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The Political Economist.

OFFICIAL SALARIES.

The appointment of a committee of the House of Commons, to inquire into Ministerial, Judicial, and Diplomatic Salaries, was one of the consequences of the clamour for diminished State expenditure which we noticed in our last number. We do not believe the inquiry was rendered necessary by any real public feeling on the matter; we do not believe that the nation grudges liberal remuneration to the chief officers of State, or would regard any saving which could be effected in this department as worth much consideration; and we doubt whether the tone of the investigation or the recommendations of the report will reflect any great credit on the committee. Nevertheless it was perhaps on the whole desirable that such a committee should have been appointed, though we think its constitution was essentially faulty. From a desire to avoid any suspicion of partiality or interested feeling—a false delicacy which is best banished even from private concerns, and which should never find entrance into public deliberations—the members of this committee were selected almost exclusively from that section of the House which never was, nor ever expects to be in office—from which neither of the great political parties choose their ministers: Lord John Russell was the only official member of the committee, and he was of course scarcely ever able to attend, while three of the members, Mr Bright, Mr Cobden, and Sir William Molesworth, were distinguished as holding extreme opinions on the subject of Economical Reform.

The principles which should guide a State in revising the appointments and remuneration of its officers seem to us easy to discover and not easy to dispute. In the first place, all pure sinecures and unnecessary offices should be (not reduced but) abolished. Secondly, the number of the public servants should be fully adequate to the efficient discharge of their duties, without exacting from them a degree of toil which either wears them out prematurely, or makes the best men anxious to retire from office, or to avoid it. Thirdly, the emoluments should be such as—taking into consideration all collateral advantages and disadvantages—should enable the State, in open competition with all other paymasters, to command the wisest, ablest, and most trusty men in the land. No man should have to shrink from public service because he cannot afford it. No man should have to feel that he

has injured himself and impoverished his family by having accepted office. No man should have to retire from public life with the impression that he has been serving a niggardly and unappreciating master. No man should have to regret, after a life of official toil, that he had not carried his talents and his time elsewhere.

Now, we do not think that these considerations have been duly borne in mind by the committee. In the face of the most influential evidence that most of the principal officers of State are greatly overworked, and that their emoluments are scarcely adequate to meet the inevitable expenses which official life involves, the committee recommend the abolition or amalgamation of some of these offices, and a reduction in the payment of others. We here subjoin a table showing the salaries of these officers as they stood in 1780, in 1830, in 1850, and as they would stand if the recommendations of the committee were to be carried out:—

Offices.	1780	1830	1850	Recommended by the committee.
First Lord of the Treasury.....	£ 7,430	£ 5,000	£ 5,000	£ 5,000
Chancellor of the Exchequer ...	—	5,398	5,000	5,000
Secretaries of State	5,312	6,000	5,000	5,000
Secretaries of the Treasury.....	5,114	3,500	2,500	2,000
Under-Secretaries of State	1,013	2,000	1,500	1,500
President of the Council.....	not known	2,840	2,000	2,000
Lord Privy Seal	4,036	2,054	2,000	abolished
President of the Board of Trade	{ 7 Lords at 1000l } 7,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Vice-President of the Board of Trade	none	2,000		{ Paid as Paymaster-General at 1,500 } United with the Pay-Master-Gen. at 1,500
Paymaster-General.....	{ 3,061 & large profits }	2,000	2,000	{ amalgamated }
Judge-Advocate.....	{ unknown but large }	3,000	2,000	1,500
Junior Treasury Lords ...	{ (4) 1,220 each }	(4) 1,220	(3) 1,200	(3) 1,000
First Lord of the Admiralty ...	3,000	5,000	4,500	4,500
Junior Admiralty Lords...	{ (6) 1,000 each }	(4) 1,000	{ (2) 1,200 each } (3) 1,000	(5) 1,000
Chief Secretary for Ireland { 2,307 & fees }		5,653	5,500	3,000
Master of the Mint.....	5,720	3,010	2,000	abolished

The apparent saving which would be effected, were all the recommendations of the committee carried into effect, would amount to 9,500l a year. But from this must be deducted the salary of a new and highly paid official in the Treasury, under whose immediate care it is proposed to place the duties of the Mint. These duties, under the new system of management, involve much more responsibility than they formerly did, and the least, therefore, that could be paid to any officer appointed to the head of the Mint department, were it attached to the already over-powered Treasury, would be from 1,500l to 2,000l a year; so that, in point of fact, the abolition of Master of the Mint would be little or no saving. The outside, therefore, of the proposed reductions would be 8,000l a year.

Before we can adopt the conclusion of the committee, that it would be wise or worth while for the country to effect a saving to the amount of 8,000l a year, at the cost of the contingent as well as the certain consequences which would ensue from such a reduction in the number and emoluments of the Parliamentary officers as is here recommended, there are various important considerations to be taken into account.

First. Of late years there has unavoidably been a vast increase in the amount of work to be done in every department. Since 1780 the increase has been enormous, and in many departments perfectly overwhelming. Even since 1830 the increase has been considerable, and is still going on. It arises from various causes. One cause is, that the whole business of the country has been augmented in an enormous ratio, and the necessary Government cog-

nisance, supervision, and control has of course increased also. Then again a far closer superintendence and inspection over every department of public service has been exercised of late years than was formerly thought necessary. Parliament too interferes with and inquires into every branch and every detail to a degree which was never thought of before the Reform Bill, and the amount of toil (often most serviceable, but often also frivolous and vexatious) which in consequence devolves upon the Parliamentary officers and their assistants can scarcely be appreciated by any but officials. Returns have to be prepared at the demand of almost every individual member of the House, which often require days and weeks of severe labour; investigations into every charge; and defences against every attack—which involve much fatigue and the loss of much valuable time. "I obtained this morning (says Sir C. Wood) a return of the registered letters and papers received in three or four of the great offices; which affords some criterion, though not a complete one, of the increase of their business. The letters received in the Colonial Office in 1806, were 2,731; in 1816, 4,487; in 1825, 8,499; and in 1848, 12,018. The registered letters in Home Office, from April 1849, to April 1850, reached 13,553, being about one-third of the papers received. In the Admiralty they received in 1825, 25,973 letters; in 1847, 50,970 (increased in consequence of the Irish Relief Service), and in 1849, 36,859. The Treasury papers in 1820 were 22,288; in 1849 they reached 28,276." Sir Robert Peel (Q. 351) confirms the statement of the large increase of Treasury business. In the India Board the number of dispatches had increased from 600 in 1830, to 2,445 in 1849; the number of Secretarial letters from 1,000 in 1830 to 1,500 in 1849; the number of letters from the three India Presidencies from 21 (with 123 inclosures) in 1830, to 203 (with 1,993 inclosures) in 1849.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer is asked whether the duties of the Secretaries of State have been materially increased. He replies: "It is very easy to state some important additions which have been made to the duties of the Home Secretary: for instance, since 1830 inspectors of factories, inspectors of mines, inspectors of prisons, have been placed under his supervision; and a great deal of business which heretofore was performed by local boards, or was not performed at all, has been placed under the direction of the Home Secretary. So there have been several colonies added to the control of the Colonial Secretary; and the whole of the Emigration department, which is quite new, is under the Colonial Office. But (he continues) I do not think that anything has added more to the business than the searching nature of the inquiries which the members of the House of Commons, and the House itself, are perpetually making into public business, which require very constant attention in all those offices, in addition to the increased work which has been thrown upon them."

But perhaps the Board of Trade has suffered more than any other public department from the increase of its business of late. Besides the inevitable augmentation arising from the extension of British commerce, many new executive departments have recently been added to its functions—as the registry of certificates for the masters and mates of merchant vessels; the regulation and supervision of steam boats; schools of design; railway disputes and superintendence; charters of incorporation; and recently a considerable number of important colonial questions have been referred to this Board. Sir Dennis Le Marchant tells us that the letters which come before the Board have increased threefold in the last fourteen years.

The same remarks will apply in a greater or less degree to every department of the civil service: in all of them the chief, and especially the Parliamentary officials are far harder worked now than in former days. But while their work has been increased, their number has been reduced. Since 1821, in the persons employed in the Treasury in the discharge of the same business there has been a diminution of nine, and a reduction of salaries to the amount of 18,000*l* a year. There were four Junior Lords of the Treasury: there are now only three. There were six Junior Lords of the Admiralty: there are now only five. There were seven Lords of Trade: there are now only the President and Vice-President; and the latter of these discharges the functions of Paymaster-General in addition to his own, but without salary. There was a Treasurer of the Navy, a Treasurer of the Ordnance, and a Lieutenant-General of the Ordnance: all these offices are now abolished, and their duties have been transferred to other functionaries.

But the reduction in the emoluments of the principal officers of State has been even more remarkable than the diminution of their numbers, or the augmentation of their duties. The labour of the Viceroy of Ireland, and the anxieties and responsibilities of his position, have increased threefold, and his necessary expenses have certainly not diminished; yet his salary has been reduced from 30,000*l* to 20,000*l* per annum. No Cabinet Minister—not even the First Lord—now receives more than 5,000*l* a year; whereas, according to the best authorities (that of Sir Robert Peel and Lord John Russell), it was formerly an understood and established practice for these ministers to combine some comfortable sinecure with their appointment, by which means their emoluments were often doubled. Thus the Prime Minister was generally also War-

den of the Cinque Ports, and from this and other sources his official income was often very large. Lord North, Mr Pitt, and Lord Liverpool all held this sinecure in conjunction with the Premiership. Lord North's official salary was thus 10,400*l*; Mr Pitt's, 11,400*l*; Mr Addington had 7,400*l*; Lord Grenville, Lord Liverpool, and Mr Canning, 9,000*l*; and Mr Perceval, 8,700*l*. In these days no minister would think of appointing himself to any sinecure office with a view of augmenting his salary, even were such sinecures still in existence. In former times, too, these sinecures and an unlimited pension list afforded the ministers the opportunity of providing temporarily, and often for life, for many members of their family; and it was so universally understood that this opportunity would be so employed, that it was reckoned as part of the ordinary emoluments of office. In 1810 the number of sinecures was 242, and their emoluments 279,486*l* a year; by 1834 these were reduced to 97,800*l*.—and they do not now exceed 17,000*l*. In the reign of George III. the pension list of the three kingdoms considerably exceeded 200,000*l* a year; even at a later period than 1810 it was about 145,000*l*:—it is now limited to 75,000*l*; and no more than 1,200*l* of this can be granted in any one year. These facts will serve to show the enormous extent to which the collateral advantages of high office have been curtailed within the lifetime of the present generation. "I find (says Sir Robert Peel) that since 1810 there has been a progressive reduction in official advantages and emoluments, and an increase in the labour imposed on public men. The conjoint operation of diminished emolument and increased labour leads me to think that it would not be wise, having regard only to the public interest, to diminish much further the inducement to enter the public service."

Some questions, which we cannot but characterise as most extraordinary, were put by certain members of the committee to Lord John Russell and Sir Robert Peel, as to whether the amount of patronage at the disposal of the Prime Minister ought not to be reckoned as part of the emoluments of office. Both gentlemen seem to have been somewhat shocked, as well they might be, at the dim notion of ministerial corruption which unconsciously lurked at the bottom of these interrogatories. Their answers were calm and dignified, and worthy of the high sense of honour characteristic of English statesmen. Sir Robert Peel, having admitted the extensive patronage and "immense power" which lies in the hands of the Premier, is asked whether these should not be considered as portion of his remuneration. He replies: "I doubt whether advantages of that sort ought to be taken into account for the purpose of reducing the salary which a public officer ought to receive. . . . I do not deny the extent of the power, or the value of the patronage, but I do not think they ought to be considered as equivalents for salary. . . . I think it would be unwise to attach to the office of Prime Minister, because he has great patronage and facilities for abusing it, a less amount of emolument than is required for the proper support of the office. It is a rather an additional reason why you should give a minister no temptation to abuse his power on account of the inadequacy of his emoluments." After an even broader question to Lord John Russell, he is asked by Sir John Trollope: "Can the patronage be any pecuniary benefit to the First Lord himself?" He answers: "It cannot; and I do not see that it can well be an inducement to a man to take office at all. . . . If official salaries were regulated by the amount of patronage at the disposal of the minister, I think it would be pretty certain to lead to an abuse of patronage, because then a person holding office might say with great fairness, 'I have been given an adequate salary, because it is understood that the patronage is to be of use to me and to my sons.'" In France we know office has too often been sought mainly for the sake of the means it affords of providing for the family and friends of the successful candidate; and in Russia offices are conferred with no salary, or only with a nominal one, on this express understanding; but we trust never to see the day when so fatal and corrupt a notion shall find entrance into English official life.

But further: while the labour of public servants has been enormously augmented, and their remuneration materially reduced; this process has been going on during a period when the profits derived in other professions have been greatly on the increase. The profits of first-class merchants are probably much higher now than in former times. A generation or two ago the earnings of a medical man would have been considered extraordinary if they exceeded 2,000*l* or 3,000*l* a year. Now, many physicians of eminence make their 10,000*l*, 15,000*l*, and some (Sir C. Wood says) 20,000*l* a year. Barristers at the head of their profession realise equal, or nearly equal sums. With these discrepancies it is not surprising that men, conscious of great powers and not possessed of a private fortune, should prefer some more highly paid occupation to the hard and ill-remunerated service of the State. The present Chancellor of the Exchequer says:—"The officers are not overpaid. I do not think you find that the inducement to embark in the public service is so great as to furnish an extraordinary number of candidates; on the contrary I believe you will find that those who have had experience in a hard working department for three or four years are not at all unwilling to give up office, and are not very anxious to come

"back again." Lord John Russell adds his testimony to this effect:—"I should say that if a man had any profession, he would have a better prospect of providing for his family by pursuing it than by taking office. Take the case of Mr Percival, who was a very eminent man in point of abilities, and had a standing at the bar as Attorney-General: I should say he would have had much greater means of saving some fortune to provide for his family if he had gone on in his profession than by taking the chances of political life, even though he held the Duchy of Lancaster with other offices;" yet Mr Percival, we may remember, had certainly nearly 9,000*l* a year of official income, and probably much more. "There is little reason," says Mr Macaulay, speaking of political life, "to envy those who are engaged in a pursuit from which, at most, they can only expect that, by relinquishing liberal studies and social pleasures, by passing nights without sleep, and summers without one glimpse of the beauties of nature, they may attain that laborious, that invidious, that closely-watched slavery, which is mocked with the name of power." Such are the opinions of three eminent and experienced statesmen. If their view be correct, as we have no doubt it is, then it is evident that the State has not succeeded, as it of right should do, in being the best paymaster, and offering to the wise and able the most attractive service.

We shall recur to this subject in our next number.

DR SCOFFERN'S PATENT SUGAR REFINING PROCESS.

SOME time ago we called attention to a patent obtained by Dr Scoffern for a new method of manufacturing sugar. The process is applicable equally to the manufacture of sugar from the cane juice in the colonies, and to the refining process from raw sugar as imported, at home. By it, Dr Scoffern professes to obtain twenty per cent of sugar, where only from six to seven per cent is obtained by the ordinary process. But the process involves the use of a deadly poison, acetate of lead, for defecating the cane juice, or sugar in a state of solution, while dependance is placed upon a further process for separating the lead from the sugar, when its defecating effect shall have been produced. Considerable doubts having been raised both at home and in the colonies as to the safety of a mode of preparation of an article which enters so largely into the daily food of all classes of persons, which required a careful chemical process to deprive it of so dangerous an ingredient, the whole subject has engaged the attention of the proper authorities, in order to ascertain whether the new process can be practically applied with safety to the public. The inquiry which has been instituted, and its results, have been laid before Parliament by the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

From these documents we learn that official notice was first taken of the subject by the Board of Trade, in a communication to the Colonial Office, dated the 21st of April, 1849, in which it is stated, in reference to the process as described in the patent—

The processes here mentioned may doubtless be carried on with the most perfect safety in the laboratory of an accomplished chemist, or even in a manufactory under the same careful and scientific direction; but the case is widely different when, as in the usual course of sugar-melting in our refineries, and still more in the operations of the boiling-houses in our sugar colonies, the management is almost necessarily confided, for many hours together, to men without education, who cannot be expected to attach the importance which it deserves to the careful carrying out of their instructions, and who will, indeed, be without the knowledge which should enable them to determine whether the necessary discharge of the poisonous ingredients has been effected.

It then states that agents had been sent to some of the chief sugar growing colonies, and leaves the subject to Lord Grey's "consideration, whether any directions can properly be given to the Governors of such colonies, to take steps for cautioning the sugar planters concerning the use of chemical agents so highly dangerous." In consequence of this notification, we find that Lord Grey addressed the following circular to the Governors of the different colonies interested in the subject:—

Downing street, May 17, 1849.

SIR,—I transmit to you herewith an extract of a letter which I have received from the office of the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade and Plantations, pointing out the highly injurious effects that may arise from the manufacture of sugar by a process described in a patent granted to Mr Scoffern, in December 1847, "for improvements in the manufacture and refining of sugar." I have to desire that, in the event of its becoming known to you that the adoption of this process for the manufacture of sugar is contemplated within your government, you will cause every publicity to be given to this statement. Should you have no reason to believe that the process is likely to be made use of, it will be better that you should abstain from calling public attention to the possibility of manufacturing sugar in a manner which is economical, but dangerous.—I have, &c., (Signed) GREY.

The next step taken by the Government was to obtain from eminent chemists a report upon the process, after every opportunity had been afforded to them of forming a correct judgment on the subject, by submitting the products obtained by the new process to chemical examination. On the 25th of March last Mr John Wood, the Chairman of the Inland Revenue Board, addressed the following letter to the following three eminent professors of chemistry:—

Thomas Thomson, M.D., Regius Professor of Chemistry in the University of Glasgow, F.R.S.
Thomas Graham, Esq., Professor of Chemistry, University College, London, F.R.S.

H. W. Hofmann, M.D., Professor of Chemistry, Royal College of Chemistry London.

Inland Revenue Office, Old Broad street, 25th March, 1850.

GENTLEMEN,—I have received instructions from the government to procure an accurate examination of the mode of refining sugar, described in the annexed specification of John Scoffern, with the view of ascertaining whether the separation of the lead be so effectual that the patent may be used with safety to the public.

I have great satisfaction in finding that you are willing to undertake the investigation, and request that you will favour me with your report so soon as your inquiries are completed.

I have only further to remark, that I hope you will recollect that the process of sugar-refining is conducted on a large scale, and by common workmen, who may not be sufficiently impressed with the necessity of entirely freeing the products—viz, refined sugar, bastards, and molasses—from any trace of deleterious ingredients.—I have, &c., (Signed) JOHN WOOD.

The result of the investigation of these three professors is contained in a long and minute report, dated the 26th of June last. They state the points of investigation to have been four in number, viz. :—

1. Whether the ordinary chemical means of discovering lead are applicable and sufficient for ascertaining the presence of minute quantities of that metal in solutions containing sugar and soluble sulphites, as in the case before us.

2. Whether traces of lead find access to the colonial moist sugar in its first preparation, or afterwards to loaf sugar, bastards, and treacle, in the ordinary process of refining.

3. To repeat the process of the patent in the laboratory, and test the efficacy of the means recommended for the entire separation of the lead.

4. To inspect a refinery in which the new process was in operation on a large scale, and to examine the refined sugar, bastards, and treacle produced on several different occasions by the new process.

With regard to the first point, they report that, "by a modified process, described in the appendix, the separation of lead was made easy and complete from both descriptions of sugar, when that metal was present in the smallest appreciable quantity." They were thus satisfied that the means employed would detect lead wherever it existed, and distinguish the precise quantity in any given experiment.

With regard to the second point, whether lead was contained in the ordinary moist sugar, or in sugar refined in the ordinary way, their inquiry shows:—1. That "minute quantities were discovered in an authenticated sample of moist West India sugar, amounting to the quantity of metal represented by 0.39 grain of sulphate of lead from one portion of four pounds of this sugar, and 0.19 grain of sulphate of lead from another equal portion." 2. That "no lead whatever appeared to be present in four loaves of sugar refined in different operations by the ordinary process." 3. That "four pounds of bastards from the same refining gave 0.19 grain of sulphate of lead, and 0.09 grain of oxide of copper in one case, and 0.25 grain of sulphate of lead, with 0.07 grain of oxide of copper in a second case." 4. That "treacle from the same refining contained 0.62 grain in one case, and 1.21 grain in a second, of the sulphate of lead from four pounds." It thus appears that a sensible, though it may be a wholly uninjurious, proportion of lead is present in sugars prepared in the ordinary way; which may be accounted for by the use of leaden cisterns and pipes used in the process of manufacture. Thus, however, they properly observe, "the inquiry in regard to the new process becomes a question of degree, and not simply of the presence or absence of lead."

With regard to the third point, to test the efficacy of the means provided in the new process for the removal of the lead, three experiments were made, one upon 2 lbs of moist brown sugar, and two upon 4 lbs each. The result showed that no trace whatever of the lead was discovered in the syrup obtained from these experiments in the laboratory.

With regard to the fourth point, the inspection of the products of a refinery, where the process was conducted on a large scale, the result was not so satisfactory. Messrs Goodhart and Co., the eminent refiners, who have worked the new patent, furnished ten samples of refined sugar, one of bastards, and two of treacle, all produced by the same process. Experiments were made upon four of these loaves. 4 lbs of each gave the following proportions of sulphate of lead respectively:—0.10 grain, 0.08 grain, 0.13 grain, and 0.10 grain—being quantities considerably less than was found to be contained in common raw West India sugar, the proportions being, as the report states, "quite insignificant, and to which no injurious influence could be justly ascribed." Of the bastards from the same sugar, 3 lbs gave 1.37 grains of sulphate of lead. Of the treacle one analysis of 4 lbs gave 5.16 grains, and a second analysis of the same 6.32 grains of sulphate of lead. Four lbs of a second sample of treacle obtained from the same parties, at a later period, gave but 2.73 grains of sulphate of lead; and this proportion was not exceeded in other samples of treacle made by the same process, and obtained from other sources. The report says,—"The proportion of lead in one of these samples of treacle is sufficiently high to excite apprehensions, if treacle were consumed as largely and continuously by individuals as sugar is, particularly as the metal exists in the state of a soluble salt."

Samples were also obtained from Messrs Evans, of Cork, who also work the patent. Of five loaves, 4 lbs of each gave respectively 0.66 grains, 0.37 grains, 0.09 grains, none, and 1.05 grains of sulphate of lead, "chiefly in an insoluble form." Two samples of bastards gave a mean quantity in two experiments each, of

nisance, supervision, and control has of course increased also. Then again a far closer superintendence and inspection over every department of public service has been exercised of late years than was formerly thought necessary. Parliament too interferes with and inquires into every branch and every detail to a degree which was never thought of before the Reform Bill, and the amount of toil (often most serviceable, but often also frivolous and vexatious) which in consequence devolves upon the Parliamentary officers and their assistants can scarcely be appreciated by any but officials. Returns have to be prepared at the demand of almost every individual member of the House, which often require days and weeks of severe labour; investigations into every charge; and defences against every attack—which involve much fatigue and the loss of much valuable time. "I obtained this morning (says Sir C. Wood) a return of the registered letters and papers received in three or four of the great offices; which affords some criterion, though not a complete one, of the increase of their business. The letters received in the Colonial Office in 1806, were 2,731; in 1816, 4,487; in 1825, 8,499; and in 1848, 12,018. The registered letters in the Home Office, from April 1849, to April 1850, reached 13,553, being about one-third of the papers received. In the Admiralty they received in 1825, 25,973 letters; in 1847, 50,970 (increased in consequence of the Irish Relief Service), and in 1849, 36,859. The Treasury papers in 1820 were 22,288; in 1849 they reached 28,276." Sir Robert Peel (Q. 351) confirms the statement of the large increase of Treasury business. In the India Board the number of dispatches had increased from 600 in 1830, to 2,445 in 1849; the number of Secretarial letters from 1,000 in 1830 to 1,500 in 1849; the number of letters from the three India Presidencies from 21 (with 123 inclosures) in 1830, to 203 (with 1,993 inclosures) in 1849.

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But perhaps the Board of Trade has suffered more than any other public department from the increase of its business of late. Besides the inevitable augmentation arising from the extension of British commerce, many new executive departments have recently been added to its functions—as the registry of certificates for the masters and mates of merchant vessels; the regulation and supervision of steam boats; schools of design; railway disputes and superintendence; charters of incorporation; and recently a considerable number of important colonial questions have been referred to this Board. Sir Dennis Le Marchant tells us that the letters which come before the Board have increased threefold in the last fourteen years.

The same remarks will apply in a greater or less degree to every department of the civil service: in all of them the chief, and especially the Parliamentary officials are far harder worked now than in former days. But while their work has been increased, their number has been reduced. Since 1821, in the persons employed in the Treasury in the discharge of the same business there has been a diminution of nine, and a reduction of salaries to the amount of 18,000*l* a year. There were four Junior Lords of the Treasury: there are now only three. There were six Junior Lords of the Admiralty: there are now only five. There were seven Lords of Trade: there are now only the President and Vice-President; and the latter of these discharges the functions of Paymaster-General in addition to his own, but without salary. There was a Treasurer of the Navy, a Treasurer of the Ordnance, and a Lieutenant-General of the Ordnance: all these offices are now abolished, and their duties have been transferred to other functionaries.

But the reduction in the emoluments of the principal officers of State has been even more remarkable than the diminution of their numbers, or the augmentation of their duties. The labour of the Viceroy of Ireland, and the anxieties and responsibilities of his position, have increased threefold, and his necessary expenses have certainly not diminished; yet his salary has been reduced from 30,000*l* to 20,000*l* per annum. No Cabinet Minister—not even the First Lord—now receives more than 5,000*l* a year; whereas, according to the best authorities (that of Sir Robert Peel and Lord John Russell), it was formerly an understood and established practice for these ministers to combine some comfortable sinecure with their appointment, by which means their emoluments were often doubled. Thus the Prime Minister was generally also War-

den of the Cinque Ports, and from this and other sources his official income was often very large. Lord North, Mr Pitt, and Lord Liverpool all held this sinecure in conjunction with the Premiership. Lord North's official salary was thus 10,400*l*; Mr Pitt's, 11,400*l*; Mr Addington had 7,400*l*; Lord Grenville, Lord Liverpool, and Mr Canning, 9,000*l*; and Mr Perceval, 8,700*l*. In these days no minister would think of appointing himself to any sinecure office with a view of augmenting his salary, even were such sinecures still in existence. In former times, too, these sinecures and an unlimited pension list afforded the ministers the opportunity of providing temporarily, and often for life, for many members of their family; and it was so universally understood that this opportunity would be so employed, that it was reckoned as part of the ordinary emoluments of office. In 1810 the number of sinecures was 242, and their emoluments 279,486*l* a year; by 1834 these were reduced to 97,800*l*,—and they do not now exceed 17,000*l*. In the reign of George III. the pension list of the three kingdoms considerably exceeded 200,000*l* a year; even at a later period than 1810 it was about 145,000*l*:—it is now limited to 75,000*l*; and no more than 1,200*l* of this can be granted in any one year. These facts will serve to show the enormous extent to which the collateral advantages of high office have been curtailed within the lifetime of the present generation. "I find (says Sir Robert Peel) that since 1810 there has been a progressive reduction in official advantages and emoluments, and an increase in the labour imposed on public men. The conjoint operation of diminished emolument and increased labour leads me to think that it would not be wise, having regard only to the public interest, to diminish much further the inducement to enter the public service."

Some questions, which we cannot but characterise as most extraordinary, were put by certain members of the committee to Lord John Russell and Sir Robert Peel, as to whether the amount of patronage at the disposal of the Prime Minister ought not to be reckoned as part of the emoluments of office. Both gentlemen seem to have been somewhat shocked, as well they might be, at the dim notion of ministerial corruption which unconsciously lurked at the bottom of these interrogatories. Their answers were calm and dignified, and worthy of the high sense of honour characteristic of English statesmen. Sir Robert Peel, having admitted the extensive patronage and "immense power" which lies in the hands of the Premier, is asked whether these should not be considered as portion of his remuneration. He replies: "I doubt whether advantages of that sort ought to be taken into account for the purpose of reducing the salary which a public officer ought to receive. . . . I do not deny the extent of the power, or the value of the patronage, but I do not think they ought to be considered as equivalents for salary. . . . I think it would be unwise to attach to the office of Prime Minister, because he has great patronage and facilities for abusing it, a less amount of emolument than is required for the proper support of the office. It is a rather an additional reason why you should give a minister no temptation to abuse his power on account of the inadequacy of his emoluments." After an even broader question to Lord John Russell, he is asked by Sir John Trollope: "Can the patronage be any pecuniary benefit to the First Lord himself?" He answers: "It cannot; and I do not see that it can well be an inducement to a man to take office at all. . . . If official salaries were regulated by the amount of patronage at the disposal of the minister, I think it would be pretty certain to lead to an abuse of patronage, because then a person holding office might say with great fairness, 'I have been given an adequate salary, because it is understood that the patronage is to be of use to me and to my sons.'" In France we know office has too often been sought mainly for the sake of the means it affords of providing for the family and friends of the successful candidate; and in Russia offices are conferred with no salary, or only with a nominal one, on this express understanding; but we trust never to see the day when so fatal and corrupt a notion shall find entrance into English official life.

But further: while the labour of public servants has been enormously augmented, and their remuneration materially reduced; this process has been going on during a period when the profits derived in other professions have been greatly on the increase. The profits of first-class merchants are probably much higher now than in former times. A generation or two ago the earnings of a medical man would have been considered extraordinary if they exceeded 2,000*l* or 3,000*l* a year. Now, many physicians of eminence make their 10,000*l*, 15,000*l*, and some (Sir C. Wood says) 20,000*l* a year. Barristers at the head of their profession realise equal, or nearly equal sums. With these discrepancies it is not surprising that men, conscious of great powers and not possessed of a private fortune, should prefer some more highly paid occupation to the hard and ill-remunerated service of the State. The present Chancellor of the Exchequer says:—"The officers are not overpaid. I do not think you find that the inducement to embark in the public service is so great as to furnish an extraordinary number of candidates; on the contrary I believe you will find that those who have had experience in a hard working department for three or four years are not at all unwilling to give up office, and are not very anxious to come

"back again." Lord John Russell adds his testimony to this effect:—"I should say that if a man had any profession, he would have a better prospect of providing for his family by pursuing it than by taking office. Take the case of Mr Perceval, who was a very eminent man in point of abilities, and had a standing at the bar as Attorney-General: I should say he would have had much greater means of saving some fortune to provide for his family if he had gone on in his profession than by taking the chances of political life, even though he held the Duchy of Lancaster with other offices;" yet Mr Percival, we may remember, had certainly nearly 9,000*l* a year of official income, and probably much more. "There is little reason," says Mr Macaulay, speaking of political life, "to envy those who are engaged in a pursuit from which, at most, they can only expect that, by relinquishing liberal studies and social pleasures, by passing nights without sleep, and summers without one glimpse of the beauties of nature, they may attain that laborious, that invidious, that closely-watched slavery, which is mocked with the name of power." Such are the opinions of three eminent and experienced statesmen. If their view be correct, as we have no doubt it is, then it is evident that the State has not succeeded, as it of right should do, in being the best paymaster, and offering to the wise and able the most attractive service.

We shall recur to this subject in our next number.

DR SCOFFERN'S PATENT SUGAR REFINING PROCESS.

SOME time ago we called attention to a patent obtained by Dr Scoffern for a new method of manufacturing sugar. The process is applicable equally to the manufacture of sugar from the cane juice in the colonies, and to the refining process from raw sugar as imported, at home. By it, Dr Scoffern professes to obtain twenty per cent of sugar, where only from six to seven per cent is obtained by the ordinary process. But the process involves the use "of a deadly poison, acetate of lead, for defecating the cane juice, or sugar in a state of solution, while dependance is placed upon a further process for separating the lead from the sugar, when its defecating effect shall have been produced." Considerable doubts having been raised both at home and in the colonies as to the safety of a mode of preparation of an article which enters so largely into the daily food of all classes of persons, which required a careful chemical process to deprive it of so dangerous an ingredient, the whole subject has engaged the attention of the proper authorities, in order to ascertain whether the new process can be practically applied with safety to the public. The inquiry which has been instituted, and its results, have been laid before Parliament by the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

From these documents we learn that official notice was first taken of the subject by the Board of Trade, in a communication to the Colonial Office, dated the 21st of April, 1849, in which it is stated, in reference to the process as described in the patent—

The processes here mentioned may doubtless be carried on with the most perfect safety in the laboratory of an accomplished chemist, or even in a manufactory under the same careful and scientific direction; but the case is widely different when, as in the usual course of sugar-melting in our refineries, and still more in the operations of the boiling-houses in our sugar colonies, the management is almost necessarily confined, for many hours together, to men without education, who cannot be expected to attach the importance which it deserves to the careful carrying out of their instructions, and who will, indeed, be without the knowledge which should enable them to determine whether the necessary discharge of the poisonous ingredients has been effected.

It then states that agents had been sent to some of the chief sugar growing colonies, and leaves the subject to Lord Grey's "consideration, whether any directions can properly be given to the Governors of such colonies, to take steps for cautioning the sugar planters concerning the use of chemical agents so highly dangerous." In consequence of this notification, we find that Lord Grey addressed the following circular to the Governors of the different colonies interested in the subject:—

Downing street, May 17, 1849.

SIR.—I transmit to you herewith an extract of a letter which I have received from the office of the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade and Plantations, pointing out the highly injurious effects that may arise from the manufacture of sugar by a process described in a patent granted to Mr Scoffern, in December 1847, "for improvements in the manufacture and refining of sugar." I have to desire that, in the event of its becoming known to you that the adoption of this process for the manufacture of sugar is contemplated within your government, you will cause every publicity to be given to this statement. Should you have no reason to believe that the process is likely to be made use of, it will be better that you should abstain from calling public attention to the possibility of manufacturing sugar in a manner which is economical, but dangerous.—I have, &c., (Signed) GREY.

The next step taken by the Government was to obtain from eminent chemists a report upon the process, after every opportunity had been afforded to them of forming a correct judgment on the subject, by submitting the products obtained by the new process to chemical examination. On the 25th of March last Mr John Wood, the Chairman of the Inland Revenue Board, addressed the following letter to the following three eminent professors of chemistry:—

Thomas Thomson, M.D., Regius Professor of Chemistry in the University of Glasgow, F.R.S.
Thomas Graham, Esq., Professor of Chemistry, University College, London, F.R.S.

H. W. Hofmann, M.D., Professor of Chemistry, Royal College of Chemistry London.

Inland Revenue Office, Old Broad street, 25th March, 1850.

GENTLEMEN,—I have received instructions from the government to procure an accurate examination of the mode of refining sugar, described in the annexed specification of John Scoffern, with the view of ascertaining whether the separation of the lead be so effectual that the patent may be used with safety to the public.

I have great satisfaction in finding that you are willing to undertake the investigation, and request that you will favour me with your report so soon as your inquiries are completed.

I have only further to remark, that I hope you will recollect that the process of sugar-refining is conducted on a large scale, and by common workmen, who may not be sufficiently impressed with the necessity of entirely freeing the products—viz., refined sugar, bastards, and molasses—from any trace of deleterious ingredients.—I have, &c., (Signed) JOHN WOOD.

The result of the investigation of these three professors is contained in a long and minute report, dated the 26th of June last. They state the points of investigation to have been four in number, viz.:—

1. Whether the ordinary chemical means of discovering lead are applicable and sufficient for ascertaining the presence of minute quantities of that metal in solutions containing sugar and soluble sulphites, as in the case before us.
2. Whether traces of lead find access to the colonial moist sugar in its first preparation, or afterwards to loaf sugar, bastards, and treacle, in the ordinary process of refining.
3. To repeat the process of the patent in the laboratory, and test the efficacy of the means recommended for the entire separation of the lead.
4. To inspect a refinery in which the new process was in operation on a large scale, and to examine the refined sugar, bastards, and treacle produced on several different occasions by the new process.

With regard to the first point, they report that, "by a modified process, described in the appendix, the separation of lead was made easy and complete from both descriptions of sugar, when that metal was present in the smallest appreciable quantity." They were thus satisfied that the means employed would detect lead wherever it existed, and distinguish the precise quantity in any given experiment.

With regard to the second point, whether lead was contained in the ordinary moist sugar, or in sugar refined in the ordinary way, their inquiry shows:—1. That "minute quantities were discovered in an authenticated sample of moist West India sugar, amounting to the quantity of metal represented by 0.39 grain of sulphate of lead from one portion of four pounds of this sugar, and 0.19 grain of sulphate of lead from another equal portion." 2. That "no lead whatever appeared to be present in four loaves of sugar refined in different operations by the ordinary process." 3. That "four pounds of bastards from the same refining gave 0.19 grain of sulphate of lead, and 0.09 grain of oxide of copper in one case, and 0.25 grain of sulphate of lead, with 0.07 grain of oxide of copper in a second case." 4. That "treacle from the same refining contained 0.62 grain in one case, and 1.21 grain in a second, of the sulphate of lead from four pounds." It thus appears that a sensible, though it may be a wholly uninjurious, proportion of lead is present in sugars prepared in the ordinary way; which may be accounted for by the use of leaden cisterns and pipes used in the process of manufacture. Thus, however, they properly observe, "the inquiry in regard to the new process becomes a question of degree, and not simply of the presence or absence of lead."

With regard to the third point, to test the efficacy of the means provided in the new process for the removal of the lead, three experiments were made, one upon 2 lbs of moist brown sugar, and two upon 4 lbs each. The result showed that no trace whatever of the lead was discovered in the syrup obtained from these experiments in the laboratory.

