

# The Economist:

A

POLITICAL, COMMERCIAL, AGRICULTURAL, AND FREE-TRADE JOURNAL.

"If we make ourselves too little for the sphere of our duty; if, on the contrary, we do not stretch and expand our minds to the compass of our object; be well assured that everything about us will dwindle by degrees, until at length our concerns are shrunk to the dimensions of our mind; not a predilection to mean, sordid, home bred cares that will avert the consequences of a false estimation of our interest, or prevent the shameful degradation into which a great empire must fall by mean reparation upon mighty ruins."—BURKE.

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## CONTENTS.

Leaders:			
The "New Faith" of the 'Spectator'—	697	Scotland - - - - -	712
Sympathy between our Colonies and		Ireland - - - - -	713
our Trade at Home—Wool and the		Foreign and Colonial:	
Wool Duties - - - - -	698	United States - - - - -	713
Shipwrecks - - - - -	701	The Economist's Library:	
Weekly Cost of Protection to Sugar and		Professor Lawson's Political Economy—	
Wheat - - - - -	702	Col. Forrean on a Ten-Hours Bill, 714, 715	715
Statistical Society - - - - -	702	Miscellanies of Trade - - - - -	716
Imperial Parliament - - - - -	702	Commercial Markets - - - - -	716
Free-Trade Movements:		Prices Current - - - - -	717
League, Covent Garden—Liverpool, 704, 705		Corn Markets - - - - -	718
Miscellaneous - - - - -	707	London Averages - - - - -	718
Commercial Epitome - - - - -	708	Smithfield Market - - - - -	718
Political Epitome - - - - -	709	Borough Hop Market - - - - -	718
Court and Aristocracy - - - - -	710	The Gazette - - - - -	719
The Metropolis - - - - -	710	Births, Marriages, and Deaths - - - - -	719
The Provinces:		Advertisements - - - - -	719
The Short-Hour Agitation - - - - -	711		

those who form the bulk of the nation. What are they, whether in mines, or factories, or agricultural villages?—a thoroughly servile class, socially cut off from their employers; doomed to excessive toil and perpetual want; ignorant, vicious, desperate; and, above all, lamentably short of means for improving their condition by their own unaided efforts. This has come of letting them alone to 'manage their own affairs in their own way.'

In the very outset we feel assured that, in common with ourselves, most of the "cautious thinkers" who "speak with hesitation and avowed reluctance" of the new faith, will be at issue with our contemporary—firstly, in the assumed fact that "the experiment of letting the common people alone to take care of themselves has been fairly tried;" secondly, that glaring facts contradict the assertion, that every man is the best guardian of his own interests, as far as that experiment has been made; and thirdly, that the evils apparent among those classes have "come of letting them alone to manage their own affairs in their own way;" and unless these positions can be sustained, the main grounds for the new system must disappear.

First, then, we contend that the experiment has not only not been fairly tried, but so far from it, that what is termed a trial does not even deserve the name; we must entirely dissent from the assertion that "more perfect liberty to dispose of themselves as they pleased; less protection or interference from the state than our common people have had for ten years past, it is hardly possible to imagine;" for of course this must allude not merely to personal and physical liberty, but to that liberty which would influence their moral and material interests. By a fiction (we admit) our legislature has been busy during the whole period in the attempt to protect labour—to encourage native industry; but by no fiction, in stern reality it has been equally busy in "interfering" with that without which all other freedom to working men is a fiction—the free disposal of their labour, and the free supply of their wants in the best markets. In another part of the same article the *Spectator* admits that "the corn law circumscribes the field of employment for capital and labour, keeps profits and wages down to the minimum, and is a principal cause of that suffering which the projects of short time (the new faith) is designed to alleviate;" and further, that "Lord ASHLEY joins in denying them a few choice of markets in which to dispose of their goods." What pretence is there to say that working men have been "the judges and guardians of their own interests," while laws have been maintained against them, which raise the price of food to an artificial and extravagant rate, and at the same time circumscribe their employment, and keep wages down to the minimum! All that is essential in the "experiment," all that is most valuable in the "liberty," has been entirely excluded from this "fairly tried" system.

Secondly, we also deny that "glaring facts contradict the assertion" that every man is the best guardian of his own interest, as far as the experiment has been tried. There have been periods in the last ten years, during which, by very abundant harvests, these laws, which have disturbed altogether the experiment, have been held in temporary suspense, in some but never in all their destructive tendencies. Such were the years 1834, 35, and 36, when the price of bread was little more than half that it had been the preceding three years, or than it has been during the last four years. During those years of cheap food, of partially suspended corn laws, the demand for labour was such, "whether in mines, in factories, or in agricultural villages," that the working man could command, and did command, his own terms most efficiently; not only did he toil less, but he was better paid; and every man acquainted with the manufacturing districts must admit that a great progress was made during that period among the working classes in all that could tend to raise them, physically, mentally, and morally; their dwellings were improved; their tastes were elevated; the success of *Mechanics' Institutes*, and the extensive circulation of instructive cheap literature amongst them during that period, sufficiently indicated the effects produced by these agencies. If there was any inconvenience experienced in those years it was by employers, and arose from the very independent condition of the working classes. But beside this period; looking to the whole tendencies of late years, we must say that there is no point on which greater exaggeration exists than in the present estimate of the labouring classes generally, when compared with what they were twenty-five years ago; and if we had no other indications than their conduct during the four years from 1839 to 1843—a period of admittedly intense suffering, as

"If a writer be conscious that to gain a reception for his favourite doctrine he must combat with certain elements of opposition, in the taste, or the pride, or the indolence of those whom he is addressing, this will only serve to make him the more importunate. There is a difference between such truths as are merely of a speculative nature and such as are allied with practice and moral feeling. With the former all repetition may be often superfluous; with the latter it may just be by earnest repetition, that their influence comes to be thoroughly established over the mind of an inquirer."—CHALMERS.

## THE "NEW FAITH" OF THE SPECTATOR.

The *Spectator* tells us that "Lord ASHLEY may not be conscious of his mission, but he is really the organ of a new faith," and then proceeds in an elaborate article to produce what may be termed a prospectus of the CONFESSION OF THE NEW FAITH. The fundamental object of the system is to displace ADAM SMITH and *Laissez-faire*, and raise up the new doctrine of Lord ASHLEY and *Legislative interference*, to regulate the whole social system, for they "do not care to notice the special case of over-worked women and children," being satisfied "that whenever they shall find sufficient favour with the public to give Lord ASHLEY success in his present object, they must receive a far wider application than has yet been seriously contemplated by anybody." It has often been observed that an original inventor seldom gains either profit or renown by his discovery, but that some one who takes it up after him more frequently succeeds in obtaining both—this, however, always appears both unjust and ungenerous, and we would, if possible, prevent the common hardship in the present case. However ardent a disciple of this new doctrine Lord ASHLEY may be, it must be admitted that its first promulgator, its first great apostle, was ROBERT OWEN; to him, therefore, be the credit. If, however, we judge by the number of doubts and hesitations, and the fine balancing of points; by the abundance of grave differences, and to us apparent contradictions, which appear in this prospectus of the NEW FAITH, we are led to expect that it will prove so abundant a field of dissent that there will be parties enough for Lord ASHLEY, Mr C. BULLER, and half a dozen more, to be provided with eminent leaderships in the system. It is, moreover, very frankly admitted that "it is an opinion of quite recent growth, hardly developed or matured by anybody, certainly not yet expounded so as to obtain the confident approval of cautious thinkers, who, if they utter it, speak with hesitation and avowed reluctance;"—and the article proceeds to attempt to remove the ground for this hesitation by an elaborate train of facts assumed, and reasons deduced, which for the benefit of the true faith, in whatever system it may ultimately be found, are well deserving of some careful consideration. To establish a new system, the very first thing that is needful is to prove the errors of the existing one—and for this purpose the *Spectator* tells us of the new faith that

"It is a rebellion of sentiment against that part of the doctrine of the economists and free traders which says that every man is the best judge and guardian of his own interests. Glaring facts contradict the assertion. Of late years and in this country, the experiment of letting the common people alone to take care of themselves has been fairly tried; and we see the result in the state of

compared with that (during similar periods, though less intense) in 1817, 18, and 19, and again in 1823, 29, and 30—we should have sufficient proof of their improved moral condition. They have assuredly shown fewer symptoms of being “ignorant, vicious, and desperate,” than on any former occasion of similar trials. But we are told

“They are worse off in two respects,—first, as the whole method of factory employment, which treats the human being as nothing better than part of the machinery, has resulted from the modern use of steam; and, secondly, as the factory method of employment has been adopted by the farmer, whose labourers once used to belong to his family. The class of labourers for hire, with the exception always of skilled mechanics, has obviously become cheaper and more helpless under the system of letting them alone to take care of themselves. As a class they are cheaper than cattle, and nearly as helpless. Well, their numbers continually increase with the increase of the capital whose slaves they are; modern benevolence observes them closer; the spectacle has become revolting to humanity; and hence the new faith—which is, that it is the proper business of the ruling order to take some care of those who can take little or none of themselves.”

As far as the method of factory employment is concerned, as distinguished from manufacturing labour conducted under the old system, it is superior and preferable to the operative in every way. The place of his employment is more comfortable and healthy than the damp clay-floored cottage in which he used to work. The system of regularity and order which factory rules necessarily impose, exert the most beneficial tendencies over his general habits; he necessarily becomes more orderly and systematic; instead of idling half the week, and working night and day towards its close, as was and still is too much the habit of those operatives who have no control of a systematic kind, he works on each day a uniform number of hours; he avoids much idleness and dissipation, and is improved in every relationship of life.

With respect to the remuneration of labourers in factories, at least as far as the cotton trade is concerned, it is a fact that, measured in the commodity which they make, the wages have constantly advanced even up to this time, that is, that the operative now obtains for his labour a larger portion of what he produces than he ever did at any former period; of every finished article there is less for raw material, less for capital, less for profit, and more for labour proportionately than at any former time. This, we believe, is the case in nearly all kinds of labour except agricultural, and in this the opposite process has been going on for many years. But the hardship which the manufacturing operative suffers, is that while he obtains a larger share of his own products for his labour than ever, their exchangeable value for the necessaries of life has been so much reduced, that he can with them command much less of what he really requires in first necessities. While he has by exertion and ingenuity reduced the price of his commodity to less than a third that it was thirty years ago, the food that he most imperatively requires is maintained at the same price. By a system of open competition and improved processes in manufactures—a competition to employ capital, as well as to obtain work—the share of the produce received by the operative has rather increased than diminished; but by a system of restriction, and the comparative stationary condition in which agriculture has remained for many years, the wages of that labour measured in its products have greatly diminished, as well as the exchangeable value of other products. If there be any way in which a marked improvement in the external appearance of our people is observable more than another, it is in their better clothing, consequent on the improvements and cheapened products of manufactures. Nor, indeed, have our mechanics become “more helpless” under the system of letting them alone. In years when our restrictive laws have been in full operation, in 1839 to 1842, when “interference” sustained the price of wheat at about 70s. a quarter, and “circumscribed the field of employment,” then indeed every class of labourers was truly “helpless;” but this came not of *laissez-faire*; it came of the *interference* sought for by the *new faith*. During the last year, the effect of two good harvests has been to weaken and baffle the principle of *interference*, and the “helplessness” of labour has been correspondingly removed by a power successfully exerted in all manufacturing pursuits to demand and obtain higher wages, and the same power on the part of labour could equally have succeeded in demanding shorter time, had that been preferred to higher wages.

Nor is it true that though “their numbers continually increase” they are the slaves of capital; and for the reason given in the text, that their increase is attended with an increase of capital. Capital is as often the slave of labour, as is labour the slave of capital; they are more frequently the slaves of each other, if this word is preferred to express the necessary reliance which they have upon each other to render them of the slightest value to their possessors.

We contend, therefore, that ADAM SMITH has not been, as the *Spectator* says, so “fairly tried,” that it can be reasonably expected that “cautious men” are likely to remove their faith from him to Mr ROBERT OWEN, LORD ASHLEY, and Mr C. BULLER; at all events, if there be no better grounds than those relied upon by our contemporary—who, moreover, is somewhat damaging to the new doctrines in the admissions which he makes, and in none more so than when he says that the “CORN LAW IS THE PRINCIPAL CAUSE OF THAT SUFFERING WHICH THE PROJECT OF SHORT TIME (THE NEW FAITH) IS DESIGNED TO ALLEVIATE.”

#### SYMPATHY BETWEEN OUR COLONIES AND OUR TRADE AT HOME.

##### WOOL AND THE WOOL DUTIES.

It has been much the fashion of late to talk of our colonies as being an integral part of the empire. We would not only be glad to recognise them as such, but we should be more glad, in proportion as the benefit would be more extensive, to see our commercial relationships with every country in the world placed upon a similar footing. We think it was Franklin, who, in speaking of the commercial principles which ought to regulate the policy of our government, said that the trade between this country and all others ought to be as free as it is between our various counties. And the question of the national debt, or of great public burthens, has nothing whatever to do with this question of free intercourse. Revenue is not a question of exaction on foreign trade; it is one only of internal impost in some form or another. The day has gone by when men can be persuaded that it is in our power, by commercial restrictions, to compel another country indirectly to bear a share of our taxes. True it is, that the import of foreign goods may be made the medium of collecting a tax; but that is only one mode by which a contribution can be laid on the public, by enhancing the price of such goods; and as long as such duties are imposed equally on a commodity, wherever produced, so as to operate only as a revenue tax, and not in the quality of protection; and as long as they are not placed on articles which interfere with the reproduction of wealth and employment of labour, such as the raw materials of our manufactures, the imposition of such duties cannot be termed any interference with commercial intercourse, beyond what the fiscal necessities of a country demand.

We have, however, frequently called the attention of our readers to the impolicy of taxing the raw materials of our manufactures. We have objected to the duty on cotton as tending to check the demand for labour, and to limit our means of bearing the burthen of our taxation, far more than anything which that duty contributes towards that object. On the same ground we have objected to the duty on wool; and for the further reason that it operates as a differential duty, and raises to that amount the price of all home-grown and colonial wool, and thus becomes a charge on our manufacturers to the extent of 578,000*l.*, while it yields only 129,852*l.* to the exchequer. (*Economist*, March 30.) But on the ground of protection alone, the abolition of that duty is opposed. We are told it will be injurious to the home wool grower, and that it will be ruinous to the colonial wool grower; for in this article the colonies have been treated as an integral part of the empire. Colonial wool is admitted free of duty.

We have often endeavoured to show that high prices cannot permanently be maintained by restricting quantity, and particularly of articles of extensive use and common necessity. Restricted quantity is restricted trade; restricted trade is restricted employment; restricted employment is restricted means of consumption; and restricted means of consumption is restricted demand; so that ultimately, to whatever extent quantity is restricted, demand will be reduced in the same proportion, and a reaction from the first high price is a necessary consequence; but in such a case a low price is a boon to no one, and an evil to the producer—it is the offspring of poverty and inability. High prices are only consistent with a great demand and consumption; but a great consumption is only possible by extensive means—extensive means are only to be obtained by ample employment and trade, and these can only be the offspring of abundant supplies of what constitutes the base of the one and the other. The highest permanent price can only be obtained in this way; and in such a case, while it is beneficial to the producer, it is not detrimental to the consumer, because the price, however high, is only consistent with his means of commanding the article, and can never rise beyond that. The experience of the last few years has illustrated the truth of these principles in a striking manner.

We have been led to these remarks by perusing an article, which was copied in our last number, from the *Sydney Herald*, on the causes of the present truly deplorable and hopeless condition of that colony. It says—

“On a thorough examination of the causes which have led to our present depression, it will be found that only one of those causes was such as implied no imprudence or mismanagement of our own. We allude to the fall in the price of wool. Within the last six years it has declined about fifty per cent. In 1836 it averaged about half-a-crown per pound, it is now from a shilling to fifteen pence. Thirteen years ago it was much lower, for in our official exports for 1830 the average is stated at ninepence farthing.”

Similar exactly has been the experience of the English wool grower. In 1829, at the time of the clip, the English farmer obtained for Southdown fleeces sevenpence per lb.; in 1836 he obtained two shillings and sixpence per lb.; and at the last clip elevenpence halfpenny per lb.; but during the whole of these changes the same protection has been extended towards them against foreign competition. On the principle of the *protectionists*, it ought to follow that, just in proportion as foreign competition, as indicated by larger imports, increased, prices ought to be lower; and in proportion as foreign competition, as indicated by smaller imports, diminished, prices ought to rise; but on investigation it will be found that the reverse is the fact. It will be found that so little does the wool grower, either at home or in the colony, depend for a good price on the aid of protection to



exclude foreign competition, that invariably and uniformly he has reaped the highest price in spite of the largest foreign imports, and that the periods of his greatest depression have been co-existent with the smallest foreign imports. We will first examine the experience of the home wool grower, and see how the fluctuations of prices have been affected by lessened or increased imports of foreign and colonial wool together:—

	IMPORTS OF FOREIGN AND COLONIAL WOOL.	PRICE OF SOUTH-DOWN FLEECES.
		7d. per lb.
1829 . . . . .	21,516,649	7d. "
1830 . . . . .	32,305,314	10d. "
1831 . . . . .	31,652,029	14d. "
1832 . . . . .	28,128,973	12d. "
1833 . . . . .	38,046,087	15d. "
1834 . . . . .	46,455,232	16d. "
1835 . . . . .	42,174,532	16d. "
1836 . . . . .	64,239,977	18d. "
1837 . . . . .	48,379,708	12d. "
1838 . . . . .	52,594,355	16d. "
1839 . . . . .	57,379,923	15d. "
1840 . . . . .	49,436,284	13d. "
1841 . . . . .	56,170,974	12d. "
1842 . . . . .	45,833,983	10d. "
1843 . . . . .	49,324,924	11½d. "

It will be seen that while the imports were multiplied three times from 1829 to 1836, the price rose more than 150 per cent.; and again, while the quantity imported diminished upwards of 18,000,000 lbs., from 1836 to 1842, the price fell from 18d. to 10d. per lb.; in 1843 there is again an increase both of quantity and price. Can we require a stronger evidence to prove how little effect restricting quantity can exert on price, or how much other causes are constantly in operation, which baffle all the calculations on which protectionists build their hopes?

The prices which the colonial grower of wool has received during that period have fluctuated exactly in the same way as those received by the English grower; and so little can the colonial wool grower ascribe his low prices to the competition of other parts of the world against which he has protection in this market, that we find that competition has always been least at periods when his prices have been lowest, and greatest when his prices have been highest. The *Sydney Herald* says that the price of wool in 1830 was *ninepence farthing per lb.*; in 1836, *two shillings and sixpence per lb.*; and last year from *a shilling to fifteen pence per lb.* The following were the quantities of foreign wool brought into competition with colonial wools in 1830, 1836, and 1842, the last year for which this subdivision has been published:—

	FOREIGN WOOL (NOT COLONIAL) IMPORTED.	PRICE OF WOOL AT SYDNEY.
1830 . . . . .	30,270,230 lbs.	0s. 9½d. per lb.
1836 . . . . .	57,813,985	2s. 6d.
1842 . . . . .	27,394,919	1s. 0d. to 1s. 3d.

Thus, in the face of an increased competition of 90 per cent., from 1830 to 1836, an increase of price took place of upwards of 300 per cent., though no doubt part of that was ascribable to improved quality and condition. But again, while the condition and quality have further improved, a reduction of price equal to 50 per cent. has taken place since 1836, in the face of the diminished competition of 30,000,000 lbs. of foreign wool.

In 1828 it was estimated, by evidence given before a committee of the House of Commons, that the production of wool in England and Wales was 569,238 packs, or 136,617,120 lbs., and there is little doubt that since that time the quantity has increased considerably, owing to the more general introduction of green crops in husbandry. But computing the quantity now produced only at that amount, its value was 4,553,904l. less in 1842 than in 1836.

In 1842 we imported from New South Wales 12,959,671 lbs., and in that year it yielded a sum less by 890,977l., than it would have done at the price of 1839.

In what way, then, can we account for these severe reverses in the condition of the country, by which our foreign import trade is diminished, and the interests as well of the home as the colonial wool grower thus depressed? It obviously does not arise from restricting quantity, but from a restricted demand—from a depressed trade—from an injury done to the great masses on whose consumption the producer, both home and colonial, depends. Short-sighted laws exist which artificially raise the price of the first necessary of life, and restrict the disposal of the industry of the country. But it may be contended these laws have existed equally during the whole period to which we have referred. True, they have existed, but they have not always been equally operative. In their nature they contemplate scarcity and a restriction of quantity; and when they accomplish their object they inflict all the mischief which we have described, and much more; but in periods of unusual abundance the law proves inoperative, and for a season much of the evil disappears, excepting so far as the producers themselves are disappointed, whose whole arrangements and calculations have been based on the high and artificial scale of prices. The bad harvests of 1823, 1829, and 1830, brought all the evils of the corn laws into operation, and reduced the whole industrial interests of the empire to the verge of ruin and extinction. The good and abundant harvests of 1833, 1834, and 1835,

made the corn law for the time being a dead letter; much of the evil disappeared, and the country flourished in all its various interests, if we except those whose whole calculations had been based on a continued scarcity of food. The average prices of wheat and wool in the years succeeding the harvests referred to, were—

WHEAT.		WOOL.		WHEAT.		WOOL.					
s.	d.	d.		s.	d.	d.					
1829 . . . . .	69	9	per qr.	7	per lb.	1834 . . . . .	46	2	per qr.	16	per lb.
1830 . . . . .	64	3	"	10	"	1835 . . . . .	39	4	"	16	"
1831 . . . . .	66	0	"	14	"	1836 . . . . .	48	6	"	18	"

The effects of the bad harvests of 1833, 1839, 1840, and 1841, are too fresh in the recollection of our readers to require to be more than alluded to, in order to show that, whenever circumstances render the corn laws operative, all other interests are immolated before them; and it is only when we are blessed with seasons of unusual abundance that we have any respite from their injurious and destructive effects. The low prices of stock and property in Sydney, by which the *Sydney Herald* would fain allure settlers to that colony, will be no real inducement to a prudent man, when he considers that all must depend upon the accident of good or bad harvests at home, whether he is to receive *two shillings and sixpence per lb.*, for his wool as in 1836, or from *one shilling to fifteen pence per lb.* as in 1843; or even *ninepence farthing per lb.*, as in 1830; the hazards are too great for prudent men to run. The hazards consequent upon this system are enough and too much for any pursuit at home, but are greatly increased at a distance of four or five thousand miles. In short, the whole of our trade, whether foreign, colonial, or home, is kept in a state of uncertainty and danger from this artificial system, altogether inconsistent with the interests and dignity of a great nation; and they who are interested in the prosperity of our colonies, will find their object better accomplished and more perfectly secured by assisting the friends of free trade to the great object for which they are struggling, than by the advocacy of any little petty preference in the terms on which they are to trade with the mother country. The prosperity of the great masses of our consumers at home is a better guarantee for colonial as well as agricultural producers, than any protection which legislative acts can throw around them.

THE COLLIERS' CASE.

We are talking in London of laying an additional tax on the coals which come into our river, with the view of enabling us to pay the expense of its embankment; but occurrences in the north, at the present time, in connexion with the production of this important article, very strikingly suggest the old joke about first catching the hare before beginning to cook it. The pitmen in the great coal districts of Northumberland and Durham, from which the metropolis is principally supplied, have struck work, nor is there much chance, we believe, of their resuming it for a considerable time to come. So before putting any farther tax on coals, we had better see whether we are to have any to tax!

Seriously, this strike is extensive, and therefore important. Foreseeing its arrival, we some weeks ago put forth an article on combinations and the laws which regulate the wages of labour. (*Economist*, No. 27, p. 530.) We have now nothing to add on that subject. However much the circumstances attending these combinations are to be regretted, they seem the only effectual way in which the conflicting rights and interests of the different parties can be adjusted, and therefore they must be borne. It is said, indeed, that the pitmen are hallooed on in their present course by demagogues, who live among them and at their expense by agitation, and that their grievances are not real, but imaginary. We do not believe this. Twenty thousand men will never turn out to such a meeting as these pitmen are reported recently to have had, without having real and great grievances. Selfish and cunning creatures may be among them, who take advantage of their circumstances to declaim unnecessarily and in a wrong spirit upon their condition, but that only shows that there is a case of disease requiring treatment, and when the regular practitioner takes no charge, the quack is always sure to be in the way.

To parties at a distance, the points about which the difference is said to be, do not seem to be numerous, nor by any means incapable of adjustment. The men propose to be employed for six months continuously, and to be paid weekly at a fixed rate for work done during that period. They have hitherto been "bound andstricted" by bond, from year to year, and paid their wages fortnightly, one week's earned wages being always kept in hand. The coalowners now propose to employ them from month to month, paying as heretofore. By both parties, it is understood that "the men are to remain the servants of the owners for the whole period of hiring," but according to a statement avowedly put forth on behalf of the men in the *Miners' Monthly Magazine* for April (Benson, Newcastle-on-Tyne), it is said "the men think that for this servitude they ought to be guaranteed either a certain amount of work or payment of wages; the owners refuse this. They propose that the men shall remain their servants for the whole time, and only be paid for just so much work as they (the owners) may think fit to give them; sometimes they give them no work at all. . . . The owners require the

services without being bound to find any work." Of course each party has a right to make what proposals they choose; the strike, though by a tedious and painful process, will be likely to determine the justice of their respective proposals; but certainly at first sight it does seem that servitude without wages is not a just thing, and should not be held binding. If there is a necessity for a period of engagement in the employment of the miner different from the common mode among other labourers, it does appear on the face of it to be only reason and justice that payment should extend over that period. What necessity there is for the period of engagement being one month, or six, or twelve months, we do not know; nor is it important; that, certainly, is a matter for arrangement. "The men require that their wages be calculated by weight alone;—the owners wish it to be left to their option to pay either by weight or measure." . . . "The men also require that the weight be ascertained by a beam and scales, and weights to be inspected and stamped by the District Inspector." When the rate of payment is agreed on, it would appear to be as broad as it is long, to use a common phrase, for both parties, whichever of these ways of payment is adopted. The proposal of the workmen, as to the weights, that they should be just and legal, is so reasonable that it can only be opposed by owners determined to cheat. On that subject there cannot be two opinions. The men have heretofore been subjected to fines, on account of certain errors or casualties connected with their work, which they say are unjust. They will "agree to fines if equitably levied." This is so much a matter to be arranged on the spot that nothing can be said of it here.

The pitman's life is a peculiar one. He has to descend 600, 900, and in some instances 1,500 feet into the bowels of the earth, where, after traversing subterranean passages, two or three miles in extent, he has to labour, by the glimmering of a small candle or more imperfect lamp, in a place seldom six feet high, and oftener three and four, sometimes lying on his side for eight or ten hours together in an atmosphere so liable to become surcharged with a deadly poison, that in the district where these disturbances now are, more than one hundred human beings have been known, in one pit and in one instant, to be scorched and shrivelled to so many blackened masses, or literally shattered to pieces against the rugged sides of the mine by its agency. Such accidents have not been uncommon, and though not of daily occurrence, it is not to be supposed that the deleterious circumstances which from time to time bring them about have no other effects. They have effects, as the irritated and perhaps irritable natures of these men show. We do not write to foment rebellion; nor are we engaging ourselves in a vain attempt to settle differences, of which the principal feature is that they must be left to settle and adjust themselves in the arena of conflicting interests and circumstances by which the parties are surrounded. But we have recently had under observation a *Report on Accidents in Coal Mines*, bearing to be issued by a committee of private gentlemen in the town of South Shields, who had associated themselves with the view of prosecuting the inquiry—and in passing we would observe that it is a report full of valuable facts, just inferences, and wisely suggestive of most important improvements\*—which, together with the recent reports of the Commissioners for inquiring into employment in mines, and the increased attention everywhere being paid to the means of at least withdrawing all active sources of dishhealth from the great sources of employment, brings forcibly to mind the hard lot of these pitmen, and suggests excuses founded on facts and nature for many of their follies—almost for their crimes. What, then, do we suggest to be actually done? Should Lord Ashley be asked to bring a bill into Parliament proposing to compel coalowners to ventilate their mines better than they do now, to fix the workmen's wages, to pay pensions to their widows, made so by those awful accidents to which we have made allusion? No! For any such purposes Parliament is powerless. But we put it to those coalowners, whether they would not be more effectually serving their interests by a more tender care of workmen than they now manifest. We admit that working a mine is entirely a commercial speculation; but then is it the most profitable course to keep men in such a state as these colliers are? When all the cost is counted, we doubt it.

The Children's Employment Commission, who made their report to Parliament two years ago—a report not remarkable for very strong expressions—in their summary upon coal mines observe,—

"That in many instances much that skill and capital can effect to render the place of work unoppressive, healthy, and safe, is done, often with complete success, as far as regards the healthfulness and comfort of the mines; but that to render them perfectly safe does not appear to be practicable by any means yet known;† while in great numbers of instances their condition in regard both to ventilation and drainage is lamentably defective."—P 2.

There is more connexion between the present disturbances amongst the colliers and their physical discomfort than may at first sight be thought. The soul and body are knit together by chords which never cease to vibrate; and as a matter of business, a question of profit and loss at the year's end, a matter affecting *their own* comfort from day to day, we put it to these

\* Published by Longman and Co.

