the discipline adopted. Though censuring the financial plans of the government, he would willingly support the property and income tax for three years longer, as a *bona-fide* compensation for reduction of duties bearing on commerce and industry. In this view they were bound to render the tax as equitable as possible. He would vote for the amendment.—Mr VILLIERS, in an animated speech, urged the free-trade view of the budget, and contended that Sir R. Peel, who pointed out the beneficial effects of the reduction of the wool duty, was equally satisfied of the benefit which would result from the repeal of the corn laws, with this difference, that the advantage would be to a much greater extent.—Mr MUNTZ condemned the income tax.

On a division, there appeared—for the amendment, 112; against it, 240: majority, 128.

#### AMENDMENTS TO INCOME-TAX BILL.

Mr W. MILES brought forward an amendment, the object of which was to enable tenant occupiers of land to obtain, on appeal, an abatement, on any year on which their income was disproportionate to their assessment.—The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER could not adopt it. Profit in any given year might be abandoned, in order by outlay to double it in the next. The amendment would operate partially, and it should be recollected that farmers were only assessed on half their rent, and those under 300*l.* were exempted.—On a division, the amendment was rejected by 196 to 92.—Other amendments were postponed till the third reading of the bill, which was fixed for Wednesday. The report was then received. The house afterwards went into committee, in order to pass resolutions to repeal the export duty on coal, which was disposed of, along with the remaining business, including a discussion on the nomination of Mr Bright's committee on the game laws.

Tuesday, March 11.  
NEW ZEALAND.

Mr SOMES briefly moved for the production of correspondence respecting the issue of debentures as a legal tender—the imposition of taxes—the recent outrages—the sale of lands—Lord Stanley's agreement—and other matters relating to the affairs of New Zealand.

Mr AGLIONBY pressed for the publication of the documents. He pointed out particularly the issue of debentures to the amount of 15,000*l.*, depreciating the currency; the conduct of the governor, Captain Fitzroy, in dealing with the natives after the massacre of Wairau, and the cutting down of the flagstaff at Nelson; the treatment of the company by the government, in relation to its own affairs, and the general interests of the colony, which, under home and local official mismanagement, was brought to the verge of ruin.

Mr HOPE said the issue of debentures had been disallowed by the home government, and they had been withdrawn. On the subject of local taxation, or of the more recent occurrences caused by the conduct of the natives, they had not received any information; but with respect to the sale of lands, the necessity for altered instructions arose out of the increasing knowledge of the natives, which precluded them from acting on the same terms with them as hitherto.

Mr C. BULLER remarked on the paucity of information afforded by the organ of the Colonial office in that house; he professed to have no despatches relating to occurrences published in every newspaper of this country as far back as December last. But this question of New Zealand was but a sample of colonial mismanagement, from the imbecility of a local governor up to the utter ignorance of the Colonial office. He deprecated the idea of the fortunes of Englishmen being exposed to a system which had scarcely the shadow of a representative body, and where the mere caprice of the government could exclude from the magistracy, or remove from the council. A man like Captain Fitzroy was utterly unfitted for the governorship of a colony. Look to his mischievous and fatal blunder of issuing two-shilling and five-shilling debentures, which it was a compliment even to call *inconvertible*—an act evincing utter ignorance, not merely of elementary knowledge of

currency, but of what were the opinions and the policy of the government at home. He checked the importation of cattle by heavy import duties, which were also laid on rum and other spirits; and to cure the derangement of trade caused by his blunders in taxation, he abolished the custom house at Russell, and left the custom-house regulations in force all over the rest of the island, and this with the view of equalizing the revenue! The proclamation authorizing the sale of land was neither more nor less than reducing, by a stroke of the pen, the value of all the common land in New Zealand from the fixed price of 1*l.* to 10*s.* per acre. He spoke with much evident emotion of the memory of his gallant friend, Captain Wakefield, who, after many eminent services, had perished under the tomahawk of a savage in an obscure part of New Zealand; and yet the Governor had extended his sympathy, if not his approbation, to the natives! Forgetting the gentlemanly amenities of civilized life, he had insulted gentlemen; in six months he had deprived Europeans of all confidence in the government; had found a colony of 14,000 people raising a revenue of 36,000*l.*, and had dissipated it; while Prince Edward's Island, with its population of 47,000, was governed at an expense of 12,000*l.* Recounting the several blunders of Captain Fitzroy, he said he asked for no severer censure on him than that he was a very foolish and incompetent man, unfit to be entrusted with the management of the most ordinary affairs, and whose recall was requisite, if not for punishment and example, at least for the safety and interests of the colony.

Colonel R. TREVOR deprecated the attack on Captain Fitzroy in his own absence and that of all explanatory information.—Colonel WOOD (Brecon) spoke to the high professional merits of Captain Fitzroy, and Sir W. JAMES expressed his indignation at the terms which had been applied to his friend and relative, Captain Fitzroy.

Sir C. NAPIER thought it very amiable in a relative to defend a friend, but though Captain Fitzroy may have proved himself a scientific surveyor, it was no evidence of his being a good governor.

Sir R. PEEL thought it would have been but fair to have withheld the attack on Captain Fitzroy. He admitted that he could not, under any circumstances, consider the issue of inconvertible debentures as a wise act; but no official information, other than the fact of their issue and their disallowance, was possessed by the government. It was but fair to an absent man to wait for those unaccountably delayed explanations which, on their arrival, would be freely communicated to the house. Whenever a distinct motion was made, attacking the general conduct of Lord Stanley as Colonial Secretary, he would be prepared to meet it.

Lord HOWICK remarked that it was not the feelings of Captain Fitzroy they had to consider, but the interests of some fourteen or fifteen thousand British subjects in a distant colony. He trusted that ere long the whole affairs of New Zealand would come under the consideration of the house.

Mr MANGLES affirmed that when the New Zealand Company sanctioned the selection of Captain Fitzroy, it was in ignorance of the fact that he had been secretly and collusively furnished by Lord Stanley with a letter of instructions, in which the agreement between the company and the government was entirely explained away.

Sir R. H. INGLIS defended Captain Fitzroy.—Mr HOPE, in proposing certain verbal amendments in the returns moved for, entered into an explanation of the relations between the Colonial office and the New Zealand Company, with the view of showing that no deception had been practised, but that the whole differences arose out of a difference in interpretation of an understanding, not of an agreement.

Mr C. BULLER read extracts from the correspondence between the company and Lord Stanley, to show that, in spite of "Colonial-office reasoning," there had been truly an "agreement," which was subsequently and secretly explained away in private instructions to Captain Fitzroy. Such conduct would not be tolerated in the transactions of private life.

After some further conversation, the returns, amended, were ordered.

#### POOR LAW—ROCHDALE PETITION.

Mr S. CRAWFORD brought forward the Rochdale petition, moved that it should be referred to a select committee, and raised on it a debate upon the poor law in general.—Mr FERRAND seconded the motion, and made a bitter attack upon the law, the commissioners, the ministers, past and present, who had not kept their terms with the people; and especially taunted Sir J. Graham and Sir R. Peel with inconsistency on this question, and said that the latter had been placed on the bench which he then occupied by the countenance which he had given to the outcry against the poor law at the last general election. He insisted that the new poor law had not been beneficial either in its economical or in its moral results; that since the enactment of that statute crime had increased in all, and had absolutely doubled in some, parts of the country. It had raised a spirit of disaffection and disloyalty in the working population, of which they would some day rue the effects. Let them recollect the incendiary fires of the south, the outbreak in the north, and the insurrection in Wales. He was convinced that the people of Rochdale would never submit to the infliction of this accursed law upon them, unless it was introduced, as at Bradford, at the point of the bayonet.

Sir J. GRAHAM said the poor-law commissioners had determined to introduce the new poor law into Rochdale. They had power by law to carry that determination into effect. He did not enjoy any power to dispense with the law; and as a *mandamus* had been issued in consequence of the opposition made by the guardians of Rochdale to the orders of the commissioners, as the guardians had made a return to that *mandamus*, as the crown had traversed that return, and as an issue had been joined which would be tried at Liverpool on the 27th of this month, he thought that it would be indecorous in him to order that inquiry which the hon. member called for.

Mr BRIGHT approved the attachment of the people of Rochdale to their local institutions, and their hostility to the law administered by the poor-law commissioners.—Captain Pechell, Colonel Sibthorp, General Johnson, Mr Borthwick, and Mr Entwistle, briefly expressed their dislike of the new poor law, and their determination to support Mr S. Crawford's motion.—The house then divided, when there appeared—for the motion, 16; against it, 59: majority against it, 43.

#### EASTER HOLIDAYS.

Sir R. Peel will, on Thursday next, the 20th, move that the house do adjourn until the Monday week following.

Wednesday, March 12.

#### INCOME-TAX BILL—THIRD READING.

On this bill being read a third time, Mr WAKLEY mentioned the case of Mr Fielden, the member for Oldham, as one deserving of attention. For two years Mr Fielden had been assessed on 12,000*l.*, but on the third year he was rated at 24,000*l.*, against which he appealed, offering to produce his books; nevertheless the amount of the increased assessment was demanded from him.

After some conversation, Sir R. PEEL reminded the house that all parties assessed under the income tax need not be satisfied with the decision of the local commissioners, but could refer their cases to special commissioners, wholly uninfluenced by local knowledge, animosities, or prejudices, and before whom the state of their affairs might be divulged without apprehension.

The bill having been read a third time, Mr SPOONER proposed the addition of certain clauses, the object of which was to allow persons in trade or professions to make certain deductions from the gross amount of their income; and also to deduct the annual payments for insurance, poor rates, and other parochial and local charges. His first clause was rejected by 151 to 39; and on another clause a discussion arose, and the proposition was lost by 87 to 26.

Mr WAKLEY next proposed an abatement by way of compensation to landlords of houses, where the rents were lost by insolvency or fraud; but, after a brief discussion, the amendment was negated without a division.—Mr FORSTER next proposed an amendment to enable mining corporations, now assessed under Schedule A, to make their returns under Schedule D, with the option of privacy. This, being opposed by the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, was negated without a division.—Sir R. H. INGLIS then proposed that the assessment for the income tax should be taken on all sums above 150*l.*, limiting the exemption to all whose incomes did not exceed 500*l.* He proposed this because he was convinced that the income tax was now permanent.—The amendment was rejected by 59 to 25.

On the question that the bill do pass, Sir W. CLAY protested against it; and Sir R. PEEL, in acknowledging Sir W. Clay's protest, said, that "as to the duration of the tax, he felt that it was due to the house and the country to leave an unpledged freedom on the subject of the repeal or the renewal of the tax at the end of three years."

Mr Hawes, Mr S. Wortley, Mr Ward, Mr Curteis, Sir C. Napier, Mr Darby, Mr Trelawny, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer added some observations, and then the bill was passed.

The sugar duties bill was read a second time.

Thursday, March 13.

#### AGRICULTURAL DISTRESS.

In the House of Commons (which met for routine business at 12 o'clock), after a variety of preliminary matters, including an announcement by Sir R. PEEL that the government contemplated a measure to ensure the more effectual protection of works of art in public collections, the Speaker called on

Mr COBDEN, who rose, pursuant to notice, to move for a "select committee to inquire into the causes and extent of the alleged agricultural distress, and into the effects of legislative protection upon the interests of landowners, tenant-farmers, and farm-labourers." The alleged distress of the farmers, resting, as it did, on the authority of "farmers' friends," rendered this a fit and proper time to bring forward this motion. Great discrepancy prevailed as to the value and nature of legislative protection; and, looking to the sudden fluctuation in prices, recently 58*s.* 4*d.*, now 4*s.*, it was expedient that all delusion should be expelled by an inquiry before a committee. It was laid down authoritatively that 10*l.* per acre was requisite for successful and profitable farming; yet 5*l.* would be found the average in England. Hence it appeared that a leading evil was the want of capital; and yet in this country, with its "plethora of capital," there was a reluctance to invest in the most attractive of all pursuits, based upon the security of the soil. How was this? Capital shrinks instinctively from insecurity of tenure; and insecurity was the consequence of that "vicious circle," which commenced in converting the corn laws into politics, and, for the sake of subserviency, pursued a course which ended in increased county rates and general pauperism. Referring to the subject of leases, and remarking on the terms of these "antediluvian" documents, drawn out whenever required, by some lawyer's clerk, from the recesses of a pigeon-hole, he hinted that, if the Anti-Corn-law League founded a joint-stock model farm in some rural district, say in Buckinghamshire, it would be an object with them to produce, not merely a model farm, but a "model lease." Where capital and improvement were evident, there was to be found a prosperous and happy tenantry; but where the tenantry were poor, as in North Devonshire, there capital, spirit, and improvement were sure to be wanting. They had adopted a system of legislation professing to be for the advantage of farmers; but after thirty years' trial of that specific, he thought that the present condition of the agricultural interest was in itself a sufficient reason for going into committee, in order to inquire into the causes of its failure. Addressing himself to the agricultural members, he asked them what they proposed to do? It was of no use to quarrel with him. They were sent to parliament not as politicians but as "farmers' friends"; let them produce their plan. For his part, give him his committee, and he would explode the delusion of agricultural protection. This was the age of improvement; they could not lag behind it; there was a sort of hereditary attachment to the country gentlemen of England on the part of the people; but with the advance of improvement they must keep pace if they wished to retain their position in the natural regard of those around them; and he besought them, for their own sakes, to grant a full and impartial inquiry into the causes of the distress of their own population.

