

THE EXAMINER.

The Ballot.

No. 1559.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1837.

PRICE 5^d.

THE POLITICAL EXAMINER.

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

THE BIRMINGHAM MANIFESTO AND THE MINISTRY.

A Manifesto of the "BIRMINGHAM POLITICAL UNION" to the "REFORMERS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND," is now before us. The document is well-written, and it proceeds from a body which has established a just title to the respectful attention of those to whom it is addressed.

We find, therefore, with not a little pain, in this Address, a line of conduct recommended, with respect to the Ministry, which we cannot but think the Birmingham Political Union has only been induced to sanction by the feelings of irritation produced by the declarations of Lord John Russell,—declarations well calculated, there can be no doubt, to offend Reformers, but which, at the same time, can do the popular interest but slight damage, if Reformers have not the weakness to suffer their resentments to master their discretion.

The Address states, in most explicit language—

"There is no course left you but the unequivocal and absolute relinquishment of the cause of Reform—of your own cause—and the expulsion from office of men who have declared that the success of your cause and their political existence are utterly incompatible."

Now, before the Birmingham Political Union is justified in propounding this alternative, two points ought to be proved:—it ought, in the first place, to be shown that there are no further improvements or extensions of popular privileges to be expected from the present Ministry; and secondly, it ought to be demonstrated, beyond a shade of doubt, that the cause of the people, in every portion of the empire, would be furthered by a restoration of the Tories to power.

The former ground is plainly untenable, Lord John Russell himself having, in the same speech in which he made his weak declarations against the cardinal measures, avowed his readiness to improve the Reform Act in details, to improve the system of Registration, and to amend the Rate-paying Clauses. Any or all of these improvements are, no doubt, of small value compared with the great objects to which Lord John has declared himself opposed; but they still indicate a pretty broad space between Whig and Tory, and to the extent of that space the Whigs are clearly with the people.

Are these, however, the only popular measures which the Whigs are prepared to carry? Is the reform of the Irish Municipal Corporations nothing? Are not the Whigs at least one step in advance of the Tories upon the Irish Church Question? Is there nothing in the sympathy of the Whigs with the grievances of so important a part of the empire as Ireland, to entitle them to rank above the Tories in the estimation of Reformers?

This appears to us an ill-chosen moment to broach the doctrine, that between Whig and Tory there is no difference as to measures. The Irish will scarcely fail to remark that this is a language of which little was heard, until their own more particular interests became the chief objects of Ministers. The Irish will observe—and observe justly—that if the Whigs were worth supporting for the last five years in a series of measures for the benefit of England and Scotland—worth supporting, we say, although known to be opposed to the still more important measures of Triennial Parliaments and the Ballot—they are worth supporting a little longer in their exertions to do Ireland some little service, even though still unprepared to go the whole length of the popular demands.

To proceed now to the second point. The Address, to be sure, denies that the accession of the Tories is a necessary consequence of the downfall of the Whigs; but it does not venture to assert distinctly that a Tory restoration is impossible, and we are therefore entitled to put this question—supposing Sir Robert Peel to be Minister in place of Lord Melbourne, does the Birmingham Political Union mean to say that the change would conduce to the welfare of the United Kingdom?

Now we shall not, in this article, go over again the ground we have travelled so frequently in our controversy with those Reformers who have been designated Tory Radicals. We shall confine ourselves to that part of the Address which refers to Ireland, as we think this is the first serious attempt (and it must be acknowledged to be a bold one) that has been made to enlist the feelings of the Irish Reformers in the campaign against the Whigs.

The Address states—

"Reformers, there are in your ranks a few men more noted for their fears of evil than their aspirations after good; and there are not a few who wear your colours, who are prudent from policy rather than wisdom. These men, while they agree with you in condemning Ministers, would fain neutralize your just indignation, by picturing the consequences of their dismissal. They

will tell you, that if the Whigs go out, the Tories must go in; and they will ask you, whether in that case your last condition will not be worse than your first. They will allow that, so far as England is concerned, even a Tory Ministry could effect but little evil of which a Whig Ministry is not equally capable. But they will deny that the same rule holds good in other parts of the empire. They will tell you to look to Ireland. They will ask what would be the consequence of a return of Tory rule there."

For ourselves, we can say that we do not belong to the class of Reformers here alluded to, who hold, "that so far as England is concerned, even a Tory Ministry could effect but little evil of which a Whig Ministry is not equally capable." Let us take the very worst part of the Ministerial policy for example, that towards Canada; and be it observed that Lord Stanley, on the Tory side, has objected not to the severity of the measures proposed by Government, but that they have not been sufficiently coercive. We hold the difference between the Whigs and the Tories to be this—that the Whigs will not do all the good they might—while the Tories would do all the mischief they could. Again, we have never rested our preference of Whigs to Tories upon Irish grounds merely. It has always been our opinion that the general cause of Reform was better circumstanced for progress under a Government of Liberal tendencies, however feeble, than under a Government illiberal in the grain. This we have held independently of Irish considerations altogether, but we have certainly been strongly confirmed in these views by the vast benefits which Ireland has appeared to enjoy under the present Administration.

We say *appeared*, for it is clear, from the language used in the passage which we proceed to quote, that the Birmingham Union is disposed to differ with the people of Ireland, as to the extent to which that part of the empire has profited by the present Government. The passage is as follows:—

"Reformers, we do look to Ireland; we are most earnestly desirous that full and speedy justice should be meted out to her sons. Are they not our brothers? But we contend, in Ireland as in England, for the establishment of principles, not the dominion of persons; for the permanent sway of equal laws, not for the casual influence of a benevolent governor. The Tories gave to Ireland her Orange Magistrates. The Whigs have been in office for the last seven years, with a power, when exerted in a popular direction, above all precedent: *what attempts have they made to purify the Irish roll of the Peace? what measures have they projected to make Irish Judges responsible, or Irish Juries impartial and effective?* They support Lord Mulgrave: did they not support Lord Anglesea? If Lord Mulgrave had been as cold-hearted as he is kind, and as ignorant as he is enlightened, who will say that Whig favour and Whig protection would not have been extended to him with the same cheerful alacrity? Is there anything in their words or their acts that shows them to be less kindly disposed towards Sir Francis Head and Lord Gosford than towards Lord Mulgrave? And will it for a moment be believed, that they who have so eagerly espoused the cause of oppression and tyranny in Canada, can be sincere in their admiration of good and just government in Ireland? *The present peace of Ireland rests upon a basis which time inevitably must and a thousand accidents may destroy; and are we to be gravely told, that, for the sake of continuing to Ireland so very precarious a blessing, we are to make willing sacrifice of all that we deem essential to the well-being of the empire? But why should Ireland sink in despair in the event of the Tories returning to power?*"

This is, in fact, an appeal to the Irish people against the present Government, which, however, as far as Lord Mulgrave is individually concerned, is admitted to be deserving of the most affectionate support. Upon what grounds, then, does the Birmingham Political Union call upon the people of Ireland to revolt from the Ministry to which they are indebted for so excellent an Administration?

First, because the Whigs have not done certain things, which it is alleged they might have done, to promote the welfare of the Irish people; and secondly, because the peace and other advantages enjoyed under Lord Mulgrave are "precarious blessings," resulting from influences of a casual and fleeting nature.

That the Whigs might have done more for Ireland during the time that they have had the control of her affairs we believe to be true; but the Birmingham address is unfortunate in its selection of the points where the Whigs have been remiss.

What is meant by the question, "What measures have they projected to make Irish Judges responsible?" The responsibilities of the Irish Judges are precisely the same as those of the English. The vice of the Irish Bench consists, not in any want of responsibility, but simply in its composition, and that defect the present Ministry have certainly done all in their power to remedy, by the excellence of their appointments. One month of a Tory Administration would crowd the Irish Bench with men whose lives have been spent in cultivating the hatred of the people; and thus an evil would be done to the character of justice and the cause of peace, which half a century would not counteract.

But what have the Whigs done "to make Irish Juries impartial and effective?" The Birmingham Reformers seem not to be aware that one of the loudest clamours raised against Lord Mulgrave's conduct in Ireland has been founded upon his successful struggle with the Tory Judges respecting the appointments of Sheriffs in Counties. They seem, moreover, not to be aware that a leading feature of the Irish Municipal Reform Bill is a provision for an

improved mode of selecting these important officers in cities and towns. Now, who that understands the functions of a Sheriff, and knows whence the chief complaints against Irish Juries have always proceeded, can say, with these facts before him, that the Whigs have done nothing to make these bodies "impartial and effective."

But "what attempts have they made to purify the Irish roll of the Peace?" To this it may be replied that the ink is scarcely yet dry upon the paper which discharged Colonel Verner from the Magistracy for proposing a factious toast at a public dinner. We are certainly of opinion that more vigour might at sundry times have been used with excellent effect by the Irish Government in the purgation of the commission; but it is going much too far to say that "no attempts have been made to purify it," for, besides the admirable step just referred to, there have been several measures (for instance, the appointments of excellent Stipendiaries) taken with a view to the same object.

The Birmingham Political Union will not fail to notice the curious circumstance, that it has been left to them to detect the grounds of quarrel which Ireland has with the present Ministry. As to the "sincerity," or insincerity, with which the Whigs support Lord Mulgrave, that is not a question with which the Irish people are likely to perplex themselves, as long as they actually enjoy good government, and believe (a belief in which we participate) that the alternative at present is the existing Administration, or an Orange one.

It seems a strange argument that, because "the peace of Ireland rests on a basis which time inevitably must, and a thousand accidents may, destroy," the people of Ireland should, therefore, set small value upon the blessing. Is this the usual course of mankind with the most precarious blessings they enjoy? Ireland is much in the situation of a needy man, who, after many days of hunger, has found a guinea, with which he proceeds to regale himself, and repair the havoc which famine has made in his frame;—would the Birmingham Union recommend such a man to cast the glittering boon of fortune into the next river, because the cost of a few dinners must "inevitably" reduce him again to destitution? The gift of life itself,—what is there more precarious? "Time inevitably must, and a thousand accidents may, destroy it;" yet men only grapple the blessing the more tenaciously when they reflect upon its fleeting nature.

The appeal to the people of Ireland against the existing Ministry, founded on the insecurity of the advantages which Ireland enjoys under it, reminds us of that passage of the "Faery Queen," where Despair urges the Red-crosse Knight to suicide. The arguments of Despair resemble those of the Birmingham Political Union very strikingly. For example—

"Die shall all flesh:—what then must needs be donne,
Is it not better to die willinglie,
Than linger till the glas be all out-ronne?
Death is the end of woes: die soone, O fairie's sonne!"

"Why should Ireland sink in despair," demands the Address, "in the event of the Tories returning to power?" There is no reason, certainly, why Ireland should "despair" in those or any other circumstances; but there is every reason why she should cleave to the first good government she has ever enjoyed, and strain every muscle to avert an event pregnant with calamities of which our worst experience of Toryism in England gives us but a faint conception.

We think those Reformers err grievously who allow themselves to be hurried by irritated feelings against the Whigs into courses which must certainly smooth the return of the Tories to power. We more particularly regret these courses, because they must necessarily be regarded in Ireland as evidences of indifference to Irish interest and ingratitude for the support—the steady and invaluable support—which the Irish Reformers have uniformly afforded us in so many struggles.

The advantages which Ireland has enjoyed under the Government of the last two years are so important, that powerful indeed should be the motives, and clear indeed the prospects of greater benefits, to induce us to expose them to the risk of that destruction which, under a Tory restoration, would be their inevitable fate. Those advantages, as we have urged repeatedly, are not exclusively Irish; although, were such the case, we trust we should still rightly estimate and warmly cherish them. They are advantages in which every part of the empire shares; nor, although resulting from what may be called the accident of a good government, are they for that reason themselves transient. On the other hand, the evils that would ensue upon the re-establishment of the Tories in power in Ireland are such as would be felt by the popular party everywhere; for it is idle to expect that the Irish people, harassed by an Orange Government, and all the instruments of oppression which such a government would set in motion, could render the same services to the general cause that they have been enabled to do under the protection of the law, and with the shield of a paternal ruler over them.

A petition for the Ballot from Shefford, in Bedfordshire, presented by Mr Wakley, after some just observations on the defective working of the Reform Bill, concludes as follows:—

"That with the Ballot they (the petitioners) would be content to abide by the Reform Bill; but if that measure were to be refused, they begged the House to resume the franchise it had conferred, which ought not to be exercised at all unless independently, and which at present rendered the people the objects of cruel persecution and political revenge."

This is the alternative which should be urged in every petition for the Ballot—the protection of the voter, or the resumption of the franchise.

LORD BROUGHAM AND LORD MELBOURNE.

The House of Lords has been enlivened this week by a sharp personal altercation between Lord Brougham and Lord Melbourne. In the course of a speech on the Royal Message relating to the Duchess of Kent, Lord Brougham described her Royal Highness as Queen-mother, upon which Lord Melbourne interrupted him saying, "no, not Queen-mother, the mother of the Queen."

Lord Brougham fired at this correction, thinking it (as he afterwards explained) intended to taunt him with not knowing the language of the Court as well as Lord Melbourne. Anything more boyish than irritation on such a score it would be hard to conceive. And why, if Lord Brougham is so indifferent to Courts as he professes to be, did he treat the fancied insinuation of ignorance of their language as a reproach. But does a man arrogate to himself much converseance with the language of Courts, in correcting the error of Queen-mother for mother of the Queen. As well might it be said that to assert the difference between a horse-chestnut and a chestnut horse implied a pretension to superior skill in horse-flesh or jockey-ship.

Lord Brougham must have had his mind too full of Lord Melbourne's position at Court when he attributed the simple correction in question to the Premier's desire to mark his superiority in courtly matters. But under this obviously erroneous impression Lord Brougham launched forth the following sarcasms:—

"He humbly bowed himself before his more experienced corrector. He confessed he was but rude in speech, but ill versed in terms of courtly etiquette. His noble friend had so much more recently been accustomed to the language of courts than he had, was so much more of the courtier, his tongue was so well hung, and framed and attuned to courtly airs, he was so much better acquainted with the motions of those who glozed and fawned, and bent the knee in courts, that he (Lord Brougham) could not pretend for a moment to compete with the noble viscount in such matters, or to pretend to anything like the same accurate knowledge of courtly phraseology. He, however, knew the difference between a Queen-mother and the mother of the Queen, perhaps as well as the noble viscount."

This attack is as inapplicable as it was unprovoked, for directness, frankness, and manliness are the acknowledged characteristics of Lord Melbourne; and the Court favour he enjoys is probably referable to the very opposite of a courtier's qualities.

Lord Melbourne's retort was perhaps too severe, too directly personal, and it might have been better if he had left the judgment on the justice of the attack to those who knew him, reminding Lord Brougham only that reflections of such a nature did not proceed from him with the best grace:—

"He had certainly taken the liberty of suggesting to his noble and learned friend that he was committing an error in his statement which was certainly not entirely immaterial nor of trifling importance. There was on this subject a very considerable difference between the Queen mother and the mother of the Queen; and he had taken upon himself to make an observation to that effect to his noble and learned friend, and he instantly observed that he was not accustomed to gloze and flatter, and added something about a tongue better hung. He (Lord Melbourne) did not understand anything about hanging a tongue with reference to this matter; but this he would say, and he begged his noble and learned friend to understand, that when he spoke of gloze and flattery and bending the knee, that he (Lord Melbourne) knew no man in this country who could more gloze and flatter and bend the knee than his noble and learned friend; and therefore, when he said that he could not compete with him (Lord Melbourne), he would say that he felt totally unable to compete with him (Lord Brougham) when he had an opportunity, or when he found any occasion to exercise it. (A laugh.)"

Lord Brougham rejoined—

"I positively and solemnly deny, and I call upon the noble viscount to produce his proofs, that I ever in my life did, any more than I ever in my nature was capable of doing, that which the noble viscount has chosen to night, unprovoked, to fling out as a charge against me.—VISCOUNT MELBOURNE: No, no, not 'unprovoked.'—LORD BROUGHAM: I say utterly unprovoked. I spoke in as good-humoured a tone, with as perfectly inoffensive a meaning, as it was possible for man to speak with, or for man to feel, when my noble friend observed, with a contemptuous sort of air, that I should not say 'Queen-mother, but mother of the Queen,' as much as intimating, 'Oh! you know nothing of these things—you don't speak the language of courts.' I said far be it from me to enter into competition with the noble viscount, whose tongue is now attuned and hung to courtly airs. My noble friend answers that by saying he cannot enter into competition with me in hanging of the tongue. It was not the hanging of the tongue I spoke of—it was the attuning of the tongue—the new tune, with recent variations (a laugh), to which his tolerably well-hung tongue had now attained. (A laugh.) But that he should take such an opportunity to level a charge at me which he knows—which he must feel and know when he comes calmly to reflect on it—is utterly and absolutely, and, I may add, notoriously, inapplicable to me, produced in my mind, not unaccustomed to feelings of astonishment of late years, I own, some little degree of surprise. I repeat what I have already said—first, that the imputation or insinuation that I ever in the discharge of my duty stooped to gloze or to bow before or to flatter any human being, much more any inmate of a court, is utterly, absolutely, and, I will add, notoriously, without foundation. The next part of the insinuation is, if possible, equally groundless—that if I had an opportunity of having recourse to these arts, peradventure I should excel in them. I want no such opportunity. If I did, I have the opportunity. I disdain it. No access which I have had has ever, to the injury of others, to the betrayal of duty, to my own shame, been so abused—not even for one instant; and opportunity to abuse it I have; if I were base enough so to avail myself of it."

Lord Melbourne's allusion was probably to that courtly passage in Lord Brougham's life, when he boastfully proclaimed that he wrote nightly by post to the King, and when he was pleased to refer his reception at popular meetings, not to any merit of his own, but solely to the fact that he was the servant of a Monarch who lived in the hearts of his people.

THE GUN-BARREL REPRESENTATIVE.

Mr T. Attwood has amused the House of Commons with one of his fee fa-fum speeches about Russia. The good gentleman is haunted with the notion that Russia may carry the conquest of England some fine day by a *coup de main*. He sees eighty Russian ships of the line off the coast of Norfolk; he sees them at the mouth of the Thames; he sees Sheerness burnt; he sees the Russian navy standing down channel with brooms at their mast heads; and he tells the Speaker of the House of Commons, with undeniable truth, that he has not the power to prevent either the cruise or the broom. He tells the people of England that they could not last autumn have prevented

the Russian navy from coming with a broom and not sweeping Sheerness, for that would have been a friendly service considering the peculiar state of its streets and allies, but burning it. We fear that these are positions not to be denied. There is nothing in a time of peace to prevent any navy, Russian, French, American, from sailing "with a broom" upon any port, and burning it. But yet we feel sufficiently secure against such surprises, and it is commonly thought that such attempts require a preparation which gives ample warning for defence. But against the terrible act of hoisting the broom at the mast-head, the idea of which so scares good Mr Attwood, we admit that no precautions can avail, and it is a catastrophe of which we must take our chance.

Mr T. Attwood's schemes of policy are on as large a scale as his fears. He exhorts us to be prepared for war with all the world, Russia, America, France, Prussia, Austria, and he proposes to strengthen the navy with 20 ships of the line and 20,000 seamen, and if there be any difficulty in procuring the latter, he has a clever plan for turning half the marines into able seamen. How this could be done he has very prudently not explained, because, if Russia could learn how to turn marines into able seamen, it would be much easier for her than it now is to despatch a navy "with a broom" to burn Sheerness; it is enough that Mr Attwood informs us that some one told him that marines might be made sailors of, which is as true as that sailors might be made dragoons, if only caught young enough.

At the slight expense of 20 ships of the line and 20,000 seamen, Sheerness might be secured against destruction by Russian fire in the Autumn season, and Mr Attwood would cease to be tormented with prophetic visions of a Russian navy hoisting a broom in our seas.