† We object to this expression. It will be time enough to say so when all "the means known" but not "yet" applied, have been applied and found wanting. Hitherto they have not been so.—ED.

coalowners, whether there is not something just now imperatively required at their hands to soothe the feelings, and soften somewhat the harsher features of the condition of these working men? Such a claim is made upon them, and, we believe, it is made not unjustly.

#### SHIPWRECKS.

If one should go to sea in a boat of pasteboard, there could be no surprise at his being drowned. Something of the sort, however, is actually done among us; and, if not surprised, we are at least grieved, time after time, to notice the disastrous consequences to life and property which follow every storm at sea with as much regularity as one season succeeds another. There is no mystery about the causes of shipwrecks; they are notorious. Whoever will take the trouble to cast an eye over the incomplete record of them which appears in the Appendix to the First Report from the Select Committee of the House of Commons which sat on this subject last year, will not find that many of them were registered in class A 1 at Lloyd's; in fact, the great majority of them do not appear to have been classed at all; and their ages seem to have been—not often twenty or thirty—but forty, fifty, and even sixty years! We do not pretend to say what number of years a well-built and well-manned vessel may be continued in active service with propriety and security to all. No doubt such might be employed for long. But it is a notorious fact that great numbers—indeed a great majority—of the ships which are wrecked are made of rubbish which it is a disgrace to send to sea, and which should have been consigned to the flames long before becoming the victim of the waves. It is as useless as it would be unfair to blame shipowners, individually or as a body, for this. They are controlled in their conduct by laws and practices whose influence it is very difficult for them to escape. We forbear expatiating on the mischievous fiscal regulations which, after shipowners have been justly and wisely deprived of an absurd and unnatural "protection," still subject them to the disadvantage of having to buy the better sorts of timber at an enhanced price, and therefore bribe them to use the worse. We shall only say at present that those regulations must be put an end to, before one of the most efficient causes of shipwrecks, and all their melancholy consequences, can be withdrawn.

What we purpose at present is, to name some of the moral and physical expedients, as they may be called, for the prevention of shipwrecks, such as neither the pride, prejudice, nor fancied interest of any party, is opposed to,—to which, therefore, it may be supposed, less difficulty will be presented in the way of adopting, and by means of which it is certain that much calamity may be averted. If, then, first of all, we name *gross ignorance and incapacity on the part of masters and mates* as one fertile cause of shipwrecks, we fear we should be trading on pride, prejudice, and interest altogether. Nevertheless, if the testimony of every witness who was asked to speak on the subject, before the committee which we have named, can be held valid, there can no longer remain any doubt of the melancholy fact that such incapacity and ignorance exist, and that these consequences are as described. We shall introduce one or two extracts in proof:—

"JOHN GLADSTONE, Esq., a merchant and shipowner at Liverpool, called in and examined. He was informed that 'this committee is appointed for the purpose of inquiring into wrecks of British ships, and of considering the best means of preserving the lives and property of shipwrecked persons;' and was asked, 'Can you inform the committee either of any cause of the loss of British ships that has come within your own knowledge that could be prevented by any legislative enactment, or anything that would tend to preserve the lives and property of shipwrecked persons?'—'I conceive,' he said, 'that the most effectual way to preserve both the lives, and property, and shipping, is by having well-qualified, efficient persons entrusted with the charge of them. I speak from the experience I myself had as a shipowner. I have known, in my experience of vessels belonging to my house at Liverpool, different instances of loss arising from the incapacity of those entrusted with the charge of them.'

"Do you mean in point of seamanship, or in point of scientific knowledge?'—'In point both of seamanship, scientific knowledge, and moral conduct.'

"Are you speaking of any period within a few years, or a more distant time?'—'Those occurrences have happened at various periods within my experience, but I will give one instance in particular that happened three years ago. A vessel belonging to me was sent to New Brunswick to load there for the West Indies. The captain in charge of her died. Another person was placed in her as captain by the agents to whom she was addressed. They dispatched him with her after she was loaded. In the first instance she was partially dismasted, from, as it appeared by the protest, a want of judgment in the management of her; and when dismasted, in place of bearing away for a port in the United States to repair the damage the ship had suffered, he made a partial refitting and pursued his voyage. He ran her, in weather not at all bad or tempestuous, on one of the Bahama islands, and there she was lost. I have reason to believe that he was not a sober man, and that he was incompetent for the charge with which he was entrusted.'

"Mr JOHN MITCHELL, Convener of the City of Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce and Manufactures, called in and was asked, 'Is it your opinion that many vessels are lost in consequence of ignorance of seamanship on the part of the masters commanding them?' He answers, 'Yes, I am of that opinion. I have heard it remarked that three out of every five ships may be considered as lost through the ignorance of masters and mates.'



“Is that the opinion of the shipowners of Leith generally?—The shipowners in Leith, I think, are satisfied that a great many ships are lost from the carelessness and ignorance of masters and mates. It is the prevailing opinion among persons qualified to judge.”

“Captain JOHN WASHINGTON, R.N., called in and asked, ‘Have you any suggestions to offer to the committee as to the causes of shipwrecks and the means of preventing them?’ He answers, ‘Generally the chief cause of shipwrecks seems to me the incompetency of the commanders; oftentimes not only incompetent to the duty of navigating a ship, but incompetent as practical seamen; they are men not brought up to the sea, or, as is commonly said, they are men that come in at the cabin window instead of working their way aft through the hawse-holes! Some men take the command of a ship on their second voyage, and to that I attribute many shipwrecks. Many cases might be cited; I have heard of one case in which a man has gone as a cook one voyage and master of a vessel the next. I only mention these as circumstances spoken of in common conversation; but generally I speak of the incompetency of masters of ships that I have been acquainted with.’

We might extract many pages from the Minutes of Evidence taken before this Committee similar in tone to the foregoing; but the melancholy facts which such evidence would prove are nowhere denied—they are notorious. The question asked, and to be answered, is—What is the remedy? We are no advocates for the excessive interference of governments. Anything like a compulsory universal education and examination of masters and mates, previous to their being permitted to accept employment, would be attended with numerous difficulties in practice, even if the interference between shipowners and those whom they choose to employ could be justified, which we do not think in every instance it could. In the case of passenger steam-ships, emigrant vessels, and others engaged habitually or casually in conveying numbers who pay for such conveyance, it is certain that there ought to be some guarantee that the contract will be properly fulfilled. Government has already legislated on that principle—to a small extent, certainly, but sufficiently so to show that they acknowledge the justice of the principle. We look for some guarantee of capacity in the *surgeon* to whose care we entrust life, and in the *man of business* charged with the care of property. To the care of a *shipmaster* we are necessitated to resign life and property both. What abundant reason, then, have we not for procuring a public and authorized certificate that he is at least not perfectly illiterate, ignorant, dissolute, and unprincipled? There is all the more reason for obtaining such a certificate after experience has brought forward so prominently and so painfully the evil consequences of the present condition and habits of the class. Few individuals have interested themselves more in this matter than Captain Fitzroy, now Governor of New Zealand. He twice attempted to pass through the Legislature a measure of which the prominent objects were those which we here allude to, and he was only at last prevented from succeeding (probably) by being called to preside over the new colony forming in the great Pacific. Without entering here into the *minutiae* of his proposal, and the proposals of others, as to the best manner of obtaining competent masters of vessels, we shall extract from the evidence given by him before this committee, the whole of which is most interesting, some points calculated to show how very much may be done in the prevention of shipwrecks by a very little additional education imparted to those employed about ships, and at almost no additional expense.

“Captain ROBERT FITZROY, R.N., called in and informed by the chairman of the committee, that ‘it appeared from returns before them that upon the average of the last two years 611 ships had been lost in each year;’ and he is asked, ‘Can you suggest to the committee any cause for the loss of any of those ships?’—He answers, ‘I think the principal cause of the losses of British ships has been the neglect or incompetency of those in command of them. It is very rarely that any vessel is lost except in consequence of neglect or mismanagement. In saying neglect, I mean not attending sufficiently to the position of the ship, to heaving the lead, to taking all those precautions, in short, which ought to be taken by a good seaman anxious for the safety of his ship and knowing how to take care of her; and incompetency, from not knowing how to make proper observations for ascertaining the ship’s place, and not being practical seamen acquainted with their duty, not having had sufficient experience either as masters or mates of merchant ships to entitle them to take under their charge, not only the ship and cargo, but the lives of all who are embarked on board, and to navigate from one part of the world to another. This I consider to be the principal cause of the loss of ships, for my opinion is decidedly that ships which are not struck by lightning, nor disabled by fire, nor by any casualty which it is not within man’s power to control, are lost upon known coasts by the mismanagement of those in command of them. A ship may be lost in a foreign country from there being no charts, from the coast not being surveyed, or from the winds and tides, and so forth, not being well known; but on coasts which are well known, where every possible danger is pointed out by charts and by directions, I think that no ship can be lost except in consequence of want of precaution, want of foresight, or want of good management on the part of those on board of her. I think that a neglect of the use of the barometer has led to the loss of many ships; from a want of attention to the barometer, they have either closed the land (if at sea), or have put to sea (being in harbour in safety) at improper times; and in consequence of such want of precaution the ships have been lost, owing to bad weather coming on suddenly, which might have been saved had proper attention been paid to that very simple instrument. While alluding to the use of the barometer, I may remark that if barometers were put in charge of the coast guard at the principal stations round the coast, so placed as to allow any one passing by to look at them, they might be the means not only of preventing

ships from going to sea just before bad weather was coming on, but of preventing the great losses of life which take place every year on our coasts, particularly in the Orkney Islands and on the coasts of Scotland and Ireland, owing to fishing vessels and boats going to sea when bad weather is impending; because no bad weather ever comes on our coasts without timely warning being given by the barometer. The oldest seamen are often deceived by the look of the weather, but there is no instance on record of very bad weather, such as would involve loss of life to the extent we have heard of in late years, having come on without the barometer having given timely warning. By the very little expense of the establishment of barometers so placed as to be accessible to any fishermen, boatmen, or others on the coast, much loss of life as well as loss of shipping might be prevented. I think that, generally speaking, the masters of our merchant ships are very deficient in the qualifications necessary to be attained by those who make long voyages, as compared with the masters of foreign ships, the Americans, the French, the Hamburgers, and Baltic ships particularly; an important consequence of which is, that cargoes are sent home by several houses in foreign bottoms, in preference to our ships; and I can mention more than one large house which has sent out orders to their correspondents abroad, to prefer foreign bottoms to English for carrying their cargoes; and for these reasons, that the masters of those ships take better care of their vessels than ours do, and that they are more attentive to their cargoes, and better men of business, generally speaking, in all matters where the shipper and the captain of the ship come in contact.’

“Do you apply those observations to the ships that appear to have been lost within the last two or three years?—‘To the greater number of them. I think that if each case could be accurately investigated it would be found that there were very few cases in which blame did not attach to the management of those vessels. I can understand a man-of-war in chase on a lee-shore being led into a position from which she cannot escape, and being lost in consequence; but I cannot understand how a merchant ship, commanded by a prudent man, who attends properly to the instruments that he ought to provide himself with, can get into unavoidable danger on a well-known coast without mismanagement.’

“That is, supposing the ship is well found?—‘Yes, certainly, supposing the ship to be well found. Of course, if the masts are carried away, owing to the badness of the material, and the ship therefore not under command, that is not the fault of the master, if he has made representations on the subject; but if the master willingly goes to sea with a ship deficient either in her own quality or in the quality of her stores, I think he makes himself, to a certain extent, liable for the safety of those who are on board.’

“What state of the barometer indicates danger?—‘It varies in different climates according to the range. The range is small between the tropics, and very large in the higher latitudes. In our climate the range is about two inches; the barometer falling considerably below its average height is at once an indication that some considerable change is going to take place, and when it falls low, as for instance, in our climate to 29 inches, or below 29 inches, a gale is certain to follow.’

“Is the committee to understand that you are of opinion that every ship ought to have a barometer on board?—‘I think that every ship ought to have either a barometer or a sympiesometer, which is an efficient substitute for a barometer.’”

Captain Fitzroy goes on at length to show what advantage is derivable from the possession and observation of these (though trifling) instruments. By the aid of such, and of further contributions which science is for ever making to the cause of humanity, there is no reason to doubt that in time the human intellect will be enabled to arrive at the correctest anticipation of approaching storms, and be prepared, of course, to meet them. Even already, how much is capable of being done that is not done? At the hazard of extending these remarks to too great length—not for the importance of the subject, but for a single article here—we shall subjoin an extract from the *Edinburgh Philosophical Journal*, which very strikingly shows the utility in indicating approaching storms of the marine barometer or sympiesometer, alluded to by Captain Fitzroy in his evidence:—

“The correspondent (Mr Stevenson, civil engineer) to whom we are indebted for the notice regarding the Scotch fisheries, informs us, that having occasion, towards the conclusion of his voyage, in the beginning of September last, to visit the Isle of Man, he beheld the interesting spectacle of about 300 large fishing-boats, each from 15 to 20 tons burden, leaving their various harbours at that island in an apparently fine afternoon, and standing directly out to sea, with the intention of prosecuting the fishery under night. He at the same time remarked, that both the common marine barometer and Adie’s sympiesometer, which were in the cabin of his vessel, indicated an approaching change of weather, the mercury falling to 29.5 inches. It became painful, therefore, to witness the scene; more than a thousand industrious fishermen, lulled to security by the fineness of the day, scattering their little barks over the face of the ocean, and thus rushing forward to imminent danger, or probable destruction. At sunset, accordingly, the sky became cloudy and threatening; and in the course of the night it blew a very hard gale, which afterwards continued for three days successively. This gale completely dispersed the fleet of boats, and it was not without the utmost difficulty that many of them reached the various creeks of the island. It is believed no lives were lost on this occasion; but the boats were damaged, much tackle was destroyed, and the men were unnecessarily exposed to danger and fatigue. During the same storm, it may be remarked, thirteen vessels were either totally lost or stranded between the Isle of Anglesey and St Bee’s Head in Lancashire. Mr Stevenson remarks how much it is to be regretted that the barometer is so little in use in the mercantile marine of Great Britain, compared with the trading vessels of Holland; and observes, that though the common marine barometer is perhaps too cumbersome for the ordinary run of fishing and coasting vessels, yet Adie’s sympiesometer is so extremely portable, that it may be carried even in a Manx boat. Each

lot of such vessels has a commodore, under whose orders the fleet sails; it would, therefore, be a most desirable thing that a symposium should be attached to each commodore's boat, from which a pre-concerted signal of an expected gale or change of weather, as indicated by the symposium, could easily be given."—*Edin. Phil. Journ.* ii, 186.

Dr Neil Arnot, too, in mentioning the great utility of the marine barometer, states that he himself was "one of a numerous crew who probably owed their preservation to its almost miraculous warning. It was in a southern latitude. The sun had just set with placid appearance, closing a beautiful afternoon, and the usual mirth of the evening watch was proceeding, when the captain's order came to prepare with all haste for a storm. The barometer had begun to fall with appalling rapidity. As yet the oldest sailors had not perceived a threatening in the sky, and were surprised at the extent and hurry of the preparations; but the required measures were not completed when a more awful hurricane burst upon them than the most experienced had ever braved. . . . In that awful night, but for the little tube of mercury which had given the warning, neither the strength of the noble ship, nor the skill and energies of the commander, could have saved one man to tell the tale."—(*Arnot's Elements of Physics*, i, 350.)—It is thus that science not only adds to safety, comfort, and happiness, but makes the human being actually great, and if he is not permitted absolutely to control the elements, or assuage their fury, he can foresee their course, and make their very violence not only harmless but subservient to his purposes and will.

#### WEEKLY COST OF PROTECTION TO SUGAR AND WHEAT.

(For the principles on which these calculations are framed see the *Economist* of the 16th March.)

**SUGAR.**—Since last week the relative prices of Porto Rico and Jamaica Muscovado sugars have continued exactly the same; and therefore the difference of the cost of our weekly consumption of 77,792 cwts. above what the same would be on the continent, and paying the same amount of duty to the state that our colonial sugar does, amounts to 70,003*l.* for the whole country, and to 5,833*l.* for the metropolis alone, to be added to the respective balances of last week.

**WHEAT.**—The price of English wheat is a shade lower this week; but that of foreign wheat is also somewhat cheaper, and the difference is not changed.

It follows, therefore, that the difference of the cost of bread consumed during the last week, compared with what the same would cost on the continent, has been 288,460*l.* more for the whole country, and 24,038*l.* for the metropolis, to be added to the respective balances of last week. The account will now stand thus:—

FOR THE WHOLE KINGDOM.	
Balance from last week . . . . .	£6,076,946
Extra cost of sugar this week . . . . .	70,003
Ditto of bread . . . . .	288,460
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Total extra cost from January 1st to this day	£6,435,409

FOR THE METROPOLIS ALONE.	
Balance from last week . . . . .	£948,074
Extra cost of sugar this week . . . . .	5,833
Ditto of bread . . . . .	24,038
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Total extra cost from January 1st to this day	£977,945

#### STATISTICAL SOCIETY.

MONDAY.—MR TOOKE, V.P. in the chair.

The papers read were

1. "Observations on the late Report of the Census Commissioners for Ireland," by Mr Hallam.
2. "An examination of the Returns made by the various Railway Companies of the United Kingdom with respect to their traffic during the year ending 30th June, 1843," by Mr Porter, treasurer of the society.

Mr Hallam having calculated the mean average of matrimony in Ireland from the table in the appendix to the report, has ascertained that with men it is about the 27th, and with women about the 23rd year of life, which is corrective of that table. Further errors in the report were pointed out, the result of considerable research.

Mr Porter's paper is of high statistical value, of which the following are merely gleanings. The returns for 1843 of 53 lines of railway, of which 41 are in England and Wales, 10 in Scotland, and 2 in Ireland, demonstrate that there were conveyed of passengers of the first class 4,223,249, of the second class 10,968,061, of the third class 6,429,225; and that with reference to the divisions of the kingdom the proportions were, for England and Wales, of passengers of the first class, 3,882,171, of the second class 8,951,070, of the third class 4,060,321; for Scotland, of the first class 245,757, of the second class 877,055, of the third class 1,529,717; for Ireland, of the first class 95,321, of the second class 1,139,936, of the third class 839,187. The money received from the whole was 3,063,032*l.*; and the average charge to each passenger in England and Wales, of the first class was 82*d.*, of the second class 31½*d.*, of the third class 19½*d.*; in Scotland, of the first class 40½*d.*, of the second class 16½*d.*, of the third class 9½*d.*; in Ireland, of the first class 10½*d.*, of the second class 7*d.*, of the third class 5½*d.* The great difference that exists between the average fares paid in England, Scot-

land, and Ireland, is occasioned by the greater length of the English lines of railway beyond those of Scotland and Ireland, and the greater length of the Scottish lines beyond those of Ireland. In the short period between 1838 and 1841, Mr Porter states the amount of railway travelling throughout the kingdom to have been quadrupled. The amount of receipts from 63 railroads for, 1843 for the conveyance of carriages, horses, cattle, minerals, and general merchandize, was in England and Wales 1,303,291, in Scotland 104,839, in Ireland 6,802. The average cost per mile of the various railways in England has been 31,522, in Scotland 22,165, and in Ireland 22,187. Mr Porter concluded his paper by drawing a comparison of the working of our railways with those of Belgium, the only country in Europe besides our own in which such works have hitherto been carried on as a system, and where the results have been published. At the end of 1842 there were in operation in that kingdom 282 miles of railway, the average cost of constructing which was 17,120*l.* per mile, about half the cost in this kingdom. This difference results from a variety of causes. In the first place, the works being undertaken by the government, there were no expensive parliamentary contests; no opposing interests to be bought off; no unreasonable compensations to be paid for land, and from the nature of the country there were comparatively few engineering difficulties to be overcome. Besides these circumstances, there has been much present saving effected in the manner of executing the works, which have been performed in a less perfect manner than would satisfy the magnificent ideas of an English engineer. The number of passengers conveyed along the various lines in Belgium in 1842 was 2,724,104, there being in Belgium of the first class 9 per cent., of the second class 25 per cent., of the third class 66 per cent.; whereas in the United Kingdom the per centage was for the first class 19, the second class 51, the third class 30. The receipts for passengers were, in Belgium 1*s.* 4½*d.* for a distance of 19 miles, against 2*s.* 2½*d.* in the United Kingdom for a distance of 13¼ miles.

When Mr Porter's paper was concluded an interesting discussion arose upon the subject; and particularly upon the comparative inutility of railroads as hitherto conducted in this country, compared with those of the continent, as a means of conveying third-class passengers. The fares are out of all proportion high; the opportunities are few when third-class carriages depart; the detention on the way is often very great; and in every way impediments appear to be thrown in the way of the humbler classes being benefited by this great national improvement in travelling. And we feel persuaded that such a policy on the part of the companies is very much at variance with their interest; for the experience of Belgium, as well as that of the lines in this country, and particularly in Scotland, on which the charge for the third class is lowest, abundantly proves how much railways would be used by the working classes were they cheap enough.

Dr Hodgkin drew the attention of the meeting especially to the very injurious effect which the construction of the third-class carriages is calculated to exert on the passengers, who from unavoidable circumstances are obliged often to get into them in a state of perspiration, or unusual heat; the sudden checking of which, by the rapidity with which they pass through the air, is calculated to produce serious diseases. Dr Hodgkin spoke from experience and observation, and dwelt much on the importance of securing these carriages, in however plain or humble a manner, from this exposure. He said it would be better that they should be shut up as the cattle are. He dwelt much on the danger of rapidly passing through the air without proper protection, and illustrated the physical effects by alluding to the effective and yet light protection with which the feathery tribe is naturally provided, to prevent the evil effects of suddenly changing the external secretions of the body.

#### IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

##### HOUSE OF LORDS.

Tuesday, April 16.

Their lordships met this night for the first time after the Easter recess, but only for a very short time, there being no business of importance before the house.—Adjourned.

Thursday, April 18.

During their lordships' sitting this night the only thing important brought forward was a bill on the law of

DEBTORS AND CREDITORS, by Lord Campbell. The bill is "for the purpose of allowing proceedings to be brought against British subjects resident abroad, where cause of action had arisen within this country." His lordship took occasion to allude to a bill which he had formerly procured to be made law abolishing imprisonment for debt both upon mesne process and upon execution, which he believed to have been attended with good results.

"He must own, however, that one thing was overlooked, viz., that great facility was given to the fraudulent debtor to leave this country, and reside abroad, where he could set his creditors at defiance. It had been found by experience that this facility had been taken advantage of to a very great degree. Power, indeed, was given in the bill to arrest a person who was in *meditatione fuge*; but if a man had a fraudulent intention he would keep it to himself, he would not suffer his creditor to learn his secret. He crossed the channel to Boulogne, lived there very luxuriously, and set his creditors at defiance. Their lordships are aware that, as the law now stood, no action can be brought in any court in England, unless process were served within the jurisdiction of the court, and if a debtor went out of the jurisdiction of the court, there was no means whatsoever of obtaining judgment against him. If a man had landed property, or property in the funds, or personal property to a large amount, and he owed 100*l.* in England, he could go across the channel, and there he could not be reached by any means whatsoever, except through the precarious process of outlawry. Even if the outlaw were regular, the personal property being forfeited to the crown, the creditors derived no direct advantage from it. The only course which he could pursue was to petition the treasury, as representing the crown, that a sufficient part of the property forfeited might be allotted for the payment of his debt. But this mode of proceeding was found in practice to be wholly unavailing. There was another most grievous inconvenience—viz., that the statute of limitatoins



was in the mean time running. If a debtor went abroad and remained there for six years, the debt was satisfied; there was no remedy to recover it. The creditor must sue out writs and have them returned by the sheriff of Middlesex; but that was such an uncertain, fruitless, and expensive proceeding that it could hardly be considered a remedy at all. There could be no doubt, in fact, that great abuses at present existed, that fraudulent debtors were encouraged, and creditors grossly defrauded. What he proposed by this bill was, that, with the concurrence of the courts of Westminster, when a cause of action existed against a debtor who was abroad, process might be served upon him in a foreign country, ample time being given to him to make his appearance, and his defence, if he had any to make; and that after it had been proved to the satisfaction of the court that he had been served with process abroad, the action should proceed against him as if he had been served within its own jurisdiction. The noble lord then read a statistical statement as to the number of English subjects resident in France on the 1st of January 1844, making a total of 66,000. In addition to the number of residents in that country, it was calculated that there 50,000 persons who were there merely for some temporary purpose. The expenditure of English residents in France exceeded, it appeared, the annual sum of 5,000,000*l.* sterling. Now he did not contend that all those persons were fraudulent debtors, but he believed that a considerable proportion of English subjects resident in France were there to set their creditors at defiance, and if there were only one hundred who had left this country with such an object in view, he thought the bill which he proposed to introduce would be a salutary measure, and under these circumstances, he begged to move that the bill be read a first time and printed."

The motion was acceded to, when the noble and learned lord gave notice that on Friday se'night he should move the second reading of the bill which he had introduced respecting writs of error.—Their lordships then adjourned.

#### HOUSE OF COMMONS.

*Monday, April 15.*

The house resumed its sittings after the Easter recess.

**NEW WRITS.**—SIR T. FREMANTLE moved for new writs for Huntingdon, Exeter, and Woodstock, in the room of Sir F. Pollock, promoted to the Chief Baronship of the Exchequer, Sir W. Follett, transferred from the office of Solicitor-General to that of Attorney-General, and Mr Thesiger, who had accepted the office of Solicitor-General.—Agreed to.

**IRISH REGISTRATION BILL.**—SIR R. PEEL, in replying to a request made by Mr Wyse, that the second reading of the Irish franchise and registration bill, which was fixed for Friday next, should be postponed for a fortnight, in order to give the Irish members and their constituencies fuller time for its consideration, said he was strongly opposed to postponements, as it wasted the earlier period of the session, and threw important measures over till the close, when they either received hasty consideration, or were abandoned. But, in order to evince his desire that full time should be given for the consideration of this measure, he said he should consent to the postponement of the second reading from Friday next till a future day, of which notice will be given.

**THE BUDGET.**—SIR R. PEEL, in answer to a question put by Mr Baring, said the budget would be brought forward on the 29th instant.

**THE MANCHESTER POST OFFICE.**—MR M. GIBSON, on the motion that the house should go into committee of supply, called attention to a petition from Manchester, presented on the 1st of April last, complaining of inconveniences endured by the mercantile community of that town from the post-office arrangements.

SIR G. CLERK stated that the post-office authorities were anxious to remove the grievances complained of, but were impeded by obstacles in their arrangements with the railway companies.

MR M. PHILLIPS, DR BOWRING, and the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER added some observations on the subject, the latter intimating that Manchester, with a little patience, may ultimately obtain what it wanted, without compelling the government to submit to the exorbitant terms demanded by the railway companies.

SIR R. PEEL added, that the railway companies would best promote their own interests by showing a disposition to give every facility, on fair terms, for the conveyance of letters.

The subject, after some further conversation, dropped.

**PAROCHIAL ASSESSMENT.**—SIR J. GRAHAM, in answer to a question from Sir R. Inglis, whether ministers contemplated any measure on the subject of parochial assessments, said that the intended amendments of the poor law, especially on the law of settlement, would necessarily involve as a consequence an amendment of the law relative to parochial assessment. "If, therefore, at some future time, he had the honour to fill the situation he now occupied, it would be his duty to submit such a measure to the house."

The house then went into committee of supply, proceeding with the miscellaneous estimates, during the passing of which nothing remarkable occurred.—Adjourned.

*Tuesday, April 16.*

After the presentation of petitions and a few unimportant questions were asked, Mr Wyse called attention to the

**APPOINTMENTS IN THE CUSTOMS, EXCISE, AND POST OFFICE,** by moving for a return of the names, offices, places of birth, salaries, and ages, of all persons holding offices in the customs, excise, and post-office departments of the united kingdom, with the dates of their appointment, and present location, his object being to show that Ireland had not a fair share of official patronage.

SIR R. PEEL objected to the motion, affirming that government showed no unwillingness to employ Irishmen when found fit for an employment. As to the return called for he said there were no fewer than 22,000 individuals connected with the various public departments of the customs, excise, and post office; and what member of the house would venture to move that such returns, if granted, should be printed? He protested against the absurdity of an inquisition into the nativities of individuals who were subjects of the same united empire, and which, if gone into, would only perpetuate angry feelings.

After a few words in favour of the motion by Mr French, Mr Warburton, and others, it was negatived without a division.

**ADMISSION TO PUBLIC EDIFICES.**—MR HUME moved a resolution for giving effect to a recommendation of the committee of 1841 upon national monuments, that the public should be admitted more freely into cathedrals. Experience, he said, had now proved what had long been denied, that Englishmen may be admitted to places containing works of art without hazard to those works from their misbehaviour. He did not wish to see a cathedral crowded by gazers during divine service; yet this was what now happened in Westminster Abbey to a most unseemly extent, because during divine service there is no charge for admission, as there is on week days. It was that charge which he wished to see abolished. He was desirous also that deans and chapters should be prevented from introducing or continuing monuments of an unsightly or unsuitable character into our cathedrals. He did not wish to put his argument upon a pecuniary ground, else he might advert to votes of public money for repairs of Westminster Abbey, to the amount of 42,000*l.* in a small number of years. He believed there was a disposition on the part of the authorities who regulated Westminster Abbey to advance the object he was contending for; and certainly it would be best accomplished by their voluntary act. All he now sought was an expression of opinion on the part of the house.