Mr S. HERBERT remarked that no satisfactory result had been arrived at from the inquiries of former committees on similar subjects. That of 1833 presented some exception, and it had reported in favour of agricultural protection. Not only was all the land in the country capable of improvement, but it was actually in process of receiving it; even in Ireland there was rapid progress making, which was much more perceptible to the eye than was the case in England, because the transition was from a lower stage. If this committee were granted, he did not suppose that agitation would cease, that Covent Garden theatre would be restored to the Muses, or that those who performed the part of tenant-farmers would be restored to their more legitimate duties—all waiting on an oracular decision. Yet, during all the time of the inquiry, they would be left in alarm and uncertainty; the agriculturists were men of exceedingly delicate nerves, and very easily alarmed; men



would not so freely buy and sell land; confidence would be shaken, and transactions suspended. There was this difference between agriculture and manufactures, that the farmer could only turn his capital once a year, and frequently could only be profitably repaid once in four; and though, one year with another, cultivation and expense might be the same, the produce might be very different. He deprecated the idea of the agriculturists coming whining to the house for relief. The government did not contemplate any change in the present protection; its removal was the avowed object of the inquiry; and as no practical result would ensue, he called on the house to give a decided negative to the motion.

Lord HOWICK referred back to the past history of agricultural protection, and treated the refusal of a committee as a shrinking from inquiry, caused by a consciousness of inability to meet the case. Look at the slow progress of improvement in agriculture; it was impossible to travel by the railroad and witness the state of the land up to the very gates of Manchester, and this, too, amongst a population where there was a great demand for agricultural produce. Compare Buckinghamshire with the Lothians. Why this state of things? Protection, the "bane of agriculture," paralysed improvement, and want of security enhanced the evil; all the more active and intelligent farmers were in favour of leases. The whole effect of protective duties was to diminish the amount of those articles of prime necessity which are consumed by the community, especially by the labouring classes, and the deficiency of which was the cause of their pinched and impoverished condition. The great importance of this fact had not struck him so forcibly formerly as it had latterly done. He saw the wealthy become richer, the poor more and more depreciated; rents raised and wages depressed; and the awful words of Scripture came back on his recollection—"Behold, the cry of the labourers who have reaped your harvests, and whose hire ye have refused, has entered into the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth." It never could be the intention of the Almighty Creator that labour should be visited with such a curse; it was to him a proof that there was something wrong in our laws, and which rendered every member of the house responsible for the use of his political influence.

Mr S. O'BRIEN retorted, that by the admission of Lord Howick, not alone in Buckinghamshire, but even in the very centre of the manufacturing districts, close to Manchester, there was land to be drained, farms to be improved, and rushes to be eradicated. He himself was desirous of seeing a committee of inquiry appointed—not a committee on political economy, but one really to inquire into the condition of farmers; and he regretted that the government should have interposed their negative, as he felt satisfied that the inquiry would have soothed, satisfied, and elicited the true facts, instead of unsettling or disturbing.

Mr BRIGHT reviewed the condition of agriculture; compared Sir R. Peel, who, as the "governor" of the house, ruled somewhat absolutely, to that noted *whisperer* who rendered horses, rampant in the field, perfectly tractable in the stable; claimed for the free-trade party the merit of being politically independent; and urged the agriculturists to accede to the motion, if they wished to evince either their regard for the interests of the country or those of the poor.

Mr WODEHOUSE described Lord Howick's speech as being characteristic of the days of Cromwell; defended the agricultural interest, and opposed the motion.

Mr VILLIERS retorted on Mr Wodehouse that his speech was characteristic of the present day, and none other. He commented with much pleasantry on the arguments which had been employed; noticed that it was admitted there was such a thing as an agricultural *mind*, which, it seems, would be soothed by the proposed inquiry; and seeing that Sir R. Peel had recommended employment on committees as a means of rising to eminence, they might well spare 15 out of the 658 members of the house, to conduct an inquiry which would reconcile conflicting statements and elicit facts.

Mr BANKES considered that it would be idle to enter on an inquiry on which both parties would enter, and from which they would retire, with preconceived established opinions. He believed that agricultural distress was more extensive than the government was willing to admit, and contended that a repeal of the corn laws would throw poor soils out of cultivation, and thus contract the rural industry of the country.

After some explanatory remarks from Lord INGESTRIE and Col. ANSON, the latter declaring his aversion to the principle of protection, and his conviction that a moderate fixed duty would have been the fairest settlement of the question,

Lord WORSLEY expressed his conviction, from past experience of similar committees, that the inquiry would lead to no useful result, and Mr COBDEN having replied, the house went to a division, when there appeared—for Mr Cobden's motion, 121; against it, 213: majority against it, 92.

Friday, March 14.

The house sat to-day at twelve o'clock, when the remaining clauses of the railway consolidation bill were disposed of. The land clauses consolidation bill then went through a committee, and the house adjourned till five o'clock.

Lord DUNCAN gave notice of a motion for the repeal of the window tax.

The SOLICITOR-GENERAL gave notice that he should move for leave to bring in a bill to protect property in the British Museum and other public places. (Cheers.)

#### THE NEW ZEALAND COMPANY.

Mr G. W. HOPE said several charges had been brought against his noble friend (Lord Stanley), both in and out of the house, accusing him of a breach of faith towards the New Zealand company. The government had not yet had the opportunity of explanation, but he felt sure the house would agree with him that it was only the fair play which an Englishman had a right to expect, that he should have an opportunity of rebutting those charges. He should therefore bring the subject under the consideration of the house on Tuesday next.

After some discussion Sir R. PEEL said, in consequence of the charges brought against his noble friend, the noble lord was most anxious that an opportunity should be afforded for the vindication of his character before the adjournment for the Easter holidays. He was anxious to show that the charge of breach of faith against the company was without the slightest foundation.—Mr HUME thought it very desirable that the general question of the New Zealand company should be kept altogether apart from the conduct of Lord Stanley personally.—Lord J. RUSSELL agreed in that opinion, and thought the charge

against the Colonial office should be as speedily as possible inquired into. He was of opinion that the correspondence between the New Zealand company and the Colonial office was conducted in rather an angry spirit, and it was therefore the more desirable that the matter should be brought to the test of a discussion.

#### SUGAR DUTIES.

On the motion for going into committee on the sugar duties' bill, Mr HAWES moved as an amendment that provision be made in the bill for the drawback of the amount of the duty reduced on such duty-paid sugar as now remained in the Queen's warehouses. He contended that the allowing the drawback could not in any way create an opening for the perpetration of fraud, while it would afford great relief to parties who would otherwise be exposed to very heavy and very unmerited losses.—The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER opposed the motion. There were six petitioners who had duty-paid sugar in the warehouses, but many houses in the trade had equally large stocks which they had removed from the Queen's to their own warehouses. If, under such circumstances, they were to give the drawback to these six gentlemen who had sugar in the Queen's warehouses, they would necessarily give them an enormous advantage over all their competitors in the trade. That would be manifestly placing those who had large stocks on hand in their own warehouses under a double disadvantage, and was therefore a proposition to which, in the exercise of his public duty, he could not assent.

Mr LABOUCHERE was at first inclined to take the same view of the case as the Chancellor of the Exchequer, but subsequent reflection convinced him that those who had become extensive purchasers on the faith of the act of last year would be unfairly dealt with if they were not to receive back, if not the whole, at least such a portion of the duties in the shape of drawback as would render the loss to them less severe.

Sir R. PEEL said this was certainly a special case, involving no question which would sanction a violation of the rule laid down for the protection of the revenue from fraud and loss. He had no objection to sanction the introduction of a provision in the bill, by which the dealers would be enabled to obtain compensation for whatever *bona-fide* loss in the present instance they might have sustained.—Lord J. RUSSELL, after the declaration of the right hon. baronet, would suggest to Mr Hawes to leave the matter in the hands of the government.—Mr HAWES assented, and the motion was then withdrawn.

Sir W. CLAY then called the attention of the house to the case of the sugar refiners who had paid the higher duty upon sugar then in process of refining.—The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said the government would, on Monday, state what it was intended to do with these different parties, whose interests, it was alleged, would be affected by the change of duty. The hon. gen. must be aware that the object of the government was to do justice between these parties and the public. The house then went into committee on the bill, Mr Green in the chair.—Mr HAWES said he objected altogether to the government system of classification, and trusted they would be induced to alter that arrangement. He believed it would be found to be impracticable in operation.—The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER defended the plan proposed by government, and after some discussion the clause was agreed to. On the clause which provided that sugar, on being warehoused, should pay duty upon the quantity originally contained in the hogsheads.—Mr HAWES objected to a clause which made no allowance for the loss or waste which usually occurred, and expressed his determination to divide the committee against the clause. On a division the clause was agreed to by 104 to 74.

The remaining clauses were then agreed to. On the preamble being proposed, Mr M. GIBSON regretted that no opportunity was afforded him of introducing into the preamble certain words to explain the policy of the government, which was to give encouragement to their West India colonies.—Mr BRIGHT doubted whether the present measure would be permanent, and hoped next year they would be able to organize a more powerful and effectual opposition to its continuance. He entered his protest against a measure which imposed a tax of nearly 2,500,000. on the people of this country. The house then resumed, and the bill was ordered to be reported on Monday.

Some discussion then arose as to the order of business for the following week, and Sir R. PEEL announced that they would take the customs duties bill on Monday.

#### AGRICULTURAL DISTRESS.

Mr MILES, who had given a notice on the subject of agricultural distress, expressed his determination to have a fair stand-up fight with the government on that occasion.—Mr FERRAND assured the government that their policy towards the farmers, which had brought ruin upon thousands of them, had had the effect of disgusting the country completely; they had lost the confidence of that house and of the country, and if another election took place, instead of a majority of 90, the government would be in a minority of twice 90.—Mr BORTHWICK said, this was not the time for bringing forward a motion on the subject of agricultural distress, and it was too late for those hon. members who had supported the government in their corn bill throughout to get up an opposition to it now.

Lord J. RUSSELL would be glad to know whether Mr Miles had any specific motion which he considered preferable to the corn bill of the government before they came to the discussion, as it would interpose and prevent the house addressing itself to the consideration of the remission of duties as proposed by the government. He understood it was proposed to take certain of the estimates before Easter, but he doubted whether there was time to do so in the two or three days that remained.

Sir R. PEEL said it was merely intended to take such votes as were absolutely necessary for the public service.

Mr MILES, in answer to the question of Lord J. Russell, said he intended to propose a reduction of the county rates, which pressed very heavily on the farming interest.

The other orders of the day were then disposed of, and the house adjourned at half-past 12 o'clock.

#### NEW PROJECTED RAILWAYS.

Railway Department, Board of Trade, Whitehall, March 11.—Notice is given, that the Board have determined on reporting to Parliament in favour of the following projected lines of railway:—Bedford, London, and Birmingham; Cambridge and Lincoln; Direct Northern (as to the portion between Lincoln and York); Eastern Counties—Brandon and Peterborough Deviation; Eastern Counties—Hertford and Biggleswade

Junction; Great Grimsby and Sheffield; Midland railway—Syston and Peterborough; Midland railway—Nottingham and Lincoln; Midland railway—Swinton to Lincoln (as to the portion between Swinton and Doncaster); Tottenham and Farringdon-street Extension; Wakefield, Pontefract, and Goole.

And against the Barnsley and Goole; Direct Northern (as to the portion between Lincoln and London); Eastern Counties—Cambridge and Huntingdon; Eastern Counties—Ely and Lincoln Extension; Ely and Lincoln; Goole and Snaith; Hull and Gainsborough; London and York; Lincoln, York, and Leeds; Midland railway—Swinton to Lincoln (as to the portion between Doncaster and Lincoln); Rotherham, Bawtry, and Gainsborough; Sheffield and Lincolnshire; York and North Midland, and Doncaster; York and North Midland, and Goole.

