

# The Economist:

A

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

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

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tories for ten hours in each day. The former give no reason why their meddling should begin at twelve hours; the latter give none why their kind protection should stop short at ten hours.

We protest equally against *twelve* hours or *ten* hours. We would entirely repudiate any calculation which could be made in favour of the one system or the other, however accurate it might be; and simply for this reason, that what might be perfectly true to-day, might be equally false to-morrow. The fundamental reasons which determine the necessity or desirableness of less or more exertion, are as fluctuating as are all those varied and complex causes which are constantly in operation to make business good or bad;—to make the demand for labour less or more;—to make the reward of toil small or great. Circumstances might occur to enable and induce labour to be confined to ten hours or less;—circumstances might equally occur to render it highly desirable to extend the hours beyond twelve; and we are now speaking only of the interests of the operatives themselves; but these circumstances are all out of the control of acts of legislation. And, therefore, for legislation to attempt to fix the hours of labour, while it cannot in any way control those circumstances which determine either the desirableness or necessity for much or little, is one of the most tyrannical interferences with the rights of industry that can well be contemplated;—an interference which must be productive of much mischief without any benefit.

Much has been said of that very important element in the demand for the labour of this country—foreign competition. It has been made abundantly plain that more than two thirds of our foreign trade can be retained only on the condition of our producing as cheaply as any other country; and it has been made as plain, that already do our laws impose upon the labourer of this country many difficulties in the contest which he has to maintain with his rivals abroad. We do not undervalue these important reasons against any further interference—against any further crippling of our will and our powers. We admit them to be strong; and were there no other, they would be perfectly conclusive. But there are other elements than *foreign competition*, which enter largely and importantly into this question, and which deserve grave attention. We mean the influence which price exerts on the extent of the home consumption, and the command which cheapness gives to the labouring classes in particular, of the various products of labour. These considerations have been greatly overlooked.

In the first place, it requires no argument to prove how much the consumption of all articles in common use depends, for its extent, on their cheapness, nor how much the remuneration of the labourer depends on an extensive demand.

But there are many circumstances constantly occurring to change the consumptive power of the community—let us suppose it to be of cotton goods, independent of the cost of such goods. For example, however perfect were our commercial code, we shall ever be subject less or more to deficient harvests, and to prices high in comparison with other years, the tendency of which must be to abridge the power of consumption for other articles. The principle proposed, of confining the hours of labour to a certain number, is in fact, in such or in similar cases, to preclude the factory operative from making any sacrifice—any additional effort—to meet such a contingency. By additional hours' work, just as well as by a lower rate of wages, can he assist to lower the cost of his products to meet the diminished means of the consumer, and in this way would he best succeed in sustaining the consumption of those products, and at the same time secure the ability to pay the higher cost which he would be called upon to do for his food; while, were he to continue to work only the same hours, he must submit to a lower amount of wages, and to a higher price of food at the same time. The longer hours which, under such circumstances, he would be called upon to labour, would only be his share of a common calamity, and the extent to which individuals or particular classes might be called upon in such cases to make sacrifices, or additional efforts, must depend upon circumstances far beyond the power or contemplation of legislation.

But if we now propose, by a compulsory act, to abridge the hours of labour, and thus, as it is admitted on all hands, raise the cost of goods, as well as reduce the amount of wages, it must be plain that the consumption must be lessened, the comforts of

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

## THE FACTORY BILL.

### THE OPERATIVES' OWN QUESTION.

The great question of the day is still the factory bill: the press still daily teems with its discussion, and its interest in political circles only increases as the re-assembling of Parliament approaches. No legislative measure has excited so much attention for a long time past, or so much speculation as to the course which individuals will pursue.

While, however, the discussion continues, we have looked in vain for its assuming a wider base—or one resting more on broad principles; on the contrary, the tendency has been rather to narrow it to the mere question, or rather to the mere form in which that question was put to parliament, viz.—whether *ten* or *twelve* hours are the proper number to which the labour of factories shall be continued. Now we protest equally against both—and the arguments by which each party supports its own views are invariably found to prove a great deal too much for their precise object. The contest reminds us very much of that which has so long existed between the advocates of the present sliding scale of corn duties and of a *moderate* fixed duty. If the arguments used by the supporters of a sliding scale, beginning with a 20s. duty at the price of 50s., and tapering off, with here and there a rest (the very reason for imposing which is condemnatory of the whole system), to 1s. at 73s., be good for anything, they are equally good for a great deal more: nay, they would impel us on in that direction, and instead of modifying the protective principle, would induce us to think that we only approached towards perfection as we made more perfect and stringent the operation of that principle. There has as yet been no reason given why all those arguments should hold good up to 73s., and then instantly their charm be suddenly cut short. On the other hand, those who advocate a *moderate* fixed duty employ chiefly the arguments which, if they are worth anything, prove the necessity of a perfect free trade—an abolition of any duties; and this is not least true even with respect to those arguments affecting the *revenue* itself when taken altogether.

Thus it is with the two parties to the present contest:—those who support the Ministerial proposition of *twelve* hours, do so by arguments which, while good against the amendment of *ten* hours, are equally good against the *principle* of their own proposal, and to a proportionate extent against the proposal itself; they are good only for no interference whatever: while on the other hand, those who support the amendment do so by arguments which imply and contend for a power in the law, which if it exists ought to be extended much further. While the *twelve*-hour advocates repudiate interference as dangerous alike to the employer and employed, still they seek to interfere; while the *ten*-hour advocates insist that the law can regulate and determine the remuneration and extent of labour, yet are they so stingy of doing good that they will still allow *young persons*, between *thirteen* and *eighteen*, and females to be confined in fac-

the community and the general state of business impaired, as much as if to that amount the means of the country were otherwise reduced. But this brings us to the most important of all other considerations on this subject. By such enhanced cost of goods who, we ask, would be most immediately and most extensively injured, considered simply as consumers? Very little consideration will show that it would be the operatives themselves. It is a fact, an important fact—perhaps the GREATEST FACT in the economical world, and one which those professing so much regard for the interests of the labouring classes would do well never to lose sight of—that they, the *great producers*, are also the *great consumers*. It is a glaring and common error to look at them only in the light of producers, and to consider their interests, as such, opposed to those of the consumers; whereas the fact is, that a large proportion of all production is actually consumed by the producing classes themselves. If we raise the price of cotton, or woollen, or linen goods, what class do we injure so much as that constituting the whole mass of producers—the operatives of these and all other trades, the agricultural and other labourers? If we reduce the hours of factory work, and thus raise the cost of those fabrics, what compensation do we contemplate to the other labouring classes for thus depriving them of a portion of those goods they have hitherto obtained?—what compensation to the agricultural labourer, already in the most deplorable state, for the less sufficient winter clothing which he can command at the enhanced price? The answer no doubt will be, this is only the beginning of a plan which, when finished, will extend to all classes the advantages of shorter hours. But then it must be obvious that the only effect of this will be to extend to all classes of labourers the disadvantages of lower wages and dearer goods. Each class of labourers would then have a smaller fund of products, out of which not only their own immediate wants, but also those of the rest of the country, can be supplied. We ask, then, is the physical condition of the labouring classes of this country such at this moment—or has it been so for some years past—or has it ever been such as to warrant an interference of the legislature forcibly to reduce that condition to one of a lower grade? Is there any evidence of their having too great a command of clothing or other necessaries, and too great a propensity to indulge in acquiring creature comforts, or creature luxuries, in food or attire, as to warrant the interposition of the Government to check such sensual propensities, in the hope of forcing their attention to a higher moral course? The very conception of the idea is a wicked mockery on their condition, depressed and struggling as it has been and still is, in the very dregs of misery and destitution.

But there is still another view of this question deeply interesting to the labourer, though it may present itself in what to many is a suspicious form—the interest of the capitalist. There is, perhaps, no class of doctrines more truly detrimental to the best interests of labour than that which pretends to distinguish between them and those of capital—to create a feeling of hostility between these two elements of production, which rightly understood are perfectly inseparable. Capital without employment is without value; to be well employed it must be productive—to be productive it must be combined with labour. In proportion as capital becomes abundant, the competition to employ it becomes great, and the rate at which the owners are willing to employ it becomes less; but this competition to employ capital creates and sustains a constant demand for labour, as well as ingenuity. Nothing can be more beneficial to a class of operatives, whether viewed as producers or consumers, than an increase of capital seeking employment in their pursuit; while anything which deters the approach of capital, or causes its withdrawal, can only be detrimental. If, therefore, any artificial restrictions between the operatives and their employers render the employment of capital less profitable than it would otherwise be, and causes its withdrawal to other pursuits, such restriction can only operate indirectly to reduce wages by lessening the demand for labour. In short, view this question as we will, it is essentially and chiefly interesting to the working man; his interests are more endangered by this interference than those of any other party. But then it will be said, must the world, with its mighty improvements in all the arts and sciences, move on and nothing be done, nothing clear and palpable effected to lighten the toil—to advance the condition of the labouring classes? No; much can be done; much ought to be done, or rather undone, to secure to industry its full rights and advantages. The remedy is suggested in the following passage from a recent number of the *Times*—

“Now, granting—which we do not grant, and know to be untrue—that the manufacturers of all these countries do work their men throughout the year eighty-four hours per week, we entertain no doubt whatever, and say it on the testimony of practical men, that the British manufacturer, with his superior machinery, with his superior mechanical skill, with his superior natural facilities, with his superior and more industrious labourer, can work his men only fifty-nine hours per week, and yet compete with the foreigner. It is in the country to do it. If the legislature has gratuitously chosen to hamper the capacities of the country, and to aggravate its incapacities, to blockade its mills from without, and its coasts from within, that is another question—that is not fair play. We only maintain that it is in the power of England to compete successfully with the foreigner without depriving the labourer of his portion in that success—viz., a diminution of his drudgery.”

We doubt not that “it is in the country to do it,” to compete successfully with our rivals abroad, and at the same time to secure the interests of the consumer at home, and all with a very considerable “diminution of drudgery,” if our operatives had “fair play.” No man who has had any opportunity of judging between the effective power of English labour and its various superior adjuncts, and that of any foreign country, can doubt for a moment our power to compete with a great advantage, provided we were in all things equal; provided the reward of labour had the same effective power of purchase over the necessaries of life here as in other countries—provided we had “fair play.” It is, however, difficult to understand how an act of Parliament restricting the hours of factory labour is to have the effect of removing those impediments, with which the legislature has “gratuitously chosen to hamper the capacities of the country;” or how such an act, further hampering the will and power of the operative, is to restore to him “fair play.” At present he labours harder or at least far more effectually than any labourer in the world, and he is entitled to better wages, more leisure, more reward in all that constitutes reward—but the “blockade of our mills from without, and of our coasts from within” deprive him of all the advantages which should attach to his superior energy and greater ingenuity, and reduce him in the command of *real reward*, to a level with his inferior abroad, and in many instances below him.

Remove the impediments which hamper our industry; raise the blockades from without, as well as from within; give to your factory operative and to all others the “fair play” of a free and unrestricted disposal of their labour, and they will be secured in the only practical way in the full advantages to which they are entitled—in a diminution of their toil—and that without being called upon to make any such sacrifice as this interference with the hours of labour proposes as a necessary accompaniment.

#### HIGH PRICE OF THE FUNDS.

The three per cent. consols have during this week, for the first time for nearly a century, reached par, having indeed been as high as 100 $\frac{3}{4}$ —that is, 100*l.* 15*s.* for 100*l.* stock. The *Globe* remarks on this event:—

“The last time they were at 100*l.* was in 1749, the year after the peace of Aix-la-Chapelle; at which period the amount of the public debt was rather more than 78,000,000*l.* The highest price the three per cents. ever rose to was in June 1737, and again in May, 1739, when they attained the high price of 107*l.* Between the year 1720 and the year of the rebellion, 1745, the three per cents. were never lower than 89, and for a considerable portion of that period they were above par. Again, in March, 1792, they rose to 97 $\frac{1}{2}$ , when the amount of the national debt was 239,359,000*l.* During the period between the peace of Paris, in 1763 (when the amount of the debt was 138,774,000*l.*), and the breaking out of the American war, they fluctuated between 80 and 90 per cent. Towards the close of the American war—namely, in February, 1782—they were as low as 52 $\frac{1}{2}$ . At the termination of the American war the debt was 249,851,628*l.* In the years 1797-8, in consequence of the great success of the French armies on the continent, and of the mutiny of the Nore, and of the rebellion in Ireland, together with the failure of the attempt to negotiate with the French republic, the price of stock became less than it has been before or since that time. In May, and again in June, 1797, the three per cents. reduced were as low as 46 $\frac{1}{2}$ . In the September of that year the three per cent. consols fell to 47 $\frac{1}{2}$ , being the lowest price to which they have fallen. Dr Hamilton, in his valuable work upon the national debt, states that they were also at that price in January, 1798. The three per cent. consols have not been under 68 since the latter part of the year 1820, when they were 67 $\frac{1}{2}$ . The highest price the four per cents. ever attained was 107 $\frac{1}{2}$ , in August, 1791; and the lowest price was 59 $\frac{1}{2}$ , in January, 1798. The highest price the five per cents. ever attained was in August, 1791, when they were 122 $\frac{1}{2}$ , and the lowest price was in August, 1798, when they were only 69 $\frac{1}{2}$ .”

While many circumstances, some of them of a passing and transient character, have contributed to raise the price of the funds to their present very high value, yet this change is mainly to be attributed to causes of a permanent character, and which are not likely to undergo any material reaction, unless some very unexpected field for the profitable employment of capital be suddenly and to a great extent opened up. The chief reason of a temporary kind is the contracted state into which our business has been falling for the last three years, and the consequent abstraction of large sums from such employment; and though business, in many important branches, has latterly assumed a much more active character, yet the Custom-house returns do not show that we have yet regained what we have recently lost in its amount; there is, however, every symptom that we are now gradually recovering and extending our transactions, and we doubt not that more capital will be absorbed in this way, but not to such an extent as will, without the aid of other agencies, materially increase its value.

But the chief causes which have tended to diminish so much the value of money, and which may be both termed of a permanent and increasing influence, have been—first, the rapid accumulation of capital since the termination of the war in 1815, that is, the annual national savings; and, secondly, what may be termed the more effective character of money, as employed to conduct the business of the country, in consequence of the increased facilities, and the rapidity of communication between this country and others, as well as between the different parts of

this country; and to this may be added the much more general practice which has existed within the last few years of keeping accounts with bankers, whereby small balances to an immense aggregate amount are placed at their disposal for use.

With regard to the first cause, it is very difficult to form any accurate estimate of the annual accumulations—indeed they must be very fluctuating in different years; but when we consider the immense sums which were spent during the last years of the war, and the comparatively small expenditure since, and when we further consider that during that period great improvements have taken place, by which the cost of production generally has been much economised, the annual savings must have amounted to a very large sum since 1815. In Mr Porter's valuable book (*The Progress of the Nation*, sec. iv, page 334), he gives a table in which he furnishes a statement of the sums expended for the *Army, Navy, and Ordnance*, from 1801 to 1836; he says,—“In the six years from 1809 to 1814 the expenditure for Army, Navy, and Ordnance services was 348,557,438*l.*, being an annual average of 58,092,906*l.*;” while in no year after 1816 have we spent more than 17,500,000*l.*, and in the last six years of that period our average expenditure under these heads did not reach 13,000,000*l.* per annum. Mr Porter further shows, that in the ten years preceding 1814, the amount of our loans and subsidies paid to foreign countries exceeded 30,000,000*l.*; that in 1814, alone, they amounted to 7,620,660*l.* It is now nearly thirty years since these extraordinary drafts on the productive industry and capital of the country ceased, and during that period the accumulations of capital have been immense. It is quite true that there have been many new channels opened up during that period for the employment of money and the absorption of capital; but these in most cases have only tended further to its more rapid accumulation—though not so in all cases. In cases where large loans have been made to foreign governments for any purposes other than those of permanent improvements, and in cases which are numerous in which immense sums have been sunk in mining and other enterprises which have not proved successful or productive, abroad or at home, absorption has taken place without any tendency to re-creation.

But by far the most numerous and important ways in which capital has found employment—in the permanent improvement of land—the improvement and increase of mechanical application—the construction of roads, canals, and railroads—the increase of our manufacturing powers—the extensive introduction of steam navigation—all these important channels in which capital has found employment during the last thirty years, have all tended more than any other causes to increase the annual amount of accumulations now requiring and seeking investment.

With respect to the second-named cause, the increased facilities of communication during that period, by canals, steam boats, and railroads, have rendered capital much more effective in its power to accomplish a given amount of business than at any former period; and it is in this way that these improvements are such an important advantage to the community, and tend so much to economise the cost of every article.

Thirty years ago, in consequence of the slow mode of transit, particularly for goods of a bulky kind, the stocks throughout the whole country required to conduct a certain amount of business, were necessarily much larger than at present; and the amount of value in goods always in a state of transit, during periods varying from four or five days to as many weeks, to the distant parts of the country by coasting vessels, and which now may be said to vary only from as many hours to as many days, must have then absorbed an immense amount of capital in proportion to the business done, above what is required with all the aids of modern facilities and dispatch. Business is thus conducted at a much smaller cost, profits are proportionately lower, and the public reap all the advantages in a greater command over commodities at a lower price. It is thus while art and ingenuity, combined with capital and labour, appear to be constantly striving only for their own profit and advantage, that they can accomplish nothing that really succeeds to that end, which does not at the same time impart advantages to the whole community.

There is every certainty of a continuous increase of these accumulations of capital, as well as the labour of the country, and which must continue to press more and more for employment; and without a larger field for enterprise—without a removal of those narrow and ignorant prejudices by which our commerce is hampered and confined, it is difficult to conceive what is to be done with the one or the other. Capitalists, labourers, and consumers, and these include the whole community, are all vitally interested in the success of those doctrines, which seek to establish the freest and most unfettered communication between the producers and consumers of all countries alike.

#### FRENCH LINEN DUTIES.

We announced last week that having carefully inquired into the truth of the rumours which have existed for some months as to the chance of a further increase of the duties on linen yarns into France, we had been assured that the Government had no intention of introducing such a measure. During the present week we have, however, learned that though the Government itself has no such intention, yet that it is now settled that such

a proposition shall be made to the Chambers by an independent member; which it is generally understood is not to receive any effective opposition from the Ministers. It further appears, that considerable ingenuity will be exercised to make it appear rather an equalization of duties than an increase: at present, the duties are divided into four separate classes:—The 1st class consists of jute and tow yarn, from No. 7 to 10; the 2nd class consists of tow and flax yarn, from No. 12 to 20; the 3rd class consists of town and flax yarn, from No. 22 to 40; and the 4th class consists of flax yarn from No. 45 to 120. At the present prices, the duties chargeable on these different classes are as equal to the following rates:—

First class	-	-	45½ per cwt.
Second class	-	-	35¾ ”
Third class	-	-	41 ”
Fourth class	-	-	28½ ”

The trade at present chiefly consists of the 2nd class, and in that class of No. 16, 18, and 20, on which the duties are respectively equal only to 33 per cent., 32 per cent., and 30 per cent. on flax yarn, and 37 per cent., 35 per cent. and 34 per cent. on tow yarns.

In the low numbers from No. 7 to 12, the duties are so high as to be quite prohibitory, varying from 40 to 59 per cent. The intention, therefore, is to propose a reduction in these highest rates of duty, and an increase on those of the 2nd class, which at present are lowest, No. 16 to 20, and of which the trade is chiefly composed, and to allow the 3rd and 4th class to remain as they now are. It is thus hoped, by an apparent equalizing of the duties, that those numbers which at present are subject to the highest rates will still be precluded from consumption, while the middle, No. 16 to 20, will also be more effectually kept out. We have so often expressed our opinion of the suicidal policy which the French people are pursuing in respect to this subject, that we will not now enter further into its consideration, but reserve our remarks until we know more precisely what the proposed change will be.

#### LAW CHANGES.

The death of Lord Abinger will no doubt create a variety of changes, if not on the bench, at least at the bar; and by those changes cause sundry vacancies in parliamentary representation. It is generally rumoured that Sir F. Pollock will be created the new Chief Baron of the Court of Exchequer, that Sir W. Follett will succeed him as Attorney-General, and that either Mr Kelly or Mr Thesiger will succeed to the Solicitor-Generalship.

We cannot but join in the almost universal admission of the fitness and deserts of Sir F. Pollock to occupy a place on the bench; for while many men are much more distinguished at the bar, not only for ability as pleaders, but also for their extent of legal attainment, yet there are few men who for many years have maintained so uniform and consistent a character; or who, from the accident of political changes, have been called upon to make greater personal sacrifices for having occupied a public appointment: but the more important qualification for the bench which Sir F. Pollock has displayed has been the great discretion, liberality, and uniform good temper and moderation with which he has exercised his official functions, and performed his public parliamentary duties; and we may safely say that in these respects he has secured the respect equally of all parties. But while we are free to acknowledge the claims of the Solicitor-General to a seat on the bench, we cannot overlook what appears to us to be the far higher claims for advancement to the office of Chief Baron which attach to Baron Parke. We feel assured that no one can have watched the course of that judge on the bench without having been forcibly struck with the dignity, patience, perseverance, and almost unequalled extent of legal knowledge, which on all occasions he displays—always calm, clear, and decided, but at all time willing to listen and carefully to consider any suggestion and argument which is offered; and even when such may be frivolous never allowing the slightest impatience to interrupt the fullest investigation and argument, to the entire satisfaction of all parties before him, whether as pleaders or suitors. For some years past the Court of Exchequer has been peculiarly benefited by the high qualities and attainments of this learned judge, and we believe it would afford great satisfaction to all connected with that court to find those services acknowledged by the Government by raising him to be Chief Baron; and that Sir F. Pollock should take his place. Opinion seems much to favour the appointment of Mr Kelly, as Solicitor-General, and we quite agree that, whether he is considered in the character of a parliamentary debater, as a pleader at the bar, or as an able and accomplished lawyer, there is no comparison between his fitness for the office, when compared with any of the other parties who have been named, however deserving and able they may be in some respects.

In this case there will be elections for Horsham, in the room of the present Lord Abinger; for Huntingdon, in the room of Sir F. Pollock; for Exeter, on Sir W. Follett's advancement to the Attorney-Generalship; and for Cambridge, on Mr Kelly's appointment to be Solicitor-General; in which case it is expected that Exeter, Horsham, and Cambridge will all be contested.

Since the above was in type, we learn that Mr Hurst again intends to stand for Horsham, with every chance of success;

that Mr Forster will stand for Cambridge, on the Liberal interest, and it is doubtful if he will even be opposed—but whether or not, he will be successful; and that Mr Kelly will succeed Sir F. Pollock, at Huntingdon.

#### TESTIMONIAL TO MR ROWLAND HILL—THE POST OFFICE.

In common, we believe we may say, with nineteen-twentieths of the press and of the people, we give our praise and support to the subscription, set on foot by the merchants and bankers of the metropolis, for the purpose of presenting to Mr Rowland Hill a substantial memorial of public gratitude for his having proposed and carried to a successful issue one of the greatest and best reforms which ever benefited society. We call the Penny Postage a successful issue, not ignorant of its asserted failure as compared with its predicted success; but candid and impartial men know how much of that comparative failure, admitting it, is ascribable to a partial instead of a complete adoption of the plan as originally proposed, and to the persevering and malignant opposition to its fair working of all in authority, from the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Postmaster-General down to the Twopenny (for so continue to be called the *Penny*) Postmen. "The project of this subscription," the *Morning Chronicle* observes, "is announced as having received the approbation of the leading bankers and merchants of all parties, and the character of the list may be judged of from such names as those of the city members—Masterman, Lyall, and Pattison, Sir John Rae Reid, Sir George Larpent, Jones Lloyd, Horsley Palmer, Lionel Rothschild, Samuel Gurney, Lewis Lloyd, Thomas Baring, &c. A subscription commenced under such auspices cannot fail to be attended with the most brilliant success." Every part of the country, surely, will bear its part in the work, for what part of the country has not been benefited by the measure? The benefit rendered has not been to classes, nor in its character has it been local. The benefit rendered has been *universal*—so should be the acknowledgment; and it should also be great—for how great has that benefit been? We do not say so thinking only of its *economical* advantages—great indeed as they have proved themselves in the various walks of commerce. The social and moral benefits which it has conferred, and must continue for ever to confer, on the separated poor—the distant and loving—are its noblest features and its author's highest claims to a nation's gratitude. The measure is a great educator of the poor, furnishing new motives to learn to read and write, keeping alive the domestic affections and the endearing ties and bonds of youth. All these things has it done; and, without ascribing its accomplishment completely to Mr Hill, for many conspired to bring it about as well as he, he was its admitted projector, and he stands first among its promoters; he has watched its progress, and *suffered in its behalf*. For all these reasons he deserves a recompense. "It would be a shame to us, as a people, if we were insensible to his claims. We trust that no city, town, or village in England, Ireland, or Scotland, will incur such disgrace. Something may be done in the most remote districts. No man should hesitate to subscribe because he can give but little. The transmission of small sums by stamps or Post-office orders is everywhere easy. The secretary of the London Committee is Mr G. Wansey, No. 3 Lothbury."

In the postscript to an excellent article on the subject which we find in the *British and Foreign Review* (No. 33—just published, and an excellent number it is), there occurs the following: "Probably such a sum will be raised as will enable Mr Hill to enter the House of Commons as the people's advocate for accomplishing the entire scheme of penny postage. A triumphant atonement would this be to Mr Hill for his dismissal from office, and a worthy reward to a great public benefactor. Such a demonstration of public gratitude, too, would remind the Government in a salutary way of its neglect of duty in this matter. Concurrent with this event is the death of the Earl of Lonsdale, which is likely to lead to Lord Lowther's resignation of the office of Postmaster-General. This, then, is the time for a deputation of merchants to wait on Sir Robert Peel and urge upon him the adoption of a commission." To have the Post office of this country always controlled by a peer who knows nothing of business, is one of those absurd anomalies in our Government which call loudly for alteration. It should be looked upon, not as a source of patronage in giving appointments to clerks, many of whom are thus appointed for anything but their fitness, they being in fact gentlemen's servants, election agents, &c. &c. &c., but as what it is—the great centre and means of communication and of commerce, and therefore an institution which ought to be regulated by commercial men and on commercial principles.

#### COMMERCIAL REFORM.

It is interesting to find that the agitation for free trade is spreading over the world. We recently quoted an article from the *Republic*, New York paper, on the subject of "Commercial Restrictions," in proof of this; and we now subjoin another, having a similar tendency, from the same paper, in doing which we can only express our great pleasure at finding such principles enforced among the great community across the Atlantic, with whom we are united by so many ties, and *ought* to be by so many more: ties which if once brought into existence would abide for

ever, being those of mutual interest as well as those of reciprocal regard. It is curious to see how the state of things in England is reversed in America—both systems being equally unjust. With us the agricultural party has the upper hand, and they tax the rest of the community in the hope of benefiting themselves—a vain hope, as is shown in the end. In the United States the manufacturing interest is uppermost, and they inflict a similar injustice on their fellow citizens, and finally on themselves—an injustice not so gross as we bear here, certainly, principally because our other burdens are greater than theirs, and our comparatively small-sized country is over-populated for the means of subsistence in it, or suffered to be imported. This is a state of things which could not well be in a new country, like the American states; still the absurdities and injustice of commercial restrictions develop themselves there as everywhere; and in the article which we subjoin (from the *Republic* of March 16th) it is made manifest, with respect to America, what is true of all countries and in all times, that those who adopt such restrictions, while they effectually injure each other, injure themselves most. Whatever other blighting effects may be produced by injustice, there is one which never fails to accompany it;—it *always reverts upon itself*:—

"This is a question," our contemporary observes—meaning the question of commercial reform, "in which the patronage of government, the capital of the monied few, and the happiness of the great bulk of our citizens is involved. . . . The tariff theories of taxation, as propounded and handed down to us by our forefathers, have proved successful in every country thus far—in reducing the masses to starvation and raising up a money aristocracy, with whom reason goes for nothing, and for whom human sacrifices must be found. The tariffs of the old world exhibit the truth of this assertion in all its various and hideous forms. England, with hoards of gold, wants bread for her people. America has bread, and to spare, and yet wants a market for its sale. The mere bartering of these two necessities would better the present state of both countries but very little. Money is required to secure the ordinary returns of legitimate commerce. Money is abundant in both England and America—in the former superabundant; and yet the trade between the two countries is as nothing, compared with the demand for the exchange of their productions. This demand may be said to increase geometrically with the population of both nations, while their commerce decreases arithmetically. To what shall we attribute this state of things? Shall we in America turn round and impiously charge the Deity with the creation of more human beings than the earth is capable of supporting? Or shall we charge our lawmakers with the creation of a burthen of guilt which no human capacity could possibly have contemplated? It would, indeed, be vain.

