

# THE EXAMINER.

By Graham  
Wellington St  
Strand

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## THE POLITICAL EXAMINER.

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

### PRIZE FARMERS.

Some few years ago, when it was potently believed that the main prop of the British farm-house was the protective system, as indispensable as the horse-shoe nailed to the threshold of the door, we ventured to propose an exhibition of prize farmers with their labourers, to the end that the tree might be known by its fruits. The challenge was not accepted, but in answer we were handsomely plied with predictions. We were assured, of course, that the repeal of the corn laws would be attended with utter and careless ruin. According to the prophets, by this time the whole of the rural districts should be reduced to a howling wilderness. The farmers and their labourers should be filling the work-houses. The country gentlemen should long since have all passed through the Insolvent Debtors' Courts. The cultivation of the soil should belong to the realm of history. *Fuit aratrum.* Well, instead of all this, under free trade has come to pass the sort of exhibition we challenged in vain under the protective system. Rugby has been the scene, and Lord John Scott the showman, supported of all men in the world by Mr Newdegate on the one hand, and Mr Spooner on the other. With what griefs are those two names commonly associated. Niobe is not more tearful. The one sorrowing for protection, and refusing to be comforted; the other full of affliction at the approaches of Popery, and seeing the perdition of Protestantism in the Maynooth grant. Of course they poured forth their lamentations at the Rugby dinner. Not a jot of it. They played the part of the Merry Mourners. The party was too jolly for any note of tribulation, for it was composed of farmers in the tenth year of free trade, and let the chairman, Lord John Scott, describe them:

The success of this society could not be better proved than by the presence there to-night of such a numerous assembly, all looking so remarkably fat and jolly. ("Hear," and laughter.) The stock shown was said by the judges to be capital on the whole, though, no doubt, improvement might yet be made somewhere, but he was satisfied that they never could improve better than by always paying their landlords their full rent. (Renewed laughter.) He should be extremely satisfied as an individual if any of his tenants offered him more money than he had been hitherto paying, and should assuredly put it in his pocket and button it up tight. (A laugh.) He believed it was not generally known that this was the only agricultural society where gentlemen were allowed to talk of their own concerns. In most societies people present were told not to talk politics, the consequence of which was that up got some landlord, a farmer, in the course of the evening with some such observation as this—"Glorious as is the constitution under which we live, my Lord, still I feel it my duty," &c., and was only just cried down after he had got all the politics out which he wanted. (Laughter.) The only parallel he knew was that in some assemblies in Scotland, in which it was a fundamental rule only to allow one glass of whisky-punch after dinner; but they made it up by clapping a fine of whisky upon any of the company who quoted Latin or Greek in the course of the evening. (Renewed laughter.) Now, this was a society not only for supporting agriculture, but for unburdening their consciences by talking over all the political iniquities that had been committed since they last met. They also met for another object—that of making themselves happy and comfortable, drinking their own healths, showing their fat cattle and their own fat selves, and to prove that, whatever might be their state of prosperity or adversity, they were always happy to meet together and talk about politics and applaud each other's speeches, so he hoped they would applaud his. (Cheers and laughter.)

Is not this the Prize Farmers' Show of our wishes, but realised in another sense? Certainly British agriculture is Mrs Hubbard's dog, of whom it is written that that worthy woman

Went to the undertaker's to buy him a coffin,  
But when she came back the dog was laughing.

These are the undone dogs of 1846 and 1849, these burly farmers looking "so fat and jolly," "making themselves so happy and comfortable," and whose condition of prosperity is such that Lord John Scott, chairman and landlord, tells them how he is prepared to stow away any additions to their rent which their sense of equity and of superabundance may prompt them to make. How different was their state ten, or even seven years ago, when they met only to groan, full of vain fears, and talking of nothing but the coming ruin. It used to be said that nothing would ever content the British farmer, that he was essentially a man of endless woes, that no mortal prices would ever satisfy him. And so he was when coddled and swaddled by protection; but since he has been braced by a wholesome system of competition he has become another man, and now his only fear is that corn may rise too high. Well, but surely there was a skeleton as of old at this Rugby feast, to sober the revelry. Mr Newdegate doubtless had some word of misgiving and discouragement? Not so. Nothing could be more frank and hearty than his acknowledgement of the agricultural prosperity, though he oddly enough rejoices that he had no hand in bringing it about.

In the first place he begged to congratulate them upon their pro-

sent state of prosperity. Prices had been higher during the last three years than during any three years since 1819, higher even than Protectionists ever desired, and he must say that he admired the patience with which the labouring classes had borne the pressure of those high prices, and also the noble and uncomplaining manner in which they had, in addition, borne their share of the burdens of the war. If the repealing of the corn laws and the adoption of the system of free imports had produced this spirit, he admitted the magnitude of that advantage, but he was grateful that he was no party to the delusions which were practised to force on those measures. He was not surprised that Mr Cobden was singularly silent on the subject just now.

If Mr Newdegate means by this that the free-trade expectations of prices have not been realised; that fact may be admitted without any discredit to the free-trade cause. There is generally error in every forecast of the fashion of a change, whether for good or evil. It is enough that the system has worked well, though not precisely as it was expected to work, because of circumstances the effect of which could not be calculated beforehand. Europe generally has had a succession of bad harvests, followed by several harvests barely of average amount of supply, if not under it. We have had, consequently, high prices, but unaccompanied in England with any distress and suffering, which we regret to observe is not the case with our neighbours under a protective system. With us a thriving trade, foreign and domestic, carries us smoothly over the disadvantages of high prices and monetary derangements.

But when Mr Newdegate thanks his stars that he was no party to delusions in free-trade views, has he not to rejoice that he has escaped the responsibility that would have attached to the success of an opposite class of delusions serving to protection? What would have been the state of things for the last five years if the restrictive system had been maintained? High prices now do not give rise to any popular excitement, because every one knows that they are the natural results of circumstances beyond the control of legislation. How different would have been the feeling under the protective system, artificially forcing up the price of necessaries of life. If the poor man has now to pay a larger share of his wages for bread than he can well afford, the consoling reflection is, "it cannot be helped." He has not the bitter thought that his bread has been made dear for the profit of a class over him.

Mr Spooner cannot deny the present prosperity of agriculture in the face of the jolly dogs of Rugby, but like Croker in the *Good-natured Man*, he dolefully hazards the faint hope it may last, but no thanks to free trade, which he thinks no better than Popery. To keep out Catholics and corn is the sum and substance of this enlightened gentleman's political creed.

The Rugby exhibition was a sore trial to Mr Spooner. He was like the *Malade Imaginaire* when assured he was well. He struggled hard against the conviction of his prosperity. He implored the jolly farmers not to forget their sufferings in the first passage of the change, he cautioned them against too much content with the present; above all, he entreated them to believe that they were doing well in spite of free trade, not because of it; and further, he told them there was no free trade in the case. This line of reasoning reminds us of the lady in *Bombastes Furioso*, who, on being reproached with the presence of a man's hat in her chamber, first stoutly denies that the hat is a hat at all, or anything like a hat, and then proceeds to argue—"And if it was, what is a hat without a head in it?"

But let Mr Spooner speak for himself, and mark how hard he tries to be miserable, pleased as he is used so long to be with ruin. There is a loud sob in the first sentence:

He was told that they were in a flourishing condition. His noble friend told them so, and others not so well inclined to them as he was told them that they ought to be content with their position. But such persons forgot to tell them that they flourished, not in consequence of, but in spite of free trade. (Cheers.) Just let them reflect upon that, and not forget the sufferings which they experienced when free trade was first introduced. It was known that men of great capital, and possessing much energy, had survived that terrible period of depression. It was known, too, that the country had survived it. But how many agricultural capitalists, how many agricultural labourers, had succumbed to the distress, and how much misery was caused to many respectable agricultural families before they could pride themselves upon the position they now enjoyed—a position which nothing but the most surprising efforts of energy, talent, and capital had enabled them to attain! (Hear, hear.) They did flourish now, and God grant that they might long continue to do so, but still they flourished in spite of what people chose to call free trade.

### BRIGHTENING PROSPECTS OF EDUCATION.

At a moment when crime, of which popular ignorance is at least one of the parents, is rapidly growing in activity and intensity, it is no mean satisfaction to find that the chief obstructions to a systematic national education (upon which, more than any other engine in the armoury, we must ultimately rely in our struggle with the vicious principles), begin to show unequivocal signs of exhaustion and defeat. There is reason, at length, to hope that political differences will not much longer seriously impede results, the very magnitude of which takes them out of the category of party objects. And there is also ground for trusting that religious bigotry has done its worst in a conflict, which would never

have taken place, had the voice of religion herself been heard and obeyed.

The public cannot be too grateful to those statesmen whose superiority to the littlenesses of party, whose well-used influence, wisely-directed labours, zeal according to knowledge, and guiding and encouraging example, have been mainly instrumental in conducting this greatest of questions, through so many difficulties, to its present strong and advanced position. Need we add that the recent services of Lord John Russell and Sir John Pakington have placed their names foremost on the list.

To Sir John Pakington is due the merit of having been the first leading member of the Opposition to consider the cause of public instruction apart from the ordinary politics of the day, as a concern too sacred to be sported with in debate, or used as a stepping-stone to power. The course he took last session in the discussion of Lord John's celebrated resolutions was that of a public man looking with singleness of eye and purpose to the public welfare. Nor out of Parliament has he been less earnest and useful; the speech he delivered on a late occasion at the Manchester Athenaeum (previous to his conference with the representatives of the rival plans in agitation there), was another service to the cause of the greatest importance and value. Its value was not of an ephemeral description, or we should have paid it earlier attention.

Never was the deep interest of an overwhelming majority of the people in the possession of a cheap and substantial national education more strikingly exhibited than by the statement that out of the eighteen millions of inhabitants of England and Wales, there are fifteen millions and a half dependent upon incomes of less than 100*l.* a year. "Now 'I think,'" said Sir John Pakington, to whom we are indebted for this novel and striking view, "that every man whose means are less than 100*l.* a year must look to the means of cheap and good education for his children as amongst the primary necessities of life." The truth, when stated, is self-evident. "There ought," continued the speaker, "to be in every small town and village schools for the children of small tradesmen and small farmers, in common with the children of the labourer, where they might receive the blessings of elementary instruction."

The question of national education is not one in which the class of labourers is exclusively interested. Sir John Pakington shows how much wider extends the circle of darkness, comprehending in general terms all that mass of fifteen millions and a half of people, subsisting on the petty incomes beneath the limit of 100*l.* a year, to whom, therefore, the advantages of any education deserving of the name can by no possibility descend, unless the State interpose to provide them with it, at a cost in proportion to their means or their penury. It may be assumed as incontrovertibly and deplorably true, that a vast majority of the youth of both sexes, within the dreary zone traced by Sir John, are at this hour either on a par with the Caffre tribes in point of cultivation, or receive a pittance of instruction scarcely distinguishable from utter ignorance, through teachers themselves not far from zero on the intellectual scale.

Yet this is the state of things in England which Sir James Graham, following Mr Unwin and Mr Baines, considers "satisfactory." Sir John Pakington quoted the arguments of these easily-contented statesmen, to tear them in shreds before the country.

What does Sir James Graham say, in a very able speech, which produced a great effect upon the House of Commons? Sir James Graham says:—"My first objection to this proposal [that is, Lord John Russell's proposal] is, that it is unnecessary." "I contend in the strongest manner," this is Sir James Graham's language, "that there is no country in Europe in which the progress of education, within the last twenty-five years, has been so rapid and so satisfactory as it has in England." Very well, there we have a broad issue fairly raised. What does Mr Baines, of Leeds, say, another very high authority? Mr Baines says, objection 6: "The measure is perfectly unnecessary. We possess, on official evidence, the great facts of the rapid and steady progress of education during the whole of the present century."

Now observe how triumphantly the Conservative leader (no conservative of ignorance, however) deals with these strange assertions and stranger reasonings. What if the census of 1851 showed an increase in the number of children attending schools in England? Still, says Sir John, the proportion is lower than in Scotland, or Canada, and other countries. Ought we to be satisfied? Is further progress therefore unnecessary? But his second answer tells still more fatally on his opponents. "I deny altogether that this is solely, or even mainly, a question of numbers. I say that the numbers become comparatively immaterial, if the schools to which these numbers go are 'not worth having.' And that they are not worth having appears *ex abundantia* from the returns of the Inspectors of Schools, decisive testimony on the subject. You need not go to the places where there are no schools to discover the extent and grossness of popular ignorance in England; enter the schools themselves, where schools are to be found, and you will find proof enough, proof in melancholy profusion. You may let the scholars pass, if you please, and confine your examination to the school-masters.

Sir John Pakington expressly refuses to accept the division upon the Russell resolutions as a defeat of the friends of National Education, to the extent of putting off to any very distant day the success that must eventually reward their efforts. "For the next ten or twenty years," said Mr Laing the other day to his constituents, "the question is practically decided that, if we want education, we must educate ourselves, and not trust to the State to do it for us." Against this view of the vote of last April, taken by the most elate and cock-a-hoop of the anti-educationists, Sir John vehemently protested, amidst the well-deserved applause of the meeting.

Now, gentlemen, I protest against the idea—(applause)—that an almost unintelligible division, in an expiring House of Commons, should settle this great question, affecting the vital interests of the people for twenty years—(renewed applause)—no, nor for twenty months—(applause)—if public opinion demands its revival. (Great applause.)

We understand this as a pledge that were there no other statesman in the house to renew the struggle, Sir John Pakington would himself revive it. His whole speech at Manchester breathes the spirit and resolution becoming the leader of a truly popular struggle like this. He slights the difficulties in the way of the cause, and disposes of them by declaring the determination of its advocates not to be daunted by them.

He did not believe the "religious difficulty" was insuperable. (Hear.) Parliamentary reform was full of difficulty; but it was done. (Applause.) That question, in which you here took so deep an interest, the adoption of free trade and the repeal of the corn laws—(applause)—that was full of difficulty, but that was done—(applause)—and so must this be done. (Applause.) Any Minister who shall hereafter be able to say that he has enabled every man in England to have sound elementary education,—that he has enabled every citizen of this great country to learn his duty to God and to his Sovereign, and to cultivate his intellectual faculties, and so to raise himself in his social position to whatever extent the capacity which God had given him may permit—I say the Minister, be he whom he may, who shall be able to say this, will be entitled to the gratitude of his countrymen, and to the admiration of posterity. (Applause.) I believe, and let us all hope, that the day is not distant when her Majesty's Ministers, in the name of our gracious Sovereign, may propose measures for the accomplishment of this great and noble object;—(hear)—and whenever that day may arrive, I, for one, will not believe that Parliament will refuse its support; I will not believe that the Parliament of England will then be slow to recognise the great principle enunciated in those eloquent words which you have already heard to-night: "The people want knowledge, and it must be given them!" (Loud cheers.)

"The thing must be done!" These bold words from a man in a position to vouch them with conduct as bold, are full of hope and encouragement; they are in themselves a partial reversal of the vote of last session. It grows more difficult every day for those who resist a national scheme of education to distinguish themselves from the opponents of education itself.

The discussions at Manchester seem to us to have narrowed the controversy to a point, at which it seems inconceivable that there can be any more resistance of an honest kind to the most interesting and pressing of all reforms. The conference already alluded to, was, we believe, suggested by Mr Cobden. It was attended with results of the greatest importance; the promoters of the several rival schemes having come to an agreement, in presence and with the aid of Sir John Pakington, on the following points, which would appear to afford an excellent basis for the establishment of a national system:

1. That it is desirable to impose a rate for the support of popular instruction in Manchester.
2. That all schools deriving aid from the rate shall be subject to inspection, but such inspection shall not extend to the religious instruction given in such schools.
3. That all schools shall be entitled to aid, provided the instruction, other than religious, shall come up to the required standard, and that no child shall be excluded on religious grounds.
4. That the distinctive religious formularies, where taught, in schools connected with the different religious denominations, and receiving aid from the rate, shall be given at separate hours, to be specified by the managers, to facilitate the withdrawal of objecting children.
5. That there shall be no interference with the management of the schools.

#### LORD TOWNSEND, SIR C. NAPIER, AND SIR R. PEEL.

Candour, in the shape of the Marquis of Townsend, has undertaken Admiral Sir C. Napier's defence. At a public dinner at Tamworth Lord Townsend judged it *apropos* to take Sir Robert Peel to task for his recent strong remarks on the conduct of Sir C. Napier. His lordship commenced by adverting to the admiral's shameful declaration to the Archduke Constantine that it was lucky he had not ventured to attack the ill-manned, ill-disciplined British fleet at Kiel, and paid Sir C. Napier the compliment of saying he did not believe him. This is pretty well for a friend, but Lord Townsend did not stop there, and proceeded to ascribe the defamatory avowal to the squabble Sir C. Napier had with the Admiralty. So that, in Lord Townsend's friendly view, the admiral had said what was not true, to the disparagement and dishonour of the British navy, in order to satisfy a personal grudge. Having placed Sir C. Napier's case in so fair a point of view, his lordship proceeded to blame Sir R. Peel for using words relating to this spiteful defamer uncalled for and out of place, considering the office he filled. He should have been the last, observed his lordship, to say a word against a man who might be said to be at the top of the service. But what forbearance is due to the man at the top of the service who uses his position to defame and discredit the service, and who tells a vain-glorious enemy that he might have beaten him if he had not been the dupe of the prestige of the British navy. Sir Robert Peel did but put the saddle on the right horse. He would not allow the

blame for the barren Baltic campaign to be laid to the account of the inefficiency of the fleet. He spoke out as a man who had the honour of the service more at heart than tenderness for the morbid vindictive vanity of one of its admirals, and attributed the exploitless cruise of 1854 to the want of enterprise and energy of the commander. If this was against etiquette and rule, it is to be remembered that all etiquette and rule had been violated by Sir C. Napier. *Sauve qui peut* had been the word with him. He has endeavoured to save his own reputation at the expense of the character of the fleet he commanded, and by aspersions on the naval administration under which it was fitted out. Sir Robert Peel has thus only handled him after his own fashion; and as a member of the Government, he admits that it has to answer for having made a bad choice of a naval commander. For this, however, the public was really more to blame than the Ministry, for Sir C. Napier had so puffed himself into popularity that he was thought the only man for the appointment, and hard measure would any officer have had who had been nominated to the command in preference to the Brummagem Nelson.

Sir Robert Peel did not take the schooling of Lord Townsend very patiently. He stood stoutly to his words, and observed with just indignation on the unworthy attempt of Sir C. Napier—

To lower the character of the British sailor by pandering to the power, and endeavouring to lend a helping hand to advance the prestige of our recent enemy.

Met thus sturdily, Lord Townsend did not raise the tone of his vindication, but, on the contrary, dropped it down to this plaintive key, sounding extremely like the very censure deprecated:

Being intimate with him, he had told him from the beginning what a scrape he would get into. If he had remained quiet nothing would probably have been said except that the country would have regretted that a man in whom they had confidence had done nothing at all. But it was that unfortunate *cacoëthes scribendi* with which he was afflicted—that eternal love of talking—that perpetual hatred of leaving anything quiet, which had been Sir Charles's worst enemy. He (the noble marquis) was not defending him. He thought he was to blame in not letting the Admiralty know sooner what was to be done. He allowed months to pass by, and then simply said, "If you had sent me out so and so I could have done so and so." He had brought the storm entirely on himself. But let him remain quiet for the rest of his days, and get over the unfortunate mistake he had made.

This is certainly Mrs Candour to the life. But really it is not just to ascribe to Sir C. Napier "the perpetual hatred of leaving anything quiet." For did he not leave the enemy quiet? Where was his hatred of quiet in the Baltic? We are told he has now written to the Archduke Constantine for a character, and certainly he deserves one at the hands of that personage, to whom he has so generously made a present of a victory *in posse* over himself and his Kiel fleet. The Archduke, in contradiction to Lord Townsend, must in truth admit that he found our admiral a very quiet unintrusive neighbour at Cronstadt.

One word more before we take leave, we hope for ever, of this subject. Let Sir C. Napier, as his excellent friend Lord Townsend advises, be quiet for the rest of his days. For he has to thank the indulgence of the Government for a man of his many years and scant discretion, that he remains on the list of admirals, after his confessed communication to the Archduke Constantine, to say nothing of his other outrageous breaches of rule and offences of insubordination.

#### KNAVE AND GUDGEON.

There are cases in which it is a matter of regret that both parties cannot be made to smart, and in which the desirable judgment would be the *tu dignus et hic*, not indeed of reward, but punishment. Of this class was the action *Culverwell v. Sidebottom* for the recovery of 2,000*l.* upon a bill of exchange at four years' date. The defendant's plea was that the bill was given for an immoral consideration, namely, for money lost at play. The evidence produced in support of the defence was highly curious. The defendant, Mr Sidebottom, came up to town from Manchester in 1847, with an allowance of 300*l.* a year in his pocket, upon the strength of which he commenced gambling at a place called the "Berkeley" in Albemarle street, and lost 8,000*l.* at starting. Nothing discouraged by this bitter taste of vice, he returned next year to the same infamous den, and altogether played twelve or fourteen times, to the tune of 25,000*l.* or 26,000*l.*, of which he "fancies" he paid 15,000*l.* or 16,000*l.* to one Atkins, the manager of the concern. This hopeful gentleman came into his fortune by his father's death in '49, and some notion of the scale of his living may be formed from his statement that besides his little play expenses he kept ten hunters in Leicestershire, "sometimes more, sometimes less." And this is now a Manchester man of business. Mr Sidebottom naively avows that he was not fortunate in play. He does not recollect having won 100*l.* in his life. Yet, as we have seen, he persevered. That he won any sum, however small, except to draw him on (and the gudgeon does not seem to have required much of a bait), is the only matter of surprise, seeing how the play was conducted. The odds of the gaming bank, with fair play, are always sufficient to make its winning a matter of mathematical certainty on the long-run; but this advantage did not content the worthies of the "Berkeley," who, to make surety double sure, and take a bond of knavery, used dice called "despatches," in favour of the table as fifty to one. And here it may be asked, why these dice go by the diplomatic name of "despatches"? It is because they have two sides, double fours, fives, or sixes. Perhaps, however, the word is used in another sense,

and these dice are called despatches, because they are employed to despatch the victim, as the assassin despatches the man he knocks on the head.

But the "despatches" are not the only aids to the villainy of the table. There is besides these instruments a decoy called a bonnet, who performs his part of a successful player *encourager les autres*. This name we may be sure was given to the decoy before the present bonnets, unchargeable with disguise, were in fashion.

The result of the action revealing these villainies was, of course, very properly, a verdict for the defendant, for the law cannot lend itself to the recovery of pillage; but there are two sides to the example, and if it be deterring on the one it is evilly encouraging on the other. Many a young man with a gambling propensity will think that "after all it is not so dangerous to play, as if the worst comes to the worst he can give his note-of-hand, and afterwards get quit of the liability on the score of the immoral consideration." The sort of conduct so encouraged is illustrated in an old story. A looker-on observing some cheating at play, whispered to the loser that his adversary was packing the cards. "Do not be uneasy on my account," was the reply. "I intend to pick his pocket on his way out."

#### THE DEFENCE OF KARS.

The Hungarian General, George Kmety, or Ismail Pasha, as he is called in the Turkish service, has presented the English public with his narrative (translated from the German in which it originally appeared) of the desperate struggle of the 29th of September, before Kars, in which the Russians were so vigorously repulsed, with the loss of upwards of 6,000 men. General Kmety describes this action, of which unquestionably his was the *pars maxima*, with great force and clearness; and it is certainly not his fault, if he occupies the undesirable position of the historian of his own deeds. His object, however, is by no means purely personal: he was desirous, much to his honour, to "obtain for the services of those who took part in this severe contest that appreciation to which they are justly entitled." To the gallantry of the Turkish officers who acted with him, or under him, he particularly expresses his obligations, and is liberal of his praise. Had the same generous wish to distribute commendation impartially to all who deserved it, been felt in other quarters, the pamphlet before us would probably have never been written; but it seems impossible to doubt, from the state of facts now before us, that something much below the full measure of justice has been done to Kmety's services by General Williams, to whom credit enough would have remained, after paying the uttermost farthing of tribute to his comrades and auxiliaries of all nations.

Kmety prefixes to the narrative a letter addressed by him to General Williams, dated 1st Aug. ult. In this letter he says:

On your arrival at Kars in the autumn of 1854, you relieved me from the outpost duties, which had been entrusted to me with the Irregular Corps during nine months, without the intermission of a single day, and in which my strength and constitution had necessarily suffered severely. You placed me, at my request, in command of a division of the army, and you supported the exercise of my authority in that position, with all the weight of an influence such as no other European officer ever enjoyed in this country. At length, when the word "Surrender" was uttered for the first time, you enabled me to leave the beleaguered garrison on grounds personal to myself. For all this my acknowledgements are due, and far be it from me to withhold them.

Now, however, a new aspect is given to our mutual relations by one of your published speeches, if correctly reported. After mentioning Colonel Lake, an engineer of great merit, the lamented Captain Thompson, whose premature demise is by me as by all regretted, the young Major Teesdale, whose valour and coolness give the best promise, Mr Churchill, a gentleman who doubtless rendered you important service in the functions of Secretary, and, finally, Dr Sandwith, an able and indefatigable physician,—after bestowing on all these, I say, a well-deserved meed of praise, you introduce my name, as if half forgotten, and as if of one who had contributed but little to the events of the campaigns. Under these circumstances I can no longer keep silence without losing my self-respect; and I find myself, though most unwillingly, constrained to call upon you, with all due deference, to complete the statements of facts which have appeared, and more especially those concerning the battle of the 29th September, 1855, in which the part taken by me will no doubt, on re-consideration, appear to you, as it does to me, imperfectly reported.

If I have not taken this course sooner, it is also partly because on perusing your despatches in the Blue Book, I regarded them as the reports of a British Commissioner, concerning his own services and those of the British officers, with which it was no business of mine to interfere. But it is only from another of your public speeches, in which you talk of the Turkish troops being "under your command," that I learn that those reports can be taken as those of the Commander-in-Chief of the army of Kars. As such, I hold that an officer serving in that army, although not having the honour to be a British officer, has an incontrovertible right to come forward, and require that all chief questions in them should be placed on a distinct and accurate footing.

We extract the following from the excellent remarks of the *Globe* upon this subject, entirely concurring in the justice of the concluding observation.