He has, however, more than one string to his bow, and if he cannot raise the 20,000 seamen his next expedient for the present safety of Sheerness is to take up the buoys in the Thames, by which, he cunningly adds, the Russians will be prevented from carrying their broom higher up than Tilbury, where they will be brought up all standing. Alack, alack, the worthy gentleman has to learn that the buoyed part of the river is the mouth of it, and that there is not a buoy from the lower Hope to London bridge. Once at Tilbury the difficulties of the navigation would be passed; but to get to Tilbury, it must be confessed, would not be so easy a matter for a foreign navy as hoisting a broom at the mast-head.

Great is the pity that such a prophet as Mr Attwood should be thrown away, according to the common fate of prophets, on their own land. His lot should have been cast amongst that prudent people mentioned by Rabelais, who watched day and night to guard the moon from the wolves.

The member for Birmingham, setting aside his claims to the character of a seer, may be regarded as the representative of the fire-lock interest, and certainly he is quite an enthusiast in his love of war. See the lengths to which he carries his abhorrence of the advocates of peace:—

"He (Mr T. Attwood) recollected some years ago a noble and learned lord, who was then a member of this House, declaring that 'we were bound in a bond of eight hundred millions sterling never to go to war again;' and another hon. member exclaimed, that 'he thanked God that such was the case.' He (Mr Attwood) thanked God that he was not behind the hon. member when he said so, with a *Brummagem sledge hammer in his hand, or the honourable member would never have thanked God again.* (A laugh.)"

The good man calmly says that with a handy tool he would have committed murder on the heinous provocation of a man's thanking God that the nation lies under the necessity of preserving peace. Such is the spirit of the musket interest, the gun-barrel representation.

Lord Palmerston, in a very clever reply to Mr T. Attwood's warlike oration, rendered a just tribute to the services of Lord Durham:—

"The hon. gentleman, not content with the observations which he made in a good-humoured spirit, and with strangling one minister after another—(laughter)—has indulged in remarks entirely unfounded as to the manner in which Lord Durham discharged the duties imposed on him as ambassador to St Petersburg. (Hear, hear.) Nobody can better than myself speak to the fact, because with me my noble friend corresponded, and it was in connection with me that he acted; and I can undertake to say in favour of Lord Durham, that so far from exhibiting an indifference to the honour and interests of this country, it was impossible for any public servant at a foreign court to have served his country with more zeal and firmness. (Cheers.) He has rendered this country very important services, which obtained the sanction of his late Majesty, and for which he has received a very just and merited token of approbation. (Renewed cheers.) The hon. gentleman is entirely mistaken if he thinks that the interests of the country were not guarded as zealously and as firmly in that noble lord's hands as they could have been if entrusted to the care of the hon. gentleman himself. (Hear, hear.)"

THE PROPOSED GRANT TO THE DUCHESS OF KENT.

There is a fallacy, which will be apparent on a little consideration, in the assumption that the 6,000*l.* a-year provided for the education of the Princess Victoria is now so much clear gain to the Duchess of Kent. A very small part of that sum can have been expended in strictly educational uses, and the larger portion must have been required for an establishment on the scale suited to her Royal Highness and the Princess so near the Throne, and the various expenses for charities and public objects incidental and so exalted a position. The cause of the increased scale of the Duchess of Kent's Establishment, and expenses of the kind alluded to, has ceased, it is true; but, according to the customs of the world, could it be expected that the mother of the Queen would

reduce the scale of her establishments and her bounties upon her child's accession to the Throne? Would it be gracious or becoming to compel her to reduce her establishment expressly because her daughter had passed from her threshold to the Throne? Would it be gracious or becoming to expect her Royal Highness to withhold her customary bounties because her daughter has ceased to be a joint party to them since her accession to the Throne? The first fair practical question is, whether the Duchess of Kent could, consistently with what is expected of her, retrench the expenses customary when she was guardian to the Princess, now that she is mother of the Queen? If not, the greater part of the 6,000*l.* a year must be spent as it has heretofore been.

The addition of 8,000*l.* a-year is another question, and it will be fairly tried by considering, not what the Duchess has had, but whether 30,000*l.* a-year is an extravagant income for the country to afford to the mother of the Queen.

We wish the addition had not been asked; but, agreeing with men of all parties that the Duchess of Kent has deserved well of the country, that she has the strongest claims on the public respect and the public gratitude for her admirable education of the Princess who fills the Throne, we do feel the fair presumption—bearing in mind the quiet, modest, dignified, but unostentatious tenor of her Royal Highness's life—that there must be some real exigencies corresponding with the demand now made, and supposing such to be the fact, sure we are that the public will ungrudgingly assent to a grant providing for them.

CRUELTY TO MOTHERS.

Mr Serjeant Talfourd has brought in a bill (the same in substance as that which was introduced by him last session and conducted to a second reading) to give mothers access to their children in cases of the separation of husband and wife. In a very able and eloquent speech Mr Serjeant Talfourd quoted instances of the cruelties practised under the existing law:—

"By the law of England the custody of all legitimate children from the hour of their birth belongs to the father; but what is the situation of the mother with respect to them, if circumstances, however urgent, should drive her from his roof, or to what moral torture she may be legally subjected even if she should linger beneath it. (Hear.) Not only may she be prevented from bestowing upon them in their early infancy those solitudes of love for the absence of which nothing can compensate—not only may she be prevented from tending upon them in the extremity of sickness, but she may be denied the sight of them; and, if she should obtain possession of them by whatever means, may be compelled by the writ of *habeas corpus* to resign them to her husband or to his agents without condition—without hope. (Hear.) That is the law—at least such is its recent exposition by the highest authorities; and how is it enforced? By process of contempt, issued at the instance of the husband against his wife, for her refusal to obey it, under which she must be sent to prison, there to remain until she shall yield or until she shall die. (Hear.) And let it not be supposed that this law is one which is rarely brought into operation. The instances in which it is brought before the public cognizance may be few, but it is ever in the background of domestic tyranny, and is felt by those who suffer in silence. There are, however, examples which are recorded in our law books—cases in which all the miseries of public exposure have been already endured, and the parties are beyond the reach of their renewal—to which, and to which only, I shall allude in detail, and which sufficiently exemplify the workings of this hideous injustice. One of these cases is that of the King v. De Manville, reported in 5 East, 221, which related to a female child, of eight months old, receiving nurture from its mother. She was an Englishwoman, who was, unhappily, married to a foreigner, who had quitted her after gross ill-usage, and who had quitted her taking her infant with her. The husband, by stratagem or force, obtained admittance to the house where she had taken refuge, seized the child at the breast, and carried it off, almost naked, in an open carriage. As the child had been violently removed she applied for a writ of *habeas corpus*. The case was heard on her own statement, as the Court of King's Bench were so clearly of opinion against her that they did not hear the affidavit of the husband in answer, and refused the application, as it did not appear that the child was physically injured for want of nourishment, nor that the husband intended to take it out of the kingdom. And though the Court of Chancery subsequently restrained the father from taking the child abroad, it was wholly without reference to the mother's claim. In Skinner's case (9 Moore, 278) the husband had treated his wife with barbarity; they were separated, he cohabited with a woman named Deverall, and his child, of six years of age, remained in its mother's care. He sued out a writ of *habeas corpus* to take it from her, and on the case being heard before Mr Justice Best, then one of the judges of the Court of King's Bench, a recommendation was made that the rigour of the law should not be enforced, and the child was, by arrangement of the parties, placed in the care of a third person agreed on by them. From this person the father took it by fraud, and gave it into the care of the woman with whom he cohabited, while he himself was a prisoner for debt in Horsemonger-lane jail, to which place this prostitute resorted with the child. In this state of things the mother applied for a writ of *habeas corpus*; the case was heard, and the Court ordered the child to be delivered to its father. (Hear, hear.)"

Other examples to the same shocking effect were cited by the Learned Serjeant, and amongst the miseries of private life there must be many cases of the same revolting nature. In the bill of Mr Serjeant Talfourd the mitigation of the barbarity of which the law permits is so moderate, the concession to humanity, the occasional boon to the purest and strongest of the affections, is so limited, that we can hardly imagine any opposition to the measure. The father's right to the custody of his children will be left undisturbed; the grace craved for the mother is but the occasional privilege of seeing them, and keeping herself alive in their affections. Mr Talfourd eloquently concluded—

"In palliation of these miseries I do not seek to alter the law of England as to the father's right—I do not ask you to place the unspotted matron on a level with the frail mother of illegitimate children, who is by law entitled to their custody while of tender age—I do not seek to restore to infants those habitual influences of maternal love which, through all classes of society, mould the early affections to value, and are now felt and blessed in its most exalted region; but I do ask some mitigation of the mother's lot—some intervals in which forsaken nature may be cheered and waning strength repaired by

the sight of the objects of far-looking hope—some slight control over the operation of that tyranny which one sex has exerted over the helplessness of the other."

Mr Talfourd's motion was ably seconded by Mr Leader.

It seems to be the general opinion that the Spottiswoode Subscription is a breach of the law of the most daring and mischievous nature, but that at the same time the arms of the law are not long enough to reach, or vigorous enough to crush it. We trust, therefore, that the Irish Members, whose seats are thus daringly assailed, will meet with that support and protection from all classes of Reformers, which the profligacy of the attack made upon them, and the unprotected situation in which the law leaves them, alike demand. The authors and abettors of this foul conspiracy against the genuine representatives of the Irish people must not be permitted to enjoy at once both impunity and success. There is yet abundant time to take all the measures that the case requires, amongst which we certainly consider the creation of a defensive fund to be the foremost in importance. When rogues club their money for ends the most unjustifiable, honest men have no alternative but to combine their resources to defeat them. The motives to exertion are of the strongest kind. The plot is nefarious in its scope; its funds are foul extortions from credulous ignorance and abused simplicity; religious intolerance and anti-Irish prejudice are the moving springs of the whole machinery. Every man who values the independence of Parliament and interests of truth, or who desires to preserve relations of concord between the countries, will contribute heartily to abate so grievous a nuisance.

THE TOO COMMON FAULT.

In the tedious correspondence of the Bishop of Exeter with Lord Melbourne, on the subject of the garbled quotation of "the heavy blow and great discouragement to Protestantism,"—the only passage worth notice is an edifying reflection on the "too common fault" of disregard of principle when opposed to expediency, which comes with an exquisite grace from the Divine who, after having employed half his life in writing pamphlets against Catholic Emancipation, obtained his bishopric by advocating the Catholic Relief Bill when proposed by the then Prime Minister, the Duke of Wellington, as a measure of expediency—

"Your inconsistency of sentiments can, I fear, only be attributed to that disregard of principle when opposed to the fancied expediency of the day, which is too common a fault among politicians to require to be visited on your Lordship with extreme severity."

This is tame indeed when compared with the lectures which the *Standard* addressed to Dr Philpotts in 1829, as the man of expediencies. The Bishop ought to have lashed more vigorously the "too common fault," by which he obtained his mitre, for how can people forget how he got his advancement unless he sets the example of forgetting it himself. There is not a more erroneous proverb than that which says that "people who live in glass-houses should not throw stones." People who live in glass-houses (especially if they be Bishops) should do nothing but throw stones, for, seeing them always throwing stones, the good easy public will never suppose that their homes are of glass. Accordingly the Bishop of Exeter, of all Bishops living, should inveigh most incessantly and vehemently against the too common fault of disregarding principle for the expediency of the day.

THE LITERARY EXAMINER.

The Book of the Cartoons. By the Rev. R. Cattermole, B.D. The Engravings by Warren. Rickerby.

The purpose and the execution of this volume are alike admirable. In Mr Cattermole Raffaele has found a critic not unworthy of him, whose heart's core glows with his subject, and in whose fervent words we have little difficulty in "reading" even these wonderful Cartoons, the greatest efforts of the divinest of painters. Mr Cattermole's criticism is not a tame or glib reiteration of the old truisms or sophistications about art, including a sort of vague consciousness of the fine and true which may or may not rank with the common-places; but is the result of that genuine and unforced spirit of love which always includes high conception of the spiritual and the beautiful, and is in itself made up of poetry, philosophy, and religion. It is reserved only for a spirit of this kind to do justice to Raffaele. For the least considerable of that great man's claims, are those which may be strictly called artistic; and hence the professed artists have been his worst critics. "We behold in him," Mr Cattermole truly says, "not only the Italian of the sixteenth century, but the contemporary and denizen of all enlightened times and Christian lands—not the painter merely, but the historian, the poet, the philosopher, the ennobling expounder of human character and emotions in their universal elements." It is high praise to say of the *Book of the Cartoons* that in every line of it Raffaele is so considered, and it is praise richly deserved.

We should be at a loss to determine which class of readers Mr Cattermole's volume will be most acceptable to—those who have the power of looking at the Cartoons themselves, or the larger number of persons who cannot possibly procure access to them. To the latter class its value is obvious, but it is equally if not more deserving of the attention of those who can make the journey to Hampton Court, for all who have ever done so will at once feel the justice of the author's remark—

"The Cartoons do not, in general, at first view delight the spectator, or

extort unthinking admiration by superficial and alluring beauties. Without any of the obvious artifices of arrangement—without striking brilliancy of colour, or violent contrasts of light and shade—without extravagance or exaggeration of any kind—they are calculated to disappoint those who seek nothing further in this highly intellectual art than the mere gratification of the eye; while into the mind even of the patient and reflective student, a sense of their supreme excellence only finds its way by degrees: commencing in something like a chill of surprise, that to performances of such a sober character the first place in the first rank of the art should have been assigned, but increasing in brightness by its own light, as it proceeds, it can scarcely, nevertheless, stop short, in such a mind, of an ardent and affectionate though calm admiration."

We may quote, as a specimen of the treatment of the volume even in the more strictly artistic sense, from the description of the death of Ananias—

"The head fallen backward on the shoulder, as if from apoplectic dizziness and insupportable weight—the distorted eyes, and the countenance darkening in death—the failing of the muscular limbs, express with such lively truth the suddenness and violent progress of the terrible infliction, that the spectator almost expects to behold the miserable being stretched, in one instant more 'a blackened corse,' on the pavement, and to hear his expiring groan. In common with all the principal characters in these compositions, truth of expression—not in the features only, but diffused in just gradation over the whole person, distinguishes this admirable figure. Its excellence is hardly less striking, as regards anatomical correctness of drawing: we would refer, in particular, to the throat, the shoulder, and the arms, especially the wrist of the right arm, doubled beneath the supine weight of the body. Nor are the coarseness and vulgarity of the features without a meaning; and a deeper meaning than the mere display of picturesque contrast to the nobler countenances of the apostles. Raffaele's taste was too pure, and his observation of human nature too accurate, to suffer him to adorn such a character as Ananias with the attractions of even physical beauty. As comporting with a deed of cunning and impiety, he has chosen

"That base aspect

Apt, liable to ill:—"

an example worthy the consideration, not only of those artists who ambitiously lavish on all their personages indiscriminately, a kind of conventional *academic* beauty; but also of certain poets and novelists, who delight in the monstrous alliance of an angelic exterior with the moral qualities of demons."

The "engravings by Warren" are not in all respects what we could have wished, but they have at least as much merit as many of higher pretensions. Mr Cattermole, we may add, furnishes the print collector with a hint which we have reason to know the truth and value of—

"Dorigny's are still the best engravings that have been executed from these inestimable performances, notwithstanding the more careful labours of the late respected and ingenious Mr Holloway, and his able coadjutors. For though Dorigny's prints may occasionally fall below those of his modern rivals, in accuracy of outline, as they unquestionably do in elaborate nicety of finish, yet they are superior in regard to the expression of that exquisite freedom of handling, which distinguishes those parts at least of the originals which were actually executed by the pencil of Raffaele. After the publication of Dorigny's, his assistant, Dubose, likewise produced a set of prints from the Cartoons, of considerable merit, on a scale between that of Dorigny and the miniature size of Gribelin."

We cannot imagine a more beautiful or a more appropriate gift book for this season than the *Book of the Cartoons*.

Morals from the Churchyard; in a Series of cheerful Fables. With Illustrations by H. K. Browne. Chapman and Hall.

This neat little volume is a very pretty companion to Mrs Austen's "Story without an End," written in the same agreeable style of mixed liveliness and tenderness, and illustrated with several charming engravings on wood from designs of a very superior character.

The object of the fable is to exhibit a moral estimate of human pursuits adapted to the minds of children, and to show that, finally, nothing can stand the test of that universal leveller, the grave, excepting virtue and religion. There is a slight touch of Calvinism here and there in the execution, but it is excellent on the whole. The manner is healthy and cheerful, as a child's book should be, and a vein of actual human interest gives life and shape to the allegory.

But a short passage from the "History of the Little Child's Grave," will illustrate the contents better than our description—

"Now, in a corner of the churchyard, under the stone wall, and by the side of a China rose, was a young child's grave. A little grave it was, lying by itself; yet was there a small path up to it; for the child's mother oftentimes came thither in secret of an evening, when the place was still. Many daisies also grew upon it, for, albeit the mother knew it not, yet did many young angels consort thither, bringing live daisies, which they love, and causing them to blow in the same place many times over again. This little grave was loved by the old grave under the yew, for he perceived how it was visited by angels; therefore he bade it speak to the other graves, that they might learn its excellence. So the little grave spoke and said—'Behold, I am the last made of you all, and ignorant of many things! yet do the angels visit me, and oftentimes I hear the rustling of their wings about me. I am the resting-place of young Christian innocence. My tenant, gathered like a virgin rose, felt not the blight of the world ere it died. Sweet was the last sigh of the little Christian on his mother's breast; pleasant his smile, as he sank smoothly away without a stain. Remember ye not his baptism at the holy font, and the sacred cross on his small forehead? How tenderly his mother bore him along to his second birth. She folded him close in her arms, close from the rude wind. The angels followed behind unseen. Now his young limbs are decayed; his bright blue eye has been eaten by worms; therefore do, mortals, blame me, who cover so sweet a thing; albeit, in truth, I am nothing less than the garner of its immortality; for the time shall come when the graves shall be opened, and then I also, who am but a little grave, will reveal my treasure. Judge, then, if I be not equal with you, inasmuch as I am the grave of innocence.'

"Thus spoke the little grave; but the others graves answered and said, 'The grave of innocence is a worthy grave, but innocence which hath never been tempted, equalleth not the innocence which hath survived temptation. Justly, then, do the angels deck thee with daisies; yet more justly would be decked the grave of one, who, after much tribulation, had reached heaven.' And the old grave said, 'My friends, I remember the little child. His mother carried him about. She made for him a red cloak. When it was summer his sister drew him along in a little cart. His face bloomed with health, the glad promise of many years. He knew not the meaning of a grave. But God took him to himself

so the little child died. Yet does the mother take care of the cart still, and the little red cloak hangs on the peg."

Mr H. K. Browne is the artist of the *Pickwick Papers*, and as such happily associated with the enjoyment of many thousands of readers. His designs in this little volume show a charming power of a graver cast, and one which needs only to be properly cultivated to raise him very high in his profession.

THEATRICAL EXAMINER.

DRURY LANE.

The few words we gave the other week to Mr Balfe's opera of *Joan of Arc* have been quoted in the playbills of this theatre, among the notices of other papers, as *praise*. But for this circumstance, which has not, however, at all surprised us, we should have thought it needless to say a word more about the opera in question, for the thing is so utterly worthless that criticising it at all is a loss of time. We shall now merely place our opinion a little more emphatically on record, that hereafter there may be no mistake about it.

