

The Economist:

OR

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

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

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NOTICE TO OUR READERS.

The third Statistical Number is published this day, and can be had with the paper, or separately. The two previous Statistical Numbers are still on sale.

In consequence of the great demand for the Preliminary Number, the original impression of upwards of Forty Thousand being exhausted, a reprint of Thirty Thousand Copies has been published, and may be had singly, or with the other numbers. Price 2d. unstamped; or 3d. stamped for posting.

THE CHINESE AND FRENCH TREATIES.

In consequence of our articles on various COMMERCIAL TREATIES having awakened much interest on this subject, and a strong desire having been manifested for full information respecting their contents, we have determined to furnish our readers with perfect copies of the whole of the existing COMMERCIAL TREATIES between this and every other country; and that this may not interfere with our other matter, we will give them in Supplements—of eight pages each (gratis)—once a month until the whole are completed: and all future COMMERCIAL TREATIES shall be given in like manner, so that the volume of the ECONOMIST shall contain a perfect copy of existing Treaties from time to time. We will so arrange this that the Supplementary Number with COMMERCIAL TREATIES and the Statistical Number shall follow each other at equal distances—the former at the beginning and the latter in the middle of each month, so that generally the one or the other will be received every alternate week. The first Supplementary Number was presented on the 21st Oct., containing our Treaties with Austria and Denmark, and the Chinese Tariff converted into English Monies and Measures; the second was presented on the 13th Nov., containing the official copy of the Chinese Treaty, and our Commercial Treaties with France; and the third was presented on the 16th ult., containing the Postage Treaty with France; Fisheries on the Coast of France and England; Treaty of Commerce and Navigation with Greece; and Commercial Treaty with Sardinia.

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

POPULAR PREJUDICES ANSWERED BY FACTS. COLONIES AND RECIPROCITY.

As time pursues her noiseless path, it is a useful thing that periods arrive in the conventional divisions into which mankind, by common assent, have marked the year, when the mind is peculiarly prone, not only to lay plans for the future, but to mark well the experience of the past,—when anticipation, however buoyant or sanguine, feels need of the assistance and guide of retrospection to determine the principles which shall regulate the practice of the future. Such period is the present moment—in the political as well as in the commercial world—and well understood, how closely allied are the principles of the one with the

practice of the other; in both, men are at this season peculiarly given to look back on the past for instruction and the light of experience to guide them in the future. In the political world the approach of the session of Parliament—with its measures and motions, its oppositions and amendments, excites the mind to activity, inquiry, and a desire to know the evidences of the past in support of principles to be proposed or pursued in the future. So also in the commercial world the balancing of accounts of the past year—ascertaining its results of profits or losses—reviewing the character and nature of its transactions—all with a view to a future course of action, equally occupy the minds of that great and important class. This seems, therefore, a peculiarly fitting time for us to call attention to many fundamental principles which require to be well understood, to serious errors and prejudices requiring to be corrected, and of important facts in proof of our accuracy—all necessary equally for the politician and the merchant to understand, in order to render the experience of the past really a useful and sure guide for the future.

We have been partly led to these considerations by an article in the *Times* of last Thursday, in which, referring to the trade of the past year, to the more than ordinary interest which may be attached to the circulars emanating from the manufacturing districts in the present year, and to the improvement which has been experienced in the chief seats of industry during the year—it takes occasion to refer to the principles of commercial legislation on which we ought to act. In doing this, the article in question is singularly contradictory from beginning to end, containing some sentiments from which we cannot dissent, but also others in direct contradiction of those sentiments, and which are calculated to rivet and fasten some of the most dangerous and erroneous prejudices which have ever existed in the public mind; prejudices of such old standing, so familiar to the public mind, that they appear now seldom to excite a doubt, or even an inquiry into their truth or reality. Referring to the trade circulars of the present year, the *Times* says—

"Now, in the present year, the result of these returns is on the whole favourable; and, relatively speaking, looking to the immediate past, and to the anticipations which it might reasonably have suggested, not simply favourable, but highly encouraging. But it is not to this mere general result, or to the inferences or speculations to which it might give rise, that we now refer. A great commercial experiment—not, it is true, adventured in any extreme or wholly unreserved measure, but still to a degree which warrants us in saying that there was an experiment—a change—an alteration of system—has been in progress during the past year. A more open and extended system of international trade, the mutual benefits of which (if it could only be realized in practice) to all the maritime countries of Europe and America have long been admitted in theory, has been attempted to be reduced, so far as the commercial policy of England is concerned, into something like an approximation to practical operation. The general reduction of our import duties, which so peculiarly distinguished the last change in our commercial tariff, and which was made in the very face of a series of the most adverse commercial negotiations, of negotiations expressly conducted by foreign powers upon principles of the most selfish prohibition, which was made in the face of the most numerous array of the most highly hostile tariffs that has appeared almost within commercial memory, this reduction, we say, under these circumstances, was a pledge that England, the first commercial and manufacturing country of the globe, was in earnest in the principles which she advocated, and sincere in her faith in their success."

In the truth and general tendency of these observations we fully agree. That "the general reduction of our import duties, which distinguished the last change in our commercial tariff, and which was made in the face of a series of the most adverse commercial negotiations," had nevertheless on that account a tendency to produce a "favourable and highly encouraging" change when compared with the deep depression of the "immediate past." Slight, though numerous, as were the changes in the last tariff, we cannot doubt that even the little approximation which they made to freedom of commerce have had a distinct tendency to improvement; and by no means less so because other countries have in the meantime been trying to injure us by hostile tariffs. But the *Times* has scarcely discovered and announced the fact of the improvement which it attributes to our commercial experiment of freer legislation in spite of adverse foreign tariffs, than it relapses into its old favourite principles of reciprocity, and would seem to deem even the improvement which it had just announced a doubtful good, unless we can prevail upon other countries to avail themselves also of similar benefits—

"In the course of last spring, as the issues of the several negotiations with Russia, France, Portugal, and the Brazils, and the fruits of the hostile tariffs

of the United States and the European protectionist countries, were successively developing themselves, we took occasion, from time to time, to deduce and insist upon the moral with which these occurrences were pregnant; and while urging the incalculable benefits which must accrue to all parties from the adoption of more liberal and extended principles of commerce—so ONLY THAT THE LIBERALITY WERE RECIPROCAL—to deprecate the cession of our own advantages until we were certain that the considerations for the purpose of obtaining which that cession had been made was tolerably safe to be realized."

None of the great changes in our tariff—whether wrought by Huskisson, by the late Government, or more recently by Sir Robert Peel, were the result of negotiations for reciprocal advantages—nay, the last changes to which the *Times* attributes the present improvements in the state of the country, were made in direct defiance of adverse tariffs abroad, and yet it immediately afterwards deprecates the notion of making such concessions without securing reciprocal advantages.

We would not be misunderstood. We do not undervalue the advantages which would accrue to ourselves, as well as to such countries as France, Russia, and Portugal, were they to adopt a liberal instead of an exclusive principle of commercial dealing. But if they will not do so; if they will throw impediments between our cheap goods and their needy people anxious to obtain them, there is no reason that we should increase that difficulty, by refusing to buy from them those cheap products which at once enable them better to withstand the artificial impediment of high duties in procuring our goods, and enable us to make those goods cheaper, and thus command a better market not only in those countries, but also in all others; to say nothing of the advantage of cheapness to the home consumption. While we would avail ourselves of all the advantages which commerce offered to us, in spite of, and without regard to, the policy of other countries, we would nevertheless greatly deprecate the folly which such other countries perpetrated towards themselves, and regret that they pursued not a policy more consistent with their own interests and ours also.

But referring more particularly to our manufacturing business and of trade generally, the *Times* goes on to attempt to account for the improvement without reference to foreign countries. It says—

"The manufacturing trade has not decreased, though in many respects it has been opened to foreign competition; it has increased, but it has increased by reason of the extended business of the home market, and of the increase in colonial exports. * * * No, it is to ourselves, and to our own markets, that we have chiefly to trust. That the natural advantages which have led to the establishment of one staple trade or manufacture in this country, and another, and a different one, in that—which have made cotton-spinning the business here, and corn-growing the occupation there—must ultimately overcome the artificial restrictions of tariffs and conventions, we can certainly entertain but little doubt; but these are results which cannot be forced. We may give up our all to gain them, and yet find ourselves in the end no nearer them than before. In the meanwhile, we must look to the extension of our markets by such means as are safe and certain, and in such places as must always be open to us—we mean, of course, by colonization, and we refer to the resources and agency of our vast colonial empire. While that is secured to us, and soundly and wisely administered, we may safely let foreign tariffs take their course, secure the while that what is for the benefit of the whole will certainly conquer in the end."

It is not alone for the sake of exposing the extraordinary contradictions, and errors in fact, which this article contains, that we are disposed to give it so much attention, but because we are ready fully to acknowledge that its errors are not only very common but very popular; and we cannot but express our extreme regret that the press is more apt to write up to and to indulge popular prejudices, than to take much pains to correct them. So that a prejudice, or opinion, if the term be more agreeable, be not too trite—too much exposed—but just that which is thought a safe middle course, by moderate men, who, having no opinion and unwilling to labour for one, judge it safest to rest midway between two opposite parties; to sustain a level with such prejudice or opinion, is much more easy for desultory writers, than to attempt to combat or correct them. The facts and experience connected with our commercial legislation lie in masses of statistical statements, requiring great labour and knowledge carefully to examine and judiciously to apply. That, however, is our peculiar business—it is a duty from which we must not shrink:—we must not feel that we have done enough when we have announced a principle, and argued it fairly, and perhaps to the satisfaction of our readers; we must show all that our experience can show—all that our commercial history can exhibit—of facts and realities to support those principles.

The prejudices, then, to which we refer, and to which the *Times* panders (though, as far as regards the first, confessing a contradictory result from the experience of the last change in the tariff), and in which we freely acknowledge the public, aye, the great bulk of the public, is agreed with the *Times*, are, first, that in reducing our own commercial restrictions, in admitting on freer and easier terms abundance of everything into this country, raw materials, produce, and manufactured articles, we ought to be governed by the disposition which we find in other countries to reciprocate with us in a similar policy in the introduction of our goods into their countries; and, secondly, such reciprocal action never having been experienced by us, and notwithstanding which our trade has much increased, that this increase has been "by reason of the extended business of the home market, and of the increase of colonial exports." We have, to a certain extent, legislated without reciprocity; to

a great extent our export trade has increased; and Colonel Torrens and the whole school, official and periodical, from the *President of the Board of Trade* to the writer in the *Times*, who favour the principles of reciprocity, would gladly that the public retained the impression that our great, nay, almost our sole export trade, is to our colonies. Those benefited by protection to colonial productions have also the same interest; the public are induced to believe that we are dependent chiefly on our colonial demand for our export trade; and this is the most potent as well as the most common palliative to reconcile men to the high protective duty afforded to colonial produce. True, say the supporters of these principles, you give a higher price for colonial produce, but the colonies afford you a market for your surplus manufactures on terms preferable to those of any other country. It is to them you are to look, according to the *Times*, as the only source of an extended business. This language has been held with so much confidence, and so long, that shipowners, and not a few merchants, have at length considered their interests identical with colonial protection; and the public generally have been led to a common belief—first, that the great bulk of our export trade, and the employment of our shipping, is immediately dependent on our colonies; and, secondly, that reciprocal treaties are absolutely necessary to the extension of our international trade with other countries. Had any attention been paid to statistical facts, these two great errors, these two great obstacles to the advancement and reception of free-trade doctrines, could not have existed.

Since 1831 our foreign trade has experienced an increase from 37,164,372*l.* to 47,331,023*l.*, and at these two periods the proportions of foreign and colonial trade were as follows:—

	Colonial Exports.	Foreign Exports.	Total Exports.
1831	£10,254,940	£26,909,432	£37,164,372
1842	13,261,436	34,119,587	47,381,023

At both periods our whole colonial trade constituting only about 23 per cent. of our entire export trade. During that period the increase in our colonial trade has been 3,006,496*l.*, of which sum our East India territories, to which free-trade principles have been applied during that period, represents 1,311,919*l.*; the Australian new markets, 557,693*l.*; and Gibraltar, for the purpose of smuggling into Spain, 570,434*l.*, leaving only as an increase during that period on the whole of our other colonial trade the trifling sum of 566,450*l.*; and on the whole of the North American and West India colonies, for which so much sacrifice in the shape of protection is made, the increase has been only as follows:—

	1831.	1842.
Exports to North American colonies	£2,089,327	£2,333,525
" West India colonies	2,531,949	2,591,425
Total	£4,671,276	£4,924,950

Showing an increase of only 253,674*l.*, or very little more than five per cent., while our foreign exports increased upwards of 26 per cent. To the West India colonies, which are protected in a higher degree than any other, the increase has only been 9,476*l.*

During that period of extension of trade, our entire exports have increased 10,216,651*l.*, distributed as follows:—

West India colonies	£9,476
American colonies	233,198
East India possessions	1,311,919
Australian colonies	557,693
Gibraltar	570,434
All other colonies	323,776

Total increase of colonial trade	3,006,496
Ditto of foreign trade	7,210,155

£10,216,651

So far, then, as a sole or chief dependence on our colonies, either for a large portion of our existing foreign trade, or for an increase of that trade, we trust we have fully replied, not only to the popular and long-cherished, because never exposed prejudice, which taught the public to believe that we relied wholly or mainly on that source for our export trade, but also to the assertion of the *Times*, in support of its reciprocity notions, that we could only look to that quarter for an extension of those exports.

But striking and convincing as the facts may be which we have already quoted, we have yet to refer to others of a much more astounding character, in support of the principles which we advocate, and against the doctrine of reciprocity. In some of our recent numbers we have dwelt at large on the abstract arguments in favour of free trade, without regard to reciprocal concessions;—we have shown that if we open facilities for importing, we create necessities for exporting:—that we can only import as long as we can exchange either directly or indirectly, the produce of our industry for the foreign produce. These principles are exemplified by the facts before us, to an extent to which the most sanguine free trader could not have anticipated.

The country above all others which has displayed the strongest

determination to adhere to, and even to increase, its restrictive system, is France; and though we have relaxed our restrictions in various ways towards her produce during the last twenty years, we have experienced no reciprocity;—on the contrary, our last relaxations have been answered by an increase of the import duties on our flax-yarn, and linens. The advocates of the reciprocity principle have been therefore loud in their calls for retaliation against this hostile disposition. Colonel Torrens, with others, call out for the “prompt adoption and rigid enforcement of a retaliatory system, to give the French producers a lesson on the evils of protection.” On the other hand, as free traders, while we regret the folly of the French Government, we say, let us neutralize the evils of their exclusiveness as much as possible, by taking from them, on the best terms we can, whatever they can give us better or cheaper than we can procure elsewhere,—feeling assured that if we bring from them, it will only be in exchange for something that is less valuable to us than that which we receive. We adhere to the principle that they cannot send their goods here without directly or indirectly taking our produce in exchange. Now, let us examine what has been the result on our export trade to France under the experiment which we have made of relaxing our duties, in spite of her adherence to restriction. We admitted her silk goods which were long entirely prohibited; we reduced the duty on raw and thrown silk; we equalized the duties on French wines, and our imports of all these articles have rapidly increased; but our exports have increased as rapidly or more so. In 1830, the exports of our produce to France amounted only to 475,884*l.* Since which period they have increased as follows:—

EXPORTS TO FRANCE OF BRITISH AND IRISH PRODUCE AND MANUFACTURES.

	£.		£.
1831	602,688	1837	1,643,204
1832	674,791	1838	2,314,141
1833	848,333	1839	2,298,307
1834	1,116,885	1840	2,378,149
1835	1,453,636	1841	2,902,002
1836	1,581,381	1842	3,193,939

These exports consist of manufactured goods assorted of every description, for the particulars of which see the Table of the Export Trade to France in the Statistical Number of this date. If such an extraordinary result has ensued from the slight relaxations which we have made in our tariff during the last twenty years towards France, what might fairly be expected if there existed a perfectly free trade between us and that populous and wealthy country, or even if many still existing very high duties were reduced? The country which, next to France, has persevered in restrictions towards us is Russia, to which country the exports of British produce and manufactures amounted, in 1831, to 1,191,565*l.*, and in 1842 to 1,885,958*l.*, so that now our export trade to France and Russia amounts to 5,979,897*l.*, being greater than the whole amount of our trade to all our North American and West India colonies. And the increase of our trade under our relaxing tariffs, in spite of their hostile tariffs, during that period has been 3,285,644*l.*, a larger increase than has taken place during the same period to all our colonial possessions throughout the world. And this great increase of trade to Russia direct is independent of the enormous trade which we also carry on in supplying her with foreign and colonial produce.