In one of his cheerful and witty letters from Kars, Captain Thompson, the memory of whose lamentable fate is fresh in the hearts of all, writes most affectionately of Kmety. "All glory to dear old Kmety," he says, "who fought like a lion. Dear old man! He has no wish for himself, but to do something for the Turkey which saved him from the Russians after the Hungarian revolution. He is one of the few remaining real Hungarian patriots, and I only wish I were Queen of England for one half-hour, that I might reward him as he deserves." And then he adds this touching anecdote. "Directly after the action, our own brave General Williams came to where he was, and said, 'General Kmety, I thank you in the name of the Queen of England for your gallantry and exertions this day.' Kmety told me privately afterwards, that had he been presented with an English earldom, and 20,000*l.* per annum (a fabulous sum to him), he should not have been half so pleased." It is a pity that the impulse which led General Williams to act so nobly on the day of battle was not prolonged until he wrote to Lord Clarendon four days afterwards, until he addressed

the English people on returning from captivity, nay, until this hour, when he is covered with well-won honours and rewards.

But the part of General Kmety's pamphlet that will excite most interest, and probably not a little controversy, is the passage with which it closes, where the veteran Hungarian chief criticises the generalship both of the Russian attack and the English defence of Kars. It will be seen that he thinks the Russian force might have been completely routed, and Kars saved, had the signal advantage of the 29th of September been turned to proper account. The question is not one for us to decide. We merely record the views of a military authority, eminently entitled to be listened to upon the subject.

It is hazardous to criticise the performances of celebrated Generals. Impressed, however, by the remembrance of a day so glorious to the arms of his Majesty the Sultan, I cannot refrain from making the following observations.

As the Russian General attached so little importance to the position of Techmas, that he allowed the weak temporary defences, which existed there on his first arrival, to be strengthened, and extensive works to be erected under his very eyes, the military inquirer naturally asks why he attacked it with great unwieldy columns in its strongest point.

If a surprise was intended, as may be supposed from the attack not having been preceded by a preparatory fire of artillery, the method taken by him for effecting it will always remain on record as a dangerous experiment.

The Turkish army, profiting by the enthusiasm which prevailed, and taking advantage of the inequalities of the ground and the darkness which reigned during the early part of the night before the rising of the moon, should have undertaken an attack on the night after the victory by several light moveable columns, directed from different sides upon Ainalli, to surprise the enemy's troops, which, some 3,000 or 4,000 strong, after having been beaten back from the Ingliz Tabias, had retired to that village, and were there encamped.

This camp was distant more than four hours' march from the main camp at the enemy's head-quarters near Tchivilli Kays, whereas it was only one hour and a half distant from us.

The enemy's troops echeloned between these two camps had been withdrawn, immediately after the battle, to his head-quarter camp. No support, therefore, could have come to Ainalli for four hours. The want of horses for our artillery is no excuse; for by night, and on broken ground, we required no guns, and we had three battalions of rifles. The usual order and discipline could not have reigned in the enemy's camp after so bloody a day, on which so many of his superior officers had fallen, and encumbered, as it must have been, with wounded. Moreover, we were elated by success, whilst the enemy was correspondingly depressed.

According to the information in the hands of the defenders, the enemy's total effective force round Kars, after deducting his losses in the battle, was believed not to exceed some 15,000 infantry and 10,000 or 12,000 cavalry, including the troops at Ainalli. The effective force of the defenders, at this time within the entrenched camp, might have been some 17,000 or 18,000 men, of whom, as will have been seen by the recital of the battle, a considerable portion had not been engaged. The defenders were not half so much fatigued as the enemy, the whole of whose infantry must have been in movement throughout the preceding night.

By dispersing the camp at Ainalli, the victory would have been utilized, and the least result would have been that the enemy would not have had sufficient force to continue his blockade, shutting us up within a circumference of ten hours' march.

By omitting this enterprise, the glorious victory remained unfruitful, as to any result it had upon the war; as must be the case with all victories which are not, as General Clausewitz says, "immediately used in the military household."

The General in command of the Russian army underrated his foe, whereas the General in command of the Turkish army overrated his.

We shall merely add that nothing would more have heightened the admiration of the British public for their gallant countryman who commanded at Kars than a generous anxiety on his part to secure the full measure of honour and just appreciation for all who served under or co-operated with him. General Williams has in this respect disappointed the public expectation both with respect to Kmety and Omar Pasha.

#### THE GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.

The proceedings of this association are frequently of a character extremely interesting to the public. They were particularly so at its meeting on Monday last, when the following topics came under discussion, namely, a project for another government expedition in search of Sir John Franklin and his companions, the Transatlantic Electric Telegraph, and the African Ivory Trade.

On the first of these subjects a paper was read by Lieutenant Pim, of the Royal Navy, himself an enterprising and experienced, but, as it strikes us, an over-sanguine Arctic explorer. Mr Pim's scheme proposes entering the Polar Sea by Behring's Strait from the west, instead of from Baffin's Bay from the east, and has in view to complete a search which he thinks has not been perfected. His grounds of hope are, that neither books nor papers, nor relics of the bodies of the sufferers, have been found, from which he argues the possibility of some of the party being still in existence, and living, perhaps in bondage, among the Esquimaux. Such grounds for a fresh expedition to the dreary and inhospitable Polar region, of which we already know quite as much as is worth knowing, appear to us thoroughly inconclusive, and, indeed, were dissipated almost as soon as enunciated by the observations made at the meeting by Dr Rae, the intrepid and intelligent discoverer of the relics of Sir John Franklin and his companions. Dr Rae described the locality of the tragic fate of the voyagers (which took place in the winter), as a low tongue of land inundated in the summer, owing to which circumstance the bodies would, as all similar objects are, be washed away into the Polar Sea. The absence among the discovered relics of perishable papers Dr Rae thought not surprising. The Esquimaux would naturally set no value on such things, and he thought it not at all improbable that they would be thrown away, or even given to the children as playthings. It seemed, indeed, to be the confirmed opinion of Dr Rae, and surely on this subject no

opinion can have more weight than his, that there is not the remotest chance of any of the companions of Sir John Franklin being at this moment living.

In compliance, however, with Lieut. Pim's request, we give his plan and the substance of his statement in his own words:

After some preliminary observations, he said:—The scheme is a comprehensive one, and cannot, I think, fail of success (hear). A small screw vessel, with a complement of twenty men, to penetrate as far down Peel Sound as possible, take up winter quarters, and assisted by teams of dogs purchased at Disco or Uppernaick, extend the search down both shores of the Sound. Another vessel, similarly equipped, to push through Behring's Straits, and winter at King William Land, whilst an overland party descend the Great Fish River, with orders to make for a certain rendezvous, previously arranged. Thus a comprehensive scheme of search would be organised, which could hardly fail of success; for it will at once be seen that the very winds and currents which prove an obstacle to the advance of one party will have precisely the opposite effect upon the other, and thus insure that at least one vessel will reach her destination. You will see that I lay great stress upon the smallness of the ships and the use of dogs for travelling purposes. My experience proves the superiority of small vessels, with limited crews, over large ships and corresponding companies. As regards the use of dogs, their superiority for sledging purposes over men has been abundantly proved. This society, the leading one beyond doubt in a great maritime nation like England, has, from first to last, taken the deepest interest in the fate of the Erebus and Terror, and it would indeed be a just recompense if the glory of solving the vexed question fell to its lot. With this end in view, I now urge upon its members, impressed as they must be with the dire necessity of the case, to equip a small vessel to push through Behring's Straits. In their hands every despatch will be used, and she would leave England in proper time, viz., before the end of January. No doubt, however, upon proper explanation, the Admiralty would immediately accord both countenance and assistance, thus reducing the cost to a mere trifle. As regards the Great Fish River, plenty of volunteers will be found. That expedition ought to leave England in March next.

On similar grounds with those insisted on by Lieutenant Pim, it appears that a memorial has been addressed to the Government, urging it to undertake another Polar expedition, to search for possible survivors, or missing records. What reception the request may receive from the Government we do not pretend to anticipate, but we are thoroughly satisfied that the nation, which thought even Sir John Franklin's expedition superfluous, and was so long harassed with anxiety for the safety of those who went in search of it, will not receive with approbation a scheme which would again subject to fruitless hazard some of the bravest and boldest of her sons.

The next subject which occupied the attention of the society was a far more cheerful one. It was the Transatlantic Electric Telegraph, of which grand and truly wonderful project Mr Cyrus Field, an American gentleman connected with it, gave a most graphic and interesting sketch. He described the survey of the ocean from Newfoundland to Ireland, a distance of 1,640 miles, of which the utmost depth was but 2,070 fathoms, near two and one-third miles, or 1,900 feet short of the height of the Jungfrau. The bottom, without a single rock, consists apparently of mere sand, but, examined by the microscope, is found to be composed of tropical shells carried on the back of the "Gulf Weed," by the "Gulf Stream," and deposited in the course of countless ages. Mr Field held in his hands some fathoms of the cable by which that Broad Atlantic is to be spanned,—that ocean which, 364 years ago, had frightened the superstitious companions of Columbus into a mutiny before they had got half across it. The cable was but a tiny rope of about five-eighths of an inch in diameter, made of the copper of Cornwall, of the iron of South Wales, of the zinc of Germany, of the gutta percha of Borneo, and spun in Newcastle. By means of it, a question put from London will be answered from Washington (may the reply always be a friendly one!) within a quarter of an hour. In twenty-four hours the telegraph will communicate 30,000 words, equal to twenty-two columns of the largest type of the *Times* newspaper. Thus, a President's Message, however lengthy, or a Queen's Speech with debate on it, however tedious, will be made known from one shore of the Atlantic to the other, within a day after the delivery! Mr Cyrus Field concluded his spirited address by telling the Geographical Society, that whereas, on the 4th of July, 1776, the United States separated themselves from England, the projectors of the Atlantic Telegraph pledged themselves, that on the 4th of July, 1857, America should be once more annexed to the Mother country!

The paper on the African Ivory Trade was of a good deal less interest and importance than the address of Mr Cyrus Field. It was drawn up by Dr Vogel, an African traveller, and communicated by the Earl of Clarendon. The paper described the produce of the western side of Africa in ivory as amounting to 16,000 tons a year, which would imply the yearly slaughter of 400,000 male elephants, according to the average size of African tusks! Dr Vogel, being a traveller, should be particularly scrupulous about his facts, the tales of travellers not having a proverbial repute for accuracy. Notwithstanding such a Massacre of Innocents, the annual value of the ivory comes to no more than 6,000*l*. Dr Vogel seriously proposes to the Foreign Office, that a British factory should be established in the interior of Africa, with a steamer on the Niger, to secure this trade to England. It is evident, we think, that the projector is not a merchant, and at all events not a British merchant. When again he writes on matters of trade, he should clearly understand that no mere spontaneous product of a country is ever of much importance to commerce. The ivory of Africa is unimportant, and so is even its gold. Not so its palm oil, the produce of human industry, and of which the quantity imported into this country alone last year was close on 40,000 tons, valued at 1,800,000*l*.

#### THE TICKET-OF-LEAVE NUISANCE.

We have repeatedly noticed, as one of the fatal objections to this most pernicious innovation in the system of our criminal justice, the position in which the half-pardoned convict himself is placed, under a surveillance which is no protection to the public, while it opposes an insuperable obstacle to the return of the criminal to the paths of honest industry. A striking illustration of this occurred the other day at the Lambeth Police Office, where a ticket-of-leave man was brought before Mr Elliott, and sentenced to three months' imprisonment with hard labour, upon a charge amounting to little more than his having been found "knocking at the door of an unoccupied house." This was the principal circumstance that led to the man's arrest and punishment. Now surely the grounds upon which he received his discharge must have been slight indeed, if they were not strong enough to repel a suspicion so flimsy as this. It would be well for the public if it was only at the doors of unoccupied houses the ticket-of-leave men were found operating. *Si sic omnia!* The fellow will be apprehended, we have no doubt, at the door of an *occupied* house, the next time we hear of him.

The crimes of these men have a natural tendency to grow more atrocious every day; but, as if they required a stimulus in their career, we find another magistrate, Mr Combe, actually taunting a ticket-of-leave man with the paltriness of his first offence after his liberation. "What, only out of prison a few days after suffering six years in penal servitude, and then commit a paltry robbery!" Mr Combe evidently thinks nothing under a case of garrotting worthy of these licensed ruffians. He committed the man for trial, hoping the judge who tried him would particularly notice his ticket-of-leave. But the ticket-of-leave was no aggravation of the crime. We hope the judge will notice it to express his reprobation of the present most disgraceful state of the law.

We cannot possibly review all the instances of the maladministration of justice to which our attention is called by correspondents. The decision of the local magistrates, reported in the *Wakefield Journal*, in the case truly described as "a horrible outrage upon a married woman at Crigglestone," merits the strongest condemnation. The chairman told the three miscreants convicted before him that "had the case gone to the Assizes, he had no doubt they would have been transported for ten or fifteen years." Yet he decided on dealing with the case summarily, and sentenced them to six months' imprisonment with hard labour. A more disgusting and atrocious outrage could not have been perpetrated, yet the magistrates taking this view of it, deliberately applied the law in the most lenient manner.

#### THE SCIENCE OF SHOPPING.

##### A LECTURE FOR THE LADIES.

The love of the chase, a ruling passion of the Anglo-Saxon, is not confined to the hunters in leather-breeches and top-boots. There is hunting in petticoats and crinoline also, and the town shares with the country the excitement of the national pastime. Bargain-hunting is the civic and feminine form of the propensity. This is to our womankind what deer-stalking or fox-hunting is to their husbands and brothers. There is the Regent-street hunt, and the Oxford-street hunt. Mrs Smith and Mrs Jones beat up Soho, and Miss Brown and Miss Robinson have a fine run, every good hunting day, from Charing cross to Cheapside; for it may be observed that our sportswomen usually hunt in couples.

At this time of the year there is often a close resemblance between the game of the streets and the fields; if it is not the wild animal itself that Mrs Smith is trotting after, it is commonly the fur in the shape of a cheap muff, or a wonderful prize of a boa. Darlings of shawls, however, and loves of bonnets, are bargains always in season. Tally ho after a cashmere for a quarter of its value, or a French silk for next to nothing!

The great preserves of this sort of game are the shops of those gallant and self-devoting tradesmen who make no secret of their dismal resolution to ruin themselves for the benefit of Mrs John Bull and her daughters. Several shops may be seen at this moment in the principal trading streets, placarded from the ground to the attics with inscriptions in glaring capitals, proclaiming that each shop is kept open for no other purpose but to beggar the shopkeeper and enrich his customers. The proprietor of one is a Curtius, who announces his inflexible determination to jump into the Insolvent Court, reckless what becomes of himself, provided Mrs Smith obliges him by only paying a guinea for a velvet which has cost him five. On the opposite side is a Spartan of a furrier, who, not to be outdone by the Roman, has made up his mind to sell the finest genuine ermines at the price of rabbit-skins, though bankruptcy stares him straight in the face. Not far off is a desperate mercer, who was on the point of hanging himself with his own ribbons; but on second thoughts it occurred to him to offer them to the wives of the cockneys at seventy per cent. under what he paid the manufacturer for them. Some of these romantic tradesmen assign no motive for deliberately choosing the road to ruin. They are resolved,—there is no more about it. Others, however, seem to feel that such a method of shopkeeping requires some little explanation; and accordingly they have a stock of reasons on hand. One alleges dissolution of partnership, or domestic tribulation; another is on the point of emigrating; a third is about to open a vaster establishment in another part of the town; a fourth (this is the newest excuse we have noticed) is going to improve and decorate his premises; the painter and gilder

are to go to work on a particular day, and before that day every inch of muslin in his shop and every yard of linen must be disposed of, without hesitation or reserve; in fact his goods must be flung into the street, if the City Madams refuse to come and take them at the ridiculous figures with which they are docketed.

But the flimsiest tale, flimsy as the trash sold in shops of this character, is sufficient to ensnare the bargain-hunters. The shops that monopolise their favours are the very shops which persons with a grain of common sense would carefully shun, correctly inferring fraud within from the audacious falsehoods blazoned without. "Wonderful!" cries Mrs Brown, "How absurdly cheap!" exclaims Miss Robinson. "How can they do it?" asks simple Mrs Jones, or Mrs Smith. It never occurs to any matron or spinster of the whole field that the thing said to be done cannot be done at all; that there is nothing wonderful or ridiculous in the transaction, but that there should be such gross ignorance to be found in muslin or dimity as to be imposed on by such bold and transparent trickery.

The usual acuteness of the sex deserts them before a shop posted all over with lies as gross as mountains. The very circumstances that ought to rouse all their feminine suspicions strike them stone-blind. Humbug, one would suppose, ought to be more easily known to be humbug, when advertised in letters of pantomimic magnitude; and the female mind most unenlightened on the science of economy might at least be expected to "smell a rat," when a shopkeeper professes to carry on his business on the principle of ruining himself. Our countrywomen may be well assured that in transactions with such traders, the ruin or the loss is altogether on the side of the purchaser. The self-sacrificing Mr Titmouse is the victimiser, not the victim. He is *doing* Mrs Smith, and not *undoing* himself and his little Titmice. He sells nothing but trash, and makes a very handsome profit by selling at the price he puts on it, which in nine cases out of ten is a much higher price (compared with the intrinsic worth of the article) than the honest dealer next-door charges for a corresponding honest commodity.

The truth is that the goods sold in these roguish establishments are manufactured expressly for them, from the vilest materials, fabricated with knavish skill to counterfeit genuineness, and enable the retailer to palm them upon the simple ones as prodigies of cheapness. Even those who are content with indifferent articles ought to beware of the shops where they are offered as the best that can be made, at prices sufficient of themselves to prove the cheat. Low as the sums asked may be absolutely, they would be lower still, if either the tradesman was not a swindler, or his customer not a goose. The bargain-hunting *mater-familias* is therefore a most extravagant person. If she really wants a good thing, she goes to counters where good things are not to be had. If she wants an inferior commodity, she still frequents shops where she is certain enough to be satisfied in that particular, but where, in all human probability, she pays exorbitantly "dear for her whistle." We hope they do not neglect instruction on these points in those Ladies' Colleges which are one of the curious characteristics of the times. Surely no woman ought to be suffered to graduate in the female arts without at least being taught that a fair silk is only to be had for a fair price, and that there is no honest or profitable dealing except upon terms of mutual advantage to buyer and seller.

We ought, no doubt, to be lenient with feminine errors on commercial questions, remembering that there is not an economical blunder committed in a day's shopping which is not systematically outdone upon the Continent, by wiseacres without the plea of the petticoat and the apology of crinoline. Lord Palmerston, the other day at Manchester, happily ridiculed a German notion of trade, as consisting in "selling without buying," which is indeed much the same as the Regent-street system, where it is pretended that there is only one party to the transaction as far as profit is concerned. And French commercial wisdom is ladylike in the highest degree. In fact, the Englishwoman of these days takes both her fashions and her political economy from Paris.

Why does not some popular lecturer give the women of London a lecture on shopping? In the meantime, perhaps, our brief remarks may not be entirely useless.

### THE LITERARY EXAMINER.

*Aurora Leigh.* By Elizabeth Barrett Browning. Chapman and Hall.

In the course of this poem Mrs Browning now and then suggests, and half, or more than half, accepts as a character of woman's writing, that

we want string to tie our flowers,  
So drop them as we walk, which serves to show  
The way we went,

and it may seem to many readers that we are, in her own poem of *Aurora Leigh*, following a path carelessly and freely strewn with blossoms,—not standing to admire a garland dexterously twined. Perhaps it is so; and perhaps there may be some following the poet's track who feel that even flowers make a litter on the path along which they have fallen, here too many, there too few, and who, being nervously alive to the disorder on the road, take little heed whither it leads them.

However she may have dealt with her flowers, no precision can complain with justice that, as to the way she went, Mrs Browning has not persevered with an unswerving determination, walking straightly in the middle of the path

towards the point kept from the first in view. The poem is a philosophical love story, the details of which we need not relate, since they are by this time known to the greater number of our readers; at the same time it is the direct and full expression of a single thought. Its doctrine sets out with the assertion that there are in life two kinds of effort to do good; one of them that of the philanthropist, or say the Christian socialist, who sees the material origin of many of the evils of society, and as a Christian, for the love of God, devotes all energy to the task of getting for his depressed neighbours better lodging, better food, clean skin, and the respect of kindred from the rich; the other kind of effort, that of the artist—say the poetess—who sees not the souls lost through degraded bodies, but the flesh abased by degradation of the soul,—she also, as a Christian, for the love of God, devotes all energy to the task of elevating those about her to a higher sense of life. Now, says the poem of *Aurora Leigh*, each of these anxious labourers errs in accepting only half a truth, and then again errs, over and above that, in being anxious. God is over all.

The story of *Aurora Leigh* begins then by establishing the relation between the two kinds of effort named, under the type of a pair of lovers, Romney Leigh, a Christian socialist and an Englishman, and Aurora Leigh, a poetess, Italian born. They belong to each other by God's ordinance, cousins by blood, they are bound also by an indissoluble love from their first childhood, but in the days of their youth and inexperience they repel each other, hold that their paths diverge, and live apart, each working zealously to do that which is right. At last the lesson of life brings the truth home on each of them.

The truth which draws  
Through all things upwards, that a twofold world  
Must go to a perfect cosmos. Natural things  
And spiritual,—who separates those two  
In art, in morals, or the social drift,  
Tears up the bond of nature and brings death,  
Paints futile pictures, writes unreal verse,  
Leads vulgar days, deals ignorantly with men,  
Is wrong, in short, at all points. We divide  
This apple of life, and cut it through the pipe,—  
The perfect round which fitted Venus' hand  
Has perished utterly as if we ate  
Both halves. Without the spiritual, observe,  
The natural's impossible;—no form,  
No motion! Without sensuous, spiritual  
Is inappreciable;—no beauty or power!  
And in this twofold sphere the twofold man  
(And still the artist is intensely a man)  
Holds firmly by the natural, to reach  
The spiritual beyond it,—fixes still  
The type with mortal vision, to pierce through,  
With eyes immortal, to the antetype  
Some call the ideal,—better called the real,  
And certain to be called so presently  
When things shall have their names.

And then there is the other error—the impatience with which the material reformer or the poet, or even the man who may be both in one—a perfect whole—is apt to strive for the redressing of all wrong, the vain dependence of the human worker when he finds how little is achieved. Thus Aurora makes confession of their common fault to Romney:

I who talked of art,  
And you who grieved for all men's griefs . . . what then?  
We surely made too small a part for God  
In these things. What we are, imports us more  
Than what we eat; and life, you've granted me,  
Develops from within. But innermost  
Of the inmost, most interior of the interne,  
God claims his own. Divine humanity  
Renewing nature,—or the piercingest verse,  
Prest in by subtlest poet, still must keep  
As much upon the outside of a man,  
As the very bowl, in which he dips his beard.  
—And then, . . . the rest. I cannot surely speak.  
Perhaps I doubt more than you doubted then,  
If I the poet's veritable charge  
Have borne upon my forehead. If I have,  
It might feel somewhat liker to a crown,  
The foolish green one even.—Ah, I think,  
And chiefly when the sun shines, that I've failed.  
But what then, Romney? Though we fail indeed,  
You . . . I . . . a score of such weak workers, . . . He  
Fails never. If He cannot work by us,  
He will work over us. Does He want a man,  
Much less a woman, think you? Every time  
The star winks there, so many souls are born,  
Who all shall work too. Let our own be calm:  
We should be ashamed to sit beneath those stars,  
Impatient that we're nothing.

Afterwards the same view is thus yet more forcibly expressed by Romney:

We want more quiet in our works,  
More knowledge of the bounds in which we work;  
More knowledge that each individual man  
Remains an Adam to the general race,  
Constrained to see, like Adam, that he keep  
His personal state's condition honestly,  
Or vain all thoughts of his to help the world,  
Which still must be developed from its one,  
If bettered in its many. We, indeed,  
Who think to lay it out new like a park,  
We take a work on us which is not man's;  
For God alone sits far enough above,  
To speculate so largely.

Finally, the gist of the whole lesson is mastered, and it is this: "The bounds in which we work," are those of individual home life, in which the duty to the neighbour is not overlooked, and of which Love is the highest guide: first God's love, next the love of wedded souls. The cousins had met first in the morning of life, and they had repelled each other in the morning hours of day. Night had come to them both, and it was during a summer night under the moon and stars which testify to the Divine overruling

power, fresh from an incident which proved the quiet working for good of God's laws on earth, that Romney and Aurora fully understood each other.

And then calm, equal, smooth with weights of joy,  
His voice rose, as some chief musician's song  
Amid the old Jewish temple's Selah-pause,  
And bade me mark how we two met at last  
Upon this moon-bathed promontory of earth,  
To give up much on each side, then take all.  
'Beloved,' it sang, 'we must be here to work;  
And men who work, can only work for men,  
And, not to work in vain, must comprehend  
Humanity, and, so, work humanly,  
And raise men's bodies still by raising souls,  
As God did, first.'

'But stand upon the earth,'  
I said, 'to raise them,—(this is human too;  
There's nothing high which has not first been low;  
My humbleness, said One, has made me great!)  
As God did, last.'

'And work all silently,  
And simply,' he returned, 'as God does all;  
Distort our nature never, for our work,  
Nor count our right hands stronger for being hoofs.  
The man most man, with tenderest human hands,  
Works best for men,—as God in Nazareth.'

He paused upon the word, and then resumed;  
'Fewer programmes; we who have no prescience.  
Fewer systems; we who are held, and do not hold.  
Less mapping out of masses, to be saved,  
By nations or by sexes. Fourier's void,  
And Comte is dwarfed, and Cabot, puerile.  
Subsists no law of life outside of life;  
No perfect manners, without Christian souls;  
The Christ himself had been no Lawgiver,  
Unless He had given the life, too, with the law.'

I echoed thoughtfully—'The man, most man,  
Works best for men: and, if most man indeed,  
He gets his manhood plainest from his soul:  
While, obviously, this stringent soul itself  
Obeys our old rules of development;  
The Spirit ever witnessing in ours,  
And Love, the soul of soul, within the soul,  
Evolving it sublimely. First, God's love.'

'And next,' he smiled, 'the love of wedded souls,  
Which still presents that mystery's counterpart.  
Sweet shadow-rose, upon the water of life,  
Of such a mystic substance, Sharon gave  
A name to! human, vital, fructuous rose,  
Whose calyx holds the multitude of leaves,—  
Loves filial, loves fraternal, neighbour-loves,  
And civic, . . . all fair petals, all good scents,  
All reddened, sweetened from one central Heart!'

We spoke of the quiet working of a Divine law on earth; that is the thing typified by the mother-love of Marian Erle. Romney and Aurora would have made great sacrifices for her sake, they were not needed. He who put love into the hearts of mothers, had in His own way, by the quiet path of a domestic-love, achieved what they would have broken both their hearts in labouring to compass but imperfectly.

