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THE POLITICAL EXAMINER.

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

PEACE OR WAR?

If the last telegraphic despatches from Constantinople are trustworthy, the Sultan has returned to the joint proposals of the Four Powers an answer inspired by the same wisdom and moderation which have distinguished all the previous communications of his Government. He will send an ambassador to any capital (except Vienna) which may be chosen as the seat of negotiations; he will even accept the guarantee of the Four Powers for the evacuation of the Principalities; but he will not renew those treaties between Turkey and Russia, upon a false interpretation of which the latter power has founded the inordinate pretensions by which she has sought to destroy the authority of the Sultan over his subjects, and by which she justifies the aggression that threatens to involve not merely Europe, but a large part of Asia, in a general conflagration. That all these treaties are now annulled by the war between the two contracting powers, is admitted on all hands; but doubts have been expressed by writers whose opinions are entitled to much consideration, whether, if a treaty of peace containing no stipulation as to the previously existing treaties were concluded, those treaties would not be revived. The mere doubt is sufficient to prove the imperative necessity of requiring from Russia an express admission that all former engagements into which the Porte had entered are absolutely cancelled.

For, on the most insignificant concessions, Russia habitually founds the most dangerous demands. Her claim to the Protectorate over Moldavia and Wallachia is simply based on a stipulation that "she guarantees their prosperity." The right of protection which she really did possess as regards Servia, until the treaty of Bucharest was annulled by the present war, has been interpreted by the Czar as entitling her to rights of sovereignty over the country infinitely higher than those which are asserted by the Sultan himself. Russia insisted that she possessed the right of deposing Prince Alexander against the unanimous wishes of the Servian people. And it may be remembered that she actually succeeded in her attempts to depose him, Lord Aberdeen having declared that England ought not to interfere in a question arising out of treaties between Russia and the Porte. It is essential therefore to enter into no compact whatever with a power so unscrupulous, and apparently so much dreaded by those who guide the councils of other nations.

The important question now arises whether Russia will accept the proposal of a conference on the terms indicated by Turkey. We believe that it is only by resolving two other questions that an answer to this can be found. In the first place, are the Western Powers (for Austria and Prussia may be treated as non-existing) resolved on at length affording to Turkey that material assistance which they have repeatedly promised, and on adopting effectual proceedings against Russia in case she refuses the terms proposed? In the next place, is the esteem in which Russia holds the abilities of Western diplomatists so slight, that she will even now confidently reckon on obtaining, by the proposed negotiations, the object at which she aims? We incline to the opinion that both these questions must be answered in the affirmative.

However little particular statesmen may have succeeded in bringing themselves to believe that the Emperor of Russia is an enemy to this country, and notwithstanding all the peace-conversions made by Mr Cobden or Mr Fry, we hold it for certain that the ambiguous policy persevered in by this country for so many months past, must, unless some arrangement between the contending powers shall have previously been concluded, be abandoned before the meeting of Parliament. The impression that the ministry has in the conduct of this business betrayed an almost incredible degree of incapacity and timidity, is, whether right or wrong, general throughout the country. On this point are agreed men of every rank in life and every shade in politics. And there can be no doubt that this feeling, which is prevented from bursting forth merely because no one is willing to assume the responsibility of having advised or precipitated war, will find a voice, and a loud one, in the great council of the nation. Although, even amongst members of Parliament, few ever perused the treaties of Kainardji or Adrianople, and fewer still either know or care whether the Emperor of Russia is (as Lord Malmesbury is reported to have asserted

in the House of Lords) the head of the Greek Church throughout the world,—yet the battle of Sinope appeals to all in language sufficiently intelligible. The fact that England, professing to protect Turkey, and possessing the means of doing so, neither interposed to prevent nor to avenge that disastrous encounter; that the confidence formerly reposed by the Ottomans in the honour and daring of Englishmen, has been converted into suspicion of their good faith, and doubts respecting their courage, when Russia is their adversary; that the prestige of England has been greatly impaired in the eyes of Europe; that her reputation throughout the East has been lowered in a still greater proportion; that her Indian Empire is threatened with disturbance, if not with invasion and revolt—these are facts too recent and too notorious to be either palliated or denied. Those who are responsible for such results can be assailed only by success—only by finding themselves able to say, "The measures which have provoked your contempt have at least attained their object; and the sacrifices of honour and human life sustained by England, and by her ally, were imperatively demanded by the abject and sanguinary but yet successful "policy of peace."

If these considerations are sound, we cannot believe that they have escaped the penetration of the numerous agents of Russian diplomacy at present and lately in this country. Whilst on the one hand, then, Russia must be prepared, if she continues to pursue the course she has hitherto adopted, to encounter the armed opposition of France and England, and to lose at a blow the reputation of possessing almost invincible power (the principal spell by which she has imposed upon the cabinets of Western Europe)—can she doubt, on the other hand, the triumph which is still likely to attend her in negotiation, when she remembers the successes she has achieved already? As the *Times* informed us, the protestations of the Emperor were "uniform, solemn, and vehement" to the effect that he sought for Turkey nothing further than reparation in the affair of the Holy Sepulchre; yet after this falsehood was thoroughly exposed, he again contrived thoroughly to impose again upon his former dupes, by repeated assurances of pacific intentions in the Black Sea. He did not deal the heavy blow which he struck at Sinope, until the season was so far advanced that entrance into the Euxine is rendered perilous by fogs and tempests, though not by the Russian fleet. And whilst England has been weakly endeavouring to gain the alliance of neutralised Austria, the Czar has secured the active co-operation of Persia, and has marched an army towards India by way of China. Finally, in Sweden, a state interested more than almost any other in opposing the aggrandisement of Russia, he threatens, notwithstanding the hostility of the nation, by means of his influence with the Court to find a new and formidable ally. Even if partially unsuccessful in this attempt, he will have gained a great point of Russian intrigue, by sowing the seeds of distrust between the Crown and the people, and thus weakening one of the barriers against the extension of his empire.

Everywhere, in short—except at Constantinople—Russian diplomacy appears to be at present successful. Here, indeed, where some respectable stand might with no great difficulty have been made, there has been even less skill than courage shown in opposing the designs of the Autocrat. Nor have we to look far afield for the reason. Whilst in Russia men of marked ability are selected even for subordinate stations in the diplomatic service, and are encouraged to furnish the most precise information respecting the countries in which they are employed, any man, as Sir Robert Peel once observed, who is considered in England good for nothing else, is, in his own estimation at least, exactly suited to this kind of duty. And the great statesman might have added that the English government think any nobleman good enough for an ambassador, since he himself proposed to send to St Petersburg, at a time too when great interests were at stake, Lord Londonderry, as the then representative of England.

Can we doubt, then, whether Russia will select the field of war, or of diplomacy, since both are now placed at her choice, on which to contend with France and England? Will she not negotiate and procrastinate, seeking meanwhile to promote an insurrection in favour of Obrenowitz in Servia, and of Constantine in Thessaly or Macedonia? and steadily seeking also, by means of the arts which she is at the present moment employing, to loosen the alliance between the Western Powers. The Vienna papers are full of witticisms on the ridiculous position of the English and French fleets in the Bosphorus, but at the same time they inform us that the Austrian Government is most anxious that the present state of things should continue. Since Austria thinks as Russia likes her, we do not doubt that the same ardent desire is entertained by the latter power. What if it should turn out, after all, to have been to our venerable Premier that the Emperor alluded in his favourite war cry—*In te, Domine, speravi; non confundar?*

LORD PALMERSTON'S REINSTATEMENT.

Bacon says that good things are never seen in their full beauty till they turn their backs and be going away. Relying perhaps too implicitly on this principle, two celebrated men have within our time put themselves to death in the newspapers in order to see how the world would receive the news of its irreparable loss, and neither had much reason to be pleased with the result of the experiment upon the public feelings. The effect was indeed somewhat like that upon the simulated decease of the Malade Imaginaire, which draws from his supposed widow an appreciation of the defunct by no means flattering.

An official demise more strongly than the natural one breaches Bacon's proposition, for Ministers, when they turn their backs and be going away, are never seen in the full beauty of their characters and services. "*Nunquam, si quid mihi credis, amari hunc hominem,*" is the common declaration. Detraction then goes to work, and presently people are made to ask themselves why in the world they ever prized such a man, who has no other merit under the sun than some adroitness in debate, and an agreeable faculty of adaptation. The public is comforted with the assurance that the loss after all is no such great loss, nay, perhaps, that it is a good riddance, and that a better man may be found to fill the gap without searching for him at noon with a lighted lantern. The successor is now eagerly looked for, and whoever or whatever he may be, the change is sure to be found for the better. He will be estimated by his merits apart from his faults, as his predecessor has been judged by his faults apart from his merits. It is the old story of the painter's pictures, one of which was exhibited in the market place with an invitation to the passengers to mark the defects, while the other was to have the merits distinguished in the same way. Both were utterly blotted out by the respective signs of blame and praise. It has often struck us that if animals were as unjustly criticised as men, a horse, for example, would be handled in this fashion:—

This beast, it is true, has some speed, but after all it is not as swift even as a tom-tit amongst the birds, and it cannot run upon four legs as fast as the ostrich on two, which lays a handsome egg to boot, while the proverbial type of all absurdity is a mare's nest, it does not give milk like the cow, nor is its flesh good for man like the ox, nor has it the useful fleece of the sheep, nor in respect of the mere faculties of motion can it climb like the goat, nor fast and bear like the camel, nor boast the patience of the ass, whence we cannot but arrive at the conclusion that its qualities, which will not bear comparison with other creatures of less pretension, have been immensely over-estimated, and that its services to man may be more easily spared than is usually supposed.

But to return to our departed minister, who has been judged much after this sort not by what he is, but by what he is not, especially as not being Minister, which is the damning fault of all, one half the world is all agog to hail his successor, and the other as prepared and eager to hiss him off the stage. "The king is dead, long live the king!" "The Secretary is out, long live the Secretary that is in." That is the rule of the Ministerial side.

If Sir George Grey had accepted the seals of the Home Department, a dispensation we have happily escaped, certain pens and prints would forthwith have been at work to show that no man living, or who ever breathed, possessed such peculiar and superior qualifications for the Home Office as Sir George Grey. His former administration would have been cited as a model administration, and the public would have been advised to rejoice at the resignation of Lord Palmerston, which had given the opportunity for so much better an appointment. But Lord Palmerston returns to the post he had abandoned, and those who had not found the beauties in his character in the act of retiring, which Bacon assigns to good things turning their backs on us, are forthwith full of praise and congratulation upon seeing him present his face in the Home Office. He was nothing going out, he is everything coming in again. Like the sign in algebraic equations, he is plus or minus as he changes his place from the one side to the other.

After this instance let it never be supposed that a great Minister is gone past recovery, and so will be avoided the awkward work of running him down one day to run him up again another, of treating him like a candle blown out and puffed in. There is a Humane Society with hooks, drags, and all appliances for the recovery of ex-Ministers, who will restore suspended animation in cases which would appear most desperate. The gold medal in the present instance is due to the Duke of Newcastle, according to common report.

We will not pretend to say that this is a satisfactory affair, we think it quite the reverse, but, bad as it is, we are heartily glad it is no worse. Somewhere there must have been very inconsiderate conduct, and so ridiculous an incident does not raise the character of the Government. A great Minister of State runs away like an apprentice, and is entreated to return to his disconsolate friends with the usual assurance that all will be settled to the satisfaction of all parties con-

cerned. The Cabinet, like a school, breaks up for the Christmas holidays. It furnishes an amusement of the season, a puzzle to put together again what has been pulled to pieces. This child's play in its Government the country does not like to see; true, it would much less have liked to see Lord Palmerston out of office causing most mischievous false interpretations abroad, and inspiring and emboldening faction at home; but still the repute of the Ministry for wisdom is lowered by what has occurred. Palmerston lost and Palmerston regained so quickly argues that some of the parties concerned have not known what they were about, and have acted with culpable precipitation and indiscretion. "All's well that ends well" is a very good title for comedy, but not for a grave performance of State.

Let it not be supposed that we underrate the importance of Lord Palmerston's reinstatement. As we valued his services on losing them, as we supposed, we are not likely to appreciate them less highly when restored to the country, and never was the presence of this courageous, firm, and experienced statesman in the councils of England more desirable than at this critical juncture.

NEW YEAR'S DAY.

As Christmas Day is essentially the English holiday, so is New Year's Day essentially the French. The English celebrate the past, the French *fete* the future. The chosen, convivial, social, domestic merry-making of the year, is, with the English, the week that closes it. The great holiday of the French is the day that opens it. England is the land of recollection, France is the land of hope. Age and maturity take part in, and a certain solemnity prevails over, the English festivity of Christmas. The elders adorn the hall and prepare the banquet. The fruits of an industrious life are shown in munificence. The poor are fed and cheered, the wants of the dependent are looked to. The French *fete* of New Year's day is, on the contrary, a child's day. Everything is disposed for the delight and fascination of the young. The old are but supernumeraries and spectators. Past things and past folk are put aside and forgotten, the rising generation is all in all. Everything is for the gratification of the juvenile, nothing for the comfort of the aged. Chelsea pensioners and Greenwich veterans regaled on beef and pudding are subjects of admiration and even sentiment in English pictures of Christmas. The French would cry fie! on any such display. They have no repast on their great *fete* day. Solid eating would be a thing far too vulgar on such a day. A sweetmeat or *bon-bon* is the only ambrosia permitted, or at least presented at such a time. And grown people make themselves children in the greed and enjoyment of their sugared and fantastic morsels.

Both people are equally merry, and there is probably equal kindness and good feeling in the celebration of the old year by the one and of the new year by the other. But it is remarkable how differently they go about it. At the same time enough of similitude remains to show that the *fetes* have the same origin. There is the same unlocking of the purse in both countries, the same show of accumulated gifts. But in England Christmas bespeaks itself as a day of charitable impulse. Presents always flow down, like authority, from above; they are dispensed with between equals; they ascend never. While in France, the land of equality and of complete independence, every one is bound on the New Year to present something to everybody. A pretty woman is not thought of in England on such occasions, mere beauty has no claims on a Christmas day. But a pretty woman in France on a New Year's day is an idol, before whom the most distant and unknown adorer offers boxes of sweetmeats of unheard of value. In short, the Christmas box in England carries with it still not a little of its original kindly benevolence, while in France the present of the *Jour de l'an* is the result of a variety of far different motives, into which that kind of charity does not necessarily enter.

Nothing more astonishes or perplexes the English than the extravagance of the French on certain occasions, contrasted with their extreme economy in general. English who drop in on the occasion of their visits to the French capital to good restaurants or houses of entertainment, find them always full of French not hesitating to spend upon a breakfast or a dinner sums which appear the height of extravagance. And they are so. But the French, so economical in the long routine of their mostly provincial lives, of all things love to make an occasional exception, and do heartily enjoy the contrast when a wedding, or a heritage, or any one of the fortunate turns of life, brings them to the capital. There they fling about their money for the nonce like frantic millionaires. The secret is, that there is a succession of these momentary spendthrifts to certain luxurious places of resort; and the English observer takes for *habitués* these birds of passage, who can each afford to be extravagant for a week. It is the same on New Year's day. For that happy period the stern frugality of the year is set aside, and the most luxurious caprices are indulged without any reproach to one's freedom. We need hardly add that this makes the fortune of the shop-keeping tribe in Paris, who, having to supply the wants of some thirty millions of provincials, each coming to Paris in the most extravagant mood, are able to charge preposterously high prices for the variety and taste which they apply to their respective wares.

New Year's day in France, and the week before it, are in brief one great *fete* of purchases and presents, and therefore eminently a bourgeois one,—in fact the paradise of shopkeepers. Odd that a people said to be always shop-

keepers, like the English, should know nothing of such a *fete*, whilst a nation that is all moustaches and gaiety should so celebrate it! The present year, however, we learn from Paris, is not a lavish one. Indeed there is a *fete* of another kind which the Parisians of this year are obliged to observe, and which must perforce interfere with other expenses and rejoicings. Upon a vast number a heavy tax has fallen in the shape of a necessity to shift their household gods into a new locality during this first week of January. The rent of every apartment in Paris has been raised from one-third to one-half, and has set the whole population flitting. A flight of swallows in spring will be nothing to the scene that Paris is about to present this week. The goods and chattels of the entire population will be compelled to move, in such awkward fashion as such cumbrous things can be moved in icy streets, with carts not sufficient for a hundredth part of the demand.

In all the necessities and requirements of life, 1854 is ushered in for our neighbours the French, even more than for ourselves, as a year of dearthness. Lodgings, provisions, taxes, luxuries, man's labour, all have risen, except the value of money. Good meat, that used to be sixpence a pound, costs twopenny; and the loaf, which costs the purchaser eightpence the four pounds, has cost elevenpence to its baker, and the baker must have the defalcation made up out of the pockets of the tax-payers. If war should come, and the *Jour de l'an* 1854 gives ample promise of it, Jacques Bonhomme fears it will consign quantities of money to be sunk in the Black Sea and the Red one, instead of going over his counter and settling in his till.

This reminds one of another contrast between the season in France and in England. In France it is a season when dignitaries and employes, and the leaders of state, are bound to repair with compliment, felicitation, and adherence to the chief of the state. In England we throw politics wisely behind the Christmas log, but in France people are called on to show formal adhesion or ill-humour to the powers that be. Many doubtless there are who would desire that easy and tacit neutrality which pockets a salary and keeps a position without doing anything for either, but in France this may not be. A tribute of loyalty is required on the first day of the new year, and if it be not paid with good will, it must at least be offered with well-dissembled politeness.

The Emperor's receptions of the new year will indeed be somewhat different from those of a year back. Then the Legitimist party still kept on terms with Louis Napoleon, and did not shrink from extending to him a kind of sulky patronage. This is no longer possible. The heirs of legitimacy have broken with the representative of the Bonapartes. The old noblesse will keep away as one man from the Tuileries, as well as the partisans of the house of Orleans. Yet many an independent and impartial man, however indisposed to be reconciled to the absence of constitutional freedom, may probably find himself unable to resist the feeling, as he reads of the imperial receptions to-morrow, that the dignity and interest of France and of Western Europe have hitherto been consulted by the existing government of France with more steadiness and skill, than by either of the Bourbon governments or dynasties which preceded it.

THE DOG STAR AT MADRID.

Though we are perpetually boasting of intellectual progress, there is probably as much folly in the world at this moment as at any antecedent period. We advance in one direction and we recede in another. We cease to have faith in horse-shoes nailed to a threshold, and we do not hide away broom-sticks lest old women should ride upon them to the Devil's assemblies; but there is belief in spirit-rappings, table-turning, and the conversations thereof. One folly gets worn out and another springs up and runs its course. Sydney Smith observed that ghosts are no longer in the drawing-room, but have descended to the servants'-hall and scullery. Duelling we thought in the same decline. We fancied it as much out of fashion as ruffles, bag, wig, and sword. It seemed given up to shopboys and ridicule. But we were mistaken, it appears, for we have now before us the account of an affair which carries us back two or three centuries, and would even at that backward period have been considered as an extravagant caricature of a bad practice.

At a ball given by the French Ambassador at Madrid some remark was made upon the low dress of a lady, the retort upon which was that virtue did not rise and fall with the height of a dress, as Margaret of Burgundy would prove, with her dress up to her throat and her morals in inverse ratio.

The wife of the American Minister, Mr Soulé, passing presently after with a high dress, the Duke of Alba, the French Emperor's brother-in-law, observed, There goes Margaret of Burgundy. The remark applied to the costume, and did not imply any moral imputation. Render it into English, and suppose it had been said of any lady with reference to her dress, There goes Mary Queen of Scots, would any one have been absurd enough to suppose that more was meant than the similarity of costume? But the son of Mr Soulé, who overheard the remark, somewhat impertinent undeniably, took it as an insult conveying a gross imputation.

The young man sent a challenge to the Duke the next day, and the narrative of what passed is as follows:

The Duke of Alba was greatly surprised, and, throwing the letter which had been given to him on his table, explained to the two witnesses of his adversary what had really passed—in fact, that it was nothing more than

a simple joke in a private conversation. He at the same time expressed his great regret that a son should have considered his mother offended at a remark which only had reference to her man-of-war-maker; and he proposed under which he laboured. The friends of Mr Soulé took their leave perfectly satisfied. The following morning the Duke of Alba found on his writing table the letter of the day before, and which he had not opened. He read it, and found that it was couched in terms so violent, so insulting, that he considered himself bound to send, in turn, two of his friends to demand the withdrawal of what he had just read, and should be returned to him. Mr Soulé withdrew the insulting expressions he had made use of, and asked to be allowed to keep the letter which he had received from the Duke of Alba, pledging at the same time his word of honour that he would never make use of it, and that the result of the affair completely satisfied him. Several days after some English papers related the facts we have just mentioned, but they travestied them in a manner offensive to the Duke of Alba. Being irritated by these attacks, the Duke of Alba sent General José de la Concha to Mr Soulé to demand reparation. He consented, and accepted the duel with swords, as proposed; and the 12th of December was named as the day. Subsequently, Mr Soulé asked that the duel should take place with the small sword, which was agreed to. He then demanded a delay of 48 hours, which was also granted. On the day fixed for the duel, which was to take place in the Pardo, Mr Soulé arrived, followed by six carriages full of his countrymen residing in Madrid. Though surprised at witnessing such indiscreet curiosity, which made the affair resemble a cockfight, the seconds of the Duke of Alba consented, however, to the Americans remaining on the ground. The two adversaries took their ground, and crossed swords. Mr Soulé was continually interrupting, and he demanded several times a cessation, which was granted to him. At last the witnesses declared that the duel ought to terminate, and that they would only allow five minutes more. Mr Soulé, jun., was slightly wounded; and he then promised, on his word of honour, to contradict the facts recounted in the English papers, and to cause a letter to be published to that effect in the journals of England and America. He also pledged himself to burn, in presence of the witnesses, the letter he had received from the Duke of Alba. Thus terminated this affair. These were the first two acts of the drama we recount; now for the third, and most important. After the events just related, Mr Soulé, sen. (the Minister), wrote to the Marquis de Turgot, the French Ambassador, an angry letter, informing him that it was not the Duke of Alba and his son who ought to have fought, but that it was he (Mr Soulé) who ought to avenge the honour of his wife, attacked by the pleasantries which the Ambassador of France permitted himself to indulge in. The Marquis de Turgot accepted the challenge addressed to him. His seconds were Lord Howden, the English Ambassador, and General Callier, at present at Madrid. A third combat, the consequence of the two first, was also expected to take place between Mr Perry, the Secretary of the United States legation, and the French Consul at Santander. The seconds of Mr Soulé were General Valdes, M. Gamindo, and M. Picon, one of the editors of the 'Camor.' The pistol was the weapon. Two shots were exchanged. Mr Soulé was not hit; Mr de Turgot fell. His adversary's ball hit him in the leg, about three inches above the knee. The wound was serious; but yet it is hoped that the life of our Ambassador will not be endangered.

Thus the Duke of Alba fought Mr Soulé not for anything Mr Soulé had done, said, or written, but because some English papers had misrepresented or travestied what had been so satisfactorily settled. The account is evidently coloured adversely to the American; indeed, we omit a passage which is evidently unfair; but we can hardly suppose that the statement of matter of fact that Mr Soulé was attended by six carriage loads of his countrymen can be an invention, and what extraordinary manners and morals does it argue, those persons forming a ring to see two men trying to cut each other's throats about so ridiculous a business.

And next the elders came into play with an absurdity proportioned to years ripen in folly. And Mr Soulé challenges the Marquis de Turgot, not, as we are informed, for any word or act on his part, but because he had not, as master of the house, made the quarrel with the Duke of Alba his own for an affront to a lady under his roof and receiving his hospitality. Imagine the unhappy case of an Ambassador whose hard duty it is to receive a great deal of bad company, made personally responsible for all the rudeness that may be committed in his house, and bound either to fight the offenders in the first instance, or to fight the champions of the offended in the second. So, to encourage M. de Turgot to give balls, he gets the return of a ball in his knee to spoil his dancing.

But the marvel does not end here. Her Majesty's Ambassador at Madrid plays the part of second in this preposterous and disgraceful affair. Is this a fitting office for the representative of the Queen of England? We should really almost as soon have expected to hear that the Archbishop of Canterbury had gone out as second in an affair of dishonour.

We are not ignorant of the meritorious manner in which Lord Howden has performed his diplomatic duties up to this disgraceful affair, and the tenor of his conduct makes this deviation from all the proprieties the more extraordinary and unaccountable. It would seem indeed that all the diplomatists at Madrid had gone mad together.

A COMMON GOOD.

"Rightly to know
That which about us lies in daily life
Is the prime wisdom."—MILTON.

Something of insight into what Education really means is actually making its appearance at last. Lord Ashburton offers at his own cost a series of valuable prizes, as incentives to a study of "Common Things" by the young people trained in Hants and Wilts as teachers of the poor. The notion pleases every one, and no objection is heard to it. The example is to be followed in other counties. The Dean of Hereford promises to make trial of it, so does Miss Burdett Coutts, so do Lords Lansdowne and Granville. In short, Lord Ashburton has happily contrived to attack a weak part of the prevailing habit in what we call Education, without exciting into anger or suspicion against him any sort of vested rights or wrongs. Wonderful to say, he has absolutely begun upon a small scale, not amid resistance but acquiescence on all sides, a vital educational reform.

He begins the reform where he thinks it most needed. No doubt the poor suffer most from their ignorance of common things, but it is very far from an ignorance peculiar to the poor. In so far as education is concerned, as we commonly agree to accept it, it is an ignorance all-pervading.

There is not a regular educational establishment in the United Kingdom, whether Oxford Don or village dame be the light-giving sun and centre of its system, that does not peremptorily need to have its methods reformed. As we said the other day, in remarking on Lord Stanley's speech at Bury, nobody is in the way of obtaining what deserves the name of education until they have arrived quite at the end of what usurps the name of it. Narrowly observe a youth who quits the university with distinction, and you will find for the most part that he has still all the useful knowledge to learn. In the lower grades of life the race has been between the same sort of education to learn nothing that is good, and the more attractive education of learning everything that is bad. And if any one would see which wins in the race, let him look to Preston and the prisons.

Lord Ashburton's proposed education is the knowledge of Common Things. Unhappily it is the characteristic of the pedagogue proper to account things common as things unclean. Schoolmasters the most earnest and conscientious, men of high attainments, coop young and active boys together in close rooms hour after hour, like Strasburg geese, cramming them with particles of Greek, and forcing one bit of each boy's wits to enlarge unwholesomely at the expense of all the rest of him. The victims of such training are sent out into the world with a tumour of Greek and Latin carefully developed, or, it may be, with a fatty lump of mathematics got in an unwholesome way. Of this the best that we can hope for the future is, that it will subside (as it does) in the course of time, and that, as the boy of necessity grows subject to an active call on his neglected parts, these will be forced into action. In other words, we may indulge the sanguine expectation that, by the time he has lived some forty years or so in the world, he may have disencumbered himself of the most part of what is useless to him, and got into a proper state for the reception of something useful. Not that we need ever expect him to arrive at anything like a fair balance of knowledge. Never his can be the harmony or breadth of information that should belong to a man educated in a natural and normal way. Always hanging about him, in some form or other, will be the discomfort and dyspepsia of the *foie gras* established in his youth. Able to digest only certain kinds of things, he must remain at best in a weakly condition to the end of the chapter.

As for the education of English girls, perhaps the best to be said will be that it is an enormous credit to their nature, and a new title to our admiration, that they can possibly be what they are in spite of all that Girl-Schools strive to make them. Even in what are called the better classes great must be the unhappiness carried home from the fashionable eclectic school-system. Swift's remark is still as applicable as when first made. The Dean touched upon a truth which any one may daily confirm, when he said that so many marriages were unhappy because young ladies spent their time in making nets and not in making gages.

We call the system of schools eclectic. It selects for the utmost notice all that is least worthy, and sets aside that which is noblest. Our educators are like those bad readers who fill their mouths with prepositions and conjunctions, and the words that have no force, but who slur over the verbs and nouns. For what are the common things of life but the real verbs and nouns of knowledge? Common we call them—meaning that they are universal, that they have in them a breath of the infinite and the eternal. How plants grow, and may be cultivated; why the wind blows; how the fresh air may be brought into our homes, and why it must be brought there; how our bodies grow, and under what laws, and according to what rules therefore, from birth upward, they must be nourished, if they are not to grow pale and waste, or fall into premature decay; what is the aim and use of pleasure and of pain, of rest and toil; what are the laws that arise out of the essential and divinely-ordained constitution of the human mind, wherever men assemble in societies—these things are among what we call Common Things; and all these questions may be so put and answered as to lead to the most ennobling contemplation of the works of God. Such knowledge may even serve as well as a catechism to make a child religious. At the same time it teaches what every day we need and ought to know. It is knowledge that enables its possessors to do good to themselves, and to keep harm from their neighbours. Its complete diffusion would destroy pestilence and tumult, put an end to strikes and revolutions, and neutralize at least the poisonous ingredient which belongs now to the cup of poverty.

