

The Economist:

OR

THE 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 interests, or prevent the shameful dilapidation into which a great empire must fall by mean reparation upon mighty ruins."—BURKE.

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"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.

MR LANGSTON AND THE OXFORD BAKER.

At the Oxford County Meeting last week, Mr Langston said, "When I was canvassing Oxford some years back, a baker asked me if I would vote for a repeal of the Corn Laws. 'Why do you ask?' said I. 'Because,' responded the baker, 'I am deeply interested in that matter. When bread is cheap, I sell two loaves for every one that I sell when it is dear; besides which, when it is high, I sustain another loss, for my customers sometimes forget to pay for it.'"

This plain statement of the humble Oxford baker forms a simple illustration of some of the most important principles which regulate the material happiness of mankind, and which affect the comforts and well-being, nay, the existence, of nations, communities, and families.

It is also a familiar illustration of the true principles which regulate all trading transactions. The only motive by which the baker professes to be actuated is self-interest. He makes no professions for the interest of the producer or that of the consumer; he looks only to the effect upon himself: but studying his own interest only, can and does only conduce to the benefit of all parties with whom he is concerned, and no principle in trade is true that has not this effect. Producer, dealer, consumer, well understood in all their relationships, can only have one ultimate and true interest. Had the baker been a short-sighted man, he might have fancied high prices to his advantage, because in a rising market he made a profit on the flour and stock on hand; or he might have fancied, as half the world does, that it was better to sell one shilling's worth of bread than sixpence worth, though it should be only the same quantity. But the baker was shrewd and observing, and discovered that what he gained in the higher price he lost in the less business, and in the greater risk to which he was exposed; he found, in short, that no state of things conducted so much to his advantage, as that which conducted most to the well-being of his customer.

If this was true between the baker and his customer, it was equally true between the farmer and his customers, the bakers. If, when bread was dear, the baker sold less, and at greater risk, he must have bought less, and with less certainty of paying for it; and, if so, the farmer had less demand for his wheat, and run greater hazard in being paid for what he did sell; and at length, in consequence of a want of demand, by the injury done to the baker's customers, who are reduced to the consumption of one loaf in place of two, the markets become dull, and the price falls, in spite of every effort. This want of demand, and risk of payment, experienced by the farmer, disables him to meet the landlord according to contract; who finds that he also must suffer from the same cause that has injured the farmer and baker; and he would certainly find a clearer solution of that cause, and a surer cure, by consulting the experience of the Oxford baker, than by relying on acts of parliament: he would find that the condition of the consumer was of more importance to him than any

power he had to restrict quantity,—for the more he would succeed in securing scarcity, his customer, the Oxford baker, would be with more certainty injured.

Further, said the Oxford baker to Mr Langston,—“When bread is cheap I sell two loaves for every one I sell when it is dear.” If bread be ever so cheap, it is not an article of which any man will eat to excess; and if ever so dear, no man that can possibly avoid it will eat any less. Put the baker sells less—the community consumes less; while the rich and middle classes all eat the same as before. The whole deficiency of sale of which the baker complains falls on the poorest portion of the community, on the veriest penury of the land. Who, then, is most affected, who is most deeply injured, by any law that restricts quantity? Not he who pays more, but can still get bread; but he (the poorest and most wretched) who pays nought, because the price places it beyond his reach. This fact should sink deeply into the mind of every man who (we are assured very mistakenly) fancies he can secure his interest by restricting the quantity of this necessary of life.

But if, when bread is dear, a baker sells half the quantity, what must be the condition of those who deal in less necessary articles? The lessening the quantity, the giving up of the consumption of bread, is the last act to which men submit. What, then, must be the effects of dear bread on the dealers in tea, coffee, sugar, butchers meat, on the seller of cottons, linens, and all other articles which employ the labour of the industrious classes? Why, certainly, to reduce their demand much more and much sooner than that of the baker. If the demand, then, for all other articles is reduced by the high price of bread, the demand for labour and the rate of wages consequently must also be reduced, and the working man is still less able to go to the baker's shop; and by the Oxford baker's evidence, the demand for agricultural labour must also become less as a consequence of dear bread; he sells less bread by one-half; he must buy proportionably less wheat; and it surely cannot be pretended that a smaller demand for wheat will increase the demand for labour to produce it.

But the baker not only sells less, but he is not so well paid, when bread is dear; if people neglect to pay the baker, as the common condition on which a further supply of bread can be obtained, how much more will they neglect to pay dealers in every other description of articles, all others being of less necessity? It is very evident, therefore, that whatever complaint the Oxford baker had to make of dear bread, either in loss of custom or loss of money, must equally apply to the farmer and landowner, and much more strongly apply to every other trader, whose reduction of demand and chance of loss must be in proportion as the article in which he deals is less a necessary of life. If all classes, from the landowner down to the smallest tradesman and labourer, understood their interest as shrewdly as did the Oxford baker, the query he put to Mr Langston would be put by every man who was canvassed for his vote.

THE FOREIGN CORN AND TIMBER DUTIES REPEALED BY THE LAST CUSTOMS ACT, AND THE AMERICAN TREATY.

There is no desire more strongly displayed by individuals, whether in business or private life, than that of procuring every article at the lowest possible price. Among gentle and simple, rich and poor, the effort to buy cheap is equally universal and evident;—by each and all the man who produces the best article at the lowest price is looked upon as a benefactor, and his cheap goods are considered a great boon. But rise from individual to national transactions (which are, however, only the former in a multiplied shape), when governments and laws undertake to manage the business of a country, and the whole face of the matter is changed; as much care is taken to exclude cheapness and secure dearness as, in private life, is exercised for the opposite ends. Cheapness is repudiated as an evil, and while, in private life, we voluntarily and gladly rush to the cheap shop, we publicly interdict cheap goods from other countries; or, when we allow their admission, we do it as an apparent sacrifice of interest, under a treaty of commerce, for some stipulated supposed equivalent. That which in private life we accept as a great boon, we publicly regard with suspicion, and seem to fancy that we make a sacrifice in buying at a cheap rate, and the cheaper the rate the greater is the supposed sacrifice. In private the cheap seller is supposed rightly to be the party who makes the sacrifice, and the buyer is supposed to be the party benefited; between nations,

the buyer of cheap goods is fancied to make the sacrifice, to the benefit of the cheap seller.

Under this singular confusion of ideas, we find that we have made treaties with most countries for the purpose of securing some equivalents for the privilege of supplying us more cheaply with their produce than we could otherwise be supplied. These equivalents are sometimes of a commercial and sometimes of a political character; but, whatever the form, there is perhaps no greater source of perplexity to commerce, and of misunderstandings between governments, than treaties of this class.

We are led to make these remarks in consequence of a serious difficulty which is likely to arise out of the late Treaty with the United States, to which effect has been given by the 23rd clause of the late Customs Act, which, however, may lead to much good or much evil as the difficulty may be disposed of. Meantime, in any light, it is a matter of extreme interest. We would not wish to be understood to undervalue the great importance of a settlement of the disputed territorial question with the United States; and in calling attention to the numerous blunders which have arisen in the Treaty made for that purpose, it is more for the purpose of exposing the difficulties and evils which arise out of legislative intermeddling with trade, than any desire to cavil with the principles on which the dispute was settled. Among other stipulations in that Treaty there is one which will be best explained by the clause of the new Customs Act above referred to, which is as follows:—

"XXIII. And whereas a treaty has been concluded between her Majesty and the United States of America, dated the ninth day of August, in the year one thousand eight hundred and forty-two, whereby it is stipulated, that all the produce of the forest, in logs, lumber, timber, timber boards, staves, or shingles, or of agriculture, not being manufactured, grown on any of those parts of the State of Maine watered by the river Saint John or by its tributaries, of which fact reasonable evidence shall, if required, be produced, shall have free access into and through the said river and its said tributaries, having their source within the State of Maine, to and from the seaport at the mouth of the river Saint John, and to and round the falls of the said river, either by boats, rafts, or other conveyance, that when within the province of New Brunswick the said produce shall be dealt with as if it were the produce of the said province: and whereas it is the intention of the high contracting parties to the said treaty, that the aforesaid produce should be dealt with as if it were the produce of the province of New Brunswick; be it therefore enacted, That the produce in the said recited Treaty, and hereinbefore described, shall, so far as regards all laws relating to duties, navigation, and customs in force in the United Kingdom, or in any of her Majesty's dominions, be deemed and taken to be and dealt with as the produce of the province of NEW BRUNSWICK: provided nevertheless, that in all cases in which declarations and certificates of production or origin and certificates of clearance would be required in respect of such produce, if it were the produce of New Brunswick, similar declarations and certificates shall be required in respect of such produce, and shall state the same to be the produce of those parts of the State of Maine which are watered by the river Saint John or by its tributaries."

By this Act it is quite plain that we admit the timber of part of the United States at the lowest colonial duty, and the wheat of the same district at a fluctuating duty of 6d. to 5s. per quarter. Now we have two classes of reciprocal treaties with various countries, which from their effect must entitle them to demand the same privileges. The first class is, where by existing treaties we are bound to extend to such countries, UNCONDITIONALLY, any privilege or favour, in navigation or commerce, which we shall at any time grant to any other foreign country, whether we shall have received any equivalent from such latter country or not:—of this class we have treaties with

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| Sweden, | Mexico, | Peru Bolivia, |
| The United States, | Brazil, | Bolivia, |
| Buenos Ayres, | Venezuela, | Columbo. |

The second class is where by existing treaties we are bound "not to grant any favours, privileges, or immunities whatsoever, in matters of commerce and navigation, to the subjects of any other State, which shall not be also at the same time extended to the subjects of the high contracting parties, GRATUITOUSLY, if the concession in favour of the other States shall have been gratuitous, or upon giving as nearly as possible the same compensation or equivalent, in case the concession shall have been conditional." Of this class we have treaties with

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| Austria, | Russia, | Texas, |
| Holland, | Portugal, | Uruguay. |

The claim of the first class of countries is simple and undeniable. With respect to the second class, we think their right to the gratuitous concession of similar privileges equally undeniable, as we cannot discover in the Treaty with the United States of America any equivalent or compensation on which the concession is made to rest. The concessions appear to have been all made by England (and we do not say that the settlement of the question in dispute was not worth all we gave):—we held in our possession 6,750,000 acres of territory, our right to which was disputed by the American States, and we ceded to them 3,413,000 acres, retaining 3,337,000 acres to ourselves. Our Government denies that America conceded anything to us, but that we gave up a large territory to settle a dispute and get rid of a chance of war. Such being the case, the second class of countries are entitled to demand, unconditionally, the same privileges; but if not, at the most, the compensation must be valued, and its equivalent received.

To this view of the question we have had two objections raised—First, that the privilege is only given to a small part of the United States, and not to the country generally. Such an evasion, however, of a contract could never be supported; for, if so, it

might be extended from a small part to the whole, except a single square mile, and thus effectually evade any treaty.

The second is one of a more subtle character, were the basis on which it is founded true:—It is contended, that by these privileges given to the portion of country referred to as "of the State of Maine watered by the river Saint John or by its tributaries," it is intended only to continue to what has hitherto been part of our own territory the privileges they did as such enjoy; and that, though now part of the State of Maine, yet, having been part of our colonial possessions at the time all these other treaties were made, it cannot be considered as a foreign country in respect to such treaties, to which the conditions thereof applied. If such had been intended, it shows that another great error has been committed in making the Treaty, for, in that case, the privilege should have been expressed as being extended only to the ceded territory; but, instead of that, the expression is general, "parts of the State of Maine watered by the river Saint John or by its tributaries:" and on referring to the official map presented to Parliament, now before us, wherein the different boundary lines are marked, we find that the above description includes considerable portions of the State of Maine which always were American, and which were never claimed by us, to the south and west of the old boundary line for which we contended. This plausible argument, therefore, falls to the ground; and the right of Sweden to demand admission for her timber at the colonial duty, and of Russia to demand admission for her wheat at the varying duty of 6d. to 5s. per quarter—that is, the right of these countries and others similarly circumstanced to force upon us the boon of their cheap produce, seems to be indisputable.

It is not the case, however, as some have supposed, that the subjects of either this country, or of the foreign countries enumerated, can enforce the admission of produce on the terms specified. It remains for the foreign Governments to demand from the English Government the completion of their contract, by passing such an Act of Parliament, or issuing such an Order in Council, as will make such imports legal. Our courts of law do not recognize any condition of a treaty, or acts of a government, until completed by an act of the Legislature; we are, nevertheless, as a country and as a government, bound to give legal effect to all these treaties. And what is of the greatest consequence, is, that as soon as we extend the privilege to any other country, we place the United States in a position to demand the same for her entire territory; for, though it is doubtful if America could demand an extension of the privilege, on the ground that such is granted to parts of the State of Maine, she being a party to that Treaty—yet give similar privileges to Holland or Sweden, and the United States is in a condition to demand the same immediately.

Nor is it at all needful, as may probably be contended, that European produce, acquiring such a privilege, would be required to be sent to New Brunswick and reshipped to this country; for, though the clause recites that the produce of such part of Maine is to have free access to the seaport at the mouth of the river Saint John, and dealt with while in the country as if its own produce, yet in the enacting part of the clause as to how it is to be admitted here, it is not made in any way an essential where it is shipped;—a declaration and certificate of the origin or production may be required, it is true; but that would equally apply to the specified nations in Europe having a right to claim similar privileges. The produce, whether from Russia or Sweden, would require to be accompanied by a declaration and certificate that it really was the growth of such favoured country.

By far the most important consideration in the matter, however, is, that all this does not rest on a mere Act of Parliament, made by a blunder, and which could be repealed next session of Parliament; it rests upon a treaty which cannot be altered, but with the consent of the United States; and to which we are bound to give, and to continue to give, legal effect.

If it was intended by the Treaty merely to continue to the part of the State of Maine ceded by us, the advantages previously possessed, then it is difficult to conceive how so much blundering could have crept into the Treaty as well as into the Act before us. If, however, we shall be wise enough to concede, as we are bound to do, to all the other countries enumerated the privilege of selling cheap to us, they will prove the happiest blunders ever committed, and Lord Ashburton one of the greatest benefactors of the country. If not, we shall by these errors be placed in hostility with fifteen different countries, and with an indefensible cause.

THE PROSPECTS AND PROGRESS OF AUSTRALIA.

The recent intelligence from New South Wales, a summary of which was given in our paper of last week, is calculated to excite some serious reflection. Not that the intelligence was either novel or unexpected. On the contrary, the whole tenor of the advices from that quarter of the world during the last two years has been such as to induce the belief that the major portion of our Australian colonies had a heavy trial to go through before they could be placed once more in a prosperous condition. But the commercial distresses of Sydney, of Port Philip, of South Australia, and even of Western Australia, induce inquiry into the subject of Emigration, as a great means of relief for our increasing population at home; and as it is one at all times of great personal interest, we may be excused for a few observations on it.

However approving of voluntary and unstimulated emigration, we should dread to see the sanction of authority given to any general project, which might possibly be set a-going with sound of trumpet and drum, to end in cries of ruin and despair. There was much in the proposition for a scheme of National Emigration to attract the attention of the present Government. First, the Ministry was placed between two fires; it stood between the free-trade and the monopolist parties; it had adopted the principles of the one, but rested on the practice of the other. Here, therefore, was a sort of loop-hole, a kind of solution of their difficulties, not at all to be slighted. To the free-trade party they might have said, You want additional markets and a wider sphere—emigration will supply them. To the monopolists, Support emigration, and you will get rid of free trade. Whatever may have been their motives, we are glad of the result. Economy was doubtless uppermost in their minds: but at all events, in refusing to sanction any great, general, comprehensive, and national scheme of emigration, they have saved the country much expense, prevented much delusion, and aided in establishing the great free-trade principle, that "supply and demand," left free, unfettered, and unstimulated, must be the prime regulator of all those concerns, whether at home or abroad, which rest on commercial intercourse.

We should be sorry to be mistaken. Of emigration, the result of free choice, equally uncontrolled and unstimulated by official intermeddling, we cannot but approve. It must ever be part of the free, commercial economy of such a country as this. But emigration as a substitute for free trade would be ludicrous, laughable, nay, worse, criminal. No free government ought to dare to force its people from their native country. The pauper and the felon are both in an unhappy position; the one from his misfortune, rather than his fault; the other from his fault, rather than his misfortune. To these a government may apply rules—the one it may coax abroad, the other it may compel; and no objection could be sustained against it, unless, indeed, strict justice were to say that we have no right even to punish a criminal, until, by proper care and education, we have removed the unhappy circumstances by which he is cradled and nursed in crime. But to the honest man, able to work, and willing to work, we have no right to say that he shall emigrate. We must first remove every obstacle which prevents the free exercise of his industry; and having done this, if he chooses to remove to the colonies, all our business is to clear and cleanse the road before him, so that he may arrive at his destination as unfettered and as unembarrassed as it is possible to enable him.