#### IRELAND.

LIBERTY OF THE IRISH PRESS.—A Waterford jury has just found a verdict, with five hundred pounds damages, against the *Warder* newspaper, for a libel on the Messrs Malcolmson, cotton spinners, in that county. The facts of the case are few and plain. An anonymous letter, with the Waterford post mark, was sent to the *Warder* office, asking whether there was any law against Sunday and night work in factories, and then going on to describe the grievances under which the artisans of some factories in Ireland laboured. These grievances were stated to be the necessity of purchasing in the shops of the mill-owners; all in a room being liable to a fine of sixpence a-head if a pane of glass was broken there; and being obliged to work on Sundays and at night. Some one in the *Warder* office wrote an introductory remark to the letter, stating that they believed the Factory Bill extended to Ireland, and referring, because of the post mark, to the county Waterford. In the *Statesman* the same letter was printed, with further comments, but without even the reference to Waterford. This was last June. Shortly after a letter was written by Messrs Malcolmson's law agents to the proprietors of the *Statesman* and *Warder*, saying that instructions to proceed for a libel had been given. It must have cost the editors of these journals some trouble to find the libel; but it was found, and they published statements immediately, stating their absolute ignorance of the Messrs Malcolmson and their factory, but naturally adding that the proprietors of every other factory in Ireland had as good a right to bring such an action, and that liberty of public discussion was in danger if such an action could be sustained. This ample apology for no offence was insufficient for these injured gentlemen, and the case came on for trial on Tuesday last. The defendant's pleaded under the act, that the articles were published without "actual malice" or "gross neglect," and stated the apology. Mr Hatwell stated the plaintiff's case, and his only witness was a clergyman named Medicott, the intimate friend and landlord of the Malcolmsons, who swore that he thought the article referred to the plaintiff, yet admitted that not one of the details applied to their factory unless the mention of Waterford. We can hardly trust ourselves to describe the character which this gentleman established for himself under Mr Whiteside's admirable cross-examination. That great advocate spoke triumphantly for the defence, and Mr Martley replied; Mr Baron Lefroy charged *characteristically*, and the Jury found "substantial and exemplary damages." Of course the defendants will apply for a new trial.—*Nation*.

NEWS FOR MAJOR MACNAMARA.—The *Examiner* states that Major Macnamara voted with Sir James Graham on the letter-opening division, and asks us, "Will he (the member for Clare) hear of it?" Our answer is—He shall hear of it at the hustings. We have always opposed attempts to compel the resignation of members; but we ask the people of Clare, is it fitting that their representative should sanction the violation of the Post office, by any Minister, were he the trust of men, not the treacherous apostate, Graham?—*Nation*.

The proceedings in Conciliation Hall afford no interest or novelty.—Mr Steele has published one of his usual queer addresses to the "dauntless, noble-hearted, frank, cordial men of pleasant Clare," enjoining them to call upon their misrepresentative to resign his seat in Parliament.

The clergy of the Established Church in Ireland are preparing a violent opposition to the National Education Scheme; and are likewise producing numerous petitions against the enlarged grant to Maynooth.

Several meetings are about to be held in the diocese of Down and Connor, "to protest against the innovations attempted to be introduced into the church service." The great majority of the clergy of the diocese are anti-Puseyite, and it is stated that a petition to the Legislature is in progress of signature amongst them, praying for a revision of the Book of Common Prayer, the Canons, and Rubrics.

—A proposition, we understand, is before the committee of the Stock Exchange for an alteration of the hours of business, so as to enable the brokers to transact their bargains more to their own satisfaction and that of their principals. Such has been the increase of dealing, especially through orders arising from the country, that it is considered necessary, with a view to allow time for consulting their correspondents, not to commence business before half-past 10 a.m., instead of 10 a.m., and to close at half-past 3, instead of 4 o'clock, so that they may save the post, and despatch full particulars of the prospects and condition of prices to their numerous country connexions. The altered hours are stated to be quite sufficient for actual bargaining, and the pressure of time is only felt in consequence of the early opening and the late closing of the market. The proposition without doubt will be adopted and carried into effect. Of course it may be premised that the extension of business in railway shares is the chief cause of the change.—*The Times City Article*.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

**POST OFFICE.—CANADA MAILS.**—The mails to and from Canada will, in future, be landed and embarked at Boston instead of at Halifax, as at present, and will be conveyed between Boston and Montreal in charge of a British officer. All letters and newspapers, therefore, addressed to Canada will be forwarded from this date by way of Boston, unless specially directed to be sent by some other route. No additional postage will be charged upon letters to and from Canada in consequence of the transit rate which is to be paid to the United States' Post office; but a charge of one halfpenny will be levied on the delivery of each newspaper, whether in the United Kingdom or in Canada.

**POST-OFFICE NOTICE, MARCH 12.**—The next mails for Malta, Greece, the Ionian Islands, Egypt, Ceylon, India, and China, *via* Southampton, will be dispatched hence on the morning of the 20th inst. The next mail for the Mediterranean, Egypt, Ceylon, India, and China, *via* Marseilles, will be dispatched hence on the evening of the 24th inst. *Royal Tar*, for the Peninsula, &c., mails of the morning of the 13th inst. *The Great Liverpool*, for the Mediterranean, Egypt, Ceylon, India, and China mails, of the morning of the 20th inst. *West Indies, &c: Tweed*, for the mails of the morning of the 17th inst. *America: Caledonia*, for the mails of the evening of the 3rd of April.

**RAILWAY SPEED.**—The quick trains commenced running on Monday on the Great Western railway. The journey from Exeter to London, 194 miles, was performed in 4 hours and 53 minutes, up to the ticket platform, and the passengers had alighted in the Paddington station within the prescribed time of 5 hours. The down train reached Bristol, 118½ miles, in less than 3 hours, after stopping 10 minutes at Swindon, and calling at Didcot and Bath. The running time is calculated at 50 miles an hour, and we are informed that the whole journey was performed with ease and exactitude as to time.

**THE REFUGE FOR THE HOUSELESS POOR.**—The continued severity of the season has rendered the greatest exertions upon the part of the committee indispensable. All the asylums are nightly filled with objects of the deepest distress, and the humane public are strongly appealed to for aid in the preservation of the lives of their fellow creatures. The Drapers' Company have contributed 30*l.* to this great charity, as well as ten guineas to the Mansion-house poor-box.

**THE FRENCH IN TAHITI.**—At a missionary meeting held on Wednesday at New-court Chapel, Carey street, the Rev. W. Howe, late a missionary at Tahiti, commenced his address by adverting to a paragraph which had appeared in a French paper, and had been copied into London journals, asserting among other things that the population were in a much better state when the island was discovered by Captain Cooke than at the present time, and proceeded to combat that assertion by showing the prevalence of drunkenness, infanticide, and other crimes previous to the introduction of the Protestant mission. He denounced the means by which the French had obtained the ascendancy. The events which had taken place in Tahiti formed part of a large scheme which was originated in 1836, by the Society for Propagating the Faith. Polynesia had been divided into four parts, and a bishop appointed to each, having under their control 50 priests; so that the Roman Catholics have at the present time no less than 7 bishops and 113 priests in the South Seas.

**THE BRITISH MUSEUM.**—The situation of keeper of the prints and drawings in the British Museum, vacant by the decease of Mr Josi, has just been filled by the appointment of Mr W. H. Carpenter. This gentleman is the husband of Mrs Carpenter, the distinguished artist, and is very well known to the world of art by his work on Vandyck, and the etchings which he recently published.

**TRAFALGAR SQUARE.**—The structures in the centre of the basins having been completed, and the conduit pipes for the overflow of the water laid down, at an early hour on Thursday evening the fountains were got into work, and attracted much attention from the passers by. The jets appear to be about three yards in height, and distributed a large body of water.

**WOOD PAVEMENT SUPERSeded.**—The inhabitants of Leadenhall street have petitioned and obtained leave to have the wooden pavement removed and granite laid down.

**BANKING HOURS.**—It is the intention of the banks in Manchester to close their establishments at 3 o'clock, and it has been suggested that this plan might be adopted throughout the country.

—Vauxhall Gardens will open again this year, under the management of the former proprietor, Mr Wardle.

**ENCOURAGING FOR FACTORY GIRLS.**—Miss Irene Nichols, daughter of Mr Nathaniel Nichols, of Monmouth, Kennebec county, while at work in a factory at Dorchester, Massachusetts, some four years since, was offered very liberal wages to go to Mexico, and engage in a factory just established there. She, with eight others, accepted the offer. Whilst there she became acquainted with Ferrera, the present insurgent and successful general, with whom she contracted marriage. Ferrera is now President of Mexico, having his headquarters at the national palace in the city, and this Kennebec "factory girl" now "revels in the halls of the Montezumas." General Ferrera is of German extraction.—*New York Express*, Jan. 14.

**NO ACCOUNTING FOR TASTES.**—Alexandria letters mention that much scandal had been occasioned in Cairo by the expressed desire of a young English lady to be received into the bosom of Islamism, in order to wed a young Egyptian who had captivated her. Col. Barrett (British Consul) was requested by the young lady's friends to interfere, and fortunately a legal pretext presented itself, the would-be Mahometan is a minor. She was about to be sent home to England.

**FORTIFICATIONS FOR MALTA.**—We understand the sum of 250,000*l.* will be asked for in the present session, to be applied to the repairing and extending the fortifications in Malta, more particularly the lines known there by the name of the Colonera.—*Malta paper.*

**THE COLD.**—A Dijon journal states that a few days ago two little Savoyards were found in the road near that place, frozen to death. One of them was kneeling, with clasped hands extended upwards, as if in the act of prayer.

## STATISTICAL MEMORANDA.

**LEGACY DUTY, &c.**—Mr Hume has obtained, by order of the House of Commons, his usual annual return of the capital on which legacy duty has been paid, and of the amount of revenue received in the United Kingdom for stamp duties on legacies, in the year ending the 5th of January last. This return, which was consigned to the printing office of Parliament on the 6th inst. affords the following information:—It appears, in the first place, that the gross total amount of capital on which the several rates of legacy duty have been paid in Great Britain during the year 1844, was 44,393,887*l.* of which amount the sum of 24,117,769*l.* was paid at the rate of 1*l.* per cent., 107,262*l.* at the rate of 2*l.* 10*s.* per cent., 13,708,061*l.* at the rate of 3*l.* per cent., 11,317*l.* at the rate of 4*l.* per cent., 1,496,230*l.* at the rate of 5*l.* per cent., 362,472*l.* at the rate of 6*l.* per cent., 10,593*l.* at the rate of 8*l.* per cent., and lastly, 4,580,179*l.* at the extreme rate of 10*l.* per cent.; showing thus, that the general rates—that is, those from which the largest amount accrues to the revenue—are those of 1 and 3*l.* per cent. The abstract of the gross total amount under all these rates since the year 1797 gives a sum of 1,293,819,797*l.* sterling, of which 638,687,437*l.* was under the 1*l.* per cent. rate, 333,764,984*l.* under the 3*l.* per cent. rate, and 139,191,122*l.* under the 10*l.* per cent. rate. A return from Ireland, which follows, shows that the total amount of capital in the sister kingdom on which the several rates of legacy duty have been paid in 1844, is 2,140,021*l.* of which 1,274,772*l.* was paid at the rate of 1 per cent., and 564,552*l.* at the rate of 3 per cent. The total amount of legacy duty received on this capital was 53,618*l.* being in round numbers at the average rate of 2*l.* 10*s.* per cent. on the capital paying the duty. The total amount of the duty on probates and administrations received in Ireland during the year 1844-45 was 61,031*l.* making, with the duty received on legacies, a grand total revenue of 114,649*l.* It further appears, on examining the other portions of this return, that the gross total amount of revenue received in Great Britain during the year 1844 was, for stamp duty on legacies, 1,198,552*l.* and for stamp duty on probates, administrations, and testamentary inventories, 966,852*l.* In Ireland the same amounts were respectively 53,618*l.* and 61,031*l.* It follows that the revenue of the United Kingdom was enriched to the amount of 2,280,053*l.* from these stamp duties alone, on legacies and probates, &c. The office accounts do not admit of any distinction of the duties received on direct or reversionary bequests. The gross total amount of duty received since the year 1797 in the whole of the United Kingdom was, on legacies 38,396,923*l.* and on probates, administrations, and testamentary inventories, 30,719,090*l.* The last branch of the return informs the reader that the total amount of duty received in Ireland, from 1797 to 1845, a period of forty-eight years, was, on legacies, 767,869*l.* and on probates and administrations, 1,116,853*l.* In Scotland, the duty received on legacies since 1797 amounts to the sum of 2,111,641*l.* and that received on probates, administrations, and testamentary inventories to the sum of 1,455,329*l.*

**ACTS OF PARLIAMENT.**—A return, containing an account of the total charge for acts of Parliament supplied to the various public departments, and also under the Promulgation Order, during the year 1844, has been printed by order of Parliament, the mover having been Mr Joseph Hume, M.P. It hence will be found that in England alone, the total charge for acts supplied to the public departments amounted altogether to the sum of 5,424*l.* the Promulgation Order having entailed alone an expense of 3,913*l.* The price per sheet varied from 4*d.* to 3*d.* Amongst others, 1,317 copies of public acts were supplied to the Admiralty, containing 5,062 folio sheets; 11,574 copies to the Colonial office, containing 29,931 folio sheets; 7,246 to the Custom house, containing 23,971 folio sheets; 3,256 to the Excise, containing 8,633 sheets; 2,685 to the Foreign office, containing 8,738 sheets; 3,882 to the Stamps and Taxes office, containing 10,552 sheets; 42,100 to the House of Peers, containing 108,618 sheets (all public acts); 112,600 folio copies, and 52,758 quarto copies of public acts alone under the Promulgation Order, and 78,000 copies of public acts, containing 175,598 folio sheets, to the House of Commons. Scotland seems to have cost the State nothing at all, for the return is *nil.* The total number of copies of acts supplied to public departments in Ireland amounted to 22,714, and under the Promulgation Order to 800 volumes, the charge for which amounted to 4,183*l.* The rate of charge was 4½*d.* to 5*d.* per sheet.