"Our farmers are weighed down by external taxation. Their powers of consumption are paralyzed by the embargoes laid on the productions of their industrious time. Before they can buy at home they *must* sell abroad. This is a positive necessity, and when they reach it it remains for expediency and taste, and not for imperative taxation to decide whether they shall buy home or foreign manufactures. Nothing can be more absurd than our attempting to foster manufactures under a system which has failed in every point of view in other countries, except in the creation of class powers, which in this country would be fatal to our institutions. Nor are the social evils which it has brought on other countries to be more dreaded than their political tendencies. In the old world these evils have been partially evaded by stratagem, and by means to which we cannot have recourse. There labour is transferable from one artificial pursuit to another, and their powers defy competition, owing to the vast capital and appliances of commerce at hand; and the only embarrassment that is felt by the masses are such as arise from a sudden transition from one employment to another. But in this country nature has dictated very different circumstances, and distinctly exhibits to the view of every rational being the fact that our people must look mainly, if not wholly, to their lands for their prosperity, and leave the development of their manufacturing capabilities to that natural necessity which the geometrical increase of the population will produce for the introduction of the various pursuits of a more matured state of existence. Every nation must see that we must one day be a great manufacturing country, and they do also see the absurdity of taxing 16,975,115 souls at the rate of 60 per cent. for nine-tenths of their absolute necessities of life, on the specious plea of protection for their manufactures, which, if encouraged to the utmost extent, would involve us merely in a very precarious competition with other countries.

"In agriculture, America can compete with the whole world. When we speak of American agriculture, we do not mean the mere raising of potatoes, or the cultivation of cabbages, but we are looking at the production of staples, without which the manufacturing power of Europe would be useless to the civilized world, and the great physical energies of our own country also. Of these we have seen apparent premature developments. We have heard of over production, short prices followed by long credits, and all finally ending in utter bankruptcy. This is what must attend every country that is deluded into the fallacy of crushing the many for the benefit of the few; and that the American farmers have been cruelly sacrificed to the manufacturing bugbear, nobody can deny. And so great is the fraud and imposture laid upon him, that he is sunken so far in the depths of despair that he seems to have forgotten that the remedy is in his own hands. His wants are simply a wider market and a better price for his merchandize. Can any intellectual being be so lost as to want to be told how these desiderata are to be obtained? To such a query the simple answer would be—cut the strings of fallacy which bind your hands—abolish your tariff on the industry of other countries, and thus stimulate their powers of consumption and your own capabilities of production. Let the sixty per cent. which the sturdy farmer pays, as tribute, to the home manufacturer, in the shape of tariff taxation, be expended by the people in articles of comfort, in the market, for the consumption of their

cotton, corn, and sugar, and the consumers of these products will return us the tax of fifty per cent. placed on our industry—return it to us in the shape of increased consumption, higher prices, and no credits. But the tariff mongers will say—Oh, you throw open your market to Europe to the prejudice of native industry! Poor little politicians! Who pays for the monopoly?—who pays the duties? The native producer, and not the foreign consumer.”

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

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

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

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

It follows, therefore, that the difference of the cost of bread consumed during the last week, compared with what the same would cost on the continent, has been 288,460*l.* more for the whole country, and 24,938*l.* for the metropolis, to be added to the respective balances of last week. The account will now stand thus:—

FOR THE WHOLE KINGDOM.	
Balance from last week	£5,018,483
Extra cost of sugar this week	70,003
Ditto of bread	288,460
<b>Total extra cost from January 1st to this day</b>	<b>£6,076,946</b>
FOR THE METROPOLIS ALONE.	
Balance from last week	£918,203
Extra cost of sugar this week	5,833
Ditto of bread	24,938
<b>Total extra cost from January 1st to this day</b>	<b>£948,074</b>

“**MANLY SPORTS.**”—A correspondent of the *Times*, writing of the Windsor Steeple chase, which came off on Tuesday, and complaining of the way in which it was described in that journal, gives the following account of some of the occurrences:—“The first race was won by Lottery—an animal which has achieved a great reputation in steeple-chasing, but being now old, is so much the more unjustly treated by being compelled again and again to do the same extraordinary feats. In this race, Lord Glamis’s horse, The Stranger, fell in trying to clear one of the numerous brooks; others fell at the same time, and, being trod upon in the general confusion, he was so much injured as to make it necessary to shoot him. In the next course, at a still more difficult leap (over a brook seventeen feet wide and bush fence), several horses fell or stumbled, and two only of the lot were in at the winning-post; but Captain Sutton’s mare Jessie, tasked so cruelly beyond her powers, fell just after the jump, throwing her rider, and making a complete summersault. In spite of his severe fall, he, nevertheless, quickly extricated himself, and, although bleeding, and hurt of course, disdained to complain. The poor mare remained on the ground, panting, sweating, trembling, and evidently unable to rise. After a quarter of an hour had been spent in fruitlessly striving to raise the animal, she was, by the help of many men, lifted up a little, so as to be set on her haunches. I, in common with a great many other spectators, was of opinion that her back was broken, and that all attempts at recovery were only aggravations of cruelty. However, it was decided to persevere, and, finally, the noble, suffering creature was, by the aid of poles shoved under her belly, lifted bodily up by main strength, and carried off the field by men to the nearest stable, her hind legs dragging uselessly and piteously behind her. Ultimately, she also was destroyed. A third horse, a gray, was likewise so injured in the last race, that his rider dismounted, and led him away as he best could.”—These are part of the “manly sports” which the Duke of Richmond is so anxious to encourage, that he must needs carry through parliament a base measure, defying all the rules of justice and jurisprudence, to save expenses legally incurred by the “gentlemen of England” in betting on them, and who take such pleasure in them.

**IMPORTANT TO CITY AND BOROUGH ELECTORS.**—Elector in cities and boroughs should ascertain what poor’s rates and window taxes are now due; as those payable on or before April 6th must, to entitle the party to be on the next year’s register, be paid on or before the 20th of July. It should be noted whether the poor’s rate last made has been demanded, as some barristers have held that a rate is not payable until a demand for payment has been made; but, as the Court of Common Pleas has not yet decided that point, it is better that all the poor’s rates now due should be paid. The assessed taxes are payable, by act of parliament, on the 5th of April; all those assessed taxes, therefore, that are due in respect of the premises from which the qualification is derived must be paid; those not due in respect of the qualifying premises need not be paid for the purpose of the franchise. The taxes on dogs and horses, for instance, are in respect of dogs and horses, and not in respect of the premises conferring the franchise.

**THE RIGHT OF SUFFRAGE.**—No man has discovered—no man will ever disprove—that the right of suffrage is improved—no man will claim, as the right of purchasing in the market.—*Col. Thompson.*

**A WORD FROM NEW SOUTH WALES TO BRITISH CAPITALISTS.**

As our readers in the mother country naturally look into the latest number of our journal that reaches their hands for information on the state of the colony, and as a mail for England will be despatched this morning, we must now endeavour to anticipate their inquiries.

They are already aware of the extraordinary change which has come o’er the spirit of our dreams. They are aware, too, of the shapes which, until some three years ago, those dreams had assumed. Perhaps every third man in the colony, above the condition of a labourer, was a living prototype of Alnaschar, the wakeful visionary of the Arabian Nights. “This flock of sheep, or this piece of land,” quoth he to himself, “cost me 100*l.*;—I shall make 200*l.* of it; and of these 200*l.*, which I will again lay out in stock or land, I shall make 400*l.*; and going on thus, I shall at last make 4,000*l.*—of 4,000*l.* I shall easily make 8,000*l.*, and so on in geometrical progression until I become rich to my heart’s content.” And as in the story, an unlucky kick shivered to a thousand pieces the humble stock in trade out of which the dreamer was to amass wealth unbounded, so in the experience of our colonists the stern gripe of truth at length arrested the vagaries of their imaginations, and thoroughly wakened them to the actual posture of their affairs. With some of the results of this upstarting from a sort of mesmeric illusion our British friends have already been made acquainted, for our first year’s insolvent list, in all the circumstantiality of name, residence, addition, debts, assets, deficiencies, and dividends, has found its way into the London newspapers. Judging from the melancholy disclosures of that list, and from the accumulating addenda which will have been brought to them by every successive arrival, they must have formed, of course, very unfavourable conclusions as to the position and prospects of the colony. And it is because we think that these conclusions are likely to be more unfavourable than the truth would warrant, and thereby aggravate our sufferings by an unjust depreciation of our resources, that we beg their calm attention to a few well-authenticated statements.

On a thorough examination of the causes which have led to our present depression, it will be found that only one of those causes was such as implied no imprudence or mismanagement of our own. We allude to the fall in the price of wool. Within the last six years it has declined about fifty per cent. In 1836 it averaged about half-a-crown per pound; it is now from a shilling to fifteen-pence. Thirteen years ago, however, it was much lower; for in our official return of exports for the year 1830, the average is stated at ninepence farthing. Had there been no other adverse causes at work, the fall of wool alone would have inflicted no such disasters as those which now surround us. It would, doubtless, have wrought a serious diminution of profit, and have checked us in our rapid career of general prosperity; but to produce that violent convulsion in our social fabric which now rages from one extremity of the land to the other, it would have been utterly inadequate. In 1832, the colony had outridden its former storm of adversity, and had become tolerably prosperous, and yet wool was then much about the same price as now. What prospect there is of an advance on the present prices, our friends in England are better judges than ourselves. We indulge the hope, however, that a change in the fashions, the increase of European population, and the opening of new markets for woollen manufactures amongst the indefinite millions of China, may restore our fleece to a more remunerating value.

It should not be concealed that there is another cause, not involving indiscretion on our own part, to which some of our colonists very positively attribute a large portion of our embarrassment—the cessation of convict labour. We have, on former occasions, entered into the consideration of this subject very fully; and shall now only observe, first, that we are convinced the economy of convict labour has been greatly overrated; and, secondly, that whatever loss the colony may have sustained by its withdrawal has been amply compensated.

Setting aside, therefore, the convict labour question, the only really inevitable cause of loss to the community of New South Wales is the decline in the price of wool; a cause, however, quite insufficient to account for the present distress, and of which we see no reason to believe that it will be permanent.

The grand cause is, undoubtedly, the infatuation which had seized upon all classes of people touching the value of colonial property. The excessive influx of British capital for investment in loans, in the several shapes of mortgage and discount, had made money and credit rife beyond example. Hence the disposition to purchase grew on every hand; prices rose higher, and higher, and higher at every sale; and in the whirl of competition to buy properties which could be so readily resold at large advances, the true measure of values—the average profits returnable in the ordinary course of industry—were overlooked or forgotten, or, if thought of at all, thought of as wholly unworthy of the gambler’s contempt.

Our present derangement is nothing but the result of this extreme infatuation. The day of reckoning has come. The lender will not only lend no more, but will demand the repayment of sums already lent; and as the vast majority of the land and stockholders have been borrowers, and borrowed at high rates of interest, and have invested every farthing so borrowed in properties which, even under the most judicious management, are absolutely incapable of returning any mark above those rates of interest, many of them, in point of fact, re-acted against the eagerness to buy has given place to an eagerness to sell; the over-eagerness to sell has created a timidity to purchase; the pressure of creditors has nevertheless rendered sales indispensable, at whatever sacrifice; the market has become glutted; purchasers have continued to recede yet further and further; property of all kinds has sunk lower and lower; confidence has disappeared, and the upshot of all is universal panic, and confusion worse confounded. The only earthly power that can disentangle the horrible mesh is the Insolvent Court, and the adjusting process is rapidly at work.

But does this bewilderment prove that the colony is ruined? Does it even prove that the colony is impoverished? No such thing. What

the colony ever possessed, it possesses now; its natural wealth, its genial climate, its boundless pasturage, are the same; its accumulated wealth, its live stock, its agricultural improvements, its buildings, its money, are much more abundant. Ten years ago its acres under crop were 60,520; last year there were 115,660. Fifteen years ago its sheep were 536,000; they are now 6,000,000. Its horned cattle were 263,000; they are now 800,000. Seven years ago, when in its most palmy state, its coin was 420,720*l.*; last year, 475,390*l.* In 1832, its exports amounted, in official value, to 384,344; in 1842, to 1,067,411. According to the ratio of Great Britain, it is estimated that the sheep now in New South Wales would supply food to 3,200,000 inhabitants, and its cattle to 2,500,000; the population actually depending upon this food being only 160,000. Viewing our exports in relation to the population, and comparing them, in that point of view, with those of some other countries, the results appear to be as follows:—

PROPORTION OF EXPORTS PER HEAD.

	£.	s.	d.
Russia . . . . .	0	0	8½
Prussia . . . . .	0	0	3½
France . . . . .	0	0	11
United States of America . . . . .	0	17	0
British North America . . . . .	1	11	6
British West Indies . . . . .	3	12	0
British Australia . . . . .	11	15	0

Now, to talk of a country that possesses these masses of substantial wealth, and whose annual exports so far outstrip those of many old and prosperous states, as a ruined, or an impoverished, or a falling country, is to talk palpable nonsense. It is true, many of her people have been ruined, and many more are on the verge of ruin; but their downfall, though deeply to be deplored on the score of humanity, is but the rise of others—their property has not melted away, it has only changed hands. Their lands, their sheep, their cattle upon a thousand hills—their comfortable homesteads, built and furnished and decorated in the days of their imagined affluence, are still here, though others are becoming their proprietors, in some instances at a tenth of their original cost.

To the British capitalist, therefore, who is in vain looking all through the British Isles for a safe investment at three or four per cent., the present state of this colony presents, not a repulsive, but a highly attractive scene. Here is the place, and now is the time, for a secure and profitable employment of many of those thousands upon thousands of pounds which in England are rusting in idleness. Land, valued by act of parliament at a minimum of twenty shillings an acre, may be bought at a tenth or twentieth of that price; fat cattle at from seven to twenty shillings a head; horses from one to three pounds; sheep from eightpence to two shillings; and property of every description at a corresponding discount. In short, persons now arriving here with a few hundreds of ready money, may purchase property which, in the course of three or four years, or probably in a shorter period, will be worth from two to five hundred per cent. more than the present prices. We do not say that such emigrants will make rapid fortunes; but we say, without hesitation, that if prudence guide their first investments, and economy and industry their subsequent proceedings, they will find a comfortable home, acquire a moderate competence, and provide respectable settlements for their children.—*Sydney Herald.*

SLAVERY AND THE SUGAR DUTIES.

Mr Joseph Sturge has just issued a letter in reply to a circular recommending the abolition of discriminatory duties on Brazilian sugars, in which he suggests that the friends of the slave should unite in an effort to induce government to admit sugars from all parts of the world on equal terms, provided it be the produce of free and not of slave labour. Mr O'Connell thus writes to Mr Sturge on the subject:—

“London, 27th March, 1844.

“My dear Friend,—I entirely agree with you on the sugar question, not as viewing it as a subject of political economy, but under the circumstances of the case taken altogether. When the British nation gave 20,000,000*l.* to the persons called owners of slaves, they did so for the sake of humanity, but in direct violation of all rules of political economy; and it would be, in my mind, the most absurd of all absurd things to give 20,000,000*l.* sterling to get rid in our own colonies of all the cruelties necessarily incident to slavery, and then immediately after to open our markets to slave-grown sugar in other countries, and thus to hold out a bonus to those countries to continue and increase all the horrors of negro slavery. It is, to my mind, a one-sided, left-handed humanity, to free the negro in our own colonies and then to augment his suffering in other countries. It is said, ‘Will you be so cruel to the people of England as to refuse them cheap sugar?’ I say, Yes, I will; if the cheapness of that sugar is to be secured by shedding the blood of the negro. I would not consent to give the people of England, or of Ireland either, cheap sugar at the price of robbery or stealing. I will not consent to give it to them at the expense of the negro. If the throat of the negro was to be cut at the expense of augmenting the produce of sugar canes, everybody would call that murder. And it is no less murder to cut his back with the lash, and work him to a premature death, which are the necessary consequences of the production of sugar by negro slave labour. I will not consent to give you this subject; command my quill, and I will obey you please.

“As you see how entirely I agree with you on this subject, I will prevent two existing services at any time, and in any place, both if I possibly could; and it is no answer to say, ‘That we use slave-grown tobacco and slave-grown cotton.’ My reply is that I would prevent a third crime. Every law, human and divine, prohibits such conduct. I will prevent as much criminality as I can, and endeavour as much as possible to lessen that which I cannot prevent; leaving it in the hands of Providence to dispose the hearts of other men so as not anywhere to augment human misery.—Believe me to be very faithfully yours,  
“DANIEL O'CONNELL.  
(Signed).”

“Joseph Sturge, Esq.”

Workmen are employed within the boundary wall of Greenwich Hospital, in laying down iron piping, for the purpose of extinguishing fire without the aid of fire engines.

LORD ABINGER.

We regret to announce the demise of Lord Abinger, Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer, which took place on Sunday, at two o'clock, p. m., at Bury St Edmunds. An express was received in Spring gardens on Sunday, which prepared the friends of the noble and learned lord for the event which so soon followed. Early on Monday morning Mr B. Cooper arrived in town, and was the bearer of the melancholy intelligence of the noble and learned lord's demise. His lordship expired in the presence of Lady Abinger and several members of his family, but he never appeared to regain consciousness from the first moment of his attack. The late Lord Abinger (James Scarlett, first baron) was doctor of civil law, and a privy councillor, created Baron Abinger in 1835, brother of the late Sir William Scarlett, Chief Justice of Jamaica, and father of Lady Stratheden (Lady Campbell); was Attorney-General in the Wellington administration, and sat in the House of Commons in 1835 as Mr and Sir James Scarlett, shortly previous to his being raised to the peerage. His lordship was in his 76th year.

The deceased nobleman was a native of Jamaica, where his family had been long resident, and held considerable property. His brother was many years the chief justice of the island. The subject of this brief sketch was sent to England at an early age for the purpose of education; and at the age of seventeen was entered at Trinity College, Cambridge. Having selected the law as a profession, he became a member of the Inner Temple, and was, in due course, called to the bar. He rose rapidly to a high position as an advocate. His commanding appearance, fine flow of spirits, colloquial style, and perfect perception of the temper of the different juries he addressed, gave him access to their feelings, and placed their judgments under his control. Business poured in upon him. His retainer book recorded an amount of fees beyond the most sanguine expectations, and his bag every day showed by its bulk that whatever causes were entered for trial, Mr Scarlett was engaged either for plaintiff or defendant. In 1816 Lord Eldon gave the successful barrister a silk gown; who henceforth took his stand as a leader of the foremost class both in Westminster Hall and on the northern circuit. Mr Scarlett now aspired to parliamentary honours; and at the ensuing election contested the borough of Lewes, but was defeated. Having avowed himself a Whig in politics, he was indebted to the late Lord Fitzwilliam for his first introduction to the House of Commons, as member for the borough of Peterborough. Mr Scarlett's first speech in that assembly was in the debate on the finances of the nation (1819), in which he urged the expediency of carrying out Mr Pitt's project of applying the sinking fund in aid of the deficiency of the revenue; and strongly animadverted upon the tone assumed by Castlereagh and Vansittart, who had intimated that, unless three millions additional taxation were imposed, the ministry must resign. The amelioration of the criminal code also found in Mr Scarlett a frequent advocate. He supported Sir S. Romilly and Sir James Macintosh in their attempts to remove capital punishment, in a great variety of cases, from the statute book; and upon a resolution being passed by the House of Commons in favour of this object, Mr Scarlett was placed on the committee to inquire and report to the house on the subject. Mr Scarlett was not, however, as successful in parliament as he was in the forensic arena. If he were a first-rate advocate, he was but a third-rate statesman. His chief effort in parliament was a speech on bringing in a bill to amend the poor laws. Mr Scarlett's ambition took a loftier flight. He stood for his Alma Mater, the University of Cambridge, and was unsuccessful. Peterborough received him on his defeat, and sent him again to parliament as its representative. When Mr Canning was made premier, Mr Scarlett, with most of the Whigs, supported him against the Tory confederacy which formed itself against his policy, and at length harassed him out of life. Sir C. Wetherell having resigned the Attorney-Generalship, Mr Canning conferred the office on Mr Scarlett, who was knighted on the occasion, and on Mr Canning's death he continued to hold the post under the short and proverbially feeble administration of Lord Goderich. On the retirement of that nobleman from office Sir Charles Wetherell became the Attorney-General of the new administration. In June, 1829, Sir Charles Wetherell made his extraordinary speech upon the Catholic Relief Bill, and was instantly dismissed from office by the Duke of Wellington, who offered the vacant post to Sir James Scarlett, who accepted it, stood again for Peterborough, and was re-elected. From this date a marked change was perceptible in Sir James Scarlett's politics, which became increasingly Conservative in their principles and tendencies. As the Duke of Wellington's Attorney-General, Sir James Scarlett seems to have resigned himself, with unquestioning obedience, to the regimen of which the ‘iron duke’ is regarded as the type. The public journals which opposed the newly-adapted Catholic emancipation policy of the Wellington-Peel cabinet, and had commented with unrestrained severity on the motives and conduct of the leading members of the administration, were made to feel that the Attorney-General's prerogatives were not less terrible in the hands of an apostate Whig than they had shown themselves to be when wielded by a consistent and unbending Tory. In quick succession criminal informations were filed against the *Morning Journal*, the *Atlas*, and other papers, for alleged libels on the Duke of Wellington and Lord Chancellor Lyndhurst. The proceedings against the *Morning Journal* were marked by a severity which indicated an animus utterly unworthy of the dignity of a government, and scarcely exceeded by the worst periods of the history of political persecution. While applying to the Court of King's Bench for and obtaining rules for criminal informations against the proprietors of that journal, to the extent of four in number, the Attorney-General filed an *ex officio* information against them, and was proceeding to prosecute under both forms, until resisted by Mr Denman, the present Lord Chief Justice, who successfully induced the law officer of the crown to confine himself to one of the duces. Pursuing the parties who had provoked his official vengeance, modes of proceeding which followed the death of George IV, Sir James At the election for Maldon. On the accession of the Whigs to Scarlett was elected. Scarlett's dereliction of political principle, and office in 1830, Sir James Scarlett of the Whig party, was visited upon him, his consequent abandonment.

His post was conferred by the new administration on Mr Denman; and from that period to the close of his life the Whigs encountered the unceasing opposition of their early friend and associate. While the Tory whippers-in were mustering their forces for the division on the third reading of the Reform Bill, Sir James Scarlett was put to speak against time. His last speech on that measure was distinguished by unwonted fierceness of denunciation. He described the bill as revolutionary in its tendency, and eulogised the machinery of the old representative system. He expatiated on the freedom, splendour, and power which Great Britain had attained under it; and averred that no republic could secure so great a portion of individual liberty to its subjects as Englishmen enjoyed. In the course of his panegyric on our old parliamentary system, Sir James Scarlett diverged into an eulogy on close corporations, by which he contended the institutions of the country were preserved from being shaken by popular commotion. The House of Commons, he argued, was never designed to be a complete and pure representation of the people. He strongly deprecated bringing the principles of the constitution into popular discussion, as dangerous to the constitution itself. Thus did the former advocate of freedom recommend himself to the affections and future patronage of the Tories. In 1832, the first election after the Reform Act became law, Sir James Scarlett with Lord Stormont stood for Norwich on the Tory interest. The bribery practised at that election is described as more profligate than was ever before known in that place, where parliamentary corruption has been familiarized by constant use. The identical bank-notes which had been paid for votes, and which had been marked for the purpose of future identification, were traced to the Tory agents. The return was petitioned against; but a sympathizing committee, not admitting the proof of agency, prevented the consequences from falling on the members. Upon the formation of the Peel-Wellington cabinet in 1834, Sir James Scarlett was made Chief Baron, with a peerage, by the title of Baron Abinger, and his son succeeded to the seat for Norwich. His lordship's judicial course was marked at its commencement by an untoward circumstance. His first circuit was that of Norfolk; and a case was to be tried in which the cause of action arose out of his lordship's parliamentary election for Norwich. It was deemed necessary to place his lordship in the witness box, and a subpoena was served upon him when on the bench. The cause was compromised!

We have traced Lord Abinger's public career from his entrance upon public life to his elevation to the peerage and the bench. In alluding to his change of party, we have stated facts which are matters of history, but have hesitated to attribute motives; which are necessarily beyond the view, and, consequently, beyond the judgment of fallible mortals. He was not tempted by poverty; for his patrimony was ample, and the emoluments of his profession were almost unprecedentedly large. His first false step was taking office under the Duke of Wellington; that, probably, occasioned an estrangement from his former friends, and he took refuge among his former political opponents, to keep him in countenance. Thus he became more completely entangled in the toils, until escape became impossible; and he consoled himself with the rewards his services to the Tories had at length obtained.

Various changes must ensue in consequence of Lord Abinger's death. Sir Frederick Pollock will, it is said, "of course" be the new Chief Baron of the Exchequer. His calm and patient habit of thought, combined with his acknowledged legal knowledge, and (uninfluenced by party bias) determined attachment to the constitutional liberties of the subject, will render him a valuable chief of the Exchequer Court. Sir Frederick Pollock's elevation will cause a vacancy for the town of Huntingdon, whether the new chief baron be created a peer, or, like Sir N. Tindal, he prefer to continue a commoner. As a judge he cannot sit in parliament. Sir William Follett will gain a step in his profession, by obtaining the Attorney-Generalship. He must consequently vacate his seat for Exeter, where, we understand, a strong effort will be made to obtain the return of a second Liberal candidate. A successor to Sir W. Follett in the Solicitor-Generalship will have to be found. The post, it is generally expected, will be, and, beyond all question ought to be, conferred on Mr Fitzroy Kelly, now one of the members for the town of Cambridge. It is also reported that Mr Thesiger, the Duke of Marlborough's member for Woodstock, is an aspirant to the honourable and contingently advantageous office.

Another seat in parliament, that for Horsham, will also become vacant, by the succession of the Hon. R. C. Scarlett, the eldest son of the late Lord Abinger, to the title and estates.

## FREE-TRADE MOVEMENTS.

### WOLVERHAMPTON.

On Easter Monday a great free-trade meeting was held at Wolverhampton. For some days past the town had been extensively placarded, announcing the intended visit of R. Cobden, Esq., M.P.; J. Bright, Esq., M.P.; and the Hon. C. Villiers and J. Thornley, Esq., the two respected borough members. The interest which this announcement excited was very great indeed, so great that it soon became pretty evident that there was not a building in the town adequate to hold the numbers desirous of attending the demonstration. It therefore became necessary to provide a suitable place of meeting, and the erection of a pavilion in Howley field was accordingly resolved upon, and speedily prepared in the most commodious and substantial manner. The building was in length about 100 feet by about 80 feet wide, and capable of containing 3,000 persons. On each side and one end commodious galleries were erected, to which admission was obtained by paid tickets. At the other end a large platform, extending the width of the place, was raised for the accommodation of the speakers, and the whole pavilion was covered over with new canvas.

