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THE POLITICAL EXAMINER.

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

HISTORY ANTICIPATED.

Was there ever a City the walls of which were fifty-five English miles in circumference, nearly 300 feet high, and so wide that a chariot and four horses could turn upon them? We are compelled to believe so, for we have the testimony of credible eye-witnesses to the fact, and yet it exceeds so very much anything of which we have experience, that we are continually feeling as if it were impossible that it could be true.

With similar incredulity will future ages receive the notices which will reach them concerning the Bank of England. Some philosophical historian writing 2,000 years hence will say,

There can be no doubt that at this time the English allowed their Sovereigns an annual revenue of about 500,000*l.* per annum. Evidence is direct and positive to this point, and there is nothing improbable in it considering their wise predilection for monarchical institutions, the benefits they derived from them, and their own great wealth; but reason must quit the scene and credulity itself stand aghast when we are told that they gratuitously endowed a company of ordinary and undistinguished individuals with nearly double that amount annually, after paying them exorbitantly for some trivial services of payment and receipt of money on public account. Many attempts have been made by various writers at different epochs to clear up this strange historical anomaly, but it still remains, and probably will ever remain, the most curious difficulty which history offers throughout all her pages. It is a struggle between the strongest improbability inherent in the thing itself and the strongest direct testimony in support of it. Evidence can never attain to a higher degree of force in any instance, yet the idea itself is so utterly incredible that no testimony whatever can make it even probable, and the philosophical historian will dismiss the evidence with contempt. We shall do no more at present than slightly glance at this, but we shall set forth the fact with all its surprising and bewildering distinctness. We have remaining to us the text of the Bill of the great Peel, afterwards Duke of Tamworth, and some letters which passed at the time between his Chancellor of the Exchequer and two persons invested with the sonorous titles of Governor and Deputy-Governor of this Company, which was called the Bank of England. These letters may be said to be quite unintelligible to us at present, and in truth, the diligent critic, after the most attentive perusal of them, will find it difficult to conceive how they could have been intelligible in any age. Some critics have been so impressed with their mystifications and confusion as to hazard the bold hypothesis that the writers intended that they should be unintelligible; and others have pushed the principle of this hypothesis to the still bolder extent of including the very writers of this singular correspondence among those who did not understand it. However, from these and many other similar sources, we seem to collect the following strange facts:

- 1st. That about the year 1845 the English paid this company of people a very large annual sum, for distributing to the national creditors the interest of the public debt.
 - 2nd. That they suffered to be paid to it by the general public a per-centage upon sundry small services, called Commission, amounting to an annual sum not less than 150,000*l.*
- So far some service for the money received is visible, but for what follows this Company does not appear to have rendered any services whatever.
- 3rd. The Government borrowed of it 11,000,000*l.*, for which they paid interest to it.
 - 4th. The Government permitted it to borrow 14,000,000*l.*, free of all interest, from the general public, by making its paper promises to pay small sums on demand a legal tender, and allowing it to issue these on loans at interest, at the mere cost to itself of the paper and printing.
 - 5th. The Government then permitted a vast sum of public money to lie in its hands.
 - 6th. The Government put it in a position by which the general public found itself compelled to suffer a further sum, equally vast, to lie in its hands.

These two last amounts were frequently as great, taken together, as 18,000,000*l.*; but assuming them to have been no greater than 12,000,000*l.*, and adding to this the sum of 14,000,000*l.* just mentioned as borrowed of the public, the nation would seem to have endowed this Company with 26,000,000*l.*, which they were permitted to lend out to the nation at interest, at their own will and pleasure; and the profit of all this in the year 1847, when they were lending at nine per cent., cannot have been less than 1,200,000*l.* That this Company should have been at first fully paid for whatever services it rendered, and then allowed 1,200,000*l.* besides, while the Sovereign of that day was only allowed 500,000*l.* per annum for supporting the vast weight of Regal dignity, is wholly incredible; and it is equally so if we reduce the annual profit of the 26,000,000*l.* to 800,000*l.*, which is supposed to be the amount which they themselves admitted; for even then it may fairly be said to be double of the Royal allowance, considering the charges necessarily incident to Royalty. Hence it will be seen that a thick historical cloud hangs over this curious point in English history, which no criticism has been, or ever will be, able to dispel. On the one hand it is impossible to gainsay the concurrent testimony,—on the other it is impossible to conceive that a people, such as the English were, could ever have been so doltishly inconsistent as to endow a company of ordinary persons for no assignable reason with double the revenue of their Sovereigns; and what renders this inconsistency the greater is, that it sufficiently appears that this Company employed the public money so as to produce from time to time very great injury to the nation,—so much so, that after repeated warnings through many years, the nation rose against it soon after the epoch we are speaking of, in consequence of its intolerable proceedings, and it seems very suddenly to have disappeared from the scene altogether, a little before that great development of English prosperity which dates from the middle of the nineteenth century.

Future ages will speak in some such strain as this of our extraordinary national folly in endowing the shareholders of the Bank of England with a revenue of about 1,000,000*l.*, the whole of which, without any great trouble, might be secured to the public, and go in reduction of taxes; and if every one would but ask himself a few simple questions on the subject, he would awake as from a dream to a perception of the reality, which is, that the nation permits these holders of Bank Stock, for no equivalent whatever, to derive an annual income from the public, in addition to that which they receive for services, very nearly double of that which we render to our Sovereign. We should be glad to see an enumeration of the services which this Company performs, against each of which should be set the specific amount which the public pays for it; we would ultimately find that there is an enormous sum, varying from 800,000*l.* upwards, annually paid to it for no service whatever. It is this that enables these persons to make an annual dividend to themselves of 7 or 9 per cent. upon 14,000,000*l.* capital. The East India Company won India at the risk of the resources of the Proprietors, who now receive interest upon the amount they expended. But the whole empire participates in every other advantage derived from India, it being of no consequence to the empire whether the administration is imperial or delegated. The nation does not make over any money to the Company, either by divesting itself of it, or by foregoing it and suffering the Company to appropriate it. But in the case of the proprietors of Bank Stock the nation actually deprives itself of the benefit of 26,000,000*l.*, which is worth nearly a million per annum—gives this to them; and in order to compass this very extraordinary object, annually taxes itself for the purpose to an equal amount.

We say that the history of the world, whether ancient or modern, affords no instance of such marvellous national prodigality. Were the sum lavishly divided among the superannuated drummers of the army, or decayed boatswains of the navy, an honourable motive, at least, would glimmer through the thick blunder itself, and cast a colour of respectability on the arrangement. But this undignified profusion towards a knot of private persons in no wise distinguished by public merits, is redeemed from absurdity by no consideration whatever, and stands next in the order of folly to such things as the deification of Apis and the deformity of the Flatheads.

REVOLTING LENIENCY TO CRIMINALS.

The acquittal of Ovenston renews the question, what is the disorder of mind that renders a man irresponsible for his actions? The medical dogma upon which Ovenston was declared not guilty, was not that he was unconscious of what he was doing in firing a pistol at his creditor's head, but that he was actuated by an uncontrollable impulse.

This sort of assertion from medical witnesses passes without any examination; but how could Dr Conolly pretend to know that the impulse in the man's mind was beyond his control? It is the peculiar privilege of the class of practitioners called mad-doctors, to pronounce opinions the most irrational with the utmost presumption and audacity. The minds of these gentlemen often want the straight-waistcoat as much as their patients' bodies.

The whole policy of the law is to restrain impulses by imposing penalties in default of control. The example of the suffering of one man because he has not kept his passions under restraint causes others to master their impulses. Judges used to dilate on this principle in passing sentence; but jurors nowadays read the argument the other way, as reason for acquittal. Literally rendered, the verdict in Ovenston's case was, "He could not help it."

But if this ground of acquittal be just in cases of murder, or attempts to murder, it must be an equally valid defence to all other charges. A man with a starving family around him rushes into the highway and takes the purse of the first passenger. Why may not uncontrollable impulse be pleaded for him? Why may he not produce a Dr Conolly to say—

"He had known many cases where pecuniary losses and domestic affliction had deprived the mind of reason. This happened in innumerable cases, and they were more frequently the causes of insanity than any others of a physical nature. In his opinion the mind of the prisoner had been gradually losing its power from the difficulties in which he felt himself surrounded, and that the crisis had arrived when he committed this act, and he did not consider that his being at the present time, or very soon after the transaction, in a state of perfect sanity, in any way affected the opinion he had formed, or was at all inconsistent with that view of the question."

Every man with excited passions is ever ready to suppose that he must deliver himself up to their sway, that it is vain to struggle against them; and the present example serves to encourage this dangerous propensity.

Ovenston was not under any delusion. He had deliberately, of malice aforethought, planned his crime, and argued it, as most assassins do, into the sophisticated semblance of an act of justice.

"One must go for an example to deter such wretches from doing the like again. Death is far more preferable than the disgraceful situation that villain Crawley has placed me in, and he has driven me to do that which I never contemplated."

Every murderer, every criminal of any kind, holds the same sort of language—he is driven—when he gives himself up to the impulses of revenge, cupidity, or lust.

That there was disorder in the mind of Ovenston we do not mean to deny—it was the disorder resulting from the indulgence of a bad passion—the sort of disorder which is the spring of all crime, and to grant impunity to which is tantamount to the abrogation of all laws for the protection of life and property.

It is a maxim of old, that anger is a short madness; and grant impunity to such madness, and murder has a boundless licence.

No jury, no human wisdom, not even that of a mad-doctor, can penetrate the mind of a man and ascertain that an impulse was beyond his control. It is the policy of the law to suppose that all impulses are controllable, and to hold men responsible for them, unless they are proved to be under such delusion as not to know the character of their actions. The impulses even of madmen are generally controllable; and the fact that they may not always be controlled, does not establish the uncontrollability.

If the doctrine upon which Ovenston was acquitted is to obtain, let us have plain terms to express it, and, instead of the cant of uncontrollable impulses, let juries deliver the verdict upon indictments for rape, robbery, and murder, "He could not help it;" for to that conclusion the jargon of the mad-doctors substantially comes.

We turn from Ovenston's acquittal to another specimen of the morbid feeling of juries, even where the law is so inadequate, so erring on the side of mildness, that it might have seemed to satisfy the most perverted sympathy.

The jury empanelled to try William Ashcroft at the Central Criminal Court, having heard the evidence that he had for wanton mischief, or for the

sheer pleasure in cruelty, endangered the lives of 200 persons by piling stones on a railroad, and having deliberated for some time on a verdict which seemed to require no deliberation whatever, as the act was not denied, the Common-Serjeant asked them whether they wished to withdraw. This called from them an explanation of the cause of their lengthened consultation, and it was not as might have been supposed the monstrous heinousness of the offence, the unprovoked barbarity, the diabolical pleasure in mischief, but, forsooth:

"The Foreman replied that there was no difficulty as to their verdict; they were only considering whether they ought to recommend the prisoner to mercy.

"The Common Serjeant said, he thought it right to inform them that if they did, both himself and the alderman who sat by him (Alderman Musgrove) were of opinion that the case was of such a nature that their recommendation could not be attended to.

"The jury then returned a verdict of Guilty.

"The Common Serjeant, in passing sentence, said, that the consequences which might have arisen from the act of the prisoner were of so awful a character that he had felt himself compelled, he believed for the first time, to state that if the jury had recommended him to mercy, he could not pay any attention to the recommendation. Although, therefore, he regretted to have to pass a severe sentence upon a man who it appeared had hitherto borne an excellent character, and who had a large family dependent upon him, yet he must not forget that the Court sat there for the purpose of protecting the lives of the public, and he felt that it must go forth, that if any person committed such a crime as this, the full sentence of the law would be inflicted. He had risked the lives of probably more than 200 persons by his act of placing these stones upon the railway, and he considered the Court would be neglecting its duty if it did not pass the extreme sentence fixed by the statute for an offence of such a description; which was, that he be imprisoned and kept to hard labour for two years."

The Common-Serjeant and the sitting Alderman acquitted themselves of their duties most creditably, and very properly discountenanced and rebuked the morbid tenderness of the jury, which, if yielded to, would have been the worst cruelty to society. But how preposterously inadequate is the law for such an offence—literally the attempt to maim or murder an indefinite number of persons. What is the danger to society of particular malice confined to an individual, compared with this general malice having no bounds, and wreaking its mischief on any hundreds of people coming within reach of the snare for their destruction. Ovenston's crime was not a hundredth part so perilous to society; but Ashcroft's incomparably greater offence escapes with the mild penalty of a couple of years' confinement, because of its peculiar wickedness in the absence of all provocation, and the utter wantonness of the cruel purpose!

Such a state of the law favours the most fiendish pleasure in destroying, and may also serve the purposes of assassination on the easiest terms. Suppose a man with Mr Ovenston's feelings to another happens to be aware that the object of his enmity is going to travel by a certain train. He has "an uncontrollable impulse" to place some stones or other impediment on the road, being ready to sacrifice one or two hundred lives to get at one, and for such an attempt really so much more atrocious than the attempt to blow out the brains of one man, he would be subjected, not to a conviction for an attempt to murder or to do grievous bodily harm, nor to an acquittal entailing confinement as insane, but to two years' imprisonment for a misdemeanour—a measure of punishment dealt out for offences comparatively of a slight character.

We pass to another example of most revolting enmity.

An execution having been put into the house of Mr Lewis, a music-seller in Cheapside, he left his home, not under "the uncontrollable impulse" to shoot his creditor, which would probably have enlisted the sympathy of a jury on his behalf, but honestly and peaceably in quest of the means of discharging the debt.

An old profligate in possession of the premises, taking advantage of the distressed husband's absence, made insulting proposals to the wife, which having been refused, he proceeded to such acts of violence that the poor woman and a female friend were obliged to barricade their apartment, and to keep watch for a whole night. When the husband learnt what had passed, he upbraided the old miscreant, who, in reply, asserted in the most foul and offensive terms that his wife was a dissolute character; upon which disgusting provocation, Mr Lewis naturally knocked the wretch down. Upon his trial, the miscreant, both in cross-examination and his defence, repeated the charge against the woman's character, adding, to the last, calumny, to his other brutal outrages.

The jury found him guilty of a common assault, acquitting him of the count charging him with a felonious intent, of which there could be no reasonable doubt that he was guilty, connecting his proved violence with the proved purpose on which he was bent. Now for the sentence:—

"The Common-Serjeant sentenced him to be kept to hard labour for three months.

"The prisoner said he was a cripple, and could not perform hard labour.

"The Common-Serjeant.—Oh, very well; then the sentence is three months' imprisonment without hard labour."

The scoundrel had only to say that he was a cripple, and unable to perform hard labour, and forthwith, without any inquiry or examination, his word was taken, and the sentence altered to suit his convenience. Perhaps if he had suggested that three months' confinement was too much for him, the complaisant Judge would have said, "Oh very well, then the sentence is two, or one."

Here for the present we stop, not for the want of other examples, but for the space for the exhibition of them, for they are becoming so abundant and flagrant, that the reports of the administration of justice can now seldom be read without leaving impressions of profound disgust and indignation.

We hold forth against the barbarism of Ireland, where the ruffian or assassin escapes with impunity, favoured by the bystanders, the witnesses of his crime; but what is the frequent case with us, and in what does it differ from the reproach of our brethren on the other side of St George's Channel? Simply that the place in which crime finds its favour and sympathy is not the theatre of outrage, but the very court of justice; and that it is not a rude ignorant population, but the sworn jury that compass the impunity complete or comparative of the blackest guilt.

THE LAW OF SEDUCTION.

A rule *Nisi* for a new trial has been applied for and obtained in the case of *Dingle v. Baker*. The circumstances of the nonsuit directed by Chief Justice Wilde will be in the recollection of our readers. It was an action for seduction, which can only, in the shamefully imperfect state of the existing law, be grounded on the plea of a loss of service; and the actual proof of loss of service being held by the Chief Justice to have failed, a nonsuit was ordered.

It now turns out that the loss of service was not even in issue on the defendant's pleas. The only plea upon the record was that of not guilty. The truth is that what the Chief Justice laid hold of as the essential point of the case, had been treated by other Judges, in similar cases, as a mere fiction of law; and it happened, singularly enough, that the loss of service in the case in question was no fiction at all, but a solid and substantial truth. The father had lost the services of his daughter. He rented turnpike gates, and his daughter assisted him by keeping one of them. She withdrew from this employment, while she was still able physically to attend to it, and when she returned it was not to her father's house, though her father had to support her in the house to which she went. The Judge ruled, upon this, that the relation of master and servant had been voluntarily broken; and refused to take cognizance of the fact that the withdrawal had been the consequence of the seduction, and indeed arranged by the seducer himself to conceal the pregnancy.

We can hardly doubt that the new trial will be granted, and the ruling of the Chief Justice reversed as at least inapplicable to the case of *Dingle v. Baker*. But attention has been fixed on the state of the law; and it cannot be permitted to remain as it is. The fiction by which justice has hitherto been obtained, in perhaps the worst class of cases that come before the Courts, has been swept away by the decision which it is now (on grounds as technical as those which prompted it) proposed to reverse; and some better form of redress must surely be invented for the most flagrant violation that can possibly be committed of one of the tenderest relations of life.

Since the seduction to which we have been adverting, the case of Mr William Henry Kavanagh, of Brentwood Hall, has been made public; and a more atrocious example of heartless vice and inconceivable shabbiness we do not remember. It was one of those cases which comment cannot reach the baseness of. Yet it seems to have moved a correspondent of the *Times* to protest against the language ordinarily applied to "cases of incontinence."

"The man no more seduces the woman than the woman seduces the man; each merely endeavours to appear agreeable in the eyes of the other. If there is any priority, it is the woman who makes the first advances—at least, so far as to give the man to understand, that she will not be greatly offended by boldness on his part; I doubt if it ever occurred to any man to attempt the seduction of a woman whom he really believed to be modest and virtuous. But the woman, we are told, is betrayed—deceived. These words sound well, but what do they mean? Is it intended to say that she is actually not aware of what she is about? One would really think, to listen to some sentimentalists, that man alone derived any sensual gratification from these indulgences, and that there were no animal passions in woman to tempt her in the same direction. Women yield, not to the solicitations of men, but to the solicitations of their own impure desires; they are, and must be, perfectly well aware of the consequences of a want of chastity, but in the pursuit of pleasure they choose to shut their eyes to them. True, the laws both of nature and society visit them in this world with a punishment far heavier than that which falls upon their paramours; still they know it, and if they will deliberately run the risk, I do not see that they have any just cause of complaint against their fellow-sinners. The loss of 50*l.* may be ruin to a poor man, while it is a mere trifle to a rich one; yet if the former will play with the latter and lose his little fortune, he can hardly complain that he has been unfairly treated. But it is said, the woman is deluded under promises of marriage.

I do not believe that women are often deluded by anything of the sort. They must know that a man will not be likely to marry a wife in whose virtue he can place no reliance; but they like to cheat their consciences by pretending to themselves that they believe in words which do not really deceive them, and perhaps are not often intended or expected to do so."

These words sound well, as the writer remarks, but what do they mean? Apply them to such a case as Mr Kavanagh's. A wealthy man of forty years of age conceives the deliberate design of seducing the daughter of a London tradesman, a girl of seventeen; takes rooms near her father's house to enable him to pursue this purpose; effects it by a series of arts and falsehoods; places his victim in private lodgings, from which he himself absconds when tired of her; then sends her five pounds with a series of canting falsehoods and pretences of poverty; and, having told her that he has been forced to fly to France (in a letter which, to favour his deception, he had procured to be posted at Dover), is found living with ample resources in an expensive London hotel. Where is the possible pretence of "priority" here? Where is the equality, in any one respect, of risk, of temptation, of injury, of passion? of anything that should induce the crime, or be mulcted in its share of the penalty? It is from first to last a case of the basest swindling; and it received appropriate consummation in the almost incredible impudence which endeavoured, even after exposure, to escape under a false name.

Take, again, the case which has led to these remarks, and in which the Chief Justice put the plaintiff out of Court. The seducer, a wine-merchant, was between thirty and forty; the girl, a poor man's child, not seventeen. The disparity of station and consequent advantage to the seducer were the same as in Mr Kavanagh's attempt; yet the poor girl had strength to resist a series of most persevering arts and contrivances, until the expedient of drugged ale was resorted to, and the wrong was committed while she was in a state of stupefaction. How would the reasoning of the *Times*' correspondent apply here? He desires to see what he calls the "contemptible fiction" of loss of service in the seduction law abolished; but so far from wishing an effectual substitute for it, he thinks it a matter beyond the province of the Legislature, and with which it is not desirable that legislation should interfere. All he thinks advisable is, that, as a matter of police, public facilities for such offences should be discouraged, and brothels and gaming-houses put down.

In other words, we are to cure a most crying mischief by remedies not only impracticable and inefficient, but capable of perversion to the worst purposes. The root of the evil is not "public facilities," but private arts of debauchery; and till we can reach these, interference is idle. That undoubted virtue may be the choicest mark of such arts, that innocence may fall before them, and that the very purity and guilelessness of unguarded youth may be used as the means of its overthrow, we believe on higher authority than any this writer can urge. Turning the tables will not do. It will not do to make the deceiver's wrong his safety, or to set up some third party, some provider of "public facilities," as the scape-goat for his escape. It is the principal we would strike with the law, and not the mere wretched procurers to whom his vices have furnished employment.

Nor do we think it altogether hopeless to turn the legislative remedy in this direction. The ground is cleared for it by the decision in the case of *Dingle and Baker*, which, whatever its present fate may be, has overthrown the legal fiction on which the existing law against seduction is founded, and practically abolished its coarse and miserable remedy. The more direct remedy is now to be sought; and it is inconceivable that for a wrong which strikes at the foundation of all the affections and relations on which society rests, it should be impossible to devise a legislative punishment. It is our belief, on the contrary, that some efficient penalty may be found to meet the wrong; and that the moral agencies of society, which in all such matters at present must be confessed to be lamentably lax, would be strengthened by its legislative enactment.

SWISS WAR.

The chief importance of Switzerland, the great hopes and the great fears entertained of it by the popular parties of surrounding countries, and by the Courts and Governments, are all based upon its intellectual influence, on its being a focus of knowledge, freedom, education, and advanced ideas. These hopes and fears are chiefly entertained by Germans, for the German portion of Switzerland is by far the most important. And in this German portion man, trade, education, Government, and all else are infinitely more free and more advanced, than in any region of Germany Proper. Great German contentions and causes of strife and struggle are smothered on the German soil. Whether the quarrel be religious, or social, of race or of caste, despotic power, with its bayonets and its censorship, instantly crushes it. And anything

like warmth of controversy, even on metaphysics, is so dreaded by German Governments, that they rush in to stop it. Switzerland was the only spot of free German ground open to exiled men, exiled passions, exiled ideas, thus driven from Germany. And Switzerland has welcomed those of all colours and extremes. To do Prussia and Austria justice, when they muzzle one extreme they muzzle the other. They silence Liberals in religion and politics. But they also silence Jesuits and Ultramontanes. Such a rescript as that which Pope and Propaganda have promulgated in Ireland against the Irish Colleges, durst not have been made known in Prussia, or even in Austria; and Archbishop M'Hale would have been sent to the dungeons of Spielberg for one half of the license and impertinence which in the Pope's name he plays with perfect impunity in Ireland.

Switzerland is thus the only German country where your ultra Catholic, your ultra Protestant, and your ultra nothing-at-all, can run to the whole length and publicity of their extravagances. And it is the very compression of these extravagances in Germany, that gives food and impulse to those at Lucerne and Berne. It is, in fact, the thirty years' war, silenced in Germany for two centuries, that now breaks forth in Switzerland.

