

The Economist:

OR

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

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

No. 23.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1844.

PRICE 6^d.

NOTICE TO OUR READERS.

On and after next Saturday, the 10th instant, we shall publish an Early Edition in time for the morning mails, and a second edition at mid-day, as heretofore; and in order to give a full and good report of the proceedings in Parliament, and also an enlarged record of the news of the week, the size of the paper will be enlarged. Our Statistical matter and Commercial Treaties, instead of being published in separate supplements and double numbers, will be included (gratis) in the regular number of the paper.

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

DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS.

THE TWO LEADERS ON THE CORN LAWS.

Every day furnishes new evidences of the advantage which the free-trade party has over all others, inasmuch as it rests only on clear and well-defined principles, in which there can be no change or variance. So much of the debate on Thursday night in the House of Commons as referred to the corn laws exhibited this advantage in a strong light; and it appears likely that we shall be as much indebted to the leaders of the present government, and to Sir Robert Peel in particular, for exposing the fallacies and refuting the policy of the fixed duty to which Lord John Russell still adheres for revenue, as we have been to the Noble Lord and his late colleagues for their able exposure of the disastrous and ruinous consequences of the sliding scale. Lord John Russell raises just objections to the principle of protection for which a graduated scale of duties is avowedly maintained, and discovers in the practical operation of the present law consequences highly injurious to all classes. Sir Robert Peel with equal justice replies, that if protection as a principle be untenable, then the Noble Lord's proposal for a fixed duty, though avowedly maintained only for revenue, is also on the same score objectionable, inasmuch as it involves the principle of protection, unless he is prepared to tax equally home-grown corn with that which is imported from abroad. The Right Hon. Baronet said:—

"The noble lord might say I propose this fixed duty for the purposes of revenue, but if that duty be carried high, though intended by him for revenue merely, it operates in the same way as a graduated duty—it operates as a protection. (Hear, hear, hear.) If the noble lord intend it for revenue merely—if he think there is no claim on the part of the agricultural interest to protection in any shape whatever, then I retain my opinion that the noble lord will find it extremely difficult to resist the argument that if this duty be laid on foreign corn for the purpose of revenue only, and not for protection, why not apply it to corn of domestic produce? (Loud cries of 'hear, hear,' in which several of the free-trade members joined.) When the noble lord is defending his fixed duty on wheat, as a fixed duty imposed, not for protection, but for revenue, he will have the case of barley and of malt quoted against him (hear, hear), and would be told that with respect to other descriptions of corn, such as barley, we do raise a large revenue from our domestic produce, and that if you think it right to have a duty on wheat, not for protection, but for revenue, why not lay a tax on wheat ground at the mill, and not confine yourselves to taxes on the imports. (Loud cries of 'hear, hear,') Why not pursue, with respect to wheat, the course you have taken with respect to barley, and subject both foreign and home produce to equal duties—

provided you are sincere (hear, hear) in enforcing your duty, not on account of protection, but really mean to impose it on account of revenue. (Hear, hear.) And what would you say to the representatives to whom it is so invidious to receive protection? Would you say, 'I am exceedingly sorry to give you protection; it is a very invidious thing, and I think you have no right to it, but I am obliged to confer this unexpected benefit on you most reluctantly, because I mean to enforce my duty on foreign corn, not for protection, but for revenue.'"

While the Noble Lord and the Right Hon. Bart. object to each other's propositions, it is quite clear that no modification of which either is susceptible could remove those objections. The former sees that the same objectionable and vicious principle pervades the new sliding scale that made the old law the terror equally of merchant, fundholder, and Chancellor of the Exchequer; and that any modification of that system, though it might limit the evils, would not destroy the obnoxious principle on which it is based. The latter equally sees that all that he objects to in the above remarks, as applicable to the proposed duty of 8s. in 1841, would equally in principle apply to any reduced rate which the Noble Lord might think it safe in the changed circumstances of the country now to propose, whether it were a 5s. or a 3s. duty. The leader of the late Government takes the place of the free trader in all his objections to the present form of the law; the leader of the present Government occupies the free trader's place in opposition to the proposed substitute of a fixed duty; while both are agreed on one point, and one point only, that theoretically and abstractedly perfect free-trade principles are "absolutely true,"—that the only correct principle is to "buy in the cheapest and sell in the dearest markets." There is, then, no ground common to the two great political leaders, but that which the free-trade party has all along consistently occupied; there is no possible compromise between their measures, but that which would carry into practice, what they both declare to be true in theory.

We would shortly examine the reasons for which Lord John Russell declines to occupy the ground at present which not only he, but every other political leader, ultimately must occupy to give effect to his abstract principles. He said—

"Sir, there are three different schemes on this subject, each of which finds its advocates—one is the old scheme of protection to all articles which are the produce of the industry of this country, on the principle that all the produce of that industry, which is so valuable to the country, should be protected against foreign competition. That is the opinion of a numerous and powerful class. Another opinion is the direct reverse of this, namely, that there ought to be no laws of protection—that commerce ought to be perfectly free—that there should be no taxes, except for the sake of revenue, and that in imposing such taxation we must beware not to enforce any taxes by which the price of domestic industry shall be enhanced, while at the same time none of that increased price goes to the revenue. There is a third opinion, which the right honourable gentleman opposite nearly holds, and which is the opinion that I also nearly hold—that while the first opinion I have mentioned is totally erroneous, and while the second is in itself absolutely true, yet that in the present condition of this country, having to raise the interest upon a debt of 800 millions, and having to support the establishments of the state—having formerly laid on taxes upon various articles, some of which taxes are pressing upon one branch of industry, and some upon another—we must, in making a change from that which is erroneous to that which is sound and true, take care to make that change with great caution, and that we ought rather to look for such a competition as will insure a fair advantage to our own commerce than to go all at once to a system of total and entire freedom of trade. The corn law is founded on the principle of protection to native industry. All who defend the law, defend it on that ground. It is, therefore, a law which is left alone. It is repudiated in reference to all other productions of the country, and it can only be defended on a principle which you yourselves declare to be indefensible. That appears to me to be placing the agricultural classes at a disadvantage as compared with the rest of the community. If you would say, 'Let all interests be protected,' you would tie up corn in a faggot with the rest of the produce of the country, and enable it to resist the inroads that might be made upon it. Or, if you would say that, having made other articles free you would make corn free; or, that having imposed a tax of ten or twenty per cent. upon other articles, you would impose the same upon corn, you could defend your scheme upon the ground of having placed corn upon the same foundation as other articles. In the latter case you might say, 'Corn does give a certain amount of revenue, we are unable to dispense with it, and we have shown no favour to one article of produce more than to another;' but you say that with respect to all other articles of produce and trade you will adopt a moderate duty, but in that one article, in which a majority of the House of Lords and a majority of the House of Commons are deeply interested, you will have a duty of forty per cent., and that duty shifting and changing in a way which every commercial man declares to be irreconcilable with sound policy. (Cheers.)

Lord John believes in the opinion, "that commerce ought to be perfectly free, is in itself absolutely true; but in the present con-

dition of this country, having to raise the interest upon a debt of 800 millions, and having to support the establishments of the state," &c. &c., he objects "to go all at once to a system of total and entire free trade." Utterly repudiating and giving up as he does the principle of protection, we are to understand that he adheres to a duty only for the sake "of the interest upon a debt of 800 millions."

We cannot suppress our severe disappointment at finding a man of Lord John Russell's political standing, of acknowledged clearness of judgment, and of unquestionable sincerity and integrity, giving countenance to a fallacy which we had thought nearly exploded:—"Free trade—very good; but—THE DEBT:"—"total repeal,—unquestionably right and just; but—THE TAXES:"—"I am a free-trader in principle,—but how are our debts to be paid? how am I to start in a race with twenty pounds on my back?"—are expressions which we have not been surprised to see emanating from men at the recent agricultural meetings, who for the first time in their lives had begun to think on these subjects; but to find a statesman of long experience, a statesman who was in office from 1830 to 1841, a period peculiarly calculated to have enlightened and instructed him on this subject, giving his support to such notions, we must freely admit is a bitter disappointment.

It would appear that Lord John does not think the finances of this country safe without a corn duty; though his whole experience in public life should have taught him that when corn yielded most income the revenue was always in greatest danger, that when corn from its cheapness yielded no income, the revenue was ever in the safest and most prosperous state. When he came into office in 1831, the country was blessed with a large corn revenue, but distracted and shook to its very centre with distress and uncertainty: with lower prices of corn, the revenue, therefrom, disappeared, and just in proportion did general prosperity return: the years 1833, 1834, 1835, and 1836, yielded no corn revenue worth naming, but yet were marked by greater prosperity than any period before or since. In the face of these declining corn revenues, such was the general prosperous state of our finances, that he and his colleagues were able to remit duties to the amount of 6,236,828*l.* between 1831 and 1836, without in any way impairing the efficiency of the income, but, on the contrary, with the satisfaction of finding a larger actual net income, and a larger excess over the expenditure in the last year of that period than in any of the former ones, the whole income being 53,300,000*l.*, and the excess over the expenditure 2,075,000*l.*, although corn only yielded the sum of 8,500*l.*

In 1836 the Customs and Excise yielded 39,678,458*l.*, including 8,500*l.* from wheat. In 1837, and in each of the following years, the corn duties became large, and the whole income diminished. The following is a statement of the income from the customs and excise in each year from 1836 to 1842, distinguishing the portion of income derived from corn:—

	Corn Duties. £.	Other Duties. £.	Total Customs and Excise Duties. £.
1836	8,500	39,669,958	39,678,458
1837	583,271	36,842,486	37,425,757
1838	186,760	37,774,642	37,961,402
1839	1,098,779	37,137,405	38,236,184
1840	1,156,639	37,286,898	38,443,537
1841	568,351	37,855,982	38,424,333
1842	1,363,977	35,746,682	37,110,659

But the duties levied in the years 1840, 1841, and 1842, were at an increased rate of 5 per cent., which ought to be deducted from the income of those years to form an accurate comparison between them and the former years; and, further to complete the comparison, allowance should be made for the increase of population, at the rate of $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum. Thus, then, while a period in which corn gave no income, was marked by a flourishing revenue, and a remission of taxation, a return of higher prices and large corn revenue was accompanied by diminished and insufficient income, and by a necessity for the imposition of new taxes; and was finally the cause of the breaking up of that cabinet, of which Lord John Russell was a leading member.

We may be told that much of the mischief which we have described as being inseparable from corn duties derived under the late or the present law, is to be ascribed to the vicious operation of the sliding scale.

We do not deny that there are numerous and flagrant causes connected with the operation of that system of levying duties—sudden fluctuations of price—artificial and aggravated scarcity from suppressed supplies to affect the averages—derangement of currency, and shocks to private credit—all tending to create that general depression of commerce and industry, which is so detrimental to general revenue; which would not to the same extent be experienced under the operation of a low fixed duty; and that, therefore, a larger revenue might be derived from corn with much less pressure on our general resources, under the latter than the former principle of levying the duty. But this is all apart from the question at issue. It is contended that duty on corn is needful to ensure a sufficient revenue—that the maintenance of public credit makes it necessary: what we contend is, that the revenue, and consequently public credit, is more secure without a duty than with one; for in whatever form a duty can be levied, price must thereby be increased, and quantity restricted. Now, all experience proves that abundance and low price of the first

necessaries of life is an essential element in our national and industrial prosperity; and it is only because the accruing of corn revenue under the present law is an evidence of a high range of prices, that its amount forms so accurate an index of the general state of the country. Corn is the great raw material on which our industry is based, and it is impossible to say how much that industry may be restricted and crippled in its conflict in the open markets by starting with the obvious disadvantage of high-priced food; indeed there is not one argument which can be urged in favour of a duty on corn for the sake of revenue that cannot with equal policy and more humanity be urged in favour of subjecting wool, flax, silk, and other raw materials to the same rule; and the Noble Lord, to be consistent, must be prepared to retrace the steps taken by Huskisson, when he relieved our manufacturers from the high duties to which these several articles were subject.

With respect to the influence of cheap food on the general condition of the country, with which the security of the revenue must ever be closely blended, we cannot do better than conclude with the words of the noble lord himself in another part of his speech:—

"I have made some inquiries with respect to the effects produced in poor families, by the reduction of the price of bread this year, and I have been told that in some families it has occasioned a saving of a shilling every week in the consumption of the family; and if we multiply the numbers of families that must be in this condition, it will show an amount of some eight or ten millions saved, in the article of food; and can there be a ground for doubting that the application of the money thus saved to the acquisition of other objects which are the obvious produce of the bounty of Providence, goes far to account for the improvement that has taken place. (Cheers.)" *—The more said the better.*

CURRENCY, BULLION, AND THE CORN LAWS.

The effect which a sudden importation of corn has always had in turning the exchanges against us, draining the Bank of bullion, and deranging the currency, has long been remarked and well understood; but the opposite effect, produced by a sudden cessation of the imports of corn after they have continued for some years to a large amount, has been much overlooked and neglected. In an article last week we showed that the effect on the currency caused by an import of corn, was only felt in the first year of those cycles or periods when imports took place; and that this arose from the simple fact, that a sudden import of corn, or any other article, does not necessarily imply a sudden demand for our commodities in exchange, and that a balance on the existing transactions becomes due from us to the exporting countries; but that, if it be continued, the prices of commodities will be so accommodated, that increased imports will be paid by increased exports. We showed that while we imported about two millions of quarters of wheat in each year from 1839 to 1842, and one million in 1843, it was only in the first year that the action on the currency was felt; that in each successive year the exports of our goods increased and paid for the imports of the year; so that during those years, while trade throughout the world was in the most prostrate condition, while our exports to all other countries fell off 11,000,000*l.*, they increased to those countries from which we receive and through which we pay for our corn imports upwards of 5,000,000*l.*

The first effect of a drain of bullion is, no doubt, to raise the value of money, and relatively to lower the price of all other commodities, until the equilibrium of quantity and price is again restored; and thus, in 1839, we find that our exports to all places increased materially, and in the whole upwards of 3,000,000*l.* on the preceding year. This violent action, however, subsided in 1840 and 1841; but still our exports to the corn countries went on steadily increasing, and became greatest in 1842, when they had sunk nearly 6,000,000*l.* below the amount of 1839 to all countries. It is true that, compared with 1836 and 1838, the general range of prices in 1842 of the leading articles of manufacture was much lower, and that the same money value of exports in the latter year would have represented a much greater quantity of goods than in the former years; and, therefore, while the increase of exports in value since 1836 represents a sum of more than 5,000,000*l.*, or 50 per cent., the increase of quantity must represent a much larger proportion.

Up to the end of 1842, our imports of corn continued large and gradually increasing; and the demand for our goods for the continental countries conveniently paid for and balanced our transactions.

In this state of things, by the operation of our corn law, the import of wheat in 1843 was suddenly reduced by more than 1,600,000 quarters, while during that year our exports to those countries still materially increased on those even of 1842; during the preceding years we had created a regular and increasing market by taking their corn; and just as our sudden import in the first instance in 1839 was not instantly met by a demand for our goods, so our sudden comparative suspension of import in 1843 has not suddenly checked the existing trade. The consequence was, that during the whole of the last year the balance in favour of this country increased, the exchanges rose to a high rate, and a large import of bullion has been the consequence. Therefore, just as a sudden import of grain creates a drain of bullion, a sudden suspension of that import creates an inconvenient and unprofitable import of bullion; and as in the former case the tendency is to increase the price of money, diminish the price of

goods, and thus to force an increase of exports to re-establish the equilibrium, so in the latter case the effect is to reduce the price of money, to raise the price of other commodities, and thus to induce a great increase of imports; the former period being always distinguished by depression and panic—the latter by excitement and wild speculation, and both equally unsettling and endangering the regular course of business, and often leading to ruin and disappointment. Thus at both ends we find the most mischievous fluctuations occasioned by that arch disturber of all commercial calculations—the corn law.

These results have been experienced in every similar period since the corn laws were enacted.

The sudden large imports of corn in 1823, reduced the bullion in the Bank from 10,347,290*l.* on the 2nd of February in that year, to 6,335,020*l.* on the same day in 1829; but though the imports of corn continued very large during the four succeeding years, yet no further action on the currency took place; but when they were suddenly suspended in 1832, the amount of bullion rapidly increased from 5,293,000*l.* till it reached 10,905,000*l.* in October, 1833. Those who have the means of comparing the symptoms in business at that period with those of the present time, will find a marked similarity—a general extension of transactions, rise in prices, and increase of imports. We feel well assured that few sufficiently estimate the effects of the fluctuations of the price of corn, and, under the present laws, of the effects which those fluctuations produce on the currency and trade of the country, in the manner to which we have now alluded; and we cannot hope for a termination to these mischievous and sudden revolutions in the commerce of the country as long as the great and important trade in corn continues to be the mere shuttlecock of such a battledore as the sliding scale: and though we cannot deny that, with a low fixed duty, the action of the corn laws on the currency would be materially lessened, yet it will not be until we adopt perfect, free, and unrestricted trade, that either commercial relations, or monetary arrangements, can be based on permanent and sound principles.

ORIGIN AND HISTORY OF THE ANTI-CORN-LAW LEAGUE.

In the present number of the *Eclectic Review* there is a very admirable sketch of the rise and progress of the Anti-Corn-law League, written by the Rev. J. N. Massie, of Manchester. The able and eloquent writer, whose efforts on behalf of the abolition of all monopolies, and especially on behalf of the destruction of the corn law, drew down upon him the fiercest vituperation of the *Quarterly Review*, and other organs of monopolist public opinion, gives a very graphic sketch of the past and present state of the question. We have only room for the striking sketch of the origin and progress of the League:—

“The doom of the sliding scale was proclaimed by the Whig budget of 1841, and the new corn law of Sir R. Peel was a legislative *unsettlement* of the system, preparative, even if not designed, for the overthrow of the landlords' monopoly.

“The series of pungent and effective articles which appeared in the *Westminster Review*, had prepared a few in the metropolis for confederacy, and convinced them of the necessity of combined exertion. Colonel Thompson, the veteran leader and enlightened advocate of free trade, therefore succeeded in drawing around him an association of men willing to co-operate for the extinction of monopoly, in the year 1838. For a season they united in object and effort, and sustained the cause of free trade till other agitations and interests absorbed their energies or distracted their attention. Their zeal required greater stimulus, and their combination was inefficient for immediate success without the resources and enthusiasm of the multitude. Perhaps they were at too great a distance from the appliances and practical illustrations of trade, and from the intercourse of those who could personally sympathize in the justice of the claim, on account of the direct interest which the operation of monopoly gave them in the solution of the question.

“On the 18th of September, 1838, Dr Bowring, on his way to Blackburn, was entertained at Manchester. The gentlemen who rendered this honour to the present member for Bolton, did not anticipate the events naturally traceable to their act of hospitality. Between fifty and sixty friends of free trade assembled at the York hotel. The banquet was simple, but the object was grand. Archibald Prentice, Esq., editor of the *Manchester Times*, acted as chairman, and Mr P. Thompson as vice chairman. Dr Bowring's eloquent exposition of the principles of free trade and the calamitous effects of monopoly, especially in the food of the people, upon our foreign relations, was followed by the honest and generous appeals of Mr George Hatfield. The chairman, in proposing ‘the health and comfort of the *poor hand-loom weavers*, who had set the example of petitioning for the repeal of the corn laws,’ regretted that the *merchants and manufacturers* of Manchester should have been so long supine, under a system which threatened ultimate national degradation and bankruptcy. The chamber of commerce, confederated to watch over the trading interests, had been inert and seemingly indifferent, while the *hand-loom weavers*, who could not buy paper for their petition without assistance, had sent a petition for the repeal of the corn laws, bearing 22,000 signatures. These observations from Mr Prentice suggested to Mr J. Howie that, since they had no organized system for opposing monopoly, the company present should at once form themselves into an association. This proposition was so far realized that it was resolved that on the following Monday, the 24th of September, a meeting should be held to form a committee, who should make the preliminary arrangements for this object.

“On the day appointed, *seven gentlemen*, moving none of them in spheres of great influence, met to form the association. The organization which they proposed, and the principles which they recognized, have been perpetuated. They were the origin and the nucleus of the Anti-Corn-law League; and though the association, by a happy suggestion of Mr Cobden's afterwards entitled ‘*THE LEAGUE*,’ has been extended as a national institution, whose operations will affect the world of commerce, and revo-

lutionize the policy of imperial states, it is still the offspring of that day's counsel; and will continue to bring renown on the projectors. Their names are, therefore, deserving an enduring record, and a place in the annals of national free trade. The names of the *seven* were, Messrs E. Baxter, W. P. Cunningham, A. Dalziel, J. Howie, J. Leslie, A. Prentice, and P. Thompson. They have continued steadfast to their principles and the cause; and though others have stood more prominently forward in the struggle, none have more ingeniously rejoiced in the success of the work. For a season they found shyness and hesitation on the part of the wealthy and powerful. The manufacturers and merchants of Manchester seemed to expect that the *Chamber of Commerce* would take the lead. But being disappointed at this expectation, on Thursday the 4th of October, at a meeting of the friends of free trade, one hundred gentlemen avowed their conviction of the necessity of a new organization, and enrolled their names as members of the Anti-Corn-law Association. Next week a provisional committee was formed, and their names announced. In this list were included many who, by property, personal influence, and enlightened advocacy, have strenuously promoted the cause. Here were, J. Bright and E. Armitage, W. R. Callendar and George Hatfield, James Kerslaw and T. Potter, W. Rawson and George Wilson, C. J. S. Walker and J. B. Smith, and other men of equal zeal: but, as yet, Richard Cobden was absent from home, and therefore not entered in the association. *His time* soon arrived, and his willing services were rendered efficiently and with success.