Of course it must be long before we see it so diffused. But too much time has been lost already to waste more in beginning on any general plan. Let us at once do what we can with what is proposed, and heartily co-operate with Lord Ashburton. He begins with the poor, and it is right that we should so begin. It is not that their need of this kind of knowledge is sorer than that of the rich, but that their sufferings are so much the greater because of such need. To the poor man and poor woman a training into it is before all things essential. The rich can buy the produce of it. They can conceal in many ways, even from themselves, a poverty of mind. But the poor whose minds are starved, or fed into disease by unfit diet, have nothing left but to grovel. With the utmost ease the poor man's wife might be enabled to acquire in her short years of schooling the practical knowledge which would show her how to perform her few social and household duties, as well as why to perform them. She might learn when, and why, to be contented with her husband's wages; how to obtain, with her housekeeping money, the utmost nourishment and help from well-selected food

and clothing; how above all to cook the food she purchases, and make her husband relish her potatoes (will not Lord Ashburton give a prize for the best boiled potato?), and be proud of her many little costless palatable dishes. The man might be enabled to understand his place in creation, to know whom his work helps and how he is himself helped by it, why he does it and what it means. He might be enabled, when at home, to look about his house, to correct unwholesome conditions, to establish little conveniences that would be called for by the wants of his more civilized state, to make the best of a small garden, to see that his wife's indulgence did not lead her to give to their infants what he knows would make them sickly, and to watch intelligently over the training of his little ones. It would beget in him also some wish to improve himself, to improve his own skill—and with his skill his value, and his social rank.

Heartily, then, do we wish success to Lord Ashburton's wise and benevolent plan, of which the object is to produce this effect by establishing one of the causes that alone can lead to it. It is concerned only with those upon whom its operation is most essential, and on whom the want of such a system presses with the most cruel severity. But the movement is one which affects all teachers, and must extend sooner or later throughout every kind of school. As matters stand at present, just as common sense is the most uncommon sense in the world, so what should be familiar things are in all ranks of society the most unfamiliar and least commonly known.

THE LITERARY EXAMINER.

Memoirs, Journal, and Correspondence of Thomas Moore.
Edited by the Right Hon. Lord John Russell, M.P.
Vols. V and VI. Longmans.

In these volumes Moore's diary is continued to October 1833, and is printed, as in its predecessors, with little or no abridgment. In the two concluding volumes which are to follow, large omissions will be rendered necessary by the fact that the things and people of the present generation will be more nearly and directly dealt with.

Enough has now been published to enable any reader to form his opinion of the whole. That the Journal itself is amusing, for the store of *bon mots* and good-humoured scraps of table-talk with which it is filled; that it is interesting for the insight it gives into Moore's social and literary life, and for the touches of domestic feeling that occur throughout it; all will agree. That it has defects will also be very generally admitted; and, unhappily for Moore's fame, very many of its readers will be always either unable or unwilling to distinguish between a defect inherent in the diary and a defect inherent in the man.

Nobody ever did or ever will transcribe his real and entire self in a daily journal. It is a great mistake to suppose that Moore in this journal, or anybody else in any journal, ever laid himself out at full length for dissection. The operator, ready with his knife, may think he has the whole subject before him, but that is simply the mistake of his own malignant eagerness. We have seen attacks upon Moore founded upon a critical examination of his diary, planned and executed in complete ignorance of what alone we have a right to look for, and of what we should always expect to find, in a journal of this sort. Let any reader of common sensibility ask himself what should be natural in the diary of a sensitive, warm-hearted, and sociable man like this whose journals are here published, and judge them by no harsher test. Moore had acute feelings, and, like many other men and women who are so endowed, great buoyancy of disposition. His griefs were keen, and in the sincerity of his warm heart he retained the memory of all past sorrows that were sacred; but yet he was too honest a man to profess any desire to check that wholesome elasticity of nature which enabled him to battle against care. He was not a man of solemn shows, profuse in crape and hat-band. When he went to his dying father, his wife's earnest hope was that he might not arrive in time to see the final throes: she knew how he would suffer if he did. When he arrived at his father's house, his mother and sister, loving him most tenderly and knowing him most truly, kept him from the deathbed, and, when all was over, would not let him see what remained of his father. His own account of all this is quite touching in its absolute simplicity and freshness, and we dwell upon it because it displays unaffectedly the real man, in what was strong and what was weak in him.

He puts on no forced solemnity. He lets his heart beat as it was made to beat, and with a deep love for the dead he can display no less love for the living. On the day before the funeral he writes: "Was glad to find I could divert my mother's mind from dwelling entirely on what had just happened; indeed, the natural buoyancy and excursive nature of her thoughts (which, luckily for myself, I have inherited) affords a better chance of an escape from grief than all the philosophy in the world." Of the hour after the mass on the day of the funeral, from which his family also desired, but then in vain, to keep him, he writes not less naturally thus: "Felt my heart full of sadness when I got to my bed-room, but was relieved by a burst both of tears and prayer, and by a sort of confidence that the great and pure Spirit above us could not be otherwise than pleased with what he saw was passing within my mind. This is, perhaps, not Christian humility; but let it be what it will, I felt consoled and elevated by it." Who does not feel that this is Moore himself who speaks,

and that his confidence was just? Equally characteristic, and, we will add, equally right, is a comment on the next day's ceremony with its black parade of woe. "The weather was wretched, and altogether the scene shocked and afflicted me beyond anything: the vulgar apparatus of the ceremony seems such a profanation!" If this was not the thing proper to be said on the occasion, it was not less the thing proper to be felt by a true mourner.

At the same time Lord Wellesley was offering to continue his father's half-pay in the shape of a pension to his sister; but Moore was too independent and fine-hearted to accept the offer, and he imposed upon himself alone the care of his mother's maintenance. Upon this we find in his diary an excellent remark:

Forgot to mention that I received a letter from Power yesterday, approving of my refusal of Lord Wellesley's offer. It is not a little strange that my men of business (Power and the Longmans) take this view of the matter, while all my fine friends think I ought to have accepted the favour. *The fact is, the latter always apply a different standard in the conduct of poor men from that which they would go by themselves.*

A week after the funeral, as the censorious world might remark, the poet dined with company at his friend Corry's, and had singing in the evening. Very improper! But an honest man accepts the grief which is his portion without seeking to augment it. He has no just right to aggravate it with an artificial stimulus. In good truth a joyous man who should repress as an impropriety his ready power of recovery from a great shock to the emotions, would be no more entitled to claim credit for his goodness than the man who should obstinately check the kindly healings of nature in a bodily sickness. On that social evening too, enjoyed a week after the funeral, Moore writes: "In singing 'There's a song of the olden time,' the feeling which I had so long suppressed broke out; I was obliged to leave the room, and continued sobbing hysterically on the stairs for several minutes."

In these few touches there is much of Moore's real character unconsciously revealed. It is revealed also in many other places if we will only take the trouble to observe it. His love for his wife and children is found everywhere. His quiet letter to the Longmans when Bessy was coming to town, to beg that they would cause Barbara's grave at Hornsey to be made what a mother would desire to find it; his anxiety over Anastasia's first indisposition, and his fond attention to her during her last illness; his exquisite appreciation of his wife's sorrow, of her gentleness and of her maternal struggles; all declare the character of a man who deserved the friends he made, the popularity he won. The same character is told again when we read that father and mother drove away from the ceremony of the funeral of their last girl, "and a most melancholy drive we had of it, for two long hours, each bearing up for the sake of the other, but all the worse in reality for the effort." Soon afterwards "Bessy's calm, wasted looks" telling him, he says, "hourly what an effort she is making for my sake, has enabled me to rally far beyond what I expected."

There is nothing in the whole journal so beautiful as Moore's love and appreciation of his wife, and that the book has been made the excuse for a savage attack on this very point may serve hereafter to show that a man's private diary may be used to prove anything. The acts it records, we have been told, vary so often and so much from the expressions it employs, that if the first are real, the last can be only stage-play. But the feeling is too subtle and too strong to be brought to any such half-tests of truth, or to be disposed of by any such whole-tests of malignity. It is not so much by the warm-hearted expressions of affection scattered here and there that it is evidenced, as by the thousand chance words showing how Moore saw and felt those little traits of gentleness and delicacy,—those acts of daily self-denial, of never-tiring patience, kindness, perseverance in the way of duty,—that simplicity and beauty of character, by which this admirable woman is made the true heroine of these memoirs, and proved to have been one of the best wives that man ever had. Taken from a calling which is not held in great conventional respect,—she was trained as a dancer on the stage,—she is seen moving among the great ladies of the land, as true a lady as the highest, second to none in worth. Insensibly her image is thus made to win upon us in her husband's memoirs, and, indeed, so to win on us and on the world that she can never now be forgotten. She is made by these volumes a sharer in her husband's immortality.

There is no display in this, we repeat, nor in anything else which is genuine in the diary. Such secrets of the heart appear in Moore's journal only by accident. They are here (and especially in the two volumes before us) because they were not of a kind to be repressed by a warm-hearted man; but they are nowhere formally set forth. Of other secret thoughts few are set forth at all, and no one who understands what a diary would be to such a man will be at any loss for the reason. They are not to be found in these pages, because there is no man of fine quick feelings, such as Moore's were, who could endure to write them in a daily journal. Stupid men may express in diaries the whole of their stupidity, and expose to the world, by daily chronicle, the whole slow sequence of their cut and dried ideas, the entire measure of their dull affections. The man of thought and action, who fills every day with mental work, and whose quick sensibilities are always stirring, has more things daily in his mind than he can put down on the half-page of a copy-book. If he is to keep a journal, it must be a book of useful memoranda; or if he be a man like Moore, busy, sensitive, and in a remarkable degree sociable and joyous, the diary that will best suit him is one in which he shall undertake to jot down chiefly his amusements in society, and the most pleasant

things that he has heard there. Such a man would of all men be the one to shrink from dwelling on a heartache, and accordingly we rarely get more than an occasional stray line to record in Moore's journal the existence of hard, anxious thoughts. The keeping it was one of the amusements of its writer, and he put down in it, therefore, what amused him. It was only on the rare occasions when his heart was very deeply stirred indeed, that he was forced beyond the bounds of that natural and fit reluctance which prevented him from writing more. His griefs were too sacred to be scribbled over, and his troubles would be only made more troublesome by repeating and harping on them.

It may be a sign of weakness—but we think it in this case a weakness hardly to be despised—that Moore fastened on all little bits of praise, and put them upon record as not less pleasant things to him than anecdotes and puns. His love of them, let us be so bold as to say, sprang from a feeling the reverse of vanity. He did not think so much of himself as dull people will be apt to suppose. He recognised greatness in others, but in his own heart there was a freshness and a simplicity—diner out as he was—that made him feel at all times but little distant from the thoughts and impulses of childhood. He was surprised, amused, and pleased by the position he had earned. At fifty he had in him the frankness of fifteen, and in the flutter of his popularity he took a boyish pleasure. We may love him for it if we will, we may also despise him if we will, and the reader will take his choice. For ourselves this little touching comment of his upon Scott's losses after the Constable misfortune reveals the true man, in this and in other things, whom we think it best for our own self-respect not to despise.

Few things have affected me more than this. I almost regret, indeed, having been brought so close to Scott, as I might otherwise have been saved the deep and painful sympathy I now feel for his misfortune. For poor devils like me (who have never known better) to fag and to be pinched for means, becomes, as it were, a second nature; but for Scott, whom I saw living in such luxurious comfort, and dispensing such cordial hospitality, to be thus suddenly reduced to the necessity of working his way, is too bad, and I grieve for him from my heart.

Let us connect with that passage another slighter evidence of the kindly nature of the man, that we may quote the note which Lord John Russell appends to it.

Dined with Rogers: company, Lord Clifden, Sir J. Newport, Shiel, Barnes, and Luttrell. Sat next to Barnes, to whom I gave some verses about the peerage which I had copied out in the morning. "A Letter from the Honourable Henry — to Lady Emma —." Begged me, in anything I might now write for him, to spare Croker; which, I told him, was an unnecessary caution, as Croker and I were old allies.

Upon which we have this note from Lord John, which all who have read the last number of the *Quarterly Review* will be at no loss to understand.

To Moore it was unnecessary to address a request to spare a friend; if the request had been addressed to the other party, asking him to spare Moore, what would have been the result? Probably while Moore was alive, and able to wield his pen, it might have been successful; had Moore been dead, it would have served only to give an additional zest to the pleasure of safe malignity.—Ed.

We are less disposed to agree with Lord John Russell in his opinion that Moore should have retailed in his journal the grave as well as the light things that he heard. They would have been out of place there and out of character. Moore was no Boswell, and even Boswell himself would not have retailed effectively the gravities of social intercourse; he was content to chronicle the sayings of one man—there are not many instances of his attempting conversations—and those of a man more than usually pithy and sententious. In the following remarks made by Lord John, we do, however, most heartily agree, and we invite attention to them. They are as charmingly felt as they are well and delicately expressed.

It must be obvious, to any one who has read these pages, that the character of Moore was not difficult to understand, although, like that of most men, it was not without inconsistencies and contradictions. With a keen sense of enjoyment, he loved music and poetry, the world and the playhouse, the large circle of society, and the narrow precincts of his home. His heart was thrilled by deep feelings of devotion, and his mind expatiated over the wide field of philosophy. In all that he did, and wrote, and spoke, there was a freedom and a frankness which alarmed and delighted—frightened old men of the world, and charmed young men and young women who were something better than the world. With a love and affection ready to burst out on all sides, he felt as he sang:

"They may rail at this life: from the hour I began it,
I've found it a life full of kindness and bliss;
And until they can show me some happier planet,
More social and bright, I'll content me with this.

"Oh! think what a world we should have of it here,
If the haters of peace, of affection, and glee
Were to fly up to Saturn's comfortless sphere,
And leave earth to such spirits as you, love, and me."

I have not endeavoured to conceal his weaknesses. I have allowed it to be seen that he was dazzled by the first aspect of London society; that, in making confessions to his mother which he would not make to any one else, he avowed his delight at being noticed by the Prince of Wales, and chronicled all the praises which his poems received. Sagacious persons have thence argued that he had a great deal of vanity. A few words on this topic may not be amiss.

There is much truth in the maxim of La Rochefoucauld, that "what most offends us in the vanity of others is that it jars with our own." Every one says to himself, "There is a man so absorbed with his own merits that he does not perceive mine." Still there are different kinds of vanity, and each partakes of the character of the person in whom it resides. Of these kinds the worst is that which makes little display, but is continually at work in depreciating others that our own superiority may become conspicuous. A vanity of this kind is largely mixed with envy. It is an envy too the more odious, as it is not content with hating some single person, or aiming at some single advantage, but hates every person who is admired and loved, and every quality for which a person is admired and loved. This kind of vanity cannot bear that a girl of eighteen should be admired for her beauty, or a child of three for its prattle. Any thing

that attracts and absorbs attention is gall and wormwood to it. But above all, when that particular merit which competes with its own supposed eminence is admired, nothing is spared to injure, to depreciate, to depress the person thus endowed. The most sacred bonds of friendship, the strongest ties of affection, are broken to indulge its boundless passion. Truly did Mr Sheridan say, that ambition and avarice are not so destructive in their rage or so furious in their career as vanity. He must have meant vanity of this kind. There is another kind of vanity, which is in many respects the opposite of that which I have described. It is open and ingenuous, taking for granted that all the world adopts its own estimate of its own excellence, and therefore in excellent humour with all the world. If the world sneers and depreciates, a person of this character ascribes the sarcasm to the malignity of some one, or some few, and goes on satisfied and happy as before. Vanity of this kind is often joined with much kindness, and even with simplicity and candour. It is compatible with a high appreciation of the works and acts of others. It often overflows in benevolence towards family, friends, neighbours, and mankind in general.

Most emphatically just also is Lord John's remark on Moore's marriage, and his noble wife.

The character of Moore was much influenced, however, by conversation of a very different kind from that of philosophers, or poets. It is impossible to read many pages of his "Journal" without perceiving that the conversation of women had for him a very great attraction, and that among women he always preferred the natural, the simple, and the amiable, to the learned, the brilliant, and the wise. Or rather, perhaps I should say, he considered that the women who had the truest hearts had likewise the best minds, and that the authoress who shines as a wit too frequently loses that quick perception of the just and the unjust, the truth and the pretence, which seems to belong as an instinct to the less celebrated of her sex. If Moore's taste in this respect may have misled him in his youth, he was saved from final error by his marriage to one of the noblest of women. Mrs Moore brought him no fortune; indeed it was intended that she should earn her living by the stage, and Moore, afraid that so unworlly a match might dispense his parents, at first concealed from them the fact of his marriage. But the excellence of his wife's moral character; her energy and courage; her abhorrence of all meanness; her di-interested abstinence from amusement; her persevering economy; made her a better, and even a richer partner to Moore, than an heiress of ten thousand a year would have been with less devotion to her duty, and less steadiness of conduct.

There are other points extremely noticeable in these journals, upon which we must reserve our comment, lest we encroach upon space that may be better filled with delightful and most amusing selections from the volumes before us. We now close for the present by appending a string of these, taken with no great care of selection.

First let us give a batch of notices of Sydney Smith—some of them admirable.

27th. Breakfasted at Rogers's: Sydney Smith, Lord Cawdor, G. Fortescue, and Warburton. Smith full of comicality and fancy; kept us all in rons of laughter. In talking of the stories about drunk-drinkers catching fire, pursued the idea in every possible shape. The inconvenience of a man coming too near the candle when he was speaking, "Sir, your observation has caught fire." Then imagined a person breaking into a blaze in the pulpit; the engines called to put him out; no water to be had, the man at the waterworks being an Unitarian or an Atheist. Said of some one, "He has no command over his understanding; it is always getting between his legs and tripping him up." Left Rogers's with Smith, to go and assist him in choosing a grand pianoforte: found him (as I have often done before) change at once from the gay, uproarious way, into as solemn, grave, and austere a person as any bench of judges or bishops could supply: this I rather think his natural character. Called with him at Newton's to see my picture: said in his gravest manner to Newton, "Couldn't you contrive to throw into his face somewhat of a stronger expression of hostility to the Church establishment?" Went with him from thence to two pianoforte makers: chose one at Broadwood's.

Dined at Agar Ellis's: company, Lord and Lady Harwood, the Archbishop of York, and his wife and daughter; Greville, Lord and Lady Clifton, Sydney Smith, &c. Sat next Sydney Smith, right opposite Lord Harwood and the Archbishop! an odd conjunction of signs. Some demonstrations of aristocracy from Lord Harwood, in speaking of Marshall, the manufacturer, who is candidate for the county of York; Smith and Ellis stood up for the manufacturer. In the evening sung a good deal; among other things my rebel song, "Oh, where's the Slave," which gave rise to a good deal of fun from Sydney, about turning the Archbishop into a rebel. "But it's fast subsiding," he said; "his Grace is relapsing into loyalty; if you don't sing another song you'll lose him." The "Watchman" was what seemed particularly to please both the Archbishop and his daughter. Heard Ellis telling Smith what great delight he had "in showing Moore to Tories." Set Smith at home in a hackney coach. On my remarking how well and good-humouredly Ellis had mixed us all up together, Smith said, "That's the great use of a good conversational cook, who says to his company, 'I'll make a good pudding of you; it's no matter what you came into the bowl, you must come out a pudding.' 'Dear me,' says one of the ingredients, 'wasn't I just now an egg?' but he feels the batter sticking to him," &c. &c.

In writing to Sydney Smith to-day, sending him Crabbe's address, which he wanted, I said that "I was sorry he had gone away so soon from Ellis's the other night, as I had improved (i. e. in my singing) afterwards, and he was one of the few I always wished to do my best for." In answer to this received the following flattering note from him, written evidently under the impression that I had been annoyed by his going away:

"My dear Moore,—By the beard of the prelate of Canterbury, by the cassock of the prelate of York, by the breakfasts of Rogers, by Luttrell's love of side-dishes, I swear that I had rather hear you sing than any person I ever heard in my life, male or female. For what is your singing but beautiful poetry floating in fine music and guided by exquisite feeling? Call me Disenter, say that my cassock is ill put on, that I know not the delicacies of decimation, and confound the greater and the smaller tithes; but do not think or say that I am insensible to your music. The truth is, that I took a solemn oath to Mrs Beauclerk to be there by ten, and set off, to prevent perjury, at eleven; but was seized with a violent pain in the stomach by the way, and went to bed.

"Yours ever, my dear Moore, very sincerely,

"SYDNEY SMITH."

Talking of a paragraph lately which stated that all the Church dignitaries meant to resign in case the threatened Church Reform was brought forward, he went off at score on the sad state we should be reduced to by such a resignation; our being obliged to send to America to borrow a bishop: "Have you such a thing as a bishop you could lend us? Shall keep him only a fortnight, and return him with new cassock," &c.

Home to dress, and got to Lansdowne House about twenty minutes after twelve; and entered one door just as Orloff, the newly-arrived lion, was disappearing through the other. . . . Found Sydney

Smith holding forth to a laughing circle on the subject of tithes and the *Tripartite* division: "I am sorry to tell you," said he, "that the great historian Hallam has declared himself in favour of the *Tripartite*, and contends that it was so in the reign of King Fiddlefred: but we of the Church (continued Sydney, slapping his breast mock heroically) say, a fig for King Fiddlefred: we will keep our tithes to ourselves."

Went in the evening to Lady Davy's, where I saw many I wished to see, among others Sydney Smith. In talking of the Irish Church and pronouncing it a nuisance, he said, "I have always compared it to setting up butchers' shops in Hindostan, where they don't eat meat: 'We don't want this,' they say. 'Aye, aye, true enough, but you must support our shop.'" Frankland Lewis asked me to dine with him on the 28th to meet Sydney Smith, and on my answering that unluckily I was engaged, Smith said, "Fix him for that day in the year 1849: he will dine with you then, that is, if it be leap year; to your regular diner-out the bissextile makes a vast difference."

Bobus makes occasional appearance too.

Heard to-day that when Canning's speech the other night threw all the country gentlemen into consternation, Bobus Smith said, "a brand among the bullocks." On one of the country gentlemen saying, "we must return to the food of our ancestors," somebody asked, "What food does he mean?" "Thistles, I suppose," said Tierney.

Jekyll figures frequently, but not always so happily as might be expected.

In talking of the Duke of —, Jekyll mentioned that for years, whenever he met him, his R. H. used to ask regularly, "I hope your two daughters are well?" (Jekyll's being two sons): to which Jekyll would answer, "Quite well, thank your R. H.;" they are both at Westminster; and the Prince's reply was always "They couldn't be better placed." An excellent specimen of the sort of attention royal questioners pay to their answers.

Jekyll at Merchant Tailors' Hall being asked by one of that body to translate the motto, *Concordia res parva crescut*, said it meant "Nine tailors make a man." A conceited man of the name of D'Oyley having said that he wished to be called De Oyley, somebody at dinner addressed him thus, "Mr De Oyley, will you have some De-umping?" Story of an Englishman giving a *carte* of a restaurateur (which he happened to have in his pocket) instead of his passport, and the *gend'arme* maliciously reading it and looking at him, "*Tête de veau; pied de cochon; ça suffit, Monsieur, c'est vous.*"

Story of a sick man telling his symptoms (which appeared to himself, of course, dreadful) to a medical friend, who, at each new item of the disorder, exclaimed, "Charming!" "Delightful!" "Pray go on!" and, when he had finished, said with the utmost pleasure, "Do you know, my dear sir, you have got a complaint, which has been for some time supposed to be extinct!"

Here is a good anecdote of Brougham on the hustings at Liverpool, told by his fellow-candidate and victim, Mr Creevey.

Mentioned Brougham's having exhausted every topic in his speeches, leaving him (Creevey) nothing to say: and on Creevey's remonstrating with him, B. said, "Oh, well, I shall behave better to-morrow." Accordingly, on the morrow, he took particular pains not to leave a single topic connected with the subject untouched, and having fairly picked it to the bone, concluded by saying, "but I ought to apologise for having so long occupied your attention, and the more so as Mr Creevey, who is to address you after me, has a great deal of new and interesting matter to submit to you."

And now for a few miscellaneous matters well worth quoting.

Bowles (between whom, by the by, and Hobbouse there was a peace-making to-day, both shaking hands) told me that the house near Devezes with the ridiculous image of Apollo in the garden, naked and as large as life, is always pointed out by the stage coachmen as mine, the passengers exclaiming, "And an Apollo in the garden; how very appropriate!"

Walked with Sydney Smith; told me his age; turned sixty. Asked me how I felt about dying. Answered that if my mind was but at ease about the comfort of those I left behind, I should leave the world without much regret, having passed a very happy life, and enjoyed (as much, perhaps, as ever man did yet) all that is enjoyable in it; the only single thing I have had to complain of being want of money. I could therefore die with the same words that Jortin died, "I have had enough of everything."

Apropos of loss of friends, somebody was saying the other day, before Morgan, the great calculator of lives, that they had lost so many friends (mentioning the number) in a certain space of time, upon which Morgan, coolly taking down a book from his office shelf, and looking into it, said, "So you ought, sir, and three more."

Dined at Lady Davy's. Story of the man asking another, whom he was about to help to chicken, whether he wished the leg or wing? "It is a matter of perfect indifference to me," said the other; "and infinitely more so to me," replied the carver, laying down the knife and fork and resuming his own dinner.

Scott mentioned the contrast in the behaviour of two criminals, whom he had himself seen: the one a woman, who had poisoned her husband in some drink, which she gave him while he was ill; the man not having the least suspicion, but leaning his head on her lap, while she still mixed more poison in the drink, as he became thirsty and asked for it. The other a man, who had made a bargain to sell a subject (a young child) to a surgeon; his bringing it at night in a bag; the surgeon's surprise at hearing it cry out; the man then saying, "Oh, you wanted it dead, did you?" and stepping behind a tree and killing it. The woman (who was brought up to judgment with a child at her breast) stood with the utmost calmness to hear her sentence; while the man, on the contrary, yelled out, and showed the most disgusting cowardice. Scott added, that this suggested to him the scene in "Marmion."

Story of Lord Ellenborough's saying, when Lord — yawned during his own speech, "Come, come, the fellow does show some symptoms of taste, but this is encroaching on our province." Lord Ellenborough being once met going out of the House of Lords while Lord — was speaking, "What, are you going?" said the person to Lord —, "Why, yes," answered Lord E., "I am accountable to God Al-him, for the use of my time." Talked of Sir David Baird, his roughness, &c. His mother said, when she heard of his being taken prisoner at Seringapatam, and of the prisoners being chained together two and two, "God help the man that's tied to my Davie."

But some of Lord Lansdowne's stories are among the very best recorded, and with these we shall conclude for the present.

In speaking of French readings, Lord L. told very lively of his being nailed one evening after a dinner at Benjamin Constant's to hear Benjamin read a novel: he (Lord L.) wanting to go somewhere else. Two long hours was he kept under this operation, seated next Madame Constant; when, by good luck for him her favourite Tom

cat, which had, contrary to custom, been excluded, on this occasion watched its opportunity of entrance and made a sudden irruption into the room. "Instantly (says Lord Lansdowne), with an adroitness of which I could have hardly thought myself capable, I started up, as if indignant at the interruption, and seizing the cat in my arms, rushed out with him upon the landing-place, from whence I lost no time in escaping as fast as possible to the hall door."

Lord L. mentioned the circumstance of Vansittart going to see the Millbank Penitentiary, on a day, as it happened, when the prisoners, who had been long discontented with their bread, meant to take vengeance on the governor by shying their loaves at him. Poor Van, having been recommended to sit down in the governor's chair, as the best place to see the prison from, was no sooner seated than a shower of these loaves from all quarters flew about his ears, and almost annihilated him.

Talked of Erskine's speech in defence of Peter Pindar for a libel against Lord Lonsdale, in which he had compared Lord Lonsdale to the devil. Erskine dwelt on the grandeur of the devil as described by Milton, and insisted that it was rather he that should be displeased at being compared to Lord Lonsdale. The devil (Lord Lansdowne said) was always a favourite theme with Erskine, and he had once heard him say that he looked upon him as "a great celestial statesman out of place!"

Lord L. told of some one who mentioned at a large dinner that he had seen that day in the street a most extraordinary sight; namely, a very handsome carriage driving about with four monkeys in it. "Pardon, monsieur," said a little Prussian nobleman who was among the company, "c'etoit moi et mes trois singes."

Lord L. said that the late Duke of Marlborough having been forbid all sorts of excitement (or being himself afraid of it), the invitations of the duchess were always accompanied with a promise that the person invited should not make the duke laugh; if any such effect was likely to be produced, the guest must stay away. The duke at one time did not speak for three years; and the first thing that made him break this long silence was hearing that Madame de Staël was coming to Blenheim, when he exclaimed, "Take me away!"

That last touch conveys to us decidedly the most vivid notion of Madame de Staël that we have ever received. We shall not hereafter think so ill of Napoleon for his extreme desire that somebody should take her away.

Once upon a Time. By Charles Knight. Two vols. Murray.

Into these volumes Mr Knight has collected some of the best of his many contributions to the occasional literature of the present day. The essays belong all to the present, though they all treat of the past. They treat of it with the reverence and kindness due to a departed age not less than to a departed friend, but they are at the same time designed to show, or to suggest, how we have profited by all the changes of the years. Taken together they serve as a neatly executed chart of English progress during the last century. Some sketches have reference to periods more distant, but all have the same aim,—to discourse lovingly and delicately of past phases of society, and to indicate in a distinct way the progress which society is making. Very many of the most important changes have been made within the memory of younger men than Mr Knight. The records of Mr Knight's own memories, some of them contained in papers which here are published for the first time, are not the least delightful portions of this charming book, everywhere so well felt and so well written. Mr Knight speaks thus of his birth-place as it used to be:

Windsor was an ill-built town—a patchwork town of encroachments upon the castle, and of lath and plaster tenements run up cheaply upon collegiate and corporate leaseholds. There was nothing ancient in the town, except the church, which was swept away some thirty years ago. "Mine host of the Garter" had no antique hostility; and "Herne's Oak" was a very apocryphal relic. Inns there were, with historical signs; but the "Royal Oak" of Charles II. "The Queen's Head" of Anne, and "The Duke's Head" of the Culloden executioner, were only antique in premature decay. The usual neglect of all country towns clung to Windsor—filthy gutters and unswept causeways.