One of the most striking features in our increased exports to France is, that in the last year of the period they include silk goods, amounting to 181,000*l.*, being more than 30 per cent. of our entire exports of those goods, and being more than double the amount exported to all our American and West India colonies, and equal to the amount exported to all our colonial possessions throughout the world.

We do not wish to undervalue the importance of our colonial trade on the one hand, nor of a liberal commercial policy towards us by foreign countries on the other hand; but we think we have shown enough to prove that it would be the greatest folly this country could commit to neglect the great and populous civilized countries around us for the sake of fostering distant and colonial markets, or to neglect the means which we have within our reach of extending our trade, by the adoption of free principles, though other countries may persist in their exclusiveness and commercial hostility.

Our example will do more in inducing them to follow the same principles than can ever be expected from negotiations or treaties.

NOTE.—The whole of the figures in this article are derived from the official accounts of the Board of Trade, and will be found in greater detail in the Table, page 182, of our Statistical Number of November 4, and in the several Tables of the Trade with France in the Statistical Number of this date.

AGRICULTURE ITS OWN BEST PROTECTOR.

“Nought shall make us rue,
If England to herself do but be true.”

The agriculturists of the east and the south are exhibiting symptoms of vitality. In Essex and in Sussex we hear of “Anti-League” movements, in antagonism to “Anti-Corn-law” movements; and one or two of the organs of the Protective Interest emit a feeble cheer, and, with pale and quivering lips, express

their not very sanguine hopes that the flowing spring tide which rushes up the river of monopoly will be checked by the naked tiny foot that now splashes in the flood.

Alas! the mop of Mrs Partington has as much chance of sweeping back the ocean! Yet we do not sneer at the “Anti-League” movement. Far from it. If the farmers of Essex and Sussex are really convinced that the principle of protection is good for the community, they have as much right to meet, to speak, and to debate in its favour, as the League has to combine against all monopolies. Nay, it is the duty of the farmers so to do, if the farmers so think. We will go farther; we will take lower ground. If the farmers think that the repeal of the corn laws is merely a manufacturers’ question, they have a perfect right to make the support of the corn laws a farmers’ question. All we ask is, “fair play, and no favour.” Let the war be a RATIONAL one—the strife an INTELLECTUAL one. No diabolical charges. No monstrous perversions. No dastardly insinuations. No compounding of private character with public principles. Let mind come in collision with mind—argument with argument—fact with fact. For the result of such a warfare no honest man need fear; truth, for a time, may be overborne and trampled down, but the battle of “truth,” as well as of “freedom,” though “often lost,” is “ever won.”

But we appeal to the common sense of every calm and considerate man, whether or no he thinks that there is, by the remotest of all possible chances, the slightest hope for this “Anti-League” movement? What! support the Duke of Buckingham against the head of the Government with which the Duke was once connected, and to which he still adheres? Defend Sir Robert Peel from the consequences of Sir Robert Peel’s own adopted and solemnly avowed principles? Save Mr Gladstone from the onward flow of the “revolution of circumstances?” Prop up the AGRICULTURE OF ENGLAND in the face of the labours, the doctrines, the efforts, and the principles, of the ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY of England? The thing is too ludicrous—too absurd—too late in the day. Like all absurd things, it will be laughed down; like all late arrivals, it will find—the train gone!

But there is “balm in Gilead.” The Royal Agricultural Society of England, comprising all the leading landed magnates of the country, whether ultra Tory, moderately Conservative, gently Whig, or strongly Radical, are openly adopting, avowing, and publishing opinions, reasonings, and facts, which prove uncontestedly and irrefragably that the repeal of the corn laws cannot possibly injure British agriculture. This is cheering. It is the only true and effectual way of meeting the movements of the “League.” The Society, through the medium of its quarterly journal, is perpetually calling on landlords and tenants to exert themselves, and fear nothing. Only set about farming in the same way and in the same spirit as the factory people set about manufactures, and you can defy the competition of the world. Sir Robert Peel preaches to them that the best market for agriculture is a prosperous and busy manufacturing district. Lord Stanley shouts that the farmers must “sleep no more!” Learned professors, as Buckland, and Brande, and Henslow, and Daubeny, are plainly telling the agricultural interest that “protection” has been to it a “pipe of opium.” And worthy, active, intelligent county members—those who in the House of Commons sit on the Ministerial side of the house, and therefore rank as “farmers’ friends” (they are true “farmers’ friends”), are riding about the country, lecturing landlords and tenants, calling aloud for improvements, pointing out defective drainage, bad management, poor farming, and telling the whole agricultural interest that where formerly one grain of corn has been grown a dozen may be produced, and that at a far less expense.

Now, here we can afford to be candid. We freely admit that the Royal Agricultural Society is not instituted expressly for “the repeal of the corn laws.” Nay, the dream of the large proportion of its members is, that by means of improved methods of cultivation they will be able to prevent the repeal of the corn laws. The increase of the population has long too plainly demanded an increase in the amount of the supply of the main article of subsistence; and so, the sanguine agricultural improvers fancy that by rousing their class, and urging them to cultivate with science, and invest capital in the soil with judgment, the produce of the land may be made to keep pace with the growth of the population. But all the more intelligent members of the Royal Agricultural Society are now satisfied that this is altogether a delusion. They advocate agricultural improvement, not as a preventive of the repeal of the corn laws, but as the best preparative for it; and therefore they urge landlords and tenants to put themselves in that position by which they may defy competition, come from whence it may. Their motto and their motive is—science, capital, and industry will render agriculture its own best protector.

To this conclusion are coming all the wealthiest, the most liberal, and the most enlightened of our great landowners. The idea of protection, in any shape, to English agriculture is fast disappearing from their view. Ere long, the public will be astonished by the number of those whose sole interest is the land, and who, like Earl Spencer, will give in their adhesion to the cause of TOTAL REPEAL. Helpless, impotent, and vain are all the efforts which can be made by any small knot of Essex or of

Sussex agriculturists; the better and more manly course is to look at the repeal of the corn laws steadily in the face, and all the imaginary terrors with which the subject seems surrounded will rapidly disappear.

It is true that the *Morning Herald*, which is now understood to be a direct organ of the ministry, did, no later than a day or two ago, advocate the principle of a sliding scale because it was anti-commercial. This, of course, may be taken as an indication that the present Government will stand by the principle of the scale, and that Sir Robert Peel does not intend to propose any alteration of the corn laws during the coming session of Parliament. In that case, the question will prove, ultimately, the overthrow of his Government. As to the argument, that the sliding scale is to be maintained, because it is anti-commercial, there is nothing remarkable about it but its impudence. It is the old principle of protection—the old assumption that the LAND is an interest to which every other *may* be sacrificed, and on which all *must* be dependent. It is now too far gone in the day to compel us to prove that British AGRICULTURE owes all its power to British COMMERCE—that the merchants of England have given value to English land—that Liverpool, Birmingham, Leeds, Manchester, Glasgow—our whole commercial and manufacturing interests—have raised our revenue, fought our battles, increased our population, and made us what we are. But as the slightest novelty on so exhausted a subject is refreshing, we may finish these remarks by citing the following very remarkable and instructive fact, which we extract from the last and recently issued number of the journal of the Royal Agricultural Society of England. It is from a paper on the past and present state of agriculture in Ireland:—

"Before the introduction of flax-spinning mills," says the author of the paper, Mr Blacker, "the importation of foreign flax was entirely unknown; the hand-spinners formed the only market; and these being scattered over the face of the entire country, no wholesale market could be obtained by the importer. But as soon as the spinning mills at Dundee and Leeds were established, an entire revolution in the trade took place. *The hand spinner was undersold and driven out of the market; and the wholesale demand of the mills giving encouragement to importers, the supply was obtained from Russia, at pretty much the same cost of transport as from the north of Ireland country markets, at a cheaper rate and of a more even quality.* The Irish grower, therefore, being unable to cope with the Russian importations to the east coast of England, and having lost the home market by the ruin of the hand spinner, was obliged to give up the crop, and turn his land to something else. But upon the establishment of flax-spinning mills in Belfast, the Irish farmer had less way to go to market with the article, and his foreign competitor had a farther distance to come, from which the Irish grower has derived a certain advantage; and the crop is again cultivated to a great extent."

"Can we," exclaims the *Morning Chronicle*, "derive no wisdom from the lesson thus taught us through the medium of the Royal Agricultural Society of England? Could we not find it in our hearts to extend the application of the principle from flax to corn? Not till we do so will our agriculturists discover the full value of what Sir Robert Peel said at Tamworth, when he inculcated the truth that the prosperity of manufactures involves that of agriculture; not till then will they find out that British capital and skill may defy the world; and not till then will they really comprehend that not all the grain coming from Tamboff or elsewhere can prevent our superabundant produce, raised by that capital and skill, from going, as Dr Buckland said, 'to the manufacturing districts to be disposed of.'"

THE PENNY POSTAGE.

In our Statistical Number of this date, we furnish a Table, showing the increase in the number of letters passing through the post offices in the United Kingdom, taken for one week in each month, from November, 1839, to February, 1843. A reference to this Table will afford some idea of the enormous social and commercial importance which the postage measure must have been to the country, the number of letters having gradually and steadily increased since the first introduction of the system. In November, 1839, the whole number was 1,585,973 letters, and in February last it had reached 4,542,332, and, we believe, is still steadily progressing. The increase of letters in proportion has been greatest in Scotland and least in Ireland. The comparison is thus:—

	Week, 24th Nov., 1839.	Same, 1842.
In England and Wales	1,252,977	3,282,021
Scotland	153,065	446,494
Ireland	179,931	474,031

There are some curious periodical fluctuations in the number of letters. In Easter week they sink considerably, and in the valentine week there is a very perceptible increase. The difference in this week has been in

England and Wales	275,000 letters
Ireland	65,700
Scotland	48,500
Total	389,200

So that the annual cost for the postage alone of valentines appears to be 1,621*l*.

The examination of this table, which is extracted from the Report of the Parliamentary Postage Committee, will repay the trouble.

THE MARQUIS OF WESTMINSTER.

*Important letter of the Marquis of Westminster to the Chairman of the Council of the Anti-Corn-law League, enclosing a magnificent donation of 500*l*. to the Great League Fund.*

Eaton Hall, January 1st, 1844.

SIR,—Having, on a former occasion, expressed to you my anxious wishes for your success in the arduous contest with monopoly in which you are engaged, I cannot refuse myself the pleasure of congratulating you upon the rapid progress you have since made in the struggle with that formidable adversary.

As you have found your foe to be daring and resolute, so have your energies increased in a wonderful manner; and, in spite of opposition, you have carried the war most effectually into the enemy's strongholds. With such vigorous and sustained efforts the victory must be yours; and my hopes of ultimate triumph, and that at no very distant date, therefore much exceed my fears of failure. As to the duty,—that it is said would be lost to the country, if not insisted on, I am satisfied that such would be the prosperity of all classes from the abolition of this impost, such the advantage that would accrue to all monied concerns of the community, that, in a very short time, the general wealth would be so far augmented that the national revenue would outrun the amount of any duty that has been proposed, whether 3*s.*, 5*s.*, or 8*s.*

It may be all very well at agricultural meetings, to talk of the advantages of long leases, of tile draining, &c., and to drink the health of the labourers; but to what good effect? Long leases are, in certain districts, and under certain well-known circumstances, desirable enough; good draining has long been understood and practised, where there have been sufficient means, sufficient enterprise, and a soil requiring it; praise has no doubt been deservedly lavished upon the farm labourers; but there is something still to be done much more important to them, which is, to give them the means of obtaining an honest and independent livelihood, solid pudding being preferable to empty praise, and this cannot be effected without the abrogation of these mischievous enactments.

I have much pleasure in sending a contribution of 500*l*. to your Fund; and I venture to express a hope that you will not relax your endeavours until you have obtained from Government, in whatever hands it may happen to be, the fullest measure of Free Trade compatible with what is due to the maintenance of public credit.

I remain, Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,
WESTMINSTER.

GEORGE WILSON, Esq.
Chairman of the Council of the National
Anti-Corn-law League.

COURT AND ARISTOCRACY.

THE ROYAL BOUNTY TO THE POOR OF WINDSOR.—Monday morning having been appointed for the distribution of her Majesty's and his Royal Highness Prince Albert's New-Year's gifts to the poor, residing within the borough, in the New Riding-school, at the Royal mews, the spacious building, at the hour of half-past nine, presented an appearance of the most pleasing and gratifying character. The Royal bounty consisted of meat, bread, plum pudding, and blankets; in addition to which the numerous recipients of her Majesty's and the Prince Consort's seasonable benevolence were each presented with tickets to receive (in proportion to the extent of their families), at the establishments of the respective tradesmen, ale, potatoes, and coals.

— Her Majesty and her Royal Consort are residing in quietness at Windsor.

— The Court has gone out of mourning for his late Majesty King William Frederick of Holland, Count of Nassau.

THE QUEEN DOWAGER.—Her Majesty's nephew, Prince Edward, of Saxe Weimar, with the Rev. Canon Wood and his amiable bride, spent the Christmas with her Majesty. Her Majesty, with her usual liberality, has been dispensing her seasonable benevolence to an immense number of poor families in the vicinity of Witley court, and in several instances she has personally relieved the wants of the indigent and distressed at their humble dwellings.—*Worcester Chronicle.*

EARL GREY.—The latest accounts from Howick state that Lord Grey is improving in health daily.

ALTHORP PARK.—Lord and Lady John Russell go on a visit to Earl Spencer, from the Duke of Bedford's, Woburn Abbey, whence they returned yesterday from Chesham place, where the noble lord's step-daughters, the youthful Honourable Misses Lister, are staying. Lord John goes to town on the 25th instant for the season.

— Viscount Melbourne has arrived in South street from a visit to Lord and Lady Palmerston, at Broadlands. His lordship is in the enjoyment of excellent health.

THE METROPOLIS.

On Wednesday the parishioners of St Stephen, Walbrook, met in special vestry, as per adjournment from the 15th of November last. There was a very numerous attendance, and Mr Culliffe, banker, took the chair. The minutes of the last open vestry having been confirmed, Mr Rock called on the vestry clerk's representative to produce the minutes of the select vestry held on the 22nd ult., and from which the parishioners were excluded by Mr Alderman Gibbs, when it appeared that no record of that

meeting had been entered on the vestry book, and that the only minutes of it were now in the possession of Mr Alderman Gibbs.—The chairman thought that this was a strong proof on the part of the vestry clerk that a select vestry was illegal—the fact of his not having recorded it in the book. (Hear.)—The rector, Dr Croly, made a slashing attack on Mr Alderman Gibbs, whose conduct, under all the circumstances, appears very extraordinary and very discreditable. The vestry, after approving of papers for further proceedings, adjourned.

FIRES IN LONDON IN 1843.—On Monday, at a meeting of the directors of the principal insurance companies composing the committee of the London Fire Establishment, held at the chief station, in Watling street, Mr Braidwood, the superintendent of the brigade force, made his annual report of the fires that have occurred in the metropolis and its suburbs during the past year. The report, which is extremely voluminous and interesting, commences by stating that the fires in 1843, as compared with the previous year, have decreased by 20. The average, however, for the last ten years, shows an increase of 62. The number of fires and alarms which have happened from January 1st to December 31st, 1843, at which the engines of the establishment have been called into requisition, amount to 901. It further mentions that the fires by which premises were totally destroyed number 29; buildings considerably damaged, 231; ditto slightly, 489; chimneys, 83; and false alarms, 79. Total, 901.

BOILER EXPLOSION, AND EXTENSIVE LOSS OF PROPERTY.—Tuesday morning, at about ten minutes before nine o'clock, an accident which occasioned the greatest alarm in the vicinity of the upper part of the Commercial road, St George's-in-the-East, took place at the extensive manufactory belonging to Messrs Johnson and Co., cigar and tobacco dealers, situate in Gloucester street, near Cannon-street gate, by the explosion of a steam boiler of twenty-five horse power used in the factory. The premises are considered to be one of the largest cigar manufactories in and around the metropolis. The accident is stated to have occurred through the negligence of the engineer, in not seeing that the boiler was properly supplied with water. The firm informed the authorities of the brigade force that the amount of damage was at least 1,000*l.* The engineer has been remanded, at the Lambeth-street police office, on a charge of having wilfully and maliciously caused the explosion.