We could dwell more minutely on the purport of this poem, and show more clearly for what reason Mrs Browning speaks of it in her dedication as "the most mature of my works, and the one into which my highest convictions upon Life and Art have entered." Thus remembering what is typified by each of the lovers, we may detect an obvious purpose in at last presenting Romney as the husband of Aurora, blind and dependent upon her eyes for his perceptions. The book needs, in truth, to be read twice. It is inevitable that the reader who begins the poem ignorant of what he is to find, and from the enjoyment of a love story as varied as a novel in its incident, passes only when the book has been half read into a clear perception of a great truth living and expanding in the verse, has left behind him unobserved a hundred thoughts that will acquire new life when the book is read a second time. Of the striking beauty to be found in isolated thoughts on almost every page of *Aurora Leigh* we need say nothing, for this character is not likely to be overlooked by any reader.

*A Life's Lessons.* By Mrs Gore. Three vols. Hurst and Blackett.

Of *A Life's Lessons*, the new novel by Mrs Gore, we can report most favourably and without drawback on our praise. The picture in the introductory chapters of the North Lancashire dale, in which the heroine, Nannie Balfour, is born, and of Hawkshill, the old mansion there, that has been inhabited by a great Dutch family, is painted very gracefully and simply.

To mark his contempt of the stone lying within a few feet of the surface, on the Hawkshill estate, Sir Jacob went to a vast expense in order to procure the brightest of red brick, and whitest of stone coping; and if the house itself was tall and narrow of frontage, the windows with which it was pierced were sufficiently numerous for any extent of *façade*. A double flight of steep steps led to a mean entrance-door; the heavy stone balustrade closely resembling a series of aldermen's legs, in gouty stockings.

Within doors, wainscoting prevailed; and the narrow windows, numerous as they were, scarcely afforded light or air sufficient for the lofty chambers.—Without, straight gravel walks and formal parterres, dotted with yew and box, and diversified with occasional leaden figures and vases, exhibited an exact *fac-simile* of the Lust-Haus of Lady van der Helde's family, in the suburbs of Utrecht; from whence were annually imported the largest and most vivid crocuses that endeavoured to outshine the sun in King William's British dominions. By the son and grandson of the court physician, the house at Hawkshill was carefully kept up; and the estate improved and augmented. But though the frogs continued to croak in the pools and canals with which Sir Jacob had adorned his pleasure, and though the amount of simpering or staring family-portraits enlivening the wainscots of oak and cedar were more than doubled, the living line stopped short. The Dutch race did not prosper in its intermarriages with the dark-browed daughters of Cumbrian squires. The last Sir

Jacob van der Helde died childless, just about the time when the remains of George the Second were consigned to the royal vault.

In process of time—in process of a very few weeks—there arrived a beetle-browed cousin from Utrecht, a Jonkheer van der Helde, armed with parchments sufficient to cover the estate; to whom, even had not his heir-at-lawship sufficed, the deceased baronet had formally bequeathed every acre and stuyver in his power.

By this arrangement, all hope of Anglicising the place was lost. Hawkshill was destined to remain as Dutch as one of Van Hooghe's pictures; and the Jonkheer and his young wife having brought with them, from their amphibious country, a whole household of domestics, the bricks were ruddled anew, and the yews and box-trees clipped into all their pristine unsightliness.

Among these servants was one Mitje Verhout, the foster-sister and favourite waiting-maid of the new lady of Hawkshill; and a great satisfaction it appeared to young Van der Helde, who was well content to exchange what Voltaire describes as the "canards, canaux, canaille," of his native country, for the well-drained acres of an English estate, to have secured a sympathising auditress for the perpetual grumblings of his wife over the slovenly, thriftless habits of English life. The two good housewives, Mitje and her mistress, were never weary of shrugging their shoulders at the contemptible supply of coarse house-linen which only half-filled the huge walnut-wood presses of Hawkshill, though they would have sufficed any other family in the country for half-a-dozen generations. As to the dairy-department, the new lady of the manor blushed to be connected with a family who had turned those fertile pastures to such miserable account.

Mitje's mistress, like the anointed sovereign whom Madame de Sévigné calls "cet enragé de Prince d'Orange," was, in truth, a reformer at heart. She soon set to work in good earnest. The huckaback of the presses gave place to damask; and the parterre grew bright with the choicest tulips and hyacinths. The butter beaten under Mitje's superintendence was pronounced to be too rich for the Islington market; and the dry-rubbed floors might have furnished slides to the Dutch servants deprived of their national pastime of skating; while every deal-board in the house was pipe-clayed into the whiteness of marble. There wanted only a cricket in a bead-cage, and a quail in a wicker one, to render the keeping-room of Mitje a complete *fac-simile* of a household chamber in Amsterdam.

Forty years past away—forty years and more—under the sober and frugal presidency of these matter-of-fact people. At the commencement of the present century, Hawkshill was inhabited by another matron of the house of Van der Helde, and another Mitje; only that the old Dutch name had become Anglicised into Madge; while the limitation of the patent of Baronetcy conferred on the family, converted the present proprietress into plain Mistress or Madam.

This last mentioned old lady died, leaving the house under the care of her trusty servant, Madge Verhout.

Though twenty years junior to her deceased lady, Madam Verhout fully equalled her in thrift and formality; and the pride of her life was to return to the hands of Zelters and Co., Christmas after Christmas, half of the sum assigned by her careful mistress for the maintenance of Hawkshill. But the house, and Madge and Dory, were the sufferers.—In their household labours, they were assisted only by a single servant; and were consequently compelled to work as unintermittingly as though they were not heiresses to thousands and thousands of florins, and hundreds and hundreds of yards of old mecllin and brocade.

All the better. They had no leisure to discover and descant upon the dreariness of Hawkshill, and the stinginess of their grandmother. Such a mode of existence moulded their natures to habits of industry and patience. From children, they became women, without passing through the pleasant limbo of girlhood: sober, self-denying women, whose beauty, like the flowers in the deserted garden of Hawkshill, bloomed and faded, and waned, without having delighted one human eye, or called forth a single joyful salutation. There immurement was all but conventual. The warble of the woodlands was their music; the breath of the cows, their perfume. In the most glorious sunset, Madge and Dory Verhout saw only the close of a laborious day.

These two girls were the mothers of the heroine and hero. They married at the age of about forty, one of them a substantial farmer and ex-bailiff in the dale, to become mother to Nannie; the other of them a rich draper at Manchester, to become mother to Elisha Hildyard.

Elisha was a puny boy, who grew to be a famous essayist on social questions, an M.P., and a man of consideration in the country. As the parents of the young people had intended, he became the husband of his cousin Nannie, although not until she had been tried by the affliction of love for a certain handsome and passionate Maurice Varnham, apparently the child of a crippled and impoverished widow, but in reality heir to an Irish title, with the secret in his story that his grandfather had caused his father to be hung for forgery. Elisha had wealth to inherit, so also had Nannie, who in her maiden days saw much of high life as Miss Balfour, the heiress. The scenes of the novel thus are made, after the first few chapters, to depict phases of fashionable life at home and abroad, and are provided with a picturesque element by the central place given in the tale to the Dutch family of Hawkshill, and by the introduction of the last Dutch revolution as the background to one portion of it.

*The Keepsake*, 1857. Edited by Miss Power. With beautifully-finished Engravings, from Drawings by the First Artists, engraved under the superintendence of Mr Frederick A. Heath. Bogue.

*The Keepsake* maintains its place as the sole survivor of the gift-books which our fathers thought the daintiest provision against Christmas and New Year. Not only does it survive, but it proves also a just right to survive and hold its own against the fashions of the present day. It grows in beauty as it grows in years; the engravings—which generally contrive to present feminine beauty under this aspect or that—were never more delicately executed than we find them in the volume issued during the past week, and some of them are translations of very charming pictures. The literary matter is, as usual, excellent of its kind, and includes—as Miss Power always takes care that it shall include—a reasonable share of writing of the highest order. There are some pleasant little verses on a pleasant theme, contributed by Mrs Browning, and there is a problem in rhyme by Mr Browning, while Mr Hawthorne enriches the volume with a genial and graceful account of a day in

Uttoxeter, which place he visited because there Johnson did penance in the market-place for his shortcoming as a son. His pilgrimage, he tell us,

Had not turned out a very successful one. There being no train till late in the afternoon, I spent I know not how many hours in Uttoxeter, and, to say the truth, was heartily tired of it: my penance being a great deal longer than Dr Johnson's. Moreover, I forgot, until it was too late, to snatch the opportunity to repent of some of my own sins. While waiting at the station, I asked a boy who sat near me (a school-boy, some twelve or thirteen years old, whom I should take to be a clergyman's son)—I asked him whether he had ever heard the story of Dr Johnson, how he stood an hour doing penance beside that church, whose spire rose before us. The boy stared, and answered, "No." I inquired if no such story was known or talked about in Uttoxeter. "No," said the boy; "not that I ever heard of!" Just think of the absurd little town, knowing nothing of its one memorable incident, which sanctifies it to the heart of a stranger from three thousand miles over the sea! Just think of the fathers and mothers of Uttoxeter never telling their children this sad and lovely story, which might have such a blessed influence on their young days, and spare them so many a pang hereafter.

Mr Albert Smith furnishes some good anecdotal and legendary gossip from the regions round about Mont Blanc, and for one of the quaintest little poetical stories we have read for a long time, called the Story of the Little Blue Flower, we are indebted to the writer who as Mr Owen Meredith has already attained honours by his verse. This graceful little story has in it reminders of Tennyson, reminders also of Shelley, and in its whole manner a reminder of Jean Paul, but it is no mere piece of imitative work. The readers of *The Keepsake* will be charmed with the light play of fancy by which it is marked as of a poet's coinage. Of the variety and excellence of the other stories which enliven the book we must be content to speak in passing, only let us not forget to say that Miss Power herself has written a tale very neatly to a good picture of Beatrice in the Garden, and that she contributes also verse. But since we speak of verse again, we end by quoting some:

#### TO AN OLD PLAYMATE.

BY BARRY CORNWALL.

Dost thou still remember me?—  
I remember thee and thine,  
When the young and careless Hours  
All were thine and mine:  
When we hid our eyes in flowers,  
Laughing at the ruling Powers,  
Dreaming life divine.

Dreams of books, or barren learning,  
Troubled not our summer sleep;  
Genius (just alit) was burning  
In the heart's recesses deep.  
O'er the sunny waters sailing,  
Want, nor woe, nor friendship failing,  
Taught us then to weep.

Life has lost its sweeter season,  
Spring has shrunk to winter cold,  
And, for some bad earthly reason,  
We (who once were young) are old.  
Dimmed are all our sunshine glories  
And our thousand pleasant stories—  
All are passed and told!

Yet—Life's thoughtful angel fleeth  
Through a gentler, calmer air,  
And a hand that no one seeth  
Shields us from despair;  
So, though autumn falls in showers,  
We will trust to brighter hours,  
As when we hid our eyes in flowers,  
And dreamed the world was fair.

#### THE ALMANACS.

The persistence of Astrology in no less than three English Almanacs, having a large aggregate sale, and this, too, after the connexion between almanacs and fortune-telling has been ended in all other civilised countries, is this year, as heretofore, a matter of regret. We shall not trouble ourselves to speak again of Raphael and Zadkiel, but against the manner in which *Moore's Almanack* (1) is presented by the Company of Stationers we are disposed to protest annually while the scandal lasts. We are not dealing here with obscure rogues, but with an influential and honourable corporation, which includes among its members many a true gentleman. That such a body should be disgraced every year by the appearance of an almanac pandering to one of the grossest forms of ignorance and credulity, is surely not a thing to tolerate with patience. The "Vox Stellarum; or, a Loyal Almanack, by Francis Moore, Physician; Printed for the Company of Stationers, and sold by Joseph Greenhill, at their Hall, Ludgate street," begins its instruction to the reader in this fashion: "Courteous reader, 'It is seldom that either good or bad presents itself to us without mitigating circumstances; and although the year opens with the great infortune and Sol in opposition, the evil will be ameliorated, if not entirely averted, by the trines and sextiles which follow.' It teaches that 'the quartile of Saturn with Mars will also tend to embroil the great Powers of the Continent upon matters relating to the East, over which the malevolent Chronos scowls with portentous meaning.' The Company of Stationers causes to be printed, and sells to the public at its own Hall, this despicable nonsense. It is engaged wilfully in the diffusion of ignorance. We do not wish to see *Moore's Almanack* suppressed, but we would have it cease to labour for the maintenance of superstition, speaking next year more like an Almanac for 1858 than one for 1856, and using wisely the great power to teach truth and error which an almanac dispersed among the people may be said to possess yet more surely than a ballad.

(1) 'Vox Stellarum; or, a Loyal Almanack for the Year of Human Redemption, 1857,' &c. &c. &c. By Francis Moore, Physician. Printed for the Company of Stationers.

The first almanac makers knew the influence that would be exercised by a work constantly in the hands of its possessor as a book of reference relating to the year, and a piece of information incidentally given in the *Household Words Almanac* for the present year suggests to us a reflection upon the curious fidelity with which this last born of the more notable class of printed almanacs has reproduced the spirit of the first works of its kind.

The first printed almanac that has come down to us, published at Augsburg in the year fourteen hundred and ninety-one, is wholly rhymed, and tells in rhymes, even upon its title-page, how it is made to describe the months as they are made by nature, and the influences of the stars; to give instruction as to meat and drink, on purging, bathing, and the management of health; to teach how a child should be educated, also how the plague is to be escaped—for which reason, it adds, this is a book on medicines.

To "describe the months as they are made by nature," and to give also a distinct body of serviceable information, are main portions in the scheme of the popular almanac published in connexion with *Household Words* (2). Its calendar, gathered this year into the centre of the work, describes, as it described before, but almost wholly by means of new detail, the natural course of the year of England;—the first songs of the birds, the first blossomings of flowers, the appearances of insects, the order of the opening of the leaves of trees, of the pairing of birds, the flights of butterflies, the spawning of the fish in our streams. It shows when our song birds come and when they go; how the year advances to the month glorious in blossoms; how it passes on from roses and sweet-briar to the full development of aromatic herbs, to the harvest and the fruitage, to the period when summer birds depart, and winter birds arrive, to the fall of the leaf, the hibernation of insects, and our winter friendship with the robins, while the hungry rooks are following the plough. As in the calendar, so—but yet more completely—in the body of the almanac, fresh matter is throughout presented. But the introductory paragraphs may as well be allowed to speak upon this head for themselves.

Infinite in its variety, the story of the year needs never to be told by us with repetitions. Among the birds and flowers, indeed, there are some which must not be absent from our Calendar. How could we rightly tell the riches of the seasons in this country without naming the lark, the primrose, or the violet? But there are, in the woods, fields, rivers, and seas of England, very many more than three hundred and sixty-five witnesses to the mercy with which the year is crowned. There is no need, therefore, for sameness even in the little register of the Year's birth, growth, and decay; whose records are compiled out of the songs or movements of birds, the coming forth of insects, the opening of leaf-buds and of flower-buds, the ripening of fruits, the fall of leaves, the growth of the scarlet agaric among decay. In telling what may be learned of the wisdom which if we ask of the beasts, they shall teach us, and the fowls of the air shall tell us, or if we speak to the earth it shall declare to us, we do indeed begin a story without end.

With all humility, and all simplicity, we shall endeavour, in successive numbers of this Almanac, to pass from truth to truth, and so to add, year after year, line upon line, as to make out of the whole series, even though it should last for a century, a single Year Book, with fresh matter upon every fresh page. We hope to escape the force of the proverb which speaks of old Almanacs as types of what is useless, and caused Butler to compare a man's devices with "the schemes of the Almanac-maker, that are good but for a single year." Let us not omit to say, however, that, while we may have it in mind to make, if possible, not only out of each year's Almanac, but out of a whole series, a single and coherent work, it is our wish and purpose that each page shall stand alone, with its own truth or suggestion written on it plainly. For, of this kind is the writing in the Book of Nature; to which it is the duty of an Almanac to be a reverent guide.

While the purpose and general form of the work remains perfectly unaltered, there is variety secured by a change not only as to the matter told, but as to details of arrangement in the way of telling. The articles on the Quarter are on the same plan as before; the Notes on the Calendar also enlarge the sum of the information given upon the social history of the year, while in place of the Remarkable Predictions which last year were contributions to the social history, there is a quarterly article on "Robes and Fashions of the Season," by which natural history is this year further served. In the other half of the almanac, the Serviceable Information is continued on the last year's plan, but there is now given also, under the title of "The Month," under each month a rather full sketch of its civil history. The topics of Natural History successively illustrated in the *Household Words Almanac* this year are rain and snow, hibernation, sunlight, formation of mould, bursting of the seed, the song birds, the cuckoo, and the swallow; the blue sky, sunsets, twilight, clouds, and weather-wisdom founded on the changes in the atmosphere; the fall of the leaf, the substance of the earth, the firmament of stars. A very brief extract from this part of the almanac will suffice to show in what way it is written. We quote a fact obvious enough when stated, and doubtless known to many, but which we do not remember to have seen anywhere else insisted upon so distinctly.

That the stiffness of the fallen autumn leaf which rustles on our path is caused by the quantity of earthy matter drawn up into it during the summer and autumn, and there fixed through imperfect digestion, may be best understood from the fact that the fallen leaves contain from ten to thirty times more ashes than the wood of the tree on which they died. In other words, having fulfilled their purpose in the spring as wood-makers and developers of blossom, they spend the summer in drawing up out of the earth, selected and proportioned, those constituents which are the food of plants, storing them up nearly unaltered, in their substance, until they can take or hold no more:—then gently nipped from the tree, they fall upon the ground, and there decaying, yield their store to its appointed purpose, namely, the formation of the rich mould from which seeds of future plants shall, even at the very surface of the earth on which they are deposited, draw life with ease.

We should not omit to add that this number of the *Household Words Almanac* abounds, like its predecessor, in amusing anecdote and striking illustration.

(2) 'The Household Words Almanac for the Year 1857.' Office of Household Words.

The *British Almanac and Companion* (3) maintains its usual place at the head of works of its own kind. The almanac published by *Household Words* is alone of its kind; the *British Almanac* has many competitors, but it remains unrivalled for the fulness of its business information, and the remarkably neat form in which it is presented. In the 'Companion to the Almanac for 1857' Professor De Morgan continues his efforts to diffuse information on the subject of Decimal Coinage. There is also an able sketch of the present state and the proposed new developments of our Postal System; a statement of the position of this country as regards the question of Arbitration in Trade Disputes; and there are several essays illustrative of the main topics in the history of society as it now stands. The *Companion* includes, as usual, an able abstract of all important public acts passed during the last session of Parliament; there are abstracts of public documents, chronicles of national business, and of public occurrences during the past year; the necrological table extends down to the very recent death of Paul Delaroché. The account of the year's buildings and architectural improvements is, as usual, one of the most interesting features of the work.

Among the other almanacs there is one only, that by the multiplicity of its tables makes an approach in value to the *British*, taken apart from its *Companion*, and that is a sixpenny almanac, which has been published during the last twenty years by a firm of "Patent Medicine Vendors, Perfumers, Chemists, and Druggists," professedly with a view to the extension of their name and trade. This is *Dietrichsen and Hannay's Royal Almanack* (4). It is well executed, and is certainly the best sixpennyworth of tables extant.

We come now to the almanacs on special subjects. The farmers are supplied with two. The *Farmer's Almanac* (5) seems to abound in well-digested information, and to mix some touches of the pleasant with the useful. Morton's *New Farmer's Almanack* (6) seems to be also good. In each of the rival publications there is matter not to be found in the other. It needs a farmer to discover which may be the better of the two. If we may judge by the great mass of advertisements attached to the elder almanac, we should say that it is not looked upon as a shelved publication by the agricultural community.

The *Protestant Dissenter's Almanack* (7) is especially supported by the three denominations, "Independents, Baptists, and Presbyterians," but it records impartially the charities and institutions of all Protestant Dissenters (Unitarians included), who are allied in certain general political views as opponents of Church rates or State interference with religion, and as advocates of the rights of Protestant Dissenters generally. The Almanac includes an excellent analysis of the Dissenting Marriage Laws, and is on the whole so well done as to earn fairly the support of those for whose use especially its information is compiled.

*Cassell's Illustrated Almanack* (8), although the illustrations are not very pertinent, being (we suppose) transfers from some cheap journal, is to be commended for the good intention it displays. The editor has in several places levied on the *Household Words Almanac* of last year for contributions.

The *Royal Crystal Palace Almanack* (9) is rich in designs and ornamental borders, printed on good paper. The designs are scarcely of a kind to content the taste of a fastidious artist, but they have a handsome look, and considering the style in which it is produced, this almanac is certainly a cheap one. A laudatory Account of the Rise, Progress, and Prospects of the Crystal Palace is the feature of the almanac from which it takes its name.

#### DIARIES AND POCKET-BOOKS.

*De la Rue's Indelible Red Letter Diaries for 1857.* De la Rue.

*Letts's Diaries for 1857.* Letts, Son, and Co.

Decidedly the best of Pocket-books and Diaries are those published by Messrs De la Rue and Letts. De la Rue's pocket-books excel all others in elegance of finish, and contain a very full supply of business information, carefully edited in the astronomical department, and in other respects not likely to disappoint their owner. There are several kinds of these Pocket-books adapted to the taste or use of various kinds of purchasers, and among them is a Medical Memorandum Book, edited by a physician, in which the blank pages are planned to the use of surgeon or physician, and the tables mainly consist of such professional memoranda as the practitioner will often be glad to consult. The name of Indelible given to these Diaries is from the permanence of whatever is written on their chemically-prepared paper with the stiletto that is attached instead of pencil to them all.

The reputation of the Messrs Letts is founded on the yearly publication of a set of serviceable diaries, perfectly

(3) 'The British Almanac of the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge, for the Year of Our Lord 1857: Companion to the Almanac or Year Book of General Information for 1857.' Knight and Co.

(4) 'Dietrichsen and Hannay's Royal Almanack for the Year 1857.' Dietrichsen and Hannay.

(5) 'The Farmer's Almanac and Calendar for 1857.' By Cuthbert W. Johnson, Esq., F.R.S., and William Shaw, Esq., Ridgway.

(6) 'Morton's New Farmer's Almanack, 1857.' Edited by John C. Morton, Editor of the 'Agricultural Gazette.' Blackie and Son.

(7) 'The Protestant Dissenter's Almanack and Political Annual for 1857.' Kent and Co.

(8) 'Cassell's Illustrated Almanack for 1857.' Kent and Co.

(9) 'The Royal Crystal Palace Almanack for 1857.' Hall, Virtue, and Co.

well printed, suited to meet all ordinary, and indeed some extraordinary, wants, and sold at prices varying between a sixpence and a sovereign. The professional man may find a Letts's Diary adapted to his profession, the merchant one convenient for use in his business; the young lady may get a bound volume of any size to hold her twelvemonth's superfluity of thought. These diaries are all bound neatly, and contain only good paper, while each of them includes an almanac fully supplied with useful tables.

**THEATRICAL.**—The pressure upon our space this week compels us to postpone our notice of the *Taming of the Shrew* at SADLER'S WELLS, and to defer also what we have to say of the (to this generation) new comedy, as well as of the new farce in which Mr Robson earns a fresh success at the OLYMPIC. A word or two on the reopening of Mr Albert Smith's En tertainment at the EGYPTIAN HALL, though due this week, must remain also to be said hereafter.

#### FOREIGN AND COLONIAL NEWS.

**FRANCE.**—SECOND CONGRESS OF PARIS.—The 'Bourse Gazette' of Berlin of the 21st says: "The Prussian ambassador at Vienna has withdrawn her opposition to the assembling of a second Congress at Paris. The Cabinet of St James having also declared in favour of the meeting, the second Congress will be opened at the latest about the middle of December. Austria is agreed with the other powers as to the propriety of settling the various difficulties now pending, such as the Neufchâtel question, in the said Congress, besides the points resulting from the treaty of the 30th of March."

**THE BOLGRAD QUESTION.**—The 'Nord' of Brussels re-affirms that the Czar will neither give up Bolgrad nor the Isle of Serpents, unless compelled to do so by a decision of the Conference. The Paris correspondent of the 'Daily News' remarks on this paragraph:—"Facts have come to my knowledge which go far to explain the confidence with which the 'Nord' of Brussels repeats that Russia has not given way a jot in regard to the Bolgrad question, and that she still insists that it must be referred to the decision of a Congress. Although my information is filtered through a Russian channel, I have not the least doubt of its correctness. I am told that within the last few days immense efforts have been made, and not without success, to bring an unconstitutional influence to bear upon the decision of the English Cabinet. A plausible proposition, emanating from France, and approved of at Berlin, is at this moment under consideration in London, backed by a weight of that German element in the councils of St James's which it is sometimes extremely difficult for any minister to resist. This is the scheme:—Out of that tender consideration for the honour of Russia, to which English honour was but too much sacrificed in the Paris Congress, it is suggested that she must not be called upon to rescind the resolution she has expressed, not to yield Bolgrad without the decision of a new Congress. But then, by way of a tempting bait, a promise is implied, if not actually made, that France will answer for a majority of votes in favour of the English view, and that the meeting of the Congress shall in fact be merely a solemn farce, since it will only be called upon to register a foregone conclusion. This project may doubtless recommend itself to certain minds as an eminently peace-making device. But I have reason to know that the English Cabinet, if left free to act upon its own opinion, would not accept it, because it feels that while called upon to make an important sacrifice of principle, and to yield a point in the first instance, it has no sufficient security against trickery when the Congress should meet. It is very possible that the minister may need all the support of the public in England upon this question within a very short time."

**SALE OF 'LA PRESSE.'**—M. Emile de Girardin has sold his interest in the 'Presse' to M. Milhaud, the banker, after a negotiation of only three days. M. de Girardin was the founder and principal proprietor of the paper. He possessed forty 100ths of the shares, and had a salary of 30,000*fr.* as *redacteur en chef*. The terms are, for the forty shares 800,000*fr.*, and for the editorship 150,000*fr.*, making together the very handsome sum of 950,000*fr.*, which M. de Girardin will put in his pocket. After the example of persons in meaner callings, he enters into a covenant not to exercise his trade as a journalist in Paris. On Wednesday a meeting of the shareholders of the 'Presse' was held to receive a communication from M. de Girardin, relative to the sale of his interest in the journal to M. Milhaud. Some of the shareholders contested the right of M. de Girardin to sell the editorship, and after some rather smart recriminations the meeting was adjourned till Wednesday next.—A Paris correspondent of the 'Independence Belge' says that the partners of M. Milhaud in the proprietorship of M. Emile de Girardin's journal, the purchase of which has lately been effected, are Mr Masterman and Mr Manby, of London, Messrs de Kervéguen, Lavalette, Avigdor, Martoret, Becheton, and Polonai (of Nice).