It is well known that France, though hyper-Catholic in those olden times, still felt so thoroughly that its interest was to support the popular party in Germany against the Courts and priesthood, that even Richelieu aided the German Protestants. And it was true policy. Yet now we see M. Guizot take the part of German despotism and Catholicism against the popular party. For, after all, it is these great tendencies and influences that struggle in Switzerland.

If German Switzerland could be united and subjected to the ideas and the impulses of the Liberals, which are, in fact, but an offset of larger German Liberalism, a focus of light and liberty would be formed at the foot of the Alps which would fling its rays all over Germany, even into the darkest recesses of the Austrian empire.

That Austria therefore should support the Jesuits at Lucerne, is nowise astonishing, and that these priests, surrounded by an ignorant peasantry, and having banished men of Liberal feeling and education, in professional respectability, from Lucerne, should defend the hole in which they have burrowed, and try to prevent the light of Heaven from being forced in upon them, is natural.

Meantime the Liberal politicians and religionists have armed. They number 50,000 strong. They have law and the constitution on their side, in the sanction of the majority of the Diet. They are irritated by the interference of Foreign Powers, which have spirited the retrogrades to resistance; and in the present state of highly-wrought zeal, the Federal army would probably fall on the French or Austrians with as much gusto as upon the Swiss "Soldiers of the Faith."

Should there be war, and no foreign intervention, the result will be—what is natural enough—that the Liberals will overrun the plain and its towns, but the rustic retrogrades will remain impregnable in their snows and mountains, of which, indeed, the population is much the same, in habits, strength of body, and narrowness of mind, as it was three hundred years ago. But the inundation of Liberal men and Liberal ideas can easily overflow the champaign country, unless foreign interference forbid, or diplomacy prevent, the civil war.

TESTIMONIAL TO MR ROEBUCK.

Hackneyed to the most ridiculous abuse as testimonials are, the well-merited occasions for such tributes can never be confounded with the flimsy and spurious, and amongst the former will at once be recognised the testimonial to Mr Roebuck at Bath. It would be as difficult to find any one agreeing in every opinion and shade of opinion entertained by Mr Roebuck, as to find any intelligent man who does not deplore his absence from the Legislature. It is felt that he is a necessary ingredient in the composition of the House of Commons. He is what the French call a specialty, and a specialty that often does excellent service. He is one of the few men who dare to be unpopular—the rarest of all courage—who dare to revolt against the conventionalities and prevailing sentimentalities, and to hurl hard reason against them. In this conflict he often pushes his argument to extremes, but his extreme opposed to an opposite one serves to point the way to the golden mean in which lies the truth. When it shall be felt, as it surely will be felt, to use the Eastern phrase, that his place is vacant in the present Parliament, let it be remembered that Bath has deprived the public counsels of the voice of such a man; as Lambeth has deprived us of the well-digested information and sound judgment of a Hawes, and Edinburgh has deprived us of the rich stores and eloquence of a Macaulay.

The *Daily News* has called attention to the incendiarism of a portion of the Irish press. The following passage is quoted from a Repeal Journal:

"An unprotected and unfed people must have leagues and

gatherings, and startle the whole community. And let them. We despair of anything except through the vehement demonstration of the people. We recommend the advice of the Marquis of Anglesea—agitate, agitate, agitate. We should be glad to see the Irish gentlemen and landholders in insurrection. We should congratulate the country on such a hopeful rebellion. We tell the gentry, if they will not join the movement of the people, the movement may trample upon themselves. The only alternative now left to the people is the workhouse or open depredation."

The writer goes on to mention that the people at Limerick had taken away his potatoes from one priest, and his cows from another; and thus continues:

"This state of things is most ominous, but in the present condition of the country most natural and inevitable. Human nature is not proof against hunger and thirst—
"Falls sick at last of imitating Job."

We need hardly say that we agree with our contemporary in regarding such atrocious language as of the very wickedest example, and very far exceeding the most extreme license that can be given to newspaper discussion. The next post brought an account of one of the very worst of even Irish murders; but is not the dastardly counsel which thus encourages the assassin of a thousand-fold blacker die than the ignorant crime it prompts?

We are obliged to postpone to our next Number a notice of Mr Stephen's retirement from the Colonial Office.

THE SOUTH EASTERN RAILWAY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

Sir,—In your last paper you have remarked on the unfounded rumour of the bankruptcy of the South Eastern Railway. I travel often by that rail, and am ready to admit that it is well-conducted, that the people are civil, and that the pace is regular; nevertheless, the proceedings of the Directors have been such as to justify the reproaches of the public for insincere conduct, and latterly to afford a ground for the rumour in question. In opposing the line to Dover through Canterbury, in the session of 1846, they vaunted their low fares. As soon as that line was thrown out they forthwith raised them. Very recently they have resorted to the following miserable mode of replenishing their coffers:—The train papers, hitherto given gratis, are only to be had for a halfpenny. The great coats, formerly kept at the London Terminus for a penny each, are now to be only kept for twopence. The return-tickets (day tickets) are withdrawn from the third-class passengers—the very class in whose favour they ought to be retained! This last proceeding is really despicable. Added to this, the allowance for luggage by this rail is less than on others (the South-Western for example) and the fares on the South-Western are much lower. I have no interest, privately, in any railroad, either in *esse* or in *posse*, but am one of the public—a consumer—and beg to subscribe myself,
Your obedient servant, L.

MANX JUSTICE.

(FROM THE 'MORNING CHRONICLE'.)

Our respected provincial contemporary, the *Liverpool Mercury*, reported on Tuesday last certain judicial proceedings in the Manx Court, before Mr Deemster Heywood, which are richly deserving of a far wider auditory than the precincts of that antiquated little island can furnish. The essential facts of the case may be briefly stated. On the 25th of August last there appeared in the columns of the *Mona's Herald* a letter containing a very gross attack on the character of a gentleman of the name of Dumbell, an advocate at the Manx bar, and secretary to the House of Keys. There is no occasion to specify the nature of the charges, as the letter is admitted on all hands to have been a foul and infamous libel. It appeared on the trial that the communication was inserted by a subordinate member of the establishment, named Johnson, not only without the actual cognizance of the managing proprietor Mr Fargher, but in opposition to that gentleman's most express and repeated orders that nothing should go into the papers without his immediate knowledge and approval. In fact, there had, on one occasion, been "high words" between Mr Fargher and this person, in consequence of the latter having presumed to place matter in the printer's hands without the previous inspection of his principal. It was also proved—at least it was going to be proved, when the judge stopped the evidence—that Mr Fargher, immediately on finding that the libel in question had crept into his paper, expressed his surprise and displeasure to Johnson, who instituted such inquiries into the circumstances alluded to by the libeller as might enable him to publish a due explanation and apology. In the meanwhile, the sale of the number was stopped. On the 1st of September, Mr Fargher, unasked by Mr Dumbell, or any one on his behalf, published in his paper a retraction and apology. On the 15th he received a letter from Mr Dumbell's solicitor, stating that the apology was not considered sufficiently ample and explicit, and enclosing a form of apology, of which insertion was demanded under pain of legal proceedings. Mr Fargher accordingly apologised again, in a subsequent number of his paper, in the terms required. After this, the English reader will be somewhat astonished to learn that Mr Fargher has been convicted under a criminal information, and is not improbably at this moment a prisoner in Castle Rushen. It was in vain that Mr Fargher's counsel laboured to hammer into the judicial head the distinction between civil and criminal liability for the acts of one's servants. It was admitted, in the broadest and most unqualified terms, that the proprietor of the *Mona's Herald* is answerable civilly for any injury to character committed by his employes through the medium of his journal—just as Mr Deemster Heywood would have to pay damages for the reckless driving of his coachman. But what would

Mr Deemster Heywood think, we wonder, of being convicted of manslaughter because a careless Jehu in his employ, in spite of repeated warnings to go gently, drove over and killed one of her Majesty's subjects? Yet there was no making the learned Deemster comprehend this distinction. The judicial head could not take it in. The gentlemen of the jury, too, were hard at work for "about three quarters of an hour," ineffectually trying to appreciate the difference between civil liability and guilt. Mr Fargher is positively "found guilty" of another man's act, committed without his sanction, and in defiance of his orders—which was, in fact, a breach of trust against himself—and the consequences of which he has done his very utmost to repair. We do very confidently hope, that as soon as the Home Secretary becomes acquainted with this monstrous business, he will think it a case for the exercise of prerogative.

THE LITERARY EXAMINER.

Narrative of the Surveying Voyage of H.M.S. Fly commanded by Captain F. P. Blackwood, R.N., in Torres Strait, New Guinea, and other Islands of the Eastern Archipelago; during the Years 1842-46: together with an Excursion into the Interior of the Eastern part of Java. By J. Beete Jukes, M.A., F.G.S. Naturalist to the Expedition. Two Vols. T. and W. Boone.

Avoiding all details respecting places better known to the public than the coasts which it was the object of the *Fly* to survey, Mr Jukes enters at once into his subject, and lands his readers on a coral island in the northern part of the groupe, on the north-east coast of Australia, which takes the name of Capricorn from that tropic passing through it.

These islands form the commencement of the Great Barrier Reef, which extends along fifteen degrees of latitude, from Breaksea Spit to Bristow Island on the coast of New Guinea; a distance, in a straight line, of about 1,100 geographical or nearly 1,260 statute miles. "It stretches along the coast at a mean distance of about thirty miles from the land, its outer edge being sometimes not more than ten or fifteen, at others, more than 100 miles distant from it." Two tracks exist for the navigation which conducts the whole commerce from the eastern colonies of Australia and the Southern Pacific to the coasts of India and the Indian Archipelago; and these are known by the names of the Inner and Outer Routes. In the former, vessels find good anchorage the whole way, being perfectly sheltered by the reefs; but in the latter there is no anchorage, and "whatever the circumstances, a ship must keep under sail until she come up to the edge of the Great Barrier, and pass through one of its openings into the comparatively shallow and sheltered water inside of it." It was one of the principal objects of the expedition described in these volumes, to survey the northern part of the Barrier Reef, so as to lay down the best openings, and to erect some distinguishing marks or beacons by which vessels out of their reckoning would have a chance of learning their true position and which way they ought to proceed. The examination of Torres Strait and the coast of New Guinea was also included in the objects of the voyage; and the expedition, which left England in 1842 and returned in 1846, was placed under the command of Captain Blackwood, R.N. Mr Jukes was attached to it as the naturalist.

He appears to have possessed many excellent qualifications for the post assigned to him; being a skilful geologist, a person of good general information, and evidently patient and earnest in the prosecution of discovery. To these qualities must be also added, as scarcely less valuable on the barren and frequently hostile shores of Australia, the power of enduring fatigue, indifference to danger, a genial and forbearing disposition, and the faculty of being a good shot; the last a very necessary attribute whether for purposes of intimidation or actual defence.

In his descriptions of the coralline formations along this extensive line of coast, the scientific reader will find very ample and clear details, and the naturalist, generally, much instructive matter. But setting these aside, our purpose is to go ashore with him from time to time and speak of what he saw, as well on the thinly-peopled shores of Australia as in the interior of the magnificent islands of Java, whither he afterwards penetrated.

One of the earliest interviews of his party with the natives is thus described:

"Arrived at the spot where we left last night, we leant our guns against a tree and sat down, those nearest to us doing so likewise. Now commenced a great palaver, in the course of which we went through the motions of drinking water, imitated the leaping of a kangaroo, and dancing a corrobory"—(the *coranto* of Australia)—"all which they seemed to understand. We showed them the ashes of our fire, and laid our heads on our hands to show we had slept there last night, at which they nodded their heads, as if to say they were fully aware of that. Presently an old grey-headed man came down the hill, whom they all pointed out to us, and calling him, Captain Blackwood placed on his head a red worsted night-cap. The old gentleman leant forward to have the cap adjusted, with great earnestness, and then, with a grave and dignified countenance, took his seat among us, as if admitted to our company. Paying no further attention to his own tribe" (the habits of civilised life soon caught), "he first spoke to one and then to the other of us in a low, serious tone of voice, and pointed to the dogs (of which they were rather afraid), as if requesting them to be removed. Ten more

young men, with white sticks through their noses, and spears in their hands, now joined us from the mangroves round our mount, where they had been lying in ambush. They all then rose and began rather to press upon us; by Captain Blackwood's desire, accordingly, I called their attention, and fixing an oystershell in a tree about fifteen yards off, fired a ball into it. They started at the report, and one or two in the rear threw themselves down, but either they did not comprehend it, or trusted wholly in our good intentions, as they did not seem to care much about it. One man, indeed, laid hold of my gun, as if to take it away, but desisted on my looking grave and shaking my head. . . . There were twenty-four men and two boys visible, but no women. They were all perfectly naked, and the men were stout, broad-shouldered, stalwart fellows, and fat withal. Some of their countenances were good-humoured and intelligent, others more reserved. They did not follow us down the hill, but saluted us with a farewell 'coey' as we embarked and shoved off."

The principal illustrations to the book are very fairly executed in mezzotint, but they do not convey the idea of anything "broad-shouldered" or "robust;" on the contrary, the lankness which is the characteristic of the natives of other parts of Australia seems to be the portion of these also; and in speaking of the women of Cape Cleveland, a little higher up the coast, Mr Jukes admits this to be the case. He says: "The women are smaller than the men, but of the same make, both being equally lanky, with straight hips and sides, and thin legs, so that when viewed from behind at a little distance, it is difficult to tell a woman from a man."

Amongst other modes of exciting their curiosity, which elicited the exclamation "phut! phut!" and, when pleased, a "wurr-r-r" like the rising of a partridge, the Europeans offered them a treat which generally succeeds with the unsophisticated:

"We sent for some brown sugar, with the taste of which they were highly pleased, and swallowed large mouthfuls with great satisfaction. We then invited them to come to the boat, and though at first rather reluctant, when we got in and sat down, and threw some biscuit ashore, they came and sat opposite us, one or two young ones coming down the slope of a projecting rock to the bow of the boat. Presently an old woman made her appearance, of rather a skinny figure, but a sharp, good-natured countenance; she had a grass basket over her shoulder, and a grass necklace round her neck, being her only apparel. She waded out to us with the greatest confidence and good-humour, and we filled her two hands with sugar, with which, as soon as she had tasted it, she crammed her mouth as full as it could hold; then giving us her basket and necklace—like Oliver Twist—"she held out her hands for more. Two or three young girls and two boys now came down. The elder of the other women came down near the boat, but would not come out to us for sugar, on which the old dame offered to take her some. As soon, however, as she got it into her hands, she began on it herself, and would have finished it had we not cried out, on which she went and gave half a handful to the other woman, and then licked her own hands as clean as possible. The youngest and best-looking girl we could not persuade to come to us. On beckoning to her to come for sugar, she would advance hesitatingly a little way, and then turn round laughing, with her hand before her face, and run behind some of the men, with all the airs and coquetry of a rustic belle, which in her purely natural condition amused us not a little. We then gave some for her to a man who apparently was her husband. He took a heavy toll of it, but on our crying out, he let her taste it, when, as she took only a little as if afraid of not liking it, he hastily crammed the remainder in his mouth as if to settle the business, and seemed to treat our efforts at gallantry with profound indifference and contempt."

Near Cape Upstart, which, rising abruptly from the sea a mass of granite 2,000 feet high, is not inaptly named, Mr Jukes and his party met with more natives; with whom, after dancing the corrobory, which seems to be *de rigueur* in those parts, they became on very good terms, and to some they gave Christian and other names as well as cast-off garments. The precise uses of the latter appear to have rather puzzled them; for one whom they called Little Jacket, from his having had a jacket given him, wore it like Paddy from Cork, "the wrong side before, buttoned down his back." They were not all ignorant, however, of every mystery of civilized costume, for further on we read of the Murray islanders being proficient in the art of making and wearing wigs!

"Koiyop," says Mr Jukes, "being down in the gun-room, I persuaded him to sell me his wig, which he told me was made of the hair of young Dappa of Erroob. He wore his own black hair short under his wig, which he seemed rather reluctant to part with, asking for a looking-glass, 'perper' to see how he looked without it, and saying 'Keimear naeg,' 'men laugh,' as if he thought they would laugh at him without it. For a good knife, however, he let me have it; but the next day I found him provided with another."

Should the curiosity of Messrs Truefitt or any other of our celebrated perruquiers be excited by this description, we are happy in being able to inform them that Koiyop's wig is open for their inspection in the British Museum. The wigs generally are described as resembling that of a state-coachman's on a birth-day, "dressed in short, close, pipe-like ringlets, something like a thrum-mop."

Though the general character of the intercourse with the natives was friendly, the exploring parties were sometimes obliged to do more than merely frighten them. Here is an instance, which at the same time exhibits indifference to pain in a striking point of view:

"While away with Lieutenant Ince and Mr Pym, in one of the creeks on the north side of the bay, we were at one time surrounded by several parties of natives, amounting to forty or fifty in number, and one party commenced pelting us with large blocks of rough basalt, but desisted on a charge

of No. 4 shot being fired at them. At the time the gun was fired, the groups were not more than forty yards off, and the man who was principally struck, after giving a slight start and a scream, showed the marks on his breast and arms to his companions, and then going to the water and washing off the blood, seemed to think no more about it, but walked about afterwards with perfect unconcern."

But the hostile demonstrations of these people were unfortunately not always confined to pelting with blocks of basalt. On one occasion, when in full confidence as to their friendly disposition, Captain Blackwood's men had discharged their guns along the water, the natives watched till they were stowed away in the lockers, and then sent a shower of spears amongst the sailors. The party, upon this, tacked and loaded, and for the purpose of intimidating them Mr Jukes fired a ball a little above the head of one fellow who was sculking between some trees, and cut off a small branch a foot or two above his right ear, "on which he bounded into the bushes like a stag." A few buck-shot dropped amongst the rest soon dispersed them. Near Cape Melville, however, the treachery of the natives was attended with fatal consequences; a man of the boat's crew, named Bayley, having been speared in the back, from which wound he afterwards died. Mr Jukes's regret at not being able to avenge his death in consequence of the worthlessness of a Belgian gun which he accidentally carried, and which twice missed fire, is natural enough. He says: "I have always joined in reproaching the causeless injuries sometimes inflicted by civilized man upon the wild tribes of savage life."

"* * I have been inclined to suppose that they were rarely the aggressors, and were always more sinned against than sinning. One such practical example as this, however, wrought a great change in my feelings on these points; and I could make great allowances for any one who, under such circumstances as I have detailed, took a larger revenge than the strict justice of the case demanded." He adds that to avenge his comrade he could willingly have shot a dozen of these black fellows. There was, happily, no further occasion to indulge in these feelings, though it was always more or less necessary for the men to be on their guard.

Some of the natural phenomena on the coast are curious. Here is one that recalls the famous spectre of the Brocken.

"Soon after the sun rose, and while his beams were nearly horizontal, we observed a very curious and interesting phenomenon. Whenever a bank of mist rested on the western brow of the hill, and the eastern one was clear, we could see our own shadows on the mist, surrounded as to the head and shoulders by faint iris or rainbow. By watching attentively, all our movements could be discerned in these spectral figures. On extending the arm, I found its shadow reached beyond the halo that surrounded the head. By getting on a rock, the whole figure was perceptible, and each person thus saw his shadow standing in the air, apparently at a distance of about fifty yards from him, with its head surrounded by a halo of glory. I do not exactly recollect, but I believe no one, unless standing very near to another, could see more than his own shadow, which from the nature of the phenomena, I conclude would be the case."

How many an apparition in a mountainous country has its origin in a similar cause! Half the poetry of *Ossian* is in that little paragraph.

There are few objects in nature that can exceed the beauty of the coral reef, and Mr Jukes does it justice in his glowing description. That he has a good eye for the picturesque is shown in his account of the aspect of the surf where it beats on the Barrier Reef. The multitudes of birds at Rain's Island would seem to resemble what may be seen on the Welsh and Scottish coasts, with this difference, that they seem here to have undisputed possession of the soil: as Mr Jukes says: "the whole island stank like a foul hen-roost." A pretty place to pass the night in, affures dining on young boobies! which Mr Jukes assures us are very good, especially when cooked with a little curry powder. At the island which is named par excellence after these booby birds, the adventurers found something more sentimental to engage their attention. Booby Island is a small rocky islet lying in the ordinary track of vessels sailing through Tower Straits, and it appears to be usual for ships passing through to call and leave a notification of the fact. "For this purpose a small shed has been erected, under which was a box containing a blank book, with pens and ink, and a bag of beef and some biscuit, for any boat's crew escaping from a wreck. We were rather amused by some of the notices and messages left in this book, especially by one or two from the fairer half of creation. One lady left her kind love to any other lady who might hereafter pass that way, and she would be most happy to see her at her father's house, such a number, such a street, Bow road, London. Another lady begged her *kind remembrance* to any other lady passing through."

We take leave of Australia at Cape York, its north-eastermost limit, which Mr Jukes is decidedly of opinion should rather be the place for a settlement—especially since the subject of steam navigation from England to those waters has been broached—than the place selected, Port Essington. From the circumstantial statements made by Mr Jukes, we are not indisposed to coincide with him.

The southern coast of New Guinea comes next in order of geographical succession; but we pass from our Author's account, as, with some differences,

arising from their being less isolated than the Australians, the habits of the people on these shores and the islands adjacent greatly resemble what has been already described. We stretch across, therefore, to the Sea of Banda, and anchor with Mr Jukes at Coupang in the island of Timor, semi-civilised by the Dutch. His great difficulty here,—it is one that many are subject to in London just now, and indeed at most times, though from very different causes,—was to get cash for a bill. Cash was to be had, but in a shape that could only have been satisfactory to the great Spartan legislator. In the urgency of his need he applied to a young Frenchman established at Coupang, who undertook to cash a Government bill for 38*l.* in copper, and in copper only was the money forthcoming. Its weight was so great that it took eight or ten persons to carry it home!

The Dutch residents of the Malay rajahs appear to have satisfied Mr Jukes both by the splendour of their costumes and their grace and good breeding. It may be observed, *en passant*, that every Malay, high or low, wears the formidable kriss, so dangerous when they run a-muck,—an accomplishment, however, which is not within the category of good manners. Nevertheless it is not quite safe for strangers to venture into the interior of Timor. Mr Jukes, who had a little Malay guide on one of his excursions, said that he should go there if he staid long enough, on which the boy started up, his black eye glistened, and with a very significant "Ah!" drew his finger across his throat. Instead, therefore, of falling victims to the Timorese *coupe-gorges*, the expedition sailed for Java, skirting the broken cliffs of Sumbawa, beholding the lofty peak of Lombok, which rises more than 11,000 feet above the sea, passing the peak of Bali which attains an equal altitude, enjoying the glorious aspect of the rich coast of Madeira, and finally bringing up in the anchorage of Sourabaya, the large and flourishing Dutch settlement on the eastern shore of Java.