My native town was a Corporate Borough. The Corporation was no abstract authority. It was on all possible occasions visible to the public eye, in solemn processions of red gowns and blue, with the mace-bearer in the front, and the beadle in the rear. The Corporation marched to church in togged state; and three times a year it astonished the children by this array of grandeur, when it proclaimed a gingerbread fair at street corners, and not a hot spice-nut could be sold till the mace-bearer had shouted "Oh yes." I fear all this glory is departed from the land. Elective corporators now go to church in frock coats; and the charter of Charles II, which bestowed upon the Borough three fairs and two market-days, and regulated the buyers and sellers, is held to be as little worth preservation as the edict of Jack Cade that "seven half-penny loaves should be sold for a penny."

The market-bell! Is that rung now? I fear not. There was something deeply impressive in that bell. It spoke loudly of the majesty of the law, which then aspired to regulate some domestic as well as all foreign commerce. The stalls were duly set. The butchers had hung up their joints; the farmer's wife had spread her fowls and her butter upon a white cloth; and onions and apples stood temptingly on the pavement side. But not an atom could be sold till the market bell had rung.

There were laws then against "forestalling," with cognate crimes termed "badgering," "regrating," "engrossing." But in the seventh and eighth years of Queen Victoria such statutes were repealed, as being "made in hinderance and in restraint of trade." What a solemn thing it appeared to my juvenile understanding to be assured that it was unlawful even to handle a goose till the bell said "you may bargain!" There was a board exhibited, which told of heavy penalties, if early housewives were disobedient to the mandates of that bell, and dared to chaffer before other housewives were awake. I used to ponder upon the wisdom of our ancestors, that so regulated the common affairs of life; and forbade the lieges to buy and sell in the same market, which was "regrating;" or to buy wholesale at all, which was "engrossing;" or to buy before the whole world was awake and ready to buy, which was "forestalling." That market-bell is silent for ever, even though Blackstone proclaimed how wise were the laws of which it was the voice.

And of the men who had shops, who did not deal in open market, he describes the dealings thus:

The shops of the Borough were not in those days very brilliant. The window-panes were small; and the show in the windows not greatly attractive. There were no tempting tickets of "this chaste

article only 14s. 10d." Customers went to the shop for what they wanted, and seldom disputed the price if they had an account. Every body had an account; for there was a very queer and limited currency. A guinea was a rarity; and so was a shilling with a visible King's head. The sixpences, shillings, and half-crowns were thin pieces of metal, not always silver, which passed rather as counters than as money. Intrinsically, when good, they were worth about half their nominal amount. How has my boyish heart rejoiced at the useless gift of a pretty shilling,—that is, a shilling with a perfect obverse and reverse! I would put such a rarity to my small store of handsome half-crowns of the first and second Georges, which we used to call "pocket pieces," and gaze at them as sacred things, which it would be profanation to employ as money. It is difficult to look back upon such a state of affairs, and comprehend how the business of life went on. Cautious tradesmen would rather "book" your purchases than take your doubtful silver; and there was a sort of Lynch law amongst some, that when a bad coin was tendered, consciously or unconsciously, the hammer and the nail were ready to pin the offensive thing to the deal counter, as a terror to all evil-doers. Payments of some amount were often made in copper penny-pieces. A Bank of England one-pound note was a suspected thing, for forgeries were by no means uncommon, even though periodical hangings of the forgers and utterers were holiday spectacles throughout the land. The dirty local notes were the one currency,—though sometimes a bank stopped payment. The country banker would also receive very small sums upon interest—for there were no Savings banks; and then, when a crash came, great and wide-spreading was the misery. The dirty one-pound note is gone; and so is the worn-out money. No school-boy now values a new shilling, except as an exchanger; and if his grandmother were to give him "a pocket-piece," it would not remain long in his pocket.

Mr Knight came to London for a short training into life as an editor; he came to an experienced man for knowledge, and tells thus of days that are passed.

In the early spring of 1812, I stepped for a month or two out of the little world in which I had been living, to come face to face with great public things. I had a friend who was the editor of two daily newspapers, a morning and an evening. What a wonderful man I thought him! I see him now, as I often saw him, sitting in his back office, in a dingy dressing-gown and unshorn beard, dashing off his leader for the evening paper. At two o'clock he dressed, and he kindly took the youth from the country with him for a walk through the Strand, and along the mall in the Park. The Park was a queer unfashioned place then, with a long dirty pond where Charles II fed his ducks—no plantations—no gravelled walks—no gas lights. But we walked happily enough; and my kind friend told funny Irish stories, and notable anecdotes of Mr Sheridan and Mr Pousouby, with whom he boasted an intimacy. Yet, of the real life about him he knew very little, although he was the editor of two daily papers. To edit a paper then was not very difficult. Many of the thousand complicated social and commercial questions, that have grown up during our long Peace, were then scarcely known. Parliamentary Reform was considered a dream. If the war was blamed, no one could uphold Napoleon. The tone of the paper was settled by the tone of the party. There were very rarely expresses from great provincial towns—and their local intelligence was mostly left to their own journals. Intercourse with foreign States was almost impossible, except through the Government messengers; and they went and came at the cost of several hundred pounds a journey. My good friend's intellect was not greatly tasked. When we had taken our walk, he had a comfortable dinner; drank a bottle of port, sometimes two; had a nap in his chair undisturbed by the hackney-coaches in the Strand; at nine o'clock, strolled down to the House to know what was going on; wrote his morning leader; and went to bed in very decent time.

After other items of initiation pleasantly related, Mr Knight goes on to say:

With this brief experience I went back to my native town, to be one of those who bore the honoured name of "best public instructor." My range of pupils was very limited. I had little honour in my vocation, and less profit. The world in which I lived was a very singular one. There was the Court atmosphere; and the Collegiate atmosphere; and the Corporate atmosphere—all very much opposed to a free inflation of that air which was called the Liberty of the Press. Yet I was resolved to be independent, and I was unaffectedly patriotic. I hated Napoleon with a true English fervour. That covered some of my sins in not having an undoubting faith in the rulers of the day, with their ex-officio informations. I had some compliments to soothe me. Sir William Herschel came to thank me for telling the people that they were blockheads for attributing the high floods to him;—and the vicar once quoted my leader in a fast-day sermon.

These extracts display the spirit of the book, which is throughout pleasant, thoughtful, and informing. It includes those very graceful papers on past people, which, under the name of shadows, have appeared and have been much admired in *Household Words*. One or two essays are from Mr Knight's *London*, others are collected from other sources; all have been retouched, and several, as we have said, are altogether new. The result is a book not to borrow and read, but to have and read; to place where it can be taken up and laid down by any member of a family who has a spare quarter of an hour to be filled pleasantly, as well as in a profitable way. There are thousands of readers by whom Mr Knight, for his long-continued, admirable, and well-directed labour in producing cheap and wholesome literature, must ever be regarded as a friend. He is also himself a good critic and an excellent writer. *Once upon a Time* has, therefore, not alone the claim of a friend's book to be laid upon many tables, but the extra qualification that, unlike most friends' books, it is worth possessing on its own account.

ENGLAND'S FOREIGN POLICY.

(From the forthcoming Westminster Review.)

Under the existing opposition of political principles in the world, failure in our championship of the right is assuredly a worse misfortune than any war. But the question is not that, nor anything like it. If our rulers, and the Peace Societies who dictate to them, are open only to considerations based on the commercial principle, they ought to see that anything that is dear to us all, from the price of bread to our national vitality, hangs upon our conduct in the present crisis. Our passage to India depends upon it, and the allegiance of the Mussulman subjects of England there, who are the religious subjects of the Sultan of Turkey. Our commerce with all free nations (the only commerce which can be worth much) depends upon it. When the Czar makes Russian lakes of the Mediterranean and the Baltic, and holds Egypt and Syria, our merchants will rue their blind folly in declining to stop him while it was yet possible. The Czar's ambition spreads as widely over the ocean as the land; and, if we do not bar his way to it now, he will contest our maritime supremacy when it will be a heavier task than at present for us to defend

it. We must put away all patronizing talk about Turkey, and look to our own case. Some of our capitalists have, we know, a great stake in peace with Russia and Austria, because they have lent money largely to the Czar and the young Emperor. To give them means and opportunity to prosecute conquest would be to throw good money after bad. The best commercial policy, assuredly, is to defend the independence of nations and the integrity of territory, at all cost; and the Czar has taught us clearly enough that this is what has now to be done. The government and the Peace Society must also be strangely blind, if they need to be told that the preservation of the peace of Europe does not depend upon them. They are afraid that the Czar will win over, not only Austria and Prussia, but the French Emperor, by means of his political necessities; so that we may be left alone; but do not all the parties know, that before that could be done, Hungary will be up, Italy will be up, and probably Germany and France,—Turkey being up already, and England and America being worth something, we may hope, in the last great conflict of Right against Might? We do not find this denied on any hand. All the answer we encounter is about the possibility, or probability, of somebody being offended here, and something else happening there,—some image, in short, of some future complication or difficulty. To hold back from doing right at the present moment, on account of some future possible consequences, seems to us bad principle and bad policy at any time; and at present we are certain that it is consummate presumption and folly also. The state of Europe just now defies all detailed forecast. Everybody knows that the existing state of things cannot last, and that a tremendous conflict is inevitable, whether it arrives one year or another. The only rule for us is fidelity to the hour and the exigency; and we have lost all our ancient virtue, if we doubt for a moment that this will carry us through with safety, honour, and ultimate joy unspeakable. According to this principle, we should have established the Turks along the northern shores of the Black Sea ere this, instead of letting their ships be knocked to pieces before our eyes. Instead of threatening that Russia shall be compelled to evacuate the Principalities, we should have either prevented her passing the Pruth, or have seen her driven back over or through it. Our national life has been swooning under the hands of divided doctors, instead of gathering vigour in wrestling for the liberties of the world. It is not yet too late. Turkey is not yet put down, and the Russians are not yet within sight of the Mediterranean.

THE THEATRICAL EXAMINER.

THE CHRISTMAS ENTERTAINMENTS.

Not being, like Lawyer Dowling or a daily newspaper, available for a dozen places at once, we can only for the present speak of a few of the pleasant things prepared for holiday-makers at the theatres. The subject may be resumed next week.

And first for an exception to pantomime fare. The LYCEUM takes the first rank always in fairy land, and the glimpse of fairy land now offered to the Christmas public by Mr Mathews and Madame Vestris is as usual one of the marvels of stage science. Our power is exhausted of exclaiming, Christmas after Christmas, that each glory is better than the last. We are afraid to make comparisons. No doubt, of things of the same kind, we enjoy what we see, better than what we remember. Of what Mr Planché and Mr Mathews have done, therefore, in past Christmases, we shall say only that we retain it all in happiest remembrance, while of what they are doing now to delight holiday sense and holiday senses, we think it not less certain to furnish a pleasure as little to be forgotten.

In his fairy spectacle of *Once upon a time there were Two Kings*, Mr Planché develops one of the Countess d'Aunois' tales into a drama with enough plot to amuse, and enough sparkle in the dialogue to scintillate agreeably throughout the piece, without any impertinent obtrusiveness. We are pleased to add that he has abstained almost wholly from political allusions, for we cannot perceive any connection between corn laws, foreign wars, cab strikes, and fairy land; and it is quite right that Mr Planché should deny practically their existence. Allusions to current events are the life of a pantomime, but they are the death of a fairy spectacle, presented in good, earnest, fairy style.

How people dressed in the times of the fairies, we regret to say that even Mr Planché does not appear to know. He has therefore used an excellent discretion in supposing that the characters of his tale dressed as its first readers would suppose them dressed, and accordingly we have shepherds with blue satin bodysuits, ruffs and crooks, kings, gentlemen and ladies, in the style proper to the days of Louis Quatorze. A very elegant effect is produced by the use of this quaint and picturesque Louis Quatorze costume, and the actors do their business with an air and grace that would have charmed the great monarch himself and all his court.

Fairy stories never were more elegantly acted, ridiculous things never were elevated with more grace and finish into an ideal region, than when entrusted to the hands of the Lyceum company. As for Mr Beverley's scenery, our admiration of it makes it difficult to describe. Perhaps it will be enough to say that it is worthy of his reputation, and that in the final scene of the piece a fairy effect has been created of the completest kind, by lengthening the silver skirts of damsels who appear to hover in the air, grouping them into festoons and giving to their beauty something of a fantastic unearthly character. This perhaps is the crowning triumph of the theatre so far as mere spectacle is concerned. Let us add that Madame Vestris appeared in the wife of the shepherd-monarch, acting with consummate ease and good sense, as she always did and does, and singing with the beauty of voice and articulation which clings to her still.

Though tolerably early in our visit to DRURY LANE we were afraid, by what greeted us on the stage, that the pantomime was begun. There was a lady in black going through a series of decidedly comical pantomimic gestures, apparently directed to a gentleman in white (trowsers), with a very broad black shining belt round an extremely narrow waist, a Byron collar, a jacket almost indiscernible through its

crowd of small glittering buttons, and, tumbling over the front of the shining belt in the direction of his knees, an expanse of shirt that in the streets would have been so alarming as to call for the police to tuck it in. However, we found that the lady was Mrs Lewis as a heroine of domestic life, gone mad in a colour which is against all the established rules, and that the gentleman was Mr Belton in the character of her lover, and a true British tar. We hope no Russian was in the house to carry home to his government the news of what our once famous old salts, according to that theatrical specimen, must in these piping days of peace have become.

The pantomime, which followed duly, seemed to give great pleasure to all the eager young critics present, and this of course is the merit of a pantomime. To the juvenile world indeed the Drury Lane manager more peculiarly addresses himself, the monarch of the introductory burlesque being no other than an enormous humming-top, and his kingdom the land of toys. There is a prince who suffers from low spirits, and he is restored to bliss by marbles, foot-ball, hop-scotch, and other such youthful felicities. Of the harlequinade we cannot reasonably say much, but there was one good change, there was plenty of thieving by the clown going on, there was some table-talking, and there was a great deal of very clever and not at all disagreeable posturing, by a family called Ethair, which we must suppose to be a corruption of I'th'air, for this volatile family is evidently much more at home in the air than on the ground, and their feats are as picturesque as they are marvellous. The Flying Women announced in the advertisements must have used their wings somewhat too freely the night we were there, for we saw nothing of them; but the Ethairs were compensation enough in that way. And there was plenty of pretty dancing, too, and Miss Featherstone was a good genius, and sang agreeably, and the entertainment was all over in reasonable time.

A scanty audience at the OLYMPIC was perhaps less an ill compliment to the pantomime than a timely hint to the manager that he has worn *Plot and Passion* rather bare—especially since he no longer plays in it himself, and has entrusted the two young men of the piece, highly essential to its proper performance, to representatives whom we cannot speak of good-naturedly, and shall therefore at this season not speak of at all. The subject of the pantomime is *Christopher Columbus*, and it has the best burlesque introduction of any that we have seen. The masks are amazing. At the court of Ferdinand and Isabella, on the day when Columbus arrives, there is a tourney, in which so many Moors engage so many Christian knights, and the manner in which the intense absurdity of the faces of the champions is yet kept within a certain gravity, and as it were plausibility of extravagance, is to be regarded as quite a master-piece of Christmas comicality. The Moorish victors are afterwards engaged single-handed by Columbus, who remains in possession of the field; but even the farcical fun of his encounter with Boabdil yields to that of his challenge to the court to set up the egg standing. Sundry courtiers undertake it, and make elaborate failures; and there is an archbishop, with a face of mild stolidity and capacious boredom that is itself worth a visit to see, who settles the thing in an off-hand conceited way by putting the egg in a spoon, in whom we appear to see concentrated all the scholastic humbug of all the centuries. Columbus himself is very dashing played. Mr C. J. Smith or Mr Payne in the old days could hardly have done it better. His exploits in the tournament, his feats as a man of science, his bearing at sea, his quelling of the mutinies, his celestial observations, and his conduct when fairly landed in the New World of his discovery, are all of the highest and broadest sort of hearty and seasonable fun. The harlequinade may boast, too, of a very handsome Columbine, of a clown with a sagacious little dog, and of one or two good changes; but hardly of its scenery, which (like that of Drury Lane) is dingy-ish, or of its jokes, which are of the mildest. But the audience, which grew greatly in number as the pantomime came on, seemed well satisfied with all.

The ADELPHI has an attractive piece which is not a burlesque, nor yet a pantomime—but partakes rather of the romantic dramas of the old school, with plenty of the supernatural in it, a touch of serious interest, great opportunities for scenic display, a tremendous pirate (done noble justice to by Mr Paul Bedford), and a goblin page which elicits all the power and beauty of Madame Celeste's most vigorous and expressive pantomime. Mrs Keeley and Miss Woolgar also have parts in *Number Nip and the Spirit Bride*, and contribute not a little to its great success.

A single word, which must be one of kindness, is all that for the present we can spare to the HAYMARKET. Here, contrary to usual custom, is a pantomime very cleverly drawn by Mr Buckstone himself from a nursery story by Southey, with the title of *Harlequin and the Three Bears, or Little Silver Hair and the Fairies*. It is well supported, has capital scenes and changes, and it is perfectly successful.

The subject of the pantomime at the PRINCESS'S is the good old drama of the *Miller and his Men*, and its *mise en scene*, and style of performance, are reported to be worthy of the general reputation of the theatre in such things.

St George's Hall, Liverpool, is now nearly finished, and, according to present arrangements, it is intended to be opened early in the month of September, with the performance of an oratorio for the benefit of the local charities. The total cost of the building will be about 200,000.

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL NEWS.

TURKEY AND RUSSIA.

AUTHENTIC ACCOUNT OF THE SLAUGHTER AT SINOPE.—The following account of the piratical attack at Sinope is founded upon the investigations made there by the captain and officers of her Majesty's ship, Retribution. It is consequently genuine: "On the 13th November a Turkish flotilla, consisting of seven frigates (one of sixty guns), three corvettes, and two steamers, anchored in the Bay of Sinope. On the 21st a Russian squadron of three two-deckers, a frigate, and a brig, stood in for Sinope, and after reconnoitring the Turkish position, cruised off the harbour, maintaining the blockade in spite of very heavy weather. It was suggested to Osman Pasha, the Turkish commander-in-chief, that as an action would be unavoidable, the best course would be to force the blockade, and make a running fight of it; but not contemplating any reinforcement of the Russians, he unfortunately rejected the advice of his subordinates, upon the consideration of some of his vessels having been damaged in a recent gale, and on the probability of a successful result if the action were fought at anchor. On the forenoon of the 30th a large Russian squadron, composed of three three-deckers and three two-deckers, under the command of Vice-Admiral Nachimoff, having also the flag of a rear-admiral, stood in for the bay under full sail before the wind, and took up a position close alongside the Turkish ships, the latter not firing upon them while doing so. Two frigates and three steamers remained outside, to cut off the retreat of any Turkish vessel attempting to escape. Osman Pasha forthwith signalled his fleet to fight bravely to the last in defence of their country, and at noon a desperate action commenced. For upwards of an hour and a half the Turkish frigates resisted these fearful odds without flinching. The first of their losses was the Navick frigate, whose captain, Ali Bey, being menaced with boarding by a huge three-decker, and having abandoned all hope of successful resistance, with desperate devotion blew up his vessel. At the end of the above period the destruction of the Turkish force was frightful and complete. Some of the ships were burnt by the enemy's red-hot shot; others blew up; and the others, whose sides were literally beaten in by the enormous weight of the Russian metal, slipped their cables, and, with the exception of two, drifted on shore. The Russians now manned their yards, and cheered in honour of their bloody victory. Having done this, they immediately recommenced firing upon the helpless wrecks, from which a feeble dropping fire was still maintained with unequalled fortitude, and did not cease until they had completed the work of destruction and butchery. They then took possession of the two vessels which had not gone on shore, but, from their battered condition, abandoned and destroyed them the following day. One of the Turkish steamers, the Taif, alone escaped. She had slipped her cable shortly after the commencement of the battle, and, after forcing her way at some risk through the force cruising outside, brought the first intimation of this fatal event to Constantinople. Before the action commenced the Turkish crews numbered 4,490 men; of these 358 have survived, the others having been slain to a man at their posts. Most of the survivors are wounded; among them are 120 prisoners, who were taken by the Russians on board the frigates abandoned by them, and who have been carried off to Sebastopol. Osman Pasha, the commander-in-chief, who was wounded in the action, is among the prisoners. Hussein Pasha, the second in command, while trying to escape from his burning vessel, was struck by a grapeshot on the head, and killed. The loss on the Russian side is not accurately known, as they retired immediately after the battle; but four of their ships were disabled in their spars, and were towed out by steamers. The support afforded to the Turks by the land batteries was ineffectual, owing partly to the lightness of their guns, and partly to their fire being intercepted by the Turkish ships. The town of Sinope is completely destroyed, either by shells or burning timbers, and the whole coast is strewn with dead bodies. A few survivors have made their way, by swimming to the town; but such is the consternation among the local authorities that all action on their part is paralysed, and they can scarcely find means even to procure food or medical assistance for the sufferers. These latter found speedy alleviation at the hands of the medical officers brought by her Majesty's steamer Retribution, and the French steamer Mogador, who were zealously assisted by three of the survivors, surgeons on board the Turkish fleet."

From the above report it is clear that the Turks fought bravely, and stood to their guns to the last. Ali Bey, the commander of the Navick, seeing that his ship could not stand against the three-decker opposed to him, ordered her to be blown up; but not feeling certain of the execution of that order, he himself threw the lighted match into the powder magazine. In 1850 Ali Bey conveyed the Legione Monti (who were returning to Italy, having taken part in the war in Hungary) from Constantinople to Genoa and Cagliari, on board the frigate Ilat, for which services the King of Sardinia presented him with the cross of St Maurice and Lazarus. News has reached Constantinople that 200 sailors, belonging to the crews of the ships destroyed at Sinope, have turned up at Samsoun, in the Black Sea. The following table shows the loss of ships, men, the wounded, &c.: "The Navick, 52 guns, 500 men, Ali Bey, captain (killed); opposed to a Russian three-decker. Blown up.—The Nezim, 52 guns, 500 men, Hassen Bey, captain (killed); opposed to a Russian two-decker of 80 guns. Destroyed.—The Farsli Hat, 38 guns, 400 men, Ali Maher Bey, captain (killed); opposed to a Russian two-decker of 80 guns. Destroyed.—The Gullu-Sefit, 24 guns, 200 men, Selis Bey, captain (killed); destroyed.—The Aon-Illah (flag), 36 guns, 400 men, Osman Pasha (lost leg, and made prisoner); opposed to a Russian three-decker of 120 guns, which lost spars.—The Damieta, 56 guns, 500 men. Destroyed.—The Nedgbi-Feschir, 24 guns, 200 men, Hussein Bey, captain (prisoner). On shore, dismasted.—The Kaïd, 50 guns, 500 men, Elan Bay, captain (escaped); opposed to a large three-decker. Blew up.—The Nezemieh (flag), 60 guns, 600 men, Hussein Pasha, second in command, and Captain Kadi Bey (killed); opposed to a large three-decker. Blew up.—The Faisi Marabout, 22 guns, 240 men, Izet Bey, captain. Destroyed.—The Taif steamer, 16 guns, 300 men, 300-horse power. Not engaged.—The Iregli steamer, 4 guns, 150 men, 150-horse power. Destroyed.—Making a total of 434 guns, and 4,490 men.—Russian guns, 600, besides four steamers and two frigates, not in the action. Weight of Russian shot, 68lbs., 42lbs., and 32lbs. Several shells and carcasses used did not explode.—Wounded and sound, brought to Constantinople by Retribution and Mogador, 200 men; left at Sinope, in charge of badly wounded, 10 men; wounded, left at Sinope, could not be moved, 20 men; prisoners, as supposed, 150 men; escaped on shore, it is presumed, 1,000 men; escaped, per Taif steamer, 300 men: total, 1,680 men.—Total number of men, 4,490; accounted for, 1,680; unaccounted for, 2,810.

The scene of war and desolation that presented itself on the arrival of the steamers from Constantinople is stated to have been most horrible. Nothing in the warfare of the most barbarous period, and on a similar scale, could surpass in cowardly ferocity what has taken place there. When the Retribution and Mogador arrived on the spot, they found every house destroyed, or still in flames, and the town almost utterly annihilated, mangled bodies

and limbs floating about or rotting upon the beach, and the dead and dying scattered among the still burning fragments that strewed sea and shore. It is stated that, even after the docks and ships were destroyed, the Russians poured an incessant shower of grape and canister on the poor wounded wretches who were struggling amid the waves and striving to reach the shore, as if the survivors. There is scarcely a letter of the many that have been received from Constantinople that does not speak of this massacre and conflagration, of the treacherous ferocity of the assailants, and the desperate heroism of the victims—"heroism," one letter says, "effect produced at Constantinople by the sad tidings it is superfluous to speak. Crowds of people collected in the streets and accompanied the families of the victims of Sinope to the residence of the Capudan Pasha, on whom the fault is laid of having sent to the Black Sea a squadron so weak and so unprotected, when it was known that the Russians were prowling along the coast of Asia Minor. Their clamours reached the ear of the Pasha, and one account says that he considered it prudent to conceal himself, lest he should fall a victim to popular vengeance. There is a circumstance mentioned in one or two of the letters of the 15th from Constantinople by this post which, though not authenticated, must yet be mentioned: it is, that an attempt was made during the night of the 14th by the Russians to repeat in the Bosphorus what they had done at Sinope, and to burn, by means of a fire-ship, the combined English and French fleets at their anchorage; that the design was discovered before there was time to commence its execution; and that the vessel was seized and the combustible materials discovered on board.

THE RUSSIAN ADMIRAL'S EXCUSE.—The following letter was addressed by the Russian Admiral Nachimoff to the Austrian consul at Sinope, after the destruction of the Turkish fleet, and the bombardment of the town:

"Monsieur le Consul.—Permit me to address myself to you as the only European representative whose flag I see hoisted, that you may make known to the authorities of the unfortunate town of Sinope the sole object of the arrival of the Imperial fleet in the harbour. Having learnt that the Turkish ships, which were continually cruising on the coast of Asia to raise the population which had submitted to Russia, had taken refuge in the roads of Sinope, I was reduced to the deplorable necessity of attacking them at the risk of causing injury to the town and harbour. I sympathise in the sad fate of the town and of the inoffensive inhabitants, for it was solely the obstinate defence of the hostile inhabitants, and particularly the fire of the batteries, which compelled us to employ bombs as the only mode of silencing them quickly; but the greatest damage experienced by the town was certainly caused by the burning wreck of the Turkish ships, set on fire mostly by their own crews. As soon as the enemy's fire permitted me, I sent a boat with an officer, bearing a flag of truce, to explain my real intentions to the authorities of the town, but the officer remained there an hour without discovering anybody. During the whole of yesterday nobody appeared except some Greeks, calling themselves deputies from their countrymen inhabiting the town, supplicating me to receive them on board the fleet; but my instructions being solely to act against the Turkish ships of war, I recommended those unfortunate persons to the European Consuls. I am now quitting the port, and I depend upon your good offices to make known that the Imperial squadron has no hostile intention either against the town or against the port of Sinope."

The 'Pays,' in giving the above letter says: "We ask ourselves, in reading this strange despatch, what serious man Admiral Nachimoff hopes to deceive? To say that he had no hostile intention against a town which he had just reduced to ashes, and against a port which he leaves devastated, is in truth the height of derision."

RESCHID PASHA'S APPLICATION FOR BRITISH AND FRENCH AID.—The subjoined is a translation of a formal and official note transmitted on the 5th instant to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe and General Baragny d'Hilliers, by Reschid Pasha: "It was announced to the ambassadors some days ago by an official note, that Russian ships of war had been seen cruising in the vicinity of Sinope. The Taif steamer has just arrived from that locality, and it results from the report of the captain, that on Wednesday last, 29th Sépher (November 30), three Russian three-deckers, two two-deckers, and two frigates entered the port of Sinope, and attacked a division of the Ottoman fleet anchored there, and consisting of six frigates, and three corvettes. Although the result of the action is not yet known, considering the situation of our ships and the superior force of the enemy, it is presumed that a great disaster has ensued. The English and French fleets have been sent to the Bosphorus with the sincere intention of protecting the shores of the Ottoman empire. This recent occurrence proves sufficiently, that it is the determination of Russia to attack by means of her fleet those points against which operations may be best directed. The impossibility, however, of defending so vast an extent of coast without a sufficient force in the Black Sea is perfectly evident; and although the Sultan's government has the intention of sending thither the fleet, it will be inadequate to the object in view. Hence the Sublime Porte considers itself under the necessity of having recourse to the effective solicitude of the two allied governments. This notification is made accordingly and at the same time to the ambassadors of England and France."

ACCEPTANCE OF THE COLLECTIVE NOTE BY THE PORTE.—Intelligence has been received from Constantinople that the last note of the Vienna Conference has been accepted by the Porte. The Grand Council of the Empire was convoked on the 18th inst., and, after a full discussion, the terms of the note were pronounced by the majority of members to be such as might be accepted by Turkey without dishonour or humiliation. The Turkish government, therefore, consents to name a plenipotentiary to proceed to some neutral capital, not being Vienna, to treat for peace. It accepts the declaration of the Four Powers, that the evacuation of the Principalities is to be considered a *sine qua non* in the negotiation, and that the territorial position of the Russian and Ottoman empires is not to be changed by the war. But, in answer to the question on what terms Turkey is prepared to treat, it is stated negatively that she declines to renew the treaties existing between the Ottoman empire and Russia before the war. "But," observes the 'Times,' "after making the above statement, and discussing the necessity of concert between all the European powers for the purpose of securing the welfare of the Christian churches and the Christian populations in the Ottoman empire, 'to speak without reserve, nothing is less likely than that the Emperor Nicholas will assent at this time to any such terms. He began this quarrel for the opposite motive; and the view which the Western Powers have adopted, and on which they are prepared to act, leads to nothing less than the defeat of that secular policy of Russia which has long marked St Sophia for its temple, and Constantinople for its throne. At the moment, then, when the proposal of the Vienna Conference is in some sort accepted by Turkey, the breach becomes wider and the difference more irreconcilable than it was before." The Paris 'Moniteur' of yesterday announces that the last advices from Constantinople confirm the statement that the Divan was perfectly agreed with the representatives of France, England, Austria, and Prussia, on the conditions upon which the Porte could honourably treat for the re-establishment of peace.