ALARMING EXPLOSION OF GAS AT GREENWICH.—Tuesday night, shortly after dusk, the inhabitants of the neighbourhood of Trafalgar street, Greenwich, were much alarmed by a most terrific explosion of gas, which took place under the premises occupied by Mr G. Oxborough, tailor, &c., in the Trafalgar road. It appears that some difficulty was experienced by the next door neighbour of Mr Oxborough in getting his gas to ignite, and that consequently he sent a man down into the basement of the premises to ascertain the cause of the difficulty, when the pipe suddenly burst immediately underneath the flooring of Mr Oxborough's room, tearing away the wood work and bursting up the counter. Thence it passed towards the ceiling, and upset in its progress Mr Oxborough and a female who was sitting with him at work. The ceiling is torn from the lathing, and the shock was so violent that the front wall was split by it from the top to the bottom. Upon inquiry we were informed that Mr Oxborough's injuries are but trifling, but that the female is so mutilated that she is considered in a very precarious state.

THE COALWHIPPERS' ACT.—On Monday the new law for the regulation of the coalwhippers, who deliver the colliers of their cargoes on the Thames, came into operation, and the office for the registration of the men was opened for the first time at nine o'clock in the morning, and continued open till nine in the evening. During the day 450 coalwhippers registered their names, and a certificate signed by the registrar was furnished to each man, stating his name, place of abode, and age, for which a charge of 4*d.* was made. Every man who presented himself was also required to state whether he was married or single, if able to read and write, if a basket man, and how long he had been so.

THE LIGHT GOLD COINAGE.—On the 1st of January the order in council, issued by her Majesty on the 2nd day of October last, on the light gold currency, came into operation.

THE THREE HUNDRETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PUBLICATION OF THE COPERNICAN SYSTEM.—On Saturday, the 30th of December, a meeting was held at the chambers of the Literary Association of the Friends of Poland, to commemorate the above event. A great many Poles, as well as distinguished friends of Poland, were present. Among the latter we noticed Lord Dudley Stuart, the Hon. Colonel Leicester Stanhope, Colonel Watson, the Rev. Dr Worthington, John Wood, Esq., chairman of the Excise; Professor Bernays, of King's College; W. D. Saule, Esq., member of the Astronomical Society; Dr Gairdner, Thomas Hankey, jun., Esq., &c.

EXTENSIVE ROBBERY.—Between four and five Thursday afternoon a clerk in one of the London banking houses was robbed of his case, containing several sums of money, while on his way from Princes street to Cornhill. We have not heard the exact amount, but we know that the case contained, amongst others, one sum of money, amounting to between 1,200*l.* and 1,300*l.*, that had been paid to him at one of the leading joint-stock establishments. The receipt of money closes at the city banks, daily, at four o'clock, in order to be in time for the clearing; but a large extent of monetary transactions takes place after that hour, and chiefly from four to five, between the Bank of England and the joint-stock banks with the private banks; and it is now ascertained that this part of the banking system of London has come to the knowledge of a gang of thieves, who have been on watch for their victims, and have at last committed this audacious robbery. The wonder is that they have not succeeded in their designs previously during the winter months, while such large sums of money are known to them to be on the persons of the various bankers' clerks, whose motions they can watch, whose persons they can identify, and on whom they can pounce when opportunity offers.

THE PROVINCES.

THE DISTURBANCES OF AUGUST, 1842.—UNFOUNDED CHARGE AGAINST AN ALDERMAN OF LEEDS.—It will be remembered that a statement which excited a good deal of public attention, recently appeared in the public prints, charging an alderman of the borough of Leeds, and a member of the watch committee, with not only being cognizant of the disturbances of 1842, previous to their commencement, but with having been actually instrumental in producing them. The statement was first made public by Mr Joshua Hobson, publisher of the *Northern Star*, and a member of the town council, at a public meeting held in Leeds a short time ago, and the subject came under discussion in the council. It turned out that the accusation rested on the evidence of a fraudulent bankrupt, whose petitioning creditor had been the alderman in question!

DOBSON, THE PARRICIDE.—This individual, now under sentence of death in York Castle, continues in a state of comparative indifference as to the sad fate which awaits him. As we stated last week, it is probable that

the execution of the unfortunate man will take place on Saturday the 20th of January.—*Leeds Mercury.*

ESCAPE OF SIX CONVICTS FROM THE COUNTY JAIL, NOTTINGHAM.—Between five and six o'clock on Sunday evening last, six convicts confined in the county jail escaped. Between four and five o'clock in the afternoon, the under turnkey had, in discharge of his duty, occasion to visit the felons' yards, with the milk allowed for supper. On the door of the yard being opened, the turnkey proceeded in giving each felon the milk he had brought, when suddenly he found himself overpowered, and on the ground, his mouth forcibly stopped, and two or three of the convicts kneeling upon his breast, while others forced the key of the door out of his hand. Having succeeded thus far, they then placed the key in the yard door, and at a given signal all rushed out. They then ran at the head turnkey, all falling to and beating him unmercifully upon the head, arms, and upper part of his body. The battle was fierce but short: the turnkey was overcome, the key forced from him, they unlocked the door, and out they all ran. Six escaped. One of the escaped convicts, or a person supposed to be one, has been apprehended at a distance from Nottingham of nearly two hundred miles.

MR BEAUMONT'S NORTHUMBERLAND ESTATES.—Since the estates of T. W. Beaumont, Esq., in Northumberland, have been placed under the management of Mr Brakenridge, important improvements have been everywhere introduced. The land is undergoing a general tile drainage: farm buildings are being improved; thus not only is the value of the estates increased, and the comforts of the tenantry added to, but extensive employment is afforded to the labouring classes in the neighbourhood.—*Tyne Mercury.*

THE LEAGUE FUND, BIRMINGHAM.—On Tuesday evening a preliminary meeting took place at Birmingham, for the purpose of making arrangements for a great meeting to be held there in aid of the League Fund. Mr Scholefield, M.P., took the chair. Resolutions pledging the meeting to co-operate in the great work of aiding the League were passed, and a committee of gentlemen was appointed to superintend the necessary arrangements for the ensuing meeting.

THE IRON TRADE.—We are very glad to hear that a second furnace was blown in at Trimsaran, Carmarthenshire, on Tuesday last. We understand that the iron that is made is of the best quality, being manufactured with anthracite coal.—*Welchman.*

MANCHESTER AND LEEDS RAILWAY.—OPENING OF THE LEEDS EXTENSION LINE TO HUNT'S BANK AND THE VICTORIA STATION.—On Monday last, New Year's Day, the extension line of the Manchester and Leeds railway, from Collyhurst to the new Victoria station, at Hunt's bank, was opened, the first train from the station starting at seven o'clock in the morning. There was no public celebration; the train taking its departure in the ordinary way, amidst the cheers of those assembled. This station is the largest in this, or perhaps any other part of the kingdom, possessing a larger covered area than even the Derby station.

—A correspondent of the *Liverpool Journal* gives the following statement as to the origin of the recent destructive fire at Messrs Brancer's sugar refinery in that town:—"It is known that the strong smell of sugar, proceeding from the stoves of sugar-houses, is a gas liable to ignition. The places about the stoves are kept very air-tight. The particularly heavy atmosphere which has prevailed for a length of time may have assisted the accumulation and favoured the chemical changes to which this gas is liable to a point when explosion must take place, without any contact of flame, but from the affinities and particular state of electricity governing the elements composing the sugar gas to resolve itself into new combinations. We trust the subject will be taken up by scientific men."

—It is asserted, on the authority of a senior member of the University of Oxford, that Mr Newman, in his last publication, has advocated the doctrine of transubstantiation, the mediatorial character of the Virgin Mary, works of merit, the monastic system, sacramental confession, the celibacy of the clergy, and the necessity of re-union with Rome.

SCOTLAND.

EDINBURGH.—NEW YEAR'S MORNING.—The morning of the new year was ushered in with the usual demonstrations of revelry; though, we are happy to say, on this occasion the custom was observed by fewer persons in the streets than we remember to have seen. The groups collected in the principal thoroughfares were in high good humour; and we may mention that up to two o'clock there was scarcely an individual brought to the police office for drunkenness, or any other charge.

GLASGOW.—We record, with much gratification, that the improvement, noticed for several years past as having taken place amongst the working classes on the ushering in of the new year, has, upon the present occasion, been as marked as upon any previous period. Indeed, although the mass of the community seemed poured into the streets it was extremely rare to see a well-dressed person the worse for liquor, and not a great number of any class.—*Glasgow Courier.*

PUBLIC BATHS.—It is delightful to witness the decided movement now made for the establishment of public baths in Edinburgh, with a view to their general use by the working classes. It is singular how late in the day this project has been started, considering the undeniable utility of bathing as respects the comfort and health of the human being, and seeing that other nations, far below us in the scale of civilization, have long used free ablutions. Mahomet seems to have been fully assured of the benefit derivable from this source, since he made washing with water a marked point in his religious code. It cannot be the warmth of the climate entirely that settles the use of bathing, as we find the Russians, in a colder region than our own, equally attached to it. It appears to result from wise legislation at the outset, as much as from anything else. In our own case, we trust that the provision of public baths will be the consequence of a great movement among the public which requires them—by far the best and most honourable way of attaining such objects. But, at the same time, we are delighted to notice the cordial encouragement bestowed on this movement by men of high rank and eminent station amongst us. On Wednesday the meeting in the Music hall, George street, for considering the subject, was addressed by the Lord Provost, Lord Dunfermline, Dr Alison, and other parties of influence and distinction. Lord Dunfermline justly pointed to this proposition of the working classes as clearly indicating a vast advance made by them, and as heralding still further steps of improvement. This is a notable and most gratifying truth. Temperance and bathing, going hand in hand as they will do, will make a great and striking change, indeed, in the condition of our operatives. No better signs of the times could be given. We need not point to the strong recommendations of bathing to be found in the works of our medical men. There is not a dissentient voice on the subject.—*Scotsman.*

SUPPOSED SHIPWRECK.—There is too much reason to fear that some large vessel has foundered at sea within the last ten days, the fate of which may be for ever wrapped up in mystery. We learn that all along the Coyend and Kirkbean shores, part of the wreck and cargo of a vessel have

been cast up by the waves, including a piece of deck, which had evidently belonged to a vessel of considerable burden. The cargo seems to have been a general one, a considerable quantity of oranges and dried fruit having been thrown ashore; and a cask, containing linen, and marked "Hood and Co., Glasgow," was found not far from Southernness.—*Dumfries Courier*.

DEATH OF A NOTORIOUS CHARACTER.—An individual died in Edinburgh a short time since, who obtained an unenviable celebrity some years ago. This was the Bishop of Clogher, who was indicted for an unnatural crime, committed in St James's, London, in 1822, forfeited bail and fled, was degraded from his ecclesiastical dignity, and has never been heard of till now. He kept house at No. 4 Salisbury place, Edinburgh, under the assumed name of Thomas Wilson, to which he removed four years ago, having previously resided in Glasgow. His mode of living was extremely private, scarcely any visitors being known to enter his dwelling; but it was remarked that the post occasionally brought him letters sealed with coronets. His *incognito* was wonderfully preserved. It was only known to one or two individuals in the neighbourhood, who kept the secret till after his death. The application for interment was made in the name of Thomas Wilson. There was a plate upon the coffin which he had got prepared some years before, but without any name upon it. It bore a Latin inscription, the sense of which was as follows:—"Here lie the remains of a great sinner, saved by grace, whose hope rests in the atoning sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ." The preparation of this inscription years before shows that he was deeply penitent. He was very anxious to conceal his true name, having got it carefully obliterated from his books and articles of furniture. He gave instructions that his burial should be in the nearest churchyard; that it should be conducted in the most private and plain manner, and at six in the morning. His directions were complied with, except in the selection of the ground. His body was drawn to the new cemetery in a hearse with one horse, followed by five mourners in a one-horse coach, at seven in the morning. Such was the obscure and humble death and funeral of the Hon. and Rev. Percy Jocelyn, the son of a peer, who spent the early years of his life in the society of the great, and held one of the highest ecclesiastical dignities in the empire. He was uncle to the present Lord Roden.—*Scotsman*.

MRS GILMOUR'S TRIAL.—On Wednesday evening the indictment for trial was read on Mrs Gilmour in the prison of Paisley. The trial, as we lately stated, is to take place at Edinburgh, and the day fixed is the 12th January.

GLASGOW CITY CHURCHES.—The magistrates and council having brought the necessary action in the Teind Court, to have the parishes of St David's and St Andrew's suppressed and united with the adjoining parishes, have also applied to the Court of Session, by bill of suspension, for an interdict against the Presbytery of Glasgow, to prevent them presenting ministers to these two parishes during the dependence of the action in the Teind Court; and the bill of suspension having come before Lord Jeffrey, as Lord Ordinary on the bills, his lordship, after hearing counsel for the parties, by interlocutor of date the 27th December, appointed the note of suspension to be seen and answered within fourteen days; and "in the meantime, and in respect of the particular circumstances of the case, granted interdict as craved, till the note comes to be advised with the answers."—*Glasgow Constitutional*.

THE FREE-TRADE BANQUET AT GLASGOW.—We learn that the following distinguished individuals are expected to be present, and take part in the proceedings, on this interesting and important occasion:—The Honourable Fox Maule, M.P.; the Honourable E. J. Stanley, late M.P. for North Cheshire; Richard Cobden, Esq., M.P.; John Bright, Esq., M.P.; Andrew Rutherford, Esq., M.P.; Colonel Thompson, late M.P. for Hull; Robert Wallace, Esq., M.P.; George Duncan, Esq., M.P.; James Oswald, Esq., M.P.; John Dennistoun, Esq., M.P. Invitations have, we also understand, been sent to several others, from whom replies have not yet been received; but it is evident from this list of names that an intellectual feast will be presented in the City hall, on the 10th, such as has rarely been witnessed in Glasgow.—*Glasgow Argus*.

RAT HOARDERS.—Last week, on taking down the roof of an old outhouse in the fish yard in the Watergate, Perth, several sums in silver coin were found in rat nests. These, being beneath the sacking of the roof, could not have been reached but by vermin. The latest coinage was the shilling of 1819; the half-crowns were older, but the whole so blackened that it was impossible to ascertain their age and probable period of deposit. Where they had been abstracted from it is, of course, impossible to imagine.—*Perth Journal*.

IRELAND.

THE STATE PROSECUTIONS.—DUBLIN, JAN. 2.—Proceedings of a very extraordinary character have just occurred in relation to the state prosecutions, and which indicate the spirit in which they are to be carried on. Every day, since the recorder delivered the jury-book to the sheriff, the solicitors of the traversers have applied at the sheriff's office for a copy of the special panel. They were told each day that the panel would be ready on the next, and a copy furnished to them. On Saturday the under-sheriff promised a copy on Monday, if possible, but certainly on Tuesday. On Monday the application was renewed, but the reply given was, that the panel was not ready. Tuesday, at two o'clock, according to appointment, the solicitors for the traversers once more applied at the sheriff's office, when Mr Dickenson, the under-sheriff, formally told them no copy of the special panel would be given to the traversers. The solicitors protested against that course, and appealed to the under-sheriff's experience whether a copy of the panel had ever been refused before. He admitted that it never had, and that it had been the invariable usage to furnish a copy previous to the striking of a special jury; but, he added, that in this instance he "acted under advice" in refusing it. This, let the reader bear in mind, occurred not in the bureau of the attorney-general or Mr Brewster, at Dublin Castle, but in the office of Mr David Charles Latouche, the high sheriff appointed by Lord De Grey to arrange juries for the administration of justice in Ireland. The law allows the sheriff ten days to complete his special panel. But Mr Dickenson, the under-sheriff, after refusing a copy of the panel, took care to apprise the solicitors for the traversers that it would be ready for the striking of the jury to-morrow. In connexion with the special panel three notices have been served; two on the part of the traversers, and the third, a counter notice, by the clerk of the crown.