“The chief anxiety of the committee was to confederate men of definite and steady principle, who should espouse the cause, not for the sake of party or display. Wealth was less sought for than integrity, and moral influence was more desired than rank or connexions. Though money was not the recommendation of the associate, yet it was employed as a subsidiary; a means to the end, and a test of sincerity. Each member subscribed five shillings; and the sum deposited with John Benjamin Smith, Esq., as the treasurer, was less than 30*l.*, when the association resolved to employ a lecturer. It was a bold and almost hazardous undertaking, in the judgment of some, who were so cautious as to hesitate to war with the dominant landlords. If the committee made a perilous adventure, much more did their lecturer, Mr Paulton, make a desperate experiment when he committed himself to the fearful odds, single-handed, to contend against the whole host of political antagonism, which his assault on the corn laws would excite and enlist against him.

“On Thursday, October 25th, 1838, he delivered a long, able, and eloquent lecture in the Corn Exchange, Manchester, to a crowded audience, J. B. Smith, Esq., in the chair; when great enthusiasm was created and evinced. Few public lecturers could so continuously sustain an intellectual effort in the highest style of argumentation and philosophical disquisition, as could Mr Paulton; while the intensity of interest excited in his audience was not permitted to subside throughout the lengthened and elaborate discussion, of even the driest statistics and arithmetical details. He delivered a second lecture a few days afterwards, along with the report of which, appeared an advertisement of an enlarged provisional committee, containing the name of Richard Cobden, Esq. To Manchester manufacturers, this name was a guarantee of increased efficiency. The spark kindled so auspiciously, began now to ignite the smouldering mass of discontent which domineering monopoly had produced throughout the country. Invitations poured in on Mr Paulton to visit the most populous towns; and while the organs of landlord oppression were assailing him with virulent abuse, and giving the alarm to their confederates, for his denunciations of their system of robbery, he was welcomed in Birmingham on the 26th and 28th of November, when he lectured in the Town hall to crowded and enthusiastic assemblies. Wolverhampton sympathized with Birmingham, and demonstrated the extensive interest taken by the industrial classes in this vital question. The association now began to contemplate a wider range of objects and operations. They proposed the formation of a fund for diffusing information, either by lectures or by pamphlets, and defraying the expense of petitioning—and above all, creating an organization to bring numbers together in such force, and with such energy of purpose, as to secure the great object—the complete freedom of trade, by the destruction, not only of the corn monopoly, but of all other monopolies which hang upon that monster grievance.

“December was rendered deeply interesting in Manchester, by the proceedings of this association. They issued, on the 8th, a spirit-stirring address, signed ‘J. B. Smith,’ which was sent to every part of the kingdom, accompanied by a circular recommending the establishment of similar associations. On the 13th, and again on the 20th, the chamber of commerce, by adjourned meetings, attracted public and intense attention to their discussion of the corn laws. The auditory was crowded, and the speakers were deeply pledged to give the subject their best consideration. The facts elicited in the speeches of the most intelligent merchants and manufacturers, made a powerful impression on the public, as well as the chamber, and diffused through the whole manufacturing and commercial community of the kingdom, the liveliest sensation. At an interval of a week, the discussions were protracted for five hours each; and then, solemnly and with unequivocal impression, the chamber decided by a majority of six to one to issue the declaration, ‘that *unless the corn laws be immediately abolished, the destruction of our manufactures is inevitable.*’ All shades of political opinion joined in this assertion; and farther, ‘that the great and peaceful principle of free trade on the broadest scale, is the only security for our manufacturing prosperity, and the welfare of every portion of the community.’ Messrs R. H. Greg, J. B. Smith, R. Cobden, W. Rawson, and Mr Dyer, were the most distinguished speakers, and produced such impressions during the debate, that afterwards they were specified as entitled to the thanks of their fellow townsmen for their valuable statements, and the ability with which they brought them forward.

“The *Manchester Times*, a willing and able coadjutor, was employed to report these proceedings, and sent to each of the ministers of the crown. It was resolved, that they should not be able to plead ignorance of what was doing, while the question submitted to their consideration was an alternative—the *ruin of our manufactures, or the repeal of the corn laws.* The year 1839 was ushered in with extended co-operation. Glasgow, with several other Scottish towns, was stirred up to demand justice. Leeds, Bradford, and Sheffield, were combined in efforts to obtain ‘a repeal of the starvation-creating and trade-ruining enactment.’ It was now found, that resources must be provided; and many believed and adopted Mr Cobden's recommendation, ‘that an investment of a part of their property might save the rest from confiscation.’ A meeting was held at the York hotel, Manchester, on the 10th January; nearly 2,000*l.* were subscribed in the room, after R. H. Greg and B. Smith, Esqrs., had urged petitions to parliament, and a prayer that they might bring evidence at the bar of the house as to the working of the laws. The chairman, Mr H. Hoole, asserted that he, as well as the people in his employment, were threatened with ruin by the operation of the corn laws; and others declared that their business was altogether unprofitable, through the influence of the landlord's monopoly. Liverpool had now begun to move in the same direction; and

the mayor of that borough convened a public meeting of the inhabitants, for the adoption of such measures as would promote the repeal of the corn laws.

"The Manchester Anti-Corn-law Association had resolved to convene their friends at a public dinner in the Corn Exchange, and nearly 800 persons assembled; many of them from distant towns, and also the most distinguished merchants, manufacturers, and traders of Manchester. Members of parliament for Leicester, Leeds, Westminster, the Tower Hamlets, Birmingham, Ludlow, Rochester, Clitheroe, Bolton, Wolverhampton, Bury, Stockport, and many of the municipal authorities from these and other towns, mingled in this demonstration against oppressive and unjust laws, which was made on the 22nd January, 1839. The speeches and sentiments then uttered, and the enthusiasm excited, were conducive to the progress of the cause; but the most significant circumstance was, that in a few days—before the 2nd of February—5,900*l.* were subscribed to the fund. On this occasion, the Earl of Durham avowed his convictions against the corn laws in unequivocal terms. 'I am convinced,' he wrote in a letter to the chairman, 'that the operation of the corn laws is as injurious to the agriculturist as to the manufacturer; and that their repeal would equally tend to the mutual advantage of both classes. I believe that any diminution in the price of corn would be more than counterbalanced by that increased consumption of all other articles of agricultural produce, which would be created by the extension of commercial enterprise; the fresh impulse that would be given to manufacturing industry; and the great additional employment which would be consequently afforded to the labouring classes.'

"In the month of February nearly three hundred delegates, representing almost all the large towns in the kingdom, met in London, preparatory to a motion of Mr Villiers, in the House of Commons. The various associations, when thus combined, were, for the first time, denominated 'THE LEAGUE;' a designation most significant of the union and determination with which they have pursued their object, and of the power which they have acquired in the state. The branches of this League, registered and numbered, have since acted in concert for the one object. The *Anti-Bread-Tax Circular* was now published, and more lecturers employed to carry forward the agitation. The means of the League were enlarged; but the demands on its resources were speedily to be extended. They, therefore, more distinctly specified their objects, and contemplated operations."

Such was the origin and progress of the Anti-Corn-law League—its end who shall foresee?

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Thursday, Feb. 1.

The doors of the House of Lords were opened at twelve o'clock for the admission of those who had tickets from the Lord Chamberlain. The body of the house was soon afterwards filled by peeresses and other ladies having the privilege of the *estrée*, who occupied all the back benches on both sides of the house. The Strangers' Gallery and the Gallery of the Members of the House of Commons were also occupied by ladies. Plumes were generally worn by the ladies, but there was not such a display of jewels as we have sometimes seen. The first peer who entered the house was the Earl of Shaftesbury. His lordship arrived shortly before one o'clock. The noble earl was almost immediately followed by the Duke of Wellington. His grace, who was dressed in a field marshal's uniform, and wore the riband of the Garter, appeared in excellent health and spirits. Lord Chief Justice Tindal, accompanied by Mr Baron Parke, Mr Baron Alderson, Mr Baron Gurney, Mr Justice Coleridge, Mr Baron Rolfe, Mr Justice Erskine, Mr Justice Maule, Mr Justice Wightman, and Mr Justice Cresswell, took their seats shortly after one o'clock. The Bishop of London arrived immediately after the judges. The side galleries were principally occupied by ladies. In that to the right of the throne, however, there were several illustrious foreigners, amongst whom we observed the late Regent of Spain, General Espartero, who appeared to take a deep interest in the proceedings. Among the earliest arrival of peers were, the Duke of Buccleuch, Lord Abinger, Lord Campbell, and the Marquis of Clanricarde. His Excellency the Count St Aulaire, the French ambassador, arrived at half-past one; he was followed by the Turkish ambassador, the splendour of whose costume attracted very general attention. The Austrian ambassador, the Prussian ambassador, the Russian ambassador, and the ministers of the other foreign powers, shortly afterwards entered the house, and took their places under the gallery on the right of the throne. The Lord Chancellor entered the house at twenty minutes before two. His lordship looked well, and walked firmly. He seemed to have recovered completely from the effects of his recent indisposition. At a quarter before two o'clock his Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge arrived. At two o'clock the firing of the park guns, and the flourish of trumpets, announced the arrival of her Majesty, and five minutes afterwards the Royal procession entered the house in the usual order, preceded by the heralds in their tabards; the Duke of Buccleuch bore the crown, and the Duke of Wellington the sword of state.

Her Majesty, who leant upon the arm of Prince Albert, looked extremely well. Her Majesty's train was borne by the Duchess of Buccleuch, the Mistress of the Robes, assisted by other ladies of the household. Her Majesty took her seat on the throne. The Duke of Wellington, bearing the sword of state, stood immediately on her Majesty's left hand. Prince Albert sat on her Majesty's left hand. His Royal Highness's chair was placed on the first step of the throne.

Her Majesty having desired all present to be seated, directed the Usher of the Black Rod to summon the House of Commons to the bar. The Speaker, attended by several members of the House of Commons, shortly afterwards made his appearance, when her Majesty, in a clear and distinct tone of voice, read the speech, which was handed to her by the Lord Chancellor with the usual ceremonies, as follows:—

My Lords and Gentlemen.—It affords me great satisfaction again to meet you in parliament, and to have the opportunity of profiting by your assistance and advice. I entertain a confident hope that the general peace so necessary for the happiness and prosperity of all nations will continue uninterrupted. My friendly relations with the King of the French, and the good understanding happily established between my government and that of his Majesty, with the continued assurances of the peaceful and

amicable dispositions of all princes and states, confirm me in this expectation. I have directed that the treaty which I have concluded with the Emperor of China shall be laid before you, and I rejoice to think that it will, in its results, prove highly advantageous to the trade of this country. Throughout the whole course of my negotiations with the government of China, I have uniformly disclaimed the wish for any exclusive advantages. It has been my desire that equal favour should be shown to the industry and commercial enterprise of all nations. The hostilities which took place during the past year in Scinde have led to the annexation of a considerable portion of that country to the British possessions in the East. In all the military operations, and especially in the battles of Meanee and Hyderabad, the constancy and valour of the troops, native and European, and the skill and gallantry of their distinguished commander, have been most conspicuous. I have directed that additional information, explanatory of the transactions in Scinde, shall be forthwith communicated to you.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons.—The estimates for the ensuing year will be immediately laid before you. They have been prepared with a strict regard to economy, and at the same time with a due consideration of those exigencies of the public service which are connected with the maintenance of our maritime strength, and the multiplied demands on the naval and military establishments from the various parts of a widely-extended empire.

My Lords and Gentlemen.—I congratulate you on the improved condition of several important branches of the trade and manufactures of the country. I trust that the increased demand for labour has relieved, in a corresponding degree, many classes of my faithful subjects from sufferings and privations, which at former periods I have had occasion to deplore. For several successive years the annual produce of the revenue fell short of the public expenditure. I confidently trust that in the present year the public income will be amply sufficient to defray the charges upon it. I feel assured that in considering all matters connected with the financial concerns of the country, you will bear in mind the evil consequences of accumulating debt during the time of peace, and that you will firmly resolve to uphold that public credit, the maintenance of which concerns equally the permanent interests and the honour and reputation of a great country. In the course of the present year the opportunity will occur of giving notice to the Bank of England on the subject of the revision of its charter. It may be advisable that during this session of parliament, and previously to the arrival of the period assigned for the giving of such notice, the state of the law with regard to the privileges of the Bank of England, and to other banking establishments, should be brought under your consideration. At the close of the last session of parliament, I declared to you my firm determination to maintain inviolate the Legislative Union between Great Britain and Ireland. I expressed, at the same time, my earnest desire to co-operate with parliament in the adoption of all such measures as might tend to improve the social condition of Ireland, and to develop the natural resources of that part of the United Kingdom. I am resolved to act in strict conformity with this declaration. I forbear from observations on events in Ireland, in respect to which proceedings are pending before the proper legal tribunal. My attention has been directed to the state of the law and practice with regard to the occupation of land in Ireland. I have deemed it advisable to institute extensive local inquiries into a subject of so much importance, and have appointed a commission with ample authority to conduct the requisite investigation. I recommend to your early consideration the enactments at present in force in Ireland, concerning the registration of voters for members of parliament. You will probably find that a revision of the law of registration, taken in conjunction with other causes at present in operation, would produce a material diminution of the number of county voters, and that it may be advisable on that account to consider the state of the law, with a view to an extension of the county franchise in Ireland. I commit to your deliberate consideration the various important questions of public policy which will necessarily come under your review, with full confidence in your loyalty and wisdom, and with an earnest prayer to Almighty God to direct and favour your efforts to promote the welfare of all classes of my people.

At the conclusion of the speech, the Speaker and members of the House of Commons withdrew, and her Majesty and her suite left the House in the same order in which they had entered it.

Their lordships' then adjourned during pleasure.

The interior of the house was fitted up in the same manner as it was at the time of the prorogation. Her Majesty's chair of state was raised upon a dais. On the right of her Majesty's chair was that of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, and on the left that of his Royal Highness Prince Albert. The dais and the steps leading to the throne were covered with a magnificent Turkey carpet.

Their lordships met again at a quarter to five. There was an unusually large attendance of peers. The Duke of Wellington, as usual, was early in his seat. Lord Melbourne entered at a few minutes after five; he appeared to be in excellent health. The Duke of Cambridge sat on the cross benches.

The Earl of Glasgow, the Marquis of Winchester, and Lord Suffolk, took the oaths and their seats.

The Duke of Wellington laid on the table a Bill for the Better Regulation of Vestries.

THE ADDRESS.—The LORD CHANCELLOR then read her Majesty's speech from the woolsack, it having been again read by the clerk, at the table.—Lord ELDOX rose to move the address to her Majesty. He said—Your lordships have been so habitually accustomed to extend your indulgence to those who, on such an occasion as the present, rise to address you, that I feel it to be superfluous on my part to request from you that which you always so kindly grant without its being required. My lords, while I sincerely condole with you on the prospect of your having to listen to me for a few minutes, and assure you that it is with great gratification I am enabled to rise to move an address in reply to such a gracious speech as that which her Majesty has made to you—my lords, it has been the fortune of those who have preceded me in former years, to rely on your kindness while they held out to you prospects which they trusted would be realized; they therefore could only speak in that manner in which that person must do, who was to ask a favour of those whom he is addressing. My lords, it is my better fortune, though by no merit of my own, that the address which I now lay before you is one containing nothing, at least scarcely anything, excepting matters of congratulation, both for the sovereign and the country—it is a peculiar piece of good fortune for those who were present on former occasions, to find the prophecies which they then made have been so amply realized. From the high character of your lordships' house, even if

any of those are now present who formerly expressed opinions contrary to the success of those measures, or who even opposed them while they were going through the house, even they will not now hesitate to join me in approving the prudence of the measures which they at the time doubted, and that we shall have the gratification of giving an unanimous vote, complimentary in every way, to the sovereign who receives it, and as gratifying to the nation as it can be to her Majesty. There is, indeed, one exception among these sources of gratification which I hold in my hand. Your lordships will all feel as sincerely as I do, that we are only doing credit to her Majesty's feelings when we say that this subject, though mentioned last in her Majesty's speech, must be one of the foremost as well as one of the deepest in her mind. It is, my lords, unquestionable that the subject of Ireland must be, to any person connected by local interest with that country or not, a subject causing the most sincere and anxious feeling, and the wish that the troubled waters which have so long caused confusion in that country should, if possible, delay the verdict. Your lordships need not fear that in alluding to this subject, I am going to trespass on the bounds so judiciously laid down by her Majesty, or that I am going to make any observations on those circumstances which are now under the consideration of the legal tribunals of that country; but there is another part of her Majesty's speech which bears on this subject. Her Majesty states that she has the greatest gratification in being able to persist in the same course she has hitherto done, because she feels it right, in endeavouring by every mode to secure that justice, and strict justice shall be done, to Ireland. Her Majesty promised that she would take every step to secure the peace and the prosperity of the people of that country, and to maintain, in full force, the Legislative Union which she found established. Her Majesty also directed every step to be taken by the present laws, administered by the present executive, for the preservation of order. Her Majesty had adhered to that declaration, and her promises had been amply redeemed, and those things which have been done contrary to law had been brought before the legal tribunals to be there decided. My lords, I am well aware that the result of those trials is a matter with which I have nothing at all to do. Whether those trials, or any others, may terminate in an acquittal, or in a conviction, I am sure your lordships will concur with me in the opinion, that we should support her Majesty in carrying out her intentions, and that if the present law of the land is inadequate to preserve the peace of that country—perfect as now is my confidence and reliance upon the present laws in this country to maintain the public peace, and to protect the liberty of the subject—I would, under present circumstances, feel no hesitation in supporting her Majesty's ministers or any noble lord, on either side of the house, in giving to her Majesty increased powers for the preservation of the peace and integrity of the empire. I am sure that every member of your lordships' house will concur in any measure which may be necessary for the happiness and prosperity of Ireland. His lordship, after alluding to the subject of registration of electors, and partly to church extension and education, then moved the address in the usual way.—Lord HILL briefly seconded this motion; but the question having been put from the chair, Lord NORMANBY took advantage of the mover's allusion to Ireland to rebuke his indiscretion, and to state very generally his own opinions upon the subjects suggested by the speech.—Lord BROUGHAM also could not restrain the expression of his satisfaction at an address consisting entirely of congratulations, and proceeded to recommend a policy of conciliation towards Ireland, and to approve the appointment of Lord Devon's commission, warning it, however, of the danger of any interference with the rights of property. The mention of France in the Royal speech elicited from him a warm eulogy upon M. Guizot, and a bitter denunciation of those who were endeavouring to excite and keep alive feelings of animosity between the two countries; and he concluded by a jocular remonstrance to the United States upon their want of public honesty.—The Marquis of CLANRICHIE would have been better pleased if the intended measures in reference to Ireland had been less vaguely described, and, without undervaluing the importance of the elective franchise, would have preferred some more direct means of improving the condition of the country. He denounced in strong terms the appointment of a commission to inquire into the relations of landlord and tenant, as if to the landlords were all the grievances of Ireland to be attributed.—Lord CAMPBELL complained that no mention had been made of any intended measures of legal reform, and, in reference to a recent occurrence in Dublin, suggested a bill for the better prevention of duelling.—The LORD CHANCELLOR briefly replied; and after a conversation, in which several peers took part, the address was agreed to without further debate.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Thursday, Feb. 1.