On this head, official experience, free from the taint of jobbing or even natural partiality, ought to go some length. In a recent official despatch from Western Australia, the Colonial Secretary, Mr Peter Brown, thus writes to Lord Stanley:—"In general, too great inducement is held out to persons to emigrate. They are not made sufficiently aware of the hardships and roughs which all classes, whether capitalists or labourers, must undergo in a colony, many long years after the appalling difficulties of the first settling have been overcome; and they are apt to feel and express themselves dissatisfied on their arrival. A certain, and even a rich competence, is within the reach of the sober and industrious man, but it will be attained only after severe trials, and many disappointments, arising out of his ignorance of the climate, soil, and seasons, and from a total want of nine-tenths of the conveniences and accommodations to which every villager is accustomed in England. There are few towns, no villages, a great scarcity of roads and bridges; supplies, therefore, are sometimes not to be procured; and to remedy deficiencies, or repair damages, a person must trust, not to others, but his or her resources."

This is the language not only of experience but of common sense; and if applicable under the mild and genial climate of Western Australia, is doubly so in latitudes where the weather exposes to severer trials. Moreover, in urging that emigration requires no unnatural stimulus, we need not point to the unhappy circumstances of South Australia, commenced with so much pomp and parade, and ending in disappointment, bitter, dreary, and dark. For that various reasons may be assigned, without exactly implicating the Wakefield principle of colonization. But we may turn to Port Philip, a colony which has sprung up within these few years, unsustained except by the natural impulse of speculation and adventure. Four or five years ago, the very country was unknown. Major Mitchell, in his exploring expedition, described it; and, says he, "returning over flowery plains and green hills, fanned by the breezes of early spring, I named it Australia Felix, the better to distinguish it from the parched deserts of the interior country, where we had wandered so unprofitably and so long." The name was enough. It is but really yesterday since the gallant officer saw this "interesting region" (to quote his own words) as it lay before him "with all its features new and untouched, as they fell from the hand of the Creator—an Eden of which it seemed that he was the only Adam." Scarcely, however, had the news been promulgated, when men, and flocks, and herds poured into it; that region which so recently echoed only to the footfall of the wandering savage, now boasts two thriving towns, with villages to match, a steamboat for its capacious bay, a judge, a court, lawyers, police magistrates,

police constables, custom-house officers, three or four newspapers, a magazine, and an almanac; doctors, quacks, auctioneers, benevolent societies, mechanics' institutes, botanists, prodigious flocks of sheep, wool merchants, candle manufacturers, and not a few tons of shipping. Moreover, it has its feuds, its animosities, its election contests, its Woolpack and Red Lion inns, its temperance associations, its law-suits, its assizes, its executions, and all the other accompaniments of civilization. Such a district has sprung out of its own natural capabilities, and ought to be thriving. Yet what says the editor of the *Geelong Advertiser*? (By the way, did our readers ever hear of the thriving town and port of Geelong?) Thus murmurs the *Geelong* editor:—"When are the times to be at their worst? The number of insolvents has been daily increasing, until they have reached the number of seven or eight within four days. Last week's failures amount to somewhere about 100,000*l.* in all. The times may get worse, but they cannot long continue so; like a fierce conflagration, the materials may all be consumed before being quenched. The prospect is fearful."

The origin and source of all this is explained in parliamentary papers recently issued, relating to colonial lands and emigration. Here we have a map of Port Philip, with a statement of the prices paid for land, during the land-jobbing mania; and the details are so instructive and interesting, that we shall probably advert to them again. Meantime, it is enough for us to know that emigration requires no unnatural stimulus; guide and direct it if you will, but do not force it; and, above all, do not so imprison and shut up capital and labour in this country, that whenever they find even the appearance of a profitable vent, they overflow the receiving district. With free trade, our vast colonial empire may be made the natural draining field of our population for ages yet to come; without free trade, we but struggle in vain, and the grander the scheme for getting rid of an industrious but unemployed people, the more certainly may we calculate on ruinous reaction, involving hundreds, if not thousands, in destruction.

We may add that a "blue book" has been published within these few days, which is devoted to South Australia, and shows that that colony is recovering from its fearful embarrassments.

THE ANTI-CORN-LAW LEAGUE.

However much our rights and privileges are theoretically prized by the public, it is curious how little disposition is manifested to use them for any real practical purpose; for the removal of any acknowledged evil, however great. The difficulty of rousing the public mind to action, even after conviction of the necessity of the occasion may have been generally acknowledged, has long been a subject of growing remark. There are several causes which have operated to produce this tendency:—the increasing competition and subdivisions of the occupations of the people have tended to contract each man's attentions and interest to a smaller portion of the great whole; the culpable neglect on the part of influential men of character to make personal sacrifices for the public good, has too often in popular movements against practical and acknowledged evils, left the public exposed to be preyed upon by designing adventurers, whose only object has been to inflame the public mind for some personal object of their own; and who, by dishonesty and indiscretion, have injured the objects they pretended to advance, and produced in the minds of men of reputation a prejudice against the practical use of popular rights.

Many striking examples of such an abuse were fresh in the public mind when the Anti-Corn-law League came into existence, to exert itself for the reform of an evil which exceeded in the magnitude of its practical effects, all others; evils which had been acknowledged by most men of liberal and enlarged views from the day the Corn Laws were enacted: and though the individuals who appeared as the active promoters of the agitation were men of unblemished, unimpeached character, of unquestionable reputation, having large stake in the well-being of the country, and in the maintenance of order and peace, yet there can be no doubt that a certain amount of prejudice existed against the excitement which the agitation of this question produced—even with a large body of the community favourable to the cause itself.

That the League made no mistakes, in the first instance, which tended to create prejudice, we will not assert: we think they did. We think, at first, they took too narrow a view of the operation of these laws; they treated it too much as a question interesting only to the manufacturing classes; which was calculated to produce an opinion that it was a struggle, not for the community, but for a special interest. This, however, was only at the very first outset of the agitation, for very little reflection and experience showed them, that what was more glaringly apparent and evident as an evil to the interests with which they were most familiar, extended equally the same baneful influence through the whole community; they soon recognised the fact that the interests of our social condition were so inseparably linked together that it was impossible to separate them; that what injured any one part quickly reacted on all others, producing the same injury everywhere. The readiness with which they righted themselves on this point, at the very commencement of their proceedings, showed at once

the earnestness, the intelligence, and the honesty which pervaded their motives and their actions. Their efforts have ever since been directed as much to the condition of the agricultural as to the manufacturing labourer; to the farmer as to the trader; to the landowner as to the capitalist: they have laboured to prove the baneful consequences of restriction and monopoly equally to all.

To effect their objects they have had special difficulties to contend with; but they have met them all fearlessly and fairly; they pandered not to the prejudices of the masses, but exposed them with a kind though firm spirit; they openly and boldly attacked the errors and fallacies by which the aristocracy defended these laws; and by the most peaceful and legitimate means—by spreading intelligence and information—by lecturing and distributing publications, and by public discussion, they have at length acquired a moral influence and a confidence with the public altogether without precedent—but not more than the incessant labour and singleness of purpose with which they have prosecuted their object fairly entitle them to.

Their task has been difficult—their success correspondingly wonderful. Five years ago they with difficulty preserved their meetings, even in small manufacturing towns, from interruption; now they command the largest gatherings in counties altogether separated from the manufacturing districts; and at meetings called by and presided over by the sheriff, attended by the county and borough members, they carry resolutions affirming their principles, in their strictest and widest sense, all but unanimously.

We rejoice, therefore, to learn that the League has made arrangements on a scale more enlarged and more effective than ever to carry on during the next year their course of public teaching and instruction. Among other plans we are glad that they have determined to remove their press organ, the *Anti-Bread Tax Circular*, from Manchester to London, which is to be enlarged, and conducted by an editor of great experience and talent. It is in future to be called the *League*, and as it will still continue to be sold at the low price of *three pence*, cannot fail to be a most useful and extensive organ for the dissemination throughout the whole country of all their proceedings, and especially for reporting accurately, and in detail, their public meetings, which are every day acquiring more and more importance.

We cannot conclude without expressing our firm conviction, that, when the League shall have terminated their labours by the accomplishment of their object, there will not be a single class throughout the country which will not unhesitatingly acknowledge the great and lasting benefits which have been conferred upon it by the adoption of the wise and enlightened principles for which the League now contend. We believe they will be truly entitled not only to the appellation of the *Farmer's*, but also the *Landlord's Friends*.

THE BENEFITS OF FREE-TRADE ILLUSTRATED BY THE HISTORY AND STATISTICS OF COFFEE.

There is, perhaps, no imported article of daily consumption which affords so good materials for exemplifying the evils of "protection" on the one hand, and the advantages that attend on an approach to the correct system of trade on the other, as Coffee.

In 1801, when the duty upon British plantation coffee was 1s. 6d. per lb., the consumption of the kingdom amounted to no more than 750,861 lbs., being a very small fraction more than an ounce for each inhabitant, and yielding to the revenue just 1½d. per head. In 1808 the duty was reduced to 7d. per lb., and continued at that rate until 1819. The consequences of this modification were an increased consumption to more than ten times that of 1801, and an advance of the revenue from 106,000*l.* to 292,000*l.* In 1819 the duty was again raised to 1s. per lb., and although the consumption at that rate of duty did not suffer positive diminution, it experienced no increase, but was arrested and continued stationary at the point to which it had steadily advanced under the lower rate. In 1825 the duty was again lowered to 6d. per lb., and the consumption at once made a bound upward from eight to eleven millions of pounds in that year. In

| | | | |
|------|----------------|----|-----------------|
| 1826 | it advanced to | 13 | millions pounds |
| 1827 | " | 15 | " |
| 1828 | " | 17 | " |
| 1829 | " | 19 | " |
| 1830 | " | 22 | " |

Up to this point the "protective" duty in favour of our West India colonies had been quite inoperative. The quantity of coffee furnished by these colonies having exceeded the consumption of the kingdom, and the planters being consequently obliged to seek a market elsewhere for a part of their produce, could not obtain a higher price in the protected market than they could get in the markets where they were unprotected, so that the exclusion of East India and foreign coffee from our tables was wholly without advantage to the colonial planter.

In 1831 the quantity supplied by our West India colonies fell short of our demand for consumption, and thenceforward the value of British plantation coffee was raised to us through the operation of the differential duty. The progressive increase in the consumption was consequently checked, and the quantity upon which duty was paid

did not reach twenty-three millions of pounds until 1834. It remained stationary, indeed, until 1836, when, in consequence of the admission of coffee the produce of British possessions in India at the same rate of duty as that from the West Indies, a rapid increase again took place in it, to 25,000,000 lbs. in 1836, and 26,000,000 lbs. in 1837.

At this point there was again a check, all that was admissible at the duty of 6d. being absorbed, and it being necessary to have recourse to coffee of foreign growth for any further quantity that might be used. This, however, was loaded with a duty of 1s. 3d. per lb. The price of British plantation and East India coffee must therefore have advanced to a price higher than that of foreign coffee by 84s. per cwt., before the latter could profitably for the dealers be brought into use, but for the circumstance of there being an intermediate duty of 9d. per lb. chargeable upon coffee not the produce of British possessions that was imported from India, including in that designation the Cape of Good Hope. The price of coffee admissible at the rate of 6d. per lb. having been raised by the deficiency of supply beyond the difference in these two rates, or 28s. per cwt., it then became profitable to send coffee from Europe to the Cape of Good Hope, and to bring it back to England, in order to qualify it for admission at 9d. per lb. It must be evident that to render this operation profitable the value of the coffee thus sent on a lengthened voyage must be enhanced by the difference in the rate of duty to which it still was subject—viz., 28s. per cwt., and further, by all the expense of the voyage, amounting to 13s. 6d. per cwt. more. While this state of things lasted, the consumers of coffee were thus obliged, by the operation of the duty for "protection," to pay at the rate of 41s. 6d. per cwt., or about 4½d. per lb. dearer for what they used than they would have been had no differential duty existed. The quantity of foreign coffee thus qualified for admission at the rate of 9d. per lb., upon which duty was paid in 1840, amounted to 14,150,924 lbs.

It has been stated that the expenses incurred for freight, insurance, &c., upon the coffee thus sent roundabout amounted to the sum of 177,000*l.*, which was as effectually thrown away as if a like sum had been cast into the sea.

In 1841 an end was put to this system by the modification of the Tariff, and the adoption of only two rates of duty—viz., 4d. per lb. upon all coffee the produce of and imported from British possessions; and 8d. per lb. upon all other growths of coffee; thus giving an advantage of 4d. per lb., or 37s. 4d. per cwt., to the British coffee planter over the foreign producer.

Our subsequent experience abundantly proves that this change is ineffectual for increasing the consumption; which, however, is so greatly beyond the supply afforded by the growth of British possessions that, in 1841, out of a total quantity of 28,370,857 lbs., the duty of 8d. per lb. was paid on 10,838,409 lbs.; and last year (1842) the same high duty was paid on 11,219,730 lbs.

So long as this state of things shall continue, the consumers of coffee in England will be taxed 8d. per lb. upon all that they use; i. e. 4d. for the benefit of the Exchequer, and 4d. for the profit of the British coffee planter upon all of his produce that he can bring to our shores.

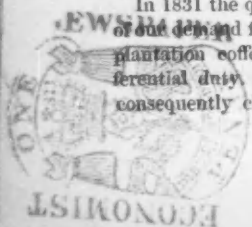
If the differential duty were abolished, and all kinds of coffee were admitted to use at a duty of 6d. per lb., the average rate of the duty would be the same as it is now; but the monopoly price of the British planter would cease. At one stroke we should lower the price of British plantation coffee 4d. per lb. without advancing the price of any other descriptions, and the revenue would be greatly benefited through the encouragement thus offered for increased consumption.

COURT AND ARISTOCRACY.

HER MAJESTY'S VISIT TO BELGIUM.

The newspapers, as might very naturally have been expected, have teemed with glowing accounts of the Queen's visit to Belgium. Stript however, of the artistic gilding with which "our correspondent" overlays his descriptions, the particulars may be condensed into a comparatively small space. Grand dinners at the Town hall of Ostend; excursions to Bruges, Ghent, Brussels, Antwerp, and Flushing, at all of which places her Majesty was received with the greatest and most kindly enthusiasm by the people, with various grand "scenes" of addresses, presentations, and so forth, constitute the subject matter of that which occupies many long columns in the daily papers.

Thursday was spent at Ostend, the day being finished off by a grand dinner and a select theatrical entertainment. Friday was devoted to a visit to Bruges, distant by the railway fifteen miles from Ostend. The line of houses along the side of the railway approaching the station are mostly of the humbler class; yet they were all decorated with flags, wreaths, coronets, and garlands of flowers, and some with a regular "exposition" of such small prints and paintings which are seen on the inside walls of cottages. A line of windmills also, which were suffered to rest for the day, had their vanes embellished with flowers and branches of trees. All this showed taste and good feeling, but it was nothing to what was to present itself within the town itself. The burgomaster of the town gave formal notice to the inhabitants of the Royal visit, and invited them to decorate their houses with such materials and devices as each might fancy. The invitation was obeyed with alacrity; and the result was one of the most extraordinary combinations of material, heterogeneous in detail, but with an effect in the mass the most picturesque which it is possible to conceive. The whole line of streets along which the Royal cavalcade was to pass in its way to the Town hall, and thence to the various public buildings which were to be visited, was, as it were, roofed in with pieces of new linen (one of the staple manufactures of the town),



some bleached, some not, some dyed grey, or blue, and all systematically stretched across from window to window at the height of the first floors. Inadequate as such materials might be thought to be to such a result, the result was, that when the eye took a perspective view down the streets, the effect was that of a wide-spanned roof of stone, the arches of which, upon some principle of magic, held together in the form of a catenary curve, and which, harmonizing with the ancient architecture of the houses on either side, seemed to form one entire gallery. The walls themselves were decorated, in many places literally covered, with festoons, and pillars of various materials, linens of all the colours in the rainbow, huge yarns of worsted, immense boughs of trees, thick banks and walls of fir and other evergreens, and foliage of all sorts. Besides these, there were here and there pictures, some very fine ones and of large dimensions, which had been brought from the interior walls for the occasion; rich tapestries, which, though relics of antiquity, had retained their colours and the completeness of their various devices in perfection; choice specimens of lace; garlands and huge pots of flowers; articles of plate; in short, every appliance of adornment, natural or artificial, which it would be possible to conceive; and all so thickly crowded together as to make one complete and continuous picture. Above these were huge flags flying, of all colours and devices, some very ancient and curious, and which were brought out in striking relief when seen in the intervals of the linen archings above described. The whole was like a scene of fairyland; and at all the doors and all the windows were smiling and handsome faces (the women of Bruges, the remains of the ancient Spanish stock, are proverbially the finest in Belgium, and indeed amongst the handsomest in Europe), each beaming with its various expression of expectation and curiosity as each newly-come and bewildered stranger hurried to and fro. The burgomaster had issued a printed notice in the morning, announcing to the inhabitants that, according to the latest advices which he had received on the subject, her Britannic Majesty might be expected to arrive at the railway station at one o'clock. Long before that hour arrived the whole of the preparations were completed, the inhabitants, dressed in their best, were parading the streets, or crowding at the windows or upon their house tops. Drums and trumpets were sounding to arms, the various bells of the town began to peal, and the beautiful *carillons* of the hall in the market place (not the Town hall) to play its merriest tunes. The signal of her Majesty's approach came in a long shrill whistle, the bell rang, and at a few minutes before one o'clock the Royal train was at the door. The train consisted of several carriages besides those occupied by Royalty and its immediate suite. In the centre carriage were the Royal Families of Belgium and England; Queen Victoria sat by herself on the seat with her back to the steam, and opposite her were the King and Queen of the Belgians and Prince Albert. There were none of the suite in this carriage. Before her Majesty could step from the carriage, whence she was handed by the King of the Belgians, Prince Albert handing out the Queen of the Belgians, a sound hearty cheer, one quite à l'Anglais, rent the air, and the diminutive band of the Burgh school struck up "God save the Queen," which they played creditably enough, though rather too fast. On her Majesty reaching the interior of the station the cheering subsided, doubtless to afford the King of the Belgians an opportunity to present the burgomaster and the commander of the city to her Majesty.