REPEAL ASSOCIATION.—The Repeal Association met at one o'clock on Tuesday. Mr John O'Connell and Mr Steele were loudly cheered on their entrance. Dr Murphy in the chair. Mr John O'Connell adverted to the speech delivered by the Lord Mayor yesterday on retiring from office; and, on the part of the traversers, disclaimed all anxiety for the intercession of the corporation, or any other body of men, with the Queen, in favour of the gentlemen against whom the state prosecutions had been commenced. The people's leaders had committed no crime; and much as

they revered and respected her Majesty, they could not, therefore, supplicate her pardon.—Mr Steele fully concurred in the sentiments of his friend, Mr J. O'Connell.—Mr John O'Connell read two letters from his father (Mr O'Connell), expressing his gratification at the recent adherence to the repeal cause of Mr Smith O'Brien, Mr O'Neil, of Bunoven Castle, and other gentlemen; and enclosing his subscription to the repeal rent, and those of twenty-five grandchildren. This announcement was received with great cheering.—The member for Kilkenny handed in contributions from several persons:—the "Marshal" of Dublin, Mr Ray, the Master and Misses Ray, and others.—After several letters had been read, and remittances acknowledged, Mr John O'Connell spoke at some length on the subject of a recent article which had appeared in the *Edinburgh Review*, and which he attributed to Mr Trevelyan, who, he said, some time ago published letters calumniating Ireland in the *Morning Chronicle*. The learned gentleman moved the insertion of extracts from the article on the minutes of the Association.—At four o'clock the repeal rent for the week was announced to be 289l. 2s. 2d.

POLITICAL.

FREE-TRADE LESSON FROM CHINA.

To our shame be it said, the Chinese are getting the start of us both in sound principle and liberal practice. The new Chinese tariff is more liberal and more consistent than that of England; and the imperial commissioner, Keying, at Taoukwang, has addressed a lecture to the British consul at Canton, which is the most absolute sense on commercial policy we ever read. That our fellow-countrymen may learn wisdom from this member of the imperial family of China, we copy the passage, and entreat our readers to let the simple and important lesson it teaches be engraven on their memories:—

"Forasmuch I, the imperial commissioner, now reply to the honourable consul, that he may act in conformity, and at the same time impress upon the English merchants, that the principle of trading depends entirely upon a mutual willingness. If a field of profit is to be reaped, there is no occasion to beg people to reap it; they will certainly reap it of their own accord. The English merchants and others must carry on their business with our native merchants in a spirit and according to a sense of justice, laying their plans for a long continuance of beneficial intercourse; and thus it is to be hoped that, day by day, the aspect of affairs may brighten, and all kinds of goods expand in their consumption. Although I have no means of looking after such matters in behalf of the foreign merchants, yet I, the imperial commissioner, do really, night and day, indulge in the fervent hope of an improved commercial intercourse, beneficial to all parties. An important official reply."

Yes, truly, and it is "an important official reply." Such "official replies" are rare. Would that the plain dictates of common sense and justice, taught by this profound mandarin, were always before our eyes, and always acted upon in England! Legislatures need learn no other lesson in political economy than this—"that if a field of profit is to be reaped, there is no occasion to beg people to reap it; they will certainly reap it of their own accord." Acting on that maxim, what a world of impertinent legislation should be saved! What numberless absurd restrictions and regulations, dictating what field people should reap, who should reap it, and what field they had better not reap, should we avoid, if legislators would just remember that their subjects have heads on their shoulders and a pair of eyes in each! The *laissez faire* doctrine is not new, but it has been so abominably neglected in Europe, that it is delightful to find it coming to us from the extremity of Asia. Nor must we, in our admiration of Keying's political economy, overlook the equally admirable wisdom and morality of his exhortation:—

"The English merchants and others must carry on their business with our native merchants in a spirit and according to the sense of justice, laying their plans for a long continuance of beneficial intercourse; and thus it is to be hoped that, day by day, the aspect of affairs may brighten, and all kinds of goods expand in their consumption."

Beautiful precept! When merchants and when governors learn it, we shall be near the millennium.—*Leeds Mercury*.

MISCELLANIES OF TRADE.

AMERICAN PROVISIONS.—We copy the following important statement, in reference to the probable supplies of American salt beef to this country, from the circular of Messrs A. Gordon, Wylie, and Co., of New Orleans, dated Dec. 2, 1843:—"Beef has come forward to the extent of 15,700 barrels, against 247 barrels last season. This great augmentation is chiefly to be attributed to the demand or expected demand for Europe, or rather for England; and it is a remarkable fact, that the reduction of the duty in England has caused a complete change and vast improvement in this article of food. The western beef was formerly put up of inferior meat, cut up and cured in a most slovenly manner, and was of very inferior quality. The English demand has caused the best meat to be selected, and the curing to be carefully done with the best salt; and the western United States will hereafter export vast quantities of this article, of very good quality and at a low price. Recent sales have been made here to the extent of some 3,000 barrels at four dollars per barrel. It is certainly cheap food at the rate of two cents, or one penny per pound, at this port, from whence it can be transported to Liverpool at about one farthing more per pound. It gives us pleasure to bring to notice so striking an illustration of the beneficial effects of the recent relaxation of prohibitory duties on provisions, and we hope soon to see the diet of the manufacturing poor throughout Great Britain materially improved by the cheap and wholesome animal food which our vast interior country is capable of furnishing at such low prices; although we doubt whether the price of four dollars per barrel can pay the cost of the meat, salt, barrel, and transportation hither from the interior." There can be no doubt that, if good beef can be imported at Liverpool at 1½d. to 1¾d. per pound (making, with duty and port charges here, about 2½d. to 2¾d.), it will gradually become an article of very extensive consumption by, and will add greatly to the comforts of, the labouring classes in the manufacturing districts. We learn from the same circular, that the effect of the recent change in the duty on flour imported into this country from Canada has been experienced at New Orleans, in a diminution of the arrivals there of flour and wheat from the states bordering on the river Ohio. Though the crop of wheat has been good and abundant throughout the western states, the circular says—"Flour has maintained a good price throughout the season, varying from 4 dols. to 4 dols. 50 cts.; present quotations, 4 dols. 25 cts. to 4 dols. 50 cts. The receipts have hitherto been light, 30,700 barrels against 64,500 last season. The canals leading to the lakes, from the states of Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois, now afford transit into Canada for large quan-

ties of wheat, and relieve our market from the over supplies which heretofore it frequently received. . . . Of this grain (wheat) we have received only about 8,000 barrels and sacks against 32,000 at same date last season. Good wheat, about 80 cents per bushel."—*Manchester Guardian*.

STATE OF TRADE.—There was a good inquiry on Tuesday for nearly all descriptions of cloth, with a slight advance upon those descriptions which are in the most general request, and especially on shirtings. For yarn, too, there was an improved demand for the home trade, and an advance of $\frac{1}{4}$ d. to $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per lb. was obtained on some descriptions suitable for that purpose. On the whole, the new year opens under favourable auspices for spinners and manufacturers, unless their prospects should be blighted by a speculative advance in the price of the raw material at Liverpool; of which there seems to be some danger, but for which, as it seems to us, there is not the slightest ground. The spinners, however, have the remedy in their own hands. In case of an advance arising from speculative purchases, all they have to do is to buy only for their immediate wants, when the pressure of the stock, and of the coming imports, will very soon restore the market to its proper and natural state.—*Manchester Guardian*.

THE TOBACCO TRADE.—From the result of the interviews had by deputations of the tobacco trade with the Chancellor of the Exchequer, it is inferred that no reduction of duty is contemplated, but that there will be an alteration in the excise law affecting the article.—*Globe*.

RUSSIAN TRADE WITH CHINA.—We have received from Moscow, from a good authority, the unexpected intelligence that the exportation of Russian articles on the Chinese frontier has lately fallen to a sixth part of what it used to be. As there is no doubt of the fact, it must be presumed that the Chinese have obtained a sufficient supply of European goods from the English. Perhaps, under existing circumstances, Russia may be induced to allow the German transit trade, which was formerly so flourishing, it being well known that the Russian prohibitory system was chiefly founded on the apprehension that the Russian export trade to China might suffer by permitting the transit of German goods.—*Hamburg Borsenhalle*, Dec. 23.

FOREIGN SUGAR FROM THE BRITISH COLONIES.—It is generally known that our enlightened and consistent government, although it will not allow the sugars of Brazil and Cuba to be consumed in the three kingdoms, allows them to be refined in this country in bond, and to be sent to the West Indies to be eaten there by the free negroes and their employers. In consequence of this permission, foreign sugars refined in this country are sent out to the West Indies and the Mauritius almost every day; and, along with the refined sugars, there go out also considerable quantities of bastards, that is of the inferior kinds of sugar, separated from the better parts in refining. The bastard sugar is, in appearance, very like unrefined sugar; and as the bastards can be bought in Liverpool for 14s., whilst the raw West India and Mauritius sugar is worth 30s. per cwt. in this country, there is a great temptation to mix them in the colonies, and to send the mixture to this country as plantation sugar. We have reason to believe that this kind of fraud has been practised more than once of late, especially in a case of which we heard last week; and we do not doubt that, if the law continues in its present state, it will become more common every year. In some descriptions of sugar, it is scarcely possible to tell the difference between bastard and raw sugar by the eye, so that it is not detected if the sugar is sold in an unrefined state, though it becomes quite evident if the attempt is made to refine the mixture, when the *residuum* of the previously-refined sugar is easily detected, as it was in the case which we have mentioned above.—*Liverpool Times*.

INCREASE OF THE DUTIES ON BRITISH GOODS IN BRAZIL.—Advices have just been received from Rio to the 31st October, from which we learn that the Brazilian government has adopted a course with regard to several kinds of British goods imported into that country which will have the effect of raising the amount of duties to which they are liable immediately, and that, as it believes, without any breach of the terms of the treaty, and, consequently, without creating any right of complaint on the part of this country. According to the treaty between England and Brazil, as originally agreed upon, British goods were to be admitted into the Brazilian empire at an *ad valorem* duty of 15 per cent., which rate of duty was afterwards raised by mutual agreement to 20 per cent. These terms the Brazilians were very anxious to have changed in November, 1842, but to this the English government would not consent, and they therefore agreed, though with a very bad grace, that the present rate of duty should remain unchanged until November 1844. They have since, however, discovered that an *ad valorem* duty may be as effectually raised by increasing the valuation of the goods taxed, as by increasing the per centage raised upon them, and have therefore greatly increased the valuation of British goods of several kinds. In some cases the increase is 10 per cent. on the old valuation, in others 20, in others 30, in some 50, and in one or two 75 per cent. This is exactly the same thing in effect, as if the rate of duty had been increased from 20 per cent. *ad valorem* to 22, 24, 26, 30, and 35 per cent. Whether this is or is not a breach of the treaty we do not pretend to say, but it is evident that it is precisely the same thing, so far as the commerce of this country is concerned. Amongst the articles thus subjected to a new and increased valuation are flannels, barragons, boots and shoes, several descriptions of cottons and silks, cassimeres, varnished hats, cutlery, steel, Irish linens, gunpowder, and several kinds of woollen goods.—*Liverpool Times*.

THE GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY.—It has afforded us much gratification to learn, that the business of the company recently formed for securing the continuation of the Great Northern Railway from Lancaster to Kendal and Carlisle, and thus completing so important a chain of communication between London and Scotland, is progressing as satisfactorily as possible. Of the required capital of 800,000*l.*, the various railway companies already embarked on the line have subscribed the large amount of half a million sterling. The counties of Westmorland and Cumberland have contributed the sum of 100,000*l.*; and of the remaining 200,000*l.*, one half of the constituent shares were taken in London during the first three days after opening the business there. The undertaking may now, therefore, be said to be fairly on foot; and there cannot remain a doubt that the sister counties of Westmorland and Cumberland will shortly have the long-desired and inestimable advantage afforded them of a speedy, cheap, and constant means of transit and conveyance for passengers and goods to all the great markets of the kingdom.—*Kendal Mercury*.

PASSENGER DUTIES ON RAILWAYS.—From a return made to the House of Commons in the course of last session, it appears that the railroads in England and Wales, 56 in number, have paid in the year ending January 5, 1843, no less than 152,663*l.* 13s. 0*d.* as passenger duty. The amazing increase of railway traffic within the last ten years may be gathered from the fact that, in the year ending January, 1833, the whole sum paid to government as passenger duty was 639*l.* 16s. 10*d.* The amount paid in the year ending January, 1842, was 148,204*l.* 13s. 10*d.* In Scotland, in the year ending January last, twenty railroads paid 15,125*l.* 1s. 6*d.*, being an increase of 3,468*l.* 0s. 11*d.* over the preceding year. The gross

amount paid by all the railroads in the kingdom during the last year was 167,788*l.* 14s. 7*d.* The amount paid in the previous year was 159,861*l.* 14s. 6*d.*, showing an increase in 1843 of 7,927*l.* 0s. 1*d.* The ten railroads having termini in London paid 82,447*l.* 4s. 5*d.*; the three largest amounts being paid by the London and Birmingham, the Great Western, and the South Western, which paid respectively 25,940*l.* 14s. 1*d.*, 25,804*l.* 5s. 2*d.*, and 12,043*l.* 19s. 7*d.*, or more than two-fifths of the whole amount.

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS FROM NORWICH.—Norwich has ever been famed for its Christmas recollections of friends afar off, and it is long, we hope, ere it will lose its character. This year the coaches, caravans, and carts bore off for several days previously the turkeys, geese, game, and fowls, with which many a table groaned on Christmas-day. Upwards of three thousand packages of presents left this city by these conveyances:—

The day coaches from the Norfolk hotel	446
The Maguet coach	1,200
Telegraph	226
Newmarket mail	431
The Ipswich mail and the coaches from the Royal hotel ..	399
White Mack's van conveyed	300

Total

And Sykes's different caravans from Norfolk and Suffolk (nearly equal) 68 tons.

Taking these packages at least at 12 lbs. each, they would amount to sixteen tons, and at 12s. 6*d.* a package, would be worth about 1,600*l.* Of the value of the half sixty-eight tons sent by Sykes's vans, it is almost impossible to form an estimate. But if it be taken at only two-thirds of the estimate of the packages, it would add rather more than 2,200*l.*, making a total of nearly 4,000*l.*; a small portion only, be it remembered, of the county being included.—*Norwich Mercury*.

—Some consternation has just been occasioned among a certain class of merchants in the city of London, in consequence of the receipt of a Treasury minute at the Custom house, raising the duty on French labels from sixpence or sevenpence per hundred, to 8s. 6*d.* or 9s. It may be exclaimed—French labels! what an odd sort of merchandise. Stay a little, unsophisticated reader. Have you ever washed your face and hands with a delicious bit of scented soap? yea; and you, gentle "fair one with the golden locks," have not your tresses become more glossy and crisp in their curls by the application of a little *Phenile divine*? I should think so. Well, then, at the lowest calculation there are 150,000 labels, printed with French type in the French language, annually cleared at the London Custom house alone, by dealers—merchants, indeed, who fare sumptuously every day, and hold their heads high on 'Change; and why for no, as Meg Dods says, or used to say. These labels, so imported wet from Paris, are here used for wrapping round English-made "French" soaps, scents, pomatums, and cosmetics in endless variety, known by the French names of *Fixatur, Philocome, Oleophane, Sachets, &c.*

—Since the proclamation of June, 1842, a number of the light sovereigns, exceeding in amount 10,000,000*l.* sterling, have been withdrawn from circulation.

AGRICULTURAL VARIETIES.

LEASES ON THE HERTFORD ESTATES.—We stated in our last number that the income of the Marquis of Hertford, from his Down and Antrim estates, amounted to more than fifty thousand pounds annually. This was a general estimate. We have since been informed that the rental is about seventy thousand pounds. It has also been stated to us, on very excellent authority, that the late Marquis of Hertford received in "fines" the large sum of one hundred thousand pounds from this property during his lifetime. We need scarcely say that, if the money had not been drawn away in this manner, it would have been laid out in improvements, which must have added greatly to the value of the estates, the prosperity of the tenants, the comfort of labourers, and to the internal resources of the country. It has been also stated to us, that one-half of the persons by whom this great sum was originally made up in fines have been dispossessed from their farms, on account of arrears of rent, or non-payment of interest, after years of labour and anxiety, now utterly and for ever lost to them and to their families. There are several other points respecting this particular locality to which we shall subsequently refer.—*Banner of Ulster*.

VALUE OF THE FLAX CROP.—The following letter, showing the importance of the flax crop to the farmer, when proper attention is paid to its cultivation and preparation, appears in the *Newry Telegraph*:—"Mr W. Blakely, a tenant of the Dean of Dromore, on the townland of Corelany, near Warringstown, grew, last season, three statute acres of flax, which he managed strictly according to the directions of the society for the promotion and improvement of the growth of flax in Ireland. The produce of this field has been recently purchased for 15s. per stone, by Messrs M'Murray and Hening, of Warringstown, the eminent cambric manufacturers, who say it is equal, if not superior, to any flax they ever saw before, and that they have given 36s. per stone for foreign flax of an inferior quality. A large portion of this flax has been delivered to Messrs M'Murray and Co., but some still remains to be dressed by the machinery of Mr Henry, of Keady. Should this part be as productive as that already furnished, the entire produce of the three acres will be 120 stones, which at 15s. will give to the farmer 90*l.*; but he has a certainty of 100 stones, which will realize 75*l.* This flax is now in process of conversion into cambric pocket handkerchiefs, is capable of being spun to thirty hanks to the pound, and is to be spun by hand. Mark, now, the employment this will give. It will give constant employment, for twelve months, to 152 women to spin it; 18 weavers will be occupied a like period in weaving, and it will employ 40 women a year to hem-stitch (or vein) the handkerchiefs—thus giving constant employment, for twelve months, to 190 persons. It is curious to trace the result of the process which this flax is now undergoing. It will produce 210 webs of cambric, each web containing five dozen handkerchiefs, each dozen will be worth 40s.; and the entire, when finished, will be worth 2,100*l.* The report of the Belfast market shows that 11,000*l.* changed hands on the last market day for this article alone."