A few minutes before two o'clock, Mr Cobden, accompanied by the borough members, J. Walker, Esq., and a number of other gentlemen, arrived at the place, and was received with tremendous cheering, which continued for some time; after which, on the motion of Mr Walker, seconded by Mr Cartwright, John Barker, Esq., magistrate, took the chair, and opened the business in a neat and appropriate speech.

The Chairman, on presenting himself, said he was painfully sensible that there were gentlemen present much more able than the individual to whom they had done honour to fulfil the duties of the chair; but he claimed their sympathy, their forbearance, and their support. This was not a political meeting. It was a free-trade pavilion, and they were met to discuss simply a free-trade question, in which Tories, Whigs, and Chartists might cordially unite. Neither the ballot nor the extension of the suffrage would be brought before them. They were assembled to receive a deputation from the Anti-Corn-law League, and to express their approbation of the course pursued upon the corn-law question by the two gentlemen who represented them in parliament. He (the chairman) did not, however, think that the corn laws were the sole root of the evils of which the country had reason to complain. He believed that the currency laws required revision; but he also, at the same time, believed that by altering the corn laws the government would be speedily compelled to alter the money laws. (Loud cries of "hear.") The speaker then proceeded to read an extract from the work of a living author (Sir J. Graham), entitled *Corn and Currency*, in confirmation of the views he (the chairman) advocated; and concluded by introducing to the meeting their excellent representative, the Hon. C. Villiers. (Loud cheers.)

Mr Villiers said, they were assembled to give a cordial reception to those distinguished men—he might say that distinguished man, Richard Cobden—who came amongst them as the apostles of free trade. Mr Cobden was the apostle of those doctrines of which the electors of Wolverhampton had ever been the consistent supporters. It were to be wished that all other constituencies in the kingdom had been equally true to their principles; if they had, much misery and suffering would have been prevented. Now, it could not be denied that the object of the corn law was scarcity of food; if such were not the object of the law, there was no sense in it. This was the blessing promised to the working man. When he (Mr Villiers) first visited Wolverhampton this question was well put and settled by a working man. When talking to him upon the subject he (the working man) said to him, "Well, if scarcity of food is likely to improve the condition of the working classes, it strikes me they would be much better off if they had no food at all." (Cheers and laughter.) This to him (Mr Villiers) appeared to be a very natural deduction—if a small quantity of food would be better for the people, then none at all would be still more beneficial. (Cheers and laughter.) Mr Villiers next argued that the present corn laws had already lost them many continental markets, and that the same system was about to rob them of the markets of the Brazils. It was at Wetenhall, near that town, he (Mr Villiers) first learned that England had nearly lost the German market; and he often thought, had he been a working man, how cruel he should have deemed it that persons in parliament, who know nothing of trade, nothing of manufactures, and nothing of commerce, should not only be anxious to cripple the business of the working classes in this country, but absolutely to raise up rivals in trade abroad. He (Mr Villiers) owed his connexion with that borough to the reputation which from its enfranchisement Wolverhampton had stoutly and steadfastly maintained for the assertion and support of the principles of free trade. (Cheers.) The late Mr P. Thomson it was who first informed him of the probable retirement of Mr Fryer and Mr W. Whitmore, and told him that if he (Mr Villiers) should be so fortunate as to succeed in obtaining the confidence of the people of Wolverhampton, he would enjoy the confidence of the most determined opponents of monopoly to be found in the country. The speaker dwelt at some length upon the part taken by Mr Fryer, the late member for Wolverhampton, on the question of the corn laws. They might rely upon it that nothing but agitation could get rid of that obnoxious law, and with agitation he believed they should succeed. (Cheers.) He called upon them to support the League as the best instrument for effecting agitation. They went into the agricultural districts and bearded the monopolists in their own dens. (Cheers.) If the League had done no other good it had at least done this—it had raised a discussion upon the condition of agriculture, and his friend Mr Cobden did not despair by discussion of convincing the landholders of the kingdom that it would be for their benefit that the corn laws should be repealed. In conclusion, he begged leave to state, that he attended there at some personal inconvenience; but the respect in which he held his constituents, and the prominent part which for some years past he had taken in the repeal of the corn laws, compelled him at all risks to be present on that occasion. (Mr Villiers resumed his seat amidst long-continued cheering.)

The Chairman next introduced to the meeting Mr Thornely, the other member for the borough of Wolverhampton. He expressed a hope that his connexion with the borough would continue for many years.

Mr Thornely, who was well received, in the course of his speech said he verily believed if no corn law existed at present, there was not a man in the country who would be bold enough to petition for its enactment. (Cheers.) When he and his colleague (Mr Villiers) accompanied a deputation of the iron trade to Sir R. Peel in autumn last, one gentleman on that occasion remarked upon the importance of the American trade. When this subject was mentioned he (Mr Thornely) told Sir R. Peel that he went along to the full extent with his colleague (Mr Villiers) upon the subject of the corn laws—that he objected not only to a sliding scale, but to a fixed duty—and that in his opinion so long as a protective duty on corn was maintained, the American tariff would exist in full force, but so soon as that protective law was repealed, the tariff would be abolished. (Cheers.)

The Chairman then rose, and said the meeting was, as he had before stated, purposely called for discussing the principles of free trade; but all political topics were advisedly excluded. If, however, any gentleman present differed from the opinions of previous speakers upon the subject of free trade, he would now, under the restriction adverted to, if he thought proper, have a right to address the meeting. All he (the chairman) would say was, that if there were any such gentleman present, he would do all in his power to obtain for him a fair, silent, and impartial hearing. He would now call upon any opponent of free trade to come forward and state his views. (The chairman paused for a

short time, but no person took up the challenge.) It appeared (continued the chairman), the meeting was unanimous upon the subject. (Cheers.) He would now introduce to them their distinguished friend Mr Cobden. (Great cheering.)

Mr Cobden, upon being introduced by the chairman, was received with vociferous cheering. Since their worthy chairman had made an offer of discussion, and it had not been accepted, it might be said that they were all agreed upon the question under argument. But he (Mr Cobden) was told that, although silent, there were gentlemen present who, from timidity or from other reasons, objected to enter upon a public discussion. He would therefore attempt, if possible, to convert one of these stray sheep, and, if possible, send him as an apostle or missionary of free trade into the agricultural districts. (Cheers and laughter.) Mr Cobden proceeded to show that the agriculturists, instead of being taxed beyond the manufacturers, were exempted from a great portion of the imposts paid by the latter classes of the community. He enumerated the farmer's dog tax, horse tax, dairy and cheese-room window tax, toll on manure, &c. He (Mr Cobden) was extensively engaged in a manufacture which required a large quantity of a certain description of manure. Some hundreds and thousands of loads passed through turnpike gates to his works in the course of a year, and for which he was, as a matter of necessity, compelled to pay a heavy amount of tollage. Now, the same description of manure, when at other times passed through turnpike gates, paid no toll at all; and why?—because it was placed upon the lands of the great squires and landholders. (Cheers and laughter.) Speaking of the corn laws generally, Mr Cobden said there was not a man of intellect in the House of Commons who was not ashamed to advocate them. He admitted that Graham and Gladstone, Stanley and Peel, were intellectually able and distinguished men; but it was impossible to sit opposite to them and not perceive that it was nothing but the force of circumstances which induced them to maintain their present position—it was as clear as day that they were ashamed of the humiliating task which they had to perform. (Cheers.) No doubt, while they were saddled and bridled by the Duke of Richmond and the Duke of Buckingham, they would continue their present policy, but they might rely upon it on the first opportunity which presented itself the ministers to whom he had referred—by far the ablest members of the cabinet—would bolt out of the course, and run in an opposite direction. (Cheers and laughter.) After contending that agriculturists themselves would have no reason to complain of a repeal of the corn law, Mr Cobden next proceeded to show that low prices of bread had always a beneficial effect upon the labourer. He put it to the labourer how high prices had benefited him during the last five or six years. They had received less wages, obtained less employment, and in many cases the unfortunate workpeople had had no employment at all. (Hear.) They had had their wages reduced to the lowest ebb in 1839, 1840, and 1841, when corn was high, but when prices became more natural and free, when wheat was reduced to 50s. 8d., then trade gradually revived; iron, as it had done recently, rose 20s. a ton; employment became more general, and wages were augmented. Were not these facts? No man could deny but that trade, especially in Lancashire, was in some degree improving, and he (Mr Cobden) would go further—he would prophesy that if corn kept at no higher price than 50s., trade and commerce would continue to improve; but if it got up as before to 60s. and upwards, then wages and employment would be as low and as scarce as before. (Hear, hear.) They had been told that if they reduced the duty on corn this step would be followed by a reduction of wages. He (Mr Cobden) came there to prove that what their opponents said was not true, and he had no hesitation in saying that he could prove that the working man would be better without the corn laws, even if their abolition was to be followed by a reduction of wages. (Hear, hear.) Again, they had been told the working men of the kingdom derived no benefit from foreign trade; but if they did not others did. There were classes of the community who derived considerable benefit from the importation of the luxuries of life; and why did not the poor and working man enjoy with the rich equal benefit? Because there was a law to prevent the free importation of bread, pork, and other necessaries of life. (Hear, hear.) He knew what was passing in the minds of farmers who were then listening to him. "Yes," said they, "but every sack of flour and cask of pork brought to this country will be to our injury; it will by so much reduce the price of my stock and the amount of my gains." But the farmers should recollect that the people of this country were not all fed. It was because not less than 10,000,000 of the population of Great Britain and Ireland—for he always considered Ireland a part of his own country (cheers)—were never fed at all upon meat, that he and his friends of the League advocated the entire removal of all taxes upon human food. (Cheers.) He knew no place in the kingdom where all the elements of prosperity showed themselves so clearly, so manifestly, as they did in Wolverhampton and its neighbourhood. Free trade was all that was wanted. (Cheers.) Why, they had everything about them. They in Manchester had to go to America for every ounce of cotton they used before they could begin to work; they in Wolverhampton had their materials at their very door; at every step they kicked them before them. (Cheers.) They had skilled hands and skilled fingers, able to manufacture articles from a steam-engine to a grate, and down to a needle, and yet here they were with all these advantages with their hands tied behind them by a parcel of senseless squires, who knew nothing and cared nothing for either them or their interests. (Cheers.) It was true, however, that they had even amongst themselves people who stood by the corn law, and why? Because it was termed a party question. There would be just as much sense in maintaining the old system in astronomy, that the sun goes round the world, and not the world round the sun, because Newton, Copernicus, and Laplace, made it a party question, as making the repeal of the corn law a party question. He could only compare it to an absurdity which occurred in their own House of Commons. A discussion took place upon the subject of lighting the house. Some honourable members maintained the superiority of the Bude light, and others contended for a different mode of illumination. However, at length a division occurred, and, strange to say, the Tories walked out at one door, and

the Whigs at another. It was a party question. (Laughter and cheers.) Mr Cobden concluded by saying they knew the object of the League. Too many kind things had been said of himself and his friends. They had certainly done what they could; but the League would be entirely powerless unless supported by such gentlemen as those by whom he was then surrounded. But the question was not, as stated by their opponents, whether the League was good or bad, but whether the corn law was good or bad. (Cheers.) Really, as a farmer's son, he was ashamed to see how the farmers throughout the country were bamboozled on this point; he confessed he was ashamed of his order. (Cheers.) It was not the League, but the corn law, which was on its trial. (Cheers.) They might say that what Cobden now said was inconsistent with what he said in 1840; but he repeated it was not Cobden or the League, but the corn law, which was on its trial. Now, he would advise the farmers present, if at any future meeting of the landlords they heard the speakers begin to abuse Cobden, to interrupt them by saying, "Please tell us how we are benefited by the corn laws—that is what we want to know—we want to hear nothing of Cobden." (Cheers and laughter.) He (Mr Cobden) cared little for the abuse heaped upon him. Such scolding as generally proceeded from the squires, was, indeed, entirely unworthy of the tea-table of a ladies' boarding school. The squires, on these occasions, were the laughing-stocks of the whole kingdom. (The honourable gentleman concluded a long speech amidst vociferous cheering.)

Mr R. R. R. Moore, being introduced by the chairman, next addressed the meeting, and detailed the progress of the League.

A subscription was then entered into, amounting to upwards of 600*l.*, exclusive of 150*l.* from Mr Villiers and Mr Thornely, the two members for the borough.

The meeting then broke up.

#### BARNARDCASTLE, DURHAM.

On Wednesday last Colonel Thompson (to fulfil his engagement), accompanied by Thomas Plint, Esq., visited Barnardcastle. Two repeal meetings were held in the Union hall. In the afternoon, at three o'clock, the chair was taken by Jacob Alison, Esq., of Cotherston. The meeting was chiefly intended for the accommodation of farmers; but, owing to the very short notice given, it was only thinly attended. In the evening, at seven o'clock, the spacious room, calculated to contain upwards of 1,000 people, was again crowded with all grades of society. Mr John Rodgers, of Barnardcastle, was called to the chair, and ably conducted the meeting. Addresses, bearing on the corn-law question generally, were delivered by Colonel Thompson (whose most impressive and humorous speech brought down reiterated thunders of applause), Messrs Plint, Raine, Monkhouse, Gibbon, and Winter. Addresses were also got up for signature by the electors, to be presented to each of the members for the southern division, earnestly requesting their vote in favour of Mr Villiers's motion for a total repeal of the corn laws.

#### NEW MILL, DERBYSHIRE.

An Anti-Corn-law meeting was held at New Mill, Derbyshire, on Monday evening. Mr Bright, M.P., Mr Rawson, and Mr Prentice, attended as a deputation from the League. Mr Gisborne, M.P. for Nottingham, was in the chair. The chairman, Mr Prentice, and Mr Bright, and several other gentlemen addressed the meeting at length. Throughout the proceedings there was considerable enthusiasm displayed, and at the end a subscription was freely entered into.

#### MORPETH, NORTHUMBERLAND.

On Wednesday evening Mr Liddell, of Newcastle, delivered a lecture in the town hall, Morpeth, on the corn law, and the general question of free trade. The room was crowded; and at the conclusion of Mr Liddell's address, Mr Soulsby, in opposition, showed that high duties are levied upon some articles which are wholly consumed by the aristocracy. A discussion ensued, in which Mr Froggatt, Mr Watson, and other gentlemen, took part.

#### THE CORN LAW.

The following was the conclusion of a magnificent speech by W. J. Fox, Esq., given on the 27th of March, at Covent Garden Theatre. The pressure on our columns at the time obliged us to omit it. But it is too good to be lost:—

"The corn law is a warfare against civilization, a wanton abuse by the landowners of their legislative power; for when and where in the world's history has civilization ever advanced but in connexion with the humanizing and harmonizing influences of commercial intercourse. To whom do we, to whom does the world owe its first alphabet, but to those adventurous merchants, the Phœnicians. There is a sort of cant about the instability of commerce; why, Tyre lasted in its glory 700 years. It was their free intercourse that gave the polished Athenians all their superiority over the rough and rude Spartans. In the middle ages, the republics of Italy, while they kept alive some notion of political freedom, did it in connexion with the extensiveness of their commercial intercourse. Their princely merchants founded at once civilization and the wealth of succeeding periods. In the great start which Europe took at the time of the reformation, we behold the same alliance. Everywhere the merchant, the burgher, or the tradesman is seen making good his position in society, raising the whole community, and, as he did so, elevating those very feudal lords themselves. For what were they then, or what would they have been now, but for the benignant influence of commerce. (Hear, hear.) But for that, these very persons who deny the labourer the food he has earned of the foreigner, whilst they surround themselves with all the luxuries which they can accumulate from the most distant regions, instead of being seated in their richly-carpeted rooms, they would have been walking upon their rush-strewn floors, immured in their cold, stony residences, more like dungeons than anything else, with their unglazed windows letting in the rain and sleet as well as the breath and air of heaven. They would have been to this day still sanctioning the charters of 1912



mercantile guild, by affixing their marks to the documents instead of writing their names; and have been about as well informed of the distant countries over whose destinies they now exercise so large an influence, as those same feudal barons were when they set out upon their Christian expedition to Palestine, expecting to find in that country that they should have to encounter giants riding on unicorns, black magicians who breakfasted by sucking phoenix eggs, and griffins and dragons as plentiful as barn-door fowls. (Cheers and laughter.) Why, it is commerce which has made men of the aristocracy. (Hear, hear.) Poor and beggarly is the boon which is asked of them in return—to allow even the humblest of those who labour in what is really the work that Providence has given to men to do for each other—to allow them the free interchange of the results of their toil, from whatever region the payment may come by which that toil is to be recompensed. And if laws for the restriction of commerce are an absurdity under any circumstances, and a wickedness as well as an absurdity, much more are they both in such a country as this. Why, this island was made for commerce; it is marked out for it by the hand of heaven itself! Creative power has stamped that destiny for it by our long lines of coast, our beautiful rivers, safe harbours, and all those circumstances which indicate Britain as the central point from which every wind that blows should waft some freight of wealth, knowledge, or charity to the remotest regions of the globe. (Loud cheers.) It has been marked out for commerce by its coal beds and mineral treasures—by the materials which nature puts into the hands of man, which seem of themselves to invite the application of his power, and say, ‘come and use us! elicit the virtue that we possess, and our gigantic power to minister to the luxuries of millions, and to feed and clothe millions and millions more.’ (Cheers.) The industry and unwearying toil, the accumulated capital, the surpassing skill and science of this land, the eminence it has already attained—all show that these are the conquests which we have to make. This is our mission from heaven for the universal benefit of mankind upon God’s earth; and who or what are the landed class that they should stand up and interpose, saying, ‘This shall not be done; for it will deteriorate our property, and lower our rents.’ Why, suppose it should; is there anything in a class which has had for ages immense advantages over all the rest of society, suffering a little inconvenience? Is there anything in the result of a rightful change subjecting them (were it so) to temporary privation that should in honesty allow them to stand in the way of the accomplishment of that which humanity has a right to claim, to which charity and justice alike award their sacred sanction? Could they permanently divert this land from its proper work, and succeed in upholding for ever laws which would cripple the manufactures and commerce by which we have been enriched, which have made the strength and greatness of the nation—could they go on successfully repressing these, keeping down the ebullition of misery, and suppressing all indications of discontent—could they, through coming years, uphold their present policy to its full extent, and realize (which they are far from being able to do) the purposes for which their monopoly laws are enacted, what disastrous results would take place from end to end of this country! With a growing population and a declining trade—the ports barred against the foreigner by duties—disease and famine would stalk abroad; frightful demoralization would ensue; the iron arm of power must then be put forth to keep down the millions; they must make a solitude and call it peace—such peace as there would be thus obtained would be the peace of the churchyard, where every arm is nerveless, every heart cold, and all are mouldering fast into one mass of corruption. (Cheers.) The land would be partitioned into *squirearchies*, and each rural tyrant would stalk in the solitary majesty of self-assumption over his petty domain; and the peasant would think it a great prize when he got a sound potato; and intellect and the arts, and everything which refines and softens life, would leave a country thus degraded and abandoned; it would become so fearful a spectacle that we should cry, ‘O God of Heaven! sooner than this, let Britain be whelmed again in the ocean from which it first arose—let it find a worthier grave there than that the long annals of its glories should end in a state of things so infamous and disgusting!’ (Enthusiastic cheers.) We are not, then, fighting a manufacturers’ question, or pleading only for charity to the poor: we are asserting the common, the great right of humanity, and advocating an interest which is not merely a pecuniary question of a passing day, but the interest of human nature in all countries and ages. Our cause is the advance of civilization itself: it is for that we strive. We are struggling that the world’s progress may not be turned back through our indifference under the infliction of these mischievous wrongs. It is a sacred cause, and one which will call forth the most enthusiastic feelings of our hearts, and the intensest devotion of our souls. It is a matter which ought to be before us day and night—from month to month, and year to year—until the result which we contemplate is obtained. Oh, that it were regarded in all its importance by those whose station gives them ampler means of leading on that result; for should the sovereign of these realms have moments of perplexity and anxiousness, and be distracted by conflicting councils—looking wistfully on the battles of warring statesmen—should she at such moments desire to know what it is that would make her reign blessed, as wiping away the tears of the distressed, clothing the naked, feeding the hungry, and raising those that are trampled down—should she desire to know what it is that would render her reign illustrious, not only by averting misery and rectifying wrong! but which would give it a yet higher splendour, before which the glories of conquest, legislative institutions, and reformations in former times would all wax pale in comparison—should she desire to know what the magic is that would render her reign an era in the world’s history, and the best and brightest in the annals of Great Britain’s,—oh, that some good angel would whisper in her ear that the talismanic words to do all this are—*commercial freedom!* (The honourable gentleman concluded his eloquent address amidst vehement and prolonged cheering.)

MEAN OF LIFE.—In Surrey is 45 years; in Liverpool, 26. In London twice the number of persons live to 70 that attain the same age in Liverpool, the number being 16,444 to 8373!

## ANTI-FREE-TRADE MOVEMENTS.

### THE CENTRAL SOCIETY.

This body has at last done something. They have issued a pamphlet, bearing to be the work of “E. S. Cayley, Esq., M.P.” entitled *Reasons for the Formation of the Agricultural Protection Society, addressed to the Industrious Classes of the United Kingdom*. We find the document reprinted entire in the columns of yesterday’s *Morning Post*. Indeed, but for that journal we should not have so soon learned of its existence. The first part of the document consists of a vindication of the conduct of the landlords in forming this society; the second is devoted to a denunciation of the League. The authority of Adam Smith (!!!) is invoked, who says that “the land is the greatest, the most important, and most durable part of the wealth of every extensive country;” and that “the capital that is acquired to any country by commerce and manufactures is all a very precarious and uncertain possession, till some part of it has been secured and realized in the cultivation and improvement of its lands.” And, adds Mr Cayley, “after such statements and authority, it can hardly with truth be advanced, that the protection of agriculture is merely a landlord’s question, or that it is not one of paramount interest to the whole nation.”

Mr Cayley then draws attention to the small profits of landlords compared with those of manufacturers; and enlarges upon “protection” being “the tenant farmer’s interest.”—“It is their interests, more than that of the landlords, which a free trade in corn would immediately expose to uncertainty and ruin.”

Mr Cayley thinks that if a repeal of the corn laws would ruin the tenants it would be equally ruinous to the labourer, who enjoys so much at present under “protective laws, which have been gradually growing up to their present height for many centuries.” Mr Cayley says that there are more people employed in agricultural pursuits than in commercial, and “in proportion to the greater quantity of labour employed in the agriculture of this country, as compared with its manufactures, in the same proportion is the prosperity of agriculture of greater importance to its working classes.” Low prices, he says, are not a good thing, and therefore “it is a mistake to suppose that the majority of the manufacturing operatives have an interest in corn being so low in price.”

He is not for prohibition, only *protection*; cites the example of other countries in favour of it, particularly America; condemns Mr Huskisson for repealing the Navigation Laws, and says that other nations are becoming more and more restrictive.

“But,” he says in conclusion, “it is said reciprocity is not necessary. Foreign countries will take our gold for their goods, if they won’t take our manufactures; and we must buy gold somewhere or other with our manufactures, for we cannot buy the gold for nothing. There is an appearance of truth in this argument; but it is in reality only specious. By this indirect way of paying for foreign importations, we doubtless increase our exports; witness our increased exports, as before stated, between 1798 and 1841; witness also their cheapness; and this will solve the mystery. Many foreign nations will not take, or will take only a few of our goods; some will take more. We already export goods to those that will take them; but we have continually to pay gold to those countries that will not take our manufactures for the goods we import from them. We must then send more manufactures to those places which have, already, taken as many as they want; and who will consent to take more of them, in exchange for gold, only at a ruinous depreciation of their price; because they go into a market already glutted with the same commodities. The constant export of gold would also be accompanied by a restriction of accommodation, by a contraction of the circulation, and by a fall of prices and of wages. It may be added, incidentally, that much the largest increase in our export of goods, of late years, has been to our own colonies. Free trade would ruin many of these colonies, which with the home market, are both the surest and best customers for our manufactures. If all the world were under one government, or if the industry of all nations were now for the first time springing into existence; if no different habits, tastes, associations, and artificial embarrassments had grown up in different nations, then the question as respects free trade might be changed; but as the case stands, free trade is not merely madness, it is an impossibility. How long are we to run on in this mad career? How long are we to sacrifice one class of industry after another, to this fallacious chase after a benefit which does not exist? How long offer up the happiness and the comfort of our people, victims on this devouring altar? Let us humbly trust not much longer. To save British agriculture, at least, and with it, the artisans of the home trade, from this consuming process, “The Agricultural Protection Society of Great Britain and Ireland” has been formed. One of its principal objects will be, to disseminate, from time to time, information on the subject of the true interests of industry. To give temperately, in detail, the explanation (of which this address is a mere outline) how each class of the community would be affected by a repeal of the corn laws; and how, as the society believes, entire ruin rather than benefit would be inflicted on the working classes of the country as a body, if, by a systematic adoption of the practice of free trade we entirely forsook those wise laws of protection by which our forefathers built up the magnificent fabric of British greatness; will be another principal object of the future publications of this society. To act up to these, its intentions, the society will require, and now earnestly solicits, the liberal support of all well-wishers to the permanent best interests of their country.

17, Old Bond street, April, 1844.

It is part of Protestantism for every man to keep his bills paid.—*The Rev. Hugh M’Neil.*

The magnetic power of a compass needle will be entirely destroyed or changed by being touched with the juice of an onion. This fact may seem trifling, but we regard it as one of the first importance; and, investigated, it may lead to consequences as astonishing as those of the magnet.—*Magazine of Science.*

PROPORTIONS OF THE PEOPLE ENGAGED IN MANUFACTURING AND AGRICULTURAL OCCUPATIONS.