DUPLICITY OF AUSTRIA ON THE TURKISH QUESTION.—The Austrian government, already beginning to find that the hopes of pacification have come too late, and that the time for more energetic measures is at hand, has published in the official correspondence which is prepared at Vienna under the eyes of the

Minister a mean and drivelling article, dictated, to all appearance, by the Russian Embassy. After stating that the Four Powers are endeavouring to effect by pacific measures and moral influence the restoration of peace, the Austrian Cabinet expressly denies that "it has assumed a less friendly or menacing attitude towards Russia," and declares that "she has not in the least renounced her friendly sentiments towards her allied neighbour, and will not have to renounce them in future." The article adds, that the "intimate friendship between these two great monarchs is the surest guarantee for the peace of the world and for the conservative interests of Europe." The appearance of this declaration at Vienna at such a moment is, we fear, an evident proof that the independent portion of the Austrian Cabinet is unable to hold its ground, and that a degree of pressure has been applied which the cuffed empire cannot resist. The ink is scarcely dry on the Protocol of the 5th of December, when the Cabinet of Vienna are ready to repudiate its spirit, and to defeat the influence it might have exercised on Russia. We have not to learn anything of the faithfulness of that Court; all history is full of it; but, if the conduct of Austria opposes herself to the general interests of Europe in this conjuncture, and thereby greatly extends the disastrous effects of this rupture, she may rely upon it that on her own dominions the first and heaviest retribution will fall.—Times.

MISCELLANEOUS FACTS.—The Turkish ambassador has been recalled from Persia, and Mohamed Khan leaves Constantinople for Bagdad.—The Turkish governors of the Asiatic provinces have been ordered to organise local militia for the protection of the eastern frontier against Persia.—The Persians and Russians have opened a direct communication. The Russian General Yermoloff is to command the Persian force.—The Russian bulletin of the battle of Ougasti, in respect of which General Bebutoff claims a victory over Abdi Pasha, has been published. The general admits that he lost 317 killed, of whom nine are officers, and 795 wounded, among whom is Prince Orbelian.—Advices from Bucharest, of the 20th, state that in proportion as the third Russian corps d'armée approaches the Eastern frontier of Wallachia, General Dannenberg's corps marches to Lesser Wallachia. One brigade of infantry left on the 20th.—The latest accounts from the Danubian principalities state that the mortality among the Russian troops had considerably increased. General Dannenberg was advancing towards Lesser Wallachia.—A letter from Brailow announces that a brigade of the 7th Russian Division, commanded by General Selvane, having quitted Nizir Kemi, to attack Amouchda, an island in the Danube, had got engaged in the marshes, from which it could not extricate itself without severe loss.—A letter from Erzeroum of the 4th inst. announces that the Shah of Persia had dismissed all the English, French, German, and Italian officers serving in his army.—The Russian army in the Caucasus had been reinforced by fifteen Regiments of Don Cossacks, under the command of General Krechatiky.—A despatch from the Danube states that the Russian war-steamers Pruth, in passing down the Danube, had set two Turkish villages on fire with red-hot balls.—A private letter from St Petersburg of the 19th inst. asserts positively that the exchange of ratifications of the treaty, offensive and defensive, between the Shah of Persia and Russia had taken place.—Lord Dudley Stuart has left England for Constantinople, for the purpose of inducing the Sultan to raise a regiment of Poles, in the expectation of obtaining a great addition to such an auxiliary force by desertions of Poles from the Russian army.

FRANCE.—UNITED POLICY OF FRANCE AND ENGLAND ON THE TURKISH QUESTION.—The Paris correspondent of the 'Morning Chronicle' writes as follows: "The good understanding between the English and French Governments, which, by the way, was never interrupted, notwithstanding the reports to the contrary—has been further cemented by a very important act. In virtue of the line of policy agreed to between the two Governments, a draft was sent to London on Saturday last of a declaration to be drawn up by the two Governments, and communicated to Russia in their joint names. In that declaration it is intimated that France and England will not permit Russia and Turkey to make war against each other in the Black Sea, and that they accordingly interdict them from doing so." The 'Constitutionnel' also contradicts the late rumour of dissensions between Great Britain and France, which, it was asserted, had paralysed the action of the fleets in the Bosphorus. The ambassadors of France and England at Constantinople, says the 'Constitutionnel,' have the same instructions, and the line of conduct to be adopted after the battle of Sinope was agreed upon by Lord Redcliffe and General Baraguay d'illiers. It has been reported in Paris, that the English and French Governments having now very little hope of a pacific solution of the Eastern question, both France and England were about to make preparations for an expedition to the Baltic early in the spring. Sir Charles Napier was to command the English fleet in that sea.

MISCELLANEOUS FACTS.—The 'Moniteur' publishes a decree abolishing the restrictions imposed by the rescript of Feb. 8, 1826, on raw cotton imported into France from Great Britain and the British possessions in Europe. According to the said rescript the produce of Asia, Africa, and America, sent from England and her European possessions into French ports was to be admitted for re-exportation only.—The premium paid by the city to the Paris bakers during the first fortnight of November, to keep the price of bread at 40c. the kilogramme, amounted to 671,000f.—the real price being 49c.—An accident occurred last week at the Gaité during the representation of the "Cosques." A trap-door on the stage suddenly gave way, and half a dozen of the combatants instantly disappeared. After some moments of confusion they assisted each other in scrambling up to their original position, to the great satisfaction of the audience, who were fearful of unpleasant consequences from their fall.—An Imperial decree sanctions the amalgamation of the Junction of the Rhone and Loire and the Great Central Railway Companies.—The 'Moniteur' says that the decorations in the Order of the Legion of Honour having attained for the year 1853 the number fixed in execution of the organic decree of the 16th March, 1852, the Emperor has decided that no more shall be accorded in the civil order on the occasion of the 1st January next.—General Leflo, late questor of the Legislative Assembly, and at present a refugee in Jersey, has received a retiring pension of 4,000f.—Marshal St. Arnaud has been raised to the rank of Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour. The Marshal has been engaged for some time past in organizing the army on a war footing, and the Emperor wishes on that account to give him a new proof of his confidence.—Viscount Lehon, son of the former Ambassador of Belgium in France, having lately applied for admission into the Jockey Club of Paris, was rejected almost unanimously. The reason of this failure is said to be found in the circumstance of his having been the person who conducted the banished Generals to the French frontier after the coup d'état of the 2nd of December.—An attempt to assassinate a sentry was made in Paris one night last week. A "garde de Paris" on duty at the Corn-market saw a man approaching and called out "Qui vive!" The man fired a pistol, the ball of which passed near the head of the sentinel, who immediately rushed towards the man, and was about to seize him, when the ruffian fired another pistol, the ball from which wounded the sentinel in the right foot. He was obliged therefore to discontinue the pursuit. The discharge of the pistol brought out the soldiers

of the post, but they were unable to discover the aggressor. The sentinel's wound was slight.—The magnificent estate of Raincy, late the property of the Prince de Joinville, but which was confiscated by the decree of the 22nd of January, 1852, was offered for sale by auction on Saturday at the Hotel de Ville at Versailles. No bidder having appeared, the sale was adjourned.—The Bey of Tunis, who has the reputation of being one of the four best chess-players in the world (writes a Paris correspondent), has challenged the Chess Club of our Passage Jouffroy to a rubber game for 1,000l. sterling. The first game has already begun. The club drew the first move.—The accounts received by the family of the Marquis de Turgot from Madrid continue to be of a satisfactory nature. His health has much improved, and the wound which he received is now advanced towards a cure.—A Company has just been formed for purchasing the copyright of all M. Lamartine's works already written, or to be written hereafter. The capital is 450,000fr. M. Ampere, the academician, and MM. Emile de Girardin, Pousard and Pagnere, are among the promoters.—The Emperor has intimated to the Mayor of St Germain his intention to have the palace restored. It has for many years been used, first as a barrack and subsequently as a prison.—M. Visconti, Member of the Institute and architect, to the Emperor, died suddenly in Paris on Wednesday.

PORTUGAL.—The Portuguese Cortes assembled on the 19th inst. to record the King Regent's reiteration of his oath. The King, Don Pedro V, was also present at the Royal sitting, with his brother, Don Luiz, as Constable of the Kingdom. The Legislature was to continue its sittings until the end of the year, when the session will close, and the new one for 1854 is to be opened on the 21st of January with the usual speech from the Throne.

UNITED STATES.—The Europa brought accounts up to the 14th inst. One of the most destructive fires that has occurred for many years broke out in New York on the 10th, the particulars of which we give in another place.—The proceedings of Congress have merely been of a preliminary character. Senator Cass has moved that the President be called upon to communicate all the correspondence, if any, between the British Government and the United States, in relation to the treaty of Washington. This motion was agreed to. The sea plague continues its capricious, but fatal, career. The Connecticut, from Havre, arrived on the 18th, and reported 20 deaths on the voyage, from cholera; and the barque Hansa, from Bremen, lost 25 out of 223 passengers. There had been nine deaths in New York city during the last week caused by Asiatic cholera.—Mitchell, the Irish exile, from Australia, intends publishing a new republican journal in New York, the object of which, he says, will be to promote republicanism all over the world, and particularly in England and Ireland. But there are some new symptoms of discontent among the Catholic Irish, and their newspapers in New York, they not being of Mr Mitchell's opinion in all things. It will be remembered that Mitchell is not a Catholic, and hence, perhaps, one cause for division.—The latest advices from Halifax give little or no hope of the saving of the Humboldt.—A telegraphic despatch from New Orleans says that "every thing was prepared in Mexico for the declaration of the Empire, and that Santa Anna would assume the title of his Imperial Majesty on the 12th inst."—The party of adventurers who recently invaded Lower California issued a proclamation on the 7th of Nov., in which they announced the capture of La Paz, and the appointment of the leader of the Independence Battalion, Colonel Walker, as President of the Republic of Lower California, who has promulgated such decrees as were most congenial to the citizens, as well as the security and comfort of his command. The bulletin, after describing the removal of the seat of the new Government to St. Lucas, says: "The commercial resources, and the mineral and agricultural wealth of the Republic of Lower California, compare favourably with those of her sister republics. Our men are all in fine health and spirits, and are as noble and determined a body as were ever collected together." The officers who compose the Government, which is stated to have been formed "upon a sure and firm basis," are as follows:—W. Walker, President of the Republic of Lower California; F. Emery, Secretary of State; J. M. Jarnagin, Secretary of War; H. A. Snow, Secretary of the Navy, besides the Military and Naval Executive.

SWEDEN AND NORWAY.—King Oscar has invited the Diet to nominate a small number of its members possessing its entire confidence, to whom, as a secret committee, the Government may make an important communication. It is believed that the Government wishes in this unostentatious manner to bring some momentous facts connected with foreign affairs to the knowledge of the Diet. The King has re-organised the higher departments of the military and naval administration, with a view to securing greater unity and efficiency in the event of hostilities. Accounts from Berlin state that diplomatic negotiations are pending between the Governments of Sweden and Denmark, having for their object the conclusion of a league, offensive and defensive, between the two states. Sweden is arming by sea and land, and Denmark will immediately fortify her coasts, and place Copenhagen in a state of defence.

GIBRALTAR.—The accounts last received represent the inhabitants as still suffering all the evils of restricted trade and famine prices. A private letter, dated the 17th inst., says:—"There is no alteration in affairs here—great anxiety prevails to learn the result of the deputation to England. No supplies of any kind are suffered by the Spaniards to come from Spain. Relief from Madrid seems hopeless. It is generally believed that the first step towards reconciliation with Spain would be by removal of Sir R. Gardiner, our Governor, to whose indiscreet and insulting conduct towards the neighbouring authorities is to be attributed the late retaliatory measures on their part, measures which press so heavily on the poor of this community."

INDIA.—From Burmah we learn that matters were improving in that quarter. The Governor-General was still expected at Rangoon. A bimonthly communication is to be established forthwith between Rangoon and Calcutta by steam. A force marched on the 9th November, from Peshawur, towards the Khoat Pass to coerce the Afreedes to allow us to build a fort. The force consisted of a light field battery, two companies of Sappers and Miners, Her Majesty's 22nd Regiment, 20th Native Infantry, 66th Ghoorkas, and the 7th Irregular Cavalry. Lieutenant-Colonel Cotton (22nd Queen's), was to command it. The Shah of Persia is reported to have left Teheran with 30,000 cavalry and 1,000 pieces of cannon, and 3,000 camels loaded with ammunition, to operate against Turkey in concert with Russia. Something very like a famine prevails in all the northern districts of the Madras presidency, owing to the want of rain, the monsoon having almost confined itself entirely to the southern coast. It is stated that the export of grain from the northern ports had almost entirely ceased. Lord Falkland is expected to return to Bombay during the commencement of next month, and leaves India, it is understood, early in January. The intelligence of the restoration of Colonel Outram to the appointment of Resident at Baroda is confirmed. Cholera in Bombay is on the decrease, but it has made its appearance among the men of the 4th Regiment of Native Infantry, who are on their march to Poonah, but not to an alarming extent.

CHINA.—There is no new feature in the proceedings of the Imperial and insurgent troops; constant fighting is going on, with little result on either side. The losses of the Imperialists have been considerable, while the insurgents have suffered little, which gives them confidence. The Mongols at Pekin consist of 69 officers, 4,000 men, and 400 camp-followers. These were the only Mongols that have come within the great wall. Tae-ping's northern army took Ping-yang, in Shan-see, on the 12th of September, left it a day or two after, and passed eastward of Flung-tung, in the direction of Pekin, from which it was 500 to 600 miles distant. It is difficult to arrive at correct information of the progress of the rebel forces in the north. It is not long since they were reported to be within 150 miles of Pekin. From Ningpo we learn, under date of the 25th of October, that the city was quiet; but there was an impression that it could be revolutionized, without much disorder, in favour of the new dynasty. The accounts from Amoy are to the 5th of November. Affairs there seemed approaching to a crisis; the fighting had harassed and reduced the rebel force, which was in want of provisions and money, and hemmed in by the Imperial troops by land and a strong fleet of junks to oppose them on the water side. It was expected the city would be retaken. At Canton there is nothing new to mention; the city remained quiet, and the protective measures were efficient. It was generally understood that Governor Sir G. Bonham's resignation has been accepted by her Majesty's Government. A letter from Hongkong says,—"We hear that there has been a mutiny on board Admiral Pellew's flag-ship. It seems that on the 8th of November the men, who had not had liberty for 18 months, sent in a petition on the subject to Admiral Pellew, who immediately ordered the ship to be got ready for sea. In the evening there was a noise below, when the drum was beat to quarters, and some of the men refused to come on deck, upon which the officers were ordered to compel them at the point of the sword, and in doing so several of the men were severely wounded."

FOREIGN GLEANINGS.

The 'Cologne Gazette' states that the Prussian Government has named commissioners to fix new bases for the preliminaries of a treaty of commerce between Belgium and the Zollverein.

A letter from Vienna, of the 21st, says: "A Russian councillor, M. Duez, has arrived here with presents from the Emperor Nicholas, for the Emperor Francis Joseph. Amongst them is a magnificent camp tent and the necessary furniture."

The Chambers of the Grand Duchy of Baden are convoked for the 9th January. The 'New Prussian Gazette,' of the 24th, states that Austria will mediate in the difference which has arisen between the Government and the catholic clergy of Baden.

The Duke and Duchess de Montpensier arrived at Madrid on the 20th inst.

STATE AND CHURCH.

MEETING OF PARLIAMENT.—Her Majesty held a Privy Council on Thursday, at which Parliament was ordered to be further prorogued from the 3rd of January until Tuesday the 31st of January, 1854, and a proclamation was issued summoning Parliament to meet on that day for the despatch of public business.

LORD PALMERSTON'S RESUMPTION OF OFFICE.—The 'Times' announces the settlement of the Ministerial difficulty in the following words: "It became our duty, in consequence of intelligence which had reached us, to state on Friday, the 16th of December, that Viscount Palmerston had tendered his resignation of the office of Secretary of State for the Home Department, and had therefore ceased to form a part of her Majesty's Government, if his resignation was accepted by the Crown. That announcement was strictly accurate, and accordingly Viscount Palmerston has not attended the meetings of the Cabinet which have been held since he expressed his intention to resign. It is, however, well known that the important office of Home Secretary has not been filled up or accepted by any other member of the Government; and we have now the satisfaction to learn that the resignation of Lord Palmerston has not been definitively accepted, but is withdrawn, and that the Secretary of State for the Home Department will retain—we can hardly say resume—his former position in the present administration."

THE GOVERNMENT OF HONG KONG.—There is reason to believe that Dr Bowring will succeed Sir G. Bonham as Governor of Hong Kong and Chief Superintendent of British Trade in China.

APPOINTMENTS.—Letters patent have been issued, appointing J. B. Hume, Esq., J. Simon, Esq., and J. F. Bateman, Esq., Commissioners for inquiring into the causes which have led to and have aggravated the late outbreak of cholera at Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Gateshead, and Tynemouth.—The following diplomatic appointments have been made: N. Moore, Esq., now Consul at Beyrout, to be Consul-General in Syria; the Hon. H. Elliot, now Secretary of Legation at the Hague, to be Secretary of Legation at Vienna.—Captain Symonds, of the Arethusa, has accepted the post of Flag Captain to Rear-Admiral Sir E. Lyons, and will join the Agamemnon, 90, at Constantinople.—Captain J. Shepherd, recently captain of the Victory, 101, flag ship at Portsmouth, and one of the members of the Committee on Manning the Navy, is promoted to be Commodore of the Second Class, and appointed to the Fisgard flag ship at Woolwich, for service as Commodore-Superintendent at Woolwich dockyard and of the naval duties afloat at this port, in the room of Commodore H. Eden, whose period of service as Commodore-Superintendent of the Woolwich dockyard and duties afloat has expired.

HER MAJESTY'S NEW YEAR'S GIFTS.—The 1st of January falling on a Sunday, her Majesty's customary new year's gifts to the poor of New Windsor and Clewer will be distributed on Monday next, in the Biding-house, Windsor Castle. The gifts consist of beef and plum pudding, varying in quantity according to the families of the recipients, and twenty-five per cent. added to the subscriptions of the poor, in the purchase of articles of clothing. The expense is defrayed by a grant of 150l. from the Lord Steward's department, and a grant of 100l. from the Lord Chamberlain's. The distribution takes place in the presence of her Majesty and the Royal family.

REGIUS PROFESSORSHIP OF HEBREW AT CAMBRIDGE.—This professorship has been declared vacant by the death of Dr Mill. The election of a successor will take place on the 4th of January. The electors are—the Vice-Chancellor, the Master of St John's College, the Provost of King's College, the Master of Trinity College, the Master of Christ's College, and the Senior Fellow of Trinity College.

ELECTION OF THE NEW PRINCIPAL AT BRASENOSE, OXFORD.—On Tuesday the Rev. E. Hartopp Cradock, M.A., Canon of Worcester, was unanimously elected Principal of Brasenose, in the room of the late Dr Harrington. The new Principal was born in 1810, and is a son of E. Grove, Esq., of Shenstone park, county of Stafford, by Emilia, daughter of the late Sir E. C. Hartopp, Bart. He took the name of Cradock on succeeding to the property of his uncle. He was educated at Shrewsbury School, whence he gained a scholarship at Balliol College, Oxford. He took his degree of B.A. in 1831, when his name appears in the second class of honours in *Literis Humanioribus*, and in the same class list with the present Chancellor of the Exchequer and the present Secretary at War. Soon afterwards Mr Cradock was elected to a fellowship at Brasenose, in which college he filled successively the offices of bursar and vice-principal. In 1844 he was presented by his college to the rectory of Tedstone-de-la-Mere in Herefordshire (value 260l.), and in 1848 he was appointed Canon of

Worcester. In 1844 he married Miss Lister, Maid of Honour to Queen Victoria, and sister of Lord John Russell's first wife.

REPRESENTATION OF LIVERPOOL.—The *Liverpool Times* says: "It is quite true that the original petition has been withdrawn, it is equally true that an amended one has been substituted, which prays not only for the unseating of Messrs Horsfall and Liddell, but that a commission may sit in Liverpool for the purpose of inquiring generally into the practices which prevail here during parliamentary contests. It prays, further, for the entire disfranchisement of the freemen of the borough."

HEALTH OF LONDON.—In the week that ended on Saturday 1,399 deaths were registered in the metropolitan districts. The increase arises from two causes; the rate of mortality has been raised by the coldness of the weather; and more than a due proportion of inquests are included in the return, such cases having accumulated during the quarter without the coroner's signature, which is necessary to complete the registration. In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1843-52, the average number of deaths was 1,124, which, if raised in proportion to increase of population, becomes 1,236. The return of last week, therefore, exhibits an excess on the estimated amount. In the table of fatal causes, the deaths are spread over the various diseases in proportions not varying much from those of the preceding week, in which 1,358 deaths were registered. Last week 316 were produced by diseases of the respiratory organs; 153 were from bronchitis, 110 from pneumonia. In the zymotic class, hooping-cough, which continues rather fatal, numbers 63 cases. Small-pox has so far disappeared from London that no deaths were registered from it last week. Cholera was fatal in 10 cases. Last week the births of 800 boys and 745 girls, in all 1,545 children, were registered in London. In the eight corresponding weeks of the years 1845-52 the average number was 1,267. At the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, the mean height of the barometer in the week was 29.748 in. The mean temperature of the week was 33.1 deg., which is 5.6 deg. below the average of the same week in thirty-eight years. The mean daily temperature was below the average on every day in the week, and on Sunday and Monday the decrease was 9 deg. The highest temperature was 41.0 deg. on Friday; the lowest was 27.0 deg. on Monday. The highest and lowest on Saturday were 36.3 deg. and 27.7 deg. The mean dew point temperature was 30.6 deg. The wind blew generally from the north-east.

Obituary.

DR WILLIAM HODGE MILL. Regius Professor of Hebrew, Canon of Ely, and Rector of Brasted, died at Ely on Christmas day, after less than a week's illness. On Monday week he came up to London to attend a meeting of the Foreign Translation Committee of the Society for promoting Christian Knowledge. The extreme cold of the day brought on an obstruction which no medical skill could counteract, and he died without pain, and with all such consolations as his friends could wish, on Sunday night. Dr Mill took a very high degree in 1813, and was elected Fellow of Trinity College. In 1820 he went out as first principal of Bishop's College, Calcutta, the foundation of Bishop Middleton. On his return, in 1833, he received the appointment of domestic and examining chaplain to the late Archbishop Howley. Subsequently he was appointed Christian advocate. In 1843 Archbishop Howley presented him to the living of Brasted, Kent; and in 1848 he was elected Regius Professor of Hebrew, to which a canonry at Ely is attached. As a mathematician and scholar, Dr Mill's attainments were of the very highest order; and the pursuits of his youth he continued as the relaxation of his maturer years. His acquirements in Sanscrit have won him an European reputation; and, as a contribution to the evangelising of India, as well as a classical production in that great language, his '*Christa Sangrita*' is a work unparalleled in modern literature. Dr Mill leaves behind him a widow and surviving daughter, the wife of the Rev. Benjamin Webb, of Sheen.

DR JAMES GILLKREST, Inspector-General of Army Hospitals, died on the 25th inst. This veteran medical officer entered the medical department of the army in 1801, and served as surgeon of the 43rd throughout the Peninsular war, for which he received a medal with twelve clasps. In 1814 he embarked with his regiment for America, and served in the affairs which terminated with the fruitless assault of the American entrenchments below New Orleans. In 1815 his regiment rejoined the army under the Duke on the advance to Paris. In 1827 he accompanied the expedition to Portugal under Sir W. Clinton. In 1828 he served in Gibraltar during the yellow fever epidemic of that year, and was shortly after promoted to the rank of Deputy-Inspector, and placed on half-pay. In Paris, during the three days of July, 1830, he gave the benefit of his mature experience as a military surgeon to the wounded of both parties. In 1832, during the prevalence of cholera in London, he was indefatigable in his exertions among the poor, and in a series of letters to the '*Times*' gave a graphic sketch of the progress of that epidemic. In 1833 he was recalled to active service as principal medical officer at Gibraltar, where his experience in cholera became again available during its prevalence in that garrison in 1834. After an arduous and eventful career of forty-one years' active service, he was promoted to the rank of Inspector-General of Hospitals, and placed on the retired list in December, 1846. Since his retirement he presented to the French Academy of Medicine a work on yellow fever, which called forth a high eulogium from that learned body, and he contributed to the General Board of Health a valuable monograph on the same subject, published in the board's second report on quarantine.

GENERAL VON RADOWITZ, formerly minister of the present King of Prussia, died at Berlin on Christmas day, in the fifty-seventh year of his age. He has left a very large circle of loving friends, and the whole German public has long been accustomed to regard him as one of the celebrities of the times.

IRELAND.

THE LATE CARLOW ELECTION.—The case of "*Dowling v. Lawler*," which has been before the Irish Court of Exchequer since Monday week, was brought to a close on Saturday evening. It arose out of circumstances connected with the late memorable election for the borough of Carlow, and among the witnesses examined on Wednesday was Mr John Sadleir, M.P., who denied on oath many allegations and charges made against him, one of which was to the effect that he had caused the imprisonment of Mr Dowling for not voting for him. The issues which the jury had to try were these:—First, whether there was an agreement between Daniel Crotty and John Sadleir, or any person on behalf of John Sadleir, that Daniel Crotty should be reissued from all liability on the two bills of exchange for the respective sums of 150*l.* and 200*l.*, mentioned in certain affidavits in this matter; secondly, if so, whether the Carlow branch of the Tipperary Joint-stock Bank, or any person on that behalf, in pursuance of such agreement, discounted a certain bill of exchange drawn by one Edward Lawler on and accepted by one William Ling; thirdly, did the bank discount the last-mentioned bill of exchange with the *bona fide* intention of holding Edward Lawler liable thereon; fourthly, whether or not Daniel Crotty was a *bona fide* trustee for Edward Lawler or for the Tipperary Bank in issuing the execution under which the plaintiff was arrested." The Chief Baron having delivered his charge, the jury almost immediately brought in a verdict for the plaintiff on all the counts. The effect of this will be the release of Dowling from duress, free from all liability as far as the two disputed bills are concerned, and the probable institution of an action for false impri-

sonment and conspiracy to deprive the plaintiff of his right to vote at the Carlow election.

SUICIDE OF LIEUT.-COLONEL LAYARD.—A very distressing case of suicide took place in Dublin on Tuesday, Lieut.-Colonel Layard, late M.P. for the borough of Carlow, having destroyed himself by cutting his throat in a very frightful manner with a razor. It appears that some alarm was given before the unfortunate gentleman was able to complete the fatal act, and that his wife, who called two other gentlemen residing in the house to her aid, rushed into the room, and seized his arms; but the efforts of all three to prevent the accomplishment of his purpose were unavailing, and he inflicted some gashes on himself even while his wife and the gentlemen in question were struggling to hold him. There were seven wounds in all inflicted on various parts of his throat, and of these one was so deep that it reached nearly to the root of his tongue. Death ensued in about twenty minutes. Depression of mind, arising from matters of business, and causing temporary insanity, was the cause of the act, and at the inquest held on his remains the jury returned a verdict to that effect.

MR JOHN O'CONNELL AND THE TENANT LEAGUE.—Mr John O'Connell, who has been returned for Clonmel, has published an address of thanks to the electors, in which he is careful to mark out the line which separates him in principle from the Tenant-League deputation that had come to oppose him. He says:

"Retired from public life in 1851, because I could not go with a policy of what I feared were injudicious extremes, I am aptly recalled by you just at this moment, when the first natural heat of the popular mind at a wanton and disgraceful insult seems to have passed away, and the old policy of the country is once more recognised as the true means of obtaining reparation, and going on to new achievements. In retiring, I obtained for the country and for our faith the advantage of numbering among Irish representatives the good and high-minded Lord Arundel, just at the same time that his unworthy father forced him from his English seat, as he could not force him from his religion. By your favour I have been enabled, at this juncture, to be again of use. I have stepped into the vacancy that otherwise might have been attempted by a creature, or a co-conspirator of the newspaper triumvirate of Dublin, who have taken upon themselves to rule the country, and lecture prelates, priests and people upon their duties."

After some allusions to Messrs Lucas, Duffy, and Gray, which he does not intend as compliments, he thus refers to Mr Moore, another of the party:

"A fourth was with these men—one whom I am inclined to pass by; although I deem his interference also, as well as other and previous acts and counsels of his, to have been unwise and unrequired. I acknowledge willingly the better and higher spirit that he has occasionally displayed; and I am fond to believe that whenever he shall have given himself fair play, he is dealing with men and things in a more generous spirit, and I will not be so widely separated as unhappily we may be at present. In that contingency he will find me a hearty fellow-labourer with him—nay, a willing follower if need be. And of course, whenever at odd moments the counsels and acts of the men he has given himself up to may have anything of reason and of right direction, no personal feeling shall deter me from aiding, supporting, and going with them to the very utmost of my power. Of course I will join them when they will oppose bad measures, from whatever party proceeding. I trust they will not refuse to join me in supporting good measures, even though emanating from an anti-Tory government."