The motion was seconded by Mr Wyse, and supported by Mr Monckton Miles, Mr Ewart, Mr Borthwick, and opposed by Sir R. Inglis, Sir Walter James, and Colonel Wyndham.

SIR R. PEEL expressed his concurrence generally in Mr Hume's views, but could not assent to the motion, the purpose desired being in fact beyond the reach of a resolution of the house.

"As far as public and political results went, he certainly thought that, to take the working classes, if they were given daily a sight of those institutions—if they were given an interest in the maintenance of public institutions, they would regard with veneration those monuments, and he could see nothing but good resulting from this to the permanence of the constitution. Therefore, as far as the moral results upon the dispositions of individuals, and as regarded public, political, and social results, he confessed that he contemplated with great satisfaction the admission of the humblest classes of society to view these monuments. (Hear, hear.) He thought that admission might be granted without incurring the risk which was sometimes supposed. At present, in Westminster Abbey, great facilities were afforded for the admission of the public during the performance of divine worship, which were not accorded at other times. What was the consequence? Those who went were often there to view the works of art, and the admission did not encourage religious feelings. (Hear, hear.) Then a certain part of the day was set apart for those who paid a certain amount of money. His strong impression was that if certain days and certain hours were set apart for the unrestricted right of admission, that right would not be exercised to any inconvenient extent; the public would act on the principle which governed themselves; having an opportunity of seeing most things in this great metropolis whenever they liked, they kept on postponing their visits. He, therefore, thought if the public had the right of admission, it would be taken advantage of by those who felt an interest in the works of art, but at the same time not to such an extent as would interfere with the safe preservation of the monuments. Arrangements ought to be made to prevent damage. It was possible that depraved characters might do evil if there were a free admission without corresponding precaution; but the feeling of the great majority would be that they would act as their own police. If they looked at the result of free admission to public exhibitions and works of art—to the British Museum, to the National Gallery, and to Hampton Court, he thought the general result of the experiment of free admission to the public showed that there was no very great risk of its abuse. He saw nothing but good in the admission of the public, if proper regard was had to the reverence of the place, which must excite emotions calculated to civilize and refine the minds and improve the habits of those who were admitted to view it. At the same time, entertaining as he did these sentiments very strongly, it was impossible for him to vote for the resolution of the honourable member, on grounds entirely apart from the opinions he had expressed. This was a proposition that the House of Commons should concur in the resolution of a committee of the house on national monuments in 1841. Looking at the constitution of the existing law, which gave to the bishop, and in some cases to the dean and chapter, rights which partook of the nature of a freehold, not for any advantage of their own, but with the sanction of the House of Commons; they were made the guardians of these edifices for public purposes, and were made responsible. If they thought it wrong, let it be controlled by law, but not by a resolution of the house. Nothing was more dangerous than for the house to attempt by indirect means to effect a certain object. (Hear, hear.) He wanted to encourage free admissions, and he believed those who had the management of Westminster Abbey were desirous of giving every facility for the admission of the public which they could give in accordance with the duties imposed upon them as guardians of that edifice; but let not the house by indirect means try to control them; if it did, honourable gentlemen must not be too sure that other feelings than those which they were trying to encourage might not rise up in opposition to the authority of that house. (Hear, hear.)"

MR HUME then withdrew his motion, trusting that the expression of opinion thus made would have its effect in the proper quarter.

**THE PENINSULAR ARMY.**—SIR A. L. HAY moved an address to her Majesty, praying that she will be pleased to confer some honorary distinction on the surviving officers of the Peninsular army. He entered into some of the details of the brilliant deeds achieved by an army which, under its great commander, formed a disciplined body and had effected services to which there was no parallel in the history of Europe; and enumerated the names of distinguished officers, who, though engaged in all the great affairs of the Peninsular war, were yet unable to exhibit such a mark of distinction as was worn by any drum boy who had been lucky enough to be within sound of the guns at Waterloo. He proposed that medals should be given to every surviving officer of the Peninsular war, and also to the families of those who had died. It might be objected that it was now too late—the time was too far gone by. But it was not as a paltry decoration that he asked for this distinction; all these honours were regarded as honourable rewards, and constituted the stimulus for farther efforts; and while they were freely bestowed on our Indian army, it was not fitting that officers, the most meritorious of those who had shed their blood in the service of their country, should be left unrecognized.

LORD A. LENNOX seconded the motion, which was opposed by Sir H. HARDINGE on the ground of its partiality and invidiousness, and it was eventually withdrawn.

**IRISH MAGISTRATES.**—Lord EBRINGTON moved for returns connected with the appointment of stipendiary magistrates in Ireland between the 2nd of March and the 15th of April, 1841, his object being to vindicate his father, Earl Fortescue, from the charges made by Sir J. Graham, of having made extra and unnecessary appointments on the very eve of resigning the lord-lieutenancy, when the Whigs quitted office. The motion was agreed to, after a short discussion, in which Sir J. Graham and other members of the government took part. It seemed to be admitted that Earl Fortescue had made no such disreputable appointments as had been insinuated.

The other business being disposed of, the house adjourned.

Wednesday, April 17.

At four o'clock there were only thirty-eight members present, and the house was consequently adjourned.

Thursday, April 18.

The house only sat for a short time to-night, and its business, though multifarious and general, was not of much public importance, with the exception of what we now notice.

**THE TEN HOURS PROPOSAL.**—Lord ASHLEY intimated the course which he will adopt on the progress of the new factories bill. There were difficulties which led him to refuse all discussion until he arrived at the third reading of the bill; and at this stage he will propose clauses, the purport of which will be to reduce the factory hours to eleven from October next, for two years ensuing, and then to commence the ten hours from October, 1847.

**THE BANK CHARTER.**—Sir R. PEEL, in answer to Mr P. M. Stewart, said he would bring forward his propositions relative to the bank charter on a day immediately after that fixed for the opening and discussion of the budget, which is announced for the 29th.

**AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS.**—Mr M. GIBSON moved—

“That an humble address be presented to her Majesty, representing that, in the opinion of this house it is desirable to obtain authentic information upon all matters connected with the agriculture of the United Kingdom; that this information is altogether deficient, so that at this time even the extent of land under cultivation and the amount of its produce are subjects only of vague conjecture; that the total absence of all statistical knowledge in reference to this important subject has at various times proved detrimental to the public interests; and praying her Majesty to devise measures for supplying to parliament from time to time statements of the breadth of land under cultivation for each species of produce respectively, and the amount of produce derived from the same; together with such information as will exhibit, as far as practicable, a perfect view of the agricultural capability and production of the United Kingdom.”

He disclaimed all intention of raising a corn-law discussion, by anything which would insinuate obliquely that we did not grow enough of corn for our subsistence. Free trade was a sort of civil right, and did not rest on the question of sufficiency or insufficiency, for, if we grew ten times more corn than we did, the argument for freedom of intercourse would still be perfect and complete. He placed his motion on its own independent grounds, that if its practicability, its importance, and its necessity to the advancement of that portion of statistical science connected with national progress. All statistical writers deplored the absence of the information which he sought, and pointed out the evils which this omission in the machinery of the executive led to. Mr Culloch, Porter, Tooke, the author of the *History of Prices*, the Speaker himself, in a pamphlet which he had published, and other authorities, had pointed out the advantages which would ensue from the collection of agricultural statistics by some department of the government. It would solve the interesting problem of the relation between food and population; would enable us regularly to trace the connexion between produce and price; would put an end to the controversies arising out of conflicting statements, based on conjectural estimates; while the farmers, if it were properly explained to them, and backed by legislative authority, would have no rational objection to the returns from which the information would be derived. For excise reasons we required returns from the growers of hops, and also of the sales of grain, and, therefore, he hoped that the government would not oppose his motion.

Mr GLADSTONE, on behalf of government admitted the importance of what had fallen from Mr Gibson, and they were actually engaged, he said, in ascertaining to what extent it would be practicable to obtain the desired information. He trusted, therefore, that Mr Gibson would leave the matter in their hands in the meantime, and not press his motion, which could have no good practical tendency whatever. This course having been recommended by Mr Christopher, who, “as the representative of a purely agricultural district, had no objection to the motion,” and by Mr Brotherton, Mr Gibson consented to its withdrawal and the house immediately afterwards adjourned.

## FREE-TRADE MOVEMENTS.

### LEAGUE—COVENT GARDEN.

The weekly meetings of the League, at Covent Garden Theatre, were resumed on Wednesday night. The boxes and pit were well filled, but the lower gallery was not crowded, and very few were seen in the upper gallery. The chair was taken by Richard Cobden, Esq., M.P. Among the persons on the platform and in the boxes were the Hon. Charles Pelham Villiers, M.P.; Thomas Milner Gibson, Esq., M.P.; John Bright, Esq., M.P.; H. G. Ward, Esq., M.P.; George Thompson, Esq.; Colonel T. P. Thompson, &c. &c. &c. The minutes of the last meeting having been read and approved of.

Mr Cobden then said,—Ladies and gentlemen, during the short cessation of our meetings in this theatre, we have been attending a few meetings of our friends in the country, and it may be interesting to you to learn the spirit and the enthusiasm which prevailed elsewhere. I had the honour of attending a meeting at Bristol, and one of a more useful character, or of a higher moral tone, or one more calculated to do good to that town, I have never attended. (Cheers.) Upwards of 6000. were subscribed in the room towards the League fund. (Cheers.) At a subsequent meeting I had the honour of meeting our friend Mr Villiers;

you do not need to know the spirit of Wolverhampton when you know it sends Mr Villiers and Mr Thornely as its representatives. (Cheers.) There was no room in that town large enough to hold the friends of free trade congregated to greet their members, so they had a room built specially for the purpose, and the meeting did not separate till they had subscribed 620l. (Cheers.) Then I had the honour of attending a meeting in the Amphitheatre of Liverpool; we were there joined by a distinguished friend from the north, Mr Fox Maule (loud cheers), one who, unless common fame greatly mistakes, is heir to 60,000 good acres under the plough. Yet he came to bear his testimony to the merchants of Liverpool, that free trade is as desirable for the agriculturists as it is for the manufacturers and traders. (Cheers.) Ladies and gentlemen, since we last met, there have been changes in political life, owing to a certain death, which will involve electoral changes in certain towns. I cannot say that the chapter of accidents has been very favourable to us; for if we had chosen the battle-field, we should not have gone to Horsham, to Huntingdon, or to Woodstock. (Cheers.) I believe that in every instance where a vacancy occurs, a contest will be fought if a local man can be found to be put up by his own voters, even if he shall poll only 20 votes. We have been charged with dictating to the constituencies, whereas we only profess to co-operate with constituencies. We go to offer our co-operation to the local members of the League in the boroughs to which we go. If, therefore, our friends hear that a contest passes by without a League candidate, they may conclude it is because the League council will not interfere with the local free traders, and that they have deferred to their express wish that there should not at present be any contest, but the borough should be left to future organization. In the case of Exeter there is a contest. I have the happiness to say that General Briggs, an officer who has served well in India, and who is distinguished for his philanthropy and public spirit in every form, will be put in nomination as a candidate for Exeter (cheers); and whatever may be the result of this contest, I am satisfied that in a borough of 30,000 inhabitants, if we fight one battle and lose it upon principle, when we fight the next battle we shall win. I am now anxious that our friends, here and elsewhere, notwithstanding the advice of some newspaper friends, when they find a simple repulse, for I will not call it a defeat, at one election contest, should bear in mind that the League can stand merely for the purpose of educating the constituencies. We merely transfer our lecturers, and our pamphlets or tracts, to a borough at a time when we have all the advantage of electioneering excitement to get them a hearing. We are convinced, whatever may be the result of our contest, that as much education may be given to the borough in one week during the excitement of electioneering, as in a month under ordinary circumstances. It is like a recruiting party going into a town with drums beating and colours flying, or like a recruiting party going into a town at fair time. (Cheers.) Let not the public suppose that we are spending our money in boroughmongering or in bribery at elections; we go into the town to prevent bribery and corruption in others. (Cheers.) Many persons are accustomed, when they read of an election contest in a borough, to suppose that it involves an expenditure of something like 1,000l. or 1,200l. Why in Woodstock, or Huntingdon, or Horsham, if one should cost more than 100l., it cannot be honourably and purely contested. (Cheers.) If we do nothing else, we go to prevent the parties from pursuing a system of demoralization, which has made contests in many boroughs little else than a trial of the length of the candidates' purses. There is, however, one point connected with our proceedings to which I would direct your particular attention. Many applications have been made to the council of the League to hold a bazaar in this theatre before the close of the present season. Many ladies, as well in the country as in London, have told us that they are already at work to assist the cause of the League, in the only way within their power, and to contribute in this pleasant manner to its funds. (Cheers.) The council have determined to adopt the suggestion of our fair friends; and I mention this now that those who are disposed to aid us by furnishing stalls at the bazaar may determine upon so doing. I venture to say concerning myself, as forming one part of the exhibition in that bazaar (great laughter), not that I mean to exhibit myself (renewed laughter), that I am anxious to have a collection of specimens of every manufacture in this kingdom brought to this focus. We will have everything in metal, from a steam engine to a needle (cheers); we will have a specimen of everything in silks, from the richest embroidered garment down to the humblest ribbon; we will have specimens of everything produced in England in linen and in cotton goods; we will bring together everything which the manufactures of England produce in the exhibition in this theatre (loud cheers); and when we have brought these materials together, we will invite the monopolists (cheers), we will invite the restrictionists to come and see this collection. We will point to it as a proof of what the unguarded, the unaided, the unprotected skill of England can do, without the protection or the help of the Duke of Richmond or the Duke of Buckingham (cheers); and having brought them to view this exhibition, we will put this question, and this question only to them—“Do you think that the hands which produced these ingenious articles ought to be hanging idly by the sides of men who are pining for want of bread?” (Great cheering.) And now, ladies and gentlemen, I have the honour of introducing to you, in the first place, a distinguished friend of our cause, who has often rendered us essential services in another arena, whom few can match in debate, but who now appears for the first time on these boards—Mr Ward, the member for Sheffield. (Cheers.)

Mr H. G. Ward, who was received with very loud and continued cheers, said, that he could assure them with perfect truth that he appeared before them that night, as their honourable chairman had said, for the first time upon these boards, with some little reluctance and a great many doubts; and he told them honestly that this feeling was increased instead of lessened—however ungrateful the expression might appear—by the manner in which they had been pleased to receive the announcement of his name by the chairman (cheers), because their kind reception bespoke an impression which the next ten minutes would destroy. Having expressed his full concurrence in the objects of the League, the honourable gentleman went on to say that the continued and crowded attendance at the meetings of the League, and the atten-



tion with which the old arguments with new illustrations were heard, were proofs of no common interest in no common cause. Having remarked that men were easily misled by sophistries when they were put in an ingenious form, Mr Ward proceeded to remark upon a pamphlet which he said had obtained a most extensive circulation in London, and in which it was contended that the people of the metropolis were deeply interested in the continuance of the corn laws, as they enabled men of property to spend their large incomes in the capital. He, on the other hand, argued that, as London was not a producing locality, and as its wealth was derived from dispensing the produce of almost every other part of the globe, it was the interest of its inhabitants to establish free commercial intercourse with all parts of the world, so that the articles by dispensing which they acquired their wealth should flow in unrestrictedly. The money spent by the aristocracy was not to be compared to the wealth which was to be acquired from being the dispensary of the world. Only those of the aristocracy who possessed upwards of 4,000*l.* a year could afford to keep houses in town, and the number of these taken out of the list, those who spent their money in foreign parts was not very great, whilst those who made their money in trade or by profession had their head-quarters in the capital, as being the centre of all that was polished, elegant, and attractive. The people of London, then, should take more interest than others in doing away with the monopoly which raised such barriers against their particular business of dispensing the products of other places. (Hear, hear.) What was London? He would give them some details which would let them see what London was, better than the most hyperbolic language of general description. "There were 100,000 houses of business, to half of which shops were attached (hear, hear); and all the details were upon the same gigantic scale. The water companies supplied 237 millions of hogsheads per year; the gas companies supplied 10 millions cubic feet every twenty-four hours; of ale and porter there were consumed 2 millions of barrels every year; at Smithfield, in 1839, there were sold, cattle 180,780, sheep 1,403,400; there came 70 millions of eggs annually from the continent; the paving and sewerage of London cost 500,000*l.* per annum; its newspapers used 30 millions of stamps per annum; its steam boats carried 10,000 passengers daily, in pursuit of business or health; we had 1,000 miles of railway completed at a cost of 47 millions, and 59 canals at a cost of 14½ millions, connecting it with the most distant parts. The monthly business transacted by London bankers through the clearing house averaged 75,000,000*l.*; it had been as high as 87,000,000*l.* Put all these elements of greatness together—add the intelligence and enterprise of London merchants—the skill and industry of her people—and we may challenge the world to produce such a combination of power and wealth. (Hear.) Then take the population in London. In 1801 it was 888,198; in 1831, 1,508,469; in 1841, 1,832,699; or two millions in round numbers now. Its length from east to west was five miles and a half, or, reckoning from Chelsea to Blackwall, seven miles and a half. Its breadth from north to south was three miles and a half—a principality of brick. It had a river which marked it out for the seat of commerce from the earliest times, crossed by six bridges, which cost 5,000,000*l.* London bridge alone cost 2,000,000*l.*; Southwark, 800,000*l.*; Waterloo, 1,150,000*l.* The London docks covered 100 acres—the vaults contained cellars for 65,000 pipes of wine; the West India docks, 295 acres—space for 500 vessels; the Commercial docks, 49 acres (40 water)—used principally for the Baltic trade; and St Katherine's docks, 24 acres (11½ water). The port of London in 1840 received 2,950 ships—tonnage 581,000—manned by 32,000 men. The tonnage of the colliers in the river in the same year was 2,628,323. The tonnage of vessels trading with the colonies (1,683 ships) in that year was 417,139; with Ireland (907 ships), 142,000; and those engaged in the coasting trade, colliers included (20,205 ships), 2,686,621; 3,165 British and 2,335 foreign vessels, of 921,404 tons; total tonnage, 4,167,164—from Russia, Sweden, Germany, Holland, France, the Mediterranean, China, and the United States. London had paid, upon an average of the last ten years, eleven millions in customs duties out of the twenty-three millions and a half to which the total customs revenue of the United Kingdom amounts. The value of the produce that entered and left her port had been roughly estimated at eighty millions per annum; while 2,000 merchants and brokers had their counting houses within a mile and a half of the Exchange." (Loud cheers.) And when they looked at the enormous trade of London, let them ask themselves what proportion of it was contributed by the aristocracy of the country? (Hear, hear.) Why, the custom of the aristocracy was a mere drop of water in the ocean, compared with the mighty movement of the trade of London. (Hear, hear.) It was not the aristocracy which had created the greatness of London (hear, hear); they merely came up to town at certain periods of the year to share in it. (Hear, hear.) It was not the landlords who had made London what it was, but London which attracted the landowners. Mr Ward contrasted this benefit with the price of protection, quoting Mr Deacon Hume's estimate given before the Imports Committee. Mr Deacon Hume, he said, was an old and faithful public servant, a man of quiet business habits, of thorough honesty and impartiality, whose opinions had been taken as gospel by Sir Robert Peel, except when they happened to clash with Sir Robert Peel's particular views at the time. (Hear, hear, hear.) What said Mr Deacon Hume? He said before the Import Duties Committee—"It is generally calculated that each person, upon an average, consumes a quarter of wheat a year. Assuming, then, the amount of duty that this wheat paid, or the price enhanced by protection, to be ten shillings, it would be that amount upon the whole population. Then you can hardly say less than, perhaps, double that for butcher's meat and other matters; so that if we were to say that corn is enhanced by ten shillings a quarter, there would be that ten shillings, and twenty shillings more, as the increase of the price of meat, and other agricultural productions, including hay and oats for horses, barley for beer, as well as butter and cheese. That would be thirty-six millions a year; and the public are, in fact, paying that as effectually out of their pockets, as if it did go to the revenue in direct taxes." (Hear, hear.) An excellent friend of theirs, in his admirable paper, the *Economist*, had followed out this calculation,

in a way which would excite considerable annoyance among the advocates of monopoly. [Mr Ward here gave an explanation of the "Weekly Cost of Protection" in the two articles of sugar and wheat alone, with which the readers of this paper are now familiar.] He was a landowner himself, not to a great extent, but it was to that he looked entirely for his own and his children's support, and it was not to be supposed that he would seek the abolition of laws, when that abolition would injure his own property. At one period of his life he was of opinion that the corn laws were a protection to the agriculturist, but a closer and more dispassionate view of the subject led him to a different conclusion, and he was now convinced that carrying out the principles of free trade to their fullest extent would vastly improve the condition of all classes, commercial, agricultural, and manufacturing. (Hear, hear.) The corn laws were the keystone to the whole arch of monopoly, and those once removed all the others would topple down, as the landlords themselves would be the first to cry out against them. There was a sickly sort of philanthropy which would impose laws restricting labour. A healthy and sound benevolence, instead of interfering with labour, which should never be shackled, would remove the monopoly that created the evil, and occasioned such a terrible competition for the restricted supply of food. (Cheers.)

Colonel Thompson next addressed the meeting, and ridiculed the notion of relieving the overwrought labourer by any legislative measure restricting the time of work. Nobody laboured overmuch for the mere love of labour, but for the desire to procure what was necessary for their subsistence. If a man asked a child whether he'd rather beg than work, and the child answered, "I'd rather work, but I am under the age when they will let me," would not that be Jack Cade legislation? (Laughter.) Legislation could not do impossibilities. If a man were to complain that his potato was too thin, and that Jack Cade, being member for Dorsetshire, got a law passed making it felony to drink small beer, that law would not make the poor man's thin potato more generous. The noble member for Dorset seemed really to think that the way to make all men drink strong beer was to make it felony to drink small. (Laughter.) An effort was now being made by those who legislated to put down all the old rules of commerce, but it would not succeed. The established principles must be acted on, and London, which formerly used to be foremost in every great struggle, even when blood was to be shed, would once again, in the bloodless strife which was to ensue, take its place at the head of the national intellect. (Cheers.)

The Chairman then, amidst vehement applause, introduced George Thompson, Esq., as one of the most accomplished orators of the day, and as a gentleman who had given the benefit of his services and high talents to a cause of humanity, second only to that in which they were then engaged.

Mr G. Thompson then addressed the meeting in a long and eloquent speech, of which our space permits but a circumscribed outline. He insisted that God, who intended that all men should be free, also intended that all men should be fed; and that it was the highest crime to deteriorate food either in quality or quantity. The master principle of political economy was, that every class should be left to its own free agency in the management of its own commercial transactions, so long as they were conducted with integrity. This principle had been admitted in high places, and homage was done to its truth when it was allowed that men should be permitted to purchase in the cheapest and sell in the dearest markets; but, though the principle had been admitted, the practice was refused. An Englishman looking at his country in one aspect felt pride, in another he felt wonder and compassion. With all her wealth, her commerce, her conquests, her colonies, her arts, her productions, she presented an aspect of misery on the other hand, unequalled by any country on earth in proportion to the population. While heaven was most gracious man was most sunken. Wretchedness and want were seen by the walls of our custom-house, on the steps of our palaces, in the porchway, in the sanctuaries of our temples. (Cheers.) There must be a cause for this—that cause was monopoly. Take restriction from trade and a thousand ships freighted with golden grain would float abundance into our harbours. (Cheers.) One word on the sugar duties. No one would suspect him, after the efforts he had made in the cause of the negro, of abetting slavery; but he must say that the cry now raised on that ground came strangely from men who formerly sent an emissary, now in the House of Commons, to preach the doctrine that slavery was an ordination from heaven, and negroes were made for bondage. Those who raised the cry against slave-grown sugar admitted slave-grown tobacco and slave-grown cotton, because they did not deal in these latter articles. If any one conscientiously objected to slave-grown sugar let him abstain from the use of it, and as far as he can by argument induce others to do so; but being a question of conscience the legislature had no right to interfere in it. The hon. gentleman concluded a very able and impressive speech by recommending the advocates of free trade strenuously to maintain the exertions they were then making to remove every impediment to free commercial intercourse, and concluded amidst enthusiastic cheers.

The meeting then separated.

#### LIVERPOOL.

The great Free-trade Banquet took place, as announced, on the evening of Friday last, in the Amphitheatre of this town, Thomas Thornely, Esq., M.P. for Wolverhampton, in the chair. Placards had some days before been posted, announcing that the Right Hon. the Earl of Ducie, the Right Hon. Fox Maule, M.P., the Hon. C. P. Villiers, M.P., John Bright, Esq., M.P., William Ewart, Esq., M.P., Colonel Perronet Thompson, Henry Ashworth, Esq., W. J. Fox, Esq., Robert R. Moore, Esq., George Thompson, Esq., and George Wilson, Esq., of the Anti-Corn-law League, and several other distinguished advocates of free trade would attend.

"The meeting," we are informed by the *Liverpool Chronicle*, "was most animated throughout, and the enthusiasm which the principles of free trade, as enunciated by the eloquent speakers, excited, showed how strong is the hold which they have taken upon the public of Liverpool."

Some of the guests expected to be present appear to have been absent; but the meeting was very successful. The chairman thus alluded to the purpose of it:—"I say, if occasional meetings like this be held in a commercial community like Liverpool, great good must be the inevitable result of such meetings. (Loud cheers.) I have great pleasure in witnessing the attendance of strangers. I want these gentlemen to know, that although the voice of Liverpool as now expressed in parliament is exercised on the side of monopoly, yet I desire these gentlemen, who stand before parliament and before the world as free traders, should know that in this community there is a body of enlightened intelligence which earnestly seeks the extension of commerce, and desires to enforce on the parliament the principles of free trade. To these strangers—to the present meeting, I appeal—how can it be otherwise that a community like Liverpool, which has its agents in every part of the civilized world, and by their exertions in remote regions extend the commerce of Liverpool—how can it be otherwise but that those agents find all the intercourse they would establish in foreign countries is crippled and restricted, and in some cases destroyed by our present restrictive commercial system?"

In reply to the toast of the health of Mr Villiers and the free-trade members of the House of Commons, in the absence of that gentleman from indisposition, Mr Ewart, formerly member for the town, spoke, and alluding to the great change now made in public opinion on the question of free trade, said, "The Anti-Corn-law League has achieved this great triumph. It has broken down the false barrier—the adamantine wall which has long separated the manufacturing and rural inhabitants of this country. It has shown them that the interests of the rural, and the commercial, and the manufacturing interests are one. (Loud cheers.) To me it appears as plain as the noon-day sun that the rural population of this country is not a whit less interested than the manufacturing in maintaining laws which make subsistence dear, and retard employment. (Hear.) The Anti-Corn-law League has gone amongst this population. They have appealed to the tenant farmers—have called upon them to demand long leases for their farms—they have called upon them to be no longer serfs, but to demand that just portion of protection which the law ought not to deny to any man. They have not appealed in vain; for the tenants are now determined that they will have that protection of long leases which is given by our friends in Scotland, and which sound policy denies to no man. (Hear, hear.) It is shown that they are now protected by laws which are on a false basis. They have gone further; they have shown that the agriculturists are worse off than the manufacturing population. They have called upon the peasant to vindicate his rights. They have asked him whether it is to his interest to have cheap bread, cheap clothing, cheap butter, cheap bacon, and other articles; they have asked him whether keeping up the prices of such articles is not an incumbrance upon his rights? (Loud cheers.) These gentlemen have, by their exertions in the diffusion of knowledge on this subject, produced the most beneficial influence—diffusing the light of truth and intelligence even to the humblest cottage in the country. (Loud cheers.) Gentlemen, we are united in one common cause, involving the interests of the commercial, manufacturing, and agricultural population, against one predominant and controlling interest—the tyrannical and oppressive landlords of this country." He expressed his astonishment at the continued indifference to free trade manifested by Liverpool in the choice of parliamentary representatives. "But," he said, "I trust a brighter period now awaits us—I trust an era is now about to dawn upon us, at least upon our younger population, which will dispel our apprehensions for the future. (Loud cheers.) That response assures me it will be so—that your exertions will not cease until our object is accomplished. (Cheers.) I believe those principles of enlightened commerce are gradually spreading, especially amongst the younger branches of our population, and that they will continue gradually to spread until they are diffused through the whole population, and, in the language of our own poet, Cowper, until we

'Give to the pole the products of the sun,  
And knit unsocial nations into one.'

(Loud cheers.) Gentlemen, be these your principles. If supported by your aid and assistance they will prevail—if unsupported they must fail. I call upon you by the energies you possess—by the union with which you are banded together—by the enlightened knowledge which is now spreading amongst you, to give to the free-trade members of the House of Commons, not only your approbation, but your determined and persevering support. (Continued cheering.) If you do they must succeed in the course they have taken. If you do your noble example will be followed by the rest of the community, and as the beams of light spread upon the whole country until their genial influence is felt by all, so will your exertions extend, not only to the senate, but even to the Sovereign herself, and the result will be health to the wealthy and subsistence to the poor. (Loud and continued applause.) Gentlemen, if the present system is pursued, temporary prosperity may indeed revive amongst us—we may enjoy a brief but delusive calm, but days of darkness and misery are beyond. (Hear, hear.) So long as you continue unjust laws you never can be safe from unfavourable results—abolish these laws and you secure lasting prosperity to your country. (Cheers.) The call then can never be in vain when we beseech the country, not only manufacturing, but also the commercial and agricultural, to sustain and support, by all the means within their reach, the independent free-trade members of the House of Commons. (The hon. member resumed his seat amidst loud and long-continued cheers.)