Thus much, then. We have described the verse and prose part of the production as the merest trash, but we must add that we are not unwilling to acquit Mr Balfe in this opera of that old charge of plagiarism to which by this time he must be pretty well accustomed. *It is all his own*—that is, unless some unhappy publisher, "duped by a name," has already pledged himself to exchange notes with him. The exception we allude to is in the duet between *Badet* and *Renaud* in the third act, which is nearly note for note a copy of Coccia's comic duet "Mentre Francesco." In the original the music is pretty enough, and is adapted to the words; but in *Joan of Arc* it is quite clear that the effect of imitating such a "motivo" must be truly ridiculous, being set to words descriptive of the taking of a fortress, which of course has an immense deal to do with Coccia's original idea of concocting a basin of broth.

Mr Balfe's school of writing has always been founded upon the very worst model, namely, that introduced by the successors and puerile imitators of Rossini (a long list of worthies), and this *Joan of Arc* is a rare instance of how far such a school may be carried, where sound is substituted for sense, jumps and unmeaning flights for tender expression, and noise and clamour for dignity and grandeur. *Joan of Arc* is, in short, the worst of this author's productions, and we hope it may be the last we shall be doomed to listen to. If anybody should deem we are severe or prejudiced, let them buy a book of the opera, and (always attending to the meaning of what is attempted to be conveyed therein) try and sit it out for one evening.

We take the following passages (they are the first that occur to us, and will serve as a pretty just criterion of the whole) as specimens of adaptation of music to words, and as proving the subtle intellect and refined imagination of this "Great Master." In the third act *Joan* has to sing the following words:—

"My name amidst thy peaceful vales,
Must, like those flow'rs, decay,
And, in its dawn of early Spring,
So fall! so fade away!"

Now this is poor enough in its way; but what would the enthusiastic public think (if they were not too idle to search for the truth) of a composer who shall to the last strain of this verse introduce an accompaniment of *cymbals*!! Such is the fact.

Again, *Theodore* sings—

"Peace to the souls of the brave!
In brighter spheres rewarded—
Sweet pity's tear bedew their grave!
Their deeds by Fame recorded!"

Any common-place person might suppose that the melody adapted to these words would assume a plaintive character, and that the accompaniments ought to express something of this feeling also; but this is an ignorant mistake, at least so Mr Balfe would have us believe, for the air he has set to these words is positively in jumping allegro time, and with a *drum* accompaniment to boot!!!

Yet this is nothing; we might multiply instances like these at every tenth bar; in fact, from beginning to end the whole thing is an outrage upon common sense. We should advise the management (*seriously*) to withdraw it for a time, and get some clever person on the establishment, as soon as possible, to turn the thing into a pantomime, for which we think some of the music might serve, and no doubt this would be the means of saving a great deal of expense at Christmas, in dresses, decorations, &c. &c. The overture certainly, and the opening chorus (introduced just before the *Harlequin* and *Clown* change their dresses) would do admirably for a *Jack and the Bean Stalk*, and the symphony to "The Peace of the Valley," on the cornopean, as it is now written, might be played as *Jack* goes up the bean ladder. The finale, too, being a *waltz*, would do exceedingly well as the finale to the pantomime, and then the *corps dramatique*, as a novelty, might sing and waltz at the same time.

The *Daughter of the Danube* continues to be played. The dancing is excellent, and Mr Wieland is really a man of genius in his way.

HAYMARKET.

On Thursday night an original domestic drama (advertised in the bills as the work of one Mr Frederic Lawrance) was produced at this house, and was received in play-bill phraseology with "roars of laughter"—meeting, in short, with a reception which would have been most delightful to the author's feelings if the piece had been

intended to be funny, but which (his intention apparently being that it should be very affecting) was calculated to awaken feelings of quite an opposite description in his mind—if he has such a thing about him, which we rather doubt.

The *dramatis personæ* are *Pierre Bertrand* (Mr Ranger), an amiable Frenchman, reduced to the small but honourable independence derivable from breaking stones for the parish; *Albert*, his friend (Mr Hutchings); *Colonel Lacy*, everybody's friend (Mr Strickland); *Hardheart*, nobody's friend and an overseer (Mr Ray); *Richards*, a landlord (Mr Worrell); *Trusty*, a servant (Mr T. F. Mathews); *Madame Clement*, amourning bride of eight and twenty years' standing (Mrs Glover); and *Agnes Lacy*, a ballad singer of private life (Mrs Waylett).

The plot is by no means complicated. *Pierre* speaks broken English, walks about in muddy inexpressibles and no linen; and in the absence of a flannel waistcoat wears next his heart the picture of an unknown mother, who gave him up to a tutor who never told him who he was and becoming naughty left him to take care of himself. In this stage of his fortunes the pupil took to making love and gaming, and becoming poor forsook the young lady and took to sentimentalising and stone-breaking. Well; he gets very poor indeed, and then his landlord comes for his rent, and as he can't pay it wonders why he don't go out with his flageolet (for he has a flageolet which all parties had forgotten) and play under the windows of the nobility and gentry. Upon this *Pierre* goes into transports and out with the flageolet, and playing in the streets receives a shilling's worth of half-pence instantly to go away, and is going away, when a servant comes out and says he must come in and see his missis, for his missis is fond of vagrants, especially French vagrants, and requests the honor of his company. He goes in accordingly, and is introduced to an elderly lady of a stout figure, with a damp pocket-handkerchief, who first asks him to take a glass of wine and then to tell his history, which he does, and pending its relation the stout lady becomes agitated and asks what his name is, and he says what his name is, and the stout lady screams, and holding out a miniature says that's his father, and *he* screams, and holding out a miniature says that's his mother, and the stout lady says "that's me," and the son says "oh!" and the mother says "my son!" and the son says "my mother!" and, they are just going to fall into each others arms when a noise is heard in the street, upon which they each strike an attitude and look—as people always do upon the stage when unaccountable noises are heard—into the flies for an explanation. Now this noise is no other than a verse of a song, sung by a young lady whom the old lady is very fond of, because, being low-spirited, her sad songs console her, and who, having knocked a double knock, is just passing away the time by singing as loud as she can in the street until the door is opened; and the young lady comes in all pretty and unconscious, and screams out very loud, for the flageolet player is her long lost lover, and then the stout lady looks up at the place where the chandelier ought to be, and clasps her hands and joins theirs. And finally they sit down in chairs, and the stout lady says that she was unfortunately obliged to desert her son, because if she hadn't, her husband couldn't have got a situation at Court, which could only be held by a bachelor, to which the son replies that he is perfectly satisfied, and begs she won't mention it. A letter arrives in the very nick of time to say that the old gentleman who was supposed dead (why, the supposers best know) is alive, and, having made his fortune, is coming home by the next coach; whereupon another old gentleman, apparently insane, habited in a blue surtout, and agitated without cause, rushes in and going up to the stage lights without ever stopping, says that's the reward of honour and affection and runs back again with a bow as the curtain falls.

Of all the insults ever offered to the understanding of an audience this is the greatest.

The production of such wretched despicable trash is disgraceful to Mr Webster, and most unworthy treatment of the clever actors and actresses who are compelled to utter the mawkish absurdities set down for them. "What's in a name?" observes Mr Frederic Lawrance, indignantly. "Everything. Nothing is to be done without one." We know one, at all events, by which nothing will ever be done, and that is the name of Mr Frederic Lawrance.

We had almost omitted to make mention of Mr Ranger, whom we are most anxious to see in some better character. He is evidently possessed of great intelligence; is easy, and gentlemanly, and, to all appearance, well accustomed to the stage. He appears to possess every requisite for genteel comedy, and we trust may be found an able and efficient representative of many characters which at present have no representative at all.

THE PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Monday, Dec. 11.

Lord MELBOURNE presented the following message from her Majesty:—
"V. R.—Her Majesty, taking into consideration the provision made by law for the support of her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent, her Majesty's beloved mother, recommends this subject to the care and attention of their lordships, and relies with full confidence on the zeal and loyalty of the House of Lords to adopt such measures for the future provision of her Royal Highness as her rank and station, and her increased proximity to the throne, may seem to require." The message was ordered to be taken into consideration the following day.

A short conversation then took place on the subject of negro apprenticeship, in which Lord Brougham, Lord Glenelg, and the Earl of Aberdeen took part.

The royal commission was afterwards read, appointing the Earl of Shaftesbury and Lord Denman to act as deputy speakers in the absence of the Lord Chancellor; after which their lordships adjourned.

Tuesday, Dec. 12.

The municipal officers' declaration bill was read a second time.

On the motion of Lord MELBOURNE the house then proceeded to consider the royal message in regard to an additional provision for the Duchess of Kent, on account of her increased proximity to the throne. His lordship afterwards moved that their lordships should return a general address in answer to the message respecting the Duchess of Kent, expressive of their readiness to concur in any measure which might appear necessary and fitting for carrying it into effect. After some observations from Lord Ellenborough as to the proper time for voting the address, which were answered by Lord Melbourne, the Duke of WELLINGTON expressed himself quite certain—

"That there was no intention in the mind of any noble lord to throw any obstacle in the way of the address; for when their lordships recollected the care which her Royal Highness had taken of her royal daughter, during many years, too, while she was left without any provision for the expenses attending that care, he felt sure that there was not a noble lord present who would hesitate for a moment in acceding to the address."

Lord BROUGHAM thought, before they pledged themselves to an augmentation of the income of the Duchess of Kent, they should be put in possession of the fact as to what her Royal Highness's real income was. The noble and learned lord observed that, looking merely at the different statutes having relation to her income, it was impossible to understand whether her actual income at the present moment was 16,000*l.* or 22,000*l.* In 1831 10,000*l.* was granted to her Royal Highness; but of that sum 4,000*l.* only was granted to her absolutely for her own use during her own life, the other 6,000*l.* being granted to her Royal Highness during the joint lives of herself and the Princess Victoria, and being expressly granted in consideration of the additional expense which devolved on her in respect of the care, education, and maintenance of her royal daughter, the natural interpretation was, that the 6,000*l.* should cease when the Princess Victoria ceased to be this charge on her illustrious mother. For anything they knew, too, observed the noble and learned lord, the civil list to be voted to her Majesty might be such as to render it quite unnecessary to grant any enlarged provision; and it might be as well to ascertain whether, after providing for the due support of the royal dignity out of the revenues ordinarily made available for such a purpose, no surplus would remain for other purposes. Referring to the civil list, his lordship doubted the propriety of entering into any arrangement for half a century, when they could not say what future prices or the state of society might be; and they had the experience of the reign of George III to show that the arrangement was only binding on one party—that if too much was given there was not the slightest chance of any abatement, whereas if the grant were thought too small it might be enlarged.—Lord MELBOURNE observed, in reply, that the acts referred to had been carefully examined by the noble and learned lord on the woolsack and the law officers of the crown, and they had given it as their opinion that the Duchess of Kent was entitled to the whole of the 22,000*l.*; and it was the intention of government to propose an addition of 8,000*l.*—making in all 30,000*l.*, and it did not appear to him that such a grant could, by any noble lord, or by the country, be deemed extravagant. Respecting the suggestion that it might be proper to postpone the address until it was clearly ascertained what the income of her Majesty was from its various sources, he begged his noble and learned friend clearly to understand that it was the intention of her Majesty's government to give an account of the revenues of the Duchies of Lancaster and Cornwall, and to lay aside all secrecy with regard to them; but at the same time they did not intend to advise the crown to make a renunciation of them, for reasons which he should be prepared to state when the matter came regularly under discussion; but if, when the accounts of these revenues were before the house, any noble lord thought that the provision to be made for her Majesty was too large, let him come forward and say so, and the government would then understand what was meant. It was their intention, however, to proceed with the civil list when it came before the house in the manner in which they had always dealt with it since the revolution. In the course of this debate a personal discussion arose between Lords Brougham and Melbourne, which is noticed elsewhere, and the debate closed by Lord Brougham observing—

"He would content himself then with entering his protest against the house pledging itself to follow any specific course. His noble friend had taunted him by desiring to divide the house. He knew that this would be needless; for, if he did so, he should probably have nobody to tell. He should probably stand alone, even if the augmentation had been proposed to be 24,000*l.*; but still he must protest against the house being pledged to any course without the fullest information. In point of fact, the additional allowance proposed to be given amounted to 14,000*l.* His noble friend said that the present allowance to the Duchess of Kent was 22,000*l.*; but it should be recollected that 6,000*l.* of this amount was voted for the additional expense that would be incurred for the education of the Princess Victoria, which charge had ceased. In addition, therefore, to this sum it was now proposed to make a new grant of 8,000*l.* a year. Some noble lords might probably think that there could not be too large a grant; they, of course, would not think 14,000*l.* a year in addition too much. In conclusion, he would only once more protest against their pledging themselves in the dark."

—Their lordships soon after adjourned.

Thursday, Dec. 14.

The Earl of RADNOR gave notice, that on Thursday next he should call the attention of the house to the subject of the statutes and bye-laws of the universities of Oxford and Cambridge, and after some other unimportant business the house adjourned.

Friday, Dec. 15.

Lord RADNOR presented a petition from all the principal publishers, booksellers, and printers of London, praying for a general reduction of the rate of postage; and Lord BROUGHAM, a petition from the city of London, praying that the provisions of the "municipal officers declaration bill" might be extended to every class of dissenters. The same noble and learned lord presented a petition from the prisoners in the Fleet, for the bill to abolish imprisonment for debt. His remarks called up Lord ABINGER, who stated what we believe to be grossly incorrect—namely, that the number of prisoners for debt at present in the Fleet prison was 105, and of these there was not one who might not long ago have obtained his discharge under the insolvent debtors' act, if there were not some circumstances connected with his property or his conduct which prevented him from availing himself of the provisions of that law.—The petition was laid on the table, and the house adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Monday, Dec. 11.

Mr FIELDEN, after presenting a petition from the handloom weavers of Manchester, gave notice that on the 22d inst. he should bring the distress of that class of artisans under the consideration of the house.

In answer to a question from Mr LEADER, Lord J. RUSSELL stated that Lord Gosford had expressed a wish to resign the government of Canada, and permission had been given to him to return. The government of the colony would in the meantime devolve upon Sir J. Colborne, but no successor had yet been appointed.

Mr O'CONNELL gave notice that immediately after the recess he would proceed with his bill regarding controverted elections, and would also introduce a bill for abolishing the religious tests administered as a qualification to office.

Sir F. BURDETT gave notice that soon after the recess he would move an investigation into the circumstances which had occurred at Rathcormac some

years ago. The hon. baronet stated that he gave that notice in consequence of notices to the same effect having been repeatedly given in 1835 by another member, Mr O'Connell, but never moved upon by that gentleman.

Sir G. SINCLAIR asked Lord John Russell whether any measure would be brought forward respecting Irish tithes, and his lordship answered without hesitation, that the measure would be forthcoming after the recess. What followed? observes a writer in the *Chronicle*. A hearty laugh at the expense of Sir George Sinclair; for Mr O'CONNELL, in turn, inquired of the hon. baronet if he were desirous of settling the tithe question? and received a reply in the affirmative. "Then," added Mr O'Connell, "the hon. baronet must satisfy the people of Ireland, for there is no other way of settling the tithe question." Sir George dropped into his seat, and we are sure heartily wished that he had never risen from it. He had not another word to say, and probably some time will elapse before he puts another question.

A message from her Majesty to the same effect as that communicated to the lords was communicated by Lord John Russell, and ordered to be taken into consideration the next day.

The house then went into committee on the civil list acts, when the sum of 385,000*l.* annually for the support of the royal household, together with the additional sum of 10,000*l.* for the household servants, was granted to her Majesty; and also an annual sum, as pensions on the civil list, to the extent of 1,200*l.* a year.

The poor relief (Ireland) bill was read a second time, and Lord J. RUSSELL said that he did not intend going into committee on the bill until the 16th of February.

Mr FIELDEN then called the attention of the house to the recent disturbances at Bradford, on the occasion of the introduction of the poor law amendment act, and moved for various returns. In the course of the conversation that followed, every member who spoke intimated an opinion that it was unwise at present to apply the new poor law to the manufacturing districts.

The house adjourned at 8 o'clock.

Tuesday, Dec. 12.

Among the petitions presented was one (by Mr Harvey) from Glasgow, complaining that the weavers charged with conspiring at Glasgow unduly to raise wages had been twice brought to the bar to take their trials, and that the trials were then postponed, by which proceeding on the part of the crown the prisoners had been put to great expense.—The LORD ADVOCATE admitted that delay had occurred, but it was necessary on account of the difficulty of obtaining the requisite information. He contended that the government had acted fairly and properly.—The petition was laid upon the table.

Mr O'CONNELL gave notice that, on the motion for going into committee on the poor relief (Ireland) bill, he would move that it be committed that day six months.

Mr LYNCH obtained leave to bring in a bill to enable married women, with the consent of their husbands, to pass their interests in chattels personal.

Mr BORTHWICK moved for papers connected with the convention of Evora Monte, which were ordered, Lord J. RUSSELL having stated that there was no objection to their production.—Colonel EVANS, after noticing the diminution in the alacrity evinced during his absence from the country to bring his character and conduct under notice, stated that immediately after the recess he would himself bring the subject forward. After some further conversation the subject dropped.

Mr A. WHITE then called attention to a statement made on a previous occasion by the hon. member for North Durham (Mr Liddell), to the effect that, "in Sunderland relief had been withdrawn from two hundred unhappy children, who were thus left destitute, and that dark rumours were afterwards abroad about children being found dead; and that although no cases of murder had been brought home to any parties, it had been more than suspected that many of them had been deserted by their mothers to starvation." Mr White stated that in a population of 60,000 persons there had been only one inquest on a case of infanticide during three years, and, after reading resolutions agreed to by the board of guardians of the Sunderland union, also denying the truth of the statement, moved for a copy of the correspondence between the board of guardians and the poor law commissioners in London.—Mr LIDDELL entered into some explanation of his former statement, which was not very intelligible. He complained of having been misrepresented by the *Morning Chronicle*, and yet it was impossible to make out in what particular he had been misrepresented.—Mr HUME distinctly affirmed subsequently that his impression of the speech of Mr Liddell agreed with that conveyed by the report. The hon. gentleman (Mr Liddell) himself allowed, with respect to the phrase "dark rumours," that he had "listened with credulity to the whispers of fancy," and that he ought never to have employed it.—Mr Liddell displayed considerable soreness under the castigation he received from all quarters, especially from Mr Lambton.—Alderman Thompson affirmed that the hon. member had been imposed upon; but Mr Liddell strenuously refused to give up his authority. The documents for which Mr A. White moved were ordered to be laid upon the table.

After some further unimportant business, the house then resolved itself into a committee of supply, when the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER moved as a resolution, "That her Majesty be enabled to grant an additional yearly sum not exceeding 8,000*l.* out of the consolidated fund, for a more adequate provision for her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent." The right hon. gentleman in opening the subject observed—

"He did hope that the kind feeling which was expressed in her Majesty's most gracious message and the consideration which her Majesty felt for her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent would not only extend itself over the country, but that another feeling would pervade that house, a feeling not only of respect but of attachment to her royal highness on her own account, for her personal character, and a feeling of the deep obligation which that house and the country owed to that illustrious princess for the manner in which she had educated the reigning Queen of England (cheers), for the protection which she had cast over her childhood in the trying circumstances in which she was placed, for the sedulous care which she had taken of the education of her Majesty, a feeling which would be increased from the consciousness which pervaded all classes, that the country was now in the enjoyment of the success attending this excellent training. (Hear, hear.)"