The Queen, and indeed the whole of the Royal party were evidently quite taken by surprise, at the first *coup d'œil* of the splendid corridor which had been prepared for them. This astonishment only increased as the procession moved on, and the embellishments became more and more rich; whilst, at the same time, the cheering of the multitude became louder and wilder, extending along the streets, and up to the very house tops. There was no prancing cavalry flanking the Royal carriage, as with us, to shut out the view of the gracious subject of their homage. Thus unrestrained by any influence but their own good feelings, they rushed and leapt along beside the carriage—shouting, shrieking—with perfect abandon; and all along, from every crowded window and door-way, handkerchiefs, nosegays of flowers, garlands, branches of trees, were waving to and fro. Then the bands of the various regiments placed along the road played "God save the Queen" so lustily, as if they would drown this tumult, but in vain; for the tumult drowned even the booming of the cannon hard by and the pealing of countless bells overhead. Then what a rushing and scrambling was there between this multitude and the military as the *cortège* passed the Place des Armes; what a climax of excitement as it went under the triumphal arch opposite to the Town hall; and then what a triumph for instrumental over vocal music was it, when three full potent bands, all playing away at once in the Place du Bourg, succeeded at last in throwing a somewhat confused version of our fine national anthem upon the ears of Queen Victoria as she alighted to partake of the hospitalities of the worthy burgomaster of Bruges!

Shortly after two o'clock the Royal party set out from the burgomaster's, and visited the curiosities of the town. All along the streets the crowding and cheering were continued unabated, as the *cortège* moved in its way from one of these places to another.

At five o'clock the Royal party returned to the railway station, where they entered the carriages of the special train, amidst one last, long cheer. The band played "God save the Queen" once more, and then the "Brabançon" (the national air of the country), the spirited and characteristic tones of which mingled with confused cheering and the sound of cannon as the train glided away, which arrived at Ostend at about a quarter to six. Her Majesty, on stepping from the railway carriage, smiled, and seemed highly gratified with her trip.

The dinner party in the evening took place, as usual, in the Town hall. There was a performance at the theatre, but the Royal party did not attend.

HER MAJESTY'S EXPEDITION TO GHEENT.—The Queen on Saturday extended her progress to the ancient, powerful, and independent city of Ghent. The distance being about forty-four miles, the visit was contemplated to be a longer one than that to Bruges on the previous day, and the special train, conveying the Courts of Belgium and England, left the station at a little after nine o'clock, reaching Ghent about eleven. The preparations to receive and welcome her Majesty, if not on such a scale of external magnificence as those at Bruges, were not wanting in taste and completeness; but at the same time it must be admitted that, brilliant as was the *coup d'œil* which met the eye of the stranger on entering the town from the railway station, the effect would have been much more striking if he had not been at Bruges on the previous day. On the arrival of the Royal train at the station, the artillery fired a Royal salute, and the military presented arms, "God save the Queen" being played as usual. On the Royal party alighting they entered a tent prepared for the occasion, where the bishop, governor, burgomaster, and other various authorities, civil and military, all dressed in their robes of state, were severally presented to her Majesty by King Leopold. The procession first went to the Town hall, where her Majesty arranged her toilet; it then set out for the round of visits which the Royal party were to pay to the public edifices and curiosities of the town. The governor's and burgomaster's carriages throughout

kept the lead of the procession immediately after the cuirassiers; but the other municipal authorities had separated to take up their positions in different quarters. From the cathedral her Majesty went to the ancient and highly-curious nunnery of the Bequingne, one of the few institutions of the kind which have resisted the lapse of time, and the changes of public opinion. It is a remarkable institution, in that the sisters are bound by no vow, and may return to the world whenever they please. When the ancient outer gates of this extensive institution were thrown open, the whole line of route over which the Royal *cortège* was to pass was found to be strewn with leaves of roses and other flowers, which cast a delicious fragrance in the air, and added an appropriate grace to the scene, which it was impossible not to feel charmed at. The Queen and her Royal relations were received by the head of the sisterhood, who conducted them first to the reception hall, a curious, square, low-roofed room, with a heavy-looking oak ceiling; from thence to the dwellings of some of the sisters, and afterwards to the apartment where a number of them were at work sewing. They all rose when her Majesty entered; and her Majesty very condescendingly made some few observations to some of them relative to their occupation. From the work room the Queen and Royal party walked back across the small but sweet little garden which lay before it, to the chapel, which stood opposite. The scene was here very impressive; the basement and galleries of the sacred edifice were filled with members of the sisterhood, all in one still attitude of devotion, their faces almost entirely concealed by their huge square white linen head-dresses. The utmost stillness prevailed throughout, only broken by the light treading of the Royal party, and those who had the good fortune to be allowed to follow; till of a sudden, with the effect of enchantment, a chorus of sweet female voices burst out from the music gallery, in a hymn admirably expressive of contentment, accompanied by the most delicate silvery tones of the organ I ever heard. This simple but charming performance appeared to afford great gratification to her Majesty. It only concluded as she left the chapel and stepped into her carriage to depart. After visiting the Casino and the Palace of Justice, a new and stately building of rich Grecian architecture, the Royal party proceeded to the Town hall, to partake of a splendid banquet at the hands of the governor of the town. The day's proceedings were terminated by a concert, which was appointed to take place at half-past three o'clock, in the theatre of Ghent, which was built in 1840, and is one of the most magnificent buildings of the kind in the world. At the conclusion of the first act of the concert, the Royal party rose from their seats, amidst a burst of cheering, and left the box, for the purpose of going to the throne room, at the end of the *salle de bal*, where, according to the ancient customs of this little independent community, the brave *Gantois* were to enjoy the right of presenting themselves before Royalty, under its canopy of state. Here Queen Victoria being seated, surrounded by her Royal relatives and their several officers of state, permitted the good people of Ghent (all dressed in afternoon costume) to press forward to gaze upon their new and welcome guest, even to the very step of the dais, unrestrained by guards or marshalsmen of any kind. After the concert, which closed between five and six o'clock, the Royal party proceeded again to the Hotel de Ville, and thence to the railway station, where they "embarked" with the same state as attended them at their arrival. The Royal train reached Ostend about eight o'clock, and so ended the magnificent *fêtes* of this eventful day.

Having been somewhat copious, for our comparatively limited space, in our account of the Royal visits to Bruges and Ghent, we must be brief in what remains.

On Monday her Majesty and Prince Albert went by the railroad to Brussels, her reception by the inhabitants being of the same enthusiastic kind which marked the receptions elsewhere in Belgium. There was of course a grand state dinner at the Royal palace at Laken; a grand concert in the open air in the Park, which was attended by the Royal guests, along with the King and Queen of the Belgians and the Court; while all Brussels blazed under a magnificent and tastefully-contrived illumination.

On Tuesday her Majesty visited Antwerp, where she was also received with the liveliest enthusiasm.

Her Majesty and Prince Albert embarked at Antwerp on Wednesday for England. It was thought that they would stop at Flushing, but the Royal yacht pursued its way, attended by the other vessels of the squadron, for the Thames, arriving at Woolwich on Thursday morning, from whence the Royal party proceeded direct to Windsor.

General Espartero, the Duchess of Victory, and their suite, visited Woolwich on Monday, where they were received with due honour by Lord Blomfield, and the garrison. They were conducted over this extensive depot of British skill and power, and were much gratified with the attentions paid to them. Espartero recognised a serjeant of the Royal Artillery, who had served under him in Spain, and shook hands with him. On Tuesday the illustrious exiles visited the Bank, the Mansion House, and the Mint.

His Majesty the King of Prussia has been pleased to appoint Francis Turner Borrett, Esq., of the Island of Madeira, and Lime street, London, Royal Prussian Consul for the Island of Madeira.

MUSIC AND MUSICALES.

BIRMINGHAM MUSICAL FESTIVAL.—The great triennial musical festival has been held at Birmingham. The musical critic of the *Morning Chronicle*, a man of high acquirements, was present, and reported the proceedings for that paper. Referring to the festival, he says:—"Birmingham, indeed, in this particular, has a high reputation to support. Its triennial musical festival has now been carried on for sixty years without interruption; and its produce, during the whole of this long period, has been devoted to one single object—the support of the General Hospital, one of the noblest charitable institutions in the kingdom. To give an idea of the extent to which the festival has contributed to the support of this great institution, during the whole period of its existence, I may mention that the nett proceeds paid over to the hospital, of the last six festivals, have been:—1823, 5,806*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*; 1826, 3,592*l.* 3*s.* 11*d.*; 1829, 3,806*l.* 17*s.* 3*d.*; 1834, 4,035*l.* 3*s.* 11*d.*; 1837, 2,796*l.* 14*s.* 4*d.*; and 1840, 4,503*l.* 11*s.* 4*d.*; making together 24,541*l.* 3*s.* 3*d.* It may be imagined, therefore, how great must have been the amount of this support during a period of sixty years. One of the objects of the committee in making arrangements for the present festival, has evidently been to effect a great diminution in its expenditure. The enormous sums which it has been the custom to pay to Italian female vocalists were saved, without any detriment to the quality of the performances. The female singers were all English; and, of the men, the only Italians were Mario and Fornasari, whose salaries, notwithstanding their merit, was not great. The principal female singers were Miss Clara Novello, Mrs Alfred Shaw, Miss Rainforth, Mrs Knyvett, and Miss Hawes. The men (besides Mario and Fornasari) were Mr Bennett, Mr Manvers, Mr Giubilei, Mr Machin, and Mr Phillips. The ladies left

nothing to be desired. It is in such an arena as this that Clara Novello appears in all her strength. It is in sustaining the principal weight and responsibility of a great festival like this, that the depth and variety of her attainments, her vocal power, and energy of spirit, will display themselves. However differently she herself may think, this is her true field, and not that on which she unwisely (I have always held) came before the London public—the frivolous stage of the modern mongrel, English-Italian opera. The rehearsal was on Monday; Tuesday was the great day, when the *Stabat Mater* was magnificently performed, followed by Handel's *Deborah*. The other performances of the mornings and evenings of Tuesday and Wednesday were of the usual miscellaneous character, and the entire performances have given the highest satisfaction, as well as proving, we trust, as satisfactory to the Treasury.

THE METROPOLIS.

PUBLIC MONUMENTS TO EMINENT MEN.—A communication has been forwarded by Sir Robert Peel, conveying to C. L. Eastlake, Esq., the Secretary to the Commission on the Fine Arts, her Majesty's recommendation to the commissioners to enter fully on the subject of public monuments to scientific men, in connexion with the new Houses of Parliament.

CITY ABUSES.—An elaborate article on the Corporation of London and Municipal Reform, which appeared in a recent number of the *Westminster Review*, has been reprinted, by subscription, as a sixpenny pamphlet, with a view to its extensive circulation. It contains a general view of the city revenue, corporate and parochial, from the summary of which we learn that the trust estates in the city bequeathed for public and charitable objects produce an annual sum of 364,096*l.* 11*s.* 9*d.* But notwithstanding these princely endowments, the local rates for the poor, the church, paving, lighting, watching, &c., form a heavier burden upon the inhabitants than exist in any other part of London, or in any corresponding district of the United Kingdom, amounting for the year 1841 to 272,788*l.* 4*s.* 5*d.*, besides octroi duties and tolls or taxes levied by the corporation on coals, provisions, &c., paid by the public at large to the amount of 202,549*l.* 12*s.* 7*d.*

A contest has taken place in the city for the Aldermanship of Breadstreet Ward, vacant by the resignation of Mr Lainson. The candidates were Mr H. Hughes and Mr Benjamin Lawrence, and at the close of the poll on Wednesday last, the Lord Mayor announced the election to have fallen on Mr Lawrence. A scrutiny was demanded on behalf of Mr Hughes, which is to take place on the 9th of October.

CHRIST'S HOSPITAL.—Thursday being St Matthew's day, the foundation of the Royal hospitals was observed with the customary formalities. The Lord Mayor, aldermen, and governors of the Royal hospitals attended divine service in the morning at Christ Church, Newgate street, when a sermon was preached by the Rev. Nathaniel Heynar, M.A. The authorities subsequently repaired to the great hall in Christ's Hospital, to hear the orations by the senior scholars, who are proceeding to the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge. According to ancient usage, "the glove" was presented to the Lord Mayor, by the senior Grecian for a largess, which was tendered forthwith, and the example was followed by the company generally. The Lord Mayor and the civic functionaries then rose to depart, amidst the vehement cheering of the boys. The great hall was filled with an elegant assemblage.

FIRES.—The present week has been a remarkable one for fires in London, as no less than twenty-two, not including those which broke out almost in the same moment in Whitechapel, have taken place since Saturday night last.

BANK OF ENGLAND.—On Thursday a quarterly general meeting of the proprietors of Bank Stock was held in the Bank Parlour, for the purpose of declaring a dividend for the half year ending on the 10th of October next, W. Cotton, Esq., the governor, in the chair; and after considerable discussion on different topics, the governor stated that the amount of the "rest," after paying the last dividend, was 3,177,737*l.*, and it would be, after payment of the present dividend, 3,170,570*l.* A dividend of 3*¼* per cent. was then declared, and the governor stated that the dividend warrants would be delivered, and payable on Wednesday, the 10th of October next.

HOXTON ANTI-CORN-LAW ASSOCIATION.—A meeting of the above association was held at the North Briton, New North road, on Wednesday evening last. After a long and animated discussion, a resolution was passed, pledging the association to continue their present exertions to obtain a repeal of the corn laws. After which several gentlemen enrolled themselves members, and the meeting separated at a late hour.

REPEAL OF THE CORN LAWS.—A meeting was held on Thursday at the British School Room, Clapham, for the purpose of hearing Mr Sidney Smith deliver a lecture in this neighbourhood on the evils of the corn laws. The room, which is capable of accommodating 1,200 boys, was well filled, and was enlivened by the presence of a liberal sprinkling of ladies, many of whom were members of the Society of Friends. Mr William Wilson, in the chair, introduced to the meeting Mr Smith, and the subject of the notice of the meeting. The learned gentleman spoke for upwards of two hours, and was throughout well received. He directed attention to the various great monopolies, including coffee and sugar; but in a more especial manner to the corn laws, the injustice, as well as injurious effects and impolicy of which he pointed out, frequently eliciting the applause of the meeting.

THE PROVINCES.

BRIGHTON, SEPT. 19.—M. Dumas, President of the Royal Academy of Sciences at Paris, and M. de Colmont, Inspector-General of Finance, arrived early this morning by the *Menai* steam-packet from Havre; these eminent individuals will proceed immediately to London, and it is said on a mission to this country from the Minister of Finance.

The proprietors of the Bank of Liverpool recently held their twelfth annual meeting. The net profits were stated to be 56,000*l.*, out of which it was proposed to pay the income tax, and a dividend of 10 per cent. This would leave a balance to be added to the reserved fund of upwards of 5,000*l.* The bankers of Liverpool have unanimously signed an undertaking to close their establishments on Saturdays at one o'clock, instead of on Fridays, as heretofore.