The reception which the expedition met with here was a most agreeable one, and Mr Jukes's description is very animated:

"The town seemed very extensive, and its suburbs still more so. We drove up one road and down another for several miles, under avenues of trees, with native villages or kampongs on each side of us, interrupted here and there by the country-houses and grounds of Europeans. Many of these latter seemed pretty spacious, and were all thrown open, and lighted up with many lamps. In front of these houses were parties of ladies and gentlemen sitting in verandahs and porticos, taking tea or wine, smoking or playing cards, and chatting. We met one or two carriages of ladies, seemingly in full dress, without bonnets or any head-dress, driving about in the cool of the evening. We crossed the river, which now seemed rapid and winding, and had several wooden bridges over it, and after driving down some dark roads, overshadowed by trees, in which brilliant fire-flies were flitting about, entered the town again by the Chinese quarter. Here we found grotesque-looking houses, lit up with large paper lanterns, of gaudy colours, with Chinese inscriptions or monsters upon them, and long rows of Chinese characters up and down the door-posts, or over the windows. Large arched gateways seemed to lead into some of the streets, probably particular quarters. Crowds of people swarmed along the streets, and strange cries and a babel of languages resounded in our ears, and every variety of eastern dress flitted about us, from the half-naked coolie to the well-clothed Chinese, in a loose white jacket like a dressing-gown; the Arab merchant, in his flowing robes, or the Javanese gentleman, or gentleman's servant, in smart jacket and trowsers, sash, and sarong or petticoat, a curious penthouse-like hat or shade, and a strange-handled kriss stuck in his girdle. It was a novel and exciting scene, but, used as we had been lately to quiet and seclusion, rather bewildering, and we were glad about eight o'clock to retreat to the hotel, and thence to take boat and get on board the ship."

Of the versatility of the Javanese Mr Jukes gives an amusing example:

"A man who is one day a carpenter, will turn blacksmith the next; or from a cultivator of the ground, will become a sailor. They are fond also of change, and the Colonel told us a story of a servant of his, who, after living with him for several years as a coachman, begged one day to be allowed to go on board ship and be a sailor. Surprised at this, his master asked him what was his reason, whether he had any complaint to make, or was in any way dissatisfied? 'No,' he said, 'he had nothing to complain of, but he was tired of seeing the Colonel's face every day.'"

There is very good living to be had in Java; but it must require practice, like olive-eating, to relish the fruit called the durian, its flavour being described to be something like rich custard and boiled onions mixed together.

The apprehension of danger in the interior of the island did not prevail in Java; the chief difficulty was to obtain permission to travel. Under ordinary circumstances this is refused; but the prestige of a British man-of-war carried the day against the scruples of timorous residents, and a party of four or five persons, including Captain Blackwood and Mr Jukes, accordingly set out. The roads were very good, and the posting not worse than in Germany, indeed better: though this says little on the score of speed. A thousand interesting objects afforded them amusement; they were surrounded by beautiful scenery,—the majestic cone of the volcano Semira, soaring above the rich valleys through which they travelled to the height of 12,292 feet, a greater elevation than the summit of the peak of Teneriffe; and occasionally they started off on a pig-shooting foray, or on the dangerous track of tigers through the jungle. The climate of Java, generally, receives a

very good character from Mr Jukes. Instead of finding it as it is usually described, "hot, deadly, and terrible," he dwells with rapture on the cool freshness of the air, and the short, springy, fresh green turf which, he says, equals that of England. It must be observed, however, that he speaks of the interior, and the accounts commonly received refer to the towns on the low, swampy coast. Still danger lurks in these beautiful places. At Tampa, after shooting peacocks and "small deer" called "kedang" they came upon the "Sakali jahat," described by the Rongo or native chief who accompanied them as "very wicked," and its bite almost certain death. This gentleman, the Rongo Sumowijoyoh, gave the party breakfasts of curries, pilans, beefsteaks, and spatch-cocks, served up in excellent style with glass, plate, blue finger-glasses, and snow-white napkins. The habit of chewing betel, to which he was greatly addicted, and the kriss he wore, are thus described:

"While we smoked our cigars after dinner the Rongo was chewing seri, or betel as it is commonly called, an attendant always crouching behind his chair with his seri box ready to hand to him. This was of silver, about eight inches by five, divided into compartments for the various ingredients. In using it, a leaf of the betel pepper, quite green and fresh, is taken, and a little lime mixed with water smeared over it, a slice or two of areca-nut is then sheered off with a peculiar instrument for the purpose, and the whole is wrapped in some finely shred tobacco, and popped into the mouth. It is by no means an elegant practice, as the lips are continually smeared with a red-coloured saliva, looking almost like blood, and the quid of tobacco is often kept half protruding from the lips, and before it is thrown away the teeth and gums are generally well rubbed with it up and down and far back. It is universally used by both sexes, and looks especially disgusting in a woman till the eye get accustomed to it. The Rongo also allowed us to examine his kriss, which, although not so handsome as some we saw, was as usual much valued as an heir-loom, having been in his family for several generations. The sheath was of wood, with a thin case of embossed gold, and a large curiously-shaped mass of a black and white wood for the head, which he told us was very expensive. The blade was rough and rusty-looking, the fibre of the iron plainly appearing, as it is never allowed to be polished, the handle small, ornamented with gold and a few small diamonds. There is no guard, the expansion of the base of the blade serving that purpose. They are poor affairs considered as weapons, and could only be of use against a man off his guard."

Mr Jukes saw the Javanese dancing-girls exhibit their art; he thinks little of it, and says that the performers were "plain, dumpy little bodies."

Arrived at the southern shore of Java, we regret that our limits prevent us from accompanying the party along that coast, where they met with a curvilinear precipice, 1,000 or 1,200 feet deep, apparently not unlike the circus of Gavarnie, but not owning the same origin, volcanic fire being the motive power in these regions, as ice and snow are the visible agents in the Pyrenees. Neither can we cross the "Sandy sea" with them, nor visit the beautiful cascade, near Mount Kawi, whose waters are hidden from sight by a mantle of flowering creepers. These things must remain untold by us; but for them and much more that is interesting, including a subsequent visit to the Sultan of Java, at Bangkalan, where they witnessed a tiger and buffalo fight, heard the Sultan's band, were amused with his buffoon, his card-party, and his dramatic puppets, and ate birds-nest soup at a dinner at which the Sultan made "a neat speech,"—for all these, and a great deal beside, we must of necessity refer the reader to Mr Jukes' extremely agreeable volumes.

The Story without an End. From the German of Carové. By Sarah Austin. Effingham Wilson.

Another and improved edition of Mrs Austin's charming translation of this ever-welcome tale, with Mr Harvey's pretty illustrations. Carové's fairy fancy is now naturalised amongst us; and the juvenile library has had no happier acquisition than its child hero's three days' ramble among the common things of Nature. Its only defect is a little too much thought here and there, but the style is exquisite, and the sweet and solemn notion of the story is more beautifully adapted to the dawning sympathy and sense of childhood than any similar composition with which we are acquainted. With the simplicity of Mrs Barbauld, it has Goethe's wisdom.

And what a delightful dedication is that which Mrs Austin has prefixed to it. The story itself contains nothing gentler or more wise. It cheerfully dismisses the little reader of Carové to that Story without End of the diviner master, in which more and more is to be read for ever and ever: but to be read with pure, clear eyes, and an humble, loving heart, "otherwise you will complain, as some do, that it is dim and puzzling, or as others, that it is dull and monotonous."

THE HANSERD KNOLLYS SOCIETY.—A correspondent calls our attention to the proceedings of a Society for the republication of scarce books connected with English Dissent. The information is likely to prove interesting to many readers.

Sir,—Will you permit me to call the attention of your numerous literary readers to a society which is quietly publishing some valuable old documents of various kinds which may be interesting to many persons of education who are not likely to hear of it. It is called, from the name of an individual of note in his denomination, the *Hanserd Knollys Society*. The subscription is 10s. 6s. per annum. It was begun by some intelligent Baptists to preserve from entire loss some of the early memorials of their denomina-

tion. They have published two very valuable volumes; one a reprint of rare tracts on liberty of conscience, beginning with Leonard Bushé's noble though unpretending tract entitled, "Religious Peace,"—the first publication, as Mr Craik observes, which since the Reformation advocated entire freedom of conscience. The second is a remarkable book, it is entitled the *Broadmead Records*, and is printed from the manuscript records of that church (the one in which Mr R. Hall closed his ministerial labours). These records were carefully kept through the whole time of Nonconformist persecutions, by a Mr Edward Terrill, a gentleman who left his property to found the present Baptist College at Bristol; the college where Carey, Hall, Yates, and Foster studied. They contain a most graphic and unvarnished account of a particular case of persecution, and must be of very general interest. This year the society republishes a fac simile of the last edition of Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*, printed during the author's life, and with his own corrections. Only two copies of this edition exist, and they show the modern texts to be much corrupted by attempted emendations. The other volume for this year is merely a controversial one on Baptism. For 1848 the Society is translating a work nearly unknown in this country, a copious Dutch Baptist Martyrology, "Y. T. Van Braght's Mirror of Martyrs of Baptist Churches," no way inferior to Fox in interest, and detailing fully and truthfully the particulars of the Spanish and other persecutions in the Netherlands. I doubt not the Society would allow of subscriptions for particular volumes: and as from the very nature of such societies (it follows the plans of the Parker Society), no advertisements appear, and no books are obtainable but by subscriptions in advance, I have thought some of your literary readers may be glad of this information.

I am, Sir, yours, &c., F. CLOWES.
Horton College, Bradford, Nov. 3, 1847.

THE LITERATURE OF THE LOWER ORDERS.—The 'Daily News' has followed up the article on this subject which we quoted last week, with a description of other works of the same class. The batch of serials brought under consideration in this second article are *Reynolds's Miscellany of Romance, General Literature, Science, and Art*; *Green's Green, or all for Love*, by Mrs George W. M. Reynolds; *The Mysteries of London*; *The Mysteries of the Old Castles of France*; *Martin the Foundling*—the two latter, translations from the French—*The People's Periodical*; *The Reasoner*, edited by G. J. Holyoake. We give the most essential passages of the instructive remarks of our contemporary; premising that the writer does not seem aware that *The Mysteries of London*, which he so properly characterises, is the work of the same Mr Reynolds who is described at the opening of the article as "the least unhealthy and fetid" of the class of authors he belongs to. "The two first of these works hardly require any particular notice. They are among the least unhealthy and fetid of their class. Their distinctions are negative. Their only redeeming feature is the partial absence of the more active of the deleterious elements which characterises their compeers. Their looseness, warmth of colouring in the criminal scenes, and of the false glow cast around guilty indulgencies, are their bane; but, unfortunately, these qualities are hardly sufficient to separate them from much of the literature of the day, which aspires to different rank, and proposes to itself a higher kind of audience. They are the productions apparently of man and wife. Other works of kindred character are contemporaneously proceeding from the same pens—*Faust, The Drunkard's Curse, Wagner, the Wehr Wolf, &c.*—all of them possessing the same general characteristics. *The Mysteries of the Old Castles of France* is full of the most exciting and disgusting intrigues and amours, and of that spurious sentiment which is corrupting the very heart of society in Paris. *Martin the Foundling*, our readers already know too well as the most disgusting production of a writer who was never remarkable for his purity. In these penny numbers—largely circulated and almost universally devoured by eager female readers—his most obscene and intoxicating details are reproduced with all the minute fidelity of which the English language is capable. And this very fidelity is flaunted forth as the chief recommendation of this edition. The translations current in the superior ranks are expurgated: but, in spite of that necessary care for the taste and better feeling of the educated English reader, the tale is utterly disgusting. With these cheaper issues, however, the advertisements announce that all the objectionable passages are 'left in,' and this is made to appear as an advantage to the purchaser, and is probably so considered. To such of our readers as have toiled through Eugene Sue's dullest and most popular work 'The Mysteries of Paris,' *The Mysteries of London*, now lying before us, will be sufficiently explained. If it be possible to conceive of anything more miserable, murderous, immoral, and reprehensible than the succession of scenes which constitute that darling of the Parisian boulevards—that grosser conception will give an idea of what the mysteries of the modern Babylon are like. *The People's Periodical* belongs to the Salisbury square type, and is made up of the same species of material. *The Reasoner* demands a larger share of attention. This is a weekly issue of sixteen pages 8vo, price 2d. It is written with considerable ability, and for its avowed object—the dissemination of infidelity—conducted with no small amount of tact. It addresses itself to that large and constantly increasing class in English society—the class of artisans and others who have some amount of native intelligence, and just enough of education to require a reason for their beliefs and opinions, but who have not enjoyed that close and consecutive education which is necessary to enable one to follow up a chain of argumentation; men who, in the awakening consciousness of their own intelligence, are disposed to deny the authority of tradition—who demand to be dealt with logically, and who are yet incompetent to use its higher formula. To mislead such persons, the tone and manner of the *Reasoner* is admirably calculated. It is calm, affectedly dispassionate, impersonal; piques itself upon being scrupulously exact in its statement of facts, rigorous in its inductions, and charitable and tolerant in its judgment. This air, which seems partly real and partly put on for a purpose, is eminently calculated to prepossess its readers with the idea of its strength and firmness. Its conductors are by no means commonplace men. There is evidently a great deal of ability and power of special pleading in them. Such men may not be despised, nor their doings overlooked with impunity. The writers of the other works which we have classed with these have no objects beyond the miserable pittance which their labour brings them. These men have a creed. They apparently have principles, too, at stake—false, impious, and disorganising though they be. They have an audience, to whom their words are oracles—their dicta law. *The Reasoner* is the expounder and the advocate of all extreme opinions—in religion, infidelity; in society, communism; in politics, eulocracy." The writer thus closes his description:—"One mode in which the conductors of *The Reasoner* seek to obtain a higher sanction for their

doctrines, is, to write letters of invitation to eminent scholars and prelates—Lord Brougham, Archbishop Whateley, &c.—challenging them to discuss their opinions. No notice being taken of these communications, the inference is raised that their principles are indisputable—and thus the ignorant are misled. Clergymen do, however, occasionally embroil themselves in discussion, but no palpable good arises from it. The points of moment are lost sight of in meagre generalities, or rendered unintelligible to those to whom it is most essential that they should be clear, by the use of logical forms. The minister and the schoolmaster might meet the evil nearer home—and more effectually."

THE THEATRICAL EXAMINER.

SADLER'S WELLS.

The announcement of a new play by the author of the *Earl of Gowrie*, the *King of the Commons*, and *Feudal Times*, filled this theatre on Wednesday night with a densely crowded audience, and with not a little eager expectation. A new play's first night has not commonly such good fortune. But in a theatre so well managed as Mr Phelps's, with the reputation that deservedly has gone forth about it, we may apportion such a compliment very fairly between the author and the manager. There is a reasonable confidence that one or other will deserve support; and it was soon very manifest on this occasion that it was heartily due to both.

John Savile of Hoysted is a sweet and manly play; in its feeling and design (we are not setting up any comparison) a sort of English *Virginus*; and not only admirably presented in every circumstance of the scene, but also acted earnestly and well. The English *Appius Claudius* is not inaptly found in Charles the First's *Duke of Buckingham*, and the wronged father's avenger is at hand in *John Felton*. The girl, *Lilian*, dies like her Roman prototype, unstained, though unlike her, by her own hand; but with poison sent by her father to befriend her in the last extremity. Here, however, is the weak point of the play. *Felton's* knife having meanwhile done its work, there seems no good reason for the double catastrophe. To justify it, *Buckingham* should have fallen by *Savile's* hand. It will, nevertheless, be thought by many to require no better justification than the tenderness and pathos with which the author has surrounded it. It was a common custom with our elder dramatists to invent a tragic sorrow for no more natural reason than the beauty of the words in which they told it.

Good as the writing of Mr White's play is, however, the marking of character is not less so. *Felton* (to take the historic figures first) is a sketch of great merit, very fairly filled up by Mr George Bennett. The mind self-tortured into insanity by intense brooding over its own wrong, is kept admirably distinct from that later and grander fanaticism with which a less original dramatist would be likely to have confounded it. We could wish that Mr White had resisted the allusion to Cromwell, for there is nothing so historically certain as that the attempt to connect Buckingham's murderer with the popular leaders failed; but *Felton's* admitted connection with Cromwell's county was a strong temptation. There is one little lapse worth mention. Mr White provides *Felton* with poison in anticipation of the rack, whereas it was to him (and let him have an honourable place in history for it) we owe the final disuse of the rack in England. When Lord Dorset and Bishop Laud told him he should be placed upon it to make him confess his accomplices, he made answer that he was ready to suffer whatever might be inflicted on him, but begged to remark "by the way," that if placed upon the rack he should, having no one else to accuse, accuse my lord of Dorset and Bishop Laud. Whereupon my lord and the bishop called in the judges, and obtained a formal decision for discontinuance of the torture. Buckingham had done nothing so worthy of record in his life as what his death thus effected. There is hardly a more contemptible historic name. When it was not Clarendon's interest to lay the least excess of abuse upon him, he could give him no other advantage or recommendation than of beauty and gracefulness of person; and Mr White has very properly built his character on such qualities alone. He is a vicious, empty coxcomb; the proper "king's favourite" of his time.

Nor is history less closely followed in *John Savile*, a type of the men of his class. He is the old loyal country squire of Buckingham's day, but ground to the earth by loans and benevolence, and thence in a state of transition to rebellion. The attempt upon his daughter is made when, by a common process of the time, the lands of his ancestors have been confiscated; and we see in the play his utter wreck and overthrow. The simplicity and singleness of the picture is its merit. Perhaps he says too much and does too little, but there is nothing overlaid in the sentiment or language of the part; both are level, plain, and manly. The blunt and homely energy of the squire, and the domestic tenderness and reluctant rugged pathos of the father, supply dignity and emotion to the scene. At times we thought Mr Phelps somewhat too subdued, but on the whole he acted admirably. There is a scene in the fourth act with one *Ephie*, a follower of *Buckingham*, in whom he discovers a youth who had been his eldest daughter's playfellow and for love of

whom she had (supposing herself deserted) pined to death, which we thought played with great beauty and discrimination. It was to us the most affecting of the whole; *Epslie's* part being also excellently sustained by a young actor, Mr J. T. Johnson, who gave its remorse and self-reproach without any boisterous display inconsistent with either, but with genuine simplicity and homely tenderness.

The heroine, *Lilian Savile*, is the most ambitious effort in the play, and hardly the most successful. With the girl's love and playfulness, is sought to be combined (as in Sir Edward Lytton's fine drama of the *Duchess de La Valiere*) a sort of dreamy passion for the ideal, which, from having secretly worshipped the favourite's image, surrenders her an easy prey to the scheme for her betrayal. It may have been a part of Mr White's intention to represent the girl unable to survive the downfall of the image she had raised, and thus justify her death on discovery of the infamy of *Buckingham*; but the notion is imperfectly worked out; and, as it was, required nicer traits of acting than it received, though we have never seen Miss Laura Addison to so much advantage. She acted with strength as well as delicacy in the discovery and denunciation of *Buckingham's* purposes, and gave a gentle beauty to her death which fell with quiet power upon the audience. It is a pity that her delivery is so imperfect, and her emphasis so often misplaced and overdone.

Nothing could have been more decidedly pronounced than the success of the play, and the usual evidences of success followed the fall of the curtain. We have sufficiently intimated that we think the success well deserved; but it does not admit of doubt, from the comparative failure of the heroine's character, and the consequent inaptness of the double catastrophe, that grave defects of construction were apparent. Nevertheless the writing and character carried all through. The scenery and appointments were complete, and, to the old oak roofs of Haysted and the starch ruff and farthingale of *Savile's* Elizabethan old maid of a sister (capitally acted by Mrs Marston), finished to the nicest point. The green lanes of Suffolk and the quaint old buildings of Portsmouth were represented with equal care; and in short, it was impossible that anything could have been better put upon the stage.

We thought of the strange fluctuations in stage dressing and decoration as we watched the progress of such well-appointed scenes. It was at the period when the action is laid, the opening of Charles's reign, that most taste was shown by actors in the correct imitation of dress. Wotton, in one of his letters, describes a play so perfectly set forth in respect of princely costume, that it was "sufficient in truth within awhile to make greatness very familiar, if not ridiculous;" and we have no doubt that some such reason as this was at the bottom of the slow advance made in this direction of stage management. *Cato's* "long wig, flowered gown, and lacker'd chair" have been immortalised by Pope; *Tamburlane* had a wig full-bottomed sixty years later; *Cordelia* was played in a hoop, and *Macbeth* in a court suit of scarlet and sky blue, through the whole of Garrick's management; Henderson is said to have performed ten characters in one and the same coat; and even John Kemble acted *Hamlet* in powder. Not half a century has passed, and we see cross the footlights of this small suburban theatre a perfect little gallery of historic figures, as correct as if Cooper or Vandyke had dressed them. Mr Phelps and Mr Bennett were an admirable contrast; Mr Marston (in *Buckingham*) had aimed at his original with proper taste; and the group that surrounded him went fluttering in silks and ribbons of indisputable correctness and very harmoniously disposed. The actors of *Ned Trivett* and *Sir Stephen Jewel* (Mr Hoskins and Mr Scharf) deserve singling from this group; and we ought to mention a small part of a selfish old squire and neighbour of *Savile's*, who will pester him with his own trifling wrongs in the midst of mightier sorrows, which was acted by Mr A. Younge in a very artist-like way.

MARLBORNE THEATRE.

The fine tragedy of the *Bridal* was produced here on Monday, with good dresses and appointments, and with Mrs Warner in the part of *Evadne*. It is one of her best personations, and has lost nothing of its insolent beauty in the earlier scenes, or its grand repentance in the later. But Mr Graham is a bad *Melantius*, nor can we speak very favourably of Mr G. J. Vining's *Amintor*. Some passages of *Aspatia's* sorrow were better given by Miss Angell; and Miss Huddart spoke the brief part of *Diphila* with unpretending correctness. A debutante, Miss Parker, afterwards appeared in the farce of *Perfection*, and left a favourable impression. We may add that we saw a portion of *Hamlet* at this theatre lately, and were much struck by the general carefulness of attention to the scene, and the excellent arrangements of the last act.

LYCEUM.

Box and Cox is one of Mr Morton's broad farcical jokes, cleverly but not very scrupulously taken from the French (*The Bedchamber* is the title of the original), and humourously adapted to exhibit and contrast Mr Buckstone in *Box*, and Mr Harley in *Cox*. *B.* is a newspaper printer, employed by night and

sleeping in the day; *C.* is a hatter, of more natural daily and nightly habits; and the mirth of the farce, which is comical enough, arises from a sharpening landlady having let one and the same bed-room, by way of two separate lodgings, to *Box* and to *Cox*. The collision and its consequences are very amusing, but a little too prolonged. Absurdity soon turns to dullness.

A new farce at the PRINCESS'S, a *Trip to Hampton*, amusingly played by Mr S. Cowell and Miss Villars, wins a hearty laugh from the tragedy-goers, and is not undeserving of a word of praise.

FOREIGN NEWS.

FRANCE.

COMMERCIAL AFFAIRS.—The number of commercial bills due and payable to the Bank of France on the 30th ult. was so great that it became necessary to employ additional collecting clerks, a fact unprecedented in the annals of that establishment. The 'Presse' adds, that during the 29th and 30th ult. the Bank of France issued bank-notes of the value of 200f. each to the amount of 15,000,000f. It appears further that the Bank proposes to issue similar notes to the amount of 25,000,000f.

DEATH OF M. PARMENTIER.—M. Parmentier, who was tried by the French Court of Peers, with M. Teste and General Cubieres, died last week at Lure. After the trial his health declined rapidly from agitation of mind, and he never rallied.

SPANISH AFFAIRS.—At the Cabinet Council held on Monday, it was not deemed expedient to allow the Duke and Duchess of Montpensier to visit Spain for the present. Private letters tend strongly to confirm the report that the Pope's determination not to sanction the divorce of Queen Isabella from her husband followed a representation made to the Holy Father on the part of King Louis Philippe.