NEW POTATOES ON CHRISTMAS-DAY!—As the strongest proof that could be advanced of the unparalleled mildness of the present season, we mention the fact that on Christmas-day our table was graced with a dish of *new potatoes*, grown in the *open air*, at Kilevy Castle, in the county of Armagh, the residence of Powell Foxall, Esq.—*Newry Telegraph*.

—To prove that the monopolists do not monopolize all the agricultural talent, the *Aylesbury News* mentions the singular fact that on Wednesday last, at the annual meeting of the Tring Agricultural Association, the prize of a silver cup to the occupier of the best cultivated farm was awarded to a Mr Daw, a staunch free-trader.

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANSWERS TO INQUIRIES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—In confirmation of the justice of your remarks in the *Economist* of the 9th inst. on "the culpable apathy" with which the commercial public have regarded the rupture of the negotiating for a new Brazil Treaty, I send you the following extract from the *Rio Price Current* of the 14th of September last. It states, under the head of "Piece Goods,"—"The sales of American Cottons (manufactures) amounted to about one thousand packages, at about our quotations of last week."

From this your readers may learn the extent of competition to which our corn and sugar laws have subjected our manufactures in foreign markets; and I trust they will see the necessity of renewed and continued exertion to abolish these suicidal enactments. But, Sir, it is not in the neutral markets alone that our manufacturers are exposed to this competition; for even in our own colonies, where differential duties are exacted to favour British goods, our enterprising rivals, the Germans and the Americans, are undermining our trade. I send you herewith the last paper received from the Cape of Good Hope (of the 14th of October last), in which you will see the advertisement of an American cargo, including "American unbleached shirtings, brown drillings, stripes, and all of strong and heavy fabric, &c.;" and this notwithstanding that the duty on foreign goods at the Cape is 12 per cent., whilst that on British is 5 per cent. *ad valorem* only; and if your readers feel surprised at foreigners being able to compete with us under such circumstances, let them reflect that the difference in the cost of living between England and other countries gives them a much greater advantage than the difference in the rate of duty in our colonies.

Allow me to beg your readers to reflect seriously on the loss of employment and of profit to this country, indicated by the fact of "one thousand packages" of American manufactures being sold in one week in the Rio market. We have first the merchants who would have ordered these goods from Manchester; their clerks; the agents at Manchester to buy them, with their establishments; the manufacturers and their work-people; the ship-owners and sailors, who would have imported the raw material; the dock companies, warehousemen, carmen, and labourers, who would have landed it; the railways or canals which would have conveyed it to the manufacturers; the machine makers whose machinery would have prepared it; then the packers, carriers, &c., of the finished goods; with the carmen, dock companies, labourers, ship-owners, sailors, underwriters, and a host of tradesmen dependent on all these. In short the loss of profitable employment is incalculable, and may well account for the distress which is so apparent in our streets, and which must go on increasing until we are enabled to exchange the produce of our industry with foreign nations, unfettered by the unjust restrictions which now give such decided advantages to our foreign competitors.—I remain, Sir, &c.

AN EXPORTING MERCHANT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

MR ECONOMIST,—I am afraid that I am very stupid, but I do not understand how you come to the conclusion of the different prices of foreign and colonial coffee in bond,—the prices being stated by you, at page 282 of your last number, lines 2 and 4, to be in the one case 40s., in the other 77s. 4d. Pray explain this to me. It is the only thing not quite clear to my apprehension in the article.

Yours, &c.,

R. R.

December 10, 1843.

[If foreign coffee of a given quality be worth 40s. per cwt. in bond, and can be regularly supplied at that price, and is subject to a duty of 8d. per lb., or 74s. 8d. per cwt., it follows that when the duty was paid the price would be 114s. 8d.; then suppose there is another kind of coffee of the same quality which is subject to a duty of only 4d. per lb., or 37s. 4d. per cwt. Now this coffee would equally command from the consumer the price of 114s. 8d., including the duty; but as the duty in this case is only 37s. 4d. per cwt., instead of 74s. 8d., the dealers in coffee would as freely give 77s. 4d. per cwt. in bond for that on which they had only a duty of 37s. 4d. to pay as they would give 40s. per cwt. for that on which they had to pay a duty of 74s. 8d. At these respective prices, with the respective duties added, the price of each comes to 114s. 8d. The favoured producer, therefore, always obtains a price as much higher than the other as the difference of the duty amounts to.—THE EDITOR.]

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—Something must be done by parliament to protect itself from being imposed upon by returns made from our public offices, or our statistics will become the laughing-stock of Europe. The exposure in the Postage Committee of the monstrous blunders and inconsistencies of the famous Post-office Return of April last, is become a topic of conversation at the clubs. This return, which reduced the profits of inland postage to 100,000*l.* a year, and taking foreign and colonial postage into the account, brought out a balance on the losing side of 10,000*l.*, was given up by those who had constructed it on every disputed item! It purported to be an *account*, whereas it turned out to be an *estimate*, and an estimate of the most bungling and, we may add, dishonest kind, for it was very clearly proved to have been made for the express purpose of depreciating the value of the system of penny postage, and consequently all the errors were on that side. Surely the making of such returns is a contempt of parliament and justly punishable.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

SIR,—The fear of encouraging the slave trade being the pretext made use of by the advocates of the sugar monopoly for the exclusion of foreign sugars from consumption in the United Kingdom, it occurs to me that the suggestion of any practicable means for more effectually

suppressing that abominable traffic would be of use to the free-trade cause; and I therefore trouble you with the following remarks.

Your readers are, doubtless, aware that the British ministry, some four or five years ago, finding that the Portuguese and Brazilian governments were not keeping faith with it, in passing laws for the suppression of the slave trade, took the law into its own hands, and by act of parliament authorized our cruisers to capture, and our vice-admiralty courts to confiscate, the vessels and their cargoes, which might be met with, either actually engaged in this traffic or fitted out for it, and, under this act, several hundred sail of slavers have been captured and confiscated. It appears, however, that the profits of the slave trade are so enormous, that these captures are not sufficient to deter Brazilians and others from engaging in it; and I know from observation of the conduct of the captains of these vessels, which I have witnessed during a residence at the Cape of Good Hope, that they regard the confiscation of a slaver merely as an unlucky accident, the bad effects of which they can and do avoid by insuring their vessels, &c., at Rio de Janeiro or the Havannah, or, if they prefer taking the risk themselves, they calculate that one successful voyage will more than atone for two captures. Now, Sir, I would suggest, that as our government has gone so far as to punish the subjects of foreign states, by confiscating their property, it ought, if it sincerely wishes to suppress the slave trade, to punish the parties engaged in it in their persons also, and I feel confident, that if the captains and crews of all the slaves hereafter captured, were condemned to labour on the roads at the Cape, in company with the other convicts now so employed in that colony, the slave trade might be entirely suppressed in a couple of years; and the punishment proposed to be inflicted appears to me a very merciful one when compared with the enormity of the crime, or with that which would attend the kidnapping and murder of white men. If a vessel were met with conveying a cargo of Europeans chained and dying from suffocation and ill usage, the crew of such a vessel would be justly hanged as pirates; and why should the colour of the skin make any difference?

I send you a Cape paper of the 25th of October, in which you will find an account of the arrival there of a brig, prize to H. M. S. *Arrow*, with 247 slaves on board, out of 337 "when captured;" ninety having died at sea! and yet the perpetrators of these wholesale murders are allowed to escape with impunity, or, at most, with the loss of their expected profits or wages, and will, doubtless, at once find their way to the Brazils, again to try their luck in one of these diabolical speculations.

If you think the above remarks worthy of insertion in your valuable paper, you will oblige me by giving them a place in your columns.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

A FREE TRADER.

Extract from the shipping intelligence in the *South African Commercial Advertiser*, Cape of Good Hope, Oct. 26, 1843:—

"Brig (slaver), prize to H. M. ketch *Arrow*, Mr Brodie, R. N., in charge, from Benguela 30th August, and St Helena 2nd October, to this port, with 54 men, 49 women, 121 boys, 113 girls. Total, 337 when captured. Died at sea, 90. Total arrived in Table Bay, 247. Brings a few letters. Three or four cases of smallpox exist now on board, three of which number are convalescing. Parted company with the *Arrow* eight days since."

H. A., Newcastle.—We have no reason whatever to alter our opinion, or the view we took of the effect of the Ashburton Treaty, in conferring privileges on the produce of part of the State of Maine.

Several communications and queries we are obliged to leave over, for a variety of reasons, till next week.

POSTSCRIPT.

LONDON, Saturday Morning, January 6, 1844.

FRANCE.—It appears that the resolution taken by the French ministry not to propose a dotation for the Duke of Nemours, is considered a great triumph by the opposition. The committee of the Chamber of Peers on the address met on Thursday, when the Duke de Broglie read an address drawn up by himself, which he proposed to be adopted. It makes some very strong remarks upon the conduct of the Legitimists in London, but it is in other respects an echo of the speech. The debate upon the address in the Chamber of Peers will commence on Monday, the 9th of January. The Chamber of Deputies will not commence the debate on the address till the 16th.

There is nothing novel from Spain.

The very remarkable letter of the Marquis of Westminster to the Chairman of the Council of the Anti-Corn-law League is the most significant circumstance that has yet characterized the agitation. One after another, the Whig aristocracy are beginning to feel that the hour for a fixed duty is past; and though the noble Marquis expresses himself cautiously, and hopes that the League will not relax its exertions until it has obtained "the fullest measure of free trade with what is due to the maintenance of public credit," this by no means implies that he is of opinion that *corn* is the most suitable article from which a revenue should be raised. Our objections to a fixed duty rest on two grounds; its *inequality* and its *political inexpediency*. We have repeatedly demonstrated in the *Economist* that the REVENUE would be replenished by moderate, EQUAL, customs' duties on the importation of those great articles of consumption, which are not grown in this country, as sugar,

coffee, tea, &c.; but a "fixed duty" would undoubtedly be a "fixed injustice," inasmuch as it would raise the price of home-grown corn, and be, in fact, a *bonus* to the home grower. We freely admit that there was a time, and that not very long ago, when a moderate fixed duty would have settled the corn question for perhaps half a century. The public, at that time, would have probably been contented with a compromise which would have relieved them from the monstrous injustice of the sliding scale. *That time is now gone by*; and the letter of the Marquis of Westminster is one of its most striking indications.

THE REVENUE.—The Revenue accounts have been published this morning; that for the quarter just ended exhibits an increase over that of the corresponding quarter in 1843 of 725,670*l.*, while on the year just ended, as compared with the preceding one, there is an increase of 5,742,078*l.*, the revenue for the year ending January, 1843, being 44,329,865*l.*, that for the year just expired, 50,071,943*l.* The item which exhibits the principal increase, as might be expected, is the income tax, the returns for which, in the last financial year, were only 571,056*l.*, while in the present they are 5,249,260*l.* Under the head of Customs, there is a slight decrease on the year, but on the quarter an increase of 552,379*l.*; and the Excise presents the gratifying aspect of an increase both on the quarter and on the year; on the former of 8,762*l.*, on the latter of 337,503*l.* The Post office exhibits a trifling increase on the quarter, and a decrease on the year,—on the quarter an increase of 2,000*l.*; on the year a decrease of 13,000*l.*

ACCIDENT TO HER MAJESTY.—WINDSOR, FRIDAY.—A slight accident, which happily proved of no consequence, happened to her Majesty, who was being driven in a pony carriage with the Marchioness of Douro. The postilions took too short a turn from one road into another, and the left wheel of the carriage went into a broad ditch, which threw the vehicle against the hedge. Her Majesty and Lady Douro were speedily rescued from their perilous position, and returned to the Castle in a small pony car, driven by Colonel Arbutnot, which was kindly given up by a lady who was driving close by; and his Royal Highness Prince Albert accompanied the car on horseback. We are gratified to learn that her Majesty has not experienced any inconvenience from this accident.

IRELAND.—The striking of the Special Jury excited considerable interest in Dublin, on Thursday. Forty-eight names were ultimately drawn out of the ballot-box, eleven of whom are Roman Catholics. It is to be hoped, for the sake of the character of judicial proceedings, that the law officers of the crown will not, in exercising their privilege, strike off these eleven because they are Roman Catholics.

EARL GREY.—The noble lord continues to go on well, and it is stated that, in the event of no unfavourable change taking place, his lordship will leave Howick and arrive in London about the beginning of next month.

LIVERPOOL, FRIDAY EVENING, JANUARY 5, 1844.

COTTON.—On Saturday morning there was an extensive demand, both from the trade and speculators, which continued till Wednesday, and prices $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per lb. higher were generally obtained; but yesterday and to-day there has not been so much inquiry, and the market closed with less activity at barely $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per lb. advance upon nearly all descriptions. Speculators have taken 15,800 American, 2,150 Egyptian, 150 Pernambuco, 5,000 Surat, and 400 Bengal; Exporters have taken 100 American.

Taken for Consumption from 1st Jan. to 5th Jan.		Whole Import from 1st Jan. to 5th Jan.		Computed Stock, 5th Jan.	
1843	1844	1843	1844	1843	1844
19,470 bbls.	40,720 bbls.	9,581 bbls.	11,041 bbls.	446,510 bbls.	624,110 bbls.

TEA.—There has been a good inquiry, but few Teas are offering on the market.

GRAIN.—Holders of Wheat and Flour are generally firm at late prices, but buyers operate cautiously, and purchases have been made at rather lower prices.

— On Friday week several shocks of an earthquake were felt at Cherbourg, at four o'clock in the afternoon. The shock experienced in the Channel Isles was, doubtless, in a mitigated degree, part of the same movement.

— The *Cologne Gazette* publishes a letter from Hanover of the 26th ult., stating that the King of Hanover had sent a special invitation to the Duke of Bordeaux to visit his Court.

— Bread has experienced a further rise in Paris. The price of the 2 lb. loaf, first quality, has been fixed from the 1st inst. at 35c. ($\frac{3}{4}$ d. British); second quality, 28c.

— Accounts from Palermo, of the 9th ult., state that the eruption of Mount *Ætna* at that period was considered to have come to its termination. For the fortnight previously the old crater continued to send forth hot ashes, smoke, sand, and lava.

THE WHEAT CROP.—The fine mild weather which we have had for some time has been very favourable for the braiding of the newly-sown wheat. The wheat which was sown only three weeks ago has been up several days, and that which was sown in the middle of last month is now quite green, and has a healthy appearance. Neither has the more early sown become "winter proud," the cold and ungenial weather of the months of October and November having checked its too forward vegetation. In some spots where the land was in poor condition at the time of sowing, the braird is very scanty.—*Preston Chronicle*.

The Economist.

JANUARY 6, 1844.

COMMERCIAL.

The Overland Mail brings letters from China up to the beginning of October,—from Bombay to the first of December. In China, particularly at Canton, trade suffered much inconvenience and interruption in consequence of a dispute with the old Hong merchants, who were desirous of retaining part of their old privileges, and from a dispute with the government as to a sum of 5,000,000 dollars, claimed as a balance due from them for the ransom of Canton. "Should the government enforce its claim," says the *Canton Press*, "they may be ruined at any moment, and such goods as are in their warehouses confiscated." Howqua, the celebrated and wealthy Hong, has died at a great age, leaving 15,000,000 dollars. At Amoy, the demand for cotton was good, but for long cloths there was little demand with a large supply. At Chusan, the chief market for British manufactures, trade was proceeding in a more satisfactory manner; stocks were moderate, and long cloths sold well. Considerable supplies had, however, been sent up. The demand for woollens was on the increase; and there is every reason to believe that this will prove a most extensive and profitable trade with China; for it already appears, that our cheaper and better woollen goods are taking the place of the goods hitherto supplied overland by Russia. There can be no doubt, whether we look to the original cheapness of our goods, or to the less costly carriage by sea, that the Russian trade cannot exist in competition with us, as soon as we perfectly know what is best suited to the taste and wants of the country. The stock of iron was large and the demand dull, as was also the case with steel. The silk crop had failed, and fine qualities could only be procured in small quantities.—The quantity of tea exported to Great Britain from Oct. 1st, 1842, to Sept. 16th, 1843, was 40,472,657 lbs.