**MISCELLANEOUS FACTS.**—The 'Presse,' in alluding to the Persian expedition, says that it is the intention of the English Government to occupy the island of Karrak, but that journal claims it as belonging to France, in virtue of a treaty concluded in 1769, which has never since been abrogated.—It is said that a committee of English and French capitalists is in course of formation to complete a direct railway communication from Paris, through Bale and Trieste, to Constantinople; and that the preliminary surveys have been made, and estimates furnished by French engineers. The line, with branches to Athens and Odessa, is almost of the gigantic character of the Russian scheme, but it has the merit, wanting in that case, of passing through regions where the existing traffic is great.—The late General Guyon left two sons and one daughter. The Emperor of the French has already nominated one of the boys to a vacancy in the Polytechnic School, and has promised to provide, if possible, for the other.—It is stated that M. Rothschild has entered into a contract with the Bank of France to supply it with 280 millions of francs, or say 11,200,000*l.* in specie, to be made in monthly payments in the course of next year.—M. Amedée de Cesena has received from the Emperor of Austria a diamond pin worth 3,000*fr.* or 4,000*fr.*, in return for his work, the "Era of the Cæsars," which M. de Cesena lately presented to his Majesty.—The 'Charivari' has a caricature representing the 'Times' in the shape of a huge partition wall between a Highland soldier and a French one. The Scotchman—the invariable type of the British soldier, according to French notions—drives his fist through the broad sheet, and leaning across, says, while suiting the action to the word, "A sheet of paper shall never prevent us from shaking hands."

**PRUSSIA.**—OUTRAGE ON MR MORRIS MOORE BY THE BERLIN POLICE.—The following particulars of the arrest and subsequent release of Mr Morris Moore, by the head of the secret police at Berlin, have been forwarded by his wife. Although Mr Moore was provided with a Foreign-office passport, no reason for the outrage committed upon him was assigned. Mrs Moore says: "My husband was arrested last Friday night, at about half-past nine, at his lodgings, 33 Tauben-strasse, in Berlin. He had scarcely closed his door when a low knock was heard, and upon opening it, a vulgar-looking fellow presented himself, saying that he was the chef de police. Immediately afterwards four other policemen forced themselves into the room, and demanded to examine his 'papers.' They pulled every-

thing about without mercy, rifled his pockets, and, highwayman-like, demanded his purse, from which they took two pieces of paper, and then returned it. My husband protested against the outrage, and spoke of appealing to the English Ambassador. They laughed outright at this. They then seized a bundle of papers, which they had selected as the most suspicious-looking, and desired him to go with them. He got into a cab between two sturdy-looking fellows, and after twenty minutes' ride arrived at the great police office. At twenty minutes past eleven two armed policemen marched in, and his original captors took themselves off, as they belonged to the civil department of the secret police. He remained there all night, and at half-past ten the following morning was ushered into the presence of the Procureur du Roi. My husband demanded in an imperative tone the meaning of this outrage, that a British citizen should be dragged through the streets of Berlin, and imprisoned in the criminal division of the police establishment. The upshot was, that he (the Procureur) had not a word to say, except something about the irresponsibility of the police. He also sneered at the English minister. At half-past twelve my husband was called into another room, where he was ordered to open his carpet-bag, portmanteau, &c. At one he was released." The 'Times' correspondent at Berlin, mentioning the arrest, says that it was occasioned by Mr Moore having taken letters from political refugees in London to men in Berlin who are known to be disaffected to the Government.

**ALLEGED SOLUTION OF THE NEAPOLITAN QUESTION.**—A letter from Vienna of the 2nd, in the 'Bourse Gazette' of Berlin, says: "Private letters from Naples and the official communications of our ambassador, General de Martini, agree in announcing the approaching solution of the Neapolitan affair, King Ferdinand having decided on making the necessary concessions. An extensive amnesty is being prepared, and orders have already been given to the tribunals to designate the persons under prosecution who may be pardoned. The Ministry of Justice has also settled the reforms which are to be introduced in criminal justice, and a decree setting them forth is about to be promulgated. We learn that our Cabinet has communicated these facts to the Cabinets of Paris and London. As soon as the King of Naples shall have taken the first steps in the spirit thus indicated, English and French vessels of war will cease to cruise before the ports of Naples and Sicily, the amnesty and the projected reforms will be published, and the difference will so terminate."

**SWITZERLAND AND PRUSSIA.**—A telegraphic despatch from Carlsruhe announces that in the sitting of the Swiss Federal Council of the 23rd inst. an absolute refusal was given to the demand of M. de Sydow, the Prussian Envoy, concerning the liberation of the prisoners of Neufchâtel. The demands of Prussia were supported by the Governments of Austria, Bavaria, and Baden. Another telegraphic despatch, dated Berne, November 24, says:—"The Federal Council unanimously refuses to accede to the demand of Prussia to liberate unconditionally the Royalist prisoners made at Neufchâtel, but it declares that it is ready to enter into negotiations on the subject, and is willing to renew relations of friendship with that Power. "As regards the prisoners, the necessary preparations are being made for justice to have its course." The Neufchâtel question engages much public conversation in Paris, where the general opinion is that Prussia is decidedly wrong in claiming the sovereignty of that canton. Neufchâtel appears resolved on not giving way upon the subject; and as Switzerland can bring 200,000 troops into the field it is not very likely that Prussia will rush headlong into hostilities with that republic, and more particularly so when by so doing she may find herself involved in an European war.

**RUSSIA.**—The German 'Frankfort Journal' gives some particulars of the circular addressed by Prince Gortchakoff to the diplomatic agents of Russia respecting the difficulties now pending between that power and the allies. According to the 'Journal,' the prince criticises very sharply the position taken up by England and Austria in this affair. He professes to consider the right to the Isle of Serpents as a fair subject for differences of opinion, but his language respecting Bolgrad is that of tenacious persistence. He insists that a congress shall decide it. The existence of this circular having been doubted, the 'Presse' of Brussels says:—"As the document has a confidential character, we are not at liberty to publish it. But we can affirm that it was communicated to the various governments, and particularly to the Cabinets of Vienna and Berlin, on the 25th, 26th, or 27th October. The title it bears is this: 'Memorandum of the steps adopted by the Russian Cabinet for the execution of Arts. 20 and 21 of the treaty of 30th March, 1856.' It begins thus: 'The protocol No. 21, of the 4th April, establishes, &c.:' and it concludes in the following manner: '... difficulties of minor importance which Russia has frankly submitted to their decision.'"

**GREECE.**—FATAL EXPLOSION AT RHODES.—A new catastrophe has just befallen this city, afflicted as it was already by the earthquake of the 12th of last October. On the 6th inst., at four o'clock in the afternoon, during a storm, a flash of lightning set fire to the powder magazine, situated at the upper end of the town, and close to the church of St John. The shock from the explosion was terrific; St John's church, that ancient relic of the knights, and the buildings of the whole adjoining quarter, were thrown down, and their unfortunate inhabitants buried beneath the ruins. The number of the houses and public dwellings entirely destroyed may be estimated at 200, without reckoning an almost equal number of edifices half destroyed. The amount of the dead, which cannot be exactly ascertained to-day, is at least from 250 to 300. In the Mudir's house alone twenty-five persons have perished, of whom sixteen belong to his own family.

**THE EAST.**—A rupture has already occurred in the new Turkish Cabinet under the Vizership of Redschid Pasha, by the resignation of his predecessor Aali Pasha, who had taken office as Minister of Foreign Affairs. These important functionaries it was found could not work harmoniously together, and therefore, the latter at once gave up his seat in the government, which he had but occupied for a few hours. By accounts of the 14th, from Constantinople, it appears that the operations of the commission for tracing the Asiatic frontier have been adjourned to May next. The 'Journal de Constantinople' states that a Russian Company in the Black Sea has purchased forty steam vessels. Numbers of corn-laden vessels were passing the Bosphorus. A telegraphic despatch from Vienna, of the 26th, says: "The Turkish Ministerial crisis is over. Redschid Pasha is Grand Vizier; Ethem Pasha, Foreign Affairs; Aali Pasha and Fuad Pasha are Ministers without portfolios."

**UNITED STATES.**—The Asia has brought advices to the 12th inst. The New York papers state that on the 10th telegraphic despatches were received, stating that Illinois had given her eleven electoral votes for Buchanan, and not, as before stated, to Fremont. The numbers are now—Buchanan, 174; Fremont, 114; and Filmore, 8. The Hon. John M. Clayton, ex-Secretary of State, died at Dover, Delaware, on the 9th inst. The accounts of Walker's victories at Grenada and Massaya had been confirmed, or rather repeated. Walker's position was regarded as more favourable. Mexican advices state that the struggle between General Viadarrí and President Comonfort continued to rage fiercely, and threatened to be desolating in its effects upon the country.—The Kangaroo has since arrived, with advices to the 12th inst. The 'North American and United States Gazette' of Philadelphia, comments on the election of Mr Buchanan, and states that if he does not adopt moderate measures, which do not assail those principles which lie at the bottom of the United States Government and the foundation of all civilization, he will be swept away with a power that cannot be resisted. The steamer Superior, from Chicago, had not been heard of. Eighteen inches of snow had fallen at Ontario on the 30th of October. Advices at New Orleans

by the Tennessee report from Nicaragua that General Walker had appointed Ferrin Ferris, a native Nicaraguan, as Minister from that country to the United States. The prospects of General Walker at Nicaragua were highly flattering, and large accessions to his forces had been made both from New York and New Orleans. A number of recruits had also joined his army from California. There has, however, been no further fighting, and it was the general impression that a proclamation of peace would be issued at no distant day. The steamship Black Warrior had arrived at New Orleans with advices from Havannah to the 2nd inst. Preparations for the armed invasion of Mexico were being actively made there. The island was perfectly healthy and quiet. It was reported that the Spanish brig of war Habanero, with 6,000 stand of arms, had sailed from Havannah to support the insurrectionists, excited by the Spanish authorities against the liberty of the Dominican Republic.

INDIA AND CHINA.—The America arrived at Trieste on Wednesday, with the Bombay mail of the 3rd inst. Final arrangements were in course of execution for embarking the expeditionary corps to the Persian Gulf. The fleet was expected to sail on Nov. 10. The cash balances in the government treasuries of India are stated by the 'Gazette' to have been thirteen millions sterling—an inexplicably large amount. English and American firms were withholding duties on export from Foochow Foo, until satisfaction should be given for the murder of Mr Cunningham.

FOREIGN GLEANINGS.

A despatch from Rome, dated the 20th, says, new propositions have been made to the Government for a railway between Rome and Naples and Rome and Florence, which are likely to be accepted.

Recruiting for the Neapolitan army is taking place on a very extensive scale in Switzerland. The King proposes, it is reported, to increase his foreign troops up to the number of 20,000 men, and reduce the native forces.

The telegraph operator of Vera Cruz, on the arrival of the barque Pegasus, on the 1st of October, telegraphed to the city of Mexico the astounding intelligence of the failure of the Bank of England. He fancied that the "Royal British Bank" could be no other than the great national banking institution of the British people.

An entirely peaceful revolution has just been accomplished in the Dominican Republic, the former Spanish portion of the island of St Domingo. M. Buenaventura Baez, ex-President of that Republic, who was exiled by his successor, General Santana, has resumed the reins of power. Not a drop of blood was shed, or the personal liberty of any individual violated.

The 'Cologne Gazette' says:—"The house of Schiller, at Gohlis, was purchased on the 11th, the anniversary of the birthday of the great poet, for 2,100 thalers, by the association which bears his name."

The Madrid 'Gazette' denies that Lord Howden had demanded explanations with regard to the future policy of the Cabinet.

Letters from St Petersburg, in noticing the appointment of General Chruleff to the command of the Corps d'Armée, echeloned along the Persian frontier, intimate that this general may find himself in the neighbourhood of Herat before the English expedition arrives before that place. The writer adds:—"If the English Government executes its plans of war, events may force us to interfere."

The Prince of Waldeck, a member of the Confederation, appears to be an intense admirer of broad farce, for he has indulged in the following excellent practical joke. He has endowed his subjects, some 60,000 in number, with a real live Credit Mobilier, with a capital of 53 million francs, and the faculty of issuing bank notes!

STATE AND CHURCH.

THE COURT.—It is understood that it is not her Majesty's intention to receive company at Windsor Castle at present, as has been reported.

A PEERAGE ABEYANCE DETERMINED.—By the death of Lord Scarsdale, on the 12th instant, the abeyance of the barony of Wentworth (er. 1529) is terminated in favour of Lady Noel Byron, widow of the poet, who becomes in her own right Baroness Wentworth. The eldest son of the late Countess of Lovelace, Viscount Ockham, is by the death of his mother the next heir to this ancient barony.

CHURCH MATTERS.—Dr Tait was consecrated Bishop of London, at Whitehall chapel, on Sunday, at the same time with Dr Cotterill, the new Bishop of Graham's-town. The ceremony of installing Dr Tait will take place at St Paul's Cathedral on Thursday next. His lordship will preach his first sermon, as Bishop of London, tomorrow afternoon, at St James's, Piccadilly, on the occasion of the re-opening of that church after the recent alterations. The ceremony of confirming the election of Dr Longley, late Bishop of Ripon, to the Bishopric of Durham, took place at York Cathedral on the 21st. The 'Essex Herald' states, on the authority of the Bishop of Rochester, that his lordship has no intention at present of retiring from the diocese. The Bishop of London has appointed the following gentlemen to be his chaplains: The Rev. A. P. Stanley, M.A., Canon of Canterbury, Examining Chaplain; the Rev. F. Blomfield, M.A., Rector of St Andrew Undershaft; the Rev. A. B. Campbell, M.A., Rector of Aston; the Rev. F. Gell, M.A., Fellow of Christ's College, Cambridge; the Rev. W. Knight, M.A., Fellow of Worcester College, Oxford, Secretary to the Church Missionary Society.

TRADE AND NAVIGATION RETURNS.—The returns for the month of October exhibit results still more gratifying than those which we have recently recorded. The value of British produce exported in that month was no less than 10,666,000*l.*, as compared with 8,860,000*l.* in the same month of 1855, and 6,472,090*l.* in that of 1854. During the first ten months of the year our exports amounted in value to 95,573,000*l.*, being about seventeen millions and a half over those of the corresponding period of last year, and not much less than twelve millions and a half over the preceding year.

OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS.—A Royal Commission has been issued to inquire into the present arrangements for transacting the civil and criminal business of the superior courts of law at Westminster, and into the manner and times of holding the circuits, and to report to her Majesty whether any and what improvements can be effected therein, and particularly whether the number of the common law judges can be reduced without detriment to the public service. The commissioners appointed are the Lord Chief Justice (Lord Campbell), Lord Wensleydale, Mr Baron Alderson, Mr Justice Cresswell, the Right Hon. J. Stuart Wortley (who has accepted the office of Solicitor-General), Sir Frederick Thesiger, and Mr Horatio Waddington (Under-Secretary of State).—Mr Serjeant Kinglake has been appointed Recorder of Bristol, in the room of Sir A. J. Cockburn.—Mr H. Davison, of the Inner Temple and the Welsh and Chester Circuit, is appointed a puisne judge of the Supreme Court at Madras.—It is now stated that the present Common Serjeant, Mr Russell Gurney, will be the new Recorder, and the great contest will be for the place of Common Serjeant, in the room of Mr Gurney. The next City judge in rank and rotation, Mr Prendergast, judge of the Sheriffs' Court, will be a candidate; and some of the four City pleaders will be also in the lists. One of them, Mr J. Locke, has already announced his intention of standing for the office of Common Serjeant, without waiting for the chance of a vacancy in the Sheriffs' Court. Mr Bodkin, Mr T. Chambers, M.P., Mr Warrar, M.P., Mr Serjeant Ballantine, and other practitioners in the City courts, are also talked of as probable candidates.

THE BOARD OF INLAND REVENUE.—Mr Herries having been made Deputy-Chairman of the Board of Inland Revenue, is, it is said, to be succeeded at the Board by Mr Spencer Ponsonby, who accompanied Lord Clarendon as private secretary to the Conferences of Paris.

SIR RICHARD BETHELL ON LAW REFORM.—The new Attorney-General, in his address to his constituents at Aylesbury, soliciting reelection, enters at some length on the programme of legal reform to be brought forward by the Government during the next session. He says: "Among measures of internal improvement you will, I trust, agree with me if I rank in a prominent place those which are introduced for the amendment of our laws and judicial institutions; and I may assure you that in the more influential office which I now hold no exertions on my part shall be spared to remove the mischievous technicalities and that cumbrous and expensive machinery which still disfigure many portions of English jurisprudence. The important subject of the transfer of land has long engaged my attention, and I am happy to inform you that a plan is in preparation which I believe will greatly facilitate the sale and conveyance of real property. The relief which such a measure will afford to landowners and farmers, by giving perfect security of title and increased freedom of trade in an article of such permanent value and importance, can hardly be overstated. I may also assure you that in the coming session measures for rendering simple and expeditious the title and transfer of landed property, for the abolition of the ecclesiastical courts, for the amendment of the law relating to marriage and divorce, for the consolidation of the statute law, and for rendering criminal those gross breaches of trust which have of late been a scandal to the country, will be immediately introduced, and prosecuted with energy and despatch."

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.—SOUTHAMPTON.—There is every prospect of a violent contest for this borough, the two Liberal candidates, Messrs Weguelin and E. James, Q.C., being strongly opposed, and it is feared that unless one of them retires, the Conservative candidate, Sir E. Butler, may slip in.—GREENWICH.—The somewhat unexpected retirement of Mr Rolt has elicited much activity amongst the constituents, and although no candidates are yet actually in the field, a contest is anticipated. The Liberals have presented a requisition to Admiral Sir James W. D. Dundas, who, with the late Mr Barnard, represented the borough for some years immediately after the passing of the Reform Act, requesting him to become a candidate. No candidate has up to the present time, formally addressed the electors.

Obituary.

THE HON. JOHN M. CLAYTON, ex-Secretary of State of the United States, who negotiated the treaty with Sir H. Bulwer, generally known as the Clayton-Bulwer treaty, died on the 9th inst. after a long and severe illness. Mr Clayton was one of the veteran statesmen of the Republic of the days of Clay and Webster, and was in his way a man of a great deal of force. His views on the foreign policy of his country were conciliatory and wise, so far as his brief term of office enabled him to carry them out. He put a stop to Filibustering on the isthmus, and led the way in the expression of a willingness to retire from it for ever if Great Britain would do the same. He also responded promptly to the repeal of the British navigation laws. He originated the Japan expedition.

CAPT. T. RUSSELL, late commander of the Australian mail packet Simla, died last week at Plymouth. He was one of the smartest sailors and most skilful commanders in the service of the Peninsular and Oriental Company. Before the Russian war broke out he was more intimately acquainted than most seamen with the navigation of the Black Sea, and was employed throughout the war in the transport service. He was singularly popular with every one with whom he sailed.

THE REV. HUGH NICHOLAS PEARSON, D.D., formerly Dean of Salisbury, died last week at Sonning, Berkshire, in his eightieth year. He obtained the deacery in 1823, and resigned it in 1846, and since that time has been living in retirement.

MR WILLIAM LOCKHART, member of Parliament for the county of Lanark, died at his seat in Clydesdale on Tuesday. For some time past his health had been failing, but no immediate danger was anticipated. He succumbed, however, on the date mentioned, to a sudden and severe attack of gastric fever. Mr Lockhart was the eldest son of the late Rev. Dr Lockhart, and brother of John Gibson Lockhart (late editor of the 'Quarterly Review' and son-in-law of Sir Walter Scott), who died at Abbotsford in November, 1854. Unless there is a destination to the contrary, he is likely, therefore, to be succeeded in his estates by the family of Mr Hope Scott, the husband of Mr J. G. Lockhart's only child, who is the daughter of the great minstrel's eldest daughter, Sophia Scott. Mr Lockhart had been for many years Dean of Faculties in the University of Glasgow, and Lieut.-Colonel-Commandant of the Lanarkshire Yeomanry Cavalry.

LIEUT.-GENERAL A. THOMSON, C.B., Colonel of the 74th Regiment, whose name has been intimately associated with the church missionary efforts in Connemara, died on the 23rd instant, at his seat, Salru House, Killarney Bay. He was proprietor of an immense district of territory, which by degrees he was bringing into reclamation, affording at the same time employment to numbers who would otherwise have been inmates of the poorhouse. Gen. Thomson entered the service in 1803, and accompanied the 74th throughout the greater portion of the Peninsular War. He was at Busaco, the retreat of Torres Vedras, Fuentes d'Onor (wounded), Ciudad Rodrigo, for which he was made a Brevet Major. At Badajoz he was also wounded while leading one of the storming parties of 300 men. He also shared in the victories of Salamanca, Vittoria, St Sebastian, Nivelle, Orthes, and various skirmishes, for which he had a gold medal and the silver war medal with nine clasps.

MR RENDEL, the Engineer of the Admiralty and other public works, died on the 21st instant from severe cold taken a few days previously.

MR JOHN LAMB, the well known and very popular Quaker correspondent of the 'Northern Whig,' and writer of the 'Notes on the State of the Country,' died of apoplexy on the 20th instant.

MR MICHAEL LEGRO, of Dunbrooke, parish of Hollywood, county of Wicklow, died last week at the advanced age of 113 years. He retained full possession of all his faculties to the last moment; and at an investigation lately held by order of the Court of Chancery in England, concerning the next of kin, which involved the disposal of many thousand pounds, his evidence, which he gave in the most clear and satisfactory manner, was most important. His health was always excellent, and up to an hour before his death he never knew what it was to be unwell.

MR GEORGE GRENVILLE FORTESCUE, of Boconnoc, Cornwall, met with his death, under very distressing circumstances, about three weeks ago. He was cruising with Lord and Lady Drogheda, in their yacht, in the Mediterranean, and they were on their homeward voyage. On Sunday, the 2nd instant, after having taken part in the services of the day, he went up into the rigging for cooler air or amusement, as he had often done before, when suddenly he fell on the deck from a height of thirty feet. He was taken up senseless, and died the same night. The vessel put into Algiers, and he was buried in the cemetery of that town. Mr Fortescue was in his twenty-fourth year.

MR JOHN ARTHUR HERBERT, son of the Royal Academician, died recently at Mouriac, in France, from typhus fever. He was the author of 'Phillip IV of Spain Knighting Velasquez,' one of the most admired pictures in the exhibition at the National Gallery this year. Mr Herbert, at the time of his death, was only in his twenty-second year.

MR ANGUS REACH, whose literary exertions were prematurely terminated about two years since, by paralytic affection, died at Denmark hill on Tuesday, in his thirty-fifth year. The calamity which abruptly terminated his career precluded him from every kind of exertion, but both the efforts of his friends, and Royal bounty, contri-

buted to surround him with every comfort, and he expired without a struggle. He leaves a widow, but was childless, and his remains will be deposited in the cemetery at Norwood.

ERRATUM.—In recording Lady Stafford's death last week, the wife of the present Lord Stafford was confounded with the widow of the late peer. The late Lady Stafford was a niece of the 12th Duke of Norfolk.

HEALTH OF LONDON.—The returns for the week that ended on Saturday exhibit a decided increase of the deaths in London. The deaths, which at the beginning of this month were about 1,000 in a week, and were afterwards 1,090, rose last week to 1,261. In the ten weeks corresponding to last week of the years 1846-55 the average number was 1,072; and the same rate of mortality in the present increased population would have produced 1,179 deaths. There was therefore last week an excess of 82 above the corrected average. The increase on the previous weeks of this month arises almost entirely from diseases of the respiratory organs. The deaths caused by this class of diseases, which does not include phthisis or hooping-cough, were successively 190, 200, and 258 in the three preceding weeks, but rose last week to 328. Of these 328 the number referred to bronchitis is 173, to pneumonia (or inflammation of the lungs) 110, to asthma 23, to laryngitis, pleurisy, &c., 22. Bronchitis was fatal in 102 of the cases to adults twenty years old or upwards; pneumonia, on the other hand, was fatal in 83, or three-fourths of the whole number of cases, to children. The numbers referred to phthisis or consumption in the last four weeks are the following:—139, 149, 141, and 169, showing that this disease also was more fatal last week. The increase from hooping-cough is more gradual, the numbers under this head, in the same weeks, being 28, 37, 40, and 44. In connection with this increase in the mortality it may be stated that the mean temperature of the air was on every day from the 2nd inst. till the 20th below the average, and often so much as 7 degs. below it, while fogs more or less dense were frequent. An increase, though not great, is also apparent in fever and measles. Of 57 cases in which typhus or common fever was fatal, 19 occurred in the eastern division of London. A case of typhus in Johnson street, Somers town, was, in the opinion of the medical attendant, caused, or much aggravated, by stench from a gully-hole, and by the exposure for six hours in the street of the contents of a sewer. Last week the births of 811 boys and 767 girls, in all 1,578 children, were registered in London. In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1846-55 the average number was 1,440. The mean temperature of the week was 42.3 deg., which is very near the average of the same week in thirty-eight years.

THE GREAT MAIN DRAINAGE SCHEME OF THE METROPOLIS.

Yesterday two deputations from the south-eastern section of the metropolitan suburbs had an interview with the First Lord of the Treasury.

The first was from Erith, and was introduced by Sir C. Eardley, Bart., who, in opening the subject, stated, that in consequence of the intended project, a short time ago, to collect the main drainage of the metropolis, a deputation had waited on Sir B. Hall, and explained to him the evils that were likely to accrue from such a course, when he negatived the scheme as far as Erith was concerned. The inhabitants had however heard with regret that plan No. 2 proposed to carry the sewage of London to within three-quarters of a mile of Erith church. The deputations which had the honour of attending upon his lordship were strongly of opinion that the sewage should be carried down into the estuary of the Thames, where it could not by any possibility return to pollute the river. The Registrar-General informs us that in from twenty-five to thirty years the population of London will be doubled, and, assuming that data to be correct, London may then have actually extended itself to Erith—in fact, the legal limits went already to Plumstead—and then all the sewers which we were now making would have to be broken up again as being too small. Then he would just allude to the question of the marshes on the banks of the Thames. It was well known that these marshes produced fogs and agues, affecting not only the vicinity of the marshes but even extending to the metropolis itself. This being so, it was highly desirable that any plan to be adopted for the main drainage should include also the drainage of those marshes. Sir M. Peto had published his plan, which was to carry the sewage from Southwark across the Thames, combine it with that on the north side, and then take the whole of it on to the sea. It was necessary that some plan of deodorisation and utilisation should be adopted. He would respectfully suggest the advisability of a commission sitting upon the question, and there could not be any doubt, from the facts which would be elicited from engineers and other persons thoroughly acquainted with the subject, that some plan would be hit upon which would contain none of the obnoxious provisions of those already in existence. He would conclude with the hope that his lordship would favourably consider their position, and, from what had been already told him, extend to them his protection.—Mr Renshaw said that there was one point to which he wished to allude, as it had been overlooked by the last speaker. As a merchant and shipowner of forty years' standing, he thought that a river like the Thames, which bore upon it nearly all the riches of the world, should not be polluted near its estuary by such a vast accumulation of filth as would flow into it under the intended arrangements. He was of opinion that nothing could be worse than foreign vessels coming into port meeting this abominable filthy stream.