IRELAND.

REPEAL ASSOCIATION.—The usual weekly meeting of this body was held at the Corn Exchange on Monday.—Mr Connor, an advocate of "sixty of tenure," rose, as he said, to give notice that on the next day of meeting he would move the adoption of a resolution to the following effect:—"That until our national rights of self-legislation, in the possession of our own Parliament, and of a valuation and perpetuity of his

farm to the tenant, we repealers shall pay no rent, county cess, rent charge, tithe, poor rate, or any other charge out of land." He was an enemy to oppression.—Mr John O'Connell begged to interrupt Mr Connor. He highly approved of Mr Connor's conduct and untiring exertions to put an end to the dreadful system of extermination practised by Irish Tory landlords, but he could not agree in the motion of which Mr Connor gave notice, therefore he hoped that it would be withdrawn. (Hear.)—Mr Connor said if he was offered his life as the condition of withdrawing that notice, he would not accept it, therefore he would stand or fall by that resolution, he was determined.—A scene of great excitement followed, Mr John O'Connell warmly protesting, and Mr Connor exclaiming—"By my resolution I will stand or fall. While breath is my body I will uphold it. (Confusion.) I am not the man to desert the people, if ten thousand cannon were placed before me." (Great uproar.)—Mr John O'Connell again rose amid loud cheering, and said he never undertook a duty with more reluctance in his life—he never felt more inward distrust of his own powers to impress his opinions on the meeting—than he did on that occasion; but, in his opinion, Mr Connor ought not to be permitted any longer to remain a member of that association. (Great applause.) He had avowed principles which that association could not allow for one moment (hear, hear), inasmuch as they were in direct opposition to the law. The forms of the association required that notice of motion be given in case a member be struck off the list, but he (Mr O'Connell) confessed that he felt inclined to ask the association to suspend the standing order, in order to move Mr Connor's expulsion at once. (Cheers and confusion.) Mr Connor's past services alone prevented him from asking the association to do so; but unless he totally disclaimed those principles, he would move his expulsion on the next day of meeting.—Mr O'Neill Daunt said he would second it.—Mr Connor (much excited, and with uplifted arm): I will go to death in support of my resolution. Pounds, shillings, and pence have been too long coming into—. [The rest of the sentence was lost in the uproar which prevailed.] The starving people of Ireland are to be fed. (Disapprobation.)—Mr John O'Connell then moved the following resolutions:—"First, That this association has heard with horror and indignation the doctrines propounded by Mr Connor respecting the payment of rents, county cess, tithes, poor rate, or rent charge, this day, in the attempt he made to put upon the books a notice plainly and grossly illegal, and directly tending to create and encourage criminal outrage and violence throughout the country. Secondly, That if anything can add to these feelings, it is the consideration of the time Mr Connor has chosen for making such remarks—a time when, in the county of Carlow, where repeal has as yet made little progress, a violent and criminal opposition to rents has, according to the public prints, already begun to manifest itself. Thirdly, That this association indignantly rejects, and refuses to insert in its books, or to allow to be for a moment entertained, Mr Connor's notice; and that they declare that all who put forward such doctrines, and offer such advice to the people as is contained in that notice, are either madmen or traitors to the glorious cause of repeal, to the noble people who support that cause, and Old Ireland."—The motion was carried unanimously. The meeting was soon after adjourned to Wednesday. The repeal rent for the week was 1,462*l.* 17*s.* 8*d.*

REPEAL DEMONSTRATION AT CLIFDEN.—The repeal agitation has extended to the "far-west" of Ireland, amidst the wilds of Connemara. A meeting to forward the cause of repeal was held here, at what may be called the extreme western point of Ireland. Clifden, which is 145 miles distant from Dublin, is a new town, not having been built thirty years. The situation of the town is very striking. It is about four miles from the Atlantic, and is seated on a narrow but navigable inlet of Ardhear harbour, and the town is backed by mountains. The meeting is the first open demonstration in favour of repeal which has been made in this district, and it did not take place without an attempt being made to prevent it, or, failing that, to weaken its effect. As soon as it was known that an invitation had been sent to Mr O'Connell to attend a meeting at Clifden, Mr D'Arcy, who is the landlord of most of the houses of the town, and of the land in its immediate neighbourhood, issued an address to his tenants dissuading them from attending. The meeting, however, took place, and was a somewhat large one, though the rain partly marred the comfort of those attending it.

REDUCTION OF RENTS ON THE DARNLEY ESTATES.—The Guardians of Lord Darnley, who is a minor, have instructed the agent of his lordship's estates in the county of Meath, to make a reduction to the full extent of twenty-five per cent. on the rents of the tenantry. This is the most decided step yet taken in this country to reduce rents in proportion to the diminished value of agricultural produce. The Darnley estates are the most extensive in the county of Meath.

SCOTLAND.

MURDER BY A MAN EIGHTY-FOUR YEARS OF AGE.—Allan Mair was accused of the murder of Mary Fletcher, or Mair, his wife, on the night of Sunday the 14th, or morning of Monday the 15th, of May last, within his house, at Candie End or Curshort, in the parish of Muiravonside, and county of Stirling, in so far as he did, with a stick, or other weapon, beat and abuse the said Mary Mair, of which injuries she came by her death. He pleaded "Not Guilty." The prisoner is an old man of 84, and his unfortunate wife was 85. The evidence showed continued ill treatment, ended by bruises and wounds which caused the death of the old woman.—Mr Logan, in a speech of great ability, contended that the panel was insane in regard to his conduct towards his wife, although his reason, in other respects, might not be affected. Lord Moncrieff having summed up at considerable length, the jury retired, and after an absence of twenty minutes returned, bringing in an unanimous verdict of Guilty. His lordship then addressed the prisoner in a very impressive manner, and sentenced him to be executed on Wednesday, the 4th of October, between the hours of eight and ten, and his body to be interred within the precincts of the goal.

AYR.—J. R. McCulloch, the eminent political economist, accompanied by his friend Dr Murray, of Edinburgh, were in this locality last week, and visited Burn's monument, Culzean Castle, Crossragonnell Abbey, Loch Doon and the Ness Glen, Barskimming, &c. Our town council on Wednesday agreed to present him with the freedom of the burgh.—*Ayr Advertiser.*

We understand that the Rev. John Lees, of the Caledonian Asylum, London, is about to be presented to the parish and Church of Tain.—*Inverness Courier.*

WALES.

MEETING ON MYNYDD MAWR.—On Friday a very large meeting of farmers, farm labourers, colliers, and others, was held at Bryn-llyn-lech-Owen, on Mynydd Mawr, or the great mountain, about fifteen miles from Carmarthen. The morning was wet and miserable, and at the appointed hour of meeting (twelve o'clock) there were scarcely 600 people present on the ground. After waiting some time, however, the numbers gradually increased, until there could not have been less than between 2,000 and

3,000 present, most of whom were respectable farmers. Various speeches were made, in which the grievances of which the Welsh have to complain were enumerated, and a petition to the Queen proposed for adoption. The title commutation act, the county stock, the poor law, and the toll-bars are amongst the leading topics of complaint. When the question was put to the meeting for the adoption of the petition, every hand of the vast body of men was held up amidst loud cheering. Three cheers were then called for on behalf of the Queen, when again the stentorian voices of the assembly were raised in loyal shouts which lasted a considerable length of time, and literally made "the welkin ring again," after which the meeting separated.

ALARMING STATE OF CARMARTHENSHIRE.—EJECTION OF LANDLORDS.—In Ireland the tenantry are sometimes cruelly ejected; in Wales it is the landlords who are turned out of house and home, and compelled by nocturnal incendiaries to run for their lives, with no other light than that supplied by the blazing ricks of the hated lords of the soil. This is a fearful state of things—a temporary disruption of the bonds of society, which is sufficient to strike terror into the stoutest heart, and for the repression of which all the rigours of the law will be required.

THE WELSH REBECCA.—"Who is Rebecca?" asked one of the Welsh magistrates at a recent examination of some of her unruly children. "Rebecca," was the answer, "is every farmer, every farmer's son, and every farm labourer within ten miles."

THE DISTURBANCES IN SOUTH WALES.—A body of the A Division of police, under Sergeant Howie, left by railway, on Tuesday morning, for South Wales.

The Main Trust, one of the largest of the turnpike trusts, has given notice of a meeting for the 6th of October, when the propriety of abolishing several of their turnpike-gates is to be discussed.

POLITICAL.

BEAUTIES OF THE SLIDING SCALE.—The fluctuations which have taken place in the grain market within the last few months, and the operations in the grain trade, consequent upon the rise and fall of prices, furnish an excellent commentary upon Sir Robert Peel's sliding scale. In the week ending the 8th of April, the *Gazette* average was 45s. 5d. per quarter; from which point, prices began to rise slowly about the middle of summer, and continued rising, till, in August, they had reached 61s. 2d.; the declared average in the week ending on the 12th of August showing an advance of 15s. 9d. or about 35 per cent. in four months, under the operation of that sliding scale which was to secure steadiness of price. Could this comparatively high price have been maintained for two months or so, those farmers who had taken land on the faith that they would not receive less than 60s. a quarter for their wheat, would have done very well; indeed, they might possibly have been led to suppose, that the corn law was an exceedingly useful measure, and that it was almost worthy of all the praise which Sir Robert Peel bestows on it. Unfortunately, however, for the farmers and their self-styled friends, the advance in the price of grain, which went on so steadily during the months of June and July, led to a belief that the home supply of wheat was short; and, accordingly, numerous orders were sent to the grain countries of the continent, under the impression that the duty would probably fall to a very low point before the new crop could come into the market. In that expectation the speculators have been disappointed, but not till they had purchased considerable quantities of grain, most of which has already arrived, and will immediately come into competition with the produce of our own soil, at the very moment when the farmers of England will feel that competition most severely.

On Thursday week, duty was paid on no less than 320,000 quarters of wheat at the port of London alone. At Hull, upwards of 60,000 quarters were taken out of bond last week; at Newcastle, upwards of 70,000 quarters; and at Leith, about the same quantity. If to all this we add the 110,000 quarters on which duty was paid during the week before last, the quantity released from bond at other ports besides those we have mentioned, and the quantity still to be brought in at the 15s. duty, it will be seen that our former estimate of 800,000 quarters, as the total amount of foreign wheat likely to be thrown into the market at the present time, is not likely to have been beyond the truth. Whether that quantity will be sufficient, with our own produce, to keep prices from rising any higher than they were last year, remains to be seen; but most assuredly it would be difficult to contrive a mode by which the importation of 800,000 quarters of grain, in its influence upon the market, could confer less benefit upon the public generally, or inflict more injury upon the farmers, than by the ingenious operation of the sliding scale. With free trade, we should never be exposed, as at present, to the evil consequences arising from a panic in the grain market, or a rumour that the supply was deficient; because we should be able, at all times, to import grain in exchange for our manufactures.—*Manchester Guardian*.

COURTS OF LAW.

COURT OF BANKRUPTCY.

IN RE BLACK, GORE, AND TAYLOR.

HOW TO DO EXTENSIVE BUSINESS.—EXTRAORDINARY DISCLOSURES.—Under this heading the daily papers give a long report of a very curious case. Tuesday was fixed for the final adjourned examination of the bankrupts, who carried on business in Sambrook court, City. The proceedings appeared to excite considerable interest in the trade, as the court was crowded. Some rather remarkable and droll letters were read in court, evincing consummate coolness in the idea of doing business. One of the parties, Robert Taylor, was asked—Were you insolvent when you and Gore began? Yes, we were; we owed 10,000l.—What had you got to pay it with? Little or nothing—Perhaps you would drop the "little," and say "nothing?" Yes, nothing.—Mr James: I find the following letter dated—

London, February 28, 1843.
My dear Taylor,—I am in daily anticipation of having some good news from you. I do assure you I want something to cheer me up. I have tremendous up-hill work here. I have not seen or heard of Black since Friday last, it is too bad of him to stay away like this. I have now got six different lawyers at me, but, after a hard fight, I have quieted them all—(roars of laughter)—some for a month, some for longer. I take it as cool as usual (continued laughter); but really I sometimes feel harassed.

Another of the letters from the Black mentioned in the above extract is exceedingly rich:—

P.M., April 28, 1843—Wednesday Night, Eight o'clock.
7 Northern terrace, Upper Broughton.

My dear Taylor,—Well, I have got home, and set down to write to you. I did not write before, as I wanted to get a fair notion of what can be done. Time will make all well—really all well, and a painful feeling sometimes rises when things are so well, name and everything. (Great laughter). It would be a pity to spoil it. Things are far improved since last January. Poor old Grant was really kind; he

wished me to dine, but my head was so full I thought it better not. Thompson is fair: Jones, I think, will stand. (Roars of laughter). Gisborne and Wilson will work, and well (continued laughter); but are spoiled from their knowledge of the history of the "delaines" (muslins). In these they will not work for a month, then they say they will. The fustian men are fair: even old Brierly offers seven weeks; there's for you! and Knowles will sell grey cloth. Time and work will do. My health is fair. I wrote Weir if possible to negotiate now with Walford's bill, and put aside the judgment. See to this. Edgely wants that no house should be in London—Young and Glassford—and through him I cannot, I fear, carry out what would be really excellent. Young is now in London, and I really wish I could see him. Could you do anything by going down with a piece of anything, and asking what it could be purchased at, and sounding; but if not done well it would spoil all. I am endeavouring this time to take a copy from the Manchester men, and go ahead rough and cool as a donkey. (Roars of laughter.) My lodgings please, and I rest here. I cut off from E., &c.—Yours truly, D. H.

Now, with all these "doings" and all these dealings, do you still persist in saying you keep no books? It is so, sir. I was formerly a banker's clerk, and know the nature of book-keeping, and the present accounts are derived in part from my memory. In four months goods to the amount of 40,000l. passed through our hands.—Mr James also read the following letter:—

London, February 20, 1843.

My dear Taylor,—To-day I have a most harassing day. I was obliged to get 170l. together. This I have done, and paid away. I discounted Walford's bill with old Stephens for 74l.; the other I got in a legitimate way—no recourse to Solomons. Clarke has not assisted me either in cash or goods; indeed, I have had to give him 25l. The new firm on the money market is decidedly better than the old one. We shall yet keep our heads above water. Do all you can in Scotland, and return as soon as you can. I will be sure to send you 5l. to-morrow, and if you require more just drop a line to that effect. In haste.—I am, yours truly, JOHN A. GORE.

The further hearing was adjourned to the 2nd of November next.

CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT.

The eleventh session of the present Mayoralty commenced on Monday. The grand jury being sworn, were charged by the Recorder. He said; that the calendar contained a list of about 200 prisoners, but the offences, although some were of a serious nature, did not require any particular remarks. The committals were—From London, 23; Middlesex, 141; Essex, 3; Kent, 9; and Surrey 23.

Amongst the more noticeable cases were the following:—*John Charles Ridgeway*, an agent, aged 45, was charged with obtaining goods on false pretences. The case for the prosecution failed, through some defect in getting up the evidence, and the jury with much reluctance acquitted the prisoner. He was discharged with an admonition from the Recorder.

Theodore Gumbrecht, the young German whose apprehension we recorded last week, pleaded guilty to the charge of embezzling the property of his employers, Messrs Huth and Co., the extensive merchants. The amount which he had from time to time misappropriated was stated to be no less than 3,000l., and yet his employers pleaded for leniency. The Recorder would not listen to this, and sentenced the prisoner to transportation for seven years.

POLICE.

Captain Tune, the commander of the *City of Boulogne* steamer, who is charged with being a party to the stealing of parcels of gold and silver to the amount of 1,400l., which had been entrusted to him, was re-examined at the Mansion House on Monday, and his case adjourned for a fortnight.

On Tuesday, at Worship street, a precocious specimen of depravity, in the shape of a girl nine years old, was charged by her father with robbing him. She was sent to the New Prison until arrangements could be made for receiving her in Shoreditch workhouse.

BRUTAL ASSAULT.—At Clerkenwell, yesterday, *William Baker* was charged with the following assaults:—The prisoner, in consequence of his ruffianly disposition, had been refused drink at the Coach and Horses public-house, Eyre-street hill. He went there last night, between nine and ten o'clock, in company with another person, who called for drink. They had a pint of porter, and whilst drinking it, the prisoner, who was perfectly sober, applied the most offensive language to the mother of the landlady, who sat behind the bar, an old lady of eighty, and struck her in the eye with a halfpenny. The landlady came down, and he struck her a blow on the head. She called upon a man named Cox, who was in the parlour, to assist her in putting him out; but as soon as Cox came the prisoner beat him so that his dress was stained with blood. The prisoner ran away. He was stopped by a constable, but he knocked the officer down with a blow. Stanley, 57 G, next came up, and him Baker assaulted in a very shocking manner, kicking him and striking him with his fists about the body, so that the officer still feels great pain from the injuries received. Fisher, 153 G, next came up; this officer lost his hat in the scuffle, and was greatly beaten, as were several other officers. It required nearly a dozen policemen to take the prisoner to the station house. Fisher is greatly hurt, the prisoner having thrown him on his back on the pavement. Mr Greenwood would only punish the prisoner at present for the assault on police-constable Stanley, for which he would fine him 2l., or 14 days' imprisonment in the House of Correction, reserving his sentences for the other assaults.—The prisoner was committed.