THE STRIKES IN THE NORTH.

LORD PALMERSTON'S REPLY TO THE OPERATIVES OF PRESTON.—A short time ago a memorial was addressed to Lord Palmerston, in reference to the contest at present going on between the factory operatives of this town and their employers. That memorial was adopted at a general meeting of weavers' delegates. On Monday Mr Kinder Smith, president of the operatives' executive council, received a reply from the Home-office which was not made before because Lord Palmerston delayed answering it in the daily hope that he might hear that an amicable arrangement of the differences had been come to between the workpeople and their employers. After expressing strong sympathy with the feelings of the memorialists who have been led to think that they are suffering under acts of injustice, and deep regret in reflecting upon the severe privations which the state of things to which the memorial refers must have inflicted upon those on whom it so hardly bears, the letter, which is written by Mr Waddington, proceeds as follows:

"Lord Palmerston desires me to state that he feels bound to do justice to the temper and moderation with which the memorial has been drawn up. His lordship is sorry, however, to say that he has no means of interposing to apply a remedy for the evils referred to. It would be impossible for him, without much more detailed information than he possesses, to form a just opinion as to the merits of the points in dispute between the working men and their employers, and he could not, as a member of the government, possess any right or power to interfere in the matter. Under these circumstances his lordship only ventures to suggest, in the most friendly spirit, some topics for the consideration of the memorialists. They must be well aware that labour, being a commodity like any other, its money value in the market must be regulated by the same general principles which govern the price of other commodities; and that among these governing principles the most influential are the cost of production, and the relative proportions of demand and supply. The cost of production in regard to labour means the price of the necessaries of life, and the proportion of demand and supply must depend very much upon the periodical fluctuations of trade. It is greatly to be wished that both the working men and their employers would allow these general causes to act silently and gradually, in equitably adjusting from time to time the proper rates of the money reward for labour, and it is scarcely to be doubted, that by forbearance on both sides, and by mutual and reciprocal good feeling, these arrangements might generally be effected without a recourse to such injurious methods as strikes and lock outs. It may be stated that in times when, according to the general principles above adverted to, an increase in the rate of wages would be just, that increase might be too long delayed, and the working men be thus subjected to undue privations, if the adjustment was left to the gradual operation of forbearance and good-will. But may not an appeal be made to the result of recent events to show that even such inconvenience would be less than the evils arising from extensive and general strikes. These evils are many and great. The strike of the workmen deprives the strikers of their wages, and so far as wages are concerned, it deprives them of the means of subsistence. On the other hand, the strikes, of course, stop production; and, unless markets happen at the moment to be much overstocked, strikes give to the foreign producer a position of advantage from which he may not afterwards be so easily dislodged. And if strikes were to become too frequent, or of too long duration, a part of that capital which is now applied in giving employment to labour at home might possibly be transferred to other countries, to the disadvantage of British industry; and that this is not a groundless supposition is proved by the fact that British manufacturing establishments have been formed in Belgium, in France, and in Mexico. This, too, leads to a reflection upon the opinion which seems to have actuated the strikers, that the general prosperity of our export trade was in itself a proof that the rates of wages ought to be increased. Lord Palmerston does not pretend to form any judgment as to whether that opinion was well or ill founded in the particular instance to which it referred, but his lordship has desired me to remark that our power to supply foreign markets with manufactures depends upon the cheapness at which those manufactures can be sold; that their price must depend mainly on the cost of production, and that the wages of labour form a material part of the cost. Therefore, as our exported manufactures must always be running a hard race with the similar manufactures of other countries, an apparently flourishing trade may possibly be checked by an increase of wages, which would add to the cost of production; and the gain made by the manufacturer may often consist of a very small profit upon each separate article; the aggregate amount of gain depends on the quantity exported, and that quantity depends on the cheapness of the commodities, which cheapness again is governed by the cost of production. In directing me to submit these general reflections to the consideration of the memorialists, Lord Palmerston does not mean to give any opinion on the immediate subject of dispute; but his lordship

would earnestly entreat the working men to lay aside those feelings which are too apt to be engendered by a struggle, and to endeavour, if possible, to come to some arrangement with their employers."

OPEN-AIR MEETING OF OPERATIVES.—On Monday afternoon, a meeting was convened in the Orchard, at which Mr K. Smith presided. The chairman announced that the funds available for distribution (this being the "little week") amounted to 2,366*l.* The following were the chief items included in that amount:—Blackburn, 642*l.*; Stockport, 240*l.*; Preston, 206*l.*; Ashton-under-Lyne, 122*l.*; Over Darwen, 120*l.*; Oldham, 75*l.*; Hyde, 76*l.*; Staley-bridge, 60*l.*; Accrington, 53*l.*; Clitheroe, 48*l.*; Bolton, 30*l.*; Radham (a small place where the hands have been locked out four or five weeks), 19*l.* 16s. (Loud cheers.) Mr Grimshaw stated that Blackburn would send nearly 1,000*l.* next week, and other districts in proportion. Altogether next week's income would be about 3,000*l.* (Cheers.) Mr Cowell briefly addressed the assembly on the subject of co-operation.

On the Sunday a large meeting of operatives took place in Bury, for the purpose of taking into consideration the steps that should be taken with respect to the present struggle between the factory operatives and their employers. On Saturday evening a meeting of the Bury Cotton Spinners' and Manufacturers' Association took place, the result of which was that a notice should be extensively posted throughout the district, which might in the opinion of the meeting lead to a final settlement of the matter in dispute. The notice, which is signed by the secretary of the Masters' Association, states that "some months ago the masters were compelled, in self-defence, to form an association for the purpose of supporting each other against the encroachments and unreasonable demands of a portion of their workpeople, and on the 25th of October issued a notice that if the disputes then existing between the operatives who were on the strike and their masters were not arranged by the 10th of November, they should cease working. Since that time the hands on strike have remained in the same position, quite regardless of the misery inflicted by their proceedings; and as the manufacturers are sensible that many of the hands who are not implicated in the strike are suffering great wretchedness, they have agreed, at the request of those masters whose hands are on strike, to give permission to such masters as may be desirous to do so to resume work for any time not exceeding four days a week until the 1st of February next, on the condition, however, which is indispensable, that no collection be made among our workpeople for the support of either local or distant turn-outs." Such was the notice which occasioned the calling of the meeting. To insure a good attendance the various committees refused to pay to the operatives the usual weekly relief until after the meeting had terminated. The operatives walked in procession from the various committee meetings to Union square, when there was a general gathering of several thousand persons. Mr W. Platt occupied the chair, and the meeting was addressed by Mr Shaw, of Radcliffe, and Mr Walsh, of Bury. The speakers commented at considerable length on the notice which had been issued. Subsequently the following resolution was unanimously carried:—"That this meeting is of opinion that the notice of our employers now posted on the walls of this town be rejected, and that we accept nothing less than the free exercise of our own opinions on all subjects affecting our rights and privileges as Englishmen." After the passing of the resolution, the people were admonished to retire peaceably, which they did accordingly.

On Wednesday an address was issued by the Masters' Association at Preston. It is of a vindictory character, and re-states the cases of the masters and workmen, the facts of which are alleged to have been prevented by the leaders of the latter. With reference to the complaint that the men are "locked out," and therefore unable to work if so disposed, and that the masters want to starve them into submission, the masters say that "the closing of the mills was only resorted to after the hands in several of them had struck work, or had given notice to that effect, although an advance of ten per cent. had been offered them in August last upon the wages paid in 1852." The masters further deny that any promise was given generally by their body to give, when trade revived, an advance corresponding to the reductions which took place in the latter part of the year 1847, and then make the following statement:

"Being anxious to ascertain the difference (if any) between the earnings of the various classes of operatives in 1847, before the above-mentioned reduction took place, and those in the summer of 1853, before the 10 per cent. was demanded, we find, from the returns furnished us from the wages books of several large and influential firms, that instead of any decrease, there has been an actual increase, varying from 5 to 30 per cent., after making due allowance for the difference in the hours of labour from 69 to 60 hours per week. We have not thought it necessary to extend these inquiries, not having the slightest doubt that, if the average of all the mills now closed had been taken, the result would have been the same. We take this opportunity of stating, for the information of those persons whose aid and contributions are solicited for the hands, that in a well-regulated spinning and weaving establishment the weekly earnings of men operate therein vary from 12s. to 35s.; women and young persons from 7s. 6d. to 15s.; and children from 4s. to 6s., according to the nature of the employment and the diligence and ability of the worker; and that the average of all classes of hands in such an establishment is about 10s. each."

The masters conclude with the remark that—
"After the continuance of this struggle for upwards of ten weeks, the operatives still persist in their demands, and evince the same indisposition to return to work, although the masters have declared their willingness to receive applications, and as soon as they were sufficiently numerous to enable them to open their mills immediate steps would be taken to that effect. No applications of any consequence have been made, and the dispute appears as far off a settlement as ever."

The adjourned meeting of the associated employers of Preston and the neighbourhood was held on Thursday. After about an hour's deliberation, the result was made known by placard, of which the following is a copy:—"At a meeting of the associated masters held at the Bull Hotel, Preston, on Thursday, the 29th of December, 1853, T. Miller, Esq., in the chair, it was unanimously resolved that inasmuch as no disposition has been as yet shown by the operatives generally to resume work, this meeting do adjourn to Thursday, the 26th of January, 1854. Should it, however, in the meantime be ascertained that many of the operatives are desirous of returning to their work, immediate steps will be taken by the associated masters to open their mills. By order of the Masters' Association, J. HUMBER, Secretary pro tem."

The Committee of the Power-loom Weavers' Association have published a reply to the address of the Masters' Association, in which they deny the statements contained in that document, and assert that in this struggle the masters are the aggressors, and that they are on the defensive. They conclude by saying that they are prepared at any time to bring this dispute to an honourable and reasonable arrangement.

A COUNTER-COMBINATION.—The '*Manchester Examiner*' has the following:—"Yesterday a step was taken in Manchester which will tend to bring this controversy to a settlement sooner than it was ever likely to be while the Preston masters and operatives kept towards each other an attitude of unreasoning defiance; and resisted all terms of accommodation. The general body of manufacturers have been looking on at the struggle in Preston for some time with mingled hope and fear—hope that, after a time, the operatives would return to their work, and make terms with their respective employers—fear that, from the language of their leaders, there was a formed determination to make Preston the battle-ground of a great struggle, the success of which would extend the circle of controversy and antagonism until the whole manufacturing district was in anarchy and its trade in jeopardy. Regarding the dispute, as explained

by its leaders, as intended to achieve the supremacy of labour over capital, the manufacturers of Lancashire yesterday resolved, after mature and anxious deliberation, 'to support the Preston masters in the present struggle.' The resolution was adopted with entire unanimity; and the strength of this resolve may be appreciated, when we state that the meeting represented manufacturing capitalists from Manchester and Salford, Stockport, Bury, Ashton, Stalybridge, Glossop, Hyde, Preston, Darwen, Bacup, Burnley, Colne, Accrington, and other places. The question at issue at Preston, which has produced this strong resolution, was not viewed as one of mere wages, but as one of mastery—the question, in fact, whether the masters should conduct their own businesses, or give them up to their work-people. Such is the result of the combination of the Preston factory operatives, aided by those of other manufacturing towns, as well as by men belonging to other trades. One combination, appalling in its magnitude, and, consequently, terrible in its power, has produced another, destined, we believe, to prove itself still more powerful. It is with no little pain we view these counter-combinations; whither they will lead we cannot exactly see, but it is evident that now the Preston manufacturers, who were in danger of falling before a powerful labour-league, are to receive such an amount of pecuniary assistance as must take from the leaders of the movement one of their strongest hopes of success—the bankruptcy and ruin of some of the Preston employers they have spoken of as something certain, were the lock-out continued for a few weeks longer. Harsh as this Manchester combination may seem, then, it may be the means of more speedily inculcating upon the minds of the factory operatives a true knowledge of the relations which ought to exist between capital and labour. Extraneous aid has been thrown into Preston on behalf of the operatives, and now extraneous aid is to be given to the masters. The contest is, therefore, for the first time, equal; the many operatives have now to wrestle with the many manufacturing capitalists. One great feature of the Lancashire cotton trade hitherto has been the power of individual energy, and the English public may well believe that it is no slight matter indeed which, for the first time in the history of that trade, induces its great capitalists to lend their united aid to a few manufacturers in one town. Such a condition of things is abnormal indeed, and therefore we must presume that the instinct of self-preservation alone has brought it about."

Latest Intelligence.

SATURDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 31st.

THE TURKISH QUESTION.

Telegraphic despatches have been received from Constantinople, dated the 19th inst., containing the following intelligence: Haili Pasha, the Sultan's brother-in-law, is named Minister of the Interior; Riza Pasha is appointed Minister of Marine and High Admiral, in the place of Mahmoud Pasha, resigned; Abdi Pasha has been recalled from Asia. The united fleets were still in the Bosphorus on the 19th inst. It is stated by the 'Trieste Zeitung' that the British diplomatic agent at Teheran has renewed relations with the Persian government. A despatch from Bucharest, dated the 27th, announces the departure of the English Consul-General from Bucharest for Rutschuck.

The French government and the Russian Minister in Paris have received despatches from St Petersburg dated the 20th inst. These despatches announce that the Emperor Nicholas formally rejects the protocol and the note agreed to at Vienna on the 5th of December. If the conference chose to send the propositions of Turkey to St Petersburg, they will be received and examined, but the Czar persists in declining to allow any intervention on the part of Europe in a question which concerns no power excepting Russia and Turkey alone.

The following is the reply of the two ambassadors to Reschid Pasha's application for the fleets. A week after the date of Reschid Pasha's note to the two ambassadors, which appears under the head of our Turkish news, Lord Stratford de Redcliffe and M. Baraguay d'Hilliers met at the French Palace, at Pera, and after a conference, which lasted some hours, agreed upon the following terms of their reply:

"I have to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's note of December 4th. I learned thereby that a division of the Russian fleet, which had been cruising for some days in the neighbourhood of Sinope, entered that port on the 30th ult., and attacked some Turkish ships of war anchored there. Since then I have been also apprised of the result of the combat, which I deeply deplore; while, at the same time, all my praise is due to the noble devotion and patriotism of those who fell in an unequal struggle. I am, however, in duty bound as far as concerns me, to disclaim all responsibility in reference to that disaster; and your Excellency will do me the justice to acknowledge that whenever I was consulted by the Porte as to the expediency of the Ottoman fleets entering the Black Sea I invariably expressed my doubts and apprehensions without reserve. A defective materiel, crews under the contingent required in time of war, the adverse chances of the Black Sea at this season, the possibility of encounter with an enemy of superior force—all these reasons were exposed to the government of the Sultan, in support of an opinion in opposition to its own. The presence of the Anglo-French fleet in the Bosphorus is an incontestable proof of the interest and sentiments which animate the Emperor of the French and her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain. The presence has a political significance. It is a moral support, as long as there remains a hope of effecting a reconciliation between the adverse powers. Should, however, Russia attempt to land a force on the Bosphorus, or at any other point of the Turkish coasts, the combined fleets will be then required to act, and enter immediately the Black Sea, if necessary, to protect the territory, as well as the integrity of the Ottoman empire.

(Signed) "REDCLIFFE. "BARAGUAY D'HILLIERS.

"Dec. 12, 1853." A communication from the banks of the Danube, states that on the 20th inst. a company of Wallachian militia seized their newly appointed Russian officers, beat them soundly, and then deserted with five of them to Kalafat.

Sir Fitzroy Kelly is now named as the M.P. entrusted with the arrangement of the details of a contemplated Tory Reform Bill. An official letter has been addressed by Viscount Palmerston to Prince Albert, in his Royal Highness's capacity of Chancellor of the University of Cambridge, requesting to know what measures of improvement are contemplated by the colleges there, and what aid they may desire from parliament in the form either of prohibitions, of enabling powers, or of new enactments. Government, Lord Palmerston observes, are desirous of receiving this information in sufficient time to enable them to give to this important subject the consideration which it demands.

Mr Holland, the Liberal candidate for East Gloucestershire, has issued an address, intimating his determination to go to the poll. The nomination will, in all probability, take place on Monday week at Gloucester. The contest will be a close one.

The following extract from the 'Glasgow North British Daily Mail' tends to confirm a statement that has been made about the Preparation in England of war steamers for the Czar. It inti-

mates that "machinery" for certain war steamers is being completed on the Clyde—the hulls being in preparation apparently elsewhere:—

"We understand that an official letter from Lord Palmerston, as Secretary for the Home Department, has been received this week by the civic authorities of Glasgow, requesting to know particulars respecting some war steamers which his Lordship was informed were building on the Clyde for the Emperor of Russia. His Lordship has, we believe, been misinformed on the subject, as there are no ships building here for the Czar; but there are at present being constructed two pairs of powerful first-class marine engines and machinery for war steamers, by one of our first engineers, who is under contract to have them at Cronstadt in April, and to fit them up in the vessels there by his own workmen. Although there are no ships building here for the Autocrat, we have reason to believe that his Lordship may learn something on the subject if he institutes inquiries on the banks of the Tyne or Wear."

We are glad to learn that the two greatest sufferers by the fatal collision on the Lancashire and Yorkshire railway—Ellen Lord, the grandmother of the girl Sykes, who was killed, and Tidy, the guard of the Yorkshire train—are going on favourably.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.

THE PUSEYITES AT ST BARNABAS AND FROME.—A correspondent of the 'Daily News' writes as follows: "I went last Sunday to witness the melodramatic performances at the Church of St Barnabas. I was dismayed at the Romish, heathen-Romish display of pompous ceremony. On the altar, which is gorgeously decorated, between two burning candles stands a thing which seemed at the distance at which I stood to be a crucifix, but be it what it may, the train of priests and choristers, clothed in white surplices, made on entering the enclosed place a most idolatrous obeisance to the thing or things that were there, mere gilded gewgaws. Above the screen is a large cross some four feet high, and beside the doorways are crosses, with not holy-water cups but boxes for offerings. The whole affair was offensive to any man who knew and felt that 'God is a spirit, and they who worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.' This Pusey-popey is spreading, and fast too, and unless some new influence arise, a large portion of the clergy and laity will be deeply infected with this mental leprosy, more incurable than any of those poisons with which men's bodies may be corrupted. Mr Bennett is carrying on high game at Frome. He has a party of five or six curates who prowl about the town in the garb of Romish priests, whiskers shaved off, collar turned down, straight cut coats with wide skirts, and, of course, with sticks. A Romish priest always carries a big stick; in Italy it is often a bludgeon, well loaded. They are trying the confession; at a funeral these priests walk the town in procession, clothed in white. On saints' days a flag is unfurled from the church tower—device a blood-red cross on a white field. Is this flag a Jesuit's flag, or is it the Pope's flag? What is it, and what does it mean on a Protestant church? And further, let me ask if the Rev. Mr Liddell, who is Mr Bennett's successor, is the same Liddell who is one of the chaplains in our H.M. Prison at Prince Albert?"

THE RUSSIANS AND OUR HABEAS CORPUS.—Sir, In respect to the late affair at Portsmouth, passing by the conduct of the officers of the Russian vessels, Aurora and Navarin (which no doubt will fortify the Czar more than ever in his conviction that all our boasted institutions are a farce), a question arises of the utmost importance to ourselves, how far Rear-Admiral Martin was justified in not obeying the writ of habeas corpus, served on him in the Queen's name, the men designated in the writ being clearly in his power, and within his jurisdiction. The impression on the writer's mind has always been, that the municipal law of the land (collectively speaking) was binding upon every one, and that all, in office or out of office, could be called upon by the proper authorities, and according to prescribed forms, to aid in the execution of it. As it is easy to conceive that such conduct as that of Rear-Admiral Martin, under a monarch less scrupulous and less constitutional than the present, might soon bring our liberties into jeopardy, it is to be hoped that the whole business will be thoroughly investigated, beginning with the inspector of police, who accompanied the Russian captain to Guildford, and ending with the officers implicated at Portsmouth. That all the parties in the affair were convinced of the irregularity of their conduct seems evident from the great expedition used to get the vessels out to sea after the serving of the second writ. The questions at issue in the matter are, whether the law is to be considered, as heretofore, binding upon every one in the state, or whether through some innovation, that has crept in among us, the naval and military service is to be exempted from its operation. If, admitting the first position to be the correct one (which few will controvert), the Rear-Admiral at Portsmouth has acted through ignorance of his duty, the thing may be passed over, but if not, the sooner he is made to feel the effects of his indiscretion the better. Considering that in bygone times, when it was perilous to thwart a despotic Court, judges were nevertheless found who feared not to assert the supremacy of English law and its binding nature on every one in the state,—and when we have an example at a more remote, and perhaps still more despotic period, of a monarch's son considering himself amenable to its jurisdiction, at this particular juncture, when despotism and intolerance are bullying us on all sides, directly or indirectly, and when perhaps the Czar may have his paid agents in this country, it would be a base dereliction of duty on our part not to watch carefully everything that impugns our liberties, and however our institutions may be despised abroad, to enforce a respect for them at home.

R. W. B. S. A STRANGE TRANSACTION.—To the Editor of the 'Examiner.'—Sir, It has been said that laws are like cobwebs, which catch poor little flies, but which wasps and hornets break through with impunity; the meaning of which is, I presume, that a rich man has it in his power to do many acts of injustice which the law takes no cognizance of. But there is a punishment that the rich man cannot always escape; something to be dreaded more than the arm of the law; something he cannot at all times shelter himself from by any amount of 'huffing or subterfuge; something that will follow him though he should run away and hide himself till he hopes the ill odour of a particular transaction has 'blown over' and been forgotten. Pray help me, Sir, to administer this punishment in regard to a recent and somewhat strange affair. The facts I have to relate are these: In the little retired village of Ketteringham, about six miles from Norwich, some extraordinary scenes have lately been enacted which have roused the indignation of the rustic inhabitants. At night, on the 7th of November last, seven coffins which had previously been removed from the vault of the Atkyns family in Ketteringham church, were unceremoniously buried in the churchyard. The stench that pervaded the church on the Sunday following the day that the resurrectionists had been at work was so great, that several of the congregation were made ill, though chloride of lime had been sprinkled about the building. On Tuesday, the 13th of December, at twelve o'clock at noon, six of these coffins (perhaps Sir John Peter Boileau will kindly inform the public what became of the seventh), having been again disinterred, were put into new shells which had been brought up from the grave side in a van from Norwich, and then replaced in their original resting-places in the vault, the Dean of Norwich, the Vicar of Ketteringham, and some others, being present. It has been stated that the person by whose orders the remains of the ancient proprietors of Ketteringham were disturbed was entirely ignorant that any one had been buried in the vault since 1702, which is somewhat extraordinary, as not only are the dates plainly to be seen on the coffin-plates, but also on a monument erected in the chancel to the memory of one of

the family who was buried in 1832, which monument the same sacrilegious hands have pulled down within the last year! Sir, by making these facts known you will be doing a service to the cause of PLAIN TRUTH.—Dec. 27, 1853.

MR MAURICE AND THE WORKING MEN.—An excellent address of sympathy and respect was presented the other day to the Rev. F. D. Maurice on the circumstances of his removal from his professorship at King's College, which elicited a reply in all respects admirable, but of which this particular passage is especially noteworthy:

"When there were such questions as education and strikes pressing for consideration, they could not expect him to talk of any petty sacrifice he had made, for everyone was bound to make great sacrifices, and to work as they had never worked before. At the same time, they would feel that he was not disowning any of their kindness when he gave this direction to their thoughts. They would feel that he was only showing more thoroughly how much he desired to sympathise with them, and how much he felt the extent of their sympathy for him. Sympathy was the most productive of all principles, and had effected all the good there was in the world. It was this great principle of human sympathy, begun with a divine motive, which had been the source of all the good this country had ever yet done, and he was sure that no other power would ever be substituted for it, to take its place or to do its office. He was sure that no struggle with man and man and class and class would ever do in England. If they were to go through the length and breadth of the land, and consider what had been accomplished, what triumphs had been won, and what enemies had been put down, it would be found that it had been done by the fellow working of hearts bound one to another, and pledged to accomplish that which they believed it right to do. He hoped that their sympathy would take a wider direction, and embrace all objects, so that they might extend to all the suffering classes of their brethren whatever assistance it was in their power to give, and that all would make real sacrifices one for the other. He had always declared, wherever he had gone, that he stood upon the ground of an English churchman—that he was making that profession—and that he did not mean, under any circumstances, to abandon it. He always professed that he had this calling and vocation, and that he would be a dishonest man if he shrunk from it. But, then, he felt that if this profession were good for anything, that a Christian man was not a Christian if he did not go beyond the limits of a Christian, if he did not assert that the Son of God was the son of man; and if he did not claim for him a participation in the divine blessing. He had done all he could to make their (the Churchmen's) message a real one, and not a sham; and he had always held that they ought not to say they were bringing blessings if they were not. (Hear.) When he saw two great countries struggling together—one the country of the Mussulman, and the other going forth with a proud and Christian name, singing Christian songs of victory—when he saw that country desiring to set its hoof upon the nationality of all other countries in the world, and that it was pledged to put down that which was right, and put forward that which was unjust—when he felt that one foot of that great bear was resting upon Hungary, and the other upon Italy, then he felt that when that power went forth in the name of the Cross he was bound on such an occasion to rejoice in the victory of the Crescent, rather than in that which pretended to be the supporter of truth and was not. (Great applause.) This was a principle which he would carry out anywhere. He contended that the Christianity which he professed, and the Church to which he belonged, was a witness of the greatness and glory of humanity—that it was a witness of the relations between man and God—that such was their testimony—that they could not contest it—that they were bound to go forth in that conviction, and that they were bound to believe they had a right to make it known to all men with whom they came in contact."

MR J. B. GOUGH AT EXETER-HALL.—On Tuesday evening this popular American temperance advocate gave another lecture at Exeter-hall in favour of total abstinence. The doors were besieged by young and old of both sexes long before their opening, and by eight o'clock, the time appointed for the lecture, every seat was filled. The proceedings having been opened with a hymn, the chairman (Mr Janson) introduced Mr Gough, who was received with tremendous cheering. Mr Gough commenced by saying, that appearing again to speak for the cause of temperance was like taking the same pieces of glass in a kaleidoscope, and by shaking them up presenting a different view. That cause had been very much despised, but let them look at the drunkard; would they see him staggering out of the dram-shop a poor, miserable, creeping wretch, and not come up like him, and wage war against the cause that made him so. People were too much inclined to laugh at the drunkard, and to look at drunkenness as a little thing, but that drunkenness was blighting, blasting, and destroying to all that was manly and beautiful. Let them look at a man in delirium tremens brought on by drunkenness. He had himself been a drunkard and suffered from that dreadful affliction; but men, young men, were dying of it daily. Delirium tremens, dreadful as it was, was but a tenth part of the sufferings of the drunkard. The lecturer then gave various anecdotes and instances of the dreadful effects of drunkenness both from experience and observation. In conclusion he told them that all his life should be employed in battling with the demon drink, and if he could do anything to save a man from becoming a drunkard he would bite the dust rather than not save him. The lecturer was loudly applauded throughout, although his energy and enthusiasm appeared somewhat to astonish his audience.

A NEW DEVICE.—A man named Boissonneau was last week tried by the Tribunal of Correctional Police in Paris, for a very ingenious, though scarcely credible, species of robbery. He one day went to a pastrycook, and said, "I shall require to-morrow 400 brioches" (a sort of bun). "They shall be got ready, sir," replied the pastrycook, after having asked for his name and address. He then went to a watchmaker opposite, and selected a watch of 200f. As the tradesman was packing it up, he said, "I am a wholesale butter-dealer; the pastrycook opposite owes me 400f.—he will pay you; come with me." The watchmaker followed the man to the pastrycook's. "I have come to tell you," said the prisoner, "that I shall only want 200, and that you must give the other 200 to this person, your neighbour." On this, the watchmaker unsuspectingly allowed him to walk off with the watch, but, to his profound astonishment, there arrived the next day, not 200f. but 200 brioches. The trick was then discovered. Nothing was seen of the man until a few days ago, when he was recognised by the pastrycook's boy, dressed in grotesque style, and selling pencils in the midst of a crowd. The tribunal condemned him to a year's imprisonment.

PASSAGE IN THE LIFE OF A ROMANTIC PROTECTOR.—There is a story in circulation of an active partisan of Lord Derby's party, who was personally attached to Mr Disraeli when Chancellor of the Exchequer, and now acts as an "extra" whip when great exertions are necessary to divide respectably, having recently in Paris paid such marked attentions to a daughter of Queen Christians, as to have received a request from that careful and anxious Princess to know what the attentions meant, accompanying the request by an intimation that, in case of their being of a serious character, a considerable annual income would at once be settled on the young lady, with the prospect of a much larger fortune hereafter. The young nobleman's reply led to communications of the probability of an alliance being made to the Court of Madrid; but the reply was that the religion of the Englishman ought to be an effectual bar to any such arrangement; and it has accordingly dropped, "mixed marriages" being considered at Madrid much graver offences than orthodox infidelities.

THE RUSSIAN FLEET CONDEMNED.—We have the best authority, says the 'Daily News,' for stating that the Russian High-Admiral having recently inspected the Czar's Baltic fleet, one half of the ships were at once condemned as worthless, and it was determined to build, on contract, a number of screw line of battle ships—one account says no less than thirty! We may possibly find some of these contracts taken in the Clyde, or the Thames, and may safely calculate upon a portion of the vessels being built by the Americans. But it will take at least two years to get so large a fleet fit for sea,—even if the cash is forthcoming.