The trade accounts from India contain nothing striking. The estimate of the crop of indigo has increased to 170,000 maunds; a quantity without precedent.

In the home trade matters progress very satisfactorily. In our Statistical Number of this date, we bring down the statement of the trade of 1843 in comparison with 1842, for the whole kingdom to the 5th November; the month as well as the year shows a still greater increase of exportation of the leading articles of manufacture. In the month there is a falling off in the consumption of coffee, tea, and sugar, but on the year there is an increase of each. In raw materials, except silk, there is a great increase both of imports and consumption, especially of flax, wool, and cotton; prices, however, continue moderate, particularly of the latter; and while the stock continues so large we see no good reason for an advance. The consumption during the year has averaged 26,752 bags weekly, being 2,552 bags greater than 1840, the year of the largest consumption before 1843; but even calculating the consumption at this rate, there is a stock on hand equal to the demand of 29 weeks, a longer period than the stock of any year would last since 1828, when, however, the consumption was only 14,074 bags weekly. The absolute stock in Great Britain is 784,730 bags, against 564,430 bags last year, which was to that time the largest stock which ever existed at the beginning of a year.

The trade known more particularly as the country or home trade, has not yet shown any material improvement; but there is every reason to believe that, as the spring advances, there will be more improvement and animation; and if there is no undue speculation and rise in prices, we doubt not that a favourable business will be experienced in 1844. We hope, before we go to press, to be able to furnish the Revenue Returns for the quarter and year ending to-day. They are understood, as we have long foretold, to be favourable, not only on the year but the quarter; the Customs and Excise branches we expect will exhibit considerable increase. Money continues abundant, without any alteration of value. The bullion in the Bank is now supposed to exceed 14,000,000*l.* with a tendency further to increase.

POLITICAL.

Sudden sharp transitions in the weather mark our passage from the old year into the new; and the return of Cabinet Ministers to town indicate that Christmas is past, and the meeting of Parliament drawing near. Otherwise, everything is comparatively still and quiet; even the Indian Mail seems infected with languor, and brings us scarcely any more stirring intelligence than the news of alarming and extensive sickness. It comes with dates from Bombay to the 1st of December, and is perhaps less fertile of news than any yet received since the overland passage was established. Sickness has ingloriously decimated the gallant army under Sir Charles Napier, in Scinde. Of 8,504 men, composing the garrisons of Hyderabad and Currahee, 3,356 were sick. "The malaria of Scinde," says the *Bombay Times*, "is much more formidable than the snows of Cabool."

"Out of a force of 16,000 men, not 3,000 could have taken the field any time during the last six weeks. Matters were as bad at the outposts as at head-quarters. Three thousand Beloochees would have made short work of the British force, plundered the

country, set at large the prisoners, and undone in a night all the conquests of the year."

The accounts received from China by this mail are twelve days anterior to the dates brought by the last Calcutta mail. So that the supplementary treaty alluded to by the Canton press, which was to admit all European nations to the same commercial privileges as the English, had not been signed so early as the letters received by this mail anticipate.

The only thing that displays any symptoms of activity is the Anti-Corn-law League, which seems to be moving onwards with railroad rapidity. That the corn laws constitute an enormous political, social, moral, and economical mischief, is a "great fact," now established for ever in the mind and intelligence of the country; and that the vast mercantile community are determined on their removal, is another "great fact," demonstrated by the marvellous, the almost incredible progress which the League has made. Yet Ministers are preparing to meet Parliament with a determination *not* to touch the corn laws! and are dreaming of riding off with a penny-whistle blast about returning prosperity!

In Dublin, there is great activity amongst the lawyers, preparing for the truly important state trials so near at hand.

The Landlord and Tenant Commission is pursuing its investigations. We fear that both the state trials and the commission are destined to end in results very different from the objects contemplated by them. Coercion, combined with an appearance of conciliation, has been latterly a favourite mode of treating Ireland, yet not one that has hitherto proved very successful.

FOREIGN.

FRANCE.

The French chambers are still occupied with the provisional arrangements consequent on the meeting of the legislature.

SPAIN.

On Dec. 27th, the Queen prorogued the cortes.

It is not to be wondered at if the country should show a just indignation at the despotic conduct of the government. Letters from Madrid concur in saying that the majority of the cortes condemned the prorogation of the chambers, as totally unnecessary and mischievous in its consequences. They especially disapprove of the terms in which the prorogation is worded; for, being indefinite, the ministry can dispense with the cortes, and keep it in that state of adjournment till the 1st of December, without either calling it together or dissolving it.

M. Olozaga has arrived in Lisbon.

The Pope's Nuncio, Monsignor Cappacini, was expected in Madrid from Portugal. His ostensible object is to regulate the affairs of the church, but it is supposed that his mission may also be intended to pave the way for the acknowledgment of Queen Isabella by his holiness.

UNITED STATES.

On Saturday morning, the steamer *Acadia*, Captain Rytic, reached the Mersey, in a few hours less than eleven days from Halifax. She left that place on the 19th, and Boston on the 16th of December, with eighteen passengers.

The news by this arrival, extending over seven days, possesses no striking feature, if we except the intelligence from Canada, where Sir Charles Metcalfe has experienced the hostility of the House of Assembly for dismissing the Lafontaine ministry. By a vote of 45 to 24, the house expressed its sympathy for the ex-ministers, although Sir Charles declared that their dismissal was owing to the pertinacity with which they insisted upon conditions relative to official appointments at variance with "executive prerogatives." He will not be able to go on with the present assembly—that seems clear; and whether a new house would be more pliant is very problematical. The "responsible government" theory has taken a strong hold of the French Canadian party, and, as a natural consequence, their strength will be directed against Sir Charles Metcalfe's government, which has discarded it.

The news from the United States is without interest. Nothing worthy of note had occurred in Congress, where the business of the session had hardly commenced. The various committees had been formed, and the reports from the different executive branches of the government had been delivered in. A rumour prevailed that Mr Fox, our ambassador at Washington, was about returning home, and that his place would be supplied by Mr Packenham, late British minister at Mexico. The *ou dit* may, or may not, be correct.

From Mexico intelligence had arrived that Santa Anna had forwarded the October instalment of the indemnity due to the United States—a fact which has improved him in the good graces of the Americans. A British fleet in the Gulf of Mexico was giving some uneasiness to Brother Jonathan, who professes to see in it designs upon Texas inimical to its interests. President Houston was making an effort to dispose of the Texian navy, which was also construed into a confirmation of the rumours about Great Britain having her eye upon Texas.

"A most perfect union," says the *New York Herald*, "has at length been completed among all the elements of the democratic party in the House of Representatives. These members, numbering nearly 126, have had several caucuses, and have almost completed their arrangements for the presidential campaign."

PERU.

By the *Annabella*, from Arica, which arrived at Liverpool on Saturday, letters have been received to the 9th September; from which it appears that Peru is still in a most disorganized state, harassed by a number of pretenders to supreme political power. General Vivanco has possession of the capital, and calls himself "president of the republic;" whilst a General Castillo holds the country in the neighbourhood of Arica, and calls himself "supreme chief of the nation;" and General Nieto holds Tacna, calling himself "superior chief." Each of these sets up for himself; and so, apparently, does every man who can get together a few hundred ragamuffins under the name of soldiers; whilst all regular industry is greatly impeded, and commercial intercourse between different towns almost entirely destroyed.

It appears that on the 29th of August there was a very smart battle in the neighbourhood of Tacna, between the government troops (those of

General Vivanco) and the forces of General Nieto; in which the former were entirely defeated, and all their infantry taken prisoners; so that the "president of the republic" does not seem likely very soon to have full possession of the country. At the date of the last advices, the third party, under General Castillo, were understood to be advancing upon Tacna; so that there would probably be another struggle for the possession of that place.

Of course these broils have a most injurious effect upon the English merchants in Peru; and the writer of the letters from which we have collected the foregoing particulars, and who is resident at Tacna, states that his store had been closed for some time; that business was entirely suspended; and that, although he had dollars in his possession, he durst not send them to the neighbouring port of Arica for shipment to England.—*Manchester Guardian*.

COLONIAL INTELLIGENCE.

CANADA.

Canadian politics are in a confused condition, though we trust that the peace of the country will not be endangered in consequence. The resignation of the ministry has already been known for some time to the public, and, since that event took place, Sir Charles Metcalfe has been seriously embarrassed, both by the hostility of the late members of government, and by the countenance afforded to them by the house of assembly. The latter body sent to Sir Charles an address of confidence in the late ministry.

AUSTRALIA.

From Sydney, papers to the 26th of August have arrived, and represent the mercantile interest as suffering deeply from depression. Great difficulty had been experienced in the sales of goods, either by public auction or private contract. In the legislature the members were occupied with the finance minute of the governor, and the discussion of the estimates was expected to attract considerable notice. It appeared that in the year 1843 a deficiency of some 50,000*l.* or 60,000*l.* would occur in consequence of the excessive burden of the land fund and emigration expenses. For 1844, the estimated expenditure was 330,493*l.*, while the revenue was expected to reach from 350,000*l.* to 370,000*l.*

NEW ZEALAND.

The New Zealand and Australian journals give detailed particulars of events that have transpired in New Zealand since the disastrous and sanguinary affair at Wairau, in June last, in which, it will be remembered, no less than five-and-twenty whites are supposed to have perished on the field, or to have been wounded and since died. From the interesting narrative given of this melancholy affair by the police magistrate, Mr Macdonough, and printed in the *New Zealand Colonist*, it would seem that the outbreak was really unpremeditated on the part of the natives, who never fired a shot until after five of their number had fallen from the fire of the whites, including the wife of a chief named Rangihaiata, who held, at the moment of her death, one of the chief's infant sons in her arms. The determined hostility of this chief to the European settlers was well known. He had sworn to extirpate them, but has himself since died from mortification of the foot, occasioned by its having been transfixed by the stump of one of the thorny underwoods of the country. The better disposition of the native tribes, generally, towards us may be well inferred from the fact, that the native population of a considerable district refused to receive this man into the protection of their territory, lest they should thereby bring down on themselves the displeasure of the English government settlers. On the 24th June Mr Macdonough issued a proclamation, dated "Port Nicholson," calling on the natives to keep quiet. It is as follows:—

TO THE INHABITANTS OF WELLINGTON AND ITS VICINITY, AND TO THE BRITISH SETTLERS IN COOK'S STRAITS.—After the contest at Wairau, between a party of armed settlers from Nelson, and a body of the natives, which has been attended with such a melancholy loss of life, I feel it to be my duty to lay before you a statement of the results of that contest, and of the information which I have been able to acquire. Although I have not at present any authenticated accounts of the number of persons who have been slain, I am compelled to believe that it has been very numerous; and there is but too much reason to apprehend that Mr Thompson, the police magistrate, and Captain Wakefield, the company's agent, have fallen. No one among you can regret more sincerely than myself this fearful sacrifice of human life, or can feel more deeply the loss which the settlement has thus sustained; but I should fail in my duty did I not declare my conviction, after obtaining evidence from all quarters, that the affair was not the result of any premeditated design on the part of the natives, but that, on the contrary, they sought by every means to avert it, and did not fire a shot until five of their party had fallen, including the wife of Rangihaiata, who at the moment bore his own son in her arms. Upon receiving the disastrous intelligence, feeling it to be of the first importance to obtain authentic information of the intentions of the natives, I immediately put myself in communication with those persons who were in a position to furnish accurate reports on the subject, and I have the satisfaction of informing you that the natives of Waikanae, at which place Rauparaha first landed, refused to allow him to remain among them, lest the friendly relations which had previously subsisted between them and the English settlers might be destroyed; and that I have every reason to believe these feelings to be shared by almost all the natives upon the coast. No apprehension, therefore, of any aggression on their part need be entertained; but if from any circumstances a hostile purpose should be cherished by them, I have made arrangements which will immediately put me in possession of the fact, and enable me to make all necessary preparations to resist it. In order to strengthen this friendly feeling, I have published an address to the natives in their own language, and have caused it to be distributed in all parts of the country, which I trust will have that effect, by maintaining a confidence in the justice of the government and in the impartial administration of the law. At the same time I have taken measures for the protection of persons and property in this place, and the immediate vicinity, by increasing the police force to an extent which will, I trust, be sufficient to meet the present exigency.

I have deemed that the recent occurrence was of so serious a nature in itself, and in its probable consequences, as to call for the immediate interposition of the local government. I have therefore forwarded to Auckland all the information I have been able to collect, and I feel assured that, immediately upon receiving the intelligence, a portion at least of the troops at the disposal of the government will be sent to this place, that a full and searching investigation will be made into all the circumstances of the transaction, and that prompt and complete justice will be done.

I will not conclude without expressing my sense of the promptitude and zeal which you have displayed in coming forward to strengthen the hands of the government, and to be prepared to resist any aggressions on the part

of the natives, should such have been contemplated. I am happy in being able to assure you that there is no probability of your being called upon for actual service, but should such an occasion arise, I shall feel that I may rely with confidence upon your support, and I shall be proud to place myself at your head. At the same time, I would earnestly impress upon you the importance of not doing anything which may create unnecessary alarm, or may destroy the confidence of the natives in our justice and forbearance—by leading them to imagine that the purely defensive measures in which you are engaged are designed to be afterwards employed in aggressive warfare.

Wellington, June 26, 1843.

ARTHUR EDWARD MACDONOUGH,
Police Magistrate of the Southern District
of New Zealand and Cook's Straits.

Port Nicholson, June 24, 1843.

Friends,—Listen to what I, the police magistrate of Port Nicholson, have to say to you. Remain quiet on the subject of this lamentable event at Wairau; for I, and all the white people of this place, regret most sincerely this painful occurrence. We are not about to make war upon you. I wish merely to learn the real truth of the whole affair, to submit the same to the governor, that he may cause it to be investigated. Do not fear that any white man will injure any of you in the slightest degree. Remain at your several positions, and pursue your intercourse with the people of Port Nicholson as usual. All the chiefs of Port Nicholson fully understand what I have said above to be our feeling towards them. Friends, this is all I have to say to you.

(Signed)

MACDONOUGH, Police Magistrate.

Port Nicholson, June 24, 1843.

Friends,—Listen to the above saying, and do not mistake. Good is the saying of the white man; to search out the truth of who is to blame; perhaps it is the white man; perhaps it is the Maori. Do not spread false reports respecting the matter—do not talk much about it; and let all the Maories at every place know this.

(Signed)

From your friends,

WILLIAM TAKO.
MOTUROA.
WAIRARAPA.

THE OVERLAND MAIL.

The Indian Mail has arrived, with letters and papers from Bombay to Dec. 1. The principal items relate to the prevalence of great sickness in the two newly-acquired possessions of Sindh in India, and of Hong-Kong in China. Peace prevails throughout British India, although the preparations for war were busy throughout the north-western districts. An army of about 15,000 men was assembled on the banks of the Sutlej, and another was collecting at Agra; the former to compel the Sikhs to adopt some regular fixed system of government, and the latter to force the government of Gwalior to make proper arrangements.

The fall of the Indus, consequent on the cessation of the monsoon, has always produced a description of malaria in a country where no improvements have been carried during centuries; and it was not to be expected that the British troops should not suffer in districts where every advantage was sacrificed to making hunting grounds for the Ameers.

Much attention has been directed towards the Punjab. The chiefs are represented as disunited, the soldiers are mutinous, and the provinces are distracted by their fears, for they dread an invasion from the Afghans at Peshawur, and of the British at Lahore. Mooltan is described as highly disturbed; the inhabitants, who do not profess the Sikh religion, are in dread of massacres and plundering. Many of the natives are seeking every opportunity of abandoning the Sikh districts, and of escaping with their property into Hindostan. Even the French officers are quitting Lahore. General Ventura, the last of the foreign favourites of Runjeet Singh, has solicited leave to resign the service, and to retire to his own country. Two of the other junior officers have been dismissed. General Court has left, and General Avitable was at Calcutta.