With regard to the fourth point, the inspection of the products of a refinery, where the process was conducted on a large scale, the result was not so satisfactory. Messrs Goodhart and Co., the eminent refiners, who have worked the new patent, furnished ten samples of refined sugar, one of bastards, and two of treacle, all produced by the same process. Experiments were made upon four of these loaves. 4 lbs of each gave the following proportions of sulphate of lead respectively:—0.10 grain, 0.08 grain, 0.13 grain, and 0.10 grain—being quantities considerably less than was found to be contained in common raw West India sugar, the proportions being, as the report states, "quite insignificant, and to which no injurious influence could be justly ascribed." Of the bastards from the same sugar, 3 lbs gave 1.37 grains of sulphate of lead. Of the treacle one analysis of 4 lbs gave 5.16 grains, and a second analysis of the same 6.32 grains of sulphate of lead. Four lbs of a second sample of treacle obtained from the same parties, at a later period, gave but 2.73 grains of sulphate of lead; and this proportion was not exceeded in other samples of treacle made by the same process, and obtained from other sources. The report says,—"The proportion of lead in one of these samples of treacle is sufficiently high to excite apprehensions, if treacle were consumed as largely and continuously by individuals as sugar is, particularly as the metal exists in the state of a soluble salt."

Samples were also obtained from Messrs Evans, of Cork, who also work the patent. Of five loaves, 4 lbs of each gave respectively 0.66 grains, 0.37 grains, 0.09 grains, none, and 1.05 grains of sulphate of lead, "chiefly in an insoluble form." Two samples of bastards gave a mean quantity in two experiments each, of

0.73 grains in 4 lbs of the lightest in colour, and of 0.45 grains in 4 lbs of the darkest in colour. Of two samples of treacle the lighter in colour, marked "for consumption," gave 0.87 grains in 4 lbs, and the darker in colour, marked "to be passed through bed of charcoal," gave 2.19 grains of sulphate of lead, also in 4 lbs. The following conclusions are then drawn from these experiments:—

It appears from the foregoing details, that the refined sugar, bastards, and treacle generally acquire a trace of lead from the new process, sufficient to be distinguished by chemical tests.

That the lead found in the refined sugar is minute, the quantity not exceeding that occasionally acquired by the bastards and treacle in the ordinary process of manufacture.

In the bastards of the new process, the proportion of lead is not great, but sensibly exceeds the latter standard.

The lead appears to accumulate in the treacle, but in no case that we have had an opportunity of observing to such an extent as would justify us in pronouncing the treacle to be poisonous.

The inspection of the process on the large scale satisfied us, that the lead may be removed from the sugar to a point beyond danger, provided the operations are constantly watched by a person competent to apply the necessary chemical test of purity to the products.

The report, however, concludes by deprecating the extension of this process for reasons which, in themselves and as far as they go, have great weight. It concludes thus:—

In conclusion, although our results do not indicate certain and immediate danger from the use of this process in British refineries, still we must deprecate its extension, on the general ground that poisonous substances should never be used in the preparation of an article of food, where they can be avoided. The object effected in this process by means of a poisonous material, the use of which is unquestionably attended with the possibility of grave accidents, being one which is sufficiently attainable otherwise without danger.

(Signed)

THOMAS THOMPSON.
THOMAS GRAHAM.
H. W. HOFMANN.

But as it appears from the experiments alluded to that the part of the products in which the largest portion of the sulphate of lead was discovered was the treacle, it was considered necessary to obtain a return of the quantity of treacle consumed by individuals in those parts of the country where it is most used. The result of that return is, that at Ravenhead, a number of persons consume on an average $\frac{1}{2}$ lb each per week. At Blakely, Middleton, and Alkington 1 1-10th lb each per week, and at Bury (Lancashire), 87 persons consumed at the rate of 0.3735 lb each per week. Calculating that the treacle should contain the largest quantity of the sulphate of lead indicated by the experiments, viz., 6.32 grains to 4 lbs, then the average quantity consumed by each individual included in the above calculations would be 1.32 grains per week, or 68.64 grains in the year. Taking the minimum quantity of treacle consumed in the cases quoted, the quantity of sulphate of lead taken in the year would be 30.68 grains, while the maximum quantity would give 95.68 grains in the year for each person. It must, however, be borne in mind that the experiment which is made the basis of this calculation indicated the presence of 6.32 grains of sulphate of lead to 4 lbs of treacle, while other experiments indicated only 2.73 grains, 2.19 grains, and 0.87 grains respectively.

These facts, together with the report of Professors Thomson, Graham, and Hoffmann, were submitted to Dr Pereira, Dr Taylor, and Dr Carpenter, by Mr John Wood, with a view of obtaining "their opinion, as medical jurists and practitioners, as to the safety of consuming sugar, bastards, and treacle so prepared." In their report these gentlemen confine their attention to "the effects likely to be produced by a maximum quantity of lead taken in treacle," which we have already shewn was 95.836 grains of the sulphate of lead by one person annually. This maximum applies not only to the treacle in which the greatest quantity of lead was discovered, but also to the cases in which the greatest quantity of treacle was consumed. Assuming 152 grains of sulphate of lead to contain 104 grains of metallic lead, it follows that 95.836 grains of the former are equal to 65.572 grains of the latter; or at the rate of 1.261 grains weekly. The practical question then was, how far such a quantity of "metallic lead, contained in a salt of lead, capable of becoming dissolved by the juices of the alimentary canal, swallowed weekly, for probably many months, is capable of producing serious injury to health?" The reports on this head say:—

We have no hesitation in expressing our decided conviction that the weekly use of less than 1.261 grains of lead would be likely to prove highly injurious to health; and in the course of a few months might give rise to alarming symptoms of poisoning.

Dr H. Gueneau de Mussy, in his interesting History of the Cases of Poisoning by Lead which lately occurred at Claremont, tells us, that the habitual use, during seven months, namely, from March to the beginning of October 1848, of water containing, according to Dr Hofmann's analysis, one grain of metallic lead in the gallon, gave rise to alarming and unequivocal symptoms of lead poisoning in 13 persons, 11 men and two women, out of the 38 inhabitants of the palace. Indeed, four of the patients manifested some symptoms of poisoning after five months' use of the water. This water was used in all culinary and table purposes; and, previously to the discovery of its deleterious character, even in the preparation of tisanes and lavements.

We know not what might have been the average quantity of this water which was consumed by each individual daily; but if we assume that each person swallowed daily the lead contained in a quart of the water, we should then have a quarter of a grain of metallic lead taken daily, or 1.75 grains weekly, or 95.75 grains in five months (153 days.)

The weekly quantity of metallic lead assumed to be taken in this water is greater than that calculated to be taken in treacle, according to Mr G. Phillip's Return.

At rate of 1.261 grains weekly, it would take 212 days, or about seven months, to introduce 38.25 grains of lead into the system.

For the reasons above assigned, it is our opinion, that the treacle produced by Dr Scoffern's process cannot be used as a daily article of food in the quantities specified in the Return, or even in smaller quantities, without exposing those who consume it to the risk of slow poisoning by lead.

Such was the result of the experiments made with regard to the patent process as applied to the refining of sugar at home, but which a perusal of the remainder of the papers laid before Parliament, raises some doubt as to their being sufficiently complete for the purpose.

With regard to the application of this process to the manufacture of sugar in the colonies, the papers before us refer only to one experiment made in the presence of Dr Shier, the Colonial Agricultural Chemist, on Plantation Hope, in British Guiana. In his report to the Governor, Dr Shier says:—

I was furnished with specimens both of the sugar and molasses, and have since subjected them to analysis in the colonial laboratory. I have found lead both in the sugar and molasses, but in larger quantity in the latter.

I ought farther to state to your Excellency, that long before the arrival of the Order in Council relative to Scoffern's patent, in the course of investigations which I had occasion to carry on in the colonial laboratory, I had come to the conclusion that salts of lead were inadmissible,—

1st. Because the cane juice of this colony is frequently, if not always, of such a nature that it is extremely difficult, if not impossible, to remove from it all traces of lead even by sulphurous acid.

2nd. That several of the tests most relied on in detecting lead in pure solutions fail to give distinct and trustworthy indications in the presence of cane juice.

I am, therefore, of opinion, that the use of lead salts in clarifying cane juice is unsafe, and that they would be doubly so in the hands of such workmen as are usually employed in this colony.—I have, &c.

Henry Barkly, Esq.,
Governor of British Guiana.

(signed) JOHN SHIER.

In transmitting Dr Shier's report to the Colonial Office, the Governor also encloses a letter from Dr Blair, the Surveyor-General of British Guiana, speaking in strong terms of the danger of such a poison being taken even in small quantities; also, an extract from a letter from Dr Wilton Turner, in which the process of Dr Scoffern is described as being attended with great risk and danger. But it is only fair to Dr Scoffern to add an extract of a letter from Mr Lambert, his agent, who made the experiment, in order to show that the quantities of lead discovered by Dr Shier could readily be accounted for by other causes, viz., the passing of it through iron cisterns painted with red lead, and through a leaden pipe, the passage of which was nearly stopped up with fermented sugar made by the old process. Mr Lambert says:—

British Guiana, Demerara, January 11, 1850.

I must guard myself from any semblance of a desire to question the absolute results of the investigation of that particular sample of sugar and molasses subjected to analysis by Dr Shier, and which that gentleman had witnessed in progress of manufacture on the 11th December on the Hope estate, although it would not be difficult to trace the presence of the lead it was found to contain (to what extent or in what proportion Dr Shier does not state) to causes entirely extraneous and accidental; and I beg indulgence whilst I submit, that during the operations on the 11th December there arose causes distinct and apart from the principles of the process of Dr Scoffern, and opposed to the correct development of that process, each sufficient in itself to account for the presence of lead in the specimens of that produce, which, manufactured by an apparatus, now (from the want of means of remedy on the spot) palpably, though partially, defective, has been thus for the first time subjected to critical investigation, and on the first occasion of the use of the part mainly found to be deficient.

If the papers before us stopped here, the reasons against the use of this new process would be conclusive. But they are followed up by two letters addressed to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, one from Messrs Coode, Browne, and Co., and the second from Dr Scoffern, in which they impugn the fairness and completeness of the experiments both at home and in British Guiana. These letters are accompanied by inclosures of letters from Professor Brande, Professor Dr Wm Gregory, and Messrs Goodhart and Co.

These letters object, that the samples of the products of the ordinary mode of refining were taken only from one establishment, while they insist that those of numerous refiners should have been used, in order to approximate to a satisfactory result. They object, that the sample of treacle which indicated the largest presence of lead was known to be the product of an imperfect filtering apparatus, and that on this one sample the whole of the deductions are made to depend. On the whole, after a lengthened argument, Messrs Coode and Brown contend:—

1st. That the commissioners have taken as the standard of Dr Scoffern's process a sample of treacle known to have been the result of an imperfect filtering apparatus, because so stated to them, with the assurance that that imperfection had been completely remedied.

2nd. That they have taken, as the standard of the ordinary operation, one sample of each product from one refinery; whereas it was intimated to them that there were circumstances which rendered necessary an examination of the goods of various refiners.

3rd. That they have not determined the form of any lead found in Dr Scoffern's products, so as to be able to pronounce it inert or noxious.

4th. That they have failed to state the form of the lead found in the ordinary manufacture, which is poisonous.

5th. Assuming they had determined the different forms of lead in both cases, it yet remained that they should try (as Dr Gregory has done) physiological experiments on living animals, which they have not done.

And we confidently submit, that had these points been attended to, they would have demonstrated the superior safety of Dr Scoffern's process of manufacture.

(signed)

We have, &c.
COODE, BROWNE, and CO.

In Dr. Scoffern's letter, he insists chiefly on the fact, that even though sugar prepared according to his process should be found to contain small portions of lead, as other sugar and treacle have also been found to contain, yet that, by his process, it is always found to exist in the form of sulphite of lead, which he contends is insoluble, and therefore perfectly innocuous. He says:—

Although it is perfectly true, as your investigators allege, that my process, properly conducted, is capable of absolutely removing lead which may exist dissolved in sugar solutions, there exists a still more powerful guarantee of its safety in the fact that it unerringly converts all soluble lead present into an insoluble, and therefore perfectly innocuous, condition: hence the ultimate issue is a physiological one, to be decided by experiments on living animals.

Dr Gregory, professor of chemistry in the university of Edinburgh, has, after prolonged experiments on animals, pronounced the sulphite of lead to be as harmless as chalk; and I, myself, and some friends conversant with this fact, are ready to demonstrate the harmlessness of sulphite of lead by ingesting for any time so much of this substance as an equal number of other individuals will ingest chalk. I am ready, moreover, to expose my own children to the same test.

In Spain the British vice-consul of Motil has for a considerable time used sugar in his family made by my process without the second filtration, and hence which contained sulphite of lead in the maximum proportion which could have been present under the grossest possible mismanagement.

And he concludes his letter thus:—

I would, therefore, ask, whether a process, yielding an excess of 200 per cent should be impeded in deference to anything short of the most precise testimony as to the danger which it involves?

I will now draw your attention to the following facts:—

1st. That whilst all lead which may be present in sugar prepared by the ordinary process is necessarily either soluble or in the form of carbonate, in both cases poisonous, all lead present in sugars made by my process, and as the result of that process, is necessarily insoluble, and therefore innocuous.

2d. That if small traces of lead, in any form, are to be regarded as dangerous when present in sugar or treacle, there is not a refiner in the United Kingdom whose goods will not be subject to condemnation.

Finally, I solicit another and more extensive chemical examination, not only of my sugars, but of sugars from the various refiners to be indicated by me; or more chemist deputed by me to be present to check results; these results to be published, as well as the form of analysis which led to them; care being taken to indicate the precise state in which lead, if any, was found.

I solicit a physiological investigation of the effects of sulphite of lead on the human economy, and reiterate my offer of myself, my children, and many scientific friends, to take any dose of sulphite of lead, and for any time that may be a great number of individuals shall take equal doses of chalk.

These papers are accompanied by letters from Dr William Gregory and from Professor Brand. The former speaks to the entirely innocuous character of the sulphite of lead, and details experiments made for the purpose of proving it. Professor Brand states that he has "perused the report of Messrs Thomson, Graham, and Hofmann, and can see nothing in it to shake his confidence in the merits of Scoffern's process, when conducted with common skill and attention." In the eight samples of refined sugar examined the average quantity of lead found was only 0.05 of a grain in each pound of sugar; and, with regard to treacle, the only fair sample examined, namely, that marked "for consumption," contained 0.95 of a grain of lead in each 4 lbs, or 0.149 of a grain of lead in each pound of treacle; and that a similar, and even larger, quantity of lead was found in the treacle resulting from the ordinary manufacture. Professor Brand also insists upon the important point, that while the form in which lead is found in ordinary sugar is chiefly as carbonate of lead, which is poisonous, that found in the sugar prepared by Scoffern's plan is the sulphite of lead, which, according to Dr Gregory, is innocuous. He adds:—

I am glad to see that my former opinion respecting the insolubility of sulphite of lead, and the possibility of the separation of all traces of lead from syrup, by means of sulphurous acid, are admitted by Messrs Thomson, Graham and Hofmann, because these, in conjunction with the inertness of sulphite of lead, are the points on which the safety of Scoffern's process depends.

I must now conclude, by repeating my conviction, that, with common care and attention, sugar in a wholesale way may be made free from lead by Scoffern's process; and that the presence of traces of sulphite of lead in his treacle is of less consequence than the presence of traces of carbonate of lead, which I believe to be very common in all treacle.

If, on the contrary, more extended experience in Scoffern's process should prove that, with ordinary precaution, sugar free from lead cannot be produced by it on a large scale, and that sulphite of lead is a poisonous salt, then I think that common sense would suggest its abandonment.

Under all the circumstances elicited by these reports, it would appear highly desirable that the various points referred to should be subjected to further examination before a discovery, the importance of which cannot but be admitted, is discarded; and this appears more desirable when it is considered that in the experiments already made, the best and really proper ones show a quantity of lead, not exceeding that found in ordinary West India sugar, and in treacle obtained in the ordinary way. The great objection that we see, is, that the preparation of an article so extensively used as food should not depend for its wholesomeness upon a chemical process being accurately applied by ordinary working men; but, on the other hand, if it can be satisfactorily established that the lead which exists in any of the products under Scoffern's plan is the sulphite of lead, and that Dr Gregory is correct in saying that in that state it is "as harmless as chalk," while the lead found in other sugar is always in a poisonous form, the objection is greatly modified. But these are questions easily determined by further experiments, which should obviously be made, before we discard a great source of economy in so important a branch of colonial agriculture and home industry.

THE IRISH CROPS—1850.

Mr Mongredien, a corn factor in Mark lane, has published a report on the potato crop in Ireland for the present year, with some important remarks upon the other crops also. This report is the result of 163 replies received from various parts of Ireland to a series of queries, twenty-six in number. The queries were as follows:—

1. Has the potato blight appeared in your neighbourhood, and if so, what proportion of the total crop do you consider infected?
2. What is the extent of the injury to the crop this season as compared with the last?
3. Are the tubers affected, or only the leaves and haulm?
4. Do you consider the course of the disease to be, to attack the leaves and haulm first, and then invariably, after a certain time, to extend to the tubers? or does it occasionally infect the former without eventually affecting the latter?
5. Do you consider the wholesome properties of the tubers impaired when dug sound from plants of which the leaves and haulm have been tainted by the disease?
6. Do you consider that sound tubers so taken from diseased plants are likely to rot in the pits?
7. Is it considered that the potato disease, even when confined to the leaves and haulm, materially diminishes the productive power of the plant?
8. How much earlier is the potato crop this season than the last?
9. How much earlier did the potato disease manifest itself this season than the last?
10. Do you consider the disease likely to increase in virulence as the season advances?
11. What proportion does the land under potato cultivation this year bear to the average yearly plant before 1846?
12. How much more land is there under potato cultivation in your neighbourhood this year than last?
13. Do you consider that the greater extent of land planted this year with potatoes will be counterbalanced by the greater probable ravages of the disease, as compared with last year?
14. Do you think it likely that the quantity of potatoes expected to be ultimately saved this year, will be greater or smaller than the quantity saved out of the crop of 1849?
15. Is there any or much waste in consequence of potatoes being prematurely pressed on the market in large quantities for fear of their spoiling?
16. What is the present price of potatoes per ton in your district?
17. How long do you calculate the potatoes, saved from this year's crop, will last in sufficient abundance and cheapness to be within the means of the poorer classes?
18. Do you think that the re-appearance of the disease this year will deter farmers from henceforward cultivating the potato on a large scale?
19. Do you consider that Ireland would be benefitted by the relinquishment of potato cultivation on a large scale?
20. Is the breadth of land laid out this year in turnips much smaller than last?
21. If so, will not a proportionately increased weight of consumption be thrown on potatoes?
22. What are the prospects of the wheat, oat, and barley crops in your district?
23. Is foreign wheat likely to be much wanted in your locality between this and next harvest?
24. Is the use of Indian meal general with you, and is it liked?
25. What is the present stock of Indian corn in your district?
26. Is the number of recipients of in and out-door relief, in your vicinity, greater or smaller than this time last year?

Out of 163 replies received, 49 are from Roman Catholic clergymen, 95 from millers and dealers in the corn trade, and 19 from land-holders, public functionaries, &c. The parts of the country to which the replies refer are as follow:—

From Leinster.....	districts, 22	.....	reports, 32
— Ulster.....	— 27	.....	— 53
— Munster.....	— 28	.....	— 52
— Connaught.....	— 13	.....	— 26
Total districts		90	reports... 163

Thus the whole of Ireland is pretty fairly represented in these reports. So far as a comparison of the potato crop of the present year with that of 1849 is concerned, opinion varies in the different districts in the following proportion:—

- In 31 districts it is *favourable* to the ultimate results of the present crop, as compared with 1849.
- 34 districts it is *unfavourable* to it.
- 25 districts it is that the results are rather doubtful, or about the same as last year.

In no district has the blight been entirely escaped, but the degrees of intensity of the attack vary very much. In 3 districts the tubers are not affected at all: in 20 districts, they are *slightly* affected: in 29, *partially* affected: in 20, *much* affected: and in 18, *all* affected. The least favourable accounts are from the counties of Antrim, Donegal, Sligo, Mayo, Galway, and Kerry. The most favourable from Louth, Dublin, Tipperary, Waterford, and Cork. The reports generally confirm the observation already made, that the attack of the haulm, even when it does not extend to the tuber, has a great effect in arresting the further growth of the potato.

With regard to the effect of early or late planting, the report furnishes some useful information. It tabulates 146 cases, showing how much earlier the seed was planted in 1850 than in 1849, and how much earlier the disease begun. And although in each class of cases there is a considerable diversity in the relative times, yet in each, in a majority of the cases, it appears the disease commenced this year, just the same number of weeks earlier as the planting had taken place. The report says—

To generalise the above data, I have struck an average of the 146 cases we have before us, and the result is that throughout Ireland the crop was on the average 16 days earlier, and that the potato blight set in, on an average, exactly the same number of days sooner, than last year. Several facts tend to confirm the theory to which the above data seem to lead. R. F. Saunders, Esq., of Saunders Grove, Baltinglass (county Wicklow), writes—"I am convinced, from experience, that the disease attacks the crop at a certain stage of its growth. I sowed a field five beds at a time, and continued doing so at intervals of a week. The first sown was first attacked, the next a week after, and so on, week after week, till all were attacked." A correspondent from Balinamore is of opinion that the particular period in the plant's growth at which the disease sets in is "immediately, or very soon, after the flowering." If this were universally true, the time of sowing would probably be a matter of indifference. But there are too many facts and opinions tending the other

way, to come to any positive conclusion on the subject. In many cases the early kinds are reported to withstand the disease better than others; and so strong is this opinion with many growers, that some intend planting before winter, placing the sets sufficiently deep to be beyond the reach of the frost. We also hear of many cases in which the red potatoes remain untainted in the tubers, whilst the white in the same locality are infected. In a report from Coolmain (county Monaghan), it is stated that "about 5 per cent of all the potatoes planted in February and March, 15 per cent of those planted in April, and nearly 50 per cent of all planted after the 1st May, are infected and going to decay.

With regard to the extent of land planted in the present year as compared with 1849, the average for the whole of Ireland gives an increase of potato cultivation of 109 per cent, and compared with the average quantity prior to 1846, the decrease in the present year is estimated only at 24 per cent, so nearly has this culture again risen to the maximum quantity. With regard to the portion of the crop that will be saved for human food in the present year compared with 1849, opinions are reported thus:—

- From 16 districts, that it will be *much larger*.
- 30 districts, that it will be *larger*.
- 16 districts, *about the same*.
- 24 districts, *smaller*.
- 4 districts, no report.

90

It would appear, therefore, that it is reasonable to expect that a larger entire quantity of potatoes will be saved in the present year, and especially so when we refer to the very favourable state of the weather which has been experienced during the last few weeks, and since the date of the most of these reports. With regard to the present price of potatoes in Ireland it varies very much, being in some of the rural districts as low as 20s and 25s a ton, while, however, the average price in the large towns is 51s 4d a ton, in the middle-sized towns 44s 6d, and in small towns and rural districts the average is 42s 4d a ton, for good "untainted" potatoes. The estimate as to the period for which the crop will furnish a "cheap and abundant supply to the poor" is about five months; last year it was estimated at little more than four months. As to whether the "re-appearance of the disease this year will deter farmers from henceforth cultivating "the potato on a large scale," opinion seems to be about equally divided. The great increase in the quantity of potatoes grown in the present year, has had the effect of reducing the quantity of turnips; the absence of which both for cattle and, to some extent, as human food, must be made up from the potato crop.

The following is given as a summary of the reports on the wheat, oat and barley crops:—

	Districts.	Districts.	Districts.
Wheat reported deficient in.....	62,	Oats in 5,	Barley in 6
— fair average in....	14	— in 19	— in 24
— good average in	6	— in 45	— in 42
— abundant in.....	...	— in 14	— in 6
— not reported from	8	— from 7	— from 12
	90	90	90

The deficiency in the wheat crop is reported to be fully 50 per cent in many localities, and on an average throughout Ireland, I estimate that the yield will barely reach three-fifths of last year's crop, as besides the injury the plant has sustained, there was less sown than in 1849. On the other hand the quality is stated to be decidedly better than that of last season. More foreign wheat will be required by the Irish millers than in 1849, but last year, Irish wheat being of indifferent quality, foreign was largely required immediately after harvest for mixing; whereas, this year native wheat being of better quality, less foreign will be required at once for mixing, and it will be principally wanted for supplying the deficiency of the home growth at a later period, when Irish wheat becomes scarce and dear.

This estimate agrees with the accounts which we derive from other quarters.

Indian corn has become a very important article of diet in Ireland. Up to the 5th of August the imports of the present year have been only 974,713 qrs, against 1,518,721 qrs during the same period in 1849; and the stock on hand is estimated, on the 1st inst, to have been in Ireland and Liverpool 298,300 qrs, against 628,000 qrs on the 1st of January. For the obvious reason of the exhaustion of the potato crop, the consumption of Indian corn is much larger in the first seven months of the year than in the last five months; thus, from January to August 1849, the consumption was weekly 48,900 qrs; while from August to the end of December it was only at the rate of 22,800 qrs weekly. For the first seven months of the present year the average consumption of Indian corn has been reduced to 42,000 qrs, and it is expected that the consumption of that article will, for several reasons, diminish even in a greater proportion during the remainder of the year.

With regard to the pressure of pauperism, Mr Mongredien says:—

It is gratifying to have to report that the pressure of pauperism on the Poor Law Unions of Ireland is very materially diminished: with few exceptions out-door relief is entirely discontinued, and the inmates of the workhouses are almost everywhere considerably fewer. The great decrease of population through mortality and emigration is no doubt indicative of severe suffering, but it may be hoped that other and more acceptable agencies have also contributed to the above result. The following is an abstract of the information sent me from each district in reply to my query as to the number of recipients of in and out-door relief as compared with the corresponding period in 1849:—

Recipients much fewer than in 1849.....	in 10 districts
— fewer	in 24
— about the same number	in 10
— more numerous	in 2
— of out-door relief none.....	} in 29
— of in-door relief fewer	
— of out-door relief none	} in 7
— of in-door relief same as in 1849 ...	
— of out-door relief none	} in 4
— of in-door relief more numerous	
— of out-door relief fewer	} in 2
— of in-door relief more numerous	
No report	from 2

90

In conclusion, the following are the "general impressions which the writer of the report has derived from a minute examination of the mass of materials that has come before him:—

The general impressions I have derived from a minute examination of the mass of materials that has come before me may be thus summed up:—

The potato blight is almost universal as to the leaves and stem, but at present only partial as to the tubers.

The yield, even where sound, will not be abundant, and will probably be diminished by premature decomposition when pitted.

Whilst the crop generally was two to three weeks earlier than in 1849, the disease also appeared in the same proportion earlier than before.

The quantity of land under cultivation this year was double that of last year, and nearly as great in proportion to the population as before 1846.

The quantity likely to be ultimately saved out of the present crop will not be much greater than the net produce of last year, and will last in cheapness and abundance till about the same period, viz. January.

The breadth of land that will be devoted to potato cultivation next year, will be considerably smaller than this year, and probably smaller than in 1849.

The wheat crop in Ireland will barely be three-fifths of an average; the barley crop a full average; the oat crop more than average.

So far as we can judge from the tone of the report, it seems to be fairly and impartially drawn up, and most of its leading conclusions are corroborated from other quarters; with only this difference, that whenever the question was such that the state of the weather subsequent to the date of the information was calculated to influence the result, it will prove more favourable than was anticipated. With regard to the potato crop in Ireland, it will be observed that the estimate is that the net produce will be but little above that of 1849, when the surface planted was only about one half. We suspect that throughout England also the yield will only be in about the same proportion, for though the disease has been arrested, yet the growth of the late potato seems to have been suspended, and not only will the yield be very small, but the tubers are also much below the usual size. Some of the most competent judges consider the crop, as compared with that of 1849, acre for acre, to be only about one-half; but on the other hand, the acreage planted is larger, though not nearly in the same proportion as the diminution of the crop.

LORD CLARENDON AT BELFAST.

THE tour of the President of the French Republic (?), noticed last week, was for the sinister object of preparing for another change in the Government of France. It is the precursor of an attempt to alter the constitution, and, at the expense of further trouble to the nation, serve the purpose of an ambitious aspirant to a throne. We have now to record the tour of Lord Clarendon to Belfast, confirming the people in their attachment to institutions which already exist, and, without any view to private ambition, promoting the public welfare. The results of the tours, in respect to the two individuals, correspond in some measure with their intentions. Louis Napoleon's conduct is by a large part of the French criticised and censured. His motives are seen through, and if his outward bearing have won him support, his interested views have exposed him to odium. Lord Clarendon, we are told by the *Northern Whig*, "was greeted with a deep felt and enthusiastic respect by every man of every party who is capable of forming an opinion worthy of the least attention." He was proudly feasted by the Lord Londonderry, a Tory, and highly honoured by the Liberal town of Belfast. "His progress," says the same paper, "was such as many a monarch might envy, and few could deserve." Even in respect and attachment, and in doing homage to our great men, when they take any pains to merit our esteem, we are not behind our neighbours, and Her Majesty, wherever she goes, and her representative in Ireland, are received more heartily and honoured more cordially than the popularity-hunting President.

In Lord Clarendon's visit to Belfast there is something for the nation to be proud of, as well as the individual. It supports a principle and enforces a truth, as well as gratifies a great number of honourable men. It bears testimony to a wise system of administration, and is not merely a show and a feast. The Mayor, in proposing Lord Clarendon's health, said—"I cannot, however, refrain from expressing (even in his presence) the opinion which I hold I know but in common with you all, of the heavy debt of gratitude Ireland owes to him for his successful exertions in promoting the extension of her railways—the spread of agricultural science—the encouragement of her trade and manufactures—and, above all, as I fondly hope, the permanent establishment of her peace." In reply, Lord Clarendon could say, without boasting:—

Many have been the obstacles which during a portion of the last three years have beset the path of the Government. I need hardly allude to that terrible calamity, with all its varied and frightful consequences, with which it was the will of the Almighty that this country should be visited, and which, unparalleled for duration and extent in the annals of history, threatened to overwhelm all classes of the community in one common ruin. It was then that the discontent which had long festered, heightened and inflamed by intense suffering, seduced a portion of our fellow countrymen, to give ear to false advisers. Then, also, it was that the upheaving of that mighty political movement which shook every throne in Europe to its base, menaced every country in the civilised world, made its vibrations to be felt in Ireland. That, I will admit, was a moment of deep anxiety to one placed in a responsible position like my own; and who felt, as I did, that an error at such a time would be irrecoverable. But I can with truth affirm that, in the darkest moment of that hour I never despaired—never feared for Ireland. I knew that, for a time, a portion of my countrymen would be led away from the path of duty, and of their true interests; but while it was my part to uphold the law and to maintain peace, I never doubted that reason and duty would resume their sway; nor did the event belie my anticipations, for hardly had the clouds which obscured our political horizon passed away, when our gracious Sovereign appeared on our shores, the harbinger of union and concord to all her subjects. At the time when anarchy and confusion still prevailed in Europe—when the foes of order there still hoped for sympathy here—and when the demon of mischief would not dare to set foot on our shores—that was the moment selected by our Sovereign to show her confidence in Ireland. And nobly was that confidence reciprocated by the enthusiasm with which all ranks, all classes, all parties, unanimously welcomed the advent of the Queen. Then the enemies of order, both at home and abroad, felt themselves baffled and forced to acknowledge that the loyalty of Ireland placed an insuperable barrier to their designs—that Ireland was, as she ever will be, a tower of strength to the British throne.

The Government was successful by confidence in the people. It knew, by continual communication with them, how small a portion of them had been seduced into treason, and that its own moderation and justice would insure it the support of all the people of property, and of the bulk of the peasantry, Lord Clarendon can now say, as the result in a great measure of not publishing in proclamations one irritating word, nor taking one provoking measure, that “almost all the people of Ireland now appear to recognise the folly and uselessness, as well as the pecuniary and individual loss, and, I may add, the ridiculousness, of that political agitation which paralyses industry, destroys confidence, and scares away capital.” That is the result of his moderate and wise system of government, and justifies the principle on which latterly the Government of Ireland has been carried on. Agitation ceased to have a legitimate object, and it began to dwindle away and be despised from the moment the Government became the common protector of all, and ceased to be the antagonist and the persecutor of the larger portion of the people.

The heavy hand of distress, now much lightened, and the care taken to provide for the extreme destitution which has nearly ceased, with the removal from Ireland of a great number of the people, may have had some influence on another very cheering fact stated by Lord Clarendon; but his mild yet firm system of government has also had much to do in producing it:—“Few can remember such a circuit as the last,” he said, “when the charges of all the judges were couched in terms of universal congratulation on the improved moral and social condition of the people, and on the absence of those outrages which had been so long the curse of this country. The justness of these congratulations is demonstrated by a fact, which I have the authority of the Inspector-General of Constabulary for stating, that since he came to the command of that force crime was never in so low a state as at the present period.” The noble lord also stated, corroborating the accounts of the improved condition of Ireland:—“In June and July last there were 60,000 less on the relief lists than in the corresponding period of last year. The reduction of expenditure for out-door relief has been 300,000*l.* out of 2,100,000*l.*, or one in seven; and the whole reduction of expenditure has been 700,000*l.*, while in the whole of Ireland there are not above 14,000 individuals in receipt of out-door relief.” The diminution of crime and the diminution of pauperism are extremely gratifying proofs of the wisdom of the noble lord’s government.

But the commercial establishments visited by Lord Clarendon, and his observations on them are, to our mind, still more pleasing, as enforcing, for Ireland especially, a most important truth. The disability of the South and the helpless pauperism of the West only become more dark and dismal from the contrast with the activity and wealth of the North. The Messrs Mulholland, whose great spinning establishment Lord Clarendon visited, were the first, says the *Northern Whig*,

To introduce in Belfast the spinning of linen yarn by machinery; and some idea may be formed of the success of the experiment, when we state that their establishment affords constant employment to upwards of 1,200 persons; that its annual expenditure, in wages alone, amounts to about 20,000*l.*; and that it consumes, annually, about one thousand tons of flax, producing about 450,000 bundles of yarn, at an estimated value of from 100,000*l.* to 110,000*l.* From the simplest and roughest elementary process, to the completion by bleaching, printing, ornamenting, and exporting, all is carried out by themselves. The direct and indirect employment thus given by these gentlemen is enormous, and, as it may be said to be confined to our own countrymen, 15,000 of whom, within a circle of 50 miles round Belfast, are engaged by them as weavers, the social and national advantages conferred cannot be too highly estimated.

The picture was extended and heightened by Lord Clarendon:—

Since 1829 (he said) understand that more than twenty millions pounds sterling have been invested in the machinery of your factories, and that between 300,000 and 400,000 spindles are now at work in Belfast. From the year 1839 to the year 1847 the increase in the number of persons employed in factory labour has been in Scotland 13*½*, in England 30*½*, and in Ireland—by which I

suppose is meant the north of Ireland—it has been no less than 52 per cent. I believe that the exports of linen from Ireland are upwards of four million pounds sterling, and that, directly or indirectly, 300,000 persons gain their livelihood from this unrivalled national manufacture. And, if it be true, as I have reason to believe, that the imports and exports of Ireland are nearly one million sterling greater during the last year than the year before, and that the shipping of this port has now become fifteen times greater than it was sixty years ago, and that within the eight months of the present year it is 60,000 tons greater than during the corresponding months of the last year, and that to these facts another fact must be added, which is, that within the last thirty years the population of Belfast has considerably more than trebled—I think that all this presents an astonishing picture of the industry, energy, and perseverance of Belfast.

That is a noble picture of improvement, the counterpart to that of Glasgow, found in another part of the paper, and how has it been brought about? Has the Government fostered it into life by a system of protecting it against the heavenly breath of competition? Has it continually made advances of money to encourage it, and made laws to give it an unjust advantage in the market? For an answer, attend to what Mr John Andrews said, in replying to the toast, “The linen trade of Ulster:”—

When I first became connected with the trade, and for many years afterwards, it was the special object of legislative solicitude. A board, largely endowed, was constituted to nurture and cherish it. A duty of 33 per cent on foreign linen products secured to us the monopoly of the market at home, and a duty of 15 per cent impeded even the transit of foreign linens through our ports to any market abroad in which they might have come into competition with ours. We had, besides, a bounty of 1*½*d per yard on the export of all Irish linens not exceeding 19*½*d per yard in value; and yet, with these advantages, our trade was sickly and declining. In the year 1824, a committee of the House of Commons was appointed to investigate and report upon the condition of the trade. With many others, I appeared before that committee as a witness. Many persons were terrified at the threatened loss of any portion of our protection. We had no confidence in ourselves. We had no belief that we should be able to stand alone. Nevertheless, our legislative nurses were cruel and obdurate. One by one they divested us of our privileges and protection. They took from us our go-carts, and supports of every kind. They beat us off and cast us entirely upon our own resources. I shall not further weary you with details, but will simply point to the issue of our unaided struggles and efforts, by stating what cannot be a secret to many of those whom I address—that these very manufacturing countries, against whom we protected ourselves by prohibitive duties, have now been obliged to turn the tables upon us. They find that cheap continental labour is more than over-matched by the exercise of British—I should, in this case, proudly say Irish—skill and energy; and they have failed, even by the imposition of heavy duties, to exclude Irish linens from their own markets. Such is briefly the history of the Irish linen trade during the last quarter of a century. We must all contemplate it with peculiar satisfaction; and I desire to commend it as an instructive lesson to that even more important class with whom my present avocations and duties more particularly connect me. The Irish farmer is now in a position pretty similar to that which the linen manufacturer occupied a quarter of a century ago. He, too, is now thrown upon his own resources to provide for himself; but, unhappily, his education and previous habits have not been of a character so well calculated to excite to enterprise and energy; and he is, besides, exposed to adverse influences to which the linen manufacturer was not subject. The progress of the linen manufacturer was not discouraged by the officious interference of professing friends, casting ridicule upon science, advising him to turn his back upon instruction, and to close his eyes to the exhibition of even practical improvement. The path of the linen manufacturer was not beset by an ignis fatuus, alluring him from the sure path of industrious self-reliance. I trust the light of truth is already penetrating the gloom which has hung over the cultivator of the soil, and secured his true interest; and that the influence of education and good example will, ere long, inspire the agriculturist with the desire to take his place in the first rank among the industrial classes of Great Britain.