**CONVICTS.**—An abstract of returns of the number of convicts confined in prisons throughout the United Kingdom, and sentences of transportation, &c., moved for by Mr R. Wallace, informs us that there are altogether 2,397 convicts immured within the prisons of the three kingdoms, of whom 1,969 are males, and 428 females. The number of convicts whose health rendered them unfit to be removed amounts to 133, of whom 86 were males, and 47 females. In England and Wales there are 2,053 convicts in prison, in Scotland 71, and in Ireland 273. The return from Ireland states that, in cases where the state of health of a convict under sentence of transportation is declared to be such as to render him unfit to be removed from this country, it is not the usage to adopt a graduated scale of imprisonment, as being equivalent to the respective terms of

7, 10, and 14 years' transportation, or transportation for life (in answer to a query propounded in Mr Wallace's motion). The period of imprisonment substituted for that dismal penalty is regulated by the medical report, and by circumstances arising from the case itself, and does not exceed three years, nor is less than two years, and this term of commutation equally applies to all transportation cases. It is understood, too, that the expression "state of health" has reference only to bodily infirmity, and does not include cases of lunacy.

**MARRIAGES IN ENGLAND.**—It appears from very elaborate tables, prepared by the registrar-general of births, deaths, and marriages, and lately laid before Parliament, that the total number of marriages in 1842 in England and Wales, was 118,825; of these 17,689 were in the metropolis alone. Of this number, 26,198 were persons who had been married before, the proportion being 15,619 widowers, and 10,579 widows. Thus the proportion per cent. of those who were re-married was 1,102 for the whole of England, and 1,234 for the metropolis. The proportion of annual marriages to persons of all ages was 1 in 130 in all England, 1 in 102 in London; the annual marriages were to the persons aged from 20 to 40, nearly as 1 to 40 in England, 1 to 37 in the metropolis; or, more exactly, 2.515 per cent.; and 2.675 (as regards London). There was, altogether, one marriage to every 136 males and females living in 1842, but only one person married for the first time to 76.3 persons living, which may be considered equivalent to one first marriage to 153 persons living. Eleven per cent. of the persons married had been married before, and had been enumerated in the returns of previous years. In 1839, the number married out of 100,000 males was 1,625; and of 100,000 females, 1,553; in 1840, 1,597 males, and 1,526 females; in 1841, 1,574 males, and 1,504 females; and in 1842, 1,506 males, and 1,439 females. Thus, it will be perceived, there has been a yearly decrease during that period. The annual average has been, however, 1 in 64 males out of 100,000, and 66 females.

**MILLWORK AND MACHINERY.**—A return printed on the motion of Mr Cardwell, the Secretary of the Treasury, has been issued, giving an account of the declared value of all millwork and machinery exported from the United Kingdom in each quarter of the years 1841, 1842, 1843, and 1844. The declared value of millwork and machinery exported from the United Kingdom in the year ended the 5th of January, 1842, was 551,361*l.*; in the year ended the 5th of January, 1843, 554,653*l.*; in the year to the 5th of January, 1844, 713,474*l.*; and in the year ended the 5th of January last, to 773,187*l.*, showing an increase on every year in the value of millwork and machinery exported.

## NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

We sometimes receive letters which are utterly illegible, or with omissions of passages leaving them unintelligible. One of these is a note relating to certain copies without saying of what!

## POSTSCRIPT.

LONDON, Saturday Morning, March 15, 1845.

In the House of Lords, on Friday night, the Jews' Relief Bill was read a third time, when the Duke of Cambridge took occasion to express his warm approbation of the measure, and his friendliness to any measure of toleration which did not militate against the interests of the Established Church. The Stamps' Acts Assimilation Act was read a third time, and passed.

In the House of Commons, Mr Hope intimated that he would make a motion next Tuesday, which will bring the difference between the New Zealand Company and the Colonial office before the House.

A proposed amendment of Mr Hawes on the Sugar Duties' Bill, providing a drawback of the duty on such duty-paid sugar as remained in the warehouses, procured from Sir Robert Peel a promise that a provision should be made in the bill, by which the dealers should be entitled to compensation for whatever *bona-fide* loss they might sustain.

In a conversation on the Customs' Bill, Mr Ferrand found occasion to denounce the Government for having betrayed the agricultural interests, on which Mr Peter Borthwick arose and said, that in 1842 he was the only formidable opponent of the Government, and that it was now too late in the day for the agricultural interests to come forward with complaints of measures which they had assisted to pass. In fact, motions of this kind were only intended to delude and mystify. The farmers had perished by the hands of their "friends," and now found their truest friends in the free-traders and the Government.

Lord John Russell asked if Mr William Miles had anything practical to propose as a substitute for the Government propositions? If so, some notice ought to be given of it.

Sir Robert Peel remarked that any motion claiming regard for the agricultural interests necessarily involved a censure on the propositions of the Government. In this view the proposer of such a motion ought to have something practical to suggest for their adoption.

Mr Frederick Shaw, in moving for an inquiry into the merits of the atmospheric railway, raised a discussion on the subject, and ultimately obtained from Sir Robert Peel an acquiescence, on the part of the Government, to the appointment of a committee to inquire into the merits of the system.

Thursday's French journals bring little news. The Duke de Broglie, who was to have left Paris on Thursday, has postponed his trip to London.

The Grand Council of the Vaud, in its sitting of the 7th inst., appointed a committee of fifteen members to draw up a new constitution.

A letter from Milan states that the Austrian general in command of the troops on the frontiers between Lombardy and Switzerland, has received orders from his Government to hold himself in readiness to march into Switzerland at a moment's notice.

A letter from Turin in the *Augsburgh Gazette* states that Queen Christina has written to the King of Naples, recommending that the Count de Trapani should repair to Madrid forthwith, and take up his residence in that capital for some time, as the question of Queen Isabella's marriage must soon be settled, and his presence would be advantageous.

Two new articles have just been added to the postal treaty between France and Great Britain. They have for object:—1. To place the Post office of Boulogne in direct correspondence with the Post office at Folkestone, by means of the private steamers between the two ports. 2. To regulate the transit through France of the letters, paid or unpaid, from Great Britain and her colonies and possessions for the kingdom of Greece.

A SERENADE.—Occupying a front chamber, very far uplifted in our giant mansion, I could just discern as I lay, through an open window, the furthest water of the Rhine glistening gently by in waterish moonlight; and it was just beginning to mingle with some dream of 'Alph, the sacred river,' when a strain aroused me—not at all 'like the faint exquisite music of a dream,' but a real substantial sound from a number of stout voices, chanting or singing in tremendous chorus. This drew me to the window, when—far below me on the terrace, which runs along the line of hotels confronting the river—I discovered a narrow row of tables, with benches on each side, like the dinner-tables of a Sunday-school anniversary, covered with music books, over which, by the light of some twenty tall tallow dips, which flared magnificently into the darkness, two rows of dingy-looking young men were bending, who instantly jerked up their heads in unison, and renewed the chorus. It was no other than 'Young Coblenz'—such of the sons and apprentices of the patriot citizens as had voices and skill to use them—sembled to give a serenade in honour of the distinguished officer who lodged at the hotel. Anon, the singing paused—loud huzzas, accompanied by the waving of sticks and caps in the murky air followed—and then all was so still that you could hear the ripple of the Rhine. The General had recognised the sweet voices of the civic enthusiasts, and appeared, or rather presented himself in the small balcony of his apartment just below me. He made a speech—I have no doubt 'neat and appropriate,' as it was unquestionably short—and concluded with the emphatic enunciation of the word 'Coblenz,' which produced three rounds of huzzas and 'one cheer more.' The serenade was now resumed—one piece was lustily performed—and the music books were just adjusted and the voices raised for a second, when down rushed a torrent of envious rain like a water-spout, and struck the lines of musicians into dripping and shivering groups, and the lights into sudden darkness. I retired from the window thinking that all was over; but before I could quite reach oblivion, I heard once more the patriotic music 'piercing the night's dull ear,' which was now at its very dullest, forcing a desperate way upwards as if it was muffled yet resolved—and, on thrusting my head once more out into the rain, behold, where lately the candles had flared, a long double row of umbrellas, beneath which the undaunted vocalists had rallied, sheltering their music books and candles; and which, being of various colours, looked like a tessellated pavement strangely illuminated from below, on which the elements beat in vain, or like some sea-caves in which *mermen* were chanting. The vision of the umbrellas did not, however, last long; the music, after reminding me of Mr Dismal's hilarious contribution to the late Mr Matthews' 'Nightingale Club,' stopped; whether the General, contented with the gratification lavished on his nocturnal hours, intimated that enough had been done for glory, or whether the patriotic fire burned itself out, I know not; but the songsters gave a cheer to the tune of a shriek, and dispersed—having, as the *garçon* next morning assured us, scarcely commenced the serenade they had rehearsed,—and left the General, and us, and the world, at peace.—*Talford's Vacation Rambles.*

THE MANCHESTER MASSACRE.—In ten minutes from the commencement of the havoc, the field was an open and almost deserted space. The sun looked down through a sultry and motionless air. The curtains and blinds of the windows within view were all closed. A gentleman or two might occasionally be seen looking out from one of the new houses before-mentioned, near the door of which, a group of persons (special constables) were collected, and apparently in conversation; others were assisting the wounded, or carrying off the dead. The hustings remained, with a few broken and hewed flag-staves erect, and a torn and gashed banner or two dropping; whilst over the whole field were strewn caps, bonnets, hats, shawls, and shoes, and other parts of male and female dress; trampled, torn, and bloody. The yeomanry had dismounted,—some were easing their horses' girths, others adjusting their accoutrements, and some were wiping their sabres. Several mounds of human beings still remained where they had fallen, crushed down, and smothered. Some of these still groaning,—others with staring eyes, were gasping for breath, and others would never breathe more. All was silent save those low sounds, and the occasional snorting and pawing of steeds. Persons might sometimes be noticed peeping from attics and over the tall ridges of houses, but they quickly withdrew, as if fearful of being observed, or unable to sustain the full gaze of a scene so hideous and abhorrent.—*Passages in the Life of a Radical.*

LAWYERS.—The lawyers raised many objections, and removed none. Poor humanity! how ill art thou treated by the human race! We fire at the relation of calamities, denounce vengeance on the perpetrators, cry out for, set about reformation, and in England, give us our due, lavish our money towards it; then grow cool, and never think of the woe afterwards. Lawyers never suffer correction of abuses; they defend them even where they do not commit them.—*Walpole's George III.*

## ASSIZE INTELLIGENCE.

WESTERN CIRCUIT, MARCH 10.