The public has been so long accustomed to hear of the great bulk of the people being engaged in agricultural occupations, and of the comparative handful employed in trade and manufactures, and, in the absence of statistical data, it has been so difficult to disprove an assertion as bold as it is unwarranted, that at length the public generally has come to believe what we must call this "false fact." In proportion to the extent and prevalence of such belief, should be the publication of the "facts and figures" which show it to be wholly unfounded; and therefore, although we have already briefly stated the results and totals of the official returns for the census of 1841, as to the occupations of the people, so far as relates to 27 English counties out of 40—the returns as to the other 13 not being yet completed—we propose to go a little more into detail, that there may be no doubt left on this important subject. We find in the *Derby and Chesterfield Reporter* a table, entitled "An extract from the population returns of the census taken in the year 1841," which we have no doubt is authentic and faithful; but which, nevertheless, is presented in a somewhat inconvenient and unsatisfactory form, so that the most important facts which the table is capable of yielding are not to be obtained, without, for instance, adding two columns together, and deducting a third. The first column of figures exhibits the numbers of the population of each of the 27 counties, engaged in "trades and other occupations," including farmers and agricultural labourers; the second column gives the numbers engaged in trades not specified. The tenth column gives the total number of farmers, graziers, yeomen, and agricultural labourers in each county. We have therefore (without knowingly varying a single figure in the table) added the two first of these columns together to obtain the total amount of persons in each county, engaged in occupations of all kinds, trading and agricultural, and then deducted from these amounts the total numbers of persons engaged as masters and labourers in agricultural pursuits; and thus we obtain the numbers engaged purely in trade and manufactures. The following table exhibits the results of this operation on the official returns of this portion of the census of 1841:—

Counties.	Farmers, Graziers, and Yeomen.	Agricultural Labourers.	Totals in Agricultural Occupations.	Trades and Occupations not Agricultural.	Proportion in Agriculture to Pop. per Cent.
1.—Bedford . .	1,461	12,766	14,227	22,999	13 1/2
2.—Bucks . .	2,471	18,697	21,168	33,504	13 1/2
3.—Berks . .	1,880	18,469	20,349	36,757	12 1/2
4.—Cambridge . .	3,343	18,743	22,086	30,466	13 1/2
5.—Chester . .	7,464	18,345	25,809	38,713	6 1/2
6.—Cornwall . .	8,213	17,907	26,120	89,454	7 1/2
7.—Cumberland . .	4,258	9,936	15,194	47,963	8 1/2
8.—Derby . .	6,995	11,621	18,616	85,716	6 1/2
9.—Devon . .	12,103	40,892	52,995	138,376	9 1/2
10.—Dorset . .	2,857	15,712	18,569	37,231	10 1/2
11.—Durham . .	3,538	9,844	13,382	103,223	4 1/2
12.—Essex . .	5,121	43,672	48,793	69,836	14 1/2
13.—Gloucester . .	4,953	24,459	29,412	127,949	6 1/2
14.—Hereford . .	3,515	12,716	16,231	27,057	14 1/2
15.—Hertford . .	1,780	17,967	19,147	38,259	12 1/2
16.—Huntingdon . .	1,129	7,012	8,141	10,952	13 1/2
17.—Kent . .	5,473	39,058	44,531	39,517	8 1/2
18.—Leicester . .	3,673	12,664	16,337	62,048	7 1/2
19.—Monmouth . .	2,597	5,700	8,297	44,386	6 1/2
20.—Norfolk . .	7,452	40,647	48,099	89,931	11 1/2
21.—Northampton . .	3,315	21,452	24,767	44,175	12 1/2
22.—Northumb. . .	3,065	13,377	16,442	73,623	6 1/2
23.—Middlesex . .	1,207	11,015	12,222	615,817	0 1/2
24.—Nottingham . .	3,789	15,787	19,576	74,034	7 1/2
25.—Oxford . .	2,365	17,727	20,092	33,357	12 1/2
26.—Rutland . .	616	2,612	3,228	4,038	15 1/2
27.—Lincoln . .	11,295	45,097	56,392	73,477	15 1/2
<b>Totals . .</b>	<b>116,928</b>	<b>523,294</b>	<b>640,222</b>	<b>2,286,858</b>	<b>7 1/2</b>

Now, to show the value of this table, it is only necessary to state that at the late monopolist and Anti-League meetings, the speakers have dwelt much on the necessity of the agricultural interest having every encouragement and support from the legislature, because, as they confidently assert, it is at once not only the most important interest in the country, but, numerically speaking, the largest; including, as some of these unscrupulous orators unblushingly allege, "almost seven-ninths of the entire population." Others state it rather lower; but all these monopolist advocates assert its great numerical majority over all that portion of the population employed in trade, commerce, and manufactures. When Mr Brotherton, in his speech on the recent debate on Mr Cobden's motion, in the House of Commons, expressed his belief that the agriculturists, instead of constituting, as had been asserted, seven-ninths of the population, did not form even one-tenth, he was met with "loud cries of oh, oh!" and derisive cheers from the ministerial benches." It appears, however, from the above table, which, in this respect, is strictly official, that instead of one-tenth, the agriculturists, so far as regards the twenty-seven counties (most of them, be it remembered, purely agricultural, and excluding the great manufacturing counties of York, Lancaster, Warwick, and Stafford), really do not amount to quite eight per cent. of the whole population (including, of course, their own wives and children, as shown by the above table), whilst the persons engaged in other trades and occupations constitute 28 1/2 per cent., or more than three times the number of those engaged in agricultural pursuits! This is the main fact evolved from this portion of the tables, and it shall not be our fault if it be lost sight of. But it is not the only important fact they contain; and we request a little attention to the last column of the above table, from which it will be seen that, even in Buckinghamshire, the agriculturists are only 13 1/2 per cent. of the whole population of the county. In Bedfordshire they are little more than 13 per cent.; in Devon they are only 9 1/2 per cent.; and in Dorset, 10 1/2 per cent. In Middlesex, the agriculturists do not

amount to one in a hundred of the entire population. The total number of the agriculturists in these twenty-seven counties is not equal to the population of the Salford hundred; the farmers, graziers, yeomen, and agricultural labourers of all kinds in the twenty-seven counties numbering only 640,222, while the population of this hundred (having an area of little more than 210,000 acres), by the census of 1841, amounted to 764,654. But we pass on to the other classes of occupations amongst the population. These are the following:—

Counties.	Persons of independent means.	Alms People, Beggars and Pensioners.	Other Persons not described.	Residue of Population; Women and Children.	Total Population
1. . . . .	1,720	1,117	235	67,638	107,936
2. . . . .	3,084	1,695	501	96,031	155,983
3. . . . .	4,779	2,229	967	96,066	161,147
4. . . . .	3,826	1,349	507	106,225	164,459
5. . . . .	8,444	1,944	1,719	219,031	395,660
6. . . . .	9,077	3,090	654	212,884	341,279
7. . . . .	6,597	2,027	570	105,687	178,038
8. . . . .	5,193	1,350	796	160,546	272,217
9. . . . .	20,353	6,515	1,496	313,725	533,460
10. . . . .	5,589	2,067	405	111,182	175,043
11. . . . .	8,231	1,527	692	203,229	324,284
12. . . . .	7,403	3,470	1,461	214,016	344,979
13. . . . .	16,002	3,877	2,061	252,082	431,383
14. . . . .	3,276	878	314	66,122	113,878
15. . . . .	3,696	1,884	607	93,614	157,207
16. . . . .	1,157	467	207	37,625	58,549
17. . . . .	18,629	10,864	6,330	328,466	548,337
18. . . . .	4,377	1,781	427	130,897	215,867
19. . . . .	2,622	594	304	78,152	134,355
20. . . . .	10,658	4,248	875	259,153	412,664
21. . . . .	3,788	2,075	699	123,724	199,228
22. . . . .	6,875	1,581	874	150,883	250,278
23. . . . .	76,369	18,681	8,573	844,974	1,576,636
24. . . . .	4,818	1,516	736	149,230	249,910
25. . . . .	3,857	1,622	657	102,058	161,643
26. . . . .	416	246	110	13,264	21,302
27. . . . .	9,099	2,884	1,842	218,898	362,592
<b>Totals . .</b>	<b>249,635</b>	<b>81,578</b>	<b>34,619</b>	<b>4,755,402</b>	<b>8,048,914</b>

It will be seen that the column headed "residue of the population" comprises more than half the population of these counties; this arising, doubtless, from its including the females and children not classed under any of the foregoing occupations. The following gives the results of the two previous tables, in a popular and intelligible form:—

Trades and other occupations, including farmers, &c., and agricultural labourers . . .	2,902,383
Add—Trades not specified . . . . .	24,697
<b>Total in all occupations . . . . .</b>	<b>2,927,080</b>
Farmers, graziers, and yeomen . . . . .	116,928
Agricultural labourers . . . . .	523,294
Deduct—Total in agricultural occupations . . . . .	640,222
<b>Leaves total in trade and manufacturing occupations . . . . .</b>	<b>2,286,858</b>
Persons of independent means . . . . .	249,635
Alms-people, beggars, and pensioners . . . . .	81,578
Other persons not described . . . . .	34,619
<b>Residue of population (including women and children of no occupation) . . . . .</b>	<b>4,755,402</b>
<b>Total population of the twenty-seven counties . . . . .</b>	<b>8,048,914</b>
To this we may add, what has already appeared in our columns, the decimal proportions of the different classes of occupations:—	
Farmers and agricultural labourers . . . . .	8 per cent.
Persons employed in trade and other occupations . . . . .	28.50 "
Persons of independent means . . . . .	3.14 "
Residue of population . . . . .	60.36 "
	100 "

Here we must stop for the present; but we shall probably resume the consideration of the subject in an early number.—*Manchester Guardian.*

We know it is frequently alleged that a large number of shopkeepers, artisans, and others, included in the category of "trades and employments not agricultural," ought to be reckoned with,—because they are dependent upon the agricultural population, by whom they are mainly employed in their respective vocations. At this rate we do not see why a large portion of the manufacturers may not also be claimed; for there is no difference in this respect between the man who is employed in manufacturing fustian at Manchester, and the shopkeeper who sells it at Buckingham, or the ingenious artisan who fashions it into jackets and trousers for the Buckinghamshire labourers. If these parties are to be claimed as portions of the agricultural population, then, by a parity of reasoning, all the farmers who get a living by raising produce for the manufacturers must be counted as part of the manufacturing population. The notion, however, of reckoning shopkeepers and artisans with the agriculturists, is simply an absurdity. With reference to the question of the corn law—the law intended to raise the price of food,—the landowners and the people employed in raising food may be considered as one party, and all the rest of the community as another. The former may be (we do not believe that they are) interested in having food at a high price, in order that, in the exchange of productions, which constitutes the basis of the internal trade of the country, they may obtain a large amount of the commodities and the labour they require, in return for a small quantity of food; but the second party mentioned are undoubtedly interested in having food cheap, in order that they may obtain the quantity which they require, in return for moderate portions of the commodities and the labour which they respectively bring to market, and on which they have to depend for a livelihood.

It may be proper to add, that, in our judgment, the relative proportion of agriculturists and persons not agricultural, is, after all, a very unimportant matter when rightly considered. Whether the manufacturers and artisans of the country are few or many,—whether a small minority or a large majority of the population,—it is equally unjust to lay taxes upon them for the benefit of the landowners. The advocates of monopoly, however, appear to think otherwise, making great use of the alleged preponderance of the agricultural population; and it is therefore worth while to show that their arguments on this head are not only logically unsound, but ridiculously unfounded in point of fact.—*Id.*

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANSWERS TO INQUIRIES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

Sir,—In the table of imports and exports inserted in your last, at page 660, I took no notice of the accounts of "Foreign and Colonial Produce re-exported," as in the financial accounts they are added annually to those of the official value of the "Produce and Manufactures of the United Kingdom" exported, but not to those of the real value of the same; of course they should either have been added to the latter, or deducted from the imports. They are stated to have been as follows, viz., in

1818	.....	.....	.....	£10,859,817
1819	.....	.....	.....	9,904,813
1820	.....	.....	.....	10,555,912
1821	.....	.....	.....	10,629,689
1822	.....	.....	.....	9,227,589
1823	.....	.....	.....	8,603,904
1824	.....	.....	.....	10,204,785
1825	.....	.....	.....	9,169,494
1826	.....	.....	.....	10,076,286
1827	.....	.....	.....	9,830,728
1828	.....	.....	.....	9,946,545
1829	.....	.....	.....	10,622,402
1830	.....	.....	.....	8,550,437
1831	.....	.....	.....	10,745,071
1832	.....	.....	.....	11,044,809
1833	.....	.....	.....	9,833,753
1834	.....	.....	.....	11,562,036
1835	.....	.....	.....	12,797,724
1836	.....	.....	.....	12,301,711
1837	.....	.....	.....	13,233,622
1838	.....	.....	.....	12,711,318
1839	.....	.....	.....	12,795,990
1840	.....	.....	.....	13,774,306
1841	.....	.....	.....	14,723,151
1842	.....	.....	.....	13,584,158
Total	.....	.....	.....	277,288,050

This sum, if added to the amount of exports in the 25 years, 1,036,815,954*l.* (misprinted 1,126,815,954*l.*), would swell those to 1,314,104,004*l.*, and the imports (if the above amounts re-exported were included annually therein), amounting to 1,666,277,547*l.*, would leave a balance in our favour of 147,826,457*l.*, nearly six millions per annum, independent of the 30 per cent. to be added to the amount of our exports, and 20 per cent. to be deducted from our imports. There must therefore be something radically erroneous in the system; for should an amount of precious metals and precious stones not have been received by our merchants and manufacturers for such balance, the goods exported must have come to a bad market, have been sold at a great loss, or never paid for. These are circumstances which neither the Inspector-General nor the Board of Trade can possibly ascertain; but in settling the account of mercantile transactions between nation and nation, as between man and man, no balance sheet can be exhibited correctly without the profits and losses by sales, on the exchanges, and bad debts being fairly stated. You may form a rough estimate in calculation of the quantity of goods received into your warehouse, like a merchant and shopkeeper, of the quantities delivered, and the cost and selling prices; but unless you have actually received in cash the whole amount of sales, you cannot balance your accounts, nor ascertain your real profit or loss, without your bad debts being set off. So an account between two countries can never be exactly or accurately stated, without ascertaining what the goods actually sold for if shipped on account of the exporter, and the usual cost of those shipped on account of the importer.

In our transactions with the continental nations, they are not confined to mercantile affairs, for there is a constant traffic going on in the public funds of such countries and our own—remittances of bills of exchange or bullion are continually taking place from one to the other, either for the purchase of stock, or in payment of the dividends—all of which have an influence on the exchange and demand for the precious metals.

C. R.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

Sir,—In your late numbers you have taken a just and clear view of the mistaken notions which prevail to a great extent on the subject of public charity. Our metropolis, I believe, stands pre eminent amongst all the cities of the world for its princely and extensive charitable institutions; and amidst all the hurry and bustle of our commercial wealth and greatness, it is gratifying to see so large a share of that wealth devoted to the purposes of Christian benevolence.

The subject of charity, however, to our poorer brethren is one which affords ample scope for the exercise of our judgment. I have lately been much surprised at the number of "protecting" charity, and "protecting" labour societies advertised in the public journals—societies which, however benevolent they may be in the opinion of their founders, only tend to make our country one great pauper house, and destroy the moral character of independence among the lower classes of the people.

It is not my intention to offer any invidious remarks against the motives of these benevolent persons, but it is to show the evil effect of an unwise and injudicious course of charity; and I will begin by asserting that no system of relief, however extensive, can elevate the condition of the lower orders of society to their true position in life, or relieve them from their present distresses, only in a temporary way. This may appear a bold assertion, but not more so than true. There is a class of persons who "think they do God service" by giving alms to all who come within their knowledge, without at all thinking of the consequences produced upon the habits of the individuals whom they relieve.

I remember reading some time since in the *Times* a letter on this subject from a gentleman, who had taken a girl about seventeen years of age from the streets, and placed her in a respectable situation as a servant; and after a short time, to his great astonishment, he found she had left her situation, and followed her former life of begging. On his asking the reason for such a course, she said she preferred begging to servitude. And why? For this plain reason,—because the charity of an indiscriminating public had led her to prefer begging to labour, and had converted all the active energies of youth into a low and degraded habit of indolence. The same effect is frequently observable in the higher walks of life, where we often see men of wealth indulging their children in all the extravagances of gaiety, by supplying their fancied wants with means that only foster idleness and dissipation, instead of teaching them habits of industry, and the way to acquire wealth and how to distribute its blessings. These cases serve to illustrate hundreds more of a similar nature that every one may find out who will inquire. If charity is to be bestowed upon the deserving, which I am far from discouraging, let inquiries be first made as to who and what they are, and by what causes they were reduced to a state demanding charity. In no wise let any one habituate himself indiscriminately to almsgiving without first ascertaining whether he is not encouraging a habit of indolence and demoralization, as in the case mentioned above.

The same almost may be said of the "protecting-labour" societies. One would suppose, in this enlightened age, that men really would cease to palm such nonsense upon the people. Do men forget the exertions of the trades unions a few years ago to obtain a stipulated sum for the wages of every man, and who formed a combination to compel masters to comply with their demands? And what was the result of their "protection"? Why, the master tailors imported a number of men from Germany, and their protection dwindled into nothing, when these men found out, also, that their laws only tended to subvert the principles which they laboured to establish. In the same manner will end all societies who profess to equalize and "protect" the value of labour. We can no more fix a rate of wages for the labour of a free country, than we can equalize the talents of the community. Every man must be in his own order. The man of labour with one talent must not expect a law made to give him as much as the man who possesses ten talents, should he possess all the facilities for acquiring labour.

When will men cease to promulgate such fallacies and *ad captandum* notions amongst society about a "fair rate of wages for a fair day's work,"—terms about which scarcely any master and servant ever agree.

Well, then, if charity is not to be done by public societies, and if labour is not to be protected, how are the wants of the distressed to be supplied? some will say. I answer, by extending the means of industry; and make men independent by throwing open to them the channels of labour, which the extent of our commercial wealth and greatness permits, instead of building houses in which to congregate masses of able-bodied men, and at the same time depriving them of the means of independence which freedom of commerce alone can give. I am very far from discouraging the smallest amount of charity extended to any needy sufferer; at the same time, let no man be deceived with the erroneous idea that the present distresses of the lower classes can receive any ultimate benefit from "destitution" and "protection" societies; they only cheat men into delusions, and are contrary to the principles which unite mankind in one mighty chain; and though it is said, "the poor shall never cease out of the land," it is also said, "let him labour, working with his own hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth."—I am, sir, your obedient servant,

VINDEX.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

Sir,—The subject of agricultural statistics, I am glad to see, has at length engaged your attention. The discussion between Lord Worsley and Mr Cobden has shown how little it is understood even in the House of Commons.

The difference between the gross produce and the disposable produce of agriculture has never been properly pointed out; and the farmer desires to increase his expenses, fancying he is thereby adding to his profits.

If the price of corn falls the farmer is the first to derive any benefit, in the expenses of his family, his horses, seed, &c., which cost him a less sum. If he pays his rent in grain, and his servants, as they do north of the Tyne, he is no loser by cheap corn. His only loss is on the corn he sends to market, and this varies from one-half to one-third of his produce.

Supposing he gets 40s. per quarter for his wheat in place of 60s., here is an apparent loss of 30 per cent., equal, he says, to his whole rent, for one-third of all produce is rent, say	£37
One-third interest and ware	37
One-third expenses	37

Total agricultural produce . . . . . £101

But corn is only one-third of all agricultural produce, therefore his loss is only one-third of one-third, and deducting the saving to him in expenses of stores, seed, &c., his real loss is not one-tenth. In fact, 12 per cent. profit on his other produce would cover his loss on corn.

And who will pretend to say that, if our labouring classes could be fully employed, that 12 per cent. on meat, butter, bacon, cheese, &c.,

would not easily be obtained? But I deny that free trade would reduce corn 30 per cent., or even 10 per cent., for prices abroad would soon rise to our level; and this is the only point to save our sinking manufactures.—I am, sir, yours, very respectfully,  
MERCATOR.

### MISCELLANEA.

**EFFECTS OF PENNY POSTAGE.**—Mr Travers dispatches 10,000 prices current per annum more than formerly. Samples are now dispatched by post; increase of tea trade increases the duties, consequently the revenue. Mr Charles Knight, the publisher, says the penny postage facilitates the distribution of books; monthly lists of new books, formerly only sent to the London trade, are now sent to the country booksellers. Country booksellers have now parcels three times a week instead of once; small tradesmen once a week, instead of once a month. Accuracy in books is promoted by cheap transmission of proofs to and fro between author and printer. Want of rural distribution prevents communication with important classes, such as the clergy, magistrates, poor-law guardians, &c. Messrs Pickford and Co.'s postage for the year ending March, 1839, was on or about 30,000 letters; in the year ending March, 1843, it was on or about 240,000 letters. Lieutenant Watson, R.N., states that the penny postage has enabled him to complete his system of telegraphs; he has now telegraphs on many of the most important headlands of England and Scotland. Mr Stokes, the honorary secretary to the Parker society, states that the society could not have come into existence but for the penny postage: it is for the reprinting the works of the early English reformers. There are 7,000 subscribers; it pays yearly from 200*l.* to 300*l.* postage; it also pays duty on 3,000 reams of paper. Mr Bagster, the publisher of a polyglot bible in twenty-four languages, shows that the revision which he is giving to his work, as it goes through the press, would, on the old system, have cost 1,500*l.* in postage alone; and that the bible could not have been printed but for the penny postage; also that the penny postage has added to the accuracy, as he can now send revises to several parties.—*Rowland Hill's Pamphlet.*

**DANCING ABOVE LITERATURE.**—The Empress of Russia, albeit the lightest of sovereigns, and the coldest of women, was carried so far by enthusiasm as to fasten a bracelet on the fair arm of Taglionii; while the Queen Dowager of England conferred a similar honour on the Neapolitan dancer Cerito. But what queen and princess, we should like to know, has lavished necklace, or bracelet, or one poor pitiful brooch, on Miss Edgworth or Miss Aikin, Mrs Somerville or Joanna Baillie?—*Blackwood's Magazine.*

**WHAT SHALL I TAKE?**—A lovely young lady called in a physician to "do something for a rush of blood in the head." "I have been doctoring myself," said the languid fair one, with a smile, to the bluff, though kind, M.D., while he was feeling her pulse. "Ah! how?" "Why, I have taken Morison's pills, Parr's pills, Cockle's pills, Allen and Bell's pills, Bell's balsam of liquorice, and Powell's cough electuary. I have used Henry's calcined magnesia, Fawcett's anodyne pills, and—" "Madam!" interrupted the astonished doctor, "all these do your complaint no good!" "No! then what shall I take?" pettishly inquired the patient. "Take!" exclaimed the doctor, eyeing her from head to foot. "Take!" echoed he, after a moment's reflection—"take! why, take off your stays!"

**TOLE-CATS OF THE PRESS.**—A Mr Wells has told a moving tale to the Lord Mayor, of the sorrows and hardships of Barnard Gregory, prisoner in Newgate. "He is compelled to associate with felons," says Mr Wells—doubtless, a dreadful indignity to the late editor of the *Satirist*, whose co-mates and fellow-labourers in the vineyard were men of the nicest sense of honour—gentlemen "of the first house, the very first house." Moreover, the said Gregory "sleeps on an iron bedstead, with rope mattress and rug covering"—a shocking circumstance, when we remember the beds of roses that the said Gregory was wont to spread in the columns of his newspaper for certain sufferers. "Mr Gregory is only allowed the prison diet!" Considering the extreme delicacy of his appetite, that for years fed upon lying and slandering—a most cruel punishment! "Mr Gregory's health is suffering," and therefore Mr Wells will "call a public meeting to address the Queen" upon the matter. We know nothing of the state of Mr Gregory's health; but this we know—men on board the hulks, who, it may be, have only wronged society to the amount of a few shillings, fall ill, and find no sympathy in their sickness from the Home office. How, then, is the late editor of the *Satirist* to claim any indulgence, denied to the late abstractor (to use a soft word) of pocket handkerchiefs? Mr Sheriff Musgrove "regretted to declare that Mr Gregory's health was declining." Has the sheriff no sympathy for the declining health of many a wretched convict at Woolwich? Can he only find compassion for the convicted slanderer that turned his venom to profit—has he no touch of tenderness for the declining footpad, the wasting housebreaker? Let Gregory's ill health plead successfully for his pardon; but let the same pardon be awarded to sick culprits of every denomination.—*Punch.*

**M. ARAGO.**—Do you wish to satisfy yourself respecting the indolence of the *savant*, ask for information from the young astronomers attached to the observatory. They will tell you that never did a human brain encounter a more enormous mass of labour—that Arago deems every one an idler who does not work fourteen hours a day, and that days of this kind are for him days of repose. They will tell you that this formidable man busies himself with politics, chemistry, physics, mechanics, astronomy, natural history, philosophy, literature; and that on a pitch he would make tragedies at least as good as those of Fontenelli; that he is in constant correspondence with all the *savants* of Europe; that he is upon all the political, scientific, and useful committees of the world; that his cabinet is daily crowded with plans to be examined, memoirs to analyze, petitions to advocate; that all this passes regularly through his hands; and that, on the following day, the work is to be re-commenced; that the government, the municipality, the establishments of public utility, and even private interests, find in him a counsellor and a guide as active as disinterested; that

his time is at every one's disposal; that, whilst he has one eye on what is passing above, he has the other fixed on what is going on here below; and that, amid all his various and absorbing occupations, he finds time to play the part of one of the most brilliant and delightful talkers of the saloons of Paris.—*Living Characters of France.*

**ANGLO-AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE.**—Their ships sail better, and are worked by fewer men: their settlers pay more for their land than our colonists, and yet undersell them in their own markets; wherever administrative talent is called into play, whether in the management of a hotel, or a ship, or a prison, or a factory, there is no competing with them; and, after a little intercourse with them, I was not surprised that it should be so; for the more I travelled through the country the more was I struck with the remarkable average intelligence which prevails. I never met a stupid American; I never met one man from whose conversation much information might not be gained, or who did not appear familiar with life and business, and qualified to make his way in them. There is one singular proof of the general energy and capacity for business which early habits of self-dependence have produced;—almost every American understands politics, takes a lively interest in them (though many abstain under discouragement or disgust from taking a practical part), and is familiar, not only with the affairs of his own township or county, but with those of the state and of the union; almost every man reads about a dozen newspapers every day, and will talk to you for hours, if you will listen to him, about the tariff, and the bank, and the Ashburton treaty. Now, anywhere else, the result of all this would be the neglect of private business—not so here; an American seems to have time, not only for his own affairs, but for those of the commonwealth, and to find it easy to reconcile the apparently inconsistent pursuits of a bustling politician and a steady man of business. Such a union is rarely to be met with in England; never on the continent.—*Godley's Letters from America.*

**A JEW D'ESPRIT.**—"What sort of light do you call that in front of the Jew's synagogue?" asked a friend of Sir Peter, as they passed up Crosby street, the other evening. "Why, an *Israel-light*, to be sure," was the reply.

Tetotalism is still extending in Ireland; the pledge-breakers are said to be very few.

## The Economist.

APRIL 13, 1844.

### COMMERCIAL.

In another part of our paper it will be seen that it is now more than likely that a change of the linen yarn duties in France will shortly be made.

By way of Pernambuco letters have been received from Rio de Janeiro up to the 10th February, which announce a change in the ministry. The circumstances under which the change has taken place are not sufficiently or satisfactorily explained in any of the letters we have seen; but, from the general estimate of the ability of the new ministers, we are not led to anticipate their long duration in office. Manuel Alves Branco, who was formerly attached to the treasury, and has always been a zealous advocate for an extended paper currency, is the new finance minister. There is nothing new worthy of remark connected with business.

We have to-day received accounts from the Cape of Good Hope to the 16th February, which speak of considerable efforts being used to extend our fisheries in those seas. The produce market during the whole week has been extremely dull and inactive, but without any material change of prices. There is, however, every evidence of a regular and not inconsiderable business going on, in the usual channels of consumption; and we are only glad to observe that what are usually termed the "*markets*" are not in a more excited state, for that excitement more usually proceeds from mere speculative transactions—from goods simply changing proprietors—than from their passing more rapidly into consumption. Indeed, the business of the present spring has been marked by a character seldom if ever seen at any former period—a character which would really induce us to come to a conclusion that the taste for excitement and speculation in the mercantile world has almost become extinct. Money has been without any precedent in our day abundant and cheap; goods of most kinds have been and still continue comparatively cheap;—there have been undeniable symptoms, nay, realizations of a great and general improvement in the condition of the country; and a common, and we think well-founded belief, that there exist the elements of a further and more extensive improvement, and yet, notwithstanding all these motives and facilities for speculation, little or none has been visible, if we except the article of cotton. This is, so far, fortunate, and the certainty of further improvement depends a good deal on this characteristic continuing; for nothing would impede our progress at this moment so much as any material advance in price of the important raw materials of our leading fabrics, or of the great leading articles of general consumption. And yet with the great abundance of money, the present moderate stocks, and the increasing consumption of those articles, we fear we cannot hope to see them continue at the present prices for any very considerable time. The tendency must be to a general rise.

The accounts from the manufacturing districts continue very satisfactory; those from the cotton districts show a considerable improvement since the arrival of the Indian mail. The metal markets have also improved, and the prices are higher.

On the subject of prices generally we are, however, disposed to think that in comparing present rates with those which ruled some years ago, it is too common to overlook the many permanent causes of reduction which of late years have arisen, by improved and cheapened means of production.