THE LATE BIRMINGHAM CATTLE SHOW.—At the late cattle show at Birmingham two pens of pigs, bred by S. Marjoribanks, Esq., of Bushey Grove, Herts, were "disqualified, on account of age," which occasioned an imputation on the honesty of the breeder to be made in several newspapers, in the belief that the size of the tusk was the certain indication of the age of those animals. Mr F Tallant, the bailiff of Mr Marjoribanks, feeling that his honesty as a breeder has been called in question by the remark, has forwarded to us an opinion from Mr Simonds, the Professor of Cattle Pathology at the Royal Veterinary College of London, in which it is distinctly declared that the tusk of a pig possesses hardly any value in determining its age. The professor adduces various facts in support of his statement, and unhesitatingly asserts that tusks are very often cut long before the pig has reached the age of ten calendar months, and he looks upon the decision of the Council of Management as unjust towards Mr Tallant.

STUDENTS OF THE SCHOOLS OF DESIGN.—An exhibition of the works of Students of the Schools of Design, or Schools of Art, has been exhibited this week at Gore House, Kensington, privately, preparatory to the public exposition. The exhibition is confined to the elementary works; the more advanced stages form the exhibition usually held in the summer. One important feature in connection with the present exhibition is that of bringing into contrast the works of the schools conducted upon the old, or subsidized plan, and those which have been more recently called into existence in connection with the Board of Trade Department of Science and Art, and which are self-supporting in their character. Many of the schools of the latter class have been formed but within the last six months, and it is gratifying to witness the readiness with which they have entered into competition with the older institutions. The works of the students of the self-supporting schools evidence, by the care and, in many cases, good taste with which they are characterised, that a parliamentary grant is not absolutely essential to stimulate exertion; but that a natural love of drawing as an art, fostered by the instructions and advice of instructors, for whose service the pupil himself contributes, may do much more towards the promotion of that particular kind of art of which our manufactures stand in so much need, than the ordinary sluggish routine of work performed without emulation, and supervised by masters whose salaries are independent of success, and unaffected by the progress of their pupils. An attractive feature of the exhibition consists of some very beautiful cabinets and articles of furniture, lent by her Majesty for the purpose of instruction, and which include some beautiful and elegant works in ebony, with *pietra dura* and bull ornamentation. There is also an exquisite small cabinet, lent by Mr Mills, the ornaments of which consist of beautifully-painted porcelain panels, small medallions in relief.

CHARLES DICKENS'S CHRISTMAS READINGS AT BIRMINGHAM.—In fulfilment of a promise made a year ago that he would read some of his Christmas books in aid of the new Birmingham and Midland Institute, Mr Dickens commenced the series by reading the "Christmas Carol," in the Town-hall, on Tuesday evening. Notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather the vast hall was well filled, about seventeen hundred persons being present. Mr Dickens's reception was of the most hearty and enthusiastic kind: he had a most sympathising audience, who caught the spirit of the speaker and the intention of the author with appreciative intelligence, and for full three hours they sat charmed by the geniality of the story and the admirable elocution of the speaker, who kept up the interest till the very last, concluding amidst great applause. This is the first time Mr Dickens has read his books in public, and the effect was peculiar. He reads "The Cricket on the Hearth" to-night (Thursday), and to-morrow he repeats "The Christmas Carol," exclusively to the working classes, who have already secured every place in the hall. The proposed institute, in whose behalf these readings are given, has been very fortunate hitherto. A site for the building, worth from 10,000l. to 15,000l., has been granted by the corporation, nearly 10,000l. additional have been subscribed, and Mr Dickens's contribution in the shape of the proceeds of the readings, will, it is anticipated, be a handsome one.—'Daily News' of Thursday.

THE CHRISTMAS RAILWAY TRAFFIC.—The amount of the Christmas traffic on all the leading metropolitan railways would appear, from the usual returns, to have considerably exceeded that of any previous year. On the London and North-Western during the period nominally called "Christmas week," extending over seven days, there passed "down" the line 27,000 parcels and Christmas presents, and "up" 12,250, for distribution throughout London, this being exclusive of many thousands of parcels coming by goods trains. Last year on this line the "down" parcels were 25,000, and the "up" 12,000. In the passenger traffic there was a corresponding increase. The Great Western conveyed, exclusive of large consignments by the goods trains, 16,000 parcels and presents by their down passenger trains to all parts of the West, and 13,000 from the West up, to the metropolis. The Great Northern disembogued from their depots at King's-cross, 10,000 parcels "up," and about the same number "down," exclusive of goods trains consignments; and the Eastern Counties in four days carried 15,000 parcels up from the agricultural districts, and about half that number down, besides a large tonnage to and fro of agricultural and dead stock. In each case special arrangements had to be made on a large scale for the safe and speedy transmission of these Christmas cargoes, and a large additional staff was in requisition.

THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY.—Monday was a Christmas holiday, and something more. The claims of religion, in respect of the season, having been satisfied on Sunday, the day was unreservedly dedicated by the majority to enjoyment. An imperious order, issuing from the bureau of a despot, could hardly have secured a more uniform suspension of business than that which on Monday took place by the voluntary deference of our trading public to an unaided expression of opinion. The weather might be called fine. Throughout the early part of the day the roads were kept hard and dry by a brisk frost. There was just fog enough to be noticeable, and to give the steam-boat people a decent excuse for not plying on the Thames. The sun had not long been up when the streets began to fill with crowds of well-dressed people, for the most part in family groups, not loitering about as on boxing-day, but heing off to some predetermined rendezvous; some to the country, some to the parks, others to the public institutions and exhibitions, and very many to the railway stations and the booking-offices of the long stage omnibuses. The street conveyances were exceedingly well loaded, and the omnibus proprietors must have found it a very profitable day. At every corner on the line of the great thoroughfares, knots of passengers were to be seen waiting for the "bus," in most cases to find that, for want of room, some one must be left behind. The public-houses stood open wide, and doubtless did a good stroke of business; yet an intoxicated person was hardly to be seen in the streets. As the day wore on the moving population slowly disappeared, doubtless to meet in those home circles where the Teutonic race in all parts of the world is accustomed to seek its highest and best delight. In the evening the theatres produced their long-promised novelties, an account of which appears under the usual head.

THE VICARAGE OF CREDITON.—As was stated a short time since, the original number of candidates for this living, which is worth between 500l. and 600l. a year, amounted to upwards of 260. The governors, in whom the appointment is vested, took several days to examine the testimonials, which were exceedingly voluminous—copies of the works published by some of the rev. gentlemen, it is said, being sent for their perusal. The number has at length been reduced to seven—viz. the Rev. M. Cooper, Rev. S. Bardley, Rev. W. J. Edgs, Rev. H. Hampton, Rev. G. F. Whidborne, Rev. F. W. Smith, and Rev. B. Trapp. Application was made to the bishop of the diocese for per-

mission to allow these gentlemen to preach on successive Sundays, in order to test the capabilities of their voice, the church of Crediton being one of the largest in the county. The bishop, however, declined to accede to the request; but the chaplain of the church, the Rev. J. Deane, has allowed them to take part in the services, which will answer the same purpose. The governors attended on each occasion, and they will now proceed very shortly to a final election. It is a curious circumstance that neither of the seven gentlemen above-named belong to the diocese.

TOWN AND COUNTRY TALK.

Owing to the failure of the turnip crop in the northern counties of Scotland, there will be a great deficiency in the number of fat cattle from that quarter this season.

The demand for coal is greater, and the price has become higher, both in the London and provincial markets, than is usual even at this period of the year—a circumstance attributable in a great degree to the increased foreign demand, and the high rates of carriage, as well as partly to the lessened production owing to the strikes in the midland districts.

The 'Worcester Journal' says that Sir J. Pakington has declined the request of the Manchester and Salford Education Committee, that he would take charge of their bill in the approaching session of Parliament, on the ground that, although concurring in the general principles of that very important measure, he is unable to adopt the plan proposed by the committee for the religious instruction to be given in those schools not connected with any particular denomination of Christians.

On Monday Mr Austin again attended at the board-room of the Marylebone workhouse, and read over the depositions which have been taken in the case of the infant Walsh. They were afterwards signed by the various witnesses who have been examined. No fresh evidence was gone into, and the inquiry was adjourned until Monday next, Mr Austin being called into the country on special business.

Last week no fewer than 70,000 of the ova of the salmon of the Tay was sent to Ireland for the purpose of ascertaining, if on coming to maturity there, whether the fish would keep up the high character, as respects quality, they have ever maintained in all markets.

The immense fleet of colliers that have been detained in the north-east ports got under way on Monday from the Tyne. Many hundred laden colliers sailed for the London market.

It is reported that either the Earl of Radnor or the Earl of Albemarle will succeed the Duke of Norfolk as Lord Steward, his Grace's health not being equal to the duties.

Inquiry having been made of the Poor-law Board whether checks drawn by guardians of the poor upon their treasurer were liable to a stamp under the new act, the Poor-law Board stated in reply, that poor-law unions were expressly exempt from the operation of the act, otherwise the guardians would have to give the ordinary stamp.

A Diocesan Architectural Society has been established in Worcester, Lord Lyttelton being president. Its objects are to promote the study of ecclesiastical architecture, antiquities, and design, by the collection of books, casts, drawings, &c., and the restoration of mutilated architectural remains within the diocese, and to furnish suggestions, so far as may be within its province, for improving the character of the ecclesiastical edifices hereafter to be erected or restored.

Three white swans and one black one have been stolen from the ornamental water in St James's Park, the property of the Ornithological Society. The society have offered a reward of 5l. for the capture and conviction of the person guilty of this robbery.

On Wednesday week a man named Laphis, brewer to Mr Denby, of Selby, was found drowned in a vat of ale of about 400 gallons.

We are requested to state that tickets for viewing the House of Lords will be issued to the public every Saturday, from the Lord Great Chamberlain's office.

An alleged forgery in bills to a very large extent has recently been under investigation at the Mansion-house; a further examination of the prisoner, whose name is Anderson, took place on Thursday, and he was again remanded.

Mr Alexander Smith, the author of the 'Life Drama,' and other poems, is a candidate for the office of Secretary to the University of Edinburgh.

It is understood that Dr Grant, of St Mary's, Edinburgh, will be named as Moderator of the next General Assembly.

A label, with wire attached, was taken from a bull-trout caught in the end of last month in one of the tributaries of the Teviot. The fish, when killed, weighed 4lbs. 7oz. and marked on the 11th ult. on the Tweed, near Horncliff, along with a great many others, by the superintendent of the river police. Its weight at the time was 2½ lbs. so that it gained 2lbs. in less than three weeks.

The four prisoners who were sent down to Leighton Buzzard for examination, on the charge of being concerned in the late robbery there, have all been committed for trial.

On the 24th inst. the London daily papers contained a telegraphic message from Trieste announcing the news brought by the Bombay mail of the 25th inst. This message was published before the heavy portion of the Bombay mail of the 14th inst. arrived at Southampton. This is a circumstance that never happened before.

On Saturday night a labouring man, walking up Ancoats street, Manchester, was struck by another man on the head, who instantly ran away. The labourer fell upon the pavement, and was soon afterwards conveyed to the Infirmary, where he died in the course of a short time. He was never able to speak after he fell, and, as the man who struck him is not known, the cause of the assault has not been ascertained.

The pilchard fishery season at St Ives is at length brought to a close, and the seals having been stored, and the men put out of pay. The quantity taken this season has been about 11,000 hogsheads, nearly the whole of which have been exported to the Mediterranean.

On the 14th a fatal accident happened at Portkellis United Mines, in the parish of Wendron, by the falling in of the ground, causing the immediate death of three miners, who were at work about 12 fathoms below the surface.

Temperance refreshment rooms are being established at Wick; and the Duke of Sutherland has signified his readiness to contribute 100l. towards the object.

The new Royal yacht will be built of the following dimensions and capabilities: Length of keel, 300 feet; length on deck, 315 feet; beam, 40 feet; depth of hold, 22 feet; diameter of paddle-wheel, 30 feet 6 inches; stroke of piston, 7 feet; diameter of cylinder, 84 inches; tonnage, 2,340. The revolutions of the engines have been estimated at from 25 to 28, which will yield, it is calculated, a speed of from 15 to 16 knots per hour.

LAW AND POLICE.

WITCHCRAFT IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY.—At the Thames office, on Saturday, Elizabeth White, well-known to the police as a dabbler in astrology, was charged with obtaining money and wearing apparel from Louisa Symmons and Elizabeth Home, both in the service of a gentleman living at Bow, under pretence of ruling the planets and telling their fortunes. The case exhibited the most extraordinary credulity. Louisa Symmons said the prisoner called at her master's house on Friday week, and said she could tell her fortune and rule the planets, and also tell her when she would be married. Witness said she did not want to know her fortune; but the prisoner would not go away, and said she was the seventh daughter of a seventh daughter, and consulted the stars. The prisoner then asked her if

she had any jewellery to propitiate the planets, and said that jewellery would bring most luck. Witness had none, and the prisoner laid her place with a blenish on her character if she did not give her two dresses. Witness then gave the prisoner two cotton dresses, and she afterwards said she must have some underclothing to keep the planet warm before she could rule it—(laughter)—and she gave her a flannel petticoat. She also gave her a shilling. The prisoner said she must have the value of 10s. in clothes and money before she could rule my planet. She said she would have to take the money and dresses to her home to rule the planet, and that she would return at half-past six in the evening, and let me know what the planet said. The prisoner told her she would bewitch a young man witness kept company with, and that he would come to her master's house and seduce her if she did not give her a shilling and the dresses. The prisoner here said she was quite ashamed of the young person, and, after having examined her with very great severity, she asked her if she did not give her one of her long hairs to bewitch her young man. The witness said the matter was too delicate to mention in open court; but, on Mr Ingham telling her that she must relate the whole truth, she confessed that she gave the prisoner a single hair "to bewitch her young man with." Elizabeth Home, fellow-servant of the last witness, and a much older person, said the prisoner told her she had been a mother, and that her child would soon die. Mr Ingham: Have you been married? The witness (hesitating): No, sir; but I have had a—a little one. The prisoner asked me for 10s., and I said I had only 7s., and she said that would do, and I must give her a dress to make up the rest; and I did so. The witness, who seemed heartily ashamed of her credulity, said the prisoner told her she would bring back the money and dress when she had ruled the planets, and heard what they said, and also told her that she would bewitch her for twenty-one days, if she did not let her have what she wanted. Mr Ingham convicted the prisoner as a rogue and vagabond, and sentenced her to be imprisoned and kept to hard labour for three months.

THE RIGHTS OF CROSSING SWEEPERS.—At the Marlborough-street office, yesterday, George Marchant and William Price, a brace of barefooted boy crossing-sweepers, were brought before Mr Hardwick, charged by the police with having besieged every pedestrian who passed over their crossings for "odd coppers." The police stated it was the practice for a batch of ragged boys, with brooms in their hands, to congregate in some of the most populous thoroughfares and near the West-end-clubs, and to follow every respectable person, and importune them for charity. The defendants were with others on the crossing before the Athenæum Club, and as they were busier begging than sweeping he took them into custody. Mr Hardwick said there were constant complaints at that court of the nuisance occasioned by the crossing-sweepers, several of whom congregated on one crossing, and were rather a nuisance than a service to the public. One of the boys denied that this character could apply to him. He was not a "shovel sweeper," but a reg'lar.—Mr Hardwick: Have you a crossing?—First boy: Yes, yer vership, I'm principal sweeper to the United Service and Athenæum Clubs. I aint got no call not to a nobody for nuffin.—Mr Hardwick (to the second boy): And how do you get your living?—Second boy: I'm reg'lar appointed by Lady Wheatley to sweep afore her door twice a week, and all the other days I'm Hoxford and Cambridge. Mr Hardwick: As long as you keep to your crossings, no one will interfere with you, but if you get together, three or four on one crossing, carrying about a broom merely as a cover for begging, then the police have strict orders to take you into custody, and if you are brought to this court I'll send every one of you to prison for a month. The regular sweepers promised faithfully to stick to their crossings, and were dismissed.

ACCIDENTS AND OCCURRENCES.

REMARKABLE ACCIDENT.—A few evenings since a servant girl living at one of the shops in the Corridor, Bath, was directed to fetch a decanter from a cupboard in the drawing room. The girl got on a chair for the purpose, when she suddenly fell through a "borrowed light" in the floor into the room beneath—a height of twenty feet. The inmates, alarmed by the crash of the glass, rushed to her assistance, and discovered her in a state of unconsciousness, sitting upright in a chair, with her arm stretched out, firmly holding the decanter in her hand. She had, it appeared, fallen into the chair, for the seat had sunk several inches, but the decanter was not broken, neither had she sustained any injury beyond a few bruises on the arm and hand, and a slight scratch at the back of the head from the broken glass or wire-work protecting the casement. There was another person in the room at the time of the accident, but it was so instantaneous that she saw nothing of it, while the girl herself has no recollection at all of falling. Mr King, surgeon, was called in, and was of opinion, from the state in which he saw the girl, that she had been seized with catalepsy. She is now quite recovered.

MURDER AT BARNSELY.—This town, which has already unfortunately obtained an unenviable notoriety for disgraceful outrages, has again become the scene of another tragedy. The victim of the present catastrophe is a collier's labourer named Husband, who had been employed at Silkston for a great number of years. He is a widower, about 40 years of age, and he has left three children,—a boy and two girls. He represented that he had lately come into possession of some property, and was otherwise noted for boasting about the amount of money he had in his possession, and for his liberality to his pot companions. He had made proposals of marriage to several widow landladies in the town, and when he frequented the houses he used to spend his money liberally. On Sunday last the deceased was at the Dusty Miller and the Neptune public-houses, drinking at various times throughout the day, and in the evening he left the Neptune, and proceeded on the turnpike road, to a lonely place on the Osborne side of Beever hall, about eight o'clock, followed, as is supposed, by several of his pot companions. Nothing at present appears to have transpired of his whereabouts until his body was discovered by a man named Green, the driver of an omnibus running between the Cudworth station of the Midland Railway and Barnsley. The body was covered with mud and dirt, and his pockets turned inside out. It was at first supposed that the man was drunk, but, on lifting him up, the conductor discovered that his head hung loosely on his shoulders, which led to the belief that his neck was dislocated,—a fact subsequently confirmed by the evidence of a surgeon.

SUSPECTED MURDER AT EAST ACTON.—After much difficulty the police have succeeded in identifying the body of the boy who was found dead in a barn at Acton. It appears that a man named Meddows, a horse-hair curler, in Clerkenwell, whose son, aged 14 years, had been missing for the last eight weeks, having read in the police *Hue and Cry* a description of the body found, immediately hastened thither, and identified it as that of his missing son. According to the father's statement, deceased, accompanied by another boy named Jackson, left the warehouse where they were employed on the night that he was missed to go home and prepare his (the father's) tea. While they were proceeding homewards with that view, they were accosted in Old street by a man in a cart, who asked either of them to accompany him for the purpose of holding his horse while he made a call a few doors down. Deceased accepted the invitation, and jumped into the cart. The other youth was following him, when the man said, "Oh, no, one is sufficient," and then turning the horse's head, drove rapidly towards Shoreditch, and was quickly out of sight. From that time nothing more was heard of deceased until his lifeless body was found. According to the statement of the boy Jackson, the man who took away deceased was a tall, stout man, with a full face, and dressed in a fustian coat. He could not describe the cart, but the

horse he stated to be of a dark colour As regards the unfortunate victim, his father, who has a large family, says that he was exceedingly regular in his habits and hours of returning home. It is supposed, from the emaciated condition of the body and the marks of violence upon it, that the deceased has been the victim of brutal treatment and savage murder. The inquiry has been adjourned for a fortnight.

INFANTICIDE IN SUSSEX.—Mr Gell, coroner for East Essex, held an inquest at Ditching last Saturday, on five infant skeletons, which were discovered under extraordinary circumstances. A cottage opposite the inn has lately passed into new hands, and a new fireplace was deemed necessary. On pulling down the old one, it was found that this was not the first time that the process had been resorted to. Originally there was a large old fashioned countryfied chimney corner, but this had been blocked up on each side, leaving a vacuum of about a foot between the old and the new brickwork. In the interstices were found five skeletons of new-born infants, who, at the time of birth, had been immured in the place where they were discovered. The discovery caused the apprehension of a supposed culprit. The occupants of the cottage for more than 15 years were one Gatland, a labourer, and his daughter, Harriet Maynard, a woman of forty, with two illegitimate children, a young woman now of twenty, and a youth of seventeen or eighteen. The woman was during the last year married to a labourer, and six weeks ago was again a mother. At the inquest three females swore that they had observed the woman, when living only with her two illegitimate children and her father, present an appearance of pregnancy, which after existing for a time, was no more seen, and that the last time this occurred was nearly three years ago. The five infant bodies were scorched evidently by the action of the kitchen fire through the brick work; and one was charred. The surgical evidence was, that each skeleton, or rather each body, as it was found, was after the birth "viable;" and, in addition, it was shown that each was wrapped in a piece of cotton print, proved to resemble print seen in possession of the prisoner. There was no evidence to substantiate a capital charge against the woman, and she was therefore discharged; but she was immediately apprehended on a magistrate's warrant, and was examined before the magistrates at the Lewes Bench, on the charge of concealing the birth, on Wednesday.

FATAL RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.

TERRIFIC RAILWAY ACCIDENT.—The Taff Vale Railway has a branch from Merthyr to Dowlais. More than a mile of this is an inclined plane, rising 400 feet in that distance. This is worked by a stationary engine. The officials neglected on Wednesday to attach the rope to the mid-day passenger train before starting it. It consequently dashed down the incline with prodigiously increasing velocity as it neared the bottom. The guard leapt off the break soon after the carriages commenced their descent, and was uninjured. None of the passengers were, however, enabled thus to escape, as they were all locked in the compartments, and their shrieks while passing along the bridges over the roads near the town were most appalling. The branch joins on to the main line at the bottom of the incline by a sharp curve. The train abandoned the rails at this spot, leapt clear up into the air a great height, the carriages separating into shreds, the passengers being thrown out, and, with the debris of the train, falling like a shower into the Taff river and on the adjoining cinder tips. Notwithstanding this extraordinary violence, some of the passengers were enabled to walk away comparatively unhurt; others are much injured, and two women are dying—one having her back broken, and the other a fracture of the skull, besides which they are frightfully lacerated and torn almost to pieces. Had the train been worked with a proper break, it could have been brought to a stand, or, at all events, its speed down the incline would have been so reduced as to avoid the fearful results of the catastrophe.

FATAL ACCIDENT ON THE LANCASHIRE AND YORKSHIRE RAILWAY.—A collision took place on Thursday morning on the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway, at Newton-heath, near Manchester, by which one person was killed and eight to twelve others severely injured. A train leaves Manchester every morning for Rochdale and Yorkshire at 9.40, stopping at Mills Platting (two miles) and Newton-heath station (four miles), and another train leaves at 9.45 for Oldham, which runs past both these stations without stopping. These trains left Manchester about the usual time, and probably the second train a little behind its usual time. The morning was frosty, with snow on the ground, which had fallen on the previous day, and a dense fog in the atmosphere, which obscured objects at fifteen or twenty yards' distance. The first train had reached the Newton-heath station, and having neither passengers to put down or take up, was about moving forwards, when the second (Oldham train) ran into it behind, at the rate of about fifteen miles per hour, dashing it forward about fifty yards, when the engine of the second train, being partly thrown off the line, was fortunately brought to a stand. The last carriage of the Yorkshire train, a second class, and used also as a break wagon, was broken to pieces and driven off the rails, its passengers being thrown about the line or down the embankment. The first of the injured passengers taken up, as soon as the stationkeeper and uninjured passengers and servants of the train could get to their assistance, was Miss Jane Sykes, a young lady from Lindley, near Huddersfield, who, on being carried into the station-house, sobbed two or three times and almost immediately expired. Her grandmother, Mrs Ellen Lord, aged sixty-nine, wife of Mr Richard Lord, tailor and draper, of Preston, was next carried to the station, and appeared to be on the point of death, having received severe contusions about the head and stomach; but she afterwards rallied a little, and was taken to the Manchester Infirmary, where she now lies in a very dangerous state. Several other persons were more or less hurt. The guard of the Yorkshire train was thrown out of his van, and was insensible for some minutes after he had been carried into the station. He was afterwards removed to his home, where he now lies in a precarious state from the effects of concussion of the brain. The exact cause of the accident is not very clear. The station-master (Mr Whittaker) says he turned on the danger-signal as soon as he saw the first train. The driver of the second train says it was not turned on when he passed the signal post. It is possible that both may be right. The signals are 400 yards from the station, nearer Manchester, and are worked by a lever and wire at the station. The morning being misty the station-master would not see the first train until it was within fifteen or twenty yards from the station, and was nearly at a stand-still; and, supposing the second train to have gained more than ordinarily in speed, its engine might have passed or be passing the signal post when the danger-signal was turned on. Miss Sykes appears to have been killed by a blow on the lower part of the spine, and the only mark externally was a discolouration of the flesh. This young lady had left Preston in the morning with her grandmother, Mrs Lord, to go to Huddersfield, and neither of them ought to have been in this train. They should have left the Lancashire and Yorkshire main line at Bolton, and gone on with the first part of the train through Bury and Heywood to Rochdale.

EXTENSIVE AND DESTRUCTIVE FIRES.

FIRES, ARISING FROM SPONTANEOUS COMBUSTION.—Two serious fires have taken place during the week. On the night of Friday, the 23rd, a most extensive one broke out in the Royal paper mills at Esher, the property of Mr McMurray. Those mills, which are close to the South-Western Railway, cover several acres of ground. The fire was first discovered by a workman named Blake, who, in passing along, perceived a small body of fire in the second floor of the rag warehouse, which contained several thousand tons weight of linen and other rags. Blake procured a pail of water, which he threw upon

the fire and left the place, thinking that he had extinguished it; but almost immediately afterwards the flooring of the story over it gave way, and it became apparent that a fire of a very formidable character was burning up stairs. The man having raised an alarm, those who were at work at the time (about twelve or fourteen in number) made a hasty retreat from the mills, and called the engines, but before any assistance could arrive the flames took possession of every floor in the rag department, and as they rushed out of about thirty windows they made a noise equal to the fall of water from the adjoining mill-stream. From that part of the premises the flames extended to another range, used as the engine, beating-houses, the hydraulic press houses, the weighing departments, the rooms in which the rags undergo the last process before being made into paper—in which eight steam engines were employed. From thence the work of destruction laid hold of the millwrights' and engineers' shops. A large number of engines speedily arrived. They were forthwith set to work from the mill-stream, and vast torrents of water were thrown through the windows into the blazing pile in order to check the flames. Myriads of sparks and sheets of blazing paper were carried by the high wind for miles over the surrounding gardens. At length the whole of the premises described as on fire, nearly 140 feet long, presented one tremendous sheet of flames. A building upwards of 150 feet, and three stories higher, was also doomed to share the same fate as the other departments. This immense building contained nearly eighty large windows, and the flames having entered by means of one of them, they fired the contents, consisting of many thousand tons weight of paper. The fire raged all night with little mitigation, and was not wholly extinguished until Monday. The accident is ascribed to spontaneous combustion. The property destroyed will amount, it is feared, to above 100,000. Upwards of 250 persons will be thrown out of employment. On Monday morning another great fire took place in Upper Thames-street, in a large warehouse, seven stories high, and of corresponding depth and frontage, at the corner of Bread-street-hill, and, like the building which was destroyed scarcely a fortnight since on the opposite side of the street, it was one of the old city sugar-houses. It had recently been occupied by Mr Dunster, wholesale stationer and rag merchant, and it was only within the last few days that the floors had been stocked with a large quantity of rags and other property. The place had been closed since Saturday night; all then seemed quite safe, and nothing was noticed to excite the least suspicion that a fire was kindling. About two o'clock on Monday morning one of the police smelt something burning, but not succeeding in finding out where, sent to the chief station of the brigade in Walling street, for the aid of firemen to clear up the mystery. While the messenger was away, another of the police, in passing up Bread-street-hill, perceived a glare of light over the doorway of the basement floor of the building. He had scarcely time to give a general alarm before the heat broke the glass of the skylight, and the flames, obtaining vent, spread to the upper floors with the rapidity of lightning. Two of the engines connected with the Walling-street station were quickly brought to the spot, and under the direction of Mr Braidwood were got to work, and the firemen forced a passage into the lower floor. On reaching the staircase, however, they could proceed no further, and were ordered to withdraw. They then directed their operations from without. Adjoining the warehouse was a small tenement, in the occupation of Mr Dunster's foreman and family. There was a communication between the two on the attic floor, and the fire had almost penetrated into the apartment, where several females were asleep, before they were aware of their danger. It was only through the perseverance of the police that they were got out. At another point of the building the flames made their way into the back windows of the house of Mr Doggate, saddler, at the corner of Huggins lane, where a similar preservation of life took place. Two or three of the Walling street firemen made their way into the burning rooms and happily succeeded in saving some females, who must otherwise have perished. Scarcely had half an hour intervened from the moment of the discovery ere the whole pile presented one unbroken mass of fire, the floors and ponderous beams and rafters being strongly seasoned with sugar and treacle, and more lately with oil and other combustibles, which had been stored there, ignited and burnt with a fierceness seldom witnessed. On the flames bursting through the roof nearly the whole of the central portion of the metropolis was vividly lighted up, and, notwithstanding a piercing frost and the early hour of the morning, a large concourse of persons was attracted to the spot. The City police mustered very strong in numbers, and rendered valuable aid in preventing the operations being impeded by the mob. Most of the engines in the metropolis were called on, although considerable difficulty was experienced in getting them to the scene, in consequence of the severity of the frost, and the very slippery state of the roads. As soon as they arrived, they were got into play most effectively, but by far the most valuable aid was rendered by the powerful steam floating engine of the brigade, which was moored off Queenhithe. The work of destruction, however, had proceeded too far to admit of the least hope of any portion of the warehouse being preserved. On the roof falling in, a large body of fire rose to a considerable height, and so great was the intense heat which it emitted, as to ignite the weather boarding of the steeple of St Michael's church, Queenhithe, which for a time placed the building in much peril. It was nine o'clock before the fire could be said to have been so far subdued as to allay all fear of its further extension. This origin of the fire is also supposed to have resulted from the spontaneous ignition of some of the rags.—The firemen of the London Brigade and West of England office were kept actively engaged from five p.m. of Tuesday until nearly twelve at noon on Wednesday; there having been during that period not fewer than eight fires in various parts of the metropolitan district. One was at Camberwell; another in the Cambridge road, Bethnal green; a third in North street, Manchester square; a fourth in Brick lane, Bethnal green. One occurred near the Royal Naval School, New cross, of considerable extent. Another fire took place in Cullum street, City. An alarming explosion of gas took place on the premises of a straw-bonnet maker in Whitechapel road. The gas exploded with such force as to cast the ceiling down, and to set the flooring on fire.