Thus it was taking away from the linen manufacture in 1824 the legislative crutches which restored it to strength and vigour. The first symptom of renovation was visible in Belfast in 1829. This great improvement, it is to be observed, which extends to all the country round, and which increases the value of land, giving interest and even acrimony to the contest now going on there about tenant-right, is closely connected with the factory system. Factory labour has increased no less than 52 per cent.; as that has increased, the population of Belfast has increased, its trade has increased, and it has become an excellent customer to all the landowners and farmers of the neighbourhood. Our Protectionists and pseudo-philanthropists continually revile factory labour. By comparing the progress of Belfast with the wretchedness of the South of Ireland, they may learn the erroneousness of their views, and be ashamed of their opinions. The factories established there make all the difference between a flourishing and a decaying community.

When Mr Andrews’ advice to the Irish agriculturists is followed, they will, no doubt, be able to grow flax, now imported from Russia and Holland, for the cultivation of which Ireland has peculiar facilities. The subject begins to be better understood than it was. We are told by Mr Loudon, in his “Encyclopædia of Agriculture,” “that the Legislature has paid more attention to framing laws regarding the husbandry of flax than to any other branch of rural economy; but it need not excite surprise that these laws, even though accompanied by premiums, have failed to induce men to act contrary to their own interest. The fact is, the culture of flax is found, on the whole, less profitable than the culture of corn.” The abolition of the Corn Laws, and some improvements in the cultivation of flax, has probably thrown the profit on its side. Twelve pound per ton more is now given for flax at Drogheda, than was given last year—an advance of nearly 30 per cent.—which must make it more advantageous to cultivate flax than corn. Lord Clarendon, we believe, will not have long to regret that Ireland, if her capacities are equal to her wants, does not produce all the flax she requires. Her formerly

encumbered soil is now, in a great measure, liberated from spendthrift and legal fetters; it offers probably more means of improvement, and promises more profit to skilful agriculture, than any part of Great Britain; and it will only be necessary that the industrious spirit of the North, under free trade, should preside over the cultivation of the South and the West, now that cultivation is free, to make Ireland one of the most flourishing countries of Europe. Her long delay gives her room to make a prodigious start.

It is not only at Belfast, we are happy to say, that prosperity manifests itself. "Even the poor poplin weavers," says a writer in the *Morning Chronicle*, "long almost starved for want of employment, are now at full work. Their beautiful fabrics have found a new demand as lining for railway carriages, for stoles and other priestly vestments; orders have also been received for poplin from America, Portugal, and New Guinea. Gingham, serge, linsey woolsey, tweeds, are now being manufactured in Cork, Carrick-on-Suir, and Dublin. The blanket trade is reviving; fine cloth, too, is once more made at Kilmainham; lace, embroidery, Croatia work, straw plaiting, at Limerick and Cork; harvest implements at Drogheda; girth webs and coach lace in Dublin; all these are flourishing." On all sides, then, there is evidence that the darkness of the night has passed, and that day has dawned on Ireland. We hope it may be a long and a sunny one. Lord Clarendon has lived through all the murkiness, and has now the satisfaction of being universally cheered as the author of renewed prosperity.

HESSE CASSEL.

THE disturbance in Hesse Cassel, noticed last week, has taken rather an unexpected direction. The Elector and his Ministers, finding the chief court of appeal had decided against their ordinance for levying taxes, and against their military measures, seem to have been alarmed. They accordingly left the capital in a body on the morning of the 13th inst, and proceeded to Hanover. From Hanover the Elector repaired to Frankfurt, whither he was followed by his Ministers. After some consultation with the Austrian authorities there, he has resolved to establish his Government at Bockenheim, a Hessian town close to Frankfurt, almost a suburb of the free city, and live himself at Hanau, another Hessian town in the same neighbourhood. The Ministers, with some of their clerks, &c., took up their residence at the former on the 15th, and opening their bureaux, began there the administration of the affairs of the Electorate.

In Cassel and the other parts of Hesse the population have remained perfectly quiet. Martial law has been suspended. The Chief Burgomaster and General Bauer have come to an understanding to preserve the public peace while the dispute is submitted to a legal decision. The general's own conduct was brought before the Auditoriat by the Standing Committee of the Chambers, but the Auditoriat did not find the facts sufficiently strong to justify further proceedings. The Chief Court of Appeal had, at the same time, decided against the application for an impeachment of the Ministers. Both parties seem tolerably free to pursue each its own course. No pretext has been supplied by the people to use force against them, and, with the Committee of the Chambers and all the authorities that act against the Elector and his Ministers, they seem inclined peaceably to rely on appeals to the tribunals to settle the whole matter.

We are afraid, however, that such is not the object of the Elector and his Ministers. We presume that, by establishing the seat of Government in another part of the Electorate, where they have ordered their subordinates to join them, they mean to renew their attempts to attain their object by the strong hand. They have placed themselves near to the available military power of Austria, and away from the concentrated population of the capital. They are not more popular indeed at Hanau than at Cassel; but they will probably be better able to overawe the former than the latter. They have separated themselves entirely from the Standing Committee of the Chambers, which, by its very nature, being left at Cassel to represent the Chambers, can have no authority except at Cassel, and intend, we infer, to govern the Electorate without the Committee and without the Chambers.

Notwithstanding their present discomfiture, we are also afraid, if such be their resolution, they may temporarily succeed. Such is the apathy now prevailing in Germany on political subjects, caused by the excessive violence of the democratic party, and the equal folly of the professorial or theoretical party, that the Germans generally will submit to almost anything rather than again be terrified by the former or vexed and harassed by the latter. "As far as I can learn," says a correspondent of *The Scotsman*, resident in Germany, "and have seen, there is a remarkable phase just now in the public mind of the middle classes; people are disgusted, cast down, apathetic; newspapers are scarcely read, and no one speaks about politics, at least not openly. People look on with outward indifference, and let the Governments do what they like." Even the Elector of Hesse and Herr Hassenpflug may now possibly succeed for a short time, but it will be only to bring on themselves or their successors a more terrible retribution hereafter. Their schemes are inimical to the welfare of the people, who cannot fail to learn that to get

rid of tyranny it is not necessary to plunge into anarchy. They dread the anarchy enforced by violence of the ultra democrats, but these men are fast falling into contemptible weakness or even oblivion, and as the terror of them disappears the courage to resist the wrong-doing of legitimate tyrants will revive, and more sweeping changes will ensue than will be satisfactory to the Elector and his Ministers.

GLASGOW.—POPULATION.

WHEN we remember the dismal forebodings on the subject of population which, flowing from the writings of Mr Malthus, ill understood, filled the minds of reflecting men in the early part of the century, there is nothing more extraordinary and more gratifying than the increase of our people since that period. Amongst the proofs of the short-sightedness of the apprehensions then prevalent of want of room, and of a return, from urgent necessity, to ancient cannibalism, or something like it, the account read at the recent meeting of the British Association, by Dr Strang, Chamberlain of Glasgow, of the growth of that city since 1800, is one of the most satisfactory. He stated—

In 1801 the population was	77,385
1811.....	109,749
1821.....	147,043
1831.....	202,426
1841.....	282,134
1850.....	estimated at 367,800

From those figures it appears that the population has nearly quintupled in 50 years and doubled itself in 20 years. In fact, the annual increase of the city has been found to be as nearly as possible at the rate of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent, or at present about 12,000 per annum.

But Glasgow is only one of several such nuclei of population, which grow by continual increments, where every additional man seems to find employment and subsistence for two other men, and the more the population increases the more room there is for immigrants, and the more they are required. Liverpool, Manchester, Leeds, almost every town indeed in Lancashire and the West Riding of Yorkshire, Birmingham, the Potteries, and this great Metropolis—to which a town as considerable as Salisbury, it is said, is added every year—are all places where the population increases from its own powers, but increases still more from the immigrants they continually receive. In a few months we shall know for certainty the exact progress of population in these towns and cities; and though some of them may not be increasing at the same rapid rate as Glasgow, yet in all population is increasing, and they may all be described as little Americas or little Australian colonies, continually receiving and providing for numerous immigrants. Such facts sweep away heaps of dismal speculations, and brighten amazingly our future prospects. If the population of Glasgow have quintupled in fifty years, and the populations of these other towns have increased in an almost equally rapid rate, since the time when it was supposed the country was over-peopled, why may population not go on hereafter increasing at the same or a still more rapid rate? For the greater part of the period they have been subjected to a restrictive policy, which continually checked their prosperity, and always artificially limited their resources. Now, when their industry is in a great measure free, their resources are only limited by their own means and their own exertions, and it may be reasonably anticipated that the prosperity they have enjoyed for the last few years will continue and increase.

Most of the evils latterly suffered in our towns have been attributed to the rapid growth of their population. It was supposed to have taken the authorities, both general and municipal, by surprise, and prevented them from providing, as they ought to have provided, for the growing multitude. Glasgow was, however, years ago, an excessively dirty, ill-managed town, and there is abundant reason to believe that the whole of the people have been better provided since the town possessed between 200,000 and 300,000 than when it contained less than 100,000. Dr Strang tells us, for example, "That in 1800 there was within the district now embraced by the parliamentary city, only 30 miles of streets and roads, whereas at present the formed and paved streets alone extend to 96 miles; and secondly, that while in 1800 there was little or no sewerage in the city, there is at present 42 miles of main sewers, 21 miles of which have been formed during the last six years—the cost of making these sewers averaging 1,200l per mile." In 1800, therefore, sewerage was hardly known, and what the town was without sewerage may be conjectured. Now the bulk of it is drained. What is true of Glasgow is true of all the other great towns. Manchester, Leeds, Birmingham are all quite Arcadias as to the health and strength of their inhabitants compared to Paris, or London, or Berlin, or Vienna, or any of the other great cities of Europe, in the latter half of the last century. "The corporation of Liverpool," said the intelligent correspondent of the *Morning Chronicle*, of Monday last, "has done much to improve the sanitary condition of the town, to sewer the streets, to prevent overcrowding, to remove nuisances." It would seem, therefore, that the increasing population, which can only take place with increasing wealth and by increasing energy, carries with it, to a great extent, the improvement required for its accommodation; and if it did not, the exact ratio

in future of the increase is so uncertain, and we are so perfectly ignorant what the population will require, and what means, in new arts and new inventions, it will hereafter possess, that no provision can be made for a future population. The authorities, both municipal and general, can only watch its progress, and provide for the increase as it comes. They may be, indeed, certain that population will continue to increase, though hereafter it may increase more rapidly in some other places, and for the consequences of that increase they may prepare themselves.

What will be the results fifty years hence, should our towns go on increasing as they have increased since 1800—a period that many persons now alive remember well, as many now living will see the year 1900—is not for us to predict. Far, however, from the prospect having in it anything to alarm us, it is full of hope, though necessarily vague and undefined. Within the last fifty years some of the most astounding inventions have been made that grace the intellectual faculties of man. Within those fifty years numerous arts have come into existence, or old arts have been amazingly improved; the boundaries of knowledge of a useful kind have been rapidly enlarged, and it has been diffused amongst all classes. Within that period the progress of humanity has been as great as the progress of invention and the increase of knowledge. The civilised world has enjoyed peace and security, such as it never knew before, compared to which, the Augustan age, so much vaunted for progress and peace, was a state of retardation and war. As all these great improvements have taken place in conjunction with a more rapid increase of population here, and in most of the countries of Europe, than was ever before known, and as there are now fewer impediments than formerly to a still more rapid increase of people, we may hope that knowledge will be continually and rapidly extended, and that arts will as continually be enlarged and improved.

It seems quite certain that with the increase of the town population improvements in humanity and political organisation, such as those we have witnessed, will continue. The growing multitude will not be contented with the present accommodation, whether physical or moral, and present enjoyment. The prevalent disposition to defer to the popular voice, and promote the improvement and well-being of the multitude, will insure the requisite improvements, though what shape they may take cannot yet be known. From what has taken place in all these towns, we see that increasing wealth, and not increasing poverty, accompanies the increase of population. Not only a few are in the enjoyment of a great number of luxuries unknown to their ancestors, but the bulk of the people are much better provided with necessaries and comforts than were their predecessors; and the explanation of this fact is full of hope.

The great consideration paid to the soil by its feudal possessors, who were so long the rulers of society and dictators in matters of opinion, seems to have vitiated for a long period our reasoning and our observations on every subject connected with land and labour; and the very monopoly they enjoyed, giving them a power over industry and over life, made philosophers, equally with the vulgar, regard the soil as the great source of wealth. Labour, however—the means of supplying the wants of the being on whom the power to labour is bestowed—is the main principle and source of wealth; and hence the labour of one man supplies the market for the labour of another, as we see in these great towns, and so enables each one of the increasing multitude to supply his own wants. By the increase of population, therefore, the demand for labour increases; and the more rapidly Glasgow has increased in population and wealth, the more rapidly it may increase. Every invention facilitates other inventions, and facilitates production. A large territory is not so much required to allow of the increase of people as knowledge, skill, and industry to put the land to a good use.

One or two extracts from Dr Strang's statistics will show how little the soil has had to do with the increase of the wealth of Glasgow. The whole tonnage arriving at the harbour of Glasgow between 1828 and 1850 was as follows:—

	Sailing Vessels. tons	Steam Vessels. tons
1828.....	214,315	481,946
1840.....	271,942	894,387
1850.....	392,033	873,159

From this statement it appears that while there is a slight falling off in the steam trade in 1850—which is easily accounted for by the railways seriously interfering with the coasting trade—the increase of the tonnage of the sailing vessels arriving at the port, and amounting to nearly one-half more in ten years, illustrates, in a striking degree, the steady progress of Glasgow.

The revenue has increased in greater proportion:—

	£	s	d
In 1800 the revenue of the Clyde Trust was.....	3,319	16	1
1820	6,328	18	10
1830	20,296	18	6
1840	46,481	1	9
1850	64,243	14	11

Hence it is plain that the increase of revenue has been since the commencement of the century nearly twentyfold, and during the last twenty years fully threefold!

It is to the credit of the trustees that they have diligently attended to the improvement of the river. "Up to a late period of the last century there was but little money laid out in improving

"the river, and, strange to say, about the year 1770, the City Corporation, who were the guardians of the Clyde, were not at all clear (as appears from the city records) about the propriety of at that time laying out one hundred pounds to remove a shoal a little below the bridge of Glasgow, and hinted to the Merchants' House that they would require their assistance in this great work; whereas, from the period when their successors commenced really to deepen the river and improve the harbour, they have expended little less than two millions sterling!" The revenue, in fact, has come from capital judiciously laid out in improving the river.

The account given of the cotton and iron trades is as follows:—

THE COTTON TRADE.—Let us take only two departments of the cotton trade—cotton spinning and power loom weaving. The first steam engine in Glasgow connected with cotton spinning was erected in 1792; but it was not till the beginning of the present century that any quantity of yarn was spun in Scotland. At the present moment the extent of this trade may be imagined, when it is stated that the numbers of spindles employed in cotton spinning connected with, or dependent on Glasgow, amount to about 1,800,000, and that the cotton consumed will amount to nearly 45,000,000 lbs, or 120,000 bales. The power loom was first introduced to Glasgow in 1793, by Mr James L. Robertson, who brought two from the hulks on the Thames. In the following year, 40 looms were fitted up at Milton; and in 1801, Mr John Monteith had 200 looms at work at Pollockshaws, near Glasgow. In 1831, the power looms in or dependent on Glasgow had increased to 15,137; and at the present moment (1850) the power looms belonging to or connected with the manufactures of and the produce which passes through Glasgow, amount to about 25,000, which will produce on an average, per day, 625,000 yards of cloth.

IRON TRADE.—Although the cotton manufacture, in all its various combinations, was to a certain period justly regarded as the staple trade of Glasgow and neighbourhood, it is now problematical whether or not the iron trade may not now be looked upon as equally important. From a document furnished me by Mr Barclay, who lately published a pamphlet on the statistics of the Scotch iron trade, I find that the number of smelting furnaces around Glasgow in 1830 was only 16, each producing at an average 2500 tons of pig iron per annum, or a total of 40,000 tons; whereas, during the year 1849, there were 79 furnaces, each producing about 6,000 tons, or about 475,000 tons per annum—showing an increase of more than ten times the amount in the course of less than 20 years. The manufacture of malleable iron in Scotland is of more recent date, not having been properly commenced till 1839, and no note of the quantity made having been kept till 1845, when it appears the production was estimated at 35,000 tons. At present there are in operation five malleable iron works near Glasgow, and one in Ayrshire, making the number at work in Scotland six, while the production at present is estimated at 80,000 tons, or more than double in five years.

Dr Strang ascribes the prosperity of Glasgow mainly to two circumstances, neither of which has anything to do with what is called the soil:—

This has chiefly arisen (he says) from that city being, if I may use the expression, *cosmopolitan* in its commerce and manufactures. Glasgow unites within itself a portion of the cotton spinning and weaving manufactures of Manchester, of the printed calicoes of Lancashire, the stuffs of Norwich, the shawls and mouselines of France, the silk throwing of Macclesfield, the flaxspinning of Ireland, the carpets of Kildermister, the iron and engineering works of Wolverhampton and Birmingham, the pottery and glass-making of Staffordshire and Newcastle, the ship building of London, the coal trade of the Tyne and Wear, and all the handicrafts connected with or dependent on the full development of these. Glasgow also has its distilleries, breweries, chemical works, tan works, dye works, bleach fields, and paper manufactories, besides a vast number of staple and fancy hand loom fabrics, which may be strictly said to belong to that locality. Glasgow also, in its commercial relations, trades with every quarter of the globe, and its merchants deal and dispose of all the various products of every country. It hence appears that when one branch of manufacture is dull another may be prosperous, and accordingly Glasgow never feels any of those universal depressions which so frequently occur in places limited to one or two branches of manufacture and commerce.

The question next occurs what have been the chief stimuli to this great population being concentrated at this peculiar spot? and the first answer to that is this, that in addition to the circumstance of Glasgow being placed in the centre of one of the richest mineral districts in the kingdom, she possesses a river and harbour which art and capital have, within a very few years, made perfectly safe and navigable. In fact, that city possesses an inland navigation and a stream harbour that is perhaps unequalled in Europe.

Then he describes by what exertions and expense the river and the harbour have been deepened and widened, and ends by this contrast:—

In 1800, the whole quay was restricted to a space not exceeding a few hundred feet, and occasionally exhibited no vessel larger than a coal barge or a herring wherry. At present the quayage extends to about 10,000 lineal feet, while hundreds of the largest sized ships belonging to the mercantile marine of this and foreign countries are seen ranged three and four deep along its breast. At present, loaded vessels of 1,000 tons register come up easily to the harbour of Glasgow, and are abreast of the quays in one tide; while steamships of 2,000 tons have been built on the banks of the river, near to the city, and their machinery fitted up within the harbour.

The river, however, and the mineral treasures have always been there. Glasgow is one of the most ancient cities of Scotland, but its great progress and great prosperity only date from the beginning of this century. It is impossible, therefore, to say what other mineral treasures scattered in some other place, or what other peculiar natural advantages, hitherto unnoticed and unused, may in the next few years attract the attention of industry, and enable it to plant towns and rear up large populations in places that are now neglected or almost unknown. Man, and his attributes, his knowledge, and his skill, are chiefly to be considered in any speculations as to the future progress of population, rather than the soil or harbours or mineral districts. It is as impossible for us to know out of what natural sources our posterity will create wealth, as it was for St Mungo, in the thirteenth or some earlier century, to foresee the wealth that was to be created by industry on the banks of the Clyde out of the produce of a bush growing wild in the tropics,

and out of the disregarded minerals under his feet. They were probably considered by the men of that generation as sterile impediments to the produce of the only arts they knew. While it is impossible, therefore, to foresee by what means the future growth of population will be sustained, we have a firm conviction that it will grow, and will carry with it some means of producing wealth similar to those which are so well exemplified in detail in Dr Strang's account of Glasgow.

LLOYD'S REGISTER OF SHIPPING. CLASSING OF SHIPS.

A CORRESPONDENCE has taken place between Messrs W. S. Lindsay and Co. and the "General Committee for the Register of Shipping," &c., by which it appears, that in classing ships no notice is taken of the month of the year when they are launched. For example, the class of a ship launched on the 1st of January, 1850, will expire only on the same day, that one launched in any subsequent period of the year, even on the 31st of December. And a ship launched on the 31st of December will lose its class one year sooner than one launched on the following day, the 1st of January. It is justly complained that this regulation operates unfairly to those who wish to launch their ships during the fall of the year, and prejudicially to the shipbuilding trade at particular seasons. It surely can only be necessary that the attention of the committee should be called to such an inequality, in order to secure its being remedied.

Agriculture.

THE HARVEST.—CLAY LAND CULTIVATION.

THE crops are now got in, and in excellent condition, with perhaps the exception of such as were carried during the stormy week in August. The great bulk, however, has been well got in, and all market reports concur in stating that the samples of new corn shown are in good condition. As yet it would be premature to offer an opinion as to the yield of the wheat, but all farmers, in all districts, and on soils of the most opposite character, concur in stating that the yield as compared with the bulk of straw will be small. That forms only one element for calculating the general produce of the harvest, for the bulk of straw is confessedly very great. On a farm in Sussex, consisting of very strong clay soil, which is and for some years has been well and highly farmed, the occupier and his farming men who have lived on the farm for more than twenty years, concur in stating that they have never seen so large a crop of straw grown as that of the present year. The farmer, however, doubts whether the produce will do more than reach his average of four quarters to the acre. And throughout Kent and Sussex the wheat crops, so far as regards straw, is extremely good. Blight and deficiency in the ears are complained of, and the firmness and upward tendency of the grain markets seem to confirm, possibly result from, the estimates farmers make of their crops. Barley and oat crops are generally good, and in many places will be very productive. The potatoes, too, are turning out well, and the disease has made far less progress than was anticipated. At this moment there is great shortness of keep for stock, from the long continued dry weather and the cold frosty nights, and in many places cattle are suffering from a deficiency of water. Provender consequently must be comparatively high priced during the winter. Many farmers are now giving their cows hay and other winter stores, not usually trenched up for a month or six weeks later. Turnips, too, are making little progress, and cannot be a large crop.

The Buckinghamshire report says, "The wheat crop is generally considered under an average, and in most cases where the yield has been tested by thrashing, the deficiency has been found equal to expectation when thrashing commenced." Of the general state of that district it is said,—

Barley is something about an average; while oats promise to yield better than any other crop. The past harvest has been in general a more expensive one than any other for some years, and complaints of low prices and high wages is very common; indeed, it at first sight appears paradoxical that labour should rise when food is getting cheaper; but the reason is very plain, that the harvest came on all at once, and caused a scarcity of hands, which raised the price according to demand. The cleaning of the land is now pretty generally going forward, and notwithstanding the low price panic, most cultivators of the soil evidently hope to reap a few more harvests yet. Both cattle and sheep have in general thriven remarkably well upon the pastures this season; but, from the continued drought, keep is now becoming very scarce, and rain is much wanted to refresh the pastures, and turnips also, which will be a light crop now, come what will. Sheep have in some instances been turned upon early turnips, but the crops are deficient in both weight and quality. Mangold wurtzels are much better than turnips, although not so good as could have been wished. Most of the fodder has been secured in excellent order, and is generally abundant; so that the stock may be assisted during the winter with a mixture of hay and straw.

And the Somersetshire report gives the following account of the various districts of that county:—

The crops of wheat this year vary so much, that in giving a report of the crop it is requisite to particularise districts. To begin with the western part of the county upon the Bristol Channel, on the hills and poorer soils, the wheat stood generally, and the crop, both in quality and quantity, may be nearly an average; but if we take the accounts given here of the yield in thrashing, not equal to last year, and the usual yield is not above 20 to 25 bushels per acre. In the Vale of Taunton (south and south-east of the county), where a very large portion of our best wheats soils are situated, yielding in a good season 40 bushels per acre, from being laid early and the mildew, the deficiency will be from 5 to 8 bushels per acre, and the weight per bushel much less. In the cen-

tral part, on land not averaging about 25 bushels per acre a full crop, it may again approach an average; but here, in the lowlands and the peat moors, the fall off both in quality and quantity is not much short of half—say, at least 20 bushels against 32, of much better quality by far. In the northern and north-western parts, including the extensive range of Mendip, the crop may be quite an average; but the wheat grown there forms a very small portion of the bulk grown in the country, and affects but little the general average. As far as it can be ascertained, there are grounds for belief that our produce this year will be, over the county, fully 5 bushels per acre under an average; the weights are likely to vary from 56 to 63 lbs—60 to 61 lbs being likely to be the most common weights; on the whole, and more particularly the late harvested, the condition is good, but the quality is not anything equal to last year, from the rain after it was ripe, even where standing; the bulk of straw is large, and we may have more wheat than its bad kerning would lead us to expect.

Here the hay crop has been large, and though turnips and Swedes are complained of, the mangold is unusually productive.

One fact is worthy of being noticed of the past season, which is that the clay soils have, upon the whole, borne the best wheat crops, and that the peculiar root crop of such land, the mangold wurtzel, is the only one which has made much progress during the past summer and present autumn. We believe that if clay soils received the same attentive and generous cultivation which is bestowed on the lighter and more manageable soils, they would come into far better repute with farmers than they are at present. Three things are essential to make clay land largely productive, viz., draining, clearing it of hedgerows and timber, and ample accommodation for house feeding and rearing of stock. These things provided the cultivation of clay land will become comparatively easy. That manure is more lasting on clay soils than on others is matter of ordinary remark amongst farmers, and some recent experiments on the "power of manure to absorb manure," reported by Mr Way in the Journal of the Royal Agricultural Society, show the vast superiority of clay soils in this respect. These experiments prove the fact that soils have a remarkable power of separating from solution and retaining the salts of manure until required by vegetation, but further researches seem to be required to determine the precise circumstances and conditions in which that power is exerted. Liebig has shown that soils not only absorb the ammonia brought down by rain, but also from the atmosphere directly; and he refers this property to the aluminous and ferruginous compounds of the soil, but he seems to have had no notion that soils had the power of separating ammonia from solution in water. And this property is totally different from the power of porous substances to absorb ammoniacal and other gases. Neither is it to be confounded with capillary attraction. He then states, in minute detail, the experiments made with different kinds of soil, with a view to try their absorptive powers. The solution employed in these experiments was made by diluting one ounce of the strongest ammonia with sixty ounces of water, and it contained about 0.3 per cent of real ammonia. In this state the solution was highly pungent to the nose. It was clearly ascertained that the power is not to be ascribed to sand. When the solution was passed through burnt clay there was no diminution of the ammonia. Putrid urine filtered through a light soil passed quite clear, and free from taste or smell, except a certain earthy smell and taste derived from the soil. It contained no ammonia, but salts of lime in considerable abundance. There is no doubt that the power of the soil was due to the clay contained in it, for many similar trials were made with sand, and though the colour, so far as it was due to suspended matter, was in some degree reduced, the offensive character of the solution was only slightly modified; and by merely stirring a portion of pure clay with the solution, both colour and smell were absorbed. Amongst the practical conclusions Mr Way draws from the experiments he describes, those which relate to clay land are these:—

The newly discovered property of soils explains and confirms the variations in manuring operations which are made to suit the nature of the soil. Clay has been shown to be the active substance in retaining manure, and sandy and gravelly soils not possessing a sufficiency of clay will be expected to be less retentive of manure. Such is the fact, and soils of this description are said not to hold manure. On such soils manure must be applied more frequently and in smaller quantities than in stiffer soils, where, owing to the retentive power of the clay, the manure for several crops may be safely deposited. . . .

Another and very important inference may be drawn from the facts now described. If nature has established a condition of the soil by which all the salts and manure pass into one uniform state in which they are presented to the plant—and if, further, it can be proved that the soils naturally most fertile and most fitted for successful cultivation are precisely those which, consistently with a proper mechanical texture, contain abundance of clay, such as free clay loams, then it would seem to follow that in an absolute sand or gravel, manure applied in any quantity would not undergo the necessary changes and combinations, and that no vegetation in such soils should be perfectly healthy. In all good soils plants have one form only of potash, ammonia, magnesia, &c. presented to them. Is it likely that they can thrive equally well when, as in pure sand, these bases are offered to them in every possible form of combination? Reference has already been made to the possibility that clay possesses a power of retarding or altogether arresting the putrefactive process. Our information on this head is at present very limited; but should further inquiries prove that such is actually the case, it will be necessary very seriously to consider the state in which manure should be applied. It seems clear that manures in a fresh state are available to vegetation. What otherwise would become of the urine of sheep folded on turnips, and to which the success of the following barley crop is justly attributed? That this urine and dung of the sheep, which is incorporated in a state of perfect freshness with the soil, does act upon the succeeding crop there can be no doubt, and if it should be proved that decomposition of animal matters does not go on in the soil, there will be no alternative but to believe in the power of plants to feed upon these matters in their fresh state. . . .

The advantage of efficient drainage of land receives an interesting confirmation from the facts now brought forward. To the soil is intrusted the preservation of manure, but in order that this preservative power may be exercised, the manure which is dissolved by rain in the superficial strata, where it is in excess or imperfectly distributed, must be brought by drainage into contact with active soil below by which it will be taken up. If, on the other hand, the land be undrained, this manure is carried off the surface into the watercourses.

Without venturing an opinion as to the depth of drainage, which must depend upon many circumstances, it may be fair to say that it should be such as to ensure absorption of the manures by the soil; and in poor soils containing



little clay, and, therefore, deficient in the power of arresting manure, it would seem that the draining off of water should not be the only object, but that we should seek to make up in depth of soil what is wanting in activity.

The fertilising effect of burnt clay may seem to be at variance with the experiments which have been brought forward, showing that the more perfectly we burn clay the more certainly and effectually do we destroy its power of arresting manure. Let it be remembered, however, that the practice of burning soils is confined principally to heavy land which requires opening, that only a part, and a small part, of the whole is burned, and that, although the absorbent power—say, for example, of one-sixth of the soil—is destroyed, that of the other five-sixths is brought into more vigorous action, and the result is a positive good. It must not then be supposed that these experiments are against the practice of burning, or of using of burnt clay as manure—a practice which must stand or fall upon its own merits.

The perfect comminution and disintegration of the soil, however effected, must render it more fertile, and place it in a position to benefit by the manuring influences of the atmosphere and rain, which are probably much greater than we at all conceive.

RECLAMATION AND IMPROVEMENT OF LAND.

THE extent to which capital may be profitably employed in the reclaiming waste land in England, and in the improvement of land already in imperfect cultivation, is very great; and there can be no doubt that, but for the obstacles presented by the nominal ownership of our landed proprietors arising from entails, and a thriftless desire for territorial aggrandisement, such undertakings would be largely entered upon. We scarcely know an instance in which well-devised improvements of land on a large scale, whether by the reclamation of wastes or quasi wastes, such as forests chases and deer parks, or by increasing the productive power of old cultivated soils, have not proved profitable investments to the owner, where they have been managed in a business-like way. Most agriculturists have heard something of Lord Hatherton's improvements on Cannock Chase in Staffordshire, and the following account of them, extracted from a recent description by the *Times*' Commissioners, offer the strongest encouragement to landowners to improve their estates. We know that the great difficulty is, where are the owners of incumbered or settled estates to get the money to make the first outlay, and that, in practice, that difficulty is in most cases insuperable. But the difficulty, which has its origin in the prejudices of landowners, and laws which are the results of such prejudices, will give way as soon as more enlightened and intelligent views of the management of landed property shall become prevalent. The reporters say:—

The ease with which a constant supply of water for driving machinery may be obtained is well illustrated here. A bog, 30 acres in extent, left unplanted in the middle of a plantation, having been considered irreclaimable, was thoroughly drained. Besides the surface water some strong land springs were tapped, and the whole conveyed by main drains to a reservoir a few acres in extent, whence the water flows underground about half a mile to the farm buildings. The drainage of this swamp, and that of 140 or 150 acres more adjoining it, gives an ample supply for working machinery of 12-horse power every day throughout the year, and before the lands were drained this water was not only lost as a motive power, but did immense injury by stagnating beneath the surface, and extending its chilling effects to every portion of ground through which it slowly oozed from its source. At the farm buildings to which the stream is conveyed a mill wheel, 38 feet in diameter, is sunk into the solid sandstone rock to such a depth that the water discharges itself into it "overshot." The tail water is taken from the bottom of the wheel by a tunnel driven through the solid rock for nearly 500 yards, whence it is conducted into channels for irrigation. When the mill is stopped the water between the reservoir and the wheel, which would otherwise run to waste, is conveyed by pipes to the different yards and buildings for the use of the stock, from which any surplus finds its way to the meadows. The purposes to which the water power is applied are these:—It turns two pair of stones (one, as we saw it, grinding wheat, the other pease), it grinds malt, works a circular saw, a lathe, a chaff cutter, and a thrashing machine. The whole of these can be worked at the same time, though in practice that is seldom necessary. It has been in operation for several years, working every day and all day, summer and winter. Independent altogether of the improvement of the land by drainage and the subsequent use of the water in irrigation, its direct value as a motive power is estimated to exceed 500*l.* a-year, and that was obtained by a total expenditure of about 1,700*l.* In a multitude of cases a similar power to this could be as easily got, which at present is suffered to stagnate in the ground, or if collected in drains then heedlessly allowed to run to waste. For there were no unusual facilities on this estate for obtaining a supply of water. All that is required is procured from the drainage of about 200 acres of land. It is carried in earthen pipes along a gentle declivity, and with very little leakage, about 600 yards from the reservoir to the mill, and is then discharged through a tunnel, the whole distance from the reservoir to the outfall being 1,200 yards, and the total fall being about 50 feet. Adjoining Lord Hatherton's estate is Cannock Chase, still containing 14,000 acres of uninclosed ground. One-half of this is believed to be quite capable of profitable cultivation, being chiefly dry turnip land on red sandstone. In the midst of a populous county, within a few miles of Wolverhampton, Walsall, and Lichfield, it seems strange that no effort should be made for the improvement of a tract so extensive.

THE SITTYTON SALE OF SHORT-HORNS.

THE following account of the Sittyton annual sale of short-horns seems to complain of low prices; but, in truth, good blood does not bring such high price as formerly, for the simple reason that there is a vastly increased number of well-bred cattle throughout the country. Yet for one stock-keeper, who formerly thought much of high breeding, there are now half a dozen, and therefore, though the prices of short-horns may be lower, there is a better market for them than formerly.

Mr. Cruickshank's annual sale of pure-bred short-horned bulls and Leicester sheep, took place at Sittyton on Tuesday the 10th instant. The attendance was considerably more numerous than on any former occasion, no fewer than between 300 and 400 gentlemen being present, comprising a large number of the leading agriculturists of the district, and several from a distance. The bull calves disposed of were chiefly got by "Prince Edward Fairfax," and "Hudson;" the former the winner of three first prizes at the Royal Northern Agricultural So-

ciety's exhibitions, and the latter the winner of five first prizes at noted shows in England, and here of a second prize. The animals were, as usual with Mr. Cruickshank's herd, in first-rate health and condition, and of themselves would have formed a good "cattle show." The sale was conducted by Mr. John Elrick; the prices, however, as will be seen, were low—indeed very much lower than on previous occasions. Lot 1, The "Fairfax Chief," red, calved December, 1849, had been sold previously to the roup, to go to India. We append a list of the sales, with the purchaser's names:—

Lot.	Guineas.
2. The Fairfax Boy—Roan, calved Dec., 1849, Mr. Walker, Anguston	20
3. Lord Palmerston—Red, calved January, 1850, Mr. Milne, Bethelnie,	21
4. Prince Albert—Roan, calved January, 1850, Mr. Garden, Woodland,	17
5. Fairfax Prince—Roan, calved February, 1850, Mr. Marr, Balquhain,	19
6. Kelvedon—Roan, calved February, 1850, Mr. Mortimer, Old Keig,	38
7. Shrewsbury—Red, calved February, 1850, Mr. Robertson, Banker, Huntly,	34
8. Chillingworth—White, calved March, 1850, Mr. Keith, Chapelton,	17
9. Northern Light—Roan, calved 1850, Mr. Forbes, of Culloeden Castle,	31
10. Ambassador—Roan, calved March, 1850, Mr. Walker, Isaacson,	13
11. Buxton—White, calved March, 1850, Mr. Allan, Boddachra,	8
12. President Fairfax—Roan, calved March, 1850, Mr. Duncan, Newton, Skene,	21
13. Earl of Lincoln—Roan, calved March, 1850, Mr. Lyall, of Kincaid, Brechin,	22
14. Metropolitan—White, calved March, 1850, Mr. Argo, Overhill, Foveran,	14
15. Ashburton—Roan, calved March, 1850, Mr. Milne, Mains of Walerton,	40
16. Fairfax Philosopher—Roan, calved April, 1850, Mr. Maitland, Muirton,	28
17. Euroclydon—Roan, calved April, 1850, Mr. Benton, Cattie,	17
18. Hereditary Prince—Red, calved April, 1850, Mr. Walker, Wester Fintray,	20
19. Hudson—Red, calved July, 1846, bred by W. Linton, Esq., of Sheriff-Hutton, Yorkshire, Mr. Walker, Suttie,	27

The Leicester tup lambs, and a draft from the flock of Leicester ewes and lambs, sold at fair average prices.

SPIRIT OF THE TRADE CIRCULARS.

(From Messrs Lucy, Son, and Co.'s Circular.)

Gloucester, Sept. 14, 1850.

As the end of August may be considered the close of the grain year, we have thought a slight review of the trade during the last twelve months, together with the best information we have been able to obtain relative to the present crop, and the probable future range of prices, might be of interest to our friends.

With the exception of an advance in wheat, which took place at the end of June, owing to the unsettled state of the weather, the trade has been devoid of animation; and although the arrivals of all descriptions of foreign grain have been large, amounting to nearly a million quarters per month (including flour and meal), the greater part of the importations have not paid a fair remunerative profit to the importers.

Contrary to the general expectation, France has again sent us considerable importations of wheat and flour, and the large arrivals of the latter have much interfered with our millers. The supplies from the farmers have been moderate, and it has been evident that nothing but necessity has induced them to accept the low prices which have prevailed during the season.

The fluctuations have been unimportant, the highest return, according to the averages in the *Gazette*, being 4*s* 8*d*, was for the week ending September 1st, 1849, and the lowest, April 13th, 1850, 3*s* 5*d*, and the average of the last month is but 5*d* per quarter less than that of September 1849.