A very general rumour has prevailed in the city this week, that Ministers do not intend to alter the sugar duties this session, but that it is more probable a reduction will be made in the duty on tea. We cannot learn any good grounds which exist for these rumours, unless the newly-proposed Customs arrangements in the Isle of Man, which certainly give countenance to the report respecting tea. By the law as it has hitherto stood, the duty upon tea imported into the Isle of Man was 6d. on some kinds, and 9d. on others, with a limitation of quantity to be imported, supposed to be equivalent to the consumption of the island. By the new regulations, the duties are raised to 1s. per pound on all kinds, and the limitation of quantity is entirely removed. It is therefore thought that unless Ministers intended to reduce the duty on tea generally to nearly the same rate, they would not have opened up this great facility for smuggling, which unquestionably would exist, if the present rates of duty were to be continued in force in this country. We cannot, however, conceive it possible that it should be contemplated to reduce the duty on tea without at the same time reducing that on sugar. How, in the relative supply of each at present, we could hope to increase the consumption of tea, so as to save the revenue, without increasing the supply of sugar, we are at a loss to know. We must say that we have no confidence in the rumours as far as sugar is concerned; and with regard to tea, we doubt if Ministers are prepared to give up at least a *million and a half* of revenue, which such a reduction would immediately subject them to, even making some allowance for an increased consumption.

#### RAILWAY AND SHARE MARKET.

The prices of railway shares have generally been well maintained during the week; but those of the Great North of England have been an exception, which, having reached par (100), have within the last few days receded to 95. We cannot find that there has been any good reason for this fall, but it is generally attributed to an announcement of the intention of the company to create new shares at par, as a means of paying off their borrowed capital. In the Eastern Counties there is again a further advance, and considerable business continues to be transacted in these shares. The Caledonian line has suffered some depression during the week, in consequence of many of the holders of the newly-allotted shares having shown a desire to realize the premium to which they had risen. These shares have, however, improved, and become firmer during yesterday and to-day; for though considerable efforts have been made in favour of the line taking a more westerly direction by Ayr and Kilmarnock, there is no reason to believe that they will be successful.

It is said, that an allotment of shares of the Cambridge and York line will take place on the 16th; but the feeling which prevails is not favourable towards it. A report has prevailed very much during the week, that the North British line, from Berwick to Edinburgh, is likely to meet with some impediment in its passage through the House of Lords, but we cannot learn on what grounds these rumours are circulated.

There has been a great demand for South Western shares during the week—it is said in consequence of the intended residence of the Queen at the Isle of Wight, and the increased attraction which that neighbourhood will consequently present to the followers of fashion.

It is expected that the Darlington Junction line, from that town to Newcastle, will be opened about the middle of June. It has long been a matter of considerable surprise why these shares should continue to maintain the very high price which they do. The shares are of 25*l.* each, and they bear a premium of 24*l.*, or of nearly 100 per cent. This is more remarkable while the remainder of the line to York (the Great North of England) is now 5 below par. There can be no doubt that the cost of making the Darlington Junction will be very considerably less than that of the Great North of England; and it is further evident that the former line will command a much greater number of short passengers than the latter, owing to the great number of collieries, and the more populous district through which it passes; but still we cannot think that these differences will be so great as to warrant the difference of price which exists. We have sometimes thought from expressions which have been used that many laboured under the error of thinking that if a line were made at half the cost of another having the same traffic, the former would yield a profit double the latter. This is an obvious fallacy, for supposing the Great North of England cost *thirty thousand pounds* per mile, and the Darlington Junction only fifteen thousand pounds per mile, yet it must be borne in mind, that the expenses of working the one would be equal to that of the other; the establishments, wear and tear of engines, and all other charges would be at least equal. It would only be on the fixed capital that that difference would exist. Is it possible some such error has contributed to make this great difference in the public estimates of these two lines?

#### MONTHLY STATEMENT OF THE STOCKS OF COFFEE AND SUGAR IN THE PRINCIPAL SIX MARKETS OF EUROPE.

##### SUGAR.

	1 April	1841.	1842.	1843.	1844.
Holland * - - - cwts.		260,000	369,000	232,000	235,000
Antwerp - - - "		63,000	54,000	8,000	68,000
Hamburg - - - "		190,000	165,000	65,000	160,000
Triest - - - "		142,000	56,000	69,000	109,500
Havre - - - "		40,000	55,000	150,000	10,000
England - - - cwts.		695,000	699,000	524,000	582,500
Total - - - cwts.		1,097,000	722,000	861,000	798,000
Total in Gt. Brit. of Col. sugar		1,792,000	1,491,000	1,385,000	1,380,500
Total—Foreign sugar cwt.		686,000	521,000	630,000	518,000
Total—Foreign sugar cwt.		1,106,000	970,000	755,000	862,500

\* In first hands only; in all other places in first and second.

Value in the first half of the month of April, in London, per cwt., without Duty.

	40s	34s	32s	34s
Muscovado, W. & E. India cwt.				
Havannah, white - "	27s a 33s	24s a 30s	27s a 34s	25s a 30s
" yellow and brown "	20s a 25s	17s a 22s	18s a 24s	18s a 22s
Brazil, white - "	22s a 26s	19s a 24s	21s a 26s	20s a 24s
" yellow and brown "	17s a 21s	15s a 18s	17s a 20s	16s a 19s
Java - - - "	19s a 27s	16s a 23s	17s a 25s	16s a 24s
Patent, crushed in bond "	31s	28s 6d	27s 6d	26s

The stock of British plantation sugar in the country is, though small, yet somewhat larger than at the beginning of last month. Purchases have been restricted, and prices have declined, buyers being deterred from buying in a large stock on account of the uncertainty respecting the duty. During the present week purchases have, however, from absolute necessity, been somewhat more extensive, and a reaction, consisting of an improvement of 1s. to 1s. 6d. per cwt. in the prices has been the consequence.

The accounts as to the sugar crops in the West Indies, which have been received by the last mails at the beginning of this week, are of a decidedly favourable and improved nature, and we may look for a larger supply from those colonies than what was anticipated but a little while ago. Still the supply will not be sufficiently large to render sugar cheap, and to allow for any very material expansion of the consumption, unless the actual competition of foreign sugar is admitted, a contingency which we may now expect to see decided immediately upon the re-assembling of parliament.

The deliveries of British plantation sugar for the consumption of this country amount to 880,000 cwt. for the first three months of this year, against about 840,000 cwt. during the same period last year.

With respect to the crop accounts from foreign colonies, those from Brazil continue good. They are rather less promising from Havannah, and it is stated that the United States, besides what they have already drawn, will require 20,000 to 30,000 tons of sugar of the new crops from Porto Rico and Cuba, to make up for the deficiency in the produce of Louisiana.

Stocks of foreign sugar on the continent of Europe are moderate, barely exceeding last year's, and being less than those of 1842 and 1841. Prices upon an average are either upon a par, or lower, than in previous years; the demand, when local and temporary obstacles have not intervened, has been good, and the quantities taken out of the sea-ports are large, showing an adequate and increased consumption.

##### COFFEE.

	1 April	1841.	1842.	1843.	1844.
Holland * - - - cwts.		198,000	202,000	391,000	250,500
Antwerp - - - "		63,000	78,000	109,000	70,000
Hamburg - - - "		140,000	160,000	170,000	155,000
Triest - - - "		135,000	74,000	112,000	78,000
Havre - - - "		35,000	40,000	34,000	24,000
England - - - "		450,000	352,000	450,000	409,000
Total cwt.		1,021,000	906,000	1,266,000	986,500

\* In first hands only; in all other places in first and second.

Value in the first half of the month of April, in London, per cwt., without Duty.

	68s a 92s	70s a 98s	54s a 70s	66s a 78s
Jamaica, good and fine ord. cwt.				
Ceylon, good ord. - "	70s a 72s	75s a 78s	53s a 55s	59s a 61s
Brazil, good ord. - "	41s a 42s	36s	30s 6d a 31s 6d	33s 6d a 34s
St Domingo, good ord. "	43s	35s	30s a 31s	32s a 33s
In Holland:—Java, good ord. } per ½ kilog. }	27 cts.	23 cts.	21½ cts.	21½ cts.

The preceding table shows a great reduction in the stock since the beginning of last month. It is not occasioned, thus far, by any deficiency in the supply, because during the first three months of this year the importation from the producing countries has been rather larger than in 1843, but by a greater demand; the quantity thus withdrawn from the imports for the consumption of the countries in the interior of Germany, though it exceeds that taken during the same period last year, does not go beyond what is actually wanted, and it is not of such a magnitude as to lead to the expectation that an essential and lasting interruption in the demand may ensue. We see, likewise, that in all the great markets the value of coffee, with the exception of trifling fluctuations, is well maintained, and that importers hold with full confidence, and do not press sales, which would, at present rates, as far as the late arrivals are concerned, realize a good profit. In our market, the value of Ceylon coffee has fluctuated considerably, and has, since the middle of last month, declined from 71s. to 58s. to 59s., but this must not be attributed to any cause operating upon the tendency of coffee in general; the relative value of this description of coffee, when compared with other competing qualities, was never above about 60s. per cwt., and having been driven up beyond proportion, a

re-action became inevitable, and a fall of more than 10s. per cwt. ensued, notwithstanding which other sorts kept their ground.

The deliveries of coffee for home consumption in this country continue good, and 63,000 cwts. have been taken since the beginning of the year for that purpose, against 60,000 cwts. during the same period last year. In many quarters an expectation is entertained that the duty will be reduced, which would no doubt give a new stimulus to consumption; it is evident that government has become more attentive of late to the undue adulteration of coffee, by prohibited substitutes and ingredients, and that officers have been instructed to watch such proceedings with great strictness.

### POLITICAL.

The changes consequent upon the death of Lord Abinger are elsewhere alluded to. The seats in the House of Commons—namely, those for Horsham, Huntingdon, Exeter, and Cambridge—about to be vacated have all been held by Conservatives and Monopolists. There will be contests at all the new elections, and two of them are pretty sure to terminate in favour of Liberals and Free Traders. No effort, consistently with justice and honour, should be spared to gain all the four seats. They are all for boroughs, some of them populous and not illiterate. Let the bribers and intimidators be watched with Argus eyes—let there be fair discussion and *much* discussion, and we shall have the liveliest hopes of good results.

In the absence of Parliamentary intelligence, an extensive strike among the coal-mining population in the north arrests attention. They are a very numerous body, and whether they are sufficiently well paid or not, they are certainly very hard-worked—more so than the factory operatives, about whom there is so much talk at present. We promise next week to return to some of the principal grievances of which these men complain; in the meantime we would only remark, that they have an undoubted right to strike for better wages, provided they can get them for doing so. They say “it is the inherent and lawful right of every Englishman to get the best possible price for his labour,” and therefore that they (the miners of Northumberland and Durham) agree and determine to have a better price for their labour than has hitherto been paid. The *right* thus affirmed is undoubted. Circumstances only can justify this particular exercise of it, and it remains to be seen whether the pitmen have exercised a sound discretion in their present movement. A correspondent, who writes us from Bishopwearmouth, says—“Whatever errors the workmen may entertain respecting their power by union to fix and secure a certain price for their labour, and also as to the utility of imposing limitations on others respecting the quantity of labour to be performed, the masters cannot with consistency censure them while they retain their combination, and fix the quantity of coals to be wrought at each colliery.” Undoubtedly not. The coalowners have long had a very compact union, which (they think) has greatly served their interests. What right they have to stigmatize a union among the workmen having precisely the same objects we cannot conceive.

Mr O'Connell and his fellow “conspirators” are to be called up for judgment on Monday. The impression seems to gain ground that they must all go to prison. In the meantime there has been another demonstration of popular feeling in favour of repeal, and expressive of confidence in the Agitator, at Cork. Six corporations were present, not by deputy, but in a body, and everywhere the national feeling displays itself intensely. The imprisonment of a man thus honoured and caressed is a bold step, and an unwise one, whether just or not. Among the difficulties of the Ministry this will not be found the smallest. Europe looks with amazement on the tyranny which has been practised upon Ireland, and the sympathy of the civilized world is with the leader of the Irish people;—this, not that they may approve of his whole conduct, or admire his whole character, but that they know his country and himself have been deeply wronged.

The short-hour agitation has become conspicuous during the holidays in the manufacturing districts. A strange medley of clergymen, Chartists, and Tories, have had meetings in Leeds, Bradford, and Huddersfield; and Mr Oastler announces his intention of carrying the discussion into every considerable place in the West Riding of Yorkshire, Lancashire, &c. Ministers seem in no favour with the short-timeists. Mr Ferrand speaks of “the cold-blooded, dogged stupidity” of Sir James Graham, and is loudly cheered; and it appears that Lord John Russell has exchanged letters with the publisher of the *Northern Star*!

It is difficult to see what is to be the end of this short-hour mania. It would be so ungracious a task to propose to *lengthen* the hours of labour arbitrarily, that to *shorten* them arbitrarily looks at first sight like benevolence, and there is no question but that the movement is popular. But for its melancholy consequences we could wish the movement success, only to show the futility of all this interference. There is poor hope for England when our public men are so ignorant of just principles as the discussion on these factory bills shows them to be. The *laissez-faire* doctrine is sneered at, but the fact is that, like O'Connell, it has never had “a fair trial.”

### COURT AND ARISTOCRACY.

The Queen and the Court, in which at present are the King and Queen of the Belgians, have been spending the Easter holidays at Windsor, where nothing has occurred beyond the usual routine of palace life. On Thursday her Majesty and their Majesties the King and Queen of the Belgians dined with her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent, at Frogmore lodge, the august visitors being attended by the ladies and gentlemen of their suites.

PRINCE ALBERT'S RETURN.—On Thursday his Royal Highness Prince Albert arrived at Dover from Ostend, about half-past two o'clock in the afternoon. A special train by the South Eastern Railway brought his Royal Highness to London, from which, the Court newsmen in the daily papers inform us, his Royal Highness, attended by Mr George Edward Anson and Colonel Bouverie, departed by a special train, and, having alighted at the Slough station of the Great Western Railway, immediately entered one of the Royal carriages, which was in readiness, and proceeded to the Castle unattended by any escort. The Prince arrived at the Castle at half-past six o'clock.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PRINCE OF WALES.—Amongst the many alterations in contemplation in the royal household at Buckingham Palace, it is supposed, at an early period, to form the establishment of the heir apparent to the throne of these realms. When the arrangements are completed, the apartments of the ladies and women of the bed-chamber will be removed, as also the dormitories of her Majesty and the royal nursery—it having been suggested that the north wing of Buckingham Palace, adjoining Constitution hill, would make a commodious suite of apartments to form the first establishment of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.—*Globe*.

Her Majesty the Queen Dowager, with the members of her household, is passing the holidays at Bushy park, in the enjoyment of excellent health.

LORD-LIEUTENANCIES OF WESTMORELAND AND CUMBERLAND.—Her Majesty has been graciously pleased to appoint the Earl of Lonsdale lord-lieutenant of the counties of Cumberland and Westmoreland respectively.—*Standard*.

The Judges, Queen's Counsel, &c., will breakfast with the Lord Chancellor on Monday next, the first day of Easter Term, at his lordship's residence in George street.

### THE METROPOLIS.

TAILORS' PROTECTION SOCIETY.—The journeymen tailors of the metropolis have for a length of time, it is said, been using their best endeavour to establish an association “for the purpose of protecting themselves from the vast inroads which had been made upon their interests by the recent system of competition in the trade, by the employment of persons, females, and others, who work out of doors, instead of the old system when masters had all their work done on the premises.” After a series of meetings held in town, and an arrangement made for a division of the metropolis into sections for mutual acting, a correspondence was opened with provincial towns throughout the whole kingdom, the most of which formed local societies for the same purpose, and entered into correspondence and co-operation with the central committee in London. Accordingly on Tuesday the committee met at the Music hall, 72 St Martin's lane, to receive delegates from the country. Mr Parrott was unanimously called to the chair, and Mr Parker acted as secretary. There were present a great number of delegates from different parts of England, such as Manchester and towns of the like importance, and from other large towns there were communications by letter, all tendering adherence and unanimity to the general movement. The primary object of the association, as we understood it, from what came before the meeting, is to get up a number of petitions to parliament, praying for a committee to inquire into the state of the trade, and to call upon the legislature to enforce such acts, now almost become obsolete, which enforced penalties upon those who employed themselves, or those who employed others, in trades to which they had not served a legal apprenticeship. The delegates assembled at ten o'clock, and continued their sitting till five o'clock. “The communications from the country,” we are further informed, “were all of the most flattering description as regarded heartiness in the cause, but were deeply tainted with sad details of the miserable endurance of those who were employed by these cutting establishments.”

THE ROYAL SEA-BATHING INFIRMARY AND ALDERMAN GIBBS.—The annual meeting of governors was held on Thursday, to receive the report of a committee appointed in January last, and to inquire into the affairs of the institution. Mr B. B. Cabbell was in the chair. The Rev. Dr Russell, on behalf of the committee, said they had no report, Mr Alderman Gibbs, who is treasurer, having refused to give them any information as to funds. Some how or other, however, the alderman was re-elected treasurer, and the other officers were reappointed, and it was understood that the building at Margate would very shortly be opened for patients.

BANK OF ENGLAND.—On Tuesday a special meeting of the proprietors of bank stock was held in the court room of the corporation, for the purpose of electing a governor and deputy-governor for the year ensuing. Mr William Cotton, the governor, presided, and the court having been opened in the usual form, the ballot was commenced. Pursuant to a request expressed in general court last month, Mr W. Cotton and Mr J. B. Heath were placed on the house list to serve in the following year, as many important negotiations already commenced would have to be continued, relative to the charter, the consideration of which must soon be brought before parliament. After an investigation, the scrutineers announced that there had been given for Mr William Cotton, to be governor, 98 votes; for Mr John Benjamin Heath, as deputy-governor, 97 votes; and for Mr John Cook, whose name was put up for the latter office, one vote.

ELECTION OF EAST INDIA DIRECTORS.—On Wednesday a ballot was taken at the East India House for the election of six directors, in the

room of those who go out by rotation. The election fell on Sir R. Campbell, Bart.; J. W. Hogg, Esq., M.P.; the Hon. H. Lindsay; Major-General A. Robertson; Lieut.-Col. W. H. Sykes; and Sir H. Willock, K.L.S.

**ELECTION OF PARISH OFFICERS.**—The various metropolitan parishes were engaged on Tuesday in the election of churchwardens, overseers, sidesmen, and other officers; but the proceedings generally were merely of local interest, and not of such a nature as to call for publication.

**ST STEPHEN'S, WALBROOK, AND ALDERMAN GIBBS.**—On Thursday the adjourned vestry meeting for this parish was held, to elect churchwardens and other officers for the year; Dr Croly, the rector, in the chair. The reverend chairman made a slashing attack on Alderman Gibbs for not producing his accounts:—"I can comprehend," he said, "when some man of talents and character in public life, some great statesman, the authority of his age, adopts far-seeing views, which the men of his day cannot follow, and leaves indignantly the vindication of his wisdom to time; but when the question is of money, it is of a totally different kind; there no man can wait for time; it is a question of fact, a question made to be settled at the moment and to be answered by nothing but the account on the spot." Mr Rock and other gentlemen followed in the same strain. Eventually that gentleman, Mr Rock, and Mr Thomas Flight, were chosen churchwardens, and Mr James Crosbie, vestry clerk. These proceedings are designated as illegal by Alderman Gibbs, who holds himself to be perpetual churchwarden. There will, in consequence, be more litigation. Thanks were voted to the rector by acclamation, and after a brief acknowledgment from him the vestry adjourned.

**MARRIAGE OF AN OJIBBEWAY INDIAN.**—On Tuesday morning Alexander Cadoc, or Notten-akm (the Strong Wind), was married to Miss Haines, daughter of a carver and gilder, residing at No. 52 George street, Hampstead road. The fair bride, elegantly attired, was accompanied by her father, mother, brother, and sisters; and the happy bridegroom was attended by his Indian companions, male and female, dressed in full native costume, which had a most wild and grotesque appearance. A great crowd was attracted to witness the singular and interesting ceremony, which took place at the church of St Martin-in-the-fields. The party occupied several carriages, the coachmen of which were plentifully decorated with white favours. The intention of Cadoc, who is a half caste, his father being a French Canadian, who was confidentially employed at the period of the late war, is, after having completed his engagements here, to return to his own country with his wife. On quitting the church the crowd, who were unable to obtain admission, set up a loud cheer, as the bridal party entered their respective carriages, and the curiosity of the public was so great to catch a glimpse of the married couple, that it was with the greatest difficulty the police were enabled to clear the way for their progress homewards, where a breakfast for a large number of their friends had been provided.

**CHARGE AGAINST A CLERGYMAN.**—Great excitement prevailed in the neighbourhood of Fleet street, last week, during the holding of an inquest on view of the body of Charlotte Griffin, housekeeper to a druggist, whose brother, the Rev. Charles Scratchley, was reported to have seduced her—indeed, the deceased had been heard to charge him with it. The inquest commenced on Tuesday, and terminated on Thursday. It was urged by the rev. gentleman's solicitor that there had been no connexion between the latter and the deceased since he had been in holy orders. The jury returned the following verdict:—"We find the deceased, Charlotte Griffin, committed suicide whilst in a state of temporary insanity, induced by the cruel and heartless conduct of Mr Charles James Scratchley; and we are compelled to express our strong disapprobation of the flippant and unfeeling manner in which Mr Charles James Scratchley's evidence was given on the night of Monday last."

**MORTALITY IN THE METROPOLIS.**—The number of deaths from all causes in the week ending on Saturday last gives, when compared with the average of the last five years, a favourable result, the mortality last week being only 928, while an average of five years gives a weekly mortality of 946. As compared, however, with the usual mortality during the spring months, the number of deaths is unusual, the ordinary mortality at this season being only 883. The tables now issued from the office of the registrar-general, besides furnishing every statistical detail as to the extent of mortality under each form of disease, now presents a summary of the returns for each of the last nine weeks, contrasting the number of deaths from each of the most prevalent maladies with the mean temperature of the week. It appears that for the last eight weeks the ratio of mortality has been progressively decreasing, the diminution in the number of deaths following pretty regularly the rise in the temperature from 34.7, during which week the mortality was as high as 1,146, up to 50.9, the mean temperature for the last week. One or two instances in which the rate of temperature receded were instantly marked by an increase in the number of deaths.

**DAMAGE BY FIRE IN THE METROPOLIS.**—An apparently very useful and efficient measure, entitled, "A bill for the better prevention of damage by fire in the metropolis and its neighbourhood," has just been brought into the House of Commons by the Earl of Lincoln, M.P., and Sir J. R. G. Graham, Bart., the first commissioner of land revenue and secretary of state for the home department. The number of its clauses amounts to thirty-one. Adequate provisions are made for the fixing, &c., of fire plugs, the supply of water engines, and convenient access thereto, and other means necessary for the extinction of conflagrations. The fire engines, &c., are to be paid for out of the poor rates. Penalties are enacted for the punishment of such persons as may negligently cause fires in the metropolis, and clauses annexed for the carrying on of the legal proceedings which may become necessary under the act. The schedules appended to the bill contain full descriptions of the engines and implements required for the extinction of conflagrations, and the list of rewards to be paid to firemen and others for their arduous and invaluable services.

**CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT.**—This court commenced its sittings on Tuesday, under the usual authorities. The cases were of no public interest till Thursday, when the notorious WILL FORGERIES case was brought up before Mr Baron Gurney, Mr Justice Williams, and Mr

Justice Maule. The parties then placed at the bar were William Henry Barber, Joshua Fletcher, William Saunders and his wife, and Georgiana Dorey, who to the different charges in the indictment pleaded severally not guilty. An application to have Barber tried separately was refused. The Attorney-General, Mr Clarkson, Mr Bodkin, and Sir John Bayley, are engaged for the prosecution. Mr Wilkins and Mr Parry defend the prisoner Barber; Mr Greaves and Mr Ballantine are engaged for Fletcher; Mr Stone and Mr Phinn for William Sanders and his wife; Mr James for Georgiana Dorey; and Mr Doane to watch the case for Griffen. The case, from its intricacy, the number of transactions involved in it and parties to it, is expected to last for some days.

**DREADFUL ACCIDENT AND LOSS OF LIFE.**—On Thursday morning, soon after six o'clock, the utmost consternation and alarm was created in the neighbourhood of the Brighton and Dover railway terminus, Old Kent road, in consequence of the sudden falling in of the roof of the eastern wing thereof, which is now in the course of completion, and burying underneath its ponderous mass nearly thirty workmen; there were also about eight or nine men upon the top of the roof who fell with it. The other persons who were at work in the various parts of the building rushed to the spot, and with the assistance of the police and others the sufferers were at length extricated. Four of the unfortunate men were found to be quite dead, their heads being literally smashed, and about twenty were wounded, most of whom were carried off to the hospitals; in the confusion, however, which necessarily prevailed, it was found impossible to obtain their names correctly. The cause of the catastrophe is stated to have proceeded from the cast-iron bearers and girders not being of sufficient strength to support the slated roof. The contractors for this building are Messrs Grissell and Peto. A number of architects were drawn to the appalling scene during the morning. The bodies of the unfortunate men, whose lives have been thus sacrificed, were removed to await a coroner's inquest. It is stated that each of them has left a wife and family to deplore his untimely end. No accident which has occurred in the metropolis since the falling in of the roof of the Brunswick Theatre, about fourteen years ago, has caused so much sensation as the present one.

**DESTRUCTION BY FIRE OF A TAR AND NAPHTHA DISTILLERY, ON BROMLEY COMMON.**—At a late hour on Thursday night an extensive fire broke out on the premises forming the pitch, tar, and naphtha distillery, the property of Mr Bethell, situate on Bromley Common, adjoining the new cut of the river Lea. The works were destroyed by fire about six years ago. They comprised rectifying house, boiler house, spirit room, tar stores, and counting house, the whole covering an extensive frontage on the brink of the canal, and between forty and fifty feet in depth towards the main road. The quantity of tar, naphtha, and spirit on the premises being very great, the fury of the fire was terrific, and, frequent explosions taking place, led to a supposition that there was gunpowder in the place. At the height of the fire it was fully expected that the flames would extend to the tar and pitch wells in the grounds connected with the works, wherein there was between 4,000 and 5,000 gallons of those inflammable liquids. Within an hour of the discovery the whole of the premises and sheds were totally consumed, together with some outbuildings, where there were several carts and waggons housed. The value of the property destroyed has not yet been ascertained. It is not insured.

**EXTRAORDINARY SUICIDE.**—On Thursday morning Dickenson (the husband of the unfortunate woman who a short time since destroyed her two children and attempted to destroy herself) committed suicide at the Lord Rodney public house in King street, Deptford. The unfortunate man was found suspended by a rope to the bed-rail, with his feet nearly touching the ground. On searching the place a razor was found under the pillow, and by the side of the bed was a packet, containing a red powder, and also a potion which had been mixed in a glass standing by the side of the bed; the lips and teeth of the deceased were completely dyed with the mixture, of which, it appears, he had taken a considerable quantity. No trace has been obtained as to where he obtained the rope or poison.