*Prascall Hinwood* was indicted for having feloniously sent a letter to T. S. Whiting, threatening to burn his farm and property. It appeared by the evidence that at the time the offence was committed with which the prisoner was charged, she was an inmate in the Warmminster union. Before that she had lived in the same parish as the prosecutor, and had worked with other women on his farm at the wages of 6d. per day. These terms gave dissatisfaction, and some augmentation was made to them, after which the prisoner continued to work for the prosecutor for some time. She then left his employ, and was at the time the offence was committed, as before remarked, in the Warmminster union. The writing and sending of the letter were clearly proved, and the letter was put in and read; it is addressed to Mr T. S. Whiting, and says, "But you shall suffer for it and I will do it, let me be wherever I may be; for I will do it, and your police nor any other shall stop me."—Mr Justice Coleridge then asked the prisoner if she would wish to say anything in her defence.—At this time the prosecutor was still in the witness-box, and she inquired, in a calm and very respectful manner, if she might be allowed to say a few words to the prosecutor?—The learned Judge told her she was at liberty to say what she pleased.—In a moment the expression of her face was changed. Her eye lighted up with the fire of anger and revenge, and turning towards the prosecutor, with her hand extended in a menacing posture, she addressed him in a sharp and clear voice:—"You have unjustly charged me with writing this letter, and have used me most shamefully; and, besides this, you have ground down the poor in your parish, like a wretch, as you are. Now, mind, if ever I do live to come out of my confinement, as sure as fate I will burn down all your house and your farm things, and no one shall keep me from it. I have spoken my mind, and I'll do it."—The prisoner was found "Guilty," and sentenced to seven years' transportation. As she was removed from the dock she exclaimed, "Thank'ee, my lord, and I hope you'll sit there till I come back."

## COMMISSION OF LUNACY.

QUEEN CAROLINE'S WILLIAM AUSTIN.

A commission has been held before Mr Commissioner Winslow and a special jury of the county, at the Sheriffs' Court, Red Lion square, to inquire into the state of mind of "William Austin, late of the city of Milan, but now residing at Blackland House, Chelsea, gentleman."—The commission was taken out at the instance of Sir Thomas Wilde and Dr Lushington, guardians or trustees of the unfortunate gentleman.

Mr Walpole said, the subject of this inquiry was Mr William Austin, a gentleman about forty years of age, but of limited means, his property consisting of about 4,000*l.* invested in the funds. He had been brought recently from Milan, where he was residing when first attacked with this infirmity; and it was thought advisable to place him in one of the asylums in that city. He was first afflicted with loss of mind as far back as the year 1830. Mr Austin in 1841 was an inmate of the Hospice de Sante at Milan. The unfortunate gentleman became completely imbecile, and his imbecility was so absolute as to amount almost to idiocy. The guardians thought it advisable that he should be brought to England, and in February last he left Milan in the care of a keeper, and on the 6th of the present month arrived in England. After having been seen by Dr Chowne and Mr Moore, he was removed to Dr Sutherland's Establishment, Blackland House.

Louis Balbi said he was a keeper at the Hospice de Sante at Milan. Under his care was a person named Austin, who was an inmate of the asylum about three years. He would eat, drink, and sleep, but never spoke. During the three years he never spoke once. When spoken to he never answered, and was incapable of doing anything. He was very much attached to a piece of stick, which never leaves his possession night or day. He never gave any reason for his attachment to the stick. Witness accompanied him from Milan to London.

After further evidence Mr Austin was brought into Court. In his hand he held a small piece of grape-vine stick, which he kept twirling round, totally unconscious of all that was passing. The Commissioner spoke to him three or four times, but he took not the slightest notice. He, however, on the bidding of the keeper, stood or sat down, but beyond that all with him was blank. On the Commissioner giving the order for him to withdraw, he followed the keeper. It was a most painful sight.

The jury immediately returned a verdict "That William Austin was of unsound mind, and incapable of managing his affairs, and had been so since the 15th of September, 1841." He was adopted when a child, by the late Queen Caroline, to whom she bequeathed by her will a portion of her property.

## THE SALT-HILL MURDER.

AYLESBURY.—The trial of John Tawell, upon this dreadful charge, commenced at Aylesbury on Wednesday, before Mr Baron Parke. The prisoner is described in his appearance at the bar as dressed in black, after the manner of the Society of Friends; sixty-one years of age, of an intelligent countenance, rendered somewhat disagreeable by a squint.

Sergeant Byles, who conducted the prosecution, stated the case against the prisoner. John Tawell formerly carried on the business of a chemist and druggist. Several years ago he lost his first wife. Shortly after her death the deceased, Sarah Hart, then a young woman somewhere about thirty years of age, entered into his service, and when she left his service she was in the family way. After living in London she removed to Slough, and for some time previous to her death was living at Bath place, which consists of four small cottages, forming one detached building. Bath place stands upon the Great Western road, about a quarter of a mile beyond the Windmill public-house, which is kept by a person named Botham. In the end house, towards London, lived Mrs Ashley; in the next the deceased, Sarah Hart, the mother of two children, who was living there with them, and who, as it will appear to you in the course of the case, was entirely dependent on the prisoner for her support, and whom he was in the habit of visiting at Bath place, and supplying with money. The prisoner himself has recently resided at Berkhamstead, in circumstances of apparent ease and affluence. He married

no long time since a second wife—a lady to whose deep misfortune no man can allude without feelings of commiseration. He was in the constant habit of visiting Sarah Hart, who was dependent upon him for money, and he found himself in this position,—that money must be supplied, or that the nature of his connexion with this person must become apparent. On the 1st of January, in the present year, the prisoner left the Jerusalem Coffee-house, Cornhill, saying that he was going to dine at the west end of the town. He did not proceed to the west end of the town, but to the station of the Great Western Railway, by the four o'clock train of which railway he proceeded to Slough. On arriving at Slough he went to the residence of Sarah Hart, at Bath place; and after he had been a short time with her she went, by his direction, to the Windmill public-house for a bottle of porter. She was at that moment perfectly well and in very good spirits. Having bought the porter, she borrowed a corkscrew, and brought both home with her to Bath place. Very shortly after her return, Mrs Ashley, the person who resided in the next house, heard a noise in the room of Sarah Hart. She laid down her work; the noise continued; she became very much alarmed, and, taking up the candle, went to the door, and proceeded down the path leading from the cottage to the road; but before she reached the gate she saw the prisoner approaching the gate which terminated a similar path from the cottage of Sarah Hart. At this moment the moans of the deceased were distinctly audible. The prisoner went to the gate; he trembled, appeared greatly agitated, and had much difficulty in opening the gate, which Mrs Ashley, who had reached it by this time, assisted him in opening, saying, "What is the matter with my neighbour; I am afraid she is ill?" the moans of Sarah Hart being distinctly audible. The prisoner made no answer, but passed out of the gate and proceeded towards Slough. Mrs Ashley, in consequence of the noise, went up to Sarah Hart's house, and turning round, saw the prisoner going down the road. She then went into the house, and observed in Sarah Hart's room, just before the fireplace, a small table, and on it a bottle of porter open, and partly drunk, also two tumblers, one of which was next the window and towards the chair upon which Sarah Hart had apparently been sitting. In one of these tumblers there was some froth, in the other there was porter, or porter and water, it is not quite certain which. The deceased, Sarah Hart, was lying on the floor; her cap was off, and her hair hanging down. Her clothes were up to her knees; one stocking was down, and one shoe off. She was still continuing the moaning noise. Mrs Ashley went up to her and asked her what was the matter, and raised her head up, but the deceased was unable to speak. Mrs Ashley called in two neighbours, and some water was brought. Eventually Mr Champneys, a surgeon, was sent for. He felt her pulse and said he thought he could discover one or two beats. She moved her tongue, or jaw, a little. Mr Champneys put his hand under her clothes to feel her heart, but he could discover no pulsation. She was clearly dead. In the meantime the prisoner, who had gone out of the house, was going on quickly towards the railway station. He came that day from London, and was about to return, and did return; but instead of staying at the station then, he got into an omnibus to go to Eton, Eton being in a direction away from the station. Finally he returned to London, whither, suspicion being excited, a despatch was sent by the electric telegraph to have him watched. A policeman was instructed to follow him, and on the next day went to the Jerusalem Coffee-house in Cornhill, where he found the prisoner, and said to him, "I believe you were down at Slough yesterday?" He denied it. He said he knew nobody at Slough, and had not been there. "You must be mistaken," said he, "in the identity; my station in life places me above suspicion." The officer, however, took the prisoner into custody, and took him down to Salt hill, where he was handed over to the custody of Perkins, the superintendent of the Eton police. He slept that night in Perkins's house. On the next day, at dinner, a very important conversation took place about Sarah Hart. The prisoner said—"That wretched and unfortunate woman once lived in my service for nearly two years and a half. I suppose you did not know that, Perkins?" Mr Perkins said he had heard so, but was not certain about it. The prisoner added—"She left me about five years ago. She was a good servant when she lived with me. She has often sent to me for money." The prisoner was cautioned to mind what he said, as it would be taken down and used against him as evidence. He replied, that he had no objection to that. He was asked if he had the deceased's letters. He said he did not keep letters of that sort. "I was pestered," he said, "with letters from her when I was in London, and I determined to give her no more money. She was a bad woman—a very bad woman. She sent me a letter threatening to do something. She said she would make away with herself if I did not give her any money. I went down to her house and told her I would not give her any more money. She then asked me to give her a drop of porter. She had a glass, and I had a glass. She held in her hand over the glass of stout a very small phial, not bigger than her finger, and said, 'I will, I will!' She poured something out of the phial into the stout, and drank part of it and did so —" and then the prisoner described her manner by signs. He continued, "She then lay down on the rug, and I walked out. I should not have gone out if I thought she had been in earnest; I certainly should not have left her." After the woman's death the body was opened, and one of the surgeons thought he found prussic acid. Subsequently the remainder of the stomach was taken to Mr Cooper, and it was tried by sulphate of iron, nitrate of silver, and cyanide of silver, and prussic acid was clearly proved to exist. Mr Cooper was now able to say, observing the contents of the two portions of the stomach, that in the stomach there were not fewer than fifty grains of prussic acid, according to London Pharmacopœia. Owing to the publicity which things of this kind naturally obtain it was discovered that, on the Wednesday, when the alleged murder was committed, the prisoner had been to the shop of a chemist in Bishopsgate street, and asked for two drachms of Scheele's prussic acid. But that strengthens the case I have described. He said he wanted it for an external injury. He came back to the chemist's a second time, after the visit to Salt hill, and obtained a bottle which he had previously left there. But there is other evidence which tends to prove that this is not the first attempt which has been made by the prisoner upon the life of the deceased. Towards the end of September, or the beginning of October last, a person of the name of Charlotte Hoard was staying with Sarah Hart. It was late in the evening, about seven o'clock, that the prisoner then visited the deceased. Mrs Hart upon that occasion was perfectly well, and the prisoner requested Mrs Hoard to go to Botham's house, the

Windmill, at Salt hill, to purchase a bottle of porter. She did so, and took it home, and left it on the table. Not very long afterwards the prisoner went away, Mrs Hoard heard the front door of Mrs Hart's house shut as he went out. She then saw the deceased; her cap was untied, and she looked dreadfully ill. She complained of being violently sick, of a severe pain in the head; and she retched and vomited very much. Upon the table thirteen sovereigns were lying; and it is a circumstance which ought not to escape attention, that she was too ill to see after the money. It was left loose on the table, she being so ill as to be compelled at once to go to bed. She was dreadfully sick in the night. The witness Hoard will declare that she threw up above a hand-basin full, and was obliged to keep her bed all day. She complained of great giddiness, and heat in the throat. She attributed these sensations, as did the woman, to the porter, there being no suspicion at that time that these effects were caused by anything deleterious being introduced into the porter. She recovered from that attack in the course of a short time, and was as well as usual. This was the case against the prisoner, which the various witnesses came forward to prove.

On Thursday the court was occupied for a considerable time with the examination of medical witnesses, regarding the properties of prussic acid. From the contents of the stomach of the deceased, Prussian blue was produced immediately, a decided proof of the existence of cyanogen in some shape. As prussic acid exists in pips of apples, and as some partially decayed apple was found in the deceased's stomach, Mr Cooper experimented upon fifteen apple pips, from which the quantity of prussic acid produced was so inappreciable that no chemist could measure it.

Mr Norblad, another surgeon, witnessed the experiments on Mrs Hart's body, and subsequently tried others on dogs, on which Mr Kelly told him he spoke "dogmatically."

Henry Thomas proved that the prisoner had purchased Scheele's prussic acid from him on the 1st of January.

Charlotte Howard witnessed to the former illness and vomiting of the deceased on the 3rd September, 1844, after a visit from the prisoner, after she had partaken of a bottle of porter with him. She said he was there about ten minutes, when I was called by Mrs Hart, and told to go and get a bottle of stout. I did so, and brought it in. I was then sent again for another message. Tawell was there. Mrs Hart sent me for a sheet of paper. When I came back Tawell was in the front room, and Mrs Hart in the back. She took the paper and went into him. About a quarter of an hour elapsed, when Mrs Hart was taken very ill. She came to me and said, "Oh, I am so very ill; I was obliged to tell my master to go, for I could scarcely stand." She looked very pale, wan, and sick. She complained of her head being very bad. She did not expect Mr Tawell that evening. She had been quite well all day, and before I went for the paper. She went up to bed directly after she told me she was ill. She retched, and was so bad that she would have fallen had I not held her up. She vomited during the night three times altogether, and brought up I should think a hand-basin full. She said she had taken only a glass; but immediately on taking it she felt her head bad, and was sick instantly.