SUPPLY OF ARMS FOR ITALY.—The 'Commerce' quotes the following letter, dated Toulon, the 27th ult.:

"The steamer *Tonnerre*, which has been ordered to hold herself in readiness to put to sea, will, it is said, convey to Civita Vecchia the 15,000 muskets supplied by the arsenal of Toulon for the armament of the National Guards of the Roman dominions. Several pieces of artillery are likewise to be sent to the Pope."

SPAIN.

MODIFICATION OF THE MINISTRY.—Narvaez has relinquished the situation of Minister of Foreign Affairs, but retains the Presidency of the Council; he is succeeded as Foreign Minister by the Duke de Sotomayor. Senor Beltran de Lis is appointed Minister of Marine, and Senor Oliván Minister of Public Instruction in the room of General Ros de Olano, who goes to the Philippine Islands as Governor-General. Pena Aguiayo has been dismissed from his lucrative place of Intendant of the Royal Patrimony, and Senor Egana will, it is believed, be named his successor. By the accounts from Madrid of the 28th ult. we learn that the Cabinet was seriously intent on recomposing the *personnel* of the Royal Household. The Madrid 'Gazette' of the 29th ult. publishes a Royal decree, appointing the Marquis de Miraflores Governor of the Palace and Superior Director of the Household and Patrimony of the Queen. Another decree named the Duke de Baylen Captain-General of the Royal Corps of Halberdiers, in the room of Major-General Fernandez de Cardova, Marquis of Malpica. General Maroto had been superseded by another decree in the functions of Minister of the Supreme Tribunal of War and Marine by General Antonio Gallego. Letters from Santiago of Chili announce that General Maroto had died in that city. It was still rumoured that the Cabinet would be modified before the meeting of the Cortes, and that the Finance Department had been offered to M. Mon, who had adjourned his reply until his return from Paris to Madrid. M. Pidal was also talked of for the Department of Public Instruction.

PORTUGAL.

IMPENDING CHANGE OF MINISTRY.—We have news from Lisbon to the 27th ultimo:—A change of ministry appeared to be at hand, as Senhor Fonseca Magalhaes had received instructions from the Queen to construct a Cabinet from the *just-milieu* party, for the purpose of preventing the certain triumph of the Cabralists at the approaching election of Deputies to the Cortes; nothing decisive, however, had taken place. At the above date the peace of the city was well preserved, although the greatest distress prevailed among the people. The mercantile interests were not much affected by the late failures in London. Accounts to the 30th ult. have been received, but no change in the ministry had then taken place, though it was hourly expected. The Ministers of France and Spain at the court of Portugal had resigned their diplomatic offices because their respective governments insisted on a new line of policy. Costa Cabral's party were full of triumph at the result of the municipal elections, and counted with certainty on having a majority in the Cortes, in spite of the formal coalition for election purposes that had taken place between the Royalists and Progressistas. Six new peers had been appointed, all moderate Cartistas. Among them was Senhor Rodrigo da Fonseca Magalhaes, who so lately failed to form an administration, on account, as it was then said, of his too decided determination to conciliate the Progressistas by concessions. The object of these nominations, rumour said, was to neutralize the influence of Costa Cabral in the House of Peers.

ITALY.

THE ROMAN STATES.—The news from Rome of the 27th inst. is not satisfactory. M. Morandi, the Governor of Rome, had sent in his resignation; upon which the people proceeded to the Quirinal, and entreated Cardinal Ferretti not to accept of it, but in vain, M. Savelli having been appointed in his stead. Another cause of

discontent is the dismissal of one of the censors of the press, M. Betti: all the journals of Rome loudly demand his reinstatement. A report was current that Cardinal Ferretti himself intended resigning his office of Secretary of State, and Cardinals Altieri and Amat have both been mentioned as his successor. This would indicate that the influence of the retrograde party is again in the ascendant.

PIEDMONT.—Letters from Turin of the 25th ult. state that the recent liberal measures of the Pope have redoubled the veneration of the people of that capital for the Sovereign Pontiff. "In the evening of the 22nd some young men assembled on the principal square and sang the hymn of Pius IX, after each strophe of which the crowd raised *vivats* in favour of the Pope and the independence of Italy. The police became alarmed at this inoffensive demonstration, and detachments of infantry and cavalry were called out, who dispersed the people. Two pieces of artillery remained pointed on the square during the entire night. On the following evening another attempt was made to sing the proscribed hymn, but the police, being prepared to act, quickly dispersed the multitude, and arrested upwards of fifty persons, amongst whom were two clergymen." At Nice a similar manifestation of sympathy for the Pope was made in the evening of the 21st ult., and it was said that on the following day General de Maistre, Governor of the city, had resigned that post. At Genoa some agitation likewise prevailed on the 22nd.

THE DUCHY OF PARMA.—The departure for Parma of the Empress Maria Louisa, which had been fixed for the 5th of November, is indefinitely postponed.

SWITZERLAND.

THE CIVIL WAR IMMINENT.—There appears to be little ground for hoping that the threatened civil war in the republic can be avoided. The Austrian minister, the Baron Von Kaiserfeld, has formally demanded his passports, declaring his intention of withdrawing to a neutral territory during the struggle between the two parties in Switzerland. He at the same time notified that the diplomatic relations would not be interrupted, but would be carried on by those members of his legation who remained at Zurich. M. Munch Bellinghausen, President of the German Diet, had left Frankfurt on a political mission of the Austrian Cabinet to the Cabinets of Munich, Stuttgart, and Carlsruhe. His journey was evidently connected with the affairs of Switzerland, and he was to proceed to Vienna after visiting these different courts.—But more serious indications of approaching warfare have since shown themselves in the breaking off of the negotiations between the Sonderbund and the Liberal majority. It had been arranged that a meeting should take place between a deputation of the deputies on both sides in the hope of some arrangement being made which would prevent hostilities. The meeting took place at the residence of M. Sassarin, the deputy of Basle town.

"At this meeting M. Naef (of St. Gall) expressed a wish that the question of the Jesuits should be submitted for decision to the Pope. To this M. Meyer, one of the Catholic Deputies, replied that the seven cantons would willingly adopt that plan of getting rid of the difficulty, especially if at the same time the Liberal cantons would agree to submit the question of the convents to the Pope's decision. Both parties thinking that something might be arranged upon this basis, the meeting adjourned, to allow the deputies to consult their friends, and in the meantime the meeting of the Diet fixed for the 29th was postponed till the following day. On the following day another conference was held, when the deputy for Lucerne formally proposed that the question of the Jesuits should be submitted to the Pope; upon which M. Furrer said that the only proper arrangement would be that a deputation should be sent to the Pope asking his Holiness to withdraw the Jesuits. To this M. Meyer replied that if Lucerne wished to expel the Jesuits, it did not require the Pope's authority or permission, and that such a proposition was therefore useless. After some discussion, it appearing that this proposition would not be adopted on both sides, it was dropped. M. Meyer then proposed, in the name of the Sonderbund, that the plan previously proposed by Zug should be adopted; and he offered himself to bring it forward in the Diet, but he added as a condition that the troops on both sides should in the meantime, and immediately, be disbanded. It was evident that such a motion was not brought forward in good faith, and that it could not possibly be accepted by the government. Accordingly, M. Furrer at once stated that the proposition was inadmissible, that the Diet had already decreed the formation of an army, had placed it under the command of a general officer, and that it could not think of interrupting the preparations excepting in the event of a settlement of the dispute. This did not answer the purpose of the Catholic party, which it became evident only wanted to gain time, and after some recrimination on both sides, the conference broke up, it being evident that it could not be brought to a favourable conclusion. The following day M. Meyer, in the Diet, again endeavoured to get the majority to agree to the disarming of the army, but the majority, who saw that the object was delay, and not reconciliation, rejected the proposition by a majority of twelve."

The 'Revue de Genève' of the 30th ult. says that the news of the unsatisfactory result of the conference at Bern had reached Geneva, and states that the fault was entirely on the side of the Sonderbund, which, it says, had been formed not simply in a defensive point of view, but in order to dispute any decisions of the Diet which might be disagreeable to it. A courier had arrived at Geneva from the Federal Directory, with instructions from the Federal Directory to call out the whole of the contingent.

This journal states that "three battalions of infantry and a battalion of carabineers of the Upper Valais, with some artillery, have occupied St Maurice and the Lower Valais, and that the canton of Vaud has 12,000 men under arms, a part of whom have been directed to Vevey and Aigle, and the remainder to Moudon, Lucens, Payerne, and Avenches. Four companies of artillery, four of cavalry, and four of carabineers, have also been called into active service. The Federal army forms six divisions, five of which are commanded by Colonels Burckhardt, Rilliet, Constant, Donatz, Ziegler, and Gmur. The sixth division is to act as a corps of observation under Colonel Luvini."

RUSSIA.

THE CHOLERA.—The report that the cholera had broken out in Moscow has been confirmed: fifteen persons (viz., eleven men and four women) have been seized with it. They belong chiefly to the lower classes, and had been previously ill from eating fruit and being exposed to the weather; of these nine have died. A week before it appeared at Moscow a case occurred at Serpukhoff, in the government of Moscow, where a traveller from Woronesch, who arrived there on the 22nd of September, sickened and died soon after. The case, however, remained isolated; and from the reports received by the Minister of the Interior, it appears that, independently of the cases which have occurred in Moscow, the epidemic has not shown itself in any other part of the government of the same name.

The 'Allgemeine Zeitung' of the 27th ult. says:—"The cholera is advancing from the east to the west, but as yet it has not reached a more westerly point than Kertsch, on the Sea of Azoff. The winter will impede its progress, but not change the direction it has taken. The cholera is said to be on the decline in Trebizonde; but even the last reports give the number of deaths as amounting daily to from ten to fifteen."

SURPLUS MONEY IN ST PETERSBURG.—The 'Journal of St Petersburg,' of the 28th October, announces that there was again found to be a large sum in ingots and specie to the credit of the empire.

"There was taken from it on the 19th October the sum of 8,678,669 rubles 20 kopecks, which was placed, with all the requisite formalities, in the presence of Prince Peter of Oldenburg and several other high functionaries, in the vaults of the fortress of St Peter and St Paul. The treasure which is now laid in this fortress amounts to 115,678,595 rubles.

NEW VICEROY FOR POLAND.—The Emperor Nicholas is said to have promised the citizens of Warsaw that he will appoint a grand duke to be their governor, with the title of viceroy. Constantine and Michael are both mentioned, but the latter with most confidence.

TURKEY.

ARRIVAL OF A PAPAL ENVOY AT CONSTANTINOPLE.—The 'Courrier Français' states that an Envoy Extraordinary from the Pope had arrived in that city, for the purpose of treating with the Porte upon the question of the Lebanon.

GREECE.

THE PATRIOT GRIVAS.—The latest advices from Athens state, that General Grivas continued to be treated with the highest distinction by the Ottoman authorities of Janina, where his partisans were not only allowed to retain their arms, but were even paid out of the treasury of the Sultan. Hafiz Pasha, the governor, had proposed to Grivas a high rank in the Turkish army, which the latter refused to accept, although, at his first interview with that functionary, he had asked for a corps of 3,000 men, with which he promised to reduce Greece, in the course of six weeks, under the dominion of the Sultan. Since the death of Coletti, however, he had become a warm Greek patriot again. At the date of the last intelligence from Janina he was engaged in an active correspondence with the discontented of the frontier provinces, which he evidently intended to invade.

THE QUARREL WITH TURKEY.—Advices from the Turkish frontier, to the 18th of October, announce that the French consul at Bucharist had complied with the request of the Greek agent, and conceded provisionally the protection of the French flag to Greek commerce and Greek subjects; but, before giving this act an official character, awaited instructions from his government. The Russian Consul-general expressed his approval of the step taken by the French consul. The Porte seems willing to relax in the coercive measures it has taken, so as to give time to the new Greek ministry to effect a reconciliation. The government of St Petersburg is said to have strongly recommended the Greek government to come to an amicable arrangement with the Porte as speedily as possible.

INDIA.

THE OVERLAND MAIL.—The Bombay Mail of the 30th September has arrived. The utmost tranquillity prevailed throughout India. The following is a summary of the News:—

"Mr Pringle, of the civil service, had replaced Sir Charles Napier in Scinde, with the rank of Commissioner. Brigadier Dundas had command of the troops. Mr Clerk, the Governor of Bombay, intended to visit Scinde in November, to report upon the provinces of the Lower Indus. The Governor-General was to leave the hills early in October, intending to proceed in the first instance to Cawnpore, where he would have an interview with the King of Oude; and it was believed that Lord Hardinge intended to come to an arrangement with the King to induce him to make over his regal authority, in order that efficient steps might be taken to arrest the increasing disorganization and suffering in those territories. The measures said to be contemplated by the Governor-General to induce the King to make this concession, were the offer of a handsome pension, secured on a portion of the revenues of Oude, upon condition that he should cede all political authority into our hands, or the alternative, on our part, of the withdrawal by proclamation of the support we had hitherto afforded him, thus leaving his fate to be decided by his subjects. It is affirmed also that arrangements are likewise in contemplation with respect to the government of the Nizam. The news from the Punjab continues to be most satisfactory. Besides the imprisonment of the dissolute Queen-Mother, the instigator of the late war, and who was still, it is said, engaged in every species of intrigue against our authority, the Durbar have recently issued two proclamations, one abolishing infanticide and suttee, and the other announcing the suppression of forced labour. The imprisonment of the Queen, who formerly went by the title of the 'Sikh Mother,' had not produced the slightest popular commotion. The eldest son of the Maharajah of Cashmere was on his way to visit the Governor-General at Simla, to take leave of his lordship in his father's name preparatory to Lord Hardinge's departure from India. The Dacoit chief Doongur Singh had been captured in Rajpootana, but not until a force of 6,000 men had taken the field in various directions against him. Her Majesty's 21st and 28th Regiments were shortly to embark for

England. Trade had somewhat improved, both at Calcutta and Bombay. Lieutenant-General Sir C. Napier and family left Kurrachee by this mail, and arrived at Suez on the 17th ult. When the despatches came on they were at Cairo, where the General intended to remain for some days before proceeding to Alexandria."

DINNER TO THE EARL OF DALHOUSIE.

On Thursday the Court of Directors of the Hon. East India Company gave a grand farewell entertainment to the Right Hon. the Earl of Dalhousie, on the eve of his departure to assume the functions of Governor-General of India. The dinner took place at the London Tavern. Lord J. Russell and several of the Ministers were present. On the health of Lord Dalhousie being drunk, his lordship replied in a very eloquent speech, in the course of which he said:

"It is needless for me to say what were the feelings of pride and gratification I experienced in finding myself selected by the East India Company, unsolicited and unlooked for, to fill one of the highest offices in the state to which any public man can aspire, be that public man who he may—(cheers)—or, what were my feelings of pride and gratification when I saw their selection ratified and confirmed by the sovereign I had served, with the consent and by the advice of her majesty's ministers—from whom, not having had the honour of acting with them in the conduct of public affairs, I had no right whatever to expect any advantage or mark of their confidence and respect. (Cheers.) The future, gentlemen, in the sphere within which I am going to act, must prove how sincere is my gratitude. (Cheers.) I can only express my earnest hope that it may, in some degree, justify the confidence which the East India Company and her majesty's ministers have now reposed in me. Brilliant, gentlemen, as this appointment is, noble as are undoubtedly the opportunities of usefulness it affords, I have accepted it not from any private ambition, not from any personal inclinations towards the charge it imposes on me; I have accepted it solely because I believed that it was my duty as a public man, whatever might be my own inclinations, whatever my own objects, at the time and under the circumstances in which the proposal was made to me. (Cheers.)"

The appointment of Lord Dalhousie was, at a later period of the evening, justified by Lord J. Russell in the following terms:

"I have always felt that upon a subject of this kind it behoved the minister of this country to lay aside all party and personal considerations, and have regard solely and entirely to that which is for the good of the empire. (Cheers.) It was with that view that, with my right hon. friend the President of the Board of Control, I heartily concurred in appointments subordinate to that now under consideration, but of great importance in themselves to the governments of Madras and Bombay. (Cheers.) I thought these appointments were most fit to be made, and I cordially assented to them, to show the sense which the government of the country entertained of talents displayed in India in the service of the East India Company. (Cheers.) I knew well that when talents such as those were displayed to the utmost extent in the service of the country, it must be a mortifying example if those talents do not reap the reward, and are not placed on the eminence to which they are justly entitled. (Loud cheers.) In the same spirit, when the question was, who should succeed Lord Hardinge in the government of India? it appeared to me that the distinguished qualities which had been manifested by Lord Dalhousie, the ability he had shown on the great fields of public discussion, the talents he had displayed in the administration of a great department of state—(cheers)—the satisfaction which he had generally given in that department, the popularity which I must say attended his exertions and services, pointed him out as one who was likely to maintain and to elevate the government of India. (Loud cheers.) Acting on this conviction with his right hon. friend the President of the Board of Control and the rest of my colleagues, we intimated to the directors of the East India Company that if their choice should fall on Lord Dalhousie, we should not lose a moment in advising her Majesty to concur in his appointment. (Loud cheers.) I trust, gentlemen, that the success of that appointment will be equal to what I may venture to say is the purity of the motives which actuated it. (Cheers.)"

Lord J. Russell did not close his speech without making some allusion to the present crisis:

"You have done us the honour, Mr Chairman, of referring to the difficulties and clouds which may for a time overshadow the prosperity of the empire whose interests are entrusted to our hands. I feel, as we must feel, that there are those seasons of adversity, recurring almost at stated periods, when the fond hopes which had been indulged of a continuous sunshine of prosperity are for a time clouded and darkened; but, with your chairman, I trust to the energy, the industry, to the perseverance of the British people finally to deliver us from such difficulties and such adversities. (Cheers.) I believe myself that there is nothing in the present condition of the people of this country which need induce even the most timid of statesmen to despond. (Loud cheers.) To despond is not a sentiment natural to my breast—(loud cheers);—and whatever judgment may be passed (of which I do not now wish to speak) with reference to any measures or any course the government of the day may pursue, I believe the character of the people of this country, their indomitable energy, will carry them through this period of gloom, and that we shall resume the former station that we held among the nations of the earth. (Loud and continued cheering)"

COURT AND ARISTOCRACY.

THE QUEEN'S SPEECH.—Her Majesty's speech upon the opening of Parliament will be delivered upon Tuesday, the 23rd inst.

RETURN OF THE DUCHESS OF CAMBRIDGE.—Her Royal Highness, the Princess Mary of Cambridge, and the Prince of Hesse, landed at Dover on Wednesday from Calais, having been absent on the Continent nearly four months.

DEPARTURE OF THE QUEEN DOWAGER FROM LISBON.—Her Majesty, after paying a visit of six days to the Queen of Portugal, embarked in the Howe on the 28th ult., with the Duke and Duchess of Saxe-Weimar and the suite for Madeira. It appears that the Howe was in a very dangerous position after leaving the Tagus, owing to the hawsers breaking when in tow of the Terrible. The Howe began to drift to leeward, and Captain Sir J. Stirling promptly ordered an anchor to be let go, which brought

the ship up; fortunately the chain cable held, the wind did not increase, and the Howe rode safe during the night. At daylight a breeze from the land sprung up, and Sir J. Stirling taking advantage of it, weighed anchor, and the ship put out to sea.

BLOCK-PRINTED GOODS FOR THE QUEEN.—Her Majesty has not only been graciously pleased to accept two splendid dress pieces of block printed muslin-de-laine, which the block printers of Manchester have presented to her, but has expressly requested that other patterns might be forwarded for her inspection. They were forwarded to her Majesty last Saturday, and it is to be hoped that she will select from them so largely for the ladies of the court as at once to create a demand for these rich and beautiful fabrics on the part of every lady of the land.

THE RAJAH OF SARAWAK.—We understand Mr Brooke will shortly receive a mark of distinction from her Majesty, in testimony of his eminent services to the country in the Indian Archipelago. Mr Brooke does not depart for Borneo so soon as originally contemplated. It is probable he will not leave England before February.

OBITUARY OF NOTABLE PERSONS.

MR WATSON, THE SCULPTOR.—Mr M. L. Watson, the sculptor, died on Thursday the 28th ult., at his studio, in Bidborough street, Burton crescent. He was a young and a rising artist, though hardly known (for he seldom exhibited) beyond the few real patrons of art and the studios of the London sculptors. He began life in a very humble way, and worked for very small wages in the studios of Chantrey, Westmacott, Baily, and Behnes, where, however, he saved sufficient to carry him to Italy, and to keep him there, while he dedicated his time to the study of the antique. Among his most recent productions are a figure of "Literature," part of a monument to the memory of Allan Cunningham, and the bas-relief of "Iris" and "Hebe," for Mr Barry's new gates at Wood, the seat of the Marquis of Lansdowne. Another of his recent works (unhappily unfinished) was a statue of Flaxman, which gave a reputation to the artist, and induced the government to select him as one of four to supply the battle bas-reliefs for the Nelson Monument. The battle of St Vincent fell to Mr Watson's share, and the sketch which he sent in was approved by Lord Lincoln, then at the head of the Woods and Forests; but such has been the delay occasioned by the change of government, that little has since been done to advance the work.

M. DIZI.—This eminent performer on the harp died at Paris on the 23rd ult., aged sixty-seven. He had resided in this country for many years, and was the inventor of a new mode of fixing the strings on the harp, also an extra pedal, called the *sons étouffés*, to stop the vibration, but neither came into general use. Dizi was one of the original members of the Philharmonic Society. After residing in Paris for several years, he returned to this country to make it his permanent home; he was only on a visit at Paris when he died.

DR RIDDELL.—The Right Rev. Dr Riddell, Roman Catholic bishop of the northern district, died at Newcastle on Tuesday, aged forty-two. The typhus fever having made such havoc amongst the Catholic priesthood, and there being no priest to officiate in the old chapel there, the deceased prelate had been officiating on Sunday week, after which he was seized with the epidemic, and lingered till Tuesday, when death put an end to his sufferings.

CAPTAIN WILLES, R.N.—We regret to announce that, on the morning of the 26th ult., Captain G. H. Willes, of her Majesty's ship Vanguard, died at Malta, of an attack of paralysis.

THE COUNTESS CORNWALLIS.—We regret to have to announce the death of the Countess Cornwallis, who died at Leonard-on-the-Sea on Thursday last. Her ladyship's health had been for some months in a declining state, but a fatal conclusion was not so suddenly expected.

LADY FRANCES COLE.—Her ladyship died on Monday last, at the family residence in Lowndes square, after a short illness. She was youngest daughter of James, first Earl of Malmesbury, and married General the Hon. Sir G. Lowry Cole, G.C.B., by whom, who died in October, 1842, she leaves a son and two daughters.

COUNT MENSDOERFF.—Intelligence of the decease of the Prince Consort's cousin reached Windsor Castle yesterday week.

SANITARY MATTERS.