The Right Hon. Fox Maule, M.P., in acknowledging the toast of his health coupled with that of "those landowners who recognize the principle, that the interests of agriculture are best promoted by unrestricted trade," said—"With no other prospects to look to but those which emanate from land, I entirely concur in the view, that the interests of the position which I may be called upon hereafter to occupy can only be promoted to their utmost extent by unrestricted commercial intercourse with all the world. (Loud cheering.) Gentlemen, I feel that in uttering that sentiment I deserve no credit, because I am merely taking that course which I know is best to promote my own personal and "selfish" ends (cheers), and I am surprised that those who are

similarly situated with myself have been so slow to view the matter in the same light that I do. What is it, gentlemen, if we inherit lands—if we are entitled to support our rights, as you call them, here—if at the same time we are to be looked upon as an incubus upon the face of the country? As a body, we always stand in the way of improvement of the commercial intercourse of the world, and the improvement of the habits and position of our countrymen. (Cheers.) According to the mode in which society has been ordered by Providence, men may be born to station—they may be born to title—they may take to themselves credit for the position in which they stand; but I would remind them of the words of the poet—

"Et genus et proavos et quæ non fecimus ipsi,  
Vix et nostra voco."

That is my motto, gentlemen. I want to be distinguished, not by any nobility or title, to which I may be called by the accident of birth; but I wish to be distinguished by the one, through life, of doing as much good as I can to others. (Cheers.) And, gentlemen, in forwarding that object, I think that those whose interests are connected with land will do it best by forwarding amongst the agricultural population of this country correct and proper views of free trade. (Hear.) I delight to say that I can myself testify to the citizens of Liverpool, and this assembly and most respectable company, that amongst our agricultural body in Scotland free-trade principles are making rapid advances (loud cheers)—and I say it without wishing to cast any reflections upon my southern neighbours—I say that they will make more advances with us in the north than it is possible they will for some time do with you in the south. You will ask me my reason for this, and I tell you it is that our tenantry are in a more independent position. (Cheers.) In our country, our tenants have leases. (Cheers.) I am sorry to say that a great many of them have not much capital, but it has been frittered away, because they have been pursuing unsound views; but they are independent, so far, because of their leases. That, I consider, has been one of the safeguards which the farmer can enjoy. (Hear.) We have another system that in our country puts the tenant farmer out of all risk of loss by changes, such as we hope to obtain by the abolition of the corn laws; I mean a system of grain or corn rents. (Hear.) Then, gentlemen, we have that which I hope you never will have in this country; we have another obstacle to agricultural improvement—we have a stern and relentless climate sometimes to contend with; and it is to put ourselves upon somewhat of a footing with you in the south that we are obliged to study the utmost economy and the best means of managing our farms, and that we may pay the rents that we are enabled to pay in Scotland. (Cheers.) Addressing himself to the general question, he observed—Gentlemen, the farmers will soon come to see that without a thorough amalgamation with the manufacturing classes, both of them will not attain to that height of prosperity to which united they may fairly aspire. (Hear.) It is commerce that has raised this country to the position which it now holds. Commerce has been fostered, in order to do that in the home markets which it has engaged, and which it has failed to do. Each by itself will fail, if it attempted to support each in the position in which they stand, unless they agree now cordially to amalgamate; and you may depend upon it, that however prosperous they may be at this moment, that that prosperity is merely ephemeral, and that a day of reckoning will come when we shall sink in one common abyss. Mr Ewart has just stated to you, that a foreigner landing here would naturally reckon upon a great town like Liverpool as the scene from which free-trade principles would emanate. When I landed upon these magnificent docks, and saw the flags of every different nation floating, and the mercantile marine upon them, I could not help saying to myself, "Is it possible that this great city, instead of being the beacon light of free trade, should be one of the closest and restricted with respect to commerce of any city in the world." I look around, and see little knots of monopolist interests in various quarters. I see the sugar frightened for its existence on the one hand, and I see the timber trembling on the other. (Laughter.) I see various interests all at work, and I see them uniting together to support in the main the most abject of all monopolies—the monopoly of food. (Hear.) But I trust the day is coming, when public opinion, which, as history tells us, must sooner or later prevail, will wipe away the stains which now exist upon our commercial statute-book. It is truly impossible that those who are engaged in commerce in this community—those who are the owners of capital, and those who can command the wealth and resources of the land—it is truly impossible that they will sit quietly by—their politics called by what name they please—and see market after market stolen and wrested from this country by our own foolish acts and wretched legislature. (Tremendous cheering.) I think I can trace—without pretending to see further than my neighbours—I think I can see a latent disposition in certain quarters—I think I can see certain signs of the times, which convince me that the loss of foreign markets is coming somewhat home to the consideration of the powers that be. (Hear.) When we see our busy neighbour anxious—and I do not blame her for that—to take advantage of every opening for her infantile commerce—when we see that busy neighbour nibbling at the Brazils—a market which, if he were to lose (and we might retain it with the utmost ease), a market which, if we were to lose, there are many in Liverpool will rue their obstinacy. (Tremendous applause.) When we see that busy neighbour at work, it behoves us to put all our energies to work, and it behoves the people of this country to ring—by agitation if you please—in the ears of the government of the day, that such things will not be submitted to. (Cheers.) Gentlemen, it is impossible for us to maintain foreign markets, unless we are prepared to give to foreign traders a reciprocity of trade. And after all, what is the pure plain system of commerce? I see it, gentlemen, stuck up with your system, mottoes there:—"Commerce is barter." Call it by any other name you please—let writers mystify it, or give any other description of it—commerce is barter in the end; and every man ought to be entitled to barter with his neighbour that which he produces for that which his neighbour produces, without injury to himself. (Cheers.) That is the sure, the plain simple policy of a commercial nation."

The chairman gave the "Anti-Corn-law League, and thanks to them for their zealous and persevering endeavours to liberate British industry



from the bondage of monopoly," which, in the absence of Mr G. Wilson, chairman of the League, was acknowledged by

Mr Cobden, who devoted himself principally to the question of how the shipowners ought to act in this struggle. "I do not think," he said, "anything will excite so much astonishment and amazement as to find that this movement for free trade was opposed in a great degree by the shipowners of this country. (Hear, hear.) I think that will excite more of marvel twenty years hence than any other fact connected with this agitation. I am in a seaport, and I dare say among some who are themselves shipowners; yet it is a remarkable fact, that up to this time—it is a remarkable physiological fact, that I think might well cause some investigation into the construction of the human brain—many of our shipowners are yet opposed to free trade. (Hear, hear.) Let us endeavour to account for it. I think I know one reason for it, if not two. Shipowners look back with a hankering affection at the monopoly they once had themselves, or thought they had; they look back to the navigation laws. They think they can have those laws again. They meet at Whitby, or Scarborough, or Hartlepool; they vote free trade very bad; and they endeavour to get the navigation laws again. They cannot have the navigation laws. What did they get by the navigation laws? Had they not the effect of injuring the shipowners? We did it in order to give them the monopoly of all the carrying trade; but the fact is just this—we had a law that said to foreigners, 'You shall not bring your goods into our ports in your ships upon the same terms that we bring them in our own ships.' But when America became strong enough to retaliate upon England, brother Jonathan said, 'We will say ditto to that; you shall not bring goods into our ports in your ships as they shall in ours. So we will put a navigation act in force here; you may have your navigation act in England;' and the result was that our ships, coming across the Atlantic, met theirs empty, and that each had a passage, the one way, and the other another, without any advantage. Was not that a profitable system? (Hear, hear.) Prussia and other countries very soon followed the example, and the consequence was that England was obliged to do as she would be done by, and obliged to adhere to this golden rule, whether the shipowners liked it or not. That is one reason they will not have free trade—they have a hankering after the flesh pots of Egypt; they think to have back the navigation laws—but they will not. (Hear, hear.) There is another reason. The shipowners are, a good many of them, old men; at all events they seem to have old prejudices whether they are old men or not, and they seem to have all a leaning to the time of war, when they had war freights, and when they got as much in one month as they do now in twelve. They think of war gains; but we say that with free trade there will be no more war. (Loud cheers.) Even if there was a war, shipowners would not have the monopoly they had in 1812. (Hear, hear.) Brother Jonathan was quite a different animal then to what he is now; no orders in council again if you get in a war in Europe. But you will not get into war; the tax payers will have no fresh wars. Therefore, you will have no war, and you cannot have the navigation laws. Consider these matters as settled. The next best thing then for the shipowners, as reasonable and thinking men to do, is to see what can be done to improve the trade as it is. We say it is free trade. We are for free trade, because it means more trade, and therefore more carrying of commodities; for you cannot have more trade without having more commodities to carry, and you cannot carry those additional commodities without employing more ships, more captains, and more seamen. (Cheers.) But up rise these men and say, 'We will not have more trade!' (Hear.) It will not be believed, unless we put it upon record with well-authenticated figures, that the ship carpenters of Liverpool will not have free trade! They say, 'We will not build more ships here!' (Hear.) They say, 'We will content ourselves with having ships brought here to be mended from the Canadas!' In fact, they say, 'We will be ship cobblers instead of ship carpenters!' (Great cheering.)

Mr Bright, Colonel Thompson, and some gentlemen, inhabitants of the borough, were the other speakers. On the evening following, "an operative tea party" was held in the same place, also presided over by Mr Thornely, and at which Mr Bright, Mr Moore, and others were the speakers.

Saturday night, one of the largest and most intelligent public meetings ever assembled in the town of Huntingdon met at the discussion of the corn laws, in the large room of the Huntingdon Institution, between Dr Sleigh, on the part of the Huntingdonshire Agricultural Protection Society, and James Ackland, Esq., one of the lecturers of the Anti-Corn-law League. Being the weekly market day, the town was crowded by farmers and others from a distance, who, from the probability of a speedy election for the borough, have been lately visited by the agents both of the League and Anti-League. Each party selected a chairman, and the two chairmen chose an umpire. Downes Martin, Esq., presided for the League, and David Veasey, Esq., for the Protectionists; Dennis Herbert, Esq., the Mayor, was appointed umpire. The discussion was commenced at four o'clock, by Dr Sleigh, who spoke for an hour; then Mr Ackland spoke for the same period. At six o'clock, the time allowed to each disputant, by the mutual arrangements which had been made, was limited to half an hour; and from eight to half-past eight, each had a quarter of an hour. At half-past eight the discussion closed, and a division took place, when the large assembly, by a majority of nearly, if not quite, two to one, voted—"That not only is the principle of protective corn laws unjust, but their abolition is indispensably necessary to the best interests of all classes in the kingdom!" This decision was received with tremendous cheers, greatly to the chagrin of the hitherto dominant faction of the town and county, who, from the great number of farmers present, looked for a different result.—The above is taken from the *Morning Chronicle*. In the *Times* report of the meeting the majority in favour of free trade is said to have been three to one.

## POLITICAL.

**THE MISCELLANEOUS ESTIMATES.**—We have received three more returns of the estimates, &c., of sums required for "miscellaneous services" for the year ending the 31st of March, 1845 (Nos. 4, 5, and 7). No. 4 contains the estimates under the head of "Education, science, and art." The sum total required for the ensuing year under this head amounts to 256,260*l.*, exhibiting an increase, compared with the year 1843, of 35,793*l.*, and one, compared with 1842, of 45,371*l.* Of this amount 40,000*l.* will be appropriated to public education in Great Britain, and 72,000*l.* to public education in Ireland; 4,411*l.* to schools of design; 5,188*l.* to the University of London; 7,380*l.* to universities, &c. in Scotland; 8,928*l.* to the Roman Catholic college in Ireland; 6,850*l.* to the Royal Dublin Society; 37,987*l.* to the British Museum establishment; 46,030*l.* to the Museum buildings, and 3,245*l.* to purchases; 1,500*l.* to the National Gallery; 7,235*l.* to scientific works and experiments; 1,500*l.* for monuments to Sir Sidney Smith, Lord Exmouth, and Lord De Saumarez, besides other items. No. 5 contains the estimates required under the head of "Colonial, consular, and other foreign services." The total amount demanded is 379,651*l.*, exhibiting a decrease, compared with 1843, of 46,961*l.*, and one, compared with 1842, of 33,034*l.* No. 7 contains the estimates for "especial and temporary objects." The sum total required under this head for the current year amounts to 85,927*l.*, exhibiting a decrease, compared with 1843, of 29,239*l.*, and the enormous decrease, compared with the year 1842, of 235,471*l.* The only items for this year are as follows:—viz., 5,000*l.* for the town land survey of Ireland, 2,997*l.* for the navigation of the river Shannon, 1,330*l.* for the British ambassador's residence in Paris, 10,000*l.* for the British ambassador's residence in Constantinople, 50,000*l.* for steam navigation to India, and 16,000*l.* for militia and volunteers in Canada. The dissolution of various public commissions, and the restoration of tranquillity in Canada and the east of Europe, &c., have mainly contributed to reduce these estimates.—*Times*.

**THE COST OF THE POOR.**—From returns just prepared for parliament respecting the amount expended for the relief and maintenance of the poor, &c., it appears that there are 590 unions in England and Wales, of which the population was 13,993,967. The average annual expenditure for the relief of the poor, three years prior to the union, was 5,608,934*l.* In 1841 the expenditure was 4,288,520*l.*; in 1842, 4,438,660*l.*; and in 1843, 4,679,495*l.* Under this head of expenditure are included the costs of maintenance, out-door relief, establishment charges with salaries, workhouse and emigration loans repaid, and other purposes immediately connected with the relief of the poor. The number of in-door and out-door paupers relieved in 1841, in England and Wales, was 1,116,523; in 1842, 1,235,437; and in 1843, 1,333,247. The number of illegitimate (in-door and out-door) relieved during the quarters ending Lady-day, 1841, was 29,123; in 1842, 29,357; and in 1843, 29,699. Thus the proportion of illegitimate children, in 1843, to every 1,000 of the total number of paupers relieved in that year, was 22·3; and the proportion of illegitimate children in the same to every 1,000 of the population was 2·1. This return is exclusive of places not united under the Poor Law Amendment Act. The above will show that the expenditure has been yearly increasing at the rate of about 6,000*l.* or 6,500*l.*, and the number of paupers from 100,000 to 120,000, while the number of illegitimate children increases annually at the ratio of about 300.

**ARISTOCRATIC TASTE.**—Sir Robert Peel, in a discussion in parliament relative to the admissibility of the British public to cathedrals and other works of art, observed, "he believed the damage which occurred was generally the work of the vulgar rich." In the *New Monthly* of this month, a remarkable instance of the correctness of the premier's deduction is to be found at page 541, in Lady Londonderry's Visit to the Courts of Vienna, &c.; she says, "Lord L. wrote our names on one of the columns in front of the entrance of the Parthenon, to be read, perhaps, in after years by our children and children's children." What immortality!—*Globe*.

**CAPTAIN ROUS ON HISTORY.**—There are clever fellows in the House of Commons, and, fortunately for them, there are others quite as clever in it to appreciate them. Thus Captain Rous, according to the newspaper reports of his speech in the Factory Debate, said—"We have heard to-night of a Jack Cade insurrection; but it would never have arisen if an unwarrantable power of interference had not been exercised in the case of Wat Tyler's daughter." The gallant captain's history may do for "the marines" or the country gentlemen and other wiseacres in the House of Commons, but other people have rather an obstinate idea that Jack Cade flourished in the reign of Henry the Sixth, while Wat Tyler and his daughter lived in the time of Richard the Second. How then, to transfer to our columns the delectable wagery which Sir Robert Peel borrowed second-hand from Mr C. Buller, *Mister Cade* could be the avenger of *Miss Tyler's* wrongs, it exceedeth our comprehension to fathom. But still, as the reminiscence passed muster in the House of Commons, it may, perhaps, be a breach of privilege on our part to call its accuracy in question.—*Liverpool Chronicle*.

**THE PEERAGE.**—The *Times* recommends Sir Frederick Pollock to refuse the accustomed offer of the peerage on being appointed chief baron:—"We have already enough of law lords; more than enough of law lords' sons. If judges go on accepting peerages at the rate they have done for the last fourteen or fifteen years, we shall have a respectable proportion of 'new peers' (as Lord Brougham, with patrician superciliousness, styles them) running about in a vain attempt to establish a settlement in St Clement's Danes, by proving an ancestral connexion with Old square or King's Bench walk."

**RESULT OF FREE TRADE—ITS JUSTICE.**—Some of them (the free-trade party) tell us that corn will be cheaper, others that it will not; some that rents will fall, others that they will rise; some that we shall import much more foreign corn, others that there is very little more foreign corn to import, and so on. We care little for these discordant predictions, and see a mean which reconciles them all. Commercial freedom is a high, a natural, and a safe principle, which does not require the aid of such calculations. Objectors, however, cavil, and so defenders come down to meet them, unnecessarily and dangerously. The ground of humanity and justice is sufficient.—*Times* of Wednesday.

FRENCH REVENUE.—The *Moniteur* publishes the following comparative table of the receipts of indirect taxes for the first three months of the present year, as compared with the corresponding period of 1843—

	1844.	1843.
	Francs.	Francs.
Registration dues, &c.	52,954,000	52,464,000
Stamps	9,913,000	9,642,000
Customs, navigation, &c.	1,342,000	1,413,000
French colonial sugars	9,253,000	9,280,000
Foreign sugars	1,770,000	1,391,000
Indigenous sugars	3,488,000	2,898,000
Salt dues (extraction)	2,889,000	2,039,000
Salt dues (consumption)	11,617,000	11,032,000
Potable liquors	21,559,000	22,503,000
Public carriages, and other indirect taxes	7,773,000	8,173,000
Tobacco sales	25,407,000	24,745,000
Gunpowder sales	1,112,000	1,034,000
Letters and duty on sending money	11,582,000	11,335,000
For passengers by the malles-postes	414,000	481,000
Ditto by mails and packets	200,000	211,000
Total	184,497,000	183,190,000

Showing an increase of 1,007,000f. Compared with the corresponding period of 1843, the augmentation is 7,647,000f.

### MISCELLANEA.

MASSACRE IN ONE OF THE SOUTH-SEA ISLANDS.—The details of another attack on an English whaler, and murderous slaughter of the whole crew, by the natives of one of the South-sea Islands, have just been received by the *Susser*, a whale ship belonging to Mr Lyall, M.P. for the city of London, under the command of Captain Hammer, which arrived in the river the day before yesterday, after an absence of four years and three months. The particulars disclose nothing calculated to throw light on the cause of the melancholy catastrophe.

LAW.—There is a celebrated reply of Mr Curran to a remark of Lord Clare, who curtly exclaimed at one of his legal positions, "Oh, if that be the law, Mr Curran, I may burn my law books!"—"Better read them, my lord," was the sarcastic and appropriate rejoinder.

THE MIND THE STANDARD OF MAN.—It was said by Charles XII of Sweden, that he who is ignorant of the arithmetical art was but half a man. With how much greater force may a similar expression be applied to him who carries to his grave the neglected and unprofitable seeds of faculties, which it depended upon himself to have reared to maturity, and of which the fruits bring accessions to human happiness—more precious than all the gratifications which power or wealth can command.—*Dr Reid*.

REGISTRY OF MERCHANT SEAMEN.—The Admiralty having accomplished the most laborious, responsible, and difficult task of perfecting the new naval regulations, have now commenced an investigation of the merchant seamen registry, with a view to make such alterations and arrangements as its present useless state urgently demands.

NEVER DESPOND.—Hope awakens courage, while despondency is the last of all evils; it is the abandonment of good, the giving up of the battle of life with dead nothingness. He who can implant courage in the human soul is its best physician.—*Von Kenebel*.

USE OF SOAP.—A printed statement, relating to the soap duties, prepared by direction of a general meeting of the soap manufacturers of England, held at the London Tavern on the 13th of March last, contains some striking statistical facts, tending to show the impolicy of the excise duties on this article of general consumption:—

"In 1843 the net home consumption, according to the Excise Returns, was . . . . .	136,344,811 lbs.
"In 1841 the population was . . . . .	18,526,925
Add 2 per cent., $1\frac{1}{2}$ years increase . . . . .	370,538

Total population in 1844 . . . . .	18,897,463
at 7.21 lbs. per head is . . . . .	136,250,708 lbs.

"This is the largest quantity ever brought to charge. It is 11 per cent. above the average of the three preceding years, and 13.5 per cent. above the average of the years 1837, 1838, and 1839.

"The following statements of the quantity of soap used by different classes of society, derived from authentic sources, it is believed, may be relied on:—

"1. The average consumption per head in workhouses is, for each inmate, per annum, 7 lbs.

"2. Convicts are allowed each, per annum, 11 lbs.

"3. All estimates of the expenditure of the poor agricultural population allow for families earning 10s. per week and under, each, per annum, 4 lbs. (Or  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. per week for a family of five or six persons.)

"4. Extensive inquiries prove that labourers earning from 10s. to 30s. per week, use each, per annum, 10 or 12 lbs.

"5. Shopkeepers and tradesmen, per annum, 12 to 15 lbs.

"6. And the wealthier classes, from, per annum, 15 to 30 lbs.

"By dividing the population into three classes, and assuming the minimum quantities as the consumption of each class, an estimate of the actual quantity of soap used may be formed:—

1. Agricultural labourers and others, earning 10s. per week and under, whose consumption, estimated at only  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. per week for a family of six; or 4 lb. each per annum . . . . . 7,500,000 at 4 lbs.=30,000,000 lbs.

2. Well-paid workmen and small shopkeepers, allowed for each member of the family 10 lbs. per annum . . . . . 7,500,000 at 10 lbs.=75,000,000 lbs.

3. All the middle and upper classes allowed for each person 15 lbs. . . . . 3,897,463 at 15 lbs.=58,461,945 lbs.

Census 1841, and 2 per cent. for increase since that time . . . . . 18,897,463

Actual quantity charged with duty by the Excise . . . . . 136,344,811 lbs.

Unaccounted for, either displaced by substitutes paying no duty, or by illicit trade . . . . . 27,117,134 lbs.

"This estimate, though evidently far under the real consumption, proves there is still a large amount of illicit trade; and there can be no doubt but that by reducing the price of soap to 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. or 3d. per lb., the quantity used would materially increase."

## The Economist.

APRIL 20, 1844.

### COMMERCIAL.

FRIDAY EVENING.—We have advices from Buenos Ayres, by way of Liverpool, up to the 10th of February. The exchange on London was then 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. There were 39 British vessels, and 86 vessels belonging to other countries, in port. The accounts are of rather a conflicting kind, and in some respects at direct variance with those recently received from Monte Video. It is said that Rivera had been defeated, and the garrison had fallen into considerable confusion. Desertions both of officers and men, to the army of Oribe, had been numerous. The foreign accounts during this week generally have been uninteresting and unimportant.

Considerable excitement has prevailed in the city in consequence of the sudden depression in the funds. Consols, which opened this morning at 99 $\frac{1}{2}$  to 99 $\frac{3}{4}$ , fell before twelve o'clock to 99 $\frac{1}{4}$ ; they rallied, however, to 99 $\frac{3}{4}$  by half-past two. Bank stock has been depressed to 197 and 195 $\frac{1}{2}$ ; and India stock to 291 $\frac{1}{2}$  and 290. For this sudden reaction in the public securities there has not been any very satisfactory reason assigned. Rumours were prevalent that the Government had ordered more troops to Ireland; but the most general reason assigned has been, considerable sales on the part of Scotch and other banks, in anticipation of the funds being influenced by the disclosure of the views of the Government with respect to the Bank charter, which Sir R. Peel stated last night would be made on Tuesday, the 30th instant. We do not believe, however, that anything has transpired regarding the intentions of the Government on this subject definitely to induce these operations, beyond a belief which has gained ground within the last few days that some decided step will be taken in giving a more distinct recognition on the part of the Government to some one of the many theories which are at present advocated with regard to the principles of banking. But to what views the Government will incline we believe there is nothing known; and we therefore do not look upon this reaction in the funds as anything more than exhibiting a certain amount of precaution on the part of capitalists to be prepared for whatever proposal may be made. We cannot however suppose, whatever the change may be, that it will take effect so suddenly as materially to change the value of the public securities. The effects of such changes are usually felt much more by anticipation than when they actually occur.

In foreign and colonial produce, the markets have been particularly dull during the week. Such is the feeling of uncertainty as to what changes Ministers intend to propose when they bring forward the Budget on the 29th inst., that all parties appear disposed to remain quiet till they are known. Such, however, is the deficient supply and stock of West India sugar, that sales have been made for immediate and pressing necessity at 1s. per cwt. higher. With the exception of the year 1840, there was, perhaps, never a time when West India sugars of good qualities were so scarce. To such an extent has this dulness seized the market, that at a sale of British Plantation coffee this day, not an offer was made, though there is no reason to expect that any alteration will be proposed in the coffee duties. Such rumours, no doubt, have existed, but when it is considered that a change so recently was made when the new tariff was framed, we feel assured that another change so soon is not to be expected from the present Cabinet.

The WOOL SALES commenced on Wednesday, and up to this evening about 4,500 bags have been disposed of, at prices quite equal to those of the last sales in February; the Australian wools have sold with great spirit at 1s. 3d. to 1s. 9 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per lb. They are not expected to conclude till next Tuesday, and the whole quantity which will then be offered will, it is expected, exceed 6,000 bales, consisting of Australian, Spanish, East Indian, Buenos Ayrean, and Barbary. In the private wool trade, as is usually the case while these sales are in progress, there has been more business done during the week, particularly in Germans. The English wool market continues very flat, at a reduction of at least 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. from the highest point. Stocks are said to be still large in the dealers' hands, but comparatively light with the growers. The consumption is admitted on all hands to be very large, and without any symptoms of diminution. The advance in English wools was rapid, and out of proportion to the other sorts, and the re-action has not done more than reduce them to their proper level.

While we have every confidence in the present value of wool being maintained, and would rather be disposed to expect an improvement than otherwise, and especially if we were to look to the comparatively reduced imports of foreign wool as compared with those of 1836 and 1838; yet one important change must never be lost sight of, and that is, in the great extent to which cotton has of late, and continues to be, in increasing quantities, used as a substitute for wool. The large supply and low price of this staple, and the great improvements in the process of manufacture, whereby it is now mixed with sheep's wool in a great variety of fine as well as coarse goods, have tended considerably to lessen the consumption of the latter. But for this cause, with the amount of business which has been done in the woollen districts during the last year, with the comparatively moderate



imports of foreign wools, the price would now have been considerably higher. This, however, is a source of congratulation rather than otherwise to the manufacturing and working classes, for this cheapness has had a great deal to do with the revival of trade in this branch.

The aspect of business in the manufacturing districts, as well as in the country generally, continues satisfactory; and in the iron districts there is considerable activity. The trade of Birmingham has also of late participated more in the general improvement than it has hitherto done.

#### RAILWAY AND SHARE MARKET.

During this week there has been a slight tendency to a reaction in the price of some of the leading railways, and particularly those passing through the Midland Counties to the north. The Midland Counties, the Birmingham and Derby, the North and Midland, and the York and North Midland, have all experienced a slight depression. It is very difficult to assign any cause for this reaction, for there are no more profitable means of investment offering; but, as is usually the case when such fluctuations take place without any apparent reason, men easily frame some, however preposterous; and on this occasion a reason has been given that it is in contemplation to make a line direct from Islington to York. We only mention this to show how difficult it has been to account for this reaction. The York and North Midland, one of the most favourite lines, has been especially flat.

The Great Western has somewhat improved, owing to a proposal having been made to take a line from it through South Wales to Fishguard, to communicate with Ireland. This reason has caused a depression in the London and Birmingham.

The Eastern Counties continue in great demand, at a further improvement in price. To-day, however, they are a shade flatter.

In the House of Commons, last night, on the motion that the order of the day for the further consideration of the North British Railway bill being made, it was objected to by Mr Lockhart, on the ground that the Government commission had recommended another line. It was supported by Mr P. M. Stewart and by Mr Gladstone, on the ground that though not the line recommended by the commissioners, yet nothing had been said or done to show that there might not be more than one line. And it was clearly understood that, though that line is passed, it will not be allowed to interfere with the central line from Carlisle, the "Caledonian." In consequence the shares in this line have to-day been somewhat better.

The French lines suffered a reaction in the early part of the week, from the reported illness of Louis Philippe. They have since partially recovered.

In bank and other shares business is steady, without any change to notice.

