

THE EXAMINER

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THE POLITICAL EXAMINER.

WHAT IS TO BE DONE WITH THE BILL?

The Lords have given, and the Lords have taken away: it remains to be seen whether the Church will have much cause to bless the name of the Lords.

It must be clear by this time to the noble patrons and protectors of the Irish Church that they have rather overdone their work. We do not think much of the spirit or independence of the present House of Commons; so far as it has gone it has proved itself to be the tamest and meekest that we have known in our time. But low as the tone of its nervous system may be, and docile and dumb as it has proved on more than one occasion when a sturdier demeanour would have become it better, it is impossible to believe that it will agree to receive the changeling left at its door instead of its own child. Except the swaddling clothes and the cries, which are much the same with all infant reforms, nothing can be recognised of the creature lately fondled in parental arms. Whether the being which has been mutilated and made away with could now be reproduced is a question we do not discuss, because we are quite sure that it never will. Practically, the only choice lies between adopting instead one of the half blood, or waiting for the begetting and birth in due time of a new offspring.

The Church Bill as it now stands has been so overloaded with treasures that it can hardly venture back into deep water without imminent danger of foundering. We have heard a friend narrate how he once saw a steamer, laden in like fashion, at the quay-side of an American river until her deck was level with the water and her hull was deep in the mud. "How can you expect she will ever get off?" he exclaimed to the captain. "Well," was the reply, "I suppose if she can't actually swim she must only crawl off on her paddles." And so, after sundry efforts and strainings, the vessel succeeded in doing. One thing greatly favours the attempt to make the measure float once more. There is a growing sense of dislike and disgust at the notion of our being condemned to waste another year over this business. It is quite clear that, come what may, this measure will not and cannot be final. Even though the Commons refused to accept the last alteration made by the Lords, that, namely, of postponing to a day not named the appropriation of the surplus, it would make but little difference. We have never heard any intelligent person of any party who had seriously thought of the matter, affect to believe that the gift to the Irish landlords of 300,000*l.* a year of county rate, now paid by them out of rent for madhouses and infirmaries, could, would, should, or ought to stand. It was too truly said by Lord Salisbury—

"Not one farthing of the surplus will be applied to infirmaries, hospitals, and lunatic asylums, because it is to be merely applied in lieu of other money already applied to those objects, and therefore to the relief of those who pay," if a provision is made which materially reduces the amount of the rate, then, if the landlord is to retain any power over the tenant at all, I will

venture to say that in any country in the world the landlord will get the benefit.

"The whole of this money, for aught that we know, will go into the pockets of the landlords of Ireland.

"That alone in my mind would be a sufficient reason for postponing the distribution of the surplus until the Government have a better scheme to propose.

"Do you think you are closing this question? Do you think it can be closed as long as lunatics hold property by virtue of what is well described by the supporters of the Government as revolution? It will be as easy to disestablish and disendow the lunatics as it is to disendow the Irish Protestant Church."

Lord Grey took another objection, complaining that the so-called appropriation was wholly indefinite in its terms.

"It is also very vague as regards the parts of the country where it may be applied; and mark the enormous facility for jobbing which is afforded by this clause." "The inhabitants of one part of the country will be engaged in a contest with those of another part, with a view to deciding who shall have the largest share of the property." "There is nothing in the Act to prevent an organised system of electoral corruption." "It is contrary to all sound constitutional principles to place in the hands of the executive Government a power so extensive and one so capable of being abused."

We cannot marvel, indeed, that many of the truest Liberals in the Upper House voted to expunge what we have always deemed the greatest blot in the Bill. But as we have said, it really matters little what becomes of the clause; for no misappropriation of national property so palpable and so meaningless can eventually be regarded as possible.

Nor are the amendments moved by Lords Clancarty and Carnarvon worth a collision between the two Houses. We don't believe that Archbishop Trench or Bishop Alexander are dangerous though they may be mournful lunatics, from whom any harm is likely to come by allowing them for the rest of their lives to be about the House of Lords; and as for the modified scheme of commutation, it is rather a question for notaries than politicians. Lord Granville has already bought off the disputants about the proper date of private endowments, at the handsome price of half a million sterling; and we daresay Lord Salisbury and Mr Gladstone would be able to come to terms about the Protestant glebes, somewhat easier for the existing incumbents than was at first proposed, but obliterating from the measure the argument which it now presents in this respect for concurrent endowment.