The Chancellor of the Exchequer then went into a very interesting detail of the circumstances of the Duchess of Kent since her connection with this country. We give an extract from this portion of his speech—

"Upon the Duke of Kent's marriage, a jointure of 6,000*l.* was voted to her royal highness. In the year 1829 her royal highness and the country were deprived of the duke, who in that year died, and at that period her royal highness had no other income than the 6,000*l.*; and even for some months after the decease of the duke, in consequence of some defect in the settlement of the income, she could not receive this; and thus she would have been left without one farthing, having given up her own income, but for some private assistance which she obtained. Under the will of the duke her royal highness was entitled to much personal property which was bequeathed to her. He might state to the house, and he felt little hesitation in doing so, for it was already well known, that his royal highness died in embarrassed circumstances. What then was the conduct of the duchess? She abandoned the claim which she might have sustained under the will, and which was available, and she gave the whole up to the liquidation of the debts of her deceased husband. Her royal highness continued from 1820 to 1825 filling the position which was her own by the rank conferred upon her by her marriage, and in the receipt of the income only of 6,000*l.* derived from the public. He need only appeal to honourable members, who would be able to form a judgment as to how far that was adequate for the purpose of maintaining the rank and station which she held, and of supporting her family (hear, hear); and he must state to the house that during these years her royal

highness was able only to support the position which she held by a contribution which she received from his Majesty the present King of the Belgians. He stated this not only in honour and in praise of the royal individual to whom he had referred, but also in explanation of the facts. The circumstance was stated to the house in the year 1825 by a noble friend of his, Lord Ripon, and it was then stated that the amount of contribution thus made to her royal highness by her brother was 3,000*l.* per annum. He would say, and he was really of opinion, that the public had better have looked to the case of her royal highness than that she should thus have been assisted. She was left on the death of her husband without furniture, without outfit, and without any further credit in the world than her name enabled her to obtain. In the year 1825 the matter was again brought before parliament, and then an additional sum was granted; and from that time to the year 1831 the annual sum which her royal highness received was 12,000*l.* In 1825 Lord Goderich stated that, soon after the death of the Duke of Kent, Lord Londonderry was asked whether it was the intention of government to propose an additional grant to the Duchess of Kent. His answer was that he did not think it necessary at that moment, inasmuch as Prince Leopold had expressed his intention of contributing to the maintenance of her royal highness and her child. Mr Canning, on the 27th of May in the same year, said, 'In the case of the Duchess of Kent the parties agreed in the propriety of the grant, and if government had anything to answer for, it was for not having proposed it sooner. There could not be a greater compliment to her royal highness than to state the great unobtrusiveness of her life, and that she had never made herself the object of the public gaze, but had devoted herself to the education of that child whom the country were now called on to adopt.' In 1831, when Lord Grey was at the head of the administration, a formal proposition on the subject of the income of the Duchess of Kent was brought before parliament. Up to this time the contribution from Prince Leopold had continued, and the assistance was still from time to time afforded the duchess, but Lord Grey's government proposed to this house the grant of an additional 10,000*l.* to her royal highness, by which her total income would then be 22,000*l.*; and this having been voted, that sum was now annually received by the duchess."

The right hon. gentleman proceeded next to explain that of this 22,000*l.* a certain portion, 6,000*l.*, had been settled for the life, not of the Duchess herself, but of the Queen; so that in the probable event of the daughter surviving the mother, the annuity would continue to exist and be disposable by the mother's will; but in return for the new grant the Duchess would give up all right to the pension after her own death. Mr Rice then continued—

"He believed that this was the first instance since the reign of Henry VII in which there had been a princess placed in the exact position of the Duchess of Kent, for in all instances the person had either held the rank of Princess Dowager of Wales, or of Queen Dowager. He referred to this circumstance because, if the Duchess of Kent had been placed in either of these situations, provision would necessarily have been made for her support to a much larger extent than he even now proposed. There had been various recent cases in which such provisions had been made, and he found that in 1761 the jointure of Queen Charlotte was fixed at 60,000*l.*; in 1795 the allowance to Caroline, then Princess of Wales, was fixed at 50,000*l.*; while in 1831 that of the present Queen Dowager was fixed at 100,000*l.* In further considering the question, he would point out that he had already laid before the house the fact of the Duchess having received 50 per cent. upon the income which she derived from the public from the Prince Leopold; and in alluding to this the house must be quite aware of the circumstances attending the granting a sum to that prince for his support, and also his surrender of it. By a generous renunciation of his rights by the King of the Belgians a saving of 180,000*l.* had already been effected to the nation; and he could say that a nicer discrimination could not have been evinced than that which was exercised by that prince—for while he reserved to himself the right of apportioning a certain sum to be distributed in this country in charitable uses, he gave up the whole of the surplus of his income to the nation from which he derived it. (Hear, hear.) He had stated these facts of the case rather because he thought it was his duty to bring them forward than that he imagined that there would be any disinclination or reluctance on the part of the house to exhibit the high sense which every hon. member must feel of the admirable qualities and conduct of the Duchess of Kent. The best proof of that feeling having at a former time been entertained was the trust which, at the accession of his late Majesty, had been reposed in her royal highness. He alluded to the passing of an act drawn up with more than common care and attention, and attracting more than ordinary notice, recommended in the other house, introduced by one government, adopted by another, and agreed to by both, by which all showed their sense of the character of the Duchess of Kent, and their implicit reliance upon her conduct, founded on past services, by voting unanimously that she should be regent to her daughter, her present Majesty, in the event of her succeeding to the throne before she should have attained her majority. The words of the preamble of the act even imported the high respect entertained for her royal highness, for they declared that the enactments which it contained were in order to secure to the people that civil and religious liberty which had been enjoyed by them during the reigns of his then present and his late Majesty. A greater tribute than this could not have been paid to her royal highness's character, and it sufficiently proved the high esteem in which she was held, and the confidence which was had in her in the event of her being called upon to act in the administration of the affairs of the country."

The right hon. gentleman concluded—

"If there were any honourable gentlemen who looked forward with hope and with expectation and delight to the prospect which was presented to them by the character of her present Majesty, there was no one amongst them who did not know that the formation of that character had been the care of her august mother, to whom the charge of her education had been given; and he was sure that hon. members would mark in the most fitting manner the sense in which they estimated her royal highness's conduct in this particular. He could show, by reference to the cases of the Duke of Clarence and others, that the income now proposed was infinitely less than that which had been voted on former occasions; and he might be allowed to state that, in fact, the utmost increase of charge to the public would be 2,000*l.* a year. That sum would be more than covered by the cessation of the annuity of 6,000*l.* enjoyed by Prince George of Hanover, which expired in June last."

No opposition in a formal way was offered to the motion. Mr Hume, indeed, was of opinion that the application might as well have been forborne; but he did not deny that even a much larger sum would have been well spent to secure such advantages as we now enjoy in the rule of a Sovereign who has been so admirably instructed in all that belongs to her sex and to her station. He did not press his objection to the vote, for the sake of disturbing unanimity; and as to the question of mere economy, Mr Wynn went beyond him, both in his resistance and in the strength with which he enforced it. This right hon. gentleman was also extremely critical on the words of the resolution, "increased proximity to the throne," and argued, in a style that would have better become Sir E. Sugden, that the Duchess of Kent was, in fact, no nearer the throne than before her daughter ascended it; as if "increased proximity" had been used with reference to the right of succession. The Duke of Sussex, whose income has not been augmented, has, in a lawyer's sense of the terms, acquired "increased proximity to the throne." Sir E. Sugden did afterwards speak upon the question, and purely upon a point of law (we mean with reference to the annuity of 6,000*l.* to the Duchess of Kent, dependent upon the life of the Queen) which he utterly mistook, and of which he was set right by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Sir R. Peel "cheerfully concurred" in the resolution, but complained that when the civil list was brought forward no notice was given of any intention to increase the income of the Duchess of Kent; however, the only inconvenience he could point out was, that some members had left town who might have been glad to give their acquiescence on the present occasion. Sir F. Trench spoke of the supposed debts of the Duchess of Kent, just as if he were in the secret of their existence, when not a syllable had been uttered about them by any one but himself. He did not profess to be a friend of her royal highness; but he ought to have been, in order, as Mr Finch remarked, to illustrate the saying, "save me from my friends." Lord J. Russell informed the house, as it would have readily believed without the information, that her royal highness had expressed her earnest wish that no proposition should be made to parliament that would not meet with the most general concurrence. When the question

was put the resolution was agreed to unanimously, neither Mr Home nor Mr Wynn (who appeared for the first time, and not very auspiciously, in the character of an economist) persevering in their opposition.—Some further unimportant business was transacted, and the house rose at a little before one.

Wednesday, Dec. 13.

After some notices had been given, Sir G. GREY stated, in answer to a question from Mr Gladstone, that it was the intention of ministers to introduce a bill for the settlement of the government of New South Wales, and that it was not their intention to renew the temporary bill at present in force, which, however, had yet some time to run.

In answer to a question from Mr Serjeant Jackson, as to whether the government intended to introduce any change into the present system of national education in Ireland, Lord MORPETH said, that it was intended to adopt a regulation by which the conscientious objections of many Protestants to sending their children to the national schools would be removed. It was intended that the children of those parents who desired it should have the opportunity of reading the Scriptures daily in a different part of the schools from those with respect to whom no such desire was expressed. There were also other changes in contemplation, which would still further remove the conscientious objections which many entertained to the present system.

In answer to a question from Mr Hume, relative to the pensions granted to Prince George of Hanover and to the Duke of Cumberland, now King of Hanover, Mr RICE said that the pension to his Royal Highness Prince George of Hanover was different from most of the other royal pensions. It had been especially granted for the maintenance and education of his royal highness, and had lapsed to the country on the accession of the Duke of Cumberland to the throne of Hanover; but the pension to the Duke of Cumberland, now King of Hanover, had been granted to him by parliament for life, in the same manner as the grant made to Prince Leopold, now King of Belgium, and there was no power to interfere with it, save that of parliament. It could be taken away only by an act of the legislature. It was continued to be received as usual.—Mr HUME then asked whether it was the intention of government to introduce any measure to take that grant from the King of Hanover?—Mr RICE answered, that it was not the intention of government to take any step in the matter. The pension, as he had stated, was to his royal highness for life, in the same way as that to the Prince Leopold (which the prince had given up), and the government had no control over it.—Mr HUME then gave notice, that early in February he would move for leave to bring in a bill to recal the pension granted to the Duke of Cumberland.

A short conversation then occurred on bringing up the report of the Queen's message, but it led to no result beyond the statement, on the part of the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, that if, on farther inquiry, he found that any special provision was necessary, under the change of circumstances, in order to continue to the Duchess of Kent the 6,000*l.* per annum depending upon the life of her Majesty, he would mention the fact to the house on Friday, to which day the second reading of the civil list bill was postponed. The subject was introduced by Mr HERRIES, who put a question to the right hon. gentleman, how far the legal maxim *cessante ratione cessat lex* was applicable to the case? The act to be founded upon her Majesty's message, and upon the consequent resolution of the committee of the whole house on Tuesday, related only to the 8,000*l.* additional to be granted to the Duchess of Kent.—Mr GROTE took the opportunity of expressing his general concurrence in the observations made by Mr Hume on Tuesday, and added, that if he allowed his judgment to be influenced by profound respect and high esteem he should at once accede to the vote; but it had always been understood that personal considerations were left out of view in discussing such questions. He added that he should be inclined to take the sense of the house on the grant on Monday next.—The resolutions of the committee were then reported, and a bill pursuant thereto was ordered to be brought in. The bill was subsequently brought in, read a first time, and ordered to be read a second time on Friday.

The civil list bill was read a second time, and ordered to be committed on Friday.—Adjourned at a quarter past seven o'clock.

Thursday, Dec. 14.

After some unimportant business, Mr HUME said he wished to know when the individuals who had shared in the danger of the war in India might expect to receive the prize-money to which they were entitled?—Sir J. HOBHOUSE replied, that about a year ago the committee for the distribution of the prize-money notified, that from that date the distribution of prize-money would commence for those officers and privates that were then serving in India—and that twelve months from that time, that is, just about the present time, a notification would be made, stating that after the claims of the officers and privates in India were satisfied, the claims of the officers and privates now in Europe would be attended to. Some time, however, must necessarily elapse after the present month, for the purpose of allowing the names of the claimants to be sent to England. He hoped that this answer would be satisfactory to the hon. member.

Mr Serjeant TALFOURD moved for leave to renew his bill "To provide for the access of parents living apart from each other to their children of tender age." Some such measure, he said, was absolutely requisite, as, according to law and equity, all the regulations were in favour of the father, whatever might be his moral turpitude, and however exemplary might be the conduct of the mother. A number of cases were instanced by the learned gentleman, illustrative of the character of the law in all its features of atrocity, which are given elsewhere. Mr Serjeant Talfourd concluded a very able and eloquent speech, amidst much cheering, by moving for leave to bring in the bill.—Sir EDWARD SUGDEN then intimated that on another occasion he should take the sense of the house respecting the bill.—Leave was then given, the motion having been seconded by Mr Leader.

Mr Serjeant TALFOURD next moved for leave to bring in a bill to amend the law of copyright, observing that the bill he now proposed was in substance similar to that which had been read a second time in the last session. It differed, however, in two points. The bill of last session was not confined to literary works, but also combined within its objects painting and engraving. It was suggested to him that the clauses referring to these matters only encumbered his bill. He considered that the law relative to painting and engraving, and especially statutory, was in a most degraded state. When he had carried through the present bill he intended to introduce another, which would consolidate the laws relating to the fine arts. With respect to the second point, international copyright, it had been suggested to him that it could be most safely left in the hands of the government. He suggested that a power should be given by which the Queen, by an order in council, should extend protection to the works of the natives of any country, in which protection was afforded to the copyright of British authors. He moved for leave to bring in a bill to amend the law of copyright.—Mr E. J. BULWER thanked the hon. and learned member for his introduction of such a bill. He wished to know what steps had been taken by the government with respect to the protection of the property of authors by the establishment of international copyright.—Mr P. THOMSON replied that this was a matter a good deal mixed up with customs' regulations. Great attention had been paid to it by the government, and he hoped at a very early period of the recess to be able to announce that foreign countries would consent to a reciprocity of protection with England upon this point.—Sir R. PEEL considered that the honourable and learned gentleman had acted wisely in separating the fine arts from that which was strictly literary property. He thought it would materially aid the satisfactory

determination of these matters if the subject relating to painters and to statuary were referred to a select committee. After a short conversation, leave was given to bring in the bill.

Mr ATTWOOD, in a speech of considerable length, moved "That a humble address be presented to her Majesty, praying that her Majesty might be graciously pleased to make such addition to the royal navy as the vindication of the national honour and the preservation of the national interest shall require under the present circumstances of the country, assuring her Majesty that this house will cheerfully make good the necessary expenses incurred for such a purpose. Next, that a humble address be presented to her Majesty, praying that she be graciously pleased to lay before the house copies of all communications between the government of this country and Russia with regard to the naval armament at Cronstadt, the war between Russia and Circassia, and the treaty of Unkiar Skelessi." Mr Attwood's speech was somewhat extravagant. According to the hon. gentleman, all our governments, for he took the Duke of Wellington and Lord Grey in hand as well as Lord Melbourne, had strangely neglected the interests and honour of the country; and at this moment it depended on Russia whether we should not be treated to the entrance of a Russian navy into the Thames, like that of the Dutch in the times of Charles the Second.—Lord PALMERSTON overlooked the strange incongruities of the speech, and respected the honest intentions of the speaker. Mr Attwood, indeed, furnished him with the opportunity of making a very comprehensive and able speech, containing a vindication of the foreign policy of this country in general, and towards Russia in particular. To the question, whether the British government had taken any measures to prevent the equipment of the Russian armaments in the Baltic and in the Black Sea, Lord Palmerston distinctly replied that this country had no right to dictate to a foreign power how many ships should or should not be built in her dockyards, although such explanations on the subject as were considered necessary had been duly required and willingly given. Those explanations had been satisfactory. His lordship, however, did not dissemble his opinion that Russia "does keep a larger force than is required for the defence of her own possessions, and than is consistent with the general well-being of other nations at peace with her;" and, without "dissembling that it is a matter upon which not only the government but the people of this country should keep a jealous and watchful eye," he added, "that, having no reason to believe that the intention of Russia is otherwise than friendly towards this country, and, whatever her policy or ultimate intention might prompt, that she had no wish or design to embark in a war with England, I feel that it is not necessary to make a further increase to our naval force on the ground of the means possessed by that power." Lord Palmerston also paid some merited compliments to Lord Durham, who had been spoken lightly of by Mr Attwood, and declared that no public man had better or more effectually served his country than the noble earl.—Mr MACLEAN, after a few remarks, recommended Mr T. Attwood to withdraw his fruitless motion, but the hon. gentleman refused to comply with the suggestion, and it was accordingly negatived without a division.—The house soon after adjourned.

Friday, Dec. 15.

Various business of little interest was transacted, when the following conversation took place on some contemplated alterations in the post-office:—

Mr HAWES asked if it were the intention of government to turn their attention to the recommendation of the commissioners of the post-office inquiry in their ninth report, relating to the reduction of the postage, and also as to allowing the use of penny stamps.—The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said he was not prepared to go to the full extent of the ninth report of the Commissioners, but some of their suggestions he was about to try. He should adopt the recommendation of the post-office commissioners within the metropolitan district, by trying the experiment of stamp covers within the limits of the twopenny and threepenny post. It was said that people did not like sending their letters to be post paid; but if they were enabled to buy stamp covers they would no doubt send letters in that method to a much greater extent. That he was resolved to try. With respect to the second point, he stated that so much observation had been made on the subject of the effect which a reduction of the rate of postage would have in increasing the revenue, that he had turned his attention to it, and intended to try the experiment more extensively than could be done by confining it within the limits of the twopenny post. (Hear, hear.) Within short distances all over England the charge for letters was 4d., and that was a heavy charge on the poorer classes. The amount of revenue derived from that charge was defined. It was within that distance that they proposed to make the experiment: he proposed to reduce the 4d. postage, not only in the metropolitan district but throughout the empire, from 4d. to 2d.—keeping an exact account of the amount received and the number of letters carried at 4d., and the amount received and the number of letters carried at the reduced postage of 2d. He should lay the result of that inquiry on the table of the house, and it would then be seen, as far as the experiment went, how far a large reduction of the amount of postage would or would not increase the revenue, and the question, so far as that went, would be clearly set at rest.—Sir R. PEEL wished to know whether it was possible to combine the reduction of the rate of postage with the other branch. He meant whether, in reducing the rate of postage throughout the united kingdom, it would not be possible to unite the experiment of stamped covers. Would it not be possible, he asked, to combine with the reduction of postage an experiment with respect to the general post, of stamped covers also?—The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said the answer he would give was one which the right hon. baronet would probably anticipate—they would try the experiment first on the shorter distances. If they succeeded, there would be no difficulty in applying it to more remote distances, but they ought to be certain that it would succeed before they went to any greater extent. He did not wish to speak disparagingly, but he was not very sanguine as to its success. The experience of a few months would, however, determine that.—In answer to Mr Clay, the right hon. gentleman said, it was intended to sell the stamped covers at twopence.