There was every prospect of an abundant crop until the middle of June, when the weather became unsettled, and continued cold and unseasonable for three weeks, and it was feared the harvest would be unusually late, but a few fine days brought the crops to maturity much earlier than was expected, and it appears, from the underneath statement we have received from a miller in Warwickshire, who is in the habit of buying new wheat immediately it is offered in the market, of when he received the first load into his mill for the last twelve years, the harvest is about a week later than an average:—

1839, August 24th	1842, August 12th	1845, August 26th	1848, August 17th
1840, do 17th	1843, do 24th	1846, do 3rd	1849, do 21st
1841, do 21st	1844, do 10th	1847, do 17th	1850, do 20th

It is very difficult to form an opinion on the future range of prices during the ensuing year, as they may be influenced by circumstances which we are now ignorant of, and the paucity of statistics on the subject, which is surprising in a commercial country like our own, compels us to rely too much on individual information, which it is necessary to receive with caution, as opinion is frequently influenced by political views.

At present, prices appear to us to depend upon the following circumstances:—Our own crop—the crop abroad—potatoes—stock in the hands of the farmers and importers—importations we are likely to receive.

The reports we have had from our friends who are engaged in agriculture, speak unfavourably of the yield, and we fear there is too much reason to apprehend the crop will be under an average. The samples that have appeared at market have been in good condition, and the quality better than was expected.

The weather was finer in Scotland than here, and the crop is well spoken of. The quantity of land under wheat in Ireland is unusually small, and although the quality is better than last year, the yield is much complained of. The reports of the crop in the North of Europe speak favourably of the quality, but the yield will not be equal to last season. We have favourable accounts from Italy, and the last advices from America represent the crop as good.

Having received such large importations from France, which, until the last two years, was considered to grow but little more than sufficient to support her own inhabitants, our attention has been directed to the cause which has produced such an important change. It appears from a report issued by the French government, which has been published by Mr. Macgregor in his very able work on commercial statistics, that the average produce per acre, prior to 1844, was under fourteen bushels, and we believe the large supplies we have had are attributable, in some measure, to the stimulus given to French agriculture by the high prices during 1846 and 1847, which were in the first year 5*s* 6*d* and the latter 6*s* 7*d* per quarter, and having had unusually abundant harvests since. It must also be borne in mind that the recent heavy taxation has caused the inhabitants to make use of a lower class of food, which, with the unsettled state of political affairs, have caused more to be exported than would otherwise have been. The

crop in the south is considered good, and was secured in excellent condition; but in the north it was much injured by the heavy rains during the harvest. Although the exports of grain will most likely be considerable, we do not think they will be equal to last year.

The following statement of the exports of wheat from Odessa, from 1845 to 1849 inclusive, shows that a much larger proportion has been shipped to England than usual during the last two years, which we think is mainly owing to the abrogation of the Corn Laws. The great variation in the duty under the old sliding scale, which sometimes exceeded 20s per quarter in a month, rendered it impossible for the merchant to calculate with any degree of certainty on the price he was likely to obtain for his grain when it arrived here, and caused the trade of importing from distant ports like Odessa to be very speculative and unsafe. As the last report of the crop may be considered favourable, and as the Italian markets are not likely to require their usual supplies, the home crop being good, we think it probable the importations to this country will be greater than last year.

The entire Exports of Wheat from Odessa in the last five years.

	chetverts	quarters	chetverts	quarters
1849	1,714,138	or 1,285,603	1846	2,124,385 or 1,593,289
1848	2,059,097	or 1,544,322	1845	1,918,903 or 1,439,178
1847	2,775,837	or 2,081,878	1844	1,315,290 or 986,468

Distribution of Exports of Wheat from Odessa.

	United Kingdom.		Northern ports of Europe.		Mediterranean, inc. Constantinople.	
	chetverts	quarters	chetverts	quarters	chetverts	quarters
1849	844,245	.....	36,042	.....	834,451	.....
1848	897,904	.....	52,727	.....	1,108,466	.....
1847	708,918	.....	103,451	.....	1,963,465	.....
1846	263,639	.....	127,116	.....	1,733,630	.....
1845	148,768	.....	98,230	.....	1,671,932	.....
1844	168,288	.....	75,300	.....	1,999,482	.....

One chetvert is six bushels, or three quarters of a quarter.

Proportions per cent.—To

	United Kingdom. N. of Europe. Mediterranean.		
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
1849	50	2½	47½
1848	43	3	54
1847	26½	8½	68½
1846	12½	14½	73½
1845	8	8½	83½
1844	8½	3½	88½

In the absence of agricultural statistics, it is difficult to arrive at an accurate knowledge of the stock of wheat in the hands of the farmers, but from a careful inquiry we believe they hold more than an average at this season of the year. Wheat being now entered at the customs on its arrival, we have no means of ascertaining the exact quantity held by importers, but from the information we have been able to obtain from the principal ports, we believe the stock is not more than at the corresponding period last year.

Considering the abundant crop we had in 1849, and the large arrivals of foreign, with no accumulation of stock, we may safely assume we shall have a more lively trade during the ensuing year; and although it will be gathered from our remarks respecting the crops abroad that we do not consider them great, we think an advance on present prices of about 4s per quarter, which is not improbable, would bring very large importations.

(From Messrs Edward Higgin and Co.'s Circular.)

Liverpool, Sept. 18, 1850.

Our position this month is in gratifying contrast to the Septembers of 1848 and 1849. During both, dullness and gloom marked the course of trade from apprehended bad harvests and the potato rot. This year a full average harvest has been secured, and the greater breadth of land planted with the potato will partially compensate for the loss by disease which has in some districts affected that root. A cheerful and confident feeling has consequently marked the transactions in our great staple imports, and prices are again generally in favour of importers. Cotton early in the month declined ¾d per lb from the highest point, but has regained ¼d in the last day or two. Sugar is fully 1s 6d higher. Coffee, tea, silk, wool, and other staples have again advanced, but rice and jute are dull and declining. The want of an active and profitable business in the cotton manufacturing districts has been apparent during the month, but in the last few days buyers have more freely entered the market, and the rise in cotton has had the effect of creating an advance in prices in Manchester.

Foreign markets do not generally approximate to the prices of cotton manufactures ruling here, and shipments in consequence have been on a much more guarded scale. Our quays have been extremely dull, both for exports and imports, many vessels having been kept out by the Easterly winds, and a great many East Indian vessels have not arrived, which are supposed to have been caught in a severe hurricane that raged near the Cape of Good Hope about the middle of June.

(From Messrs Schwann, Kell, and Co.'s Circular.)

Bradford, Sept. 13, 1850.

At the close of a business season of unusual demand and very high prices, it will probably interest you to learn the opinion entertained here as to the prospects of the coming season, and the probable future course of prices.

We have now arrived at that period of the year when the demand for our goods usually begins to slacken; and during the months of October and November we generally look to buy goods at a somewhat reduced rate.

There are many reasons which induce us to think that this will not be the case generally, or to any considerable extent this year. Prices of cotton, of silk, and of wool, are all very high, with every prospect of continuing so for some time to come, the short supply and the rapid consumption that has for some time been going on having reduced the quantities available for our manufacture below the usual level, so that we can hope for no reduction in prices from any prospect of the manufacturer being able to purchase his material at lower rates.

The extraordinary consumption that has been going on for the past year in our home trade still continues, and we have every reason to think will be extended, rather than curtailed, during the next few months. We attribute this property principally to the fact that food has been obtainable at such low prices as to leave our working population a considerable surplus to expend in manufactured goods, which has resulted in a demand for labour and a higher rate of wages, so that our workpeople have not for many years been in so independent a position. The harvest is now so nearly completed as to enable us to calculate the crop at about an average, and to estimate that the price of wheat will range probably at from 40s to 50s the quarter, a price which will still enable our population to take largely of manufactured goods; and as our agriculturists will be receiving a rather better price for their produce, we look for a corresponding improvement in our farming districts, and an increased consumption on that account. This slight advance in prices of agricultural produce will

probably have the further effect of causing an increased importation of wheat, principally from the United States; and we shall probably require an additional quantity of Indian corn and other cheap grain to supply the demand caused by the partial failure of the potato in Ireland. This will enable friends in America the more easily to pay for what imports they may require; and should we be even called upon to export specie in payment of corn, we have every reason to think that little or no inconvenience would result, as money is more than ordinarily plentiful, and the withdrawal of some portion would tend rather to prevent speculation than to disturb the regular channels of trade.

So far, then, we have seen that the prospect for a large home demand is very satisfactory, and we look rather for an increased consumption than for any falling-off in this quarter.

From the continent of Europe and the Levant the demand for goods of our Bradford manufacture has also been very large, caused, doubtless, by the fact that the necessaries of life are generally cheap, that peace has been, with some trifling exceptions, preserved, and that confidence in the stability of political matters has been to a considerable extent restored. As these causes are still in operation, and stocks of goods are known not to be heavy, we think we may still look for a large business in that direction; and although we can hardly expect that our exports for the next twelve months should equal those of the past, we see no cause to apprehend that any considerable falling-off will occur.

To the United States we have been largely exporting stuffs for the last few months; and as the stocks there are large, and will in all probability realise but small profits on our high prices, we cannot look for a demand during the autumn of 1850 equal to that of the same period of 1849. Still it is evident that the large variety of novelties in summer articles for coatings and dresses that our manufacturers are producing must induce a considerable export to America, probably quite equal to the average of years, though undoubtedly below the very large quantities taken last autumn.

On the whole we are of opinion that for the next two months a more tranquil feeling will pervade our market, and that some of the lighter fabrics may possibly slightly recede in price, but this not to any great extent, as from the very late period at which manufacturers are still engaged on winter orders, there will be very little accumulation of stocks. This comparative stillness will probably, towards the close of the year, result in a somewhat increased demand; and we may expect that the new year will open firmly and steadily, with a tone somewhat moderated compared with the excitement of this year, but with prices still at a high level.

Foreign Correspondence.

From our Paris Correspondent.

Paris, September 19, 1850.

The President returned on Thursday last from his journey through the Western Departments. He had undertaken it with the assurance that he would be received with more enthusiasm than in the East, and he was disappointed in this hope. The cry of *Vive la Republique* was still in great majority; and those who would not hurt him preferred uttering the cry of *Vive la President* rather than *Vive Napoleon*. But the Society of the 10th December determined to receive him with a great manifestation on his arriving in Paris, and Louis Napoleon, apprehending their excess of zeal, arrived very late in the evening. But the Decemberists had been apprised of his arrival, and had met around the terminus of the Paris and Rouen Railway. There was a sort of riot on that spot. The Decemberists, who had congregated on that spot as soon as eight o'clock in the evening, forced everybody who chanced to pass in the Rue St Lazare to cry out "*Vive Napoleon*," and "*Vive l'Empereur*." They were furnished with sticks, and they struck everybody who cried "*Vive la Republique*," or even who refused to cry "*Vive Napoleon*." The abuses of the Decemberists, which took place in the presence of Napoleon, went so far, that energetic protestations have been made by influential persons who were among the crowd, and the President has been obliged to consent to a judicial inquiry. He will be probably forced to dissolve this Society of the 10th of December, which may be justly considered as a secret society, and is accordingly contrary to the law.

There is at this moment a fierce dispute in the papers about the solution which must take place in or before 1852. Each of the parties would consent to a revision of the constitution, if it were to take place for their benefit. The constitution of 1848 is, indeed, full of impossibilities, and it will be very difficult to change it without a violation of its own articles. If it is strictly adhered to, the election of a new President must take place before the revision; but the Bonapartists will not follow that course, because the present constitution forbids the re-election of the same President, and requires that an interval of four years should take place between the first and second presidency of the same man. A fraction of the republicans, headed by M. E. de Girardin, would postpone the election of a President until the constitution be revised, because they demand the abolition of the presidency. M. E. de Girardin goes much farther, as he would have neither a President nor a constitution. He demands that France should be governed by laws which may be changed by the legislative power, and that the Assembly should name and revoke the executive power, which then should be composed of three ministers—viz., the Minister of Expenses, the Minister of Receipts, and the President, who would decide by his vote when the two other ministers would not be of the same opinion.

The fusion between the two branches of the Bourbons was considered several days ago as accomplished; but this was not true. The treaty of fusion was, indeed, about to be adopted, but it was prevented by the formal opposition of the Duchess of Orleans, who follows the advice of M. Thiers. You know that M. Guizot is, on the contrary, quite favourable to that measure; and it seems that the same feeling of jealousy which has always subsisted between M. Guizot and M. Thiers, and which so much contributed to the political difficulties of the Government of Louis Philippe, during the last fifteen years of his reign, is still the chief motive of their present contradictory opinion about the fusion. M. Guizot has declared himself for the fusion because his rival, M. Thiers, was opposed to it. As to M. Thiers, he

will never rally to the legitimists, because he has been too much compromised with them; and when he said, in the bureaux of the Assembly, that it was the republic which divided us the less, it seems that he intended to make a sort of conversion towards the republic. He would be rather a Jacobin man than a Henricinist.

If this treaty of fusion had been concluded, it would have given certainly a great force to the legitimists, and they would have been very dangerous to the republic and to the Bonapartists. But, at the same time, Louis Napoleon would have been released from the rivalry of the Prince de Joinville, whose candidatureship has many adherents in France, and is every day taking a greater importance. If the Prince de Joinville had signed the treaty of fusion, he could not have accepted the candidatureship for the presidency of the republic.

Our Government has felt some anxiety about the revival of hostilities in the Duchies, and of the revolution of Hesse Cassel. Several cabinet councils have taken place to consider the line of policy which must be adopted by France, and it has been decided that the strictest neutrality should be kept and recommended to all other powers.

The prices of wheat and flour are again looking up in France, but their rise is very trifling, and the average price of flour in the halls of Paris is now 28f 95c. As the stock is now about 47,000 metrical quintals at the halls, there is no probability that the rise will continue. The farmers have great quantities of old wheat in their granaries, and they are disposed to bring it to a market as soon as they perceive that the prices are more favourable.

As to the wheat of the new crop, it is indeed of very variable qualities according to where it has been gathered in, and as it has not been very abundant, it is probable that the prices, without rising too much, will be higher than during last year.

The difference between the qualities of new wheat is so considerable, that in several markets there was a diminution of 5f per hectolitre upon the superior qualities.

The news of our Southern markets is favourable; the crop has been satisfactory in those parts, and it will make up for the deficiency of the Northern parts, so that the crop of France will be on the whole more favourable than had been anticipated.

As to potatoes, they are generally attacked by the disease, and one half of the crop is lost, and as the news from Germany and Switzerland is very bad about that crop, it will certainly contribute to maintain the prices of wheat.

The following are the prices of our different securities from Sept. 12 to Sept. 18:—

	f	c	f	c	f	c
The Three per Cents varied from.....	57	90	at	54	15	
The Five per Cents	93	90		53	45	and left off at 91 55
The Bank Shares	2300	0		2320	8	— 2315 0
Northern shares improved from	462	50		458	75	
Strasbourg	340	0		345	0	
Nantes	237	50		245	0	
Bordeaux	386	25		398	75	
Boulogne	175	0		187	50	
Orleans	775	0		782	50	
Rouen	590	0		620	0	
Havre	245	0		250	0	
Vierzon	347	50		352	50	

HALF-FAST FOUR.—The business was rather more buoyant at the beginning of the market, but heavy sales produced a decline upon all the securities for the closing prices.

The 3 per Cents varied from 58f 20c to 58f 15c; the 5 per Cents from 93f 85c to 93f 60c for cash; the Bank Shares from 2,315f to 2,510f; the Northern Shares from 468f 75c to 466f 25c; Strasbourg from 347f 50c to 346f 25c; Nantes from 250f to 246f 25c; Orleans from 785f to 787f 50; Rouen from 620f to 617f 60c.

Correspondence.

SLAVERY IN THE UNITED STATES.

To the Editor of the Economist.

SIR,—Being engaged in the import of cotton from the United States, all your able articles touching this great staple are considered by me with great interest—perhaps none more so than the one in your last number, headed "Slavery in the United States."

There is, however, one "contingency" arising out of this question which you do not as yet appear to have contemplated, yet it is one which might lead to a very unexpected and summary solution of the whole matter—I mean a general strike (not an insurrection) among the slaves themselves.

It would be very interesting to me, and doubtless to your other readers, to know what view you take, first, of the probabilities of such an occurrence; secondly, of its consequences.—I remain, Sir, an original subscriber to your valuable paper,

Liverpool, Sept. 17, 1850.

EDWARD HEATH.

[The contingency to which our correspondent alludes is somewhat alarming, and has occasionally for a considerable period excited painful reflections in some minds. That the prosperity of Manchester is dependent on the treatment of slaves in Texas, Alabama, and Louisiana, is as curious as it is alarming. It demonstrates that the whole human race have a common interest in enforcing the observance of the principles of justice. At the same time, we apprehend there can be nothing like a strike amongst the slaves. Their labour is always compulsory. Matters are so arranged in the Slave States that a sufficient force is always at hand, it is supposed, in the organised slave owners, as a militia, to repress any insubordination. There may be an insurrection, therefore—an attempt to throw off the yoke of the masters and resist the laws and the authorities—but there cannot be a strike. The slaves have no property, nothing to subsist on; they are fed by their masters, and in an insurrection might subsist for a short time by plundering; but they have

no resources, like European workmen, on which they could support themselves for a day. An insurrection of the slaves in the States, which is every day possible, might interfere very much with our supply of cotton, but that terrible event the planters, for the sake of their property and lives, continually guard against.—Ed. Econ.]

News of the Week.

COURT AND ARISTOCRACY.

HER MAJESTY and the Royal Family continue at Balmoral.

On the 13th, the Queen, Prince Albert, and Royal Family, attended the "Braemar Gathering," at the old castle, celebrated in history as the spot where the Earl of Mar displayed the standard of rebellion in 1715. The weather was very propitious, and at 12 o'clock the different clans began to assemble, headed by the pipers, and attired in full Highland costume. Prince Albert wore the full Highland costume of the Royal Stuart tartan. The Prince of Wales and Prince Alfred were also in the full national dress of the Highlands. The Queen was attired in mourning (for the late King of the French), wearing a plaid of the Royal Stuart tartan. Immediately after the Queen and royal party had reached the ground, the sports commenced and continued till 5 o'clock, when the royal party left.

SERIOUS ILLNESS OF THE QUEEN OF THE BELGIANS.—Dr Chaumel, the confidential physician of the Orleans family, received last night an express from Brussels, summoning him to repair with all despatch to the bed-side of the Queen of the Belgians, whose illness appears to be of a much more serious nature than was at first supposed.

METROPOLIS.

DREADFUL EXPLOSION IN SPITALFIELDS.—One of the most frightful explosions of fireworks that have occurred in the metropolis for many years happened on Monday at a few minutes before noon, in Weaver street, Spitalfields. The premises were in the tenure of Mr John Clitherow, an artist in fireworks, who carried on an extensive shipping and wholesale business, at No. 13 in that street. The building in which the explosion occurred was upwards of 50 feet broad, and divided into three or four compartments. One was used as the mixing-house, another was termed the filling-room, and one place, rather larger than the two preceding, was used as a store-house, which was filled with articles of the most explosive character, including fire-balls used for battering or blowing down stone walls, maroons, Roman candles, and rockets. It appears that the first explosion happened in what is termed the mixing-house, at which time only Mr Clitherow and one of his men were at work. A series of loud explosions were heard, which made a noise like the roar of a park of artillery. At the same time some hundred rockets shot through the roof, whilst two men, who have since been ascertained to be Mr Clitherow and one of his workmen, were blown out of the building into the yard. They were immediately dragged away. Two young men, named William Cawood and John Eifenbein, had climbed over the back wall in the hopes of rendering assistance, when another and a still louder explosion than the first happened, and some score of fire-balls and maroons rose to a great height, showering their contents in every direction. Houses nearly a quarter of a mile distant suffered severely, whilst some buildings nearer were partially riddled. The noise occasioned by the second explosion had scarcely subsided when the contents of the store-room ignited. When the third explosion, which is described to have been in the magazine as well as the store, occurred, the houses in Weaver street, Spicer street, Buxton street, and New Church court were shaken to their very foundations; window-frames were forced from their bearings, the roofs broken in, and the furniture thrown into the utmost disorder or broken into fragments. The force of this third explosion was so severe that nearly every window in All Saints' National School was forced in and the glass shivered in all directions. In the lower school-room there were 113 infants in the gallery, and a great many of whom were forced down, but with the exception of a few slight cuts, escaped unhurt. When the explosions had subsided, the manufactory broke out into a general mass of fire, which at one time threatened destruction to Mr Dew's timber-yard and carpenters' work-shops. Fortunately, the engine belonging to Messrs Truman and Hanbury, the brewers, two of the parish, several of the London Brigade, and West of England Company quickly attended, and owing to the exertions of all present, the flames were prevented from extending beyond the factory. The property destroyed was very considerable. The work of desolation extended to many streets at a great distance from the scene of the disaster.

A NEW PLANET.—Mr J. R. Hind, writing to the *Times* on the 14th, says:—Last evening, at 10h 10m mean time, at this observatory, I discovered a new planet in the constellation Pegasus. It appears like a star of the ninth magnitude, and has a pale blueish light. This new member of the solar system forms the twelfth of the group of ultra-zodiacal planets, the third which I have been fortunate enough to discover in the course of a rigorous examination of the heavens. Mr Hind proposes to name the newly discovered planet Victoria.

BLACKFRIARS BRIDGE.—Mr J. Walker, the eminent engineer, who has conducted the repairs and alterations of Blackfriars bridge in progress for some years past, has reported on the danger popularly apprehended from the sinking of the pier. The depression, from the 26th of June to the 24th of August, was one inch; and there has been no further depression to the 18th September. The depression was caused by the deepening of the channel six feet below the heads of the piles which enclose the foundation; and has been cured by refilling the bed of the channel with 3,000 tons of stone materials.

CONFLAGRATION IN THE CITY.—On Thursday morning one of the most destructive fires which has been known for a long time broke out at 50, Mark-lane, contiguous to the Corn Exchange. The fire was discovered by the police, and an alarm was given at the Wading-street Station, when Mr. Braidwood sent expresses to the different stations for the brigade, who were promptly in attendance. Notwithstanding the exertions of the firemen, the fire communicated to the rear in Seething-lane, to Nos. 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, and extended to No. 52. Up to 12 o'clock the fire continued its ravages; it was then brought under subjection, but not before great damage had been done to the Corn Exchange. Such vague rumours of the cause of the fire were afloat that nothing like an accurate opinion could be given. The damage up to 12 o'clock was estimated at more than 100,000l.

REMOVAL OF THE OLD TELEGRAPH AT THE ADMIRALTY.—The electric telegraph having completely superseded the old machinery used for effecting a speedy transmission of intelligence, the building on the south-west corner of the Admiralty, together with the Semaphore, have been taken down. The various stations have been abandoned, and the officers in charge of them paid off.

HEALTH OF LONDON DURING THE WEEK.—The deaths registered in the metropolitan districts in the week ending last Saturday were 929. Excluding last year, in which the rate of mortality was excessive from a violent epidemic, the deaths at present do not differ much from the average of the corresponding weeks in previous years. The births in the week were 1,409. At the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, the mean reading of the barometer during the week was 30.171 inches. The mean temperature of the week was 55.3 deg.; and less than the average of the same week in 7 years by 4.4 deg.

PROVINCES.

A NEW PORT FOR FOREIGN CATTLE.—LOWESTOFT.—The terminus of the Eastern Counties railway, on the Suffolk coast, was on Monday the scene of extraordinary rejoicing in consequence of the arrival of the Queen steamer with 164 head of cattle, in excellent condition, from the mouth of the Weser, being the first cargo of the kind that ever entered Lowestoft. The Queen made the voyage from the German to the English port within thirty hours, but the distance might readily be performed in considerably less time by more powerful boats, which are likely, it is said, to be speedily put upon the station—for the experiment of Monday is conclusive of the expediency of making Lowestoft available for similar traffic from many of the continental ports; the distance from the Texel, for instance, being only 90 miles.

REPRESENTATION OF LYMINGTON.—The Protectionist Association of this borough have forwarded an address to Mr Mackinnon, in which they inform the honourable gentleman that he does not possess their confidence, and that they will oppose his re-election at any future period. The support which Mr Mackinnon has given to the policy of free trade, is assigned as the reason for this manifestation.

CAMBRIDGE ELECTION.—The opposition to Mr Cowling has at last assumed a definite shape, and active steps are now taking here to secure the return of Mr Loftus Wigram, Q.C., of Trinity College (St. Wrangler, 1825.) It is understood that Mr Wigram is opposed to allowing any but Christians to legislate for a Christian country; to all schemes which do not regard a man's religion as the most important part of his education; to refusing to members of the church in Ireland the facilities for availing themselves of educational grants which dissenters and Romanists enjoy in England; and also to the provisions of Mr Stuart Wortley's marriage bill. He is opposed to the "experimental policy" of free trade; to the recognised admission to our universities of students who could not be required to join in the common worship, or submit to the religious teaching of the university; and in general to any course of policy not "animated by Christian principles."

PAUPERISM ON THE DECLINE.—During the last week, Mr Coxon, the relieving officer of the Holbeach district (a very large one) of this union, had not a single application made to him for relief. This is a fact quite unprecedented; indeed, the labourers in this part have been for some time past better off than they ever were.—*Lincoln Chronicle.*

THE SUBMARINE TELEGRAPH.—Since the sinking of the first wire circumstances have occurred calculated for a short time to retard the carrying out the project to completion, seeing that, in order to the complete establishment of an integral line of telegraphic services between London, Paris, and the continent, the promoters have to obtain a grant from the French Government of the 18 miles of line extending from the coast to Calais, from which point to Paris the wires are erected. To secure that concession of this section, in the way of which some difficulties present themselves, Messrs Brett, Wollaston, and Edwards, directors of the undertaking are now in Paris, awaiting the return of the President of the Republic, who granted the original decree, and to negotiate with the Government authorities on the subject. In the meantime experience of the experiments already made goes to prove that a stronger species of telegraphic tackle will be required. It has been found that where the rupture of the coil occurred it had rested on a very sharp ridge of rocks, about a mile out from Cape Grinez, so that the leaden weights, hanging pannier like on either side, in conjunction with the swaying of the water, caused it to part at that point, while at another place in-shore the shingle from the beach had the effect of detaching the coil from the leaden conductor, that carried it up the Cape. The wire in its gutta percha coating was consequently cut in two places. Complaints are made by the fishermen, both on the English and French coasts, that the existence of this wire will interfere with their deep sea fishing, and that its track over the Varne and elsewhere is in the way of places most frequented by fish. It is intended, however, at the suggestion of Mr J. W. Brett, to pay these people an annual rental and to establish for their families a philanthropic fund, to induce them to unite in the protection of a great national enterprise. The assistance of the Admiralty has also been secured for the issue of prohibitory orders against fishing on the route of the electric sea line, and against ships dropping or dragging anchors over its site. The promoters of the project appear to be fully apprehensive of the inadequacy of the present arrangements, and all their ingenuity is at work to be prepared to meet the emergency.

A FRIGHTFUL ACCIDENT ON THE EASTERN COUNTIES RAILWAY occurred on Thursday. At 8 o'clock in the morning a number of men were engaged in new ballasting the line, and were at work near the bridge, just beyond the Brentwood station. Having just discharged a quantity of gravel between the rails, they jumped from the waggons and commenced spreading it over the ground, and while so engaged, the early train from Colchester approached the spot. Unhappily, in consequence of the dense fog at the time and the noise of the engine of the ballast trucks blowing off its steam, the approach of the up-train was unheeded until it was within 50 yards of the workmen. The foreman of the gang cried out to the men, who, by some strange fatality stepped on the up-line instead of on the middle space. The engine passed over nine of them, causing instant death in every case, and mauling the bodies in a frightful manner. As soon as possible the train was stopped, and the bodies of the sufferers were conveyed to the shed at the station.

LORD BROUGHAM AND ILLEGAL NETTING.—In consequence of information communicated to a number of rod-fishers, members of the Eaden and Eamont Angling Association, residing at Penrith and in the neighbourhood, that a number of men in the employ of Lord Brougham had, about a week ago, been seen netting in the river Eamont, in the preserves of the association, with an illegal net, and that they were accompanied by his lordship and party, the rod-fishers determined to surprise his lordship and his men, and laid their plans for that purpose. Accordingly, on Monday last, eleven of the fishermen lay in ambush from 9 o'clock in the morning till near 3 o'clock in the afternoon. At 10 minutes past 3 o'clock Lord Brougham's netters made their appearance. Presently two carriages drove up to the brink of the river, in which were Lord Brougham, the Marquis of Douro, Mr William Brougham, and several ladies. Without loss of time Lord Brougham's men plunged into the stream and cast their net. The fishermen saw all that was going on, but ere a draw was made, seven of them rushed out of ambush, and plunged into the river, and, after a desperate struggle, succeeded in cutting about eight yards of the net away. While this was going on Lord Brougham and the Marquis of Douro were shouting and using threats of a

most serious character. This circumstance has caused considerable sensation at Penrith and the neighbourhood. The Brougham party have laid informations and obtained summonses for assaults, and the Association have done the like for using an illegal net, so that the facts of the whole transaction will come out before the magistrates.

EXPLOSION AT SEAFORD.—On Thursday the projected explosion of the East Cliff was successfully carried out. No less than 27,000 lbs of gunpowder was enclosed in chambers excavated 80 feet in the interior of the cliff, and fired by a galvanic battery. The bay presented a most lively scene: Her Majesty's steamer *Widgeon*, containing a number of distinguished officers, was stationed about a quarter of a mile from shore; two or three yachts were lying near, and a great number of small boats, and some 10,000 people were dispersed along the beach and the heights. Three o'clock was the hour fixed for the explosion, and at 20 minutes past three a low and rumbling but deep boom was heard, and, simultaneously with the noise, the cliff fell like an avalanche. The explosion had taken place and it had produced the effect anticipated. The mass which came down is larger than was expected; it forms an irregular heap, apparently about 300 feet broad, of a height varying from 40 to 100 feet, and extending 200 or 250 feet or more seaward, which is considerably beyond low-water-mark. It is thought that it comprises nearly 300,000 tons. Immediately after the explosion the people ran towards the mound which had been formed by it, and hundreds of them all at once commenced clambering to the top, no easy task considering that some of the pieces of chalk of which the mound was composed were five or six feet in length, and perhaps half the width. There seemed to be no smoke, but there was a tremendous shower of dust. Those who were in boats a little way out state that they felt a slight shock. It was much stronger on the top of the cliff. Persons standing there felt staggered by the shaking of the ground, and one of the batteries was thrown down by it. In Seaford, too, three quarters of a mile off, glasses upon the table were shaken, and one chimney fell. At Newhaven, a distance of three miles, the shock was sensibly felt.

COMPLETION OF THE BRITANNIA BRIDGE.—After some years of unremitting labour, the engineers connected with this great work safely lowered the last of the Britannia tubes to its permanent resting-place yesterday week. The government officer will be down on an early day to inspect the entire structure preparatory to its permanent opening. Nothing beyond a mere fractional deflection has been observed to take place in the tube that has been opened since March, and which has been subjected to the constant transit of heavy trains and traffic. Some curious acoustic effects have been observed. Pistol shots, or any sonorous noises, are echoed within the tube half a dozen times. The cells of the top and bottom are used by the engineers as speaking tubes, and they can carry on conversations through them in whispers; by elevating the voice persons may converse through the length of the bridge—nearly a quarter of a mile. The following (not hitherto published) is an official return of the cost of the entire structure:—Pedestals and abutments on Carnarvon side, 17,459*l.*; Carnarvon-tower, 28,626*l.*; Britannia-tower, 38,671*l.*; Anglesey-tower, 31,430*l.*; pedestals and abutments on Anglesey side, 40,470*l.*; lions, 2,048*l.*; total, 158,704*l.* Wrought iron used in tubes, 118,946*l.*; cast iron in tubes and towers, 30,619*l.*; construction of tubes, 226,234*l.*; pontoons, ropes, capstans, painting materials, 28,096*l.*; raising machinery, 9,782*l.*; carpentry and labour in floating, raising, and completing bridge, 25,498*l.*; experiments, 3,986*l.*; total, 601,865*l.* The total weight of each of the wrought iron roadways now completed, represents 12,000 tons, supported on a total mass of masonry of a million and a half cubic feet, erected at the rate of three feet in a minute.

IRELAND.

SENATE OF THE QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY IN IRELAND.—The following appear in the *Dublin Evening Post*:—"We are enabled to state that the Senate of the New National University founded by Her Majesty, and to be styled the 'Queen's University in Ireland,' has been appointed, and the Letters Patent under the Great Seal of Ireland are being prepared, under the authority of the Queen's letter, which received Her Majesty's signature previous to her departure for Scotland. The following distinguished and eminent personages have been thereby appointed:—Chancellor—His Excellency the Earl of Clarendon, K.G.; Senate—The Chancellor of Ireland, The Most Rev. Richard, Archbishop of Dublin, The Most Rev. Archbishop Daniel Murray, The Earl of Rosse, The Lord Montague, Chief Justice Blackburne, The Master of the Rolls, Chief Baron Pigot, Right Hon. Thomas Wyse, Sir Philip Crampton, Bart., The Presidents of the Queen's Colleges at Belfast, Cork, and Galway, Richard Griffith, LL.D., Dominick J. Corrigan, Esq., M.D., Captain T. A. Larcom, R.E., and James Gibson, Esq., barrister-at-law. We believe these personages are fittingly selected, as representing the several important educational interests of our community, and in themselves conveying to the new University the prestige of their well-merited and recognised distinction in rank, in intellect, and in religion, will, in the administration of the important functions belonging to the University Senate, give full proof to the country that Her Majesty's beneficent wishes, in forwarding the Queen's University in Ireland, will be completely carried out."

ENCUMBERED ESTATES.—The great estates are rapidly accumulating in the Encumbered Court. Those of Lord Viscount Gort, in the county of Galway, will be sold towards the close of the present year, the absolute order having been made by the commissioners in March last. They comprise fee-simple estates, with the town of Gort, and the castle and demesne of Loughbooster, upon the building and improvement of which, it is stated, upwards of 80,000*l.* has been expended. Within a month of the present date, the sales will recommence in the Commission Court; and, from the vast amount of landed property to be disposed of, much anxiety prevails as to the rates of purchase that may be attainable, unless English and Scotch capitalists should appear as bidders to a much greater extent than heretofore.

MARRIAGES IN IRELAND.—The second report of the Registrar-General of Marriages in Ireland, presented to Parliament, has been printed. It appears that in the course of last year there were 9,493 marriages in Ireland, and in the preceding year 9,048. In 1847 there were only 6,943, in consequence of the famine and disease that prevailed. Of the 9,493 marriages last year 5,324 marriages took place according to the rites of the established church, and 4,169 not according to the established church. Of the men 415 were not of age, and of the women 1,714. There were 2,096 men and 3,922 women who signed with "marks." It is suggested that there should be a general system of registration of births, marriages, and deaths, in Ireland.

THE NEW LEGAL APPOINTMENTS.—Mr Monahan has been appointed Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas, in the room of the late Chief Justice Doherty, and Mr Hatchwell has advanced to the Attorney-Generalship. The office of Solicitor-General, held by Mr Hatchell, and that of advising counsel to the Irish Government, vacated by Mr Baldwin in his appointment as one of the judges of the Insolvent Debtors' Court, are still vacant. Mr Mohan has accepted the Chief Justiceship at the reduced salary of 4,000*l.* per annum, in accordance with the recommendation of the Official Salaries Committee.

LORD CLARENDON'S VISIT TO ULSTER.—The Lord Lieutenant of Ireland made a public entry into Belfast on Thursday week, amidst the most impressive demonstrations by the sober but strongly-feeling citizens. General Bainbrigg and his staff, the corporation, with other public bodies, and a vast concourse of merchants, received him in procession; and the populace assembled in an immense concourse, and filled the air with acclamations. On the same day the Lord-Lieutenant commenced his active progress through a round of visitations—to the Hall of the Ulster Flax Society, to the great flax-spinning mill of the Messrs. Mullolland, and other notable bodies or establishments. From the Belfast Board of Guardians he received an address, informing him that the condition of the poorer classes in Belfast is gradually improving, and that out-door relief, with its demoralizing effects, has been unnecessary. He congratulated them, in reply, on the fact that during a period of unexampled distress, the poor was maintained without assistance from the government, and without the interposition of undue burdens on the rate payers. The grand feature was the banquet given at the Music Hall, which was decorated in splendid style for the occasion. The toast given by the Mayor, in a flowing bumper, "The health of his Excellency the Earl of Clarendon," was received with tremendous enthusiasm, which was prolonged for several minutes, the band playing "St. Patrick's Day."

REDUCTION OF RENTS.—The Earl of Meath has given a reduction of 20 per cent to his tenantry, to be applied to the improvement of their farms.

IMPROVEMENT IN PRICES.—The Ballinasloe correspondent of the *Dublin Evening Post*, gives an account of the great fair of Banagher, which commenced on Monday, the 16th inst. The graziers and farmers have been looking with deep anxiety to the prices at this fair, which has far surpassed all calculation, and, in every respect, is the best and most satisfactory one for the sellers that has occurred in this country for a long period. The *King's County Chronicle* describes it as "the very best fair for the last six or eight years, although in some few instances higher figures might have been obtained at former fairs. Prices for sheep averaged from 4s to 6s over the rates of last year." The horned cattle fair was immense; but the buyers were cautious in purchasing, from apprehensions of a distemper in cattle.

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL.

DENMARK AND THE DUCHIES.

On the 12th inst news arrived, that General Willisen, feeling himself in a condition to resume the offensive, had broken up from his entrenchments, and commenced a general forward movement; that this movement, vigorously urged on his right, had been completely successful in that quarter, in so far as regarded the reconquest of Eckernforde "with little resistance;" that he had driven the Danes from their camp at Cosel, and was in the act of pursuing them to Missunde, with the intention of throwing himself across the Schlei, and thus, by turning their left flank, compelling them to abandon Schleswig. A subsequent despatch altered the appearance of affairs materially. It stated that Willisen in his attempt to perform this operation had been vigorously assaulted on the heath of Cosel by the Danes, driven back, compelled to reabandon Eckernforde, and to resume his previous positions.