THE LATE RIOT AND DESPERATE ASSAULT ON THE POLICE BY THE CADETS OF THE ROYAL ACADEMY, WOOLWICH.—*Alexander Blakesley* and *William Hort*, two of the gentlemen cadets at the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, attended before the sitting magistrate, Mr Grove (in accordance with a pledge made by Lieutenant Christie, one of the masters of the Academy), to undergo a further examination on a charge of assaulting several police constables in the execution of their duty. Three other young men, named *Charles Ingleby*, *Frederick Cust*, and *James Atkinson*, were also placed at the bar on a similar charge, being brought up by their officers from the Cadet Barracks, where they had been detained under arrest. Mr Grove said he should hold all the offenders to bail to answer the charge at the Central Criminal Court, or at the Sessions. All the defendants, on being liberated from the dock, were placed under arrest by their officers, who became bail.

A fashionably-dressed young man, giving the name of *Thomas Adolphus Talbot*, and claiming cousinship with the Earl of Shrewsbury, was charged with robbing his furnished lodgings at Hammersmith. A woman was implicated with him, and she gave the name of *Elizabeth Talbot*. They have been repeatedly examined, and some extraordinary disclosures of robberies, &c., have taken place. They were remanded on Thursday for further examination.

THE SPEAKER.—The Right Hon. the Speaker of the House of Commons has returned from his visit to the Right Hon. Edward Ellice, at his shooting lodge in the Highlands, where, we understand, he had some excellent sport. The Speaker was in Edinburgh last week, and visited the old Speaker, his Right Honourable and justly esteemed predecessor in office, viz., Lord Dunfermline.—*Scotch Reformers' Gazette*.

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANSWERS TO INQUIRIES.

O. R., Southampton.—*All private yachts are not exempt from the sound dues; the words of the agreement of 1841, between the British and Danish Governments being—Section 30—“The pleasure yachts belonging to the members of the Royal Yacht Squadrons in England are entirely exempt from light-money and clearing charges at the Sound and in the two Belts, on the necessary proofs being afforded by them to the satisfaction of the Customs.”*

T. J., Sunderland.—*The produce of the coal mines in Prussia has rapidly increased of late years: in 1834 it was 1,810,000 tons; and in 1839 it increased to 2,442,632 tons; and since then the produce has considerably increased. In 1840 the States of the Union*

| | | |
|--------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Imported - - - - - | 3,544,338 | Centners. |
| Exported - - - - - | 6,963,286 | ” |

J. H., Liverpool.—*The export duty on indigo from Java is two per cent., by whatever ships exported. On copper, it is three florins fifty cents. by Dutch ships, and seven florins by foreign ships. A “leager” measure is about 500 gallons.*

C. D. F. will find a full answer to his inquiry in another part of the paper.

J. B., Gough square.—*The note of the 6th of September by some mistake was overlooked. The supposition of his friend's is quite true, as he will see in another part of this paper; but the two will not interfere, having different functions and objects.*

A Free Trader.—*This letter has been received just as we go to press, and will have attention for next week.*

POSTSCRIPT.

LONDON, Saturday Morning, September 23, 1843.

LIVERPOOL, FRIDAY EVENING, SEPTEMBER 22, 1843.

The transactions during the last ten weeks and up to the present day show an average weekly sale of 41,300 bales, giving 27,400 per week for home consumption. This necessarily leads to the conclusion that the trade of this country is pretty well stocked with cotton.

There is no change in the prices of American descriptions this week. Brazils, Sea Islands, and Egyptians may be considered $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per lb. higher. All other sorts much as before.

The trade demand continues good, and is transacted with much confidence; but the speculators have come to a pause, and seem to require another spur before they proceed to further investments.

16,500 American, 300 Bahias, 700 Maranhams, 200 Egyptian, and 300 Surat have been taken on speculation; and 500 American and 70 Bahia for export.

The following is the Statistical Review of our Cotton Market:—

| Taken for Consumption from 1st Jan. to 22nd Sept. | | For Export from 1st Jan. to 22nd Sept. | | Whole Import from 1st Jan. to 22nd Sept. | |
|---|--------------|--|-------------|--|----------------|
| 1842 | 1843 | 1842 | 1843 | 1842 | 1843 |
| 806,000 bls. | 967,500 bls. | 67,600 bls. | 67,700 bls. | 1,039,598 bls. | 1,419,092 bls. |
| Computed Stock. 22nd Sept. | | Average weekly consumption. 1st Jan. to 22nd Sept. | | | |
| 1842 | 1843 | 1842 | 1843 | | |
| 596,000 bls. | 829,500 bls. | 21,291 bls. | 25,557 bls. | | |

SUGAR.—There has been a steady demand, and 600 hhds B. P. sold at full prices. 1,400 bags Mauritius brought 56s. 6d. for good brown, to 64s. 6d. for fine yellow, and 800 Bengal, 67s. per cwt. for fine white. In foreign a fair business has been done.

COFFEE.—The sales have been rather extensive, with briskness and a little advance for all qualities, particularly extra fine marks; several parcels having reached 160s. to 167s. 6d. per cwt. 400 bags of Ceylon sold at 50s. per cwt.

TEA.—The demand has continued good, with a fair business at last week's prices.—In other produce nothing to report.

GRAIN.—A fair business has been done, and fine samples of wheat have sold at an advance of 1d. to 2d. per 70lbs.—Oats 1d. per 45lbs. dearer.

There is very little indeed in the papers of this morning which may be regarded as of interest.

The *Times* announces, on the authority of a correspondent, “that a special commission is about to issue for the trial of the prisoners concerned in the recent disturbances in South Wales. The presiding judges have not yet been named, but the most active exertions are in progress on the part of Government to get together evidence against the prisoners already committed.”

The absence of the Overland Mail has allowed the arrival of a transient vessel from Singapore, with a few days' later advices than those last received, but they do not appear to possess any interest beyond giving the state of the markets, which were much in the same condition as last noticed.

Private letters from Buenos Ayres, dated the 24th of July, state that things at Montevideo remain just as they were, with a slight improvement in business. Complaints are made in London and Liverpool of the irregular transmission of letters by the packets. Duplicates of letters have already arrived in England, the originals of which, sent by the packets of the 28th of June and 21st of July, have not yet come to hand.

The *Swabian Mercury* of the 19th instant states that the conference of the Commissioners from the German Customs Union had commenced at Berlin. Neither England nor France is represented this year at the conference, and it is known that the advocates of high protecting duties have a majority amongst the members of the commission. A high personage is said to have given his opinion, that foreign iron, on importation into Prussia, should be subject to a high protecting duty.

Amongst the latest intelligence from Spain, it is stated that the *Gazette* of the 16th contains an order of the war minister, Serrano, to proceed with all the severity of military law against Brigadier Ametler, who has “passed over to the insurgents of Barcelona.” Both Government and public believed that they were treading on a volcano previous to eruption. But the circumstance of the Government party having obtained five *mesas* or *bureaux*

in the elections, out of twelve, has so elated the Ministerialists, and depressed their enemies, that the aspect of affairs has changed like a drop-scene. What it may be on the morrow seems unknown. What, however, has chiefly given courage to the Ministry is the assurance that Tarragona remains true to their cause. Great fears were entertained for that town, which is strong, and in the midst of the disaffected region. But it seems the commander of Tarragona has written to say he would answer for the fidelity of the troops and the security of the place. On the other hand, it was said that Prim would be obliged to retreat from Barcelona.

The *Morning Chronicle* has a long article on our commercial intercourse with France, in which it says: “As compared with what it is at present, the commercial intercourse between England and France is capable of indefinite extension. Sixty millions of people, living in juxtaposition with each other, and pre-eminently fitted, from natural circumstances, to minister to each other's wants and necessities, might give rise, were their mutual trade placed upon a proper basis, to a commercial interchange, six times as great as is now effected between the two countries.”

The Economist.

SEPTEMBER 23, 1843.

Her Majesty and Prince Albert have returned to Windsor, both reported to be as “brown as a berry,” in excellent health and spirits, and though perhaps somewhat fatigued, doubtless well pleased with their adventures in France and Belgium. Every thing has conspired to make the Royal trip at once agreeable and delightful. The weather—that all-important matter to the tourist—has been throughout exceedingly fine; similar weather, at this period of the year, has not occurred since the fine autumn of 1834. The spirit, too, in which the British Court has been received, both in France and Belgium, especially in the latter, must have been exceedingly gratifying to her Majesty. Indeed, the good Belgians have been quite carried away; and the enthusiasm and honest fervour which they have displayed, even if it did run a little into excess, is as creditable to their good feeling and taste as it is satisfactory to the people of England.

It would be hardly worth while to build a speculation on the Royal tour; and not much to the purpose, either, to cite historical incidents, proving elaborately that it is now a very long time ago since English Sovereigns were in the habit of making flying visits to the Continent, and exchanging personal courtesies with brother monarchs. An active young lady, occupying the highest position in this country, and therefore commanding all appliances and means—in the hey-day of health, spirits, and enjoyment—full of zest for life and its harmless pleasures—resolves on an autumnal excursion. However quietly the matter may be resolved on, it is impossible to keep the intention an entire secret; straightway the public, having nothing else very particular to attract its attention, looks out for “full and authentic intelligence,” and those who cater for the public pleasure despatch a whole army of reporters, who follow close on every step of Majesty, run rapid expresses with the news, rivalling, in their eagerness to outdo one another, the race for the St Leger; and tarry-at-homes are furnished, with a celerity perfectly amazing, with long glowing accounts of everything that has transpired; how Majesty walked, talked, laughed, and even eat; how the crowd huzzaed, and official persons bowed, and addresses of congratulation were read; how the dinner-table groaned, and the ball sparkled; how the King of the French saluted the Queen of England, and embraced her with the lively affection of a father; how the King and Queen of the Belgians received their Royal relatives; how plays were got up, concerts performed, towns illuminated, and all the other *et ceteras* which figure in the newspaper accounts. There can be no doubt that her Majesty would have liked a little more privacy and seclusion during her trip. But this is one of the things she cannot have; when Royalty ventures abroad, its light will not shine if put under a bushel: the English people read newspapers; and newspapers must give people full information of that which they cannot see or hear of for themselves.

Still, though not drawing very profound conclusions from the Royal excursion, there is not a little in the recent visit of her Majesty to the Continent which is of good omen. In these “piping times of peace” it is gratifying to see the chances of its continuance strengthened by visits of courtesy which, though they may not mean much, may sometimes involve material consequences. This is the age of steam—of railroads—of rapid movement—and, let us add, of friendly intercourse. Nations, like individuals, are frequently the better for seeing one another; and sovereigns who get into a habit of visiting, feasting, chatting, and paying personal compliments, are less likely to indulge in warlike propensities than when each, shut up in his or her palace, is secluded from large and humanizing influences. This, then, is the moral of our disquisition: the Queen and her husband have enjoyed a very pleasant trip; friendly influences abroad have been strengthened; and we do not see that anybody has any reason to be displeased. All that we should further desire to see, is that with all the increased facilities of intercourse, and friendly feelings which we now enjoy with our continental neighbours, the unworthy and ignorant prejudices and jealousies of commercial intercourse should die away. The facilities which France has to produce many things which we want as necessaries and luxuries, while we have equal facilities to produce as much which they require, could not fail to produce a great and most profitable trade, mutually advantageous, between the two countries, if we

had but free and unrestricted intercourse. If the inhabitants of France could only draw from this country goods to the amount of *one pound* for each individual in the course of the year, for which we would take an equivalent in return, this little intercourse alone would extend the export trade of each country more than half of their present amount. We are glad to see in France strong evidences of an increase of free-trade opinions as evinced by the firm way in which these views were maintained at the meeting of the wine growers of the south held last week at Marseilles. May we always be ready to encourage that spirit by our example.

As for our internal affairs, everything is remarkably quiet. Fine weather and improvement of trade put people into good spirits; political excitement is wholly gone; party movements are at a discount; the securing of the harvest has caused a lull in Anti-Corn-law operations; and Agricultural meetings of farmers' friends go off as dull and dumb as it is possible to imagine. There never was a better time for promoting the great principles of FREE TRADE without reference to PARTY POLITICS; and we have no doubt whatever that all moderate men, now that they see all danger utterly removed of the perversion of those principles into purposes of faction, will rapidly come round into an active advocacy of measures, on the adoption of which our future commercial prosperity depends.

The only exception to our domestic tranquillity is the condition of Wales. To permit the continuance of the lawless acts which have characterised recent events, would be to sanction the complete disorganisation of the country. While nothing can justify violence, intimidation, and murder, it must be admitted that the Welsh have grievances, of which the primitive one, that of the toll bars, has been most oppressive, as every traveller through Wales can testify. Indeed the grasping selfishness which inflicted this evil, and the carelessness with which it was suffered to continue during the earlier movements of "Rebecca," have now met their natural reward in the present state of the country.

Notwithstanding the "monster" meetings in Connemara, and elsewhere, we are inclined to think that the repeal agitation in Ireland appears to be considerably mitigated in violence. A very remarkable scene occurred at the meeting of the Repeal Association in Dublin, on Monday last, which is indicative of a growing spirit of impatience which even Mr O'Connell, with all his influence, will find it difficult to control. The ardent repealers will not always live on *hopes*; and what else Mr O'Connell can supply them with, and yet retain the agitation within peaceful and legitimate limits, it is rather difficult to imagine. Nobody knows better than he that the first outbreak of violence would be the signal for the ruin of repeal; while, at the same time, a mere peaceful agitation, which meets with but little sympathy in Britain from any class, will not bring about the sitting of an Irish Parliament in College green, Dublin.

The political news from France during the week have been entirely destitute of any interest. At the end of last week some little alarm was felt respecting the arrest of certain individuals at an obscure wine shop; they were accused of being members of a secret association. It is not, however, a matter of any importance. The *Gazette des Tribunaux* says that the examination is actively followed up, and the result of the searches which have been made has been the discovery of some arms and a flag. At the moment the police entered the wine-shop in the Rue Pastorale, the persons arrested were assembled to hear a proposed proclamation read to them. Amongst the persons in custody, who are for the most part working men out of employment, is an old officer. One of the prisoners has already been under condemnation for forgery. The *Constitutionnel* says that the residences of several of the parties had been examined, and a quantity of cartridges and gunpowder seized.

The *Debats* discusses, and apparently with some alarm, the project supposed to be entertained by Austria, of uniting the Italian states with itself in a southern commercial league. Austria has lately concluded a convention for opening and facilitating the trade and communication by the Po. This has given rise to fears of a more important project.

The accounts of the harvest from the different provinces of France are, on the whole, very favourable, for if the crops were not more than an average, the weather has been so propitious that they have been gathered in in excellent condition.

The state of Spain is still one of uncertainty and anxiety. The continuation of the troubles in Barcelona have become a matter of grave interest. The insurrectionary junta had received the adhesion of Brigadier Ametler, and he had, in consequence, been appointed a Major-General, and Captain-General of Catalonia. This had produced much uneasiness, and the Government have issued a manifesto, calling on the people to wait the result of the elections, and the meeting of the Cortes. "Our first necessity," the document concludes, "is to traverse the present difficult position, and arrive at the meeting of the Cortes. The co-operation and *prestige* of the Cortes will aid Government to save liberty from so much peril. All honoured men—all who rise above the miserable fields of passion to the sphere of patriotism—will acknowledge this great interest, and will aid the views of a governor incapable of being wanting to its principles,

or sporting with the honourable confidence reposed in him." This document is signed by J. M. Lopez, J. de Frias, and the other members of the provisional Government.

It was believed that General Serrano would shortly leave for Catalonia, and that the War Department would be directed, in his absence, by General Narvaez.

A reaction was considered imminent at Seville, Alicante, Alcoy, Granada, Girona, Valencia, and Saragossa. When the courier which was the bearer of the last despatches from Catalonia passed through Saragossa the people were greatly agitated, and cries in favour of the Central Junta echoed through the streets. There were even rumours of deputies being sent to recal Espartero!