A sharp conversation of a personal kind (which led to nothing) afterwards took place as to whether Mr Harvey's name was to be placed on the pension list committee. The Chancellor of the Exchequer refused to answer till a proper time came. The house then passed to Mr Harvey's amendment to the order of the day for an instruction to the committee to make due provision in the civil list bill for the protection of the right of parliament to inquire into and to appropriate the revenues of the Duchies of Cornwall and Lancaster. After Mr Harvey had made his speech, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer his reply, the Speaker interposed, and gave it as his opinion that such an amendment could not regularly be put, inasmuch as it was deciding upon the right of the house to appropriate part of the hereditary revenues of the crown in an intended act of parliament, a course that could not be pursued without the special permission of the Sovereign, signified through the minister of the day. This decision entirely altered the form of the proceeding, and Mr Harvey, at the suggestion of Mr Warburton, in order to avoid the difficulty, moved the adjournment of the debate, to give ministers time to obtain the consent of the crown to the proposal for the inquiry into and appropriation of the revenues in question. The debate was then continued, and the question, in fact, was treated just as if Mr Harvey's original amendment had been under consideration. The chief ground upon which ministers resisted the proposition was that the revenues of the Duchies of Cornwall and Lancaster, but especially the last, were, and always had been, the private property of the crown; and Mr Baines showed in what way it had descended to the occupants of the throne from the time of Henry IV. If, however, as Lord John Russell argued, the sovereign, under the advice of her ministers, had been disposed to place this property, with the other hereditary revenues of the crown, in the hands of Parliament, an equivalent must have been given, and that equivalent to be paid by the people out of the ordinary taxes would have been yielded by them much more grudgingly and unwillingly than they allowed the sovereign to retain a revenue of very ancient date, and the collection of which they did not feel as any hardship. One point, at least, in relation to this question, the public will look to with great satisfaction. When the Chancellor of the Exchequer originally brought forward the civil list, he stated that needless mystery had been preserved respecting the duchies of Cornwall and Lancaster. He repeated the sentiment in the course of this debate, and distinctly announced his intention of introducing a bill or bills to provide, in the first place, for the better

administration of the duchies, and in the next, for rendering an annual account to Parliament of the revenues received or receivable from them. The public will, therefore, now know exactly the extent to which the crown is benefited by retaining these private possessions. Some constitutional jealousy was expressed after the Chancellor of the Exchequer had spoken (especially in a very able and spirited speech by Sir Charles Lemon) lest the pecuniary resources thence derived might be enormously increased, and the crown thus empowered to expend large sums without the controul or even the knowledge of Parliament. The proceeding contemplated by ministers would put an end [Lord John Russell explained] to apprehensions of this kind, and at any future period, when the civil list is to be settled, no mystery will remain, and the revenues of the duchies may either be preserved or exchanged, as may be thought expedient. On a division, the numbers were—For the amendment, 52; for the original motion, 184; majority, 132.—Mr Harvey's amendment having been thus negatived, the house immediately resolved itself into the committee on the civil list bill, and a discussion of considerable length commenced on the clause fixing 385,000*l.* as the sum to be given to her majesty in lieu of her hereditary revenues.—Mr Hume undertook to establish that it was relatively too large, by comparing the household establishment and the cost of maintaining it at the present moment with the cost in the year 1792; and he moved a reduction to the extent of 50,000*l.* Mr Hawes approved of this amendment, but insisted also that the sum of 385,000*l.* was positively too large by 10,000*l.* and he supported his view by comparing the civil list of his late Majesty with that proposed for the Queen. With regard to Mr Hume's amendment, the Chancellor of the Exchequer showed that no fair comparison could be drawn between the salaries and fees of officers in the household and the prices of various commodities now and in 1792; and Mr F. Baring also explained in what way the apparent increase of 10,000*l.* objected to by Mr Hawes, was to be accounted for; but Mr Komble, although a "Conservative," as he boasted himself, expressed his determination to vote with those who thought that Ministers had not evinced a sufficient regard to economy. It is to be remarked that throughout the whole evening the Tories maintained the most obstinate silence, not one leading individual on the opposition benches venturing to open his lips, although they could not avoid dividing with Ministers, however unwilling they might be to give them any assistance.—The numbers on Mr Hume's amendment were—for it, 19; against it, 199; majority, 180.—A second division occurred on the amendment of Mr Hawes, for reducing the sum to be granted from 385,000*l.* to 375,000*l.*, and the numbers were as follow:—for the amendment, 41; Against it, 173; majority, 132.

The discussion upon Mr Grote's amendment for omitting the sum of 1,200*l.* to be allowed annually to her Majesty for pensions was postponed until Monday; but in the course of the debate upon Mr Hume's amendment the Chancellor of the Exchequer produced some minute calculations by Mr Finlayson, establishing beyond dispute that in the space of twenty years the country would save more than 33,000*l.* by the projected change.

THE EXAMINER.

LONDON, DECEMBER 17, 1837.

A new conspiracy against Louis Philippe has been discovered in France, and discovered in a very singular way. The chief conspirator, landing at Boulogne, drops his pocket-book, containing ample information respecting the plot. Called to pick it up, he refuses to do so, and walks on. Considering that it is the known custom of the Boulogne officers to make every one open his pocket-book in their presence, this said Hubert, the new regicide, must be a still greater fool than scoundrel. He forms a portion of the dregs of these would-be regicides, more ridiculous than dangerous, who planned what is called the plot of Neuilly. No sooner had Hubert taken the benefit of the amnesty, and returned to Paris, than he openly vaunted his unabated hatred to the King. He was put in prison for his menaces, but let out as a braggart fool. Although several persons are implicated by the notes in his pocket-book, no further proof has yet been found against them. The ministry will send him before the assize court for trial.

We find, from subsequent accounts, that the detection of this new conspiracy has produced little or no sensation in Paris, and no evil effect on the funds. The discovery would, however, it was expected, tend much to strengthen the Government.

The last Belgian papers announce that a circumstance has occurred on the neutral ground of Luxemburg, which may lead to further collisions between that country and Holland. The King, in his quality of Grand Duke of Luxemburg, had ordered the trees of a wood to be cut down in a part of the duchy which is claimed as neutral ground, or which is, in effect, in the possession of the Belgians. The local authorities of the latter remonstrated, but, having no force to resist, referred the affair to the government, and it has since become a matter of discussion in the Chambers at Brussels. The Prussian garrison of Luxemburg, on the other hand, caused it to be understood that they would assist to enforce the order of the Grand Ducal Government. In the Chamber several of the members gave it as their opinion that measures should be taken for repelling this invasion by force; and the Belgian minister stated that government would be prepared to act in accordance with the interests and dignity of the country. It is insinuated that the King of Holland has been urged to this step by the Prussians, who would thus take vengeance upon the Belgians for the sympathy manifested by the Belgian clergy towards the Archbishop of Cologne. The matter immediately in dispute is of small consequence; but it may lead to important results.

The last letters from Madrid bring no news of importance. The new Ministry was yet unformed, though it was obvious the old one could not maintain its position much longer. Much importance would appear to have been attached to the expected arrival of General Cordova and other members of the Estatuto party, as they were believed to have had parting conferences with Louis Philippe and his Ministers.

The roads were intercepted in various directions, and Estremadura was overrun by the Carlists. It was well known that Don Carlos was actively preparing for another campaign across the Ebro.

Advices from Frankfort of the 30th ult. announce the dismissal of all the professors of the University of Gottingen who had protested against the abrogation of the Constitution. They are also, it appears, to undergo a prosecution. Whatever may happen, a fatal blow has been dealt to the University of Gottingen. The prosecution for treason of its most revered and learned professors must make no slight impression on the minds of the students. It is not supposed that 160 will continue to frequent the University. To have done so under King Ernest would have been everlasting disgrace.

—It was said yesterday, in the political saloons, that news had reached the office of Foreign Affairs and the Papal Legation of the

alarming state of health of the Sovereign Pontiff. Two of the best physicians of Bologna had been summoned to attend at Rome. The nuncio has paid two visits to M. Mole. A French prelate is about to take his departure for Rome.—*French paper of Thursday.*

MEETINGS OF REFORMERS.

THE EDINBURGH MEETING.

Those Reformers who think it possible much longer to refuse the ballot should consult the account of the Edinburgh meeting on Wednesday week, as reported in the *Scotsman*. The Lord Provost was in the chair, and almost every Reformer of any note in the Scottish metropolis was present. Indeed, this seems to be the subject on which all Reformers out of parliament seem to be the least divided in opinion; so that the only criterion adopted for determining whether a man be a sincere or a pretended Reformer will be—does he support the Ballot? "We never, at any public meeting," observes the *Scotsman*, "among the many which have lately been held in Edinburgh, heard the sentiments of speakers more heartily cheered, or resolutions more cordially acceded to." Besides the Lord Provost, there were present at the meeting Sir T. D. Lauder, Bart., Sir James Gibson Craig, Bart., the Hon. Admiral Fleming, the Hon. James Erskine Murray, and a long list of magistrates and influential gentlemen. The speech of Mr Erskine Murray was admirable:—

"What," said he, "can be more insulting to an honest and independent-minded person than to have his house besieged and his privacy intruded upon by individuals? They may be friends, relations, connections, or strangers, who endeavour to influence his opinions by whatever means they may consider most likely to effect their object. I can tell you of a famous electioneering agent, whose merit consists in his great success in making up lists of all the friends or customers of the electors who may be likely to have influence over them, and then sending these friends or customers, one after another, to persuade or terrify the poor electors into compliance with their wishes. Is not this a degrading, an insulting, an un-English mode of procedure? But what is this, my lord, in comparison with the more iniquitous system of distraining for rent, threats of calling up of debts, or, worse than all, of purchasing of obligations, in whole or in part, with a view of turning them to electioneering purposes. (Loud cries of 'Hear, hear!' and cheers.) I would ask this meeting if they are not well aware that a system of exclusive dealing has been attempted by the enemies of freedom of election? I would ask them if they themselves have never felt that their voting according to their conscientious opinions would not in some degree affect their worldly interests? (Hear.) I would ask them if they do not sometimes feel that interfering in politics may cause the falling off of their customers, or friends, or employers? (Hear, hear.) I have met with all classes of the electors of the city; I know what their feelings are on this subject, and I only give them utterance when I declare that the vile means of influencing the electors which I have detailed have been unblushingly practised in Edinburgh, as they have been, in a greater or less degree, in every other town of the empire. The present system of administering the elective franchise does not, therefore, provide for its free and uncontrolled exercise in the towns. How is it in the counties? If the system is bad in the towns, it is a thousand times worse in the counties."

—The misery caused in the counties by the unprotected state of the voters was feelingly described by Mr Murray:—

"I would tell you," he says, "in the words of a farmer of my native county, how this dreadful abuse is to be remedied:—'Oh, sir,' said he, when he was asked to vote for the Liberal candidate, 'I would know what to do if the ballot were introduced, but the sacrifice in present circumstances is too great for me. Just look to it, sir; do you think that I should bring ruin on myself and a' that pertains to me for the sake o' politics? I canna' do it, sir; it's no for myself that I care, but I hae a family—that's what gars me swither;' and believe me, citizens of Edinburgh, that there was many an honest heart garr'd to swither at the last election, and not a few nigh broken by the ruin and misery which it entailed on them. (Loud cheering.) Yes, my lord, we must have protection for the voter in the exercise of the franchise, and the ballot must be introduced—I say ballot, because I know of no other measure alike calculated to insure protection, and I have never heard any suggested, not even by those who oppose the ballot."

—Baillie Miller in the course of his speech stated a fact to prove that the reform bill never can work without the ballot. He had occasion, he said, lately to refer to the several elections which had taken place in Edinburgh, and he found that the number of electors who had voted at the last contested election was at least one third less than the number at the first election, and simply because they felt that they could not do so with safety to their business. The speakers at the Edinburgh meeting, while they regretted the declaration of Lord John Russell, entertained no other feelings than those of kindness towards his lordship. One of them observed that he was inclined to look on this declaration of the noble lord in a different view from that of many, and to make an "appeal from Philip in a moment of irritation to Philip in a calmer mood."—The meeting at Edinburgh, the *Chronicle* justly says, is one of the signs of the times which a minister is not at liberty to neglect. Let public opinion be expressed elsewhere on this subject as it has been at Edinburgh, and the result may be anticipated without difficulty.

THE GLASGOW MEETING.

A crowded meeting was held in the Baronial Hall, Gorbals, Glasgow, on Friday night, the 6th instant, to take into consideration the propriety of petitioning parliament in favour of the abolition of the corn laws and vote by ballot. Chief Magistrate Baillie Mitchell was called to the chair by acclamation, and surrounded by ex-Chief Magistrate John Rennie, Esq., the rest of the magistrates, and the leading men of the barony of Gorbals. Baillie Mitchell having opened the business of the day, Mr Hedderwick moved the first resolution, in favour of the abolition of the corn laws.—Dr Lightbody seconded the motion.—Mr Sanderson, merchant, stepped forward and said that the ruinous effects of the corn laws to the commercial interests of this country were not merely storing up for the future, but were actually at our very doors. He was afraid the meeting would scarcely believe what he was about to state, but he would pledge his veracity as to the truth of the statement, and they could very easily ascertain the truth of the fact for themselves. The cheapness of food on the continent enabled our foreign neighbours to compete with us in manufacture, not only in every market in the world, but also—where did they think?—in Glasgow itself. Continental manufactured cottons were actually imported into the Clyde, and were sold at a profit. (Great sensation.) He had been paid a heavy duty, and were sold at a profit. (Renewed sensation.) Was it not a notorious fact that vessels were frequently arriving in the Clyde from Newfoundland, discharging their cargoes here, sailed in ballast to Hamburg, Rotterdam, or some other foreign port, and loaded there with provisions and such commodities as could be got a great deal cheaper than here, and returned to Newfoundland to repeat again the same course? He had himself been commissioned, from time to time, to send over intelligent mechanics to the continent, in consequence of which the first instance. Joint stock companies were in consequence formed, and these young men were made instrumental in erecting public works and creating machinery. All these things were in consequence of our restrictions on the free importation of grain. It was impossible for our manufacturers at home to compete with their rivals on the other side of the Channel so long as the workman here paid double the price for his loaf of bread to what the foreign artisan did. These laws not only hurt the internal manufactures of the country, but were highly detrimental to the shipping interest. Mr Sanderson concluded by supporting the motion, amidst loud cheers.—A petition to parliament, an echo of the resolutions, was then agreed to, with only three dissentients.—Mr Rutherford then proposed resolutions in favour of vote by ballot. In the course of his speech Mr Rutherford said—"He had lately conversed with an intelligent Perthshire farmer, and asked him why there was such a reaction in Perthshire. The farmer told him, in reply, that there was no reaction. The present Marquis of Breadalbane carried the last election under the reform bill, against Sir Geo. Murray, by a majority of 700. The landlords did not interfere then with the way their tenants voted, but since then they have looked sharply after them. He voted for the Reformer at the first election, but he had been compelled to vote for the Tory candidate since, although, from the bottom of his heart, he wished they might be defeated. He had ever deplored that the protection of

the ballot had not been granted to the elector along with his other privileges; give them that, and the electors of Perthshire would show there was no reaction. (Loud cheers.)"—Dr Greer seconded the adoption of the resolutions. A petition to parliament, founded thereon, was afterwards agreed to, with only three dissentients.—Baillie Oswald moved that the petition to the House of Lords should be entrusted to Lord Brougham—(cheers)—and that to the Commons to our excellent representatives, Lord Wm. Bentinck and Mr Dennistoun. The motion was seconded and carried amidst great applause. Some discussion ensued whether the petitions should be merely signed by the chairman of the meeting or the public generally on the south side of the river; a large majority decided in favour of the petitions being signed by the public generally; and one of Mr Grote's ballot boxes was exhibited to the meeting. A vote of thanks to the chairman was carried amidst great applause, and the meeting broke up.

THE MIDDLESEX REFORMERS.

On Monday evening the independent electors of Middlesex entertained their old and valued representative, George Byng, Esq., M.P., at a public dinner at Staines. The dinner took place at the Bush and Clarence Hotel in that town. The pleasure experienced in thus manifesting the regard and respect felt for Mr Byng was not confined to those who were present at the dinner, but was even shown by those whose means did not permit them to be present. The hotel in which Mr Byng was received was brilliantly illuminated, and was surrounded during the evening by the poorer classes, whose cheers for the guest of the electors were frequently heard to unite with the applause of those who heard the sentiments delivered upon the occasion. The chair was occupied on this occasion by Samuel Charles Whitbread, Esq., who was supported by a great number of distinguished individuals. There were also in attendance the most respectable inhabitants of the town and its immediate neighbourhood. More than one hundred and sixty gentlemen were present.—The chairman, in a spirited speech, proposed health and long life to their representative—"George Byng, Esq., M.P."—The Old English Gentleman.—Mr Byng thanked the assembly for the very kind and flattering manner in which they had done him the honour of drinking his health. In the course of a very manly speech he told his friends assembled that he had had the happiness in early life of having received an excellent education from a revered parent. He had always by his father's side heard the people spoken of with respect and affection—(cheers)—and therefore it was that from the earliest period of his life he had felt that all governments must and ought to be carried on for the benefit of the governed. (Cheers.)—The next toast proposed, was, with three times three, "Her Majesty's Ministers." (Loud cheers.) The next toasts were—"The Liberal Electors of Middlesex," "The Flag of Liberty," "Civil and Religious Liberty all over the World," "Lord Strafford and the Liberal Members of the House of Lords."—The Hon. Captain Byng then rose and said that he could not permit the last toast, and particularly that portion of it which included the name of Lord Strafford, to pass without stating the regret he experienced that Lord Strafford was not able to be present. That nobleman was slowly and gradually recovering from a severe illness. He looked with the greatest satisfaction to the present assembly, and in doing so he could not but admire and applaud the zeal and the moral courage which gentlemen had evinced in planning and so well carrying into execution the banquet of that evening. (Hear.) They were there to bear the lion of Toryism in its den—they were there in despite of the Tory colonels and Tory magistrates of the neighbourhood—they were there to show that the spirit of reform was not extinct in Staines. (Loud cheers.) But although he admitted that this scheme was a satisfactory one, yet he could not conceal from himself that there was one feeling of regret which presented itself to him. "De fonte amorum surget amurum aliquid." He regretted that the county of Middlesex had sent his honourable relative to the House of Commons single-handed to fight their battles. (Hear, hear.) Much worse than that, for they had sent him trammelled there, and (as we understood the speaker) with a log of wood round his neck. (Laughter.) Born and bred as he had been in that county, he had always felt it to be his greatest pride that it should be so long connected with that name which he had the honour of bearing. (Cheers.) He did, then, feel regret that the county of Middlesex, which had hitherto been in the van in the maintenance of liberal principles, should have sunk into the thralldom of Toryism. (Cheers.) He regretted this happened in Middlesex, which had formerly returned Wilkes against the court and the parliament, and had in later days vindicated itself in the person of their worthy chairman. (Hear, hear.) There were some amongst them who might not quite agree with all the opinions of their late excellent representative, Mr Hume—(cheers)—but he might ask where was there a reformer, or the man who dared to call himself a reformer, who would not bear a willing, cheerful, and ready tribute to the debt of gratitude which they owed to that gentleman—(hear, hear)—and this, not only for his exertions in the cause of reform, but also for his great and successful exertions in carrying into effect its accompaniment—economy in all the departments of the state—(hear, hear)—and then it might be said to the electors of Middlesex, who had they chosen as the substitute for Mr Hume? (Hear, hear, and cries of "Shame, shame.")—Captain Byng gave the meeting this advice in conclusion—"Let them imitate their opponents in their activity, let them take the advice of their subtle leader, Sir Robert Peel, and let them 'register, register, register.' (Cheers.) And above all let them encourage such meetings as the present, which tended not only to engender, but to foster good feeling and harmony amongst all classes of reformers; but which did still more—they tended to show the country (whatever Sir James Graham, Lord Stanley, or Sir Francis Burdett might say to the contrary) that Englishmen were not indifferent, as that night they showed they were not, to straightforward honesty and consistency in public men." (Loud cheering.)—Mr Warburton and other gentlemen subsequently addressed the assembly.

THE FINSBURY MEETING.