The firing from the Danish steamers in the bay during the afternoon and up to 7 o'clock was heavy, though not rapid; the guns were evidently of large calibre, and their report can be easily distinguished from that of field-pieces. It is feared the town is much damaged.

In his proclamation to the army, Gen. Willisen says:—"We have effected what we proposed. By a bold movement, which should have drawn the enemy out of his position at Schleswig, we have offered him battle in the open field under the most favourable circumstances for him; we have destroyed all his fieldworks in the East, by Eckernforde, Holm, and Hummelfeldt, and his camp at Kochendorff, and thus proved that he is not so fully master in Schleswig as he gives himself out to be.

On the part of the Danes the attack on Missunde and Eckernforde was almost wholly repelled by artillery. It is stated that the loss in the 1st battalion was caused by their advancing too rashly against the *tete du pont* without orders, and they thus became exposed to a destructive fire from the works.

It is now ascertained the Danes have constructed works of such strength at Missunde that to take them without immense loss is impossible. On the south side of the Schlei there are three large forts, which command every approach to the bridge; one of them alone is armed with 20 heavy guns; on both sides of the forts earthworks are thrown up for the protection of infantry, and others pierced with embrasures for the field batteries.

Since the troops came back to their old positions no movement of any kind has taken place.

Letters from Berlin of the 15th inst, in the *Kolner Zeitung*, state that there can be no idea of an intervention of foreign powers in the Duchies before the spring of 1851. The diplomatists hope to come to an understanding by that time.

The opening of the first regular session of the National Assembly of Holstein took place on the 9th, with as much solemnity as dignity.

The calling together the Chamber has brought out more distinctly the scattered political opinion of the represented districts on the present state of affairs. The prevailing spirit is not peaceful, nor disposed to negotiation or compromise.

HESSE CASSEL.

The Elector and his ministers finding themselves supported by the army, and without prospect of assistance from without, have been obliged to give in. Amidst a revolution which stands unequalled for its legality and its utter absence of violence of any kind, the Prince and his councillors left Cassel on the 13th inst, unopposed and of their own free will, and proceeded to Hanover. As a parting gift, and perhaps as a first step towards a reconciliation, Major Haynau, the Elector's Minister of War, addressed a letter to Lieutenant-General Bauer, abolishing the state of siege, imploring General Bauer to remain at his post, and offering him the chief direction of the police.

The Chief Burgomaster of Cassel published a proclamation, declaring that, although the sudden departure of the Sovereign has given ground for apprehensions, the late negotiations between the military and civil boards have removed all cause for anxiety. "Cassel," according to the concurrent testimony of all German newspapers, "remains in a state of the greatest tranquillity."

The Elector, accompanied by two of his ministers, Messrs. Baumbach and Haynau, arrived at Hanover on the evening of the 13th, and after an interview with the King, on the following morning continued their flight by railway to Frankfort, where they arrived on the 16th.

The Hessian Ministers conferred afterwards with the members of the Austrian Diet.

It is said that Count Thun has again assured the Elector of the support of Austrian and Bavarian troops in the case of any violent outbreak in the Electorate. The Elector intended to leave for Haynau (in Hesse, and close to Frankfort) at 1 o'clock on that day. Major Haynau and his servants had already repaired to that place. The Ministerial bureaux are being established at Bokenheim (a Hessian town, though almost a suburb of Frankfort), and the Prussian troops are preparing to withdraw from the quarters in that town. The Prussian troops will remain at Höchst in the Duchy of Nassau, and at the distance of an easy march from the Elector's head-quarters.

The cause of this anxiety to remain neutral is doubtless to be found in the fact that there is ground for expecting that no state will interfere as long as Prussia abstains.

The *Kolner Zeitung* has telegraph despatches from Cassel and Frankfort of the 16th inst, stating that the impeachment of the Ministers is still pending in the chief Court of Appeal, and that Lieutenant-General Bauer continues to act as Commander-in-Chief. No measures of any kind have been taken by what remains of the government. The profoundest tranquillity reigns in Cassel and throughout the Electorate.

THE PAPAL STATES.

The *Statuto* of the 9th inst mentions, under date Bologna the 7th, that the conversion of the paper currency into certificates of credit was proceeding satisfactorily. Numbers of wealthy capitalists, foreign as well as Italian, were interested in the operation. The paper money had then only lost 7 per cent.

Respecting the disagreement with Sardinia, a letter from Rome of the 10th inst, published by the *Constitutionnel*, states that,—“When M. Pinelli, the Sardinian Envoy, was on the point of quitting Rome, he was informed that the Pope consented to grant him an audience, without, however, recognising him in his official capacity. The reception took place in presence of witnesses. M. Pinelli developed and advocated before the Holy Father the principle invoked by M. d'Azeglio in all his diplomatic notes; that is, the right of Piedmont to change her own laws, which as Sardinia subjects the members of the clergy were bound to obey. The Pontifical Government places the question on another ground. It demands the execution of treaties concluded by Piedmont with the Holy See, and contends that the Sardinian Cabinet should have commenced by applying to the Court of Rome, and made the suppression of the ecclesiastical immunities the object of a negotiation tending to modify the Concordat signed in April, and which guaranteed those immunities. The Pope then told M. Pinelli that when Piedmont should have liberated the Archbishop of Turin, and re-established the *status quo* existing previously to the promulgation of the Siccardi law, its Government might then, if it thought proper, open negotiations with the Court of Rome to obtain modifications in that Concordat.”

SPAIN.

The *Heraldo* of Madrid, of the 8th, gives the following as the complete result of the elections:—Conservatives re-elected 160, Conservatives newly elected 130, Progressistas re-elected 10, ditto newly elected 4, double elections of Moderates 19, ditto Progressistas 1, elections of the Balearian and Canary Islands not yet known 13, elections null, on account of no candidate having obtained the necessary majority, 12; total, 319. The Moderate Opposition, 44 in number, consisting of the dissident Moderates and of what are called the Puritans, have not obtained a single re-election. The general result is an unexampled success for the Ministerial party. Count de Punoostro, grandee of Spain and senator of the kingdom, died on the 7th. There were new rumours of modifications in the ministry being intended on the return of General Narvaez. The 8th being Sunday, the Stock Exchange was not open.

The first trial of the Madrid and Aranjuez Railroad came off a few days since; that is, of a part of it, as but two Spanish leagues only, from Aranjuez to the place called Monte de la Reyna, are completely finished. The first trip was effected in 25 minutes, and the return in 20. The fourth, was effected in 10 minutes from Aranjuez to Monte de la Reyna—or at the rate of 48 English miles the hour. There appeared not the slightest hesitation on the part of anyone in entering the carriage; on the contrary, there was a struggle as to who should be the first to have the honour of trying the railroad.

TUSCANY.

We learn by a letter from Florence that the death of Sir George Hamilton, the British minister to the Court of Tuscany, took place at the Villa Normanby, his residence, during the night of the 3rd inst. The immediate cause of death was the rupture of a blood vessel in the chest, and the violence of the attack rendered the prompt assistance of his physician, Dr. Harding, and Professor Zanetti, who was called in, totally unavailing.

AUSTRIA.

The *Oesterreichische Correspondent* contains the following paragraph:—"We learn, from an authentic source, that, though Marshal Haynau was in no wise inclined to raise a formal complaint on account of the harsh treatment he experienced in London, the imperial ambassador has determined to prosecute the case judicially."

PRUSSIA.

The King recently received the conservative deputation at Sans Souci, composed of M.M. Hensel, Firmenich, Vulegold, and Lametski. Professor Hensel, in introducing the address, referred to the result of the recent elections, and expressed the hope that the King would see in them a proof of the sound political feeling of the citizens, and once more fix his residence in Berlin. He then turned to the question of German unity, and reminded his Majesty of the solemn promises which had been made to the nation. His Majesty replied "by declaring the unfeigned satisfaction with which he regarded the result of the city elections; that result, unexpected as it had been, gave him hopes of a better future. He would return willingly to Berlin, although he feared the state of the Queen's health would not permit him to prolong his stay there. What the deputation had said on the affairs of Germany affected him deeply. The latest declaration of Prussia (August 25) was the real expression of his mind, and he had learned with satisfaction that it had made a good impression. He would allow no one to say that he was a better Prussian than the King. 'But,' said his Majesty, 'if I am to speak what I think, I am also one of the truest of Germans. I have fully considered the obligations which the position of a German Prince imposes on a King of Prussia. My sentiments on the German question have often been misunderstood. Some have done me great injustice in respect to those sentiments (alluding to the speech of the King of Wurtemberg on opening the chambers); this will not turn me from the path of duty. It is to be regretted that in more than one place it is not understood that it is possible to be honest in politics. In striving for Germany I follow the impulses of my own heart.'"

The German journals have spoken of a declaration made by Lord Palmerston, to the effect that England will acknowledge no *soci-disant* organ of the Germanic confederation at which Prussia shall not be represented; the semi-official organs of Berlin have lately undertaken to confirm this statement. The *Ober-Post-Amts Zeitung* calls its accuracy in question. It is certain, however, that Prince Schwarzenberg endeavoured to procure the nomination of Lord Cowley to the Frankfurt Diet from the English Foreign-office, and that Lord Palmerston declined to take a step which he regarded as premature.

The system of post-office stamps for pre-payment, intended to be introduced in Prussia and in those states embraced in the Austro-Prussian postal arrangement, will come into use in a short time. It is understood that they will be of three colours, blue, red, and green, indicating distances and weights. Cholera is gradually disappearing; the cases are reduced to ten or twelve per day; the total number of cases have not exceeded 850 up to Saturday—deaths about 475.

AMERICA.

Advices from New York are to the 3rd inst.

The events of the week, the news of which come by the Europa, are the execution of Prof. Webster at Boston and the arrival of Jenny Lind at New York. Both of these had been sources of considerable excitement, the last especially.

In Congress the usual Appropriation Bill has been passed by the house, providing for the current items of national expenditure. The bill for the abolition of the slave trade in the district of Columbia, on the motion of Mr Clay, was made the special order of the day in the Senate for Monday. This was opposed by the advocates of slavery, but they found themselves in a minority of twenty, and the measure was adopted. A committee, appointed some months since to examine the case of certain officers under Mr Polk's administration, who were charged with improper interference in the elections, have reported that some persons, including the editor of the *Union*, had declined answering the questions of the committee, and it was proposed that they should be brought before the bar of the house for contempt. "This useless question," says the *Tribune*, "has called forth no small bickering, and on other subjects nothing has been accomplished but an enormous amount of talk."

Our advices from Porto Rico state that an order has been issued by the government of the island for abolishing the duties on provisions (excepting flour) after the 1st of October. Some other articles of prime necessity to the productions of the island, were to be admitted free of duty.

A destructive epidemic has made its appearance in Milwaukee, Wis., causing one hundred and nine deaths in two days. It bears some resemblance to the cholera, but is supposed to be a species of malignant dysentery. It is confined, in a great measure, to the German population of the city.

The Atlantic arrived yesterday morning, bringing advices from New York to the 7th.

The political accounts are important. The House of Representatives had passed the New Mexico Territorial Bill and the Texas Boundary Bill.

Accounts from California, thirteen days later, to the 31st July, had been received by the arrival of the steamer Panama at Panama, on the 21st ult., with 2,300,000 dols specie, of which about 500,000 dols had arrived at New York, by the Empire City from Chagres. Murders and assassinations are rife in California. The mines were yielding largely.

The money market within the past day or two has perceptibly tightened, and notwithstanding the great influx of gold there are indications of a more stringent market within the next ninety days. There has been but a moderate demand for sterling exchange. The supply of bills upon the markets was not large. We quote on London, 10½ to 10¾ per cent premium.

The receipts of cotton at all the shipping ports are 2,070,404 bales against 2,707,424 to same date last year. A decrease this season of 637,020 bales. The total foreign export this year is 648,402 bales less than last—say 439,568 bales decrease to Great Britain.

INDIA.

The dates from Calcutta are of the 8th of August. India was tranquil. Mr Bonham had returned, but the result of his mission to Peking had not transpired.

Trade in exports dull. Imports in good demand. Calcutta Exchange, 2½s.

Senhor da Cunha, who so recently entered upon the Government of Macao, died of cholera on Saturday, the 6th July, at 3 30 p.m., aged 53 years, and was buried on the following evening in the chapel of St Paul.

A letter from Shahabad, dated the 16th ult., states that the indigo prospects are good, having had heavy rains and a strong generous sun the latter part of June, which will enable them to commence manufacturing on the 1st proximo.

WEST INDIES.

Dates from Jamaica are to the 27th August. There had been very general and copious rains throughout the islands, which had cooled the atmosphere, and rendered the weather more agreeable. For the fortnight preceding the change, the heat was felt most oppressively.

At Havana, the result of the judicial examination of the officers and crews of the two captured vessels, in relation to the American expedition, had not been made public; but we are informed that a decision had been pronounced, declaring the sailors to be innocent, but condemning the masters of the two vessels to ten years' imprisonment for having entered upon the voyage with a knowledge of its object. The cholera had almost disappeared from the city and its environs, but still lingered in the country. The accounts from British Guiana are to the 27th ult. The weather, though occasionally showery, was fine, and sugar making was going on with considerable activity in most of the agricultural districts. The crops, however, will fall short, owing to heavy rains at the beginning of the year. The colony was perfectly quiet.

There are accounts from Demerara to the 17th of August. Meetings on the subject of constitutional reform continued to be held in that colony, the proceedings of which occupy the local papers. If we are to believe all that is published in these journals, the existing legislative institutions of British Guiana are pretty generally condemned, and the principles advocated by the Reform Association, "full, free, and responsible representation of the people" by an electoral council and House of Assembly, are highly approved of.

BIRTHS.

At Nice, on the 9th inst., the Hon. Mrs James Butler, of a daughter.

On the 17th inst., at No. 20, Cavendish-square, the Hon. Mrs Barrington, of a daughter.

On the 17th inst., at Greystoke castle, Cumberland, Mrs Howard, of Greystoke, of a son and heir.

MARRIAGES.

On the 6th inst., by special license, at Molen (Duchy of Lauenburg), Baron Magnus Frederic Baker de Loecke, Captain in the Ducal Lauenburg Rifle, to Emma Adela Williams Carr, adopted daughter of Captain and Mrs Stanley Carr. The ceremony took place in the house of her mother, in the presence of a numerous circle of distinguished guests, and the fair bride was given away by Count Louis Rielmansege, Lord President of the Duchy, as proxy for Captain Stanley Carr, now absent in Australia.

At Cambridge, U. S. A., on the 20th ult., Mr Henry Augustus Wise, of the Navy of the United States, to Miss Charlotte Brooks Everett, daughter of Mr Edward Everett, formerly American Minister in London.

DEATHS.

On the 18th inst., in his 57th year, Major A. M. Campbell, seventh son of William Campbell, of Fairfield, Esq., deceased, and brother-in-law of the late Duke of Argyll.

On the 18th inst., at Oakfields, St. Saviour's-road, Jersey, of consumption, John Hildebrand Oakes Moore, Major in the 44th Regiment, aged 38, only son of the late Major-General Sir Lorenzo Moore.

On the 17th inst., from paralysis, at his residence, Primrose, near Clitheroe, James Thompson, Esq., F.R.S., &c., in his 72d year.

Literature.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH A PUBLIC QUESTION. *First Report of the Metropolitan Sanitary Association.* Published by the Association.

THE association above named, knowing that it can depend only on public support, has published a copious account of its proceedings. It sprang from the Health of Towns' Association, extinct in 1849, and held its first public meeting on Feb. 6 of the present year. It immediately began its labours by deputations, &c., to make representations to the Ministers, to inform them of the existence of the association, and press on them the necessity of sanitary measures. From the reply of Lord John Russell, the association learnt that the difficulty of passing a great and comprehensive scheme for the sanitary improvement of the metropolis was deemed insurmountable by the Government. The chief evils to be removed, according to the association, are defective sewerage, defective scavenging, defective paving, trades that are nuisances, burying the dead amidst the living, the deficient supply of good water, the miserable dwellings of the poor; the want of efficient machinery to prevent the spreading of epidemic diseases, and of means to secure a more natural condition of health; and legislative enactments, such as the duties on windows, which interfere with the public health. These are large requirements, and we are not surprised that Lord John Russell did find it a little difficult to introduce a measure that should comprehend and embrace them all. A despotism of the Sanitary Association might accomplish it, but no other Act of Parliament, except one giving that body uncontrolled power, would have any chance of success.

The report gives a brief notice of the present machinery and enactments bearing on the sanitary condition of the metropolis. It refers, amongst others, to the Metropolitan Sanitary Commission, constituted in 1847; laments the paucity of its labours, confined to two reports on the cholera, and one, made by its successor, the Board of Health, on the supply of water; and treats the Commission and the Board as parts of the inefficient machinery of which the association complains. The Metropolitan Sewers Act, the report says, has proved in the highest degree unsatisfactory, and has caused universal discontent. The report comes to the conclusion that, with the exception of the Metropolitan and City Commissioners of Sewers Acts, and the Metropolitan Interments Act, there exists no provision for securing an improvement in the sanitary condition of the metropolis. It says—

Sanitary legislation is as much a dead letter in the metropolis, as if an exposition of its defective sanitary state had never been made—as if the words Sanitary Reform had never been spoken—as if there never had been earnest and persevering labourers in the cause—as if the whole of the promises held out by Government had been merely "plaisanteries."

That is but a sorry compliment to the incessant labours of the *Times* and other sanitary journals, the pompous exertions of Sewer Commissioners and Boards of Health, and other very renowned bodies. Can it be possible that no better results await the labours of the Metropolitan Sanitary Association?

The report adverts to the injurious effects of the window duties, and of the unavailing exertions of the association to get them repealed; to the injurious effects of the state of the laws relating to the transfer of land; to the bad consequences of having many local boards; and the association is of opinion "that the supplying of water, the cleansing, lighting, and paving of the streets and highways, and street improvement, have so intimate a connection with each other, that it is desirable to have the whole under the superintendence of the same board of management." The association approves of the Extramural Interment Act, the provisions of which it explains. The report also adverts at length to the defective supply of water, and to the means of controlling epidemic diseases. The association is, of course, extremely desirous of spreading abroad the means of preventing them, and of adopting machinery for the purpose, though it admits that there are telluric or electric influences connected with meteorological laws, and other atmospheric agencies, which at present are not fully understood. Still there are known causes which spread the deleterious miasma within the reach of sanitary regulations, and these the association is anxious to have removed. Though we do not rate the utility of such bodies quite as high as they rate it themselves, it is very satisfactory to find so many opulent gentlemen and clergymen solicitous to promote the welfare of all, and particularly the lower classes. The exertions of the upper to improve the lower classes is the distinguishing feature of society at present. We may, perhaps, doubt that its effects will be good, on the principle that each man is much better able to reform himself than reform his neighbour. One thing seems quite certain. These exertions must rouse attention and fix attention on the subject. The results, though they are likely to be totally different from those anticipated, must be left to Providence. Each man must do his duty. If the members of the association think that they are doing their duty by forming it, and trying to promote sanitary improvements, they will, we hope, continue their labours, regardless of our opinions, or the opinions of the world.

ILLUSTRATED HAND-BOOK OF NORTH WALES. By JOHN HICKLIN. Whittaker & Co.

A NEW and enlarged edition of an old work, with fifty-two engravings from original drawings. Its success makes comment unnecessary. All the modern changes are carefully noticed, and a very good account is given of the Britannia Bridge. North Wales had many picturesque beauties before the erection of the new bridge, and it now probably combines more of the charms of Nature and Art united than any part of the kingdom. The new bridge adds to the beauties of the romantic scenery. In getting up the book, the appliances of modern art have not been overlooked, and the engravings by Gilks, from original drawings by Mr Pickering, of Chester, are exactly what they should be, capital illustrations of the scenery, towns, and castles of Wales. The book is published at an appropriate time for tourists, who will need no other guide but this to the beautiful parts of the principality and the good resting places in the shape of inns everywhere provided.

REPORT OF THE EVIDENCE OF GEORGE HUDSON, ESQ., M.P., on the Trial of the Cause of Richardson v. Wodson. Edited by A BARRISTER. John Hearne, Strand.

WE mentioned, a short time ago, a revised report of the above trial and the present pamphlet is a revised report of Mr. Hudson's evidence, favourable to that gentleman. Its partisan nature may be known from this passage of the preface:—

The plaintiff, Mr James Richardson, brought this action against the proprietors of the *Yorkshireman* newspaper for an alleged libel in reference to his conduct as solicitor of the York Union Bank, and while acting as co-director with Mr. Hudson of several of the Northern railways.

To establish by his own admissions the charges that had been made against him (and with which it was sought to connect Mr Richardson), Mr Hudson was called as a witness by the defendant.

His direct examination assumed, under these circumstances, the shape and spirit of a most rigid and searching cross-examination, in which Mr. Hudson, was, without notice, and therefore without time for thought or preparation, called on to detail and explain the minutest particulars relating to those transactions which have been the occasion of so much public observation and obloquy.

All that the consummate skill and practised ingenuity of the learned serjeant who cross-examined could suggest, was with masterly dexterity exerted to elicit every point which could appear to make his conduct censurable, or throw suspicion on the purity of his motives.

It was manifest that Mr Hudson's answers, as well as the manner in which he gave them under an ordeal such as this, produced a marked and most powerful impression in his favour, even upon those who had entered the court with the strongest prejudices against him.

Those who desire to investigate the subject further will study both pamphlets. Our duty is done when we have stated their nature.

DR. JOHN CHARLES HALL, whose synopsis of the Natural History of Man we noticed last week in our review of Pickering's work, has written to us to correct an error into which we fell. Dr J. C. Hall, in his synopsis, notices the common use of language as contributing to establish the identity of the human race, which we, overlooking a part of his argument, had said he might have noticed. Dr Hall states the fact very distinctly.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

- Gleanings in the West of Ireland. By the Hon. and Rev. S. G. Osborne. Boone.
- A Letter to the Right Hon. Viscount Palmerston on the Greek Question. By a Greek Gentleman. (Pamphlet). Effingham Wilson.
- Report of the General Board of Health on the Epidemic Cholera of 1848 and 1849.
- Natal, Cape of Good Hope. By J. S. Christopher. Effingham Wilson.

To Readers and Correspondents.

Communications must be authenticated by the name of the writer.

- C. W., Liverpool.—The letter has been received. It may probably be referred to next week.
- D. B., Liverpool.—"Influence of the Corn Laws," price 3s, and "The Revenue, &c.," price 1s, may be had at the ECONOMIST office; and the "Fluctuations of Currency, Commerce, and Manufactures," price 5s, may be had of Messrs Longman and Co.

The Bankers' Gazette.

BANK RETURNS AND MONEY MARKET.

BANK OF ENGLAND.
(From the Gazette.)

AN ACCOUNT, pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th Victoria, cap. 32, for the week ending on Saturday the 14th day of Sept. 1850:—

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.		BANKING DEPARTMENT.	
Notes issued	£ 30,189,140	Proprietors' capital	£ 14,553,000
		Rest	3,556,028
		Public Deposits (including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts)	9,488,907
		Other Deposits	9,032,865
		Seven Day and other Bills	1,264,518
			37,895,318
		Government Securities, including Dead Weight Annuity	£ 14,433,230
		Other Securities	11,908,694
		Notes	10,947,430
		Gold and Silver Coin	605,964
			37,895,318

Dated the 19th Sept. 1850. M. MARSHALL, Chief Cashier.

THE OLD FORM.

The above Bank accounts would, if made out in the old form, present the following result:—

Liabilities.	Assets.
Circulation inc. Bank post bills	£ 25,788,924
Public Deposits	16,795,104
Other or private Deposits	
	42,584,028

The balance of assets above liabilities being 2,556,028l, as stated in the above account under the head REST.

FRIDAY NIGHT.

The preceding accounts, compared with those of last week, exhibit,—

A decrease of Circulation of	£ 236,115
An increase of Public Deposits of	603,121
A decrease of Other Deposits of	73,811
An increase of Securities of	210,818
An increase of Bullion of	88,161
An increase of Rest of	5,784
An increase of Reserve of	328,036

By the present returns the circulation has decreased 236,115l, the public deposits have increased 603,121l, private deposits have decreased 73,811l, securities have increased 210,818l, bullion has increased 88,161l, the rest has increased 5,784l, and the reserve has increased 328,036l. There is no feature in the returns that requires observation, the decrease of the circulation, the increase of the public deposits, and the additional advance on securities, and the increase of the reserve, being all usual at this period of the year. The private securities are now 11,908,694l having increased 1,724,334l since July 20.

At the meeting of the Bank proprietors yesterday, the dividend declared was 3½ per cent, free from Income Tax. A proposition implying a censure on the Directors for not employing more of their reserve, met with no support. The net profits were stated at 535,342l, and the sum of 25,991l is to be added to the "rest," which now amounts to 3,027,309l.

The Money Market continues as it was last week. The terms are the same, and the condition is the same. There is a good de-

mand for money, and the supply is large. It is placed on call at 2 per cent, and the best bills are discounted at 2½ to 2¾. At the rate of 2½, good securities, though not first-rate, can be readily negotiated.

Arrivals from New York to Sept. 7, inform us that the money market had perceptibly tightened, and notwithstanding the influx of gold there was indications of a more stringent market within the next 90 days. There was but a moderate demand for sterling exchange. The supply of bills was large. The Atlantic, like most of the others steamers which have lately come from New York, brings a considerable quantity of specie.

Accounts from California to the 31st July have been received. The Panama arrived at Panama on the 21st ult with 2,300,000 dollars specie, of which about 500,000 dollars had arrived at New York by the Empire City from Chagres.

The Funds have been steady through the week, with little or no business doing, most of the jobbers and brokers having directed their attention exclusively to the railway market and deserted the stock market. We have no remarks to make, but supply our usual list:—

	Consols.		Account	
	Opened	Closed	Opened	Closed
Saturday	96½	96½	96½	96½
Monday	96½	96½	96½	96½
Tuesday	96½	96½	96½	96½
Wednesday	96½	96½	96½	96½
Thursday	96½	96½	96½	96½
Friday	96½	96½	96½	96½

	Closing prices last Friday.		Closing prices this day.	
2 per cent consols, account	96½	96½	96½	96½
— money	96½	96½	96½	96½
2½ per cents	99½	99½	99½	99½
3 per cent reduced	Shut	Shut	Shut	Shut
Exchange bills, large	63s 6s pm	64s 6s pm	64s 6s pm	64s 6s pm
Bank stock	214 15	214 15	214 15	214 15
East India stock	264 7	265 8	265 8	265 8
Spanish 3 per cents	37½	37½	37½	37½
Portuguese 4 per cents	33½	33½	33½	33½
Mexican 5 per cents	29½	29½	29½	29½
Dutch 2½ per cents	57½	57½	57½	57½
— 4 per cents	90	91	91	91
Russian, 4½ stock	96½ 7	97½	97½	97½

The Railway Market in the early part of the week was quite wild, a great deal of business was done, and prices rose considerably. As most of the transactions were confined to members of the House, though the public took a share in them, the extreme rise was not maintained. At one time on Monday, Great Westerns were done at 72, and North Westerns at 115½, but the shares afterwards declined. To-day the market was rather flat, and North Westerns were done at 113½, and Great Westerns at 69½. So much excitement has not been witnessed in the Railway Market for some time as in the present week, though it has now become comparatively quiet. The following is our usual list of the closing prices of the principal railway shares last week and this day:—

	Closing prices last Friday.		Closing prices this day.	
London and North Western	111 12	113	113	113
Midland Counties	37 8	38½	38½	38½
Brighton Stock	83½ 4½	83½ 4½	83½ 4½	83½ 4½
Great Western	66½ 7	69	69	69
Eastern Counties	51 6	51 6½	51 6½	51 6½
South Western	68½ 9½	69 70	69 70	69 70
South Eastern	17½ 18	19	19	19
Norfolk	14 16	14 16	14 16	14 16
Great North of England	242 5	242 5	242 5	242 5
York and North Midland	18½ 19	19	19	19
York, Newcastle, and Berwick	15½ 16 ex div	16½ ex div	16½ ex div	16½ ex div
Newcastle and Berwick Ext.	9½ 10 dia	9½ 10 dia ex div	9½ 10 dia ex div	9½ 10 dia ex div
Lancashire and Yorkshire	43 5 ex div	46 8 ex div	46 8 ex div	46 8 ex div
North British	6½	6½	6½	6½
Edinburgh and Glasgow	25 5	25½ 6½	25½ 6½	25½ 6½
Hull and Selby	94 6	94 5	94 5	94 5
Lancaster and Carlisle	54 6 ex div	56 8 ex div	56 8 ex div	56 8 ex div
North Staffordshire	10½ 11 dia	10½ 11 dia	10½ 11 dia	10½ 11 dia
Birmingham and Oxford, gas	28 9	28 9	28 9	28 9
Birmingham and Dudley, do.	7½ 8½ pm	7½ 8½ pm	7½ 8½ pm	7½ 8½ pm
Caledonian	8½	7½ 8 per sh	7½ 8 per sh	7½ 8 per sh
Aberdeen	9½ 10	9½	9½	9½
Northern of France	14½ 15	14½	14½	14½
Central	13½ 14	13½ 14	13½ 14	13½ 14
Paris and Rouen	23½ 4	24½ 5	24½ 5	24½ 5
Rouen and Havre	30½ 1	30½ 1	30½ 1	30½ 1
Dutch Rhenish	5½ 5 dia	5½ 5 dia	5½ 5 dia	5½ 5 dia

The Exchanges continue low, and some surprise is expressed that no demand is made on the Bank for gold. The present circumstances, however, are unusual. Gold has ceased to be the standard of value in Holland, and gold from that country, in small quantities, is coming in here. At the same time bullion is continually imported from America without adding materially to the stock in the Bank. It gets easily diffused over the whole commercial world.

COMPARATIVE EXCHANGES.

The premium on gold at Paris is 7½ per mille, which, at the English mint price of 31 17s 10½d per ounce for standard gold, gives an exchange of 25 34; and the exchange at Paris on London at short being 25 32½, it follows that gold is 0.08 per cent dearer in Paris than in London.

By advices from Hamburg the price of gold is 433½ per mark, which, at the English mint price of 31 17s 10½d per ounce for standard gold, gives an exchange of 13 9½; and the exchange at Hamburg on London at short being 13 8½, it follows that gold is 0.46 per cent dearer in Hamburg than in London.

The course of exchange at New York on London for bills at 60 days' sight is 110½ per cent; and the par of exchange between England and America

being 109 23-40 per cent, it follows that the exchange is nominally 0.67 per cent in favour of England; and, after making allowance for difference of interest and charges of transport, the present rate leaves a profit on the importation of gold from the United States.

FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON AT THE LATEST DATES.

	Latest Date.	Rate of Exchange on London.	
Paris	Sept. 19	£.25 27½	3 days' sight
		25 17½	1 month's date
Antwerp	— 19	£.25 52½	3 days' sight
Amsterdam	— 17	fl.12	3 days' sight
		11 95	2 months' date
Hamburg	— 17	m.13 7½	3 days' sight
		13 6½	3 months' date
St Petersburg	— 10	38 3-16d	3 —
Madrid	— 14	50 40-100d	3 —
Lisbon	— 9	54½d to 54½d	3 —
Gibraltar	— 5	50½d	3 —
New York	— 7	10½ to 10½ per cent pm	60 days' sight
		1 per cent pm	30 —
Jamaica	Aug. 27	¼ per cent pm	60 —
		par	90 —
Havana	— 25	12½ to 13 per cent pm	90 —
Rio de Janeiro	July 27	27d to 27½d	60 —
Bahia	Aug. 7	27d to 27½d	60 —
Pernambuco	— 9	27½d to 27½d	60 —
Buenos Ayres	July 3	3 5-16d	60 —
Valparaiso	June 30	46½d	90 —
Singapore	July 2	4s 9d	60 days' sight
		... to ... per cent dis	6 months' sight
Ceylon	— 11	1½ per cent dis	3 —
		2 per cent dis	6 —
		...	1 —
Bombay	— 25	2s 0½d to 2s 0½d	3 —
		2s 0½d to 2s 1d	6 —
Calcutta	— 15	...	4 —
		...	1 —
Hong Kong	June 23	4s 7d	6 —
Sydney	May 16	3 per cent pm.	30 days' sight

THE BANKERS' PRICE CURRENT.

PRICES OF ENGLISH STOCKS

	Sat	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri
Bank Stock, 8 per cent	...	...	...	...	...	...
3 per Cent Reduced Anns.	97½	97½	97½	97½	97½	97½
3 per Cent Consols Anns.	96½	96½	96½	96½	96½	96½
3 per Cent Anns., 1726	...	...	...	...	...	...
3½ per Cent Anns.	99½	99½	99½	99½	99½	99½
New 5 per Cent	...	...	...	...	...	...
Long Anns. Jan. 5, 1860	...	...	...	...	...	...
Anns. for 30 years, Oct. 10, 1859	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ditto Jan. 5, 1860	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ditto Jan. 5, 1880	...	...	...	...	...	...
India Stock, 10½ per Cent	...	...	...	...	...	263½
Do. Bonds, 3½ per Cent 1000	86s p	84s p	84s p	87s 4s p	87s 4s p	87s 4s p
Ditto under 1000	83s p	...	87s p	...	...	...
South Sea Stock, 3½ per Cent	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ditto Old Anns., 3 per Cent	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ditto New Anns., 3 per Cent	...	...	...	...	...	...
3 per Cent Anns., 1751	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bank Stock for opp. Oct. 18	96½	96½	96½	96½	96½	96½
3 p Cent Cons. for acct. Oct. 16	96½	96½	96½	96½	96½	96½
India Stock for acct. Oct. 15	...	...	...	...	...	...
Canada Guaranteed, 4 per Cent	...	...	...	...	...	...
Excheq. Bills, 1000	14d	66s p	64s 6s p	67s 6s p	64s 6s p	67s p
Ditto 500	—	53s 66s p	64s 6s p	65s 6s p	64s 6s p	64s p
Ditto Small	—	64s 6s p	64s 6s p	65s 6s p	64s 6s p	66s 6s p
Ditto Advertised	...	...	...	...	...	...

COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

	Time	Tuesday.		Friday.	
		Prices negotiated on 'Change.	Prices negotiated on 'Change.	Prices negotiated on 'Change.	Prices negotiated on 'Change.
Amsterdam	short	12 0½	12 1	12 0½	12 0½
Ditto	3 ms	12 1½	12 2½	12 1½	12 2
Rotterdam	—	12 21	—	12 1½	12 2½
Antwerp	—	25 52½	25 57½	25 52½	25 57½
Brussels	—	25 52½	25 57½	25 52½	25 57½
Hamburg	—	13 10	13 10½	13 10	13 10½
Paris	short	25 27½	25 25	25 30	25 35
Ditto	3 ms	25 52½	25 57½	25 52½	25 55
Marseilles	—	25 55	25 60	25 55	25 57½
Frankfort on the Main	—	120½	—	120½	—
Vienna	—	11 54	11 58	11 54	11 56
Trieste	—	11 55	12 0	11 56	11 59
Petersburg	—	37½	—	37½	—
Madrid	—	49½	49½	49½	49½
Cadiz	—	49½	50	49½	50
Leghorn	—	30 75	30 80	30 72½	30 80
Genoa	—	26 0	26 5	25 97½	26 5
Naples	—	40½	41½	40½	41½
Palermo	—	123	123½	123	123½
Messina	—	123½	123½	123½	123½
Lisbon	90 ds dt	53½	—	53½	53½
Oporto	—	53	53½	53	53½
Rio Janeiro	60 ds sgt	—	—	—	—
New York	—	—	—	—	—

FRENCH FUNDS.

	Paris Sept. 16	London Sept. 18	Paris Sept. 17	London Sept. 19	Paris Sept. 18	London Sept. 20
5 per Cent Rentes, div. 22	F. C.	F. C.	F. C.	F. C.	F. C.	F. C.
March and 22 Sept.	95 30	...	96 30	...	93 60	...
Exchange	...	...	...	...	...	...
3 per Cent Rentes, div. 22	57 75	...	57 80	...	58 15	...
June and 22 December	...	...	...	...	...	...
Exchange	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bank Shares, div. 1 January	2295 0	...	2290 0	...	2290 0	...
and 1 July	...	...	...	...	...	...
Exchange on London 1 month	25 27½	...	25 27½	...	25 27½	...
Ditto 3 months	25 20	...	25 20	...	25 20	...



and out of the disregarded minerals under his feet. They were probably considered by the men of that generation as sterile impediments to the produce of the only arts they knew. While it is impossible, therefore, to foresee by what means the future growth of population will be sustained, we have a firm conviction that it will grow, and will carry with it some means of producing wealth similar to those which are so well exemplified in detail in Dr Strang's account of Glasgow.

LLOYD'S REGISTER OF SHIPPING. CLASSING OF SHIPS.

A CORRESPONDENCE has taken place between Messrs W. S. Lindsay and Co. and the "General Committee for the Register of Shipping," &c., by which it appears, that in classing ships no notice is taken of the month of the year when they are launched. For example, the class of a ship launched on the 1st of January, 1850, will expire only on the same day, that one launched in any subsequent period of the year, even on the 31st of December. And a ship launched on the 31st of December will lose its class one year sooner than one launched on the following day, the 1st of January. It is justly complained that this regulation operates unfairly to those who wish to launch their ships during the fall of the year, and prejudicially to the shipbuilding trade at particular seasons. It surely can only be necessary that the attention of the committee should be called to such an inequality, in order to secure its being remedied.

Agriculture

THE HARVEST.—

THE crops are now got in, with the exception of such as wheat, &c., which are not yet sown. August. The great bulk of the market reports concerning the crops shown are in good condition, and an opinion as to the yield of the crops, and on soils of the most fertile, the yield as compared with the average forms only one element of the harvest, for the bulk of straw, &c., consisting of very strong, has been well and highly farmed. Farmers have lived on the farm for many years that they have never seen the present year. The farmers will do more than reach high prices. And throughout Kent and Sussex, straw, is extremely good. Blight, complained of, and the firmness of markets seem to confirm, possibly to make of their crops. Barley and oats in many places will be very productive, and out well, and the disease has not been anticipated. At this moment there is stock, from the long continued dry weather, and in many places cattle are suffering from water. Provender consequently must be comparatively scarce during the winter. Many farmers are now giving their cows hay and other winter stores, not usually trenched up for a month or six weeks later. Turnips, too, are making little progress, and cannot be a large crop.