At half-past 6 o'clock the business of the House of Commons began, as is usual on the first day of the session, with the reading, by the Speaker, of the Queen's speech, as delivered in the House of Lords at an earlier hour of the afternoon. The address upon the speech was then moved by Lord CLYDE, who began by congratulating the house on the favourable character of most of the topics in the speech, especially on the friendly dispositions prevailing between the English and French governments, which he thought were in some measure connected with her Majesty's personal visit to Louis Philippe. He saw great cause for satisfaction, too, in the arrangements by which the commerce of China, closed, as in all former time, it had been, was now opened to the world. He extolled the bravery by which our troops in India, native as well as British, had achieved their great successes; and then passed on to the still more gratifying considerations derived from the improved condition of the manufacturing and commercial classes. Avoiding the questions raised by the state trials in Ireland, he expressed an anxious hope that all parties in that country would, by all the information and assistance in their power, advance the object of the commission for inquiring into the relations of landlord and tenant.—Mr CARDWELL seconded the address. He adverted with peculiar pleasure to the revival of domestic industry. That heart must be indeed insensible which, after the mournful facts of former years, could fail in gratitude for the late happy change in this respect, and for the many symptoms which now indicated the probability of continued welfare. He read returns from

different unions, recording a diminution of about one-half in the number of applications for relief, and reporting that employment was now general among the manufacturing classes, who were better clothed and fed, and whose whole appearance indicated a great improvement in their means and comforts. He expressed his wishes and his actual hopes for the improvement of trade in Ireland. Even the iron trade of England, depressed as it had been, was now giving tokens of revival. There could be no more unequivocal indication of general amelioration in the trade and business of the country than the increase of its internal intercourse, as evinced in the improved condition of railway property. He adverted with great satisfaction to the principles of open trade established in our treaty with China. He praised the policy pursued by the government at home with respect to the lately disturbed districts, and augured the best results from the judgment by which justice had been tempered with clemency. He then entered into some general anticipations of increased prosperity and glory for his country, grounding his hope for the future on the history of the past.—Mr HUME, while he admitted that some of the circumstances noticed by her Majesty were matters of satisfaction, objected to the practice of voting the address upon the speech from the throne without a day's interval for the previous consideration of it. With the prospect of peace he was especially pleased, and, above all, peace between England and France, whose mutual friendship appeared to him of the utmost importance for both. He availed himself of the paragraph in the speech respecting the treaty with China to enforce the expediency of free trade in general. He reserved himself on the subject of the war in India; but protested against being supposed to be satisfied with what was said about economy, which he regarded as the most important of the duties of parliament. He acknowledged that there had been an improvement in some important branches of our industry, but complained that the principles of free trade were not carried out as they should have been if ministers had meant to be consistent. The Anti-League meetings and the language used there fell next under his animadversion, in the course of which he expressed a friendly anxiety that the tenant-farmers should not be deluded by the landlords. He did not believe that ministers meant to give relief on the corn question, but he thought they ought to have dealt with it in the speech; at all events, they ought to speak out in this debate; unless they did so there would be a civil war between Leaguers and Anti-Leaguers. He believed it was as much the interest of the landlords as of all other classes to get rid of the corn laws, for their abolition would clear the land of a million of paupers. It was not a measure likely, as some supposed, to lower wages, for wages were already lower in England than in any other country of the world. Where else could you buy a knife and fork for three halfpence, or get a shirt made for threepence? If he believed that the abolition of the corn laws would lower wages, he would himself oppose it. He meant to move two amendments—one, introductory of a declaration about the corn laws; and the other relative to that passage in the speech which touched upon taxation. To reduce taxation was the true way to benefit the public creditors, of whose rights he professed himself the strenuous supporter. Ministers might talk about the late increase; but it was not a genuine increase—not an increase of revenue from increased consumption, but a sum obtained from an income tax, and from a tax on imported corn, with an addition for the money paid in by China. A great part of our expense arose from the military force kept up in Ireland, where the people were tranquil in everything but their language, and where no force at all would be necessary if justice were but done to that country.—Mr S. CRAWFORD had also an amendment to move. The purport of it was, that the house would feel it their duty to inquire into grievances before they voted supplies. He mentioned, as the foremost of these grievances, the state of the representation and of the suffrage. Another was the poor law; another was the excess of taxation.—Mr WARBURTON said, that when the house stopped supplies of old, the evil was small in comparison of what a similar stoppage would produce at this day. The crown of old had large revenues of its own; but at this day the revenues of the crown were nothing in comparison with the whole expenses of our establishments. The grievances of the country were now so many, that if the supplies were stopped till they were all redressed, the whole session would be gone before any supply were voted.—Mr WALLACE was all for stopping the supplies whenever there was a grievance.—Lord J. RUSSELL said that if the proposed amendment was meant as a mere declaration of the right of the majority of the house to stop supplies, such a declaration was unnecessary; and if he meant his amendment as an intimation that the supplies (which are not merely for the crown, but for the country) were to be stopped by an obstructive minority, to such a principle he must oppose a distinct resistance. With respect to what Mr Hume had suggested, about the want of opportunity to consider the topics of the address, the most convenient course, he believed, was that of modern days, which had been for the house to vote an address in general terms, reserving the separate topics for separate debates. On the subject of Ireland, particularly, it would be impossible to enter upon a discussion then without prejudging the pending trials. He would at present say only, that he was not willing to sanction the late measures of the government in that country. As to China, whose power was so much feared by gentlemen opposite some three years ago, he was glad to find it now made matter of congratulation that England had not, in the time of the late ministry, submitted to the injury and affront which the Chinese Emperor would have put upon this country and her merchants. He rejoiced in the present state of our relations with France, and that her foreign minister had reverted to the ancient policy of his country, the support of Turkey, from which for a while she had deviated. He trusted that the time would never recur when England and France should be in arms against each other. The revival of domestic employment was matter of much gratification to him. With respect to the corn laws, he did not regard the experience of last year as proving much in favour of any theory. There were three doctrines: the old one of protection; the new one, which was the direct reverse of it; and the intermediate one, which proceeded on the ground, that in a country circumstanced like this, a change in the corn laws should be gradual; but the defect of the ministerial plan was, that now, when other articles were freed, the corn law was left to stand alone under restriction; it had not the strength which might have belonged to it if it had been bound up in a faggot with all other produce, but was in an isolated, and, therefore, in a weak state. He ridiculed the complaints of those agriculturists who blamed Sir R. Peel, and expressed his opinion that it would have been inexpedient for the minister to pledge himself that he would adhere under all circumstances to his present law.—Sir R. PEEL, after a deserved compliment to the speeches of the mover and seconder, condemned the project of Mr Sharman Crawford, for stopping supplies by the act of an obstructive minority moving adjournments. That was a resource to be reserved only for extreme occasions. If it should be drawn into practice now, no future government, however popularly constituted, could carry on public affairs in the face of an opposing minority, however small. With respect to Mr Hume's objection to vote an address without a day's consideration, he should like to know how a

speech like this, containing twenty-three paragraphs could be fully digested in twenty-four hours? Mr Hume himself, however, had shown none of the diffidence which this request for time might seem to imply, for he had boldly laid down the law, and called on the house to pledge itself, on the spot, as to several of the most important points of the speech. The best course, he believed, was the modern one, of preparing such a speech as was not likely to occasion controversy. He was so well content with Lord John Russell's acquiescence in the general tenor of the address, that he could quite forgive those small taunts in which the noble lord had indulged. He had the highest satisfaction in adverting to the subject of England's connexion with France; it was no connexion bound up by secret articles, or tending to the injury of any other states; but it was an amity founded on the well understood interests of each; and it would not be valuable or permanent if purchased by any undue advantages on either side. A disagreement between them would influence not only every country of Europe, but also, from their western position, the great country beyond the Atlantic. He illustrated the benefit of a good understanding between them by reference to the present circumstances of Greece. The great body of the people in both countries desired each other's friendship; and when France was so highly estimated, and her glory so unequivocally admitted by England, she had no occasion to go to war for the sake of acquiring a reputation. From the Irish questions he felt it his duty, for the present, altogether to abstain. Now as to the corn laws. He had certainly said, as Mr Hume had intimated, that the late ministry, who proposed a change in those laws, ought to have introduced the subject in the Queen's speech. The present ministers had not introduced the subject in the speech, precisely because they did not propose to change those laws. He believed that a change of them would, if carried next month, in a country circumstanced like this, be productive of the utmost confusion and distress. He retained his own opinion in favour of the graduated duty against the fixed duty. Lord John Russell admitted taxation upon corn for revenue, though not for protection. But then, if you were to tax wheat for revenue, why would you not tax it even when grown at home, as in the case of malt? He had undoubtedly said that he would not pledge himself, under all possible circumstances, to adhere precisely to the existing law; but he had said so because he deemed such a pledge unbecoming a minister, and not because he wanted to reserve an escape for the government. He would not have thought it fitting to purchase support by a pledge of that kind; but he had no difficulty in saying that the ministers had not contemplated, and did not now contemplate, any change in the existing law. In the fifty-four last years there had been only seven in which the price of corn was lower than at present—there had been forty-seven in which it had been higher. On the subject of domestic industry, he had ventured to state, last year, that there were then indications of revival, and at that time he had been scouted for saying so; now, happily, the fact was too clear to be denied. In this respect, then, and in respect of revenue, ministers now met in parliament under circumstances of amelioration; and our relations with foreign countries being also in a satisfactory state, the government, on the whole, might fairly take credit for having mainly fulfilled the expectations which it had held out.—Lord PALMERSTON was gratified by the improvement of domestic industry and revenue; but it might be doubted, he thought, whether those results would not have arrived earlier under a different management. He denied the cogency of Sir Robert Peel's argument about taxing home-grown corn; it might as well be said that all other articles on which customs were levied when imported from abroad should be subjected to an excise when produced at home. The late government had been taunted, in its early days, with its subservieny to France. He had then answered, that their amity would relax when their interests should diverge, and so it had happened; but it had not happened from any ill feeling towards France, but from views of European policy, in which the other great Powers had concurred. He traced the good effects of his own foreign policy, in the benefit produced to Portugal and to Spain, and in the treaties for the suppression of the slave trade. The now-boasted union of the two countries had produced no equivalent advantages. He had to regret the present state of Spain; and he expressed his fears for the slave-trade treaties and the maintenance of the right of search. With America we were far from being on desirable terms. The concessions made in the Washington treaty had produced no indication of reciprocal feeling in America on the subject of the Oregon territory. Nor had much, if any, success attended the attempt to negotiate commercial treaties.—Mr ROEBUCK protested against the doctrine that the address was to be deemed a mere ceremony. He thought it strange that the house was expected to be silent, and that the speech should have been silent on the most important subjects of the time, the corn laws, and the danger of a repeal of the union with Ireland. He believed that these topics were waved, because it was agreeable to the two leading parties that the evening should go easily off. But the time was surely come for expressing the opinion of parliament on the policy of the government respecting Ireland. The silence of the house on this night might have the worst effect on the question of repeal: it would enable Mr O'Connell to tell the Irish people that the British parliament took no account of them. He had himself intended to bring forward an amendment on the subject of Ireland; but after the course taken by Lord John Russell, the leader of the Liberal party, such an amendment on this night was precluded; and it was fit that the people should know that the noble lord and his friends had deserted him.—Lord HOWICK denied the desertion, and contended for the superior convenience of the course which had now been taken. Ireland, at the present moment, was a peculiarly improper subject for discussion. On the corn laws he retained his opinions. He feared that Sir R. Peel's declaration of that night had removed, if, indeed, it were not removed before, all chance of compromise: and that the question would thenceforth be merely between the maintenance of the existing corn law, on the one hand, and the absolutely free importation of corn, on the other. His own decision would be for the latter. He cordially concurred with Sir R. Peel in deprecating jealousies between England and France.—Mr WYSE urged the necessity of a settlement for Ireland, and warned the government that its chiefs would be held responsible for their agents there. Those who now were neutral would ere long be driven by the government itself to take part against it.—The O'CONNOR DOX desired to be understood as reserving to himself an entire freedom on the subject of Irish affairs.—Mr GIBSON admitted that there was a considerable improvement in the state of manufacturing industry; but parliament ought to ascertain the causes of these wide fluctuations, and, if possible, to prevent their recurrence. As to the corn question, he did not understand Sir R. Peel to have said he would maintain the existing laws for more than a month, or to have given any distinct pledge whatever; and he hoped the occupying tenantry would be careful not to invest their capital on the faith of continued protection. He hailed with satisfaction the meetings of the agriculturists against the League, and only hoped they would discuss the question rationally and without offensive language.—Sir R. PEELE said it could hardly be necessary for him to protest against Mr Gibson's version of his declaration, which

he repeated.—Mr PLUMTRE was understood to declare himself satisfied with Sir R. Peel's declaration.—Mr BROTHERTON disapproved Mr Crawford's suggestion for stopping the supplies, and Sir R. Peel's determination to maintain the existing corn laws. He hailed the admissions of the people's returning prosperity, for they proved that, though bread might be cheap, as now, yet the manufacturers did not lower the people's wages.—Mr VILLIERS considered Sir R. Peel's position to be that of a minister who thought that a change ought to be made, but who felt that, with his present supporters, he could not venture to make it. The mischief was, that the country had been governed ever since the revolution, not by the sovereign, but by an aristocracy; and the aristocracy would not suffer their minister to give the required relief against their own rents. He referred to an article which he ascribed to Mr Gladstone, lately published in the *Foreign and Colonial Review*, a work supposed to be the organ of the Board of Trade. In that article, from which he quoted largely, all the arguments relied on by the opponents of the corn laws were enforced. He spoke with great indignation of the threatening language used against Sir R. Peel by some of the agriculturists, and called on him to throw them off with spirit.—Mr GLADSTONE said he had not written the article, he knew not who had written it, and had never seen it.—Sir J. HANMER defended the landlords from the charge of selfishness. He expressed some opinions favourable to free trade, and especially as between the mother country and the colonies.—Mr SCARLETT spoke indignantly of the Anti-Corn-law League, their assertions, and their attempts to dictate elections of members to constituencies with which they had no connexion.—Mr MUNTZ said, that employment had indeed become more plentiful, but that there had been no rise in prices.—Mr MARK PHILLIPS represented the improvement in the working districts to be only recent, and not of a nature to justify conclusive inferences from it. He dissented from Mr S. Crawford's proposal of stopping the supplies.—Colonel RAWDON and Mr HINDLEY followed against the corn laws.—Mr FIELDS, who had seconded Mr S. Crawford's amendment, now spoke in favour of it, enlarging upon grievances.—Mr S. CRAWFORD explained, that he did not intend to make any attempt at obstruction or retardation, but only to move the consideration of grievances when supply should be proposed. The house then divided—against Mr Crawford's amendment, 282; for it, 29: majority against it, 256. Upon a subsequent division upon Mr Hume's amendment, the numbers were—against the amendment, 235; for it, 49: majority against it, 186.

COURT AND ARISTOCRACY.

—The Queen and Prince Albert, accompanied by the Princess Royal and attended by the Royal suite, arrived at the terminus of the Great Western Railway, at Paddington, on Wednesday afternoon, by a special train, from Slough. The Royal party immediately entered the Queen's carriages and proceeded to Buckingham Palace. At half-past three o'clock of the same day her Majesty held a Privy Council. It was attended by his Royal Highness Prince Albert, Lord Wharfedale, Lord President; the Lord Chancellor; the Duke of Wellington; the Duke of Buccleugh; Sir Robert Peel; Lord Aberdeen; Lord Stanley; Sir James Graham; Mr Goulburn; Lord Haddington; Lord Ripon; Sir Henry Cardinge; Sir Edward Knatchbull; Lord Liverpool; Lord Delaware; and the Marquis of Exeter. Her Majesty having been pleased to appoint the Right Hon. John Earl of Stradbroke to be Lord-Lieutenant of the county of Suffolk, his Lordship took the customary oaths. Her Majesty pricked the list of sheriffs for the present year. The Queen's speech on opening the session of parliament was arranged and agreed upon. New seals for her Majesty's settlements on the Gold Coast and the Falkland Islands, executed by Mr Benjamin Wyon, chief engraver of her Majesty's seals, were approved by the Queen in Council. Some reports of the Judicial Committee were approved. A school inspector was appointed.

—Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Cambridge arrived in town on Tuesday morning from her residence at Kew, and visited her Royal Highness the Duchess of Gloucester at Gloucester house.

—The Speaker of the House of Commons is expected to commence his parliamentary dinners the third Saturday in this month. The right hon. gentleman came to town from his seat in Hants on Tuesday.

—Full-dress parliamentary dinner parties were given, on Wednesday evening, by the Duke of Wellington, at Apsley house, to a numerous party of Peers; and by Sir Robert Peel, at his residence in Whitehall gardens, to a large party of members of the House of Commons. The Queen's speech on opening the session of parliament was read by the noble duke and the right honourable baronet in the course of the evening to their respective guests.

DRURY LANE THEATRE.—Her Majesty and Prince Albert visited this theatre on Thursday evening, to witness the performance of the *Bohemian Girl*. The house was very full, it being previously generally understood that the theatre would be honoured with the presence of Royalty. Her Majesty maintained a strict privacy throughout the opera, in spite of the restless exertions of a portion of the audience, who seemed determined to enjoy all the honours of a royal visit. Between the acts unsuccessful attempts were made to call for 'God save the Queen'; but at a subsequent period of the evening, when her Majesty, after a temporary absence, returned to the royal box, the call was so general that it was obeyed, the principal parts being sung by Miss Betts, Miss Rainforth, Mr Harrison, and Mr Stretton. Her Majesty remained to see part of the pantomime.

THE METROPOLIS.

COMPLETE SUFFRAGE MEETING.—A meeting of "the friends of civil, religious, and commercial freedom, of justice to Ireland, and of universal peace," was held at the Crown and Anchor, to consider Mr Sharman Crawford's proposal to seek redress of grievances by obstructing the motions of supply in the House of Commons. Joseph Sturge was unanimously called to the chair, and gentlemen from all parts of the country were present, and took part in the proceedings. Mr Sturge said, among other things, that "every one who has attended to the proceedings of the House of Commons, and who is honestly desirous to promote the welfare of the country, must feel satisfied that

it is hopeless to expect any substantial redress of grievances by substantive motions, and, therefore, we are obliged to resort to the alternative of moving amendments on the votes of supply. (Hear, hear.) At some meetings which I have attended on this subject, I found an impression prevailed at first that we intended to stop the wheels of government; but when the whole subject was fully laid before them, that impression was not only removed, but a conviction was produced that the proposal was constitutional, necessary, and just." (Hear, hear.) He then vindicated such a course by an appeal to historical precedents; and was followed and supported in his views by Messrs P. A. Taylor, Miall, J. H. Wilson, Tullis of Markinch (Scotland), Albright of Birmingham, Dunlop of Edinburgh, and others.—"The proposal to redress grievances by moving amendments on motions of supply," says the *Morning Chronicle*, "has received the almost unanimous support in every instance at large public meetings in the following towns:—Birmingham, presided over by the mayor, only one dissentient out of 5,000 people; Bath, Bristol (very large and enthusiastic meetings), Bury (Lancashire), Bolton, Bradford, Coventry, Cheltenham, Derby, Edinburgh, Gloucester, Hull, Huddersfield, Liverpool (1,600 electors have memorialized the members to act on the proposals), Leeds, Manchester, Nottingham, Northampton, Plymouth, Oldham (where Mr J. Fielden, M. P., declared his determination to work out the principle), Taunton, Walsall, Wolverhampton, Worcester (memorial signed by 460 electors, besides having received the cordial support of many select meetings of Reformers in various other towns)."

—A crowded meeting, consisting of a tea party and *soirée*, which was intended as a grand metropolitan demonstration in favour of the principles of complete suffrage, but which terminated in a Chartist victory, was held on the evening of the same day, in the great room of the Crown and Anchor, Mr W. Sharman Crawford, M. P., in the chair, and all the parties who had been at the morning meeting being present, besides Dr Bowring, M. P., C. Hindley, Esq., M. P., T. F. Duncombe, Esq., M. P., Feargus O'Connor, &c. &c. The proceedings were violently interrupted, and at last abruptly brought to a conclusion by the interference of Mr O'Connor and Chartists, who said they were determined not only to have the charter, but the very name of it! The scene is said by the reporters to have become indescribable. Mr Crawford, of course, then dissolved the meeting.

LONDON AND GREENWICH RAILWAY COMPANY.—The half-yearly meeting of the proprietors was held on Tuesday, at the London tavern, Bishopsgate street. The chairman, William Shadbolt, Esq., presided. The report commenced by stating that the directors, in accordance with the general wish of the shareholders, expressed by a resolution passed at the general meeting of the proprietors held on the 31st of August last, and with a view to increase the traffic, and at the same time to give the public the advantage of coming to London bridge at moderate fares, notified on the 5th of September to the Croydon and Dover Railway Companies, that the directors would be ready to charge the following reduced rate of tolls, viz.:—4d., 3d., and 2d., for first, second, and third-class passengers respectively, to commence whenever those companies would bring all classes of passengers at moderate fares to London bridge. The report added that the offer was declined by both companies. After some lengthened details of no importance, the report referred to the proceedings of the company with reference to an exchange of stations, &c.; the report next stated that the directors had the pleasure to intimate that the removal of many interposing difficulties at length enabled them to open to the public, on the 16th instant, the south side of the approach to the terminus from London bridge. On the 20th day of August last, a scale of reduced fares for the line of Greenwich was adopted, which in its result for the half year ending the 31st of December last, as compared with the corresponding half of the preceding year, shows an increase of 151,943 passengers, but a decrease of 966l 4s. 8d. in the amount of receipts. From the statement of accounts for the half year, it appeared that after paying all expenses, together with interest on mortgage debt, and on the preference shares, as well as appropriating 1,000l., as before, towards the liquidation of the expense of relaying the line, there remains on the profit and loss account a balance of 416l 18s. 6d. It having been moved and seconded that the report be received and adopted, a lengthened discussion ensued with reference to the confirmation of some former minutes, which, however, were finally confirmed. It was next resolved that legal opinion should be taken respecting some matters affecting the preference shares. The usual business having been gone through, the meeting separated.

—The Lord Mayor of Dublin, accompanied by other members of the corporation, have arrived in London; and yesterday (Friday) presented the address recently voted by their body to her Majesty, who received it on the throne.

THE PROVINCES.