The case being closed, Mr Kelly proceeded to address the Court on the prisoner's behalf. Mr Kelly appeared to be much affected—tears stood in the learned gentleman's eyes, as in a low tone he besought the jury to pardon a momentary weakness. He pointed out to the jury the great responsibility they would take on themselves by condemning the prisoner on such evidence. He would not vindicate his faults. He was not only unfortunate, but deeply blameable, and it was impossible to vindicate his conduct. He combated the proofs which were adduced as to the deceased's dying of prussic acid; and questioned the competency of the chemists to judge. Suppose a man died of taking laudanum, would the jury convict, or the judge suffer the case to go to the jury, when they heard from the witness for the prosecution, "I never knew a case of a person dying from taking that drug?" No, they would ask for some one who could speak of the effects of laudanum upon the human system of his own knowledge, and not from what he had read in books. Those witnesses were irresponsible; yet they called upon the jury to sacrifice that man upon the ground only of what they had read in books, and not upon that of actual experience. Unhappily this country was not without experience on this subject. He then laboured to show the discrepancies in the opinions of the various chemists. Mr Champneys smelt the acid—Mr Norblad could not smell it—Mr Cooper's experiment was incomplete. In opposition to this evidence, the learned gentleman replied on that given by Mr Thomas, in which that witness admitted that he had extracted half a grain of prussic acid from the pips of fifteen apples, and on the possibility of accounting for the presence of prussic acid in the contents of deceased's stomach by the fact of apple and other substances containing prussic acid having been found in those contents. Supposing that the pips of the apples produced a fourth of a grain,—suppose there was some little in the cake which she had eaten,—suppose there was some in the saliva which she must have swallowed in a large quantity when masticating the apples, and which was known to contain much prussic acid,—suppose there was some in the animal substances, and although it was stated that they would not yield prussic acid without being subjected to a greater heat than they had been subjected to, yet it was known that when undergoing decomposition prussic acid was constantly being evolved,—suppose these things, put together all these probabilities, keeping in mind that they had positive evidence that the pips of fifteen apples produced half a grain of prussic acid, and he asked them how they could, if they did not wish to commit murder themselves, convict the prisoner of that crime? If there was not enough of prussic acid in the stomach to account for death, there was an end of the case. After producing sundry instances of deaths, attributed to wrong causes, Mr Kelly looked at the motives for committing such a crime. Now, he would not deny that by the deceased woman he had two children. That was an act of immorality, and if the prisoner had not bitterly repented it, he had at least bitterly suffered for it already. He allowed that woman about 1*l.* a week. Would the saving of that sum be a sufficient reason with a person in his circumstances to commit murder? Then, as to his circumstances, the evidence of the banker's clerk had shown that they were not embarrassed. That he was still a man of kindly disposition his present wife could prove, but she could not be called as a witness. However, a letter was put in on the previous day, which was a witness in his favour, and which he would read to the jury. It was written on the 1st of January, the very day on which it was supposed he was actually about to commit murder:—

"My only loved one,—My thoughts have been with thee throughout the day, and I can't but hope thou art feeling better than when thou left us. Do, my endeared one, endeavour to keep up thy spirits for my sake. Oh, how I long to hear what the Sydney papers say of the state of things there. My poor mind rises and falls as I see how these vicissitudes affect thee; and I find it hard work to attain to that wise resignation which becomes us under all the decrees of a wise Providence. I think I could bear up better if the whole burden was on me alone; but that is impossible. I do hope, my dear husband, you will bear up. The year has opened with a lovely day. I hope it is an omen of the future which awaits us. . . . Farewell, under every circumstance, thy beloved wife." The learned counsel shed tears once or twice while reading this letter, and then proceeded to say that no man could receive such a letter as that and do an act which would make his affectionate wife a widow, and his children fatherless.

The court again opened at eight o'clock on Friday morning, and was more crowded even than before.

Mr Baron Parke took his seat on the bench at a few minutes after that hour, and the prisoner was immediately brought in and placed in the dock. He appeared much as he did previously, but his face had a more anxious and worn expression. The feeling of excitement in court with regard to the issue appeared intense.

The learned judge, as soon as silence had been proclaimed, commenced summing up the evidence, which he did with a lucidness well calculated to leave the minds of the jury in a befitting condition for the discharge of the awful duty which they had to perform. The effect was felt, however, to be, upon the whole, against the prisoner. His lordship concluded in the usual manner, by leaving the awful decision of the question of the prisoner's life or death in the hands of the Jury, telling them if they had any fair and reasonable doubt, they must give the prisoner the benefit of it.

The jury retired for deliberation at half-past eleven o'clock, and a sensation in which a general feeling of anxiety as to the event, appeared to pervade the breasts of the majority of those present. After an absence of rather more than half an hour, they returned into court and the foreman delivered a "VERDICT OF GUILTY," amid the most profound silence.

The learned Judge put on the black cap, and addressed the prisoner in the following terms:—Prisoner at the bar, the jury have just returned their unanimous and deliberate verdict against you. They have performed their painful duty under the solemn obligation of their oaths, and it now remains for me to perform my duty, by telling you that for that horrible, base, and cowardly crime, of which you have been convicted upon clear and satisfactory evidence, you must die an ignominious and horrid death on the common scaffold. You thought to commit that crime, and you thought no eye would see you except that eye which sees all things, and to which you probably paid no regard; but, happily, circumstances were discovered, and numerous cogent and satisfactory reasons have been adduced which have left no doubt on the minds of the jury, as they have none upon mine, that you are guilty of one of the most diabolical offences that ever man committed. We now see, almost as it were with our own eyes, you mixing the poisonous ingredients in the cup from which she was to drink in a moment of unsuspecting confidence on her part, supposing that you were her benefactor and protector. You hurried her—you hurried her in a moment, without allowing her an instant for the preparation of her thoughts, to give that awful account for which you have now only a few days left you to prepare. I will say nothing more of your heinous offence, because I do not wish to aggravate those feelings which I hope and believe are at this moment tearing your mind. I wish it were so, that you may be brought to repent of that grievous sin, and of that course of your life, which has been marked by hypocrisy, during which you wore the garb of a virtuous, peaceful, benevolent, and religious body of persons. I say to you, repent of those grievous indulgences of your passions, and the crimes of which you have been guilty, when in a state of mind so devoid of all feeling as to commit this wicked and cruel murder. I will say no more. I hope you will profit by the little time left you, which will not be longer than the law allows, and endeavour to repent of your crimes. It remains for me to pass upon you now the sentence of the law—that sentence is, for the murder whereof you have been convicted, that you be taken from hence to the place from whence you came, and from thence to the place of execution, there to be hanged by the neck until you are dead, and that your body be taken down and buried within the precincts of the gaol wherein you shall be confined after the passing of this sentence; and may God have mercy upon your miserable soul.

Before the verdict was passed the prisoner exhibited perfect coolness. On Thursday a few gentlemen were allowed to stand within the dock, among whom was one who, being rather near-sighted, put up his glass the better to observe the prisoner's features.

When the Court adjourned, before Mr Kelly had commenced his address, the prisoner Tawell walked up to this gentleman and said, "Why do you stare so at me, sir? What makes you single me out so for observation?" The gentleman merely tried to stammer out an apology—asked pardon,—said he did not mean to stare offensively, and the prisoner descended into his place.

His "spirits" were said to be "unusually good." They have fallen since the passing of the sentence, and up to a late hour he paced his cell, crying "Oh dear, oh dear, what will become of my wife and children." He not only invited the person who daily served him with his meals to visit him at his house, but anticipating that his trial would terminate on Thursday night, he actually had a carriage in readiness to convey him to his home. His son, by the unfortunate woman Hart, was in court during the trial. He is a very fine lad, about five years of age.

## THE HAMPSTEAD MURDER.

### HOCKER'S LAST EXAMINATION AND COMMITTAL.

Hocker's final examination took place on Tuesday, at the Marylebone police office, when the policeman Baldock produced some new and singular evidence regarding the prisoner. He stated: When I was in the field in which the murder was committed, and while another constable had gone to get a stretcher to carry away the body, I heard a man coming whistling along. When he had come nearly up to me I called out "Halloa!" and he replied, "Halloa, policeman." I then said, I have got a very serious case in the corner here. He said, what is it? I said, it is a dead man, and I think he has cut his throat. He said, are you sure he is

quite dead? I answered yes, I have felt his pulse, and I think he is quite dead. The man then put out his hand and himself felt the dead man's pulse. He said he felt very much shocked at seeing such a sight, and added, that he had been in the habit of travelling that way at night for the last two years, but never "see'd no danger in coming that way before." He said he generally came that way home at night—that he had a great sum of money upon him, and likewise a watch and a ring. He afterwards said he felt very queer, and thought he wanted a little drop of brandy. He asked me if I would like to have any, and I said "No;" he next took a shilling out of his pocket, and asked me to take that to get some with. I said I must not take it, as I was not allowed to do it. He pressed me to take it, and said there was no harm in it, as he should not say anything about it. I said I would rather not; but after he pressed me more I took it. Sergeant Fletcher and other officers then came with the stretcher and carried away the body. I last saw the person who gave me the shilling near Bellsizes lane. I do not know that I should know him again. He had a cloak on, and was muffled up a good deal, as any person would be on a cold night. I produce the hat which was found at the feet of the dead man; it is bruised, and has blood upon it. I produce a stick also, which has blood upon it too. [This was not the stick which was found near the Regent's canal.]

James Euston said he was appointed to be with the prisoner in his cell before his examination. He said he wanted to see the waiter at the Swiss Cottage. I told him when the gaoler came he could send a message or a note. The gaoler came shortly afterwards. What passed between them I cannot tell. After he was gone the prisoner said he had gone on the night of the murder to the Swiss Cottage, asked for a glass of rum and water, gave the waiter a shilling, and told him to fetch him a fourpenny-piece and twopence. The waiter brought him the change, and he gave him the twopence for himself, and put the fourpenny-piece into his pocket. The waiter said, "You are a gentleman." The prisoner added, and he did not know me. He next said, "Then that Baldock the policeman, I stood in the field five-and-twenty minutes with him, close to the deceased. I had my cloak on, it was a cold night, and I asked him to have some brandy, which he refused; I pressed him to have it very much, and at last he received a shilling. I remained there while they went for the stretcher." That is all he said. I made no remark whatever. He said he had got it down "ins and outs." He had four sides of paper written on. I said, "Have you got it down then?" and he answered, "Yes, I have got it all down here," and he meant to explain it when he went inside.

Prisoner: Everything he has said is perfectly correct. But he has made one grand omission.—[To the witness]: Did I not mention to you something about a knife?—Witness: You asked me if I had got a knife.—Prisoner: I did not. I was alluding to a knife which I had when in company with the constable Baldock.—Witness: I don't recollect anything of that sort.

Mrs Maria Edwards was next called: I live at 61 Great Titchfield street. I have been town housemaid to a gentleman in Portland place for some years. I know the prisoner at the bar, and have known him since a little after Christmas. I first saw him at 6 Bath place, the house of my brother and sister-in-law. A young person named Philips was allowed to sleep in Portland place. By her sleeping there Mr Hocker "was used to see her there." Sometimes he came to the door, and sometimes he came in. On the night of the 21st of February he came there about nine o'clock, or a little after. He saw Miss Philips, and went to the housekeeper's room with her. He appeared cheerful and in good spirits. He said he had just come from Grafton street. I did not know what he meant by that. I don't remember anything particular that passed. He merely asked her how she did, and said, "Well, my girl, how are you?" He did produce a watch, which he said he had bought; there was a chain to it, which looked like gold. There was a ring also, which he showed to Miss Philips. She remarked that it was too large, when he put it on his finger; it appeared to be a brilliant ring. I heard nothing said about blood on his shirt. Miss Philips saw it, and mentioned it after he was gone.

The boy, Henry Evans Taylor, who found the stick mentioned in our last number, now stated, on his examination, that he found it three weeks ago. The lad's father corroborated this testimony, at which the prisoner "smiled." Thomas Hocker his father, and James his brother, both identified it.

Inspector Haynes stated that he was informed a person had just arrived, named Joseph Henry Nash, who had more important evidence to give.