It is difficult, even in India, to obtain correct intelligence of what is going on at the Court of Lahore, and many of the rumours circulated have proved unfounded. Heera Singh, the young minister, appears still to retain power; he is, as it is known, the son of Dhyan Singh, who was the all-powerful minister of Runjeet, and of his successors, until his death, in September last. Heera Singh, who has the puppet child, King Dhuleep, in his custody, is now said to have obtained the aid of Goolab Singh, his father's eldest brother, and a leading Hill Chief, who, at the head of 22,000 men, came in the beginning of November to the capital. Goolab Singh is looked upon as hostile to the British, and will, it is thought, bring about a decided conflict, by influencing his nephew and the court not to assent to any proposals coming from the government of India.

A crisis was expected at Lahore, when the governor-general shall have reached the banks of the Sutlej. Several corps of the British troops were in movement in that direction. The number of troops at Ferozepore, Ludiana, and Umballa, was estimated at 14,000 men. Major-General George Hunter commanded at the two former places, while Major-General Sir Robert Dick had the command of the Sirhind and Meerut divisions.

The news from Cabool current during the month was that Dost Mahomed had been murdered; but, though believed by many, it eventually turned out to be a fabrication. It is true that his position is far from an enviable one: he has named his son, the notorious Akbar, to be governor of the Hill country, near Jellalabad, whence it is thought that he will attempt, ere long, the invasion of Peshawur. Peshawur is described as in a ticklish position, for there is no longer an European general to defend it, and all the plunderers round the Kyber Pass are anxious for an opportunity to sack it.

In the central part of India the affairs of Gwalior are at present most interesting; the army of exercise is assembling at Agra. On Sunday, the 19th of November, a dispute took place between some of the troops at Gwalior, which ended in their fighting with each other, when 400 were slain on both sides. Khasegewalla, the usurper, who, some months ago, had endeavoured to oppose the influence of the British, had been taken prisoner, and nearly sacrificed by the insubordinate and enraged soldiers. He was saved with difficulty, and the insurgents appeased merely by the promise that he should be given up to the hon. company.

There appears to be a general acquiescence throughout India to the British taking final possession of the territories that once were Sindiah's. There is no lawful sovereign, for the child now called to govern is but an adopted son; and the oppressions of that government have been such, that the whole population wish to become British subjects, in order to be saved from the continual pillage of the relentless and unpaid soldiery.

Bundelkund, which is contiguous to Gwalior, also requires the application of force to establish a regular system. At present there is a multitude of turbulent characters, who seek for an opportunity of confusion, in order to enrich themselves, either by plunder or by conquest. There was but little doubt that the governor-general as soon as the paramount question of Gwalior was decided, would adopt efficient measures for introducing order and tranquillity amongst the mountaineers of Bundelkund.

The next point of interest in the north of India was the great enthusiasm raised for the liberation of Colonel Stoddart from Bokhara. A considerable subscription was raised for the purpose of defraying the expense of sending a person thither to examine into the truth of his confinement and of his safety. It is thought that nothing further will be done in India until the result of Dr Wolff's mission is known.

Lord Ellenborough had become more popular than during the preceding twelve months. The newspapers which had raised an outcry against him had been obliged to admit that his measures were successful, and they found that much of their clamour had not any foundation in fact. His lordship was to start about the 26th of November for the North Western provinces, invested with every power to make peace or war by a special act of the legislative council. There was an objection made to this proceeding, on the ground that Lord Ellenborough was acting without the advice of his council, but it should be recollected that his Lordship is accompanied by some of the most talented and experienced civil and military servants, who act as his secretaries, and who can give good counsel.

CHINA.

The news from China extends to the beginning of October. The most important intelligence was the arrangement of a supplementary treaty between the Chinese and the British governments; one clause of which is for the purpose of guaranteeing to all foreign nations the same privileges of trade as to the British themselves. This will have the effect of rendering unnecessary all negotiations between the Chinese Emperor and the other powers. The Chinese government is said to be sincere now in its determination to abide by the regulations of the treaty, which will prevent all discussions with other foreigners. The treaty is looked upon in the East as the most signal triumph of the British plenipotentiary, for it renders nugatory all the attempts of the French and American diplomatic missions lately sent with such pomp to the Chinese coast. Laughter has already begun at the appearance of two ambassadors sent thither before it was known that they would be received, in order to gain a purpose which was granted before they appeared. The American frigate *Brandywine* stopped for some weeks at Bombay, to wait for Mr Cushing, the Minister, who was going to see the sea frontiers of the south of the celestial empire. He had sailed for Macao on the 27th of November. It is a subject of curiosity to know how he and the French minister will act on their arrival, for they will have nothing to demand, and nothing to complain of.

Sir Henry Pottinger, who had gone to Macao to attend the funeral of Mr Morrison, is stated to have regarded the supplementary treaty with such importance as to have a steamer sent specially with it to Suez.

In Hong-Kong the sickness has arisen, as the Chinese say, from the nature of the waters of the islands, which they pretend cannot be used for any time without the worst result. It was even asserted that the British authorities contemplated the abandonment of that island since the death of the much-lamented Mr Morrison.

The state of trade at Canton was not satisfactory, owing to the tricks of the old Hong merchants, and their adherents, the linguists. The state of trade along the coast is said to be satisfactory. Howqua, the celebrated Hong merchant, died at the age of seventy-five, leaving 15,000,000 dollars' worth of property. The celebrated Mandarin Lin has also paid the debt of nature. The Rev. Mr Gutzlaff has been appointed Chinese secretary in the room of Mr Morrison.

DEATH OF MR MORRISON.

Sir Henry Pottinger announces with feelings of the deepest and most unfeigned sorrow, the demise this morning, at a few minutes after seven o'clock, of the Hon. J. R. Morrison, Member of Council, Chinese Secretary, &c., and Officiating Colonial Secretary of the Government of Hong-Kong.

Mr Morrison was so well known and so truly beloved, esteemed, and respected by all who had the happiness of his acquaintance and friendship, that to attempt to pass any panegyric on his private character would be a mere waste of words, and Sir Henry Pottinger feels that his own sincere grief on this mournful event is only a type of that universal sentiment in which the memory and worth of Mr Morrison will be for ever embalmed.

In a public point of view Sir Henry Pottinger considers the death of Mr Morrison to be an irreparable national calamity, and he doubts not but as such it will be received and viewed by his sovereign and country.

The *Canton Press* adds the following particulars:—

“Mr J. R. Morrison, the son of the illustrious Dr Morrison, so well known as an active missionary and compiler of the *Chinese Dictionary*, and who died in China just nine years ago, was born in Malacca in 1815, and was only 28 years and four months old at the time of his death. In an early age he was sent to Europe, whence he returned, after a short stay to China, with only the rudiments of an education, which it then became the care of his father to perfect. From the earliest age his attention was drawn to the study of the Chinese language, in which he had become so proficient that, on the lamented death of his father, though only 19 years old, he was appointed by the government to the responsible situation of Chinese Secretary and Interpreter to the Superintendents of Trade, before held by his father, the duties of which he performed to general satisfaction.

FREE-TRADE MOVEMENTS.

ANTI-CORN-LAW MEETING AT OLDHAM.—On Tuesday evening, pursuant to placards and advertisement, a large public meeting was held in the Town hall, at Oldham, in aid of the great Anti-Corn-law League Fund of 100,000. Mr Joseph Gillham, senior head-constable, presided. Though admittance was only had by tickets, price 6d., the large room, which is capable of holding upwards of 1,100 persons (having an area of 242 square yards), was well filled with a respectable assemblage, including a number of ladies. Owing to a delay in the starting from the Manchester station of the railway, of the principal speakers of the evening, caused by the immense number of Oldham persons returning from Manchester (so that the train which should have started at five o'clock was three quarters of an hour later), the chair was not taken until seven o'clock. The chairman, in opening the proceedings, read letters from Mr Alderman Brooks, Mr Brotherton, M.P., and Mr James Lees, of Delph Lodge, expressing their regret at being unable to attend. The meeting was then addressed by Colonel Thompson, in his usual quaint and pithy style; by Mr Cobden, in a powerful and argumentative speech, addressed chiefly to the working classes, and considering the corn laws as a wages and labour question; and by Mr R. R. Moore, who showed by details, respecting the hat trade of Oldham, and the exports of hats, that, with high prices of wheat, our exports fell off, and increased when wheat fell. He also explained the progress of the League, and how it had employed the large sums previously contributed, and concluded by calling on the meeting to begin the new year well.—The chairman said, he was not able this year (as his losses had been

severe) to double his subscription. He would give 100*l.* (Applause.)—Mr Moore then announced other subscriptions, making a total of *eight hundred and sixty pounds.* (Immense cheering.) This was at eleven o'clock,—when Mr Moore concluded by proposing "Three cheers for repeal," which were given with hearty good will.—The chairman proposed a vote of thanks to the gentlemen who had addressed the meeting, which passed by acclamation, and was acknowledged by Mr Cobden, who said he felt grateful pleasure and some astonishment. For the size of the meeting, he had never attended one with more spirit than the present one. He moved a vote of thanks to the chairman, which passed with three cheers.—The chairman called for "three cheers for the Queen," which were given with spirit.—Mr Alexander Taylor moved a resolution of sympathy with Mr Alderman Brooks, whose absence was caused by the serious illness of his only daughter.—Mr Moore moved a vote of thanks to the ladies, which being passed by acclamation, the proceedings terminated a few minutes after eleven o'clock.

ANTI-CORN-LAW MEETING AT LEIGH.—An Anti-Corn-law meeting was held at Leigh, on Monday last (New Year's Day), at two o'clock, which was addressed by Colonel Thompson, Mr R. R. Moore, and the Rev. Dr Harrison, of Chowbent; and a subscription was then commenced, which, before the meeting closed, amounted to 82*l.*, a great proportion of which consisted of very small sums, many of them from working men. This amount, it is expected, will ultimately reach 140*l.* or 150*l.* Most of the subscriptions from parties who have given before were doubled, and there were many new ones. Indeed, last year the amount ultimately raised was only 45*l.*

FREE-TRADE DEMONSTRATION IN SHROPSHIRE.—On Friday morning, 29th ult., the inhabitants of the village of Colebrookdale, in Shropshire, and the immediate vicinity, were astonished by the announcement, by placard, that a meeting would take place that evening, in the New Lecture Room, for the purpose of commencing subscriptions in aid of the great League Fund of 100,000*l.* Notwithstanding the very short notice, and the smallness of the population, the room was comfortably filled. Abraham Darby, Esq., ably filled the chair, and conducted the proceedings of the meeting. The audience was addressed very forcibly by William Henry Darby, Esq., of Liverpool, who was attentively listened to throughout, and loudly cheered. He was followed, in a capital speech, of some length, by Samuel Naish, Esq.; Joseph Robinson, Esq., of Liverpool, proposed the resolution calling upon the meeting for subscriptions, and was seconded by William F. Sim, Esq., of Liverpool, who particularly called upon the working classes to show their adhesion to the League by even the smallest contribution. Eloquent addresses were also delivered by Mr Hill Evans and Mr Randall, during the latter of which, the subscription cards were handed in, and the amount and names were afterwards read out by Mr Sim. The first was the *ladies' subscription* of Colebrookdale (anonymous), 150*l.*; then came Abraham Darby, Esq., 50*l.*; Alfred Darby, Esq., 50*l.* (these gentlemen having already given 200*l.* this year at the Liverpool meeting); Henry Dickinson, Esq., 50*l.*; Richard Darby, Esq., 50*l.*; W. H. Darby, Esq., 5*l.* (in addition to his donation at Liverpool); Joseph Robinson, Esq., 2*l.* (besides a subscription at Liverpool); William F. Sim, Esq., 5*l.*; Edward Edwards, 2*l.* 2*s.*; ten of 1*l.* besides various smaller sums, making in all 148 subscribers; the total amount being about 350*l.* The whole amount of last year's subscriptions, in this part, was under 90*l.*; and, when we consider that this year nearly four times that sum was subscribed in about twenty minutes, at a meeting called at about ten hours' notice, in a district famed for monopoly, that the whole population of the parish is only about 7,000; that there was none of the apostles of the League present; but that it was, emphatically, a *speaking-out of the people*; it is not too much to say, that it was one of the most, if not the very most, remarkable demonstrations of the kind that has yet taken place.

FREE-TRADE MEETING AT NEWARK.—On Friday evening last a meeting was held in the Methodist New Connexion Chapel, Barby gate, Newark, to hear an address from Colonel Thompson, on the benefits that will arise, by free intercourse with all the world, to every town in England, and more especially to the borough of Newark. Mr T. H. Massey, a respectable inhabitant of the town, was unanimously called to the chair. The meeting was a crowded one, consisting principally of the middle and labouring classes. A considerable number of the electors were present. Colonel Thompson, having been introduced by the chairman, was warmly greeted. He addressed the audience in a powerful speech of an hour's duration, which was well received and frequently cheered. Several other persons briefly addressed the meeting, after which a vote of thanks to the gallant colonel having been moved, was carried unanimously amidst much cheering. At the conclusion of the proceedings the formation of an Anti-Corn-law Association was announced; and we trust that ere long this monopoly-ridden borough will take its place among the free-trade constituencies of the empire.

FREE-TRADE SOIREE AND MEETING AT BOLTON.—A splendid *soiree* and meeting in aid of the great League Fund took place at the Temperance hall, Bolton, on Wednesday night. Mr Cobden, M.P.; Colonel Thompson, Mr R. R. Moore, and Mr W. Evans attended as a deputation from the League, and, on making their appearance on the platform, were greeted with loud and long-continued plaudits. Mr Henry Ashworth, and Mr Edmund Ashworth, members of the council of the League, were also present. The meeting was crowded, and we should think there were at least a thousand persons present. Thomas Gregson, Esq., mayor of Bolton, presided, and said he believed that the minds of people in the manufacturing districts had long been made up that the corn laws were unjust, and, thanks to the exertions of the leading members of the League now present, another large portion of the community—the farmers and farm labourers, had begun to see that these laws were not good for their interests. (Hear, hear.) Now, seeing that this was the case—seeing that one portion of the community had come to the conclusion that the corn laws ought to be repealed, and that another portion of the community—the farmers, the very class for whose advantage the laws were professedly passed, had begun, at least, to doubt the policy of retaining these laws, he thought the day could not be far distant when they should triumph in the overthrow of this monstrous injustice—at least it ought not. (Applause.)—Colonel Thompson was then called upon, and was received with loud cheers, and was followed by Mr Cobden and others, after which Mr Moore announced, that the subscription in the room had reached 505*l.* 4*s.* 9*d.*, making, with 700*l.* to head the list, a total of 1,205*l.* 4*s.* 9*d.*

EARL HARDWICKE AND THE CORN LAWS.—The Earl of Hardwicke has contradicted a paragraph originally inserted in a provincial journal to the effect, that at a late rent-day dinner he had expressed his opinion that free-trade principles would ultimately triumph; but that such a result would not be so disastrous as generally anticipated. His lordship states that he uttered no such sentiment.—*Globe.*

ANTI-LEAGUE MOVEMENT IN SUSSEX.

CHICHESTER, WEDNESDAY, JAN. 3.—A meeting, which had been adjourned from last Wednesday, was held yesterday at Chichester, composed chiefly

of tenant farmers of the county of Sussex. The meeting was attended by some of the largest occupiers of land in the district.

Amongst those present were Mr John Ide, of West Wittering; Mr T. Halstead, of Westerton; Mr Henry Sadler, of Navant; Mr John Rusbridger, of Goodwood; Mr G. Hipkins, of Westbourne; Mr John Graham, of Wittering; Mr Charles Hobgen, of Sidlesham; Mr John Hipkins, of Singleton; Mr Joseph Hobgen, of Sidlesham; Mr Arthur Newman, of West Dean; Mr John Wyatt, of Westbourne; Mr Charles Cheeseman, of Chedham; Mr Henry Duke, of Earnley; Mr C. Duke, of Lavant; Mr W. C. Dewey, of Appledean; Mr. W. Newland, of Chichester; Mr T. S. Cogan, of Hampnett; Mr W. Gibbs, of Itchenor; Mr T. P. Hipkins, of Rocton; Mr G. Rusbridger, of Pegham; Mr W. Field of Wick; Mr J. C. Woolbridge, of Droxford; and Mr J. Bowers, of West Dean, &c.