SALFORD.—Major Jenn has concluded inquiries relative to the incorporation of Salford, and has returned to London, to report the result of those inquiries to the lords of the privy council.

SUNDERLAND.—It is understood in Sunderland that David Barclay, Esq., M. P. for that borough, has expressed his intention of voting in the ensuing session of parliament for a total repeal of the present corn laws. Mr Barclay though always favourable to a fixed duty in preference to the sliding scale, has not hitherto been in favour of a total abolition. The accession to the ranks of the repealers of the corn duty, of a gentleman of Mr Barclay's experience, caution, and commercial standing, is of considerable importance, and would indicate that a change of sentiment on the question is making considerable progress among humane, independent, and enlightened men of all parties. Mr Barclay is a member of the Council of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, is in politics a moderate Whig, and in mercantile engagements is a member of the eminent firm of Barclay, Brothers, and Co., West India merchants.—*Tyne Mercury*.

LIVERPOOL DOCKS.—The following motion, after two days' discussion, has been carried by a large majority in the town council of Liverpool:—"That the proceedings and resolutions of the dock committee, from the 28th of September to the 24th instant, so far as the same related to extended dock accommodation, be confirmed; that the dock committee be authorized to

prepare and present a bill for carrying the same resolutions into effect, laying before the trustees the plans so soon as they shall have been printed and prepared, the dock committee having full authority to proceed with the bill, the dock solicitor conferring with the town clerk on the subject, and settling the same with him, subject to the approbation of the trustees; and that the dock committee be authorized to affix the seal of the trustees, preparatory to the bill being brought in." All parties seemed to unite in thinking that this was the most important question which had ever been agitated in Liverpool. The resolution carried implies the outlay of upwards of 1,000,000l.

MANCHESTER, BOLTON, AND BURY CANAL NAVIGATION AND RAILWAY.—On Friday a special general meeting of the company of proprietors of this company was held at the Clarendon Rooms, Liverpool, to receive the committee's half-yearly report, and to consider an arrangement proposed between the company and the Liverpool and Manchester Railway, regarding certain branches of traffic wherein both companies are mutually interested, and also an arrangement with the promoters of the proposed Manchester, Bury, and Rossendale Railway. James Brancker, Esq., presided. The report referred to the competition which had been carried on between the Bolton and Preston and North Union Railway companies, by which a large business had to be done at a very small profit, but notwithstanding this contest, the committee of management had the pleasure of declaring an increased dividend, free of income tax. The report referred to the probability of an act being obtained next session for the construction of a railway from Lancaster to Carlisle, and stated that the Salford Junction Railway was expected to be opened in March. The receipts and disbursements on the railway and the canal, for the half year ending the 31st of December, were next read; and from those it appeared that the railway receipts had amounted to 21,042l 11s., and the disbursements to 8,085l 10s. 1d., leaving the railway surplus 12,957l 0s. 11d. The canal receipts had been 6,987l 0s. 6d., and the disbursements 2,957l 8s. 10d., leaving the canal surplus 4,029l 11s. 8d., which, added to the railway surplus, and deducting 5,554l 4s. 3d. for interest, rents, and commission, left a net profit for the half year of 11,432l 8s. 4d. To this was added 1,736l 6s. 4d. for half-year's dividend, and the balance from the 30th of June, making the disposable net proceeds 13,168l 14s. 8d. A dividend of 2l per share would amount to 12,402l, leaving on hand, including the dividend on the 120 shares held by the company, a surplus of 1,006l 14s. 8d.; and the committee had accordingly directed a dividend of 2l per share to be paid to the proprietors on the first of February. The report was unanimously adopted. The chairman said the next subject for consideration had reference to the treaty of peace which had been concluded between the company and the Liverpool and Manchester company. Mr Kaye said the effect of the agreement would be to give the Liverpool and Manchester company a sort of interest in the line, which otherwise they might have endeavoured to damage. The agreement with the Liverpool and Manchester company was approved of and confirmed. Thanks were then voted to the directors and chairman, and the meeting separated.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE GRAND JUNCTION RAILWAY COMPANY.—The annual meeting of this company was held in the Exchange buildings, Manchester, on Wednesday. By the report of the directors, which was well received, it appears that the receipts for the last half year have exceeded those of the former half year, by the sum of 10,300l., and a dividend of five per cent. was ordered, the future dividends to be paid quarterly. The chairman stated, that no actual arrangement had yet been made with government as to what sum they would grant towards the Chester and Holyhead line. The chairman further stated, that a survey of a line had been ordered between Chester and Shrewsbury. The Lancaster and Carlisle line was highly spoken of, and the Grand Junction company are to furnish 250,000l. towards it; the calculated return being seven per cent. The chairman said, that four per cent. would pay them very well, taking into account the increased traffic brought on the Grand Junction line by this route to Scotland. It appears that to meet the outlay on the Shrewsbury branch and Holyhead line, a new creation of Grand Junction shares must be made.

SCOTLAND.

SCOTT'S MONUMENT.—Funds, it is said, are still wanting to complete the beautifully designed monument to the memory of Sir Walter Scott, in the course of erection at Edinburgh. Contributions are solicited.

GOOD NEWS FOR SHEEP FARMERS.—Since the beginning of November wool has risen above forty per cent., and still looks upwards, and as the manufacturers have no stocks on hand, the farmers may confidently look forward for several years to good prices.—*Kelso Mail*.

DEATH OF LORD DOUGLAS.—We regret to learn that Lord Douglas died at Bothwell Castle on Saturday morning. His lordship had been long in a state of declining health, and during the last six months particularly had been so unwell, that little hopes were entertained of his recovery. His lordship was lord lieutenant of the county of Forfar. He was born in 1773, and consequently was in his 71st year. Lord Douglas was son to Archibald Stewart (who afterwards assumed the name of Douglas), whose claim to the estates of the Duke of Douglas was so warmly contested some sixty years since, and which is still spoken of as "the great Douglas plea." He succeeded his father in 1827 as second baron, and never having been married, has left no issue. He is succeeded in his title and estates by his brother, the honourable Charles Douglas, who sat for Lanarkshire in the parliament which passed the Reform Bill, but who afterwards fell into infirm health, from which, it is understood, he has never recovered. The late baron has left another brother, James, in holy orders, who has no issue. The late Lord Douglas was little heard of personally in public life. He was quiet and retired in his habits, and was much respected for his charities and general benevolence.—*Glasgow Argus*.

MR WALLACE, M. P.—On Monday evening, an interesting meeting of the town council of Paisley was held in the court hall, for the purpose of presenting Mr Wallace, M. P. for Greenock, with the freedom of that borough, in testimony of his efforts in promoting the cause of post-office reform. The provost presided, and delivered an appropriate address, in the course of which he referred to the benefits which the penny postage had conferred on the commercial and trading community, but on the humbler classes in particular, and made honourable mention of the public service which Mr Wallace had rendered to the cause before the subject was taken up, and prosecuted with so much energy, talent, and success, by Mr Rowland Hill. The provost then presented to the honourable gentleman the freedom of the burgh, inclosed in a beautifully carved box, the upper portion of which was manufactured from a portion of St Mary's Yew, and the lower part once formed a part of Wallace's not less celebrated oak. . . . Mr Wallace, in acknowledging the gift conferred upon him, said he accepted it as a full measure of reward for all the anxiety and toil he had endured in the cause of post-office reform, and for the assistance he had rendered in bringing to maturity the valuable invention of his excellent friend Mr Hill.

GREAT LEAGUE MEETING.—THEATRE ROYAL, COVENT GARDEN.—The Next Weekly Meeting of the NATIONAL ANTI-CORN-LAW LEAGUE, will be held in the THEATRE ROYAL, COVENT GARDEN, on THURSDAY Evening next, the 8th of February.
The Meeting will be addressed by the Honourable Charles Pelham Villiers, Esq., M. P.; Richard Cobden, Esq., M. P.; General Sir De Lacy Evans; and R. R. Moore, Esq., George Wilson, Esq. will take the chair precisely at Seven o'clock.
Cards of admission to the seats and boxes may be had on application, after Monday next, at the Central Offices of the League, No. 67 Fleet street.
The Cards of Registered Members of the League will, as heretofore, admit to the Pit and Galleries of the Theatre.

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANSWERS TO INQUIRIES.

Merchant.—The two notes have been received, for which we are obliged. The subject is under our attention, and we will follow your suggestions and endeavour to furnish some accurate information on the subject, when we shall find your hints and calculations useful.

* Our want of space has obliged us, among other things, to omit an abridged account of the Agricultural Anti-League Movements. These we shall be better able to attend to for the future with our increased size of paper.

Erratum.—In our last, page 434, under "Political," for "village of Whitfield," read "village of Whitburna."

POSTSCRIPT.

LONDON, Saturday Morning, February 3, 1844.

The HOUSE OF LORDS yesterday formally presented the address to her Majesty at the Palace, and adjourned without any discussion till Monday.

In the HOUSE OF COMMONS, in answer to a question put by Mr Stuart Wortley, Lord Stanley said he had no hesitation in saying that the policy pursued by Sir Charles Metcalf in Canada had the entire approbation of the home government.

Mr Wallace brought on a motion for rescinding the standing orders, which restrict any discussion on presenting petitions, but was not generally supported, and he withdrew it.

On Lord Clive bringing up the address, Mr Roebuck provoked a discussion on the recent conduct of the Irish Attorney General. Sir Robert Peel regretted that "the Attorney General had been betrayed into that unhappy act," but he had no hesitation in declaring that the government did not, and would not contemplate the dismissal of the Attorney General. Lord Eliot, on behalf of an absent friend and colleague, also bore testimony to the high character and gentlemanly feelings of Mr Smith.

Captain Bernal, Mr Serjeant Murphy, Dr Stock, and others, spoke very strongly against the conduct of the Attorney-General, while Lord Stanley, Sir James Graham, Mr Shaw, and others, offered only a mitigated defence. Indeed, as to the particular act, it was even condemned by his own friends; but his general qualities and abilities were enlarged upon as the best apology that could be offered for him "under trying circumstances." Mr Crawford's amendment, under which all the discussion took place, to the effect that what was said about Ireland in the address should be omitted, was lost on a division by 142 to 35.

There was nothing else important discussed, and the address, we understand, is to be received by her Majesty this day at two o'clock.

THE MARRIAGE OF THE QUEEN OF SPAIN.—NAPLES, JAN. 14. —For some time past much has been said respecting a projected marriage between the Count di Trapani and the Queen of Spain.

The accounts from Madrid are to the 26th ult. They state that General Prim would, in all probability, be reinstated in the post of Governor of Madrid.

The Paris papers of Thursday are not remarkable for anything but continued speculations on the position of the ministry. M. Salvandy had voted against ministers on the address, and Count Mole was in frequent communication with the palace, which would seem to impart some consistency to the rumours in circulation for some time that ere long Count Mole would appear at the head of a new cabinet.

The *Augsburg Gazette* announces the following addition to the proposed draft of a constitution. The King names the senators for ten years. The Senate is to consist of from 27 to 40 members. Each Senate is to get 500 drachmas monthly; the deputies to get one-half that sum. The number of deputies to be 80. Chambers are to meet before the 15th of January every year, and to sit at least two months.

Prince Caradju has expired, at the age of 96. He had been Hospodar of Wallachia.

On Thursday, the 16th day of the Irish State Trials, Mr Whiteside proceeded to address the jury on the part of Mr Duffy, proprietor of the *Nation* newspaper. After speaking for a considerable time, he sat down, apparently from exhaustion, but had not concluded his address when the court adjourned. He was therefore to resume on Friday morning. Mr M'Donogh, Q. C., was to follow on the part of Mr Barrett, so that it is possible Mr O'Connell may not be able to commence his address to the jury until Monday.

It is said to-day that Mr Thomas Steele has waived his right of self-defence to the safer keeping of Mr Jonathan Henn, Queen's counsel. Should this be the fact, it must be admitted that the head pacificator has had a more correct notion of the

position in which he stands than either his friends or opponents were willing to give him credit for. Another report has it that Henn will address the jury on the part of Mr O'Connell, and that Mr Steele's defence will be undertaken by the "august leader" himself.—*Times*.

THE EARL OF ZETLAND A FREE TRADER.—A meeting of the farmers of Richmondshire, to resist the Anti-Corn-Law agitation, was to be held this day in Richmond. We hear that the Earl of Zetland, though without any concert with others, intended to be present, and to remonstrate with the farmers on their proceedings. He will declare his opinions in favour of free trade.—*Leeds Mercury*.

REPRESENTATION OF WILTSHIRE.—Mr Earidge, of Puckeridge-house, has acceded to the call of the North Wilts Reform Association, to stand for the vacancy, against Mr. Sotherton, the Tory candidate; and in his letter to Admiral Bouverie, accepting the invitation, says, "I shall be delighted to do battle in the sacred cause of free trade, and of civil and religious liberty, against monopolists of every description. This prompt movement may checkmate the tricksters who would shuffle with the country representation by trucking it for that of Devizes."—*Globe*.

THE WILL FORGERIES.—William Henry Barber, Joshua Fletcher, Georgiana Dorey, and Thomas Griffin, were yesterday all once more brought up to the Mansion house, where the Lord Mayor presided, in the custody of Daniel Forrester, for re-examination upon the various charges of forging wills and for obtaining fraudulent transfers of stock. The further evidence brought against the parties was various, but seemingly not complete, for the Lord Mayor remanded them all for a fortnight.

The deputation with the address of the Dublin Corporation waited on her Majesty yesterday at two o'clock, consisting of the Lord Mayor, &c., and received a gracious answer, of which the substance amounted to this, that her Majesty was "unwilling to interrupt the administration of justice according to law."

Our usual Liverpool letter has not arrived this morning.

The Economist.

FEBRUARY 3, 1844.

COMMERCIAL.

The Queen's speech gives little promise of any progress in commercial legislation, yet when we consider that any measures which are to be looked for from the present Government, and to which we alluded last week, will only be carrying out and perfecting those proposals in connexion with the change in the tariff in 1842, and which could not then be completed in consequence of pending or intended negotiations, it may not have been thought needful to allude to them in the speech. We must however say, that we are disappointed to find no mention made of our present position, and of our late negotiation with the Brazils, in relation to our expiring treaty.

The attention of the commercial public is becoming more and more awakened to the folly and inconvenience of extreme high rates of duty, which create a large amount of illicit trade, injurious equally to the revenue and to the fair trader. By the annual French statistical accounts of exports just published, it is a curious fact, and singularly corroborative of the frauds which appear to have been carried forward on so large a scale, that comparing the exports of silk goods from France to England with the imports regularly entered into this country, only 47½ per cent. of those goods have passed through the Custom house, and that consequently 52½ per cent. of them have been smuggled. It is quite clear, therefore, that with a duty one-half of the present amount, which would put an end to the inducement to smuggle, the same amount of revenue would be obtained, the trade at home put on a more satisfactory footing, and the goods furnished to the consumer at a lower rate. The Liverpool Chamber of Commerce has directed its attention to the subject of the tobacco duties, and forwarded a memorial to Sir Robert Peel, in which they furnish much valuable information and conclusive evidence of the highly injudicious tendency of such extravagant duties.

There is a generally increasing business doing, with a tendency to higher prices. The speculation in cotton continues without interruption; there is also much spirit in the share market, with a general rise in price. The present great abundance of money, and its extremely low price, which is likely to continue for a considerable time, will favour a maintenance of high prices, and a further advance in the general range of prices; for higher prices and larger imports will be necessary to reduce the present large amount of bullion to a convenient and profitable quantity. Without alluding to any particular article, we have little doubt that generally during the present year there will be a considerable tendency for commodities to assume a higher money price, the natural tendency of which will be to check exports and encourage imports, and restore the currency to its proper equilibrium.

Some remarks have been made respecting the tables of stocks, deliver'es, crops, &c., of indigo, in our number of the 20th ult. It has been said that our statement of stocks in France is greatly underrated, on the authority of the *Moniteur*; in explanation

we may say that the stocks given by us in those tables represent only those held in first hands in Havre and Bordeaux, the chief places of import, and that the same rule having been applied to the whole period from 1832, the different years are a fair comparison. The *Moniteur*, however, attempts to estimate the stocks in second hands throughout the country, which can only at the best be vague and uncertain.

The stocks were in the last week of December, 1843 :—

IN HAVRE.		
Bengal	- - - - -	3,268 chests.
Madras	- - - - -	55 "
Java	- - - - -	90 "
Manilla	- - - - -	36 "
		3,449 chests.
IN BORDEAUX.		
Bengal	- - - - -	2,462 chests.
Kurpah	- - - - -	230 "
Madras	- - - - -	244 "
Java	- - - - -	59 "
Bombay	- - - - -	22 "
		3,017 chests.
Total Bordeaux and Havre		6,466 chests.

POLITICAL.

This week we have to record the meeting of parliament. In the Queen's speech there are as many words, and as little meaning in them, as ever Royal speech exhibited. Neither was there much said in either house of parliament, during the first night of sitting, which calls for commentary, commendation, or reproof. The moving and seconding of the address was committed in one house to the Earl of Eldon and Lord Hill, names which, borne by their sires, are already incorporated imperishably with the history of England; and in the other to Lord Clive and Mr Cardwell, on the former of which names a similar observation suggests itself. Not one of the speakers, except perhaps Mr Cardwell, made any striking remarks, though they all acquitted themselves creditably in a position in which it has been not unusual to put aspiring men, as it were, upon their trial. On the motion being put in the Lords, the Marquis of Normandy, without offering any formal opposition, addressed himself to the condition of Ireland. Like every other speaker, in both houses, his lordship abstained from anything but a general allusion to the state trials. He said, however, he believed that in the history of the world there was no country about which the ignorance was so great as was the ignorance in respect of Ireland in this country; and he said he had never yet known any one who had visited that country and become at all acquainted with the people, who had not returned with more kindly feelings towards it. When that ignorance led to so disastrous results as it was acknowledged it did, he said truly that it was to be deplored; and while promising, as soon as the trials were over, to bring forward a substantive motion in regard to Ireland generally, his lordship remarked that the time had now arrived for doing "strict justice" to that country, for "removing all distinctions, political and religious," and "endeavouring to put the countries on precisely the same footing." Lord Brougham's characteristically erratic speech is remarkable for the eulogium—the *just eulogium*—passed upon M. Guizot, at present bearing up under a series of attacks almost unparalleled in statesmanship, with an ability, a courage, and a commanding integrity which are at once the grounds of his praise, and afford the best assurance of his triumph. Praise, then, in this case was honourable both to the giver and the receiver. His lordship gave the Americans one more advice to pay their debts,—for their own sakes may it be taken!—and beyond a small *half fracas* between the Marquis of Clanricarde and the Earl of Devon about the title of the Irish Landlord and Tenant Commission—a thing it might be thought concerning which there should be no dispute,—the proceedings of the Lords during the first night of their sitting in this session of 1844 furnish no further matter for comment.

In the Commons, as might have been anticipated, not even the innocuous and unmeaning Queen's speech could entirely prevent discussion and dispute. The seconder of the address gave a hearty, rattling account of the revival of trade and commerce, which he ascribed to—what would the reader think!—the renewed business done "in the home market of England," so that after all, the home consumers, by whom Mr Cardwell *must* have meant the farmers, are not in such distress after all, since it is they who are so influencing business! Two amendments were proposed, one by Sharnan Crawford, pledging the house to inquire into grievances before granting supplies; and another by Mr Hume, embodying views as to trade and the policy of ministers, which he wished to be added to the address. They were both, of course, lost. Lord John Russell and Sir Robert Peel both severely condemned the plan of Mr Sharnan Crawford. The leader of the Opposition said he should never be a party to allowing the will of the minority in a deliberative assembly to resist and overcome the will of the majority; and the Premier said that "such an abuse of privilege would be a fatal example, and if those who set it were ever to obtain the government of the country, they would strike at the root of their power." It is beyond all question a last and desperate resource, and to say the least of it should be well thought of before being persevered in to its end, though *what* the end of it might be we are much

at a loss to know. The redress of the manifold grievances of this day would be a difficult accomplishment in *any* time,—an *impossibility* in a *short* time; and if the wheels of government are to be suddenly stopped in the meantime, we may soon all prepare for a revolution! But the most important thing said was said by the Premier, to this effect—that *he means to stand by the corn laws and the landlords*. For the session, therefore, it is presumed Sir Robert is nailed to restrictive policy. It remains to be seen how long he can keep his ground. Mr Villiers, in particular, and other members, gave him some hard blows, and he will yet have many more such to bear, if he continues in the position and of the opinions which he now holds, or professes to hold.