The Gravesend deputation was then introduced. The Mayor said that the inhabitants of his town strongly deprecated the proposed scheme, in proof of which he would read the following resolutions:—"That it appears highly expedient that a scientific consideration, under Government, should be given to the practicability of deodorising the produce of the sewers of London, and rendering the same available for agricultural or other purposes. That if insuperable difficulties should be found to exist in the adopting of the above-mentioned course, it is most essential for the health of the inhabitants of this town and district, and all others on the banks of the Thames, and for avoiding the rendering their houses and property valueless, that the great nuisance of the discharge of a concentrated sewage into the river Thames at Erith Reach should be averted. That the discharge of such sewage in Sea Reach appears a course of discharge free from objection in a sanitary point of view to the inhabitants of or property in any district, would not only avoid those injurious results to the health and property of the inhabitants on the banks of the Thames, but would, to use the words of the engineer of the Metropolitan Board of Works, effect the entire purification of the river. That the general purification of the river Thames may well be considered a great national object."—The Mayor added, he had no hesitation in saying that the parishes affected by the scheme would use every weapon in their power by means of the Court of Queen's Bench, and the Court of Chancery, to assist them in defeating the object. He hoped the noble lord would interfere and prevent so undesirable a collision.—Lord Palmerston said he would give his best consideration to the question as soon as he could.—The deputation then retired.

Information has been received at the Trinity House of the destruction, by fire, of the lighthouse at Seabam. The keepers of the lighthouse (a revolving one) had a most narrow escape of being burnt to death. In order to prevent accidents to the steamers and shipping, orders have been issued that, until the revolving light is re-established, a fire light shall be maintained on the cliff adjacent.

## NAVAL AND MILITARY INTELLIGENCE.

**GENERAL BEATSON.**—The General Commanding-in-Chief has ordered a court of inquiry to assemble in London immediately, composed of the following officers:—Lieut.-Gen. Sir Colin Campbell, G.C.B., President; Major-Gen. Lord W. Paulet, C.B., Major-Gen. Lawrenson, C.B., Major-Gen. Cameron, C.B., Colonel Norcott, C.B. The duty imposed upon this court is to investigate the serious charges and accusations made during the recent war by General Shirley against General Beatson, and which charges led to the removal of the latter officer from his command.

**THE GERMAN LEGION TAKING THEIR FINAL DEPARTURE.**—The *Acadia*, from London, bound for Buenos Ayres, was towed into Sheerness harbour on Saturday about noon. It appears this vessel was taking out about 150 of the Foreign Legion to the above place, when, in consequence of the mutinous conduct of the men on embarkation, and knowing the many atrocities committed by them during their sojourn in England, the master came to the determination to run into Sheerness, as they refused to deliver up to him their revolvers and other offensive weapons. He immediately communicated with the port admiral, who sent his flag captain on board, and he soon put matters right, without a file of marines, the legion immediately surrendering their arms; other stipulations being entered into, the vessel got under weigh again to her port of destination the same evening.

**THE DEPOT BATTALIONS.**—A memorandum has just been issued by Lieut.-General Sir Colin Campbell, Inspector-General of Infantry, calculated to give effect to the Horse Guards' regulations regarding depot battalions. Among other things it is laid down that the commanders of battalions shall examine the officers of the depots once a week, and that on another day in each week the senior captain of each depot shall examine his young, or untrained officers in all details of their duty, not merely as to drill, but in everything connected with the men's pay, powers of courts martial, and, generally, in the interior economy of a company, and the provisions of the "good conduct warrant." This practice will be sure to make the senior captain himself become well versed in all such details, and will also prepare the younger officers for the examination of the commander of the depot battalion.

**Mrs SEACOLE.**—A generous attempt is making to raise a subscription for this well-known *vivandière*, whose provision stores in the Crimea proved such valuable assistance to the British army during the late war. She was also remarkable for her sympathy and attention to the sick and wounded, who came within the sphere of her active benevolence. Since her return to England, she has unfortunately been declared a bankrupt. Messrs Cox and Co., the army agents, will, it is understood, receive subscriptions. Mrs Seacole is at present residing at No. 1 Tavistock street, Covent garden.

**A SOUVENIR OF THE CHESAPEAKE.**—A very interesting *souvenir* of a memorable event in naval history has been presented to the gun-room officers of her Majesty's ship *Shannon*, at Portsmouth. This consists of a box handsomely mounted in silver, and gilt inside, richly chased and embossed with the shamrock, rose, and thistle, bearing the following inscription: "Box made from part of a beam of the United States' frigate *Chesapeake*, captured in single combat by her Majesty's frigate *Shannon*, in Boston Bay, United States, 1st of June, 1813. Presented to the gunroom mess of the *Shannon* as a perpetual memorial of that action by Rear-Admiral Provo Wallis, senior surviving Lieutenant." It is Admiral Wallis's wish that the memorial shall belong to the present or any future ship bearing the name 'Shannon.' The gun-room officers, in acknowledging the interesting present received from Admiral Wallis, have forwarded the following reply:—"The gun-room officers of her Majesty's ship *Shannon* beg to return their sincere thanks to Rear-Admiral Wallis for his kind and thoughtful present of the very handsome snuff-box received by them this morning, and trust, that should ever an opportunity offer, the *Shannons* of the present day will emulate the good example shown them by the gallant *Shannons* of old.—Nov. 26, 1856."

**MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.**—Major-General Sir H. W. Barnard, K.C.B., has been appointed a Major-General on the staff of the army of Bengal, *vice* Major-General Windham, who has resigned that appointment.—Major-General Sir F. Love, K.C.B., now Lieut.-Governor of Jersey, will succeed Major-General Sir H. W. Barnard in the command of the troops at Dover and Shorncliffe. Colonel Mundy, who has been Under-Secretary for War since the creation of the department, will in all likelihood succeed Sir F. Love at Jersey.—Rear-Admiral Sir Houston Stewart, K.C.B., was on Monday appointed Commander-in-Chief on the North American and West India station, and will hoist his flag on board the *Indus*, at Plymouth.—Captain Yelverton, C.B., is appointed Aide-de-Camp to the Queen, in the room of Lord E. Russell, promoted to flag.—Lord Panmure has intimated his intention of making an official visit to the head-quarters of the Royal Engineers' establishment at Chatham, for the purpose of inspecting the several descriptions of pontoons which are in use by that branch of the service.—An application has been made by Col. Sandham, the director of the Royal Engineers' establishment at Brompton, to the authorities, to allow the troops under his command to be employed in the destruction and removal of old Rochester bridge. The application has been granted.

## IRELAND.

**THE RECENT RAILWAY COLLISION.**—After a full and complete inquiry into the cause of this accident the jury, on Saturday, handed in the following verdict, which they unanimously agreed to: "We find the deceased persons were killed at Dunkitt siding, on the Waterford and Kilkenny Railway, by the Kilkenny midday mail to Waterford coming into collision with the ballast train in such siding, in consequence of the points of the siding having been unlawfully and improperly left open; that such points were in the particular care of Michael Brien, gauger, in charge of the ballast train, who neglected to see them closed. Our finding is that of manslaughter against the said Michael Brien, through whose wilful and unlawful neglect the deaths have occurred; that no blame can be attached to any of the officers of the traffic department on the line, whose driver and fireman used every effort in their power to prevent the catastrophe." The prisoner Brien was committed to Kilkenny jail for trial at the ensuing assizes.

**IMPORTANT JUDGMENT IN RE THE TIPPERARY BANK.**—On Tuesday the Lord Chancellor gave judgment in the important case of O'Flaherty v. M'Dowell. The petition was for the purpose of removing the affairs of the Tipperary Joint-Stock Bank from under the Winding-up Act, and placing them under the old act of the 33rd George II, on the ground that the former act was intended solely for the settlement of a joint-stock concern as between the shareholders, and did not give relief or security to the creditors. His lordship the Chancellor dismissed the petition, without costs. He decided that the 33rd George II did not apply. The proper course was to proceed through the official manager. Sir Fitzroy Kelly, it is announced, has been already retained for the petitioners in the appeal to the House of Lords against this judgment.

**THE MURDER OF MR LITTLE.**—The investigation into the murder at the Broadstone Railway Terminus still continues, and certain suspected parties are still under the surveillance of the police; but no arrest has taken place, and an opinion gains ground that no real clue to the murderer has yet been discovered. The following particulars of this mysterious case are from the 'Evening Post' of Tuesday: "Some very important facts have come to light disclosing the motive for the murder. It appears that no less than three different persons have held the office of cashier of the Midland Railway Company within about the last three years. The first of those officials could

not account for some deficiencies in his cash balances; and after he had left the department, being perfectly satisfied of his own integrity, he brought an action and recovered damages for defamation. In the case of the second cashier, there were also deficiencies, and, it is stated, proceedings were instituted against his sureties; but this officer doubtless had also suffered from the same secret system of plunder as his predecessor. Mr Little, the victim of the recent horrible murder, was then appointed as cashier, having, previous to his connexion with the Midland Company, been employed as a clerk in the office of the British and Irish Steam-packet Company. After he had entered upon the duties, Mr Little discovered that his accounts were short—on one occasion to the amount of 50*l.* This sum he borrowed from a friend with whom he had been previously connected in business, and he then mentioned to him that he had no doubt on his own mind as to the thief, but, being a person of strong conscientious scruples, he declined to name him, lest he might by possibility have been mistaken. This sum of 50*l.* the directors of the company, being satisfied of the perfect integrity of Mr Little, allowed him. Subsequently he succeeded, by changes in his arrangements, and by the greatest circumspection in the care of his cash, in preventing any further pilfering. But then new causes of anxiety arose. The baffled plunderers determined upon vengeance. It appeared by the evidence at the inquest that Mr Little had deemed it necessary for his protection to get up a wicket, in order to prevent persons passing the counter that stood in front of his desk; and afterwards, as a further security, he had been in the habit of locking the door of his office. All those precautions, however, proved unavailing, and the unfortunate gentleman became the victim of the assassin." The Dublin correspondent of the 'Times' observes: "Much surprise, if not discontent, has been created by the inexplicable supineness of the Irish Government and the apparent indifference evinced by the non-publication up to the present of the proclamation usual in such cases, with the offer of a reward for the discovery of the assassin. A week ago it was confidently asserted that the Government reward would be no less than 500*l.*, but from that day to this there has not been the most remote sign of interference on the part of the Lords Justices. The pressure of public opinion, however, may do some good. In the meantime a feeling of general insecurity of life and property, here in the very capital of the kingdom, has been the result of this most strange and audacious murder, and this will doubtless continue the prevailing feeling until the ends of justice are satisfied and the rights of a civilised community fully vindicated."

## TO CORRESPONDENTS.

We thank H. J. B. for his translation of the German epitaph, but the original was not worth the pains he has taken with it.  
"ENGLAND AND FRANCE" is under consideration.

## Latest Intelligence.

SATURDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER 29.

A telegraphic despatch from Marseilles of yesterday's date states that intelligence has been received through Constantinople that the besieging force before Herat had concentrated itself around the place, and was awaiting reinforcements. The besieged had re-established their communications with Afghanistan.

The Marquis Antonini, the Neapolitan Minister at the French Court, whose departure has frequently been prematurely announced, left Paris on Thursday for Brussels, to which Court he is also accredited. His departure from Paris seems to be final, as he has ordered his furniture and wine to be sold.

The correspondence between Mr Morris Moore and Lord Bloomfield, respecting the recent arrest of the former in Berlin, has been published. It opens with a letter from Mr Morris to the British Ambassador, in which writing on Friday evening, November 21st, he tells his Lordship he has been informed that on his return to his apartments he will be molested by the Berlin police. He adds: "This will be entirely without provocation, as I scrupulously abstain from speaking of politics. As a British citizen, I request the protection of the British Embassy."—To this note Mr Moore received no reply until after his liberation, on the Sunday evening following, when this answer was delivered to him at his lodgings: "Berlin, Nov. 23, 1856. Sir,—I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, written on the evening of the 21st instant, informing me that you expected to be molested by the police. At an interview which I had with Baron Manteuffel early yesterday, I endeavoured to learn the nature of the suspicions existing against you. His Excellency was at that time ignorant of the proceedings of the police; but I heard subsequently, with satisfaction, that you had been set at liberty, after an interrogatory before the authorities.—I am, &c., BLOOMFIELD."—On the same day Mr Moore replied to Lord Bloomfield, detailing the particulars of his arrest, and of his neglected application to the ambassador, whom he reproaches severely. The letter thus concludes: "I now formally, as far as I myself am concerned, repudiate your further interference, and I disdain your assistance. Better to take one's chance with a violent and irresponsible foreign police than trust to an English minister. Had we a Government jealous of our national character, your next despatch from England, Lord Bloomfield, might teach you that an English minister should be something more than the tinsel appendage of a foreign Court; that he is not there to sleep while his fellow-citizens are outraged to allay the fears of a timid Government; but that he is there as the representative of our collective might, to protect our interests and guard our honour."

At a Cabinet Council held yesterday at Windsor Castle, Parliament was ordered to be further prorogued from Tuesday, the 16th of December, until Tuesday, the 3rd of February, and a proclamation was issued, directing the assembling of Parliament on that day for the despatch of business. The Bishop of London was sworn of the Privy Council; Mr Baron Watson, Mr H. Davison, Mr B. Pine, Governor of the Gold Coast, Dr B. O'Shaughnessy, and Mr R. M. Stephenson, were severally presented to the Queen at audiences, and received the honour of knighthood.

The 'Gazette' of last night contains the appointment of Viscount Monck, Lord Belper, Sir E. Ryan, Sir A. Y. Spearman, and Mr T. M. Weguelin, Governor of the Bank of England, to be Commissioners to inquire into the existing regulations under which allowances, on retirement, are granted to persons who have held civil offices in her Majesty's Service.

"Last week," says the 'Civil Service Gazette,' "we recorded the death of Mr W. H. Miall, landing waiter at Southampton. This is another melancholy instance of the hardship of the superannuation tax. Mr Miall had been in the service upwards of sixteen years, during which time he must have paid 200*l.* to the fund, which is now entirely lost to his family."

The trial of Marley, the ticket-of-leave man, for the murder of Cope, the jeweller's assistant, in Parliament street, took place yesterday, when he was found guilty and sentenced to death. An application was made to the court by Mr Bodkin to order a reward to be

paid to the witnesses Lerigo and Allen for their conduct in the transaction. He said that in consequence of Lerigo being compelled to attend to give his evidence on many occasions before the magistrate and the coroner, he had lost his situation, and was now out of employment. Baron Alderson said he was very sorry to hear it, and if the recommendation of a judge could get him a better one, he should certainly have it. He then addressed Lerigo, and said that he and the public were much indebted to him for the courage he had displayed in causing the apprehension of the prisoner, and he observed that if every one were to exert himself to detect crime and bring offenders to justice in the same manner, it would have the most beneficial effect. He should not be content with mere thanks, but should direct that a reward of 20*l.* be paid to him, and he wished at the same time that there was some book kept by the court in which the names of witnesses who had conducted themselves as he had could be entered and recorded. His lordship then addressed Allen, and said that he had also behaved very well, and was entitled to a reward, but it would not be so large in amount as that given to Lerigo, because he had not lost his situation. He then gave directions that he should receive 10*l.* in addition to his expenses.

In the New Court, yesterday, Octavius King, who last session pleaded guilty to uttering forged acceptances, was brought up for sentence. The prisoner was a corn merchant, near Newmarket. He was sentenced to eighteen months' imprisonment.

The 'Nottingham Review' states that her Majesty, on the recommendation of Lord Palmerston, has conferred a pension upon Mr P. Bailey, of that town, of 100*l.* per annum, in consideration of his great talents as a poet.

The inquest on the bodies of the men who were killed by the explosion of the boiler on board the *Parana* was resumed yesterday. The principal evidence was given by Mr Summers, engineer, the government-inspector, who attributes the accident to more steam being generated than was consumed. This was not discoverable on account of the steam gauge having been defective. The inquest was again adjourned, but the jury appeared to be satisfied that there had been no culpable negligence.

Mr Andrew Arcedeckne, High Sheriff of Suffolk, has been presented with a pair of handsome silver jugs, as a token of the high esteem in which he is held by his friends and neighbours. The subscriptions were entirely unsolicited.

## MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.

**ART TREASURES EXHIBITION.**—Former notices of contributions to the Art Treasures Exhibition have been confined to the enumeration of pictures which have been placed at the disposal of the committee. We have now to mention a scheme which has been settled for the classification of ancient and mediæval art, in the collection of which considerable progress has been already made. Historically it is proposed that the collection shall include objects of art from the Anglo-Roman to the present period, Celtic, Byzantine, Romanesque, Mediæval, Renaissance (English and Continental), of the times of Louis XIV to that of Louis XVI, and from the period of the Empire to the latest productions of modern artistic skill. In sculpture works in marble, alabaster, stone, terra-cotta, wood, wax, bronze, lead, &c., will be admitted. In metal work will be included the three divisions of military, ecclesiastical, and domestic, which will be looked to for some of the wonders of the middle ages in casting, chiselling, engraving, chasing, and pouncing. Already, by contributions from Goodrich Court, as also by some of the rarest specimens to be sent from the Tower by order of Government, arms and armour, offensive and defensive, of all kinds, will be represented in an almost unparalleled manner. The admirers of art workmanship in gold, silver, bronze, steel, iron, and copper, in combination also with enamel work, jewellery, damascene, will bring together contributions of the works of Benvenuto Cellini, and some of the renowned goldsmiths of Italy and Germany who flourished in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. In the ceramic art will be specimens from the earliest Hispano-Moorish, Italian, French, German, Dutch, and English manufactures. Of enamels will be admitted specimens of the Byzantine, Romanesque, Italian, French (Limoges from the fifteenth century), and German periods. In glass, German, Bohemian, French, and English, from the fifteenth to the nineteenth centuries; stained glass, ecclesiastical and domestic. In furniture, ecclesiastical and domestic, in stone, wood, marquetry, and buhl. In mosaic work glass and marble in Roman and Italian—chiefly Florentine from the Roman period to the present day. Of jewelry objects ecclesiastical and personal. In textile fabrics tapestry, embroidery, lace, &c. In leather work objects for ecclesiastical, military, and domestic uses. In the section to be devoted to iron will be received specimens for ecclesiastical and domestic purposes, and examples in bone, walrus-tusk, horn, &c. In glyptics contributions of intaglios and cameos, and the lapidary art, *per se*, will not be unrepresented. This, we believe, comprises in a general way what is proposed to be done in the way of classifying the collection.

**STATUE OF GENERAL SIR C. J. NAPIER.**—On Thursday, the statue of this gallant soldier, which had been placed on its pedestal at the north-west corner of Trafalgar square, a few nights before, was publicly unveiled. The illustrious General is represented with a scroll in his left hand, symbolical of the government awarded to Seinde, and a sword in his right, not brandished in defiance, but pressed against his bosom as if in affectionate acknowledgment of its good service. The attitude is natural but commanding, the strongly-marked features are reproduced with powerful effect, and the heavy mantle which is thrown over the back of the figure answers the sculptural purpose of the toga without destroying the national character of the General, who is dressed in his proper uniform. The height of the figure, which is of bronze, exceeds twelve feet, and the granite pedestal, which is of the simplest kind, surmounted only by a plinth and moulding, stands seventeen feet from the ground. The feet of the figure are planted immediately on the granite, without the intervention of a metallic base. On the pedestal is the following inscription: "Charles James Napier, General, born MDCCCLXXXII; died MDCCCLIII. Erected by public subscription from all classes, civil and military, the most numerous subscribers being private soldiers." The sculptor is Mr G. G. Adams.

**ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH COMPANY.**—The provisional directors of the Atlantic Telegraph Company have accepted tenders for the manufacture and shipment of their cable by the 31st of May next, and they hope to effect electric telegraph communication between Europe and America by the end of the following month. It appears from a letter which has been addressed to the company by the Treasury that the British Government are prepared to furnish any ships that may be desired, if further soundings should be deemed necessary; to entertain favourably any request for aid in laying down the cable; and to grant 14,000*l.* per annum (equal to four per cent. on 350,000*l.*), the assumed capital of the company, for the transmission of their messages. The greater part of the money has already been subscribed.

**RECENT WILLS.**—The will of the late Earl of Shrewsbury has been sworn under 60,000*l.*; the Hon. and Rev. J. Cocks, M.A., Canon of Worcester and Prebend of Hereford, 25,000*l.*; J. K. Gilliat, Esq., merchant, Billiter square, London, 400,000*l.*, within the province of Canterbury; Mrs S. M. Smith, Norfolk street, Park lane, and Bersted lodge, Sussex, 50,000*l.*; Mrs Cornthwaite, 18,000*l.*; G. Adey, Esq., Liverpool road, Islington, 25,000*l.*; W. Field, Esq., St Mary Axe, and Clifton road, Brighton, 30,000*l.*; Mrs Shakspear, Regent's place, Aston, Birmingham, 12,000*l.*



## THE SOCIETY OF ARTS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE 'EXAMINER.'

Sir, Among the "Examination Papers of the Society of Arts," recently published, I find the following paper, to which I beg to call your attention, as it appears to me to invite a remark. An examination is, in my humble opinion, a test of the examiner's judgment, as well as of the proficiency of the persons examined. What the answers of the candidates were to the subjoined questions I have no means of knowing (though I have a notion of my own how some of them ought to have been replied to), but the examination itself is here before us, and the catechism will at least enable us to form an estimate of the merits of the catechist. The subject was "Tennyson," which, I confess, of itself surprised me a little, particularly as I found it classed with the subjects of Shakespeare, Milton, Spenser, and Dryden; but I proceed at once to the questions proposed upon this new study, which I find suddenly elevated to a place of the first eminence among the pursuits of literature.

"1. State what are the most prominent topics of Tennyson's poems, and prove your answer by references to the poems themselves.

"2. What subjects of human thought and speculation have hitherto found but little or no place in his poems?

"3. In the diction, form, and subject of his poems, what is the great difference between Tennyson and his predecessors?

"4. Have these peculiarities of his genius shown themselves more prominently in his later poems?

"5. Sketch out the plans of *The Princess* and *Maude*, and show their relation to each other.

"6. *In Memoriam* assumes the form of a monologue, and so does *Maude*; but *The Princess* is a narrative. Why?

"7. In what sense is Tennyson the poet (the seer and prophet, that is) of the nineteenth century?

"8. Hamlet, the victim of the moral disorganisation and confusion around him, falls a prey to the speculations which his own mind weaves for him. He cannot come to the light, nor to any just sense of the reality of the external world. The *Novum Organum* had not yet been produced for the relief of men. The hero in *Maude* passes through the same ordeal; he also becomes utterly mad, but recovers. Which of the two poets are the sounder exponents of human nature under these circumstances? Or, putting the *Russian war* aside, is there anything in the different circumstances of the nation when the two poems were written to justify this difference of treatment?"

Let the first interrogatory pass with the remark that it contemplates a more profound acquaintance with Mr Tennyson's poems than I should have thought at all indispensable to the student of English poetry, considering the vast range of the subject, and the multitude of prior claims upon the student's attention (an opinion, however, which it is evident I do not hold in common with the examiner upon this occasion). The next question is an amusing one, but it certainly admitted of an easy response. The candidate might have mentioned Meteorology, International Law, Electro-Magnetism, Acoustics, the Polarization of Light, Criminal Statistics, &c. &c. The third interrogatory must have forced the students to inquire what the catechist meant by Tennyson's predecessors? Did he mean Shadwell, or Tate, or Cibber, or Pyle, for instance,—his predecessors in the Laureateship? Or did he mean Homer, Dante, Virgil, or Shakespeare? If the former, the question was anything but flattering (in fact, it was highly disparaging) to Mr Tennyson. If the latter, the answer it was calculated to elicit was likely to be not much more complimentary. But take the question as it is, in all its unanswerable vagueness, what an idea it gives us of the critical capacity of the proposer! But let us proceed.

"Sketch out the plans of *The Princess* and *Maude*?" Suppose the young student had courageously replied that he had never read either poem? What then? Would he have been necessarily a dunce? Might he not have been extremely well-read in English poetry notwithstanding? and who, pray, is bound to know, or be prepared to explain, why *The Princess* is a narrative and *In Memoriam* is not? The writer's fancy is surely the best reason that can be assigned; and so the candidate might have answered, though he had read neither the tale nor the monologue.

The seventh question is actually astounding. "In what sense is Tennyson the poet, nay the prophet of the nineteenth century?" Surely, Sir, there was but one reply. When I came to this point of the examination, I began to suspect that it was nothing, after all, but a dull banter, at the expense of our poet-laureate, whom I am far from rating so low among the sons of song as to have deserved such disrespectful usage, though I do not fall into the opposite extravagance of ranking him with our mightiest bards, nor think his works of sufficiently high mark to be made a substantive branch of English education.

I have now arrived at No. 8, where Shakespeare and Tennyson are actually placed side by side, by the grace of the "Society of Arts." Shakespeare and Tennyson! Hamlet and the hero in *Maude*! But the whole question, what with the grammatical confusion, and the extraordinary and incomprehensible jumble of Hamlet, *Maude*, the *Novum Organum*, and the *Russian War*, is such a farrago of nonsense, that I feel it to be superfluous to waste another word upon the subject. If this be the way in which the tastes of the rising generation are to be formed by this new system of examination, we have only to hope that the system will never come to years of maturity. Let me, Sir, advise the Society of Arts to retrace its steps, and begin by examining its examiners.

MARVEL.

## TOWN AND COUNTRY TALK.

Messrs William and Son, shipbuilders, Harrington, have built a school-room, news-room, and library, for the men in their employment, and allow them the use rent free. The library contains 300 volumes. Masters, books, firing, and candles, are provided gratis.

The counties in the west of England are one by one adopting the provisions of the Police Bill of last session.