#### POLITICAL.

The House of Lords has had sittings on Tuesday and Thursday during the week. On the latter occasion Lord Campbell, who bids fair to become one of the most useful members of his order, being now as industrious in promoting public improvements as he is understood to have been in times past in his own private affairs, laid on their lordships' table a bill to enable English creditors to sue their English debtors who may have removed to foreign parts. His lordship referred to some returns made by the French authorities, showing the number of British subjects resident in France on the 1st of January, 1841. In Paris 25,000 persons of that class were resident, in Rouen 5,000, in Marseilles 2,500, in Dieppe 5,000, and in Boulogne 7,000. There were, it appeared, altogether a total of 66,000 British subjects residing in France, while as many as 50,000 were generally in that country travelling or for temporary purposes. He said he might mention also that the amount of the expenditure of English residents in France was as great as 5,000,000*l.* annually; and while disclaiming the intention of reflecting on "the many respectable men with their families settled in France," he said that a very considerable portion of the English resident there were persons who had left this country to be enabled to set their creditors at defiance. So far as his lordship may succeed in bringing these parties within the pale of English law, he will be doing a service to the community.

In the House of Commons, on Monday, the miscellaneous estimates continued to be diligently proceeded with. The occasion of voting 53,000*l.* to defray the expenses of the Poor-law Commissioners gave rise to a smart attack on that body from Colonel Sibthorp; but even that distinguished gentleman failed to make any impression. Mr W. Williams made an attempt to strike off from an Irish vote the sum of 1,574*l.* for Queen's plates to be run for in Ireland, as being an encouragement to gambling and immorality. Sir F. Trench said the money was not given for the encouragement of gambling, but to improve the breed of horses; and Colonel Sibthorp affirmed that there was quite as much gambling in railway shares as on the turf. Mr Williams very properly divided the house on this item of expenditure, which, though small, is not the less discredit to those who voted it. The majority in favour of continuing it numbered 45; the minority for its discontinuance, 18.

Tuesday's sitting would deserve to be noticed if only for the repetition by Mr Hume of his praiseworthy and long-continued

efforts in the way of raising the standard of popular taste and feeling by proposing to pledge the house to give effect to a recommendation of the committee of 1841 upon national monuments, that the public should be admitted more freely into cathedrals. The motion was withdrawn,—but not without the expression of a concurrence of opinion on the part of Sir Robert Peel and other members in favour of the object of the motion, Sir Robert Inglis standing alone in his defence of the existing practice.—On the same night Mr Wyse moved for a return of the names, places of birth, and present place of residence of all persons holding offices in the Customs, Excise, and Post-office departments, his object being to show that Irishmen do not get a fair share of Government appointments. Sir Robert Peel said they *did* get a fair share, but declined furnishing the returns asked for, which was no very cogent proof of the truth of his assertion.—Sir Andrew Leith Hay moved an address to the Crown, praying for some honorary distinction (he named a medal), to be bestowed on the surviving officers of the Peninsular war; but Sir Henry Hardinge said that if they were to give medals to those officers they would soon be asked to give medals to others; and whether he thought that this would lead to too great an expenditure of precious metal, or was actuated by any other motive, he opposed the motion, and it was withdrawn.—Lord Ebrington moved for some returns, with a view to repel the charge brought a short time back, by Sir James Graham, against the Irish administration of his noble father (Earl Fortescue), which led to a long discussion, in which Sir James Graham seemed to be convicted of having rashly brought that charge forward, specifying particulars in regard to the appointment of magistrates which were not borne out by fact. The return was ordered.

On Wednesday night there was no sitting.

On Thursday Sir James Graham informed the house as to the course to be taken with the factories bill. The second reading is to be moved on Monday, and he proposes to go into committee with it on Friday next. At the same time Lord Ashley announced his intention to move his amendments on the factory bill, not in the committee, but by way of additional clauses on the third reading. What he meant to propose was, that the period of daily labour for young persons should be eleven hours a day until the 1st of October, 1847, and ten hours from that time forth. The *Times* is severe on his lordship for proposing to take this course, more than insinuates that he is becoming faithless to the cause he has taken in hand, and with excellent effect points out the absurdity of delaying the promised boon, if it is one, for three years and a half to come.

"A ten-hours clause," he says, "is to be actually proposed; but not the ten-hours clause before the house last month. It is to be eleven hours till October 1, 1847, that is, for three years and a half; after which it is to be ten hours! Why is the clause to have so long a minority? Why not let it come of age all at once? Is it out of regard to the vested interests of the women and young persons,—that vested right to overwork themselves, and kill themselves, which Colonel Thompson talks of? Is it because the women and young persons of this present year, 1844, are more used to it, as they say of eels under the process of skinning, than the same classes of 1847 will be? Perhaps it is because too much rest, too much liberty, all at once might ruin them. Surely, what will be right for body and soul in the year 1847 would be right now. It is contemptible to do ourselves what we tell our possible successors three years hence it will be wrong for them to do. Why insert the gift in our last will and testament when we can just as easily give it out of our pockets on the spot?"

This new proposal of Lord Ashley's will not add anything to his fame for a bright understanding, or even sensitive feelings; but if those who voted with him before stand true, his motion cannot but embarrass Ministers.

Mr Milner Gibson had the credit, on the same evening, of proposing an address to the Crown, to adopt means for obtaining agricultural statistics, a subject of equal importance to all parties, and on which we are all, from necessity, almost equally ignorant. The motion, though withdrawn, has not been ineffective, for, from what fell from Mr Gladstone, it is evident that Government only wants the power conveniently of at once setting about obtaining the desired information; and no doubt means will soon be found adequate to the purpose.

The short-hour agitation proceeds in the North and in the *Times*. By way of amalgamating forces Mr Walter has taken a trip down to Manchester, where he met Mr Fielden, Mr Ferrand, and Mr Oastler, and there was "a great meeting" held then and there. What ministry can withstand this?

We have given some account of the numerous meetings held in the provinces, not on account of those who have convened them, certainly, nor the value of the views promulgated. But meetings attended by thousands must always have some importance in a free country. On that account we notice them. Nor are we wholly displeased with the tone of the agitation, ridiculous as, in many respects, it is. Mr Ferrand and Mr Oastler call themselves Tories; but they mistake; they are demagogues and democrats. Like greater men who have gone before them in that line, they tend so far to mislead the people; but great faith is to be placed in the *self-corrective* power of all popular errors. Bringing the people together and offering them materials for thinking, even such as they have to offer, does good, and little time will show the manufacturing operatives the delusion under which they now labour, whether Lord Ashley's proposal shall succeed or, as is more likely, be defeated.

Mr O'Connell, by the latest advices, still remained "at large;" nor is there any likelihood of the old gentleman being put so soon in prison as was at one time anticipated, if he goes at all. The Dublin correspondent of the *Morning Chronicle* says it has been determined that, pending the trial of the writ of error, the "convicted" will not be incarcerated. If they were so, it would only be an additional stultification of themselves, and mockery of justice, of which there have been already so many exhibitions during the progress of these trials, by those who have conducted them. A few days will probably determine the point.

We understand that the honourable member for Wolverhampton will bring forward his motion for a repeal of the corn laws about the same time as last year.

### COURT AND ARISTOCRACY.

Her Majesty, on Tuesday, accompanied by Prince Albert, the Queen of the Belgians, the Prince of Leiningen, the Prince of Wales, the Princess Royal, and the Princess Alice, left Windsor Castle and proceeded to Buckingham Palace, where they arrived at half-past four.

The Queen held a Court and Privy Council on Wednesday afternoon at Buckingham Palace, when Sir Frederick Pollock, Knt., Lord Chief Baron of her Majesty's Court of Exchequer, and John Hope, Esq., Lord Justice Clerk of Scotland, were sworn of her Majesty's most hon. Privy Council, and took their places at the board.

The Queen held a drawing room, the second this season, on Thursday afternoon, at St James's Palace. Her Majesty's Honourable Corps of Gentlemen at Arms were on duty in the state rooms, commanded by their standard bearer, Mr Henry Robinson. The attendance was not numerous.

The American dwarf, "General Tom Thumb," attended yesterday at Marlborough House, the residence of the Queen Dowager, for the second time. The Duchess of Gloucester and the Duke of Cambridge were also present. Her Majesty presented the General with a very beautiful gold watch, which was manufactured by command of the Queen Dowager, and is of the smallest size. The General gave several songs and dances.

**THE LORD CHANCELLOR'S DEJEUNER.**—Monday being the first day of Easter term, agreeably to ancient custom the Lord Chancellor gave a breakfast to the several judges, at his private residence, George street, Hanover square. Lord Denman, Lord Chief Justice of the Queen's Bench; Lord Langdale, Master of the Rolls; Sir L. Shadwell, Vice-Chancellor of England; Sir N. C. Tindal, Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas; Baron Parke, Baron Alderson, Mr Justice Patteson, Mr Justice Coleridge, Mr Justice Coltman, Mr Justice Erskine, Baron Rolfe, Mr Justice Wightman, and Mr Justice Cresswell, were the judges present. There was a numerous party of the different learned personages connected with the several minor courts; and also Queen's counsel present, among whom may be named Sir Frederick Pollock, who attended for the last time in the official capacity of Attorney-General; Sergeants Andrews, Storks, Atcherley, and Talford; Messrs Thesiger (the new Solicitor-General), Wakefield, J. Miller, G. Spence, T. Kindersley, T. J. Platt, R. Alexander, T. Starkie, C. T. Swanston, J. Stuart, Bethell, Godson, W. Whatley, and Hon. James Stuart Wortley; Mr Commissioner Barlow; Masters in Chancery—Farrer, Wingfield, Sir Giffin Wilson, Senior, and Lynch; Hon. Sir George Rose; Messrs Turner, Armstrong, Wilbraham, Koe, Teed, Walker, Parker, Russell, Anderton, Romilly, &c. Sir William Follett was unavoidably absent.

### THE METROPOLIS.

**THE NEW CHIEF BARON OF THE EXCHEQUER.**—Sir Frederick Pollock was on Monday sworn in a sergeant at law, and having proceeded to the Common Pleas, and having gone through the usual ceremonies there as sergeant, returned to the Lord Chancellor's room, and was sworn in as Lord Chief Baron, the Queen's Remembrancer having administered the oath of office, and the clerk of the Crown the oath of allegiance, &c. The Lord Chief Baron did not take his seat in the Court of Exchequer during the day. The Court of Common Pleas was crowded on Sir F. Pollock's entrance; and in the course of his progress through the courts the learned gentleman received the congratulations of his friends.

**THE METROPOLITAN POLICE.**—At the Surrey sessions, when the grand jury came into court, the foreman said they could not part without complimenting the police on the clearness and precision with which they gave their evidence; and the chairman remarked that the bench was well aware of their valuable services.

**NEW COAL TAX.—PROPOSED EMBANKMENT OF THE THAMES.**—A public meeting was held at the Crown and Anchor on Tuesday, for the purpose of taking measures to oppose the proposed tax upon coals for the purpose of defraying the expense of the embankment of the Thames. The following noblemen and gentlemen were on the platform:—John Masterman, Esq., M.P., Captain Rous, M.P., Colonel Wood, M.P., Benjamin Hawes, Esq., M.P., Wm. Ord, Esq., M.P., Lord H. Vane, M.P., Sir Charles Napier, M.P., David Barclay, Esq., M.P., Matthew Foster, Esq., Wm. Bateman, Esq. (deputy chairman of the chartered gas company), N. Pontifex, Esq., W. Christie, Esq., M.P., and gentlemen connected with and interested in the coal trade. The secretary read letters from the following gentlemen opposed to the proposed tax, who, from various circumstances, were unable to be present at the meeting:—Lord Howick, Mr Pattison, M.P., Mr Lyall, M.P., Mr Duncombe, M.P., Mr Antrobus, &c. &c. Mr Masterman, M.P., having been placed in the chair, various resolutions were proposed and carried, the speakers all dwelling upon the impolicy and injustice of the tax. A petition, embodying the sentiments of the meeting, was agreed to, to be presented to the House of Commons by the chairman, and the co-operation of the metropolitan members was requested to support the prayer,

and a deputation, consisting of the members of parliament present, were requested to wait upon Sir Robert Peel on the subject. The resolution was carried unanimously. A vote of thanks was passed to the chairman for his able conduct in the chair, and the meeting separated.

**NEW CHARITY.—CLEANSING THE STREETS.**—On Wednesday a deputation from the committee for promoting the greatest attainable cleansing in the public thoroughfares, courts, and alleys of the metropolis, waited upon the right hon. the Lord Mayor, upon the subject of calling a meeting in the city for the furtherance of the purposes for which the noblemen and gentlemen of whom the committee is formed have frequently assembled at the west end of the town. Lord Ranelagh, Sir J. Hamilton, Mr Cochrane, and others, were the gentlemen composing the deputation. Mr Cochrane was spokesman. He said they proposed keeping the streets free from mud and dust, according to an experiment which had been most successfully tried in Regent street and Oxford street, and expressed the persuasion of the committee that as his lordship's efforts had already considerably improved the streets of London as to cleanliness, he would most readily aid in a plan for more completely carrying out the intentions he had expressed at the commencement of his mayoralty. The cleanliness of the thoroughfares would, it was needless to say, lead to the moral, healthful, and, as the Bishop of London had stated, to the spiritual improvement of the people. Hundreds and thousands of able-bodied labourers would thus be employed, the pauper be converted into an independent workman, and the great losses to which shopkeepers were now subjected from the masses of mud and dust would be immensely diminished by a comparatively insignificant outlay. The shopkeepers of the two great thoroughfares at the west end to which he had alluded embraced with delight the proposition, and the efficacy of it far exceeded their expectations. To obtain the co-operation of the authorities of the city of London to an object so advantageous to the community would, of course, be the most desirable of all things, and the committee would most willingly guarantee the payment of the expenses of the experiment if it should be found not to meet with the approbation of those who were best qualified to judge. The cleansing of the streets of the city cost, according to the statement of the clerk to the Commissioners of Sewers, about 4,000*l.* a year, and the plan the committee recommended would, he said, with all its advantages, cost no more than from 2,000*l.* to 4,000*l.* more than that sum. The Lord Mayor agreed with the committee that the subject was one which deserved the most attentive consideration, and added that he should with the greatest pleasure do all in his power to remedy the evil which produced such injurious consequences, by joining in the views of the committee, or by any other course likely to be beneficial. The Lord Mayor said that in his opinion the most advisable course would be that he should communicate with the chairman of the Commissioners of Sewers of the city upon the subject of making an experiment on the plan adopted in Regent street and Oxford street, and, after the experiment should be made, if it should be found to be successful, that he should call a public meeting with the view of carrying it generally into effect all over the city. The suggestion was thankfully adopted by the deputation, and they retired.

**PROTECTION OF PUBLIC EDIFICES FROM THE RAVAGES OF FIRE.**—In consequence of the immense destruction of public property during the last few years by fire, government has determined upon the adoption of some safeguard, so as to prevent similar calamities as far as possible in future; and in the event of an outbreak occurring in any of the establishments under control of the officers of the crown, it is in contemplation, we are informed, to have supplies of water always ready, and to spare no reasonable outlay so as to secure this desirable object. Preliminary steps have already been taken. In the Record Department Office of the Exchequer of Pleas, Carlton ride, a night watch by practical firemen is constantly kept up; no fires, nor any light, except the necessary lamps to light the avenues, is upon any pretence whatever permitted upon the premises between the hours of four, p.m., and eight the following morning. On Friday last experiments were made at the British Museum, with the view of flanking every side of that establishment with mains which, when fully charged, are intended to yield, not merely an instantaneous and an abundant supply of water, but to discharge the volume with so much force, that a continual stream may be poured upon any part of the building at the shortest possible notice. At the Hospital, Greenwich, some hundreds of labourers, mechanics, and others, are now employed in carrying out arrangements similar to those suggested in the case of the British Museum.

**THE ART-UNION OF LONDON** has been declared an illegal body by the Lords of Treasury, in consequence of their "chance distribution of prizes." The annual meeting of the society has in consequence been postponed. Many members of the government and of the legal profession are subscribers to its funds, which are just now upwards of 14,000*l.*

**TERRIFIC FIRE AND RUMOURD LOSS OF LIFE.**—On Friday morning a fire, which for terrific fury has not had its parallel in the metropolis for some time, broke out in the extensive feather and bedding manufactory belonging to Messrs Blakely and Thomas, feather merchants and importers, Bishopsgate street without. The manufactory is a large brick building, a hundred feet square, is situate a few yards from the front of Bishopsgate street on the east, and Sun street on the north. The house consisted of seven floors, and contained several hundreds of tons of feathers, furniture, &c. The whole has been consumed, and one poor fellow has been burned to death in the flames.

**CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT.—WILL FORGERIES.**—On Monday the first part of this tedious case was brought to a close by the jury finding a verdict of acquittal as to Barber, and guilty against Fletcher and Mrs Dorey. The second part of the trial, consisting of charges against Barber, Fletcher, Mrs Dorey, William Sanders, and Lydia Sanders, his wife, that they had forged a will purporting to be a will of Anne Slack, for the amount of 3,500*l.* in the three per cent. stocks, was brought on. The judges were Mr Justice Williams and Mr Justice Maule. Barber was charged as the principal, and the others as the accessories. Mr Erle addressed the jury for the prosecution in a lengthened address, and the whole of the remainder of the sittings of the court was taken up with the examination of witnesses. On Wednesday the case for the prosecution closed. Thursday was occupied with the defences. For a notice of the summing up and verdict we refer to our Postscript.



**NEW COURT.**—The trial of Read, for instigating the destruction of an insured vessel at sea, belonging to the port of Ipswich, which came on at the New Court, on Thursday, has ended in his acquittal, and Simpson, the master, who acknowledged having accomplished the destruction of the vessel, and attempting, as it appears, out of revenge for some supposed injury done him by Read, to implicate him in the transaction, has been sentenced to be transported for life.

### THE PROVINCES.

**WOODSTOCK ELECTION.**—The Marquis of Blandford has addressed the electors of New Woodstock. He solicits their votes as a friend to the general measures of the present government. In his address he states his determined hostility to Whigs, Radicals, and Destructives.

**HUNTINGDON ELECTION.**—Mr Thomas Baring, the unsuccessful opponent of Mr Pattison in the recent city of London contest, is the government candidate for Huntingdon.

**EXETER ELECTION.**—General Bridges has appeared to contest this borough on free-trade principles in opposition to Sir W. Follett. Success is not anticipated, though the contest will lead to excitement and discussion, which are the sure precursors of enlightenment. Sir W. Follett's bad health, it is thought, will prevent him from appearing during the contest.

**STATE OF THE COLLIERY DISTRICTS.**—The pitmen of this and the adjoining counties continue their "strike;" and no advances towards an amicable arrangement have yet been made by the employers or the employed. Yesterday (Monday) a troop of the 8th Hussars, under the command of Captain Desales, and a company of the 37th regiment, marched from this town to the city of Durham, as a more central point, should their services be required. This arrangement is in consequence of an application from the magistrates of the county of Durham, who have found the rural police insufficient to quell the disturbances which occurred during the past week. At Garmondsway-moor colliery, on Wednesday last, some men who were working were attacked and shamefully beaten, as also three policemen, by a party belonging to the strike. An occurrence, almost similar, took place at Brancepeth-park colliery, at Kelloe, and, on Thursday, at Thornley colliery, to which place Major Wemyss despatched all his disposable force. A large meeting of the colliers of the Wear took place yesterday at Pitlington hill; there were about 10,000 present, and resolutions were passed similar to those at the great meeting on the Black Fell, reported in our last. District meetings have also been held in various parts of Northumberland, at the whole of which the leaders exhorted the men to conduct themselves peaceably and orderly, and that all who acted otherwise should be declared the enemies of the association. A general delegate meeting is proposed to be held at Durham on the 23rd instant, at ten o'clock in the forenoon; and from all we can learn there seems little prospect of any compromise being speedily effected.—*Tyne Mercury.*

**CREPULITY IN YORKSHIRE.**—In the villages around Wakefield, for some time past, many of the poorer inhabitants have firmly believed in some vague prophecy that the world was to have been at an end on last (Good) Friday. As an instance of this, a man residing at Lee-fair, a week or two since, actually killed two pigs, his property, and distributed the pork amongst his neighbours, in order that they might "eat and be merry" before they died!—*Wakefield Journal.*

**JAMES HORROCKS, WHOSE FATHER LIVED IN THE TIME OF OLIVER CROMWELL.**—Since we published the singular and interesting particulars connected with the family history of this venerable old man, he has been visited by gentlemen from all parts of the country. On the 25th of March (allowing for the alteration of style), he attained his hundredth year, when about 20 of his grand-children dined with him, and the old man was much delighted with the family party. He has become much enfeebled within the last six months, but is at times remarkably cheerful and fond of company. When we visited him the other day, he stated that since we "put him into the paper" a great deal of the great folks had been to see him. He said he had lords and squires, and members of parliament, and persons of all sorts, and among the rest one of the "everlasting saints." When told that the sect were called latter-day saints, he laughed heartily at his mistake. We understood that a gentleman visited him lately from Manchester, with an artist, who took a sketch of the old man, and promised to send a copy of it to his family.—*Manchester Guardian.*

**FUNERAL OF THE LATE LORD ABINGER.**—This mournful ceremony took place on Sunday morning, at the small village of Abinger, about four miles from Dorking, in Surrey. The coffin was extremely handsome, the outer case being of the finest Spanish mahogany, covered with black velvet, and surmounted by a massive gilt plate bearing the following inscription, under deceased's coat of arms, which were elaborately engraven thereon:—"The Right Hon. James, First Lord Abinger, Chief Baron of her Majesty's Court of Exchequer, died April 7, 1844. Aged 75 years."

**YORK.**—The unfortunate man Lowther, condemned to be executed for the murder of Lord Normanby's gamekeeper, has received a week's respite, and it is supposed eventually will have his punishment transmuted into banishment for life.

### THE SHORT-HOUR AGITATION.

On Tuesday evening the scene of agitation became Bolton. A large room, capable of holding 2,000, and admission to a part of which was charged sixpence, was filled to overflowing, and many could not get in. A Mr John Moor, a surgeon, was in the chair, who, in opening the proceedings, observed, that he had for many years practised amongst them, and the result of his practice had confirmed him in the opinion that the factory system, as at present conducted, was most injurious to the constitutions of those engaged in the mills. It was therefore his duty, as a lover of his fellow-townspersons in the lower ranks of life, to step forward and assist in obtaining for the women and children a limitation in the hours of labour, and encourage the noble efforts of Lord Ashley, Mr Oastler, Mr Ferrand, and other friends who were zealous in the cause. It was to him, as he was sure it must be to all engaged in the good

work, a pleasing task to advocate the cause of humanity. Both justice and the dictates of human nature equally demanded his support, and he was there that night to tell the world that unless something was done to improve the condition of the factory workers, the rising generations in the manufacturing districts would be debilitated more than the present, and so degeneration would go on until the human species would be everything but extinguished. As a medical man of forty years' standing in the town of Bolton, he had no hesitation in making this declaration. The ravages which, in his capacity as surgeon, he had witnessed from scrofula and other diseases consequent upon confinement in the mills had been so disastrous, that he did not hesitate to say that if the system of confinement in the mills for so long a period each day was continued much longer, there would be but few engaged in factory labour who would escape deformity. In many cases which came under his own knowledge inflammation of the feet and legs ensued, which had to be followed by amputation. From these and many other considerations he was decidedly of opinion that ten hours' labour in factories was even more than could be endured without injury to the human constitution. He would therefore most heartily lend his aid in bringing about the limitation of factory labour to ten hours a day. (Cheers.) Two clergymen, Messrs Ruthven and Lyons, were the principal speakers, with the exception of Mr Oastler. In this gentleman's speech, reported (as all these meetings are) in the *Times* at great length, we find him saying to the workmen—"Are you, the factory operatives of Bolton, wishful for the enactment of the ten-hours bill? (Loud cheers, and cries of 'We are.') Let us have no mistake about it. No doubt there are many of your employers here. I am not about to deceive you. Some people assert that if the hours of labour are reduced to ten the wages will be reduced. Are you prepared, even if there should be a reduction of wages, to require the ten-hours bill? (Loud cheers, and unanimous cries of 'Yes, yes.') Then the question is fairly put and fairly answered. (Cheers.) Let no man, then, in the House of Commons hereafter get up and say that the factory operatives of Bolton were not for the ten-hours bill. If any man did so he would be most egregiously mistaken. (Cheers.)" Mr Oastler thinks this business will put an end to Sir Robert Peel's ministry.—"No man laboured longer or harder than he did to oust the Whigs, because they would not give them the ten-hours bill; and, consequently, whatever labour he expended against the political opponents of the present ministry tended indirectly, but effectually, to place the latter in office. And he had no hesitation in saying, that if it had not been for the power of public opinion in the manufacturing districts with respect to this very bill,—if it had not been for the hope inspired in the minds of the people that a change in the government would give them a ten-hours bill, he was as certain as he could be of any proposition, that the present government would not have existed as a cabinet. (Cheers.) Well, then, having had some hand in lifting the present men into place, and having no wish whatever to put them out of place, feeling rather a strong desire that they should do what good they could while they had the opportunity, he thought himself perhaps the most likely man in England to give them good advice. (Cheers.) They were aware, that although when they first began to talk in public about the sufferings of the factory children, because he happened to be a Tory, and a strong Tory as ever was, it was said by their opponents that he was employed by the Tories to make a stir in the country about the factory children in order to get rid of the Whigs. But he knew, and they all knew, he had no such object. He never made a party question of the factory bill (cheers)—he had always united heart and hand with men of every party that would give him their assistance to relieve the poor slaves of the factory system. (Cheers.) But he was sorry to say it was true that Sir R. Peel had made this a party question, and, having done so, compelled him to take a position in direct antagonism to him. (Cheers.) The prime minister had declared that by his factory bill of twelve hours a day he would stand or fall, and he wished him to know that when Sir R. Peel made that declaration he had dug his own political grave. (Loud and continued cheers.) . . . Sir R. Peel, as he walked out of the House of Commons after the majority on the ten-hours factory question, said to a friend of his, 'It was the Christian feeling of the house that has defeated us.' (Cheers.) The Christian feeling of the house defeat a constitutional minister! (loud cheering)—the Christian feeling of the house defeat a church and Queen Tory—the Christian feeling of the house drive a minister into infidelity! (Cheers.) The moment he heard that, he knew that God had forsaken that ministry (cheers)—he knew that God would not prosper any ministry that would acknowledge its defeat had been in consequence of the Christian principle of the House of Commons (loud cheers); and, as they preferred infidelity to Christianity, in order to secure their commercial and political ends, he took his stand deliberately and resolutely against them." The Rev. Mr Lyons was for women being taken out of the mills altogether, and seemed to think Sir James Graham the cause of much of their misery. "He would say, take these females from the mills entirely: let the men of England go to work, and give them a full and fair day's wages for their services, and let the women stay at home to take care of their children, and bring them up in the fear of God, and as good and useful members of society. (Hear, hear.) Of late years governments have been made of 'squeezeable' materials, and, unless the country cries out for any measure of justice which they are entitled to, the governors say, 'the people are fully satisfied: they are contented, and don't want it.' Now, this is a doctrine preached by those whose duty it is to guard and protect the poor, but a most dangerous doctrine to promulgate. If some of them were here confined a few days or weeks in the weaving sheds, they would soon learn that the people wanted the ten-hours bill. But Sir James Graham says, 'If you squeeze me too hard I will slip out of your fingers.' Well, be it so: were there not men of equal intelligence? were there not men vastly his superiors in intellect, and above all, immeasurably before him in straightforward consistency and statesmanlike conduct?" (Cheers.) Has it then come to this—that we are to have a demoralized and degraded population as a price for the services of Sir James Graham? We are not so fond of him. No; we would rather see the moral condition of the working classes improved, and the domestic comforts of a moral and religious family, than the existence of all the ministries of the world. (Hear,

hear) This is a question of humanity and of religion, and let us but bring the power of the church of England to bear upon the government and there is no government in the world can stand against her influence." After a few words of advice to the working classes as to the best means of occupying the relaxation of time sought by the adoption of the ten-hours bill, the rev. gentleman concluded by moving the adoption of the petition, which, having been seconded by a working man, was carried unanimously. After this meeting separated, and as they walked along the streets to their respective homes, the *Times* informs us many of them were singing,

"Let Graham stand or Graham fall,  
We shall have our bill withal!"