An extremely numerous meeting of the inhabitants of the borough of Finsbury was held on Wednesday evening, at White Conduit House, to take into consideration the late declaration of Lord John Russell respecting vote by ballot, extension of suffrage, and the shortening of the duration of parliament. The meeting was called for seven o'clock, and at that time the large room was crowded to excess. Mr Roebuck entered at half past seven, and was called to the chair amidst loud cheers. After letters had been read from Mr J. Fielden, M.P., Mr Grote, M.P., Mr Leader, M.P., Mr Hindley, M.P., and Mr Took, expressing their concurrence in the object of the meeting, and regretting their inability to attend, the Chairman rose and said, that having been solicited by his brother electors of Finsbury to take the chair on the present occasion, he had no hesitation in at once acceding to their request. (Cheers.) He observed—"Some time since he was present at a meeting of the electors of Westminster—(cheers)—one more hostile to the existing ministry he had never witnessed, and yet her Majesty's ministers had so great a confidence in themselves, and in what was told them, that they would not believe in the hostility of the meeting to them. In order to put the matter entirely out of doubt, a resolution* would be proposed to the effect of non-confidence in her Majesty's ministers. (Loud cheers.)—Subsequently Mr Roebuck explained that, "It was rather with the absence of good than the presence of positive evil, that he charged the government. In the present state of public opinion, government could not, if they wished, be mischievous. (Loud cheers.) The people of England were so instructed, so intelligent—information pervaded so completely the masses, and travelled so rapidly from one end of the kingdom to the other—that it was impossible for any government to perpetrate any direct and great villainy without exciting general

* The following were the resolutions subsequently agreed to:—
That the meeting have heard with much surprise and dissatisfaction the declaration attributed to Lord John Russell of his decided hostility to any further change in our defective political system, and his determination to maintain that exclusive system of representation by which a great mass of the people are altogether excluded from exercising the elective franchise.

That the meeting never contemplated the reform bill as a final measure; on the contrary, they viewed it as the first step only in the attainment of those great organic changes in our institutions which altered times and circumstances have rendered imperative; and, deeply impressed with this conviction, they cannot refrain from expressing their want of confidence in any ministry pledged to resist those changes.

That, in accordance with these resolutions, this meeting pledges itself to support by all lawful means any proposition calculated to attain an extensive enlargement of the elective franchise, the shortening the duration of parliament, and to afford the electors the security of voting by ballot.

That the thanks of this meeting are especially due to our representatives, T. Wakley, Esq., and T. S. Doucombe, Esq.; also, to the twenty members who composed the minority on the amendment to the address.

indignation. (Loud cheers.)—Of Ireland he added—"But he would be just. He must give the Whigs credit for having sent Lord Mulgrave to Ireland. (Cheers.) He believed that nobleman was the best governor that was ever sent to Ireland, for he seemed to understand the true situation of the people whom he was sent to govern, and he refused to submit to the despotism and domination of the Orange faction. [Loud cheers.]—Mr Roebuck observed in conclusion—"Was it impossible that the Radicals should come into office? [A laugh.] He saw this was a new idea, but if they had not the talent of the Whigs or the Tories, they had at least as much honesty. [Loud cheers.] If the people desired the great measures of vote by ballot, extension of suffrage, and short parliaments, they must send men to parliament who would vote for those measures. If they did not do so, on themselves must rest the blame. [Cheers.]"

Mr Wakley afterwards addressed the meeting, and took an opportunity of saying that he "was heartily sick of hearing the terms Whig and Tory. They were terms which were bandied about to blind the people. The real fact was, that they now divided into two parties, the aristocracy and democracy; and if the people really wished to have good government they must put their own shoulders to the wheel, and not depend upon either section of the aristocracy. [Loud cheers.]"

Mr Duncombe then spoke—"He had to apologize for the absence of an hon. and learned gentleman, who had desired him to express his extreme regret at not being able to attend the meeting. The gentleman to whom he alluded was Mr O'Connell. [Immense cheering.] That hon. and learned gentleman requested him to assure the meeting that nothing would have afforded him greater pleasure than to attend this meeting; but he had made arrangements for leaving London for his native country, and he had started that morning. [Cheers.]—After a speech in support of the objects of the meeting, Mr Duncombe concluded by saying—"It appeared to him that the Whigs were upon their last legs. He had no doubt that, shortly after the recess, they would find themselves in some party scrape or other, upon some question in which the people were not interested. The Whigs would call for assistance from the people, and the people would say, 'We will not help you out of the difficulty which you have got into. You deserted us when you might have assisted us; you betrayed us when in the zenith of your power; you must now fight your own battles; and if you fall into the pit you have dug for yourselves, you will fall there unpitied and despised. [Loud cheers.] Such, in his opinion, was the fate of the Whigs, and they would be succeeded by a Tory administration. When that event occurred, they would meet in that room to concoct measures for turning out a Tory administration, and every succeeding administration, till the people had got one on which they could repose confidence as sincere and honest reformers. [Immense cheering.]—After a vote of thanks to the chairman, the immense crowd quietly dispersed."

THE REFORMERS OF LAMBETH.

The Reformers of Lambeth dined together on Wednesday evening at the White Hart Tavern, Kennington, to celebrate the return of Benjamin Hawes, Esq., and the Right Hon. C. T. D'Eyncourt, as representatives for the borough. J. M'Leod, Esq. in the chair. A most excellent dinner, comprising every delicacy of the season, was served up, and no expense spared to contribute to the enjoyment of the company. The cloth having been removed, the Chairman proposed the customary toasts, and in giving afterwards, "The extension of the franchise, vote by ballot, and a shorter duration of parliaments" (which was drunk with three times three and one cheer more), he observed that unless Lord John Russell changed his opinions he hoped that he would be removed from the administration. (Hear, hear.) The healths of the members were then given, and Mr Hawes, in acknowledging the toast, said that "when his hon. friend intimated a desire that the present ministry should be removed from power, he must candidly tell them that he could not respond to that sentiment. He could not be brought to throw out the present administration until he was satisfied that he could replace them with a better. He regretted the declaration of Lord John Russell. He had the greatest respect for that noble lord. The noble lord had been for years opposed to the enemies of the people and to the power of the court, and that independent conduct had procured for him the confidence of the people. He (Mr Hawes) was one of those who anticipated that at the commencement of the present session an enlarged principle of political action would have been adopted by the ministry; for he saw that a great impediment which had been in their way was removed, and that they would have acted in a manner consistent with their principles. He must, however, admit, with regard to the declaration of Lord John Russell, that there was in it nothing inconsistent with his previous opinions, for he had never declared in favour of those measures which he had declared against in his unfortunate speech on the first night the parliament met. He did not mean to defend that speech; but he gave ministers credit as far as they went with him. He did not wish to be classed with those who thought that the past should be forgotten, through indignation at the present; it was contrary to his nature to entertain such an opinion—he was not a party man, he would continue to vote for those measures upon which they had set their hearts, and the minister who thought that his declaration would stifle the public sentiment in their favour would find that it would have quite a contrary effect. (Cheers.) What but the declaration which had been made had brought the people together, and stimulated them to renewed exertion. (Cheers.)—Mr C. T. D'Eyncourt next spoke. He told the meeting—"They had, to use a hackneyed expression, arrived at a great crisis. Cobbett used to say he was tired of for ever living in a crisis. But if ever there was a crisis, it was at the present moment; and he did not hesitate to give it as his opinion that it was impossible the present state of things could go on. (Cheers.) It was impossible that the great current of public opinion should go in one direction, and the feeling of parliament and of ministers should move in the opposite direction, without some great catastrophe. (Cheers.) It was therefore incumbent on the people of England to develop their opinion—(Cheers)—and to declare speedily what they considered necessary for the good government of the nation, and that must be speedily the law of the land. (Cheers.) He cared not what minister, or what noble lord, might denounce the ballot, or triennial parliaments; if the minister were an intelligent man he would yield to the opinion of the country as the noble lord (J. Russell) had been already seen to do. (Cheers.) He honoured him for having done so. The noble lord had once been opposed to all reform. They all recollected the declaration about new lamps for old lamps. Yet the noble lord lived to repudiate the mistaken sentiments of his youth. (Cheers.) If the people of England expressed their sentiments boldly and unequivocally, the same noble lord, who well knew the people of England when they desired it should be governed according to their own opinions, might be the very organ of those measures in the commons' house of parliament. (Cheers.) Be that as it may, there were other men. (Renewed cheering.) But he (Mr D'Eyncourt) wished the noble lord and the present administration drawn to the conclusion to which the people had arrived. He begged Reformers to consider the state of the present House of Commons, and if they did, they would agree with him, that they should tolerate the present ministry."—Mr Hawes afterwards proposed the health of the Chairman, which that gentleman acknowledged in an appropriate speech. After which, a few complimentary toasts having been given, the company separated.

Mr O'Connell paid a visit to Birmingham on Thursday, on his way to Ireland; and at the request of several influential Reformers in the town, prolonged his stay a few hours, in order to address the "Men of Birmingham." His arrival was totally unexpected, but it created instant enthusiasm, and there could not be less than 6,000 individuals assembled (Mr Scholesfield, M.P. in the chair) to do honour to this patriotic and distinguished friend of his country and mankind. Mr O'Connell then addressed them in a very long speech, in which, having sketched very happily the history of Tory governments and Tory policy, he insisted with great earnestness on the necessity that had arisen for some peaceable but determined movement among the people. At the close he alluded to Ireland and the Melbourne Ministry. "He thought the Administration were bad reformers because they had refused to take the lead. But, because they were bad, should they therefore go to worse? [Hear, hear!] Suppose, now, they had before them for choice an indifferent workman and a very bad one, would they choose the latter? [Cheers and laughter.] That, in his opinion, was the character of Whigs and Tories. Were not the Tories, he asked, worse than the Whigs? [Hear, hear! and cheers.] "Whenever, by the organization and firmness of the people, they were prepared to put in and maintain a better Administration than the present, he would say, with all his heart, 'Turn them out;' but until that time arrived, he warned them not to risk the return of the Tories to power, who would again let loose the Orange murderers in Ireland." Three cheers were given for Mr O'Connell, who immediately left the Hall to proceed on his route to Ireland.

A public meeting of the inhabitants of Berwick-upon-Tweed has been called by the mayor, in consequence of a numerous and respectfully signed requisition, to petition Parliament in favour of the ballot.—*Tyne Mercury.*

A public meeting has been convened in Sheffield, on a requisition presented to the master cutlers, to petition in favour of the ballot.

On Thursday evening a public meeting of the inhabitant householders of the populous parishes of St Giles and St George, Bloomsbury, was held, pursuant to announcement, at the Angel Inn, High street, for the purpose of considering the propriety of petitioning parliament for the ballot, household suffrage, and triennial parliaments, and to take such other steps to obtain the same as they might deem necessary. Mr James White presided. Mr M'Laren, jun., then read a petition which had been drawn up for the approbation of the meeting, praying that the legislature would pass into a law the measures above referred to. After some discussion the petition was adopted, and a vote of thanks having been passed to the chairman, the meeting separated at a late hour.

A meeting was held a few days since in Sunderland, at which the following resolution was moved, "That as the freedom of election has been destroyed by bribery and intimidation, this meeting is of opinion that some immediate remedy is required." To this resolution, the Radicals proposed, as an amendment, "That the ballot, unless accompanied by household suffrage, would not secure the full representation of the people, and that the ballot and household suffrage should be unitedly asked for." The latter resolution was carried by an immense majority.

PERSONAL NEWS.

LORD RODEN AND THE INFIDEL GOVERNMENT.—Two of the Belfast Tory papers have been forced to break silence in reference to the alleged misreport of Lord Roden's speech at the Belfast Conservative Dinner. The *Chronicle* says that it copied the portion of the report in question from the *Times*, and that, upon reference to the notes of its reporter, it finds that the language used by the noble lord was to this effect:—"It would be madness to do so (to blind the eye to the danger of Protestants) when we see the government leagued with a faction, and driving them on to the destruction of Protestant life and property." This, surely, is infinitely worse than the language repudiated. Want of faith may be a fault, but it is not an indictable offence. But here is that alleged against ministers which, if true, would call for their instant impeachment. The abettors of plunder and of murder they are described to be in a *correct* report of Lord Roden's speech! Surely his Lordship should again be put to the question in his place in Parliament. The *Ulster Times* takes care not to peril one of its patrons a second time. It merely says that it is satisfied that his Lordship's authority is the best on such a point, and that it regrets that his language should have been misreported. It does not venture to inform the world of what the pious personage really did say. It is to be remarked, however, that the application of the term infidel to the government also appeared in the *Newry Telegraph* and *Dublin Evening Packet*, both of which journals had reporters present. The *Northern Whig* has communicated, it says, both with Lord Mulgrave and Lord Roden, and adds, very properly, that the matter cannot rest where it is.

THE MAYORALTY OF PICKWICK.—At a late meeting of the inhabitants of Devizes on the subject of a contemplated covered corn market in that town, a question was asked whether the market was to be toll free; the answer was in the negative, and the cause stated was the heavy debt left on the corporation by the old Tory system. It is thus that in every quarter we find the evil effects of that long system of Tory misrule from which we are only just commencing our escape. It appears the quantity of toll collected is a dishful from each sack of corn, &c. It appears that for some years tolls were collected at Bath in the same way, until Mr Pickwick became mayor, and during his mayoralty the toll dish was completely done away with.—[Of course! Mr Pickwick, we see, is just dead. Having realised Wordsworth's wish, and seen his name numbered with the immortals, he now "gladly ends his mortal days."]

— A son of Mr Carey, of the British Museum, the well-known translator of Dante, has been appointed to a clerkship in the Registry-office.

— The Marquis of Queensberry is to be lord-lieutenant of Dumfriesshire, in the place of his brother, lately deceased.

— The King of Hanover has named Baron Munchausen to be his minister at the court of our most gracious Queen.

— The Thistle vacant by the death of the Marquis of Queensberry will be given to the Marquis of Breadalbane.—*Chronicle.*

— It is reported, and we believe with good reason, that the Hon. Mr Bligh, at present our minister at Stockholm, is to be appointed minister to the court of the King of Hanover.—*Observer.*

— It is already known that a correspondence has taken place between Lord John Russell and those persons who have control over our great national buildings, such as St Paul's, Westminster Abbey, &c. That correspondence is to be laid before Parliament, and we have had great satisfaction in learning that in the case of St Paul's his lordship's endeavours have been wholly successful. St Paul's is to be opened to the public, free of expense, every day, from nine until eleven o'clock in the morning, and from three to four o'clock in the afternoon. The public are also to have the benefit of a great reduction in the admission fee to the Tower. The fee is to be reduced from three shillings to one.—*Observer.*—In the case of Westminster Abbey and the Royal Academy the application was altogether rejected.

— The Master of the Ceremonies at the court of King Otho, who was lately connected with a silly attempt to put an affront upon Sir E. Lyons, has been recalled.

— The Grand Council of Switzerland has abolished the stamp duty on newspapers.

— We perceive from the *Moniteur* that the Queen and Princes left Paris in haste to meet the Duke of Nemours, who had broken his arm near the elbow in a fall on the deck of the vessel during his late voyage. The Duke reached Havre from Falmouth on the 8th. His Grace has much recovered since his return to the Tuileries.

— His Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex has been appointed Grand Master of the Order of the Bath.

— The Earl of Fingal has been appointed Lord in Waiting to her Majesty. "Upon this mark of affection," says a Dublin liberal paper, "to her people of Ireland, on the part of our gracious Sovereign, we congratulate our countrymen. It proves, as strongly as any act of her Majesty since she ascended the Throne, the confidence which she reposes

in her faithful people, and her high appreciation of their loyalty and devotion to herself. She has chosen the premier Catholic peer of Ireland for an attendant on her royal person, to mark her sentiments."

— The Hon. Capt. F. Spencer, R.N., a son-in-law of Mr Poyntz, the late member, has been elected for Midhurst.

— A circumstance of rather a curious nature has just occurred in one of our theatres, where the *Pickwickians*, a play, has been running for some nights. One of the actors, the representative of *Alfred Jingle, Esq.*, of No. 11, No. county, had enacted this modern *Diddler* every night to admiration; so well, indeed, that he placed the polishing *Sam Weller* at a distance. His descriptive powers were often stimulated a little too much, perhaps, but the absurdity of the character was rendered sufficiently exemplary and amusing. A night or two since, after performing *Jingle* as spiritedly as usual, he wrought himself up to such a pitch of imagination, that he declared he was the real *Alfred Jingle* himself, and resuming his first suit, the manager made his exit in character, and has not since been heard of.—*Dublin Letter*.

— Parliament, it is understood, will adjourn on the 22d instant, and will not meet, after the Christmas holidays, until the 1st of February.

— It is understood that the delay in filling up the office of the Provost of Dublin College is occasioned by its being necessary to procure the fiat of the Chancellor of the University to the appointment—this functionary being no less a personage than the King of Hanover.

— Two of our morning contemporaries have successively intimated that the sitting members for Leicester, who are petitioned against, will not defend their seats. We are authorised to contradict this, and to state that they have never for one moment hesitated as to defending their seats, or entertained the slightest apprehension of their ability to do so successfully.—*Morning Chronicle*.

— Lord Brougham has protested against the proposed allowance of 30,000*l.* per annum to the Duchess of Kent.

— On Thursday morning an affair of honour took place at Battersea fields, between Lord Edward Thynne and Edward Smith Passmore; his lordship was attended by William Ford, Esq., and the latter gentleman by Capt. J. A. Hippisley. After three shots each, the parties left the ground without an amicable arrangement. We understand that a lady, a relative of Mr P.'s, was the cause of the dispute.

SATURDAY NIGHT.

The House of Commons met to-day at twelve.—The SPEAKER then acquainted the house that John Kelly and others, petitioners against the return for the borough of Portarlington, and that of John Sharpe and others, petitioners against the return for the City of London, had not entered into the required recognizances, and that therefore the order for taking their petitions into consideration must be discharged.—[There are two petitions presented against the return for the City of London, in one of which the recognizances have been duly perfected.]

The report of the civil list committee was brought up and received. On the motion that the house do go into committee on the Duchess of Kent's annuity bill, a long argument took place between the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Mr Goulburn, on the subject of the 6,000*l.* a year which was granted for the education of the Princess Victoria. The latter honourable gentleman urged that the grant of 6,000*l.* a-year no longer existed, and that if the annuity of her royal highness was made 30,000*l.* a-year, the new grant was for 14,000*l.* and not for 8,000*l.* The proper course to have been pursued, he considered, was this—that all the old acts on the subject should have been repealed, and a new bill framed for the grant of 30,000*l.* a year, founded on a resolution of the house.—Sir E. SUGDEN took the same view of the matter, and thought the bill could not be received in its present shape.—The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER admitted that the course proposed would be the better one to pursue.

The house then went into committee, for the purpose of discharging the order of the day for the consideration of the resolution; and the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER gave notice for a new resolution, that the present income of the Duchess of Kent do cease and determine, and that 22,000*l.* added to the 8,000*l.* be granted, making one annuity of 30,000*l.* The resolution to be considered on Monday.—Some other business was transacted, and the house then adjourned.

— The apparent weekly increase in the last bills of mortality is 3,002; this, however, arises from the fact that many of the parish clerks, who neglect making their returns regularly, have sent in the arrears for this, the last weekly returns of the year. These documents, then, unless better managed in future, can hardly be looked on as quite accurate.

— The Rev. Wiltshire Stanton Austin has been appointed to act as private secretary to the governor of Barbadoes.

MISCELLANEOUS.

SUDBURY ELECTION.—Monday was the day of nomination, when Sir William Heygate withdrew in favour of Mr Bailey. Mr Morrison and Mr Bailey were proposed and seconded, and the Mayor declared the show of hands to be in favour of the latter. A poll was then demanded for Mr Morrison, and the polling commenced on Tuesday. The following was the state of the poll at the close:—Bailey, 303; Morrison, 255; majority for Bailey, 48.—*The Courier* says Mr Morrison, the Liberal candidate, refused to have recourse to the means by which alone an election for Sudbury can be gained; and although 500*l.* expended on his side would have insured his return, he preferred losing the seat to gaining it by corrupt means.