QUARTERLY MORTALITY RETURNS.—The Registrar-General has just issued his usual quarterly return of the mortality in 117 districts of England. These districts are sub-divided into 582 sub-districts; thirty-six districts are in the metropolis, and the remaining eighty-one comprise, with some agricultural districts, the principal towns and cities of England. The population in 1841 was 6,612,800. The deaths registered during the past quarter terminating September 30, were 49,479, a number less by 1,948 than were registered in the corresponding quarter of 1846, but 7,007 more than the corrected average of the September quarters of 1838-46. The deaths registered in the September quarters of the five years ending 1847, were 36,953, 38,933, 36,139, 51,427, and 49,479. Had the mortality been uniform, and the population increased from 1843 at the rate of 1.75 per cent. annually, the deaths during the last quarter would only have amounted to 42,742 instead of 49,479, the actual number, which is an excess of 7,007 above the corrected average. The excess of the September quarter in 1846 was 9,686 above the average. The deaths registered during the four quarters of the four years ending 1846, and three quarters of 1847, were 163,651, 168,127, 166,256, 192,104, and 157,169. A small rise in the mortality took place in the spring after the mild winter of 1846; the mortality during the quarter ending in March, 1847, reached the maximum, 56,105, and has since slowly subsided. The epidemic of

fever has been much more fatal in the provincial districts than in London. In Manchester, Salford, and Chorlton, 4,154 deaths were registered from all causes. Diarrhoea and fever were the prevalent diseases. Typhus carries off men and women in the prime of life. Diarrhoea destroys more children, and becomes dangerous to adults in the form of cholera. At Liverpool the Registrar-General says:

"Liverpool has for a year been the hospital and cemetery of Ireland. The deaths registered in the four quarters of 1846 were 1,934, 2,098, 2,946, and 2,735; in the three quarters of 1847 ending in September last, 3,068, 4,809, and 5,669! The population of Liverpool was 223,054 at the last census."

The mortality remains high in Birmingham, Dudley, Wolverhampton, Shrewsbury, in many of the towns of Lancashire, and in Leeds, Hull, York, and Sunderland. The returns from the other towns of the kingdom present nothing unusual, the mortality being much the same as in previous years. This refers to the relative mortality, the absolute mortality being always higher by from ten to fifty per cent. in towns than in open country districts. This is strongly illustrated by a comparison of the deaths in London in thirteen weeks ending Sept. 25, and those which would have happened if the rate of mortality had been the same as in Dorsetshire, a county, as is well known, in which the wages are low, and in which the condition of the labourer is far from what it should be. Such a comparison shows that 13,187 persons died in London, whereas only 8,109 would have died had the mortality been at the same rate as in Dorsetshire. In London there has been no sign of improvement; 10,987, 12,601, and 13,187 deaths were registered in the September quarters of 1845, 1846, and 1847. The deaths in the summer quarters of the three years from small-pox were 76, 51, and 320; measles, 668, 78, and 521; scarlatina, 194, 208, and 316; diarrhoea, 449, 1,549, and 1,196; cholera, 26, 197, and 98; dysentery, 43, 75, and 143; remittent fever, 8, 12, 23; typhus, 273, 403, and 895; erysipelas, 56, 92, and 126; the zymotic class of diseases generally, 2,409, 3,234, and 4,061. The deaths from diseases of the respiratory organs were nearly stationary, 1,558, 1,784; and 1,581 persons died of consumption; 1,111, 977, and 1,071, persons of inflammatory and other diseases of the lungs; 2, 3, and 16 deaths were directly ascribed to various kinds of privation in the last three September quarters. There is a great increase in the number of deaths by external violence, the numbers being 342, 403, and 425. The following observations of the Registrar-General are highly worthy of serious consideration:

"All the diseases of the zymotic class—such as small-pox, measles, scarlatina, typhus, influenza, and cholera—have the remarkable property of becoming epidemic. After certain intervals of time, in which they are fatal to a smaller or greater number of persons in different places and seasons, great multitudes are suddenly attacked and destroyed in a given locality; the disease in this intense form involves the neighbouring population, spreads around the whole region, and sometimes travels over the tracks of human intercourse through the world. Little is known of the immediate chemical or vital causes of epidemics; but in given circumstances, where many are immersed in an atmosphere of decaying organic matter, some zymotic disease is invariably produced; where there is starvation, it is most frequently typhus; cold, influenza; heat,—it is cholera, yellow fever, plague. At the mouths of the Ganges, of the Nile, of the Niger; in London, particularly up to the seventeenth century; in camps, in barracks, in ships, in prisons formerly; in Ireland, in Liverpool, in all our towns now, the circumstances in which zymotic diseases become epidemic may be witnessed. A city breathing an atmosphere perfectly pure may not be exempt from every epidemic; but observation has shown that such irruptions are infrequent, and fatal to few persons of strength or stamina. Internal sanitary arrangements, and not quarantine or sanitary lines, are the safeguards of nations. A salubrious city in an epidemic—like a city built of stone in a conflagration—is exposed to danger and injury, but not to the same extent as the present cities of Europe, which are left without any adequate regulations for the health and security of their inhabitants. The great historical epidemics have diminished in intensity; and there appears to be no reason why they should not be ultimately suppressed, with the advances of the population among which they take their rise. Their origin is obscure, but influenza appears generally to become first epidemic in Russia—cholera in India. It is in India that the source of the latter disease must be attacked. If the health of India becomes sound, Europe might be safe, and hear no more of the epidemic which is now traversing Russia. The attention of the Indian authorities has for some time been directed to the subject. The other nations of Europe are beginning to take an interest in public sanitary improvements; and any plans found to succeed in England will, no doubt, be carried out as speedily as possible in all parts of her Majesty's dominions; for the vast population that owns her sway is intimately united. Asiatic cholera has taught us that the lives of thousands in England may depend on the condition of the Pariahs of Jessore."

The epidemic cholera, which reached England in 1831, broke out at Jessore, near Calcutta, in 1817, and destroyed 10,000 persons.

At a meeting held on Tuesday at the Farringdon Rooms, on the subject of sanitary improvements, it was stated that from the defective state of the drainage in various parts of the metropolis, consumption and diseases of the chest were making most rapid strides. Mr Sydney observed, that in connection with the hospital at Brompton, erected, or rather partially erected, for the express alleviation of that dreadful malady, he could speak as to the numerous applicants who daily sought relief.

At the Polytechnic Institution, on Wednesday, Professor Bachhoffner delivered a lecture upon the condition of this country generally, but with reference particularly to its sanitary state, in the course of which he made the following observations on the means of affording ventilation to the poor at a very cheap rate:

"One method was to take out of the window a pane of glass, and insert in its place a piece of perforated zinc or wire gauze, which would freely allow the ingress of pure air,

whilst the fine particles into which it would be split by the small divisions of the gauze, would effectually prevent anything like a draught being felt from it. Another, equally simple and inexpensive, was to remove a brick or two from the top of the chimney and introduce a piece of wire gauze in the place, the result would be the same."

DEODORISING PROCESS.—Some experiments have been made during this week at Hackney, to test the efficacy of "Ellerman's Patent Disinfecting Process." Several members of the Hackney board of guardians, and the medical men connected with the union, were present. A tub of offensive night-soil was procured, into which a small quantity of the patent liquid was poured and stirred in. A rapid and complete change in the chymical constitution of the filth immediately took place, and it was the general opinion of the gentlemen present that the foecal smell had disappeared, the only perceptible odour being that of the re-agent itself, which leaves a faintly sourish smell. It appears that the liquid converts into salts the volatile and offensive gases contained in putrescent matter, and thus increases its value as manure.

THE BIRTHS AND DEATHS FOR THE WEEK ENDING OCT. 30.—The total number of births in the district included within the bills of mortality was 1,291, of which 658 were males and 633 females. This number exceeds that of the preceding week by thirty-four. The total number of deaths was 945 (452 males and 493 females), being less than the number of births by 346, less than the deaths of the preceding week by twenty-two, and less than the weekly average of deaths for the last five autumns by 101.

Postscript.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6.

The Bank of England return for the week ending the 30th ult., when compared with that for the previous week ending the 23rd October, exhibits the following results:—"In the liabilities, a decrease of public deposits of 70,362*l.*, an increase of other deposits of 330,933*l.*, a decrease of seven day bills of 15,678*l.*, and an increase of rest of 23,384*l.* In the assets, an increase of other securities of 942,769*l.*, a decrease of reserve of notes of 370,530*l.*, a decrease of gold and silver coin in the banking department of 17,862*l.*, and a decrease of the government securities of 286,100*l.* The bullion in the issue and banking departments together amounted to 8,438,874*l.*, which, as compared with 8,312,691*l.*, the amount of the previous week's return, shows an increase of 126,183*l.* The notes and post bills in circulation amounted to 21,764,085*l.*, and, as compared with 21,265,188*l.*, the amount of the previous return, also shows an increase of 498,897*l.*

"The above return, embracing the first week after the publication of the Government letter authorizing the Bank to exceed its fixed issue if the directors considered it expedient, is more than usually important. It will be seen that the other securities show a large increase, amounting to nearly a million sterling, which had produced a decrease in the reserve of 370,530*l.*, and in the coin of 17,862*l.*, leaving the total reserve of notes and coin, at the 30th ultimo, 1,606,124*l.* At the same time there has been no diminution of the specie, but, on the contrary, an actual increase of 126,183*l.*, a portion of the amount received from the Continent having been included in this return."

A failure, not very large in amount, was announced yesterday, the parties being Messrs Judah, Cohen, and Son, West India merchants. By letters from Liverpool yesterday, it became known that Messrs Marsland, Veltmann, and Co. had suspended payment.

Viscount Enfield (late the Right Hon. G. S. Byng) has retired from the Secretaryship of the Board of Control, and is succeeded by Mr G. Cornwall Lewis, M.P.

Accounts from Switzerland this morning, speak of both parties as determined upon the struggle. The manufacturers are consequently at a stand, and commerce is null. The Sardinian Government has, it is said, notified to Austria, that it shares the views of the Cabinet of Vienna on the Swiss question, and that it will act accordingly. Two battalions of Bernese troops, under the orders of M. Ochsenbein, have advanced towards Neufchatel, and it was thought that they would occupy the towns of Neufchatel and Lachaux de Fonds. The town of Lucerne is in a state of siege. Letters received in Paris, announce that hostilities had commenced against Fribourg, but no particulars are given.

The Duchess d'Aumale left St Cloud on Wednesday on her way to Toulon to join her husband in Algeria.

The accounts from Madrid of the 30th ult. speak of disagreements between Narvaz and several of his colleagues.

Letters from Athens of the 20th ult. describe the Greco-Turk question as still in statu quo.

The accounts from Trebisond of the 10th October, received via Malta, speak of the cholera as having subsided in that part of the East. Up to the 18th ult. Constantinople was perfectly free from the disease.

The Dublin papers mention the death of Dr Wray, the Vice Provost of Trinity College, which took place on Wednesday.

The Limerick papers contain accounts of further assemblages of the peasantry; but, owing to the intervention of the magistracy, with the military and police, all passed off quietly.

The late Major Mahon, who has been so cruelly murdered, was formerly in the 9th Dragoons, and succeeded to the inheritance of the late Lord Hartland's estates about two years ago, having been previously managing the property. The lamented gentleman enjoyed a high character in the district.

The inquiry into the suspected murder of Mr Nelme, of Hackney, was resumed yesterday. The evidence is still of a doubtful character as regards the grandchild Allwell; but nothing decisive was elicited, and the case was again adjourned.

MONETARY AFFAIRS.

THE BIRMINGHAM DEPUTATION AND LORD J. RUSSELL. The deputation appointed at the meeting on Friday week had an interview with Lord J. Russell on Thursday. It consisted of Messrs Muntz, Scholefield, R. Spooner, Salt, Mason, and other members. Mr Muntz dwelt upon the inefficiency of the government measure of relief, and urged that the great reduction of the profits of trade had rendered it impossible for merchants or manufacturers to borrow money at a high rate of interest for the purpose of employing it in their trades. Mr Spooner did not think that the measures of the Government were of so decided a character as to restore confidence. Mr Salt called Lord J. Russell's attention to the injurious effect of the Government measure, the excessive rate of interest compelling holders of property to make forced sales, thus depressing all property most ruinously; he considered it a law against the solvency, the property, and the life of the people; and concluded a long list of objections to the course adopted by ministers, when Lord J. Russell rose to close the interview, by asking his lordship whether he was prepared to grant present efficient relief, and a full inquiry into the effects of the existing monetary legislation? His lordship, after deliberating for a few seconds, replied, "I do not say that I will or I will not." The deputation then retired.

PUBLIC SECURITIES.

On Monday a comparatively quiet day was experienced, and the English funds rose considerably. Consols for money, which closed at 81 on Saturday, opened at 81½ to ½. After some slight fluctuations, they advanced to 82; and, although a few sales caused them to leave off at 81½ to ¾, they still wore an appearance of firmness. For the account they opened at 81½ to ¾, advanced to 82½, and closed at 82. Bank Stock closed 183 to 185; Reduced Three per Cents., 80½ to ¾; Three-and-a-Quarter per Cents., 81½ to ¾; Long Annuities, 8½ to ¾; India Stock, 226 to 228; India Bonds, 35s. to 25s. dis. Exchequer-bills, 19s. to 14s. dis. In the Stock Exchange money from day to day was easy at from five to six per cent. Out of doors also there was perhaps some slight relaxation. At the Bank, however, there was much demand, and the rate for advances was raised to 8½, and in some cases nine per cent.

The fluctuations in the English funds on Tuesday were again rapid, but the last price was the same as that on Monday. Consols opened at an advance of a quarter per cent., the quotation for money being 81½ to 82½, from which point they very steadily rose to 82½. After this, however, some heavy speculative sales took place, and the price declined to 81½ to ¾. For the account Consols began at 82½ to ¾, advanced to 82½, went back one per cent., and finally closed at 82, rather buyers. Bank Stock left off 183 to 185; Reduced Three per Cents., 80½; Three-and-a-Quarter per Cents., 81½ to ¾; Long Annuities, 8½ to ¾; India Stock, 226 to 228; India Bonds, 35s. to 25s. dis.; and Exchequer-bills, 20s. to 15s. dis. During the afternoon rumours of various descriptions were industriously circulated to account for the reaction in Consols, but they all proved to be destitute of foundation. In the Stock Exchange money was easy at six per cent., and out of doors it is known, in one instance, that some first-class bills were discounted at seven per cent., the parties being also willing to take more upon the same terms. At the Bank of England on Tuesday there was an arrival of gold to the amount of upwards of 200,000*l.* This makes nearly a million received during the previous ten days. The Caledonia steamer, from Hamburg, brought about 100,000*l.* in gold; the Soho, from Antwerp, 10,000*l.*

Consols opened on Wednesday at 82 to ¼ for account, and 81½ to 82½ for money. The fluctuations were trifling during the day, and they left off at three o'clock at the opening prices. After business a slight improvement took place, and Consols closed at 82½ to ¾, having touched 82½ for account. The Three per Cents. Reduced, 81 to ¾; the Three-and-a-Quarter per Cents., 82½ to ¾; Bank Stock, 183½ to 5½; India Stock, 226 to 9; Exchequer-bills, 19s. to 14s. dis. Money in the Stock Exchange was still to be had at six per cent., and out of doors the rate was from 7½ to 9 per cent.

The funds on Thursday continued to show great steadiness, and a further rise of nearly one per cent. took place. Consols for money opened at 82½ to ¾, and, after a slight temporary decline, resumed their upward progress until they reached 83½, at which price they closed buyers. For the account the range was from 82½ to 83½. Bank Stock left off 184 to 186; Reduced Three per Cents., 81½; Three-and-a-Quarter per Cents., 83 to ¾; Long Annuities, 8½ to ¾; India Stock, 227 to 230; India Bonds, 35s. to 30s. dis.; and Exchequer-bills, 18s. to 14s. dis. The chief cause of the general rise throughout the day was the abundant supply of money, the rate for which, in the Stock Exchange, was from four to six per cent.

On Friday the English funds opened at a further advance, and with every appearance of a continuance of the rise. A reaction, however, occurred, and prices left off about a quarter per cent. below those of Thursday. The first quotation of Consols for money was 83½ to ¾, at which (with the exception of a temporary decline to 83½) they remained, until reports were circulated of disturbances in the North, caused by the suspension of railway works, when a decline took place to 82½. At the close of business the price was 83, buyers. For the account the first price was 83½ to ¾, and after receding to 82½, Consols left off at 83½. Anticipations regarding the 'Gazette' returns of the Bank contributed to the afternoon's depression. Bank Stock closed at 184 to 186; reduced three per cents., 81½ to 82; Three and a Quarter per Cents., 83 to ¾; Long Annuities, 8½; India Stock, 227 to 230; India Bonds, 35s. to 25 dis.; and Exchequer bills, 17s. to 13s. dis. In the Stock Exchange money for short periods could easily be had at five per cent.

SUSPENSION OF PAYMENTS.

The failures in Glasgow continue to be serious. In addition to the stoppage of Pearson, Wilson, and Co., Messrs Cowans, Smith, and Co., commission agents, have been obliged to suspend payments. Their liabilities are stated not to exceed 23,000*l.*, and it is expected that a considerable portion of this sum will fall upon the banks. Previously to the above, the failure of Messrs Kilgour and Leith, an extensive shipping house in the West India trade, was made known. Their liabilities are said to be under 50,000*l.*, principally with London houses.

In Manchester the failure of the following houses was announced:—Messrs Rodgett and Brierly, spinners, of Blackburn, with liabilities estimated at 70,000*l.*; Messrs Swainson and Birchwood, with ample assets; J. Barton and Co., silk dealers, 25,000*l.* being the debt, according to report; W. Hartwright, twist, silk, and cloth agent; English, manufacturer; J. Barton and Co., the assets being estimated at one-fourth of the entire liabilities of 20,000*l.*, and J. Gillow, manufacturer, of Preston, the latter having been involved in the suspension of Barclay and Co. in the city. The total liabilities, however, do not, it would appear, extend to any very large amount.

The very respectable firm of Messrs Coates and Co., of Bread street, engaged in the American trade, has stopped payment. The house was of upwards of twenty years' standing, and had branches in Manchester, Liverpool, and Leicester. Their purchases for the United States were principally for cash, and hence the liabilities are at this particular time limited in amount, indeed within 100,000*l.*

The stoppage of the Shrewsbury and Market Drayton Bank (Adams, Adams, Warren, and Co.) was announced on Tuesday. It was a bank of issue, but its fixed circulation was only 9,700*l.*, and its liabilities altogether are believed to be insignificant. Mr Warren (one of the partners) is a solicitor. Messrs Masterman and Co. are the London agents. In London there was decidedly an improved feeling. No failure was announced, except that of Mr S. S. Curtis, in the hide trade. The house was an old one, but the liabilities are not supposed to be at all large.

The letters received at Liverpool from Scotland on Wednesday state, that the severity of the pressure experienced there had at length begun to exhibit itself in the northern districts: and the Glasgow accounts add to the list of suspensions previously reported in that city the firm of Messrs Ogilvie, Clark, and Co., commission agents. The liabilities were estimated at a large amount.

Advices from Liverpool on Wednesday announced the stoppage of Messrs M'Far, Hadfield, and Thompson, of that place, engaged in the Brazil trade. They are preparing a statement of their affairs, to be laid before their creditors on the earliest possible day.

The failure of the Honiton Bank (Flood and Lott) was announced on Thursday. It was an old firm, having been established in 1786, and its authorised issue was 19,015*l.* According to the published return on the 9th ult., however, its outstanding notes amounted only to 14,906*l.* The total liabilities are not supposed to be large, and the partners express a full conviction that they shall pay 20*s.* in the pound, an impression which is shared by well-informed parties in London. Advances upon landed property are understood to have caused the failure. Lubbock and Co., the London agents, are entirely covered.

WINDING-UP OF ACCOUNTS.

MESSRS BARCLAY, BROTHERS, AND Co.—A meeting of the creditors of this firm was held on Tuesday. The following is a general abstract of their affairs:—

Total liabilities	£389 504 16 1
Total assets	398,491 7 4

The above account exhibits a nominal surplus of 8,987*l.*, but explanations were given by the chairman which went to show that the liquidation will be a very unfavourable one. At the conclusion of the meeting it was agreed that the affairs of the house should be wound up under inspection, Messrs J. G. Hoare, J. H. Pelly, and K. D. Hodgson being the parties appointed.

MESSRS REID, IRVING, AND Co.—It has been notified that the drafts of the Gore Bank, Upper Canada, drawn on Reid, Irving, and Co., will be protected by Glyn and Co., ample funds having been remitted for the purpose by that institution.

MESSRS W. AND J. WOODLEY.—It is expected that this firm will be able to pay a dividend of 6*s.* 8*d.* in the pound in the course of about a month.

MESSRS RICKARDS, LITTLE, AND Co.—A meeting of the creditors of this house took place on Wednesday. The following are the general results:—

Debts	£144,676 15 6
Credits	50,430 10 2

Deficiency

MESSRS BARTON, ISLAM, AND HIGGINSON.—It is stated that this firm, the large advances to whom brought on the stoppage of the Royal Bank of Liverpool, will pay 16*s.* in the pound, instead of 19*s.*, formerly expected. Parties well acquainted with the concern think that they cannot afford more than 10*s.* in the pound, unless the value of sugar and cotton becomes greatly enhanced.

THE LIVERPOOL ROYAL BANK.—A meeting of the depositors of the Royal Bank of Liverpool was held on Thursday. The attendance was numerous, and the proceedings were of a much quieter character than had been expected. The chairman stated that the amount of the deposits in the bank at the time of its suspension was rather above 600,000*l.*, and a circular letter had been addressed to the depositors inquiring whether they were content to receive payment of the amount by four instalments—the first in cash, and the remainder at intervals of three months, with five per cent. interest. To this application replies had been received from parties representing 300,000*l.* of the deposits, assenting to these terms; about 30,000*l.* had been demanded in full at once; and the depositors for the remainder had not inti-

imated their wishes. Under these circumstances, the meeting discussed the propriety of supporting the directors by not calling for any further security than the known respectability of the proprietary; but it was strongly urged that the rate of interest proposed to be allowed, namely, five per cent., was not so large as the depositors had a right to expect. After some discussion, a motion was carried that a claim for six per cent., until payment of the deposits in full, should be submitted to the meeting of proprietors to be held on Saturday next; and it appears very probable that these terms will be acceded to, as upwards of 400,000*l.* of the deposits would then remain in the bank. The meeting abstained from making any reflections on the bank management, and the chairman deprecated any "acrimonious observations."

MESSRS SAMUEL PHILLIPS AND Co.—A meeting of the creditors of this firm took place on Thursday. The following is the general abstract of their balance sheet:—

Debts	£101,474 9 9
Credit	100,075 12 4

This statement shows nearly 20*s.* in the pound.

Thursday was the 4th of the month, and the bills which fell due were most satisfactorily met. In London no failure whatever was reported.

POLITICAL.

RETIREMENT OF MR STEPHEN FROM THE COLONIAL OFFICE.—At the Privy Council held at Windsor last Saturday, when Parliament was prorogued to the 18th inst., then to meet for the despatch of business, Mr James Stephen was by command of the Queen sworn a member, and took his place at the board. It is stated that Mr Stephen is about to retire from the duties of the Colonial Office, which he has discharged for so many years. On the subject of Mr Stephen's retirement the 'Morning Chronicle' makes the following observations:—

"As Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, the panegyrics of Sir Robert Peel and Lord John Russell, the acquiescence of all former Colonial Secretaries therein, and the assent of Lord Grey to his deserved elevation to the Privy Council, would be sufficiently striking evidences of his ability, zeal in the public service, and undeviating probity, and ought to convince all what a loss the Colonial Department will sustain in the retirement of such a public servant. He will soon have a successor—the best wish we can give him is that he may be considered equal to Mr Stephen. Full of knowledge on all colonial subjects, Mr Stephen was remarkable for his keen perception of character. Persons as well as principles were familiar to him, who had but one object and one ambition—to do his duty honestly and efficiently. Of imperturbable temper, of a kind, but well-regulated disposition, he weighed every question with a judicial deliberativeness. Whatever were his views on slavery or on politics, whether Whig or Tory, his single-mindedness is known to all who ever were brought into contact with him. Steady, zealous, intellectual, well informed, industrious, of benevolent tendency, we rejoice at his newly-acquired honours, we regret his loss to the public service, and we hope yet to see him in some position in which the community will have the benefit of his knowledge, and of the dedication of his disciplined intellect, and his honest zeal, to their service."