The elections commenced at Madrid on the 15th. The opposition had seven bureaux out of the twelve, but the total of the votes given on the first day is in favour of the Parliamentary party. Madrid was tranquil on the 16th.

The loss of Count Toreno, who has just expired in Paris, having not long since returned from the baths of Aix-la-Chapelle, will be severely felt by his party. His head was cool, his experience great; and Christina would have found in him a safer councillor than in the Narvaezes and O'Donnells.

The *Eco del Comercio* turns into ridicule the alleged discovery of a secret society in a masonic lodge at Madrid, and the Government is very guarded as to any publication on the subject.

The Continent exhibits, here and there, signs of uneasiness. The *Augsburg Gazette* of the 15th instant states that above 300 persons had been arrested at Warsaw, accused of having formed part of a society, composed of above 3,000 persons, whose object was to effect a revolution in Poland. The same journal of the 16th states, that although tranquillity is perfectly restored in the legation of Bologna, it is not less certain that a great number of insurgents are concealed in the mountains, imagining that from one moment to the other all Italy will rise with foreign assistance. Count Radetzky, the military governor of the Lombardo-Venetian kingdom, has received authority to place at the disposal of the Sovereigns of Italy 4,000 men in case of need, and to march them on the threatened points. Revolutionary plots are also talked of in the kingdom of Naples.

The efforts of the English Government to effect a commercial treaty with Austria have not been successful. The *Cologne Gazette* says:—"The English Government have recently made a fruitless endeavour to conclude a treaty of commerce with Austria. The object of it was principally to facilitate the entry of manufactured goods, such as cotton and woollen articles; England in her turn making offers for Hungarian wines. The reply of Austria consists in saying, that the present state of her manufactures would not admit of any further reduction in the import duties; pointing out at the same time that no great benefits would be likely to arise from the proposals made. The question as to a revision of the tariff is not abandoned, and new measures are ordered."

There has been a revolutionary movement in Hayti, and the black government, in imitation of more important portions of the white world, has issued its manifesto, protesting, in high phrase, its own purity of motive, and calling on the people to submit to an authority which only exists for their good.

The *Peterel* packet, Lieutenant Crooke, commander, has arrived from the Brazils with mails, and her dates of sailing are Rio de Janeiro on the 21st, Bahia on the 29th of July, and Pernambuco on the 4th of August. The *Peterel* has brought on freight about 26,000*l.* in treasure, and one cabin and five steerage passengers. Exchange at Rio on sailing was 25*l.* By the *Peterel* the Brazilian Government has taken bills to the amount of 30,000*l.*, a part of which, it was conjectured, was for the million francs dowry to the Princess Donna Francisca. This large sum being negotiated without lowering the rate of exchange, it was anticipated that, being relieved from such pressure, it would immediately improve. The Legislative Assembly were applying themselves in earnest in laying on taxes for meeting the annual deficit on the revenue, and in reducing the expenditure. The Emperor himself, and the most influential members of the Government, had signified their intention of relinquishing a portion of their allowances for this year.

A serious loss of lives and property has been sustained at Bahia, by an extensive land-slip, which occurred in the night of the 9th of July.

POST OFFICE NOTICE.—The following important notice was yesterday put up at the General Post office, St Martin's le Grand:—"General Post office, September, 1843. With reference to the notice issued from this department in May last, respecting the new postage communication with France, as it would appear that some misapprehension exists respecting the uniform rates on letters between that country and the United Kingdom, it must be understood that the French uniform rate of 5*d.* single, and so on in proportion, has reference to those letters only, the postage of which is paid, whether on dispatch or delivery, in the United Kingdom; but that if the French rate be paid in France, it then varies according to the distance, in conformity with the laws of France. The British rate of 5*d.* single, &c., is the same, whether paid in the United Kingdom or in France. By command, W. L. MABERLY."

PESTH, SEPT. 7.—A dreadful conflagration has desolated the town of Stuhlweissenburg, about 35 miles from this city. The fire began on the day before yesterday (the 5th), and was still burning yesterday when the despatch was sent off; 400, and according to other statements 600 or 800 houses were already reduced to ashes.

COMMUNICATION WITH INDIA.

A numerous meeting of merchants and others connected with India was held on Tuesday at the Hall of Commerce, for the purpose of considering the practicability of obtaining increased dispatch in the conveyance of the mails between this country and our possessions in the East.

John Abel Smith, Esq., having been called to the chair, addressed the meeting on the importance of the subject for which they were assembled, and called upon any gentlemen who were prepared to propose the resolutions.

After a pause, however, during which no gentleman present appeared disposed to take an initiative part,

The Chairman again rose, and said that, although it would be more formal if some gentlemen moved the resolutions, yet as no one had been asked to do so, and as no attempt had been made, he found, to get any persons to take a particular interest in the proceedings, it had been suggested to him that it might be well if he read the resolutions *seriatim*, and put them to the meeting. He then read the following resolution, which was carried unanimously:—"That the present arrangements for the transmission of the mails *via* Egypt and the Red Sea, to and from India, China, Ceylon, Singapore and Australia, are defective in two essential points, namely, the non-arrival of the mails from India, usually, until after the outward mails have been dispatched, and the non-arrival of the outward mails at Calcutta, and other places of India of similar distance, until after the departure from thence of the homeward mails for Europe; that much inconvenience to the public interests results from the consequent delay in the interchange of correspondence; and that any measure which proposes to remedy these defects is deserving of the prompt attention and encouragement of the Government and the public."

The Chairman then read the second resolution, as follows:—"That it appears to this meeting, that if, by the employment of steam-vessels of superior power and speed to those at present used to transmit the mails between Suez and Bombay, such an acceleration can be obtained as to remedy the inconvenience pointed out in the preceding resolution, and give the opportunity of replying to letters from India by the out-going mails of the same month, not only to London, but the manufacturing towns and districts of the kingdom, an advantage of great importance would be gained for this country, as well as for our Indian empire and our Australian colonies."

Mr Elliot said that, although not a merchant, he was fully aware of the importance of accelerating our communications with India, but he disapproved of the plan of confining the steam communication to Bombay. By the present communication with India, the mails arrived at Bombay generally in thirty-six days, and were thence transmitted, not at once, but at intervals, to Madras and Calcutta. One man received his communications to-day and another to-morrow, and so on for the space of four or five days. He asked whether it was possible for human ingenuity to devise a scheme more mischievous than this, whereby a merchant at Bombay could go into the markets of Bengal and operate for Calcutta before the Calcutta merchant received his communications at all? And yet, by the plan now proposed it was not contemplated to improve the communication between Bombay and Calcutta in any way. He, therefore, moved an amendment, to the effect that no contracts for the conveyance of the mails would be just, except such as were founded upon terms which would secure equal advantages to Bombay, Ceylon, Madras, and Calcutta; and expressing the opinion of the meeting that the Government and the East India Company ought at the earliest possible period to enter into contracts to carry the mails *via* Suez and Calcutta, calling at intermediate stations, in order to secure the benefit of speedy communication from all parts of the Indian empire.

The Chairman suggested that as that meeting had all one object in view, namely, the acceleration of the mails, it would be wise to abstain from suggesting any particular course to Government. After some discussion, the original resolution was carried by a large majority.

The third resolution, to the effect that memorials to the East India Company and the President of the Board of Control be prepared and transmitted by the Chairman, on behalf of the meeting; and that the Chairman be requested to transmit copies of the resolutions and memorial to the Right Hon. Sir Robert Peel, the Right Hon. the Earl of Aberdeen, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Postmaster-General, the President of the Board of Trade, and the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, and to solicit their influence for the speedy carrying into effect of an improvement of such vital importance to the commercial and manufacturing interests of this country; and the fourth resolution nominating the committee, consisting of the Chairman, D. Barkley, Esq., J. Cook, Esq., C. J. Hutt, Esq., and A. De Arroyane, Esq., with power to add to their number, to take measures for furthering the objects of the meeting, and to make a report at a public meeting to be called on or before the 1st of December next, were carried unanimously.

MISCELLANIES OF TRADE.

THE WINE INTEREST IN FRANCE.—The *Memorial Bordelais* of the 15th instant states that a meeting of wine growers was held at Bordeaux on the 14th instant, at the Theatre of the Circus. It was composed of from 500 to 600 delegates. M. de Perier de Garsan presided. M. Hubert Delisle, who had been appointed to examine the question of customs duties with reference to the interests of the wine growers, read a report, in which he advocated the principles of free trade. He deplored that rival interests, encouraged by almost unlimited protection, had successfully opposed the conclusion of a treaty of commerce with England, Belgium, Germany, and the Brazils. In conclusion, he demanded that the assembly should, by a formal vote, identify itself with the principles he had advocated. This resolution was opposed by a delegate from the department of Puy de Dome, who disapproved of the paragraph in the report relative to the absolute freedom of commerce. He particularly opposed the importation of foreign cattle. M. Dezeimeris supported the opinions of the last speaker; he thought that the delegates should confine themselves to demand a reduction of the home duties. A treaty with England appeared to him prejudicial; he founded his argument on the treaty of 1786, and he considered that if a similar treaty were now concluded, nineteen-twentieths of the French manufacturers would be ruined, and that those employed in manufactures would consequently be unable to consume the 18,000,000 hectolitres of wine now disposed of. M. de Perier de Garsan combated the argument of the honourable deputy, and contended that the principles of a wisely-directed free trade, favourable to the wine growers would be by no means prejudicial to the breeders of cattle and to the greater number of French manufacturers, who would find in foreign competition a motive for emulation. M. Billaudel considered that the question of home duties and taxes was entitled to a preference over the customs duties, and moved the previous question, which was carried, and the meeting separated.

STATE, SEPTEMBER 9.—The magistrates have given notice that, by order of the Treasury of Great Britain, the differential duties are abolished

which Hanoverian ships have hitherto been obliged to pay on the exportation of coals from England to any other than Hanoverian ports; henceforth Hanoverian ships will not have to pay in this case any higher duty than English ships.—*Hamburg papers*, Sept. 15.

STATE OF TRADE AT MANCHESTER.—There was no change in the state of the market yesterday. The demand for most descriptions of goods continue rather limited, but prices are steady. For yarn there is a very good demand, but there are literally no stocks on hand. Many of the buyers are desirous of making contracts for future delivery, but find it difficult to do so, except at advanced rates.—*Manchester Guardian*.

AUSTRALIAN WOOL.—The large sales of Australian wool which take place periodically in London and Liverpool, and the apparently rapid increase in the production of wool in the Australian colonies, do not exercise a temporary effect alone upon the German wool trade, but excite also apprehensions that by degrees the export of wool to Great Britain from Germany will be altogether annihilated, or, at all events, limited to particular qualities. The improvement in prices at the recent sales of Australian wool in London had no influence whatever upon prices of wool in Germany, which were already too high in proportion.

AMALGAMATION OF RAILWAYS.—A railway meeting was held on Thursday, at which an amalgamation was resolved upon of the Birmingham and Derby line with the Midland Counties and North Midland line.

CUSTOM-HOUSE INFORMATION.—By a Board order of the 8th instant, timber imported from Cuba, for ship-building purposes, to be admitted to entry at the duty payable on teak wood. By a Treasury order of the 1st instant, vessels belonging to the Republic of Hayti are allowed the privilege of trading with any of the British possessions abroad. By a like order of the same date, French and other ships of or belonging to any kingdom or state within the limits of the East India Company's charter, are allowed the privilege of trading with the colony of New Zealand. By a Commissioners' minute of the 8th instant, granite, imported from the Channel Islands, or from any of the British possessions, may be delivered without the production of a certificate of produce. By a Treasury minute of the 25th ultimo, fancy biscuits of all kinds may be received in substitution for wheat, under the following conditions:—1. That the quality be higher than that of the first-class (captains' biscuits), provided for by the act. 2. That wheat be the main ingredient, and any other article purely subsidiary in the manufacture. 3. That the revenue officers be convinced, in each particular case as it arises, that there is no detriment to the revenue. By another Treasury minute of the 26th ultimo, the Board of Customs are authorised to grant extra allowances on deficiencies in brandy, in such cases only where the spirits shall have been deposited in damp vaults, or have remained for a long period in the bonding premises, upon the special application of the parties, and when the officers of the revenue are satisfied that the deficiency has arisen from natural causes.

IMPORTATION OF WHEAT.—On Thursday, at Leith, the holders took the alarm, and commenced clearing from bond; and before three o'clock on that day 36,000L of duties were paid. Next day they were equally busy at the Custom house paying duties, and there seems no falling off in the importations, 10,000 quarters being entered in two days.—*Scotsman*.—We are informed that nearly all the foreign wheat in Glasgow was to-day taken out of bond at 14s. duty.—*Glasgow Chronicle*.

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

Change for the American Notes. By an American Lady. 1 vol., 8vo. London: Wiley and Putnam. 1843.

This work consists of a series of letters upon England, addressed to a friend in New York, called "Dearest Julia," and which have evidently been written with a view to their publication. The authoress tells us but little of herself, but we collect from her work that she is a widow, and that she was some time in this country, detained by law business. The law's delay combining with Mr Dickens's *American Notes* seem to have roused her bile, and to have made her determine to show the English that they live in a glass house, and therefore should not throw stones at the windows of their transatlantic kindred. Like most Americans, she seems peculiarly sensitive to the opinion of the English respecting her nation, a sensitiveness which has been much played upon. By no means do we approve of the matter and manner of the books which many English travellers have written concerning the United States. To censure and ridicule the manners and peculiarities of a nation or an individual is almost always a far easier undertaking than to discriminate justly between what is praiseworthy and what is blameable in their character. Besides, ridicule is much more amusing to those who hear or read it, provided it is not themselves who are laughed at, than a plain unexaggerated account of the results of careful inquiry and wide observation upon the characteristics of those who are described. Hence it is that so many who pretend to give a fair and true picture of men and manners in America do in fact produce caricatures of the coarsest kind. We should not feel so much disposed to complain of such books as those to which we allude, if the authors set out with saying that they merely intended to collect instances of what would appear, in English eyes, to be bad manners, vulgarity, or bad taste, on the part of the Americans. But they generally profess more; and as each author virtually undertakes to draw the Anglo-American with an accuracy little short of a daguerreotype, John Bull is led to believe that every American eats his dinner in five minutes, that the good citizens of New York walk about with Bowie knives, and that the whole of the best dish at table is invariably appropriated by the person who is so fortunate as to be nearest to it. It has always appeared to us that there are two circumstances which more particularly have led English travellers astray in their hasty judgments respecting American society. As the Americans are of the same blood, speak the same language, and in many respects have the same institutions and laws as ourselves, the Englishman in America expects them in every other respect to conform to the English standard of behaviour, forgetting that climate and other external circumstances have greatly changed the habits and manners of

the race as originally exported from this country. In addition to this, the English traveller seldom gains admittance to the American home, where he would often find the hand and the heart open, and that "benevolence in trifles" which Lord Chatham has said to be the definition of good manners. As long as you move about in that country, you are living in a crowd; you cannot get out of it; but are packed in a steam-boat, or a railway car, or a giant hotel, with a mass of mechanics, farmers, and shopkeepers, all keenly intent on the business which takes them from their home. It is not to be wondered at, therefore, that travellers thus often see and hear what is shocking to eyes and ears polite. This is all carefully recorded for the benefit of the English public, and Brother Jonathan is at once convicted of being hopelessly and irretrievably vulgar, presumptuous, and overbearing. We have said thus much by way of justification of the indignation with which many Americans (our authoress among the number) deny the justice of the conclusions drawn by sundry travel-writing English. The authoress, however, has done the very common thing of committing exactly the same fault as that which in others has excited her wrath, by drawing rash and erroneous conclusions from insufficient data, and occasionally talking of what she knows nothing about. On some points she hits hard, because she speaks out concerning matters which from sheer habit we overlook. We will give some examples.

"Some one has said that half the mistakes in the world arise from 'taking for granted.' I made the mistake of taking for granted that forbearance, to say the least, where ladies were concerned, would be as common in the streets of London as in any American city. I was soon undeceived, for when I first walked along Regent street, and some of the streets adjoining, I was annoyed beyond a pen's telling, by glance after glance poked under my bonnet. I felt wearied, worried, and afraid—that vague kind of fear so wretchedly depressing."