On Saturday a preliminary meeting of vestry clerks of the metropolis, acting under the provisions of the Metropolis Local Management Act, was held at Morley's Hotel for the purpose of forming an association for mutual information, upon the same principle as that which has been recently established by the medical officers of health of the various metropolitan parishes and districts.

A German gentleman, who was a passenger from Melbourne by the James Baines, had his pocket picked in Liverpool, on Saturday night, of a pocket-book containing Australian bills on a London bank for 10,000*l.*, banknotes to the amount of 11*l.*, and a number of letters of introduction.

The eighth annual exhibition of fat cattle, sheep, pigs, poultry, and agricultural produce, will be held in Bingley hall, Birmingham, on four days, from December 2nd to 5th inclusive, Tuesday, the 2nd, being the private view day.

A meeting of provisional directors and gentlemen interested in the proposed "South Durham and Lancashire Junction Railway," was held last week at Kirby Stephen. It was unanimously resolved to prosecute the undertaking with the utmost vigour, and 30,000*l.* were subscribed at once.

A paragraph has appeared in most of the newspapers, stating that the Duchess of Atholl had been received by Dr Manning into the Roman Catholic church. The Duke of Athol states that there is no foundation whatever for the report.

The Portland Upper Lighthouse (which was built in 1817, being upwards of 300 feet above the level of the sea, and at the base 20 feet in diameter—on the revolving principle, consisting of fourteen

lights, and from the gallery of which can be seen that dangerous part of the channel called "The Race"), is now about to be raised fifteen feet higher than heretofore. This alteration will be a great boon to seafaring men.

The Rev. G. J. Freeman, rector of Buntingthorp, in the diocese of Lincoln, and upwards of sixty years of age, was found guilty at Worthing, on Saturday, of an indecent assault on a little girl scarcely nine years old. The magistrates sentenced him to be sent to the House of Correction and kept to hard labour for three calendar months. The prisoner was conveyed to Petworth Gaol.

The inhabitants of Romsey have decided on presenting Miss Nightingale with an address, expressive of their admiration and respect. The Mayor of the borough presided over an influential meeting at the Town Hall on Saturday, at which resolutions were passed, and a warm expression of feeling manifested towards that lady.

The Wellington monument in Guildhall has just been erected. It consists of a group of three colossal figures, representing the Duke between Peace and War, and a relieve, introduced below, of the Battle of Waterloo. It has been executed at a cost of 5,000*l.*

At the Court of Bankruptcy on Monday Leopold Redpath was adjudicated a bankrupt.

At the Eastern Counties Railway Company's meeting on Monday the only candidates nominated for the vacant seat at the board were Messrs Malins and Love. A poll was demanded on behalf of the latter.

Scarlet and typhus fever are very prevalent in some parts of the South of England amongst grown up persons. At Lynton, in Hampshire, Mr Galpine, the postmaster, and several other inhabitants, have recently died from it.

A benefit in aid of the funds of the Great Northern Hospital, York road, King's cross, is announced to take place at the St James's Theatre on Tuesday next, when will be performed Massinger's play of "A New Way to Pay Old Debts," with other entertainments, supported by the members of the Oxford Dramatic Club. This institution, which was established only last June, has been already the means of relieving no less than 9,000 patients.

The Warwickshire Reformatory Institution, at Weston-under-Weatherley, near Leamington, in the county of Warwick, has been certified by the Secretary of State as fit to be a Reformatory School, under the provisions of the recent statute.

On Monday at the Manchester Police court, J. Ingram, a letter-carrier, was committed for trial for stealing a bank post bill for 460*l.*, and eight *5*l.** notes. A letter containing the money was found on him. He admitted that he and another letter-carrier had intended to resign, but before doing so they had arranged to steal a number of letters, and appropriate their contents.

Mr J. Francis had an interview with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on Wednesday, to submit a proposal for stamping the covers of newspaper agents with an impressed die for postal purposes, in lieu of the attached label now in use.

Mr Corrie, the police magistrate of Clerkenwell Court, and who has been, since its formation, representative for the parish of St Pancras in the Metropolitan Board of Works, has resigned his seat at that board.

On Monday evening a meeting, presided over by Alderman Sir J. Duke, M.P., was held at the London Tavern, for the purpose of promoting the objects of an association which has been formed with a view to procure the immediate repeal of the Act by which the income tax was raised to *1*s.** 4*d.* in the pound, and to bring about a more equitable adjustment of its assessment.

Yesterday week, Miss Ricardo, of Titnes park, Sunninghill, was riding through the Long walk, at Windsor, with a party, when after passing the double gates the horse she rode suddenly halted. On reaching the gate at the end of Park street, the porter of the Upper Lodge leading to the Castle ran to shut the gate, but had not time to close it within a yard, when the horse, in attempting to force itself through the narrow space, brought the lady in violent contact with the iron post. The collision threw Miss Ricardo off, and she sustained a severe fracture of the thigh, but we are happy to say she is doing well.

On Monday a general meeting of the court of assistants of the Haberdashers' Company was held for the purpose of receiving the names and examining the testimonials of candidates for the golden lectureship, now vacant. There are four candidates, namely, the Rev. D. Moore, M.A., of Camden church, Camberwell; the Rev. T. Jackson, M.A., of Stoke Newington; the Rev. R. Bickersteth, M.A., of St Giles's-in-the-fields; and the Rev. C. Molyneux, M.A., chaplain to the Lock Hospital.

Last week as Miss Catherine Hayes was leaving London for Brighton between the station and the carriage she lost a gold brooch, formed in the shape of Erin's harp, studded with diamonds, which had been presented to her by the inhabitants of Victoria, South Australia, during her recent visit to that capital. On her arrival in Brighton she telegraphed to London, announcing her loss. A person who found it delivered it up, declining to receive any reward but the cost of the advertisements.

Several more fine pictures were added to the Turner Collection at Marlborough house on Monday last.

An original picture by Raphael, belonging to the Royal Collection, has been lately rescued from oblivion at Hampton Court. It is a portrait of Raphael by his own hand, the words "Raffaello Urbinius fecit," being inscribed on a button of the dress.

The 'Glasgow Herald' says: "We understand that one of the 1,000 subscribers in this city to the Atlantic Telegraph enterprise is Mr Thackeray, who presented his subscription on Saturday."

The Dowager Countess of Macclesfield has contributed about forty volumes of books—including 'Lives of Illustrious Men,' 'Rollin's Ancient History,' 9 vols., and 'Shakespeare,' 8 vols.—to the library of the Woodstock Working Men's Reading Room.

On Saturday the wreck of the packet ship Samuel M. Fox was sold by auction at the office of Messrs Percival, Campbell, and Co., brokers, Exchange street East. The price was 8,000*l.* The purchaser had a bare bargain, for the ship has since gone to pieces.

Lord Carew contradicts the statement in some of the papers that he had "joined the Catholic Church."

A horse that was in the famous cavalry charge at Balaklava now runs in a Southampton omnibus. If it hears the sound of a gun it starts off, and there is the greatest difficulty in reining it in.

The annual meeting of the Rugby Agricultural Association took place at Rugby on Wednesday. The show of stock in the morning was extremely good, and the show yard was visited by a very numerous company of the principal landowners and farmers of the county. In the evening the members of the association dined together, under the presidency of Lord J. Scott. Messrs Newdegate and Spooner, the county members, were present, and spoke as usual about Maynooth and the currency.

A Treasury warrant has just been signed, authorising the grant of a pension of 30*l.* a-year to Mr Alexander MacLagan, the author of 'Sketches from Nature,' &c., and the 'Ragged-school Rhymes.'

CRYSTAL PALACE.—ADMISSIONS DURING THE WEEK.—Saturday, Nov. 22. On payment, 505; by season tickets, 2,220; total, 2,725.—Monday, Nov. 24. On payment, 889; by season tickets, 234; total, 1,123.—Tuesday, Nov. 25. On payment, 863; by season tickets, 293; total, 1,156.—Wednesday, Nov. 26. On payment, 239; by season tickets, 86; total, 325.—Thursday, Nov. 27. On payment, 607; by season tickets, 188; total, 795.

## LAW AND POLICE.

THE ROYAL BRITISH BANK.—Vice-Chancellor Kindersley gave judgment on Monday, in the case of the Royal British Bank. The estate, he thinks, will be best administered in bankruptcy, and he therefore orders that Mr Harding, the official manager appointed by the Court of Chancery, shall deliver up all the monies received by him to Mr Lee, the official assignee in bankruptcy. Upon the application of Sir F. Kelly an appeal was authorised, and thus the whole question will at once be brought before the Lords Justices, whose appellate jurisdiction, applying to proceedings in bankruptcy as well as in Chancery, will enable them to deal with it in all its bearings in a manner calculated to settle the law upon the subject. The enormous expense of all these proceedings will fall, of course, upon the suffering and helpless creditors and shareholders. From the Lords Justices there is the possibility of an appeal to the House of Lords. At the Court of Bankruptcy on Tuesday, the form for the accounts of the Royal British Bank was further discussed, and after details shall have been settled the directors will proceed to prepare the requisite balance-sheets under the superintendence of Mr Coleman.

GAMBLING-HOUSE TRANSACTIONS.—CULVERWELL v. SIDEBOTTOM.—This was an action brought in the Court of Queen's Bench, on Wednesday, by a retired tailor, named Culverwell, against Mr J. Sidebottom, a young man of respectable family and position, a partner in the firm of Sidebottom and Co., cotton manufacturers, at Manchester, and residing at Harewood lodge, Mottram, in the county of Chester. The action was brought to recover the sum of 2,000*l.*, which the plaintiff alleged was due to him upon a bill of exchange, accepted by the defendant on the 15th of June, 1852, at four years. The bill was drawn by a person named James Atkins, the keeper of a gambling-house called "the Berkeley," in Albemarle street, and by him endorsed to the plaintiff in the action. The defence was that the bill in question was given to Atkins for money lost at the game of hazard, at Atkins' gambling-house, "the Berkeley," and that it was by him endorsed to the plaintiff without consideration, and with notice of the illegality. The following outline of the case will suffice to show the nature of the transactions carried on at these private gaming-houses. Mr Sidebottom stated that in 1846 or 1847 he came to London on a visit, being at that time about twenty-eight years of age. His father was then living, and he had an allowance of 300*l.* a year. Making the acquaintance of Atkins, the latter introduced him to "the Berkeley," which he described as follows: "When I went in, the game of hazard was going on. It is played with dice. Atkins sat at the table, and seemed to be the money-lender. There were two bankers. Atkins was one of them. He sat at a small table at the end of the room, and seemed to have the general management of the place. Persons almost always play with counters. They are given out by the croupiers. Money is paid for them. When there was no money forthcoming, the croupiers asked Atkins whether they should give counters. When he gave his consent, the croupiers handed the counters to the parties, who sometimes gave bills, and sometimes not." Mr Sidebottom then gave the history of his losses. On the first night he lost 8,000*l.* He went on thus night after night, playing all night long, and far into the next day—making his heaviest losses when playing against the bank alone. The upshot was, that in the course of various visits, between the years 1847 and 1852, he lost on the whole almost 26,000*l.* Of this enormous sum he paid between fifteen and sixteen thousand pounds—the residue, including the 2,000*l.* bill on which this action was brought, he declined to liquidate. The next witness of importance was Mr James Davies, a publican, at Stoke Newington: "I have known Mr Atkins," he said, "for thirty years. I have been in partnership with him in keeping a gambling-house. When I first knew him he was doorkeeper at 160 Piccadilly, which was a gambling-house. I took him in as a partner at a gaming-house at the corner of Albemarle street. It was called the 'Stick shop.' Mr Davies also knew something of Culverwell, the holder of the bill and the plaintiff in the action. "When I first knew him," he said, "he was a tailor. I have seen him on several occasions at these gaming-houses with Atkins. I have heard Atkins apply to him for money. That is where the money came from. Atkins would say to Culverwell, 'The bank broke last night, and we want more money;' and then Culverwell would supply it." Davies further stated that Culverwell was also what is termed "a bonnet," that is to say, a person who pretends to play when any stranger comes in, and always appears to win. The witness also described the loaded dice, or "despatches" as they are called, which are used on these occasions. "The despatch dice," said Davies, "have double fives and double sixes. They are in favour of the table I should say fifty to one—in fact, all the world against one. They are changed for other dice in the course of play—sometimes by the 'bonnet' and sometimes by the room porter—'rung in,' as it is termed." There is no occasion for going into the evidence of Culverwell, who tried to show that he was only a bill discounter and "had no reason to suppose that play was carried on at the Berkeley, never having been there, or in any gaming-house!" The jury, putting no faith in this statement, without a moment's hesitation found for the defendant, and Lord Campbell said he heartily concurred in the verdict.

THE INDECENT EXPOSURE IN THE REGENT'S PARK.—This case, which is known as the Regent's park exposure case, and which has acquired a wide notoriety from the fact of the principal person against whom the prosecution is directed being Mr Gosling, brother of the well-known banker, came on for trial in the Court of Queen's Bench on Thursday. It came to a very satisfactory conclusion, sparing us the necessity of repeating details unfit for a newspaper, and removing a stigma from a person of the most respectable position and connections. The case broke down with the two principal witnesses—the accusers of Mr Gosling—named Midgeley, alias Mitchell, a Smithfield drover, and Warren, a young man who has followed a variety of occupations, and was not long since severely beaten by a man against whom he made an accusation of indecency with a girl on Primrose hill. When the case for the prosecution was closed Lord Campbell, who tried the case, observed that, in his opinion, the prosecution had been most properly instituted and most properly conducted; but it appeared to him that there was no evidence on which the jury could safely rely to convict the defendants. With regard to the unhappy women there was no corroboration whatever of the evidence given by Mitchell and Warren. There could be no doubt that the unhappy girls were in the park seeking their bread by prostitution; of that there was abundant proof. But that they exposed themselves in a public place, which alone constituted an indictable offence, that rested on the uncorroborated evidence of Mitchell and Warren. It was clear that the witness Mitchell was an infamous person, who was clearly watching there, and seeing the girls, kept by them, till he should see some gentleman come up whom he might surprise, and so get some money. As to the other witness, Warren, his lordship said that at first he was prepossessed by his story; but when he learned his antecedents and his conduct in this very affair, and particularly the former transaction in which he had made a similar charge against another man, he (Lord Campbell) thought that witness's evidence was so much shaken that no jury could act upon it.—The Solicitor-General (Mr Stuart Wortley) here rose and said he would not throw any responsibility upon the jury, but he would take it upon himself, and withdraw from the prosecution.—Lord Campbell said that if the evidence had been satisfactory, and the defendants had been convicted, he would have passed on the defendant Gosling the most severe punishment which the law of England would permit. The jury then found the defendants Not Guilty.

**FORGED BILL OF EXCHANGE.**—In the Court of Common Pleas on Monday, the case of *Mather v. Lord Maidstone* was decided. The action was upon a 1,000*l.* bill of exchange, which had been given in renewal of a bill which turned out to have been forged, and at the trial the jury gave a verdict for the defendant. A rule, however, was obtained for a new trial, upon the ground of misdirection, and that the verdict was against the evidence, and the matter now came before the court upon cause being shown against the rule being made absolute. Chief Justice Cockburn expressed his opinion that there had been no misdirection, and that the jury were justified in arriving at the verdict which they had given.—Rule discharged.

**ROBSON'S BANKRUPTCY.**—Thursday being the day appointed for the last examination of William James Robson in the Court of Bankruptcy, he was brought up in custody, and appeared in court; but no one wishing to examine him, he was removed. A number of small debts were proved, but no accounts were filed, and an adjournment was ordered till the 8th of January. Robson was in charge of two officers from the Millbank Penitentiary, and was attired in the dress in which he was captured at Copenhagen. His appearance was careworn and dejected, and he evidently suffered on being exposed to the gaze of the public court. The proofs admitted upon the last sitting amounted to 300*l.* The claims of the creditors who now attended were principally for small amounts, and in most cases no proofs were admitted unless accompanied by the creditor's books. Debts to the amount of about 700*l.* were proved. Mr Johnson, the official assignee, has about 1,200*l.* in hand from the assets already realised.

**PUNISHMENT OF GAROTTE ROBBERS.**—In the Central Criminal Court, on Wednesday, C. Hunter and T. Murty, who committed the daring garrotte robbery upon Mr Edward Mason in the Borough, on the 29th ult., were tried, found guilty, and sentenced to transportation for life.—On Thursday, F. Travers, aged twenty-eight, described as a painter, pleaded guilty to violently assaulting, and in conjunction with three other persons, robbing a gentleman, named Moore, of a watch and other articles. This also was a garrotte robbery. The prisoner, who was well known to the police as an associate of thieves, was sentenced to be transported for fourteen years.

#### THE GREAT GOLD ROBBERY.

On Monday the Lord Mayor proceeded with the further examination of the prisoners, William Pierce and James Burgess. They were perfectly cool and collected in their demeanour. The first witness called was Charlotte Painter, the servant girl at Agar's house at Shepherd's Bush, where he went by the name of Adams, and Pierce, who used to come there frequently, by that of Peckham. The latter came at various times, and was there sometimes the best part of the day. Agar was generally at home when Pierce called. Agar and Pierce generally went together into the washhouse adjoining the kitchen in the yard. She did not know what they did there, but she once or twice heard hammering and knocking. Once she went to the door for something, and Agar said she could not come in. She saw two boxes in the washhouse, one of them being a green box, and she thought she should know it again if she saw it. When the two men were not in the washhouse she used to go in and out for anything she wanted. She had occasion to move the boxes, in order to sweep under them. They were very heavy, and the white one was the heaviest. A vice was put up in the washhouse against the window. It was fixed up on a piece of board. It was fixed there when she first went, and remained there until she left. She saw one leather bag in the house—one that buttoned in front, and had a strap to go over the shoulder. Agar brought this bag into the hack parlour. No question was asked about the bag. She saw no other bag than that. Agar and Pierce went out together with the bag towards the evening, but she could not say how long that was before she went away. She usually slept in the back bed-room up stairs, in which there was a small stove, but no fire was ever lighted there to her knowledge. Generally speaking she went to bed at eight o'clock, or a little after. Pierce had always gone when she went to bed. Mary Ann Wild, the servant to Mr and Mrs Bessell, who lived next door to Agar at Shepherd's Bush, stated that he slept in a hack room of her master's house, and could see the washhouse in Agar's house. She had seen him go into his washhouse, but she could not say how many times. She had seen another man with him on one occasion, but she should not know him again. They had a garden behind Mrs Bessell's house, and when she was in that garden she could see the back window of Agar's bedroom. A white blind was over the window when she first went, and remained there. She remembered Mr Bessell sending her to Agar to borrow a hammer, and he gave her one that was very heavy. She had often heard a hammering when Adams was in the washhouse, but she did not remember whether she heard that knocking when the other man went in with him. Mrs Porter, of 14 Harleford road, Kennington, a married woman, said she knew Adams, or Agar, who took lodgings at her house in October, 1854. There was with him a female called Mrs Adams, who was examined at this Court last week (Fanny Kay). She knew the prisoner Pierce, who went by the name of Peckham. He came to see Agar very frequently. Pierce used very frequently to stop half the day, and sometimes longer. She did not observe that Pierce or Agar ever used any tools there. W. E. Wood, a cabman, said he lived at Camden town. Last spring he was out in one of his cabs near Chalk farm. He was driving along the road about seven o'clock in the evening, and was called by a man, and went to the corner of the Prince of Wales's road, Haverstock hill. The man walked or rode there, but he did not know which. Crown terrace was 200 or 300 yards from the corner of the Prince of Wales's road. Witness stopped there a quarter of an hour, and the man who called him went down the Prince of Wales's road to Crown terrace. When he returned there was another man with him. They brought two or three carpet bags. One appeared to be a bag with a square dressing case in it. They both got into the cab, and ordered him to drive to the London-bridge Station. When they got over the bridge they ordered him to pull up on the right near the Bridge hotel. The shorter man of the two then got out, and went towards the station. The other man ordered him to go to St Thomas's street. He drove there, and when near Guy's hospital was ordered to pull up. The man who first got out had a cloak or mantle on when he got out, and he did not know what he took away. He had no mantle or cloak on when he got into the cab. He had been preparing to get out, as witness inferred from the shaking of the cab. After he had remained in St Thomas's street about half an hour the first man came back, apparently from Tooty street, through the arches. He got into the cab and spoke to the other man, after which he got out again and was absent about a quarter of an hour. Witness did not hear what they said. When the first man came back again they ordered him to drive back to the Prince of Wales's road, but they were to go into the road by another entrance, round by the Mother Shipton. He took them to within 200 yards of Crown terrace. They paid him and took their luggage away. Two or three days afterwards they hired him again, when he was on the Chalk farm rank. It was the shorter man who hired him again and it was about the same hour in the evening, seven o'clock. He told witness to drive to the corner of the Prince of Wales's road. One gentleman went away for the other as before, and returned with his luggage, consisting of two carpet bags and a small leather bag. He believed that one had a brown frock coat on, and the other was dressed in dark clothing. Both had cloaks or mantles on their arms. He drove them again to St Thomas's street, and the shorter man got out, but he did not notice that he took anything away. He went towards the arch, and returned in about half an hour. The other waited for

him. He drove them back to the Prince of Wales's road, by Haverstock hill. A third time he was hired in the same way, went to the same place, and back again in the same way, with the luggage they had taken with them. On one occasion he lifted one of the carpet bags, and found it very heavy. All this took place in April or May of last year. The shorter man was of fair complexion, and appeared to him to be a servant out of place. The other man he never looked at, he never gave him a chance. The shorter man was five feet five inches or five feet six inches in height, and twenty-eight or thirty years of age. He was always dressed in the same way. He could not swear to the other, who was five feet eight inches or five feet nine inches. He no sooner came to the cab than he was in. (The shorter man, supposing the identity established, was Agar, the taller one Pierce.) There was nothing particular about the taller man, and witness supposed that the shorter man who hired the cab was his servant. Evidence of a similar nature was given by another cabman, named Carter, who clearly identified Pierce as one of the persons he had driven. J. Clements, a coffee-shop keeper in Camden town, remembered two persons coming into his place for refreshment one evening about the time the robbery was committed. They had a carpet bag with them, which they took away in a cab. One was a fair complexioned man and the other was dark. J. Honour, a hairdresser, residing in Lambeth walk, said he had known Pierce four or five years. He knew him when he lived at Walnut-tree walk. He often came to witness's shop, and on one occasion ordered a wig. Witness made him a dark wig, very nearly black. He said it was for a friend of his, an elderly gentleman. He gave the wig to Pierce. Pierce left Walnut-tree walk about two years ago, and it was shortly before that he ordered the wig. Pierce paid for it.—J. Allday, a hoy, of Newbury mews, Haverstock hill, near Crown terrace, said—One day he found some shot in Princes terrace, leading to Crown terrace. It was by the side of the kerb of the pavement. There was about a double handful. There were boys with him, and they shared it. The shots were all along Princes terrace. Supposing a person to be walking from Crown terrace to Kentish town, they would go along that road. W. Stearne said he kept the White Hart, in St Thomas's street. He knew the prisoners Pierce and Burgess. He knew Agar, whom he saw examined in that Court, but he did not previously know his name. He had known Burgess nine years, Pierce seven years; and Agar he had only seen four or five times. He heard of the bullion robbery. Previous to that time Pierce and Burgess frequented his house, and he had seen them together on many occasions there. He had seen Agar at his house with Burgess and Pierce. He had seen them at his house at all hours of the day. When Agar was there it was about seven o'clock in the evening. On the 17th or 18th February last a parcel was handed to him by Sarah Thompson, his barmaid. In consequence of what she said to him he put that parcel into his cash box, and kept it there. On the following night, or the night after that, Burgess asked witness whether he had a parcel for him. Witness took him into his bar parlour, and then gave him the parcel in the same state that he had received it. Burgess opened it in witness's presence. It contained several notes. He saw that they were larger notes than 5*l.* He asked Burgess why he had not previously made him acquainted with the contents of the parcel, to which Burgess replied that it did not matter, as he had perfect confidence in him. Burgess then asked him to take care of it for him, and, as it was the savings of years, he should be much obliged to him to invest it for him in the best way he could. Witness said he should be very glad, as he had a high opinion of him. He suggested to Burgess that it should be deposited at some bank, and added that he had a friend who was a customer at the London and Westminster Bank who would introduce him. He declined that suggestion, saying that he knew nothing of money matters, that he had not time to attend to them, and that he should be quite satisfied with anything he did. It then occurred to him that he might invest it with Messrs Reid, his brewers, who would give five per cent., and Burgess expressed himself perfectly satisfied, and said he hoped he would do so. On the following morning witness went to Messrs Reid's counting house, and deposited the money, to the amount of 500*l.* It was all in Bank of England notes, the identical notes which Burgess had given him. He gave Burgess the book he had received from Reid's, and he returned it to him in a few days afterwards. He received the interest upon the amount lodged at Reid's, and gave it to his barmaid to hand to Burgess with the book. Cross examined.—His house was much frequented by the railway company's servants, and he had seen Pierce with many of them. When Pierce, Agar, and Burgess were at his house they did not compose a party by themselves, but were in company with other persons. He had a great many of the railway servants together at his house at one time during an evening. He never had Burgess's savings' bank book. When Burgess gave him the book he did not remember that he said the amount formed part of the savings of his wife's mother, and that to make up the amount to 500*l.* he had to take some money out of the savings' bank. He did not say that he had some good fortune in speculating in shares. There was not the slightest concealment on the part of Burgess when he gave him the money, and witness deposited the identical notes which he gave him. Sarah Thompson, late barmaid to the last witness, said she remembered handing Mr Stearne a parcel, which was brought to the house by a man named Richard Lee. It was addressed to Mr Burgess. She gave it to Mr Stearne in the same state in which it came into her hands. "She was not present when Mr Stearne gave him the parcel. Subsequently she gave Burgess 8*l.* 1*s.* 1*d.* which Mr Stearne gave her as interest. She showed Burgess the books. The inquiry was then adjourned till Tuesday next.

There are some facts connected with this extraordinary case which have escaped public notice. The proceedings at the Mansion-house appear to indicate that the parties concerned in this daring act of plunder were not known until the revelations made by the convict Agar. That, however, as will be seen, is not correct. On the receipt of telegraphic news from Paris, announcing the robbery, the city detectives were called upon to act in the matter, and within a few weeks after the occurrence they were enabled to inform the directors that the robbery had been committed on their line, between London and Dover, by Agar and his three accomplices. The Company, however, had some misgivings as to the truth of the officers' statement. They had great confidence in Burgess, in consequence of the years he had been employed; besides, there might be a doubt as to whether the robbery took place on their or on the continental lines, and even whether there had been any plunder at all. With the exception of a few incidents detailed by Agar, the police had acquired all the principal facts, and a report was presented to the directors, and if it had at once been acted upon, the whole of the prisoners would have been taken, and probably also the receivers, and a large amount of the stolen treasure recovered. Still, however, they declined to act upon the officers' representations. There was a probability of the latter being wrong, and there was some suspicion pointed elsewhere. So the affair rested until Fanny Kay communicated what she had heard of the robbery, and confirmed the report which the officers had months before given.