**THE SHORT-HOUR AGITATION.**—This agitation continues in the manufacturing districts. On Friday night, last week, there was a meeting at Keighley, attended mostly by operatives, as at Halifax; also by Mr Ferrand and Mr Oastler. One Joseph Forth, in moving a resolution, said, "It was objected that if the legislature now interfered for the protection of factory labour the men of Birmingham, Sheffield, and other places would next demand protection. To that objection his reply must be, why should they not? (Loud cheers.) Then, said Sir R. Peel, the agricultural labourers would seek protection, and why, he reiterated, should they not have it? . . . The operatives had fully made up their minds that they must have a ten-hours bill. The country was in favour of it; the House of Commons had sanctioned it; and notwithstanding the sophistry of Sir R. Peel, of Graham—that man who had been all the colours of the rainbow—in spite of Bright, whose character for consistency was now in a woful plight—in spite of Warburton, and cold, calculating, black-bread Joseph (laughter), who would tear out the very entrails of a working man for the sake of a shilling (cheers), and who never was known to propose any measure in the House of Commons without withdrawing it—in spite of Hutt and Leader, whose conduct on this question he could not account for, they being 'six-points' men, the enactment of that boon for suffering humanity, a ten-hours bill, could not be long delayed. (Loud cheers.)"—Mr Ferrand said he believed "but for public opinion being brought to bear on the authors of such oppression and cruelty, he firmly believed the working classes in the manufacturing districts would be worked to death. (Cheers.)"—Mr Oastler, "from that place, as a friend to the government, would warn them that if they had resolved to make this a party question—if they had resolved to use all the appliances which power gave them to induce the members of parliament to support them in this tyranny and in this contradiction of the House of Commons—he warned them, not in the heat of passion, not in the warmth of declamation, but in the cool, deliberate thoughtfulness of his own mind, that if they would thus listen to the power which oppressed the people whom they were appointed to govern, their days as a government would be short (cheers), and that their successors would be compelled to make this a party question on the other side. (Loud cheers.) He was not, when he gave that opinion, guided by the impulse of his feelings—he was not under the influence of any enthusiastic spirit, but coolly and deliberately he would address Sir R. Peel from Keighley and advise him as a friend to remember the words of his father, and determine that the factory system should no longer be England's bitterest curse. (Loud cheers.) If he would neither take the advice of his father nor listen to the suggestion now made to him, then he would tell him there was a power at his back—he did not mean a physical power—he did not allude to the destruction of property or the interruption of trade—he alluded to that mental, that moral power, which the people possessed, and that power, which was stronger than the power of wealth, would make him yield. (Cheers.) Whilst, therefore, he could yield with some apparent feeling of goodness he would advise him to do so (cheers); and if there was a member of his cabinet—if that man who was the spoiler of the Whig cabinet, Sir J. Graham (groans)—if he, that proud but impotent man, who said he was determined that the tyranny of the factories should continue—if he stood in the way, he (Mr Oastler), as a true Tory, as a friend of the church and Queen, and of every established institution, would urge Sir R. Peel to remove from the cabinet that man who, if he remained, would prove its downfall. (Loud cheers.)"

At Bingley, during the dinner hour on Saturday, the operatives were addressed by the same indefatigable gentlemen; and Holmfirth had the same benefit in the evening.

At Manchester, on Sunday, there was a meeting of delegates from the Lancashire district convened on the subject. They were from Ashton, Bolton, Stockport, Hyde, Bury, Blackburn, Chorley, Chowbent, Preston, Oldham, Bedford, Wigan, Leigh, Lees, Hindley, Harwich, and Heywood. The points to which the attention of the meeting was directed are indicated by the following questions:—

- "1. What is the number of hours worked by the mills in each district?"
- "2. To what extent have the wheels been enlarged within the last ten years?"
- "3. Is the number of female workers in the factories on the increase?"
- "4. What is the proportion of females and children as compared with adults?"
- "5. What number of stretches per day do the mules run on the different counts of yarn; and what is the distance between the carriages when both are out; also the length of the stretch?"

The answers in general ran to the effect that the hours of work were at present more than twelve; that the wheels have been doubled, trebled, and more, in the case of Stockport the increase being 110 per cent.; that female labour and that of children constitute four-fifths of what is employed, and the labour of women is on the increase, and as to the distance required to be walked in the work the knowledge does not seem to be accurate. As regards the feeling of the operatives in reference to the ten-hours bill, there is no difference of opinion; they are determined to have a ten-hours bill. The delegates passed votes of thanks to their friends both in parliament and out of it, specifying many by name; also to the *Times*, *Northern Star*, and other papers which advocate their views.

On Monday there was a meeting at Preston, "consisting almost entirely of operatives, male and female." A Mr T. Swindlehurst, who was in the chair, observed that "he did not anticipate any reduction in

wages in consequence of the restriction of labour to ten hours a day. But if such a result did for a time follow, he would be ready to submit to it." Mr Oastler, however, was the great speaker, as usual. Alluding to the same subject he said he (Mr Oastler) had attended at Holmfirth last Saturday evening, and he put it fairly to a meeting, in the town hall, of not less than 1,400 factory operatives (the hall was crowded, and hundreds could not get in)—he put the question fairly to them, "Are you for the ten-hours bill, even if your wages should be reduced?" and the universal cry was, "Yes, we are." (Cheers.) . . . It was asked how they could expect masters to pay 12 hours' wages for 10 hours' work? His answer was, "Show him any master that ever paid 12 hours' wages for 12 hours' work." He had not seen such a thing for many years past, certainly not since the power of machinery had so much increased. Where, he repeated, was the master that did pay 12 hours' wages for 12 hours' work? He granted he paid as much as he could afford; but it was not wages for work, because in many instances it did not purchase sufficient food, clothing, and shelter: it could not therefore, be proper wages. The resolutions, of course, were all passed.

On Wednesday evening a meeting similar to those held elsewhere took place in Manchester, which the *Times* of yesterday devotes six columns to reporting; but the tone and spirit, and, in fact, speakers, were to so great an extent precisely the same as at the former meetings, that small report of it is required. The numbers present are estimated to have been between three and four thousand. The chair was filled by the Rev. C. D. Wray, sub-dean of Manchester, who was supported by Mr Ferrand, M.P., Mr J. Fielden, M.P., Mr Walter, Mr Oastler, the Rev. W. Huntington, rector of St John's; the Rev. W. Johnson, of the Collegiate Church; the Rev. Mr Hearn, Roman Catholic priest; the Rev. J. Scholefield, "and a crowded platform of the Short-time Committee, manufacturers, and gentlemen." The proceedings do not seem to have been altogether so harmonious as at other places, in particular when Mr Walter proposed to enter into some explanations about how he was turned out of his seat for Nottingham, but the general feeling of those present was certainly in accordance with those manifested by the listeners to Messrs Oastler and Ferrand elsewhere.

A meeting of working men at Norwich was held on Tuesday, in approval of the ten-hours proposal. Three thousand are said to have been present.

#### SCOTLAND.

**CUSTOMS REVENUE AT LEITH.**—The returns of the customs revenue at this port, both for the quarter and year just ended, exhibit a large increase, and show the steady rise and great improvement of the trade and shipping of the port. The quarter's revenue—

On 5th April, 1844, amounted to .....	£132,304 0 0
5th April, 1843 .....	120,029 0 0
Increase .....	12,275 0 0
The year's revenue—	
On 5th April, 1844, amounted to .....	£640,319 0 0
5th April, 1843 .....	548,420 0 0
Increase .....	91,899 0 0

**IMPORTANT TO FARMERS AND DEALERS IN HORSES.**—Mr John M'Nie, farmer, Woodyett, lately purchased a young horse from Mr Charles Grindlay, farmer, Seabegs place, near Dennyloanhead. A full and fair price was paid. The horse proved to be vicious, and was, in consequence, offered back, and repetition of the price demanded. This was refused. Instead of following the usual course of sending the horse to "livery"—having him sold under order of the sheriff, and prosecuting the seller for the difference of price, which often leads to protracted and expensive proceedings—Mr M'Nie was advised to bring an action in the small debt court for 8l. 6s. 8d. as the difference of value between a quiet steady horse and the animal in question. The case was heard before James Wardrobe Dickson, Esq., Sheriff-substitute at Falkirk, who held that the pursuer, having offered to return the horse on repetition of the price, and the same being refused, was entitled to proceed in the way proposed, without any sale of the horse, and a proof was allowed him of the habits of the horse, the seller's knowledge thereof, which he had failed to disclose at the time of the sale, and the difference of value. The case was heard on three successive court days, and the sheriff decreed for the full sum sued for with expense. Very considerable interest was taken in the case by the farmers and dealers in the neighbourhood, and the decision has given much satisfaction. We think it cannot be too generally known and appreciated, because it points out a speedy and cheap mode of obtaining redress in cases which were formerly looked upon as interminable and exceedingly expensive. Agent for Mr M'Nie, Mr James Chrystal, jun., writer, Stirling; for Mr Grindlay, Mr Adam Smith, writer, Falkirk.—*Stirling Journal*.—[The easy and excellent arrangement by which the Scotch law permits all claims of the above nature to be settled before a competent educated judge, at an expense not worth naming (being 2s. 6d., in general), painfully reminds us of the delay of twelve years which has taken place in attempting, or pretending to attempt, on the part of public men to get an act put through parliament, extending the same benefit to England, and of the fact that there seems no more chance of its accomplishment at the present moment than there was at the commencement of that period. What can be the reason of this?]

**EDINBURGH M.P.'S.**—On Thursday, last week, the Anti-Corn-law Association of this city came to a resolution, "That, in the prospect of a dissolution of parliament, they shall take care that candidates be brought forward to represent the city of Edinburgh, whose views on the question of freedom of trade shall be in unison, alike with those of the great body of the Liberal electors and of the Anti-Corn-law League." The present members, Mr Macaulay and Mr Gibson Craig are low-fixed duty men at present. The *Scotsman* blames this resolution as rash; but it was supported by a large majority of those present, and there can be no doubt but that the feeling of the majority of the Liberal electors is



here correctly expressed. What effect on the members the resolution may have remains to be seen.

"SHORT HOURS."—Public meetings are being held in different places with the view of urging the necessity of fewer hours being occupied in daily business, particularly among retail shopkeepers.

DEATH OF THE LAST OF THE STUARTS.—Old James Stuart, commonly known by the name of Jemmy Strength, died at Berwick-on-Tweed, on Thursday morning, the 11th inst., aged 116. He is the lineal descendant of a collateral branch of the famous but unfortunate family of the Stuarts. His death was caused by an injury which he received from a fall on Thursday last.

### IRELAND.

THE STATE PROSECUTIONS.—The commencement of Easter term at Dublin, on Monday, was attended with more of public excitement than has been manifested on a similar occasion for many years. Crowds gathered about the Four Courts, who, however, maintained the utmost order. The court of Queen's Bench was opened by about half-past eleven. The sitting was wholly taken up with business of a routine character, such as the admission of barristers and swearing in of juries. No motion was made on the subject of the state prosecutions, nor were any of the law officers of the crown present. Messrs Steele, Ray, and Gray were the only traversers who appeared in court throughout the day, but it was understood that the others were in attendance in case their presence should be required. The *Times*' correspondent gives the following additional information:—"Subsequent to the rising of the court, it was ascertained that a side bar rule had been entered on behalf of the crown, setting forth that judgment would be applied for on the verdict, unless cause to the contrary be shown within four days. A copy of this rule will be served on the traversers this (Monday) evening, and if they take no step still further to stave off the evil day, the question will be argued on Friday next. But the traversers are fully determined to procrastinate the proceedings to the uttermost, and they mean this evening to serve notice on the crown solicitor of their intention to apply for a new trial without prejudice to their moving an arrest of judgment. The motion for a new trial, it is understood, will come on on Thursday next. The grounds upon which the traversers intend to rest their application are, I understand, twofold—viz., that improper evidence on the part of the crown had been received by the court, and that partiality in favour of the prosecution had been shown by the Chief Justice in his charge to the jury. All other points upon which to ground a motion for a new trial, such as the imperfect state of the panel, &c., have been already decided against the traversers. I believe that the motion must be made on behalf of all the traversers, in which case only two counsel will be entitled to be heard, although in all probability an attempt will be made to have a distinct motion for a new trial on behalf of each of the traversers, so that two counsel for each might be heard in support of it."

SENTENCE OF MR O'CONNELL.—The Dublin correspondent of the *Morning Chronicle* has the following in that paper of yesterday:—"I have reason to believe that the government have determined not to enforce the sentence against Mr O'Connell and the other traversers, pending the writ of error." The result will not be known for some days, in consequence of various forms to be gone through, objections to the justice of the late trial, &c.

REPEAL ASSOCIATION.—The meeting of the association was held on Friday last. There was a larger attendance than usual, particularly in the ladies' gallery, probably under the impression that Mr O'Connell might not have another opportunity of being present. Mr J. Primrose occupied the chair. Mr O'Connell moved that the association should request that all repeal members of parliament do attend in their places, in order to support the prayer of the Presbyterian petition, which, he said, he thought he had done at the last meeting, but found from the minutes he had omitted. Mr O'Connell then handed in 115*l.* from Dr M'Hale, the contributions of as many Roman Catholic priests, and read a letter from that prelate on the subject amid tremendous cheering. After referring to the great probability of his imprisonment, he severely attacked the Irish franchise bill. "The whole bill," he said, "was a mass of swindling chicanery. As long as he had an Irish member to stand by him he would impeach it, and divide the house again and again, even if he died on the floor of the house. (Loud cheers.) He wanted petitions, not simultaneous, but universal, from every parish in Ireland (cheers), and concluded by moving for the attendance of the Liberal members in parliament on Friday next." The rent for the week amounted to 403*l.* 9*s.* 3*d.*

THE PROPOSED RAILWAY FROM PORTADOWN TO MONAGHAN.—The survey of this line has already been commenced by Mr Godwin, resident engineer of the Ulster railway, and it is stated that a line, much more favourable than the parliamentary one, will be laid out between Portadown and Armagh. The line will approach close to Armagh. A favourable line will, it is anticipated, be opened also from Armagh to Monaghan.—*Newry Telegraph*.

IRISH FRANCHISE BILL.—The Irish Liberal members here have received copies of a circular from Lord John Russell, urging the necessity of attendance in the House of Commons during the discussion on the Irish franchise bill.

MILITARY OCCUPATION OF IRELAND.—The winter has been employed in fortifying. In summer we are to have encampments. "It is said (quoth the *Mail*) to be the intention of government to form a large encampment on the Curragh of Kildare, in the month of June. It will consist of cavalry, infantry, and artillery."

PRIMATE BERESFORD.—Although Lord John Beresford has withdrawn his patronage from the Church Education Society, he has extended it in another direction, as will be seen from the following paragraph from the *Newry Telegraph*:—"BERESFORD ARMS' HOTEL, ARMAGH.—The hotel, which has been so long respectably conducted by Mr Rogers, is to be opened shortly by its new proprietor, Mr Wiltshire—under the immediate patronage of the Lord Primate."

### FOREIGN AND COLONIAL.

#### UNITED STATES.

The accounts from the United States bring the somewhat exciting intelligence that two Texan envoys, Henderson and Van Zandt, had arrived in Washington, to conclude a treaty for the annexation of that republic to the United States. This, however, is avowedly a Tyler scheme, got up with electioneering views, and for the purpose of damaging both Clay and Van Buren in those states where the absorption of Texas and the Oregon are popular. Whilst American statesmen are themselves so little serious on the subject, the Texans seem also to be playing a game. President Houston is shrewdly suspected of not being favourable to annexation, and of having sent envoys as much for the sake of receiving a refusal, and then proceeding to Europe in search of treaties, as with any hope of coming to a satisfactory conclusion in the present state of parties at Washington. It appears almost certain that the senate would pass no such bill, unless acted upon by a moral coercion, not likely to be successfully got up and applied. Indeed, the general opinion is that no great measure, or decisive vote of any kind, can take place this session of congress, all parties being more bent on mortifying each other, and nullifying each other's projects, than coalescing for mutual support and legislating in common. The Oregon question seems already shelved, and the modification of the tariff pretty certain of being so by the peremptory opposition of the Pennsylvanians.

It would, however, be unwise to reckon the Texan question as decidedly at an end, even for the session, until it is seen what position Mr Calhoun will take up, and what influence he may wield.

TRADE BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND TEXAS.—Texas, as a commercial nation, first appears on our national records in 1837, since that time the trade has been as follows:—

EXPORTS OF THE UNITED STATES TO TEXAS.				
	1837.	1839.	1840.	1842.
Fish .....	3,628	3,137	2,530	660
Oil .....	866	3,482	4,862	1,332
Candles .....	5,959	13,375	8,975	3,843
Lumber .....	23,707	122,482	67,745	16,154
Naval stores .....	180	1,471	283	244
Provisions .....	54,201	71,545	63,324	17,032
Flour .....	47,879	55,091	48,221	19,033
Corn .....	16,539	5,981	8,916	2,064
Rye .....	3,714	6,902	2,877	902
Bread .....	14,256	12,701	6,156	1,534
Potatoes .....	3,068	5,145	4,600	3,082
Apples .....	2,103	1,040	1,409	322
Rice .....	16,622	5,743	4,277	673
Tobacco .....	14,532	1,509	6,983	628
" manufactured.....	17,164	17,895	16,381	7,188
Furniture.....	21,082	38,571	39,503	5,266
Hats .....	19,390	19,055	12,004	10,451
Saddlery .....	17,083	14,063	18,241	3,240
Beer and Spirits.....	39,501	50,508	28,578	8,087
Miscellaneous .....	4,909	9,868	4,535	1,659
Boots and shoes .....	35,958	64,308	41,809	28,395
Soap and tallow .....	3,762	6,676	9,502	2,349
Sugar, brown .....	19,895	27,900	26,460	7,989
" refined .....	3,554	8,846	6,481	2,037
Cordage .....	1,948	4,262	2,587	4,839
Lead .....	1,306	1,104	831	615
Iron .....	3,418	14,441	11,362	5,104
" castings .....	36,307	89,261	68,735	15,198
Gunpowder .....	3,387	4,659	2,146	1,482
Drugs .....	14,638	7,990	4,714	1,468
Cotton goods .....	128,372	245,625	161,788	36,803
Flax .....	4,449	20	818	—
Clothing .....	167,096	118,303	68,960	18,276
Type .....	1,875	1,765	854	—
Paper .....	6,245	25,032	10,986	573
Earthenware .....	3,410	6,875	3,561	527
Molasses .....	4,870	3,250	4,598	1,894
Glass.....	4,375	6,875	7,561	691
Tin .....	1,445	4,755	1,963	922
Other articles .....	23,400	230,240	135,450	33,140
Total domestic ...	797,312	1,379,069	937,072	278,978
" foreign goods	210,616	308,017	289,199	127,951
Grand total .....	1,007,928	1,687,086	1,226,271	406,929
Imports .....	163,384	318,116	303,847	480,892

The imports from that country in return have been mostly cotton, and for 1842 were as follows:—

IMPORTS FROM TEXAS INTO THE UNITED STATES IN 1842.	
Raw hides .....	23,527
Cedar .....	354
Copper .....	576
Silver .....	25,510
Cotton goods .....	1,297
Silk .....	744
Wood screws .....	212
Earthenware .....	169
Carriages .....	4,151
Wine .....	7,236
Cotton, 5,265,142 lbs. ...	406,943
Other articles.....	10,173
Total .....	dollars 480,892

From 1837 to 1839 an immense immigration into Texas took place, producing the same effects as were apparent in the rapid settlement of the Western States, viz.: that although an agricultural country, they were obliged to import and take with them the necessaries of life. The large exports of those early years were not required to be paid for, because they were to a great extent the capital of emigrants, which they took with them. As the country settled, immigration became stock, and labour producing its natural returns, the imports continued to fall

off, and the exports to increase, and the production of cotton has progressed as follows:—

## IMPORTS OF COTTON FROM TEXAS INTO THE UNITED STATES.

lbs.	value.	lbs.	value.
1837...1,082,466	... 144,587 dols.	1840...2,669,655	...223,182 dols.,
1838...1,491,293	... 156,242 "	1841...3,128,776	...276,415 "
1839...1,890,032	... 240,130 "	1842...5,265,142	...406,943 "

The bales of cotton received at New Orleans from Texas have been as follows:—

	bales.
1836 .....	3,335
1837 .....	9,974
1838 .....	3,232
1839 .....	2,929
1840 .....	3,982
1841 .....	4,481
1842 .....	5,101
1843 .....	15,328
1844 (to March) .....	14,271

Against 1,148 last year.

Hence it appears that Texas now exports to the United States as much cotton as the United States exported in 1799—and growth in Texas has for the last six years been as rapid as in the United States for the six years prior to 1799—and the capabilities of Texas for extending the growth are equally as good as were those of the United States. These are facts, fraught with the greatest importance to these United States. England has for the last few years openly avowed her intention of supplanting by the growth of India that of the United States in the supply of Europe. This cannot, however, be accomplished. There are insuperable physical difficulties in the way. The control of Texas, however, puts the means of successful rivalry immediately within their grasp.—*Republic*, New York paper.

## THE ECONOMIST'S LIBRARY.

*Five Lectures on Political Economy, delivered before the University of Dublin in Michaelmas Term, 1843.* By James Anthony Lawson, LL.B., Whately Professor of Political Economy. London: Parker.

*A Letter to Lord Ashley on the Principles which regulate Wages, and on the Manner and Degree in which Wages would be reduced by the passing of a Ten-Hours Bill.* By R. Torrens, Esq., F.R.S. London: Smith, Elder, and Co.

## PROFESSOR LAWSON'S POLITICAL ECONOMY.

We have seen nothing of late years written on the elementary principles of political economy which for clear and dispassionate statement and convincing argument can rank higher than these lectures by Professor Lawson. They are only part, he informs us, of his series; but in themselves they are complete. They treat, as might be expected, of those questions, principally, which, having at this moment a temporary, have also an abiding, interest to every member of the community; and they have the, not certainly singular, but still very great, merit of treating them philosophically, without any tinge of party feeling or prepossession. We are not sure, however, that the learned professor does not attach more importance to this virtue, great as it is, than it deserves:—

"As a friend of the science," he says, "I could wish that political-economists had never lost sight of the distinction between their province and that of the politician; in that case, instead of being found ranged on different sides of contending factions, they would be in the situation of *neutrals*, to whom, as the proper tribunal, reference would be made to decide upon those questions which came within their province, and who, themselves taking no part in the combat, would be able to supply such weapons to the combatants as would generally be decisive of the issue; but so far is this from being the case, that we now see a battle waged about the *very principles* of political-economy, which ought to be expressly admitted and recognized by all parties."

We can easily understand why *in a college* a teacher should scrupulously refrain from showing himself to be a party—"politician." Such conduct is in fact a duty. But in the world it is impossible always to act so. In order to carry abstract principles into practical effect it is necessary to do more than show their truth and value. That, indeed, should be done, and done often; but we must either join a party or *make* a party, and make it a strong one, before we may hope to carry our point. That there should be no "battle waged about the *very principles* of political economy"—that these principles "ought to be expressly admitted and recognized by all parties," is indeed true. But if we had arrived at such a happy state, there would be no disputes among us. *Ignorance of facts is the cause of all disputes.* But surely Mr Lawson cannot mean that the political economists are so evenly "ranged," as he here affirms "on opposite sides" in respect of the publicly disputed points in their science. He evidently alludes to the late unseemly controversy between Mr Senior and Colonel Torrens; but, without speaking with unnecessary harshness of this latter gentleman, we believe we may say that few will flatter him by calling him a first man in this science, either when he coincides with or differs from others who have devoted themselves to the study and elucidation of the same principles; and so far are economists, well-informed, thinking, disinterested men, from being "ranged on different sides" in any of the disputed points of their science—say, for instance, the question of free trade—that it is our uncontradicted boast that reason and authority are substantially all upon one side, and that

passion, prejudice, power, ignorance, and a delusive idea of self-interest are the only props and supports of the other.

Mr Lawson "pre-supposes some acquaintance with the principles of the science" in his readers; but we do not remember to have seen any work which we would place more confidently in the hands of an intelligent, dispassionate reader, without any preparatory explanation, or any special acquaintance with the points discussed, and rely more unhesitatingly on the expression of approval and concurrence. The science of political economy is essentially and wholly one of facts. It may be taught analytically certainly with advantage; still it is a science of facts; and "about standing facts," Dr Johnson says, "there should be no disputes." There *can* be none, though much good may be frustrated or withheld by the overlooking or disregarding them; and in point of fact this is what is done among us to so deplorable an extent. Now the distinguishing merit of these lectures is, that they are a clear statement of facts, the importance of which, though so much overlooked, it is scarcely possible, when they become known, to overrate.

It is not given to every writer to make discoveries, or utter novelties. To say, therefore, that there is nothing very new in these lectures of Mr Lawson's is no disparagement. If he were a *discoverer* he would probably not be so unexceptionable a *teacher*. Perhaps the passage on the "Fears of the Malthusians" has the most novel appearance of any in the work. That passage, and other two we subjoin, as specimens. They will be sufficient justification of the praise which we have bestowed on the volume:—

## IMPOSSIBILITY OF OVER-PRODUCTION.

"It has been said, and is very generally thought, that 'the thing may be overdone,' that there may be, what is called over-production; and, I have seen it asked, 'If all the world become manufacturers and producers, where are the consumers to be found?' These are questions that require an answer, and if they cannot receive a satisfactory one, the position which I laid down, that every increase of productive power brings increased economic comfort, is false. That there may be too much of any particular article produced is quite clear, because the wants and desires of men for one article may be satisfied, and when they are so, any production beyond that is useless. Take a small community, consisting of 1,000 individuals, isolated from the rest of the world: if each individual was satisfied with wearing one hat every year, then 1,000 hats only need be produced; suppose two of the community are able to furnish that supply, two only will be necessary to set apart for hat-making; if, by an improvement in the process, the two become able to make 2,000 hats instead of 1,000, and if the inhabitants are not tempted to indulge in the luxury of two hats a year, it is useless to go on producing the 2,000; one man will be able to supply the demand for hats, and the other is at liberty to devote himself to supplying some other want; and the reason is, that any particular desire of a man may be satisfied, and when it is, he will reject anything beyond this. But it is impossible to satisfy *all* the desires of man; they are almost infinite in number and infinite in variety; and as one is satisfied, another springs up, and craves to be supplied; thus, the mere craving for necessary food is easily supplied, and yet to furnish us with all that variety of it which our appetites suggest, taxes the labour and ingenuity of a vast number of our population. So, of clothing; to supply what would protect us from the weather, would require little application of labour, but the passion for variety in dress is truly insatiable. Experience and knowledge of human nature tells us that the desires of men increase by the very food supplied to them, and that there never was, and never will be, a community, where all the desires of all its members were fully gratified. To say, therefore, that there may be too much of *everything* produced amounts to an absurdity; if we miscalculate the desires of men, we may direct our energies to the production of what will not please them, or of what they already have in sufficient abundance, but that is the only sense in which over-production can take place. But even this is a circumstance of rare occurrence; and what is generally called over-production, and which meets our eye every day, is not in truth over-production, but, if I may coin a word, *under-production*. When goods remain on hand for want of buyers, it is not because all the community is already supplied with them in abundance, and would reject any addition, but because they have nothing to offer in exchange for them; and why is this? Because their production has been small—all the produce of their labour has been already devoted to supply the most pressing wants of nature, and they have nothing left for the procuring further comforts. And how ought we to wish this amended? Surely not by diminishing the productive power of the one class, but by increasing that of the other. The demand for the commodities that are unsold is in existence, and if you increase the productive power of those who have the demand, you furnish them with the means of satisfying that demand. The more abundant the produce of the farmer is, the greater quantity of manufactured articles can he command; and if both go on increasing *pari passu* in their productive energies, the supply of the products of each, at the disposal of the other, will be increased. I trust, therefore, you will now see that there is no evil to be apprehended from abundance, and that though particular articles may be produced in excess, yet a universal over-production never did, and never can exist. The answer to those who ask, 'If all be manufacturers and producers, where will be the consumers?' is, that a man does not cease to be a consumer because he is a producer,—that the producers will be the consumers also; for no one can be a consumer unless he has products to offer in exchange, and he can only consume to the extent of these products. If such a state of things, as is here apprehended, ever takes place, every nation will not produce everything, and consume only its own productions, but the territorial division of labour will take place, assigning to each that department of production in which it is most fitted to excel; thus producing, on the whole, the greatest possible amount of wealth which the united energies of the world can furnish."