GREAT FIRE AT NEW YORK.—On the 10th inst. the most extensive conflagration that has happened in New York since the great fire of 1846 broke out in the premises of Messrs Harper and Brothers, the celebrated American publishers. The accident was occasioned by a plumber, who was at work in one of the lower storeys, and who, after lighting his pipe, threw the burning paper into a vessel of camphine which he had mistaken for water. Instantly the place was in flames. Fed with combustible materials on every side, they soon raged with volcanic fury. There was scarcely time for the occupants of the vast building to escape with their lives. Fortunately, out of the 650 employes within its walls, some 400 had not returned from dinner, those who remained being chiefly the young women employed in the press-rooms and bindery. Thanks to the daring efforts of the firemen, whose first efforts were directed to saving life, these were all rescued from a dreadful fate, though one of the number was so much injured that she died on the way to the hospital. Several other persons were more or less injured. No fewer than 2,000 men, women, and children have been thrown out of employment by this catastrophe. The ravages of the fire were not confined to Messrs Harper's establishment, but extended to the neighbouring premises. The property lost is estimated at 1,205,000 dollars. The Walton Hotel, an extensive edifice, built a hundred years ago by a gentleman of that name, but which has of late been an emigrant's boarding-house, was also completely destroyed.—The 'New York Daily Times' gives the following sketch of the operations of this enterprising firm: "The establishment of the Harpers was founded by James Harper, the eldest of the four brothers who now constitute the firm. He came to this city in 1810, a lad 15 years old, and served an apprenticeship of six years to Paul and Thomas, the

leading printers of that day. His brother John soon followed him, and learned his trade of Mr Seymour, a printer in John street. In 1817, with the small capital James had saved, the brothers opened a small book and job office in Dover street. The first book they printed was 'Seneca's Morals'; the second was an edition of the 'Methodist Catechism.' The first book they published on their own account was Locke's 'Essay on the Human Understanding.' They toiled with unremitting industry, and maintained the highest character for enterprise and integrity. In 1820 the third brother, Joseph Wesley, joined them, and six years later Fletcher became a member of the firm. From that time until now they have carried on the publishing business with a degree of well-directed energy which has few parallels. They removed to Cliff street about 1820, and have added one building after another to their establishment as the demands of their business required. The amount of books they have issued is almost incalculable; from three to four thousand persons have obtained a livelihood from their employment."

THE FROST.—Since Saturday last a great change has taken place in the weather, the frost having returned with increased severity. The thermometer has on several occasions been as low as 27 deg., and even in the middle of the day, on Wednesday and Thursday, the mercury did not rise higher than 31 deg. There have been, of course, a number of accidents on the ornamental waters of the different parks, owing to the foolhardiness of those who, in spite of all warning, would venture upon the ice before it was sufficiently strong to bear. In the Regent's park, on Wednesday, everything passed off well, with the exception of a few immersions, until the fall of snow took place, when a singular scene presented itself. At that time the park, and even the ornamental waters, could not be seen across, and the skaters were greatly bewildered; many, to get upon terra firma, ran about without any regard to the dangerous points, and, as soon as the storm had somewhat moderated, a gentleman was seen standing on a circular piece of ice of great dimensions, but as he attempted to slide off the ice dropped, and there was no alternative left for him but to remain where he was, or to go into the deepest part of the river. Mr Williams, who was present at the time, gave orders to Chitty, the deputy superintendent, to get some ladders and pass over the opening in the ice, which was done, but as the men tried to reach the person on the ice at the edges kept breaking, and, as the last expedient, a rope was tied to the end of one of the ladders, and the man having sat upon it, by a strong and vigorous pull he was got ashore, almost frozen, the lookers-on who were standing on the shore laughing most heartily. A sudden thaw took place yesterday morning, which caused a great change in the appearance of the parks, but about two o'clock the wind veered to the north, snow fell, and frost again set in.

NOTABILIA.

Pigs.—We inherited a long-legged sow, hog-backed, bristly-maned, flat-sided, slouch-eared, rather a ferocious-looking animal. Twice a year she was followed down the lane by an almost interminable series of little grunters—reduplications of mamma—sixteen, eighteen, we believe even twenty at a litter. But how could these satisfy the eye of a critic? So we began afresh, and a few years of judicious selection and crossing gave us animals of almost perfect symmetry. The litters, however, from far in the teens, dwindled to six, four, and at length our favourite sow produced one. Nor was this all. The roared bacon three inches thick, for which, when trimmed with beans, we have seen gastronomes of undoubted authority desert farther-fetched dainties, was replaced on our table by six inches of rather flabby fat, unredeemed by lean. So when we could not even save our bacon we gave up the pursuit; and we are inclined to think that our experience was a sort of epitome of high breeding. A snub-nosed race, called Chinese pigs, or Tunks, have some distinctive marks. They may, for what we know, claim an antiquity coeval with the Shee-king and Shoo-king, though, indeed, we are not precisely aware of the authority on which they are said to have come from "the Flowery Land." They are funny little fellows; pert and queer in their ways; very symmetrical; poor breeders, and not exactly the pigs to furnish contract bacon. The Neapolitan, the Portuguese, and the Berkshire pigs have many points in common. For a constant supply of pleasing pigs we should select the Lisbon market. They are the only cleanly animals of a domestic nature (we make no exceptions) in Portugal; very uniform, very symmetrical when fat, and of sufficient activity to get their living in the chestnut woods during the early part of their lives. To this feeding we should have attributed the delicacy of their pork, if we had not heard, on good authority, that in America masted bacon is very inferior both in firmness and quality to that which is fed on grain. Whether the animal which, by an agreeable alliteration, is called a Hampshire Hog owes any of the celebrity of his bacon to acorns and beech-nuts we will not pronounce. We are inclined to attribute a good deal to careful and scientific curing. Pigs, both in their natural and domestic state, deteriorate if exposed to cold. We are told that the wild boars of Barbary, Bengal, and Scinde are much finer animals than those which endure the severity of a northern winter in the forests of Germany. Nature made the pig an animal of great activity and spirit. Man, in the due exercise of the power which has been conferred upon him of moulding nature to his own convenience, has made him a creature of fitches and hams. We think, however, that, in the case of the pig, the transforming power has been exercised rather wantonly. Of all the overloaded animals which deform our cattle-shows, none so entirely outrages delicacy as the improved pig. Unless his legs shrink under the weight of his shapeless carcass; unless his belly trails on the ground; and unless his eyes are quite closed up by fat, he has no chance of a prize. The extremes of domestic swine are Prince Albert's prize pig at the one end, and the pig whose domestic hearth is in the hut of the Finn, all the way from St Petersburg to Archangel at the other. This latter is an animal of skin and bone. From his looks you would not suppose that he has any vitals: there seems to be no room for them. His bristles, if not his ornament, are at least his distinction. He furnishes them to our markets to an extent both in quantity and value which, but for custom-house statistics, would be thought fabulous, and to which we only reconcile our judgment by recollecting that he appears, by these his representatives, on the toilet-table of every lady, we might almost say of every female, in Great Britain. As to flesh, if one could conceive such an animal to be ever subject to the tender passion, the epithalamium with which Porson honoured the union of the lean master of Benet with a leaner bride would be highly applicable to him:—

"Though you could not, like Adam, have gallantly said,
'Thou art flesh of my flesh,' for flesh ye had none,
You at least might have said, 'Thou art bone of my bone.'"

Such are the extremes. "Medio tutissimus ibis."—Gisborne's Essays on Agriculture.

THE LAST DAYS AND DEATH OF MACKLIN.—He continued in health sufficient to enable him to visit his old haunts; he had seen younger men die around him, and he delighted to recount all the events of his life, and to relate the various changes which he witnessed in the world about him. He had been the instructor in elocution of many eminent men, amongst others of Wedderburn, Lord Loughborough, whom he had taught in conjunction with Thomas Sheridan. These, and others, were still his friends, able and willing to assist him. He lived at this period as he had for many years been accustomed; that is, he eat and drank those things only which he knew by experience would not be injurious. To his seventieth year it had been his habit to drink tea, porter, wine, and punch, and to eat fish, flesh, and fowl. He was moderate in his meals, and whenever he exceeded his usual quantity of wine—a bottle—he always took Anderson's Scotch Pill when going to bed. At seventy years of age he found that tea was unfit for him, and that meat caused his teeth to pain him, and he then began to use fish, stews, and jellies. He always slept upon a mattress, his head raised to a considerable height, and without curtains to the bedstead. For the last twenty years of his life he never undressed, except to change his linen, or for the purpose of having himself washed or rubbed with napkins dipped in warm brandy or gin. He endeavoured by all means to induce perspiration,

but he was careful on these occasions to change his clothes, and when performing he frequently changed his shirt four times during the stage business. He was anxious to prolong his life, and even in his hundredth year he seldom spoke of death as near, because his mother, who had taken little care of her health, lived to the age of ninety-nine. During his theatrical life he wrote eight dramatic pieces, the first in 1746, the last in 1781. Of these only two, Love-a-la-Mode, and The Man of the World, were printed. He performed five hundred different characters. The closing months of his life were made happy by the devoted attention of his wife, and he lingered on until Tuesday, the 11th day of July, 1797. That morning he arose at his usual hour, but shortly afterwards retired to his bed, and lying down, exclaimed—"Let me go, let me go"—and so expired. He died at his residence in Tavistock row, and was buried in a new vault under the chancel of St Paul's church, Covent garden, where he lies with many of his brother actors, and beside Butler, Wycherly, Southerne, Peter Lely, Dr Arne, and Peter Pindar. He was, at the period of his death, one hundred and seven years, two months, and ten days old, and the friendship of his acquaintances was exhibited to the last. The funeral service was read over his grave by the Rev. Mr Ambrose, a former pupil, who came from Oxford for the special purpose of paying this last tribute to his memory.—Irish Quarterly (Dec.)

THE DUKE'S FIRST VICTORY.—It was not in India, as commonly supposed, but on Donnybrook road, near Dublin, that his first laurels were won. This appears from the Freeman's Journal, September 18th, 1789, where we learn that in consequence of a wager between him and Mr Whaley of 150 guineas, the Hon. Arthur Wesley walked from the five-mile stone on Donnybrook road to the corner of the Circular road in Leeson street, in fifty-five minutes, and that a number of gentlemen rode with the walker, whose horses he kept in a tolerable smart trot. When it is recollected that those were Irish miles, even deducting the distance from Leeson street to the Castle, whence the original measurements were made, this walk must be computed at nearly six English miles.—Notes and Queries.

DEFECT IN THE PUBLIC LIBRARIES' ACT.—It is provided by the Public Libraries' Act of eighteen hundred and fifty, as most people know, that a town corporation may apply a halfpenny rate to the establishment of a free library if, upon a poll, two-thirds of the voting burgesses consent. But it is provided that this money shall be spent on library buildings, salaries, coals, candles, anything and everything except the one thing needful—books. The act gives no authority to purchase books with borough funds, a curious error of omission, which we all must wish to see corrected in the next session of Parliament. Liverpool has for its library a special act, and Manchester, by a special clause, is able to spend town money on books as well as upon bookshelves, but Bolton has been driven by this blunder to the necessity of adopting troublesome machinery for the supply of the town wants, and other towns are likely to be seriously trammelled in their efforts for self-education.—Dickens's Household Words.

A SLAVOWNER'S EXPERIENCES IN AMERICA.—Slaves, for the last ten or twelve years, have been better clothed and fed in this part of the country than they used to be; but sadly too much injustice, and sadly too much cruelty exists still, and must always exist so long as this institution lasts. And it is my conviction that it will soon become 'the question'—the question of life and death within the American Union. Even now a man makes no demur about shooting down a negro whom he suspects of intending to run away, and the law is silent on all such acts of violence. I have seen many slaves severely wounded from having been shot at under such circumstances; but one only killed. Passion, and that of the most frantic description, is common in the treatment of slaves. The law is no protection to the slave. It is nominally so, but it is not any actual defence. The slave suffers from his master: the lawyers shut their eyes to the affair as long as they can; and the negro cannot be a witness in a court of justice. They talk of public opinion; but public opinion is here as yet, for the most part, the product of demagogues. And the cotton interest is its only conscience. Many people see all this as very wrong, and deplore it, but they are silent, from the fear of involving themselves in trouble. The festivals of the slaves are for the most part a fiction. On some plantations the slaves are allowed to dance at Christmas, if the cotton is picked and the sugar is ground; but when the harvest is late, as it is this year, the festival is put off to eternity; and for the greater number it always remains there. If the harvest has been good and the work is done, then the negroes may sometimes dance. Hitherto no religious instruction has been allowed to the slave on the plantations, nor is it even to this hour. But God knows how it has happened, some of these poor creatures have, notwithstanding, got hold of some of the truths of the Gospel, and you can scarcely imagine the eagerness with which they listen to every word. I know two plantations where the slaves have regular Christian instruction, and it is very probable that this may spread and produce a change in the relationship between slave and master. The time is perhaps not far distant when public opinion will become a real defence to the slave, and more so than law can ever be. People are becoming compelled to more justice and gentleness towards their slaves, for their own safety. I have known times here, when there was not a single planter who had a calm night's rest; they then never lay down to sleep without a brace of loaded pistols at their side. If people would only attempt to treat the slave with justice and with reason, they would be astonished at the results of these methods. The negro is in a high degree susceptible of kindness and justice. He is disposed to subordination under any real superior, and if the whites would avail themselves of such means they would be able to govern the negro, or at all events, he would work for them without the whip.—Miss Bremer's Homes of the New World.

NICHOLAS.

No pity moves him and no laws affright
In the brute exercise of brutal might;
C old as the snow-drift of his barbarous lands,
H is heart relents not when his pride commands.
O'er cringing slaves, who hear but to obey,
L ashes and knout proclaim his genial sway:
A free soul's curse is on him, and his name
S inks to an immortality of shame.

Athenaeum, Dec. 20, 1853.

LIBERA TERRA.

Prices of Stocks, Railway Shares, &c.

Table containing financial data for the Bank of England, including account details, notes issued, and government securities, with columns for amounts and dates.

THE FUNDS.

MONDAY.—As this day was observed as a holiday at the Stock Exchange, no business was transacted.
TUESDAY.—Consols opened at 93 1/2 to 94, and left off at 94 to 94 1/2. Reduced Three per Cents. were dealt in at 93 1/2 to 94 1/2; and the New Three and a Quarter per Cents. were done at 95 1/2 to 95 3/4; India Stock, 249 ex div.; and Bank Stock, 219 to 221.
WEDNESDAY.—Consols opened at 93 1/2 to 93 3/4, and closed at 93 1/2 to 93 3/4. Reduced Three per Cents. were dealt in at 93 1/2 to 94; New Three and a Quarter per Cents., at 95 1/2 to 95 3/4; Bank Stock closed at 218 to 220; India Stock, par to 3s. premium; and Exchequer-bills, 3s. to 6s. premium.
THURSDAY.—Consols opened at 93 1/2 to 93 3/4 ex div., and, after several slight fluctuations, they closed at 93 1/2 to 93 3/4. The Reduced Three per Cents., were dealt in at 93 1/2 to 94; and the Three and a Quarter per Cents. at 95 1/2 to 95 3/4; India Bonds, par to 4s. premium; Bank Stock left off at 218 to 219; and Exchequer-bills were operated in at 4s. to 7s. premium.
FRIDAY.—Consols were done at from 93 1/2 to 94, and the latest prices were at 93 1/2 to 93 3/4. The Reduced Three per Cents. were dealt in at 94 to 94 1/2; and the New Three and a Quarter per Cents. at 95 1/2 to 95 3/4; Bank Stock, 217 to 219; and Exchequer-bills, 5s. to 8s. premium.

SATURDAY MORNING, ELEVEN O'CLOCK.

Table showing British and Foreign stock prices, including Consols, Do. Account, 3 per Cent. Reduced, 3 1/2 New, Long Annuities, Bank Stock, India Stock, Exchequer Bills, and India Bonds.

RAILWAYS AND PUBLIC COMPANIES.

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

Large table listing various railway and public companies, categorized into Railways, Foreign Railways, Land Companies, Banks, and Miscellaneous, with columns for shares, price, and closing prices.

Trade and Commerce.

Smithfield Market, MONDAY.—The trade was better to-day for mutton, and the price was 2d. per stone dearer. Beef was rather slow, at last Friday's prices. Veal was lower in price, and the trade was extremely inactive. Owing to Christmas day falling on Sunday, the market was but thinly attended, and very little business transacted.
FRIDAY.—The trade was active to-day at Smithfield for every description and quality of meat; and prices improved.
CORN MARKET.—MONDAY.—Owing to Christmas day falling this year on Sunday, Monday was kept as a holiday, and the market was but thinly attended and but few purchases took place.

Table listing prices for various commodities like Wheat, Barley, Oats, Beans, Peas, Tares, Canary Seed, Flour, and Foreign flour.

IMPORTATIONS

Table showing importations into London from Dec. 25 to Dec. 29, including quantities of Wheat, Barley, Oats, Malt, and Flour.

FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE.

Bankrupts.—J. Smith, King street, Snow hill, stationer. [Linklater, Siso lane, Bucklersbury.—J. Green, Landport, Southampton, draper. [Sole and Stophar, Chesham.—D. Jenkins, Mile end road, licensed victualler. [Dimmock and Barby, Suffolk lane, Cannon street.—J. Dent, Queen's road, Homerton, builder. [Hillary, Fenchurch street.—J. Turner, Whitechapel High street, chesemonger. [Ashurst and Sons, Old Jewry.—W. Bower, Pickering, Yorkshire, tailor. [Openhaw, Lancashire, builder. [Sale and Co. Manchester.—T. Wilkinson, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, draper. [Griffith and Crighton, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

Friday, December 30.
War-office, December 30.—4th Regiment of Foot: Lieut.-Gen. Sir J. Bell, K.C.B., from the 95th Regiment, to be Col. vice Gen. Sir T. Bradford, G.C.B., deceased.—20th Regiment of Foot: Major-Gen. N. Thorn, C.B., to be Col. vice Major-Gen. Sir H. Godwin, K.C.B., deceased.—95th Regiment of Foot: Major-Gen. Sir F. Cockburn to be Col. vice Lieut.-Gen. Sir J. Bell, K.C.B., removed to the 4th Foot.
WAR-OFFICE, December 30.—11th Regiment of Light Dragoons: Brevet-Lieut.-Col. J. L. Black, from half pay unattached, to be Major, vice W. Clarke, who exchanges; Brevet-Major W. Wilmer to be Major, by purchase, vice Clarke, who retires; Lieut. T. Barrett to be Capt. by purchase, vice Wilmer; Cornet C. W. Thesiger to be Lieut. by purchase, vice Barrett; J. Giles, Gent. to be Cornet by purchase, vice Thesiger.—1st Regiment of Foot: Ensign C. Hurt to be Lieut. without purchase, vice Scroope, deceased; Gentleman Cadet H. G. White, from the Royal Military College, to be Ensign, without purchase, vice Hurt.—5th Foot: J. C. Brown, Gent. to be Second Lieut. by purchase, vice Tritton, appointed to the 87th Foot.—20th Foot: Capt. F. C. Eveleigh to be Major, by purchase, vice Lord Mark Kerr, promoted, by purchase, in the Ceylon Rifle Regiment; Lieut. G. Tomson to be Capt. by purchase, vice Eveleigh; Ensign W. H. McNeill to be Lieut. by purchase, vice Tomson; H. B. Vaughan, Gent. to be Ensign, by purchase, vice McNeill.—34th Foot: Lieut.-Col. C. F. Maxwell, to be Ensign, by purchase, vice Col. vice Brown, who exchanges.—41st Foot: Lieut. C. Y. Balguy to be Capt. by purchase, vice Tuckey, who retires; Ensign J. W. Swaby to be Lieut. by purchase, vice Balguy; J. Striding, Gent. to be Ensign, by purchase, vice Swaby.—61st Foot: Surgeon L. C. Stewart, from the 94th Foot, to be Surgeon, vice Swaby, who exchanges.—68th Foot: Major H. Smyth to be Lieut.-Col. by purchase, vice Lord A. Lennox, who retires; Capt. H. G. Wynne to be Major, by purchase, vice H. Smyth; Lieut. Hon. G. D. Finch to be Capt. by purchase, vice Wynne; Ensign F. Garforth to be Lieut. by purchase, vice Finch; Sir B. P. Henniker, Bart. to be Ensign, by purchase, vice Garforth.—82nd Foot: Lieut.-Col. N. E. Brown, from the 34th Foot, to be Lieut.-Col. vice Maxwell, who exchanges.—87th Foot: Capt. A. Murray to be Major, by purchase, vice Brevet-Lieut.-Col. Shortt, who retires; First Lieut. T. M. McClintock to be Capt. by purchase, vice Fitzgerald, who retires; First Lieut. G. Wolfe to be Capt. by purchase, vice Murray; Second Lieut. C. E. Goddard to be First Lieut. without purchase, vice McClintock; Second Lieut. J. Wall to be First Lieut. by purchase, vice Wolfe; Second Lieut. E. S. Tritton, from the 5th Foot, to be Second Lieut. vice Goddard; J. R. Simpson, Gent. to be Second Lieut. by purchase, vice Wall.—94th Foot: Surgeon P. Gammy, from the 1st Foot, to be Surgeon, vice Stewart, who exchanges.—3rd West India Regiment: Capt. G. E. Dockett, from half-pay unattached, to be Capt. vice MacGregor, who exchanges.—Ceylon Rifle Regiment: Major Lord Mark Kerr, from the 20th Foot, to be Lieut.-Col. by purchase, vice Simmonds, who retires.
MEMORANDUM.—The commission of Ensign J. Harger, who was appointed to an Ensigny, without purchase, in the 2nd West India Regiment, on 11th November, 1853, to bear date 13th of that month. The Christian name of Ensign Pocklington, of the 87th Foot, is "Frederic only," and not "Frederick Sharpe," as stated in the Gazette of 18th October, 1853.
Bankrupts.—T. Eastgate, Churtro street, Fimlico, boot and shoe salesman. [Story, Great James street, Bedford row.—J. and S. Davis, East Smithfield, clothiers. [Levy, Arundel street, Strand.—B. Vincent, Canterbury, Kent, shoe maker. [Stretton and Postens, Strand.—W. Legg, Maidstone, Kent, builder. [Steuning and Croft, Basinghall street, City.—W. Legg, New Windsor, Berks, wine merchant. [Dimmock and Barby, Suffolk lane, Cannon street, City.—T. W. Thame, Greenwich, ironmonger. [Bristow and Tarrant, Bond court, Walbrook.—D. Pratt, Neechell's Mill, Aston, juxta Birmingham, Warwickshire, thimble maker. [Smith, Birmingham.—T. Bull, Bristol, shipowner. [Bevan and Girling, Small street, Bristol.
Dividends.—January 17, W. Richardson, Lombard street, City, merchant.—January 26, J. H. Musgrave, Eastcott place, Ferdinand street, Hampstead road, embroiderer.—January 24, E. Brewster, and E. West, Hand court, Dowgate, City, printers.—January 24, R. and J. M. Spenceley, Clyde Dock, Rotherhithe, sail-makers.—January 24, E. Brewster, Hand court, Upper Thames street, City, printer.—January 26, H. Hawkins, Farnham, Surrey, grocer.—January 21, E. C. and E. W. Fyffe, Howford buildings, Fenchurch street, City, merchants.—January 20, J. Streeter, Brighton, corn merchant.—January 21, J. and J. Legge, Marlborough road, Brompton, cabinet makers.—January 21, J. Heath, Chesham, Buckingham, chemist.—January 21, J. Boxall, Brighton, coachmaker.—January 21, E. K. Fox, Cornhill, City, tailor.—January 21, G. B. Absalom, Portsmouth, Southampton, coal merchant.—January 23, F. English, Manchester, power loom cloth manufacturer.—January 23, G. E. Pinder, York, grocer.
Certificates to be granted, unless cause be shown to the contrary, on the day of meeting.—January 24, R. and J. M. Spenceley, Clyde Dock, Rotherhithe, sail makers.—January 20, P. Foot, Bermondsey, licensed victualler.—January 21, G. Hemet, Duke street, Westminster, railway contractor.—January 21, T. P. Hutchings, Park street, Westminster, railway contractor.—January 20, T. W. Chelsea, sawyer.—January 20, E. Thomas, Pimlico, builder.—January 21, P. Booth, Commercial road, Lambeth, ironmonger.—January 24, Eliza Lloyd, Wigmore street, son street, Kingsland road, miller.—January 24, Eliza Lloyd, Wigmore street, Cavendish square, dressmaker.—February 1, M. Williams, Llanelli, Carmarthen-shire, wine merchant.—January 21, J. Hopkinson, Barborough, Derbyshire, black-maker.
Scotch Sequestrations.—W. Angus and Co., Rosyth, Fifeshire, engineers' ironfounders.—Mrs Isabella McKerracher or Craig, Glasgow, painter.
Births.—On the 27th inst., Lady Maria Brodie, of a daughter.—On the 23rd inst., at Hythe, Kent, the wife of Lieut.-Col. Hay, of a daughter.—On the 26th inst., at Antony, Cornwall, the wife of W. H. Polo Carew, Esq., of a son.—On the 27th inst., at No. 6 Osnaburgh terrace, Regent's park, the wife of Augustus P. Oldershaw, Esq., of Doctors' commons, of a daughter.—On the 26th inst., at Sunny-Brighton, the wife of G. A. Schneider, Esq., of a daughter.—On the 28th inst., at Wake-side, Wimbledon, Mrs T. Richardson, of a daughter.—On the 27th inst., at 27th Field terrace, Cadogan road, Hyde park, Mrs Walter C. Perry, of a son.—On the 29th inst., at Bedford, Mrs Henry Hawlin's, of a daughter.
Marriages.—On the 21st inst., at Paris, W. M. Leeds, Esq., to Emma, eldest daughter of H. Hildyard, Esq.—On the 22nd inst., the Right Hon. H. Mackenzie, daughter of T. Le Marchant, Esq.—On the 22nd inst., at Clifton, Bussaco to Harriet, widow of T. Le Marchant, Esq., eldest daughter of Mr W. Barran-Button, Esq., of Clevedon, to Sarah Maria, eldest daughter of Mr W. Barran-Button.—On the 26th inst., T. P. Hall, Esq., to Mary Anne, widow of the late Francis Drake, Esq., of East Bergholt, Suffolk.—On the 27th inst., E. V. Edmond Esq., of the Knolls, Manchester, to Laura Ann, fourth daughter of Mrs Thomas Statham, of Amersham, Bucks.—On the 27th inst., Mr Joseph Fetherston, of Mitchellstown, Ireland, to Eliza, only daughter of the late Mr John Brown, of Wokingham.
Deaths.—On the 22nd inst., at Harrogate, aged 94, Mrs Jaques.—On the 22nd inst., at Bridgford, Major Bowen, of Carmarthen.—On the 23rd inst., in Suffolk street, Pall Mall, the Dowager Lady Warrington.—On the 23rd inst., at Brixton, Mrs Berkeley street, Mr T. Teulon, in his 85th year.—On the 23rd inst., at St John's wood, On Corp, in her 87th year.—On the 16th inst., at North bank, St John's wood, J. Rose, Esq., aged 100.—On the 22nd inst., at Clifton, in her 89th year, at Great Esq., aged 100.—On the 22nd inst., at Clifton, aged 83.—On the 22nd inst., Mr Max 23rd inst., at Islington, J. S. Storer, aged 83.—On the 24th inst., at Whitechapel, Mr Mark Metcalfe, Esq., in her 83rd year.—On the 24th inst., at Hammersmith, Mr Max Westron, aged 83.—On the 24th inst., at Turnham green, Mr Sadler, aged 83.—At 12 Halford terrace, Kennington, Mr G. F. Harding, artist, in his 73rd year.—On the 24th inst., at Gamberwell, Mrs Bassett, in her 80th year.—On the 27th inst., at Hackney, W. Travis, in his 80th year.—On the 23rd inst., at Beckham, aged 84, Mrs Capados.—On the 23rd inst., at Horsham, in his 85rd year, W. T. Coleman Esq.—On the 27th inst., at Norwich, J. Flower, Esq., in his 83rd year.—On the 27th inst., at Bath, the Rev. W. Jay, in his 85th year.—On the 28th inst., in his 70th year, C. Stokes, Esq., F.R.S.—On the 28th inst., at Hammersmith, in his 82d year, G. H. Tonge Esq.