Mr Merivale has been appointed Assistant Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, in the room of Mr Stephen. Mr Merivale is said to be an able lawyer, and, as the author of 'Lectures on Colonization,' is favourably known to the public.

DR COOKE TAYLOR.—This gentleman has been appointed to the office of Statistician in connection with the public departments of Ireland.

IRELAND.

APPOINTMENT UNDER THE NEW POOR LAW.—Captain E. Ommamney, R.N. has been selected by the government to superintend one of the Unions in the West of Ireland, for the purpose of seeing the new poor law carried into effect.

MORE BLOODSHED.—Notwithstanding the imposing presence of an increased military force, there is as yet no check given to the trade of the assassins in the southern counties. Monday morning's post brings the account of a fresh murder from the province of Munster, the particulars of which are thus briefly set forth in a second edition of the 'Limerick Chronicle' of Saturday:—

"SCARIFF, Oct. 30.—Another of those horrible murders which disgrace our unfortunate country has just been committed on the public high road leading from Killaloe and Scariff to Tulla and Ennis in this county. The unfortunate victim was Michael Walsh, steward and caretaker to Mr O'Callaghan, of Ballynabach. This respectable man, when on his way to Ennis this morning, at the hour of eight o'clock, on the public high road, near Fort Ann, was fired at from behind a wall, and shot dead; one ball entered his mouth, and took with it the roof off his skull; the second also entered his head; both shots were heard distinctly by persons immediately near, but no clue has been obtained of the perpetrators."

REGISTRY OF DEEDS.—A communication from Mr Trevelyan to Mr Pierce Mahony, the eminent solicitor, intimates that the Irish government will be immediately directed by the Treasury to take measures for regularly placing upon record copies of all searches made in the Registry-office, so that they may be available for the purpose of future inquiries, and also to make arrangements for recording the satisfaction of judgments in the Judgment-office. These improvements will afford greater facilities to buyers and sellers of property in Ireland, by materially diminishing the delay and attendant expense of protracted law proceedings.

RESISTANCE TO RENT IN ULSTER.—There are some decided manifestations of a system of opposition to the execution of law process for the enforcement of rent in the northern counties. A case is shortly to be brought before the Lord Chancellor, where a receiver under the court was forcibly resisted in the county of Down, and compelled to abandon a restraint for non-payment of rent. One of the persons implicated in this outrage, is described as a farmer of the better class. The 'Newry Telegraph' has the following account of a rescue o-

a seizure for rent, and a violent attack on bailiffs in the county of Armagh:—

"On Monday last, a party of men, armed with spades, shovels, pitchforks, and other weapons, besides two muskets, assembled in the neighbourhood of Lislea, near Newry, in the county Armagh, where several tenants of the late J. Whaley, Esq., were under seizure for rent due last November. The party attacked the bailiffs, beat them severely, and declared they would take their lives if they did not immediately decamp. The bailiffs were ultimately obliged to give up the property under seizure; and the party, after threatening destruction to any one who would attempt to seize either crops or cattle, dispersed. Two of the men have since been captured."

RIOT IN KANTURK—ATTACK ON THE WORKHOUSE.—Whilst the guardians of Kanturk Union were engaged in the ordinary business of the board on Tuesday, it was announced that an immense mob were outside attempting to take the workhouse by storm. The scene is thus described by the 'Cork Examiner':—

"A policeman entered the board-room to say that about 2,000 from the lower parishes of Kilbolane and Shandun had arrived at the gate, and were forcing an entrance, and that the military refused to act. Mr Freeman then took charge of the civil and military force. On some of the ringleaders being arrested, an attempt was made to rescue them by the crowd, who had to be kept back by the point of the bayonet. The people were becoming very violent, and threatening to attack the workhouse gates; stones were flying thick and fast, when Mr Freeman ordered the police and military to load. The crowd threatened to attack the town, and take with them all the money they could find, if they did not get out-door relief. Mr Freeman threatened to read the Riot Act if they did not disperse quietly. The greater part of them then marched off towards the town. Mr Freeman ordered the gates to be opened, and marched the force under his command after the crowd, who halted opposite the first bread shop they met, but they were immediately dispersed. They then marched on, but had not time to do any mischief, as the military were at their heels. More powder was purchased by those out-door relief folks on that day than was sold for the previous year in the town of Kanturk. The Messrs Bruce and Barry, from whose neighbourhood the principal number of this troublesome mob were, gave them 2*l.* to purchase bread, the greater portion of which they applied to supply themselves with powder and ball."

INCREASE OF DESTITUTION.—There are most painful accounts of the spread of destitution in various parts of the South and West. The Rev. H. Brennan, parish priest of Kilglass, Roscommon, in a letter to the 'Dublin Evening Post,' gives the following afflicting statement:—

"To enable me to reply to certain queries which were lately addressed to me by the General Central Relief Committee for all Ireland, I made a minute inquiry into the condition of my parish, by which I have ascertained that, since the census of 1841, there has been a diminution in the population of nearly 4,000 persons—the total number, at present, being 6,317; that, during the year ending the 1st of October, 1847, there have been 1,400 deaths from actual starvation, or diseases produced thereby. There are, at present, 834 persons infected by fever, dysentery, &c. The gross number of persons totally destitute is 2,573, including 316 widows, 322 orphans, and 164 feeble persons, for whom no provision has been made. This parish is, perhaps, more peculiarly circumstanced than any other in Ireland. We have not a single resident landlord, not an individual above the rank of peasant; consequently, no employment for the poor, except what they might expect from public works, and of these there are none of any consequence in the neighbourhood. The temporary relief act has ceased. The new poor-law act has not been carried into operation, no rate having been struck, nor anything done more than the appointment of the relieving officers. And even were the guardians to strike a rate, the great bulk of the inhabitants would, by Gregory's clause, be excluded from any participation in the benefits of the act, in consequence of the minute subdivision of land in this locality."

The 'Cork Examiner' contains the following:—

"The Skibbereen workhouse, built for 800, is shut—holding 1,340 paupers within its walls—and incapable of holding any more. The beggary of that vast district will increase four-fold in a few months. Unless pestilence shall diminish the occupants of the Skibbereen workhouse, the besieging paupers cannot get a meal of stirabout out of it. Berhaven is in the same miserable state. As in Skibbereen, the workhouse accommodation is stretched to near its utmost—and must soon cease. In Bantry and Killarney the story is the same. The boards of guardians are in a state of apprehension all over the country, particularly the coast country. We pronounce again and again, that the winter 1847-48 will be worse than that of 1846-7."

ATROCIOUS ASSASSINATION.—Another victim, selected from the landlord class, has perished by the arm of the assassin. On Tuesday evening, as Major Mahon, of Strokestown, Roscommon, was returning to his residence, after a close day's attendance at a meeting of the Roscommon board of poor-law guardians, he was shot dead by an unseen hand when within about four miles from home. The deceased gentleman had made all the preliminary arrangements for giving employment to a vast number of labourers on works of drainage, and was on the day of his death engaged in the benevolent task of dissuading the Roscommon board from turning adrift a body of paupers for whom the workhouse accommodation was insufficient. The correspondent of the 'Evening Mail' supplies the following particulars:—

"Major Mahon has been in possession of the Hartland property for a couple of years. The tenants owed three years' rent, amounting to 30,000*l.* At first the tenants refused either to pay rent, till the land, or give it up. Last year, however, a large portion of them agreed to leave the country; and Major Mahon, at his own expense, chartered two vessels, and sent a number of the tenantry to America. Long, however, before this occurred it was well known in the country that Major Mahon was a doomed man. His name stood first upon the list of twelve gentlemen, all of whom have been doomed to death on account of their refusal to continue the conacre system. The failure of the potato crop saved them for the time. As Major Mahon has been taken off, there is little doubt that other gentlemen will soon follow. Major Mahon, within the last few days, was publicly denounced, in one of the reports to head quarters, as an absentee, and one who refused to contribute to the local subscriptions of the neighbourhood."

TESTIMONIAL TO MR ROEBUCK.

A numerous body of the friends and supporters of Mr Roebuck, soon after his regretted defeat, resolved to present him with a testimonial of the respect which they entertained of his services as their past member, as well as of their high regard for his personal character, and his firm and undeviating attachment to the principles which had first commended him to their notice. The presentation took place on Thursday at the Guildhall, in the presence of 2,000 citizens of all grades. The chair was taken by Admiral Gordon, and an appropriate address having been read, the presentation was made by the gallant admiral. The presentation consisted of a cabinet of oak, most elaborately carved, together with 500 sovereigns in gold, and 1,000 pence, the gift of the operatives of Tiverton. Mr Roebuck returned thanks in a long speech, in which he gave a summary of his own political history and took a comprehensive view of the present condition of the country. We subjoin a few of the most striking points. Speaking of his own career and of the cause of his rejection by his late constituents, he said: "When I first appeared in this town I made my commencement as a public man before the greatest people that the world knows. Any man who takes such a step, if he be properly imbued with a sense of the importance of the course he is taking, does it under a grave feeling of responsibility. I did it after a youth spent in an anxious search after knowledge and truth. I had formed by painful and careful consideration my political opinions, because I had made the determination that politics should be the business of my life. It was not lightly undertaken, it was not carelessly followed, but sedulously, calmly, gravely, faithfully pursued. I formed my conclusions and opinions, and I somewhat warmly and constantly and consistently avowed them. I came amongst you, and made my declaration of political faith. You heard it then, and you approved of it. You heard it for fifteen long years, and you approved of it. I had a right to demand of you a faithful reward for services I had performed. (Cheers.) I expressed, I said, my opinion, and somewhat with the feelings of a youth, for I was a youth. Fifteen years long gone past give some painful considerations to a man who thinks that those years—the best years of his life—have been passed in the public service. I expressed, I say, those opinions with all the vigour and the warmth of youth. I was met by a storm of virulence and calumny that the annals of political warfare in England can hardly equal. It was to be expected that I, having the instrument in my hand, should employ it against those who thus virulently, violently, and I will say calumniously assailed me. My answer created ill-feelings amongst those who were my calumnious assailants, and from that hour to the present those people have never forgotten or foregone that animosity, and it was this, and this alone, that created and maintained the personal hostility to myself; for it is something curious, that those opinions expressed by me, and which were denounced as revolutionary, as everything that was mischievous, and bad, and demagogical on my part, have been adopted by my opponents, and by every right-thinking political man in this country. But it happened that I did not ally myself to a party. I did not ally myself either to the party of Sir Robert Peel or to the party of Lord John Russell. I allied myself with the party of the people. (Great cheering.) Now, sir, if I had allied myself with Sir Robert Peel's party, doubtless, I should have acquired a great deal more power, a great deal more consideration, and a great deal more wealth than I at present enjoy. But I should have been forced through all those various and tortuous changes of opinion which distinguish a very clever and very admirable person doubtless, but which distinguish Sir Robert Peel in a way that I do not desire to be distinguished. (Hear, hear.) Well, then, if I could not ally myself with Sir Robert Peel and the Conservative party, 'Why, my opponents say, did you not ally yourself with the Whigs?' Why, for the very same reason, that I did not agree with them, and because they, instead of me, have been obliged to change. (Loud cheers.) Step by step, from the hour in which I first opposed the Whigs in Bath, in the person of Mr Hobhouse, up to the present time, they have come round gradually and slowly, very unwillingly, but assuredly they have come round to the opinion I then expressed; and if any one chooses to take the expression of my opinion as printed and circulated in the year 1832, he will be perfectly astounded to find how few of the propositions then made by me are even impugned by the Conservatives of this very Conservative town. Well, then, it is not my opinions, but it is myself. (Cheers.) As my gallant friend has already said, certain parties wish me to be in the House of Commons, but they do not wish me to be member for Bath. Now the truth is, these gentlemen have formed peculiar notions of the business of a representative. They fancy that they have got the right man now, and I wish them joy of the selection. They fancy that it is the business of a representative in Parliament to forward the balls and assemblies, and to bring down visitors to Bath. Now that does not enter into my consideration. I had no notion that I had anything to do with the balls of Bath, and I had no notion that I had anything to do with the card tables of Bath. I only thought I had to deal with the general interests of the community as their representative. Well then, in consequence of the peculiarity in my views of my own position, I did not ally myself to any political party in the state, but I threw myself on the people. (Loud cheers.) The man who takes such a course, and disregards the ties of party, has not only an up-hill game all his life to fight, but he gains no power, no consideration, and he is enabled to do little good, and therefore future politicians will be driven into the arms of party men; and the result of the election of Bath, if it have any result at all, will have that tendency upon public men. They will see before them a striking, a marked instance of the total incapacity of a man who does not ally himself to party in England even to render one single benefit to those whom he may wish to serve. Now, I cannot help thinking that this will be greatly mischievous to political morality; and therefore I say that in my person an injury has been done to the political morality of the people of this country."

"But people assert that nothing has been done, that no deed of mine has justified the expression of your good opinion. It has been said that nothing has been done—that nothing has been attempted; and I have heard it not simply said, but proclaimed, that I had no claim whatsoever either upon you or any of my countrymen. Those men who did so, as it seems to me, should have been amongst the last to have preferred so ungracious an assertion. It came from a body of men whose battle I had all along fought, without being of their ranks. I am not a Dissenter. I want no assistance from Parliament which is not already rendered to me by an

Act of Parliament. I belong to the Church of England, the dominant party of the state, and if my feelings had been consulted I should have kept my foot on the neck of the party upon whom Parliament had placed it already. But was that my conduct—was that the mode of action I adopted? No such thing. I said, I am for freedom and equality of rights through law, without reference to political or religious consideration; and whether a man be a Dissenter or Jew, or anything else, it is nothing to me. I look at him, and find him a fellow citizen and a brother subject, amenable and subject to the laws, and having the same rights, or ought to have, as myself."

"It strikes me that the true spirit of forbearance and toleration is not understood yet by those persons connected with the Dissenting body who have acted upon the principle to which I have alluded. They made the question of the Maynooth grant, and the question of secular education, the means of ousting me from the representation of Bath. Those persons, I say, have not a full conception of what true tolerance means. I assert, that at the present time the Dissenting body of this country have to learn a lesson of tolerance; that if they do not learn it, and quickly to, the body—the great body of churchmen of this country will be enabled to keep them still in thralldom. For, unless they thoroughly imbue themselves with the great doctrine of civil and religious liberty, and appeal to the well-thinking and really liberal of the churchmen of this country for assistance, they cannot work out their own regeneration; and so sure as they point the shaft of calumny against those who differ from them—so sure as they embitter with religious hate the feelings of this country, so certain will they bring down retribution on themselves; and the first to suffer will be those who set so bad an example. It was this feeling which made me assert that at present, unless we have a very extended suffrage, the Dissenting body of this country are not worthy of that perfect equality. I say, that if they are allowed to instil bitterness and hate into the country, I will not be one who will aid them in getting power to sharpen the shaft which carries the poison. And until they show themselves worthy of the great boon of freedom, they must not expect the assistance of those whom they thus keep down. Now, I wish to be in goodly fellowship with all my fellow-countrymen. I have worked for the Jew as well as the Dissenter. I have worked for the Roman Catholic as well as the Churchman; and I do entreat all of them—of whatever persuasion—of whatever belief in religion or politics they may be, to be forbearing one towards another, and not to be so hasty in condemnation of their neighbours—nor so arrogant as to assume the power of the Divinity, and stamp damnation on any man. (Cheers.)"

"I am expressing a deliberate opinion, and I tell the religious community of this country, that they must not pursue the course which they have hitherto been rather inclined to take, of crying out against those who differ from them in religious persuasion, and they must above all things exhibit tolerance and forbearance to any one who chooses to differ from them."

On the present condition of the country he observed:—"At the present moment this country is threatened in a manner that I have never known it threatened since I have been a public man. In England at the present moment, there is a larger quantity of labour unemployed than I ever knew. In Ireland we are threatened with a famine. Europe, from one end to the other at the present moment is like a furnace. War is threatened on every hand, and peace is maintained with the greatest possible difficulty. At this moment the princely powers—the powers of the merchant princes, are toppling down to their foundation. Ruin and devastation are spreading among all the great mercantile community, and thence over the other portions of this country. Now, sir, I will venture to say that if some of the prediction, some of the advice which I gave last year, and some of the prophecies which, Cassandra-like, I uttered, had been attended to, a great portion of that mischief would have been avoided. I was one who voted against the lavish, the useless, the mischievous expenditure going on with respect to Ireland. If the millions that were then squandered, and in total uselessness squandered, when I raised my warning voice in vain, had been retained, the great pressure that is now bringing to the earth the energies, the vital energies of England, would have been avoided. It is now retribution, instant and dreadful, which has come—a necessary consequence of the ignorance, and something worse, which was displayed. We are bowed to the ground in consequence of a very misdirected government. I warned the people—I warned the House of Commons—I warned the Parliament of that. In private, every man that I met said that I was right, but in public not a single person stood by me. And those millions that went abroad to buy corn—that were squandered, and lost, and thrown away, have carried away the life-blood of the people of England, and her commerce is now crippled, and her merchants destroyed by the drain which the inconsiderate call upon our humanity had unfortunately occasioned. I will tell you what will be the consequence, and Mr Cobden will be the first to feel the result. The great battle of free trade, as you fancy, has been fought. You have only won one victory, and you have got to fight that battle over again. Not a single day passes but the Conservative party cry out that the present state of things is in consequence of free trade. Mr Cobden has been fêted all over the world, and he comes home to receive large sums of money, but the battle has yet again to be fought, and then you will see your real friends. Do you believe that the agriculturists will not take advantage? Do you think the landlords will not know how to deal with the matter? As sure as the coming session comes, so sure will you have to fight the battle again between monopoly and freedom, and the chances are that monopoly will again gain the day. Let any one simple mischief happen, and what is the consequence? The monopolists turn round and say, here are your promised halcyon days and perfect happiness. How has free trade caused every one to be employed, and brought all the world to our shores for the purpose of taking our manufactures? On the contrary, we have universal distress, caused by free trade. This is said now, and a great number of people believe it. I am not one of those who do believe it. I never exaggerated any benefit that was likely to follow the breaking down of monopoly and the corn laws. I was not an exaggerating friend at that time, and I am not a cowardly friend now. (Cheers.) But I cannot help saying, what every rational man must say, that the great fight is to come. I seriously believe that there is about to be a great and serious crisis over this country, in which not only the great principle of free trade, but freedom of thought itself, will come into jeopardy, unless we stand steadfastly by our principles, and do not swerve to the right or to the left for considerations of personal regard or party interests—for party interest, let me tell you, will not enter into the strife—you will find that,

unless you thus act one with the other in support of the great principle, the enemies of freedom and the friends of monopoly will be the powerful interest of this country."

MISCELLANEOUS.

COURT OF CHANCERY.—A vacancy has occurred in the office of Taxing-Master of the Court of Chancery, by the resignation of George Gatty, Esq. The salary is 2,000*l.* per annum, and the office is in the gift of the Lord Chancellor.

POSTAL COMMUNICATION BETWEEN ENGLAND AND FRANCE.—Attention has lately been drawn to the disgraceful mismanagement of the post-offices of both France and England in the transmission of letters between the two countries, and the subject cannot be too strongly represented to the governments of both countries. It is a positive fact, that although there is an uninterrupted railway and steam communication between the two capitals, with the exception of the forty miles between Abbeville and Boulogne, the London letters are not delivered in Paris one hour earlier now than before there was any railway communication at all. The consequence is, that the London papers, received at a trifling expense by "coach-parcel," are in Paris almost constantly at least twenty-four hours before those sent by the post are delivered.

TIDAL HARBOUR BOARD.—A new department of the Admiralty is about to be created, namely, that of a Tidal Harbour Board. Captain Drinkwater Bethune, R.N., Captain Washington, R.N., and Captain Veitch, R.E., are to be the members of it.

THE ROYAL ACADEMY.—There are now two vacancies in the Royal Academy—created by the deaths of Messrs Collins and Howard; they will be filled up on the 10th of February. On Monday a General Assembly of the Academicians was held, when Mr Pickersgill and Mr Sydney Smirke were duly elected Associates of that institution.

MR ALDERMAN WOOD AND THE WARD OF CORDWAINERS.—There is a report on the best authority that the above-named gentleman contemplates resigning his aldermanic gown to accept an appointment in the gift of the Court of Aldermen, viz., clerk to the magistrates at Guildhall; in consequence of which there are several persons named as his successor, viz.:—Mr D. Salomons; Mr J. Laurie, nephew to Sir Peter; Mr Moore, of the firm of Groucock, Copstake, and Moore; Mr H. L. Taylor, a member of the Court of Common Council; and Mr Sheriff Hill.

THE MODEL PENNY.—The new model penny has been issued from the Mint for circulation. It is a very neat coin, about the size of a farthing, the centre being formed of silver, having on the right side a profile of her Majesty, and on the obverse the Roman numeral I, surrounded with a rim of copper, inscribed "The Model Penny." Five-shilling pieces, with gold centres and silver rims, made on the same principle, are coming out.

WINE VAULTS UNDER CHAPELS.—A notice has been issued by the Archbishop of Canterbury, peremptorily requiring that the trustees of all churches and chapels do immediately give notice to all persons renting vaults under such churches and chapels, to discontinue the sale of wines and spirits in such places.

THE NEW PEDIMENT OF THE BRITISH MUSEUM.—The sculpture for the new pediment of the British Museum has been entrusted to Sir R. Westmacott.

SALE OF THE LIBRARY OF THE LATE BISHOP OF CORK.—The sale of the valuable library of the late Dr Murphy, Roman Catholic Bishop of Cork, has been commenced by Messrs Sotheby. This extraordinary collection of theological books will take upwards of sixty days in their disposal.

TRANSIT OF THE INDIAN MAIL.—The "Weser Zeitung" says, that from the 1st of January, 1848, the Indian Mail is to be despatched to London via Breslau and Berlin.

THE GERMAN RAILROADS.—By the opening of the railroad from Hanover to Hamm, through Minden, which took place on the 15th ult., the direct communication between the east and west of Germany is completely established. The German railroads join on the west those of Belgium, which at their other extremity extend to Paris, and thence to Orleans, Tours, Bourges, Rouen, and Havre. On the east they unite with the Cracow line in Upper Silesia, which was opened on the 16th, and which is on the point of being joined to that from Warsaw to Vienna.

THE PORT-WINE VINTAGE.—The accounts from Oporto represent the vintage this year as magnificent. The weather has not only been fine, but most appropriate throughout the whole month of September and the first week of October, affording ample time for the careful gathering of the largest and finest fruit of the vintage. The grapes are generally perfectly ripe, with a flavour more than ordinarily fine, with a peculiarity which, if retained after fermentation, will in all probability make a distinguished year.