The state trials in Ireland—signalized as they have already been in not a few particulars—have now probably reached their climax of absurdity. The Attorney-General—the *Irish* Attorney-General—has, we fear, out-generalled himself. Foiled in argument, he has proposed to resort to arms!—he, the preserver of the public peace, and in the very midst of prosecuting parties for an alleged breach of it, challenging a fellow barrister, and in fact an unoffending one, to a daring and immoral breach of it! The fact is, this Attorney-General, whatever may be his other merits, wants temper—and such a want in any circumstances is a great one—in *such* circumstances a most deplorable one for the individual himself and for those whom he serves. It does not appear that he had any provocation, further than a very clear proof on the part of Mr Fitzgibbon, that he had not rightly stated the law of conspiracy to the jury. Whether he had really done so or not would have been but poorly proved by his being either murdered or becoming a murderer, for to that issue he proposed to bring things, and he owes it to the humanity of those whom he has so much maligned, that no such guilt has been incurred either on their side or on his. These trials will be damaging, in whatever way they end, though really to suppose that they can end in any other way than by an acquittal now, would be to think *too badly* even of an Orange jury. O'Connell cannot be put down by force. The government of Ireland by England has not been founded on reason or justice, and by the laws which heaven has decreed that the world shall be controlled by, such governments cannot endure—can hardly even enjoy a temporary repose. We are told in Scripture that "there is no rest for the wicked," and *that* is beyond cavil or dispute a great—a very great fact.

FOREIGN.

FRANCE.

One of those irregular scenes which occasionally disgrace legislature took place on Friday se'night in the French Chamber of Deputies. The circumstance which gave rise to this scene of scandal was the discussion of the paragraph in the address, in which the deputies who went to Belgrave square are *branded* with reprobation. M. de la Rochejaquein, M. Bechard, and M. Berryer, severally defended their conduct. They all endeavoured to do away with the validity of the oath taken to the King of the French, and sought to establish a distinction between their avowed good wishes in favour of the Duc de Bordeaux and their forced allegiance to Louis Philippe. These points were met by M. Saint Marc Girardin and by the Minister of the Interior with so much success that the royalist deputies began to quarrel amongst themselves, and M. de Rochejaquein and M. Berryer contradicted each other in rather unparliamentary terms. The violence of the Carlist deputies raised the temper of the chamber, and the debate was carried on amidst a storm of hisses, and cries, and exclamations of the most disorderly nature. M. Berryer, who had up to that moment conducted himself with moderation, lost his temper, and instead of defending himself, suddenly turned on M. Guizot, and instituted a comparison between his visit to Belgrave square and M. Guizot's journey to Ghent. "Yes," cried M. Berryer, "what would you have said if I had gone on the very frontiers of the country in the midst of armed enemies to give advice to a king?" "True," chimed in M. de la Rochejaquein, "we are men of honour! we cannot submit to be *branded* by a minister, by him who went to Ghent—by him who took so great a part in the bloody re-action of 1815, and encouraged the atrocities of the south." No sooner were these words heard than the most shameless disorders commenced. The opposition deputies suddenly quitted their pursuit of the royalist, and to a man fell upon M. Guizot, assailing him with cries and invectives of every sort. M. Guizot ascended the tribune and attempted to explain. His first words were met by an exclamation from Ernest du Girardin—"Why did you go to Ghent?" Then a voice from the left said, "It was treason." Another person roared, "Your object was to organize a foreign war." M. Guizot did not give way. He admitted that he went to Ghent to give advice to Louis XVIII. This admission produced another burst of disorder, which was alone put down by the united exertions of the president and M. Dupin, who entreated that the minister might be heard. M. Guizot then continued to say that he went to Ghent to lay before Louis XVIII the advice of the constitutional royalists, who foresaw his speedy return to France. Another tumult followed the conclusion of this sentence. One deputy exclaimed, "To cut the throats of the French army." Another said, "You foresaw the disaster of Waterloo." A third cried, "Who can tamely listen to this apology for treason." A fifth, "Marshal Soult was not at Ghent." M. Guizot, however, bravely stood his ground, his Conservative friends rallied in force, and a hearing was again procured; but scarcely had a dozen words fallen from his lips than the storm again began. M. Joly exclaimed, "You had no right to betray us." M. Ledru Rollin declared, "We are indignant at your obstinacy." M. de la Rochejaquein roared, "You had 300,000 foreign bayonets with you." M. de Chambolle cried out, "All traitors speak like you." In the midst of this uproar, M. Guizot's voice was heard calmly explaining, that seeing the certainty of the return of Louis XVIII, he felt the importance of the king coming back under the banner of constitutional monarchy. The words of "constitutional monarchy" again called up the factions of the chamber, but M. Guizot silenced

them by declaring that though this clamour might reduce his strength it should not destroy his courage. After suffering M. Guizot to proceed for some time in this strain, the opposition made another effort to put him down. M. de Boulay exclaimed, "Your conduct was treasonable." "You gave us Waterloo," added another voice. "It is the language of an Englishman," said a third. M. Guizot, however, contrived to gain a hearing, and he continued for a considerable period explaining his conduct in a satisfactory manner and gradually resuming his habitual command of the chamber. The ministerial triumph was complete; all the amendments were rejected, and the paragraph as originally drawn up was carried by a majority of 30.

UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

By the American ship *Liberty* we have news from New York up to the 4th of January. Several official vacancies have been filled up in the government of the United States, Mr Upshur being appointed Secretary of State, and Mr Nelson Attorney-General. The monetary affairs of the republic are yet suffering from the evil impression raised by such conduct as that of the Pennsylvanians. The state debt of New York has increased considerably. We regret to see that Ohio has sent in numerous petitions to the senate, asking the immediate occupation of the Oregon territory, and that whole brigades of militia are stated as being petitioners—a fact ominous of a desire to resort to force. The repeal movement is not yet extinct in the States.

Since the home government sent out their decision in favour of Montreal as the future seat of government for the Canadas, the upper province has been in a state of considerable agitation. Petitions have poured in numerous against the removal from Kingston. The question may yet breed disturbance, and ought not to have been now agitated.

Still later intelligence (to the 10th inst.) has been brought by the packet-ship *Ashburton*, which has made the passage in nineteen days. The journals and private letters received by these packets contain a great variety of intelligence; but the monetary and mercantile accounts do not present the appearance of any important change. The cotton market was improving; but the value of state stocks was not so high as on the 1st of the month, the quotations being no longer influenced so materially by the abundance of money, which was becoming more dispersed in speculations in the cotton market, and in advances on cargoes of the new crop. Flour, Indian corn, provisions, whiskey, and other productions, appear in the prices current as continuing to command a very low value in money; but the immense quantities passing to the eastern markets had caused a rapid increase of the revenues of the canals and railroads of the states of Pennsylvania and New York. The business of the general congress of the United States had been resumed after the Christmas holidays, but had not assumed a form of any marked importance; and though the state legislatures had been opened with elaborate messages from the governors of New York, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, and Maryland, the principal interest in the messages is, that repudiation of the state debts is strongly and universally condemned by the governors of those states. A meeting had been held at Boston in favour of the principles of free trade, at which resolutions were passed, which are the more important, as that city is the centre of the influence of the manufacturing system of the Union, which, it is represented, offers no opposition to a free trade with all the world. In the House of Representatives, at Washington, on the 4th inst., a resolution in favour of the revision of the tariff, and against the collection of duties for purposes other than revenue, was lost only by a single vote, and because the motion was premature in point of form. The whole tenor of the intelligence is favourable to the probability of very extensive reciprocal arrangements in commerce, should the English markets be opened to the agricultural productions of the United States. The rate of exchange on England was 109 for first-rate bills, of which considerable amounts have been transmitted by the packets which have arrived during the last few days.

IRELAND.

THE STATE TRIALS.

The case for the crown in these trials, contrary to general expectation, was brought to a close on Friday, last week. That day was almost wholly occupied in the reading of documentary evidence, such as that furnished by Mr Vernon of the Stamp office, regarding the property of, and matter in, the repeal journals. The traversers, by permission of the court, caused much matter in those papers to be read aloud, partly with the view of filling up deficiency occasioned by the manner of producing evidence on the opposite side, and partly to show the undeniably-pacifactory tone which had prevailed among them. The only additional parole evidence given on the part of the crown was that of an inspector of police, who proved the existence of a repeal Court of Arbitration at Blackrock (four miles from Dublin), and the presence at it of some of the traversers.

SATURDAY, JAN. 27.—With this day a new interest became attached to the trials by the appearance of Richard Lalor Sheil to speak as counsel for Mr John O'Connell. The bench sat in full court; and "a dense array of ladies whose fashionable appearance bespoke their rank," every member of the bar, and the crowded public to far beyond the doors, attested the universal anxiety to hear an orator whose fame has long been European. Mr Sheil rose from a bed of sickness to speak, but whatever his friends may have feared for his execution of the undertaken task on that account, those fears must have been entirely demolished by the performance, and however great the expectations of others, it is admitted on all hands that they have been fully realized in the result. The report filled eleven columns in the *Times*!

"I am counsel," said Mr Sheil, "in this case for Mr John O'Connell. The importance of this case is not susceptible of exaggeration, and I do not speak in the language of hyperbole when I say that the attention of the empire is directed to the spot on which we are now assembled. How great is the trust reposed in you!—how great is the task which I have undertaken to perform! Conscious of its magnitude, I have risen to address you, not unmoved, but undismayed; not unmoved, indeed; for at this moment how many of the incidents of my own political life come back upon me, when I look upon my great political benefactor, my deliverer, and my friend; but of the emotion by which I acknowledge myself to be profoundly stirred, although I will not permit myself to be subdued by it, solicitude forms no part. I have great reliance upon you—upon the ascendancy of principle over prejudice in your minds; and I am not without some reliance upon myself. I do not speak in the language of vain-glorious self-complacency when I say this. I know that I am surrounded by men infinitely my superiors in every forensic, and in almost every intellectual qualification. My confidence is derived, not from any overweening estimate of my own faculties, but from a thorough conviction of the innocence of my client. I know, and I appear in some part not only as an advocate, but a witness before you—I know him to be innocent of the misdeeds laid to his charge. The same blood flows through their veins, the same feelings circulate through their hearts. The

son and the father are in all political regards the same, and with the father I have toiled in no dishonourable companionship for more than half my life in that great work, which it is his chief praise that it was conceived in the spirit of peace—in the spirit of peace it was carried out—and that in the spirit of peace it was brought by him to its glorious consummation. I am acquainted with every feature of his character, with his thoughts, hopes, fears, aspirations. I have, if I may venture so to say, a full cognizance of every pulsation of his heart. I know—I am as sure as that I am a living man—that from the sanguinary misdeeds imputed to him he shrinks with abhorrence. It is this persuasion—profound, impassioned—and I trust that it will prove contagious—which will sustain me in the midst of the exhaustion incidental to this lengthened trial—will enable me to overcome the illness under which I am at this moment labouring,—will raise me to the height of this great argument, and lift me to a level with the lofty topics which I shall have occasion to treat in resisting a prosecution to which, in the annals of criminal jurisprudence in this country, no parallel can be found."

After this brilliant exordium Mr Sheil proceeded severely to reprehend the Attorney-General and the government for allowing proceedings which they now stigmatized as amounting to conspiracy, to run over the long period of nine months without taking steps to end them:—"The Attorney-General told them that the country was traversed by incendiaries who set fire to the passions of the people; the whole fabric of society, according to the Attorney-General, was in a blaze; wherefore then did he stand with folded arms to gaze at the conflagration? Where were the Castle fire-engines—where was indictment—and of *ex officio* information what had become? Is there not too much reason to think that a project was formed, or rather that a plot was concocted, to decoy and ensnare the traversers, and that a connivance, amounting almost to sanction, was deliberately adopted as a part of the policy of the government, in order to betray the traversers into indiscretions of which advantage was in due time to be taken? I have heard it said that it was criminal to tell the people to 'bide their time;' but is the government to 'bide its time' in order to turn popular excitement to a useful official account? The public prosecutor who gives an indirect encouragement to agitation, in order that he may afterwards more effectually fall upon it, bears some moral affinity to the informer, who provokes the crime from whose denunciation his ignominious livelihood is derived." This style of bitter invective against the Attorney-General was pursued for some time with merciless and telling severity. Mr Sheil then proceeded to animadvert on the gross injustice of prosecuting each individual of the traversers not only for their own deeds and words but for those of all the rest. Had the Attorney-General prosecuted individuals for the use of violent language, or for the attending unlawful meetings, each individual would be held responsible for his own acts; but in a prosecution for a conspiracy, which is open to every one of the objections applicable to constructive treason, the acts and speeches of one man are given in evidence against another, although the latter may have been at the distance of a hundred miles when the circumstances used against him as evidence, and of which he had no sort of cognizance, took place. Mr Sheil was at much pains to show the injustice of this. "Legal conspiracy," he said, "was so far removed from notions of actual conspiracy as to show the jury how cautious they ought to be in finding eight of their fellow citizens guilty of that charge." Mr Sheil cited previous trials for conspiracy, remarking on the uniform reluctance of juries to find guilty of that by itself; and descanting on the history and condition of Ireland; his words affected the audience so that, forgetting they were in a court of justice, they applauded in the loudest manner. This, of course, the Chief Justice checked. Mr Sheil spoke in terms of enthusiastic admiration of Mr O'Connell's character, narrating facts to prove it very different from what was affirmed on the part of the prosecution. He concluded thus:—"Gentlemen, you may deprive him of his liberty—you may shut him out from the light of nature—you may inter him in a dungeon, to which a ray of sun never yet descended,—but you never will take away from him the consciousness of having done a good and noble action, and of being entitled to kneel down every night before he sleeps, and to address to his Creator the divinest portion of our Redeemer's prayer. That man, and the son of that man, are not guilty of the sanguinary intents which have been ascribed to them; and of this they put themselves upon their country. Rescue that phrase from its technicalities—let it no longer be a fictitious one; if we have lost our representation in the parliament, let us behold it in the jury box, and that you participate in feelings of millions of your countrymen—let your verdict afford a proof. But it is not to Ireland that the aching solitude with which the result of this trial is intently watched will be confided. There is not a great city in Europe in which, upon the day when the great intelligence shall be expected to arrive, men will stop each other in the public way, and inquire whether twelve men upon their oaths have doomed to incarceration the man who gave liberty to Ireland. Whatever may be your adjudication, he is prepared to meet it. He knows that the eyes of the world are upon him, and that posterity—whether in a gaol or out of it—will look back to him with admiration. He is almost indifferent to what may befall him, and is far more solicitous for others at this moment than for himself. But—at the commencement of what I have said to you—I told you that I was not unmoved, and that many incidents of my political life, the strange alternations of fortune through which I have passed, came back upon me. But now the bare possibility at which I have glanced has, I acknowledge, almost unmanned me. Shall I, who stretch out to you in behalf of the son the hand whose fetters the father had struck off, live to cast my eyes upon that domicile of sorrow, in the vicinity of this great metropolis, and say, 'Tis there they have immured the liberator of Ireland, with his fondest and best-beloved child?' No! it shall never be! You will not consign him to the spot to which the Attorney-General invites you to surrender him. No. When the spring shall have come again, and the winter shall have passed—when the spring shall have come again, it is not through the windows of this mansion that the father of such a son, and the son of such a father, shall look upon those green hills, on which the eyes of so many a captive have gazed so wistfully in vain; but in their own mountain home again they shall listen to the murmurs of the great Atlantic; they shall go forth and inhale the freshness of the morning air together; 'they shall be free of mountain solitude;' they will be encompassed with the loftiest images of liberty upon every side; and, if time shall have stolen its suppleness from the father's knee, or impaired the firmness of his tread, he shall lean on the child of her that watches over him from heaven, and shall look out from some high place far and wide into the island, whose greatness and whose glory shall be for ever associated with his name. In your love of justice—in your love of Ireland—in your love of honesty and fair play—I place my confidence. I ask you for an acquittal, not only for the sake of your country, but for your own. Upon the day when this trial shall have been brought to a termination, when, amidst the burst of public expectancy, in answer to the solemn interrogatory which shall be put to you by the officer of the court, you shall answer 'Not guilty,' with what a transport will that glorious negative be wel-

comed! How will you be blessed, adored, worshipped; and, when retiring from this scene of excitement and of passion, you shall return to your own tranquil homes, how pleasantly will you look upon your children, in the consciousness that you will have left them a patrimony of peace, by impressing upon the British cabinet that some other measure besides a state prosecution is necessary for the pacification of our country!"

For some time before Mr Sheil concluded, the effect upon the auditory, the visitors, and the bar, was most remarkable; few, indeed, were unmoved—many wept; while tears were visible in the eyes of the great majority. At the close of the address there was a unanimous burst of applause, expressed by the clapping of hands, which the judges permitted to pass without observation.

MONDAY, JAN. 29.—On the judges taking their seats this day, Mr John O'Connell rose and formally announced to the jury that he was "not one of those who would accept an occasional, or even annual, visit of the imperial parliament to Dublin."

Mr Moore, Q. C., then addressed the court and jury on behalf of the Rev. Thomas Tierney. In the outset of his speech he complained much of the bitterness and animosity which the Attorney-General had displayed throughout the whole of the proceedings, and contended that such a course was not well calculated to allay the excitement which prevailed throughout the country. As regarded the charge of conspiracy, it had not been borne out by the evidence brought forward. The Attorney-General had taken up all the meetings according to their dates, and he went down to the latest of them; and told the jury in very emphatic language that they were illegal. He read a number of speeches, which he had also termed illegal, and a number of articles from newspapers, which he likewise characterized as unlawful. Now, it appeared to him (Mr Moore), when the Attorney-General was making that statement, that he was unconsciously and unwittingly pronouncing a severe censure not only upon himself, but upon the government which he served. The meetings had extended over a period of nine months; and if they were illegal, and the language used at them was seditious, how could the Attorney-General reconcile to himself his neglect of duty in not bringing to justice the parties so acting in violation of the law? Was his object, or was the object of the government, to lie by until they could collect a greater mass of criminals! It was the duty of the government to bring to justice those who violated the law; and if the Attorney-General expressed to them his opinion that the parties holding those meetings were committing illegal acts, and that the speeches made at them were seditious; and that, after all this, the government desisted by until they could get together a greater number of criminals—he would most unhesitatingly say that they were guilty of an act of the greatest and most unparalleled baseness. After alluding to the "monster indictment," for which he did not believe there was a precedent to be found in the records of any court, he alluded to the case of Hardy, in 1794, who was accused of high treason, but against whom, as against the client whose cause he was pleading, no proof of conspiracy could be brought; and therefore Hardy was acquitted. In the conclusion of his address, the learned gentleman denied emphatically, on the part of his client, that there was anything in his speech to warrant such an interpretation of his language as that which the Attorney-General had sought to establish. No mortal could dive into the secrets of the human heart—none but the Almighty could say whether a man's motives were correct or not; and when a fellow-creature came to judge the motives of another, he could form his conclusion solely and strictly from acts and words. He therefore would unhesitatingly and fearlessly lay before the jury the acts and the words of his client—he called upon them to consider them carefully; and he would be surprised indeed if any one among them came to the conclusion, that he was warranted in attributing guilt to the reverend gentleman for whom he appeared. If, therefore, in accordance with the views he had taken they deemed his client entitled to an acquittal on the charges preferred against him, then they would return a verdict which they would be able to justify to their country and their God.

Mr Hatchell, Q. C., then addressed the jury on behalf of Mr Ray.

This closed the proceedings of the day.

TUESDAY, JAN. 30.—This day it fell to the lot of Mr Fitzgibbon to address the jury on behalf of Dr Gray. The learned gentleman opened by first stating the nature of the charge against his client and the other traversers, and then proceeded to denounce the prosecution as a ministerial scourge to lash the people—as unfair, unjust, and unconstitutional. The Attorney-General had told them they must take the law of the case from the judges, and in that he concurred; but of matters of fact bearing on the guilt or innocence of the accused, the jury must be the judges for themselves. He contended that the definition of conspiracy given by the Attorney-General was not legally correct. The Attorney-General had said that a combination to do an illegal act, or a legal act by unlawful means, constituted a conspiracy; and he had referred to various authorities in support of that definition; but he had not stated that something more was necessary—a previous consultation between the parties charged with a conspiracy—to bring them within the charge. Why was the law not fairly and candidly stated? Surely, if there were any case in which it ought to be done, it was a State prosecution, especially the present, when a barrister of eminence, one who had been the ornament of that court for nearly half a century, was standing at the bar, charged with a conspiracy. Were it his lot to be prosecuted by the Attorney-General, he would say to him, "Strike boldly, but strike fairly." He then commented on the evidence, and adverted on the non-production of Holbrook, the printer of the repeal cards, whom he designated as a creature of the government. In the middle of Mr Fitzgibbon's address (while the court had retired, as is usual in the course of long sittings, for a short time to take refreshment), the Attorney-General penned and sent him a challenge! Mr Fitzgibbon had undeniably made use of strong language in animadverting on the conduct of the Attorney-General and the government. This "the public prosecutor, the preserver of the public peace," said he considered personally insulting, and demanded an apology, or the name of a friend. Mr Fitzgibbon, after vainly endeavouring in private to induce the Attorney-General to withdraw his challenge, brought it before the court, when a most stunning sensation was created. The following is a brief statement of what occurred:—

Mr Fitzgibbon: A note has been put into my hands, my lords, signed by the Attorney-General, stating that I have given him personal offence, and that if I do not apologize, I must name a friend. I will ask him whether, considering our respective positions, such a course is manly?

The Attorney-General: If Mr Fitzgibbon has any application to make, it must be upon affidavit. He has attributed to me an improper feeling in this prosecution. I entirely disclaim being influenced by any private or personal feeling whatever. I have been actuated only by my sense of public duty.