What remains? The lands in Ulster granted by the Crown as a special endowment of the Church, out of the estates of the native chieftains. To these, upon no plea applicable to other endowments, can the disestablished clergy sustain their claim. This property was booty won in war, like the Kirwee prize money; and it has in its nature no assignable or conceivable element in common with any other species of ecclesiastical property. It was the plunder of vassals driven into rebellion by the rapacity and perfidy of oppression; and it was given by James I. to decorate and enrich the garrison whom he planted in a desolated province. If the maintenance of sectarian ascendancy has justly been called a badge of conquest, the marks of fire and sword are especially traceable in these extra endowments of King James. The Anglican Church has been suffered to hold them too long, and every semblance of consistency would be eliminated from the Bill if its provisions reconferred them.

PRUSSIA WITHOUT BISMARCK.

On the evening of the day on which King William, flushed with the victories of a brilliant campaign which had found their climax in the settlement of Nikolsburg, entered the Bohemian capital, a Prague paper found vent for its spleen in the following riddle—"When Bismarck and the King of Prussia travel together, how are there ten people in the carriage? Because Bismarck is 1 and the King is 0." There is a good deal less wit than truth in the joke. Even when Bismarck was at the lowest depths of unpopularity—when the Prussian people, not yet cognisant of the possible results which might accrue from the displacement of Austria from her position as the sovereign State in Germany, were execrating the man who was

bringing about the war—every one recognised the fact that the conduct of public affairs lay in the hands of a statesman of splendid audacity, of great experience, and of invincible purpose. It was not upon King William that they laid the onus of the war which they dreaded; nor yet, after the bold stake had been ventured and won, did they credit him with the success of the enterprise. It was Bismarck's doing. Bismarck was a great man. Bismarck was the saviour of his country. How lucky it was for Prussia, they thought, that the King—veteran soldier though he was—should surrender himself to the guidance of this astute and daring counsellor, who had secured Prussian ascendancy in Germany and routed the white-coated Slaves of the South. This worship of Bismarck,—this blind trust which he had won by risking the existence of his country, now became a tide which carried him safely through several political crises. On the strength of it, he was able to demand and gain absolution for past errors from Parliament; he was able to coax both the King and the people to agree to the details of his scheme of the North German Confederation; he was able to purchase the forbearance both of the extreme Conservative party, who were looking upon him as a renegade, and of the extreme Liberal party, who regarded him with distrust and fear. Now he seemed to incline one way, and now another; but amid the various movements of political warfare, he never ceased to labour at the establishment and consolidation of that new power which he had practically created. It was a gigantic task he had before him—a task which might have appalled a younger statesman, aided by a company of men worthy to assist him. Bismarck has had no such assistance; and now we find him, while the work is far from complete, compelled to yield. The labour has been too heavy for him; and so this Atlas of the North German Confederation lays down his load, while people look around and ask who is to be his successor.

The question is an important one, and it is not easily answered. The Prussian Parliament holds men who have won for themselves respectable names, some in diplomacy, some in efforts at social organisation, several in letters; but there is not one of their number who can take Bismarck's post with any chance of following up that statesman's career. Bismarck's successor will find himself confronted by all those difficulties which Bismarck's success and personal influence were alone able to withstand. He will not be able to appeal to the gratitude of the nation; neither will he be able to terrify Parliament by the threat of throwing up his post, unless this or that project of his is agreed to. The Prussian Liberals, who last year were almost beginning to believe that Bismarck had effectually separated from the old landed party and was essentially a Liberal at heart, have been undeceived, and are discontented. They are anxious to have a proper Constitutional Government, with a Ministry responsible to Parliament; and they are labouring to have the recently-annexed States placed under a similar system, with privileges equal to their own. When the Constitution of the Confederation was being debated and settled, they were forced or induced to accept, under protest, many articles which they are now likely to repudiate whenever any chance occurs. That the North German States are not yet firmly cemented is well known; and there are other causes besides an aggressive war which might cause an upheaval of the existing arrangements. Indeed, it is in the fact that war with a foreign country would rather aid than embarrass a feeble Premier that our chief concern about the choice of Bismarck's successor lies. If there was one thing more than another that helped Bismarck in his efforts at constructing a Northern Confederation, and in drawing the Southern States into league with it, it was the warlike attitude of France. Under the shadow of this impending danger, Conservatives and Liberals alike hurried on the work of combining and systematising the confederated States, and agreed to such proposals about the army and