SIR JOHN FRANKLIN'S EXPEDITION.—Letters have been received from Fort York, Hudson's Bay, announcing the safe arrival of the detachment of Royal Sappers and Miners who left England on the 1st of June last, to be engaged as a boat party, in search of Sir John Franklin and his gallant company. The party will winter near Fort York, and in the spring of the year pursue their search after the missing voyagers, should no intelligence of the safety of the Erebus and Terror reach any of the settlements of the Company before that time.

SUCCESSFUL RESULT OF THE HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY'S ARCTIC EXPEDITION.—In July, 1846, the Hudson's Bay Company despatched an expedition of thirteen persons from Fort Churchill in Hudson's Bay, under the command of Dr Rae, for the purpose of surveying the unexplored portion of the Arctic Coast, at the north-eastern angle of the American continent. This expedition has now returned, after having traced the coast all the way from the Lord Mayor's Bay of Sir John Ross to within a

few miles of the Straits of the Fury and the Hecla, thus proving Sir John Ross to have been correct in stating Boothia Felix to be a peninsula.

CONTINENTAL INTERCOURSE.—The returns of the numbers of passengers passing through the ports of the Channel, give the following numbers: Through Boulogne, 1,549; through Calais, 286. Corresponding period, 1846: Through Boulogne, 1,545; through Calais, 378.

CHINESE LITERATURE.—The celebrated M. Gutzlaff, missionary and Consul-General of England in the Celestial Empire, has just terminated a voluminous history of the Chinese empire, and has sent the manuscript of it to M. Cotta, the publisher, at Stuttgart. He has published at Hong Kong a universal geography in the Chinese language, with sixty large maps. He has begun to compose a complete dictionary of the Chinese language, which will, he says, absorb all his leisure for the next three years.—'Galignani.'

A DICTATOR IN A NEW CAPACITY.—Tyssowski, the dictator of Cracow, is now giving lessons at New York in the German, French, Italian, and Latin tongues.

RESTRICTION ON THE SALE OF ARSENIC.—As many sad catastrophes have been caused by the use of arsenic inadvertently taken for flour, in addition to the use that is made of it for the commission of crimes, it is proposed by the Council of Salubrity of Paris, that all persons who, whether for the destruction of vermin or otherwise, keep arsenic on their premises, should mix with it Prussian blue, to change the colour, and *nux vomica*, the bitterness of which would immediately cause the presence of arsenic to be detected by the taste of that ingredient. This is assuredly a step in the right direction on the part of the French government, and a good example for our own to follow.—'Medical Gazette.'

THE AMERICAN WRITER, R. W. EMERSON.—At the Manchester Athenæum on Tuesday, Mr Emerson delivered the first of a course of lectures on "Representative Men." The subject of this introductory discourse was the "Uses of Great Men;" and it is to be followed by lectures on Swedenborg, the mystic; Montaigne, the sceptic; Shakespeare, the poet; Napoleon, the man of action; and Goethe, the man of letters.

MISS BIRCH, THE VOCALIST.—A correspondent of the 'Illustrated London News' states, that the Directory of the *Académie Royal de Musique* in Paris have, at the very last moment, refused to ratify their engagement with her. She had waited two months for a *début*, and after the rehearsal which took place yesterday week informed her, while admitting the superiority of her voice to that of any artiste on the French stage, that "her accent was not sufficiently delicate for French ears."

COURTS OF LAW.

COURT OF QUEEN'S BENCH.

THE LAW OF SEDUCTION.—DINGLE v. BAKER.—This action was tried on Thursday, before Lord Chief Justice Wilde, at the last assizes for the county of Devon, when the plaintiff was nonsuited. Our readers will remember that the judge's direction was made the subject of a separate article in the *Examiner* of the 31st of July. Serjeant Kinglake now moved for a rule to show cause why the nonsuit which had been entered in this case should not be set aside, and a new trial had. After recapitulating the main facts of the case, the learned serjeant now submitted that the Chief Justice's view of the law was wrong, and that though it were right, as the only plea on the record was "Not guilty," no question of whether there had been proof of loss of service ought to have been raised. Lord Denman: You are entitled to a rule.—Rule nisi.

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS.

POWELL v. BRADBURY AND EVANS.—The Attorney General, in the case of Powell against Bradbury and Evans, tried before the Lord Chief Justice in London, on the 8th of July last, in which a verdict was found for the plaintiff for 500*l.* damages, moved for a rule to show cause why that verdict should not be set aside, and a new trial had, on the grounds that the verdict was against the evidence, and the damages were excessive. It was an action of assumpsit, the plaintiff alleging that he had entered into an engagement with the defendants, the proprietors of the 'Daily News,' to serve them faithfully in the character of sub-editor, at a given rate mentioned in the declaration—15*l.* a week; and the declaration alleged a wrong dismissal. The defendants pleaded, first, non assumpsit; secondly, that they did not wrongfully, and without reasonable and probable cause, dismiss or discharge the plaintiff from their employment, *modo et forma*; and, thirdly, they alleged the special grounds which induced them to dismiss the plaintiff. The Attorney-General having read this plea, said the plaintiff having established clearly his dismissal, it became my duty to substantiate this special plea, and, with the exception of one paragraph, which his lordship wished to have specially found—I mean the allegation of the garbled report—I proved the plea to the very letter.—The Lord Chief Justice: The note I made at the trial was, "I think this verdict wrong, and that all the plea is proved except the allegation of the garbled account."—The Attorney-General: That is just what I have stated, my lord; and of course I will not submit further remarks on the evidence.—The Lord Chief Justice: You had better state to the court what the evidence was.—The Attorney-General then proceeded at some length into the evidence upon the trial, and having concluded, the learned judges consulted for two or three minutes, after which, the Lord Chief Justice said: You may take a rule.

ARCHES COURT.—Tuesday.

THE OFFICE OF THE JUDGE PROMOTED BY BROOKS v. CRESWELL, CLERK.—This was originally a suit promoted against the rev. defendant, charging him with various acts of intoxication, and with being guilty of profane swearing. At the hearing of the cause the learned judge pronounced that the charges were proved, and sentenced Mr Creswell to eighteen months' suspension, requiring him to produce a certificate of his good behaviour during that time, signed by three benefited clergymen, and also condemned him in costs. The period of suspension having expired, and the certificate being brought into the registry, the Queen's Advocate opposed the relaxation of the inhibition, on the ground that the costs had not been paid.—Dr Addams, on behalf of Mr Creswell, submitted that on the production of the certificate, the requirements of the court were so far complied with, that the rev. defendant was entitled to be restored to his living,

The promoter of the suit died shortly after the time at which the sentence was pronounced; administration was taken out to him, since which no means had been taken to enforce payment of the costs.—Sir H. J. Fust said that he was bound to receive the certificate, which stated that during the period of suspension Mr Creswell had conducted himself with great propriety, and there was no allegation to the contrary. The rev. gentleman was entitled on that ground to have the sentence relaxed, and to be restored to his ministerial office and duties.—The Queen's Advocate then applied to the court to issue a monition, calling on Mr Creswell to show cause why he should not pay the costs to the representatives of the promoter.—Dr Addams offered no objection.—The court directed the monition to issue.

THE AFFAIRS OF MR DYCE SOMBRE.—It is stated that the Lord Chancellor, without superseding the commission of lunacy, has made an order by which Mr Dyce Sombre is allowed to have the full use and enjoyment of the whole of his large income, after deducting the 4,000*l.* a year to be paid to Mrs Dyce Sombre, under her marriage settlement; and making provision for the discharge of incumbrances. Mr Dyce Sombre is also to reside in or out of the jurisdiction of the court, as he thinks fit.

ABOLITION OF FEES IN COUNTY COURTS.—Tuesday's 'Gazette' announces that after the expiration of one calendar month from the date of the publication of this notice, an order will be made for paying the judges and officers of the county courts by salaries instead of fees.

THE RIGHTS OF TRADESMEN.—In our notices to correspondents last week, we promised attention to Mr Dod's statement with reference to the recent case of Viscount Bury v. Clark, which was the subject of a meeting in Westminster having the support of the "rights of tradesmen" in view. Mr Dod, who is the solicitor of Lord Bury, gives certainly a very different version of the affair from that which has been generally circulated, and in a great degree exonerates his client from blame.—We see by one of the daily papers that Mr Clark has declined to enter any further into the discussion provoked by Mr Dod's letter, on the ground that his explanation has been too long delayed.

CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT.

PLACING STONES ON RAILWAYS.—W. Ashcroft, a person of respectable appearance, was on Monday indicted for having cast a number of stones upon the line of the Eastern Counties Railway, with intent to obstruct the passage of a train, and endangered the safety of the passengers. It appeared that on Monday week, a gentleman named Johnson, who was engaged in angling in the river Lee, near the railway, observed the defendant go upon the line, and he heard the sound of something like stones striking upon the railway, but he took no particular notice of the proceeding at first, supposing the defendant might be engaged upon the line by the Company. In a short time the defendant went up to him, and he asked him if he had been clearing the line, to which he replied in the negative, and while they were conversing the half-past four o'clock down train came along the line, and upon Mr Johnson making a remark to that effect, the prisoner looked very confused and walked away. The train came up at the rate of twenty miles an hour, and the engine-driver gave a signal of danger, the guards put on the breaks, and the train was stopped, fortunately without any injury being occasioned, for it appeared that a number of large heavy stones, some of them weighing as much as fifty pounds, had been placed upon the rails, and the engine had gone over several of them and crushed them, and the life-guards, as they are termed, which are pieces of iron running in front of the fore wheels of the engine, had pushed several others off the rails. Upon further examination it was found that a number of the same description of stones had also been placed upon the up line, an up train being expected almost immediately; and, indeed, it appeared almost miraculous, in the manner in which the rails were encumbered, that one train or the other had not been thrown off the line, the consequences of which must have been most dreadful, involving in all probability a fearful loss of life. The prisoner ran away and endeavoured to make his escape, but was pursued by the guards of the train and taken into custody, and when before the magistrate he admitted that he had placed the stones upon the rails, but said he could not tell what had induced him to do it, but that he had no motive or intention to injure any one.—Several respectable witnesses gave the prisoner a very excellent character, and it also appeared that he had a wife and six children.—The jury having been in deliberation for some time, the Common-Sergeant inquired whether they wished to retire?—The foreman replied, that there was no difficulty as to their verdict, and they were only considering whether they ought to recommend the prisoner to mercy.—The Common-Sergeant said he thought it right to inform them, that if they did, both himself and the alderman who sat by him (Alderman Musgrove), were of opinion that the case was of such a nature that it could not be attended to.—The jury then returned a verdict of "Guilty."—The Common-Sergeant, in passing sentence, said that the consequences which might have arisen from the act of the prisoner were of so awful a character, that he had felt himself compelled, he believed for the first time, to state that if the jury had recommended him to mercy he could not pay any attention to the recommendation. Although, therefore, he regretted to have to pass a severe sentence upon a man, who, it appeared, had hitherto borne an excellent character, and who had a large family dependent upon him, yet they must not forget that the court sat there for the purpose of protecting the lives of the public, and they felt that it must go forth that if any person committed such a crime as this, the full sentence of the law would be inflicted. He had risked the lives of probably more than two hundred persons by his act of placing these stones upon the railway. He considered the court would be neglecting its duty if it did not pass the extreme sentence fixed by the statute for an offence of such a description, which was that he be imprisoned and kept to hard labour for two years.

ASSAULT BY A MAN IN POSSESSION.—J. Gray, an old man, was on Tuesday indicted for assaulting Mary Anne Lewis, with intent to commit a felony. It appeared, from the evidence of the prosecutrix, that her husband was a music-seller in Cheap-side, and in September he was in difficulties, and an execution was put in by the sheriff, and the defendant was left in possession. Her husband was absent from home endeavouring to get up the amount of debt; and it appeared that the defendant had taken advantage of this circumstance, and had insulted her, asking her to kiss him; and upon one occasion he seized her by the arm, and she was compelled to barricade herself in her bedroom, to prevent him from approaching her. She communicated what had taken place to a female relative, fearing to tell her

husband, on account of the difficulties in which he was already placed by his pecuniary affairs, and that it would increase his excitement. In the presence of that relative, the prisoner acted with similar violence; and during one whole night he kept the two females on the watch, and frightened them so, that they were afraid to go to bed.—Mr Lewis, the husband of the complainant, said that, upon being informed of what had occurred, he asked the prisoner for an explanation, and he at first said it was all stuff; but, on being pressed, he said that his wife had conducted herself in an improper manner, and he made the statement in such offensive terms, that witness knocked him down. Mr Lewis said that he subsequently represented the prisoner's conduct to the sheriff's officer who had put him in possession, and he immediately removed him from the house.—Some other witnesses were called, whose evidence tended to confirm the statement made by the prosecutrix.—The prisoner said he expected to have been provided with the assistance of a counsel and attorney, but they had not attended. He added that Harker, the usher of the court, knew him very well, and could speak to his previous character, and he wished to call him.—Harker said he had known the prisoner a great many years. He previously had an extensive business as a livery stable-keeper, and had become reduced in his circumstances, but he never heard anything against his character.—The jury, after a short consultation, found the prisoner "Guilty" of a common assault.—The Common-Sergeant sentenced him to be kept to hard labour for three months, but on being informed that the prisoner was a cripple, and could not perform hard labour, three months' imprisonment only was inflicted.

INQUESTS.

SUSPICIOUS DEATH AT HACKNEY.—Yesterday week an inquest was commenced at Hackney, on the body of S. Nelme, Esq., aged seventy-four, a gentleman of independent property, whose death took place on the previous Wednesday. About three weeks ago the deceased and his grandson were in the garden at the rear of the premises, when the deceased heard the report of the pistol, as if it had missed fire, at the back of his head. He immediately turned round, and his grandson exclaimed, "Grandfather, some person has attempted to shoot you." On the following morning a pistol was discovered lying upon the ground in the garden. The police succeeded in tracing the pistol to the grandson. The matter was hushed up by the relatives, and no further proceedings were taken by them. Deceased was greatly terrified. The deceased was always considered a very hearty man, and enjoyed very good health until Friday, the 22nd instant, when he complained of sickness. On the following morning he remained in bed, and in the afternoon his wife left the room, considering that he was asleep. A surgeon arrived shortly afterwards, and pronounced life to be quite extinct. A juror said that when the deceased was shot at, he heard the snapping of a pistol several times, as if some person was firing it off without any percussion caps. The circumstance had created great suspicion in the minds of the jury, and they could not return their verdict unless there was a *post mortem* examination of the body. The coroner considered the remarks of the jury very proper, and directed that the contents of the stomach should be analyzed. The inquest was then adjourned.—On Saturday the inquest was resumed. The first witness called was Mr Toulmin, surgeon, who stated that he had made a *post mortem* examination of the body of the deceased. Found a dark appearance round the mouth. The lungs were slightly affected. There were discharges of the heart sufficient to cause death.—Inspector Waller, of the Hackney police, deposed that deceased called at the station on the 10th instant, and stated that himself and grandson were at the back of the house in the garden, and that he heard an explosion similar to that of a percussion cap, when his grandson said that a man had just run away, adding "There he goes." Deceased said he did not see the man himself. His grandson said he climbed up a tree and escaped over the wall. Deceased said he was tolerably close to his grandson at the time. Witness then directed an intelligent officer to sift the matter to the bottom. On the day following the deceased and the officer came to the station, bringing a small pistol, a handkerchief, and some gunpowder and shot. The constable said that these articles were found in a cove in the garden, and that the handkerchief was identified as belonging to the deceased's grandson. Deceased, in answer to a question put to him, said that he felt convinced the boy had fired the pistol, but not for anything serious, but for a lark.—W. Spinks, the constable referred to by the preceding witness, said: The wall which deceased's grandson represented the man alleged to have fired the pistol to have escaped by was upwards of sixty feet high; too high for any one to have dropped from. Found a quantity of shot, as well as the pistol and the flask, rolled up in a handkerchief. The pistol was loaded; there were seventeen shots in it. The handkerchief was covered with blood. The boy's mother said the handkerchief had been taken from her a month before, and that the blood upon it had come from her nose. She thought there was a conspiracy against her boy, and that the things found in the garden had been placed there with a view of carrying out their purposes. Deceased, after the boy's mother had stated this, said he did not think the pistol had been fired by his grandson. Some of the jury here suggested the absolute necessity, to further the ends of justice, that the contents of the stomach should be analysed, and the inquest was adjourned till Tuesday, when Mr Toulmin said that the contents of the stomach had been given to Dr Letheby for analysis. On Monday witness was called to Mrs Nelme, who was taken with sudden illness, and witness ascertained that she had had some arrowroot and sugar. She vomited a good deal, and witness took home some of the arrowroot and sugar, and tried to dissolve it, but, not succeeding, he gave it to Dr Letheby for analysis. That gentleman had performed two tests on the sugar, and distinctly ascertained the presence of arsenic.—Dr Letheby stated that he had analysed the contents of deceased's stomach, and had discovered the presence of arsenic in its metallic state. The portion of arsenic discovered was evidently the product of something antecedently in the stomach. The portion which killed the individual had gone out of the stomach into his system. This portion is over and above what is necessary to destroy human life; but that which has produced death is at present diffused through the body of deceased.—Mr Toulmin recalled: Had given nothing in the shape of arsenic to deceased.—The coroner observed that there was great difficulty about the case, because there was sufficient cause of death independently of the arsenic. The witness was then examined by several of the jury. He said he had known persons to die of disease of the heart with less appearances of it than were detected in this case.—Dr Letheby's evidence resumed: Had detected arsenic in the liver of deceased. Yesterday witness received from Mr Toulmin (last witness) two paper parcels containing arrowroot and white sugar.

There was about four ounces and a half of sugar in quantity, and upon analysis he obtained from it more than half an ounce of white arsenic. Was unable to detect any arsenic in the arrowroot.—Mary Pray deposed that she had been charwoman in deceased's family for several years past, and latterly had lived there about five weeks. Mrs M. Allnut, daughter of deceased by a former wife, was staying on a visit. She had a son named William, and two daughters. William was about twelve years old.—By the jury: The boy's grandfather had accused him of firing a pistol at him, and the lad acknowledged that he did.—The coroner: Be careful what you say.—Witness: He did not say that he had fired the pistol, but admitted that the cap had suddenly gone off in his pocket. He also said that a pistol was fired at the same time by a man in the garden. Upon being closely questioned he said it was a gun.—To the coroner: There was arsenic in the house, and witness thought it was brought there by deceased himself. It was used for killing mice in the house.—Inquest again adjourned.

THE SANITARY CONDITION OF ST GEORGE'S, SOUTH-WARK.—An inquest was held on Tuesday, before Mr Payne, at the Crown Tavern, St George's Circus, Blackfriars road, on the body of R. Butler, aged forty-eight, who died from breathing impure air, and not allowing himself the common necessities of life.—Mr Hooper, the parish surgeon, deposed that on the morning of Sunday last he saw the deceased at No. 4 Minah place, King street, Borough road. He was then alive, but his extremities were quite cold, and there was no pulse to be felt. He was lying perfectly naked upon an old mattress on the floor. The stench was quite sufficient to kill any one. At the back of the house was a dustman's yard, which of itself was quite sufficient to engender fever.—(A juror observed that the stench in the neighbourhood was so great that he was frequently obliged to burn brown paper to destroy it.)—Witness sent out for some brandy and gave deceased a tea-spoonful in some warm water once or twice, and he seemed to rally a little. After the lapse of half an hour he began to sink, and he expired in the course of an hour afterwards. Witness attributed death to the impure air he had been breathing, and his not allowing himself sufficient food.—J. Woolf, police-constable, said that he occupied the house, No. 4 Minah place. The deceased rented one of the back rooms, and had done so since last April twelve months. He understood that he was a shoemaker. He had been confined to his room during the past few days. After the death of deceased, whilst searching the room, witness found 25*l.* 19*s.* 9*d.* The deceased was a man of very parsimonious habits, and would not allow himself the common necessities of life. He would never allow his wife to enter his room, or it would have been properly cleaned.—The wife of the last witness said that she had given the deceased soup and sago to strengthen him, believing him to be unable to get either for himself. She had done so when she and her family wanted such articles themselves.—Verdict, "That the deceased died from breathing impure air, and neglecting to take the common necessities of life."

THE HIGHWAY ROBBERY AND MURDER IN WESTMINSTER.—The inquiry touching the death of Mr Bellchambers was resumed on Monday; but as the case is still in the hands of the police, and as yet incomplete, it was again adjourned.

THE MURDERS AT BIRMINGHAM.—At the inquest on the body of Ann Wilkes, against whom a verdict of wilful murder had been returned, the jury returned a verdict of *Felo de se*. Why not of insanity?

THE POLICE OFFICES.

NOVEL MODE OF SWINDLING.—At the Mansion House on Monday, after an exposé with reference to a pretended house of business in Cannon street, where applications for the Secretaryship to an alleged public company were to be made,—the whole affair being a manifest swindle,—a gentleman came forward, and stated that he had just been humbugged in an extremely clever manner, and that the practice from which he was suffering was becoming very general. He was called upon by a Pole while in the country, who exhibited a quantity of watches, chains, seals, and other articles of jewellery, and solicited him to become a purchaser. The foreigner, who seemed to understand his business perfectly well, said that he was the agent of a very extensive company, to whom the immediate payment of the amount for any articles was no object, and who would be satisfied to receive it at the rate of a trifle per week or month, as it was most suitable to the convenience of the customer. Under these circumstances a watch was left with the applicant, which was worth no more than 4*l.*, or at most 4*l.* 10*s.*, and the Pole departed gratified at the sale. No more was heard about him until about three weeks subsequently, when the purchaser was astonished at receiving a London lawyer's letter for the sum of twelve guineas, and immediately afterwards the copy of a writ.—The Lord Mayor said the plan just described could only be defeated, he believed, by public exposure, and he took that opportunity, at the conclusion of his mayoralty, to state that the powerful assistance he had received all through his year of office from the press had enabled him to break down the machinations of innumerable swindlers and other rogues of larger growth.

THE GREAT ROBBERY IN VERE STREET.—At the Marylebone Office on Tuesday, Ann Simons was re-examined, charged with having plundered her employers, Messrs Marshall and Co., Vere street, Oxford street, of property to the amount of about 2,000*l.* B. Simons, her father, was charged with being an accessory. The main features of this case were stated last week.—Mr Clarkson, for the prosecution, intimated that a son of the elder prisoner was suspected of being mixed up in the transaction. He, however, was not prepared at present to go into evidence implicating him, and he wished for a remand.—Mr Ballantine, on the part of Mr Hickman, said his client was a merchant of fortune, and had numerous friends in court who were ready to come forward and testify to his respectability; he had formed an unfortunate attachment to Ann Simons, but he knew not that she had deposited any of the Marshalls' property in his chambers. As soon as he received information of the robbery, he lost no time in giving information to the parties alleged to have been plundered by the girl, Ann Simons. The prisoners were remanded till next Wednesday, and Mr Hickman was bailed, himself in 400*l.*, and two sureties in 200*l.* each, for his attendance.

FRAUDS IN THE COAL TRADE.—At Bow street on Tuesday, N. Coombes, a coal-merchant, in Craven street, Strand, with his carter, J. Brown, were summoned for delivering coals at a lady's house without the proper weighing-machine or weights being attached to the carts.—The streetkeeper confirmed the statement of a previous witness, and added that he subsequently saw Mr Coombes, who expressed a wish

that the business should be settled without coming before the court, offering to give him two sovereigns, and make an apology to the lady with a present of the coals, if they would not come forward to prefer the complaint; and then Mr Coombes invited him to take wine, doubling the amount of the bribe if he could settle the matter.—Mr Jardine fined Mr Coombes in the full penalty of 10*l.* The other defendant was ordered to pay 5*l.*, with costs.