EDMUND BURKE.—On Tuesday evening Mr A. A. Fry delivered, at the Hackney Literary Institution, the first of two lectures on the character and writings of Burke. The lecturer, avoiding the debatable ground of party politics, expatiated on the literary merits and majestic intellect of the modern Cicero; and justified his enthusiastic eulogium by reading, from the speeches and writings of Burke, a variety of passages, not more distinguished for their felicity of expression than for the skill with which general principles were brought to bear in support of the particular views of the orator. The audience was numerous, and repeatedly testified their gratification by applause.

NEW POOR LAW RIOTS.—The operatives of Leicestershire, particularly in the neighbourhood of Loughborough and Sheephead (districts in which the manufacture of lace and hosiery is carried on to a considerable extent), being plunged into a deplorable state of distress from the depression of trade, have been compelled to seek relief from the guardians of the unions formed in that neighbourhood. The application for such relief has led to serious riots in that place, which, together with Loughborough, has been in a state of great excitement all the week. The riots commenced on Tuesday, and it has been found necessary to call in the military from Nottingham. It appears that the New Poor Law Bill is held in as utter detestation in Leicestershire as in Yorkshire and Lancashire; and the principal cause of these disturbances, we understand from private letters, is, that the operatives believe that under one of the clauses of the New Poor Law Bill they will be compelled to inhabit the new Bastiles instead of receiving out-door relief, in case of a total stoppage of trade, by being thrown out of employment.

SACRED HARMONIC SOCIETY.—The whole of the tickets for the *Messiah*, at Exeter Hall, on the 22nd of December, having been disposed of, we hear the Society intend repeating the performance in the week after.

POLICE.

MANSION-HOUSE.

A little boy, the son of a costermonger, was brought before Sir Peter Laurie, charged with having cruelly treated a donkey.—The officer who apprehended the boy, stated that a person walked up to him in the street, and told him that a boy was beating a poor donkey with great violence. The donkey was under a heavy load, and when witness went up he saw the boy labouring the animal to make him "kim aup." The young fellow hit first with one end of the stick and then with the other, but the donkey was so lame he could not move, although helped and pushed forward by several. At the moment they were all trying to make him "go," Mr Hobler passed by, and observed, that the weight should be removed from the ass's shoulders. That relief had the desired effect. The donkey moved off, but it was thought proper to bring up the boy for a Mansion house lecture at least.—The costermonger (a very rough one): Please you, my lord, there a'nt a better boy to a poor beast in the world, and the hass hisself's a reglar trump.—Mr Hobler: The donkey certainly was in excellent condition.—The costermonger: And no mistake. Wain't he as fat as a pig, mauster? Blest if you could finger a rib on his whole carcass; a more gentler creetur never stood an hour under a bausket of green-stuff.—Sir Peter Laurie: Why then did your son beat him while he was carrying a heavy load?—The costermonger: Bless you, he only jist titched him. The load what he carried was nothing of a load, but the hanimal happened to pick up a bit of wood in his fatluck, and when I poked it out with my gimlet, my eyes didn't he go. (A laugh.)—The boy: The load want too heavy, please you, my lord, but he vas taken vith a stopping fit, and he wouldn't go for'ads for nobody, till father, wot knows him best, comed up, and then didn't he go?—The costermonger: Go! I believe you, Bill. Didn't he gallop like a new un? I'm blessed if Plenipo would a' caught him. (Laughter.)—Sir Peter Laurie: But the goodness of the donkey is no excuse for the cruelty of this boy.—The costermonger: Please you, my lord, one on 'em is jist as good as tother. Both on 'em has jist a bit of wice like the rest on us, now and then, and I corrects 'em; but Bill is a good boy to the hass, and the hass is a good hass to the boy, as good a hass as ever goed upon two legs.—The boy: He goes upon four legs father. Hasses never goes upon two legs.—Sir Peter Laurie: Don't contradict your father, boy; he is perfectly right in talking of two-legged asses. There are more of that sort than of the other; but they are all jacksasses. (Great laughter.)—Mr Hobler: I dare say they treat the donkey well, if we may judge from its appearance; and that the boy will not get into a passion again after this.—The costermonger: Bless you, why the boy wouldn't let me titch the hass: would you, Bill?—Boy: Not if I knowed it, and wur able for to take his part.—Sir Peter Laurie: Well, I shall discharge the boy, in the belief that it is not his practice to act cruelly, and upon the assurance that you will punish him if he should repeat what he has done in this case.—The costermonger: Thank you, my lord. Why, we wouldn't part with the hass on no account whatsomdever. I gave a matter of a pound for him, and I'm blest (God forgive me) if I'd give him for one pound one this precious day. (A laugh.)

HATTON GARDEN.

Alice Triggs, a notorious impostor, was finally examined, charged by Mrs Mary Frances Park, of No. 32 Bedford square, daughter-in-law of Judge Park, with having obtained half-a-sovereign under the following circumstances. Mrs Park, having been sworn, stated, that, on the 31st of August last, the prisoner called at her house, and as she was about to enter her carriage the prisoner accosted her and represented that she was far advanced in pregnancy, of which she bore every appearance, and that she had a letter of admission to the Westminster Lying-in Hospital, but having pledged all her baby-linen, she was unable to go there. She clung to the area railings, and seemed to be in great agony, and witness, fearing the consequences, handed her a half-sovereign, and ordered her butler to send her immediately in a cabriolet to the Westminster Hospital, and pay all expenses, and a letter was also forwarded by her requesting the matron to receive her.—William Hale, of No. 15 Windmill street, Tottenham court road, stated that on the afternoon of the 31st of August he was called off the stand in Tottenham court road, and ordered to drive to No. 32 Bedford square, and on his arrival in Bedford street, he saw the prisoner supported by a lady. She appeared to be in great agony, and they had great difficulty in getting her into the cab. The lady ordered witness to drive instantly to the Westminster Hospital. On his arrival near Crown street, Soho, the prisoner seemed to recover herself, and said, "Stop! Here she is. I am not so bad as the lady thought I was." On which she jumped out of the cab, and joined another woman. She said to witness, "It is only a stall off."—Mr Laing: What did she mean by a stall off?—Witness: I suppose a plant; that she was not so bad as she affected to be, your worship. She then said, "You shall take a glass of gin. I suppose you are up to trap. It will be all safe." She took him and the woman into a gin shop, and treated them to gin, saying they might have as much as they pleased, and changed half-a-sovereign. Witness suspected an imposition, and gave information to Mrs Park.—Mr Laing praised the witness for his conduct.—An officer stated, that having received information of the offence, and knowing the prisoner, he apprehended her. She had been thrice convicted by Mr Shutt, of Marylebone office, for similar transactions, and twice from this office, for having imposed upon Lady Sugden and a Mrs Daniels, and each time sentenced to three months' imprisonment and hard labour in the House of Correction.—Mr Laing asked her what she had to say?—Prisoner: That I am in the state that I represented myself to be in.—Several other ladies, who had been similarly defrauded by the prisoner, were in attendance to exhibit charges against her, but their evidence was dispensed with, and the prisoner was committed to the House of Correction and hard labour for three months. It was stated that the prisoner, in conjunction with two other women, had practised their impositions upon numerous charitable individuals in the neighbourhood of Fulham, Battersea, Chelsea, and the outskirts of London.

ACCIDENTS, OFFENCES, &c.

TWENTY-SEVEN LIVES LOST.—On Wednesday, about ten in the forenoon, another of those dreadful accidents which have too frequently occurred in colliery districts, took place at Springwell Colliery, near Wreckenton, about four miles from Newcastle, the property of Lord Ravensworth and partners, by which twenty-seven men and boys unfortunately lost their lives. The melancholy catastrophe took place at the time when the men were changing shifts, which is the more to be deplored, as both sets thereby lost their lives. Had it occurred a short time earlier or later, one portion of the sufferers would have been out of the pit and safe. At the time the explosion took place there were about ninety men in the colliery, working in separate districts, namely, twenty-nine in the near district, where the explosion happened, all of whom were killed, except two boys: and sixty-one in the east district, about half a mile further from the shaft. Mr Southern, the viewer, Mr Lee, the under-viewer, Mr Steel, overman, and an apprentice, named Sinclair, had very narrow escapes; they had left the district about 150 yards when they were all knocked down by the force of the blast, but soon after recovered. Three horses were also killed; but although the force of the explosion was so dreadful, comparatively little damage is done to the workings of the mine. Very soon after the explosion the atmospheric air was got into the workings, and several of the bodies of the unfortunate sufferers were found in a most dreadfully scorched state. All of them had been brought to bank on Thursday afternoon, before the inquest was held, except two boys, who are supposed to be under a part of the roof which had fallen. The colliery was generally considered very safe since the opening of an upcast shaft. On Thursday an inquest was held at the Springwell Inn, near the colliery, before Michael Hall, Esq., coroner, on the bodies of James Henderson and Joseph Mason, two of the sufferers, whose bodies had been removed into Gateshead parish; another inquest will be held on the bodies lying in Washington and Wreckenton parishes. After the coroner had made a few observations on the evidence adduced, the jury retired for a few minutes, and returned with a verdict of "Accidental death."

SHOCKING AND CURIOUS ACCIDENT.—On Saturday morning, a fine girl about eight years of age, daughter of Benjamin Oldham, of Cronkeyshaw, near this town, was fetching the milk for breakfast, and when near their own door fell, breaking the pitcher, a piece of which struck her in the neck, and cut her so severely as to cause her death in a few minutes.—Leeds Times.

DARING ROBBERY.—A gentleman named Edwd. Meade was on Thursday night, between eight and nine o'clock, passing along Lincoln's inn fields, when he was accosted by a young man, who begged to know "what o'clock it was?" Mr Meade pulled out his watch to give the desired information, when the fellow seized it, and ran off with the watch. Mr Meade was so confounded that he had not the power for some minutes to call for assistance. In the meantime the thief made his escape.

CHARGE OF MURDER.—At an early hour on Friday morning the neighbourhood of Chelsea was thrown into a state of great excitement, in consequence of a report that a female named Esther Jarman, the wife of William Jarman, the keeper of the Haunch of Venison beer-shop, at the corner of Blacklands lane, Chelsea, had died from the effects of violence inflicted by her husband. As the investigation has not been completed, it is enough to say that little doubt exists of the wretched woman's having died by violence from her husband.

terms as on Monday. The Wheat trade is very heavy. Fine new Malt continues to be inquired for. Oats, Beans, and Peas remain the same as on Monday.

Table with columns: Gazette Averages, Wheat, Barley, Oats, Rye, Beans, Peas. Rows: Week ended Dec. 8, Six weeks (Governors Duty).

SMITHFIELD MARKETS, FRIDAY. Table with columns: Prices per Stone, Prices, At Market. Rows: Beef, Mutton, Lamb, Veal, Pork, Hay, Straw, Clover, Beasts, Calves, Sheep & Lambs, Pigs.

The average price of Brown or Muscovado Sugar, computed from the returns made in the week ending Dec. 12, is 40s. 7 1/2 d. per cwt.

FROM THE LONDON GAZETTES.—Tuesday, Dec. 12.

- INSOLVENT.—J. Lush, Taunton St Mary Magdalen, Somersetshire, tailor.
BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.—E. Waters, Caerleon, Monmouthshire, scrivener.
II BANKRUPTS.
D. Moginie, St Mary-at-hill, spice merchant. [Bolton, Austinfriars.
J. Stephenson, Mortimer st. Marylebone, plumber. [Turner, Clifford's inn.
C. Fricker, Brighton, grocer. [Cattlin, Ely place.
C. Johnson, Glamford Briggs, Lincolnshire, innkeeper. [Dyneley & Co. Gray's inn.
T. H. Bennett, Cheltenham, timber merchant. [King, Gray's inn square.
G. Hardesty, Sheffield, table knife manufacturer. [Rodgers, Devonshire square, Bishopgate st.
C. Gapper, Bruton, Somersetshire, currier. [Burfoot, Temple.
J. and J. Wilson, Nottingham, hosiers. [Austen & Hobson, Gray's inn.
A. Birks, Manchester, linen draper. [Johnson & Co. Temple.
W. E. Burgess, Llanelly, Carmarthenshire, draper. [Mansfield, Swansea.
J. G. White, Liverpool, merchant. [Chester, Staple inn.

- Friday, December 15.
INSOLVENTS.—J. Stear, Oxford st. hosier.
T. K. Everett, Cheshunt, brick maker.
E. Goodwin, New court, Crutchedfriars, merchant.

- 14 BANKRUPTS.
G. Williams, Union court, Broad st. City, Irish provision broker. [Billing, King st. Cheapside.
J. Turner, Grantham, Lincolnshire, wool-buyer. [Williamson & Hill, Gray's inn.
J. B. North, Taunton, wine merchant. [James & Terrell, Basinghall st.
H. Conway, Liverpool, general merchant. [Blackstock & Co. Temple.
C. Richardson, Limehouse, timber merchant. [Lang, Fenchurch st.
E. R. Kett, Oxford, chemist. [Holmes, Great James st. Bedford row.
M. & J. Barton, Stockport, cotton spinners. [Ross, Symond's inn, Chancery lane.
G. Cook, Faversham, Kent, grocer. [Child, St Swithin's lane, Lombard st.
T. Wythes, Northfield, Worcestershire, coal merchant. [Young & Jackson, Essex st. Strand.
J. Scott, Newcastle upon-Tyne, fruiterer. [Bell & Co. Bow churchyd. Cheapside.
D. Davies, Sydney, Gloucestershire, coal master. [Blower & Vizard, Lincoln's inn fids.
P. Hughes, Edge hill, near Liverpool, brewer. [Ross, Symond's inn, Chancery lane.
W. Wakeman, Shenstone, Staffordshire, wharfinger. [Austen & Hobson, Gray's inn.
W. Lupton, Ewell, Surrey, innkeeper. [Martineau & Co. Carey st. Lincoln's inn fids.

COMMERCE.

GOVERNMENT SECURITIES.—FOUR O'CLOCK.

Table with columns: FUNDS, Price, SHARE LIST, Div., Paid, Price. Rows: SATURDAY, Consols, Do. Account, 3 per Ct. Red, 3 1/2 New, 3 1/2 Red, Long Ann., Bank Stock, Excheq. Bills, FOREIGN, Belgian, Brazil, Dutch 2 1/2 per Ct., Danish, French 3 per Ct., Mex. 6 per Ct., Colombian, Russian, Port. Regency, Spanish.

[From the List of Messrs Wolfe, Brothers, Stock-brokers, Change alley.]

CORN MARKETS.

CORN EXCHANGE, MONDAY.—We had this morning a pretty good supply of Wheat, as well as spring corn, with the exception of Oats. Our millers did not purchase freely; sales were very heavy, yet for superfine dry new Wheat prices may be considered much the same as on Monday last, but for the inferior damp qualities they hardly support late prices. Fine old Wheat is not so much in request as it has been. The finest malting Barley was not very brisk in sale, yet we cannot quote it lower; the inferior and distillers' sorts are 1s. per quarter cheaper. For superfine new Malt only we still have inquiries; but for old there is very little demand, and it is difficult to dispose of. Although the supply of Oats is short, they are not advanced in price; some Irish arrivals of this article are daily expected. Old Beans go off on much the same terms as of late, but new Beans, as well as Maple and Grey Peas, are each 1s. per quarter cheaper. White Peas, good breakers, support late prices. General currency as under:—

Table with columns: per quar., per quar., per quar. Rows: Wheat, Red (old & new), White, Scotch (nominal), Revite, Barley, Chevalier, Malt, Essex & Suffolk, pale, Chevalier, Beans, Tick, old, Harrow, old, ditto, new, Horse, new, ditto, old, Peas, White, Gray, Maple, Rye, Brank, Flour, per sack.

Arrivals from the 4th December to the 9th inclusive.

Table with columns: English, Scotch, Irish, Foreign, Wheat, Barley, Malt, Oats, Rye, Beans, Peas.

FLour.—English, 11966 sacks; Scotch, —; Irish, —; Foreign, 2173 barrels.
CORN EXCHANGE, FRIDAY.—We have had a few fresh arrivals of Barley and Wheat. Fine Barley, as well as the distillers' sorts, go off on much the same

DEATHS.

At Piedmont, in the 70th year of his age, the Earl of Moreland. He is succeeded by his nephew, now in the 25th year of his age. [The Liverpool Mercury gives this death in its obituary; but we can find no Earl of Moreland in the peerage books.]

Suddenly, at Adrianople, Pertew Pacha. His death is attributed to poison.—Allgemeine Zeitung.

Recently, at Paris, after a long and painful illness, M. Johannot, the distinguished young French artist.

Lately, Thomas Babington, Esq., of Rothley Temple, Leicestershire. He was long known as the attached friend and coadjutor of Mr Wilberforce, and represented the borough of Leicester for many years in Parliament. He married the sister of Zachary Macaulay, Esq., and is consequently the uncle, as he is the godfather, of Mr Thomas Babington Macaulay, whose return from India is announced.—Leeds Mercury.

Lately, of consumption, and within a few hours of each other, Richard, eldest son, and Jocelyn, youngest son, of the late R. Phillips, Esq., of Phillipsburg, Queen's County, the former aged 23, and the latter 19.

On the 4th inst., at Kamfras, aged 82, Major General Norman M'Leod, in the service of his Majesty the King of the Netherlands.

On Thursday last, at the residence of Mr John Johnstone, Laverock Bank, Trinity, Mr Robert Nicoll, late editor of the Leeds Times. He had fallen into bad health about six months ago; but he continued to struggle on with the duties of the newspaper until October last, when, at the urgent solicitation of Mr William Tait and others of his friends in Scotland, he resigned his situation and returned to this country, under the fond hope that his native air and cessation from labour might in some measure aid in restoring him. With a kindness which does him the highest honour, Mr Johnstone placed his house at Mr Nicoll's entire service, and every means which the best medical skill could suggest was tried for his benefit; but we understand his complaint (consumption) had advanced too far to justify any expectation of his ultimate recovery. Accordingly, instead of improving, he gradually grew weaker and weaker until Thursday afternoon, when he breathed his last.—Scotsman.

Lately, of apoplexy, M. Bautte, the well known jeweller and watchmaker of Geneva. He had created a large fortune, and had greatly contributed to the improvement of the finer branches of mechanical movements in his department of art.

On the 27th ult., at Gotha, where he had presided over the gymnasium ever since 1786, in the 82d year of his age, the celebrated scholar, W. Döring. The literary world has lost in him one of the most enlightened and industrious editors of Germany.

At Bath, in the 90th year of his age, Mr Pickwick, the well-known coach proprietor.

On the 23d ult., at Pubble, near Nn-Stewart, aged 92, Mr David Ross. He had 15 children, 87 grandchildren, and 24 great-grandchildren—total 120.

A short time since, near Turiff, Banffshire, having attained the remarkable age of 132 years, John Gordon. All the travellers who chanced to call at the neighbouring inn of Turiff were uniformly directed by the landlady, Mrs Wallace, to the cottage of the patriarch, where they would see (she used to say) the oldest man in Banffshire, "ay, or in the world." Among the visitors one day, about the close of harvest, was a young Englishman, who, coming up to the door of the cottage, accosted a venerable looking man, employed in knitting hose, with "so, my o'd friend, can you see to knit at your advanced period of life? one hundred, and thirty-two is truly a rare age." "De'il's i'the man: it will be my grand-father ye're seeking—I'm only seventy-three—ye'll find him round the corner of the house." On turning round the corner the stranger encountered a debilitated old man, whose whitened locks bore testimony to his having long passed the meridian of life, and whom the stranger at once concluded to be John Gordon himself. "You seem wonderfully fresh, my good Sir, for so old a man; I doubt not but you have experienced many vicissitudes in the course of your very long life." "What's your wull, Sir?" inquired the person addressed, whose sense of hearing was somewhat impaired. The observation was repeated. "Oh, ye'll be wanting my father, I reckon—he's i'the yard there." The stranger now entered the garden, where he at last found the venerable old man busily employed in digging potatoes, and humming the ballad of the battle of Harlaw. "I have had some difficulty in finding you, friend, as I successively encountered your grandson and son, both of whom I mistook for you: indeed they seem as old as yourself. Your labour is rather hard for one at your advanced age." "It is (replied John), but I am thankfu' that I am able for't, as the laddies, puir things, are no' yerre stout now." The united ages of the worthy trio amounted to upwards of 300 years.