## THE FEARS OF THE MALTHUSIANS GROUNDFLESS.

"It has been calculated that there are in England and Wales about twenty-seven millions of cultivated acres, in Ireland twelve millions, and in Scotland five millions—in all about forty-five millions: it has been also calculated that an average acre of arable land would yield at present two quarters and a half of wheat a year, and that one quarter per year is a supply of subsistence sufficient for an individual; it therefore follows that the cultivated land, if all laid down in wheat, could, even in the present state of agricultural science, provide food of the best description, wheaten bread, for 112 millions of people, or nearly four times the present population of



the British islands; \* and from the improvements now making in agricultural science, the produce of the soil might be increased to an extent that we cannot calculate. France contains a much larger extent of arable land than the British islands, but the population is very little greater, so that if it were peopled with the same density as the British islands now are, it would contain sixty millions of inhabitants. The same kind of calculation will show the improbability that the globe itself will be ever over-peopled. Twenty millions of square miles of its surface are available for subsistence: the population of the world is estimated at 800 millions; there are 91,000 square miles in the British islands supporting thirty millions of people; therefore, if the globe were peopled in the same proportion, it would sustain 6,593 millions, or more than eight times its present population. When, in addition to this, we consider that population is declining in some places nearly as rapidly as it is increasing in others—for instance, while the American population is increasing at a rapid rate, whole tribes of Indians are daily passing away—we may safely conclude that the globe is capable of yielding subsistence for a far greater number of inhabitants than we can reasonably suppose the human race will attain to. It must be admitted that the Malthusians have demonstrated the possibility of the world being over-peopled (if indeed it required any demonstration), and, *a fortiori*, that any particular country may be over-peopled; no one indeed could deny it, who only observed that some soils would not yield enough to support human life at all, while the very best land will certainly not sustain an unlimited number, and if too many be depending upon it, some must perish. I think, however, that before we are called upon to enforce practically the importance of these abstract truths, and to take measures to check the growing numbers of mankind, instead of endeavouring to increase the means of their subsistence—a course so much more obvious, and more within our province—much more than the proof of a bare possibility should be offered to us, for if we reasoned and acted upon bare possibilities in the concerns of every-day life, our whole course of conduct should be changed—in fact we can hardly imagine how the business of the world could be carried on, for even the slightest action brings with it a possibility of injury to ourselves or others; to justify us then in acting upon these views, it should be proved to us—first, that there is a present evil to be guarded against, and, secondly, that this is the mode of guarding against it, which reason suggests and approves; and I think in the present case neither of these two propositions can be sustained. But the Malthusians appear to think that the mere proof of this possibility is quite enough: thus Miss Martineau argues upon the case of a rocky island, and, having shown that it might be over-peopled, says, that the force of this conclusive argument is attempted to be evaded by flying off to other countries: on the other hand it appears to me, that it is only by confining us to a space to which Providence has not confined us, that any weight can be made to attach to the enunciation of an abstract truth practically valueless; and to ask us, on the faith of such reasoning, to act as if there were an over-population of that world, which is spread out for our occupation in all its wide expanse, and which we are directed to replenish and subdue, is as reasonable as it would be to seek to persuade us that the surrounding atmosphere may be insufficient to supply the lungs of the human race, because those who were shut up in the Black Hole at Calcutta died for want of air. The Malthusian views present, indeed, a gloomy picture of our condition, and represent us as urged on by our instincts, to bring about a state of things which entails famine, pestilence, and almost all the ills of life, while its merit is, that it inculcates individual prudence upon public grounds. Experience, as I already observed, has shown us that these gloomy colours exist but in the fancy of those who have drawn the picture; and experience will, I think, equally show, that the prospect of endangering the public good is but a feeble dissuasive from the gratification of private passion: private conduct is most effectually regulated by private interest, and observation will never fail to convince men that imprudence brings with it its own punishment, and to this we may safely leave the regulation of the numbers of the community. If there were no limit to the earth's power of supplying subsistence, according to the Malthusian view the source of much of our evils would be cut off, and no doubt apparently it would; but whether the removal of the motives to individual industry and prudence consequent upon such a change, would be really for our good, fallen as we are, may well be doubted; we see at least that thereby, our Creator's design that the earth should be replenished, is being accomplished,—for if the same spot were capable for ever of sustaining an indefinite number, there would not be that motive to change our abode, in hope to find a greater abundance in other lands, which is now powerful enough to overcome the natural love of home, and therefore even if the human species were to increase much more rapidly than at present, the earth might then be in parts for ever destitute of inhabitants.

#### PROTECTION A DELUSION.

"Commerce is principally to be regarded as an indirect mode of supplying people with what they want, on better terms than they could obtain it themselves; it is, therefore, properly and in effect production, though it acts by distribution; and it would seem also to follow, from what I have said of the changes that naturally take place in its direction, that if industry were allowed to pursue its own course unrestrictedly, however particular nations would suffer in the change that might take place, the greatest amount of products for the entire world would be thereby called into existence—and this leads me at once to speak of the effect of human laws, which give industry a direction it would not otherwise have taken. When we come, then, to speak of the effect produced by laws and governments upon wealth, the first thing to be remarked is, that they can produce nothing directly, however they may protect others while producing it, or encourage or foster their industry, or, which is the principal way in which their power is exercised, alter the distribution of wealth, by taking it from one class to give it to another, or by encouraging one branch of industry whose cultivation is supposed to be essential to national happiness or safety, and repressing another whose tendencies are presumed to be the reverse—the latter considerations being peculiar to the legislator and statesman, and with which, as political economists, we have no concern. The existence of a government, and of laws and of persons appointed to administer and enforce them, is founded on the principle which gives rise to the division of labour. If there were no government, each man would have to protect himself and his property, if any property could be enjoyed in such a state; this would occupy the greater part of his time, and would

\* If it be asked, in reference to this statement, why then do we desire the importation of foreign corn, in preference to growing it at home? the answer is, that we desire to import foreign corn, not because we might not be able to grow enough at home, if forced to do so, but because it is found that it can be had more easily by sending abroad in exchange for English manufactures, than by raising it from the soil at home. It is therefore consistent with "common sense" that we should desire to have an article where it can be had most easily. Convenience and justice are synonymous. —Ed.

be done very ineffectually after all, so that the tax which he has to pay for the support of those who are to protect his person and property, is a tax for which he receives most abundant value, and no money could possibly be expended by him to greater advantage and profit. Therefore, to look upon taxation for the necessary purposes of government expenditure, as a deduction from the fair gains of labour, or to consider those engaged in the administration of law, government, and police, as idle or unproductive,—involves the grossest misapprehension; for, though they do not themselves produce any material or tangible article, they supply that protection for which we are willing, and for which it is our interest to pay; and indirectly they increase vastly the productive power of a country, for they secure every man in the enjoyment, and therefore give a stimulus to the acquisition and accumulation, of property, in the absence of which it would be better for us all to live in idleness than to spend our energies in acquiring that which the idle, if stronger or more numerous, might at any moment rob us of. When once this necessary protection is afforded to individuals, governments are powerless in furthering production; they can create nothing; they can only take from one to give to another. Even in that necessary protection, there is, as I observed, no direct production, but the transfer of wealth from the community to one class, who, however, render the community an ample equivalent for it; but clearly when that expenditure of government is larger than it need be, although this is infinitely better than having no government at all, yet it is a more than proper deduction from the funds of the community, to sustain those whose services might be dispensed with, and are not of the value to the public which they pay for them. Besides, however, affording this protection to the pursuits of industry, which is their proper province, governments generally do more: for instance, they impose restrictions in the shape of protective duties upon some trades, and they give bounties for the encouragement of others. Many questions of state policy and expediency, of morality, happiness, and security, may be involved in the consideration of the propriety of such enactments. The Chinese government thought it proper to prohibit the import of opium, because it was prejudicial to the health and morals of the people; Napoleon interdicted English manufactures from the continent, because he was jealous of England's glory, and desirous of crippling her resources; the English corn laws are advocated on the ground, that an agricultural population is more moral than a manufacturing one. With all these considerations, as I said before, we, as political-economists, have nothing to do; a government may be justified in adopting measures, which will cause a very great sacrifice of national wealth, that being only one consideration out of many—but, as regards wealth, the teaching of political economy is, and the teaching of experience coincides with it, that such measures never can increase, but, on the contrary, invariably diminish national wealth. The reason is, that the effect of government interference is not to call more industry into action, or to increase its productive power, but simply to turn industry into a different channel from that which it would naturally have taken. Now, is it likely, or is it not, that the result of this change will be an increase of the entire amount of products? It is the interest of individuals to pursue that occupation in which they will receive the greatest return for their outlay of capital and labour; therefore, if any occupation be in itself remunerative, it will attract as much capital as it can absorb, leaving the usual profits; so far, therefore, it needs no protection or countenance from government; but, if it be thought expedient by government that a greater amount of capital than this should be devoted to any branch, they must hold out an encouragement to capitalists, by making up to them the difference between the rate of profit they would derive in other employments, and the rate in this, which has now more than its natural supply, and therefore yields less than the ordinary profit—this can only be done by taking it from some other members of the community to give to them, so that a loss of wealth is the result, for the rate of profit in the government-protected employment cannot be higher than in others, if so, capital would continue to flow into it until the profits sunk to the general level, and it is made as high only by taking from the profits in other employments, so that the result is a general fall of profits. Individuals have better opportunities of knowing and judging what trades will be profitable to them than governments can possibly have, and those their interests will lead them to pursue; and, unless there be something in any of those pursuits calculated to check the prosperity of the community at large, the result, when individuals are left to pursue their own course, will be, that the greatest amount of national wealth will be produced. If a heavy duty is imposed on the importation of an article, in order to prevent foreign producers competing with home producers, the effect of this is, to compel the consumers of this article to deal at only one shop, when there is another near them at which they could get it cheaper, and so it enables the producers to obtain a higher price than they would under the influence of free competition, but not to reap a higher profit, as I already observed, than persons in the same country reap in other employments, for this can never be the case where the employment is open to all; the consumers are therefore taxed, not in order that the producers may be enriched, but that they may be put on a level with the other producers; and the only advantage derived by any party from this general lowering of profits is, that the protected article is produced directly at home, instead of indirectly, by the agency of commerce. Thus, if England compel her colonies to take no produce but hers, she is compelling them to deal at her shop; and if, in return for this, she binds herself to take only their produce, she is injuring herself in requital of the injury inflicted on her colony. It is certainly true, that by means of such protection producers may gain a temporary, and, in one case, a permanent advantage, at the expense of the consumers. Before capital has had time to be transferred to the favoured employment, those engaged in it may reap high profits at first, though the experience of all protected trades shows us, that this advantage is but of short duration, and is more than counterbalanced by the ill effects of the absence of competition, and the habit of relying rather on government favour than individual exertion and ingenuity. But, if any monopolized agent is essential to the production of the protected article, the proprietors of that agent gain at the expense of the consumers. Thus, if Ireland were to prohibit the importation of cloth from England, the first effect of this would be, to give high profits to those who have capital embarked in the manufacture of cloth here, but as there is nothing to prevent other persons from setting up cloth manufactories, those high profits would be only temporary; if, however, the cloth-manufacturing could be monopolized by a few persons, they might continue to reap enormous profits, at the expense of the community. If England prohibited foreign silk or gloves, this would confer no permanent benefit on the silk or glove manufacturers in England, the only difference would be that more capital would be engaged in them; but when she prohibits the import of corn, she confers on the proprietors of the monopolized agent, land, a permanent advantage, at the expense of the rest of the community, while the persons engaged in the actual production of the article, as farmers and agricultural labourers, no more derive any permanent benefit from it, than the manufacturers of silk or cloth would, under the similar circumstances I have supposed."

## COLONEL TORRENS ON A TEN-HOURS BILL.

The *Morning Herald*, in speaking of this small tract, says that "it is filled with the 'purest political economy,' *alias* nonsense." We think better of the Colonel than this, notwithstanding his "Mercantile System" delusion. He is against a ten-hours bill, not that he repudiates government interference, but that at the present time it would not only do no good, but harm. He is severe upon the doctrine of *laissez faire*.

"The ten-hours bill is objected to by many political economists as contrary to principle, as being at variance with the established—the cardinal doctrine of *laissez faire*. This objection is untenable. In the majority of instances in which it is put forth, the maxim, *laissez faire*, is an imitative sound, repeated with as little effort of discriminating thought as that which distinguishes

"The coxcomb bird so talkative and grave."

"Governments are established for the benefit of the governed; and every species of interference on the part of the governing body, which is beneficial to any decided majority of the governed, must be a legitimate interference. The principle of non-interference can be applicable to those circumstances only, in which interference would be productive of mischief; in all those cases in which the interference of the central authority in the transactions between man and man, is capable of effecting good or averting evil, *laissez faire* is a criminal abandonment of the functions for the performance of which a central authority is established and maintained. The hasty generalization which erects the principle of *laissez faire* into an absolute truth, applicable under all circumstances, and to be adhered to for its intrinsic excellence, is empiricism under the guise of science."—P. 64.

Without controverting these remarks, we may be permitted to say that such a back-hand thrust, on the part of the Colonel, at those who concur with him, substantially, in his views as to a ten-hours bill, is very unnecessary, if not injudicious. We have never seen any one who pretended to erect the principle of *laissez faire* into this "absolute truth" which he decries. As yet it is a principle the value of which is far more generally *under* than *over*-rated, and as the delusion thus engendered leads to practical and pressing evils, it will be time to cry out against it when it is overworked. The great practical lesson, which society has at present to learn, is that our greatest social inconveniences, though caused by laws, are to be cured only by an utter absence of legislation. When this lesson promises to lead to mischief, it will be time enough, we repeat, to set limits to it. As yet it has to be learned.

Colonel Torrens does not appear to us to be very happy in elucidating the laws which regulate wages, though in his conclusions as to the principal causes of their rise and fall he is undoubtedly right; and it is impossible to deny to his concluding observations, part of which we subjoin, the merit of being as correct in fact as they are eloquently set forth.

## OUR CONDITION—WHAT WOULD A TEN-HOURS BILL DO FOR US?

"Capital to an enormous amount already emigrates from our shores. Our unemployed and unemployable accumulations flow off into foreign mines and foreign loans, foreign canals, foreign railways,—foreign factories rivalling our own, have become the perennial creations of British capital. These are premonitory symptoms which it would be dangerous to disregard. These are practical, undeniable, irresistible proofs, that the rate of profit in this country is already approaching the minimum at which no margin remains for an advance of wages. It is not an hypothesis, but a fact, that the wages of manufacturing labour in this country have had for a long course of years a tendency to decline; it is not an assumption, but a reality, that all the principal commercial countries of the world have adopted the policy of forcing native manufactures by imposing increasing import duties upon British goods; and it is not a merely probable conclusion, but a self-evident truth, that in the same markets commodities equal in quality will be equal in value, and that the British manufacturer who exports his fabrics to a foreign country, will realise for them a less price by the amount of the import duty, than the price realised for similar fabrics by the manufactures of that country. Again, it is not an assumption, but a fact, that the Anglo-Saxon race have lost nothing of their skill, and energy, and enterprise, and persevering industry, by crossing the Atlantic; and it is not a merely probable inference, but a self-evident truth, that while a day's labour in America can produce an article equal in quantity and quality to that produced by a day's labour in England, the maximum wages obtainable by the American operative will exceed, in a proportion determined by the amount of duty imposed on British goods, the maximum wages attainable by the English operative who works for the American market. And, my Lord, it is an equally self-evident truth, that could the wages of the operative, after the passing of your ten-hours bill, be sustained for a season above the reduced maximum determined by the diminished quantity of work, profits would be pressed down below the minimum of continuous production, and British capital would flow out into foreign manufacturing countries in a fearfully increasing volume, leaving your protected factory population to emigrate or to perish.

"The economical condition of the great commercial countries of the continent of Europe afford a perfect verification of the conclusions regarding the effect of short time upon wages, which I have presented for your consideration. The distinguishing difference between the economical condition of the United States and that of the continent of Europe, consists in the different degrees of efficacy with which labour is applied. The efficacy of labour in the United States equals, or perhaps exceeds its efficacy in England; the efficacy of labour in France is less by one-third than its efficacy in England. This difference in the efficacy of labour causes a corresponding difference in wages. An English cotton spinner produces in a day a greater quantity of yarn, and of a better quality, than a French cotton spinner; and he consequently receives more money for a day's work than a French cotton spinner. Gold and silver are one-third dearer, in relation to French labour and its produce, than they are in relation to English labour and its produce. A Frenchman labours for three weeks in executing the same quantity of work which an Englishman executes in two weeks; and therefore the Frenchman receives, as the wages of three weeks, no greater amount of money than that which the Englishman receives as the wages of two weeks. These are no theoretical conclusions deduced from premises arbitrarily assumed; they are existing facts, affording practical proof that the amount of wages depends upon

the quantity and value of the work performed, and furnishing irresistible evidence that a ten-hours bill would diminish wages in the proportion in which it reduced the number of working hours.

"England's commercial rivals would rejoice and glory in the success of your lordship's measure for limiting the hours of work in her factories. The commercial greatness of our country has been created by the power which the British operative has hitherto possessed, of executing in a given time,—in a day or in a week,—a greater quantity of work than that which could be executed in the same time by the foreign operative. Remove the cause, and the effect will cease. Diminish the quantity of work executed by the British operative in a given time, and our commercial greatness declines. Equalize the quantity of work executed in a day or week by the British with that executed by the foreign operative, and England ceases to be the envy of the world. The question of shortening the hours of labour by a legislative enactment, is the most important that can engage the attention of the man who loves his country.

"You advocate a legislative limitation of the hours of labour upon moral grounds alone, and avowedly discard all considerations of the commercial branch of this momentous question. The two branches of the subject may be separated, and perhaps conveniently separated, for the purpose of scientific disquisition; but they ought not, they cannot be separated in practical legislation. The moral and intellectual improvement of the people has an intimate, a necessary connexion with their physical well-being. Is not poverty an incentive to crime? Can the pressure of distress promote the decencies of life? Will crowded rooms and crowded beds, and contaminating associations, be prevented by a reduction of wages? Can physical degradation be the precursor of moral elevation? If these questions could be answered in the affirmative, then, indeed, the ten-hours bill might be discussed without reference to its effects upon the commercial prosperity of the country. But it cannot be too often repeated that the moral and commercial branches of this important subject are incapable of separation. The two elements are held together by so close an affinity—they are so entirely incorporated and combined—they so act and re-act upon each other in reciprocal causation—that when we attempt to displace the one we reject an essential portion of the other. They must be dealt with as a whole—as one and indivisible. To reject the moral branch of the question would be not less fatal than to dismiss the commercial. The agitation for shortening the hours of labour in the factories involves moral considerations of the gravest character, affecting not the subjects but the promoters of the proposed legislation. The leaders of this dangerous movement bring themselves under a sacred moral obligation to tell the working people the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. The operatives are under the delusion that, upon the passing of a ten-hours bill, they would receive the wages of twelve hours for the work often. He who, by word or by deed, by implication or by inference, should countenance this delusion, would incur an awful responsibility to the misguided people, to his country, and to his God. Look forward, I entreat you, to inevitable results. Picture to yourself what would be the state of the popular mind in the densely-peopled seats of manufacturing industry, when the masses should have awakened from their delusion, and found that your ten-hours bill had permanently deprived them of one-fourth part of their accustomed wages. Ask your own heart what your feelings then would be. Ask the least intelligent amongst the masses that now hail you with shouts of devoted gratitude and applause, in what degree of estimation your character would then be held.

"I now conclude. . . . Oil must be thrown upon the troubled waters. Unless appropriate and effectual means be adopted to mitigate the existing, the increasing pressure upon the labouring population, days of tribulation are at hand. But appropriate and effectual means for the attainment of this end are placed at our command abundantly, and only require to be skilfully, energetically, and systematically applied. Though, on the present occasion, your lordship has overlooked these means, and mistaken the path through which the hallowed object of improving the condition of the people can be reached, yet to the self-denying zeal and unabateable perseverance with which you have struggled to achieve it, all honour and confidence are due; and though you may not immediately arrive at the conclusion that short time would be followed by a permanent reduction of wages, and by all the social ills inseparable therefrom, yet I cannot but hope, I cannot but confidently believe, that the failure of your ten-hours bill will cause you to seek your beneficent object through more apposite means, and to become the leader of a popular movement, the success of which, while enabling the operative to obtain advancing wages for shorter time, and while opening to the manufacturer expanding markets which hostile tariffs could not reach, would confer upon you a legitimate title to the gratitude of your country and of mankind."—P. 79.

## MISCELLANIES OF TRADE.

REVOLUTIONS OF THE CURRENCY.—The circulation of the Bank of England has four revolutions in a year, being at its highest point in those months in which the public dividends are paid. The country circulation revolves once in a year, being at its highest point in April, and its lowest in August. The circulation of Scotland revolves once in a year, being at its lowest point in March, and its highest in November. The circulation of Ireland also revolves once in a year, being at its lowest point in September, and its highest in January. These changes are not capricious or accidental, but are determined by the recurrence of the seasons and the state of trade in their respective districts.—*Foreign and Colonial Quarterly Review*.

SIR ROBERT PEEL, on Wednesday, unsolicited, sent ten guineas, through Mr Masterman, as his subscription to the national testimonial to Mr Rowland Hill. This liberal recognition of the merit of Mr Hill, and of the national value of the penny-postage reform, is creditable to the premier. We may hope that the example of Sir Robert Peel will be followed by all the other cabinet ministers, and by men of all parties throughout the United Kingdom.

## COMMERCIAL MARKETS.

## FRIDAY EVENING.

INDIGO.—The quarterly sales opened on the 15th instant, and have since been continued every day. The whole cargo of the *Stag*, recently arrived from Calcutta, consisting of 688 chests of indigo of the new crop, was withdrawn at the close of last week. Besides this parcel, about 300 chests more have been withdrawn; 233 chests were bought in, and about 4,000 chests were disposed of up to the close of this day's sale. There are now about 1,200 chests left, which will come on for sale on the 22nd and 23rd instant. There is a considerable demand for indigo from all quarters, and prices rule somewhat higher than in the January sales. Good and



fair Bengal shippers are most in demand, and the competition for such sorts is so great that frequently 4d. to 6d. per lb., or 10 per cent. more is paid than in January. Kurpah is eagerly bought for shipping and home consumption at prices which rule from 2d. to 3d. for the low, and from 3d. to 4d. per lb. for the finer descriptions higher than the previous rates. Madras is nearly as cheap as it was before. The proprietors are ready sellers.

**COCHINEAL.**—The article has become neglected, but no lower prices have been accepted in the public sales held this week.

**SUGARS.**—Refined: The demand for home-consumption goods has been active during the last two weeks, and prices have advanced about 2s. per cwt. In export sorts, also, a fair business has been done since our last report, but the demand at present is languid.

**COFFEE.**—The home market has continued in a dull and inactive state through the month, and little improvement can be looked for till after the 29th instant, when the bringing forward the budget is expected to set the duty question at rest.

**RICE.**—The market is still heavy, and 4,000 bags good middling white Bengal, in public sale, sold at 11s., being nearly 6d. lower. In foreign sorts, no sales of consequence are reported.

**PIMENTO** is in request, and scarce at 3½d. to 3¼d. for middling and good middling quality, at which prices small parcels have been sold.

**PEPPER** is firm, but the transactions privately are of limited extent, and no public sales have been brought forward.

**CINNAMON.**—The quantity for sale on the 29th will be increased to about 2,000 bales by the arrival of the *Tigris*.

**CANSA LIGNEA.**—The market, though steady, is more quiet. 37 chests in public sale, only part sold, at 69s. to 70s. for good, and 61s. for low middling. 700 chests are advertised for sale on Tuesday next.

**CLOVES.**—153 bags Bourbon in public sale, were bought in at 11d. to 11½d.

Other spices are firm.

**SALT-PETRE.**—Further transactions have taken place in good qualities, at 27s. 6d. to 28s., but common sorts remain flat.

**NITRATE OF SODA** is only in limited request.

The **COTTON** market remains extremely heavy.

FOREIGN.

Antwerp, April 17.—Coffee: About 800 bags of coloury Brazil have been sold at previous rates, and 500 bags Padang at rather lower prices. Of sugar, further direct arrivals from the Havannah, to the extent of about 5,000 boxes, have taken place, part of which have been sold rather cheaper for export to Cologne. Cotton neglected. Oil and seeds declining. Of rice some sales at lower prices.

Holland, Amsterdam, and Rotterdam, April 16.—In coffee there is little doing in Java, 700 bags of Sumatra have been sold at a slight decline. Of sugar, 600 hhd. of Surinam have been sold at former prices; refined remains in good demand at improving prices, and refiners remain unwilling to sell. Cotton without demand. The corn market is inactive.

Havre, April 15.—The arrivals of cotton are considerable, and further supplies being near at hand, the market has become dull, and holders have submitted to a further decline, at which, however, purchases only to a limited extent have been made. Of coffee the arrivals have likewise been large, but the greater part having been previously sold, deliverable on arrival, the market has not been affected by them. Sugar firm. Some cargoes of French colonial Muscovado have been received, but not sufficient in quantity to satisfy the demand. Whale oil and bone without improvement. In indigo moderate business has taken place on the spot; the supply expected in France from the East India crop for this year is stated to be from 9,000 to 10,000 chests; some sales of indigo invoices have likewise been made at Havre at an advance upon cost.

Hamburg, April 16.—Of coffee, the coloury qualities maintain their value, though the demand has been but moderate; ordinary are lower again. In sugar there is no business to report. Spelter lower. Of wheat purchases are still making for France.

The *Caledonia* steamer has brought accounts from the United States—Boston, 1st of April, New York, 30th March. The estimates of the cotton crop now mostly reach 1,900,000 bales, though many well-informed and moderate persons assert that to be an over-estimate; the shipments are still 660,000 bales, and the receipts in the ports 360,000 bales under last year's; but prices, though still higher than in Europe, are giving way rapidly, and large shipments are in progress, the number of vessels loading for Great Britain amounting to 130. Coffee is in good demand, and prices have risen ½ cent. per lb. upon the favourable accounts from Europe. Sugar rather more quiet, but prices unaltered. Exchange upon London 108½ to 108¾ per ct. Funds throughout had experienced a further decline, both of the suspended and the paying States, the former having shown no disposition to take effective steps towards resumption. No expectation of the tariff being altered this year. Commercial accounts are generally favourable, and prospects for imports good.

JOINT STOCK BANKS.

No. of Shares.	Dividends Per Ann.	Shares.	Paid.	Friday, April 19.
15,000	—	£. s. d.	—	—
15,000	8l. per ct.	(Agricultural and Commercial)	25	10 0 0
7,500	—	(of Ireland)	41	40 0 0
20,000	6l. per ct.	Australia	—	10 0 0
5,000	6l. per ct.	Do. New	50	50 0 0
8,000	—	Do. North American	—	10 0 0
1,000	5l. per ct.	Do. New	25	20 0 0
20,000	5l. per ct.	Ceylon	100	25 0 0
1,000	—	County of Gloucester	—	200 0 0
20,000	5l. per ct.	Commercial of London	100	25 0 0
4,000	6l. per ct.	Colonial	25	25 0 0
40,000	6l. per ct.	London and Westminster	100	25 0 0
60,000	6l. per ct.	London Joint Stock	50	10 0 0
40,000	8l. per ct.	Metropolitan	25	7 10 0
20,000	8l. per ct.	Provincial of Ireland	100	25 0 0
4,000	6l. per ct.	Do. New	10	10 0 0
10,000	2l. per ct.	Do. of Australia	—	10 0 0
10,000	6s. per sh.	National of Ireland	50	12 10 0
10,000	11l. per ct.	National Provincial of England	100	25 0 0
21,500	—	Do. New	50	10 0 0
10,000	5l. per ct.	Northamptonshire Union	25	5 0 0
20,000	6l. per ct.	Gloucestershire	50	10 0 0
20,000	6l. per ct.	(West of England and South)	20	12 10 0
20,000	8l. per ct.	(Wales District)	15	7 10 0
20,000	8l. per ct.	Wilt and Dorset	—	—
10,000	8l. per ct.	Union of Australia	25	25 0 0
60,000	5l. per ct.	Do. do.	—	2 10 0
		Union of London	50	10 0 0

BANK OF ENGLAND.

LIABILITIES.	ASSETS.
Account of the Liabilities and Assets of the Bank of England on the average of the Quarter, from the 30th of December to the 31st March, 1844	Circulation, £21,122,000
	Deposits, 13,972,000
	Securities, £22,473,000
	Bullion, 15,783,000
	£35,094,000
	£38,256,000

PUBLIC SECURITIES OF UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

	Per Cent.	Redeemable.	Amount in Dollars.	Dividends.	London Prices, April 16.	Amer. Prices, Mar 29.	London Prices, April 19.	Amer. Prices, Mar 29.
Alabama	5	1852	5,000,000	May & Nov.	—	84	82	84
"	Sterling 5	1855	2,000,000	Jan. & July.	—	—	—	—
"	5	1853	3,500,000	May & Nov.	—	—	—	—
Indiana	5	(1861)	1,600,000	Jan. & July.	35	—	35	—
"	Sterling 5	1851	1,600,000	" "	35	36	35	36
Illinois	6	1870	5,000,000	" "	40	40	40	42
Kentucky	6	1870	1,000,000	" "	40	—	40	—
Louisiana	Sterling 5	1858	1,250,000	" "	33	100	33	103
"	5	1843	1,800,000	" "	—	—	—	—
"	5	1844	—	" "	—	—	—	—
"	5	1847	7,000,000	Feb. & Aug.	—	—	—	—
"	5	(1850)	—	" "	—	—	—	—
"	5	1853	150,000	May & Nov.	—	—	—	—
Maryland	6	1867	200,000	April & Oct.	—	—	—	—
"	5	1859	750,000	" "	—	—	—	—
"	Sterling 5	1888	3,000,000	Jan. & July.	—	—	—	—
Massachusetts	5	1857	1,000,000	" "	—	—	—	—
"	Sterling 5	1863	300,000	April & Oct.	—	—	—	—
Michigan	6	1863	5,000,000	Jan. & July.	—	—	—	—
Mississippi	Sterling 5	(1850)	—	May & Nov.	—	—	—	—
"	6	1861	2,000,000	Mar. & Sep.	—	—	—	—
"	6	(1862)	—	" "	—	—	—	—
New York	5	(1871)	3,121,270	Quarterly.	94	103	94	103
"	5	1860	877,000	" "	—	—	—	—
Ohio	6	1850	4,000,000	Jan. & July.	—	—	—	—
"	6	(1860)	4,000,000	" "	—	95	—	97
Pennsylvania	5	1854	3,292,500	Feb. & Aug.	—	—	—	—
"	5	1856	2,735,102	" "	—	—	—	—
"	5	1855	3,073,061	" "	—	—	—	—
"	5	1860	2,648,880	" "	—	65	—	65
"	5	1862	2,295,400	" "	—	—	—	—
"	5	1874	1,700,000	" "	—	—	—	—
South Carolina	Ba-	1866	£20,000	Jan. & July.	—	—	—	—
Flg's - - - -	5	1868	1,000,000	" "	—	—	—	—
Tennessee - - -	6	1857	400,000	" "	—	—	—	—
Virginia - - - -	6	(1858)	—	" "	—	—	—	—
Florida - - - -	6	1861	1,000,000	" "	—	—	—	—
"	6	(1862)	—	" "	—	—	—	—
"	6	(1864)	—	" "	—	—	—	—
"	6	(1865)	—	" "	—	—	—	—
Ditto Sterl. Bonds -	6	(1863)	2,000,000	" "	—	—	—	—
United States Bank	—	1866	35,000,000	" "	22s.	5½	23s.	5½
Shares - - - -	—	(Av.)	—	" "	—	—	—	—
Ditto Debentures -	6	(1841)	£800,000	April & Oct.	60	—	60	—
"	6	(1842)	—	" "	—	—	—	—
Ditto ditto - - -	6	(O.)	£900,000	" "	40	—	40	—
Louisiana State Bk.	10	1870	2,000,000	Jan. & July.	—	—	—	—
Bank of Louisiana	8	1870	4,000,000	" "	—	—	—	—
"	8	(1860)	—	" "	—	—	—	—
New York City -	5	(1856)	9,600,000	Quarterly.	—	—	—	—
"	5	(1851)	—	" "	—	—	—	—
New Orleans City -	6	1864	250,000	Feb. & Aug.	—	—	—	—
"	6	1863	1,500,000	Jan. & July.	—	—	—	—
Philadelphia City -	5	1853	175,000	May & Nov.	—	—	—	—
Baltimore City -	5	1850	4,000,000	Quarterly.	—	—	—	—
Camden & Amboy -	5	1854	£210,000	Feb. & Aug.	—	107	—	107
R. R. Bonds - - -	6	1864	£225,000	" "	—	—	—	—
Phil. & Reading R. -	—	1850	£210,000	" "	—	—	—	—
R. Bonds ds. - -	—	—	—	" "	—	—	—	—

PRICES OF FOREIGN STOCKS.