We might conjecture, perhaps, that the lady has not the beauty which she attributes in two or three passages of her book to her correspondent, "Dearest Julia," or the impertinence would probably not have been confined to glances; but seriously speaking, it is a disgrace to English manners that no respectable woman can feel secure from insult when walking alone in the streets of London, insult that she has not a chance of meeting with in any foreign city. Again, there is some stinging truth in the following, and some eloquence:—

"When I looked out into the street I saw no inconsiderable crowd of persons hastening eastwards. I rang to inquire the reason of this unwonted commotion at such an hour. It was some time before my bell was answered. 'Please, ma'am,' at last said the eager handmaiden, 'Good's a-going to be hanged.' They boast of their civilization, these Englishmen, and the most attractive spectacle to the mass is a felon's death! Justice in England should have a halter added to her effigy. An execution here is a pageant, a show, a cheap and popular excitement—genuine agony to be enjoyed gratuitously, real convulsions. In twenty years more, or less, I do believe our American custom in inflicting the dreadful punishment of death will prevail in England, that is, if capital punishment be not altogether abolished. The criminal here hardens his heart for the last part he has to perform in public. Numbers of those, of whose guilt there could be no doubt, have died asseverating their innocence. Good did. And why? Because every one of these men, callous as they might be, shrank from facing the crowd as a murderer confessed, and hoped for their sympathy if he perseveringly declared his innocence, and he did so declare it, and his last breath was—a lie. The sufferer knows that he has been the darling topic of a great portion of the public press for many days. The misdeeds of his whole life have been canvassed, and ladies have visited him in his condemned cell, some to present him flowers, some to pray with him, some to procure his autograph for an album, or, if he cannot write, an inky mark from the hand that perpetrated a murder, or a lock from the head that planned it; and he has listened or struggled to listen to a last sermon in the prison chapel: and magistrates' ladies and privileged visitors have knelt with him to hear the blessed word of the ever-living God, and gaze on the white lips on which would soon be the clamminess of death. Despite his fears he feels he is the hero of the scene: that he divides these strangers' regards with the service of the church, and he studies less to prepare to die than to encounter their curious and searching eyes. I do not mean to say that this individual case has been characterised by all these things. I tell you what has been, and what it is to be hoped may never be again. In New York, where the criminal suffers within the walls of the prison, the law enjoining the presence of a certain number of citizens and official characters, the public are shut out: but through the very heart of the city goes the rumour that the law has taken life as a punishment for crime. The most hardened offender feels awed—appalled; he may pause in his mad career, for his imagination pictures the death scene in colours that terrify his inmost soul—fear is sublime in its exaggerations.

"But here he sees it! The hooting or sympathetic crowd banish reflection, the struggle to obtain a good place calls forth his bodily energies,—he has something to contend and clamour for; and he hears ribald jokes at the very gallows-foot;—and what a fine thing it is to die hard—and how Newgate Calendars—but lo! the victim. All eyes are directed towards him. The sight of his fellows prevents his thoughts dwelling on his God. He espies comrades in the crowd, and remembers their combined skilful and successful rapine in other days, and their unholy orgies afterwards; his lips mechanically repeat words of prayer, and his heart is in past scenes of low delight—and so he dies.

"The body hangs a certain time, and women say 'how shocking,' and men 'how queer' he looks; and boys shout out 'did you ever?' 'What a Guy!' 'Does his mother know he's out?' and casts are taken from his skull, and his carcass is buried within the prison walls, and his deeds recorded in cheap pamphlets for the benefit of ingenious youth."

Here is a less grave evil, which, however, ladies will appreciate, as well as those of the other sex who may have to pay their wives' bills:—

"In many of the drapery shops the attendants are dressed nearly alike. * * * * * Then their pertinacity to sell is so tiresome, that I have given up visiting several shops on that account; the salesmen will show you new things, newer than ever novelty was before, and such bargains! I purchase a few pair of gloves, and am leaving the glittering counter

heaped with rich stuffs in most admired disorder. 'Something quite new in figured satins, ma'am,' interposes the shopman. 'I want nothing more at present.' 'Yes, my lady, certainly: beautiful silks, the latest fashion in Paris.' 'Nothing more at present; good mor—' 'Laces, your ladyship, the latest patterns,' &c., &c., &c., and so on through the whole stock if you choose to listen."

We fear many do choose to listen, and buy too, to the grievous lightening of their purses, and all for being unable to muster up sufficient courage to say "No."

The following little characteristic touch amused us: the authoress goes to Richmond with a fellow-countryman and his wife, a Scotchwoman, Mr and Mrs Grey. The hill is visited and the view admired—

"Mr Grey pronounced the prospect, 'a smart eyeful,' and Mrs Grey that it was 'very well for the sooth.'"

Would that mammas had generally the good sense of our authoress in respect of musical education!

"The talk is of routs, balls, and operas, much; of scandal somewhat; of literature a little; of music much. It is the fashion to assume a passionate fondness for music. Years were wasted to make the pretty Helen—musical, because her father was rich and an M. P.: and her mamma gave concerts, and had an opera box in the best part of the house, and several middle-aged peers, eldest sons, and youthful baronets are known to be distractingly, or distractedly (I don't know which is the proper word) fond of music; poor Helen laboured painfully on, she had no ear; all the paternal wrath and maternal fashion could not procure a new one: she never played in time; 'panting time toiled after her in vain,' and nature in the long run had the best of it; her music books were closed, and Helen's harp is now as silent as King David's."

Here are the American lady's "notions" of St Paul's:—

"It is the most august of Christian temples which I have seen in any country—remember, I have not been in Italy,—but the interior, even with its pillars and monuments, looks—oh! so cold. The monuments are chiefly to naval and military heroes (is it right to monumentalize deeds of blood in the house of peace?) and I cannot but think there are far too many Britannias, and Fames, and Victories, and lions. A lady had need be well versed in allegory to understand what she sees. I confess I was puzzled: but still the religion of the place impresses itself upon the feelings,—standing in the midst of Wren's glorious work, with far-resounding aisles and memorials to the unforgotten dead around, what can one feel but an elevation of soul, a forgetfulness of the soil and stain of the world. We did not visit the whispering gallery, nor the ball, nor other places shown separately, and to be separately paid for. It seems so strange that Britons should have to buy the right of entering these buildings. If it be proper that they should be entered at all by the merely curious, it must be as proper that they should be open to the decent poor man, who cannot spare twopence, as to the irreligious rich one, who is hardly conscious so small a sum exists—open to Lazarus as to Dives."

Strange, indeed!

Is not the following a fair hit?—

"I had the curiosity to inquire how the aldermen were qualified for the important office of magistrate in a great city, and find that a shopkeeper or merchant, whose knowledge of law may be derived from reading police reports alone, may be elected alderman, and become a magistrate at the moment. A very odd and very ready way of creating a justice of the peace! But then they practice principally upon the poor, and can experiment upon them until some little legal knowledge has been gained: and they are rich and give excellent dinners."

And this no bad retort?

"We in America are accused, and not always unjustly, of giving too fine names to our towns and villages—the English seem to reserve them for the shaving-soaps, and other things indispensable, as every advertiser will make affidavit, to a well-ordered toilet."

Mark this, ye inventors of kalydors, antiropeloses, and rypophagons, and cease to laugh for very shame, when ye find Troy, Carthage, Rome, and Utica, jumbled together in the State of New York.

We have given some instances where we think our authoress makes good points; when she comes, however, to draw general conclusions, she fails altogether, as she almost necessarily must, not having the means of forming a correct judgment. Curiously enough, she pitches upon two heads of offence in the English character, which we are apt to consider more especially to be the attribute of her countrymen—love of money-getting and selfishness. If we hear Mr Dickens, Mammon is the god of American worship: pounds sterling, says the American lady, are the idol of English people. Nor do we think that this is simply a "tu quoque" on the part of the latter; the reverence paid to wealth in this country is undoubtedly great, but it is not so great as in the United States. In that country money is almost the only source of distinction, and therefore is more sought after than here, where it is not the only one.

Here, too, many are born to fortunes amply sufficient to provide them with every imaginable luxury; such is not the case in America. There, we speak more particularly of the Northern States, everybody has to make his own fortune; it is his own labour, not his mother's, which provides him with the means of enjoyment, and hence the flower of each man's life is spent, and his habits are formed, in getting a competence. But we are not prepared to assert that this eager desire for wealth is peculiar either to England, or her American children, or to them both together. Is not the true explanation of the difference in results between these two countries and other nations to be found, not in any absence among the latter of that desire for worldly well-being which all mankind naturally feel, but in the want of the active, enterprising, and unwearied spirit which enables the Yankee and the Englishman to ensure themselves success in satisfying it? As regards the charge of selfishness, it is of so vague a nature we do not know very well how to meet it, except by denying it flatly, and

putting the authoress upon the proof. We meet with none in her book. It is one of the class of sweeping general assertions which Americans justly complain our travellers often make of them. The authoress makes sundry others equally rash, with which we shall not trouble our readers, but which, whether true or not, it is quite clear she could have no possible means of ascertaining to be so. At any rate, we cannot allow the claim set up for the greater purity of American English over that of its native country, particularly when the lady who makes it uses such words as "to epistolize," "railwayed," "luggaged," "cubicle," &c. &c. But we will not part with her in ill humour, albeit she is rather captious; that would be uncivil to a stranger, and particularly to a lady; it would, besides, be justifying one of the charges—that of unamiability—which she launches against us. Her book is for the most part well written, as our extracts will have shown; and it is always more or less pleasant to read the work of one who, like this authoress, can *think*, even wrongly. Wrong, as we believe her to be in many things, she is right, we think, in the following extract, with which we close our remarks:—

"Believe a great many French, and a few American, and even English scribes, and ruin menaces Great Britain. *Ruin*—in what is it manifest? Are her riches diminished—are her soldiers and sailors less courageous—her manufacturers less skilful—her merchants less sagacious—her daughters less virtuous? No. I can see no danger whatever to the Britannic empire; none, that is, from without. Internal dangers it may not be questioned exist; but they have long existed (some diseases are co-existent with a long life), and they may be found in the same state for ages yet to come; the energy of the British character makes the country prosperous in spite of these perils within it."

RAMBLES BY THE RIVERS OF EUROPE.

Steam Voyages on the Seine, the Moselle, and the Rhine; with Railroad Visits to the principal Cities of Belgium, &c. By Michael J. Quin, Esq. 2 vols. London: Henry Colburn. 1843.

The Rhone, the Darro, and the Guadalquivir; a Summer Ramble in 1842. By Mrs Romer. 2 vols. London: Richard Bentley. 1843.

"Rivers, arise!" the publishers are now driven to exclaim, for the land has been pretty thoroughly exhausted. To the necessity of having something novel in the way of title, we are indebted, we presume, to the liquid attractions of the two works given above: the lady is not unconscious of a certain incongruity in the "Rhone, the Darro, and the Guadalquivir," as the title of travels performed as much by sea as by river; and being somewhat of a wag, she laughingly makes her escape with—"Too much of water hast thou, poor Ophelia!" The other work keeps more to the promise of its title-page; and as its author, in revising his proof sheets, "became seriously ill, and died at Boulogne, where he had been for some time residing for the benefit of his health," we shall make the lady give precedence.

Mr Michael J. Quin was a tolerably well-known Irish Roman Catholic gentleman, a barrister by profession, but mainly dependent on literary exertion for subsistence. He was employed by the late Government in some minor services connected with the department of diplomacy; and in that capacity travelled considerably on the Continent. In this way he steamed down the Danube, galloped over the Balkans, visited Constantinople, and saw not a little of continental life. His *Steam Voyage down the Danube* made him well known as a tourist; it has been translated into the French and German languages; has made that great river almost as familiar to us as the Rhine; and has tended considerably to increase the number of persons who seek new ground in their excursions to visit scenes which had been previously almost unknown. In the present work

"Mr Quin has performed a similar office for the river Moselle, which, although familiar as to its name, on account of the exquisite wines produced upon its banks, has hitherto lain as much concealed, from British tourists especially, as the Danube itself previously to his exposition of its wonders and beauties. And the reasons for this neglect are obvious. In the first place, the Moselle is entirely out of the highway (the Rhine) of the vast majority of our summer emigrants, whose object generally is, to visit the baths of Germany, or to proceed by Switzerland into Italy. Although actually passing the mouth of the Moselle, they never deviate into that river, which would cause delay, and must be visited entirely for its own sake. Moreover, until very lately, there were no steam vessels on the Moselle, and the only mode of making a voyage upon it was by means of the common passage-boats of the country, which were small, inconvenient, wretchedly managed, and by no means free from danger in windy weather; nor were the inns on either bank at all calculated to invite the stranger.

"But the steamer has effectually redressed these evils. The voyage from Coblenz to Treves may be easily made in one day, and it may be asserted without fear of contradiction, that the beauty of the scenery on the banks of the Moselle, between those two cities, is without rivalry in Europe. The visitor who chooses to linger on those banks, and to penetrate into the country beyond them, will find ample and delightful occupation for weeks, amidst its innumerable sylvan and most romantic charms."

Mr Quin's steam-boat excursion on the Seine is a mere makeweight, and has no connexion with the rest of the book, having been performed several years before the visit to the Moselle. The latter was undertaken in 1841. In his descriptions there is a strong tendency to satirise and caricature his travelling companions, a somewhat disagreeable propensity, though it may occasionally afford a character, and give a piquant flavour to the routine descriptions of a voyage. One of these scenes is given in the description of a "city man" whom he met on board the *Menai* steamer, when bound to Ostend, which, under the

auspices of the reigning family, has been converted from a "scurvy place," the favourite abode of Dutch skippers and mongrel smugglers, into "a cheerful, cleanly, highly prosperous place."

After visiting all the notabilities of Belgium, which he renders as interesting as such a beaten tract can be made by a hasty tourist, Mr Quin proceeded through Luxemburg into the Prussian territory, on entering which he obtained his first sight of the Moselle. He was now on ancient classic ground, travelling on the old Roman highway, where every step abounds in historical associations. Here is Treves, built, it is said, even before Rome itself, which, in the time of Julius Cæsar, was a highly flourishing place, and has been the occasional residence of many Roman emperors. It is full of interesting architectural memorials of its ancient grandeur. Here he embarked on his downward voyage on the Moselle, which he thus characterises:—

"The pervading character of the Moselle is beauty; not beauty of a kind that may be passed by and easily forgotten, but strongly defined; never aspiring to the sublime, but next to it in the diapason of that heavenly harmony which breathes throughout the creation. I have seen those parts of the Rhine which are admitted, universally, to comprehend its principal attractions, but they are, according to my taste, inferior to those of the Moselle. They want the inspiration of design, the completeness of outline, the true grace of form, the disposition of principal and accessorial objects, the exquisite sunshine and ethereal shade, which the Moselle and its banks exhibit. Those who admire Dante would prefer the Rhine; those who worship Milton ought to seek the grandeur of the Danube; but they who love Tasso and his gardens of the Hesperides would find on the Moselle much to remind them of the genius of that immortal poet."

In this spirit he describes the river, as he rapidly descended through its novel and beautiful changes of scenery, passing villages, towns, and castles, until he reached Coblenz, where, under the lofty and far-famed fortress of Ehrenbreitstein, the Moselle pours its waters into the Rhine. He afterwards ascended the latter river; visited Mayence, Frankfurt, &c.; took a drive to Heidelberg, and of course describes its gigantic tuns, the most glorious altar of Bacchus in the world; made an excursion by the railway from Heidelberg to Mannheim; and another along the valley of the Neckar, which pours its waters into the Rhine near Mannheim; and visited the spa of Bruckenau, not far from Wurtzburg, where he saw the King of Bavaria entering into all the amusements of the place, and had also the honour to be introduced to him, and participated in a Royal picnic.

The work concludes with a visit to Kissengen and the Duchy of Saxe-Meiningen; and though on the whole somewhat made-up, the book is a very pleasant record of a tour, part of which was over beaten ground, and part through interesting districts but little frequented by the general tourist.

The "Summer Ramble" of Mrs Romer is a work of a somewhat different character. The lady is exceedingly lively, and her descriptions are full of animation, not the less so, that they are marked by the feminine trait of an affectation of being unaffected. She went through the south of France to Lyons, where she took the steam-boat on the Rhone, of the scenery of which she speaks in raptures. Arrived at Avignon, she took a drive to Vaucluse, and is of course full of Petrarch and Laura, to say nothing of the historical associations suggested by Avignon, Nismes, &c., and the stories picked up by the way. From Marseilles, Mrs Romer took the steamer to Barcelona, getting sea-sick on her way.