The Buckinghamshire report says, "The wheat crop is generally considered under an average, and in most cases where the yield has been tested by thrashing, the deficiency has been found equal to expectation when thrashing commenced." Of the general state of that district it is said,—

Barley is something about an average; while oats promise to yield better than any other crop. The past harvest has been in general a more expensive one than any other for some years, and complaints of low prices and high wages is very common; indeed, it at first sight appears paradoxical that labour should rise when food is getting cheaper; but the reason is very plain, that the harvest came on all at once, and caused a scarcity of hands, which raised the price according to demand. The cleaning of the land is now pretty generally going forward, and notwithstanding the low price panic, most cultivators of the soil evidently hope to reap a few more harvests yet. Both cattle and sheep have in general thriven remarkably well upon the pastures this season; but, from the continued drought, keep is now becoming very scarce, and rain is much wanted to refresh the pastures, and turnips also, which will be a light crop now, come what will. Sheep have in some instances been turned upon early turnips, but the crops are deficient in both weight and quality. Mangold wurtzels are much better than turnips, although not so good as could have been wished. Most of the fodder has been secured in excellent order, and is generally abundant; so that the stock may be assisted during the winter with a mixture of hay and straw.

And the Somersetshire report gives the following account of the various districts of that county:—

The crops of wheat this year vary so much, that in giving a report of the crop it is requisite to particularise districts. To begin with the western part of the county upon the Bristol Channel, on the hills and poorer soils, the wheat stood generally, and the crop, both in quality and quantity, may be nearly an average; but if we take the accounts given here of the yield in thrashing, not equal to last year, and the usual yield is not above 20 to 25 bushels per acre. In the Vale of Taunton (south and south-east of the county), where a very large portion of our best wheat soils are situated, yielding in a good season 40 bushels per acre, from being laid early and the mildew, the deficiency will be from 5 to 8 bushels per acre, and the weight per bushel much less. In the cen-

tral part, on land not averaging about 25 bushels per acre a full crop, it may again approach an average; but here, in the lowlands and the peat moors, the fall off both in quality and quantity is not much short of half—say, at least 20 bushels against 32, of much better quality by far. In the northern and north-western parts, including the extensive range of Mendip, the crop may be quite an average; but the wheat grown there forms a very small portion of the bulk grown in the country, and affects but little the general average. As far as it can be ascertained, there are grounds for belief that our produce this year will be, over the county, fully 5 bushels per acre under an average; the weights are likely to vary from 56 to 63 lbs—60 to 61 lbs being likely to be the most common weights; on the whole, and more particularly the late harvested, the condition is good, but the quality is not anything equal to last year, from the rain after it was ripe, even where standing; the bulk of straw is large, and we may have more wheat than its bad kerning would lead us to expect.

Here the hay crop has been large, and though turnips and Swedes are complained of, the mangold is unusually productive.

One fact is worthy of being noticed of the past season, which is that the clay soils have, upon the whole, borne the best wheat crops, and that the peculiar root crop of such land, the mangold wurtzel, is the only one which has made much progress during the past summer and present autumn. We believe that if clay soils received the same attentive and generous cultivation which is bestowed on the lighter and more manageable soils, they would come into far better repute with farmers than they are at present. Three things are essential to make clay land largely productive, viz., draining, clearing it of hedgerows and timber, and ample accommodation for house feeding and rearing of stock. These things provided the cultivation of clay land will become comparatively easy. That manure is more lasting on clay soils than on others is matter of ordinary remark amongst farmers, and some recent experiments on the "power of manure to absorb manure," reported by Mr Way in the Journal of the Royal Agricultural Society, show the vast superiority of clay soils in this respect. These experiments prove the fact that soils have a power of separating from solution and retaining the salts required by vegetation, but further researches seem to determine the precise circumstances and conditions under which this power is exerted. Liebig has shown that soils not only are brought down by rain, but also from the atmosphere. He refers this property to the aluminous and siliceous parts of the soil, but he seems to have had no idea of the power of separating ammonia from solution. The property is totally different from the power of separating ammoniacal and other gases. Neither is it due to capillary attraction. He then states, in reference to experiments made with different kinds of soil, with different retentive powers. The solution employed in the experiments was made by diluting one ounce of the strongest ammonia with ounces of water, and it contained about 0.3 per cent of ammonia. In this state the solution was highly pungent. It was clearly ascertained that the power is not to be ascribed to the solution of the ammonia. Putrid urine filtered through clay was quite clear, and free from taste or smell, and free from any smell and taste derived from the soil. It was found, however, that salts of lime in considerable abundance were present. Similar trials were made with sand, and though the power of the soil was due to the clay, and though the ammonia was as it was due to suspended matter, was in some instances, the offensive character of the solution was only removed; and by merely stirring a portion of pure clay with the solution, both colour and smell were absorbed. Amongst the practical conclusions Mr Way draws from the experiments he describes, which relate to clay land are these:—

The newly discovered property of soils explains and confirms the variations in manuring operations which are made to suit the nature of the soil. Clay has been shown to be the active substance in retaining manure, and sandy and gravelly soils not possessing a sufficiency of clay will be expected to be less retentive of manure. Such is the fact, and soils of this description are said not to hold manure. On such soils manure must be applied more frequently and in smaller quantities than in stiffer soils, where, owing to the retentive power of the clay, the manure for several crops may be safely deposited. . . .

Another and very important inference may be drawn from the facts now described. If nature has established a condition of the soil by which all the salts and manure pass into one uniform state in which they are presented to the plant—and if, further, it can be proved that the soils naturally most fertile and most fitted for successful cultivation are precisely those which, consistently with a proper mechanical texture, contain abundance of clay, such as free clay loams, then it would seem to follow that in an absolute sand or gravel, manure applied in any quantity would not undergo the necessary changes and combinations, and that no vegetation in such soils should be perfectly healthy. In all good soils plants have one form only of potash, ammonia, magnesia, &c. presented to them. Is it likely that they can thrive equally well when, as in pure sand, these bases are offered to them in every possible form of combination? Reference has already been made to the possibility that clay possesses a power of retarding or altogether arresting the putrefactive process. Our information on this head is at present very limited; but should further inquiries prove that such is actually the case, it will be necessary very seriously to consider the state in which manure should be applied. It seems clear that manures in a fresh state are available to vegetation. What otherwise would become of the urine of sheep folded on turnips, and to which the success of the following barley crop is justly attributed? That this urine and dung of the sheep, which is incorporated in a state of perfect freshness with the soil, does act upon the succeeding crop there can be no doubt, and if it should be proved that decomposition of animal matters does not go on in the soil, there will be no alternative but to believe in the power of plants to feed upon these matters in their fresh state. . . .

The advantage of efficient drainage of land receives an interesting confirmation from the facts now brought forward. To the soil is intrusted the preservation of manure, but in order that this preservative power may be exercised, the manure which is dissolved by rain in the superficial strata, where it is in excess or imperfectly distributed, must be brought by drainage into contact with active soil below by which it will be taken up. If, on the other hand, the land be undrained, this manure is carried off the surface into the watercourses.

Without venturing an opinion as to the depth of drainage, which must depend upon many circumstances, it may be fair to say that it should be such as to ensure absorption of the manures by the soil; and in poor soils containing

LATEST PRICES OF AMERICAN STOCKS

	Payable.	Amount in Dollars.	Dividends.	London Prices. Sept. 20.	Amer. prices. Aug. 28.
United States Bonds ... cent	1868	65,000,000	Jan. and July	108½	117½
— Certificates ... 6	1863	—	—	—	—
— Certificates ... 6	1867-8	—	—	106	—
Alabama ... Sterling 5	1858	9,000,000	—	75½	82½
Indiana ... 4	{1861 1866}	5,600,000	—	73½	79
— ... 2½	1861-6	2,000,000	—	33½	38 40
— Canal, Preferred ... 5	1861-6	4,500,000	—	—	28 30
— Special do. ... 5	1861-6	1,300,000	—	—	—
Illinois ... 5	1870	10,000,000	—	—	49 50
Kentucky ... 6	1868	4,250,000	—	—	103
Louisiana ... Sterling 5	{1850 1852}	7,000,000	Feb. and Aug.	90 xd	95
Maryland ... Sterling 5	1858	3,000,000	Jan. and July	91 89½	—
Massachusetts ... Sterling 5	1868	3,000,000	April and Oct.	108	—
Michigan ... 6	1863	5,000,000	Jan. and July	—	—
Mississippi ... 6	{1861 1866 1871}	2,000,000	May and Nov.	—	—
— ... 5	1850-8	5,000,000	Mar. and Sept.	—	—
New York ... 5	1860-58	13,124,270	Quarterly	93	105
Ohio ... 6	1860-70	19,000,000	Jan. and July	106	115
Pennsylvania ... 5	1854-70	41,000,000	Feb. and Aug.	83½ xd	92½ 3½
South Carolina ... 5	1866	3,000,000	Jan. and July	89 xd	—
Tennessee ... 6	1868	3,000,000	—	—	103
Virginia ... 6	1857	7,000,000	—	—	—
United States Bank Shares ... 1866	35,000,000	—	—	—	2½
Louisiana State Bank ... 10	1870	2,000,000	—	—	—
Bank of Louisiana ... 8	1870	4,000,000	—	—	—
New York City ... 5	{1860 1866 1871}	9,600,000	Quarterly	95 xd	104
New Orleans City ... 5	1865	1,500,000	Jan. and July	—	—
— Canal and Banking ... 1863	—	—	—	—	16½
Camden & Amboy R. R. ... 6	1864	£225,000	Feb. and Aug.	—	—
City of Boston ... 1864	—	—	—	—	92½ xd

Exchange at New York 110½.
INSURANCE COMPANIES.

No. of shares	Dividend	Names.	Shares.	Paid.	Price pr. share
2,000	3/10s	Albion ...	500	50 0 0	82
50,000	7/14s 6d & bs	Alliance British and Foreign ...	100	11 0 0	21 ½
50,000	6/1 p cent	Do. Marine ...	100	5 0 0	6
24,000	13s 6d & bs	Atlas ...	50	5 10 0	17½
3,000	4/1 p cent	Argus Life ...	100	16 0 0	—
12,000	7s 6d	British Commercial ...	50	5 0 0	7½
5,000	5/1 p & bs	Clerical, Medical, and General Life ...	100	10 0 0	20
4,000	3/4	County ...	100	10 0 0	62
—	14s	Crown ...	50	5 0 0	14½
20,000	6s	Eagle ...	50	5 0 0	6½
4,651	10s	European Life ...	20	20 0 0	10½
1,000,000	6/1 p cent	General ...	—	5 0 0	5½
20,000	5/1 & bs	Globe ...	Stk.	—	130
2,400	12/1 p cent	Guardian ...	100	45 0 0	54½
7,500	12s	Imperial Fire ...	500	50 0 0	230
13,453	1/1 sh & bs	Imperial Life ...	100	10 0 0	16½
50,000	—	Indemnity Marine ...	100	20 0 0	41
10,000	1/10s	Law Fire ...	100	2 10 0	2
20,000	—	Legal and General Life ...	100	10 0 0	43½
3,900	10s	London Fire ...	50	2 0 0	4½
31,000	10s	London Ship ...	25	12 10 0	17½
10,000	15s p sh	Marine ...	100	15 0 0	11
10,000	4/1 p cent	Medical, Invalid, and General Life ...	50	2 0 0	2½
25,000	5/1 p cent	National Loan Fund ...	20	2 10 0	2½
5,000	8/1 p cent	National Life ...	100	5 0 0	—
30,000	5/1 p cent	Palladium Life ...	50	2 0 0	2½
—	—	Pelican ...	—	—	—
—	3/1 p sh & bs	Phoenix ...	—	—	145
2,500	1/15s & bs	Provident Life ...	100	10 0 0	26
200,000	5s	Rock Life ...	5	0 10 0	6½
689,220	6/1 p & bs	Royal Exchange ...	Stk.	—	210
—	6/1	Sun Fire ...	—	—	209
4,000	1/16s	Do. Life ...	—	—	48
25,000	4/1 p & bs	United Kingdom ...	20	4 0 0	3½
5,000	10/1 p & bs	Universal Life ...	100	10 0 0	—
—	5/1 p cent	Victoria Life ..	—	4 12 6	4½

JOINT STOCK BANKS.

No. of shares	Dividends per annum	Names.	Shares	Paid	Price pr share
22,500	1/1 4s	Australasia ...	40	40 0 0	29½ 30
20,000	5/1 per ct	British North American ...	50	50 0 0	42 ½
5,000	7/1 per ct	Ceylon ...	25	25 0 0	—
30,000	5/1 per ct	Colonial ...	100	25 0 0	—
10,000	6/1 & 7s 6d bs	Commercial of London ...	100	20 0 0	23½
10,000	6/1 per ct	London and County ...	50	20 0 0	—
60,000	6/1 & 7s 6d bs	London Joint Stock ...	50	10 0 0	—
50,000	6/1 per e	London and Westminster ...	100	20 0 0	27½ ½
10,000	6/1 per ct	National Provincial of England ...	100	35 0 0	—
10,000	5/1 per ct	Do. New ...	20	10 0 0	—
20,000	5/1 per ct	National of Ireland ...	50	22 10 0	—
20,000	8/1 per ct	Provincial of Ireland ...	100	25 0 0	—
4,000	8/1 per ct	Do. New ...	10	10 0 0	—
12,000	15/1 per ct	Gloucestershire ...	—	—	—
4,000	6/1 per ct	Ionian ...	25	25 0 0	—
—	6/1 per ct	South Australia ...	25	25 0 0	—
20,000	6/1 & bs	Union of Australia ...	25	25 0 0	32½ ½
8,000	6/1 per ct	Do. Ditto ...	—	2 10 0	—
60,000	6/1 per ct	Union of London ...	50	10 0 0	12½
15,000	6/1 per ct	Union of Madrid ...	40	40 0 0	—

DOCKS.

No. of shares	Dividend per annum	Names.	Shares	Pa. l.	Price pr share
813,400	4 p cent	Commercial ...	Stk.	—	84
2,065,668	6 p cent	East and West India ...	Stk.	—	140½
1,038	1/1 p sh	East Country ...	—	—	22½
3,638,210	5 p cent	London ...	Stk.	—	122
300,000	4 p cent	Ditto Bonds ...	—	—	—
1,352,752	4 p cent	St Katharine ...	Stk.	—	80½
500,000	4½ p cent	Ditto Bonds ...	—	—	—
7,000	2 p cent	Southampton ...	50	50 0 0	9½

PRICES OF FOREIGN STOCKS.

	Sat	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri
Brazilian Bonds, 5 per cent ...	91½	92	92 3	92	—	—
Ditto New, 5 per cent, 1829 and 1839 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ditto New, 1843 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Buenos Ayres Bonds, 6 per cent ...	58½ 9	59½ 8	58½ 9	—	—	59½ 8½
Cuba Bonds, 6 per cent ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chilian Bonds, 6 per cent ...	104	—	—	—	—	—
Ditto 3 per cent ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Danish Bonds, 3 per cent, 1825 ...	—	—	—	78 7½	78 ½	—
Ditto 5 per cent Bonds ...	100½	—	—	100½ 4	103½ ½	100½ ½
Ditto Scrip ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dutch 2½ per cent. Exchange 12 guilders ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Equador Bonds ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Grenada Bonds, 1½ per Cent ...	17½	—	—	—	—	—
Ditto Deferred ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Greek Bonds, 1824 and 1825 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ditto ex over-due coupons ...	4½	—	—	—	—	—
Guatemala ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mexican 5 per cent, 1846, ex Jan. coupons ...	25½ 50	29½ 30	30½ 2	30½ 2	20½	30½ 2
Peruvian Bonds, 4½ per cent, 1849 ...	82½ 2	—	—	82	—	82
Ditto Deferred ...	33½	33½ 4	34½	—	—	34
Portuguese Bonds, 5 per cent ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ditto 5 per cent converted, 1841 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ditto 4 per cent ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ditto 3 per cent, 1848 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Russian Bonds, 1822, 5 p cent, in £ sterling ...	—	—	—	110½	—	—
Ditto 4½ per cent ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Spanish Bonds, 5 per c div. from Nov. 1846 ...	97½	97½ 7	97½ 7	97½ 7	97½	97½
Ditto ditto ditto 1844 ...	19½	19½ 19½	19½ 19½	19½ 19½	19½ 19½	19½ 19½
Ditto ditto ditto 1849 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ditto Coupons ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ditto Passive Bonds ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ditto Deferred ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ditto 3 per cent Spanish Bonds ...	37½	—	—	37½	37½	37½ 8
Venezuela 2½ per cent Bonds ...	35½	—	—	33	32	—
Ditto Deferred ...	12	—	—	—	—	—

Dividends on the above payable in London.

PRICES OF BULLION.

	£	s	d
Foreign gold in bars, (standard) ... per ounce	3	17	9
Spanish doubloons ...	0	0	0
Foreign gold in coin, Portugal pieces ...	0	0	0
New dollars ...	0	4	10½
Silver in bars (standard) ...	0	5	0

The Commercial Times.

Mails Arrived.

LATEST DATES.
On 16th Sept., PENINSULAR, per Iberia steamer, via Southampton—Gibraltar, Sept. 5; Cadiz, 6; Lisbon, 9; Oporto, 9; Vigo, 10.
On 16th Sept., AMERICA, per Europa steamer, via Liverpool—Newfoundland, Aug. 26; Prince Edward Island, 31; Fredericton, Sept. 2; Montreal, 2; St John's, N.B., 3; New York, 3; Boston, 4; Halifax, 6.
On 18th Sept., BRAZILS and RIVER PLATE, per Peterel packet, via Falmouth—Buenos Ayres, July 3; Monte Video, 6; Rio de Janeiro, 27; Bahia, Aug. 7.
On 18th Sept., CAPE OF GOOD HOPE, July 17, per Gloriana, via Falmouth.
On 18th Sept., MEXICO and HAVANA, per Great Western steamer, via Southampton—Honduras, Aug. 10; Tampico, 11; Vera Cruz, 15; Havana, 25.
On 19th Sept., WEST INDIES, per Tay steamer, via Southampton—Hayti, Aug. 28; La Guayra, 29; Demerara, 27; Jamaica, 27; Barbadoes, 29; St Thomas, Sept. 1.

Mails will be Despatched

FROM LONDON
On 24th Sept. (evening), for the MEDITERRANEAN, EGYPT, INDIA, and CHINA, via Marseilles.
On 24th Sept. (evening), for the UNITED STATES, per Atlantic steamer, via Liverpool and New York.
On 27th Sept. (morning), for VIGO, OPORTO, LISBON, CADIZ, and GIBRALTAR, per steamer, via Liverpool.
* On 27th Sept. (evening), for AMERICA, per Europa steamer, via Liverpool and New York.
* Letters and papers for Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island, intended to be forwarded per this vessel, must be specially addressed "via New York," or "via United States."

WEEKLY CORN RETURNS.

From the Gazette of last night.

	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Rye.	Beans.	Peas.
Sold.....qrs	85,704	2,984	11,411	656	2,665	855
Weekly average, Sept. 14.....	42 10	23 9	17 4	26 10	29 7	28 9
— " 7.....	43 2	23 0	17 11	25 4	26 9	27 10
— " Aug. 31.....	43 6	22 4	17 9	23 4	28 11	26 11
— " 21.....	43 6	23 0	17 9	20 10	28 1	26 3
— " 17.....	43 8	22 8	18 4	23 0	28 11	26 5
— " 10.....	44 1	22 5	17 11	23 8	27 9	26 10
Six weeks' average	43 5	22 10	17 10	23 10	28 6	27 2
Same time last year	45 1	26 4	18 10	26 8	31 8	29 6
Duties.....	1 0	1 0	1 0	1 0	1 0	1 0

GRAIN IMPORTED.

An account of the total quantities of each kind of corn, distinguishing foreign and colonial, imported into the principal ports of Great Britain, viz:—London, Liverpool, Hull, Newcastle, Bristol, Gloucester, Plymouth, Leith, Glasgow, Dundee, and Perth, In the week ending Sept. 11, 1850.

	Wheat and wheat flour	Barley and barley-meal	Oats and oatmeal	Rye and rye-meal	Peas and pea-meal	Beans & bean-meal	Indian corn and Indian-meal	Buck-wheat & buck-wheat meal
Foreign ...	56,288	21,705	43,916	204	3,068	6,337	194	—
Colonial ...	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	56,298	21,705	43,916	204	3,068	6,337	194	—

Total imports of the week131,724 qrs.

COMMERCIAL EPITOME.

FRIDAY NIGHT.

"Yesterday morning early (say Messrs Gillies and Horne in their Circular) a fire broke out in a house near the Corn Market, which soon spread to some large warehouses in the side and rear of the building, and has done so much damage that it was at one time supposed the market could not be opened to-day; as it is not much business could be done, and it is useless to quote any alteration of prices which might result from so accidental a cause." The market, however, was firm, and the rise of 1s on Monday was sustained. The recent dry weather, favourable to getting in the latter part of the harvest, and favourable to the potatoes, has generally made the corn markets on the near portions of the Continent dull. From the general reports of the crops on the Continent, they being nowhere large, and in most places deficient either in quantity or quality, there is more justification of our firm and rising market, than of their dull and, in some instances, declining market. There is no question, that throughout the Continent, as well as in England, consumption is unusually active; and as there is nowhere a large crop to meet it, except that of the United States, which is probably overrated, and the demands on which are extensive, a somewhat higher price is expected. At the same time there is nowhere a great or complete failure in the harvest, and no reason, we hope, to anticipate any great deficiency in the supply between this and the next harvest.

With reference to the destructive fire in the immediate vicinity of the Corn Market, we have received the following letter, calling attention to the propriety of now taking measures to enlarge the Corn Market. The Coal Market, without an increase of business corresponding to that of the Corn Market, has lately received an enlarged and an appropriate habitation. From a variety of causes, some of which are touched on by our correspondent, the business of our Corn Market has increased latterly more than any other market. There is a great probability that it will increase still more, and that London will become the principal corn market of Europe. It is time, therefore, that those who have the regulation of such matters in their hands—the halls in Mark lane are both, we believe, private property—should not allow London to be worse provided with a place for corn merchants to transact their business in than most of the large cities of Europe. We will, however, allow our correspondent to urge his own case:—

"Sir,—The papers of this morning give the particulars of a disastrous fire in the immediate vicinity of the Corn Exchange, in Mark lane, and much as the great sacrifice of property is to be regretted, I cannot but look upon the circumstance as affording an excellent opportunity for enlarging that building so as to meet the requirements of the trade.

"It is unnecessary with the readers of the ECONOMIST to enter into detail on the increase which has taken place of late years in the importation of grain; and it has long been apparent to the frequenters of the market that the present accommodation is insufficient for the extent of business carried on.

"Not only is the constant and rapid communication with all parts of the kingdom and the continent taken advantage of by many, to do in person what formerly was effected by correspondence, but the extended local trade has brought with it so great an addition in the way of buyers, sellers, agents, captains, shipbrokers and others, that much increased accommodation is required, and the opportunity now offered of supplying it by enlarging the market should not be allowed to escape.

"My desire to call attention to this subject without delay prevents me from ascertaining whether the power of making alterations lies with the Company or the Corporation of London. This however is of little moment, provided the matter be taken up with spirit and a determination to carry it through. I trust that this notice will induce other and more influential persons to advocate the project of securing some portion of the adjoining ground lately occupied by the buildings destroyed, for enlarging the present site of the market, and so afford the requisite facilities for this important branch of trade.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant, "A PROGRESSIONIST."

"London, Sept. 20, 1850."

The Produce Markets have all been active and firm this week. Most kinds of sugar have slightly advanced in prices.

Coffee of all kinds is from 1s to 2s dearer, with a brisk business. Good Native Ceylon to-day sold for 48s 6d.

In tea and rice there is no alteration to notice, but all the markets are healthy and satisfactory to the holders of stock.

The late arrivals from the West Indies bring, on the whole, favourable accounts, but there the inquiry for sugar was good, and the prices had slightly advanced.

The following summary of Havana and Porto Rico circulars we have received from Mr. Bade:—

Sir,—I enclose my last Havana circular, by which you will observe that sugars have advanced half a rial, which is 1s to 14d per cwt more than a month ago. Coffee.—The few sales made are mostly for consumption there, as hardly any stock is left.

Freights are tremendously low, as you will observe. I have letters from Messrs O'Hara, Cook, and Co., Ponce, Porto Rico, dated 27th August. They say shipments are nearly brought

to a close; only a few hundred hogsheads sugar remain to be made, and these will be taken for shipment to the North American market. The great deficiency in the New York and other United States markets—the former alone amounting to 26,000 hogsheads—has caused an active demand here, and parcels offering are readily taken at from 3½ to 4½ cents. Molasses are also high—14 dollars per 110 gallons.

The weather is more favourable for the growing canes, and it is generally expected that we will have an abundant crop next season. Exports to date, 23,036,567 lbs sugar; 1,205,913 gallons molasses; 1,286,782 lbs coffee. The prospects for the next coffee crop are excellent, particularly on this part of the island, and the quality will be very good; but as to the probable prices opening, it is quite impossible to form an idea at present. We think the expectations of planters must be great, on account of the high prices paid this year, and that they, therefore, will rather allow their stocks to accumulate at first than to submit to low prices.

The crop will probably commence at the end of November or beginning of December.

It is understood that the Atlantic from New York bringing news to the 7th inst., whose arrival was announced to-day, brings intelligence confirmatory of the last account that considerable damage had been done to the cotton crop. The intelligence by the Europa had the effect of provoking speculation in the Liverpool market, and raising the price ½d. The market here took the same course, in the early part of the week, being from ¾d to 1d dearer. To-day the market was dull, the news by the Atlantic having arrived in time to affect it, but if the accounts brought by the Europa should be confirmed, another advance is expected. Under such circumstances, the experiment about to be made in Jamaica to grow cotton there extensively is likely to have a fair trial.

By the arrivals from the States we are informed that the New Mexico Territorial Bill and the Texan Boundary Bill had passed the House of Representatives. The advocates of a higher tariff continue in a minority at Washington that seems to increase. A motion by Mr. Vandyke, to "modify the present revenue laws, and to increase the duty on foreign articles which come into competition with our own products, so as to give fair and reasonable protection," &c., "making the duty specific wherever practicable," was objected to, and an attempt to suspend the rules while the measure was discussed was rejected by a vote of 96 to 89. A subsequent resolution for reporting a bill "to make the duties on iron specific, and equal to *ad valorem*, at the time the tariff of 1846 became law," was also lost by a vote of 104 to 85. Congress is, for the season, drawing to a close, and has sadly defeated the hopes of those amongst us who expected from it a series of measures increasing protecting duties.

INDIGO.

The declarations for the October sales are proceeding, and now amount to about 15,200 chests, which include but about 1,500 chests Madras and Kurpah. The assortment of Bengal and similar sorts is exceedingly good. The whole of the trade being now busily engaged with going through the show of the new goods, the transactions in the indigo market during the present week have been limited to some trifling purchases for immediate wants at full previous prices.

The Overland Mail, bringing accounts from Calcutta to the 8th of August, has been telegraphed; the letters will come to hand very shortly.

MONTHLY STATEMENT

OF THE STOCKS AND SUPPLY OF SUGAR AND COFFEE IN THE SIX PRINCIPAL MARKETS OF EUROPE.

	COFFEE.			
	Sept. 1, 1847	1848	1849	1850
Holland*	579,000	816,000	660,000	635,000
Antwerp.....	73,000	164,000	75,000	120,000
Hamburg.....	100,000	130,000	250,000	140,000
Trieste.....	66,000	104,000	106,000	39,000
Havre.....	60,000	45,000	30,000	58,000
England.....	300,000	394,000	315,000	360,000
Total.....	1,178,000	1,653,000	1,436,000	1,352,000

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

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

	1847	1848	1849	1850
Jamaica, good to fine ord. ½ cwt	36 to 45	28 to 29	37 to 45	40 to 47
Ceylon, real ordinary.....	37 0	25 30	39 40	47 0
Brazil, good ordinary.....	32 0	26 27	37 38	43 44
St Domingo, good ordinary.....	31 0	27 28	37 38	43 44
In Holland—Java, gd. ord. ½ kil.	20 cts	17 cts	25½ to 26 cts	26 to 27 cts

The deficiency in the stocks of coffee, comparing the present returns with those of last year, appears larger in the above table than in the summary made up to the beginning of August; but, in comparison with the years 1847 and 1848 no change has taken place in the relative position. It should not be left unnoticed that in 1847 the first of the series of the Dutch Trading Society's autumn sales took place in the month of August; the coffee disposed of in those auctions, therefore, did not appear any more in the Dutch stocks made up in the beginning of September of that year, whilst in the three successive years the whole of the series of the autumn sales in Holland was held in September, and the effect of them upon the stocks was only perceptible in the summary of the beginning of October. The total imports in the chief entrepôts during the past month (August) did not exceed 199,000 cwt, against 408,000 cwt in August 1849; the deliveries of

last month amounted only to 145,000 cwt, against 294,000 cwt in August 1849.

The following review gives a detail of the imports and deliveries of coffee in Europe during the first eight months of this as well as last year:—

	1849 cwt	1850 cwt
Total stocks on the 1st of January.....	1,218,000	1,010,000
Total import during the first eight months (Jan. to Aug.):		
In Holland.....	812,000	520,000
Antwerp.....	230,000	170,000
Hamburg.....	530,000	450,000
Trieste.....	261,000	112,000
Havre.....	170,000	180,000
England.....	315,000	279,000
	2,318,000	1,711,000
Total stock on 1st Sept. as per table.....	3,536,000	2,721,000
Deliveries in eight months.....	2,100,000	1,369,000

It will be observed that both the imports and the deliveries of the first eight months of this year are greatly deficient, in comparison with the corresponding period of 1849, the former by 607,000 cwt, the latter by 731,000 cwt; these figures, however, are not altogether correct, since they include the indirect importations in the various ports, which can only be ascertained at the end of each year, when those quantities are always deducted from the totals.

The stocks in London on the 1st of September were as follows:—

	1849 cwt	1850 cwt
British West India and Ceylon, duty 4d per lb.....	186,000	240,000
Foreign sorts, duty 6d per lb.....	93,000	64,000
Total.....	279,000	304,000

The stock of foreign coffee has decreased since the beginning of August.

SUGAR.

Sept. 1,	1847		1848		1849		1850	
	cwts	cwts	cwts	cwts	cwts	cwts	cwts	cwts
Holland*	145,000	500,000	450,000	565,000				
Antwerp.....	73,000	60,000	205,000	96,000				
Hamburg.....	70,000	220,000	215,000	135,000				
Trieste.....	160,000	151,000	243,000	410,000				
Havre.....	90,000	130,000	85,000	12,000				
England.....	538,000	1,064,000	1,198,000	1,218,000				
Total.....	2,213,000	2,435,000	2,708,000	2,350,000				
Total in Gt. Britain of col. sugar.....	2,751,000	3,499,000	3,906,000	3,568,000				
Total Foreign Sugar.....	1,339,000	1,715,000	1,598,000	1,398,000				
Total Foreign Sugar.....	1,412,000	1,784,000	2,338,000	2,170,000				

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

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

	1847	1848	1849	1850
Musco., E. and W. India per cwt.....	25 to 0	24 to 0	25 to 0	25 to 0
Havana, white.....	28 31	25 39	30 38	27 33
— yellow and brown.....	22 27	16 21	18 23	19 25
Brazil, white.....	24 28	18 22	21 25	22 25
— yellow and brown.....	19 23	13 17	16 20	17 21
Java.....	18 32	14 23	17 26	17 27
Patent, crushed in bond.....	32 0	26 27	29 30	28 29

As usual at this time of the year, the imports of sugar were considerable during the past month, and the stocks, both in this country and the continental ports, show an increase since the beginning of August, which is but inconsiderable in British plantation, but amounts to 10 per cent in foreign sugar. A comparison with previous years, however, shows a different result. Against September 1849 the stocks of both at present exhibit a deficiency, whilst of foreign sugar alone the quantities were smaller in 1847 and 1848 than they are now, and of British plantation they were larger in 1848, but about equal to the present in 1847.

It appears that, considering the increased consumption of sugar in this country, the quantities of British plantation produce, at present in existence, are considerably below what they were at the corresponding period in the last three years. This circumstance sufficiently accounts for the increased demand which foreign sugars, as a necessary substitute, have lately met with in the English markets for home consumption. The "Board of Trade" returns for the first seven months state the quantity of foreign sugar taken for consumption in Great Britain to have been this year 382,261 cwt, against 191,738 cwt last year.

The present value of British plantation sugar is about 4 per cent higher than in the beginning of last month; that of foreign descriptions has risen in the same proportion. Compared with previous years, the prices of the produce of British colonies now differ but slightly from former quotations, whilst for foreign sugar was considerably higher in 1847, but lower in 1848 and 1849.

SALES OF COLONIAL WOOL.

The third series of colonial wool sales commenced on the 22nd ult, and have closed this day; the catalogues have contained

Sydney.....	20,520
Port Philip.....	16,150
Van Diemen's Land.....	4,993
Adelaide.....	1,331
Cape.....	5,732
Swan river.....	853
New Zealand.....	67
East India.....	50,216
Total.....	165
Total.....	50,381

These sales being the heaviest of the season, and the corre-

sponding series, in several preceding years, having proved the most favourable time to purchase freely, many buyers were in July induced to buy sparingly, hoping in this series to buy on easier terms, but the harvest having in a great measure been secured, and the crop ascertained to be an average one, the manufacturing districts also continuing highly prosperous, and the consumption of wool being very large, the idea of buying cheaper was quite dispelled before the sales opened; it was not surprising, therefore, that the attendance was very numerous, and the opening prices full as high as at Midsummer; after the first few days it was clear that there was an advance of 1d to 1½d per lb upon most descriptions, and as the sales progressed there was a still further advance, especially upon Port Philip and Van Diemen's Land that contained middle quality of combing—the superior Port Philip combing we thought sold very little above last sales. Very spirited bidding has been maintained from first to last, and it is cheering to find in such a long series prices ruling highest at the close. The wool offered generally has been inferior to that in last sales.

Sydney wool was offered in the largest quantities, but the condition was as unfavourable as before noticed, and the advance upon this class has been less in proportion to that from other districts.

Port Philip was also brought forward in large proportions, of which there was a very good assortment, above an average quality ranging at prices from 19d to 21½d;—in this wool, however, which has gained general favour from good management, the burr begins to show itself more frequently.

Van Diemen's Land showed no change in condition, but owing to the very large consumption for the worsted trade, it experienced the greatest rise.

Cape wools were in fair supply, and a few better parcels brought good prices, but the bulk ruled much the same as at the last sales.

Adelaide, Swan River, and New Zealand were in good request, and each shared in the advance.

Scoured wools were much less abundant than at last sales, and not so well managed.

Lambs' wools were not quite so plentiful, and, the demand being good, they sold high, especially towards the close of the sales.

The arrivals since February sales have been 130,297 bales, and the quantity sold has been 121,106 bales, and even if we estimate the clip at 165,000 bales, we shall have left for the two ensuing sales only about 43,000 bales.—Bradbury and Cook's Circular.

COTTON.

[The information received by the last mail does not enable us to make up our statistics to a later date than those last published.—Ed. Econ.]

NEW YORK, Aug. 31.—The market has been dull since our last; holders are generally asking previous prices, but so far buyers appear indisposed to operate. The total receipts at all the shipping ports are 2,069,452 bales, against 2,705,416 to same date last year—a decrease this season of 635,964 bales. The total foreign export this year is 662,227 bales less than last, say 448,469 bales decrease to Great Britain, 82,187 decrease to France, 94,921 decrease to North of Europe, and 36,650 decrease to other foreign ports. The shipments from Southern to Northern ports are 5,509 bales less this season than last; and there is an increase in stock of 35,629 bales. The sales since our last are 2,400 bales—making a total for the week of 11,900 bales—we quote:

	Atlantic ports.		Gulf ports.	
	c.	c.	c.	c.
Inferior.....	11½ to 12		11½ to 12	
Low to good ordinary.....	12½ 12½		12½ 12½	
Low to good middling.....	12½ 13½		12½ 13½	
Middling fair to fair.....	13½ 13½		13½ 14	

LIVERPOOL MARKET, SEPT. 20.
PRICES CURRENT.

	1849—Same period					
	Ord.	Mid.	Fair.	Good Fair.	Good	Fine.
Upland.....	7½d	7½d	7½d	8½d	8½d	9d
New Orleans.....	7½d	7½d	8½d	8½d	9d	10
Pernambuco.....	8½d	8½d	8½d	8½d	9d	10
Egyptian.....	7½d	8½d	8½d	8½d	10	11½
Surat and Madras.....	5½d	5½d	5½d	5½d	6½d	6½d

IMPORTS, CONSUMPTION, EXPORTS, &c.

Whole Import, Jan. 1 to Sept. 21.	Consumption, Jan. 1 to Sept. 20.		Exports, Jan. 1 to Sept. 20.		Computed Stock, Sept. 20.	
	1850	1849	1850	1849	1850	1849
bales	bales	bales	bales	bales	bales	bales
1,193,151	1,530,634	1,033,130	1,112,670	184,550	164,620	453,500
						646,570

The cotton market, which was slightly hardening at the date of our last circular, assumed, early in the week, an excited aspect. Holders were much less disposed to supply the demand, whilst speculators and some trade buyers appeared anxious to increase their somewhat diminished stocks. A great change immediately took place in the market, and an advance was paid upon the lowest sales of last week of ½d to ¾d per lb. In the last few days less excitement has been apparent, but we have raised our quotations for the current qualities of American ½d per lb, and in fair ½d. Brazil has advanced ½d to ¾d per lb. Egyptians are in good demand, at last week's rates. East India are slightly advanced in price. The sales this day are 6,000 bales. The market firmly maintains the advance. Speculation this week, 22,510 American, 1,350 Brazil, 300 Egyptian, and 1,870 Surat. Export, 2,260 American, 2,420 Brazil, and 1,970 Surat. Vessels arrived and not reported: 6 from North America, and 1 from Egypt.