Mr Fitzgibbon: I could understand the propriety of calling my attention to anything offensive I might have said, but when he comes with a pistol in his hand, it will not draw an apology from me.

Mr Moore, as the friend of both the learned gentlemen, suggested an adjournment for a short time, to allow them to arrange the matter by explanation.

The Lord Chief Justice said the court felt much embarrassed by what had occurred. They thought the Attorney-General was the last man who ought to have allowed himself to be betrayed into such expressions as had been stated to the court.

The Attorney-General said his learned friends around him had told him, that in his note there was an observation he ought not to have made. He wrote it with excited feelings, and would withdraw it. He would, however, impose no terms, and would leave the gentleman on the other side to adopt such course as his character entitled him to expect.

The Lord Chief Justice must say they considered what had taken place during the absence of the judges was the same as if it had occurred in their presence.

Mr Fitzgibbon said he was unconscious of having ever said or done anything with the base intention of wounding the feelings of another, and entirely disclaimed any such intention in this case.

Mr Moore suggested, that, after the explanation that had been given, the whole matter should be allowed to drop.

The court heartily concurred in the suggestion, and the Attorney-General and Mr Fitzgibbon having also expressed their concurrence, it was allowed to do so.

This pleasant little episode over, Mr Fitzgibbon resumed his address, but before proceeding farther, solicited an adjournment until the following day, which the court (with reluctance) acceded to.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 31.—The Court of Queen's Bench sat to-day at ten o'clock, when Mr Fitzgibbon resumed his address to the court. He submitted, that if the speech alleged to have been delivered by Mr O'Connell at Mallow could bear the construction put upon it by the Attorney-General, it would amount to high treason, and that the present charge of misdemeanour would be merged in it—the less in the greater—and that, therefore, the prosecutions must fall to the ground. He commented at considerable length on the sentiments expressed in that speech. The Attorney-General, in observing upon the words of Mr O'Connell, that they (the government) should never trample upon him—that they should trample upon his dead body first—said, that Mr O'Connell meant that he would resist the civil authorities with guns, bayonets, pikes, &c. Had subsequent circumstances, he (Mr Fitzgibbon) asked, warranted such a construction? Certainly not. Where was there a more active and a more intelligent police than in Ireland, and yet where had they been able to discover those stores of pikes, guns, and bayonets, that were to be thus employed by Mr O'Connell. No; Mr O'Connell meant no such thing. He meant that in the event of any violent measures being adopted against him by the authorities, he would be ever found at his post among the people making use of those weapons which he best could use—the eloquence and the firmness with which God had endowed him. The learned counsel engaged the court the entire day. The latter portion of his address was directed to show that no conspirator against the peace of the country or the safety of the throne, such as it was attempted by these prosecutions to prove Mr O'Connell to be, could or would use the language embodied in the very speeches relied on by the crown for their case, and he quoted copious extracts from Mr O'Connell's speeches in support of this position.

There was a general impression throughout the whole of Wednesday that Mr Fitzgibbon was speaking against time. Mr O'Connell was said to be very desirous of having the Queen's speech before he addressed the jury, and as it could not be there before Friday night or Saturday morning, and as only two remained to speak after Mr Fitzgibbon, it will be seen that the Liberator will have much to do to accomplish his object.

FREE-TRADE MOVEMENTS.

WEEKLY MEETING AT COVENT GARDEN.

The second weekly metropolitan meeting for the present year was held on Thursday evening at Covent Garden Theatre. The platform was crowded with those gentlemen who usually take a prominent position in the discussion of this question, and long before the chair was taken the house to its very topmost range presented almost as crowded an appearance as it does on a night of free performance.

Shortly after seven o'clock, Mr G. Wilson, being called to the chair, congratulated the meeting on the progress which the question had made even since they had last assembled; and the attendance of that night sufficiently testified that the interest felt upon the subject was still on the increase.

Dr Bowring then came forward amidst loud cheering, and said, that as his duties would soon require his presence in another place, he should be very brief in his address. After descanting on the advantages which would accrue from adopting the principles of free trade in general, but more particularly from the application of those principles to a free trade in corn, the hon. and learned gentleman proceeded to observe that he heard it rumoured that it was intended to put down the Corn-law League with a high hand, and that perhaps that was to be its Clontarf meeting. (Laughter.) If so the members of the League would provide that the dispersals should take place legally, orderly, and constitutionally. It was a matter of some doubt whether, whilst the government were engaged with one set of repealers in Ireland, they should seek an encounter with another set in England. It would be curious to ascertain whether in this country a similar scene to the one which has lately taken place in Ireland was likely to be enacted, whether an Attorney-General engaged in the grave and solemn duty of carrying the law into effect, and clothed with all the sober attributes and quiet dignity of justice, should, being foiled by his adversaries, threaten to blow them up, not with the metaphorical pistol of irresistible argument, but with the real death-doing and murderous weapon to which, in the failure of argument, intemperate men are apt to resort. The opposition to the repeal of the corn laws was offered by those only who resisted all improvement, and the farmers had no right to complain, for the cost of buying corn from other countries amounted to almost as much as their rental, and if the farmers were emancipated from the pressure which was kept up only for the interests of the landlords, their advantage would be quite as great as that conferred on the manufacturers, and they would be able to produce, not only a sufficiency for home consumption, but even an additional quantity for exportation. He was glad that an attempt had been made to meet the League both by argument and subscriptions, for it would eventually be found that, even in the way of subscription, that a penny on the side of truth would be far more effective than 100*l.* on the side of falsehood. (Cheers.)

Colonel Thompson said, the advocates of the League had been through the north, celebrated for its genius and intelligence, and had been warmly greeted wherever they had gone. Even titled men were now coming in, and the Marquis of Westminster, whom no one could call a demagogue,

had given them a splendid new-year's gift. The present corn laws were even more stupid than oppressive, and it would be cheaper to the consumer to pay a direct poll tax on the heads of his daughters to portion off the daughters of the aristocracy, than to advance the heavier sum taken in this indirect and bungling way. If agriculture was to be protected, it must not be by the destruction of houses. Their opponents talked of the lion shaking his mane, but a far more appropriate simile would be the British ass shaking its tail. (Laughter.) The attempt to put down the League reminded him of an attempt alleged to be made, about twenty-five years ago, by a party to take the Tower, and who were said to have carried their ammunition in a stocking. (Laughter.) The hon. gentleman concluded by saying that it was impossible the farmers and agricultural labourers could unite cordially with the Anti-League meetings, and instanced the burning of the hay ricks as a proof. (Cheers.)

Mr Bright congratulated the meeting on the spirit with which it seemed animated, and urged a continuance of the same exertions until the corn laws were abolished. Since he last addressed them the country had in various parts given strong proofs of its adherence to the League, which had been joined by many influential persons belonging to the aristocratic, the manufacturing, and the monied interests. This was a sufficient answer to the charges of their being combined against property. The mission to Scotland had been most successful in the fifteen or sixteen principal towns which had been visited, and would for some time to come materially affect the representation of that country. The hon. gentleman, after adverting to the unsteady position in which members of parliament were held by the present wavering balance of parties and opinions, stated that at a meeting which he attended on the previous night at Wakefield, and at which Lord Morpeth was present, that noble lord, notwithstanding the high estimation in which he was held in the West Riding, and then on the arena which hailed his rising, not only failed to excite attention, but threw a gloom over the meeting when he hesitated on the question of total repeal. The passages in the noble lord's speech which had this effect, though he spoke generally in favour of the League and wished it every success, were those in which he appeared to think that circumstances might arise which would render it embarrassing to be pledged in any particular way upon the question. He was satisfied the noble lord's opinion was conscientiously with the League, for whenever he spoke without reference to that particular difficulty he spoke with power and force, and said that rather than keep the question of the corn laws in its present position he would advocate their total repeal. (Loud cheers.) No one in parliament had a stronger hold of his constituency than Lord Morpeth had on the West Riding, and if he was thus met what had others to expect? That ought to be an example and a lesson to legislators, showing that the country looked upon the question as one of life and death. After adverting on the reduction of prices from the corn laws of 1815, and during the various changes up to the present time, the honourable gentleman asked, would the farmers still exhibit the same credulity, especially when it would be found that in the present session those who were with them in the public meetings would be found with the ministers in the debate, or at least in the division? Would not the farmers still continue to suffer under the present uncertainty? Those attached to the League had no abstract love of agitation; but having pledged themselves to counteract the blighting influence of the corn laws, they could not then recede (cheers); and from the strength which the League was hourly gaining, its opponents, notwithstanding their present rampant tone, must soon capitulate. The Royal speech contained no allusion to the corn laws ("Oh, oh!"), and it would be seen what effect this would produce upon the agriculturists. It was impossible to surmise what course the minister would pursue, but if he nailed his colours to the mast of a party by which he was supported, or to those principles which he himself propounded, the League, unmindful of his cause, would go on as it had done, and improve every advantage, whilst still adhering to principle. The result would prove that many who looked on the minister as their saviour, would find him their destroyer, and must ultimately come to the League to relieve them. The circumstances of the country could well afford to permit those who were favourable to a fixed duty in the late administration to give it the go-by, as no tinkering arrangement had been made to secure it. It was said some new writs had to be issued in consequence of resignations. The League was pledged to contest every borough, and, in some instances, it might be counties. To do this no little labour would be required, and the funds should be considerably strengthened. Surely the metropolis, the head to which all the intelligence and pulsations returned for an answering reply, would not be found wanting. Here, where misery was more prominent because of the contrast with immense wealth and unbounded luxury—here, where starving millions met the wealthy few, it behoved the inhabitants above all others to exert themselves in a cause in which justice, mercy, charity, and the love of the human race, were united. What mattered it though eighteen members of close borough counties were united against the cause? There was influence enough to counteract in the legislature any exertions they could make. Could they eventually oppose the large towns of England, with Edinburgh, Glasgow, and other free representation? Let this great metropolis throw its weight into the balance and there could be but little doubt. The Anti-League party would be found, if not more prudent at least more practicable within doors than without, and when Sir Thomas Fremantle went round, with cautious whisper and bland smile, amongst the back benches, to request, in the name and with the compliments of Sir Robert himself, that honourable members would say as little as possible on the subject under discussion, the honourable gentlemen would prove as tame as they had shown themselves on former occasions, and the farmers would find themselves deceived as they had been before. (Loud cheers and laughter.) When this was found to be the case—when deserted by the landlords, and betrayed in the senate, perhaps the agriculturists would come to the party who had never betrayed them by false prospects—who always kept one undeviating course, and listened to the advice which would render them socially free and individually prosperous. (Loud cheers.) There was no hope but in beating down the stronghold of monopoly, and he had too much reliance on the virtue of his countrymen to doubt the result. (Here the whole of the pit audience, with some of those in the boxes, rose *en masse*, and greeted the speaker with loud cheers.) The honourable gentleman, after a few other observations as to the manner in which the corn laws pressed upon the energies, the intellects, and the comforts of the people, concluded by congratulating the meeting that England would have, amongst the other high achievements of which she could boast, the proud gratification of knowing that she was the first amongst the nations to strike down the false principle which had obtained for centuries, and to open up the prospect of a higher, a brighter, and a more prosperous career of intercourse between nation and nation than ever before had been followed.

The chairman said that, after the eloquent address which they had just heard, the proceedings would close for the evening, and they would meet again on Thursday next. The meeting then dispersed.

WAKEFIELD.

The promised "demonstration of the friends of free trade and the abolition of the corn laws, in the West Riding of Yorkshire," was made on Wednesday evening. The theatre selected for this display was the hall of the Corn Exchange, which was fitted up for the occasion. Seats were provided for 623 in all, and large as was the number, every ticket was disposed of several days ago, and many persons applied in vain as early even as Monday. The following localities were represented by their delegates:—Ossett, Halifax, Farsley, Gomersall, Cleckheaton, Heckmondwike, Doncaster, Dewsbury, Yeadon, Horsforth, Guiseley, Rawden, Pudsey, Batley, Barnsley, Wakefield, Huddersfield, Lindley, Lockwood, South Crosland, Houlley, Kirkburton, Golcar, Dalton, Kirkeaton, Murfield, Skelmanthorpe, Clayton West, Homefurth, Molegreen, Birkbey, Bradford, Otley, Morton, Clayton, and Leeds. James Garth Marshall, Esq., the largest manufacturer in the world, presided as chairman; on his right sat Lord Morpeth, D. Gaskell, Esq., Colonel Thompson, George Wilson, &c.; on the left were Richard Cobden, Esq., the Mayor of Leeds, John Bright, &c.

After the usual loyal and patriotic toasts the chairman gave the health of Lord Morpeth, and among other things remarked, in doing so, "It cannot be other than a great encouragement to us to find that men who are now our firmest supporters come from the ranks of the noblest and wealthiest of the landed proprietors (cheers)—from the largest and most skilful agriculturists, as well as from the toiling millions, both in town and country. (Cheers.) But whilst we are welcoming new converts, there is another welcome to be spoken of to-day. Lord Morpeth (here the whole assemblage rose as one man, and commenced cheering characterized by the most intense enthusiasm, which did not subside for several minutes. At times it appeared to die away, and silence about to be restored, but again, and again, it was renewed with redoubled energy)—Lord Morpeth is no new convert to the principles of free trade. He is no new visitor of these large meetings of the West Riding. It is because we know him so well—because we know him as a statesman and a man—because we know the qualities equally of his understanding and his heart. (Cheers.) It is for these reasons that the return of Lord Morpeth amongst us is welcomed with a degree of respect and of joyful cordiality that could not but have attended the fullest acquisition of the support of his distinguished name. I now, gentlemen, propose to you the health of the Right Honourable Lord Viscount Morpeth."

In his lordship's reply are some passages in his finest style of exalted oratory. Having warmly thanked them for their reception he said:—"During the long period of our connexion, I trust that neither my pretensions nor my proceedings ever exhibited any tendency to underhand dealing (never, never, and loud cheers) or to delusive and make-believe pretension (no, no), and I should be sorry if, now that the connexion has ceased, any tendency in that direction should begin. The chief object of this gathering, as I understand and interpret, is, upon the part of the West Riding of Yorkshire, to do honour and to give encouragement to the Anti-Corn-law League and to its deputation now present, and to promote, as far as in them lies, the abolition, the total and immediate abolition of the corn laws. (Immense cheering.) That, you inform me, is the object and meaning of your present gathering. (Yes, certainly.) Well, then, I know it will be inquired, both by friend and by foe (hear), am I prepared to go as far? (Hear, hear.) My last dealing, as you may probably remember, with the subject of the corn laws was in the year 1841, as a member of the then existing government, and as being a party to the proposition for an 8s. duty. (Hear, hear.) In that proposition we failed, and we fell (laughter and cheers), because the upholders of the present corn laws, our opponents then, gentlemen, as they are your opponents now, thought that we proposed to concede too much, and that our proffer was over liberal to the consumers. Now, gentlemen, so far from being admonished by failure, so far from being converted by defeat, I think the day for the same terms is gone by (here the meeting rose *en masse*, and cheered vociferously), and that what was considered by the constituencies of the empire to be too much then, would be too little now. Moreover, the very fact of my coming here, gentlemen, under the bond, as I have said, of no coercion (having remained aloof from public life for the last two years), without concert or consultation with any one, speaking entirely and exclusively for myself—all this, gentlemen, is a proof that I do not wish to withhold my acknowledgments for the zeal and energy which have been displayed by the Anti-Corn-law League; not, of course, pretending to indorse everything they may have said or may have done, or to withhold my sympathy for the struggle which you, my late constituents of the West Riding, are so gallantly and, as we have just had a proof, so munificently carrying on to promote the cause in which you conceive—and justly conceive (immense applause)—your vital interests are deeply involved. But, gentlemen, though I feel that I might safely wrap myself up in vague generalities, and steer clear of using any expression which should run counter to the feelings even of him who feels the strongest and goes the farthest among you, yet in your own presence, gentlemen, and in the presence of your distinguished guests—although I am aware that I may be somewhat checking those plaudits which have even now rung around me, and may be damping the warmth which seems to glow in your welcome of me—I do not scruple to avow that, as now advised, I am not prepared to debar myself, at any time hereafter, if I should think that the necessary or best understood interests of the public revenue absolutely required it, or if I should see no other way of effecting a better settlement of the whole question than that which now prevails, or if I thought I was making a great advance in a right direction—in these, or in such-like cases, I do not debar myself from the power of acquiescing in a fixed duty of low amount." (Cries of "No, no, that won't do," and expressions of dissent.)

His lordship said he was prepared for those expressions of dissent, and by way of softening down dissatisfaction at it, he continued:—"But, gentlemen, when I have said this, which I have thought it right as an honest man to do (cheers), not foreseeing what combination of circumstances might arise, I at once frankly add, that I am by no means bigotted to this measure of a fixed duty. (Cheers.) Indeed, when it is thus limited to a small amount, I am not inclined to attach to it the same importance on one side or the other, which is sometimes done upon both. At all events, I demur to any intolerance with respect to this proposition, and sure I am, at least of this, that I would infinitely prefer a repeal, a total and immediate repeal, to a year's continuance of the law as it now subsists. (Immense applause.) And even if in the present year, a total and immediate repeal could be carried, as I suspect it would be, gentlemen, if the ultimate decision rested with you (cheers), I certainly should not be inconsolable, or long in making up my mind to the result." (Cheers.)

The following passages are worthy of being preserved. "Suffer me," said his lordship, "so far to implicate what befel myself with the great interests now occupying your attention as to recal for one moment our scene of defeat in the enclosure immediately below where we are now assembled. In that hour of failure I ventured to observe that the very principles, the measures which had occasioned our defeat, were even then moving on in their sure though unseen track, and hastening to their

accomplishment, and that if there was one subject upon which a nation was sure to see itself righted in the end, it was upon that which concerned its food. (Cheers.) Now, has this been borne out by the result? Was my dream an idle one? Was my prophecy a false one? The answer is supplied in the very place where the prediction was uttered—on the very spot where the defeat was sustained is now exhibited the reaction. . . . I do not wish, gentlemen, on such an occasion, to employ any serious or solemn terms, when at least our meeting, in its aspect, is entirely festive, though none can doubt the sober seriousness of your determination. But what I want our opponents, the opponents of free industry, to lay to heart is, whether, in the course they are pursuing, they are not fighting against nature itself, and against the laws which guide and bind the universe. (Cheers.) For what, gentlemen, what is the obvious meaning, what is the inevitable inference of those arrangements which mingle on the surface of our globe—so much of want here, and so much of abundance there?—here, such utter destitution—there, such prodigal profusion? Writers of fiction and fancy have been pleased, sometimes, to attribute voices to the winds, and to people with sounds the echoes of the hills; but the real words which nature sends forth through all her wide departments are 'work' and 'exchange.' (Cheers.) And though, gentlemen, I know that this subject is too universal and too general to stand in need of any partial illustrations, and though I know that the information of many at this board commands both the entire range and special details of all that concerns it, yet I could not help feeling myself, individually, how vividly these abstract truths were brought home when I traversed the broad prairies and boundless forests of another hemisphere. In the rich mould of their virgin soil, deep with the deposits of uncounted centuries, and in those alluvial plains, and in those rivers whose giant births civilization has hardly as yet explored, I recognized a call indeed for tillers and cultivators of their own—materials, indeed, for states and commonwealths and empires of their own; but along with these an ample store, inexhaustible granaries, whence the wide range of our own destitution might be supplied, the menacing advance of our own pauperism be stayed, and the hungry of England be fed with bread." (Cheers.)

The reception of Mr Cobden at this meeting was as enthusiastic as that of Lord Morpeth. He spoke with almost more than his usual uncompromisingness against a fixed duty. "We have pledged ourselves," he said, "before our country to adhere to it, because it is an adherence to what we believe to be true, and I am sure our noble guest will admit, that while we believe that it is true we are bound to adhere to it." This was greeted by a "hear, hear," from Lord Morpeth, to whom afterwards Mr Cobden more especially addressed himself—thus: If there was one sentiment that more pervaded my mind than another, as I came to this place, it was the strong hope which I entertained, knowing that I was coming here to meet the distinguished statesman to whom his countrymen are inclined to look as much as, I had almost said more, than any other living statesman (cheers) for the future conduct of the nation's interest in the House of Commons. I say, the sentiment which pervaded my mind most strongly was, that coming to the West Riding of Yorkshire, I should find the man who would be the Moses to conduct us through this desert to the land of promise. (Loud and long-continued cheering.) I say it most emphatically, in the name of my colleagues and myself, that most happily should we surrender our cause into the keeping of such a man, if he advocated our principles in the House of Commons. Most gladly would he have toiled in the ranks out of doors, where we can be of efficient service, and where we would have cheerfully aided such a statesman, in indentifying his name with the greatest commercial reform, nay, the mightiest revolution that this world ever witnessed. (Cheers.) Gentlemen, I do not despair. (Loud cheering for several minutes.) We will work on another year. (Continued cheering.) I think the noble lord said a year, a little year. We will work on gladly for him for another year (cheers); and then, when he has reflected upon our principles—when he has considered the justice of our case—when he has brought his mind, by the unaided course of his own calm reflection, and his high moral guidance, to believe that we are right and just in our object—I say I do not despair. I live in hopes that he, at the end of a little year, will yet come forward and take the charge of this great question in the House of Commons. (Cheers.) But whilst we express that hope, again I must remind you that we are here as Anti-Corn-law Leaguers; we are here pledged to our principles; and I must tell you, in the West Riding, that it lies with you now to show to the people of England that we are honest in the avowal of our principles. You may be called upon to make sacrifices, greater sacrifices, of personal feeling, rightly directed and well merited—greater personal attachment than any constituency of this country ever was called upon to make. I neither hold out bribes nor threats to the noble lord. I know he is competent, by his own unaided intellect and right-minded integrity of character, to decide for himself. But we stand pledged, not to Whigs or to Tories, but to the whole people of this country. Now, gentlemen of the West Riding of Yorkshire, the resolution or toast which I have to propose to you will put you to the test, and if in this presence, and after what you have heard, you give, as I believe you will, an unanimous vote in favour of that motion, then, I ask, whether in the West Riding or in any other part of the kingdom, where are the men who will stand up and say that the League and Leaguers are not prepared to make any sacrifice of political or party feeling rather than they will sacrifice the principles of the League. (Cheers.)