## THE PROVINCES.

**THE FACTORY QUESTION.**—On Monday night a public meeting, the first of a series announced to take place in the manufacturing districts of Yorkshire and Lancashire, took place in the Music hall, Leeds, in favour of a ten-hours factory bill. The attendance from the commencement of the proceedings till their close, at near midnight, was most numerous and respectable. The greatest unanimity, approaching to enthusiasm, prevailed throughout. The Rev. Dr W. F. Hook, vicar of Leeds, took the chair. "As at Bradford," the *Times* says, "so in this important town, the assembly was composed of persons of different creeds, professions, and politics; but who merged all difference of opinion in a hearty zeal to promote the cause of humane and just legislation." Besides the chairman, we find the speakers to have been Mr Busfield Ferrand, Mr Oastler, Mr Hobson (of the *Northern Star*), and a few clergymen, subordinates of the vicar of Leeds. Speaking of the ten-hours bill, the chairman said:—"I am of opinion, and you are of opinion, then, that the passing of this bill would be a great blessing. (Cheers.) I know the evils of the present system, and I know that to remedy those evils no half-and-half measures will suffice (cheers)—and I know my duty, as vicar of this parish, is to protect the weak against the strong (cheers), and while I attend, especially, to them that are of the household of faith, to do good to all men. It is often said that the church is the church of the poor; my wish is, in this town, to make it the church of the working classes, and, by God's help, I will never rest until I shall have obtained for them a right, if they think proper, to be accommodated in every church in the parish (cheers); but, if the church be the church of the poor, the ministers of the church must maintain the rights and promote the interests and labour for the happiness of the poor; and for the sake of poor, overworked women and children, as well as to secure for the operatives leisure for the cultivation of their minds, I gladly take the chair on this occasion. (Cheers.)" Having explained that the effect of a ten-hours bill would be to spread work more evenly over the year; and if it were to deprive

large houses of some of their present profits, the industry of the country generally would not be hurt; the vicar proceeded, and concluded thus—"I felt it my duty to consider the case when we were told that we are not benefiting the working classes by proposing a ten-hours bill. We are all liable to mistakes, and if I thought you, the advocates of a ten hours bill, mistaken, I should sympathize with you, but would refuse to act with you; but believing you to be right, I should be unworthy of the post I occupy in this parish, if I permitted any feeling of reluctance on my part to oppose her Majesty's government (loud cheers)—to prevent, by being among you this day—my declaring that I will fight with you in this righteous cause to my last gasp. (Loud cheers.) I trust and hope our friends in London, now that the question is put to them, whether they will give up the cause of party or the cause of humanity, will fling party to the dogs (loud cheers), and still hold in the right and good path. (Loud cheers.) Whether the bill will pass during the session may be doubtful; but pass it will, and must ere long (loud cheers), and as even Lord Ashley proposed a delay we must be content to bide our time, though we must seek to expedite the movements of our friends. (Cheers.) I will not conclude without saying that I have not now, and never have wished to utter one word of disrespect towards the generality of millowners and manufacturers of this town. Many of them are among the most generous, the most benevolent and humane of our species (cheers); but to the present system we are opposed (cheers), and I hope we shall conduct our opposition to it calmly, patiently, with that fair play to all parties which Englishmen love to witness, and by Christian feeling, to a successful issue. (Loud and protracted cheering.)"—Mr Busfield Ferrand said that a ten-hours measure would be the means of raising the operatives, and that that was the reason why the manufacturers opposed it. "Our opponents," he said, "tell us that a ten-hours bill will reduce wages, and that the labourers in factories will soon be brought to a state of penury and want. The very men who uttered this language in the House of Commons within the last few days, in 1841 made statements within the walls of that house in my hearing which were appalling and disgraceful to the manufacturers. They asserted that the operatives in the manufacturing districts of Lancashire were living at the rate of 1½d. per day. That state of things arose under a system of unregulated machinery, produced by these manufacturers themselves, who, working their mills twelve, fourteen, sixteen, and eighteen hours a day, soon glutted the market by overworking their hands, and when they had glutted the market they turned them adrift, and left them to starve. (Cheers.) Had there been a ten-hours bill in those days the labourers in Lancashire never would have been living on 1½d. per day. (Cheers.) The manufacturers themselves know that; and that is the reason why they oppose the ten-hours bill. They know that the ten-hours bill will raise your wages. They know it will create a demand in the market which will give you a command over wages. They know it will restore your wives to your homes and your children to the schools—that it will make you once more the props of your families, and restore you to that condition which God Almighty has ordained that you should live in; but it would at the same time curtail their enormous profits. (Cheers.) \* \* \* Who is it that is sanctioning such a system of tyranny and oppression throughout the country? Sir J. Graham (loud cries of 'shame, shame')—the man who now declares that you shall not have the ten-hours bill. He has been during the last few weeks daily at the Home office ear-wigged by manufacturers, the oppressors of the poor. He has chosen to listen to them, and to assert that he and the government will take their stand in the ranks of the oppressors of the poor. That being the case, there is only one alternative left for us, and that is to take our stand in the ranks of the oppressed. With our worthy chairman I am prepared to say, 'Away with party to the winds (loud cheers)—away with any government which shall be so debased, so lost to the principles of humanity and religion, as to say that they will oppress the millions, that the few may grow rich on their oppression.' (Loud cheers.) My firm conviction is this, that if it had not been for the cold-blooded, dogged stupidity of Sir J. Graham (continued cheers), we should have the government at this moment sanctioning the ten-hours bill; but he is too dead to the finer feelings of humanity to think of anything but self. (Protracted cheering.)"—There was nothing remarkable in what fell from any of the other speakers, except an announcement by Mr Oastler that he is immediately to proceed through the West Riding of Yorkshire and Lancashire agitating the subject. There was a strong view of religion, or rather religious expressions, running through the speeches and resolutions, and the chairman concluded the proceedings of the evening in acknowledging the vote of thanks tendered him, by calling God to witness "that it had been the desire of his mind on all occasions to prove himself His servant by becoming the servant of the poor."

BRADFORD.—On Tuesday the ten-hours agitation was carried into Bradford by Mr Oastler and Mr Ferrand. The *Times* of Thursday devotes three columns to detailing their progress and speeches. We find that "the Short Time Committee" of that town having resolved to hold an open air meeting, by placard invited the clergy, millowners, manufacturers, factory workers, and other inhabitants, to attend and consider the present position of the great question of ten-hours labour in factories, and to decide on the steps to be taken to secure the passing of the ten-hours bill; and accordingly, in the height of the day, there was quite a turn-out, not only of grown-up people, but also, the *Times* informs us, "thousands of factory children," who had got out of their "prisons" for a couple of holidays at Easter, and they, "arm in arm, marched in front, and the sides of the streets were occupied by their fathers and mothers. The scene altogether was unique and very impressive. Mr Oastler seemed to be much affected with this spontaneous display of the attachment of his humble admirers." Mr Oastler addressed the children, and we subjoin the *Times*' reporter's account of the effect produced:—"Oh! that England could witness this sight," he said. "These little children are burdened with the maintenance of her institutions, say our ministers of state! Would that all England saw you, and resolved to remove that burden from your shoulders to the athletic frames of the adults. (Loud cheers.) But I do not come to make you unhappy and discontented—I come to teach you to be true and faithful to your employers; and whilst you discharge your heavy

duty, I advise you ever to pray to God, who loves you, that He would aid your friends in breaking your chains—('We will, we will')—that He would soon remove the heavy burden from you and your mothers. (Cheers.) You know that you can depend on me. My exertions are your property. I am going to plead for you in another part of the town, and so farewell. Let your masters learn that you deserve what we and you demand, by witnessing your good conduct. (Prolonged cheers.) I do want you to have more time to learn who and what and where you are, to learn your duty to your parents and employers, and to become acquainted with the way to heaven, that you may feel the joys of becoming the lambs of Christ's fold." (Many tears amongst the children, and loud cheers from the adults.) And afterwards addressing the multitude, he expressed his gratitude to the Whigs for their present support of a ten-hours bill. "It was thought in that town some years ago when he was honoured to give the first alarm for the poor factory child's rescue, that he had been urged to do so from political party feeling. Thank God, since he had been restored his liberty, He had permitted him to evidence to his most prejudiced foe that this question was no party question with him. He held in his hand a petition he was about to second, in order that their wishes might be made known to the House of Commons, and he did rejoice that that petition, the harbinger of their will, the dictate of their mind, the exhibition of their experience on this question, was to be entrusted to the hands of a political opponent of his—Lord J. Russell. (Cheers.) He never had proposed the adoption of a petition on the factory question with more pleasure than he did now. He had been wont to move them into the hands of the immortal Sadler, of his dear and long-remembered friend, the Honourable W. Duncombe (now Lord Feversham), and other tried friends of theirs and his. He had the honour of being personally acquainted with Lord John Russell, but then he knew that a man of his eminence, a man of his talents and worth, after having deeply studied this factory question, had resolution and independence of mind to overcome all his prejudices, and to declare in the presence of his political friends and his political opponents in the House of Commons, that he was convinced by argument this was a just and righteous measure. Although they had been politically opposed to each other, he hailed him as a friend of the measure, and he was delighted that it had fallen to his lot to ask them to put this petition into the noble lord's hands. He had no doubt whatever the noble lord would do it justice, and he rejoiced that he and Lord Howick and Mr C. Buller, and a host of others to whom he had been so long politically opposed, had espoused that cause which had formerly caused him to have so many enemies. Thus was he ushered into the harbour of friendship even in the midst of his political antagonists. (Cheers.) Before he proceeded further he would call upon them from the inmost recesses of his heart to give three cheers for Lord John Russell. (Loud cheers.)" He urged them to union, to agitation, and to perseverance. "Then let them pledge one another that they never would desist until they got the ten-hours bill; let them support their friend Lord Ashley, and that host of friends and philanthropists on both sides of the house who had pledged themselves to England and to the world to carry out the ten-hours bill. Let them all resolve that they never would yield until they obtained it, that they never would be quiet, but that they would 'agitate, agitate, agitate,' from one end of the manufacturing districts to another; that they would implore their opponents to meet them in fair discussion, but beg of them never again to misrepresent their wishes in the House of Commons by saying that the working people in the manufacturing districts were not for the ten-hours bill. Let them go on in this spirit of resolute determination; at the same time let them evince by their conduct that the ten-hours bill men were the best men in the service of the millowners. Let them be assured that, looking at the ten-hours bill, they were seeking only for justice for themselves, their wives, and their children, but that they were determined also to maintain justice for their employers, and let them give the lie eternal to any man who should hereafter dare to say that the ten-hours-bill men were not the friends of their employers. (Cheers.) Let it be remembered that the ten-hours bill question sprang from the Peel family; that it was afterwards resuscitated at Wood's, in Bradford, and that the best names of England were now associated in the cause. (Cheers.)"

A clergyman, a medical gentleman, and one or two others spoke, but nothing remarkable.

Mr Ferrand looked upon that meeting as, in fact, the second reading of the ten-hours factory bill. (Cheers.) It was last night read a first time at Leeds; they would now read it in Bradford a second time. Richard Oastler would go from that meeting with the ten-hours bill in his pocket, and, appealing to the working classes in the factory districts of Yorkshire and Lancashire, record in its favour their unanimous declaration that they would no longer be slaves, but born freemen in a free country. They would assert to the rulers of the land that they were prepared to earn their bread by the sweat of their brow, according to the laws which regulate freemen in civilized countries, and having made that declaration through their friends on this important question they would convince the government that it was worse than madness to attempt any longer to resist their fair, their just, their equitable claims. (Cheers.) They were told that the ten-hours bill would prevent the extension of their commerce. God grant it might, if that commerce brought no better results to them than its extension had done already. It was true that the extension of commerce had caused a few to wallow in wealth, but its extension had produced the decrease of the comforts of the labouring classes. Away with the extension of commerce, which spread its blessings on people of whom they had never heard or read, and left the operatives themselves in misery and want. He would have every labourer in England well fed, contented, and happy; the masters prosperous, and the labourers rejoicing to see them so. The present factory system was destructive to human life. That fact had been established by the report of the factory inspectors, and the House of Commons, struck with awe at the report of the servants of the government, had twice by majorities recorded their solemn determination that the system should be changed. The government, however, resisted, and asserted that that vote must be rescinded. The government might by unjustifiable and unconstitutional means rescind that vote; but if they did, it would ring their death knell. (Cheers.) Sir R. Peel was a



very plausible man. He had often admired him in the House of Commons fighting against his opponents, and as a debater he would back him against any ten; but as an honest, straightforward statesman, he was the veriest humbug. (Loud cheers.) He acted upon expediency, and if he found it expedient to yield to their determined resolution he would grant them the ten-hours bill, and send Sir J. Graham to the rightabout. The resolutions were, of course, all passed with acclamation; and the conduct of the people is described as having been most orderly and becoming.

**Huddersfield.**—On Wednesday Mr Oastler, pursuing his agitation for the ten-hours principle, had a meeting in Huddersfield in the evening. The Rev. Josiah Bateman, vicar of Huddersfield, was in the chair, and in alluding to what might be the consequences of carrying their point, to which he himself was favourable, said—"I will ask you one question, and be assured your answer, if echoed by others, will have an important bearing upon the issue. Are you prepared—are you willing to meet a small reduction in your wages, as the first effect of the passing of a ten-hours bill? You say you wish it to be passed—you have long laboured for it. Will you make a sacrifice for it? This is a test of your sincerity. (Cheers, and cries of 'Our wages are low enough already; it won't come to that.') The other questions I leave, but I am curious and anxious to have an answer to this. I do not say, for I do not know, that wages will necessarily fall; but, if they do, will you consider your two hours a day a good equivalent? You must be prepared for the alternative, and look at the matter fairly.—Mr Hobson, of *Northern Star* notoriety, who, it appears, is secretary of the Short-time Committee, read letters which he had received from Lord John Russell and Lord Howick, and in which they declined coming to Leeds to discuss the question. The following is the former noble lord's:—

Chesham place, April 9

"Sir,—Having been out of town, I did not receive your letter till this morning. I could not, however, have attended the meeting at Leeds, being detained in the neighbourhood of London by my private affairs.

"I may likewise add, that I should prefer visiting the mills at Leeds and Manchester quietly to the excitement of a public meeting.

"The more facts you can bring in support of Lord Ashley's motion, the more powerful will be the impression produced on impartial men.

"I have the honour to be, sir, your faithful servant,

"To Mr J. Hobson, Leeds."

"J. RUSSELL.

Mr Oastler, though he spoke long, said nothing new. The *Times* devotes nearly two columns to his speech, from which we extract the following—"He had, he said, deeply considered the question, and if he erred in his views, it was because God had not yet given him the power to comprehend it." The usual string of resolutions were then adopted, and a petition founded on it ordered to be prepared for presentation by Lord Ashley. Thanks were then voted to the chairman. Three cheers were given for the ten-hours bill, for Lord Ashley, Mr Oastler, Mr Jowett, and the other friends of the cause; after which the meeting quietly separated.

**ADVANCE IN THE PRICE OF IRON.**—MEETING AT BIRMINGHAM.—On Thursday a numerous meeting of the ironmasters took place at the town hall of Birmingham, when an advance of 20s. a ton took place, making bar iron 6*l.* to 7*l.*, large sheet, 8*l.*, and hoop iron 7*l.* a ton. Foreign and domestic demand occasioned by newly-projected railways and manufacturing speculations, were said to have caused such a demand for iron as justified this rise of price. The ironmasters, under the hope that the improvement which has now taken place will continue, had joined the Manchester manufacturers in their condemnation of Lord Ashley's interference with the hours of labour, and had agreed to petition parliament against the ten-hours proposal, or, in fact, any interference with labour whatever.

**THE CROPS.**—We rejoice to state that the wheats on the Cotswolds present a remarkably vigorous and healthy appearance. The oldest farmer never remembers a better prospect.—*Gloucester Chronicle.*

**INSOLVENCY OF A CLERGYMAN.**—Much surprise has been felt and expressed at the announced insolvency of the Rev. Richard Corfield, M. A., rector of Pitchford and of High Hatton, in this county, and rural dean of this district, and master of a seminary of some repute. The reported amount of debts varies from 12,000*l.* to 16,000*l.*, and no property is visible to afford any dividend to the creditors. Among the debts about 400*l.* is alleged to be the savings of the Conover Benefit Society, for which we hope there will be some efforts made by the public to replace the loss by subscriptions, as it is a lamentable prospect to the aged, and sick, and provident poor, who have yearly contributed to this fund, and fondly relied upon it as their resource before sinking into the grave.—*Shrewsbury Chronicle.*

**NEWCASTLE.**—A great public meeting was held at Newcastle-on-Tyne on Monday—the Mayor, Sir John Fife, in the chair—to take into consideration "the present unhappy condition of Ireland, and to petition for a thorough redress of its grievances, they (the inhabitants of Newcastle) being deeply impressed with the conviction that the people of England have no interest in the oppression of their Irish fellow-citizens, and that it would redound to the general benefit of all the inhabitants of these islands to have legally established in Ireland a cheap system of equal and impartial government, instead of the present expensive military domination, which an administration formed for the express purpose of obstructing the progress of political reformation, and to support the interests of faction and of party, in opposition to the general interests of the empire, has created in that ill-treated and misgoverned country." The mayor and other speakers addressed themselves warmly to the question of the late trials, which were unequivocally condemned.

**HORRIBLE MURDER AT WHITWELL, NORFOLK.**—On Monday morning last the parish of Whitwell, in this county, and the neighbourhood, were thrown into a state of consternation in consequence of a man generally accounted honest and respectable, named William Frost, having murdered four of his children in his cottage. He is a journeyman farmer, and has worked for Bearon, of Whitwell, for the last thirteen years; he had killed his three elder children by beating them on the back of their heads with a large heavy hammer. The youngest, an infant, he put head-first into a large earthen pot full of water. The names and ages of the children are as follows:—Harriet Frost, five years of age; Charlotte Frost, three years of age; Eliza Frost, eighteen months; and

Louisa Frost, only ten weeks. The father, William Frost, is only about thirty-six years of age, and he was taken into custody immediately after the horrible occurrence by Samuel Parker, an inspector of police, residing at Reepham. The coroner's jury almost instantly returned a verdict of "wilful murder" against William Frost, the father of the children. The coroner having issued his warrant for the committal of the prisoner to the county gaol, to take his trial at the assizes next ensuing, he was conveyed to Norwich castle the same evening, singing psalms by the way. He has lately belonged to a new sect called the "Revivalists," and had been very active among them as a preacher. It is generally believed in Whitwell and the neighbourhood, that he committed the above series of horrible murders on his own children under the influence of fanaticism.

**THE PITMEN'S STRIKE.**—The miners of Northumberland and Durham, whose period of engagement generally expired on the 5th instant, have declined the terms offered by the coalowners for a re-engagement; and, in compliance with a resolution passed at the Glasgow Conference, have, as it is termed, made "a strike." A great meeting, we find by the *Tyne Mercury*, of those pitmen, at which that paper says "there were upwards of 20,000 present," was held on Monday last. "Throughout the whole proceedings," we are told, "the strictest order prevailed. Mr Mark Dent was called to the chair, and the following resolutions were passed unanimously:—

"1st. That as it is the inherent and lawful right of every Englishman to get the best possible price for his labour, we, the miners of Northumberland and Durham, hereby agree and determine to have a better price for our labour than has hitherto been paid.

"2nd. That the bonds or monthly agreements offered by the coalowners, after due consideration, are of such a nature that we hereby pledge ourselves, individually and collectively, not to agree to the same whilst in their present form.

"3rd. That the bonds drawn up by Mr Roberts, and approved of by the delegates, are reasonable and just, and we hereby avow our determination to stand by the same.

"4th. That as the deputation which waited on the colliery-viewers, with an intention of settling all differences, were not received, this meeting, in order to prevent any lengthened cessation from labour, still declares its willingness that the population be at liberty to negotiate with the colliery-owners, should they avow an intention to that effect.

"5th. That as the recent export duty on coal has had the effect of injuring the interests of the miners, this meeting resolves to present a memorial to her Majesty's government, praying for the removal of the same."

The bond above referred to, as drawn up by Mr Roberts, is too long for insertion here. Its general purport is to secure better wages for the workmen and more independence. "Without entering into a discussion on the subject in dispute," the *Tyne Mercury* refers to the published Monthly Coal Report, "by which it will be seen that the quantity of coals delivered in London from the 1st January to the 31st March, 1844, is 326,747 tons more than delivered in the same months of the preceding year. There is, therefore, in London, one month's supply of coals on hand; and if we refer to the speeches of the Scotch delegates at the Glasgow Conference, it is there stated that there were plenty of coals in Scotland ready to be sent to the London market. Fine weather has also commenced, and we think, if the whole of these circumstances are taken into consideration, the men themselves are likely to be the greater sufferers."

**THE EXECUTION OF LAWRENCE.**—The sentence of execution passed upon Lawrence at the late Lewes assizes, for the murder of Mr Solomon, the chief officer of Brighton, was carried into effect at the usual place of execution, Horsham, on the morning of Saturday last. The unfortunate man, though only twenty-four years of age, had led a long life of vice. Very few persons, comparatively speaking, were present at the horrid scene.

## SCOTLAND.

**REMOURED DISRUPTION IN THE FREE CHURCH.**—Rumours have been widely afloat of late, to the effect that numbers of ministers, probationers, and students of divinity, who had joined the "Free Church," were about to seek a renewal of their connexion with the establishment. That these rumours are to a limited extent true, we at once admit. Indeed, that applications have been privately made for restoration on the part of some seceders, is consistent with our own personal knowledge; but the expectation that they should take place to any great extent is premature.—*Glasgow Constitutional.*

**SCOTTISH CENTRAL RAILWAY.**—A very large and influential meeting of the provisional committee of this railway was held in the Royal hotel, Edinburgh, on Tuesday, at two o'clock, the Marquis of Bredalbane in the chair. The chairman stated that he had much satisfaction in reporting to the committee, that application had been made for very nearly all the shares, and that in the course of another post he fully expected the whole would be taken up. A sub-committee was therefore appointed to allot the shares. Communications which had been addressed by the chairman to the directors of the Edinburgh and Glasgow railway, as to the Stirling branch, together with their replies, having been read, the committee unanimously resolved to carry out their original intention of obtaining powers to complete the line to such point or points of junction with the Edinburgh and Glasgow railway as might be determined on, upon receiving the opinion of their engineers. Several other resolutions having been agreed to, the meeting, which was of a most harmonious and unanimous description, separated. We may now look upon this company as being fairly established.

## IRELAND.

**CORK.**—Mr O'Connell arrived in Cork on Monday, to attend the public meeting held there that day in reference to Lord Eliot's Franchise Bill, and afterwards the great Repeal dinner. A letter written from Cork on Monday, which appears in the *Dublin Evening Post*, describing the occurrences, has the following passage:—

"The popular enthusiasm is utterly indescribable—utterly inconceivable by those who are unfamiliarized with the fervour, the burning but yet perfectly regulated fervour, of the Irish movement under

O'Connell. The corporations of Cork, Limerick, Kilkenny, Clonmel, and Waterford, have sent their mayors and deputations from their bodies to give testimony to their sentiments at the present crisis of O'Connell's martyrdom and imprisonment, after more than forty years of public service to Ireland—unequaled by the services to his country and the human race, of any other man living, or who ever lived. The following members of parliament are to be present:—Daniel Callaghan, the city member; Edmond Roche, the county member; Sir David Roche, Sir Winston Barron, William Smith O'Brien, Maurice O'Connell, John O'Connell, Morgan John O'Connell, Caleb Powell, Nicholas Maher; and Sir Richard Musgrave is, I understand, expected in the course of the day. Dinner is prepared for 800 in the Lancasterian school, which has been beautifully fitted up for the occasion. All yesterday and this morning the Liberator's apartments were crowded with friends and strangers also, both one and the other eager to give expression to their sentiments of sympathy and of indignation. Amongst the first visitors yesterday morning was Father Mathew. The Liberator, accompanied by the two other Catholic conspirators—the Rev. Mr Tierney, and the member for the city of Kilkenny—yesterday attended mass, and the three Protestant convicts went to church, and in the evening they all, Catholic and Protestant, partook of the splendid hospitality of the Mayor of Cork, Mr Fagan, with a large party, at his country house, in the vicinity of this city. . . . Then there is the following short account of the meeting:—“The County Court house was crowded almost to suffocation, the mayor in the chair, in his robes of office; also in the same robes the ex-mayor, Alderman Lyons, and, sitting on the bench with them, Mr O'Connell. A number of the members of parliament, and of the most respectable citizens of Cork, and gentry of the county around were present. Several admirable speeches were made, in which the repeal spirit glowed with its deepest fervour, as well as denunciation of Lord Eliot's 'nefarious' (as it was called by Edmond Roche) registration bill. Mr O'Connell made a speech of extraordinary power in denunciation of the bill of the Irish chief secretary, and his speech breathed the most obdurate resolution of perseverance, under all possible circumstances, in his efforts for the restoration of the domestic parliament of Ireland, and the enthusiasm with which he was heard is almost without precedent in Ireland. He could venture, with perfect security, to give this pledge, for he is certain, under every possible contingency, of the unbroken peace of Ireland. This is the crisis of existence, and of Ireland—and the talismanic influence of his name and services was never so tried as at the present hour; but Ireland will not be lured from her 'vantage ground, and play the game of the enemy by any outbreak or disturbance.” The Mayor and ex-Mayor of Limerick, and about forty-five of the corporation and citizens of Limerick, have just arrived.

The great provincial Repeal Banquet took place in the evening. Nearly 1,000 gentlemen, many from remote parts of the province, sat down. Six corporations, the representatives of six large and influential communities, attended in their robes of office. Mr Smith O'Brien was in the chair.

PRESBYTERIAN MARRIAGE MOVEMENT.—A meeting of Presbyterians and others took place in Dublin, on Tuesday night, to petition parliament for the removal of the disabilities under which that body have recently been declared to labour in the solemnization of marriages. Resolutions to that effect were passed, the speaking in general being very stilted towards the church.

## FOREIGN AND COLONIAL.

### SPAIN.

The intelligence from Madrid is to the 2nd inst. Within the three preceding days there had been many rumours circulating of a change in the cabinet; but they are strongly denied by the ministerial journals, which assert that the cabinet was never more united or more resolved to go on with the plans it has formed for the “salvation of the country.” The following titles and dignities are to be distributed among the members of the ministry:—Gonzales Bravo is to be created Marquis de la Lealtad; Carrasco, Marquis de Santa Olaya; Portillo to be Marquis de Casa Portillo. Of the other ministers, the home minister (the Marquis of Penaflores) has already a title; and Mazarredo will be a marquis, through his father. Mayans, the minister of justice, is said to be obstinately opposed to the new titles, and will neither accept one for himself nor retain office if his colleagues persist in their views on the subject. General Narvaez is to be created a grandee, and Duke of Ardoz, the place where Seoane's troops went over to him; and General Roncali is to be rewarded for the purchase of Alicant and the surrender of Carthage, by being created count of the former place and duke of the latter. It is reported that M. de Bresson has strongly recommended the conferring of the above titles, and that Louis Philippe has sent the cordon of the Legion of Honour to Narvaez, Roncali, Mazarredo, and Gonzales Bravo. The political chief, Benavides, has lately been created commendador of the same order, and it is reported that if the Marquis of Penaflores leaves the ministry he will enter it in his stead.

Christina, it is rumoured, is strongly inclined to grant a very comprehensive amnesty, one more extensive, indeed, than Narvaez approves. The Queen-Mother wishes to exclude from it no one but Don Carlos, while Narvaez insists on the exclusion of Espartero and others. Her Majesty seems to entertain some kindly feelings towards the exiled Regent; for a poetaster of Valencia having presented her with a full-some ode of congratulation, in which he termed Espartero a coward and a traitor, she expressed her great displeasure at the insult offered to his name, and declared the charges to be utterly false and unfounded.

### PORTUGAL.

The state of affairs in Portugal may be surmised from the following document, which has appeared in the government journals at Lisbon:—

“To the 23rd of April next all the individual guarantees throughout the kingdom are suspended, and the government is empowered to make arrests without legal process. During this term no journal, periodical, or writing, put in print or lithographed, can be published, excepting literary and

scientific journals, and the *Diario* of the government. The ministers and secretaries have thus determined, and ordered the execution of this decree.

(Signed) “THE QUEEN.