Henry Agar, the approver, has pursued a most remarkable career of crime for some years. His age is about 40. He is of the middle stature, quick and determined in his manners, and possessing some intelligence. For years it was known that he was associated with a class of systematic bank forgers in what are denominated "large offences." In the pursuit of his nefarious practices various stratagems were resorted to, and perhaps his most successful scheme was that of advertising for young men as clerks, or writing to those who had advertised for situations, engaging them for some kind of service,

and "testing their honesty" by sending them generally at the first interview with forged checks to the bankers. A confederate was always placed on the watch; he followed the clerk to the bank, and, in the event of there being any delay or detection of the fraud, the principal accomplice had timely notice so as to enable him to effect an escape. This description of frauds on banking firms of late years has reached to a considerable amount. One of Agar's confederates was a man named Nash. He, like Agar, generally passed as a "commercial man." He was convicted at the Central Criminal Court about six years since, having been detected at the Bank of England in obtaining gold for notes to the amount of 800*l.* The notes had been paid by Messrs Barnett and Hoare, in Lombard-street, on a forged check, presented by a young man who had been entrapped in the manner previously described. The forgery was not discovered until after the money had been paid over the counter, and the person had left. The firm, however, immediately apprised the Bank of England authorities of the numbers of the notes. Nearly at the same moment they were presented by Nash, who was handed over to the custody of the detectives on duty at the Bank. Nash was sentenced to fourteen years' transportation. However, after a servitude of five years he obtained a ticket of leave, and is now in the metropolis. Agar, it is stated, was concerned with Nash in that forgery, and it is believed was the party who watched the dupe to the banking-house. Agar then took up with Pierce, and with him pursued the same career, and it would appear with such success as to induce Agar to take several trips to New York, in order to dispose of Bank of England notes which were not negotiable in this country, the numbers having been posted at the Bank. They continued this system of crime up to the period of the great bullion robbery. Agar was himself apprehended on the charge of forgery. The circumstances under which he was detected are worth notice. In August last year a man gave information to the Foresters, at the Mansion-house, respecting a check (forged) for 700*l.* on Messrs Stevenson, Salt, and Co., bankers, Lombard street. The check had to be given him to get cashed on a certain day. He had his suspicions respecting it, as he was promised 100*l.* if he succeeded. The man was taken to Messrs Bush and Mullens, the solicitors to the committee of bankers, who arranged that he should act as he had been directed. The man presented the check at the bank named, and received in return a bag which he supposed to be sovereigns, and proceeded to Bedford row, where the party had appointed to meet him. After loitering about some time, a well-dressed man accosted him. It was Agar, who, observing two men on the opposite side of the street, said, "Come on, we are watched;" and on reaching the corner of Princes street, he added, "Slings the stuff over to me, and I'll bolt." The man did as required, and Agar took to his heels. He was pursued by the two men, who were Goddard, the officer, and an assistant of the Foresters, and a desperate chase took place before he was captured. He denied being the man, but the bag was found in his possession. Instead of sovereigns, however, it contained 700 farthings, which Mr Mullens had arranged with the bankers to substitute for gold. At his trial a paper parcel was produced, which contained nine copper plates, sixty-nine blank checks of Messrs Coutts and Co., forty-nine blank checks of the East of England Bank at Norwich, and a number of others. These were stated by the prosecution to have been placed by Agar in a person's hands for security. A clerk of Messrs Glyn and Co., and of Messrs Coutts and Co., proved that some of these blank checks belonged to customers of theirs whose places had been burglariously entered. In two instances checks for 700*l.* and 800*l.* had been paid. Forester also produced Agar's trunks, which were found at his lodgings, 7, Stanley place, Paddington green. The contents comprised some gold, documents, and securities of value (portions of the proceeds of the sale of the stolen bullion), but, as the prosecutors were not in a position to prove that it was the produce of any particular forgery, the judge ordered it to be given up to Agar. His defence was, that he had been ensnared by a third party. The jury found him guilty of the forgery, and he was transported for life. Pierce was said to be implicated with Agar in the forgery, and was included in the indictment on which Agar was convicted. The part he is supposed to have taken in the affair was in watching the man to the bank in Lombard street; and seeing him come out with the bag, as he supposed, containing the gold, he hastened off to apprise Agar of their apparent success. Although 50*l.* was offered for his apprehension, he continued to evade the vigilance of the police until taken on the charge of stealing the gold. Agar was noted for being an experienced locksmith. His explanation of the way he got an impression of the key of the bullion safe, and the mode in which he manufactured it, showed him to be very quick and skilful in the art. To him was imputed the making of the duplicate key which opened the iron safe of Messrs Rogers, the bankers, in Clement's lane, on the occasion of the robbery of 45,000*l.* some years since. It is stated that, when it was proposed to him that he should become approver, he expressed some desire to screen Tester, the clerk and Burgess the guard, and only to give evidence against Pierce. On being informed, however, that it was utterly impossible that such a condition could be entertained, he relinquished all scruples in the matter.

William Pierce is about forty years of age, is married, and has several children. Prior to being employed in the ticket-printing department of the South-Eastern Railway Company, from which he was discharged for secretly printing tickets resembling those of a large railway company, he appears not to have had any regular occupation, and to have mixed with an indifferent class of people. Burgess, the guard, appears to have had unlimited confidence reposed in him. He is the son of a respectable man still in the company's service. Within a few days after the robbery suspicion pointed to Burgess, in consequence of his having charge of the mail train from which the gold had been abstracted. He underwent at the time a searching interrogation by the company's officers. He denied all knowledge of the robbery, and his conduct throughout marked the greatest self-possession. He, however, admitted that he had been in the habit of allowing "gents" to ride in his break-van while he had charge of the train, but declared in the most positive terms that on the night of the robbery no one rode down in it except himself. For months Burgess was under the surveillance of the city detectives, but he was never seen in the company of either Pierce or Agar. He was, however, frequently in that of Tester. The other party accused of being concerned in the robbery—Tester—whose apprehension Mr Bodkin confidently spoke of at the Mansion-house on Monday as being likely to be effected by this time, is a young man, and was formerly a clerk in the superintendent's office at the London-bridge terminus. It appears that it was part of his duty to arrange the duty of the guards in running with the trains—the practice laid down by the company is, that the guards should work the mail train monthly, alternately. The guards' journey-book, which is in his handwriting, shows that Burgess, instead of running the mail one month, worked it for three months successively. Agar stated, that for weeks he and Pierce were in the habit of going down nightly in a cab to the London-bridge station, as they never could know beforehand when the bullion was sent down, and that the guards were not apprised of it until within a few moments of the departure of the train, when it was wheeled out of the strong room of Mr Weatherhead's office on to the platform. This uncertainty as to when the gold would be sent down will probably explain the reason why Burgess was allowed to run with the mail for so unusually long a period. In consequence of Tester having access to the key of the iron safe, which was kept in the superintendent's office, he, like Burgess, underwent a strict interrogation by the officials. Two months after the robbery Tester resigned his situation, having obtained an appointment at Stockholm in the service of the Swedish Railway Company.

**A TICKET-OF-LEAVE MAN.**—At the Southwark office, on Tuesday G. White, an ill-looking young fellow, was charged with the following robbery: W. Lister, a lad in the employ of Mr Putley, butcher, of Blackman street, Borough, stated that on the previous evening he was carrying a tray of meat on his shoulder to leave at different customers. While on his way the prisoner and another man rushed out of a court adjacent, and nearly knocked him down. He then saw the prisoner snatch a large piece of beef off the tray, and run away with it. Witness pursued him and saw him drop it, and a minute or two afterwards saw him in custody.—A police-constable said, he took the prisoner into custody, and on searching him found a ticket of leave in his pocket, which certified that the prisoner was tried in July, 1850, and transported for seven years, and that he was liberated on the 10th of the present month.—Mr Combe said he was surprised a man of such a character should have been allowed a ticket of leave. From the document handed to him by the constable it appeared that his sentence would have expired in a few months, besides that he perceived a piece of parchment attached to it giving him a character. The latter set forth that "George White's conduct was rather good on the public works, but indifferent in the prison." Now, he should have thought that sufficient for the authorities to detain him until the expiration of his sentence, and not send such a character loose on the world with a ticket of leave. He asked the prisoner when he was liberated from Portland Prison.—The prisoner replied that his ticket of leave was dated the 11th inst., but he was not liberated until the 15th. He denied stealing the beef.—Mr Combe said, he was not at all surprised at the numerous burglaries and garrotte robberies committed daily all over the metropolis when such characters were allowed liberty with tickets of leave. In the present instance the liberated convict immediately returned to his old practices without even making an attempt to gain an honest livelihood. He should commit him to Newgate for trial, and he hoped the judge would particularly notice his ticket of leave.

**THE "GREAT NORTHERN" FRAUDS.**—Yesterday Leopold Redpath and Charles James Cumyngs Kent, who stand charged with the frauds on the Great Northern Railway, were again brought up at the Clerkenwell office. Mr Humphreys, jun., who appeared for the prosecution, applied for a remand until Wednesday next, as Mr Tyrwhitt, before whom the charges had previously been heard, was unable from illness to attend. Mr Corrie said Mr Tyrwhitt was getting better, and would sit on that day. He had no objection to the remand asked for, and the application was agreed to; Mr Humphreys observing that on that day the prosecution would proceed with a fresh class of charges against the prisoners, but another remand would then be asked for. It would be impossible to conclude the charges against the prisoners on Wednesday. Redpath and Kent were then removed from the dock. They appeared in good spirits, and not to have suffered from their imprisonment.

**THE LATE CHARGE OF ROBBERY ON THE GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY.**—William Snell, late the chief clerk in the accountant's office of the Great Northern Railway, and who, it is stated, is the son of a celebrated dissenting minister, was re-examined on Thursday, on the charge of stealing an order for the payment of 500*l.*, and also of embezzling other sums amounting to nearly the same sum. Additional evidence tending to criminate the prisoner was adduced, and he was again remanded till next Thursday.

**MORE GAROTTE ROBBERIES.**—The police reports of Thursday show that this popular crime is far from being on the decrease, notwithstanding the heavy sentences inflicted on prisoners found guilty of it. At Southwark, a powerful-looking fellow, named Dover, was charged with being concerned with two others in violently assaulting a gardener named Conellan and robbing him of a purse containing 7*s.* and a woollen neckcloth, in Redcross street, St Saviour's. It was the old story. The prisoner seized him by the throat while the others rifled his pockets. The prisoner grasped his neck so tightly that he really thought he meant to murder him. However by a powerful effort he got loose, when he called out "Murder" and "Police;" the ruffians then decamped, but a constable fortunately came up and took the prisoner into custody. After the prisoner let go his hold witness followed him, and did not lose sight of him until he was secured by the constable. The two others escaped. The ruffian was committed to Newgate for trial.—At Greenwich, another "powerful young fellow," named David Jones, was charged with being concerned with two others not in custody in assaulting G. Johnson, a clerk, in Rotherhithe, and stealing from his person a purse containing sixty sovereigns. The prosecutor said: On Monday evening I called at the India Arms public-house, Rotherhithe, and saw the prisoner there, who followed me out on leaving, and was then joined by two other men. The three men then followed me, and on my entering the Acorn public-house they came in also. Having partaken of something to drink, I left, and when a short distance from the house the prisoner came up to me, seized me by the neckerchief, and, placing his foot against my heel, threw me violently to the ground, and knelt upon me, while the other two men came up and rifled my pockets, taking from my right-hand trousers pocket a silk purse containing 60*l.* in gold. The whole three then ran off. I afterwards gave information to the police, and the prisoner was taken into custody. The prisoner, who denied the charge, was ordered to be brought up again for the completion of the depositions.—The garotte is creeping near the confines of royalty, one John Stewart, "a desperate-looking fellow," having been committed, last Monday, at Windsor, for robbing and nearly murdering a man named Gearing, in the Home park, scarcely 300 yards from the north terrace of Windsor Castle. As usual the ruffian caught his victim by the throat, and with a heavy projecting ring, which he had on his finger, evidently made for the purpose, almost killed him by pressing it against the jugular vein. Gearing was thus rendered insensible, during which time he was robbed of 16*l.* and upwards. Finding no more money, and knowing from what he had incautiously exhibited that he had double that sum, they made a second attack upon him, but ran off on a person coming up at the time. The complainant saved the remainder of his money by having secreted it in his shoe. "Robberies," says the reporter of the occurrence, "are frequent in this part of the park, from the want of light and more police strength."

#### ACCIDENTS AND OCCURRENCES.

**STEAMBOAT EXPLOSION AND LOSS OF LIFE.**—On Wednesday afternoon a tremendous explosion took place in Southampton docks, and it was soon ascertained that it arose from the bursting of the boilers of one of the Royal mail steamers, the Parana. The Parana was preparing to take out the West India mail on the second proximo, and, according to the usual practice, the engineers were trying the engines. Everything was in gear and the steamer was up to the full power, when all at once the top of the boiler was blown off with a sound like the discharge of a heavy gun. The engine department was filled immediately with steam, and shrieks and groans were heard. As soon as possible assistance was procured, and four poor fellows belonging to the fire department were taken out of the stoke-hole scalded to death. Their names were Hobbs, Potheary, Kroughton, and Rogers. Five others were seriously injured: two of them were Messrs Jones and Mason: The fourth and fifth engineers were badly scalded in the arms. The four dead bodies were taken to the dead-house in the docks. The Plata will take out the next West India mail instead of the Parana. The accident appears to have arisen from the steam chest having been blown by the pressure of steam from the shell of the boiler. The Parana was, fortunately, coaled, and the coal blocks surrounding the boiler prevented the chest from being blown to a distance, and doing more injury. Kroughton, one of the men who was killed, had evidently attempted to escape, and, while doing so,

the hot steam overtook him, and he fell back, and was scalded to death. A quantity of boiling water was blown upwards, and appeared in the air like fine rain. The government inspector had not long left the ship when the accident happened.—An inquest was held on Thursday, but the Coroner expressed his intention of merely opening the inquiry and adjourning the investigation, after examining a few witnesses. Those examined were Mr John McCrae, foreman boiler maker to the company, and Messrs Wylie and Tate, the first and second engineers to the Parana. Their evidence was to the effect that the Parana had her steam up on the afternoon when the explosion took place, for the purpose of trying the boilers previous to going out of dock next Monday. An examination made after the explosion showed that the starboard forward boiler had a rent at each end, from which an immense escape of steam would immediately arise. The rent extended at one end eight feet, and at the other thirteen feet or fourteen feet in length. The original thickness of the boiler plates was three-eighths of an inch, and a measurement of the thinnest part, after the explosion, showed five-sixteenths of an inch. The boilers had been in use four years. The rents exhibited no symptoms of previous defect in the metal. The pressure about five minutes before the explosion was only twelve pounds with the safety valve eased. None of the witnesses, after a careful examination of the boiler, could assign any opinion as to the cause of the accident. The inquiry was then adjourned.

**FATAL ACCIDENTS ON THE LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.**—An accident, unfortunately attended with loss of life, occurred on the London and North Western Railway on Monday night, near Warrington. It appears that the mail train from Scotland, when near the Winwick Station, ran off the rail, and became embedded in the soil. The fireman was killed on the spot, and the engine-man has had one of his arms literally crushed to atoms. The guard, who was in his van next to the tender, had a miraculous escape, not being at all injured. Providentially, also, there were few passengers in the train, and none in the carriages which ran off the line, and they thus escaped uninjured.—The body of a gentleman was found on the London and North Western Railway line, near Newton Junction, on Tuesday morning. It was found to be that of Mr Robinson, residing at Rainhill. It is presumed, as he was a contractor with the railway company for conveyance daily to his residence at Rainhill, that he must have fallen asleep and passed Rainhill, and that on the train slackening at the Newton Junction (where there is a rounding) he stepped off, and, coming into collision with some waggons on the siding, he was killed on the spot. The body was not at all mutilated.

**ATTEMPTED MURDER AT CROYDON.**—A day or two since a retired part of the suburbs of Croydon, called White Horse road, which leads to Croydon common, was the scene of a diabolical attempt at murder. The place indicated is a very lonely spot, there being but three houses there, and no others within fifty yards. Both in front and back of the premises there are nothing but fields, and by the side a small brook crosses the road. The first intimation the police had of the affair was that a woman residing in one of the three cottages had been murdered by a man named Bright, *alias* Staines, who has for some time past been engaged as a labourer on the highway. Sergeant Hearne, who is stationed at Croydon, immediately proceeded to the spot, and from inquiries which he there made, the following details have been collected:—On Thursday week, at the Croydon County Court, a plaint was heard of "Pitcher v. Antler for alleged false imprisonment and breach of contract, in which Bright was to some extent interested, in consequence of which he stayed in the town until between ten and eleven o'clock, some two hours after the case was concluded. He then returned to the house of the injured woman, Mrs Belton, who let lodgings, and Bright had a room in her house. When he reached home she was in bed: He knocked at the door, and the unfortunate woman came down to let him in: What transpired on the occasion is at present unknown, as Mrs Belton has never spoken coherently since the night of the transaction. It appears, however, that the neighbours heard terrific shrieks in the house soon after his arrival. After a short lapse of time Bright came to the door, where several neighbours were standing, and, in reply to their question, "What was the matter?" said, "Come in here, and see what's done. She's dead, she's dead! she will never rise more," at the same time pointing to the body of Mrs Belton, who was lying on the floor in a pool of blood, which was flowing profusely from her head. She was quite insensible, and was only attired in her night-clothes. One of the neighbours immediately went to Croydon for a surgeon. He met Sergeant Hearne, who accompanied him back to the house, in order, if possible, to secure the assassin, but by the time they arrived at the cottage Bright had escaped, notwithstanding several persons were present at the time. Finding Bright had decamped and the woman lying insensible, he went for Mr Cooper, the divisional surgeon, who immediately came. Upon making an examination he found that her skull on one side had been battered in, and from what subsequently transpired it is certain the deed was done by a wood-chopping axe, such a weapon being discovered on the floor covered with blood and matted hair: it is a most formidable weapon, the iron part of it alone weighing upwards of four pounds. Immediate pursuit was made after Bright, but up to this time he has not been apprehended. He is a married man, but has been for some time separated from his wife. The unfortunate victim of his brutality is described as being a most respectable person. She is forty-two years of age. At the time of the assault her husband was at Canterbury, and her son in London, both of whom have since returned home. There is not the slightest chance, we regret to say, of the unfortunate woman recovering. Mrs Belton continues unconscious, and altogether in a state leaving no hope of her recovery. Bright, the assailant, is still at large, but will probably soon be in custody.

#### THE ERITH MURDER.

This crime is one of so remarkable a character that it may be worth while to recapitulate its leading features, not hitherto very clearly defined. Thomas Cartwright Worrell and George Carter were, in the ordinary acceptance of the term, what is called "intimate friends." Until the marriage of Worrell, in May last, Carter and himself were constantly together, and the asseveration of Worrell, when smarting under suspicion of detection, that Carter "was more like a brother to him than anything else," had some show of reason even among those by whom they were best known. Worrell had been a successful gold digger, and had made two voyages to Australia, returning each time with a considerable sum of money. Carter was a member of a respectable family, and entitled to several hundred pounds under his father's will. He was, however, of careless habits, and on this account his friends encouraged him to emigrate, in the hope that a more attractive field for occupation than appeared likely to offer at home might open to him in Australia. A few days before the murder, Mr Freeman of Bucklersbury, who is the legal adviser of the family, advanced George Carter 100*l.* for the purpose of procuring his outfit and paying his passage. Carter resided with his sister-in-law, at Battersea, and on the morning of Thursday, November 6th, the day before his death, he counted out fifty sovereigns, and left home with that amount of cash in his possession. He did not return the same night, but about half-past nine o'clock on Friday morning he came home and went up stairs to lie down. Shortly after Worrell called, and Carter, having got up, invited him to inspect his outfit, for which purpose he went upstairs. Presently afterwards Worrell and Carter left the house together. Carter did not say where he was going, but, being dressed in a careless manner, with a loose overcoat and cap, his friends were led to believe he would return in a few minutes. From that moment he was never again seen alive by any of his relations. Worrell called on the

Saturday afternoon and asked if "George" was at home. He was informed that nothing had been seen of him since they had left the house together on the previous day. Worrell expressed surprise, and said he had parted from Carter in the York road, Battersea, and that Carter told him he was then going to Chelsea. Worrell did not call again at Carter's house for some days, and nothing was heard of the murdered man by his friends until Wednesday, the 13th inst., when the body, which had been discovered on the previous Saturday, was identified. The course of events now leads us to the village of Erith, on the Kentish shore of the Thames, opposite Barking, where between twelve and one o'clock on Friday, November 7th, two persons resembling in gait and figure Carter and Worrell, are observed to arrive by the North Kent noon train from London. On leaving the station they together proceed by a private and unfrequented road in the direction of an old and almost deserted demesne, about half a mile from Erith, known as Lesney hall. This place has been uninhabited for nearly thirty years, and, like all similarly circumstanced houses, has the credit of being "haunted." It is approached by what must once have been an imposing avenue of trees, but a quarter of a century in the Court of Chancery has reduced the avenue to a "green lane," and the once stately timbers which inclosed it now partake of the ruin by which they are surrounded. About midway up this avenue is a narrow copse or "croft" very much overgrown with underwood. There is a path through the copse, but strangers are warned that all treading it will be treated as trespassers; and seeing that it leads only to a farm-house on the estate, the public are not much prejudiced by the restriction. About twenty paces within this copse, on the forenoon of Saturday, the 8th of November, the body of a man was discovered stretched upon the ground, a little out of the footway, but fully exposed to the view of passers-by. There were no external marks of violence visible, but in the right hand of the deceased a carpenter's gouge was found fast clenched. This instrument was pointed upwards, and bore evident stains of blood. Upon closer examination, it was remarked that deceased's woollen waistcoat was pierced in several places, and on stripping him no less than sixteen different wounds were found in and about the region of the heart. The body was removed to the dead-house by the parochial constable, and information having been given to the police, the coroner was advised of the circumstance, and a jury was empanelled to inquire into the circumstances under which deceased met his death. The jury assembled on Tuesday, the 11th inst., at the Crown Hotel, Erith, up to which time no clue had been obtained as to the identity of the deceased. The inquiry was adjourned for a week, and instructions were given to the police to institute the most searching inquiries into the matter. Finally, the body was identified by several of Mr Carter's relations.

At the adjourned inquiry on the 18th inst. many persons who had known deceased came down to Erith, and among the rest Thomas Cartwright Worrell. He affected to be greatly distressed at his friend's death, and inveighed in strong terms upon the brutality exhibited by the assassin. The inquiries made by the police in the interval since the identity of the deceased had been established were not sufficiently advanced at this time to point direct suspicion against Worrell, but it was known even then that of all deceased's friends, Worrell was most fully apprised of his habits and movements. The conduct he exhibited, however, was not calculated to increase suspicion. To undertake to accompany a reporter to view the body of his victim, and to look unconcerned upon the mangled remains, was not the conduct of a murderer thought many; but Mr Mallalieu, the experienced chief officer of the metropolitan police in the district, entertained suspicions from the first moment he saw Worrell; and when on the production of the bloody shirt and clothes of the murdered man, Worrell suddenly left the inquest room, Mr Mallalieu was on the point of denouncing him as the assassin, when the thought occurred to him that it might be better to allow "the web to work a little closer," as he felt assured it would. A few hours afterwards Worrell was in custody, and committed suicide (as already reported). The direct proof of the falsity of his statements as regards the deceased—the fact of his having been driven to the London-bridge station of the North Kent Railway in company with a person answering the description of George Carter just before noon on Friday, the 7th inst.—his unexpected absence from dinner at home on that day—and lastly, the identification of the gouge found in deceased's hand as one borrowed by Worrell's father from a neighbour some months ago—are facts which, unfortunately, leave no room for doubt as to the guilty author of one of the most cold-blooded murders with which the present age has been disgraced.

The following is an abstract of the additional evidence adduced on Monday. Mrs Gardiner, cousin of the deceased, proved that on Friday morning, the day of deceased's death, Worrell called upon him, and they left the house together. The deceased did not say where he was going; and as he was only lightly attired, witness expected him back in a few minutes, but she saw him no more alive. At five o'clock in the afternoon of Saturday, the 8th inst., Worrell called, and asked whether "George" was at home? Witness replied, his family had not seen him since they left home together on the previous day; upon which Worrell said he had parted from him about noon in the York road, Battersea.—Police Sergeant Underhill said he sought out Worrell. On inquiring when he had last seen deceased, Worrell said he had spent the day with him on Thursday, the 6th inst.; that Carter had dined at his house; and that they afterwards went to the theatre together. Worrell also said he had called upon Carter on Friday morning, and that they had parted in the York road, near the Builders' Arms, early in the day, Carter stating his intention of going to Chelsea.—Several witnesses were examined, who proved beyond doubt that Worrell and Carter had been seen together in a cab, on the road to London bridge, on Friday, the 7th inst., thus positively negating the statement of the accused, that he had not been out with Carter on that day.—J. Mayo, sash maker, Wandsworth, identified the gouge taken from the hand of the deceased as his property. He had lent it many months ago to an apprentice of Mr Worrell, sen., who had never returned it. He recognised the particular tool by its uneven edge and a particular twist it had, from having been used on one occasion as a wrench. He had come forward in consequence of statements he had observed in the newspapers, and would undertake to select this particular tool (produced) out of fifty. He had had it twelve years.—The Coroner said the important thing was to trace the tool to the possession of the young man to whom Mayo said he had lent it. Without this the proof was not worth much.—Mr Mallalieu said that should be done.—Police Sergeant Ebbs, Inspector Wilson, and Police Sergeant Crouch having deposed to the arrest of Worrell, and repeated the evidence given by them at Greenwich, the inquiry was again adjourned.