The honourable gentleman then proposed—"The total and immediate repeal of the corn laws," and sat down amidst the hearty plaudits of the meeting.

Mr Bright, Col. Thompson, Mr Rand (who is an eminent spinner, of Conservative opinions, at Bradford), and others addressed the meeting.

Mr Cobden and his friends having concluded their enthusiastic and successful tour through Scotland and the north of England, have now reached the metropolis.

On Tuesday evening one of the largest, most respectable, and most enthusiastic meetings ever held in Stockport, which Mr Cobden represents, took place in aid of the great League Fund of 100,000. The meeting was held in Batty's Royal Circus, Middle Hillgate, a spacious pavilion, capable of seating 2,500 persons; and the whole available space in the boxes, pit, and galleries, was crowded to excess. It is impossible for us to enumerate all the parties present, or all the speeches made. Henry Marsland, Esq., who is Mr Cobden's colleague in the representation of the borough, concluded a long and eloquent address, by moving:—"That this meeting, being firmly of opinion that this country suffers severely from the baneful effects of monopoly, especially the corn law, and that all laws which interfere with the freedom of industry and with the bounties of Providence are impolitic and unjust, resolves to tender its best assistance, on all necessary occasions, to the National Anti-Corn-law League, in its persevering endeavours for the complete abolition of all commercial monopolies." (Applause.) The Rev. Charles Baker, Baptist minister, briefly seconded the resolution; and it passed without a single dissentient voice. A great

number of addresses were presented by working men to Mr Cobden from different manufactories, thanking him for his exertions, and calling upon him to persevere in his great object—the destruction of monopolies. Mr Cobden returned thanks to the deputation, and then addressed the meeting. Mr Moore announced the subscriptions for the night, which amounted to 924*l.*, in addition to 320*l.* subscribed by Messrs Orrell and Hollins at Manchester. Before the meeting broke up the total contribution for Stockport was announced to be 1,333*l.* 9*s.* 4*d.*

MISCELLANIES OF TRADE.

THE SHIPPING INTEREST.—At a late meeting of the Sunderland Free-trade Association, it was mentioned by one of the members that, since the 21st of September last, ten cargoes of foreign grain had entered the port of Sunderland, of which seven had been imported in Foreign bottoms, and three only in British ships. Such is the operation of Peel's sliding scale, combined with his new coal-trade laws, that more than two-thirds of our foreign grain falls to the share of foreigners! No wonder the British shipowners are beginning to heap inverted blessings on the day they helped to place so injurious a "friend" as Peel in the premiership. They now see, that the more there is to be carried, and the more regular the carrying trade can be made, the better for themselves, the carriers; and that their own permanent prosperity can be secured only by a full adoption of the great principle of free trade, and not by the paltry, peddling impolicy of "unsettling everything, and settling nothing."—*Durham Chronicle.*

IRON SHIPS.—**LOYD'S REGISTRY.**—The use of iron vessels having of late increased so much, the attention of the committee of Lloyd's has been directed towards the subject of their registration, and have issued the following notice:—"That the character of A 1 will in future be granted to such ships as shall be constructed of iron under the survey of the surveyors to the society, and be reported, on their completion, to have been built of good and substantial materials, and with good workmanship."

PORT OF ALEXANDRIA.—A statistical account of the number of vessels of all nations that have entered the port of Alexandria, during the year 1843, has been furnished, from which we give the following particulars:—Of British vessels, 204 arrived and 215 sailed; of Austrian, 196 entered and 185 sailed; of Greek, 172 arrived and 175 sailed; of Syrian vessels, the numbers returned are, 112 arrived and 103 sailed; of French, 40 and 36; of Tuscan, 34 arrived and sailed; of Sardinian, 27 arrived and sailed; of vessels belonging to the island of Samos, 12 arrived and 6 sailed; of Russian, the numbers are 9 and 5; of Ionian, the numbers in both instances are 9; of Prussian, 5 and 2; of American, 2 vessels arrived and 2 sailed; of Neapolitan, 2 and 1; of Norwegian, 2 and 1; of Danish, 1 arrived and 1 sailed; of Dutch, 1 and 2; of Wallachian, 1 vessel entered, and 1 sailed. The total results are, 829 vessels arrived, and 805 sailed.

CONSUMPTION OF TOBACCO.—A memorial has been addressed to Sir Robert Peel by the American Chamber of Commerce at Liverpool, praying for a reduction of the duty on tobacco, and stating the advantage which would accrue both to the revenue and to commerce by such a measure. Tables are given to show the increase of consumption during the imposition of a low duty, and that to such a degree as to render the source of revenue more productive. Thus, coffee in 1801, at 1*s.* 7*d.* per pound, yielded 77,651*l.*; in 1821, at 1*s.* per pound, 379,650*l.*; and in 1841, at 6*d.* per pound, 710,524*l.* Tobacco in 1821, at 4*s.* per pound, yielded 3,164,673*l.*, and in 1841, at 3*s.* per pound, 3,314,215*l.* This difference of duty has not, however, been sufficient to reduce materially the profits of the smuggler, who is still able to sell his tobacco at 2*s.* 9*d.* per lb., which is 3*d.* less than the duty alone. In 1798 Ireland consumed 8,000,000 lbs. of tobacco, and she now consumes 3,000,000 lbs. less, with more than double the population. During the period of extensive consumption the duty was 8*s.* per lb., whereas it is now 3*s.* In England and Scotland was consumed, in proportion to the population, only half the quantity of tobacco consumed in Ireland, the duty in this island being 1*s.* 7*d.* However, on account of smuggling, the quantity of tobacco on which duty is paid does not give even an approximation to the actual amount of consumption, and the memorialists declare, that in their belief the actual consumption was 53,711,856 lbs., instead of 22,094,772 lbs., the quantity on which the duty was levied. These statements are followed by a prayer for the reduction of the duty on tobacco to 1*s.* per lb.

LEEDS WOOLLEN MARKETS.—There is a good amount of business doing at both the cloth halls nearly every market day, and the demand for tweeds and similar goods seems to be increasing. In fine goods little or nothing is doing. Numerous buyers have been in the town on home account, and a fair trade is doing in the warehouses.—The price of tallow in Leeds remains at 4*s.* 3*d.* per imperial stone.—*York Courant.*

PRIVATE AND JOINT-STOCK BANKS.—By a parliamentary paper of last session, it appears that from the year 1826 to 1842, there were registered no fewer than 9,557 private banks, and 985 joint-stock banks. From 1841 to 1842, the number of the former was 311, and of the latter 118. The Yorkshire district bank had in January, 1842, 1,000 partners, and the Manchester and Liverpool district bank 1,113, the largest number at the period mentioned.

COMMERCIAL MARKETS.

FRIDAY EVENING.

INDIGO.—There have been very few transactions in this article in the course of the week, but the average rates of the last January sales are firmly maintained, and we have not heard of any attempt to force parcels upon the market. The deliveries of indigo from the London bonded warehouses for January were as follows:—For home consumption, 1,282 chests; for export, 494 chests. Total, 1,776 chests against 2,021 chests in January 1843, 1,833 chests in 1842, 1,488 chests in 1841, &c. The shipments to Germany, Holland, &c., have not yet commenced, but those to the Mediterranean ports are going on and are rather more considerable than usual in this time of the year. Accounts received in Holland from Java state that the indigo crop in that island, for the present season, is expected to reach 1,100,000 kilograms, which is equal to 10,600 chests at 250 lbs. English each. Large sales are in consequence expected in Holland in March and September, 1844, and in March, 1845; the stock in Holland on the 1st of January amounting to 5,630 packages of all sizes, one equal to about 3,400 chests at 250 lbs. each. The competition which the Java indigo causes with the produce of our East India possessions operates very much against the value of the latter.

COCHINEAL.—Only one public sale was held this day, and none on the previous days this week. The quantity was about 150 serons of Houdouas silvers, mostly of good quality, none, however, of very large grains. The whole went off rather briskly at previous rates, establishing an average price of 4*s.* 4½*d.* per lb. There is some speculative tendency on the purchases of this article, and it is not the only one in our market in which investments of money are made.

SUGARS.—Refined: The market for home consumption goods was flat, and rather lower in the beginning of the week, but the demand has somewhat improved, and it closes with more firmness. Export sorts are in moderate request, and prices are steady.—The British plantation market has continued without animation, but to-day more business is doing, and the sales amount to 1,400 casks; prices, however, are firm, and the flatness that has prevailed is chiefly owing to the small show, which offers no inducement for buyers to come forward freely, the stock of West India, as well as of other home trade sorts, being much reduced.—Mauritius: 5,208 bags, chiefly good qualities, brought forward by public auction yesterday, went off with some spirit, and mostly 6d. higher; fine fine yellows 66s. 6d. to 68s., good and fine yellow 63s. to 66s., low and middling 57s. 6d. to 63s. 6d.—Bengals: The public sales have again been small, amounting to 2,203 bags, which have gone on the whole at rather easier prices; good whites 67s. 6d. to 68s. 6d., middling 65s. 6d. to 66s. 6d., good yellows 60s. to 63s. 6d., damp low yellows 55s. to 55s. 6d.*

COFFEE.—There continues to be a good demand for home consumption, and an extensive business has been done. Of British West India sorts the market still continues extremely bare. Of Mocha, 475 bales have been offered in public sale, greater part of which found buyers, but prices were rather moderate, viz.—middling and good clean garbled, 65s. 6d. to 69s.; and good long berried sorts, 74s. to 76s.; a few ungarbled, 50s. 6d. to 52s. Ceylons continue in favour, and considerable speculative purchases of good ordinary sorts have again been made, which have further advanced prices fully 1s. per cwt., 876 bags in public sale having been taken off freely at 64s. 6d. to 65s. 6d.; and the private sales may be estimated at fully 4,000 bags at the same rates; 759 bags, of Plantation growth, sold readily at 77s. to 82s. for fine and fine fine ordinary quality, and one lot middling, at 84s. 6d.

COCOA.—258 bags Para in public sale were bought in at 28s.; and 121 bags fine Bahia also mostly bought in at 30s. to 31s., one lot being sold at 32s.

RICE.—There has been some inquiry for Bengal, which is firm, and business has again been done in Madras at 8s. 6d. 1,884 bags Bengal in public sale to-day, of good middling quality, being held for 11s. were all bought in. Java continues neglected.

PIMENTO continues to advance, some sales having been effected privately at 3½d. to 3¾d., and 50 bags low middling, in public sale, sold at 3½d.

PEPPER.—The market has been less active this week, but the recent advance is maintained; and 635 bags brown Penang, in public sale, partly sold at 3d.; 15 cases fine white sold at 9d. to 9½d., and 15 bags low middling 5d. to 5½d.

CINNAMON.—The quarterly sales, consisting of 1,380 bales Ceylon, which took place on the 29th ult., went off with some spirit, and there being a good demand, which was freely met by importers, nearly the whole found buyers; the firsts, of which there were but few, and those mostly inferior, sold fully 6d. higher than last sale; the good seconds about 6d. lower, but those of inferior quality at a small advance; and thirds also 2d. to 3d. higher, the quantities and prices being as follows:—

	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
1st quality, 144 bales ord. to good, 4	5	6	7	—	8
2nd " 944 "	3	10	4	10	—
3rd " 169 "	3	8	4	4	—
92 cases broken sold higher	2	7	3	11	
9 bales Tellicherry sold at	1	6	4	7	

CASSIA LIGNEA.—The market remains quiet, but prices are steady. 100 boxes in public sale sold as follows: good middling and good, 64s. 6d. to 69s.; low middling, 58s. to 58s. 6d. 96 chests Buds, chiefly sold at 67s. Other spices are pretty steady.

FOREIGN.

Holland, Jan. 31.—The Dutch Company's coffee sales have been fixed for the 7th of March at Rotterdam, and 11th of March at Amsterdam. The quantity declared amounts together to 137,899 bags, being considerably less than what was expected. The common qualities are traced at 20 cents, and will not be sold for less, others in proportion. The 161,730 bags, which were bought in at the September sales, will likewise be held at 20 cents; the Company has further notified that if any part at the forthcoming sales does not meet with buyers at the upset prices, it will be held ½ cent. above the buying prices, and not disposed of in less than 2,500 bag lots; they will not offer or sell any further quantity of coffee before their next September sales. These declarations have given a firm tone to the Dutch markets, and such coffee as the Company has now taxed at 20 cents having been previously obtainable at 19 cents, it is now held at 19½ to 20 cents, and in demand at 19½ even for first class damaged. For Brazil coffee there has likewise been more disposition to buy in Holland, and better offers have been made. Sugar was firm. Cotton in demand, and prices looking up.

At Antwerp, Jan. 31, the determination of the Dutch Company respecting their coffee sales has likewise had a favourable effect upon the coffee market. Buyers had appeared at an advance of ¼ to ½ per lb., and all that could be had at that proportion was taken. Raw sugar was likewise firmer, and some considerable parcels of yellow Havana had been taken for the refiners and for export. Cotton in great demand, and but little remaining on the market.

From Hamburg the estimates are only up to the end of last week. Cotton had experienced an improvement of about ¼d. per lb. In coffee but little doing, the Dutch declaration not yet being known. Sugar firm, but transactions limited. The navigation of the Elbe was still closed.

From New York letters have been received up to January 13. The receipts of cotton in the ports amount to 707,000 bales, against 909,000 bales in 1843. Shipments, 258,000 bales, against 470,000 bales; to England, 169,000 bales, against 322,000 bales. Prices were still rising, and notwithstanding our recent improvement, above what they were yielding in this country. At New York large speculative purchases of Brazil coffee, amounting to 16,000 bags, had been made at 7 to 7 ½ cents, being equal to 33s. to 36s. in this market. The exchange upon London quoted 108½ per cent., and but little doing.

PRICES CURRENT OF COTTON WOOL.—Account of sales from 26th Jan. to 1st Feb., 1844:—East India, viz. Surat, 14,000 bales: ordinary to middling, 3½d. to 3¾d.; fair to good fair, 4d. to 4½d.; current prices this day, 3¾d. to 4½d. Madras, 3,000 bales: ordinary to middling, 3½d.; fair to good fair, 4½d. to 4d.; current prices this day, 3¾d. to 4½d. American, viz. Bowd Georgia, 400 bales: fair to good fair, 4½d. to 5½d.; current prices this day, 4½d. to 5½d. Total, 17,400 bales in bond. An extensive demand has existed daily for cotton, which has much increased during the last two days, and the total transactions of the week amount to 17,400 bales as above, but without any general advance in prices, though Surats have in many instances commanded ¼d. above the rates of last week. 2,000 Surats and 800 Madras are advertised for sale on the 8th instant.

PRICES CURRENT, FEB. 2, 1844.

ENGLISH FUNDS.	PRICES THIS DAY.	FOREIGN FUNDS.	PRICES THIS DAY.
Bank Stock	193	Austrian, 5 per cent.	—
3 per Cent. Consols	98	Belgian, 5 per cent.	—
5 per Cent. Red	97½	Brazilian Bonds	79
New 3 per cent.	101½	Buenos Ayres, 6 per cent.	—
New 5 per cent.	—	Chilian, 6 per cent.	—
Long Annuities to expire	—	Columbian, 6 per cent.	12½
January, 1860	12 13 16	Cuba Bonds, 6 per cent.	93
October, 1859	—	Danish, 3 per cent.	—
January, 1860	12 9 16	Greek, 1825, 5 per cent.	—
India Stock	276	Mexican, 5 per cent.	34½
Ditto Bonds	—	Ditto, 6 per cent., 1837	—
Ditto Old Annuities	—	Peruvian, 1825, 6 per cent.	—
Ditto New Annuities	—	Portuguese 5 per cent.	—
Exchequer Bills, 1,000, 14d.	69 pm	Ditto, New, do.	—
Ditto Small	67 pm	Russian, 5 per cent.	—
Bank Stock for Account	—	Russian, 5 per cent.	—
India Stock for Account	—	Ditto, 3 per cent.	—
Consols for Opp.	97½	French, 5 per cent.	75
		Ditto 3 per cent.	—
		Dutch, 2½ per cent.	55½
		Ditto, 5 per cent.	—

CORN MARKETS.

(From Messrs Gilling and Horn's Circular.)

CORN EXCHANGE, MONDAY, JAN. 29.—The weather is very mild for the season. The wind to-day westerly. The arrivals during last week were large of Irish Oats and Barley, and of English Malt; of every thing else moderate. The show of lard-carrage samples of Essex and Kent Wheat being very small, the market is quite as dear as last Monday. The Malsters are obliged to give as much Barley as last week, but the distillers and feeders hold back in expectation of further supplies of foreign, recollecting that in the first quarter of 1840 we received over forty thousand quarters. Notwithstanding the heavy supply of Irish Oats, nearly maintain last week's prices. No material change in Beans and Peas. Flour is firm.

BRITISH.	PER QR.	FOREIGN AND COLONIAL.	PER QR.
Wheat, Essex, Kent, Suff. &k, white	54 to 60s	Wheat, White Spanish, Tuscan	60s to —
— Lothian, Fife, Angus, do.	50 to 56s	— Mixed mixed Danzig	61s to —
— Inverness, Murray, &c.	50s to 56s	— High mixed do.	58s to 61s
— Essex, Kent, Suffolk, red	50s to 56s	— Rostock, new	60s to —
— Cambridge, Lincoln, red	50s to 56s	— Red Hamburg	— to 60s
Barley, English Malt, and Che-	—	— Polish Odessa	— to 52s
valer	25s to 27s	— Hard	48s to —
— Distiller's, English & Scotch	31s to 35s	— Ezytian	— to 37s
— Course, for grinding, &c.	— to 30s	Barley, Malt, &c.	— to 32s
Oats, Northumberland & Berwick	20s to 25s	— Distiller's, &c.	— to 25s
— Lothian, Fife, Angus	20s to 25s	— Grinding, &c.	— to 31s
— Murray, Ross	20s to 25s	Oats, Brew, &c.	— to —
— Aberden and Banff	20s to 25s	— Poland, &c.	— to —
— Carlinness	20s to 25s	— Feck, &c.	— to —
— Cambridge, Lincoln, &c.	19s to 21s	— Do. dried, Riga, &c.	— to —
— Irish	17s to 19s	Rye, Dried	— to —
— English, black	18s to 21s	— Undried	— to —
— Irish	17s to —	Beans, Horse	34s to 38s
— Potato, Scotch	22s to 25s	— Mediterranean	36s to 39s
— Irish	20s to 22s	Peas, White	32s to —
— Poland, Lincoln, &c.	22s to 24s	— Yellow	34s to —
Beans, Ticks	28s to —	Flour, French, per 280lbs. nett	— to —
— Harrow	29s to 37s	— weight	— to —
— Small	30s to 38s	— American, per Bar. 195 lbs.	30s to 32s
Peas, White	35s to 36s	— nett weight	— to —
— Barley	37s to 25s	— Danzig, &c. do. do.	36s to 42s
Flour, Town-made Households	50s to 53s	— Canada, do. do.	86s to 87s
— Norfolk and Suffolk	38s to —	— Sour, do. do.	— to —

CORN EXCHANGE, FRIDAY, FEB. 2.—The weather has turned wintry, we have a heavy fall of snow, the wind north east. The arrivals are short, and we suppose that the northern European ports are again closed by frost. Wheat, for free foreign 1s. advance has been obtained from needy buyers. Prime samples of Barley for malting and for seed are quite as dear, but distillers' quality very dull; feeding Barley firm. Oats, notwithstanding last week's heavy supply, are quite as dear where sales are made. No change in Beans and Peas. Where shipments of Flour are coming on demurrage, Monday's rates are taken, but fresh parcels are 1s. dearer.

LONDON AVERAGES.

For the week ending February 2.

Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Rye.	Beans.	Peas.
3,790 qrs.	4,672 qrs.	27,087 qrs.	81 qrs.	1,955 qrs.	1,164 qrs.
35s. 0d.	34s. 4d.	19s. 11d.	33s. 11d.	28s. 7d.	31s. 3d.

IMPERIAL AVERAGES.