“Countersigned by all the Ministers.”

The Miguelites are said to be taking advantage of the confusion into which public affairs have been thrown. Pamphlets have been published and circulated advocating the restoration of Miguel to the throne of Portugal. It is these writings which have probably caused the above decree, which totally annihilates anything like freedom of discussion.

### GREECE.

We learn that King Otho has attempted to alter the Greek constitution previously to its passing. After a deliberation of ten days, the king sent back the constitution to the assembly, with amendments neither few in number nor unimportant in substance, although some of them stooped to the mere pedantry of grammatical criticism in a language not his own. It was required that prosecutions for political offences should be excluded from the clause establishing trial by jury, and that the patronage of the crown should be increased by an augmentation of the members of the senate and of their pay; and above all, that the king should be bound to fulfil his oath “according to his conscience,” leaving a large door for royal reservations not unusual in such engagements. These proposals were, moreover, presented in a form which indisposed the assembly to listen to them with favour. A debate ensued, with closed doors, and the assembly unanimously resolved to adhere to the original draft of the constitution. The Greek ministers and the representatives of France and England strenuously exerted themselves to induce the king not to persist in a course in which he was unsupported by any political party, and directly at variance with his people and his best advisers. After two days of parley, the influence of the queen, who has all along acted as a discreet and sincere adherent to the constitutional party, prevailed, and to the great joy of the nation the amendments were thus withdrawn.

### UNITED STATES.

One of the most rapid passages ever made across the Atlantic has been completed by Captain Bursley and his noble ship *Hottingeur*. The *Hottingeur* left Sandy Hook on the 23rd, and made the land in thirteen days, when a calm came on and kept her some thirty-six hours in the Channel without making way. She brought 2,400 bags of cotton. When the *Hottingeur* left the city of New York, the news by the steam ship *Cal donia* had not arrived at New York from Boston. This arrival furnishes news from New York five days later than received by the *Montezuma*; the papers are, however, unusually barren of interest to the European reader.

Commercial matters appear favourable; in most departments there was considerable activity. A New York correspondent states that “the spring has come upon us suddenly. The North River, as well as all other rivers in this vicinity, have broken up, and the steamers are running in every direction. The list of arrivals shows a great increase. The hotels are filled a month earlier than common. The merchants are quite actively engaged. The supply of goods is large, and the assortment good. The transportation from the city south is through the Jersey and Pennsylvania canals; the great canal of New York will not be open until the 19th of next month. As the navigation of the lakes has commenced much earlier than usual, the amount of goods to be brought through the canal will be large.” The cotton market has settled down into regular business. The stock in New York was never known to be so large, amounting to above 150,000 bags. Speculation had ceased, and shipments are made in the usual course. Holders were keeping cotton back till the arrival of the *Caledonia*. There had been a good deal of panic in Wall street on the subject of the Texian question, and a sudden fall of stocks was the consequence. Stock operators have felt the influence of this sensation in the fall of stocks; the agitation still continues to some extent, but it has in some degree subsided. The Texian and Oregon questions are calculated to have an effect on mercantile matters. The rate of exchange on England was 107½ to 108; at the latter price a large business was done for the *Hottingeur*. On France the rate was 5f. 32c., but nothing done. We have nothing new from Canada by this arrival.

With respect to Texas, the journals speak very confidently of an embassy from that country for annexation. A private letter in the *Norfolk Herald* says, under the date of Houston, Texas, Feb. 24,—“General Henderson is now on his way to Washington, as minister extraordinary, to arrange matters with the United States government for annexation.” The *Times* correspondent makes the following remarks on the subject:—

“The newspapers are filled with accounts from Washington that a treaty providing for the annexation of Texas to the United States has actually been signed, and will be submitted to the senate in a few days. Indeed, private letters go further, and assert that the senate has been felt, and some of its members consulted, pending the negotiation. The result of all which is (the advocates of the treaty say) that it will be ratified. I am still an unbeliever.

“Nothing has occurred to cast light upon the subject of the rumoured treaty with Texas. On Saturday, the 16th, Mr Winthrop, a representative from Massachusetts, moved a suspension of the rules to enable him to offer the following resolution:—‘Resolved, that no proposition for the annexation of Texas to the United States ought to be made or assented to by this government.’—Lost. Ayes, 40; noes, 122.”

Mr Webster has written a long letter in one of the papers, in which he takes strong ground against the measure.

The *St George*, Captain Ferris, arrived at Liverpool on Thursday morning, from New York, which port she left on the 24th, and made the passage in eighteen days. This arrival furnishes only one day's later news. The *Caledonia* arrived at Boston on the 22nd; she left Liverpool on the 5th, with the mails and passengers. The Oregon question was again before the house. Mr Sevier concluded his speech upon Mr Semple's resolution, in the course of which he stated one fact which it is important to notice, while considering the danger or safety in extending the geographical boundaries of the United States, to wit—“The only disaffection this country has ever known, has been among the old states, and near the centre. There has been no want of patriot-

ism on the borders, and in the midst of sparse settlements." At the conclusion of Mr Sevier's speech the final question was taken upon the original resolution of Mr Semple—"To give Great Britain notice of a discontinuance of mutual occupation."

The result was—for the resolution, 19; and against it, 28. It is stated that the loss of Mr Semple's resolution affects two other questions, the annexation of Texas, and the new tariff bill, both of which will most certainly be thrown out. Mr Calhoun had accepted the office of secretary of state, and was expected to reach Washington on the 22d. An opinion prevailed in that city that Mr Calhoun's acceptance of office would considerably change the movements of the government. The stock market at New York was in a feverish state—prices, however, generally, had slightly improved. The cotton markets at New York, Mobile, and New Orleans, were rather active; prices at the former place had declined a shade, but at the two latter they were fully maintained.

PRUSSIA AND THE UNITED STATES.—The Prussian journals allege that the reduction of the tobacco duty, agreed upon by the commercial treaty with the United States, is to be 20 per cent. This must occasion a great loss to the American treasury. Great curiosity prevails to ascertain what may be the provisions of the treaty in relation to the Hanse Towns. Their exclusion from the benefits of the convention would be fraught with injury and inconvenience, and yet it would only be strengthening those towns in their separate position to grant them gratuitously, and without compensation, that which we have purchased by so many sacrifices. It appears that there will be admitted into America, on moderate tariff duties, only such goods as by evidence of their origin can be proved to proceed solely from the territories of the Zollverein, and to which the general denomination "German goods" would therefore be inapplicable.—*Allgemeine Zeitung*.

THE XANTHIAN EXPEDITION has returned to Malta with twenty cases of marbles and casts, leaving on the beach some other seven cases, containing the unwieldy portions of the Horse and Chimæra tombs, which must remain until such time as a larger vessel is sent to hoist them in.

## PUBLIC AMUSEMENTS.

"EASTER MONDAY," as might have been expected, drew forth attractions from every place of public amusement and resort in the metropolis. We subjoin some particulars:—

DRURY LANE.—Duprez was once more the attraction here, and the fine opera of *Guillaume Tell* once more brought a large audience to be charmed by the great vocalist. He appeared to be slightly affected by cold; but, in spite of this drawback, his performance was very fine. The scena between him and Miss Romer in the second act commanded loud and general applause; but his crowning effort was the lament on the death of his father, in the last act. Nothing can be imagined more exquisitely touching than that outpouring of soul-felt, irrepressible grief. The other pieces performed are not deserving of special notice.

HAYMARKET THEATRE.—Mr C. Mathews and Madame Vestris resumed their position on these boards, when the popular entertainments of *Used Up* and *Grist to the Mill* were repeated, and went off exceedingly well. After the latter piece, "a new, original, occasional, and local extravaganza" was produced, entitled the *Drama at Home, or an Evening with Puff*. It is one of those affairs in which more is attempted than accomplished. The object was to expose the fallen state of the drama, and the foreign and heterogeneous entertainments produced at other theatres in contrast to the performances offered at the Haymarket Theatre, wherein, after being driven from Drury Lane and Covent Garden, the genius of the drama (Mrs Glover) finds a home. But the means by which this little display of egotism was accomplished was an exhibition far more "illegitimate," and more incongruous, than anything presented at any of these rival establishments. Every amusement at present going on in London, down to the exhibition of General Tom Thumb, was hauled into the piece to be ridiculed, and occasionally with good effect, but the latter part became rather tedious, and the curtain fell amidst applause, not unmixed with hisses. The clever performances of the little Risley followed, and was received with the applause it deserved.

LYCEUM.—Again has this theatre opened, and under the auspices of Mrs Keeley. Let us hope that the predicate of "unfortunate," which has so often been applied to it, will be applied no longer; let us hope that Mrs Keeley will prove an enchantress to dissolve the unlucky spell. At all events, we may safely say that the house has not opened for many years with such favourable prospects. There is no longer the appearance of trying to get on some how or other, which has, alas! distinguished so many prior *entrepreneurs*, but we see a determination to put the shoulder to the wheel. The pieces are brought out, acted, and put upon the stage in a manner that really looks like business. The new season, which began last night, was opened by a smart little address, spoken by Mrs Keeley. It is written by Mr G. A. à Beckett, who is, perhaps, the cleverest hand in London at this sort of thing, and was replete with a parliamentary sort of jocularly which passed well off. Three new pieces were produced, entitled respectively, *Hasty Conclusions*, the *Post of Honour*, and *Ali Baba, or the Forty Thieves*. The latter was certainly the great attraction of the evening. It is a piece written by Mark Lemon and Mr G. A. à Beckett, and is one of the best things of the sort we have seen, full of capital hits at flying topics and follies of the day, and sparkling with a running fire of puns, some of them telling from their excellence, and others good from their very badness. Miss Farebrother looked and acted admirably as the dandy *Captain* of the banditti, and Keeley made a most blood and murder *Lieutenant*. Mrs Keeley was *Morgiana*, and electrified the audience by her capital imitation of Duprez in one of his points in *Guillaume Tell*. The piece was admirably well got up, complete in all its details, down to the smart tunics and boots of the young ladies who enacted the banditti, and danced the *Polka*, to the most rapturous delight of the house. *Ali Baba* will have a good run, and he deserves it. Only let the management engage one or two performers of more note

than those of which the general run of the company is composed, to carry through the business up to the spectacle, or the house will become essentially a half-price one.

ADELPHI.—Mr Anderson, the "Great Wizard of the North," has commenced his operations for the season at this house. The tricks, if so they must be called, which he exhibited, on Monday night, surpassed anything of the kind that we ever remember to have seen performed by any other artist of his class. Indeed, so strange and startling were some of them, that notwithstanding the march of intellect and the diffusion of knowledge, there were not wanting many amongst the spectators, and more particularly amongst the female portion of them, who could scarcely refer his extraordinary feats to any other agency than that of a certain gentleman whose name is better alluded to than mentioned. He was received with loud and deserved applause. In addition to the conjurations and magic of the Wizard the entertainments of the evening were diversified by the exertions of Mr M. Raymond, who formerly appeared at the Haymarket Theatre, Mrs Raymond, who also played at that theatre, Miss Linley and Mr Smith. This part of the amusement of the evening was well got up and well arranged, and both the songs, the music, and the descriptive address were very good. The whole is precisely such an entertainment as those who want the relaxation of a few hours should patronize, and of its kind the best thing extant.

THE STRAND, the PRINCESS'S, the OLYMPIC, the SURREY, and the VICTORIA, had each of them their attractions, and they were not few, but space would fail us to detail them all.

ASTLEY'S having been for some time previously shut, in order to admit of repairs, we may say was reopened under every advantage of skilful management, and the attendance of the public was such as to give every encouragement to the spirited manager.

GREENWICH AND STEPNEY FAIRS, &c.—Easter Monday has been from time immemorial the great saturnalia of Londoners, and at one time every suburban village had its fair, its revelries, and amusements of every description for the recreation of the people; but licentiousness and outrages crept in, and an act of parliament swept them all away with the exception of Greenwich, which for many years was the only suburban fair at Easter and Whitsuntide. Last year Stepney fair was revived, after a lapse of twenty-five years, and so great has been the improvement in the manners of the people, that only twelve charges of theft and disorder arose out of it at Easter and Whitsuntide, a less number than came under the cognizance of the police during the temperance meetings of Father Mathew in the same neighbourhood. Stepney fair was again revived this year, and on a much larger scale. Greenwich fair has not presented many new features. There have been the usual theatrical and other exhibitions. The town of Greenwich, the Park, the Hospital, and its environs were crowded beyond all former occasions. The view from the top of Greenwich hill was a most interesting one. Thousands were seen collected on the green sward below, numerous groups were running down Holiday hill, and great numbers made their way to Blackheath and the adjacent fields to inhale a purer atmosphere than they have been able to breathe in London. The Royal Hospital and the Painted hall were visited by as many as could get in. Certainly the town of Greenwich was never known to be so full of cockneys before, and vast was the consumption of provisions, malt liquors, and tea, which the licensed victuallers took care to provide for their visitors. Train after train on the railway, and steamer after steamer on the Thames, brought down the Londoners in quick succession; upwards of 30,000 landed at the Greenwich pier (now in ruins), and the watermen's floating pier during the day. The railway carriages must have brought down as many, and others in the omnibusses and coaches, and thousands on foot from the metropolis and surrounding country swelled the numbers beyond calculation.

THE ADELAIDE GALLERY, the POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION, and the EXHIBITION OF MADAME TAUSSAUD, deserve to be mentioned among the amusements of the metropolis, which drew vast numbers to them on Easter Monday, and have done so through the week. The agreeable and rational attraction at them all is such as to make this no ground of surprise, but of congratulation, at the improved and improving taste of the times.

BRITISH MUSEUM.—On Monday the number of visitors to this national establishment was 21,339. On last Easter Monday there were 18,342, making an increase of 2,997. Out of this large number of persons there was not a single individual rejected on the ground of intoxication. The police arrangements were under the management of Sergeant Reason, A division, who had twelve officers under his command. The behaviour of the visitors was most orderly, and there was not a single case of damage. A great disappointment was experienced by persons taking children under eight years of age, who, by the regulations of the Museum, are refused admission. This restriction is likely to be removed, from a suggestion of the trustees. Thousands of persons during the day congregated round Magna Charta, the original palladium of English liberty, always an object of great attraction.

LONDON MECHANICS' INSTITUTION.—On Tuesday evening, Mr Wilson, the celebrated vocalist, gave one of his popular musical entertainments in the theatre of this institution. It appears that, some five or six years ago, a friend of the institution requested Mr Wilson to deliver a lecture within its walls on the beauties of Scottish song—a subject which Mr Wilson was well qualified to discuss critically, as well as to illustrate by his own performances. Mr Wilson accordingly made his *debut* as a lecturer at the Mechanics' Institution, and his exertions were received with so much applause by its members, that he was induced again to appear in the same character, and ultimately to devote himself to the amusement of the public in the career which he now so successfully pursues, and in which he has been imitated by several other eminent musicians. Mr Wilson, not rendered forgetful of "auld acquaintance" by the enjoyment of prosperity, lately expressed a wish that he might be permitted to repay the obligation which he considered himself as owing to the Mechanics' Institution, by devoting to the assistance of its funds the proceeds of one of his "nichts wi' Burns"—an offer which was of course most joyfully accepted. Mr Wilson

went through his task on Tuesday with even more than his usual vivacity and spirit; animated probably by the consciousness that he was performing an act, not only highly creditable to himself, but extremely beneficial to an institution of extensive public utility. At the conclusion of the entertainment, which had elicited rapturous applause from a large and highly respectable audience, Mr Birkbeck, the president, thanked Mr Wilson for his liberal conduct towards the institution, and informed him that he had been elected one of its honorary members. We observed with pleasure that many distinguished friends of the institution were present on this occasion; amongst others, Lord Dudley Stuart, Captain and Mrs Townshend, Mr and Mrs Thomson Hankey, Dr Southwood Smith, &c. &c.

**ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL.**—This grand national edifice had less than fifty visitors, which may be accounted for by the continuance of the exorbitant charge of 4s. 2d. to view the whole.

**WESTMINSTER ABBEY.**—There is, it would seem, a general repugnance to paying at all for admission to view public buildings, and, consequently, though for some time past the amount charged to view the monuments and other interesting objects in this venerable edifice has been reduced to sixpence, the visitors have not been near so numerous as might have been expected, and on Monday the numbers were fewer than usual on holidays; the exact number could not, however, be accurately ascertained, for one attendant said, "I don't know;" another, "We must not say; the numbers were very insignificant, but we don't want to be noticed in the papers." Another said, "You had better ask Mr Hume." The last verger (or attendant) applied to said the number of visitors was about four hundred, but it is understood there was not more than half that number.

The **THAMES TUNNEL** was on Monday decked out in the same way as on the occasion of the fancy fair a few days since, and although the number of persons passing through it was not so great as at the fancy fair, still a goodly number paid it a visit on their way to Greenwich.

The **ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS, REGENT'S PARK**, opened for the season, the **CHINESE COLLECTION, the EGYPTIAN HALL, the TOWER OF LONDON, the DIORAMA, the PANORAMA, the COSMORAMA, the BRITISH INSTITUTION**, and numerous other institutions in the metropolis, also received a fair share of the patronage of the holiday seekers. In various parts of London and the suburbs amusements of all descriptions were going forward for those who had not the means of going to Greenwich, or any of the foregoing exhibitions.

## POLITICAL.

### PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS.

**BRITISH MUSEUM.**—(No. 116, March 14, 1844.)—The accounts, estimate, number of persons admitted, and progress of arrangement, are classed, this year, under nine separate heads. No. 1 is a general account of all receipts from Christmas, 1842, to Christmas, 1843, showing an aggregate of 37,314l. 9s. 8d. Of this amount, 3,231l. was balance in hand at December, 1842; 7,584l. the fourth instalment of Parliamentary grant for 1842-43; three (out of four) instalments for the year 1843-44 (that for the quarter ending this month not yet received), 24,432l.; cash for sale of copies of the Synopsis, 338l.; ditto for sales of casts of marbles, &c., 88l.; rent of houses lately purchased in Great Russell street, 157l. Under head No. 2, estimated—and actual—expenditure from Christmas, 1842, to same period 1843 (A), and estimated charge from Lady-day, 1844, to Lady-day, 1845, we find some items of interest and importance. In the first place, the amount of (A) estimated expenditure for Christmas, 1843, was 37,526l. 17s. 9d., but the (B) actual expenditure for that period was only 35,488l. 10s. 9d. In the latter account we find the actual payments were for salaries of officers of the ordinary establishment, 5,845l.; ditto of assistants, 3,008l. 18s. 4d.; ditto and wages of attendants and servants, 4,983l. 10s. 9d. Then there were paid salaries of librarians for the King's library, 200l.; of officers for the Banksian collection, 543l.; attendants on stores and labourers, 402l.

None of these allowances, considering the extent, responsibility, and continuance of the duties to be performed in return, appear to be excessive. But we hope the "stores" will be better looked after, particularly if they be deposited in the cellars and vaults of the establishment, with a better management and more forecast for their preservation than have heretofore been bestowed on preserved zoological specimens and other collections, which were remitted to the same destructive cemeteries for an unlimited period. We well remember the utter destruction which had been permitted to overtake the matchless gift of stuffed mammalia, &c., from Southern Africa, presented some years ago to this institution by Mr Burchell, the traveller. It was sufficient to burst with indignation the impracticable hides of the *portydermata* themselves, which he little dreamed he was consigning to mere "oubliettes," from whence they were never to be brought forth to the gaze of "an admiring public," until moths and earwigs, spiders and ants, had devoured the parded skins of his cameleopards, made barracks of the interior of his hippopotamus, carried off a whole rhinoceros in the minute but destructive rations appropriated to the sustenance of the insect devourers, and gnawed into mincemeat the interior integuments and hay-substituted entrails of a Kaffir-land elephant.

The supernumeraries employed in different departments appear to have been paid respectively as follows:—Employed in the MS. department, 56l.; in the printed book ditto, 678l.; in preparing the (interminable) new catalogue of printed books, 1,283l.; repayment of expenses incurred by the Admiralty in removing the Xanthian marbles, 357l. (on account—357l. for the current year, also); purchase of MSS., 1,000l.; ditto of printed books, 4,903l.; paid for bookbinding, 2,968l.; purchase of minerals and fossil remains, 986l.; of zoological specimens, 681l.; expense of preparing and preserving objects of natural history, 966l.; purchase of antiquities and coins, 1,691l.; ditto, prints and engravings, 846l.; drawings from ancient marbles, 147l.; engravings from ditto, 330l.; publishing historical papyri in Hieretic characters, 578l.; for balance of receipts, 37,314l.; payments, 35,489l.; surplus (in hand),

1,825l. No. 3 is an account of the administration of the Bridgewater Fund (dividends at 12,903l. in the three per cents., bequeathed by the late Earl, and rental of a small estate bequeathed by the same nobleman to this institution). No. 4, a similar account of the Farnborough Fund. No. 5, a general account of funds for year ending Lady day, 1825. No. 6, amount of grant required for service of said year—viz., 37,987l. No. 7, account of expenditure of a special grant made during the year ending Christmas, 1843—that is to say, of 5,270l., whereof were paid on account of printed books, coins, and MSS., from the collection at Strawberry hill, 1,018l.; antique vases from collection of the late Prince of Casino, 1,300l.; botanical specimens from ditto of late A. B. Lambert, Esq., 384l.; Syriac MSS., purchased in Egypt by the Rev. H. Tattum, 1,000l.; and a collection of engravings, the work of Raphael Morghem, 1,575l. No. 8, number of persons admitted to visit the British Museum—in 1841, 319,374; in 1842, 547,718; in 1843, 517,440: number of visits made to reading-room, for purposes of study and research, in same years, respectively—69,303, 71,706, and 70,931: number of visits by artists and students to galleries of sculpture, for purposes of study, &c., in same years—5,655, 5,627, and 4,907: ditto to the print room, in same years—7,744, 8,781, and 8,162.

The decrease of visitors in all these departments in 1843, as compared with 1842, is very remarkable.

No. 9 is a statement of the "progress made in the cataloguing and arrangement of the collections, and account of objects added in year ending 25th December, 1843." 48 Arabic MSS. have been described for the general catalogue of Oriental MSS. The additional MSS., including the Wellesley Papers, have been arranged. A schedule has been compiled of the collection of Wellesley Papers, comprised in 1,337 vols. (!) exclusive of maps. To the "General Collection" have been added 805 MSS. and 35 original charters, besides 102 MSS. to the Egerton Collection.

"Among the manuscripts acquired may be specified—Three hundred and twenty volumes of Syriac Manuscripts, on vellum and paper, of great biblical and theological importance, the greater portion of which were written between the sixth and ninth centuries—Fifty volumes of papers from the late Lord Kingsborough's library, chiefly illustrative of the history of the Spanish Indies.—A considerable fragment of the Old Testament, from Proverbs to Ecclesiasticus, inclusive, partly of the Latin version of Jerome, and partly of an earlier translation, written on vellum, in an Hiberno-Saxon character, not later than the middle of the eighth century.—A copy of Ranulph de Glanville's Treatise *De Legibus Anglia*, not later than the reign of King John.—An extensive collection of works relative to Astronomy and Arithmetic of the Hindoos, and to the Statistics of India.—About forty volumes relating to English and Foreign Geology and Heraldry, from the library of the late Lord Berwick.—An original Writ, signed by King Edward the Fifth, and countersigned by Richard Duke of Gloucester.

"The number of deliveries of manuscripts to readers in the reading-room (exclusive of those volumes consulted in the rooms of the department) amounts, during the last twelvemonth, to 22,207.

"Reading room Service.—1. The number of books returned to the shelves of the general library from the reading-room is 137,613; to the royal library, 21,134; to the closets, where they are kept for the use of the readers from day to day, 77,270; to the shelves of the reading-rooms about 117,000; altogether 353,017 volumes; on an average 1,196 a day."

The collections in mineralogy, and in zoology, botany, and antiquities have received *addenda* of such a variety, and so numerous, that we must refer the reader to the parliamentary paper itself for any adequate idea of them.

**SIR R. PEEL V. SIR JAMES GRAHAM.**—The factories bill has hitherto been in the hands of Sir James Graham, as an affair peculiarly coming within his province as home secretary. It was he who "managed" the factories bill (No. 1), and who likewise withdrew it; and it was also he who introduced the factories bill (No. 2). But now it appears, from a notice entered on the Commons' books, that Sir Robert Peel has assumed the command in this matter, and taken on himself the direction of the measure, together with the care of its future progress.

**PROBABLE VACANT SEATS IN PARLIAMENT.**—In Horsham a new election is inevitable. In the borough of Huntingdon, at present represented by Sir Frederick Pollock, and in Exeter, represented by Sir William Follett, parliamentary vacancies are probable in the highest degree. In Cambridge, also, the chances are in favour of a vacancy. Mr Richard Foster states his intention of standing for that town, if the report of an approaching vacancy, founded on the probability of Mr Fitzroy Kelly becoming Attorney-General, be realized.

**PRISON DISCIPLINE.**—The reports received from the different courts of quarter sessions afford satisfactory proof that the magistrates of England are at last convinced that on the great question of prison discipline it no longer becomes them to remain indifferent spectators. At Leicester they have determined to expend 29,776l. on the enlargement and improvement of the gaol and of the house of correction for that county. At Gloucester the magistrates have determined to enlarge and improve the county prisons at Northleach, Horseley, Lawford's Gate, and Little Dean, and to devote them to the confinement of untried prisoners, and of prisoners sentenced to imprisonment, with or without hard labour, for any period not exceeding three months. They have also determined to enlarge and improve the county gaol at Gloucester, which was built under the superintendence of the late Sir George Paul, on principles and for purposes not very unlike those adopted in the model prison at Pentonville, and to use it for the detention of prisoners sentenced to a longer period of imprisonment than three months. This it will cost them 27,000l. to carry into effect. In the county of Warwick the visiting magistrates have represented the gaol and house of correction at Warwick as insufficient, inconvenient, and otherwise inadequate to give due effect to the regulations of the existing gaol acts. They had been directed at a previous court or quarter session to examine and report upon the two following questions:—first, what alterations were necessary in those prisons to carry into effect an improved system of prison discipline; and, secondly,

what system of prison discipline was most fit to be adopted. They ascertained that in the goal there were only 76 cells for 200 prisoners, and in the house of correction only 85 for 236. In the first building some of the single cells had been converted by slight partitions into two distinct cells, while others of them had been made to receive three beds, which, at one time, were each occupied by three persons. In the house of correction, the state of affairs appears to have been still worse. One large cell held twelve beds; in some others of smaller dimensions the number was six or eight. The first recommendation, therefore, was, that such an addition should be made to both buildings as would provide separate cells for each prisoner, and their next was, that a sum of money not far short of 25,000*l.* should be applied to the accomplishment of that object. As far as we can judge from the report furnished to us, the magistrates of Warwickshire were ready to give an all-but unanimous support to the propositions submitted to their approval; but a legal technicality intervened, and their good intentions are for the present frustrated.

MISCELLANIES OF TRADE.

**STATISTICS OF INSOLVENCY.**—During the month of March there appeared in the *Gazette* 97 bankrupts; 432 insolvents, who have received vesting orders, by which their persons are protected against their creditors; and 42 assignments to trustees, making a total of 571 cases of insolvency. There is a gradual increase of insolvency. In March, 1843, there were 98 bankrupts, 368 vesting orders granted, and 28 assignments—a total of 494. It may be assumed that not more than one case in ten is gazetted; this would make the insolvencies for March, 1844, 5,710; and if there be a deficiency of only 200*l.* in each, the monthly loss would be 1,142,000*l.* On these assumed data, the loss during the year 1843 was 12,000,000*l.*, or considerably more than double the poor rates, and three-sevenths of the interest of the national debt.