BONNIE BESSIE GRAY, the new Scotch Ballad sung by Miss Poole. Kitty Tyrrell, the new Irish Ballad sung by Mr. Genge and by Mr. Leffer, 2s. each, post Ballad sung by the two most successful songs of the Season? &c.

COLOSSEUM, Regent's Park.—Admission, 1s.—The Original Panorama of "LONDON BY DAY" is exhibited Daily, from 10 till Half-past Four. The new and extraordinary "LONDON BY NIGHT" every evening (Saturday excepted) from Seven till Ten. Music from Evening to Half-past Four, and during the Evening. A variety of favourite songs by Miss Schweso.

ROYAL POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION.—PATRON: H. R. PRINCE ALBERT. MAGNIFICENT PHOTOGRAPHIC PICTURES, prepared expressly for this Institution by Monsieur Ferriere of Paris, exhibited on a surface 35 feet by 25, with an ENTIRELY NEW SERIES OF DISSOLVING VIEWS, daily at a Quarter-past Four.

ROYAL POLYTECHNIC READING and CHESS ROOMS, 5 CAVENTISH SQUARE. Noblemen and Gentlemen are respectfully informed that the Annual Subscription to these Rooms is reduced to Two Guineas, which includes the entrance to the Institution.

COSMOS INSTITUTE.—GREAT GLOBE, CECILIA SQUARE.—The Fellows, Members, and Shareholders are informed that their privileges in the admission of themselves as Fellows, Members, or Shareholders, according to the terms of the Charter, is to be reduced to Two Guineas, which includes the entrance to the Institution.

HUNGARIAN PROMENADE CONCERTS, at the ROYAL MARIONETTE THEATRE, ADELPHI STREET, WEST STRAND, every Evening, at Eight.—KALOZSI HUNGARIAN BAND, under the direction of the Brothers Distin.—Immense Attraction for the Holidays.

CHILBLAINS, RHEUMATISM, LUMBAGO, &c.—Chilblains are prevented from breaking, and their tormenting itching instantly removed, by WHITEHEAD'S ESSENCE OF MUSTARD, universally esteemed for its extraordinary efficacy in Rheumatism, Palsies, Gouty Affections, and Complaints of the Stomach; but where this certain remedy has been unknown or neglected, and the Chilblains have actually suppurated or broke, WHITEHEAD'S FAMILY CERATE will soothe the pain, and very speedily heal them.

ON NERVOUS and GENITIVE DISEASES. New Edition, illustrated with Forty-five Coloured Engravings, and containing the NEWLY-DISCOVERED PREVENTIVE LOTION. Just published, the 7th Thousand, price 2s. 6d. or sent by the Author, post paid, for forty postage stamps.

MANHOOD; or the Causes of its Premature Decline, with plain Directions for its perfect Restoration. A MEDICAL REVIEW of every Form, Cause, and Cure of Nervous Debility, Impotency, and Physical Weakness, whether resulting from youthful Abuse, the tollies of maturity, the effects of climate, or infection, &c.; addressed to the sufferer in Youth, Manhood, and Old Age; with the Author's Observations on Marriage, its Duties and Disqualifications; the Prevention and Cure of Syphilis, Spematorrhoea, and other Urino-Genital Diseases, as treated by Deslandes, Lallemand, and Ricord, Surgeons to the Hospital Venere, Paris.

REVIEW OF THE WORK. "Manhood, by J. L. Curtis.—We agree with the author that, so far from works of this class being objectionable in the hands of youth, or difficulties being opposed, every facility should be given to their circulation; and to strengthen our opinion we need not refer to the recent distressing events at our military and scholastic academies at Marlborough and Woolwich."—Naval and Military Gazette, Feb. 1, 1851.—"We feel no hesitation in saying that there is no member of society by whom the book will not be found useful—whether such person hold the relation of a parent, a superior, or a friend."

MEDICAL ADVICE ON THE SECRETS OF INFIRMITY OF YOUTH, MANHOOD, AND OLD AGE. DR SAMUEL LAMBERT, 37 BEDFORD SQUARE, LONDON. Matriculated Member of the University of Edinburgh; Licentiate of Apothecaries' Hall, London, &c. &c. may be consulted, personally or by letter, on all diseases and disorders of the nervous and generative system, resulting from juvenile irregularities and excesses, which produce more misery in youth, degradation in manhood, and premature decay at all stages of life, than any other disease known to the Philosophy of Marriage, and Nervous and Genitive Debility, illustrated by Fifty Coloured Engravings, and described in detail the various disorders resulting from secret habits and excesses. It may be had, price 2s. 6d. of Messrs Piper and Co., 37 Bedford square, London, or by all respectable Booksellers.

At Home for consultation daily from eleven till two, and from six till eight. All letters must contain the fee of 1s. It is desirable that patients wishing to consult Dr Lambert should send a copy of his work on "Self-Preservation," a medical treatise on the Philosophy of Marriage, and Nervous and Genitive Debility, illustrated by Fifty Coloured Engravings, and described in detail the various disorders resulting from secret habits and excesses. It may be had, price 2s. 6d. of Messrs Piper and Co., 37 Bedford square, London, or by all respectable Booksellers.

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FIRE ANNIHILATOR, or VAPOUR FIRE ENGINE.—Its practical value proved inconceivably by Twenty-three remarkable cases of successful use.—By BRADSHAW of this Month, p. 134. Engines for Dwelling Houses and Shops, 3s. to 4s.; Factories, 6s. to 10s.—Office of the Fire Annihilator Company, No. 165, Lendalhill street, London.

WINTER OVER-COATS and CAPES.—Superior Garments at Reduced Charges; one of the largest stocks in London all thoroughly waterproof; also, do. for youths, at W. BEARDSLEY, 96 NEW BOND STREET, and 69 CORNHILL (nowhere else.)

WINTER HOSIERY.—Every description of the best Woollen Hosiery, Manufactured from warm and soft Materials, into Stockings, Rocks, Drawers, Vests, Feet,—Gentlemen's Morning, Ladies' Elastic Gaiters for Cold Smocking and the Library, in great variety, at Pope and Pianté's, 4 Waterloo place, Pall Mall.

RUPTURE.—"COLES'S TRUSS is BEST."—This is the invention patronised by Sir Astley Cooper and the most eminent surgeons—worn and recommended by William Cobbett and which has commanded, for thirty years, a constantly increasing reputation; it is what a truss should be—perfectly efficacious, yet agreeable to the wearer. Read Cobbett's Legacy to Ruptured Persons.—gratis. No. 3 Charing Cross.

SILVER PLATE.—A. B. SAVORY and SONS beg to call the attention of customers to the reduced prices at which they are now selling the best wrought London-made Silver Spoons, Forks, and Knives, and containing the weight and price of the various articles required in family use, may be had on application, or will be sent, post free, to any part of Great Britain, Ireland, or the Colonies.—A. B. SAVORY and SONS, 14 Cornhill, London, opposite the Bank.

MATRIMONIAL INSTITUTION, Founded 1846. This Institution has been established many years (with great success) as a medium for the introduction of parties unknown to each other, who are desirous of forming Matrimonial Alliances, but who, from some cause or other, cannot find Partners in their own circle of acquaintance, suitable in position, &c.

LADIES' (D'HIVER) COSTUME DU BAL, in Gold and Silver, ornamented with various Coloured Tulle and other Light Fabrics. These Dresses, so highly approved in Paris, and all the Evening parties of the beau monde, may now be seen during the Selling Off at this Establishment.

INFANTS' NEW FEEDING BOTTLES.—From the "Lancet":—"We have seldom seen anything so beautiful as the nursing bottles introduced by Mr Elford of Oxford Street." They are adapted to milk, biscuits and all kinds of food, are the most perfect "artificial mother" ever invented, and have a elastic soft nipple, very clean and exceedingly durable, which no infant will refuse, and which, for weaning, resists, by hand, or occasional feeding, are quite unrivalled.—BENJAMIN KIAM, 196 Oxford street.—7s. 6d. Each is stamped with my name and address. Beware of imitations.

A NEW DISCOVERY IN TEETH. MR HOWARD, SURGEON-DENTIST, 52 FLEET STREET, has introduced an ENTIRELY NEW DESCRIPTION OF ARTIFICIAL TEETH, fixed without springs, wires, or ligatures. They so perfectly resemble the natural teeth, as not to be distinguished from the originals by the closest observation; they will never change colour or decay, and will be found superior to any teeth ever before used. This method does not require the extraction of roots, or any painful operation, and will support and preserve teeth that are loose, and is guaranteed to restore articulation and mastication. Decayed teeth rendered sound and useful in mastication. 52 FLEET STREET.—At Home from Ten till Five.

COUGH, Consumption, Spitting of Blood, Night Sweats, and Fevers.—Immediate relief, and an ultimate cure is effected by PASCOE'S CONCENTRATED COUGH and CONSUMPTION MIXTURE, in all affections of the throat, chest, lungs, &c. It is also a valuable remedy in the bilious affections of children.

HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT and PILLS, infallible REMEDIES for BAD LEGS.—Mr Henry Moran of the Commercial road, Newport, suffered for Nine years with bad legs, which were covered with wounds, he had advice from several of the London Hospitals, and consulted some of the local Medical Gentlemen, but he failed to derive any benefit, in fact, ultimately his case was given up as hopeless. At this crisis he determined to try Holloway's Ointment and Pills, which quickly cured the wounds, he was healed, and completely regained his health in less than three months to the astonishment and delight of the whole of his acquaintances and friends.—Sold by all Druggists, and at Professor Holloway's Establishment, 344 Strand, London.

DINNEFORD'S PURE FLUID MAGNESIA has been for many years sanctioned by the most eminent Medical Profession, as an excellent Remedy for ACIDITIES, HEARTBURN, HEADACHE, GOUT, and INDIGESTION. As a mild Aperient it is admirably adapted for delicate Females particularly during Pregnancy; and it prevents the Food of Infants from turning sour during digestion. Combined with the ADJUTANT LEMON STRUP, it forms an Effervescent Aperient Draught, which is highly agreeable and efficacious. Prepared by DINNEFORD and CO. Dispensing Chemists and General Agents for the Improved Horse-hair Gloves and Belts, 172 New Bond street, London, and sold by all respectable Chemists throughout the Empire.

PAINS IN THE BACK, GRAVEL, LUMBAGO, RHEUMATISM, GOUT, INDIGESTION, FLAULENCY, NEURVOSUS DEBILITY, &c. DR DE ROOS' COMPOUND RENAL PILLS, as their name Renal (or the Kidneys) indicates, are a most safe and efficacious remedy for the most dangerous complaints, diarrhoea, retention, and diseases of the kidneys, bladder, and urinary organs generally. For depression of spirits, incapacity for society, study or business, giddiness, drowsiness, nervousness, and insanity itself, when arising from or combined with urinary diseases, they are peculiarly adapted. Price 1s. 11s. 2s. 3s. 4s. 5s. 6s. per Box, through all Medicine Vendors, or sent (free on receipt of the amount in postage stamps, by Dr De Roos, 35 Eliza place, Holborn. At Home for consultation daily from Eleven till Four o'clock, Sunday excepted. Advice and Medicines, 11.

INDIGESTION, Constipation, Nervousness, &c.—Cure No. 71, of dyspepsia, from the Right Hon. the Lord Stuart de Decies—"I have derived considerable benefit from DU HARRY'S delicious REVALENTA AROMATICA FOOD, and consider it due to myself and the public to authorise the publication of these lines.—Stuart de Decies." Cure No. 45, 532—"Fifty years' indescribable agony from dyspepsia, nervousness, asthma, cough, constipation, fatulency, spasms, sickness at the stomach, and vomiting have been removed by Du Barry's excellent food.—Maria J. Jolly, Woman kind, near Diep, Norfolk." In canisters, with full instructions, 11b, 2s. 9d.; 21b, 4s. 6d.; 51b, 11s.; 121b, 22s.; super refined, 51b, 22s.; 101b, 33s. The 101b and 121b carriage free.—Barry Du Barry and Co. 77 Regent street, London; Fortnum, Mason, and Co.; Hedges and Butler; also at 13 King William street, City; 60 Gracechurch street; 49 Bishopsgate street Within.

COUGHS, COLDS, RHEUMATISM, &c. The most valuable Medicine ever discovered for Colds, Coughs, Agues, Fevers, Rheumatism, Pains in the Limbs and Joints, and for most Complaints where Colds are the origin, is DICKEY'S Original and the only Genuine DR BATEMAN'S PECTORAL DROPS. (Sold in bottles at 1s. 11d. each, Duty included.) As there are various imitations of this excellent Medicine by different Pretenders, all of them utter Strangers to the true Preparation, Purchasers are requested to be very particular in asking for "DICKEY'S Bateman's Drops," as all others are Counterfeit. Sold at the Original Warehouse, No. 10 Bow Church Yard, London; and by all the principal Country Stationers and Vendors of Medicines. See that the words "DICKEY and Co." are engraved on the Government Stamp.

OSLER'S CRYSTAL GLASS CHANDELIERS, or GAS and CANDLES.—A great variety of the latest designs available on view at 44 Oxford street. Also a large assortment of Glass and Crystal Decanters, Wine-glasses, Dessert Services, and every description of table glass at very moderate prices. A large and choice collection of Ornamental Glass of the newest description, suitable for Christmas Presents Export and furnishing orders executed with despatch.—44 Oxford street; Manufactory, Broad street, Birmingham.—Established 1807.

THE ONLY STOVE WITHOUT A FLUE From 12s. to Ten Guineas. Prospectuses, with Drawings and Report, forwarded free. Stands for Stoves, 2s. 6d., 3s., 4s., and 10s. each. JOYCE'S PATENT, for Warming and Drying all kinds of requiring artificial warmth. To be seen in use daily, at the Sole Proprietors, Lunt and Lunt, 253 OXFORD STREET, and at the City Depot, 119 NEWGATE STREET, London; and to be had from the principal Ironmongers in Town and Country. PATENT PREPARED FUEL for the Stoves, &c., 6d. per bushel; only genuine with the Proprietors' Name and Seal on the Sack: S. NASH, 253 OXFORD ST. and 119 NEWGATE ST.

MR HALSE'S FIVE GUINEA APPARATUS are now ready.—Invalids are solicited to send to Mr Wm. Halse, of 22 Brunswick square, London, for his Pamphlet on "MEDICAL GALVANISM," which will be forwarded on receipt of two postage stamps. In it will be found the particulars of cures in cases of asthma, rheumatism, sciatica, tetanous paralysis, spinal complaints, head-ache, deficiency of nervous energy, liver complaints, general debility, indigestion, stiff joints, all sorts of nervous disorders, &c. Mr Halse's method of applying the galvanic fluid is quite free from all unpleasant sensation. Terms, One Guinea per Week. The above Pamphlet contains his letters on Medical Galvanism.

WATHERSTON and BROGDEN beg to CAUTION the Public against the ELECTRO-GOLD CHAINS and POLISHED ZINC GOLD, so extensively put forth in the present day under the title of "Pure Gold," "Fine Gold," and to call attention to the GENUINE GOLD CHAINS, made from their own ingots, and sold by troy weight, at its full or realizable value, with the workmanship, at WHOLESALE MANUFACTURERS' PRICES. The gold guaranteed, and repurchased at the price charged—the workmanship, according to the simplicity or intricacy of the pattern. An extensive assortment of jewelry of the first quality, all made at their MANUFACTORY, 16 HENRIETTA STREET, Covent garden.—Established a D. 1788.

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Table Spoons and Forks. Fiddle Pattern. Strongest Thread King's Pattern. King's Pattern. Table Spoons, per dozen ... 12s. and 15s. 19s. 25s. 30s. Dessert Forks, do. ... 10s. and 12s. 16s. 21s. 26s. Tea Spoons, do. ... 8s. and 6s. 8s. 11s. 12s. A sample tea-spoon sent, on receipt of ten postage-stamps.

BALANCE IVORY TABLE-KNIVES. Tables. Dessert. Carvers. s. d. s. d. s. d. 2 1/2 inch Handle, per Dozen ... 10 0 9 0 3 6 3 1/2 inch do. do. ... 16 0 13 0 5 6 4 inch do. do. do. ... 20 6 14 6 6 0 Nickel Handles, King's Pattern ... 2 6 1 6 6 0 Kitchen ditto, from 6s. 6d. per dozen.

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A most elegant assortment of Bronzed Fenders, at Prices that defy competition. Their Catalogue of Drawings and Prices may be had gratis, or sent post free. Orders above 2s. sent carriage-free, per rail, within 200 miles.

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FENDERS, STOVES, and FIRE IRONS. Buyers of the above are requested, before finally deciding to visit WILLIAM S. BURTON'S SHOW ROOMS, 29 Oxford street (corner of Newman street), Nos. 1 and 2 Newman street, and 4 and 5 Perry's place. They are the largest in the world, and contain such an assortment of FENDER, STOVE, RANGES, FIRE-IRONS, and GENERAL IRONMONGERY as cannot be approached elsewhere, either for variety, novelty, beauty of design, or excellence of workmanship. Bright Stoves, with bronzed ornaments and two sets of bars, 2s. 14s. to 12. 10s.; ditto with ornate ornaments and two sets of bars, 5s. 10s. to 12. 12s.; Bronzed Fenders complete, with standards, from 7s. to 2s.; Steel Fenders from 2s. 1s. to 6s.; ditto, with rich ornate ornaments, from 2s. 1s. to 7s. 7s.; Fire-irons from 1s. 9d. the set to 4s. 4s. and all other Patent Stoves, with radiating heat plates. All which he is enabled to sell at these very reduced charges.

THE PERFECT SUBSTITUTE FOR SILVER.—THE REAL NICKEL SILVER, introduced Twenty years ago by WILLIAM S. BURTON, when plated by the patent process of Messrs Elkington and Co, is beyond all comparison the best article next to sterling silver, and is now being sold as such, either needfully or ornamentally, as by no possible test can it be distinguished from real silver.

Table Spoons and Forks, Fiddle. Thread. King's Pattern. Pattern. Pattern. Tea Spoons, per dozen ... 18s. ... 26s. ... 32s. Dessert Forks, do. ... 30s. ... 40s. ... 46s. Dessert Spoons, do. ... 30s. ... 42s. ... 48s. Table Forks, do. ... 40s. ... 56s. ... 64s. Table Spoons, do. ... 40s. ... 56s. ... 64s. Tea and coffee sets, waiters, candlesticks, &c. at proportionate prices. All kinds of re-plating done by the patent process. CHEMICALLY PURIFIED NICKEL NOT PLATED.

CUTLERY WARRANTED.—The most varied assortment of TABLE CUTLERY in the world, all warranted, is on SALE at WILLIAM S. BURTON'S, at prices that are remunerative only because of the largeness of the sales.—3s. per pair; 4s. per pair; 5s. per pair; 6s. per pair; 7s. per pair; 8s. per pair; 9s. per pair; 10s. per pair; 11s. per pair; 12s. per pair; 13s. per pair; 14s. per pair; 15s. per pair; 16s. per pair; 17s. per pair; 18s. per pair; 19s. per pair; 20s. per pair; 21s. per pair; 22s. per pair; 23s. per pair; 24s. per pair; 25s. per pair; 26s. per pair; 27s. per pair; 28s. per pair; 29s. per pair; 30s. per pair; 31s. per pair; 32s. per pair; 33s. per pair; 34s. per pair; 35s. per pair; 36s. per pair; 37s. per pair; 38s. per pair; 39s. per pair; 40s. per pair; 41s. per pair; 42s. per pair; 43s. per pair; 44s. per pair; 45s. per pair; 46s. per pair; 47s. per pair; 48s. per pair; 49s. per pair; 50s. per pair; 51s. per pair; 52s. per pair; 53s. per pair; 54s. per pair; 55s. per pair; 56s. per pair; 57s. per pair; 58s. per pair; 59s. per pair; 60s. per pair; 61s. per pair; 62s. per pair; 63s. per pair; 64s. per pair; 65s. per pair; 66s. per pair; 67s. per pair; 68s. per pair; 69s. per pair; 70s. per pair; 71s. per pair; 72s. per pair; 73s. per pair; 74s. per pair; 75s. per pair; 76s. per pair; 77s. per pair; 78s. per pair; 79s. per pair; 80s. per pair; 81s. per pair; 82s. per pair; 83s. per pair; 84s. per pair; 85s. per pair; 86s. per pair; 87s. per pair; 88s. per pair; 89s. per pair; 90s. per pair; 91s. per pair; 92s. per pair; 93s. per pair; 94s. per pair; 95s. per pair; 96s. per pair; 97s. per pair; 98s. per pair; 99s. per pair; 100s. per pair.

LAMPS of all SORTS and PATTERNS.—The largest, as well as the choicest, assortment in existence.—PALMER'S and other LAMP CAMPHIRE, ARABIAN SOLAR, and MODERATEUR LAMPS, with all the latest improvements, and of the newest and most recherche patterns, in ornate, Bohemian, and plain glass, or papier mache, is at WILLIAM S. BURTON'S, and they are arranged in one large room, so that the patterns, sizes, and sorts can be instantly selected.

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DISH COVERS and HOT WATER DISHES in every material, in Great variety, and of the newest and most recherche patterns. 2in Dish Cover, 6s. 6d. the set of six; 3in Dish, 12s. 6d. the set of six; elegant modern patterns, 2s. 4s. 6s. 8s. 10s. 12s. 14s. 16s. 18s. 20s. 22s. 24s. 26s. 28s. 30s. 32s. 34s. 36s. 38s. 40s. 42s. 44s. 46s. 48s. 50s. 52s. 54s. 56s. 58s. 60s. 62s. 64s. 66s. 68s. 70s. 72s. 74s. 76s. 78s. 80s. 82s. 84s. 86s. 88s. 90s. 92s. 94s. 96s. 98s. 100s.

WILLIAM S. BURTON has TEN LARGE SHOW ROOMS (all communicating, exclusive of the shop, devoted solely to the show of GENERAL FURNISHING IRONMONGERY (including Cutlery, Nickel Silver, Plated and Japanned Ware, Iron and Brass Bedsteads), so arranged and classified that purchasers may easily and once make their selections.

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EAU-DE-VIE.—Another failure of the "REAL COGNAC BRANDY," from Brandy, and other inferior Vegetables, must greatly enhance the comparative value of our much approved "Eau-de-Vie," which we are now supplying (pale or brown) at 10s. per gallon, and 1s. per gallon for flasks; or in French bottles, with French labels, at 3s. per dozen, bottles included.

TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND POUNDS WORTH OF SILK MERCERY, genuine LINEN DRAPEY, &c. SELLING OFF, on and after Monday next, the 2nd January, 1854, on the spacious premises, 51 and 53 Edgware road, the choice and valuable stock of GEORGE MERINGTON, who is about to relinquish this extensive establishment. Business will be entirely suspended on Friday and Saturday, the 30th and 31st inst. for the purpose of arranging the stock for this great and real selling off; and as the whole must be cleared out by the end of January, the whole of the goods will be sold at a vigorous, impartial, and unlimited reduction in price. Sale to commence at Ten o'clock on Monday next, January 2, and following days.—George Merington, 51 and 53 Edgware road. Lease of Premises to be Sold.

TEA is GETTING DEARER; this is therefore the Time to Buy.—PHILLIPS and COMPANY are still SELLING at OLD PRICES, although the market value of Tea has risen 3d. to 4d. per lb. and will still higher. The Tea worth purchasing are—The strong Congou Tea, at 3s. 4d. per lb. The prime Souchong Tea, at 3s. 6d. 3s. 8d. and 4s. The prime Gunpowder Tea, at 4s. 4d. 4s. 6d. and 5s. The best Pearl Gunpowder, at 5s. 4d. All who purchase at these prices will save money, as Tea is getting dearer.

Prime Coffee, at 1s. and 1s. 2d. per lb. The best Mocha, 1s. 4d. per lb. Tea, Coffee, and all other goods, sent carriage free, by our own vans and carts, if within eight miles; and Tea, Coffee, and spices, sent carriage free to any part of England, if to the value of 40s. or upwards, by PHILLIPS and COMPANY, Tea and Colonial Merchants, 8 King William street, City. Meritons, PHILLIPS and Co.'s Prices of RAISINS, CURRANTS, IMPERIAL PLUMS, FIGS, &c. is now ready, and is sent post free, on application.

ROWLANDS' MACASSAR OIL possesses singularly nourishing powers in the growth, restoration, and improvement of the Human Hair, and when every other specific has failed. This celebrated Oil is now universally acknowledged to be the cheapest, and superior to all other preparations for the Hair. It prevents the falling off or turning gray—strengthened weak hair becomes a thick and luxuriant growth—cleanses it from Scurf and Dandruff—and makes it beautifully soft, curly, and glossy. Its operation in cases of baldness is peculiarly active; and in the growth of Whiskers, Eyebrows, and Mustaches, it is unfailing in its stimulative operation. For Children it is especially recommended, as forming the basis of a beautiful head of hair. Price 3s. 6d. and 7s.; Family bottles (equal to four small), 10s. 6d. and double that size, 21s.

CAUTION.—On the wrapper of each bottle are the words, ROWLANDS' MACASSAR OIL, in two lines, and a small drawing of the back of the wrapper nearly 1,500 times, containing 29,028 letters. Sold by A. ROWLAND and SONS, 20 HATTON GARDEN, LONDON; and by Chemists and Perfumers.

PRYING into the FUTURE. Young Ladies are not the only persons who have wished to pry into the mysterious volume of the Future, for Alexander Bingham has his enthusiasm on similar circumstances. It may be innocent enough to amuse ourselves with the prospect of reaping a golden harvest from dreams of hope; but in these days of practical affairs, and business in earnest, every one has a right to expect "Value for Value."

The matter-of-fact realities of One Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty-Three are possibly the best interpreters of the events of 1854, for we may all take the credit to ourselves for being able to tell what we really know, and that we know it in advance. It is very well calculated by the successes of the Past, and it is even possible that our expectations may be surpassed in the onward progress of business, that the bright prospects of the Future be rendered more satisfactory in reality than they were in the representation of our imagination. It is in the most practical of the human race, that every individual Lady, Gentleman, or Child should possess an ambition to exert an influence in the circle higher than that in which they move, and it is Dress in Style, Neatness, and Excellence which forms the primary chain to this social elevation.

Taking steps which no other Tradesman ever ventured to ascend, and holding a position on an eminence which none but themselves could occupy, E. Mosses and Son have the greatest pleasure in inviting their Friends and the Public to "Pry into the Future," and to compare the advantages of the Past with the reality of what must follow; they have long supported the future universally bestowed on them of being the largest Merchant Tailors, Clothiers, Hatters, Hoisiers, Boot and Shoe Makers, and Outfitters in the World; they have extended the benefits of New Fries and Artistic Designs to all classes, with the precision employed on the manufacture of Attire for the Poor, they have prepared suitable Dress for the Artisan, Labourer, and Emigrant. The progress of refinement, the improvements of manufacture, the revelations of science, and the influence of capital they have extended to the remotest extent in rendering their productions the most novel, the most comfortable, the most fashionable, and the cheapest which can be obtained.

The Business of E. Mosses and Son has the speed of the railway, with none of its accidents—the correctness of Art, without any of its irregularities—the regularity of time, but free from the interruptions—the universality of light, but never subject to a periodical eclipse; and well has the Public repaid the diligence, skill, and assiduity which has been displayed by E. Mosses and Son, by unprecedented patronage of the City and West End Establishments, and their Branches at Sheffield and Bradford, in Yorkshire.

For E. Mosses and Son to say they thank their Patrons! is Public would be a very inefficient way of dismissing the favours they have to acknowledge; they cherish an indelible remembrance of the numerous instances of liberal patronage, and are pressed both in favour of their system of Business, and of the Articles they have had the pleasure of presenting to all classes during the past year, and they are determined to give a most sensibile expression to their grateful recognition of these favours by providing everything in the way of public approbation, and gigantic Business infinitely better and cheaper than it is possible for others to do. Entering on another year under circumstances so encouraging, E. Mosses and Son have briefly to state, that Ladies will find the most varied and magnificent assortment of Dress at their Establishment; and Hosiery Goods for Ladies, Gentlemen, and Children, distinguished by unparalleled novelty, elegance, utility, and cheapness.

NOTICE OF DIVIDEND
BANK OF DEPOSIT.
NATIONAL ASSURANCE AND INVESTMENT ASSOCIATION.

THE WARRANTS for the HALF-YEARLY Interest, at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, on the Investment Stock of this Institution, to the 31st December, will be ready for delivery on and after 9th January, and payable Daily between the hours of Eleven and Three.

SOLICITORS and GENERAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.
52 CHANCERY LANE, LONDON.

THIS SOCIETY PRESENTS THE FOLLOWING ADVANTAGES:
The security of a subscribed Capital of ONE MILLION.
Exemption of the Assured from all liability.

INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER AND SPECIAL ACT OF PARLIAMENT.
NORTH BRITISH INSURANCE COMPANY.

4 NEW BANK BUILDINGS, LOTHBURY.
PRESIDENT—His Grace the Duke of Sutherland, K.G.
SIR PETER LAURIE, Alderman, Chairman, LIFE ASSURANCE.

Table with 4 columns: Date of Policy, Sum Insured, Bonuses, Amount. Rows for years 1825, 1826, 1827.

EXEMPTION FROM STAMP DUTY AND INCOME-TAX.
Policies are now issued by this Office Free of Charge for Stamp-duty, and by the Act 18 and 17 Vic. & xxiv. Annual Premiums securing Life Assurances or Deferred Annuities, effected by any person on his own life or on the life of his wife, are exempted from Income-tax.

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CAPITAL, 550,000L.

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