	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Rye.	Beans.	Peas.
Weeks ending	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Dec. 25th	50 3	32 2	18 7	29 9	30 10	30 10
Jan. 4th	49 9	32 3	18 5	31 4	30 1	31 6
— 11th	49 10	32 7	18 5	30 8	29 5	30 7
— 18th	50 9	33 0	18 9	33 5	29 8	31 0
— 25th	51 8	33 7	18 9	31 7	29 6	30 4
Feb. 1st	52 3	33 8	19 0	32 4	29 6	30 3
Aggregate of the six weeks	50 9	32 10	18 8	31 6	29 10	30 10
Duties till Feb. 7th inclu.	20 0	6 0	8 0	10 6	11 6	10 6
On Grain from R. Possession	—	—	—	—	—	—
out of Europe	5 0	0 6	2 0	2 0	3 0	2 6

Flour—Foreign, 12s. 0d. per 195 lbs.—British Possession, 3s. 0d. ditto.

SMITHFIELD MARKET.

MONDAY.—The many changes which, during the last week, the weather has undergone, does not appear to have affected the state of the meat markets generally. The attendance of town and country butchers at this market this morning, and at Newgate and Leadenhall markets on Saturday, was good, and they purchased on the whole freely, whilst at the same time very good prices were obtained. At the Newport and Whitechapel markets, however, the state of trade was generally bad, particularly at the former. Nevertheless, on the whole, there is not much to complain of. The supply of beasts and sheep at Smithfield this morning was smaller than last week, but of calves and pigs an increase. Generally, former prices were steadily maintained, as the only instance in which a decline upon last Monday's rates is observable is in the article of beef, the first rate quality and middling descriptions of which were 2d. lower. In mutton and veal no alteration in rates occurred, and in pork an advance of 2d. per stone was obtained.

FRIDAY.—Notwithstanding the supply of beasts was very moderate, the beef trade, owing to the thin attendance of buyers, was in a sluggish state, and in some instances the quotations had a downward tendency. The numbers of sheep were unusually small. Prime old downs sold briskly at an advance of 2d. per 8 lbs., but the value of all other kinds remained unaltered. Calves were in short supply and active demand at full rates. Pigs moved off slowly, yet late currencies were supported. In miltch cows very little was doing at from 16l. to 19l. each.

Prices per Stone.		At Market.	
Monday.	Friday.	Monday.	Friday.
Beef 3s 0d to 4s 2d	2s 8d to 4s 0d	Beasts	2,074
Mutton 3s 4d to 4s 6d	2s 10d to 4s 4d	Calves	120
Veal 4s 6d to 5s 6d	4s 0d to 5s 2d	Sheep	27,160
Pork 3s 8d to 4s 8d	2s 0d to 4s 2d	Pigs	390

Prices of Hay and Straw, per load of 36 trusses. Hay, 3l. 0s. 0d. to 3l. 15s. 0d. | Clover, 4l. 0s. 0d. to 5l. 0s. 0d. | Straw, 1l. 4s. 0d. to 1l. 10s. 0d.

BOROUGH HOP MARKET.

Although the amount of business doing in new hops this week has not been so extensive, the quotations are steadily supported in every instance. The value of old hops is still slightly on the advance, with a very limited quantity on show.

COAL MARKET.

Prices of Coals per ton at the close of the market.—Adair's Main, 14s.—Chester Main, 16s.—Hastings Hartley, 16s.—Holywell Main, 16s. 9d.—New Tanfield, 18s. 6d.—Taylor's West Hartley, 16s.—Townley, 15s.—Tanfield Moor, 16s. 6d.—West Vylam, 13s. 9d.—Ebn Park, 17s. 6d.—Hilda, 17s. 6d.—Killingworth, 18s.—Belmont, 19s.—Hawwell, 20s. 9d.—Hetton, 20s. 3d.—Lambton, 20s. 3d.—Russell's Hetton, 19s. 9d.—Stewart's, 20s. 3d.—Sunderland, 17s.—Blanshard's, 17s.—Caradoc, 20s.—Heugl Hall, 18s. 9d.—Heselden, 18s. 3d.—Quarrington, 18s.—Adelaide, 19s. 6d.—Brown's Danery, 18s. 3d.—Barrett, 18s.—Richardson's Tees, 17s. 3d.—St Helen's Tees, 17s. 3d.—South Durham, 18s. 6d.—Tees, 19s. 9d.—Cowpen Hartley, 16s. 6d.—Powell's Duffryn Steam, 20s.—Howard's West Hartley Netherton, 16s. Ships arrived, 23.

THE GAZETTE.

Tuesday, January 30. SUMMER CIRCUITS, 1844.

CIRCUITS OF THE COMMISSIONERS FOR THE RELIEF OF INSOLVENT DEBTORS.

MIDLAND CIRCUIT.

HENRY REVELL REYNOLDS, Esq., Chief Commissioner.

At Chelmsford, Saturday, July 6.—At Colchester, Monday, July 8.—Suffolk: At Ipswich, Tuesday, July 9.—Norfolk: At Yarmouth, Thursday, July 1.—At Norwich, Friday, July 12.—At the City and County of the City of Norwich, on the same day.—Norfolk: At Lynn, Tuesday, July 16.—Suffolk: At Bury St Edmunds, Thursday, July 18.—Cambridgeshire: At Cambridge, Friday, July 19.—Huntingdonshire: At Huntingdon, Monday, July 22.—Northamptonshire: At Peterborough, Tuesday, July 23.—Rutlandshire: At Oakham, Wednesday, July 24.—Lincolnshire: At Lincoln and City, Friday, July 26.—Nottinghamshire: At Nottingham, Monday, July 29.—At the Town and County of the Town of Nottingham, on the same day.—Derbyshire: At Derby, Thursday, August 1.—At the City and County of the City of Litchfield, Friday, August 2.—Staffordshire: At Stafford, Saturday, August 3.—Shropshire: At Shrewsbury, Thursday, August 8.—At Oldbury, Saturday, August 9.—Warwickshire: At Birmingham, Monday, August 12.—At Warwick, Thursday, August 15.—At Coventry, Saturday, August 17.—Leicestershire: At Leicester, Monday, August 19.—Northamptonshire: At Northampton, Wednesday, August 21.—Bedfordshire: At Bedford, Friday, August 23.—Buckinghamshire: At Aylesbury, Saturday, August 24.

SOUTHERN CIRCUIT.

JOHN GREENTHREAD HARRIS, Esq., Commissioner.

Berkshire: At Reading, Friday, June 14.—Oxfordshire: At Oxford and City, Monday, June 17.—Worcestershire: At Worcester and City, Wednesday, June 19.—Gloucester and City, Friday, June 21.—Weymouthshire: At Monmouth, Thursday, June 27.—Herefordshire: At Hereford, Friday, June 28.—Bathonsire: At Presteigne, Monday, July 1.—Brecknockshire: At Brecon, Wednesday, July 3.—Carmarthenshire: At Carmarthen and Borough, Friday, July 5.—Cardiganshire: At Cardigan, Monday, July 8.—Pembrokeshire: At Haverfordwest and Town, Wednesday, July 10.—Glamorganshire: At Swansea, Friday, July 12.—At Cardiff, Monday, July 15.—At the City and County of the City of Bristol, Thursday, July 18.—Somersetshire: At Bath, Monday, July 22.—At Taunton, Wednesday, July 24.—Devonshire: At Plymouth, Saturday, July 27.—Cornwall: At Bodmin, Tuesday, July 30.—Devonshire: At Exeter, Thursday, August 1.—At the City and County of the City of Exeter, on the same day.—Dorsetshire: At Dorchester, Monday, August 5.—Wiltshire: At Salisbury, Wednesday, August 7.—Southampton: At Winchester, Thursday, August 8.—At the Town and County of the Town of Southampton, Saturday, August 10.

HOME CIRCUIT.

WILLIAM JOHN LAW, Esq., Commissioner.

Kent: At Dover, Friday, July 5.—At the City and County of the City of Canterbury, Monday, July 8.—Kent: At Maidstone, Tuesday, July 9.—Sussex: At Horsham, Saturday, July 20.—Hertfordshire: At Hertford, Saturday, July 27.

NORTHERN CIRCUIT.

DAVID POLLOCK, Esq., Commissioner.

Yorkshire: At Sheffield, Monday, June 10.—At Wakefield, Wednesday, June 12.—At the Town and County of the Town of Kingston-upon-Hull, Wednesday, June 19.—Yorkshire: At York, Friday, June 21.—At the City and County of the City of York, on the same day.—Yorkshire: At Richmond, Monday, June 24.—Durham: At Durham, Tuesday, June 25.—Northumberland: At Newcastle upon Tyne, Friday, June 28.—At the Town and County of the Town of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, on the same day.—Cumberland: At Carlisle, Tuesday, July 2.—Westmoreland: At Appleby, Friday, July 5.—At Kendal, Saturday, July 6.—Lancashire: At Lancaster, Monday, July 8.—At Liverpool, Tuesday, July 23.—Cheshire: At Chester, Friday, July 26.—At the City and County of the City of Chester, on the same day.—Montgomeryshire: At Welsh Pool, Tuesday, July 30.—Flintshire: At Mold, Friday, August 2.—Denbighshire: At Ruthin, Saturday, August 3.—Merionethshire: At Dolgelly, Wednesday, August 7.—Carnarvonshire: At Carnarvon, Saturday, August 10.—Anglesey: At Beaumaris, Monday, August 12.

PARTNERSHIPS DISSOLVED.

W. and T. Fordyce, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, booksellers.—J. and T. Gilliam, Oxford, boot and shoe warehousemen.—J. Jones and G. C. Parker, Pump court, Middle Temple, City, attorneys.—A. and J. Jones and G. Dent, Vere street, Oxford street, milliners.—S. H. Stace and M. S. Munnery, Shirley common, Hampshire, schoolmistresses.—W. J. and R. Young, Crewkerne, Somersetshire, ironmongers (as regards W. Young)—J. and Eliza Dafforne, and Emily Thomasine Stone, Greenwich, Kent, conductors of a boarding school (as regards Emily Thomasine Stone).—W. Langmead and W. Elford, Neal's yard, Great St Andrew's street, Seven dials, carpenters.—J. C. and A. Kurtz, T. and J. A. Case, and J. G. Morris, Liverpool, sellers of lamps.—J. H. and R. Laycock, and J. Hetherington, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and Houghton-le-Spring, iron merchants (as regards J. Hetherington).—J. Robinson, J. Robinson, jun., and J. H. Robinson, Water lane, Tower street, City, lightermen.—J. Dalton, J. Burn, and R. Turpin, Stepney, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, manufacturers of earthenware.—T. Rolfe, jun., and T. Ellis, Great St Helen's, Bishopsgate street, City, wine coopers.—W. Feilden and W. Townley, Liverpool, and Blackburn, cotton spinners.—J. J. and J. Milne, J. Travis, jun., E. G. and B. Travis, and J. Cheetham, Shaw-within Crompton, and Sugley-brook-within-Royton, Lancashire, cotton spinners.—J. Ellerton and J. Carter, Liverpool, agents.—G. Pugh, G. Wilkins, and W. Honeycomb, Bristol, cabinet makers.—W. Gilhoist and T. J. J. Steward, Steward street, silk manufacturers.—J. Ridgway and J. Wood, Dukinfield, Cheshire, grocers.—G. E. Magnus and W. Dutton, Pimlico, manufacturers of slate.—T. E. Ward and T. Lowes, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, manufacturers of tobacco.—J. B. Palmer and J. W. Peters, Queenington, Gloucestershire, paper makers.—J. Stokoe and G. Parkin, Dilston, Northumberland, wood merchants.—C. Jackson and W. J. Smith, Sheffield, merchants.

BANKRUPTS.

HILLER, G., Sun street, Bishopsgate street, varnish manufacturer. [Rutherford, Lombard street. TUBB, J., Basingstoke, Hampshire, draper. [Ashurst, Cheapside. BALLS, T., Thames street, City, iron merchant. [Ducker and Stevenson, Sun chambers, Threadneedle street. BUTCHER, W., Great Marlborough street, Westminster, commission agent. [Mayhew and Mayhew, Carey street, Lincoln's inn. LEQUEUTRE, A., Chiswick mills, Essex, miller. [Adams and Cooper, Ely place. RODHAM, T., Newcastle-upon-Tyne, grocer. [Williamson and Hill, Gray's inn. LEECH, J., Newcastle-upon-Tyne, ironmonger. [Chisholm, Ha], and Gibson, Lincoln's-inn fields. HERRIDGE, T., Manchester, tobaccoist. [Kershaw, King street, Manchester. MURCH, H., Norton-under-Hamdon, Somersetshire, sail cloth manufacturer. [Drace, Essex street.

INSOLVENTS (PETITIONERS).

J. H. Barry, late of St John's, New Brunswick, but now of Liverpool, merchant.—Ann Gault, Standon, Hertfordshire, baker.—J. Stott, Littleborough, Lancashire, druggist.—T. Young, Morpeth street, Bethnal green, master baker.—G. White, Regent street, tailor.—H. Rickett, Princes terrace, Putney street, Islington, retailer of beer.—T. W. Briggs, Twyford, Derbyshire, licensed victualler.—W. Pitts, Charles street, New cut, Lambeth, coach maker.—H. B. Swain, Bradford, Yorkshire, sand hawker.—J. Holt, Prestwich-cum-Oldham, Lancashire, plumber.—W. N. B. Harman, Windsor terrace, Dover road, general dealer.—W. H. Jones, Trammere, Cheshire, master mariner.—J. Baker, Bradford, Essex, painter.—H. Carman, Holywell, Flintshire, tailor.—T. Proctor, Leeds, gentleman's servant.—E. J. Cotford, Ana street, Pentonville, auctioneer.—M. R. Platts, Great Putney street, Golden square, painter.—W. Egleton, St

Michael's, Hertfordshire, hat maker.—E. Cunah, St Peter's, Cheshire, attorney-at-law.—T. J. Turner, Marshal street, Golden square, journeyman carpenter.—T. Mayers, Christleton, Cheshire, wheelwright.—J. Leigh, Llan, Denbighshire, retail dealer in ale.—J. Trench, Stafford, attorney-at-law.—W. Jarratt, Chatham, Kent, wood cutter.—J. Elston, Leamington Priors, Warwickshire, professor of music.—J. Wilson, Kendal, Westmoreland, attorney.—J. Gist, Totnes, Devonshire, baker.—J. Firman, Frinton, Essex, bailiff.—T. Wingham, York terrace, Borough road, oilman.—W. Presgrave, Sevenoaks, Kent, clerk.—J. G. Woodcock, Croydon, Surrey, railway guard.—T. Smith, Warrington, Lancashire, dealer in smallwares.—H. Marklew, Oxford street, innkeeper.

DECLARATION OF DIVIDENDS.

Feb. 22, F. Ford, Aldate, City, draper.—Feb. 22, F. Gautier, Gould square, Crutched friars, City.—Feb. 22, J. Cumming, Tottenham-court road, furrier.—Feb. 20, N. West, East Greenwich, Kent, victualler.—Feb. 9, R. B. Ricketts, Leadenhall street, City, merchant.—Feb. 22, W. Hill and W. R. Wackerbath, Leadenhall street, City, ship agents.—Feb. 20, E. Markby, Peterborough, Northamptonshire, common brewer.—Feb. 21, J. L. Woodruff, Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire, innkeeper.—Feb. 21, C. M. Nicholson, New Corn Exchange, Mark lane, City, and Dockhead, Bermondsey, Surrey, corn merchant.—Feb. 23, J. and G. Lockwood, Wakefield, Yorkshire, and St John's, New Brunswick, linen drapers.—Feb. 23, J. Bottomley, Delph, Yorkshire, woollen manufacturer.—Feb. 22, J. Pepper, Wootton-under-Edge, Gloucestershire, tailor.—Feb. 20, R. Marsh, jun., St Helen's, Lancashire, chemist.—Feb. 20, J. Lucy, jun., Liverpool, tailor.—Feb. 21, G. Danson and J. Walsley, Liverpool, merchants.—Feb. 20, W. Havelock, South Shields, Durham, carver.—Feb. 22, M. Dixon, Hessele, Kingston-upon-Hull, corn dealer.—Feb. 24, J. Wood, Beauvale, Nottinghamshire, miller.—Feb. 22, R. Brown, Kingston upon-Hull, bookseller.—Feb. 22, J. Temple, Myton, Kingston-upon-Hull, common brewer.—March 6, S. W. Suffield, Birmingham, druggist.

CERTIFICATES.

Feb. 21, R. T. Fletcher, Brentford, Middlesex, money scrivener.—Feb. 22, O. Johnson, Mutton and Great Braxted, Essex, corn dealer.—Feb. 22, T. Doakin, Cambridge, victualler.—Feb. 22, L. C. Leecene, Fenchurch buildings, Fenchurch street, City, merchant.—Feb. 21, R. Sharpe, Chelmsford, Essex, draper.—Feb. 29, S. G. Beamish, formerly of Mallow, Cork, Ireland, afterwards of Manor place, Walworth, Surrey, lime dealer.—Feb. 22, J. Brown, jun., Tydee, Monmouthshire, iron founder.—Feb. 22, T. Thorpe, now or late of Chertsey, and of Woking, Surrey, and of Feltham, Middlesex, plumber.—Feb. 21, F. Barry, Rye, Sussex, miller.—Feb. 21, E. T. Gore, Titcher, Berkshire, cattle dealer.—Feb. 22, J. Swann, Fleetwood-on-Wyre, Lancashire, bricklayer.—Feb. 22, J. Crisp, Liverpool, and of Liscard, Cheshire, auctioneer.—Feb. 22, D. Hague, Horsforth, Yorkshire, paper manufacturer.—Feb. 22, W. Mills, Birmingham, upholsterer.—Feb. 22, J. Edmondson, Marsden, Lancashire, miller.—Feb. 22, E. B. Pailey, Pendleton, Lancashire, stuff printer.

BANKRUPTS.

LAMONT, D., West Smithfield, publican. [Buchanan, Basinghall street. WOOD, W. L., Bishopsgate-street Within, ironmonger. [Henderson, Mansell street, Goodman's fields. PETTIT, R., Exning, Suffolk, livery stablekeeper. [Gil, Harrington street, Hampstead road. PERRYMAN, J. H., Birmingham, bookseller. [Wright, Birmingham. PHILLOTT, R., Blagdon, Somersetshire, scrivener. [Heaven, Bristol. DRAGE, J. R., Leeds, tallow merchant. [Williamson and Hill, London. WEBB, W., Leamington, Warwickshire, hotel keeper. [Greatwood, Birmingham. COOPER, G., Leeds, butcher. [Sadlow, Sons, and Torr, Chancery lane. THOMPSON, W., and J. MELLIS, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, commission agents. [Shield and Harwood, Queen street, Cheapside.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

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THE LAST WEEK BUT TWO.

Notwithstanding the approaching termination of the Concerts, Great Novelty will be brought forward. TO-MORROW, Monday, February 5, will be produced a GRAND DESCRIPTIVE FANTASIA, selected from ROCH-ALBERT'S Opera, entitled THE DESTRUCTION OF POMPEII, with New and Extraordinary Effects. ON TUESDAY Next, February 6, the Concert will be for the BENEFIT of MONSIEUR FARRET, whom, in addition to other attractions, Chevalier Neukomm's celebrated Septette (as played at the Philharmonic Concerts) will be performed for Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Horn, Bassoon, Trumpet, and Double Bass. ON WEDNESDAY Next, February 7, at the suggestion of several Musical Amateurs, there will be a CLASSICAL CONCERT; the Programme being entirely selected from the Works of Beethoven, Weber, Mozart, Haydn, Roch-Albert, Berlioz, Schubert, Spohr, and Cherubini. Commence at Eight. Promenade and boxes, 1s.; dress circle, 2s. 6d.; private boxes, 11. 1s. each. Places may be secured at the Box-office; also at Mr Mitchell's Library, 33 Old Bond street; Mr Sams's, St James's street; and at Mons. Jullien's office, 3 Maddox street Bond street.

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May be had of the authors, No. 69 Newman street, Oxford street, and sold by Briston, 11 Paternoster row; J. Gordon, 146 Leadenhall street; G. Mansell, 3 King street, Southwark; C. Westerton, 15 Park side, Knightsbridge; Huett, 37 Princes street, Leicester square, London; T. Souler, Courier office, 4 St Ann's square, Manchester; W. Howell, 75 Dale street, Liverpool; W. Wood, 78 High street, Birmingham; W. and H. Robinson, 11 Greenside street, Edinburgh; T. Price, 93 Dame street, Dublin; and all booksellers.

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The security of Happiness in the Marriage State is the chief anxiety of all; but many dread entering upon wedded union through a secret fear of unknown causes for the discharge of matrimonial obligations. This essay is most particularly addressed to a suffering under a dependency of the character alluded to; and advice will be found calculated to cheer the drooping heart, and point the way to renovated health.

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Printed by CHARLES REYNELL, at the Office of REYNELL and WRIGHT, 16 Little Pulteney street, in the Parish of St James, Westminster; and Published by the said CHARLES REYNELL, at the Office of the Journal, No. 6 Wellington street, Strand.—February 3, 1844.