A WEST INDIAN FLAT AMONG LONDON SHARPERS.—At Bow street, on Thursday, A. W. Barr, S. Ralfe, and W. Brewer were re-examined, charged with conspiring to defraud Mr J. S. Kerie, from the West Indies, of 1,450*l.*, on different occasions, by cheating him at cards.—Lewis, an accomplice, stated that he supported himself by gambling, like the three prisoners. In the month of July last he was at the Cremorne gardens with Barr and another gambler named Carter, when they met the prosecutor, who, with Barr, entered a cigar shop in Little Russell street, Covent garden, where witness and Carter followed them, and one of the three introduced the subject of cards, which was previously arranged with Barr, who pretended to have no knowledge of the other two. The prosecutor was asked if he would take a hand, to which he agreed; in consequence of which the landlord, who had been furnished by them with a pack, brought in the cards. The prosecutor and Barr were partners against witness and his companion, and, after playing for some time, witness arranged the cards in such a manner that the prosecutor should have a very good hand previous to his laying a heavy stake. Witness was provided with a pack to match the cards they were then playing with, and he changed them to give the prosecutor the good hand. Witness dealt upon the occasion, the other cards having been cut, and he gave an adversary a good hand, while witness held a better hand, saying to his opponent, "What odds will you bet upon the odd trick?" to which the prosecutor objected, saying, "It was useless for him to bet for the purpose of robbing the gentleman against him, as he (prosecutor) had such a tremendous hand." At length he was induced to bet, by putting down 20*l.* and his watch, the others also putting down similar stakes; but, from the disposal of the cards, the prosecutor could not have won, and witness received the stakes. The money was divided between them, the prisoner Barr claiming the expenses he had incurred "in fishing up the flat;" and they agreed that he was to come to the Tavistock with the prosecutor, where witness pretended he was stopping, to redeem his watch, witness being employed to get him to play again. At the Tavistock he made an excuse that he could get no private room where they could converse; and having gone to the public-house he gave the prosecutor his watch, receiving 10*l.* from him, the prisoner Barr having done the same, pretending that he had also lost the money, but the money which he gave was in flash notes. In the evening, at the same public-house, Barr and the prosecutor being partners, 100*l.* was won from the prosecutor, he having given his watch for 50*l.*, and the remainder in money the next day. The money was won by cheating, as on the former occasion, and it was paid to witness, who gave Barr and Carter their share. Witness recollected being at the Yacht Hotel in Greenwich in July last, when it was agreed to order a dinner, to which the prosecutor was invited; and having adjourned to a private room, they played, and the result was, that witness won 150*l.* from the prosecutor, it being understood that Barr lost the same amount as his partner. This was also won by cheating, and the prosecutor paid 100*l.*, giving his watch for the remainder, the prisoner Barr pretending to do the same. The prosecutor redeemed his watch in about a week, and witness shared the money with his accomplices. On that day Barr told witness that he wanted him to prove to the will of the prosecutor's father at Doctors' Commons, by which the prosecutor was to come into possession of 2,500*l.*, and other money for his sisters. At this time witness did not know the other prisoners, but heard of them from Barr, who promised to keep the prosecutor 'in a line' to play again, the match not having been played out. On being introduced to them at Brewer's house, by William Underwood, who desired him to call, he was ushered in and told that Barr had acted as a rogue, by keeping his share of 900*l.* which was given to him at the Gloucester Coffee-house, in Oxford street, where they had given the prosecutor a splendid dinner. They also told him that he had kept his share of 150*l.* the prosecutor lost at Ivers, near Slough, having "hit" him to that amount. In cross-examination witness said he followed the profession of gambler, by cheating at play, which would have turned out very profitable had he not been deceived by the prisoners. Before he became a gambler he was a house decorator in New York and Albany.—The prosecutor, after confirming the foregoing statement, entered into a detail of the manner in which he got connected with Brewer and Ralfe, on which occasion he went to the neighbourhood of Slough, and lost considerable sums, to pay which he was compelled to sell out stock at a considerable loss.—Mr Ballantine applied for a remand, as he intended to call the broker and the persons at whose houses the card-playing was carried on to give evidence, upon which the prisoners were ordered to appear again in a week.

THE CHARGES AGAINST MR ROBINSON.—On Thursday, at the Marylebone office, a long investigation was gone into before Mr Broughton, relative to the charges which had been preferred against Mr Robinson, a gentleman connected with the legal profession, and W. Mitchell, gaoler of the court, in a report which was presented from the visiting magistrates at the house of detention, at the last meeting of the Middlesex magistrates in Quarter Session, Clerkenwell. These charges were as follows:—"The wife of a prisoner named Wright, in her examination before the magistrates, stated that a person named Robinson was employed to defend her husband. She did not know whether he was or was not an attorney. He wanted five guineas; she told him she had but 4*l.*, and gave that sum to him. He said it must be made guineas, and in the evening she took him 3*s.* being unable to raise the other shilling. She pledged her things to procure the money, even her own and her children's shoes. A friend of her husband's also paid Robinson 1*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.*, making together 5*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.* paid for defending a prisoner, who stated that knowing he had committed the offence with which he was charged, he had resolved to plead guilty; but Robinson was sent for at the suggestion of Mitchell, the gaoler at the Marylebone police-court, who said the case was a very bad one, and that Robinson was the best person he could have." The result of the investigation may be gathered from the statement made by Mr Robinson, which was borne out by the fixed determination of the woman Wright not to appear to renew the accusation, and the fact adduced by an officer of the court that she was not in want. Mr Robinson recapitulated what had taken place before the magistrates in Tothill-fields prison, and stated that a full investigation was gone into, and that the man Wright did in the most unequivocal manner deny

that the statements made by his wife in respect to the alleged extortionate conduct on his (Mr Robinson's) part were founded in truth. It was also set forth by Wright that his wife had not had any family, and that, consequently, she could not have pawned her children's shoes to make up any money required for the defence. Upon his (Wright) being questioned what motive induced his wife to invent such a story, he gave it as a reason that her object was to excite public commiseration, and thereby to lead to a commutation of his sentence. In reference to the sum received for conducting the defence, and upon which the allegation of a shameful and extortionate demand had been founded, he begged to state that the man Wright admitted to the magistrates that it was given to him after he, Mr Robinson, had intimated to him that the charge against him was very clear, and that there was little, if any, chance of his acquittal. Mr Robinson added that he had prepared the brief, which he placed in the hands of Mr Payne, the counsel, to whom he handed the customary fee, which was paid out of the four guineas, and the man pleaded guilty, when Mr Payne called witnesses to character. Mr Broughton came to the conclusion that the charges against Mr Robinson and Mitchell had fallen to the ground.

THE DESTITUTE SEDUCER.—Mr Kavanagh's case appears to have excited more attention than that person perhaps desired. In the 'Times' of last Saturday appeared an advertisement, stating that he had been sought for unsuccessfully, and that any person giving information of him would be rewarded for their trouble on application to A. Z., 3 Pulteney street, Islington. On Tuesday the public were informed through the same medium, that Mr William Henry Kavanagh begged to apprise all parties who have any occasion to see or hear from him, that he can be at all times communicated with on application to Messrs Bolton, Merriman, and Dunning, solicitors, 25 Austinfriars, London. This communication is dated from Brighton.

ETHER AN AID TO CRIME.—A dentist named Lainé, but passing by the name of André de Nevers, was on Saturday brought to trial before the Court of Assizes of the Seine, on the charge of having committed criminal assaults on two young women, named Hyacinthe and Henriette, whilst they were in a state of insensibility, caused by the inhalation of the vapour of ether. From the nature of the details which had to be entered into, the trial took place with closed doors; but it transpired that the young women, who had gone to the prisoner's place of business in the Passage Véro-Dodat to have teeth drawn, had been persuaded by him to inhale the vapour of ether, on the ground that it would prevent them from suffering pain; and when he had thrown them into a somnolent state, which, however, they said did not prevent them from knowing what passed, he committed the criminal assaults complained of. One of the girls declared, that though at the time she knew well what was passing around her, she was totally unable to offer any resistance, and that at the moment the offence was committed she became unconscious, and remained so for some time. The prisoner's advocate said that the prisoner totally denied that he was guilty, and the learned gentleman argued that the effects produced by the inhalation of ether on the imagination were such that it was very probable that the girls might have taken their own hallucinations for facts. It, however, appeared that one of the girls on her return home had her dress in disorder, her hair dishevelled, and was greatly agitated. The jury declared the prisoner guilty, and the court condemned him to six years' hard labour at the hulks, but without exposure on the pillory. It also ordered the *syndics* of the prisoner's bankruptcy, his arrest having led to bankruptcy, to pay one of the girls, who is under age, a sum of 1,500*fr.* as damages. On leaving the court the prisoner cried vehemently, "You have condemned an innocent man! It was to obtain money that Mademoiselle Hyacinthe prosecuted me! I am innocent! I declare it with my hands raised to God!"—"Galignani's Messenger."

ACCIDENTS AND OCCURRENCES.

QUICK TRAVELLING.—The up express train did not arrive at Reading station on Thursday morning (the 28th ult.) till nearly twenty minutes after it was due, but to make up for the delay the steam was "put on" in such a style, that the distance between Reading and Paddington was accomplished in thirty-six minutes, being as nearly as possible at the rate of a mile a minute!—"Berks Chronicle." [For this "making up for lost time" the engineer deserves to be severely punished.]

MIRACULOUS ESCAPE.—The force of imagination was most unpleasantly exemplified a few days since on the London and Birmingham Railway. Near the Rugby station, a gentleman who had been asleep woke up under the impression that one of the passengers had insulted his wife, and became so excited that he threw open the door of the carriage, and precipitated himself on the line. By a perfect miracle he escaped with the infliction of a few bruises, and arrived at the station shortly after the departure of the train.

SUSPENSION OF LABOUR IN COTTON MILLS.—Out of the twenty mills in Wigan only one is running full time, according to Act of Parliament. Some are running what is called three days, others four days, and some forty-two hours for four days' wages, at ten hours per day, whilst others are stopped altogether until something like confidence is restored. On Sunday last several of the factory girls were out with their baskets in the country soliciting charity, and openly declaring that they had no other means of obtaining a subsistence.—"Preston Chronicle."

SINGULAR DISCOVERY.—In July, 1840, Mr Bibby, a merchant of Liverpool, was found drowned in a pit in a field near Aintree, three miles from his residence at Bootle. On the preceding evening Mr Bibby dined at the Royal Bank, and drank rather freely of wine. He left about eleven o'clock, and took a car to a spot within 300 yards of his own residence, as he was in the habit of doing, but he never reached home. It was supposed by his friends that he had been waylaid and thrown into the pit where the body was found, and in this opinion they were confirmed by the discovery that his watch was missing. Search was made for it, and the pit emptied in vain, the watch could not be found; but as there was no marks of violence on the body it was considered possible that the deceased had been robbed of his watch and that he had wandered to the place of the fatal accident. Last week, however, new light was thrown on the transaction; a stranger took a watch to Roskell's, the watchmakers in Liverpool, to have it repaired. On looking at it they discovered that the original number had been defaced and another substituted. On further examination they found their own private mark, placed on the watch when they had repaired it for the late Mr Bibby. On Saturday the stranger called for it, and on being questioned, the watch was traced to a disreputable character, the keeper of a disorderly house. Two men are in custody, and the police are making further inquiry.

FATAL ACCIDENT ON THE DERBY AND BIRMINGHAM RAILWAY.—A Coroner's inquest was held on Tuesday and Saturday last, relative to a frightful accident on the Derby and Birmingham line of the Midland Railway, which involved the loss of two lives.

SEIZURE OF A YACHT.—On Saturday last, at Arundel, Mr Oliver was fined 100l. by the magistrates. He is the owner of a yacht, and being a member of the squadron, considered himself privileged to have on board a larger quantity of spirits than is usually allowed by government.

ADMIRALTY ESTABLISHMENTS ABROAD.—Important alterations are to be made in the Admiralty establishments abroad. The first step decided upon is an increase of artificers to all the stations.

VOLUNTARY GAME REFORM.—The Duke of Marlborough has caused an official circular to be addressed to his tenantry, giving them permission to destroy hares and rabbits on their farms by all means in their power, except by the use of guns; and suggests that the object should be attained, if possible, by the use of greyhounds only.

SUMMARY EJECTMENT.—A novel case of summary ejectment occurred at Chester last week. A house which was required for the purposes of the new station in the course of erection, was attacked by a number of railway workmen while a guest was sitting down to dinner, and in the course of two hours the building razed to the foundation.

DISCHARGE OF RAILWAY NAVIGATORS.—The contractors for the London and North-Western Railway have already discharged 2,500 men, and are about to discharge a still larger number. On Saturday last one contractor on the Great Western line gave notice to 1,400 men.

ACCIDENTS DURING THE LATE FOG.—The fog which visited the metropolis on Tuesday prevailed throughout the whole of the afternoon and night upon the river so densely that scarcely a steam-vessel ventured either up or down the Thames after it set in. Those that were unfortunate enough to be overtaken in the fog had the greatest difficulty in getting to the piers, and one of the boats, when off the Penitentiary, ran so far on shore that passengers were obliged to get out the best way they could.

DEPREDACTIONS DURING THE FOG.—Some daring robberies were committed in different quarters of the town during the fog on Tuesday evening. A house in Upper Grosvenor street, furnished, but unoccupied, was entered by thieves and stripped of a large van full of furniture, which was carried off in the most daring manner.

A MODERN MAID AND MAGPIE.—"On Thursday week" says the 'Aberdeen Herald,' "a magpie flew into the open window of a dressing-room at Skene House, and ingeniously contrived to pick up a ring, belonging to Lady Agnes Duff, from the upright stalk of a ring-stand, and fly off with it in his bill. Lady Agnes' maid, who was alone in the room at the time, and witnessed the theft without being able to prevent it, was filled with consternation. The ring, she knew, was a valuable one—worth forty guineas—and she naturally feared that the story of the magpie would hardly be accepted as a satisfactory account of its disappearance.

SPORTING INTELLIGENCE.

STATE OF THE ODDS AT TATTERSALL'S.

THURSDAY.—The business transacted affords but a limited quotation:—

Worcester Steeple Chase—6 to 1 agst Lord Strathmore's Sabine, 8 to 1 agst Lord Strathmore's St Ruth, and 15 to 1 agst Mr Storey's Standard Guard.

Derby—10 to 1 agst Mr Payne's Glendower, 11 to 1 agst Mr Moxton's Surplice, 20 to 1 agst Mr J. Scott's The Stinger (t), 20 to 1 agst Mr Bowes's Springy Jack, 25 to 1 agst Mr J. Day's Nil Desperandum (t), 30 to 1 agst Colonel Peel's Sesostris (t), 36 to 1 agst Mr Payne's Cervus (800l. to 200l. laid), 1,000 to 25 agst Mr Gully's Edle Ochiltree (t), 1,000 to 20 agst Mr Greville's Rosslyn (t), and 2,000 to 30 agst Mr J. Day's Sir Absolute (t). Offers to bet 1,200 to 1,000 on The Stinger agst Springy Jack.

Lord Edward Russell, with the intention of retiring from the turf, has advertised his entire racing-stud for sale on the 15th inst.

Commerce and Trade.

SATURDAY, ELEVEN O'CLOCK.

From the list of Messrs Holderness, Fowler, and Holderness, late Wolfe, Brothers, Stock and Share Brokers, Change alley, Cornhill.

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

Table with columns: RAILWAYS, PAID, CLOSING PRICES. Lists various railway lines like Birmingham and Gloucester, Blackwall, Brighton, etc.

Table with columns: FOREIGN. Lists various foreign locations like Boulogne and Amiens, Dutch Rhenish, Northern of France, etc.

Table with columns: PUBLIC COMPANIES. Lists various companies like Australasia Bank, London Joint Stock Co., London & Westminster Do., etc.

Table with columns: SMITHFIELD MARKETS. Lists various market items like Beef, Mutton, Veal, Pork, Lamb, Beasts, Sheep & Lambs, Calves, Pigs.

CORN MARKETS. CORN EXCHANGE, Monday.—The weather is as mild as spring; wind south-west, and brilliant sunshine. The arrivals are short except of foreign wheat, of which there is a liberal supply from the Black Sea—ordered, probably, during the high prices of April and May.

Table with columns: Per qr., per qrs. Lists various grain and commodity prices like Wheat, Essex, Kent, and Suffolk, red, Ditto, white, etc.

CORN EXCHANGE, Friday.—The weather is clear to-day and colder. The wind is S.E. The arrivals are short from all parts. The wheat trade is lifeless to-day, notwithstanding the country and provincial markets are higher.

Table with columns: Wheat, Barley, Oats, Malt, Flour. Lists various grain prices like English & Scotch, Irish, Foreign.

Table with columns: Gazette Averages. Lists various average prices for Wheat, Barley, Oats, Rye, Beans, Peas.

FROM THE LONDON GAZETTES.

Tuesday, November 2. DECLARATION OF INSOLVENCY. November 2, J. Clarkson, Charlton, Kent, retailer of beer.

- 21 BANKRUPTS. G. Sandeman, York street, ironmonger. [Fitch, Union street, Southwark. W. Chappelow, jun. Jermyn street, St James's, wholesale saddler. [Lawrance and Piew's, Old Jewry chambers. T. Lands, Edgware road, bootmaker. [Lambert, Gray's inn. A. J. Head, St Peter's terrace, Hammersmith, attorney-at-law. [Long, Old Broad street. J. H. Page, Pancras lane, auctioneer. [Holt, Chatham place, Blackfriars. J. Adams, Finsbury square, surgeon. [Mackrell, Lincoln's-inn fields. W. Wilkins and J. E. Evans, Trowbridge, woollen drapers. [Teague, Crown court, Cheapside. G. Bennett, Southampton, wine merchant. [Wheelock, Chancery lane. R. Turner, Old Cavendish street, Marylebone, tailor. [Wood and Fraser, Dean street, Soho. M. Lewis, Oxford street, linendraper. [Reed and Co. Friday street. W. Newson, St Mary axe, commission agent. [Lawrence and Co. Old Jewry chambers. G. Heath and G. Dann, Canterbury, drapers. [Reed and Co. Friday street, Cheapside. J. H. Spicer, Wandsworth, paper maker. [Tucker and Co. Sun chambers, Threadneedle street. J. Terry, Bath, ironmonger. [Frankham and Co. Basinghall street. E. Cowcher, Bath, apothecary. [Neate, Lincoln's-inn fields. J. W. Gardner, Wotton-under-Edge, Gloucestershire, teazle merchant. [Jones and Co. Crosby square. C. L. Swainson and J. Birchwood, Manchester, manufacturers. [Fox, Finsbury circus. J. Wright, Pendleton, Lancashire, dyer. [Walker, Southampton street, Bloomsbury. W. W. Cooke, Denton, Lancashire, hat manufacturer. [Clarke and Co. Lincoln's-inn fields. J. Robinson, Bradford, worsted spinner. [Nethersole, New inn. H. Wilders, Uttoxeter, farmer. [Welby, Uttoxeter.

- DIVIDENDS. November 25, G. Wood, New Compton street, Soho, musical instrument maker—November 25, W. Westrup and T. M. Cockedge, New crane, Shadwell, millers—November 25, F. H. Christin, J. C. Clarke, and C. Bowen, College hill, merchants—November 18, R. Wills, Tottenham-court New road, statuary—November 23, W. Pearce, Southborough, Kent—November 27, R. Cogan, Leicester square, glass merchant—November 27, B. Wade, Strand, tailor—November 30, E. Brown, Birmingham, merchant—December 3, A. G. Robinson, Rothley, Leicestershire, woolstapler—November 24, R. W. Gardiner, Hereford, cattle dealer—December 1, W. Langmead, Teignmouth, banker—November 26, J. Jones, Birkenhead, chemist—November 24, P. Leicester, Manchester, slate merchant—December 1, J. M. Stark, Gainsborough, bookseller.

CERTIFICATES to be granted by the Court of Review, unless cause be shown to the contrary on or before November 23. R. Johnson, jun. Pakefield, Suffolk, grocer—J. Boulton, Ashton-under-Lyne, carrier—W. Ogden, Chorlton-upon-Medlock, within Manchester, flour dealer—H. Evans, Heanor, Derbyshire, builder—W. Insall, Shilston-on-Stour, auctioneer—J. Hillman, Worcester, grocer—W. B. Cooke, Burton-upon-Trent, tape manufacturer—J. Gardner, Nottingham, baker—J. and G. Hill, Exeter, builders.

- Friday, November 5. WAR-OFFICE, November 5. 3rd Dragoon Guards—Lieut. H. H. Bacon to be Capt. by purchase, vice Warner, who retires; Cornet F. A. Oakes to be Lieut. by purchase, vice Bacon; A. W. Williams, Gent. (Ridingmaster) to be Cornet, by purchase, vice Oakes; J. Hylton de Cardonnell Lawson, Gent. to be Cornet, by purchase. 6th Dragoon Guards—Lieut. E. H. Croker to be Capt. by purchase, vice Knox, who retires; Cornet T. G. L. C. Gwyn to be Lieut. by purchase, vice Croker. 15th Light Dragoons—Capt. T. J. Kearney, from 69th Foot, to be Capt. vice Robertson, who exchanges. Scots Fusilier Guards—Brevet Major Lieut. and Capt. the Hon. A. N. Hood to be Capt. and Lieut.-Col. by purchase, vice Col. Yorke, who retires; Ensign and Lieut. J. W. Hay to be Lieut. and Capt. by purchase, vice Hood; G. T. F. Shuckburgh, Gent. to be Ensign and Lieut. by purchase, vice Hay. 4th Foot—Capt. H. A. Welman, from 80th Foot, to be Capt. vice Hawke, who exchanges. 7th Foot—Second Lieut. C. F. B. Dawkins, from 60th Foot, to be Lieut. by purchase, vice Tapper, who retires. 9th Foot—Lieut.-Col. B. Harvey, from Inspecting Field Officer of a Recruiting District, to be Lieut.-Col. vice Barnwell, appointed Inspecting Field Officer of a Recruiting District; Major H. H. Kitchener to be Lieut.-Col. by purchase, vice Harvey, who retires; Brevet Major F. Lushington, C.B. to be Major, by purchase, vice Kitchener. 17th Foot—Major F. Murray to be Lieut.-Col. by purchase, vice Croker, who retires; Capt. E. B. Owen to be Major, by purchase, vice Murray; Lieut. J. L. Croker to be Capt. by purchase, vice Owen; Ensign E. J. Gardiner to be Lieut. by purchase, vice Croker. 20th Foot—C. F. Turner, Gent. to be Ensign, without purchase, vice Gordon, who resigns. 25th Foot—Ensign W. T. Potts to be Lieut. by purchase, vice Sir R. Barclay, Bart. who retires; S. G. Maunsell, Gent. to be Ensign, by purchase, vice Potts. 28th Foot—Capt. G. B. Stoney, from 86th Foot, to be Capt. vice Mayers, who exchanges. 38th Foot—Surgeon F. Foaker, from 97th Foot, to be Surgeon, vice M'Ilree, who exchanges. 43rd Foot—C. L. Lurgan to be Ensign, by purchase, vice J. Kennedy, promoted in 63rd Foot.

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My Lords and Gentlemen—I don't remember Having before address'd you in November; But really I'm compell'd to call you early To settle this commercial hurry-burry.

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