THEATRE ROYAL, COVENT GARDEN.

TOMORROW, Shakespeare's Tragedy of MACBETH. Macbeth, Mr Macready; Macduff, Mr Phelps; Lady Macbeth, Miss Huddart. With JOAN OF ARC, THE MAID OF ORLEANS. On Tuesday, AMILIE; or, THE LOVE TEST. With JOAN OF ARC, THE MAID OF ORLEANS. On Wednesday, AMILIE; or, THE LOVE TEST. With JOAN OF ARC, THE MAID OF ORLEANS. On Thursday, AMILIE; or, THE LOVE TEST. With JOAN OF ARC, THE MAID OF ORLEANS.

THEATRE ROYAL, HAYMARKET. LAST FIVE NIGHTS of Mr RANGER in the ROMANTIC WIDOW.

TOMORROW, The LOVE CHASE, THE ROMANTIC WIDOW, and PEEPING TOM OF COVENTRY. On Tuesday, THE LOVE CHASE and WILD OATS. On Wednesday, THE LOVE CHASE, THE ROMANTIC WIDOW, and THE VILLAGE LAWYER. On Thursday, THE LOVE CHASE, THE ROMANTIC WIDOW, and THE OLD COMODORE. On Tuesday, the 26th, will be produced a New Grand Legendary Fairy Romance, to be called WHITTINGTON AND HIS CAT, or the Fairy Queen of Herne's Oak. On Friday, the 29th, Mr Power will appear.

THEATRE ROYAL, ADELPHI. Positively the LAST SIX NIGHTS of Mr POWER as RORY O'MORE, which Piece cannot be performed again till Easter.

TOMORROW, and during the Week, will be presented a Burletta, in Three Acts, entitled VALSHA! or, the Slave Queen! Valsha, Mrs Yates. After which, a New Burletta, in Three Acts, called RORY O'MORE. Rory O'More, Mr Power. To conclude with a Military Drama, called VICTOIRE! or, the Fall of Constantina. Victoire, Mademoiselle Celeste.

ST JAMES'S THEATRE. TOMORROW will be performed THE SIEGE OF BELGRADE. The Seraskier, Mr Braham; Leopold, Mr Harley; Yusph, Mr Wright; Lilla, Miss Rainforth; Catherine, Mrs Stirling. After which, WANTED A BRIGAND. Count Julian, Mr Braham; Baron Musquitto, Mr Harley; Lauretta, Miss Rainforth; Rosa, Miss J. Smith. With the Cachuca Dance, by Mr Wright and Madame Sala. To conclude with A DAY IN PARIS. Emily Grenville, Mrs Stirling. On Tuesday, a variety of Entertainments, for the Benefit of Mr Otway. Private Boxes, 11. 12s. 6d.

PURE BEAR'S GREASE.—One of the greatest curiosities that is to be exhibited this Christmas in the metropolis will be at FINCH'S, 56 Bishopsgate Without, where one of the fattest Bears now in England will be killed for the benefit of its Rich Grease, which may be had at 1s. per ounce, or four ounces for 3s. 6d. Observe—56 Bishopsgate Without, corner of Artillery lane. Another arrival of two fine young Bears.

GENTLEMEN'S DRESS.—GREAT COATS, FROCK, and DRESS COATS, and every other article of Gentlemen's Dress for the present season, cut to fit in the most approved style of fashion, and made in the best manner at the undermentioned moderate Prices for Cash, at J. ALBERT'S, Tailor and Draper, 52 King William street, London bridge.

POISON, or ARSENIC in CANDLES! The recent experiments of Professor Everitt, the proceedings of the Medico-Botanical and the Westminster Medical Societies, and a chemical analysis by Mr Robert Hunt, as reported in the Lancet of the 4th, 11th, and 25th of November, 1837, have established the alarming fact that, to the great risk of serious injury to the health of the consumers, arsenic, in large and dangerous quantities, is used in making various kinds of German Wax, Composition, Stearine, and other Candles, including also those of Spermaceti, as well for the purpose of giving an alluring appearance as that, so adulterated, such Candles may be sold at a low price.

PATENT PORTABLE WATER CLOSETS, on WISS and HAWKINS' PRINCIPLE.—Fifteen years' labour and experience have not only established their superiority, but the decided conviction that they cannot be improved. ROBERT WISS, the actual inventor, and holder of the patent, feels justified in calling attention to the above as the most simple and perfect article of the kind. Also Water Closets, for fixing on the same principle, are particularly recommended for the country and exportation, the machinery and cistern requiring no more room than is occupied by the seat. To be seen in great variety at the manufactory. Plumber's work of every description executed in town and country.—Address, 38 Charing cross, near the Admiralty, London.

PEARL WAX LIGHTS.—The Manufacturers having noticed an anonymous advertisement in several of the morning papers, in which their production is falsely and malignantly libelled, hasten to inform their Friends and the Public that steps are being taken by their solicitors to discover the author, and prevent a recurrence of this weak attempt of a concealed enemy. J. M. Boyer, Agent to the Manufacturer, at the Pearl Wax Light Depot, 86 Bond street, Oxford street; and at No. 25 Coleman street, London.

LONDON and BRIGHTON RAILWAY COMPANY.—NOTICE is hereby given that the period for the Registration of the Shares in this Company will EXPIRE on the 28th INSTANT. Forms of application to register may be procured at the Company's Office, which, with the new Shares, must be left for examination one clear day previous to the Certificates, under the Seal of this Company, being issued. By order of the Board, THOS. WOOD, Sec.

DIRECT LONDON and BRIGHTON RAILWAY.—Notice is hereby given to the Shareholders in this undertaking, that the period for EXCHANGING their SHARES for the NEW SCRIP of the Incorporated London and Brighton Railway Company, and for registering the same, will EXPIRE on the 28th INSTANT. The exchange to be effected upon the principle set forth in the advertisement dated the 8th September last: for which purpose attendance will be given at this Office daily, from Ten till Four o'clock. By order of the Directors, 71 Lombard street, Dec. 4, 1837. H. DEAN, Sec.

NOTICE. General Post Office, 1st December, 1837. ON and from Tuesday the 5th instant, NEWSPAPERS will be permitted to pass free by the London Twopenny Post, except in those cases where they shall be posted and delivered within the Limits, for the time being, of the General Post Delivery. By Command, W. L. MABERLY, Secretary.

NOTICE. General Post Office, 30th November, 1837. TO the COMMANDERS of SHIPS arriving from FOREIGN PORTS. The Postmaster-General being desirous of securing the landing of Letters brought to this Country by Private Ships, as soon as possible after their arrival off the Coast, has made arrangements to remunerate the Masters of Pilot and other Vessels who are in the practice of looking out for homeward-bound ships, for the service of conveying the Letters on shore at the first Port between the Lands-end and Deal with which they can communicate; and it is hoped, that the Commanders of such Ships will avail themselves of these opportunities to ensure an object of so much importance to the mercantile interests. As, however, the law imposes upon them the responsibility of landing the Letters with safety as well as expedition, they will see the necessity of not entrusting the duty to any persons but those on whose respectability and punctuality they can fully rely. The Commanders, who will by this arrangement be saved the expense of sending their Letters on shore, will be paid the gratuity of Two-pence each on Letters, and a Penny on Newspapers, allowed by Act of Parliament, on application to this Office after they shall have reached their port of destination. By Command, W. L. MABERLY, Secretary.

NOTICE. General Post Office, November, 1837. REGISTERED LETTERS to FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

The practice adopted by the Post Office in France, of charging double the rate of Postage to which Letters are liable, as the price for Registering them, will hereafter be substituted in this Country for the present regulation of requiring Half-a-Crown as a Fee, in addition to the Postage on such Letters, provided the extra Postage to be so charged shall not exceed Half-a-Crown, which is still to be the highest sum demanded for the Registry of any Foreign Letter in this Country. For example, a Single Registered Letter from London to Paris will be charged two British and two French rates, making the total sum in the two Countries 3s. 4d., instead of the present charge of 5s.; a double Letter will be liable to 6s. 8d., instead of 7s. 6d.; and a treble Letter, to 10s., being the present amount; and for Letters above that class the Half-Crown will continue in operation in this Country instead of the system of Double Postage, which would then become the most expensive. As the optional payment does not apply to Registered Letters, the whole amount of Postage chargeable in England and in France upon such Letters must be paid at the time they are put into the Post in either country. In consequence of this concession with regard to Registered Letters, the practice of taking charge of Foreign Letters containing Coin, Jewels, &c., as "Money Letters" will be discontinued, and in future these Letters can only be received under the same regulations that apply to other Registered Letters. It must be distinctly understood, that the Registry of Letters will not make the Postmaster-General responsible for the Loss that may be sustained in consequence of the failure of any Letter with which this precaution may have been adopted. By Command, W. L. MABERLY, Secretary.

CHEAP CLOTHING at 92 FLEET STREET. J. SWAIN and Co., TAILORS to her MAJESTY the QUEEN, beg to recommend to the notice of the Nobility, Gentry, and to the Public generally, their extensive assortment of goods for the present season, consisting of Victoria and Brighton Beavers, Milled Cloths, &c. for Great Coats; Striped, Ribbed, and Railroad Cassimeres for Trowsers; Shawls, Valenciennes, Silks, and Figured Velvets of the choicest patterns, for Waistcoats; and all other articles for Gentlemen's Clothing, which they continue to furnish at their customary reasonable prices, for ready money only. N.B. Ladies' Riding Habits and Children's Dresses. State, Dress, and Plain Liveries.

PATENT PORTABLE WATER CLOSETS, on WISS and HAWKINS' PRINCIPLE.—Fifteen years' labour and experience have not only established their superiority, but the decided conviction that they cannot be improved. ROBERT WISS, the actual inventor, and holder of the patent, feels justified in calling attention to the above as the most simple and perfect article of the kind. Also Water Closets, for fixing on the same principle, are particularly recommended for the country and exportation, the machinery and cistern requiring no more room than is occupied by the seat. To be seen in great variety at the manufactory. Plumber's work of every description executed in town and country.—Address, 38 Charing cross, near the Admiralty, London.

CHINA TEA COMPANY, ESTABLISHED JANUARY 1837. FOR THE SALE OF THE BEST TEAS ONLY. The difficulty of procuring GENUINE TEAS first suggested the union of a few individuals experienced in the trade to effect so desirable an object. With this view the above company was formed, and commenced business upon a new principle, the success of which has fully realized their expectations. They supply only the TWO BEST descriptions of TEAS from the original chests, at the lowest remunerating prices, viz:— The Best Black Tea at 4s. 10d. per lb., formerly charged 5s., and upwards. The Best Green Tea at 6s. per lb., formerly charged 7s., and upwards. The proprietors have adopted this principle as the best security they can offer for the genuineness of their Teas, in contradistinction to the system pursued by all other Dealers, which keep a large variety of inferior Teas, the greater part of which find their way into consumption, mixed with better sorts. Hence the cause of complaint so general among all classes. Finest Mocha Coffee, 2s. 6d. per lb. Java ditto, 2s. per lb. Country orders, including a remittance or reference in town, promptly and faithfully executed. Deliveries to all parts of London. Chief Establishment, 106 Newgate street, corner of Christ's Hospital; West-end Branch, 315 Oxford street, a few doors west of Regent street.

ALARM of FIRE.—A report having gone abroad that G. RIDDLE'S Patent Pencil Manufactory had sustained considerable damage by Fire, G. Riddle is happy to inform his numerous friends (particularly in the country) that the danger was wholly confined to his dwelling house, the Manufactory not being at all injured—the business proceeds as usual. 172 Blackfriars road, Dec. 14th, 1837.

REFORM YOUR TAILOR'S BILLS.

Great coats and pilot pea jackets, velvet collars, bound, &c.	£ s. d. 1 0	The new waterproof cloak	£ s. d. 1 1 1
Superfine dress coat	2 7	Cloth opera cloaks	1 10 0
Do. frock do. silk facings	2 10	Spanish cloaks, complete circle, 9 1/2 yds.	3 3 0
Morning dressing coats	0 15	Boys' cloaks	0 8 6
Buckskin and railroad trowsers	1 1	Suit of liveries	3 3 0

 DOUDNEY and SON, City Clothing Establishment, 49 Lombard street. Established 1784. Best and Cheapest House for Boys' Clothing.

FISHER'S PATENT TAPER NEEDLES.—S. FISHER, in offering the above Needles to the Public, begs to point out their decided superiority to any yet manufactured. The improvement consists in each needle being made as fine as possible—consistent with strength, and gradually to taper from the centre to the point, thereby causing greater facility in passing through the work. Particular attention is paid to the eye, each one being drilled separately, which prevents the possibility of their cutting the thread. To be had only of S. Fisher, cutter, 188 Strand, corner of Arundel street, opposite St Clement's church.

DRESS COATS cut in the first style of fashion, 35s. Superfine, 40s. to 50s. Frock Coats, silk facing, 42s. and 47s. Ditto, silk velvet collar and silk facing, 55s. Winter Trowsers, 8s. 6d. to 10s. Buckskin, Cloth, and Kerseymer, 18s. to 25s. Fancy Waistcoats, 6s. 6d. to 12s. 6d. Rich Silk ditto, Cloth, and Kerseymer, 7s. to 12s. 6d. Petersham Great Coats, 25s. Pilot Coats, 16s., 21s., and 30s. Cloth Cloaks, 30s. to 50s. Milled Cloth Great Coats, 42s. Shooting Jackets, 18s. Dressing Gowns, 10s. 6d. Boys' and Youths' Clothing, Tunic Cloth Dresses, 30s. to 42s. A Suit of Clothes for 31 Superfine ditto, 3l. 10s.—At FISHER and CO'S., Tailors, 31 King William street, City, 10 doors from London bridge.

HOWQUA'S MIXTURE, and HOWQUA'S SMALL LEAF GUNPOWDER.—The public are cautioned against being misled by the false statements published in advertisements and handbills, by a person who is pirating these names and packages to get rid of tea which is proved, on oath, to be of only one quarter the value of the real Howqua's Mixture. These teas are sold in London only by T. Littlejohn and Sons, Scotch Confectioners, 77 King William street, city; and C. Verrey, Swiss Confectioner, 218 Regent street. "Howqua's Mixture is a mixture of the very highest character, having a character peculiar to itself, a fine natural aroma. Howqua's Small Leaf Gunpowder is of the very finest quality, and such as could not be purchased in the market."—Times Report, June 22, of Mr Styan's evidence.

GENTLEMEN'S DRESS.—HOLYLAND'S, 150 STRAND, Two Doors West of Somerset House.—It is the object of the Proprietors of this large Establishment to supply Gentlemen to whom credit is not a desideratum with Clothes of the best qualities, at the lowest possible prices. Their profits are small in detail, but, from the extent of their business, and the avoidance of bad debts, sufficient to repay the capital employed. Every article they use is of the best quality, and the workmanship is performed by men of the first-rate taste and skill.

Superfine Coats	£ s. d. 3 4 0
Superior quality	3 10 0
Superfine Frock Coats, including Silk in Skirts	3 18 0
Extra quality	3
Trowsers	£ 1 8s. to 11 5s.

 Just completed, a Large and Elegant Stock of CLOAKS, in Spanish, Circular, and Opera, lined with velvet, silk, fur, &c. Pea Jackets in great variety.

THE MOST IMPORTANT HUMAN DISCOVERY.—A Clergyman, late of Cambridge University, having discovered a method of curing himself of a nervous or mental complaint of 14 years' duration, and in four years having had above 1,800 patients, all of whom he has cured who followed his advice, except 12, offers from benevolence, rather than gain, to CURE others. Low spirits, mental debility or exhaustion, determination of blood to the head, vertigo, groundless fear, failure of memory, incapacity for study and business, restlessness, irresolution, wretchedness, indecision, melancholy, thoughts of self-destruction, &c. are curable by this important discovery, which is sent to all parts. Most recover in six weeks. Apply to, or address, post paid, Rev. Dr Willis, Mosley and Co., 9 Charlotte street, Bloomsbury. At home from 11 till 3.

LOSS OF TEETH SUPPLIED, WITHOUT SPRINGS, CLASPS, OR WIRES; LOOSE TEETH FASTENED, AND FILLING DECAYED TEETH WITH MINERAL MARMORATUM.

MONSIEUR LE DRAY and CO., SURGEON DENTISTS, No. 60 NEWMAN STREET, OXFORD STREET, continue to RESTORE DECAYED TEETH with their celebrated MINERAL MARMORATUM, applied without PAIN, HEAT, OR PRESSURE, which in a few seconds HARDENS INTO ENAMEL, PREVENTING AND CURING THE TOOTH-ACHE, allaying in one minute the most excruciating PAIN, and rendering the OPERATION OF EXTRACTION UNNECESSARY. They also FASTEN LOOSE TEETH, whether arising from neglect, the use of Calomel, or disease of the GUMS. INCORRODIBLE ARTIFICIAL or NATURAL TEETH, of SURPASSING BEAUTY, FIXED, from ONE to a COMPLETE SET, without EXTRACTING the ROOTS, or GIVING ANY PAIN, the ENCUMBRANCE OF SPRINGS, CLASPS, WIRES, or any other LIGATURES at the following PARIS CHARGES:—

A Single Artificial Tooth	£ s. d. 0 10 0
A Complete Set	5 0 0
A Complete Set of Natural Teeth on fine gold plate	15 0 0
An Entire Set of Natural or Ferro-Metallic Teeth, highly finished, in the first style, with fine gold sockets, usually charged 50 guineas	20 0 0

 Arranged on the most improved and scientific principles, and in every case restoring perfect ARTICULATION and MASTICATION. Artificial Teeth out of repair, remodelled to fit the mouth, and restored equal in beauty and durability to their original state.—At home from Ten till six. N.B. No. 60 Newman street, Oxford street.

A CERTAIN CURE for COUGHS, COLDS, HOOPING COUGH, SHORTNESS OF BREATH, &c.—Of all the Medicines hitherto offered to the afflicted GLOVER'S BALSAM OF SQUILLS is decidedly the most efficacious. In Asthma, Oppression and Soreness of the Chest, it gives immediate relief; it strengthens the nervous system, promotes expectoration, and gives freedom to the Breast; is exceedingly pleasant, and particularly recommended to elderly persons with coughs of long standing. Prepared and sold, in bottles at 1s. 1/2d. and 2s. 6d. each, by G. Glover, chemist, &c. Lower street, Islington, and 19 Goodge street, Tottenham court road, London. Sold also by Butler, 4 Cheshire; Fuller, 51 Whitechapel; Proust, 229 Strand; Sanger, 150; and Squire, 277, Oxford street; and the principal Medicine Vendors.

Believe me, if all those endearing young charms, BELIEVE me, if all those light gossamer Hats, They're puffing so loudly to-day...

It is not in beautiful weather alone, When the sky is unclouded and clear, That the cheapness and worth of a Hat can be known; 'Tis not price only renders one dear...

THE FREQUENT ROBBERIES of PLATE have induced JOHN JAMES RIPPON, Ironmonger, of Wells street, Oxford street, to MANUFACTURE a SUBSTITUTE for SILVER...

Table with 2 columns: s. d. and s. d. Items include Butter Knives, Salt and Mustard Spoons, Soup Ladles, Sauce do., Sugar Tonges, etc.

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