Mr E. Wyatt, of Chichester, took the chair. Mr Rusbridger, in a brief speech, moved the following resolution, as a requisition for a county meeting:—"We, the undersigned owners and occupiers of land, tradesmen and others, whose welfare mainly depends on the prosperity of British agriculture, observing with regret the unchecked progress of certain dissatisfied, self-interested persons, denominated themselves the Anti-Corn-law League, chiefly headed by master-manufacturers of wealth and influence, subscribing large sums of money for the purpose of disseminating their views and opinions through the agency of the press, as well as by the exertions of paid itinerant orators, for the purpose of exciting public opinion in favour of their object—that of rendering null and void one of the laws of the land, originating in the wise views of our ancestors for the protection of British agriculture; feel it to be our duty, collectively and individually, to recommend a meeting of all persons holding these our opinions, at the White Horse Inn, Steyning, in the county of Sussex, at eleven for twelve o'clock, on the day of _____, there to confer upon and consider what steps may be peaceably and legally pursued to arrest and counteract the machinations and misrepresentations of the dissatisfied and calumnious parties for the purpose of depriving agriculture and agricultural labour of their due reward, by letting in at all times, free from duty, the fruits of foreign capital and labour. On these grounds we do not hesitate to affix our signatures to this requisition, with the full intention of proving our support, and, if possible, our personal attendance at Steyning, at the hour on the day herein appointed." (Hear, hear.)

The resolution having been seconded by Mr John Hyde, was carried unanimously.

Mr Newland was desirous, before the question was put, to state a few facts, which he considered were conclusive. He gave these facts rather than indulge in mere assertions, as their enemies did, for he must consider those men enemies, not only to the agriculturists, but to the country generally, who would deprive the labourer of employment, the farmer of profit, and the landowner of his fair rights. (Cheers.) The speaker then entered into various detailed statements, in order to show that nothing but selfishness actuated the Anti-Corn-law League, and stated that the farmers had too long been quiescent, whilst the calumnies of that dangerous association had been widely disseminated. The speaker then attempted to show that manufacturing distress did not proceed from the operation of the corn laws, and concluded by stating his belief that, if the measures of the Anti-Corn-law League were carried into effect, and a free trade in corn allowed from the continent, it would be impossible for the agriculturists of this country to compete with those from abroad; for, independent of the low price of wages there, the foreigners are not subject either to tithes, poor rates, or church rates, which lie heavy on the land in England; and as the manufacturers are protected by heavy duties, why should the agriculturists be excluded from the same advantages? (Loud cheers.)

A desultory conversation ensued, in which several farmers took part, complaining greatly of the fall in prices, resulting from the new corn law and tariff, and from the great uncertainty that hung over them as to its continuance. They also complained that so much had been yielded to America, who had proved herself so faithless a debtor, and so unwilling to concede anything in return.

The meeting was adjourned to Wednesday next, for the purpose merely of making arrangements for the county meeting.

MISCELLANEA.

UNIVERSITY AND CLERICAL INTELLIGENCE.—OXFORD, JAN. 3.—**HAMPDEN, APPELLANT, v. MACMULLEN.**—The delegates in congregation met this day at one o'clock, when the Master of University College, the chairman, pronounced the judgment of the court. That the amended libel was wrongly admitted, the delegates being of opinion that there were no allegations on the face of the libel on which any legal duty was grounded, for the breach of which an action on the case for damages would lie; they, therefore, reversed the judgment of the assessor in the court below, and ordered the amended libel to be dismissed, Mr Macmullen paying the costs of both parties. Mr Cary, on the part of Mr Macmullen, gave notice of further proceedings, by an appeal to a higher court—that of the delegates in convocation. The decision of the court has afforded the highest satisfaction here, except to the tractarian party.

ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF ENGLAND.—It is the intention of the Council of the Royal Agricultural Society to give premiums of fifty guineas each for the best prize essays during the present year on the agriculture of Norfolk, Cheshire, Essex, and Wiltshire.

LIEUTENANT MUNRO AND MR WAKLEY, THE CORONER.—It appears that the conduct of the police towards Mrs Munro, on Tuesday night, has attracted the attention of the commissioners, and an investigation has been set on foot to discover by whose authority the officers acted on that occasion. The sale of the furniture, &c., was resumed and concluded yesterday without interruption.

SIR E. L. BULWER.—By the decease of his mother, Sir E. L. Bulwer succeeds to the ancient mansion and estates of Knebworth, in Herts, to which she was heiress. Her charities were even princely, and always exercised unostentatiously. A thousand guineas in aid of the propagation of the gospel in foreign parts was one of her recent donations, and an almshouse for poor widows she just lived to see completed.

EARTHQUAKE IN GUERNSEY.—On the afternoon of Friday week, at a few minutes before four o'clock, the shock of an earthquake was felt throughout the whole of this island, of very considerable violence.

TEETOTALISM IN INDIA.—The *Madras Examiner*, of which the files received extend to the 17th ult., contains the report of a great temperance meeting which had been held by a society called "Father Mathew's Society," at Secunderabad. Tea was served up at a new temperance hall to about one hundred and fifty persons, and much good is anticipated from the introduction of those habits of sobriety enjoined by the rules of the fraternity.

CHRISTMAS RECREATIONS.—The number of visitors to the British Museum during the late holiday week was 41,151, being on Tuesday 18,377, Wednesday 13,281, Thursday 1,683, and on Friday 7,801. The Museum closed yesterday, and will remain so for the present week. The number of persons who passed through the Thames Tunnel last week was, 37,114. The number of visitors to the Tower during the Christmas week was, to the armouries, 911; to the jewel office, 711. Total amount of proceeds, 40*l.* 11*s.* Among the visitors were a considerable number of foreigners.

CURIOUS FACT.—If England paid her national debt, it would take 46*l.* 9*s.* 2*d.* from each person to pay it; it would take 11*l.* 9*s.* 2*d.* from each Frenchman to pay the debt of France; it would take 55*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.* from each Dutchman to pay the debt of Holland; and it would only take 4*l.* 13*s.* 9*d.* from each Pennsylvanian to pay the debt repudiated.

PARIS.—The superficies of Paris, within the present walls, is 34,398,800 square metres; but when the limits of the city shall be extended, as they will soon be, to the fortified wall now building, its superficies will be increased to 267,538,000 square metres, or 65,678 acres. The population of Paris, when the census was taken in 1841, was 912,530. By including the troops in garrison, and the average of strangers making only a passing stay in the town, the amount of the inhabitants of Paris may now be reckoned at about 1,200,000.

—The practice of allowing parties importing works of English authors amongst their baggage and effects, to have one copy of a work, provided their name was written on the fly leaf, &c., has been entirely put an end to by the act of last session.

—A letter from Pesth speaks of an attempt to extort money from M. De Woljaner, a banker in that town. A man was shown into his cabinet, who handed him a letter, demanding 20,000 florins (50,000*l.*), and stating that, if it was refused, the bearer would blow up the house, having about him 15 lb. of powder and a loaded pistol. The banker had sufficient presence of mind to amuse the man with lower offers until the cashier entered, when they made him prisoner. The powder and pistol were found on him.

—The *Censeur de Lyons* states that the legitimist party had succeeded in exciting such a feeling in favour of the Duc de Bordeaux among the population of several districts in the south of France, that between Avignon and Orange, the inscription of "Henry V or death!" was written on many of the houses of the villages situate along the road.

—An official address from the general treasurers and secretaries of the Wesleyan Missionary Society has just been published, from which it appears that, on an investigation of the probable state of the finances for 1843, there is some reason to apprehend that the income of the year will fall short of the expenditure by not less than from ten to twelve thousand pounds.

—The crevice on the west side of Mount Etna is 400 yards long and 40 wide. The stream of lava issuing from it has spread to the width of 2½ miles, and has run about 14 miles. By the last accounts, the lava had swept away several houses, and destroyed 67 persons.

—Several iron steam boats have been ordered to be built by the Lords of the Admiralty, to be employed for the conveyance of despatches.

—The Rev. H. Moseley, Professor of Natural Philosophy at King's College, has, we are informed, received the appointment of Inspector of Normal Schools from the Committee of Privy Council for Education.

—It is stated that Sir Jahleel Brenton will succeed the late Sir Edward Bruce as commander-in-chief of the Navy.

—A lady writes to a friend in Dumfries, that a draft sent by her brother in India came safely to hand through the post office, after having been at the bottom of the sea in the Memnon, and although the seal was so completely wasted along with the paper adjoining, that the letter in fact was quite open.

—The Duke of Manchester has adopted the allotment system on his Huntingdonshire estates; and last week his grace's agent, with the Rev. J. Hughes, let a field of twelve acres in small allotments to upwards of 70 labourers at Meonbury.

—In the published evidence of Colonel Maberly, secretary to the post office, the "plunder" of letters and newspapers is described as "terrific."

—Glass windows have been introduced in the second-class carriages of the Glasgow and Greenock railway, as is done on the Belgian lines.

—The Royal Court of Paris decided on Wednesday that East Indian slaves' as well as all other slaves, recovered their liberty the moment they set their foot on the territory of France.

—In Prussia, the government has granted free postage for all railway correspondence, and exemption from stamp duties on all deeds and documents that railway companies may have to execute, with other valuable privileges.

—The King of Bavaria has commissioned Dr Pauli to proceed to Ireland, for the purpose of personally inspecting the atmospheric railroad, and report his observations regarding the same to the Bavarian government.

—It is stated in the *Times*, that the city of London, with a street surface of 500,000 square yards, and with its enormous traffic, pays 2,000*l.* a year less for scavenging than this town, where the traffic is much less.—*Manchester Guardian*.

COURTS OF LAW.

CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT.

EXTRAORDINARY CASE.—CHARGE OF SUBORNATION OF PERJURY.—*Sarah Phillips* surrendered to take her trial on an indictment in which she was charged by Mr George Price, a barrister practising in this court, with subornation of perjury. Mr Charnock, who appeared for the defence, applied to have the case at once called on, it being in regular course. A desultory conversation arose, in which several members of the bar took part, regarding the nature of the case, and some strong expressions of disgust were used. After some considerable delay, Mr Price at last appeared, and proceeded to conduct his own case. The Recorder objected to the propriety of a prosecutor acting as barrister, but he persisted. The poor woman, who was this "respectable" person's laundress, and to whom he had got in debt, was acquitted, and the gentlemen of the bar, who sat at the table during the trial, subscribed on the instant the sum of 5*l.* 10*s.*, which was handed to the laundress the moment the verdict was returned.

ABSENTEE PATRIOTS.—The *Semaphore de Marseilles* announces that a number of distinguished English had, in imitation of Lord Brougham, purchased estates in the neighbourhood of Cannes, in the south of France. General Sir — Taylor, amongst others, has built a splendid villa near the chateau of his lordship, and Mr Leader, the member for Westminster, has bought a fine estate in the immediate vicinity of Lord Brougham's residence, where he intends to erect a handsome mansion, of which he gave the plan to his architect, with orders to build it with the greatest activity.

ASSIZE INTELLIGENCE.

WINTER ASSIZES.—WESTERN CIRCUIT.

THE MORMONTES.—*Jonathan Pogmore*, aged 44 years, and *Thomas Cartwright*, aged 28 years, were indicted, the former for having, in the township of Monks Copenhall, on the 23rd of November last, seized Sarah Cartwright by the neck, and feloniously, wilfully, and negligently cast her into a certain brook, in which she was choked and drowned; and the other prisoner, Thomas Cartwright, was charged with aiding and assisting in the said manslaughter. The Attorney-General, and Messrs L. Trafford and Townshend, appeared for the prosecution, and Mr Temple for the prisoner.—The Attorney-General said, the two prisoners at the bar were charged with manslaughter, by killing and slaying a person of the name of Sarah Cartwright by negligence. This was rather a notorious case, and would require the best attention of the jury. It appeared that the prisoners were what were generally called "Latter-day Saints," a sect of religionists in the neighbourhood of the railway station at Crew. The deceased was the wife of the prisoner Cartwright; and one of the tenets of the sect was to baptize those persons who joined their body. The person for whose death the prisoners were upon their trial, was persuaded by them to be baptized, and the place where the baptism was to be performed was at a brook called Copenhall brook, about a quarter of a mile from the residence of the prisoners. Pogmore and Cartwright accompanied the woman, who went voluntarily into the brook, when Pogmore immersed her in the brook once or twice. She struggled and got loose from him, and was drowned. The brook was much swollen at the time, and the question was, whether the death of the woman was owing to a want of ordinary caution on the part of the prisoners. The learned gentleman was then about to call his witnesses, when it was found that not one was present whose evidence was of the slightest use in the case; neither was the attorney in court. The court waited some time, and his lordship asked the name of the attorney in the case. Mr Lowe, the attorney (of Nantwich), was called frequently, but he did not answer. After waiting some time, his lordship said he would not wait; the case must proceed in the usual course. It was well known that the case was to come on this morning. The Attorney-General then called witnesses; and at last Mr Lowe, the prosecuting attorney, came to court, but he did not explain the reason why either he or the witnesses had not been in attendance.—His lordship said he would not suffer the public time to be wasted in this scandalous manner, and he ordered the recognizances of all the witnesses who had not appeared to be estreated.—Mr Temple submitted that the prisoners must be acquitted.—The Judge: Yes. But there is a great failure of justice in this case. I shall not allow the costs of the prosecution.—The jury, under the direction of his lordship, acquitted both the prisoners.—Mr Temple said he heard his learned friend, the Attorney-General, talking about the coroner's inquisition. He called upon his learned friend to proceed at once upon it, or to enter a *nolle prosequi*.—Mr Hill: I shall use my own discretion. The prisoners have not yet been arraigned upon the inquisition.—The prisoners were then removed, and the court proceeded to try a prisoner for a burglary.

Robert Howe was indicted for a burglary at Staly, and found *Guilty*. Sentence deferred.

The prisoners *Pogmore* and *Cartwright* were next arraigned upon the coroner's inquisition, for the manslaughter of Sarah Cartwright.—The Attorney-General said he should not offer any evidence in the case.—The judge, addressing the jury, said, no evidence was offered for the prosecution, and very properly. A bill had been found by the grand jury, and in consequence of the culpable neglect of the parties who ought to have attended on the part of the prosecution, they had been acquitted. He thought it would be too much to try them after having been acquitted. Addressing the prisoners his lordship said—With your peculiar tenets I have nothing to do, but it was most culpable and incautious on your part not to examine the state of the brook before you went in. Let the event which has happened, and the distress which I have no reason to doubt you both must feel, be a warning to you for the future to be more cautious. There were three witnesses who did attend. Let them have their expenses, but let no other person have expenses of any sort.—The prisoners were then discharged.

NORTHERN CIRCUIT.—LIVERPOOL, DEC. 29.

John Cabraw, the captain of a ship called the *Mediterranean*, belonging to Mr Thomas Tobin, surrendered in discharge of his bail, to take his trial on an indictment on the Merchant Seaman's Act, for having unlawfully forced and left on shore one of his crew, John Hill, in parts beyond the seas, before the completion of the voyage.—Henry Leatherbarrow, chief mate of the *Mediterranean*, stated that while the vessel was at Ambrize, in July, 1842, on the coast of Africa, they shipped a new hand, John Hill. They received him with three others from the *Madagascar*, which took six of the crew of the *Mediterranean*. In the month of December following, the vessel being then off Chillongo, Hill was put in irons by the captain. It was about the 3rd. He was kept in irons until the 6th. He was then seized up to the main rigging and flogged, and immediately after he was ordered by the captain to get his traps ready and go on shore. The captain ordered the Krooboy to get the canoe ready, and ordered Hill to get into it. The Krooboy was ordered to take him ashore. They came back in about an hour and a half, saying that the surf set so strong on the beach that they could not land him. One of the Krooboy, called "Bottle of Beer," came on board, and went down into the cabin with the captain. He got into the canoe again and shaved off, the captain repeating his command to land Hill at all events. When the canoe came back the next morning, Hill was not in it. He was, in the opinion of the witness, put on shore against his will.—Mr James addressed the jury for the defence, contending that with the worthless and mutinous crew with which the defendant had to do, it was absolutely necessary to exercise considerable severity. The jury found the prisoner guilty, and his lordship sentenced him to be imprisoned in Lancaster Castle for six calendar months.

OXFORD CIRCUIT.—STAFFORD, DEC. 28.

MURDER.—*Sarah Westwood*, aged 42, was arraigned upon a charge of having murdered her husband, John Westwood, by the administration of arsenic. From the evidence it appeared to have been administered in gruel. The learned Baron summed up with the greatest impartiality and minuteness; and the jury, after some deliberation, returned a verdict of *Guilty*, with a recommendation to mercy, on the ground that the convict was a woman. His lordship, after the usual proclamation for silence had been made, thus addressed the prisoner at the bar:—*Sarah Westwood*, the result of this long investigation has been to satisfy a most patient and attentive jury that you have been guilty of the crime of wilful murder, and against one whom it was your duty to have cherished and protected instead of to have injured and attacked. I can scarcely conceive a crime