Joseph Henry Nash then stepped forward and stated: I live at 17 Old Church street, Paddington. On the Friday night upon which the murder was committed I was on business round St John's wood, and on coming to the Swiss Cottage I came into the Avenue road. It was between six and seven in the evening. When I got into the Avenue road I heard the cries of murder, and stopped and listened to hear where the sound came from. It appeared to come from across the fields. I did not pay much attention to it, but stood there about ten minutes, and then saw a man coming along towards me. He was running and ran right up against me. He stopped all of a bustle for an instant. I said, "Did you hear the cry of murder?" He never answered, but ran on, and I went about my business. I am confident the prisoner is the same man, for I had seen him before. He appeared all of a flurry. I did not observe that he had a stick, and I did not observe his dress, although I think his clothes were dark. I have nothing more to state.

The evidence of this witness created a great sensation in the court; and almost as soon as he appeared, the prisoner, who had only a few minutes before been accommodated with a chair, started up and held the iron rail before him with a firm grasp, and assumed a particularly daring aspect as he looked towards the witness.

Mr Rawlinson then again addressed the prisoner, and said: It now becomes my duty to commit you for trial, and if you have anything to say, now is the proper time to speak. You can, however, use your own discretion as to whether you shall say anything or nothing. But if you do say anything, that which you speak will be taken down in writing, and may be used against you.

The prisoner, with a slight bow, and the most composed and easy manner, merely said, "I decline saying anything to day, sir."

Mr Rawlinson: Then you stand fully committed by me, as well as upon the Coroner's warrant, to take your trial at the next session of the Central Criminal Court.

The prisoner was immediately removed from the bar, and

the dense crowd with which the court was literally crammed, gradually dispersed.

Being conveyed to Newgate, it appears that on arrival Hocker "exhibited great buoyancy of spirits," and leaped out of the van as if going to a merry-making instead of being about entering a prison.

POLICE.

BREAKING INTO PRISON THROUGH A WINDOW.—At the Mansion house five wretched women were charged with having broken the windows of the Mansion house.

CHARGE OF ATTEMPTED MURDER.—At Clerkenwell, on Wednesday, Daniel Good was charged by Elizabeth Good, his wife, residing in Brill row, Somers town, with having attempted to murder her.

THE LADY AND HER PENCHANT FOR THAT WHICH DID NOT BELONG TO HER.—At Worship street, Elizabeth Farmer, a widow lady, residing in Brunswick place, City road, was, on Wednesday, placed at the bar before Mr Broughton, for final examination, upon the charge of having stolen a piece of salted meat, at the shop of Mr Joseph Flowerday, a butcher, in Pitfield street, Hoxton.

ATTEMPTED ESCAPE.—A young man, named Henry Ashley, was charged with endeavouring to assist in the escape of a prisoner. Sergeant Redman stated that a few minutes previously, when he was engaged, with the assistance of other officers, in escorting the prisoners through the passages of this court, to place them in the van, one of them, a brick carter, who was committed for stealing bricks, made a sudden rush, and attempted to escape from the constable who was guarding him, but was caught by policeman 171 H.

OFFENCES.

HORRIBLE OCCURRENCE.—At Foulsham, in Norfolk, a most brutal outrage has been committed upon the person of an old man, between seventy and eighty years of age, named Amiss. He resided at Foulsham, and was addicted to drinking. On the morning of the 21st of February he was enticed into a beer-shop at Foulsham, kept by Benjamin Clitheroe, where several of his pot companions were drinking together.

Amiss, while on the fire, put one of his hands on the hot bars, and raised himself up, rubbed his thigh and knees, and complained very much of being burnt. Witness could not see that his thigh was burnt, as his trousers were down below his knees. The prisoners Clitheroe and Chipperfield then carried Amiss into the back kitchen, and laid him upon the brick floor, where he remained for an hour and a half, groaning very much. He had dirtied himself, and was in a most filthy state before he was brought out of the kitchen.

OCCURRENCES.

DEATHS FROM WANT.—In describing two of these disastrous cases last week, we stated that, in one of them, a member of the District Visiting Society had called upon the starving woman, and finding her a Roman Catholic, had declined to relieve her.

DELIBERATE SUICIDE OF A SOLDIER AT DEVONPORT.—On Monday the report of a musket shot in the sergeants' mess room, at the barracks, attracted attention, and on two men of the 44th proceeding thither, they found a comrade weltering in his blood. The deceased was one of the three men in attendance on the sergeants' mess, and a few minutes before his death was in the room with the two others, on which occasion he appeared to be in his usual spirits.

COMMERCE AND TRADE.

THE FUNDS.—SATURDAY, ELEVEN O'CLOCK. (From the List of Messrs Wolfe, Brothers Stock-brokers, Change atty.)

Table with columns: BRITISH, Price, FOREIGN, Price. Lists various financial instruments like Consols, Do. Account, 3 per Cent. Reduced, etc.

Table with columns: SHARE LIST, Price, Shares, Paid. Lists various railway and company shares like Birmingham and Derby Railway, Birmingham and Gloucester Do., etc.

RAILWAYS.—The greatest activity and excitement still prevail in the sale of railway shares, which is not a little increased as each successive report appears in the Gazette.

tend their determination, it would go far towards lessening the weight and authority hitherto attached to the dictums for and against issued from time to time by the Commissioners.

SUGAR.—The sale of sugars during the week has been flat and dull, realizing about the same prices as the previous week. This might have been expected, owing to the taking effect of the new duties, which come into operation this day.

WOOL.—At Leeds, the demand for combing wool is not quite so brisk as a few weeks ago, the sales being limited to the requirements of the manufacturers for present use. Prices are consequently somewhat lower.—At Wakefield, the transactions in all kinds of wool have been on a very limited scale, and at rather easier prices for the purchaser.

COTTON.—At Liverpool, the sales of cotton have averaged those of the previous week, without any alteration in price, but with a tendency downwards.—At Manchester, there is less doing in all kinds of cloth than of late; but this fact has had no effect on prices of any description of goods.

Private letters from Mexico state there was an expectation of a more liberal policy in reference to foreign trade; and that although Santa Anna had secured a good deal of money, his capture would lead to the restoration of a good deal of it not already disbursed.

The Portuguese Government has issued and put into operation a decree by which all vessels going there will henceforward be charged a tonnage duty, under the name of "Health-office Fees," of 30 rs., equal to 1 1/2 d. per ton; and 15 rs. per ton for bill of health, at departure, if the vessel be Portuguese, or any nation having any treaties with Portugal.

CORN MARKETS.

(From Messrs Gillies and Horne's Circular.) CORN EXCHANGE, FRIDAY, MARCH 1.—There is no improvement in wheat. Barley continues very dull. Irish oats are scarce; Scotch sell well at nearly, if not quite, Monday's prices.

IMPORTATIONS Into London from March 9 to March 13, both inclusive.

Table with columns: Wheat, Barley, Oats, Malt, Flour. Lists quantities for English & Scotch, Irish, and Foreign.

Table with columns: Gazette Averages, Wheat, Barley, Oats, Rye, Beans, Peas. Lists weekly averages for various crops.

The average price of Brown or Muscovado Sugar, computed from the returns made in the week ending March 11, is 3s. 2d. per cwt.

FROM THE LONDON GAZETTES.

Tuesday, March 11. PARTNERSHIPS DISSOLVED.

S. Hutchinson and R. Binney, Bradford, Yorkshire, share brokers—Woolright, Chidson, and Co., Liverpool, silk mercers—Hillees and Co., Bourn, tailors—James and Richmond, Swansea, linendrapers—R. Pitcher and P. Bates, Surrey Canal bank, Old Kent road, tar refiners—Allen and Long, Manchester, coach proprietors—J. H. Cuthbert and C. S. Bailey, Stonham, Parva, and Ipswich, and elsewhere, beer brewers—H. Roberts and M. Lawrence, boarding-school keepers—Dunk and Baker, Brighton, millers—J. Ouston and Sons, Kingston-upon-Hull, wine merchants; as far as regards J. S. Ouston—J. Faulkner and Co., Heaton Norris, Lancashire, and Stockport, spinners—J. and J. Bailey and Kitts, Bolton, cotton spinners; as far as regards T. Kitts—Marshall, Mitchell, and Stones, Sheffield, edge-tool manufacturers; as far as regards J. Mitchell—J. and R. Morley, Wood street, and Nottingham, wholesale hosiers; as far as regards J. Morley, sen. and R. Morley—M., C. W., and B. Hooper, Grange road, Leadenhall market, and Seething lane, tanners; as far as regards M. Hooper—Cross and Barritt, Bury and Farnworth, Lancashire, manufacturing chemists—J. Smith and Co. Spital works, near Chesterfield, machine builders; as far as regards F. Hurst and J. Sayer—W. Higgins and Sons, Salford, machine makers; as far as regards W. Higgins—T. Rudkin and H. Hemmings, Paddington street—Weymouth and Rigby, Chancery lane, attornies—Dicksons and Laings, Wilton-mill, near Hawick, manufacturers; as far as regards J. R. Laing—Clarke, Cree, and Co., Glasgow, merchants—Tannahill, Cree, and Co., Trinidad, merchants.

BANKRUPTS.

J. Taylor, Whittlesea, Cambridgeshire, draper. [Soles and Turner, Aldermanbury. A. Green, Brighton, apothecary. [Freeman, Bothomley, and Benthall, Coleman street. D. Holdforth, Stratford, grocer. [Wright, Cook's court, Carey street. A. Knott, Brighton, out of business. [Soles and Turner, Aldermanbury. W. Hardisty, Wakefield, Yorkshire, whitesmith. [Fidley, Temple. J. Roberts, Liverpool, potatoe dealer. [Sharpe, Field, and Jackson, Bedford row. T. Griffiths, Llandugwydd, Cardiganshire, auctioneer. [Smith, Cardigan.

DIVIDENDS.

April 9, H. R. Stutchbury, Theobald's road, Bedford row, bookseller—April 9, J. Stevens and R. H. W. Drummond, Mile end road, contractors—April 9, F. Blundell, New Sarum, grocer—April 9, J. Maynard, Panton street, Haymarket, bookseller—April 1, J. F. Barwick, Old street, St Luke's, wheelwright—April 12, J. H., J. S., J. K., and A. Heron, Manchester and Wigan, cotton spinners—April 10, G. and S. Potter and J. Krauss, Manchester and Birkacre, calico printers—April 12, H. Hardie, Manchester, merchant—April 2, S. Parsons, Manchester, paper-hanger—April 3, W. H. and T. B. Turner, Blackburn, cotton spinners—April 2, E. Sheppard, sen. Uley, Gloucestershire, clothier—April 4, W. Rees and G. Edwards, Wells, Somersetshire, gardener—April 3, T. and W. Withell, Padstow, Cornwall, shipbuilders—April 3, J. Hall, Walls-end, Northumberland, cowkeeper—April 3, J. Tristram, Basford, Nottinghamshire, beerhouse keeper—April 8, R. Jackson, Leeds, engineer—April 3, J. L. and T. Taberner, Birmingham corn factors—April 5, R. Light, Stoke-upon-Trent, grocer—April 4, H. Newton, Derby, colour manufacturer.

CERTIFICATES to be granted, unless cause be shown to the contrary on the day of meeting.

April 1, W. Dettmer, Upper Marylebone street, pianoforte manufacturer—April 3, A. Francis, W. Davey, and M. Francis, Bagillt, Flintshire, ironfounders—April 3, J. Heggibotham and G. Peck, Manchester, machine makers.

CERTIFICATES to be granted by the Court of Review, unless cause be shown to the contrary on or before April 1.

T. Ross, Leicester, hosier—J. R. King, Bath, druggist—C. Strange and R. Parsons, Baglan, Glamorganshire, merchants—J. Quinn, Liverpool, painter—R. Proctor, Kingston-upon-Hull, coach proprietor—G. Craven, jun. Wakefield and Rochdale, corn miller—W. Hill, Woolwich, builder—L. H. Folger, High street, Shore-ditch, cabinet maker—C. Dotesio, Slough, hotel keeper—T. Baines, Bradford, Yorkshire, worsted spinner—A. Padbury, jun. Epsom, grocer.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

T. Roxburgh, Glasgow, smith—W. Birnie, Aberdeen, painter—D. Keith, Dundee, merchant.

Friday, March 14.

FOREIGN OFFICE, MARCH 12.

The Queen has been pleased to approve of M. Krehmer as Acting Consul General in Great Britain for his Imperial Majesty the Emperor of All the Russias.

The Queen has also been pleased to approve of Mr Pieter Romyn, as Vice-Consul at Stockton; of Mr John Owen, as Vice-Consul at Cardiff; and of Mr Stephen Campbell, as Vice-Consul at Newport, for his Royal Highness the Grand Duke of Mecklenburg Schwerin.

WAR OFFICE, MARCH 14.