	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Friday.
Austrian, 5 per cent., 10 guilders)	—	—	—	—	—	—
per pound sterling - - -	—	10½	10½	10½	10½	10½
Belgian Bonds, 5 per cent. - - -	—	81	80½	80½	80	80
Brazilian Bonds, 5 per cent. - - -	—	—	—	—	76	—
Do. New, 5 per cent. 1829 & 1839	—	—	—	—	—	—
Do. do. do. 1839 - - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—
Buenos Ayres Bonds, 6 per cent. - -	—	37½	—	—	—	35½
Cuba Bonds, 6 per cent. - - - - -	—	104½	—	—	—	—
Chilian Bonds, 6 per cent. - - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	51½
Do. 5 per cent. deferred - - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—
Columbia Bonds, 6 per cent. ex	15½	15½	15½	15½	15½	15
Venezuela - - - - -	—	—	—	—	88	—
Danish Bonds, 3 per cent., 1825 - -	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dutch, 2½ per cent. Exchange 12 gu.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Greek Bonds, 1824-25, 5 per cent. -	15	15	15	15	15	15
Do. ex over-line Coupons - - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mexican, 5 per cent., 1837, ex over-	36	36½	36½	36	35½	35½
line coupons and debentures - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—
Do. Small - - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—
Do. Deferred Stock, 5 per cent. - -	16½	16½	16½	16½	16½	15½
Do. Debentures - - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—
Neapolitan Bonds, 1824, 5 per cent. -	—	—	—	—	—	—
Peruvian Bonds, 6 per cent. - - - -	—	—	—	30½	30½	29½
Prussian Bonds, 4 per cent. - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—
Portuguese Bonds, 5 per cent. - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—
Do. Converted - - - - -	—	46	46½	—	—	46
Do. Small - - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—
Do. Annuities, 1855 - - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—
Russian Bonds, 1822, 5 per cent. in	—	117½	—	—	—	—
pond sterling - - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—
Do. do. Metallic - - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—
Spanish Bonds, 5 per cent. Div. from	26½	26½	26½	26	25½	25
Newmarket, 1840 - - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—
Do. do. do. from Nov. 1842 - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—
Do. do. do. from Nov. 1843 - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—
Do. Passive Bonds - - - - -	—	6½	—	6½	6½	6½
Do. Deferred - - - - -	—	15½	—	15½	15½	14½
Do. 3 per cent. - - - - -	—	37½	—	37½	36½	36½
Venezuela Bonds, 2 per cent. - - - -	—	40	—	40	40	39½
Do. do. Deferred - - - - -	—	12	12½	—	12½	—
Dividends on the above payable in	—	—	—	—	—	—
London - - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dutch, 2½ per cent., Exchange 12 guil.						





## COAL MARKET.

Prices of coals per ton at the close of the market. Adair's Main, 17s. 6d.—Chester Main, 19s. 6d.—Davison's West Hartley, 19s. 6d.—Dean's Primrose, 15s. 6d.—Fenham Hartley, 17s. 6d.—Hastings Hartley, 19s.—Holywell Main, 22s.—Ord's Redheugh, 17s. 6d.—Old Pontop, 16s.—Shipcote, unscreened, 15s.—Tanfield Moor, 19s. 6d.—Tanfield Moor Butes, 17s.—Townley, 18s.—Usworth Main, 15s. 9d.—West Wylam, 19s. 9d.—Wylam, 19s. Wall's end: Bewicke and Co., 21s.—Delaval, 18s.—Elm Park, 20s.—Hilda, 19s.—Langley, 17s.—Newmarch, 18s. 6d.—Northumberland, 19s.—Urpeth, 16s. 9d.—Belmont, 20s. 3d.—East Hetton, 19s. 9d.—Haswell, 23s.—Hetton, 22s. 6d.—Houghall, 21s.—Lambton, 22s. 6d.—Russell's Hetton, 22s.—Stewart's, 22s. 6d.—Hough Hall, 20s. 6d.—Trimdon, 22s. 6d.—Barrett, 20s.—Evenwood, 18s. 6d.—Macleane's Tees, 19s. 6d.—Tees, 22s.—West Tees, 19s.—Hartley, 19s. 6d.—Howard's West Hartley Netheron, 19s. 6d.—Powell's Duffryn Steam, 22s.—Sydney's Hartley, 19s. Ships arrived, 119.

## THE GAZETTE.

Tuesday, April 16.

## PARTNERSHIPS DISSOLVED.

M. Richardson, sen., and M. Richardson, jun., Stanningley, Yorkshire, linendrapers.—J. and W. Gray, and J. Clark, Leeds, cloth dressers (as regards J. Clark).—J. Wade and T. S. Baker, Todmorden, Lancashire, chemists.—W. Henderson and W. Atkin, Stockton-upon-Tees, Durham, drapers.—W. Whiteley and I. Clay, Soothill, Yorkshire, cloth manufacturers.—J. Lord and R. Heap, Moston Bottoms, Lancashire, skein dyers.—J. Wason and F. G. Dowty, Shepton-Mallet, Somersetshire, booksellers.—G. Donn and J. Pring, Bristol, surgeons.—W. Kirk and W. H. Smith, Kingston-upon-Hull, auctioneers.—J. Gross and J. Churchman, Ipswich, Suffolk, wine merchants.—Judith and Maria Waller, Judith Waller, jun., Eliza, Anna, Priscilla, and Maria Sparkes, Houndsditch, silk mercers.—J. and T. Steen, Burnley, Lancashire, weighing machine makers.—J. Watson, J. Dyson, and T. Jackson, Leeds, corn millers (as regards J. Jackson).—R. de Lambert and J. G. Newman, Kendal, Westmoreland, iron merchants.—J. Pringle and G. Tate, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, tobacconists.

## BANKRUPTS.

WATSON, T., Camomile street, Bishopsgate street, City, victualler. [Fry and Co., Cheapside.  
CROSS, R., Jermyn street, St James's, saddler. [Wells, George street, Mansion house, City.  
THORPE, H., Kensington, linendraper. [Sole, Aldermanbury.  
NALL, J., Chesterfield, Derbyshire, grocer. [Vickers, Lincoln's-inn fields.  
QUINN, J., Liverpool, painter. [Bridger and Blake, Finsbury circus.  
METCALF, J., Liverpool, grocer. [Norris and Co., Bartlett's buildings, Holborn.

## INSOLVENTS.

J. Mathews, Hammersmith, Middlesex, tallow chandler.—W. Fletcher, Ancotts, Lincolnshire, farmer.—Ellen Wilkinson, Bawtry, Yorkshire, out of business.—T. Thompson, Harwich, Essex, chemist.—T. Shaw, Tarporley, Cheshire, bookseller.—R. Watson, Garthorpe, Lincolnshire, farmer.—Ellen Taylor, Bradford, Yorkshire, cooper.—S. Ellis, Undercliffe, Yorkshire, joiner.—S. Firth, Northwram, Yorkshire, innkeeper.—E. Lloyd, Liverpool, baker.—T. W. Parkinson, Ilminster, Somersetshire, stationer.—W. Plant, Stockport, Cheshire, hat block turner.—W. Hogg, Hulme, Lancashire, beer seller.—E. Bently, Huncoat, Lancashire, cordwainer.—R. Davidson, Stepney, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, journeyman bricklayer.—J. Locke, Chapel street, Grosvenor place, surgeon.—E. Randall, Bath, postilion.—W. Barber, Hermes street, Pentonville, engraver.—W. H. Worley, Shaftesbury street, Hoxton, copper-plate printer.—W. R. Rolfe, High street, Shoreditch, pastry cook.—E. Oxborrow, Ipswich, Suffolk, blacksmith.—J. Perry, Birmingham, butcher.—A. C. Bulley, Bernard street, Russell square, lauding waiter.—J. Moore, Twerton, Somersetshire, milkman.—T. Wild, Upper Stamford street, Blackfriars, Custom-house clerk.—C. Loach, Birmingham, publican.—H. Gompertz, Oak cottage, Old Brompton, out of business.—W. Elson, Northampton, hawkler.

## CERTIFICATES.

May 9, F. J. Scott, St Albans, Hertfordshire, apothecary.—May 8, A. Leslie and W. Smith, St Dunstan's hill, City, merchants.—May 7, S. Smith, Pump row, Old street road, timber merchant.—May 10, H. Orbell, Romford, Essex.—May 10, F. Tootell, Edgeware, Middlesex, dealer in hay.—May 7, J. Sparham, Froston, Suffolk, miller.—May 8, H. Wickham, Bristol, linendraper.—May 9, H. Murch, Norton-under-Hamdon, Somersetshire, sail cloth manufacturer.

## CERTIFICATES.—APRIL 30.

R. Phillpott, late of Clement's lane, City, but now of Blagdon, Somersetshire, scrivener.—H. Tisoe, Hertford, carpenter.—R. Tebay, Winchester, Hampshire, plumber.—T. Berridge, Manchester, tobacconist.—J. B. Williams, Regent street, stationer.—J. Robinson, late of Nottingham, but now of Arnold, Nottinghamshire, wharfinger.—J. Hardley, Newport, Hampshire, miller.—D. Lamont, West Smithfield, City, dealer in wines.—G. W. Hyde, Nottingham, dyer.—D. Davis, Newington causeway, Surrey, earthenware dealer.—I. Parsonage, Birmingham, paper hanger.—T. Balls, Thames street, City, iron merchant.

## SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

D. Wright, Glasgow, commission agent.—W. Glenny, Edinburgh, china merchant.—A. Paton, Paisley, draper.—A. Thomson, Glasgow, innkeeper.—R. Murdoch, Auchinleck, Ayrshire, wright.—A. McGregor, Edinburgh, coach hirer.

Friday, April 19.

## BANKRUPTS.

BATTYE, J., Courtney terrace, Kingsland, linen draper. [Dodd, New Broad street.  
WALLER, M., Percy street, Tottenham-court road, patent electro plater. [Buchanan and Grainger, Basinghall street.  
CARPENTER, J., Rothwell, Northamptonshire, surgeon. [Cattlin, Ely place.  
SYER, J. J. I., Blackfriars, undertaker. [Melton, Gray's inn.  
TODD, J., Hartfield, Sussex, dealer. [Elmslie and Preston, Moorgate street.  
ALLINSON, R., Whitehaven, ironmonger. [Stubbs, Furnival's inn.

PAYNE, W., Newcastle-upon-Tyne, builder. [Crosby and Compton, Cross court, Old Jewry.  
SLACK, J., Manchester, filtering machine manufacturer. [Nethersole, Essex street, Strand.  
ROTHERY, G., Wakefield, currier. [Dean, Batley.  
DOWEL, J., Chepstow, Monmouthshire, brewer. [W. and C. Bevan, Bristol.  
ATKINS, J., Aston, Warwickshire, beerhouse keeper. [Chaplin, Gray's inn.  
DIMENT, J., and GRIMES, J., Bristol, plasterers. [Peters and Abbott, Bristol.  
MALLALIEU, J., Sowerby, Halifax, cotton spinner. [Gregory and Co., Bedford row.  
LORD, J. B., and COGHLAN, M., Meltham, Yorkshire, cloth manufacturers. [Sudlow, Sons, and Torre, Chancery lane.

## BIRTHS.

On the 30th of March, Lady Colquhoun, of Luss, of a son and heir.  
On the 15th instant, at Canterbury, the wife of Lieutenant-Colonel Hankey, King's Dragoon Guards, of a still-born son.

## MARRIAGES.

On the 16th instant, at Edinburgh, the Hon. William Maule, youngest son of the Right Hon. Lord Panmure, to Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Binny, Esq., of Mauldsden and Fearn.  
On the 13th instant, at Armagh, George Dunbar, Esq., lately M.P. for Belfast, and heir to the extensive estates of John G. Dunbar, of Woburn, in the county of Down, to Harriet, the second daughter of the late Lord George Beresford, niece of the Lord Primate of Ireland, and cousin to the Marquis of Waterford. The ceremony was performed in the Cathedral of Armagh by his Grace the Lord Primate.

## ADVERTISEMENTS.

## PATRONIZED BY HER MAJESTY,

H. R. H. PRINCE ALBERT, THE ROYAL FAMILY,  
AND THE SEVERAL COURTS OF EUROPE.

## ROWLAND'S MACASSAR OIL.

This elegant, fragrant, and pellucid oil, in its preservative, restorative, and beautifying qualities, is unequalled over the whole world. It preserves and reproduces the hair, prevents it from turning grey, or if so changed, restores it to its original colour; frees it from scurf and impurity, and renders it soft, silky, curly, and glossy.

CAUTION.—Each genuine bottle has the words "ROWLAND'S MACASSAR OIL," engraved in two lines, on the wrapper, and on the back of the wrapper nearly 1,500 times, containing 29,028 letters—without this none are genuine.

Price 3s. 6d.; 7s.; family bottles (equal to four small), 10s. 6d.; and double that size, 21s. per bottle.

## ROWLAND'S KALYDOR

Pleasingly dissipates all Pimples, Spots, Blotches, Redness, Tan, Freckles, and other Defects of the Skin. Gentlemen will find it peculiarly grateful after shaving in allaying the irritation of the skin.

Price 4s. 6d. and 8s. 6d. per bottle, duty included.

## ROWLAND'S ODONTO, OR PEARL DENTIFRICE.

A fragrant white powder. It eradicates Tartar and decayed Spots from the Teeth, polishes and preserves the enamel, to which it imparts a pearl-like whiteness, fixes the Teeth firmly in the gums, and imparts sweetness and perfume to the breath.

Price 2s. 9d. per box, duty included.

## CAUTION.

Spurious imitations are frequently offered for sale under a Fictitious Name or the word "Genuine." It is therefore imperative on purchasers to see that the word "ROWLAND'S" is on the wrappers. The Proprietor's signature is also engraved on the Government Stamp, thus

A. ROWLAND & SON, 20 HATTON GARDEN,  
and affixed to the KALYDOR and ODONTO.

\* \* \* All others are FRAUDULENT COUNTERFEITS.

N.B.—The principle on which each article is prepared is confined solely to the knowledge and practice of A. ROWLAND & SON, 20 HATTON GARDEN, LONDON,—the amalgamation of their purely vegetable materials neutralizes all attempts to separate their component parts, and thus proves the imposition of all other articles bearing the same names.

The genuine preparations are sold by the Proprietors, and by Chemists and Perfumers.

## EASE IN WALKING AND COMFORT TO THE FEET.

Wellington street, Strand, London.

HALL and Co. SOLE PATENTEES of the PANNUS CORIUM, or Leather-Cloth Boots and Shoes, for Ladies and Gentlemen.—These articles have borne the test and received the approbation of all who have worn them. Such as are troubled with Corns, Bunions, Gout, Chills, or Tenderness of Feet from any other cause, will find them the softest and most comfortable ever invented—they never draw the feet or get hard, and are very durable, and adapted for every climate; they resemble the finest leather, and are cleaned with common blacking.

The Patent India-Rubber Goloshes are light, durable, elastic, and waterproof; they thoroughly protect the feet from damp or cold.

Hall and Co.'s Portable Waterproof Dresses for Ladies and Gentlemen. This desirable article claims the attention of all who are exposed to the wet. Ladies' Cardinal Cloaks, with Hoods, 18s. Gentlemen's Dresses, comprising Cape, Overalls, and Hood, 21s. The whole can be carried with convenience in the pocket.

N.B. Hall and Co. particularly invite attention to their Elastic Boots, which are much approved; they supersede lacing or buttoning, are drawn on in an instant, and are a great support to the ankle.

**THE RAILWAY CHRONICLE.**—The First Number of the RAILWAY CHRONICLE appears THIS DAY, the 20th of April. A detailed Prospectus will be sent free, by post, to all who furnish their address to the Office, 14 Wellington street North, Strand, London.

This day is published, price 2s.

**A LETTER to Lord Ashley, on the Principles which Regulate Wages, and on the Manner and Degree in which Wages would be Reduced by the passing of a Ten Hours Bill.** By R. Torrens, Esq., F.R.S.

Also, by the same author, in one vol., 8vo., price 10s. 6d.,

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With an Introduction, in which the Deductive Method, as presented in Mr Mill's System of Logic, is applied to the solution of controverted questions in Political Economy.

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**CAMPHINE LAMP!!!**—The **PATENT CAMPHINE LAMP** gives a rich light, surpassing Gas in pureness and brilliancy, is simple in construction, and emits neither smoke or smell. May be seen burning at F. Barnett's Furnishing Ironmongery and Lamp Warehouse, 25 Oxford street, where a large assortment may be selected from, all at the lowest possible prices. Any Lamp Pillar may be fitted with a Camphine head. Patent Camphine Spirit, 3s. 3d. per Gallon. N. B.—25 Oxford street, one door west of Rathbone place.

**PATENT ENAMELLED KITCHEN WARE** is the most durable and cleanly article ever introduced, stands the test of any acid, never requires repairing, and is strongly recommended for chemical purposes. Saucepans, from 1s. 6d.; Stew pans, from 2s.; Tea kettles, Preserving pans, Frying pans, Gridirons, &c. &c. full twenty per cent. under any other house. Catalogues sent in answer to a post-paid application.

**HALL LAMPS, 11s. 6d.;** ground glass Patent Solar Lamps, from 2s. 6d.; Palmer's Patent Candle Lamps, from 5s. A most elegant assortment of Table, Bracket, Sideboard, and Suspending Lamps, in ormolu and bronze, at extraordinary low prices. Lamps cleaned or altered to the Solar principle; Lamp shades, 5s.; Cottons, 4d. per doz.; Palmer's Patent Candles, 8d. per lb.

**ELIOS STOVE, price 35s.** will warm a Room 20 feet square at the cost of 2½d. per diem.; is peculiarly agreeable and wholesome, and well adapted for Sitting or Sleeping rooms, Conservatories, or Shops. Drawings and Catalogues of prices sent in answer to post-paid applications. Country orders are requested to contain either remittance or a reference in Town.

**From 18s.—GUNS and RIFLES, London Government proved.**—A large assortment of Spanish-ribbed Twist Single and Double-barrelled Fowling Pieces, of superior manufacture and finish; some Rifles by the very best makers. Pistols, shot-belts, Powder-flasks, &c. at least 30 per cent. cheaper than London Makers' exorbitant charges.

F. BARNETT, 25 Oxford street, one door west of Rathbone place.

**THE NEW LIGHT.—GREAT NOVELTY.**—The Patent **CAMPHINE LAMP** gives a light of surpassing power, softness, and purity, without any kind of grease or dirt, smoke or smell. The lamp is simply and beautifully constructed, and can be fitted to any description of lamp, pedestal, or gas fitting. It is not easily put out of condition. The Camphine (also a patent) is 4s. per gallon, and is so pure that if spilt on any article of dress or furniture, will not leave either mark or stain, while it consumes so slowly that, at the cost of three farthings for two hours, it gives a light equal to twelve mould candles, without any attention. It will be found far less expensive than any, and incomparably superior to all existing light. To be seen burning at **RIPON and BURTON'S** (sole wholesale and retail agents for **ENGLISH'S PATENT CAMPHINE**), Wells street, Oxford street—Lamps from 3s. each; Lamp heads (with Chimney and Ground Shade) for fitting to any Pedestal, 21s. each if of Brass or Plain Glass; 23s. each if of Ground Glass.

**A BRONZED SCROLL FENDER for 15s.**—Rippon and Burton, 12 Wells street, Oxford street, are now offering the most extensive assortment of Fenders in London, embracing every possible variety, at prices 30 per cent. under any other house. Iron fenders, 3 feet long, from 4s. 6d.; 3 feet 6, 5s. 3d.; 4 feet, 6s.; ditto bronzed, 3 feet, from 6s.; 3 feet 6, 7s.; 4 feet, 8s.; rich scroll fenders bronzed, from 15s.; or with steel rod and moulding, from 21s.; polished steel and ormolu mounted fenders at proportionate prices. Fire irons for chambers, 1s. 9d. per set; ditto steel ditto, from 3s. 6d.; handsome ditto with cut heads, 6s. 6d.; newest patterns, with elegant bronzed heads, 11s. 6d.—Detailed catalogues, with engravings, sent (per post) free.

**GUNS.—LONDON PROVED GUNS.—A SINGLE-BARREL GUN, with twisted barrel, and patent breech 28s.**  
A ditto ditto, London proved ... 35s.  
A double-barrel Gun, with twisted barrel and patent breech ... 58s.  
A ditto ditto, London proved ... 65s.

A single-barrel Gun, 18s., usually charged two guineas.

Single Guns, to 6l. 10s.; double ditto, to 15l.

Hitherto there has been no certain way of obtaining a good gun without paying an extravagant price. Guns sold at low prices have been made by those with whom quality has not been so much a consideration as the production of a showy cheap article, which has generally proved worthless, if not dangerous. This has led Rippon and Burton to engage persons of known ability and great experience in the manufacture of guns, and they now solicit sportsmen to inspect their extensive assortment.—Mahogany cases, fitted with cleaning tackle, shot pouch, powder flask, &c., in great variety.—12 Wells street, Oxford street. (Established 1820.)

**FRAMPTON'S PILL of HEALTH** effectually relieves the stomach and bowels by gentle relaxation, without gripping or prostration of strength. They remove headache, sickness, dizziness, pains in the chest, &c.; are highly grateful to the stomach, promote digestion, create appetite, relieve languor and depression of spirits, while to those of a full habit and free livers, who are continually suffering from drowsiness, heaviness, and singing in the head and ears, they offer advantages that will not fail to be appreciated. Sold by Prout, 229 Strand, London, price 1s. 1½d. per box, and by most Medicine Venders in the Kingdom.

**NATIONAL ANTI-CORN-LAW LEAGUE.**

**THE WEEKLY MEETING** of the LEAGUE will be held in the THEATRE ROYAL, COVENT GARDEN, on WEDNESDAY EVENING NEXT, the 24th instant.

GEORGE WILSON, Esq., will take the Chair at half-past Seven o'Clock.

The meeting will be addressed by W. Ewart, Esq., M.P., Howard Elphinstone, Esq., D.C.L., M.P., J. L. Ricardo, Esq., M.P., and R. R. Moore, Esq.

Cards of admission may be had on application at the Offices of the League, on Monday and Tuesday, between the hours of eleven and four o'clock.

Applications for Private Boxes to be made personally, or by letter, on Monday.

The cards of registered Members will admit, as heretofore, to Pit and Galleries.—Doors to be opened at Seven o'Clock.

**TO MR PROUT, 229 STRAND, LONDON.**—Sir,

The great benefit which I have received by taking Blair's Gout and Rheumatic Pills induces me to inform you of the particulars of my case. About three weeks ago I became afflicted with a severe attack of rheumatism, which, for three days and nights, prevented my having rest or sleep, and was totally incapable of attending to business, when I was recommended to try Blair's Gout and Rheumatic Pills, which I did, and took them regularly for four days, by which time the pain had entirely left me, and on the fifth day I was able to attend to business as usual. I shall endeavour, by every means, to recommend a medicine which has given me so much relief. If the publication of my case will render any service, you are at liberty to use it.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,

G. E. SMITH,

Assistant to Mr Barraclough, Snuff Manufacturer to the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor, 46 Ludgate hill, London.

Sept. 11, 1843.

The above recent testimonial is a further proof of the great efficacy of this valuable Medicine. Sold by T. Prout, 229 Strand, London, and all Medicine Venders. Price 2s. 9d. per box.

15 per Cent. Discount for Cash to Shippers, Captains, and Emigrants.

**SILVER SUPERSEDED, and those corrosive and injurious metals, called Nickel and German Silver, supplanted by the introduction of a new and perfectly matchless ALBATA PLATE.**

C. WATSON, 41 and 42 BARBICAN, and 16 NORTON FOLGATE, aided by a person of science in the amalgamation of Metals, has succeeded in bringing to public notice the most beautiful article ever yet offered; possessing all the richness of Silver in appearance, with all its durability and hardness—with its perfect sweetness in use—undergoing, as it does, a Chemical Process, by which all that is nauseous in Mixed Metals is entirely extracted—resisting all Acids, may be cleaned as Silver, and is Manufactured into every Article for the Table and Sideboard.

	Plain.	Threaded.	King's.
Table Spoons and Forks . . . . .	16s. 6d.	30s. 0d.	35s. 0s.
Dessert ditto ditto . . . . .	12 6	25 0	30 0
Tea Spoons . . . . .	5 6	13 6	13 6
Salt ditto . . . . .	6 0	12 6	12 6
Fish Knives . . . . .	5 6 each	12 6	12 6
Sauce Ladles . . . . .	3 6 pair	7 6	7 6
Gravy Spoons . . . . .	3 6 each	7 6	7 6

C. WATSON begs the Public will understand that this Metal is peculiarly his own, and that silver is not more different from gold than his Metal is from all others—on its intrinsic merit alone he wishes it to be tested, and from the daily increasing eulogiums he receives, he is convinced that nothing can prevent its becoming an article of universal wear.

C. WATSON'S handsomely ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE and PRICE CURRENT is just published, and Families who regard economy and elegance should possess themselves of this useful Book, which may be had Gratis, and Post Free, from the above Address.

Foreign Orders promptly executed to any extent.

**THREE PAPIER MACHE TEA TRAYS, 35s.;** a set of three Gothic-shape ditto (including the largest size), for 35s.; three Gothic-shape japanned ditto, 25s.; three sandwich-shape ditto, 15s.; and every article in Furnishing Hardware unusually low; quality here is the primary consideration, hence their uninterrupted success for fifty years, and their present celebrity, as the best and most extensive Furnishing Warehouses in London.

**TABLE KNIVES, ivory handles, warranted, 11s. per doz.;** Desserts, 9s.; Carvers, 4s. per pair; a most extensive stock to select from, with balance handles, at 55s., 60s., and 70s., the long set of fifty pieces; white bone and other handles, 8s. to 15s. the twenty-four pieces: stag-handled carvers, 3s. 6d. per pair. The establishments of C. Watson have ranked pre-eminently for fifty years for their superior Table Cutlery, the whole of which is marked with his name and address, and subject to exchange if not approved of.

**SOLAR and CANDLE LAMPS.**—A Solar Lamp to burn common oil without smoke or smell, 22s. 6d.; a Palmer's Patent Candle Lamp, to give the light of two mould candles, plated, and with glass shade, 9s.; Hot Water Dishes for venison, beefsteak, or stews; a Set of Six London-made Patent Dish Covers, 18s. 9d.; Fenders, 3 ft. 6s.; 3 ft. 6 in. 7s.; if bronzed, 3 ft. 7s.; 3 ft. 6 in. 8s. Fire Irons, 3s. 6d.; Coal Scuttles, Tea Kettles, and every article in Furnishing Hardware unusually low.

**FRUIT DESSERT KNIVES, with FRENCH FORKS, of C. WATSON'S NEW ALBATA PLATE** (which is so rapidly superseding silver), in sets of twenty-four pieces, with ivory handles, 45s.; carved ivory handles, 50s.; Albert-pattern handles, 50s.; if in mahogany cases, 16s. extra. C. W. begs the public to understand this Metal is peculiarly his own, and is manufactured into every article for the Table and Sideboard. Plated and Silver Goods in every variety. Export and wholesale orders promptly executed.

To Families and New-married Couples, and indeed to all who study economy, combined with usefulness and elegance, the possession of his Catalogue will prove invaluable, and is sent to all parts of the Kingdom Gratis, and Post Free, on application at his Warehouses, 41 and 42 Barbican, or 16 Norton Folgate.

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