MARKETS OF THE MANUFACTURING DISTRICTS.

MANCHESTER, THURSDAY EVENING, SEPT. 19, 1850.

(From our own Correspondent.)

The accounts brought by the Europa of the occurrence of storms destructive to the cotton plant in certain parts of the United States, occasioned great excitement in Liverpool, with a considerable advance in prices. Our market caught the impulse on Tuesday, and spinners at once raised their quotations nearly 1d per lb for warps and cops, and 1d to 1d for bundles, of the medium and lower counts; while manufacturers required an addition of 1½d to 3d per piece. In yarns, a few considerable sales were made to merchants connected with Germany: but for home consumption no great deal was disposed of.

Since Tuesday, there has been less life in Liverpool, and we have lost some of our spirit also. The buyers of goods have not gone along with the movement; and the buyers of yarns have rather slackened in their transactions: however, the latter have cleared away some accumulations of stock; and in both departments of our market, the producers appear to have taken their stand, with increased firmness, upon a higher range of prices than what we had last week.

It is much to be regretted that so eager a start should have been made by the speculators in cotton. The effect is injurious to our trade. It was beyond question, that, after a postponement of purchases for four or five weeks—reducing, as was known to be the case, the supplies in the hands of our customers, particularly in Germany, to a degree which could hardly be carried any further—a demand would necessarily arise, especially for yarns, in a way quite natural, and calculated, therefore, to inspire confidence in any advance of price that might ensue. Unfortunately, we have received too great an impulse from another quarter, followed immediately by ill-conceived misgivings, and an evident tendency to subside. Still, however, the fact that there are no heavy stocks on hand, is a great support to this market.

BRADFORD, Sept. 19.—The supply of wool in the staplers' warehouses is a full average for this time of the year, and the spinners are generally in fair stock. Prices are ruling a shade higher than some weeks past, which causes less activity than we have reported of late. Noils and shorts are taken off the market as produced, without alteration in value. The demand for early delivery of yarns continues unabated, both for shipment and home consumption; but there is no increased disposition to enter into new contracts on the part of buyers for distant delivery. Prices are very firm, without probability of any change. The merchants are quite as numerous to-day as any previous market of this month, and the warehouses as clear of all kinds of piece goods, but fresh orders are only given to a limited extent. Prices are not remunerative to the manufacturer, as the recent advances upon labour, cotton, and worsted have been in greater proportion than the advance obtained upon manufactured goods.

LEEDS, Sept. 17.—The market has been quiet to-day; but on Saturday last, a fair business was transacted. Large deliveries are still being made to order, and business is good in the warehouses.

HUDDERSFIELD, Sept. 17.—We have had equally as good a market to-day as last week, though not quite so much has been done in the hall, although the demand has been brisker; but the wool market having advanced, the manufacturers are holding back for an advance, not knowing whether they can supply at the price. The trade of the week has been very good: several American buyers have been in town.

MACCLESFIELD, Sept. 17.—Our manufacturers continue more actively employed; the prospects of a better demand inducing them to produce more goods than they have latterly been doing. A good inquiry generally exists for thrown silks of useful descriptions, and a fair quantity has changed hands during the last week. There are also orders again in the market for the continent, which contribute to keep the mills at full work. In the raw silk-market there has been current business at full prices; some of the merchants are still looking for higher rates.

ROCHDALE, Sept. 16.—The manufacturers have had another brisk demand for flannels to-day, at prices much the same as those of the preceding week. For wool there has been a very limited demand, and the manufacturers prefer working up the stocks they have on hand which have been laid in at lower rates than they can purchase at present.

HALIFAX, Sept. 14.—There is no noticeable change in the worsted trade, either as regards demand or prices. Neither can we report any alteration in the state of the yarn-market. The spinners are fully employed, and the quotations continue firm. The sales of wool are moderate, and late rates are rather stiffly maintained.

CORN.

AMERICAN CORN AND FLOUR MARKETS.

NEW YORK, Aug. 31.—FLOUR AND MEAL.—There has been a good demand for most descriptions of flour since our last (except for the lowest grades) for home use, and some for fresh ground State for export; new, however, arrives freely, and as holders generally are willing sellers, the market is rather depressed, and our quotations, which we revise by the operations of yesterday, are for the most part rather lower—they represent the value of old. New may be quoted as follows:—Common State, 4 dol 56½c to 4 dol 62½c; straight State, from Western wheat, 4 dol 62½c to 4 dol 68½c; Ohio, 4 dol 62½c to 4 dol 75c; Michigan, 4 dol 68½c to 5 dol; and pure Genesee, 5 dol 37½c to 5 dol 50c. The sales of Canada reach 1,500 bbls at 4 dol 50c to 4 dol 62½c in bond for common to good. The sales besides were—Wednesday 7,000 bbls, Thursday 5,500, and yesterday 8,000. We quote sour 3 dol 62½c to 3 dol 87½c; superfine No. 2, 3 dol 75c to 3 dol 87½c; ordinary State, old, 4 dol 25c to 4 dol 31½c; common State, 4 dol 31½c to 4 dol 37½c; straight State (both fresh ground), 4 dol 37½c to 4 dol 43½c; favourite State, 4 dol 43½c to 4 dol 50c; mixed Ohio, Indiana, &c., 4 dol 25c to 4 dol 31½c; mixed Michigan, 4 dol 37½c to 4 dol 43½c; straight ditto and good Ohio 4 dol 43½c to 4 dol 50c.

CORN MEAL remains firm, with a good demand at previous rates; the sales are 400 bbls Jersey at 3 dol 12½c; 200 good State at 3 dol; 500 Brandywine, over 3 dol 25c; and 20 puncheons, 15 dol 50c, cash.

GRAIN.—New Southern and Genesee wheat comes forward freely, and prices gradually tend downward, with a heavy market, notwithstanding there is a steady fair demand for milling. Canada is nominally at 1 dol 4c to 1 dol 8c in bond, without sales. Of domestic the sales are 14,000 bushels new Genesee at 1 dol 6½c for inferior, and 1 dol 8c to 1 dol 13c for good to prime; 2,000 Ohio, 1 dol; and 7,500 red Southern, 1 dol to 1 dol 1c for good. Corn, with more plentiful supplies and a moderate demand for consumption only, has been depressed, and is a little lower; the sales are 80,000 bushels, closing at 61c to 62c for mixed Western, 62½c for yellow ditto, 59c to 61c for

damaged and heated, and 63c to 65c for round yellow, a lot being the higher rate yesterday, probably under peculiar circumstances.

CONTINENTAL CORN MARKETS.

ANTWERP, Sept. 18.—There is little or no alteration to note in the state of our market since last week, and prices are nominally 62 lbs old Louvain wheat 43s, 62 to 63 lbs new ditto 44s; 62 lbs white inland 44s 6d per qr, f.o.b.

ALTONA, Sept. 16.—Owing to the firmness exhibited by holders of grain, our market has been very quiet during the past week, and quotations must almost be considered nominal. 62 lbs Waren wheat is obtainable at 44s, 62 lbs new mark 42s 6d, 61 lbs Upland 39s 6d to 40s 6d per qr, f.o.b.

STETTIN, Sept. 16.—Supplies of all grain continue to come forward very sparingly, and previous prices have been fully maintained during the past week. We quote 62 lbs Pomeranian wheat 41s 6d, 62 lbs Uckermark 40s to 40s 6d, 61 lbs mixed Polish 40s, 61 lbs red Stettin 39s per qr, f.o.b.

ROSTOCK, Sept. 15.—Our market has been very scantily supplied since my last report, farmers being prevented from securing their crops owing to the badness of the weather. The new wheat, weighing 62 lbs, come to market as yet, fetched 42s per qr, f.o.b.

STRALSUND, Sept. 15.—In consequence of the unfavourable weather for harvest operations, by which the crops must be much damaged, supplies of all sorts of grain continue very short. I quote 61½ lbs wheat 40s to 41s per qr, f.o.b.

ANCLAM, Sept. 15.—Supplies of every description of grain come forward very sparingly as, in consequence of the very wet weather, our farmers have been prevented from housing their crops, and a great part are still in the fields, which must cause much injury thereto. The quality of the new wheat is very indifferent, and quote 62 lbs 41s per qr, f.o.b.

DANZIG, Sept. 14.—We had a quiet week till yesterday, when upwards of 500 lasts of wheat changed hands, at rising prices, viz, 63 lbs fine high mixed 45s 6d, 62 lbs high mixed 44s per qr, 61 lbs middling qualities are held for 40s per qr, f.o.b.

KONIGSBERG, Sept. 14.—Our market has been rather dull during the past week, and prices of wheat are looking down. Supplies of new grain come as yet very sparingly forward, and are likely to continue so for some time, farmers being engaged in field operations. I quote 130 lbs high mixed Volhynia wheat 40s, 130 lbs mixed 37s 6d to 38s, 130 lbs red 36s per qr, f.o.b.

LONDON MARKETS.

STATE OF THE CORN TRADE FOR THE WEEK.

MARK LANE, FRIDAY MORNING.

The moderate supply of English wheat at Mark Lane last Monday, met a brisk sale at an advance of fully 1s per qr; the quality continues various, but the condition was still improved by the dry bracing winds which have lasted now so long, and which have proved most favourable for the ingathering of the latter harvest. Foreign wheat was held with much firmness, and the moderate business transacted therein was at quite as much money; many holders will not accept the present prices, feeling confident that as soon as damp weather sets in, the demand will materially increase. The imports consisted of 4,466 qrs from Antwerp, 720 qrs from Archangel, 600 qrs from Bordeaux, 12 qrs from Cuxhaven, 1,690 qrs Dantzic, 1,018 qrs Dunkirk, 35 qrs from Ghent, 1955 qrs from Hamburg, 2,334 qrs from Rotterdam, 2,610 qrs from Stettin, 870 qrs from Stralsund, and 200 qrs from Wolgast, making a total of 18,220 qrs. The coastwise arrivals of flour were only 2,515 sacks, 56 sacks from Waterford, 4,745 sacks per the Eastern Counties Railway, and 6,975 sacks foreign, principally from France; the demand for this article is fast overtaking the supply at this port, from the continued dry weather checking the manufacture by water power, and prices have been well supported, fine sour American for admixture and strength being in good request. The supply of English barley was somewhat increased; that from Essex the quality was very coarse on the average, the best samples commanded former rates, and foreign for grinding purposes met a ready sale at rather more money; the imports were 4,857 qrs. A few parcels of new English oats arrived, and there were several bulks from Ireland, but no Scotch, whilst the imports of foreign were good, amounting to 25,894 qrs, the greatest bulk of the latter being from Russia; choice qualities were in many instances rather dearer, but those from Archangel remain stationary, with many buyers were the factors to give way 6d per qr: the best command 16s, and now and then a few are obtained at 3d per qr under this rate, if wanted out of the ship to prevent demurrage.

The imports at Liverpool on Tuesday were very large, consisting of 32,981 qrs wheat and 17,608 sacks, with 11,605 barrels flour; and, considering this extent of supply, the market was tolerably steady for wheat; in some instances, only ex-ship, a decline of 1d per 70 lbs was submitted to; average 40s 8d on 368 qrs. Flour was in fair request, and the late prices were supported.

There was a moderate delivery of wheat from the farmers at Hull, and prices were 1s per qr higher: average 42s 7d on 478 qrs. The demand for foreign wheat was good at 1s per qr more money.

There was a large show of wheat at Leeds; prime old was fully as dear, but new was rather cheaper: average 44s 4d on 333 qrs.

Ipswich market was 1s per qr dearer for all good-conditioned wheat, with a liberal supply: average 42s 11d on 1,459 qrs.

The first descriptions of wheat at Lynn commanded 1s per qr more money: average 40s 1d on 1,721 qrs.

A considerable supply of new wheat appeared at Lewes; trade was healthy, and 1s per qr higher rates were made: average 42s 7d on 274 qrs.

There were very limited fresh arrivals of English grain at Mark Lane on Wednesday, a few parcels of Irish oats of this year's growth, with a moderate import of wheat and barley, and a large quantity of foreign oats. Wheat was in steady request, and with no change in value. There was no alteration in the price of other articles.

The weekly averages were 42s 10d on 85,704 qrs wheat, 23s 9d on 2,985 qrs barley, 17s 4d on 11,411 qrs oats, 26s 10d on 657 qrs rye, 29s 7d on 2,666 qrs beans, and 28s 9d on 856 qrs peas.



The Scotch markets have been pretty firm during the week, and prices of good wheat, both at Edinburgh and Glasgow, were 1s per qr higher. Other articles, too, were dearer.

Birmingham market was largely supplied with wheat, trade for which was slow, but former rates made: average 42s 7d on 2,031 qrs.

There was a limited quantity of English wheat at Bristol, and farmers decline selling unless at full prices: average 41s 6d on 968 qrs.

A considerable delivery took place at Newbury, and the demand for wheat was slow, because the sellers were firm in their prices: average 45s 4d on 821 qrs.

Uxbridge market was well supplied with wheat, and there was no briskness in sales, although, in many instances, a decline of 1s per qr was submitted to: average 47s 6d on 984 qrs.

The supplies at Mark-lane on Friday were very limited of English grain, fair of foreign wheat and barley, and good of oats from Russia. The weather having changed to wet, old wheat was in moderate request, and full prices were obtained for most sorts. Barley, beans, and peas were quite as dear, and in fair request. Oats brought Monday's currency, with a steady sale for good qualities.

Business was somewhat deranged by the great fire which occurred yesterday round the Corn Exchange.

The London averages announced this day were,—

	Qrs.	s	d
Wheat.....	3,485	46	11
Barley.....	138	27	8
Oats.....	39	19	8
Rye.....	24	28	1
Beans.....	131	28	8
Peas.....	306	32	1

Arrivals this Week.				
	Wheat.	Barley.	Malt.	Oats.
	Qrs.	Qrs.	Qrs.	Qrs.
English.....	2,990	530	1,150	60
Irish.....	..	..	..	1,300
Foreign.....	6,441	3,220	..	27,290
				1,070 sacks
				1,432 sacks
				... bris

PRICES CURRENT OF CORN, &c.

BRITISH AND IRISH.

	s	d	Per quarter.	s	d
Wheat...Essex, Kent, and Suffolk, red, new	38	43	Old	42	45
Do do white do	44	52	Do	45	48
Norfolk and Lincolnshire, red do	36	44	Do	32	47
Northumberland & Scotch do	..	..	Do	41	46
Rye...Old.....	26s	27s	New	26	28
Barley...Grinding.....	21	22	Distilling	24	25
Malt...Brown.....	44	46	Paleship	50	54
Beans...New large ticks	27	29	Harrow	29	30
Old do	40	31	Do	36	37
Peas...Grey.....	32	33	Maple	34	26
White, old.....	39	32	Boilers	32	35
Oats...Lincoln & Yorks feed	18	19	Short small	19	20
Scotch, Angus.....	21	22	Do	21	22
Irish, Cork, Waterford, and Yonghal, black	17	18	New.....	17	18
Do, Galway 16s 17s, Dublin & Wexford feed	18	19	Potato.....	19	20
Do, Limerick, Sligo, and Westport	19	20	Fine.....	20	21
Do, Newry, Dundalk, and Londonderry.....	18	19	Do.....	19	20
Flour...Irish, per sack 32s 33s, Norfolk, &c.....	31	32	Town.....	38	40
Tares...Old feeding.....	24	25	Winter.....	40	48

FOREIGN.

Wheat...Danzig, Königsberg, high mixed and white	46	50
Do do mixed and red	44	46
Pomeranian, Mecklenburg, marks, red	42	46
Silesian, white	40	44
Danish, Holstein, and Friesland, do.....	38	42
Do do do	36	40
Russian, hard.....	37s	38s
French, red	40	43
Canadian, red.....	42	44
Italian and Tuscan, do.....	42	44
Egyptian.....	26	27
Maize...Yellow.....	27	28
Barley...Grinding.....	21	23
Beans...Ticks.....	24	26
Peas...White.....	28	32
Oats...Dutch brew and thick.....	18	20
Russian feed.....	16	17
Danish, Mecklenburg, and Friesland feed.....	15	18
Flour...Danzig, per barrel 22s 23s, American.....	23	25
Tares...Large Gore 28s 30s, old 22s 24s, new.....	22	24

SEEDS.

Linseed...Per qr crushing, Baltic 41s 45s, Odessa	44s	45s	Sowing	52	50	
Rapeseed...Per last do foreign 24s 25s, English	34s	25s	Fine new	26s	27s	
Hempseed...Per qr large	35	36	Small	30	32	
Canaryseed...Per qr 55s 63s. Carraway per cwt	30	33	Trefoil	14	20	
Mustardseed...Per bushel, brown	8	10	White	6	7	
Cloverseed...Per cwt English white new	26	48	Red	24	48	
Foreign do.....	26	48	Do	24	44	
Trefoil...English do.....	15	18	Choice	19	20	
Linseed cake, foreign...Per ton 61 15s to 71 5s, English per M	81	0s	to 81 10s			
Rape do.....	31	18s	to 41 0s, Do per ton	31	18s	to 41 0s

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL PRODUCE MARKETS.

TRANSACTIONS OF THE WEEK.

(For Report of This Day's Markets see "Postscript.")

MINING LANE, FRIDAY MORNING.

SUGAR.—The improved feeling noticed in this market for some weeks past has continued, a large business having been done at steadily advancing prices, and the trade show much confidence. Foreign has been very active since the unfavourable intelligence received from Cuba, and higher rates again paid. There is now a moderate supply of West India on show, which, combined with the high pretensions of importers, has somewhat checked business, and we quote an advance of 6d upon all kinds since last Friday. 160 casks Barbadoes sold by auction, and brought 39s 6d to 41s 6d for the good to fine lots; low middling to good middling, 37s to 39s; crystallised, 45s. Yesterday, 25 casks 30 brls crystallised Demerara brought high rates: extra fine, 53s; other kinds, 46s to 49s 6d per cwt. The deliveries in London last week were computed at 4,019 tons, making a decrease of 4,318 tons from 1st Jan. to present date. Stocks are much reduced, and in the aggregate show a comparative diminution of 9,233 tons.

Mauritius.—The sales at commencement of this week comprised 3,600 bags, but importers bought in freely above the market value, and about half that quantity sold at 6d advance, as follows:—Good to fine grocery, 39s 6d to 41s; low to fair, 35s 6d to 39s; low to middling refining kinds, 35s 6d to 36s 6d; low to

good brown, 28s to 35s per cwt. The deliveries last week were 8,003 bags 22 casks, or 505 tons, and the stock is 2,916 tons less than at the same date in 1849.

Bengal.—There has been a good demand, and the sales, consisting of 3,174 bags, went off at 6d advance on all kinds; about 2,000 bags were withdrawn. Good to fine white Benares brought 42s to 43s; low soft, 38s 6d to 39s; middling dingy to good soft yellow, 35s 6d to 39s; good yellow Mauritius kind, 35s 6d; fine strong dry grey, 40s to 41s; good grainy yellow Seebore kind, 41s to 42s per cwt.

Madras.—2,356 bags of the lower qualities offered on Tuesday were taken in rather above the market value; middling to good damp brown 30s to 32s; a few lots soft yellow, 32s to 33s per cwt.

Other East India.—5,325 bags Manilla offered this week were taken in at rather higher prices—viz., 37s 6d for low clayed, and good brown, 36s 6d, but since partly sold at 37s, and 3,000 bags unclayed at 29s 6d to 30s. About 350 tons Java sold, and has subsequently changed hands at a profit.

Foreign.—The transactions have been upon a very large scale this week, at advanced rates, and the unfavourable accounts from Cuba lead holders to expect a further improvement. Yesterday 528 casks Porto Rico met with ready buyers, at a rise of 6d: one board extra fine grocery bringing 45s; good to fine, 41s to 44s; low greyish to fair grocery, 37s to 40s 6d; heavy and brown, 37s to 38s. The principal sales by private treaty have been as follows:—Two or three cargoes of brown Bahia at 20s; 10,000 boxes yellow Havana at 22s to 25s, with some very fine duty paid, at 44s 6d to 45s, and 1,000 boxes white, of which we did not hear the prices yesterday.

Refined.—A steady business has been done this week at full prices, and the supply continues moderate. Brown lumps are selling at 49s 6d; titlers, 50s to 51s; good to fine, 51s 6d to 54s. Some Belgium loaves, offered by auction, were taken in at 51s to 52s. Wet lumps and pieces go off readily at the quotations. Treacle is in good demand, and prices show an improvement of 1s 6d from the lowest, sales making at 13s 6d up to 20s. The bonded refiners are asking 6d to 1s higher rates, but not much business doing in this market. Crushed is now quoted 29s to 30s; 10 lb loaves, 32s 6d to 33s. A further advance demanded in Holland has had the effect of checking sales for the American markets.

MOLASSES.—The demand is good, but few sales reported. Madras sold by auction at 12s to 12s 6d per cwt.

COFFEE.—The market continues in a very favourable position, a large business having been done at advancing prices, with an absence of the reckless speculation which prevailed at the commencement of the year. Native Ceylon has been rather quiet, sales making in the early part of the week at 46s 6d to 47s; but latterly 48s paid for good ordinary, with one parcel very superior, 48s 6d, establishing an advance of 1s, and the principal holders are unwilling to realise at these rates. Plantation kinds have met with an active demand from the trade, at a rise of 1s to 3s, while some of the better qualities went several shillings higher. 1,142 casks 1,800 bags in the public sales were all disposed of: good to fine marks brought 70s to 81s; middling to good middling, 57s 6d to 65s; fine ordinary to low middling, 53s to 57s; ordinary and ragged, 48s to 52s; pea berry, 55s to 63s; good do, 65s 6d to 68s. The deliveries keep steady. A parcel of 50 bales fair common ragged Mocha sold at 70s, but 92 bales 315 half bales greenish were withdrawn at 90s to 95s, being much above the market value. 183 half bales Mysore sold at higher prices—viz., 49s to 50s for fair good ordinary bold. 75 cases 277 bags Malabar sold at 49s to 50s 6d. A parcel Madras, in cases, went from 59s to 63s. Other kinds of East India have brought advanced rates. About 1,500 bags Java are reported sold by private treaty, at 48s to 50s. Foreign is firm, and a cargo of St Domingo has sold for a near port at 43s. 1,049 bags Costa Rica all found ready buyers at a further rise of 1s, from 49s to 50s for good to fine fine ordinary, with some low middling, 59s to 60s 6d per cwt.

COCOA.—The market is very firm, holders requiring higher rates. 48 bags Trinidad sold at 48s to 49s for fair to good red. 596 bags Grenada were chiefly taken in at above the previous value, a few lots only finding buyers; fine red, 47s to 48s; low grey to good red 42s to 47s. The consumption is steady. 218 bags fair red Bahia were taken in at 30s; other kinds of foreign are held for an advance.

TEA.—There has been very little business done in this market during the week, still importers have not shown any disposition to press sales, and prices remain without alteration. Common congou may yet be quoted at 11½d with buyers to some extent at 11d; other kinds have been almost neglected. On Wednesday public sales consisting of 8,053 packages went off flatly, only 1,100 finding buyers, as the trade were unwilling to pay the former value, but for the quantity sold no change in prices was quoted. The Overland Mail arrived yesterday, but no letters were delivered at the close of business.

RICE.—The transactions by private treaty have been of a very limited character at former rates. 1,500 bags pinky Madras in public sale brought 9s to 9s 6d for middling, with a few lots very low broken 8s 6d. 893 bags inferior and broken Java for export only sold from 9s to 11s. 741 bags Bengal of old import went at rather easier rates. The stock is much reduced, being 21,650 tons against 24,300 tons at same date last year. Cleaned Patna has been in demand for export.

PIMENTO.—Several parcels have sold privately at 6½d per lb, being a slight advance, and at which there appear to be further buyers. The stock in first hands continues large.

PEPPER.—Common kinds of black still meet with an inquiry, and have brought extreme rates. 1,768 bags Malabar were taken in, but since disposed of at 2½d for fair greyish heavy, being rather dearer; sea damaged went from 2½d to 2½d per lb. A very large delivery last week reduced the stock to 47,423 bags, against 50,600 bags in 1849.

OTHER SPICES.—The few sales made in nutmegs and mace have been at full prices; the latter is still rather scarce. Yesterday 107 barrels Jamaica ginger sold steadily from 41 to 81 10s; 1,023 pockets unscrapped Bengal of middling quality brought 17s to 17s 6d, being the previous value. There is no alteration in cloves. Cassia continues to bring very high rates.

SALTPETRE.—The market continues firm with a good demand, but only a moderate business done, as holders are unwilling to make sales unless at a further advance. Bengal is worth 26s 6d to 28s, according to r-fraction. 560 bags, refrac 5½ per cent, offered yesterday, were taken in at 27s 6d to 28s per cwt. The deliveries are good and the stock much reduced, being 3,900 tons, against 2,750 tons at same date last year.

NITRATE SODA is flat, and may be quoted at 13s 6d to 14s.

COCHINEAL.—No sales were held to yesterday, and the business done by private treaty has been limited at former rates. The stock is still rather large, consisting of 3,607 serons.

LAC DYE.—The market for this article presents a very firm appearance, but there has not been much business done. Stock on the 14th instant, 4,332 chests.

DRUGS, &c.—So few public sales have been held this week, that prices for nearly all articles remain without change. Camphor is flat and nominal at 87s 6d. A few parcels castor oil have brought full rates. East India gums are very firm, and in good demand. Gambier has been quiet since the large sales of last week, and 464 baskets were taken in at 12s. Some parcels Cutch

of old import brought 15s to 16s 6d. Safflower is in steady demand, 111 bales selling at former rates, from 6l 10s to 8l 10s per cwt for ordinary to good.

METALS.—The iron market has not undergone any material change, nearly all kinds being quiet. At commencement of the week a very large business was done in spelter on speculation at 16l, but holders requiring a further advance of 10s, the market has since been quiet. East Indian tin is firmer, and the market appears to have an upward tendency, Banca having sold at 80s per cwt. No alteration reported in British. Tin plates continue firm and in good demand. There are large buyers of copper at the quotations, which are now refused.

HEMP.—Sales to some extent have been made in new Petersburg clean at 30l 10s to 31l, and other kinds at proportionate rates. 827 bales of Manilla of middling quality were bought in at 33l. Jute is rather dull at present, but prices remain unaltered.

OILS.—Scarcely any change has occurred in prices this week. Southern is very firm. Pale seal remained nominal at 38l. Other kinds are quiet. The linseed market has been flat, and a few sales made at 32s 6d on the spot, being 3d easier than last week. The transactions in rape are rather limited at previous rates. Fine palm is quoted at 29s to 29s 6d. Cocoa nut has met with more inquiry.

LINSEED.—The seed market is very firm, business to some extent having been done in Archangel for export at 82s to 42s 6d. Black Sea is quoted at 46s to 47s. The cake trade is active, and higher prices paid, fine English being now worth 7l to 7l 10s. Marseilles have sold to arrive at 6l 10s per ton.

FLAX.—The market is still inactive.

TALLOW.—The demand has been active both from the trade and speculators, and the market must be quoted 6d higher. Fine new Y. C. on the spot is worth 39s to 39s 3d; old, from 38s 3d to 38s 6d. 39s paid for arrival in the last three months of the year, being an advance of 6d. Delivered during the past week, 2,700 casks, leaving the stock on Monday 23,700, against 26,838 casks in 1849, and 14,318 casks in 1848 at same period.

POSTSCRIPT. FRIDAY EVENING.

SUGAR.—The market was firm to-day, and owing to the small quantity offered in the sales rather higher rates paid. 575 casks West India sold privately, and the week's transactions are 2,965 casks. Mauritius—3,508 bags were above half sold at 6d higher prices, the remainder being taken in at a further advance. Bengal—1,625 bags sold at the previous value to 6d advance. Some good damp grainy yellow brought 40s 6d to 41s for mid. to good yellow. Mauritius kind 37s to 38s 6d. Foreign—475 cases 6l barrels Bahia were all withdrawn, the holders requiring advanced rates. Refined was steady.

COFFEE.—About 2,500 bags native Ceylon sold privately at 48s to 49s 6d, being rather dearer. 190 casks 55 bags plantation went at full rates. One lot good Jamaica sold at 98s per cwt.

RICE.—631 bags Bengal only partly sold at 9s 6d for low broken white.

RUM.—The market has been quiet, but no change in price this week.

HEMP.—Of 345 bales Manilla, a few lots common sold at 31l to 31l 10s, remainder held at 33l to 33l 10s.

JUTE.—1,000 bales good taken in at 17l to 18l per ton.

DRUGS.—Some parcels low Cape gum sold at 18s 6d to 24s. 50 chests star aniseeds taken in at 75s. 73 tons Sapan sold rather cheap, from 9l to 12l for damaged and stained. 46 bales Bengal safflower were chi-fly taken in at high prices.

OILS.—50 tons sperm sold at 83l to 84l 5s for colonial. 655 casks, &c., cocoa nut were partly disposed of. Ceylon 29s 9d to 31s, Cochin 30s to 32s 3d per cwt.

TALLOW.—The sales went off with spirit at rather higher rates. 38 chests 249 boxes South American sold from 33s 3d to 38s; 602 casks Australian two-thirds sold, beef 35s to 37s 9d, sheep 32s 3d to 38s 9d.

ADDITIONAL NOTICES.

SUGAR.—The home market for refined sugar presents no new feature; an advance in raw sugar has not affected it. Prices continue much the same as last week. In the bonded, 10 lb loaves have fetched 33s, and 33s 6d is asked to-day. Crushed is held for higher prices, owing to the scarcity on hand. Dutch and Belgian crushed continue firm, with rather an improved tendency.

DRY FRUIT.—New currants much called for. No arrivals yet to report, and the market is last week. Six more cargoes of Valencia raisins have come to hand, and a quantity more on the way. Price 40s. Mogadore almonds have advanced, and still looking up.

Clearances of Dry Fruit for the week ending Sept. 9.

	Currents	Spanish Raisins	Smyrna Raisins	Figs	Almonds
	cwt	cwt	cwt	cwt	cwt
1850	2,159	5,168	156	21	878
1849	4,248	759	16	202	579
1848	1,243	2,605	113	57	445

GREEN FRUIT.—The warm weather is in favour of consumption. A parcel of grapes per Iberia steamer from Lisbon and sold by Keeling and Hunt at public sale, went at an improved figure, for any of fine quality. Lemons are becoming scarce and dearer, any of good condition are at an advance of 5s per box. New Malaga are daily expected. The crop of fresh nuts being plentiful will interfere with other kinds for a time. The arrivals of new Spanish may soon be looked for, the crop of which is reported favourable, although the price is likely to be higher than last season.

COLONIAL AND FOREIGN WOOL.—The public sales of colonial and other wools were brought to a close this evening—they began on the 22nd ultimo. They were well attended throughout, and the prices obtained show an advance over the July sales of about a penny per pound. The total quantity brought forward was 51,205, of which 50,392 were colonial.

COTTON.—The market opened heavily, but on the arrival of the American steamer on Monday, bringing unfavourable accounts of the crop, and a further rise there, a brisk demand prevailed, and a large business resulted, prices of Surat advancing fully 4d per lb. Since that period there has been less activity. Prices of Madras are unchanged. Yesterday, 500 bales Surat were offered at public sale, 300 of which were sold at 5½d to 5¾d; middling to middling fair being barely on a par with the previous transactions. 1,000 bales Surat are advertised for public sale on Thursday, 26th inst. Sales of cotton wool from the 13th to 19th inst. inclusive:—100 bales American, at 7½d middling to fair; 4,500 bales Surat, at 4½d to 6d, very ordinary to good fair; 130 bales Madras, at 5½d to 6½d, middling fair Western to good fair Timivily.

METALS.—With the exception of spelter, which has risen in price owing to

rather large speculative purchases having been made, remain nearly in the same state as last week. It is reported that as much as 1,200 tons spelter changed hands, and prices have risen as high as at our quotations. Scotch pig iron has also advanced 1s per ton. Copper, tin, and other metals without alteration.

FLAX AND HEMP.—Flax still the same quiet market; several auctions attempted but all bought in. Hemp—Very little passing this week and not any alteration in prices.

SEEDS.—Seeds of all descriptions in fair demand, without alteration of last week's prices.

TIMBER.—There is some life in the market for Russian deals and Baltic timber as the importation proceeds, the stocks being less than last year, and the import cost low. In battens there is some advance, from active demand and a short supply. Canadian spruce deals keep their rate and sales are effecting. For Canadian pine deals there is scarcely any demand, so weighty are the arrears on hand of preceding importations.

LEATHER AND HIDES.—We have again to report a good demand for leather generally at Leadenhall, but the quantity of fresh at market on Tuesday was far below that of the previous week.

ENSUING SALES IN LONDON.

TUESDAY, Sept. 24.—150 hds Barbadoes sugar. 10 chests East India indigo. 74 bales safflower. 400 baskets gambier.

WEDNESDAY, Sept. 25.—60 bags cochineal.

THURSDAY, Sept. 26.—569 bags La Guayra coffee. 680 bags Porto Rico do. 1,014 bales Surat cotton.

FRIDAY, Oct. 8.—15,298 chests East India indigo. 650 bags lac dye.

PROVISIONS.

We have considerable excitement in the Irish butter market. Cork butters have been sold at 81s for shipment to the coast, and some first-rate brands of Carlow are held for 82s. Limerick sold at 74s f.o.b., and with all this advance in prices, the consumption in town is principally on foreign and home produce. Fine Friesland is not brisk at 80s, and Dorset, 80s to 84s. The small stock and cargo delivering of Irish appears to be the sole cause of the advance. Of fine Irish bacon the supplies are yet small, and full prices are obtained.

Comparative Statement of Stocks and Deliveries.

	BUTTER.		BACON.	
	Stock.	Delivery.	Stock.	Deliveries.
1848	59,341	9,692	1,852	608
1849	55,918	11,494	1,320	772
1850	19,938	13,181	875	782
Arrivals for the Past Week.				
Irish butter			12,401	
Foreign do			6,623	
Bale Bacon			702	

NEWGATE AND LEADENHALL MARKETS.

MONDAY, Sept. 16.—Several arrivals of country killed meat have taken place up to these markets since this day sennight; whilst the supplies on offer slaughtered in the metropolis have been considerably on the increase. The general demand has ruled heavy, and prices have been with difficulty supported. Lamb is now quite out of season. Nearly 1,000 carcasses of foreign meat have been disposed of.

FRIDAY, Sept. 20.—These markets ruled excessively heavy, on the following terms:—

At per stone by the carcase.

	s	d	s	d		s	d	s	d
Inferior beef	2	0	2	2	Mutton, inferior	2	8	3	5
Middling ditto	2	4	2	6	— middling	3	4	3	6
Prime large	2	8	2	10	— prime	3	8	3	10
Prime small	3	0	3	2	Large pork	3	0	3	6
Veal	2	10	3	6	Small pork	3	6	4	0

SMITHFIELD CATTLE MARKET.

MONDAY, Sept. 16.—Notwithstanding the comparative inactivity in the demand here—the result of large supplies—the arrivals of stock from abroad continue on a very extensive scale; and, judging from the tenor of the advices which have reached us from Holland, there is every prospect of a further increase in them during the next two months. Large supplies of beasts, sheep, calves, and pigs are still on hand on the Continent, and the fact of the home-fed stock arriving here tolerably free from disease leads us to the conclusion, especially as food is plentiful and unusually cheap, that there is no reasonable prospect of any material improvement in present prices.

The following statement shows a total import of nearly 9,000 head, against much smaller numbers at corresponding periods. The items were—beasts, 1,572; sheep, 5,242; lambs, 65; calves, 408; pigs, 286. At the northern outports about 1,200 head of stock have been landed from Holland and Germany. From Ireland, direct by sea, 18 oxen and 35 cows have arrived for this market.

The numbers of foreign stock in to-day's market were again very extensive as to number, but very deficient in quality, if we except the calves.

With home-fed beasts we were again heavily supplied, and there was a slight improvement in their general condition. Notwithstanding that the attendance of both town and country buyers was extensive, the beef trade ruled excessively heavy, and last week's prices were with difficulty supported. The general top figure for beef was 3s 6d, but a few very superior Scots went at 3s 8d per lb. Nearly 500 beasts were driven away unsold.

From the northern grazing districts we received 2,800 shorthorns; from all other parts of England 450 Herefords, runts, Devons, &c; and from Scotland, 25 horned and polled Scots.

There was a decided increase in the numbers of sheep, and the English breeds continue to arrive of full average weight. In this description of stock a very moderate business was transacted, at barely late rates. The extreme value of the best old Downs was 4s per 8 lbs.

The supply of calves was good, while the veal trade is very inactive and barely stationary prices.

Prime small porkers moved off steadily at full prices; but large hogs were very dull in sale. Foreign pigs were selling at from 2s 2d to 2s 4d per 8 lbs.

SUPPLIES.

	Sept 15, 1848.	Sept 17, 1849.	Sept 16, 1850.
Beasts	4,708	4,232	4,629
Sheep	27,000	31,850	31,820
Calves	216	169	294
Pigs	413	210	280

FRIDAY, Sept. 20.—Our market to-day was somewhat extensively supplied with beasts of mostly inferior quality. The supplies of meat on offer in Newgate and Leadenhall being on the increase, the beef trade ruled excessively heavy, at almost nominal currencies. The number of English sheep was comparatively small, but those of foreign were extensive. All breeds met a very inactive inquiry, at prices barely equal to those obtained on Monday. The extreme value of the best old Downs was 4s per 8 lbs. Calves—the supply of which was good—moved off heavily, and in some instances, prices declined 2d per 8 lbs. Prime small porkers were held at fully last week's quotations. In

other pigs next to nothing was doing. Milch cows were selling at from 14/ 10s to 18/ each, including their small calf.

Per 100 lbs to sink the scale.