On Wednesday the inquiry was resumed, the principal witnesses being the father and wife of Worrell. The former endeavoured to show that his son was in his house on a matter of business at twelve o'clock on the Friday, the time about which the cabman, Jacobs, swore to have set his son, the deceased, and Carter down from his cab at the London-bridge station; but on the witness being pressed by the coroner on this essential point his answers showed that he was by no means certain whether it was on the Friday or Thursday that his son paid him that visit. Witness added that he held in his own name the lease of a house which in reality belonged to his deceased son, and that, in consideration of that, on the 13th of October last he advanced his son 30*l.*, and four or five days subsequently 20*l.* more. Mrs Lydia Worrell, the wife of the deceased, to whom she was only married in June last, said: I last saw my husband alive on Thursday last about two o'clock, in our own house, 24 Clayton place, Kennington road. He seemed better and more cheerful than he had been for

several days previously. He had suffered much all the summer from the diarrhoea. I knew George Carter. I last saw him on Thursday, the 6th of this month. He came to our house about half-past one, and 6th of this month. He came to our house about half-past one, and remained and had dinner with us at half-past two o'clock. After dinner, which lasted about half-an-hour, my husband and he went together to the London Docks, as I understood, and returned together about five o'clock and had tea. About six o'clock my husband and myself, with Carter, went to the Standard Theatre, which we left about eleven or half-past eleven. Carter rode with us in a cab to our gate, where he took leave of us, stating that he was going to try to catch the last train on his way home from Vauxhall station. He wore a dress coat and a hat that evening, and he was in that dress when he left us. My husband left home the next morning, Friday, the 7th, a few minutes after nine, and returned home to dinner at three o'clock. My husband seemed very strange ever since last Sunday week. I recollect that particular day, because his father and my sister were at our house that day. When I say he was very strange, I mean he was very different from what he had ever been before. He made no communication to me as to where he expected money from, nor do I know where his money is, except from what he stated in the letter to his father, found on him. He never told me previously that he had got money. I have no document or security for money. I never saw Carter again after the night he was at the theatre with us. It was after, and not before that, that my husband seemed strange. I did not hear of Carter's death until the Wednesday night after his body was found, when my husband came home. Whenever I wanted money I had it from my husband. The last he gave me was half-a-sovereign on Thursday last, when he left home. I had not had any money between that day and the night we were last at the theatre. I have not seen any money in his possession lately.—The Coroner, in summing up, regretted that the search made at the police station of the prisoner had been so imperfect, for had it been otherwise the deceased would have been prevented from putting an end to his existence by the means he had so effectually used for that purpose; and he submitted that if the search at the police office was to be of any service at all, with the view to ulterior objects, whatever they might be, it ought to be a complete one.—The jury, after a brief deliberation, returned a verdict "That the deceased died from the effects of prussic acid, administered by his own hand, while in a sane state of mind." The jury were not unanimous in this verdict, two out of the fifteen having dissented. The foreman added, that the jury could not too strongly impress on the attention of the police authorities the importance of instituting a more rigid search of prisoners, and more especially in cases where they were charged with capital offences; and they also suggested to the Police Commissioners the importance of giving more discretionary power to the superintendent or inspector on duty, as regarded the placing a prisoner in a particular room with an officer to watch.—The Coroner then made out his warrant to the parochial authorities, authorising the burial of the deceased in the manner prescribed by law for the interment of persons guilty of the crime of *felo de se*.

On Thursday night the remains of Worrell were interred by torchlight at Shooter's-hill Cemetery, in a portion of the ground not consecrated, in pursuance of the Act of Parliament relating to self-murderers, which directs that they shall be buried between nine and twelve o'clock at night. Many persons were present at this unusual ceremony.

Yesterday the inquest on Carter terminated in a verdict of Wilful Murder against Worrell, now beyond the reach of the law.

THE RECTORSHIP OF GLASGOW UNIVERSITY.—A letter is published from Sir R. B. Lytton, thanking the Glasgow students for electing him as Lord Rector. In it he says:—"Only a day before I received your despatch Lord Stanley addressed to me a letter which does him so much credit—for that modesty which so often accompanies signal merit—that it seems due to his lordship and friends to enclose it to you.—Knowsley, Nov. 13.—Dear Sir Edward,—I hear, on newspaper authority only, but with some certainty, that it has been proposed to put me forward as a candidate for the Lord Rectorship of the University of Glasgow, you being also in the field. If I had any means of communication with the gentlemen who are thus using my name, I should, with all courtesy and gratitude to them, protest against the implied rivalry. Such honours are the fit rewards of intellectual pre-eminence, and ought to be bestowed on no other grounds. More than this—they should be reserved for those who have achieved distinction, not conferred by way of encouragement on those who are only seeking it. I wish you, therefore, clearly to understand, that I neither have encouraged, nor shall encourage, the proposal of my name as a candidate. Nothing, except the authorised channel of communication, prevents me from making known this opinion to my too partial friends, be they few or many, in Glasgow.—Believe me, very truly yours, Stanley."

RAILWAYS AND REVOLVERS IN GEORGIA.—Mr R. H. Gould has written a letter to the 'Times,' stating that, having instituted a rigid inquiry into the truth or falsehood of the story about the duels in the railway train between Macon and Augusta in Georgia, he is now able to inform the editor that he has received from two of the most respectable residents of Augusta the distinct and unequivocal assurance that "the whole story is utterly false—a sheer fabrication, without even the shadow of truth to support it. No such occurrences, nor anything in the slightest degree resembling them, took place on the railway in question, at the time named by Mr Arrowsmith, or at any other time before or since; and the only reason (says Mr Gould) why I have not been furnished with affidavits, or other formal documents, in disproof of the story, is the existence of a universal feeling in Georgia that such a tale is too egregiously absurd to be worthy of deliberate contradiction."

SEA URCHINS.—Several years ago, the British Association collected a number of sea hedgehogs in blocks of limestone, and duly supplied them with sea water, in the hope of surprising their secret, and witnessing their perforations. Expectation was a tip-toe, and discussion was rife, and the savans watched diligently; but the obstinate little prickly balls all died, and gave no sign. Professor Valenciennes has said justly, that nothing but mechanical perforations have as yet been known in zoology. The teeth and spines, no doubt, act mechanically in boring the holes; but while agreed as to the fact, the difficulty of science is to know how it is done. Hundreds of urchins are found together in colonies, each in his rock hole; and tiny little ones, the size of peas, in small holes in the partitions, between the lodgings of the big ones. M. Valentin says, the gills of the echinoids, consisting of five hollow lobules ramified like little trees, are external, and situated upon the soft membrane of the mouth. It is difficult to see how, with such a structure, the teeth could be used as the chief instruments for the excavation of the hole.—*Dickens's "Household Words."*

BIGOTRY FATAL TO SCIENCE.—The practical influence of Judaical views displayed in the spirit of Sabbatism, is sometimes unhappily exercised, even over science. Humboldt justly satirises "the English Sunday, on which it is sinful after Saturday night at twelve o'clock to read off a scale," as having destroyed the value of an important set of magnetic observations. (Cosmos, 1st translation, note pp. 113 to 188.) Yet extensively tables of certain observations are still printed, in which every "seventh" entry, instead of degrees, minutes, and seconds, is filled up by the word "Sunday!" It would be a curious calculation to find the real value of a "mean" deduced from such a column!—*Philosophy of Creation, by the Rev. Baden Powell, M.A.*

EXCESSES TO BE AVOIDED.—Excess of sorrow is as foolish as profuse laughter. Loud mirth, or immoderate sorrow, inequality of behaviour, either in prosperity or adversity, are alike ungraceful in a man that is born to die.—*Addison.*

THE PAVEMENT OF LONDON.—The pavement of London is one of the greatest marvels of our time. It covers nearly 3,000 acres, two-thirds whereof consists of what may be called mosaic work, done in plain style, and the other third of smooth flagging. Such a series of works far transcends in quantity, as it excels in quality, the Appian way, which was the wonder of ancient Rome, and which would cut but a poor figure as contrasted with one of our commonest streets. The ancient consular way was but fifteen feet wide in the main, and was filled in with blocks of all shapes and sizes, jointed together and planed only on the surface: the length of its devious course, from north to south of Italy, was under 300 miles. The paved streets of London number over 5,000, and exceed 2,000 miles in length!—*Building News.*

Prices of Stocks, Railway Shares, &c.

THE FUNDS. MONDAY.—Consols for money opened at 94½ to 94, and closed at the same. For the 4th of December the last transactions were at 94½ to 94. Bank Stock left off at 215 to 217; Reduced, 93 to 94; New Three per Cents, 93½; Exchequer-bonds, 98½ to 99; India Bonds, par to 1s. premium; and Exchequer-bills, 2s. to 4s. premium. TUESDAY.—Consols for money opened at 94½ to 94, and closed at 94. For the 4th of Dec. the last price was 94 to 94½. The next account is fixed for the 8th of Jan. Bank Stock left off at 215 to 217; Reduced, 92½ to 93; New Three per Cents, 93½ to 94; Exchequer-bonds, 98½ to 99; India-bonds, 2s. discount to 2s. premium; and Exchequer-bills, 2s. to 4s. premium. WEDNESDAY.—Consols for money were first quoted 93½ to 94, and the closing prices were 94 to 94½ for money, and 94½ to 94 for the 4th of Dec. For the new account on the 8th of Jan. the last official operations were at 94½ to 95. Bank Stock left off at 215 to 217; Reduced, 92½ to 93; New Three per Cents, 93½ to 94; Exchequer-bonds, 98½ to 99; India-bonds, 2s. discount to 2s. premium; and Exchequer-bills, 1s. to 4s. premium. THURSDAY.—Consols for money opened at 94½ to 94, and the last operations were at 94½ to 94 for money, and 94½ to 94 for the 4th of Dec. For the new account on the 8th of Jan. the final price was 95 to 94. Bank Stock closed at 215½ to 217½; Reduced, 93 to 94; New Three per Cents, 93½ to 94; Exchequer-bonds, 98½ to 99; India-bonds, 2s. discount to 2s. premium; and Exchequer-bills, 2s. to 5s. prem. FRIDAY.—Consols were last quoted 94½ to 94; Reduced Three per Cents, 93 to 94; New Three per Cents, 93½ to 94; Exchequer-bonds, 98½ to 99; Exchequer-bills, 2s. to 5s. premium. SATURDAY MORNING, ELEVEN O'CLOCK.

Table with columns: BRITISH, Price, FOREIGN, Price. Lists various stocks and bonds with their respective prices.

RAILWAYS AND PUBLIC COMPANIES.

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

Large table with columns: SHARES OF, RAILWAYS, PAID, CLOSING PRICES. Lists various railway and public company shares with their prices.

Trade and Commerce.

Metropolitan Cattle Market, MONDAY.—The arrival of cattle and sheep into the port of London from the Continent during the past week has been tolerably large. The Custom-house returns give an entry of 1,290 oxen and cows, 318 calves, 264 pigs, and 3,121 sheep, making a total of 5,048 head. The supply of beef was large, say about 5000 head of beasts of all kinds, and trade was slow, nevertheless, better prices were obtainable than on Friday last. Of mutton the supply was good, comprising about 22,000 head of sheep, all of which met with a dull inquiry, and the sales effected were at lower rates. Veal and pork were about the same as on Friday last, both as regards prices and trade.

FRIDAY.—We had about an average number of beasts. There were a few purchasers for choicest kinds at Monday's quotations; but they were not realised throughout.

Table with columns: Prices per Stone, At Market. Lists prices for various commodities like Beef, Mutton, Veal, Pork, Beasts, Sheep, Calves, Pigs.

Corn Market.—MONDAY.—Wheat: English, slow sale at 3s. reduction from this day week. Foreign in retail demand only at a decline of fully 2s. Barley: 1s. lower than last Monday for all sorts. Oats: 1s. to 1s. 6d. cheaper for English, Irish, and Foreign new, and 1s. for old. Beans and Peas: Old Beans 1s. and New 2s. cheaper—Peas: Feeding sorts 1s. lower. Flour: Norfolks selling at 45s.—Barrels 1s. cheaper.

Table with columns: Per qr., Besn, English, Foreign, etc. Lists prices for various types of wheat, barley, and oats.

FRIDAY.—At market to-day the attendance of buyers was small, and sales made were only in retail, but as there were no pressing sellers of Russian Wheat the bargains of Monday last were not to be repeated. Spring Corn dull sale at last quotations. Norfolk Flour slow at 44s. 6d. 5s.

Table with columns: Wheat, Barley, Oats, Malt, Flour. Lists prices for various types of grain and flour.

FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE.

Tuesday, November 25. Bankrupts.—J. K. Inge, Littlebourne Kent, brewer. [Venour, Gray's inn.—W. Wenden, Great Bromley, Essex, cattle dealer. [Jones, Southampton buildings, Holborn.—J. Comley, Dawley, Salop, draper. [Richardson and Sadler, Old Jewry Chambers.—H. Davies, Tredgar, grocer. [Bevan and Girlin, Bristol.—R. Berry, Ormskirk, Innkeeper. [Forsyth, Liverpool.

Dividends.—Dec. 16, G. Webb, Shoreditch, cheesemonger—Dec. 16, J. Johnson, Great Winchester street, East India merchant—Dec. 16, J. Fitzgerald, Portland place, coal merchant—Dec. 16, T. Hamlet, Prince's street, Leicester square, goldsmith—Dec. 16, J. Granger, Blackman street, Southwark, licensed victualler—Dec. 16, J. Travis and T. D. Kershaw, Prestwich-cum-Oldham, cotton spinners—Jan. 7, P. Hall, Manchester, small-ware manufacturer—Dec. 17, J. Robinson, Manchester, silk manufacturer—Dec. 17, J. Maden, Brandwood Mill, near Bacup, cotton spinner—Dec. 19, J. Hall, Preston, grocer—Jan. 8, J. J. Nicholas, Newport, Monmouthshire, timber merchant—Dec. 19, J. Partridge, Tipton, corn factor—Dec. 17, T. H. Ryland, Birmingham, wood turner—Dec. 19, J. Harvey, sen., and G. G. Pike, Birmingham, grocers—Dec. 19, G. Williams, Wolverhampton, paper dealer—Jan. 14, J. Benkran, Tetney, Lincolnshire, grocer.

Certificates to be granted unless cause be shown to the contrary on the day of meeting.—Dec. 17, W. Buton, Erit, builder—Dec. 17, S. Hastings, Lime street, wine merchant—Dec. 16, C. Pawley, Holloway, builder—Dec. 18, J. S. Muir, Aberdeen villa, Malda hill, schoolmaster—Dec. 16, J. Ledward, jun., Gorton, cotton manufacturer—Jan. 12, D. Rothwell, Halifax, machine maker—Dec. 16, L. Johnson, Duffield, Derbyshire, nail manufacturer—Dec. 18, J. Ashford, Southam, Warwickshire, grocer—Dec. 18, D. Grigg, Westbromwich, grocer—Dec. 18, W. Fawcett, Kidderminster, carpet manufacturer.

Friday, November 28. War Department, Fallmal, November 28th, 1856.—16th Light Dragoons: T. Duffield, Gent., to be Cornet, by purchase, in succession to Lieut. Williams, who has retired—Scots Fusilier Regt. of Foot Guards: Lieut. and Capt. and Brev. Maj. E. Neville, to be Capt. and Lieut.-Col., by purchase, vice F. Lushington, C.B., who retires; Ens. and Lieut. R. F. L. Stewart to be Lieut. and Capt., by purchase, vice Neville; H. H. D. Stracey, Gent., to be Ens. and Lieut., by purchase, vice Stewart—14th Regt. of Foot: Ens. W. N. Watson has been permitted to resign his Commission—16th Foot: Ens. R. C. Healy, to be Lieut., without purchase, vice Moyle, deceased—32nd Foot: Quarterm. J. Giddings to be Paym., vice W. Garforth, deceased—49th Foot: Capt. J. Hopkins, from half-pay of the 49th Foot, to be Capt., vice W. W. Maitland, deceased—70th Foot: Assist.-Surg. J. Watts, from the 94th Foot, to be Assist.-Surg., vice Grant, deceased—86th Foot: Ens. G. A. Couran, from the 86th Foot, to be Lieut., by purchase, vice Lepper, from—Assist.-Surg. T. S. Barry, from the Staff, to be Assist.-Surg., vice Fitzgerald, appointed to the 94th Foot—88th Foot: Lieut. J. B. Michell has been permitted to resign his Commission; Assist.-Surg. R. W. Meade, from the Staff, to be Assist.-Surg., vice Harris, resigned—94th Foot: Assist.-Surg. F. L. Fitzgerald, from the 86th Foot, to be Assist.-Surg., vice Watts, appointed to the 70th Foot—1st West India Regt.: Ens. A. W. Barron to be Lieut., without purchase, vice Callanan, deceased; Ens. A. M. W. Samson, to be Lieut., without purchase, vice Barron, whose promotion, on 31st October, 1856, has been cancelled—2nd West India Regt., Lieut. E. D. Lye has been permitted to retire from the Service by the sale of his Commission—Gold Coast Corps: Lieut. C. F. Duke to be Capt., without purchase, vice Brev.-Maj. Bird, prom.; Ens. E. N. E. Gatehouse to be Lieut., without purchase, vice Duke.

Brevet.—Maj. J. J. Grant, Unattached, employed on a particular service in South Africa, to have the local rank of Lieut.-Col. in South Africa, while so employed.

Bankrupts.—G. Danby, late of Watford, Hertfordshire, wine merchant.—[Chidley, Basinghall street, City.—M. Willis, Shot Tower wharf, Lambeth, fire wood manufacturer. [Lawrence and Co., Old Jewry Chambers, City.—C. O. Robson, Belmont wharf, York road, King's cross, wharfinger. [Giles, London wall.—A. Guest, Kidderminster, Worcestershire, grocer. [Batham, Kidderminster.—Margaret Jane Stovell, Blyth, Northumberland, ship builder. [Bell and Co., Bow churchyard, City.—D. Asquith, Halifax, innkeeper. [Wavell and Co., Halifax.—S. F. Chapman, Lincoln, grocer. [Chambers, Lincoln.—G. S. and J. Wright, Liverpool, brewers. [Evans and Son, Liverpool.—W. Hughes, Liverpool, joiner. [Evans and Son, Liverpool.—S. and E. Lord, Bacup, Lancashire, millwrights. [Cobbett and Wheeler, Cooper street, Manchester.—W. Briscoe, Ashton-under-Lyne, Lancashire, timber dealer. [Sale and Co., Manchester.

Dividends.—Dec. 19, E. F. Ellis, Hendon, Middlesex, stockbroker—Dec. 19, V. Chaudron and F. Babin, Saville house, Leicester square, dealers in perfumery—Dec. 22, A. Eves, Judd place West, New road, flour factor—Dec. 19, Elizabeth Benson and Sarah Benson, Mansfield street, Portland place, hotel and boarding house keepers—Dec. 19, W. Duncan and T. Hamper, Tooley street, Southwark, hop merchants—Dec. 19, F. Brigden, Arundel, Sussex, saddler—Dec. 19, S. L. Sanville, Skinner's place, Sise lane, City, merchant—Dec. 19, L. Ensell, Great Titchfield street, Middlesex, dealer—Dec. 19, W. Binton, Leicestershire, Erit, Kent, builder—Dec. 19, J. Gathercole, Eitham, Kent, envelope manufacturer—Dec. 19, W. Crole, jun., Rood lane, City, East India merchant—Dec. 19, F. J. Utting, Wisbeach, Isle of Ely, ironfounder—Dec. 19, W. C. Strange, Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, bricklayer.

Certificates to be granted, unless cause be shown to the contrary on the day of meeting.—Dec. 20, J. Durrant, Wormwood street, City, tailor—Dec. 20, G. N. Dobson, Poole, tailor—Dec. 20, F. L. Simond, Cullum street, City, merchant—Dec. 20, J. Peto and J. Bryan, Dacre street, Westminster, army contractors—Dec. 19, J. Elteem, High street, Kensington, grocer—Dec. 19, J. Carpenter, Hythe, Hants, grocer—Dec. 19, V. Chaudron and F. Babin, Saville house, Leicester square, dealers in perfumery—Dec. 19, G. Henton, Charles street, Grosvenor square, licensed victualler.

Births.—On the 25th inst., the Marchioness of Blandford, of a son—On the 24th, at Woolwich, the wife of Col. Warde, R.H.A., of a son—On the 22nd, at Southsea, the lady of Capt. the Hon. F. T. Pelham, R.N., of a daughter—On the 24th, No. 20 Belgrave square, the wife of Admiral Sir T. Cochrane, of a son—On the 22nd, Lady Bertha Clifton, of a daughter.

Marriages.—On the 18th inst., R. T. Glyn, Esq., Capt. 24th Regt., to Anne, daughter of Col. Clements, late 73rd Regt.—On the 25th, the Rev. J. F. Halford, to Ismena, daughter of J. S. Andrews, Esq.—On the 25th, Lieut.-Col. Montresor, to Laura, daughter of the Rev. W. W. Dickens, rector of Adisham, Kent—On the 22nd, W. C. Longman, Esq., to Elizabeth, daughter of the late J. Cutler, Esq., of Eton.

Deaths.—On the 21st inst., at Lower Clapton, Mrs Chatteris, in her 84th year—On the 21st, at Camberwell, Mrs Cheney, aged 86—On the 19th, at Southampton, in her 83rd year, Mrs Ward—On the 24th, Mrs Atherton, in her 81st year—On the 23rd, at Bath, the Countess Dowager of Roden, aged 82—On the 24th, at No. 16 Brook street, Mrs Norton, aged 94—On the 21st, at Wisbeach, J. Girdlestone, Esq., in his 83rd year.



TOWER.—SALE OF STORES.—By ORDER of the SECRETARY of STATE for WAR, to be SOLD by PUBLIC AUCTION, in the TOWER, on Wednesday, the 29th December, 1856, at Eleven in the forenoon...

THE Secretary of State for War having determined that a School shall be established in the Royal Arsenal for the Education of the Boys employed in the several departments...

BRITISH CANDLE COMPANY (LIMITED). BAKERS.—The City Bank, BROOKFIELD, & WHITEHEAD, MANUFACTURING MANAGER—MR F. L. BANWICK.

FOR TRAVELLING, MESSRS NICOLL have recently registered an invention for a railway rug or carriage wrapper. The invention consists of the usual railway wrapper...

EAU-DEVIE, Imperial Gallon, 16s.—Chemical analysis and the recommendation of the faculty, confirmed by the experience of several thousand approving customers...

DRESSING CASES.—At MR MECHT'S ESTABLISHMENTS, 112 Regent street, 4 Leadenhall street, and Crystal Palace, are EXHIBITED the FINEST SPECIMENS of BRITISH MANUFACTURES...

PARTRIDGE and COZENS, No. 1 Chancery Lane, Fleet street end, is the CHEAPEST HOUSE for PAPER, ENVELOPES, &c. Useful cream-laid note, 5 quires for 6d.

OVERLAND ROUTE.—STEAM TO INDIA AND CHINA, &c. via Egypt.—The PENINSULAR and ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY BOOK PASSENGERS and receive goods and parcels for the MEDITERRANEAN, EGYPT, ADEN, BOMBAY, CEYLON, MADRAS, and CALCUTTA...

WEST-END OF LONDON and CRYSTAL PALACE RAILWAY, opening from WANDSWORTH COMMON to the JUNCTION with the BRIGHTON RAILWAY at the CRYSTAL PALACE.

FRENCH MODERATOR LAMPS.—The newest patterns of the present season—Deane, Dray, and Co. have completed an extensive and choice assortment of these lamps...

VENTILATING STOVES! SUSPENSION STOVES! Approved by Thousands of Purchasers, and recommended by the two Houses, most Healthy, and Economical for Churches, Halls, Schools, Warehouses, Shops, Greenhouses, Bedrooms, Libraries, &c. Prospectuses with Prices sent post free.

PRIZE MEDAL, PARIS EXHIBITION, 1855. METCALFE, BINGLEY, and CO.'s New Pattern and Penetrating Tooth Brushes, Penetrating unbleached Hair Brushes, Improved Flesh and Cloth Brushes, and GENTLE SOAP, &c.

BREIDENBACH'S Concentrated ESSENCE OF THE WOOD VIOLET, price 2s. 6d. WOOD VIOLET SACHET, price 1s. 6d. WOOD VIOLET POMADE, price 2s. 6d.

MILNER'S HOLDEAST and FIRE-RESISTING SAFES (non-conducting and vapourising), with all the improvements under their Quadruple Patents of 1846-51-54 and 1855, including their Gunpowder Proof Solid Lock and Door, without which no safe is secure.

EASY CHAIRS, Chase Lounges, Settees, Conversations Sofa, &c. of the most elegant and luxurious forms, stuffed by French, German, and English workmen. Superior Cabinet and Upholstery Furniture, Bedsteads, Bedding, Chimney Glasses, Consoles and Bracket Tables, &c.

CHRISTMAS NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLD WORDS. On the 6th of December will be published, price 3d. stamped 4d. and containing the amount of One regular Number and a Half.

THE WRECK OF THE GOLDEN MARY; being the Captain's Account of the Great Deliverance of her People in an Open Boat at Sea.

THE BRITISH ALMANAC FOR 1857. Price 1s. THE COMPANION TO THE ALMANAC. Sewed in Wrapper, price 2s. 6d.

THE BRITISH ALMANAC AND COMPANION together, in cloth boards, lettered, price 4s. CONTENTS OF COMPANION FOR 1857: PART I. 1. Notes on the State of the Decimal Coinage. By Professor Morgan.

THE following ALMANACKS for 1857, PUBLISHED by the COMPANY of STATIONERS, are NOW READY, and may be had of all Booksellers and Stationers in town and country: CLERGYMAN'S ALMANACK. 2s. 6d. sewed.

THE CAMPAIGN IN THE CRIMEA.—This day is published, Vol. II., an Historical Sketch, by GEORGE BRACKER EBBY, accompanied by Forty-one Plates from Drawings taken on the spot by WILLIAM SIMPSON.

THE BANK OF LONDON and NATIONAL PROVINCIAL ASSOCIATION are prepared to entertain applications from respectable parties for LOANS on real or other approved security in connexion with life insurance.

THE CITY BANK are now allowing at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum for money lodged on deposit—i. e. one per cent. below the present Bank of England rate of discount.—Thameside street, London, Nov. 15, 1856.

DAMASKS FOR CURTAINS.—Five large lots, quite as cheap as the Tabaret Damask w.c. Double Width 12 1/2, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, 56, 58, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 82, 84, 86, 88, 90, 92, 94, 96, 98, 100, 102, 104, 106, 108, 110, 112, 114, 116, 118, 120, 122, 124, 126, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 138, 140, 142, 144, 146, 148, 150, 152, 154, 156, 158, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 172, 174, 176, 178, 180, 182, 184, 186, 188, 190, 192, 194, 196, 198, 200.

MESSRS NICOLL employ the BEST TALENT and MATERIALS to be met with in England, France, and Germany. ALLIED SLEEPY CAPE, Waterproof, yet evaporable, ONE GUINEA.

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