**SUGAR.**—The public generally fancy that our supply of foreign sugar must necessarily be from the Brazils or the Havannah; but this is a mistake. The Indian ocean can supply the world with an illimitable quantity of every produce which requires fertility of soil and a cloudless sun. Manilla and Java, fertile far beyond the worn-out soils of Jamaica and Barbadoes, will furnish England with sugar, the produce of free labour, when admitted into fair competition, to any extent required; and a differential duty of twelve shillings per cwt. would allow such competition to the great advantage of the revenue, and to the interests of the consumers. — *Bath Journal.*

**HULL AND NEW YORK.**—The first of a new line of packets between these ports has already sailed from the former place, and the spirited project of a regular succession of these vessels is regarded with favour by parties well informed on commercial matters. The high dues now levied on vessels and goods for the United States in the port of Liverpool, will induce many persons to adopt the cheaper conveyance by way of Hull; and the position of the latter place in reference to the manufacturing districts of Yorkshire and some parts of Lancashire even, is thought to be such as to justify the expectation that large shipments of goods from those districts will, henceforth, be made from the eastern instead of the western side of the island. The fact that the dock accommodation at Hull is about to be greatly increased, naturally strengthens this opinion; and we shall be glad to see that ancient port rising into its former importance by this and similar means. — *Leeds Mercury.*

**THE COPPER TRADE.**—A meeting of the court of proprietors of the "Copper Mines of England," was held on Saturday, at their office, in Broad street, London, when a statement of the company's affairs was laid before them, and was highly satisfactory. A dividend of 5 per cent. on the paid-up capital of the company having been declared, the governor took that opportunity of stating, there was a decided improvement in the copper, iron, tin, and coal trades, and that he looked forward to a still increasing demand in them, with a corresponding increase in the prices. The court of assistants having been re-elected, the meeting separated. The company's operations during the past year, in Wales, have been as follows:—At Swansea, they raised 42,136 tons of coal, of which they consumed 19,822 tons, and shipped and sold the remainder, and the works there have smelted and refined 1,613 tons of copper. At Cwm Avon they raised—

64,039 tons of coals from the Old Collieries,  
50,819 ditto from Oakwood,  
19,698 ditto from Bryn.

134,536 tons altogether; of which they consumed 81,867 tons, and sold 52,689 tons. These works have made 36,412 boxes of tin plates, and smelted and refined 2,389 tons of copper, and have rolled and hammered 964 tons, while the Wimbledon mill has manufactured 708 tons of copper.—The chairman (Abel Lewis Gower, Esq.) expressed himself strongly on the favourable aspect of the trade and affairs of the company. We take the following extract from his speech respecting the tin-plate and copper trade, and the manufacture of iron from "black-band." He observed that—"Various improvements in the mode of taking and raising coal are in the course of being completed with, and, by reducing the cost price, will add further to the profits upon the sale of this article. Of the tin-plate trade and manufacture, I have the satisfaction of speaking most favourably. Although the price was unusually low during all the last year, yet as this portion of the company's business realized a very considerable return, and the use of the black-band enabling the company to produce iron from which the plates are made at much less cost than heretofore, and an advance in the price having taken place lately, it has been determined on to extend the work of the company to 1,000 boxes per week; of a favourable result of which, upon the company's revenues, I entertain no doubt whatever. On the subject of the copper trade, I have only to remark that a gradual improvement has taken place in this great branch of the company's business, from the period of our last meeting up to the present time, and that I entertain the expectation that it will be henceforward of a more remunerative character than in the past

year. As connected with the subject, I may mention that the court, finding from actual experience that we can manufacture copper at Cwm Avon on more advantageous terms than at Wimbledon, and to any extent, have determined on discontinuing the use of the mills and machinery at that place, and of disposing of the property altogether. With reference to the manufacture of iron from that invaluable mineral, the black-band, lately found in such large quantities, and of the richest kind, on the company's property, I have the pleasure to acquaint you that actual experiments have fully confirmed the expectations we had formed of being able to produce iron from this substance at a very much diminished cost, and that we accordingly propose to avail ourselves of this advantage, and that of the great rise that has taken place in the value of iron, to increase very materially our make of the commodity, and thereby add to the returns of the company. The outlay consequent on this step will be but proportionately small."

COMMERCIAL MARKETS.

FRIDAY EVENING.

**INDIGO.**—The total quantity declared for the public sales, which will commence on the 15th instant, is 6,546 chests, including about 800 chests of new indigo, ex *Stag*, recently arrived, and now landing in the East India docks. A good demand is expected, principally from the home trade, for which an abundant choice is displayed in these sales, by numerous parcels of ordinary and middling sorts of indigo. No estimate can as yet be formed of the extent of foreign orders, but it is thought that the continent is not abundantly supplied with indigo; still the certainty of supplies from Calcutta and Madras in the course of the present season, which will be greater than ever before, precludes any speculative tendency in the probable purchases at the approaching sales.

**COCHINEAL.**—At a small public sale this week silvers were rather neglected, but blacks fetched good prices.

**SUGAR.**—Foreign: the speculative demand for free labour descriptions having ceased, 2,988 bags Manilla, chiefly Muscovado sorts, offered in public sale yesterday, sold heavily at a decline of about 2s. on the advanced prices recently obtained, viz.,—good browns to low yellows 16s. 6d. to 18s. 6d.; low brown 14s. 6d.; washed 13s. 6d. to 16s.; and a few washed clayed at 17s. to 18s. Other foreign sorts are steady, but the only transactions worthy of notice reported, are a floating cargo of Bahia, for a port in the Baltic, at 22s. 9d. and 19s., and one of white Havannah, for Petersburg, at 29s. 6d., the buyers paying Sound dues.

**COFFEE.**—Foreign sorts also remain heavy, and very little has been done.

**PEPPER** is firm; and **PIMENTO** is in more request, and very scarce.

**NITRATE OF SODA** is dull.

FOREIGN.

The accounts received from the north of Europe afford but little information respecting the state of business, the holidays having prevented transactions to any considerable extent from taking place. At Hamburg, April 5, the purchases of coffee are stated to have been but trifling, partly on account of there having been no new arrivals, consequently little or nothing left in importers' hands. In sugar, purchases have again been extensive, at steady prices, for the refineries in the interior. Cotton neglected. From Holland, Amsterdam, and Rotterdam, April 9, coffee is reported firmer, more demand appearing for those descriptions of Java which were sold at the lowest figures at the company's sales; of Brazil nothing is on the market in first hands, and a recently arrived cargo of this description is entirely withdrawn, and held for higher prices. Raw sugar without demand, on account of the approaching sales of 48,000 packages of Java on the 30th instant. Refined sugar in increased demand, and at better prices.

Antwerp, April 10.—Coffee is firm. Some parcels of low Java, recently arrived, have been bought for Dutch account, and about 2,500 bags of Brazil, for export both for Germany and Switzerland. The purchases of the week amount to upwards of 6,000 bags. Of Havannah sugar further sales of yellow have been made for export, at somewhat reduced prices; for refined the demand is somewhat better. Cotton neglected. Rice dull.

Havre, April 9.—The demand for cotton, though far from animated, has become more extensive, and buyers have come forward more freely for consumption, at the lately reduced rates; holders are likewise more firm. In coffee the sales have been very limited; and nothing doing in St Domingo. Sugar very firm, but little doing however, hardly anything being offered in the market. Of indigo some purchases on a limited scale have been made at previous rates, consumers and dealers being bare of stock.

JOINT STOCK BANKS.

No. of Shares.	Dividends Per Ann.	Shares.	Paid.	Friday, April 13.	
15,000	—	( Agricultural and Commercial )	£.	£. s. d.	
15,000	8 <i>l.</i> per ct.	of Ireland - - - - -	25	10 0 0	—
7,500	—	Australasia - - - - -	40	40 0 0	45
20,000	6 <i>l.</i> per ct.	Do. New - - - - -	—	40 0 0	—
5,000	6 <i>l.</i> per ct.	British North American - - -	50	50 0 0	—
8,000	—	Do. New - - - - -	—	10 0 0	—
1,000	5 <i>l.</i> per ct.	Ceylon - - - - -	25	20 0 0	—
20,000	5 <i>l.</i> per ct.	County of Gloucester - - - - -	100	25 0 0	—
4,000	6 <i>l.</i> per ct.	Commercial of London - - - - -	—	200 0 0	—
40,000	6 <i>l.</i> per ct.	Colonial - - - - -	100	25 0 0	15
60,000	6 <i>l.</i> per ct.	Ionian - - - - -	25	25 0 0	—
40,000	8 <i>l.</i> per ct.	London and Westminster - - -	100	20 0 0	253
20,000	8 <i>l.</i> per ct.	London Joint Stock - - - - -	50	10 0 0	134
20,000	8 <i>l.</i> per ct.	Metropolitan - - - - -	25	7 10 0	—
4,000	6 <i>l.</i> per ct.	Provincial of Ireland - - - - -	100	25 0 0	—
10,000	2 <i>s.</i> per sh.	Do. New - - - - -	10	10 0 0	174
10,000	6 <i>s.</i> per sh.	Royal of Australia - - - - -	—	10 0 0	—
10,000	11 <i>l.</i> per ct.	National of Ireland - - - - -	50	17 10 0	—
21,500	—	National Provincial of England -	100	35 0 0	—
10,000	5 <i>l.</i> per ct.	Do. New - - - - -	50	10 0 0	94
20,000	6 <i>l.</i> per ct.	Northamptonshire Union - - -	25	5 0 0	—
20,000	8 <i>l.</i> per ct.	Gloucestershire - - - - -	50	10 0 0	—
40,000	5 <i>l.</i> per ct.	{ West of England and South }	20	12 10 0	—
20,000	6 <i>l.</i> per ct.	{ Wales District - - - - - }	15	7 10 0	—
20,000	8 <i>l.</i> per ct.	Wilts and Dorset - - - - -	25	25 0 0	—
10,000	8 <i>l.</i> per ct.	Union of Australia - - - - -	—	2 10 0	—
40,000	5 <i>l.</i> per ct.	Do. do. - - - - -	50	10 0 0	—
		Union of London - - - - -			

BANK OF ENGLAND.

Account of the Liabilities and Assets of the Bank of England on the average of the Quarter, from the 30th of December to the 30th March, 1844	LIABILITIES	ASSETS
	Circulation £21,125,000	Securities, £22,479,000
	Deposits, 13,972,000	Bullion, 15,783,000
	£35,097,000	£38,262,000

PRICES CURRENT.

Table with columns: GOVERNMENT FUNDS, Sat., Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs., Friday. Includes entries like Bank Stock, 7 per cent., 3 per Cent. Reduced, etc.

RAILWAYS.

Table with columns: RAILWAYS, No. of Shares, Dividends per Annum, Shares, Paid, Friday. Includes entries like Edinburgh and Dalkeith, Glasgow and Ayrshire, etc.

FRENCH FUNDS.

Table with columns: Paris, April 4, Paris, April 5, Paris, April 6, Paris, April 8, Paris, April 9, Paris, April 10. Includes entries like 5 per Cent. Ann. 22, Exchange, etc.

PRICES OF BULLION.

Table with columns: Foreign Gold in Bars (Standard), Foreign Gold in Coin Spanish Doubloons, New Dollars, Silver in Bars (Standard).

PUBLIC SECURITIES OF UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Table with columns: State, Redeemable, Amount in Dolls., Dividend, London Prices, Amer. Prices, etc. Includes entries like Alabama, Indiana, Illinois, etc.

PRICES OF FOREIGN STOCKS.

Table with columns: Stock Name, Sat., Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs., Friday. Includes entries like Austrian, 5 per cent., 10 guilders, Brazilian Bonds, etc.

IRISH STOCKS.

Table with columns: Stock Name, Wed., Thurs., Friday, Sat., Mon., Tues. Includes entries like 3 per Cent. Consols, Reduced Do., etc.

CORN MARKETS.

(From Messrs Gillies and Horn's Circular.)

CORN EXCHANGE, MONDAY, APRIL 8.—During the whole of last week the weather was beautifully fine, with warm sun and drying winds, and the sowing of spring corn has been rapidly proceeded with. To-day is also fine, wind S. W. The supplies of everything since our last have been small, especially of oats, and the show of fresh samples at market to-day by land-carriage was confined to a few from Essex and Kent. English wheat was taken off at last Monday's rates. Free foreign a difficult sale in retail at late prices. Barley in slow request, and prices unaltered. Fresh arrivals of Scotch oats would sell readily at our quotations, and Irish were in fair demand at fully the rates of this day week. A dull trade in beans and peas, without variation in value. Flour the same as last week.

Table with columns: BRITISH, PER QR., FOREIGN AND COLONIAL, PER QR. Lists various grain types like Wheat, Barley, Oats, Beans, Peas, and Flour with their respective prices.

CORN EXCHANGE, FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 1844.—It is now nearly a fortnight since we had rain, and having had warm sun, the land, which was previously much too wet to receive the spring seed has been brought into fine condition—our farmers, therefore, having been busily occupied during the past week, and this being Easter week, our market has been very badly attended. The supply of wheat, which has been small, is saleable only to needy buyers at Monday's prices, both for English and foreign. Several shipments of barley having arrived from foreign ports our buyers have become careless to purchase, and fine qualities can with difficulty be placed at last day's rates, whilst indifferent sorts are 6d. to 1s. per quarter cheaper. English and Scotch oats are a tolerable free sale at full prices; and Irish are held firmly with a limited trade. Old beans are very scarce, and held at extreme rates: new quite as dear as on Monday last. No alteration in peas. Flour nominally the same.

LONDON AVERAGES. For the week ending April 13.

Table showing London averages for Wheat, Barley, Oats, Rye, Beans, and Peas with prices in quarters and shillings.

IMPERIAL AVERAGES.

Table showing Imperial averages for various weeks (Mar. 7th to 11th) and aggregate of six weeks, listing prices for Wheat, Barley, Oats, Rye, Beans, and Peas.

Flour—Foreign, 12s. 0d. per 196 lbs.—British Possession, 3s. 0d. ditto.

SMITHFIELD MARKET.

MONDAY.—The general state of trade this morning was certainly better than last week, but still not quite so good as it has latterly been. This depression, however, it may fairly be assumed is but temporary, and has arisen in a great measure from the decrease in the consumption of meat during Lent, with that of fish, both fresh and salt, having been plentiful and cheap. The Easter holidays having now set in will cause an increased consumption, and as there are fewer buyers attending the dead meat markets, a better state of trade may be looked for. The supply of beasts was moderate, whilst sheep were an unusually small supply, but lambs arrived in plentiful numbers. Although prices were higher than last week by 2d. per stone, there is still a difference in favour of previous currencies. The lamb season has set in most favourably from the fineness of the weather, and both in the dead meat markets as in Smithfield the demand has been brisk and prices good. There is every appearance of a long season for this kind of meat, and the present rates, therefore, likely to be maintained beyond the ordinary period.

FRIDAY.—Our market was moderately well supplied with beasts, yet the beef trade was tolerably active, at prices fully equal to those obtained on Monday. There were eight beasts on offer from Spain, and 250 Scots from Aberdeen and Dundee. In sheep, the numbers of which were small, a steady business was transacted, and the quotations had an upward tendency. The lamb trade was on the whole dull, at late rates. From the Isle of Wight 40 lambs came to hand. Calves moved off slowly, at barely stationary figures. Pigs were a mere drug, but not lower. Milch cows were held at from 16l. to 18l. 10s. each.

Table with columns: Prices per Stone (Monday, Friday) and At Market (Monday, Friday) for Beef, Mutton, Veal, and Pork.

Prices of Hay and Straw, per load of 36 trusses.

Hay, 3l. 0s. 0d. to 3l. 16s. 0d. | Clover, 4l. 10s. 0d. to 5l. 5s. 0d. | Straw, 1l. 6s. 0d. to 1l. 10s. 0d.

BOROUGH HOP MARKET.

There is nothing new to report on the state of this market. The holders continue firm at the following prices, viz.:—New Sussex pockets, 6l. 6s. to 7l.; New Kent ditto, 6l. 12s. to 7l. 7s.; choice East and Mid. Kent, Goldings, and Farnhams, 8l. to 10l. to 11l. 11s.

THE GAZETTE.

Tuesday, April 9.

PARTNERSHIPS DISSOLVED.

J. P. Steger and J. Holdsworth, Bristol, tailors.—J. Ainley and J. Naylor, Elland, Yorkshire, woollen manufacturers.—A. Steins, T. Binks, and D. Bell, Liverpool, tea merchants (as regards D. Bell).—W. Dyson, and H. C. Blake, Leeds, woollen merchants.—J. Wood, J. Pickford, and D. Addy, Shepley, Yorkshire, higgiers.—Susan and N. Broad, Bristol, grocers.—J. Vernon, J. Bowers, and J. Taylor, Burslem, Staffordshire, earthenware manufacturers.—N. White, jun., and J. I. Syer, late of New-ington causeway, and now of Bridge street, Blackfriars, City, auctioneers.—J. Jones and R. Davis, Brickhouse Colliery, Staffordshire, coal masters.—J. Garnet, J. Collins, and T. Gaby, Turnwheel lane, City, grocers.—N. T. H., and J. L. Rolfe, Cheapside, City, pianoforte makers (as regards J. L. Rolfe).—E. Greaves, J. Fawcett, J. B. Brown, and W. Taylor, Sheaf Works, Sheffield, merchants (as regards J. Fawcett).—W. Rowett and J. H. Grey, Liverpool, ship chandlers.—J. Wragg and J. Blackwell, Sheffield, file manufacturers.—J. and F. Jervis, Sheffield, iron founders.—J. Wilcock, J. Lassey, and J. Illingworth, Rock Colliery, Leeds, coal merchants (as regards J. Illingworth).—R. Bowden and T. Symons, Totness, Devonshire, mercers.—C. H. Myers and A. J. O. Potter, Preston and Manchester, cotton manufacturers.—G. and T. Pringle, Gateshead, Durham, printers.—J. Ingram, J. S. Tonge, and D. Clarke, Toxteth park, Lancashire, lime burners.

BANKRUPTS.

POWELL, J., jun., of the Quadrant, Middlesex, and also now or late of Birmingham, lodginghouse keeper. [W. S. Smith, Bedford row. WALKER, T. and J., York road, Lambeth, upholsterers. [Rush, Austin-friars. PROCTER, N., Meaford, Yorkshire, tanner. [E. Bond, Leeds. PEARCE, T., Meaford, Staffordshire, miller. [C. B. Wood, Burslem.

INSOLVENTS.

R. Marks, Union street, Southwark, and of Liquorpond street, Bedford street, victualler.—R. Dinham, Tiverton, Devonshire, out of business.—J. Johnson, Birmingham, retail brewer.—Emma Gater, Oxford, milliner.—I. Cohen, Hastings, Sussex, jeweller.—H. Channon, Exeter, porter.—J. Larkin, Ratcliffe highway, hatter.—J. Bee, Tickhill, Yorkshire, printer.—W. Pugh, Wednesbury, Staffordshire, grocer.—T. Hartshorn, Wolverhampton, Staffordshire, out of business.—W. Mardon, Great Portland street, Cavendish square, pianoforte manufacturer.—Mary Haynes, Weston-upon-Mare, Somersetshire, out of business.—W. Dickin, Chorlton-upon-Medlock, Lancashire, land surveyor.—F. Whitehead, Long Melford, Suffolk, mail cart driver.—W. White, Sheffield, carrier's agent.—Eliza Middleton Buxton, Hanover street, Walworth, out of business.—W. G. Stanaway, Hammersmith, Middlesex, journeyman coach painter.—J. Burree, Hale street, Poplar, market gardener.—J. Mathews, Hammer-smith, Middlesex, tallow chandler.

DIVIDENDS.

April 30, H. T. Austen, H. Maunde, and J. Tilson, Henrietta street, Covent garden, bankers.—April 30, J. Dows, Thatcham, Berkshire, miller. April 30, N. T. Smith, jun., Lime street, City, shipowner.—May 1, J. Flint, Lewes, Sussex, linen draper.—April 30, T. Wooster and T. Wooster, jun., Coal Exchange, City, coal factors.—May 3, E. Eardley, Exeter, china dealer.—May 10, T. Westren, Brushford, Devonshire, malsters.—May 7, S. Danks, Wednesbury, Staffordshire, screw manufacturer.—May 4, J. Darwin and F. Frith, Chapeltown and Sheffield, Yorkshire, ironfounders.—May 3, E. Hancock, Sheffield, hackneyman.

CERTIFICATES.

May 2, J. Faulkner, Danvers street, Chelsea, builder.—April 30, R. Pettit, Exning, Suffolk, livery stable keeper.—May 1, W. H. Chaplin, Inworth, Essex, bricklayer.—May 2, F. Shaw, London wall, City, builder.—May 1, J. G. West, now or late of Wandsworth, Surrey, grocer.—May 2, W. Lewis, Bristol, carpenter.—May 2, J. Leech, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, ironmonger.—May 2, W. Bearup, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, joiner.—April 30, W. Wolland, Exeter, and of Powderham, Devonshire, turner.—May 1, T. Wileman, Earl Shilton, Leicestershire, hosier.

CERTIFICATE.—APRIL 30.

T. Blegg, Wigan, Lancashire, iron founder.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

R. G. Macdonald, Esq., Clanranald, kelp manufacturer.—R. Douglas, St Andrew's, blacksmith.—R. Millar, jun., Dundee.—W. Anderson, Dun-dee, merchant.—J. Slight and J. W. Nicholson, Edinburgh, engineers.—R. H. and W. H. Fyfe, Glasgow, ship chandlers.

Friday, April 12.

BANKRUPTS.

CLACK, C., Beech street, Barbican, haberdasher. [James, Basinghall street. SAUNDERS, S., Golden square, St James's, lodging-house keeper. [Cheere, King's-bench walk, Temple. PALMER, F. W., Mincing lane, colonial broker. [Shearman and Slater Great Tower street.

INSOLVENTS.

T. Nixon, Kettering, Northampton, plumber.—W. K. Thurlow, Ching-ford, Essex, licensed victualler.—E. Newman, Westbury, Wiltshire, dealer in hay.—J. Jewer, Pimlico.—P. McNulty, Chenies street, Bedford square, carrier.—J. R. Brooks, Rochester, printer.—G. Rhodes, Sheffield, cntler.—C. Challiner, Rotherham, Yorkshire, blacksmith.—J. Wall, jun. Bristol.—H. C. Carter, Hammersmith, carpenter.—C. Chard, sen., West Lydford, Somersetshire, miller.—W. G. Sladden, Clapton square, Clapton.—H. I. Sladden, Clapton square, Clapton.—T. Johnston, Wellington, Shropshire, travelling draper.—E. Dolley, Meards street, Soho, manufacturing per-fumer.

MARRIAGES.

Lately, at St Martin's church, by the Rev. F. E. Pegus, the Earl of Aboyne, eldest son of the Marquis of Huntly, to Mary Antoinetta, only surviving daughter of the Rev. P. W. Pegus and the Countess Dowager of Lindsey, and half-sister to the Earl of Lindsey. On the 9th inst., at Brighton, Sir John Dean Paul, Bart., of Rodbo-rough, Gloucestershire, to Elizabeth, youngest daughter of Samuel, late Lord Bishop of St Asaph.

DEATHS.

At Bury St Edmund's, the Right Honourable Lord Abinger, Chief Baron of the Court of Exchequer, aged seventy-six. A memoir of the noble lord elsewhere appears in to-day's paper.

On the 25th of January, at Colpetty, in the Island of Ceylon, John Michael Staples, member of the Hon. Society of Lincoln's Inn.

On the 9th inst., at Southampton, Mr W. Sterndale Bennett, the eminent pianist, to Miss Mary Wood, a young lady of high accomplishments residing there.

On the 6th ult., at New Orleans, Sumner Lincoln Fairfield. The *New York Tribune* describes him as having departed this life "in utter destitution, wretchedness, and despair. He was a man of much intellectual powers, but unbalanced by firmness of principle, extravagant in expenditure without regard to means, and fatally addicted to intoxicating liquors."

#### ADVERTISEMENTS.

##### NATIONAL ANTI-CORN-LAW LEAGUE.

**THE WEEKLY MEETINGS** of the LEAGUE in COVENT GARDEN THEATRE will be RE-COMMENCED on WEDNESDAY EVENING NEXT, the 17th instant.

RICHARD COBDEN, Esq., M.P., will take the Chair precisely at Seven o'Clock.

The meeting will be addressed by H. G. Ward, Esq., M.P., for Sheffield, and other gentlemen.

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

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

The cards of registered Members will admit, as heretofore, to Pit and Galleries.

On the 1st and 15th of every Month,

**THE PEOPLE'S FAMILY BIBLE.**—Super-royal Quarto size—large type. Containing two Steel Engravings and two Sheets of Letter-press for One Shilling, forming a "Palace Bible at a Cottage Price."

**PEOPLE'S GALLERY** of ENGRAVINGS, on the 1st and 15th of every Month—Containing four Steel Engravings for one Shilling. In consequence of the Easter Holidays having interrupted the preparation of the large number required, the publishers are compelled to delay the publication of Part 7 till May 1st.

London: Fisher, Son, and Co. Newgate street.

#### THE OREGON TERRITORY AND HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY.

Just ready, 1 vol. 8vo, with Map,

**A STATISTICAL and GEOGRAPHICAL HISTORY** of the OREGON TERRITORY, and of the BRITISH SOUTH AMERICAN FUR TRADE; with a Full Description of the Native Tribes, their Customs and Religion, especially along the North-West Pacific Coast. Never before published. By J. Dinn, late of the Hudson's Bay Company.

Edwards and Hughes, Ave Maria lane.

PATRONIZED BY HER MAJESTY,

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

#### ROWLAND'S MACASSAR OIL.

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

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

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

#### ROWLAND'S KALYDOR

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

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

#### ROWLAND'S ODONTO, OR PEARL DENTIFRICE.

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

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

#### CAUTION.

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

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

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

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

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

#### APOPLEXY PREVENTED.

**DETERMINATION** of Blood to the Head, Apoplexy, &c., effectually prevented by the occasional use of "Frampton's Pill of Health," which by strengthening the action of the stomach, and promoting a healthy and regular digestion of the food, prevents a recurrence of those symptoms of this alarming disorder, giddiness, oppression of the brain, singing noise in the ear, headache, &c. They are an excellent aperient without griping or prostration of strength, create appetite, relieve languor, and invigorate the spirits, while to the free liver or sedentary they offer advantages that will not fail to be appreciated. Sold by Thomas Prout, 229 Strand, seventh house from Temple bar. Price 1s. 1½d. per box.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### THE NEW LIGHT.—GREAT NOVELTY.—THE

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

#### A BRONZED SCROLL FENDER for 15s.—

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

#### GUNS.—LONDON PROVED GUNS.—A SINGLE-BARREL GUN, with twisted barrel, and patent breech

A ditto ditto, London proved ... ..	28s
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A double-barrel Gun, with twisted barrel and patent breech ... ..	58s
A ditto ditto, London proved ... ..	65s

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

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

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

#### GOUT AND RHEUMATISM.

**AMONG** the many discoveries that characterize the eventful age in which we live, nothing has contributed so much to the comfort and ease of the community, nor conferred such a boon upon suffering humanity, as that important discovery, and never-failing remedy the Gout and Rheumatism, "Blair's Gout and Rheumatic Pills," on the immense advantages of which are testified by the approval and recommendation of many of the greatest men of our day. They are for Gout and Rheumatism, in all its various forms, including sciatica, lumbago, pain in the face (frequently treated as tooth-ache), &c.; and as they contain no mercury, nor other dangerous medicine, will require neither confinement nor attention of any kind, and invariably prevent the disease attacking the stomach or head. Sold by Thomas Prout, 229 Strand, London, seventh house from Temple bar; and by most medicine venders in the kingdom. Price 2s. 9d. per box.

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