Inferior beasts	2 4to2 6	Inferior sheep	3 0to3 2
Second quality do	2 8 10	Second quality sheep	3 4 3 6
Prime large oxen	3 0 3 2	Coarse woolled do	3 8 3 10
Prime Scots, &c.	3 4 3 6	Southdown wether	3 10 4 0
Large coarse calves	2 10 3 4	Large hogs	3 2 3 6
Prime small do	3 6 3 8	Small porkers	3 8 4 0
Sucking Calves	18 0 24 0	Quarter old Pigs	16 0 22 0

Total supply at market:—Beasts, 1,100; sheep, 9,600; calves, 369; pigs, 300. Scotch supply:—Beasts, 30; sheep, 70. Foreign supply:—Beasts, 479; sheep, 3,020; calves, 200; pigs, 30.

BOROUGH HOP MARKET.

MONDAY, Sept. 16.—Arrivals of the new growth of hops continue to take place, though hitherto not to any great extent. Buyers are holding off in the expectation of lower prices; but as consumers are for the most part bare of stock, purchases cannot be much longer delayed. The prices at present ruling are as follows—as hardly any Mid or East Kent or Farnham hops have yet reached the market, we do not give quotations:—Weald of Kent pockets, 84s to 95s; Sussex do., 80s to 86s. Duty 210,000.

WORCESTER, Sept. 14.—The planters speak favourably to-day of the hops coming down, both as to weight and quality, and from the samples exhibited we should anticipate a very superior article will be produced. About 40 pockets of new hops have passed the scales, at prices varying from 78s to 88s. We expect a good supply at the fair on Thursday next, when prices will be more settled.

FRIDAY, Sept. 20.—Picking being now very general, large supplies of new hops have arrived this week, both from Sussex and Kent; hence the show of samples here to-day was extensive, and of excellent quality. Although a steady business is doing, prices are lower than last week, sales having taken place on the following terms:—Weald of Kent, 84s to 95s; Sussex, 80s to 86s per cwt. The duty is called 210,000. In yearling and old hops so little is doing that prices are nominal.

HAY MARKETS.—THURSDAY.

PORTMAN.—New meadow hay, 60s to 63s; old ditto, 76s to 76s; inferior ditto, 60s to 66s; old clover, 75s to 80s; inferior ditto, 60s to 65s; wheat straw, 26s to 31s at per load of 56 trusses.

SMITHFIELD.—Fine upland meadow and rye grass hay, 74s to 76s; inferior ditto, 48s to 60s; superior clover, 84s to 86s; inferior ditto, 60s to 70s; straw, 22s to 28s per load of 36 trusses.

WHITCROFT.—This market to-day was rather under than overstocked, at stationary prices, with a middling trade. Old meadow hay, from 70s to 80s; new ditto, 55s to 68s; old clover, 80s to 90s; new ditto, 60s to 78s; straw, 22s to 28s per load.

COAL MARKET.

MONDAY, Sept. 16.—Carr's West Hartley 16s—Chester Main 14s—Dean's Primrose 13s—East Adair's Main 13s—West Hartley 16s—Wylam 13s 6d—Eden Main 15s 3d—Lambton Primrose 15s 3d—Aberaman Merthyr 19s—Cowpen Hartley 16s—Hartley 15s 3d—Snapethorpe 14s 6d. Wall's-end: Acorn Close 15s 3d—Gosforth 15s—Hetton 14s 9d—Killingworth 14s 9d—Walker 15s—Wharfedale 15s—Belmont 15s 6d—Cresswell 15s 3d—Hetton 16s 6d—Haswell 16s 6d—Jonassohn 14s 9d—Kepier Grange 15s 9d—Lambton 16s—Russell's Hetton 16s—Stewart's 16s 3d—Caradoc 15s 6d—Hartlepool 16s 6d—Kelloe 15s 9d—South Kelloe 15s 6d—Thornley 15s 9d—Whitworth 13s 6d—Seymour Tees 14s 9d—South Durham 15s—Tees 16s 3d. Ships at market 69; sold, 54; unsold, 15.

WEDNESDAY, Sept. 18.—Dean's Primrose 13s—East Adair's Main 12s 9d—West Hartley 16s—Eden Main 15s 3d—Hartley 15s 3d—Howard's West Hartley Netherton 15s 6d. Wall's-end: Harton 15s—Lawson 14s 9d—Original Gibson 15s—Braddyl 16s—Hetton 14s 3d—Lambton 15s 9d—Russell's Hetton 15s 9d—Scarborough 15s 6d—Stewart's 16s 6d—Heugh Hall 15s 6d—Howden 15s 6d—Hartlepool 16s 3d—Kelloe 16s—South Hartlepool 15s 9d—South Kelloe 15s 6d—West Kelloe 15s—Whitworth 14s—South Durham 15s—Tees 16s 3d. Ships at market, 72; sold, 53; unsold, 19.

LIVERPOOL MARKETS.

WOOL. FRIDAY NIGHT.

(From our own Correspondent.)

The public sales in London are still progressing at much the same prices as when they opened. For what little we have offering here by private contract, there is a good demand at late rates.

CORN.

(From our own Correspondent.)

The grain market has been quiet during the past few days, and prices have remained without change. This morning there was only a moderate sale for wheat, for local consumption, and a few parcels were taken for Ireland, at prices scarcely varying from those paid on Tuesday. Old oats, flour, and meal, steady. No change in the value of new wheat or oats, but new oatmeal was rather cheaper. Indian corn sold slowly at prices barely equal to those of Tuesday.

FOREIGN MARKETS.

AMSTERDAM, Sept. 13.

COFFEE.—The last of the Dutch Trading Company's trading sales for this year was held at Middelburg the 11th inst. all what was offered found buyers at prices ranging from 27c to 33c.

SUGAR.—Raw—About 7,000 boxes Havana were sold by private contract at 27½ to 28½, and 500 baskets Java at 28½.

INDIGO.—A good demand prevails at somewhat higher prices.

COTTON.—Nothing of importance doing in the market.

SPICES.—RICE.—There was much animation for spices. Rice sells at a reduction.

SEEDS.—Rape stationary. Linseed found ready buyers for home use. Clover in good demand. Mustard—Brown at 17 for export. Canary—North Holland, 10½; fair Zealand, 10½. Carraway at 13½ to 14½ per 50 ko, for export to England.

CORN.—In Polish descriptions sales were made for home use and on speculative account. Barley sold at a reduction. Buckwheat considerably lower.

The Gazette.

Friday, Sept. 13.

PARTNERSHIPS DISSOLVED.

Morris and White, Dursley, grocers—Poppy and Howitt—Lupton and Bleasdale, Chipping, Lancashire, ironfounders; as far as regards T. Bleasdale—Elmslie and Preston, Moorgate street, attorneys at law—Sparrow and Co., Skinner street, Snow hill, tea merchants—Gurney and Williams, Great Charlotte street, Christchurch, Surrey, licensed victuallers—Perry and Brown, Symon's street, Chelsea, and elsewhere, carpenters—Nunn and Co., Waterloo road, Surrey, house agents—Brown and Newth, Jermyn street, St James's, outfitters—Fielden and Brothers, Bacup, Lancashire, cotton manufacturers; as far as regards John Fielden—Wareing and Ashworth, Chorley, Lancashire, common brewers—R. M. and N. Hutchison, Grand Junction terrace, Edgeware road—Williams and Dunn, brassfounders—Martin and Pigg, Newcastle upon Tyne, paper dealers—Redfern and Co., Cheetham, near Manchester, brickmakers—Dawbarn and Sons, Wisbeach, grocers; as far as regards W. Dawbarn—Dobson and Co., Liverpool, forwarding agents—Wrigley and Sons, Heap and Manchester, and Budge row, paper manufacturers—Bird and Adams, Cripplegate buildings boot, makers—National Fire and Life Insurance Company of Scotland; as far as regards G. Russell and W. L. Ewing.

DECLARATIONS OF DIVIDENDS.

J. Parker, Blackburn, grocer—second and final div of 9½d, on Tuesday, Oct. 15, or any subsequent Tuesday, at Mr Pott's, Manchester.

J. Clark and E. Dearden, Bury and Radcliffe, grocers—first div of 7d, on Tuesday, Oct. 15, or any subsequent Tuesday, at Mr Pott's Manchester.

W. Orrell, Manchester, gun manufacturer—first div of 1s 5½d, on Tuesday, Oct. 15, or any subsequent Tuesday, at Mr Pott's Manchester.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

G. Park, Kilmun, Argyleshire, fisher.

J. Macdonald, Glasgow, mason.

W. C. Gillan, Leith, banker.

W. Anderson, Carnwath, Lanarkshire, wright.

Tuesday, Sept. 17.

PARTNERSHIPS DISSOLVED.

Hennis, Brothers, Chiswell street, Finsbury, auctioneers—Parker and Son, Sheffield, horn merchants—Reay and Robinson, Liverpool, outlers—Wareing and Co., Stalybridge, Cheshire, cotton-spinners; as far as regards W. Wareing—Bramwell, Hughes, and Henderson, Heworth, Durham, manufacturers of prussiates on the patent air process—Soden, Hart, and Co., New Broad street, merchants—De La Salle and Christie, Cannon street, watchmakers—Dadds and Harriman, Blaydon, Durham, fire-brick manufacturers—Mackie and Son, Liverpool, merchants—Stewart and Cockburn, Liverpool, provision merchants—Johnson and Co., Aldermary churchyard, Watling street, merchants—Hunter and Co., Bangor, Carnarvonshire, printers—Williams, Putterill, and Parsons, Tottenham court road, curriers; as far as regards E. Williams—Cudbird and Moleworth, Norwich, sawyers—Griffiths, Jones, and Co., Wrexham, and Grawford, Denbighshire, and elsewhere, millers; as far as regards F. Robert—J. and H. Lord, Halifax, Yorkshire, dyers—Charlton and Son, Manchester, tent dealers—W. E. and R. Warneford, York, linendrapers; as far as regards R. Warneford—Davenport and Co., Birmingham, black ornament manufacturers—Gordon and Sons, Princes stairs, Rotherhithe, shipchandlers; as far as regards W. Gordon sen.—Houston and Son, Glasgow, manufacturers.

BANKRUPTS.

James Bensley Larke, Norwich, draper.

John Savill, St Neotts, Huntingdonshire, draper.

Abraham Solomon, Basinghall street, merchant.

Joseph Turner, Eastbourne, Sussex, draper.

Elias Marcus, Limehouse and Stepney, builder.

Edward Palfrey Simmons, Highgate, near Birmingham, commercial traveller.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

F. P. Denovan, jun., Grangemouth, shipbroker.

D. Clark, Elgin, merchant.

R. Hope, Edinburgh, baker.

W. Marshall, Edinburgh, artist.

A. Robinson, Dundee, salmon fisher.

Gazette of Last Night.

BANKRUPTS.

Richard Wilson Jewison and Edward Atkinson, linendrapers, Charlotte terrace, New cut, Lambeth.

George Walker, merchant, Philpot lane, City.

Henry Ward Farrer, wine merchant, Old Fish street, City.

Fredrick Vines and Thomas Kitelee, millers and cornfactors, East Greenwich.

James Bennett, builder, Chenies street, Tottenham court road.

William Pike, tobacconist, Reading, Berkshire.

William Huntley, licensed victualler, Hart street, Covent garden.

Samuel France, grocer and tea dealer, Bradford.

Benjamin Hopkinson Bates, merchant, Liverpool.

James Atkinson, victualler, Newcastle upon Tyne.

NEW CUSTOMS ORDER RELATIVE TO THE IMPORTATIONS OF RICE.—The revenue authorities having had under consideration a recommendation from a member of the board, who has recently made an inspection of the port of Liverpool, that casks of rice may be assessed for duty upon an average, to be ascertained by weighing one cask in ten of each entry or mark, and as it appears that casks of rice are generally so nearly equal or regular in weight that a fair average may be arrived at, and that bags of rice also be assessed for duty in a similar manner, the suggestion has been approved and directions given for the proper officers at Liverpool, into which port the importations of rice are principally made, to govern themselves in future accordingly, it being understood that a sufficient number of packages are to be opened and examined, in order to guard against the committal of fraud.

UNIONS OF LIBERTIES WITH COUNTIES.—By an Act of the late session (13th and 14th Victoria, cap. 105), facilities are given for the union of liberties with the counties in which they are situate. It seems that there are various liberties having separate commissions of the peace, and justices may, in General or Quarter Sessions, petition Her Majesty for a union to be made with the counties. There are 12 sections in the Act respecting the trial of prisoners, and the procedure to be observed after the union is effected.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENTS.—The people of Michigan find that the abolition of the death-penalty works well. They have tried it for several years, and in the Convention now assembled for revising the Constitution there was nearly a unanimous opinion in favour of the law as it stands, which has abolished the gallows.

COMMERCIAL TIMES Weekly Price Current.

The prices in the following list are carefully revised every Friday afternoon, by an eminent house in each department.

LONDON, FRIDAY EVENING. Add Five per cent to duties, except spirits, allow sugar, nutmegs, and timber.

Ashes duty free First sort Pot, US-p cwt 34s 6d 35s 0d Montreal 34 6 35 0

Cocoa duty B.P. 1d p lb. For 2d. Trinidad per cwt 42 0 52 0 Grenada 49 0 49 0

Coffee duty B.P. 4d p lb, For. 6d Jamaica, triage and ord, per cwt, bond 34 0 42 0

Leather, per lb Crop Hides 50 to 40 B 0 7 1 0 do 50 65 0 10 1 4

Metals-COPPER Sheathing, bolts, &c. B 0 9 0 0 Bottoms 0 10 0 0

IRON, per ton Bars, &c. British 5 17s 5 10c Nail rods 6 2s 6 5c

LEAD, p ton-Eng, pig 17 0 17 2s sheet 18 0 0 0 red lead 18 0 0 0

STEELE, Swedish, in kgs 14 0 0 0 in faggots 14 5 14 10c

SPELLER, for per ton 16 5 16 10c TIN duty B.P. 3s p cwt, For. 6s

Molasses duty B.P. 4s 2d, For. 5s 9d West India, d p, ser cwt 13 0 16 6c

Oils-Fish Seal, pale, p 25s gal d p 37 10 38 0 Yellow 34 10 35 0

Provisions Butter-Waterford new 72s 0d 76s 0d Carlow 76 0 80 0

Rice duty B.P. 6d p cwt, For. 1s Bengal, white, per cwt 10 0 12 6c

Sago duty 6d per cwt. Pearl, per cwt 19 0 26 0 Flour 17 0 18 0

Saltpetre Bengal p cwt 26 0 28 0 do do do 26 0 27 0

NITRATE OF SODA 13 9 14 0 Seeds Caraway, for. old, p cwt 28 0 32 0

SUGAR-REF. consid. hd s d Titlers, 20 to 28 lb 29 0 0 0

Lumps, 40 to 43 lb 28 0 0 0 Crushed No. 2 29 0 0 0

Dutch superior 30 0 0 0 No. 1 27 0 28 0

Belgian crushed, No. 1 28 0 0 0 No. 2 27 0 0 0

Pieces 25 0 27 0 Bastards 19 0 20 0

Treacle 11 6 13 6 Tallow Duty B.P. 1d, For. 1s 6d p cwt

N. Amer. melted, p cwt 37 0 37 6c St Petersburg, new YC 38 0 38 9

Tar-Stockholm, p bbl 16 9 17 0 Archangel 17 6 18 0

Tea duty 2s 1d per lb Congou, ord and comb 0 11s 0 11s

middling to good 1 0 1 2 fine to finest 1 3 1 7

Souchong, ord to fine 0 11 2 9 Caper 0 11 1 8

Pekoe, Flowery 1 6 4 0 Orange 0 11 1 9

Twankay, ord to fine 0 8 1 0 Hyson skin 0 8 1 0

Hyson, common 1 3 1 4 middling to fine 1 5 3 6

STATEMENT

Of comparative Imports, Exports, and Home Consumption of the following articles from Jan. 1 to Sept. 14, 1849-50, showing the stock on hand on Sept. 14 in each year.

For the Port of London. Of those articles duty free, the deliveries for exportation are included under the head Home Consumption.

East and West Indian Produce, &c.

	SUGAR.		Duty paid		Stock	
	1849	1850	1849	1850	1849	1850
British Plantation.						
West India	57,761	58,706	60,512	52,816	22,732	19,285
East India	30,644	30,699	35,463	31,413	12,234	13,639
Mauritius	23,784	25,358	26,261	24,452	9,302	6,122
Foreign	...	...	13,160	20,662	...	...
	112,189	111,103	135,396	129,348	44,258	39,046
Foreign Sugar.			Exported			
Cheribon, Siam, & Manilla	1,782	9,382	2,475	1,923	1,644	8,622
Havana	25,293	13,848	7,165	10,893	26,047	15,354
Porto Rico	8,268	5,058	689	1,235	7,190	4,239
Brazil	12,915	8,914	6,284	4,104	8,335	10,616
	48,168	37,202	16,613	18,158	43,216	38,831

PRICE OF SUGARS.—The average prices of Brown or Muscovado Sugar, exclusive of the duties:—

From the British Possessions in America	26 4	per cwt.
— Mauritius	26 1 1/2	—
— East India	26 4	—
The average price of the two is	26 3 1/2	—

MOLASSES.

	Imported	Duty paid	Stock
West India	6,292	4,909	4,715
	6,844	4,909	6,903

RUM.

	Imported		Exported		Home Consump.		Stock	
	1849	1850	1849	1850	1849	1850	1849	1850
West India	1,564,785	1,171,980	807,300	775,670	849,285	946,530	2,039,400	1,486,620
East India	444,815	202,500	399,690	259,560	107,730	48,555	392,490	311,985
Foreign	80,820	73,890	24,210	79,650	900	225	133,920	122,940
	2,089,620	1,448,370	1,231,200	1,114,880	957,915	995,310	2,565,810	1,921,545

COCOA.—Cwts.

Br. Plant	16,023	11,132	405	471	13,259	14,789	9,808	7,688
Foreign	7,627	7,828	6,443	5,104	2,601	1,580	9,733	9,432
	23,650	18,960	6,848	5,575	15,860	16,369	19,541	17,120

COFFEE.—Cwts.

Br. Plant	7,402	12,682	1,210	870	15,038	8,744	13,222	12,668
Ceylon	197,726	173,843	34,613	19,662	156,557	143,230	186,002	210,842
Total BP.	205,128	186,525	35,823	20,492	171,595	151,974	199,224	223,510
Mocha	8,806	10,626	1,380	1,366	7,891	10,064	12,181	11,571
Foreign EI.	5,594	8,688	21,556	9,391	5,319	4,676	31,649	17,089
Malabar	...	276	...	...	156	114	132	291
St. Domingo	1,500	5,207	1,882	4,325	61	107	2,075	2,412
Hav. & P. Rio	30,508	2,473	29,046	2,257	489	435	8,332	4,852
Brazil	45,325	28,818	53,125	17,370	13,681	4,685	14,838	25,692
African	...	7	...	...	...	7	1	2
Total For.	55,733	55,090	106,989	34,709	27,597	20,692	69,208	61,909
Grand tot.	300,861	242,615	142,812	55,201	199,192	172,666	268,432	285,419

RICE.

British EI.	16,170	7,560	3,400	1,467	10,593	7,510	21,931	20,256
Foreign EI.	1,410	559	1,590	344	730	949	2,390	1,379
Total	17,580	8,119	4,990	1,811	11,223	8,459	24,321	21,635

PEPPER.

White	1,294	1,078	189	202	2,343	1,909	4,184	2,580
Black	21,362	37,816	17,784	17,596	22,722	19,058	50,601	47,423

NUTMEGS.

Do. Wild.	9	...	2	69	283	112	1,169	846
CAS. LIG.	8,217	12,532	7,322	9,827	729	1,037	203	2,555
CINNAMON.	5,069	6,685	4,317	4,932	760	599	2,750	3,434

PIMENTO.

bags	20,253	8,910	17,320	2,758	2,154	2,235	2,513	7,835
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Raw Materials, Dye Stuffs, &c.

COCHINEAL.	Serons	Serons	Serons	Serons	Serons	Serons	Serons	Serons
	6,996	9,990	...	...	9,233	10,294	2,653	3,607
LAC DYE.	cheats	cheats	cheats	cheats	cheats	cheats	cheats	cheats
	1,822	3,639	...	...	2,727	3,770	3,516	4,332
LOGWOOD.	tons	tons	tons	tons	tons	tons	tons	tons
	3,567	4,521	...	...	4,182	4,572	1,158	1,420
FUSTIC.	...	1,594	...	...	1,393	1,425	569	634

INDIGO.

East India.	cheats	cheats	cheats	cheats	cheats	cheats	cheats	cheats
	29,876	21,962	...	...	22,794	23,814	35,950	27,211
Spanish.	serons	serons	serons	serons	serons	serons	serons	serons
	1,570	2,268	...	...	2,159	1,944	480	712

SALTPETRE.

Nitrate of Potas.	tons	tons	tons	tons	tons	tons	tons	tons
	7,812	8,758	...	...	6,907	8,056	2,751	3,893
Nitrate of Soda.	...	2,292	...	...	3,382	2,425	2,614	2,917

COTTON.

American.	bags	bags	bags	bags	bags	bags	bags	bags
	2,611	3,117	...	...	2,887	3,124	264	334
Brazil.	...	307	...	...	526	176	190	105
East India.	...	9,683	...	...	29,554	54,363	21,829	26,953
Liverpl., all kinds.	1,513,072	1,183,172	162,170	177,890	1,056,460	998,900	647,670	484,410
Total.	1,925,673	1,216,375	162,170	177,890	1,129,427	1,056,504	669,533	511,8

The Railway Monitor.

CALLS FOR SEPTEMBER.

The following are the railway calls for September, so far as they have yet been advertised. In the corresponding month of last year the amount was £65,654. The total called this year amounts now to 9,617,096, against 16,654,215 in the corresponding period of 1849:—

	Date when due.	Amount per Share.		Number of Shares.	Total.
		Already paid.	Called.		
Cameron's Coalbrook, &c.	10	8 0 0	2 0 0	20,000	40,000
East Lancashire Rfhs	20	0 10 0	1 0 0	60,800	60,800
Edinburgh, Perth, and Dundee, 5/ preference.	9	...	1 5 0	20,200	25,250
Great Northern, undivided 2 1/2	30	24 0 0	1 0 0	197,466	197,466
Ditto halves, B.	30	11 10 0	1 0 0	...	197,466
Hartlepool, N.w. 20/	2	15 0 0	5 0 0	3,655	18,275
Kendal and Windermere, preference, 10/	2	5 0 0	1 0 0	5,000	5,000
Lancashire & Yorkshire, Rfhs	18	10 10 0	1 10 0	126,819	190,229
Malton & Driffield Junction	2	17 10 0	1 5 0	12,000	15,000
Monmouthshire, preference	30	...	5 0 0	not known	not known
Royston and Hitchin, Shepreth Extension	23	0 12 6	0 17 6	10,668	9,335
					561,355

EPITOME OF RAILWAY NEWS.

SOUTH EASTERN.—The report of the directors submitted at the half-yearly meeting on Thursday, stated that the receipts for the half-year ending the 31st of July have been 291,246, and the working expenses 103,973. The revenue account is charged in the present half-year with 19,294 to be added to the fund already laid aside for the renewal of engines, tenders, carriages, &c. The rates and Government duty amount to 25,084, the rent of the Greenwich, Canterbury, and Whitstable, and Reading, Guilford, and Reigate railways, to 37,916, which sums, in addition to the interest on the mortgage debt and guaranteed stock and a provision of 864 for bad debts, makes a total deduction from the gross earnings of 218,675, leaving a balance available for dividend of 113,478. The total increase in traffic on the main line for the last half-year, as compared with the corresponding half of 1849, is 15,557. The decrease of 4,486, in the receipts from passengers on the Greenwich branch, has evidently been occasioned by the abstraction of traffic from that line to the North Kent. There is an increase of 9,802 in the through traffic. The directors think the proprietors may safely anticipate a gradual and satisfactory increase of revenue from the goods traffic. The traffic at Folkestone, in merchandise from France, is increasing; the Customs duties received at that port, which were 4,008 in 1847, 8,218 in 1848, and 42,260 in 1849, amounted in the last six months to 41,316, which affords satisfactory evidence of the preference which the port of Folkestone will obtain when it can present equal facilities in all other respects, as well as the advantage of speedy delivery. The amount of the balance at the credit of profit and loss, 113,478, will allow of a dividend for the half-year at the rate of 3 per cent per annum on the consolidated stock of the company, after providing the guaranteed dividend at the rate of 4 per cent per annum on the preferential stock issued. The capital account shows that 9,206,012 had been received, and 9,245,029 expended, including 823,473, expended on lines in course of construction, leaving a balance of 39,017 against the company. The revenue account states that 291,246, had been received during the half-year ending the 31st July last, of which 193,824 was received on the main line, 11,186 on the Reading and Reigate line, 54,807 on the North Kent, and 23,750 on the Greenwich line. The expenses amounted to 148,352, including 15,205 for rates, taxes, and tolls, and 3,879 for Government duty, leaving a balance of 142,894. The receipts per mile per train amounted to 72,29d, and the expenses to 36,82d. The quantity of coke consumed per mile was 29,785b, and the cost 3,35d.

LONDON AND SOUTH WESTERN.—It appears that the revenue of this company has increased by 11,000 in the last ten weeks, and the shares have risen in the same period from 58 to 72. It is said that the new arrangements adopted this summer in the shape of increased accommodation and low fare excursions are answering well, and have been the means of greatly increasing the traffic to the attractive places to be reached by this line.

CALEDONIAN.—We understand that the statement of accounts to be submitted to the shareholders of the Caledonian Railway Company at the forthcoming meeting exhibits the position of the concern as being gloomy in the extreme. After charging revenue with interest on the floating debt of 450,000, and paying the Garnkirk guaranteed half-year's dividend of 6,550, the balance remaining is only 2,220, with which to meet the following guaranteed dividends for the half-year, viz.:—Clydesdale Junction, 13,500; Wishaw and Coltness, 12,600; Glasgow and Barrhead, 8,250; the 10/ premium stock, 26,061. Total, 60,414. The net revenue must consequently exceed, by upwards of 58,000, the past half-year's, before the ordinary shareholders can receive any dividend whatever on their invested capital of 2,400,000.—North British Mail

RAILWAY SHARE MARKET.

LONDON.

MONDAY, Sept. 16.—The railway share market was the scene of much activity to-day, and the prices of most English shares advanced. The leading transactions were in London and North-Western, Great Western, Midland, South-Eastern, Great Northern, &c. French shares showed a slight tendency to improvement, but nothing of moment took place in other foreign descriptions, and East Indians remain without change.

TUESDAY, Sept. 17.—The railway market opened at a further improvement this morning, and the transactions entered into gave firmness to prices, but a temporary cessation of purchases occurring just prior to the closing of business the immediate result was a reaction in value, even among the leading descriptions of shares.

WEDNESDAY, Sept. 18.—The railway market was quiet to-day, with lower quotations for the leading descriptions of shares. Sales, however, towards the close of business were not so freely made, and this produced late in the afternoon a beneficial influence among the operators.

THURSDAY, Sept. 19.—Railway shares have, on the average, been well maintained, and business continues to be transacted to some extent. Towards the close of the market, prices were firmer than they were about mid-day.

FRIDAY, Sept. 20.—Railway shares are again rather flat, and upon the recent advanced prices there is a reaction.

The Economist's Railway Share List.
The highest prices of the day are given.

No. of shares.	Amount of shares paid up.	Name of Company.	London.		No. of shares.	Amount of shares paid up.	Name of Company.	London.		No. of shares.	Amount of shares paid up.	Name of Company.	London.		
			M.	F.				M.	F.				M.	F.	
16600	50	Aberdeen	93		Stock 100	100	Lancashire and Yorkshire...	49	48½	52006	15½	13½	Shrewsbury & Birm., Class A	4½	4½
23200	8½	— Preference	7		19500	25	— ¼ Shares	10½		52000	9½	9½	— Class B	2½	2½
95000	20	Ambergate, Not. and Boston	1½	1½	126819	20	— Fifths	10½	15	19375	8	8	— New guaranteed.	3½	3½
10000	50	Berks and Hants Extension			43444	32	— Thirds, reg.	10½	94				Shrewsbury and Chester		
		(Great Western perpetual			105500	10	— New, guar. 6 per cent	12½	124	6000	20	20	(Nor. W. Min.)	9	
		5 per cent)			71656	20	— West Riding Union	4½	41	15000	10	10	— Halves	4½	
50000	20	Birmingham & Oxford Junction			18000	50	Leeds and Bradford	94	93	2500	20	23	— Oswestry	6½	
		calls duly paid, or			184000	50	Leeds & Thirsk	94	11	27600	10	1	— New	4½	
		with a guarantee			7411	20	— Prof. 8 per cent, No. 1.			17500	10	10	— 5 per cent preference	13	
		without a guarantee			2883	20	— No. 2			165000	20	6½	Shropshire Union	24	24
35000	20	Birmingham, Wolverhampton,			7645	20	— No. 3			20000	50	50	South Devon	9	
		and Dudley, calls duly			10000	12½	— Prof. Grs., 1848, 7 p. ct.	84		78750	15	25	— Preference	9	
		paid, or with a guarantee.			111900	Av	London and Blackwall	54	54	28000	32	30	South Staffordshire	44	44
		without a guarantee.			44252	9	London, Brighton, & S. Coast	89	84½	Stock	30	30	South Eastern (Dover)	19	19
55500	27½	Birmingham, Wolverhampton,					— Guaranteed 5 per cent,			42000	33½	33½	— No. 1		
		and Stour Valley			3219	50	late Croydon Thirds	11½		Stock	30	30	— No. 2		
12600	26	Boston, Stamford, and Birm.			1640	50	— Prof. Con. 5 p c	60	60	Stock	30	30	— No. 3		
Stock 100	100	Bristol and Exeter			43077	Av.	do. 1852.	60		Stock	10	10	— No. 4		
15000	33½	— Thirds			11136	20	— New, guaranteed 6 p. c.	138		36300	50	50	South Wales	21	21
45428	17½	Buckinghamshire			1136	20	— Preference or Priv.	24½		37500	20	15	South Yorkshire, Doncaster,		
Stock 50	50	— Caledonian			Stock 100	100	London and North Western	115	114½	14000	25	18½	and Goole	10	
74518	10	— Preference			168380	25	— New ½ Shares	19½	18½				Sheffield, Rotherham, and		
42000	50	Chester and Holyhead			65111	20	— Fifth Shares	144	144	26650	20	6	Goole (N. div.), gua. 5 p. c.	184	
31256	15	— Preference			70000	10	— 10¼ Shares M. & B. (c.)	34	34	12500	20	20	Taw Vale Extension		
18671	50	Dublin and Belfast Junction			Stock	100	London and South Western	72	71½	2186	50	50	Waterford and Kilkenny	3	1½
22800	25	East Anglian—L. and E.			45300	50	— New Shares	29	27½	2880	20	25	Wear Valley, 6 per ct. guar.		
		and L. and D.			6900	40	— New	22		50000	16	14			
10830	18	— E. and H.			120560	16½	— Thirds						Windsor, Staines, & South-		
34285	33	— E. and H., 6 per ct. pref.			34000	50	— New Scrip, 1848, pref.	74	74	30000	50	50	Western		
Stock 20	20	Eastern Counties			6000	20	Lowestoff, guar. 4 per cent.	15					Wilt, Somerset, and Wey-		
144000	6½	— Extension ½ per ct. No. 1			6000	20	— 6 per cent.						mouth	424	424
144000	6½	— Ditto, No. 2			82500	16	Manchester, Buxton, and			Stock 25	25	25	— York, Newcastle, & Berwick	164	164
57592	10	— New, guar. 6 per cent			Stock 100	100	Manchester, Sheffield, and			126000	25	20	— York & Newcastle Ext.	114	114
16097	50	— Northern and Eastern,			18000	25	Lincolnshire	164		189000	25	9	— G. N. E. Purchase or		
		5 per cent			10610	25	— ¼ Shares, No. 1.	8½		Stock 50	50	50	Preference	43	43
12200	12½	— ¼ Shares			41200	12½	— ¼ Shares, No. 2.			62950	25	10	— Preference	19	19
6156	50	— New			8700	10	— New, 16¼ preference.	8½	8½				York and North Midland	42	42
10900	25	Eastern Union, class A (late			43210	162½	Manchester and Lincoln						— Preference	8	7½
		E. U. shares)			Stock 100	100	Midland	40	39	44422	6½	6½	Foreign Railways.		
26600	25	— class B and C			77323	50	— New	124	124	75650	20	20	Anglo-Italian, late Italian &		
15000	20	— Scrip, guar. 6 per cent.			Stock 100	100	— Birmingham and Derby	20	19½	66000	20	20	and Austrian	13	
33433	25	East Lancashire			7539	50	— Consolidated Bristol and						Boulogne and Amiens	7½	8
34720	6½	— New ¼ Shares			9850	20	Birmingham	122	125	10000	20	174	Central of France (Orleans		
46140	6½	— 6 per cent Pr. ½ Shares			15000	20	— Erewash Valley, pref.			50000	20	20	and Viersen)	14½	14½
24000	25	East Lincolnshire			21000	5	— Guaranteed 5 per cent.	16		109000	5	5	Demerara		
Stock 50	50	Edinburgh and Glasgow			60000	50	— Guaranteed 5½ per cent.	44	44				Dutch Rhenish	3	
28125	25	— ¼ Shares			104532	5	— Northern Counties Union	63	63	85000	20	7	East Indian	96	94
19746	25	— ¼ Shares, A, deferred			168566	20	— Preference	5	5				Do do		
each 124	11½	— ¼ Shares, B, 6 per cent			30000	50	North Staffordshire	74	74				Great Indian Peninsula	58	
		guaranteed			14520	25	Oxford, Worcester, & Wolv.	84					Do do	10	
93668	12½	— 5 per cent preference			16720	12½	Preston and Wyre	414	414				Louvain a la Sambre		
6690	100	Great North of England			40000	20	— ¼ Shares (A.)	18					Luxembourg	1	
7500	40	— New			32000	64	Reading, Guildford, and Bel-	191	19				Namur and Liege	74	74
10000	30	— No. 307 Shares			10668	64	Royston and Hitchin	71	74				Northern of France	144	144
10000	15	— New			Stock 25	25	— Shepreth Extension	14	14				Orleans and Bordeaux	3	3
50000	50	Great Southern & West (L.)			12000	25	Scottish Central	124	124				All Paris and Rouen	32	
50000	61	— Eighth Shares			Stock 25	25	Scottish Midland						All Paris and Orleans	241	241
Stock 100	100	Great Western			10668	64							Paris & Strasburg Constituted	74	
69700	17	— New			10668	64							Rouen and Havre	106	106
8000	50	Hull & Selby			12000	25							Sambre and Meuse	24	24
8000	25	— ¼ Shares											Tours & Nantes Constituted	33	33
8000	124	— ¼ Shares											West Flanders	1	1
18000	50	Lancaster and Carlisle													
18000	16½	— New													

OFFICIAL RAILWAY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

Capital and Loan.	Amount expended per last Report.	Average cost per mile.	Dividend per cent. per annum on paid-up capital.				Name of Railway.	Week ending	RECEIPTS.					Miles open in
			1847	1848	1849	1850			Passengers, parcels, &c.	Merchandise, minerals, cattle, &c.	Total receipts.	Same week 1849	Traffic per mile per week	
			£	£	£	£								
1,574,666	1,366,713	25,000				Aberdeen	Sept. 7	£ 1014 0 0	£ 466 0 0	£ 1480 0 0	£ 589 20	72	31	
500,000	495,921	13,051				Belfast & Ballymena	14	417 11 9	168 8 8	586 0 5	423 15	373	373	
2,200,000	1,904,403	118,790	2½	5	5	Birkenhead, Lancash., & Chesb.	15	848 11 2	303 12 4	1152 3 4	873 72	16	16	
3,000,000	2,999,621	33,830	4½	4	3½	Bristol and Exeter	15	3918 19 4	1042 14 1	4961 13 5	58	854	854	
5,400,000	5,326,143	33,288	4	1½		Caledonian	1	355 0 0	3475 0 0	3831 0 0	665 4	160	154	
4,339,332	3,896,365	41,452				Chester and Holyhead	8	3156 0 0	466 0 0	3622 0 0	2272 38	944	80	
1,000,000	966,565	18,237	2½		1½	Dublin & Drogheda	12	901 9 2	142 2 5	1043 11 7	757 19	53	354	
267,000	442,000	55,223	7	7	7	Dublin & Kingstown	17			1068 6 8	785 136	74	74	
450,000	250,000	15,625				Dundee and Arbroath	15	267 6 1	135 17 10	403 3 11	25	16	16	
700,000	549,499	17,725	8	6½	1½	Dundee, Perth, & Aberdeen	14	333 6 11	302 16 0	635 3 8	594 21	31	31	
1,445,400	1,215,955	19,352				East Anglian	15			856 17 9	644 12	67½	63	
3,000,000	2,889,218	49,514	3	6	3½	Edinburgh & Glasgow	14			4362 14 11	4015 76	874	574	
2,750,000	2,371,335	33,400		2		Edinburgh, Perth, & Dundee	16	1714 2 10	992 13 11	2736 16 9	2419 38	71	71	
13,000,000	12,786,596	29,711	6	3½	1½	Eastern Counties & N. & E.	15	9259 10 5	4968 12 11	14228 3 4	14343 44	322	322	
2,440,300	3,368,249	44,280		1	1	East Lancashire	15	3000 17 10	1714 8 7	4715 6 5	3598 59	79	754	
2,416,333	2,098,638	23,091				Eastern Union	5	1591 0 10	899 19 6	2491 0 4	1636 26	95	78	
4,200,000	4,087,198	39,195	6½	3	1½	Glasgow, Kilmarnock, & Ayr	7			3390 6 6	3512 33	100	100	
866,666	866,462	30,155	3½	3	2½	Glasgow, Paisley, & Greenock	14	786 10 10	328 14 4	1112 5 2	1122 50	224	224	
8,200,000	6,329,963	38,160				Great Northern & East Lincolns.	7			5795 0 6	3221 26	219	126	
4,000,000	3,534,845	18,802												