5th Regiment of Dragoon Guards—Brevet Lieut.-Col. H. D. Campbell, from half-pay Unattached, to be Major, vice F. Westera, who exchanges; Capt. J. W. King to be Major, by purchase, vice Campbell, who retires; Lieut. J. Conolly to be Capt. by purchase, vice King; Cornet Sir W. H. Don, Bart. to be Lieut. by purchase, vice Conolly; C. P. Johnson, Gent. to be Cornet, by purchase, vice Sir W. H. Don.

12th Regiment of Foot—H. H. Poitier, Gent. to be Ensign, by purchase, vice Viscount Malden, appointed to the Rifle Brigade.

22nd Foot—To be Lieutenants, without purchase—Lieut. R. W. Woods, from the 3rd Foot, vice M'Urdo, promoted; Lieut. T. G. Souter, from the 3rd Foot, vice Colleton, appointed to the 77th Foot.

51st Foot—Lieut. and Adjutant C. T. Bentley, from the Royal Canadian Rifle Regiment, to be Adjutant and Lieut. vice Birch, deceased.

86th Foot—Staff-Surgeon of the Second Class A. Thom to be Surgeon, vice Smith, who exchanges.

Rifle Brigade—Ensign A. de Vere, Viscount Malden, from the 12th Foot, to be Second Lieut. by purchase, vice Standish, who retires.

Hospital Staff—Surgeon G. R. Dartnell, from the 1st Foot, to be Staff-Surgeon of the First Class; Surgeon A. Smith, from the 86th Foot, to be Staff-Surgeon of the Second Class, vice Thom, who exchanges.

Unattached—Brevet Col. W. Slaveley (Deputy Quartermaster-General at the Mauritius), from Major half-pay Unattached, to be Lieut.-Col. without purchase.

Memorandum—The Christian names of Capt. Call, of the 18th Foot, are George Frederick Stevenson.

PARTNERSHIPS DISSOLVED.

W. and G. Manley, South street, Borough, cowkeepers—C. Sanderson and J. Purdie, Swinton Iron Works, Yorkshire—J. Hall and B. Buchanan, Liverpool, merchants—H. W. Carr and Co. Liverpool, merchants—C. Kenworthy and W. Taylor, Manchester, velvet finishers—J. Hewitt and J. Mitchell, Little Bell alley, City, trunk makers—J. A. Melhado and Co. Adams court, Old Broad street, merchants—Samuel and Mary Robinson, Richmond, York, shire, milliners—J. and E. Farmer, Hereford, linen drapers—W. Seed and H. Wilson, Preston, spindle makers—R. Postlethwaite and W. Parsons, Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire—J. Sinclair and T. Whitehurst, Princes street, Lambeth, distillers—S. Nuttall and J. Barlow, Bolton-le-Moors, cotton manufacturers—H. Corless and Co. Liverpool, rice dressers—J. Nichols and W. Gist—D. A. A. and W. A. Gibbs, Milton street, soap makers—J. Pirie and G. E. Hodgkinson, London—W. and J. Bland, Godmanchester, builders—C. A. Helm and A. C. Hooper, Worcester, attorneys—C. C. Colchester and C. F. Gower, Ipswich, soap makers—R. J., and T. Shariand, Bishopsgate street Within, linen drapers—J. Fozard and W. Jackson, Leeds, whitesmiths—P. C., and Ann Edwards, Warmhill, Devonshire, farmers—Sarah E. Hervey and Ann W. Nowell, Halifax, milliners—E. Raleigh and N. Fitzpatrick, Liverpool, commission agents—J. T. Turner and J. W. Boyle, Cleveland street, Fitzroy square, paper stationers.

BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.

S. Makepeace, Mitcham, woollen printer. 19 BANKRUPTS. F. L. Cole, Fenchurch street, wine merchant. [Goddard, Wood street, Cheapside. Mary C. Painter, Great Peter street, grocer. [Hildyard, Furnival's inn. J. Green, Pallmall, wine merchant. [Baxendale and Co. Great Winchester street. T. N. D. Howard, Adelaide hotel, London bridge. [Buchanan and Grainger, Basinghall street. W. H. Mills, Mark lane, wine merchant. [Hughes and Co. Bucklersbury. G. Wagner, Bloomsbury square, draper. [Turner and Hensman, Basing lane. W. Meek, Southampton, ironmonger. [Bireham and Dalrymple, Bedford row. J. Thompson, Wigmore street, Cavendish square, cheesemonger. [Gautlett, Gray's inn place. S. Hurd, Rochester, china dealer. [Smith, Wilmington square. W. Debnay, Mistle, Essex, victualler. [Wire and Child, St Swin's lane. J. Botcherby, Darlington, coal owner. [Tyas, Beaufort buildings, Strand. J. Kewley, Liverpool, tailor. [Cornthwaite and Adams, Old Jewry. T. Dix, Liverpool, shoe dealer. [Chester and Co. Staple inn. S. Marshall, Kingston-upon-Hull, builder. [Penniger and West-macott, John street, Bedford row. C. D. Hope, Manchester, broker. [Cornthwaite and Adams, Old Jewry. J. S. Rowe, Newcastle-under-Lyne, draper. [Soles and Turner, London. T. Lane, Hereford, coal merchant. [Lanwarne, Hereford. J. Smith, Rugeley, money scrivener. [Bennett and Thorne, Wolverhampton. J. Lane, Bristol, licensed victualler. [Gillard and Flook, Bristol.

DIVIDENDS.

April 4, H. Oglan, Holywell street, Shoreditch, victualler—April 7, W. Rogers, Newport, draper—April 5, J. Trevitt, Lapley, Staffordshire, butcher.

CERTIFICATES to be granted, unless cause be shown to the contrary on the day of meeting.

April 4, T. Rose, Nursing, Hampshire, builder—April 4, W. and R. Smith, Bow lane, warehousemen—April 5, J. Clark, City road, carman—April 5, W. Moyes and T. Moring, Camomilestreet, earthenware—April 4, G. Bartlett, Wellington street, Goswell street, ornament manufacturer—April 7, W. Blinkhorn, Little Bolton, manufacturing chemist.

CERTIFICATES to be granted by the Court of Review, unless cause be shown to the contrary on or before April 4.

W. Lutwyche, Birmingham, brassfounder—I. Argent, Fleet street, victualler—J. and H. Colville, Liverpool, merchants—W. Jones, Usk, draper—G. P. Giles, Bedford street, Covent garden, carver—J. B. Larke, East Harling, draper—E. Kinsey, Newtown, maltster—J. Sedman, Queen street, Cheapside, colour merchant—B. Perkins and S. Woolley, Stamford, drapers.

MARRIED.

On the 4th instant, at St Mary's, Dover, by the Rev. F. Fisher, Mr George M. Simmonds, to Susannah, third daughter of Mr Charles Norwood, of the same place.

DIED.

On Wednesday, the 12th of March, at her residence, Little Holland house, Kensington, beloved by all who ever knew her, the Honourable Caroline Fox, niece of Charles James Fox, and sister of the late Lord Holland.

On the 10th inst. at his residence, No. 2 Malvern terrace, Islington, William Frederick Deacon, Esq. in the 47th year of his age.

His death will be a great loss to the literature of the day. He was a distinguished writer in some of our best periodicals, well known to the first literary characters of the age, and admired as a chaste and elegant scholar; well acquainted with the writings of the ancients, and not surpassed by any in his intimate knowledge of the remarkable works which have issued from the press during the present century. Mr Deacon was employed for nearly twenty years on the "Sun" newspaper. A writer in the "Chronicle" adds, having known Mr Deacon intimately, that he was something more than a tasteful critic, an accomplished scholar, and an elegant writer; he was all these, but he was also a high-minded gentleman, a kind husband, and an anxious parent. His loss is deeply deplored by his family and a large circle of friends.

On Saturday the 8th inst., at 20 Savile row, aged 74, Robert Smith, Esq. brother of the late Rev. Sydney Smith. In Leicester, Miss Mary Linwood, aged 90. She was born at Leicester in 1756, and one of the authors of the well-known exhibition of needle work in Leicester square, to which she paid annual visits until her demise.

General Sir T. Saumarez died at his residence, at the Petit Marche, in the island of Guernsey, on the 4th inst. in the 85th year of his age. Sir Thomas served in the first American war, and was present at the several landings on Staten, Long, and York Islands; the battle on the 27th of August, 1776, on Long Island, capture of Forts Lee and Washington, battles of Brandywine and Germantown, at which last he received two balls in his head. He proceeded to the West Indies in 1778, and was present at the capture of St Lucia, and the battle of the Vigie. He served on board the Cornwall, in the action off Grenada, between Admiral Byron and Count d'Estaing, 6th July, 1779; also on board the Conqueror, in the action between Admiral Parker and La Motte Picquet in Fort Royal Bay, Martinique, 19th December, 1779; and in the successive actions between Rear-Admiral Rowley with the Comte de Guichen, off Martinique, on the 17th April following.

ANTWERP CHAPLAINCY.—CLERGYMEN

A sound Church principle is earnestly warned against undertaking the office of Chaplain at Antwerp, where the Anglican-Catholic Church, unsupported by authority at home, is under Presbyterian control. A consistent clergyman, as chaplain there, must be ultimately sacrificed. The present painful position of the late Chaplain, after fourteen years' faithful foreign service, is a proof of this fact. The Bishop of London having withheld his license, upon the representations of a few individuals, chiefly of dissenting principles, in opposition to the wishes and remonstrances of a large majority of Churchmen.

Thus has the Belgian Government, which had hitherto recognized and salaried the Chaplain as one of its functionaries, deprived him of his appointment, because it considers the withholding of the Bishop's license as degradation or disrobing to the clergyman.

Full proofs and particulars, upon reference to Rev. T. H. Ridgway's, Piccadilly; or of whom may be had "The English Church at Antwerp," and "Encouragements and Discouragements of a Foreign Chaplain."

THEATRE ROYAL, HAYMARKET.

Great attraction and legitimate novelty.—Return of Madame Vestris and Mr C. Matthews.

ON Easter Monday, THE SHERIFF OF THE COUNTY.

Principal characters by Messrs Farren, Webster, Buckstone, Strickland, Mrs Glover, Miss Bennet, Miss Telbin, and Mrs Yarnold. After which, a Grand Classical Extravaganza, by the Author of "The Fair one with the Golden Locks," in which Madame Vestris and Mr C. Matthews will appear. And YOUNG ENGLAND. On Tuesday, THE SHERIFF OF THE COUNTY. An EXTRA-VAGANZA. And THE BOARDING SCHOOL. On Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, THE SHERIFF OF THE COUNTY. And other Entertainments.

THEATRE ROYAL, ADELPHI.

Under the direction of Madame Celeste. First week of a new Chivalric Burlesque.—The Mother and Child are doing well for the fourth week.

ON Monday and during the Week will be performed THE GREEN BUSHES, or a Hundred Years ago. With a Grand Burlesque, written by Mr Mark Lemon and Mr Gilbert A'Becket, called ST GEORGE AND THE DRAGON. Characters by Miss Woolgar, Mr P. Bedford, Mr Wright, Mr Selby, and Miss Chaplin. To conclude with THE MOTHER AND CHILD ARE DOING WELL.

THEATRE ROYAL LYCEUM.

Under the Management of Mrs Keeley.

ON Easter Monday will be performed, A COMEDY, in three acts. Supported by Messrs Vining, F. Matthews, Emery, Bellingham, Meadows, Wigan, and Keeley; Mrs Keeley (her first appearance in London), Mrs Wigan, and Miss Dawson (her first appearance). With a New Farce (never acted), entitled LOWTHER ARCADE. Characters by Messrs Keeley, Meadows, Bellingham; Miss Dawson, and Miss Grove. With a Burlesque, entitled WHITTINGTON AND HIS CAT. Dick Whittington, Mrs Keeley; Mosey Moiche, the Lion Tamer of the Desert, Mr Keeley; the Cat, Mr Collier; supported by Messrs Emery, F. Matthews, and Wigan; Miss Fairbrother and Miss Grove.

MR LOVER'S IRISH EVENINGS.

ON Monday next, March 17th, commencing at Eight o'clock precisely, at Hanover-square Rooms, FOURTH TIME, an Entirely New Entertainment, entitled PADDY'S PORTFOLIO, containing Sketches of Character, Mirthful Anecdotes, and appropriate Musical Illustrations; among which are the following New Songs:—"The Waite's Song," "Sally," "Dermot O'Dowling," "The Road of Lile, or Song of the Irish Post Boy," and "The Poor Blind Boy."

Tickets and Programmes to be had at the Rooms, principal Music shops, and the Libraries.—Admission, 2s.; Front Seats, 3s.

MRS and MISS CHRISTIANA WELLES

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