"After enduring all the well-meant but mistaken attentions that are inevitable in such conjunctures, and having obstinately resisted the various and contradictory counsels of 'Rouse yourself and walk about the deck a little'—'Go down stairs and lie down upon a bed'—'Try a cup of hot tea'—'Take a glass of bottled porter'—'Nothing so good as a Seidlitz powder with a little brandy in it; I never go to sea without them; pray let me offer you one'—'If you will only force yourself to eat something the nausea will disappear, &c. &c. &c., I was at last given up by my kind tormentors as impracticable, and, I dare say, as unreasonable also; for, like those 'who jest at scars that never felt a wound,' the fortunate mortals that have never suffered from sea-sickness set down those who do as victims, half the time, to a vapouring imagination. So, rolling myself up like a hedgehog, I remained absorbed in my own wretchedness, and recognising with shame and compunction the truth of what Lady Blessington has observed in her charming *Idler in Italy* (where everything is described with so much truth and talent), that, of all the painful inflictions to which human nature is liable, sea-sickness is the one which renders us not only the most physically uninteresting, but, from the unconquerable egotism it induces, the most morally disagreeable. I actually detected myself forming the selfish wish that those who had been so kindly endeavouring to devise means of reviving me, might themselves become sea-sick, in order to incapacitate them from approaching me!"

Though Mrs Romer's account of her ramble is also chargeable with the vice of book-making, swelling out into two large volumes what might have been well condensed into one, still her adventures in Spain are exceedingly interesting. We are, however, warned by our space from entering into any detail. Our readers, therefore, who would like to read a lively woman's account of a country at this moment passing through the agonies of revolution, must get the work and read for themselves; it is a *library* book, and easy to be got at. Her descriptions of the bull fights—that darling passion of the Peninsula—are exceedingly good, and she has given us, besides, a visit to Gibraltar, Malta, and the coast of Africa.

SALE OF PROPERTY OF THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE.—Wednesday, Hafod, with its magnificent domain and other properties, situate in the counties of Cardigan and Radnor, belonging to the Duke of Newcastle, was put up to auction at the Auction Mart, the quantity of land to be disposed of consisting of about thirty thousand acres.

AGRICULTURE.
No. III.

ON THE INDICATIONS WHICH ARE GUIDES IN JUDGING OF THE
FERTILITY OR BARRENNESS OF THE SOIL.
BY THE REV. WILLIAM THORP.
(Continued from No. 3.)

I shall now briefly apply these indications of fertility over the different geological formations of Yorkshire, and it will be found that each lends aid to the other, and that a person will be able to ascertain the value of land in proportion as he is able to appreciate the collective evidence afforded by them.

1. Upon the Chalk Wolds of Yorkshire there are two distinct qualities of land—the shallow and the deep land. Upon the deep land neither wheat nor barley are produced in perfection, the former “night ripens,” and the latter is not of a good sample. The land is also said to be of better quality where pebbles or boulders are found. The colour of both kinds of soils are much alike, yet as the deep are improved and rendered more firm by chalking, consistence, if positively existing, becomes a favourable sign; so also is that of a good vegetation, if used under the precautions before named: and a chemical investigation shows that the difference between the good soil and the inferior is owing to the presence of more lime in the good soil, the deep containing only from 1 to 2½ per cent., while the good contains as much as 7 per cent., and geology explains why the one soil contains more lime than the other, and how both are geographically disposed; for the shallow Wold soils exist only where large bodies of water have excavated the chalk rock itself, which contains 90 per cent. of carbon of lime; and from the shallow depth of the soil fresh pieces of chalk rock are constantly ploughed up, and therefore contains more lime. In the map of Hull and its environs of ten miles round, the east and west shadings indicate in the valleys very nearly the extent of the shallow land. The occurrence of pebbles and boulders merely indicate the places where currents of water have been in action, and therefore are only found on the good lands. The climate, elevation, and exposure are likewise to be attended to over this district.

Beneath the chalk come the beds of oolite, concerning which I shall simply quote from a valuable paper by Sir J. V. Johnstone, Bart. F.G.S., Journal of the Royal Agricultural Society, vol. 1, p. 271. He states, that having observed great variations in the soils of his estate, not only on the hill sides, but also upon the table land, Dr Smith offered a solution of the difficulty by a reference to geology, and the result obtained clearly demonstrated that the value of each field, and the mode of cultivation already adopted, corresponded to the variations of the strata, and were limited by the areas which these occupied on the surface;—thus showing (though it had been arrived at by farmers through a different process, viz., trial and error) that the geological character of a country, when accurately understood, pointed out at once the natural value of the land, and the system of cultivation best adapted to it. Again, Sir John Johnstone says, “when on descending the hill sides it was found that there were certain fields which, whether towards the north or south, whatever the aspect, whatever the local circumstance, invariably produced good wheat, it was a triumph for agricultural geology to discover that these fields were invariably upon the Oxford clay; or rather where the lower beds of the calcareous grit become mixed up with that formation.”

The new red sandstone formation in Yorkshire is one of great complexity, and each of the signs before-named, whenever available, are necessary for determining the relative value of any given portion. The great difficulty is, that upon the central plain of Yorkshire, coloured as new red sandstone, are found alluvial, diluvial, and lacustrine deposits of considerable extent and thickness, each of which, and beds subordinate to each, completely change the agricultural character of the original strata.

The formation itself scarcely makes its appearance in the West Riding. It consists of variegated marls in the upper portion; the only place where they can be seen is at Holne or Spalding Moor; and of variegated sands or sandstones in the lower, which are covered up from Hodsock park, near Blyth, to Green Hammerton, 12 miles north of York.

Among the overlying beds are, first, the alluvial of the rivers Don, Went, Aire; those of the Don, as at Bentley, Arkserg, Kirk Bramwith, Thorne, are exceedingly fertile, producing with little manure large crops of grain and excellent feeding-pasture.

It would be a most useful thing to really determine why these alluvial soils, with only once liming and manuring in the four years, produce great crops, while upon the magnesian limestone and many other soils manure has to be applied to each crop, or in other words what enables them to “hold tillage.”

There are also the gravel or diluvial soils, which have an extensive range from Doncaster southward into Nottinghamshire. There are also those extending from Snaith to Ferrybridge, and those of Selby, Hambleton, Hough, &c., among which are some very superior lands, as Doncaster field, Snaith field, Birkin, &c.

The stronger soils extend eastward from Owstone, Askern, and Womersly, to Goole. Draining is now being adopted upon this portion, so that there are many instances of farms formerly let at from 5s. to 7s. per acre, now let for 20s., and therefore these may be said

to be progressively increasing in value, while on the other hand small farms are general, and have upon them, as a consequence, men of limited capital; few turnips are grown, no stock kept, little manure made, of which frequently, from the badness of the homesteads, one half evaporates or runs out of the yard.

Upon this great tract of country there is every variety of colour, from blue, grey, yellow, dark brown, to light and dark red, so that colour alone (for there are all qualities of every colour) is of little value as a diagnostic sign. The consistence of the soil, depth of soil when good, are signs generally applicable. Upon the gravel beds there are occasionally local beds of clay which hold up the water, thus producing a wet soil upon an open gravel, and which requires draining. A soil easily rendered firm by sheeping is a favourable sign of sandy land. Upon the clayey soils of this plain it is required that there is a capability of draining them: for large sums of money have been paid for bringing up main drains from Goole, which yet afford only an imperfect outlet.

Vegetation as a sign of fertility must be used with great caution; for both the sands and clays of this district are much under the influence of seasons. This year they have both above average crops upon them. The farms situated upon the sands and gravels were originally of the same value, and it is probable that if there be any difference in them, that it has arisen from superior management.

Geology is with difficulty applied in determining the value of land upon the whole of the formation; except the larger boundaries of geographical geology just mentioned. In the gravel beds there is no regular disposition of its strata. It is one amorphous mass of boulders, with portions of red sand intermingled. The stronger clay beds between Askerne and Goole are some of them exceedingly thin, and, therefore, in order to make geology available, it would be necessary to have, as in mining, a knowledge of every minute bed, and which can only be obtained by boring; there being no natural sections upon this extensive plain.

(To be continued.)

VARIETIES.

CYCLES OF ABUNDANT AND DEFICIENT HARVESTS, WITH THEIR EFFECTS.—In 1822, when the great bulk of the people were rejoicing in the cheapness of food, owing to abundant harvests, the agricultural interest made loud complaints regarding the distress of the country, and even succeeded in persuading government to institute an inquiry into the cause of that distress. Again, in 1835 and 1836, the same complaints, founded on the same cause—too great abundance of food—were renewed, and led, as on the former occasion, to a parliamentary inquiry into the cause of distress, and the best mode of removing it. Whether we are likely to experience a renewal of the abundance and prosperity of that period, during the next few years, remains to be seen.—*Manchester Guardian.*

BURTHENS ON LAND.—In the years 1826 and 1841, the respective amounts of money levied by assessment on land, houses, and all other kinds of property, were as follow:—

| Years ended Lady Day. | Landed Property. £. | Dwelling Houses. £. | All other kinds of Property. £. |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1826 | 4,795,482 | 1,814,228 | 356,447 |
| 1841 | 3,316,593 | 2,375,221 | 660,014 |
| | Decrease 1,478,889 | Increase 560,993 | 303,567 |

Here it will be seen, that, although the value of landed property has much increased since 1826, as we could very easily show, the actual amount of money levied on land, instead of increasing with the increase of population, is now nearly a million and a half less than it was then; while the amount levied on houses and other property is now nearly 900,000*l.* above what it was at that time.

The annual meeting of the East Suffolk Agricultural Association took place at Saxmundham on Friday. At the dinner the Earl of Stradbroke presided, and the only other “notables” present were Lord Rendlesham, M. P., Sir C. Blois, Mr W. Long, the county sheriff, and the Rev. R. Gooch. The proceedings presented nothing of material interest.

The Royal Bucks Agricultural Association has had its annual meeting. The Duke of Buckingham presided, and advised the farmers “to throw aside all political feeling, and unite together to carry out the object of the association.”

MISCELLANEA.

PUBLIC BILLS.—It appears from a parliamentary return recently issued, that in the late session 150 public bills were introduced; 128 in the House of Commons and 22 in the House of lords. The public acts passed were 90 in number, of which number 16 were originally introduced into the House of Lords. About 40 of the bills were read a third time in the month of August.

COMMITMENTS FOR THE NON-PAYMENT OF ASSESSED TAXES.—By a parliamentary return lately published, it appears that from January, 1842, to June last, inclusive, 212 persons were confined for the non-payment of assessed taxes, some of whom are still in custody: the principal part were for game duty. Up to the date of the return not one person had been imprisoned for the non-payment of the income tax.

DRURY LANE THEATRE.—A meeting of the new company of this theatre, convened by Mr Cooper, the stage manager, was held on Monday, in the Green-room, to make preliminary arrangements for the commencement of the season. The meeting was rather thinly attended, most of the performers being in the country fulfilling engagements. It was understood that the theatre would open early next month, but the day was not definitively fixed.

SURREY ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS.—Tuesday the South London Floricultural Society held their third and last exhibition at these gardens. There was on the occasion a captivating assemblage of all things choice, rare, and beautiful. The dahlias were surprisingly rich, splendid, and varied, and the display of fruit and flowers elicited the most unqualified approbation. Upwards of seventy gold and silver medals were awarded, exclusive of Mr Bragg's 10*l.* premium for the best white dahlia, and Mr Groom's prizes for *lilium lancifolium*.

ANALYSIS OF THE STATE OF THE BANK.

The quarterly average of the weekly liabilities and assets of the Bank of England, from the 17th of June to the 9th of September, when compared with those ending the 12th of August last, give the following results:—

Table showing quarterly comparison of assets and liabilities for the Bank of England, comparing Sept. 8, 1843, with Last time, Aug. 12, 1843.

The quarterly comparison is as follows:—

Table showing quarterly comparison of assets and liabilities for the Bank of England, comparing Sept. 9, 1843, with Last time, July 15, 1843.

The yearly comparison is as follows:—

Table showing yearly comparison of assets and liabilities for the Bank of England, comparing Sept. 9, 1843, with Last time, Sept. 10, 1842.

COMMERCE AND COMMERCIAL MARKETS.

DOMESTIC.

FRIDAY NIGHT.—The London markets have again assumed a dull aspect, arising from the continued absence of commercial activity in most parts of the European continent; the internal trade of the country is, however, evidently improving...

A renewed activity prevails in most of the northern manufacturing districts, where the quantity of business now transacting is unquestionably much more extensive than what it has been at the same season for several years back; it is probably greater even than in the early part of the year 1836...

It is now thought that the Indian Mail, due since the early part of the month, has been carried back to Bombay, from whence it will be despatched a week or ten days earlier than the succeeding August mail...

We cannot refrain from mentioning that there is a considerable degree of anxiety industriously spread respecting the outturn of this year's crop in the kingdom, it being asserted that it is very light in weight, and not so good as it was some weeks ago supposed to be...

INDIGO.—The near approach of our October sales has caused the business in our market to be much diminished. A few transactions only for home consumption at steady prices are reported, but almost none for export...

COCHINEAL and LAC DYE maintain their enhanced value, and are in good demand.

COFFEE.—The qualities suitable for home consumption continue to meet with an improved and increasing demand; considerable business has been done in common good ordinary Ceylon, and the price has advanced to 52s.

SUGAR.—The business in British West India and Mauritius sugar has been on a more extensive scale, and prices have been fully maintained. For foreign there is less inquiry; at public sale, on Wednesday, considerable parcels were offered...

COTTON.—The business at Liverpool has, notwithstanding the favourable accounts from Manchester, been less extensive than during the two preceding weeks...

Surat at 3 1/2d. and upwards. Three ships from Bombay, bound for London, are on the coast.

SALT PETRE.—The ordinary descriptions of East India are rather dearer, 24s. to 24s. 6d. having been paid for 11 to 12 per cent. refraction; good, 4 1/2 per cent. sold 25s. to 25s. 6d., which is rather cheaper.

TALLOW.—The price of yellow candle is again lower, purchases having been made on the spot at 41s. 6d.

RICE.—Importers having brought forward some parcels of Bengal, a further decline of 3d. per cwt. has taken place, fair white having been sold at 10s. to 10s. 6d.; about 12,000 bags of Java are advertised for the 11th of October.

RUM.—Buyers keep back, and the business of the week has again been trifling. SPICES.—Pimento maintains its value; in pepper and cassia there has been almost nothing doing, but no change in prices.

TEA.—The demand is languid, Company's consignment offering at 1s. 1d.

FOREIGN.

The advices by the Brazil Mail, received this day, have been anticipated by some sailing vessels arrived last week; some further details are given; at Rio, 21st July, the exchange had declined to 25 and 25 1/2d. The accounts received from Europe had operated unfavourably upon the value of coffee; supplies of the new crop, however, came in more sparingly than usual at that time...

The accounts received from the British West India colonies, per Dee, from 18th to 24th August, are various and even conflicting, but upon the whole, favourable as to prospects for the crops.

The accounts received from the continent of Europe do not show any increase in the demand for colonial produce in the seaports. At Hamburg business was slack. At Amsterdam the first indigo sale went off 4d. to 8d. under the previous April sales, and upon a par with the present value of similar qualities in our market; of 30,000 slabs of Banco tin, only 11,000 found purchasers at 34 florins.

PRICES CURRENT, SEPT. 22, 1843.

Table of prices current for English and Foreign Funds, including items like India Stock, 3 per Cent. Consols, and various foreign bonds.

CORN MARKETS.

(From Messrs Gillies and Horne's Circular.)

CORN EXCHANGE, MONDAY, SEPT. 18.—The weather is extremely hot and close, what little wind there is is south east, the barometer is high, and we learn that the harvest is proceeding most favourably both in Scotland and Ireland. The arrivals were short last week, except of Irish Oats, several small parcels of which were of the new crop, and of fine quality...

Table of corn market prices, divided into British (Wheat, Oats, etc.) and Foreign and Colonial (Wheat, Rye, etc.) categories.

CORN EXCHANGE, FRIDAY, SEPT. 22.—The weather continues splendid—the harvest must be proceeding rapidly, even in the latest districts of the kingdom, which this year seem likely to be favoured more than the early. The arrivals this week are short, but the wind has turned N.E., and we may look for what north country vessels have been detained for the last fortnight or more...

LONDON AVERAGES.

Table showing London averages for Wheat, Barley, Oats, Rye, Beans, and Peas for the week ending September 19.

IMPERIAL AVERAGES.

Table showing imperial averages for various commodities over several weeks, including aggregate of the six weeks and duties on grain.

Flour—Foreign, 10s. 2d. per 196 lbs.—British Possession, 9s. 4d. ditto.

SMITHFIELD MARKET.

MONDAY.—The great improvement in trade which took place last week has induced the graziers to forward to this morning's market very large supplies of all kinds of cattle. The consequence of this was a state of trade very opposite of last Monday, as might naturally be supposed when the number of beasts far exceeded the supply of any Monday within the last eight months; and however moderate, comparatively speaking, the supply of sheep was this morning, as compared with that of horned cattle, there was nevertheless sufficient, the extreme dullness of trade considered, to constitute it a large one, and certainly sheep were plentiful. The fact of an over abundance in the supplies was sufficient of itself to produce a heaviness in the trade, without