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navy as were likely to render them most immediately efficient. Now it is just possible that if Bismarck's successor be a weak man, he may be compelled to take refuge from internal discontent in a foreign war. Direct the growing impatience of the people with their heavy taxation, which is necessary to support even an army of citizen-soldiers, into a patriotic fury against the enemies of their country, and the Minister staves off, for a time at least, the evil day of reckoning. It is hard to say what catastrophe an incompetent statesman suddenly entrusted with the government of a newly-amalgamated number of States, with no hearty co-operation from Parliament, and with a war-loving Royal family in the background, may not precipitate. When it remained with Bismarck to say whether Europe should or should not be plunged into war, he steadily chose peace. He had plenty to do; and he believed himself capable of doing it. The work is not yet done; and its completion depends on the capacity of his successor. Bismarck refused to go to war when there was every chance for Prussia. She was filled with the lust of triumph, and was ready to challenge the world. Her soldiers were elated with a victorious campaign, which had been too short and too brilliant to provoke any feeling of lassitude. Her war-material was accumulated; for she had not expected that the Bohemian campaign would last only a few weeks. Above all, her enemy was unprepared. Now, however, matters are reversed. Her people are discovering that even for so short a campaign they must pay heavily; they have lost the thirst for war; while France has been steadily amassing her stores and troops, in case of need. It is almost too much to expect that immediately after Bismarck a greater than Bismarck shall appear—for he must needs be greater than Bismarck who would undertake to pacify Prussia at present. Is there a man in Prussia who has the courage and the genius to do these two things safely—to remove, with France looking on, the poisonous cancer of a standing army out of all proportion to the means of the people; and to satisfy the strong yearnings for freedom on the part of the population, by devising a new Constitution and transferring over to Parliament the absolutist power at present in the hands of the King and his chief Minister? Were Bismarck willing to attempt such a work, we doubt whether he would succeed; while a lesser than Bismarck is only too likely to shirk the task altogether. Meanwhile discontent increases; and the statesman who becomes Premier, whatever be his capacity, must find some outlet for it.

COST OF PAUPER SCHOOLING.

The admissions made by Mr Goschen, in defending the removal of certain children from the parish school of Marylebone, where they cost but four shillings and three-pence a week, to the Roman Catholic school at Hyde, where the cost is more than six shillings, ought to waken the most apathetic amongst us to a sense of the hopeless folly of the course into which misrule is drifting. Far from denying the general allegation of the guardians, that the system of bringing up poor children in separate sectarian schools is greatly more expensive than the plan of housing, clothing, and teaching them together, the President of the Poor-law Board seems to boast that he has the will as well as the power of carrying that system to an extreme, which certainly was never contemplated when the first deviation from the old rule of equal and economical management took place. Hardships there may have been in some cases, under the ordinary rule; and we are not disposed to make light of them or to leave such cases unredressed. But the remedy ought to have been sought by a very different method and in a very different quarter from that which has been unluckily adopted. Mr Goschen seems to revel in every opportunity for overruling and putting down local authority. On the one hand he would force parishes and unions to provide, at an enormous outlay, pauper seminaries on a scale suited for the accommodation of pauper children of all denominations; he exults in making the burthen of such expenditure more irksome and preposterous by avowing himself ready to decree the withdrawal of any number of poor children about whom any one can make out a plausible case that their parents were not of the Established creed, and the placing them at a sectarian school at the expense of the ratepayers, even though it should cost double or more. When asked on Tuesday night by Mr Chambers, whether there was not an excessive cost of near fifty per cent. arising in the instances complained of, the right hon. gentleman told him for his comfort and that of his constituents that he need not grumble at six shillings a week, for he had a list in his hand where the charge of the sectarian system of pauper schools amounted to eight and even to ten shillings a week for each child!

Do ratepayers really consider what this startling confession amounts to? According to vulgar arithmetic the last named sum is equivalent to twenty-six pounds a year; but that we may be within the mark a long way, let us take the lower figure of eight shillings, which makes the cost of each foundling orphan or deserted infant schismatic, upwards of twenty pounds a year. Mr Goschen says he is determined to do alike in this respect for Baptists, Jews, and, we presume, for Mormons. His great anxiety is about the theology of the paupers. What is any money—that is, any amount of our money—for the perpetuation of bigoted distinctions. Talk of the National education system in Ireland and the Queen's colleges there, after this. All that we have been wrangling about for thirty years is flung to the winds by this propagandist of religious severance and segregation. What signifies expense when it is only to be borne by Metropolitan ratepayers? What does it matter if they are discontented and set by the ears? Who cares that a hard toiling trader or housekeeper, glad enough to be able to make out an income of four pounds a week whereon to support a wife and six children, is to be plundered of so much a year extra in rates, first, for building general schools bigger than are wanted, and then for paying other schools for doing partially and polemically what the general schools were built to do? The unhappy ratepayer cannot afford ten pounds a-piece for the bringing up of each of his own children; yet Mr Goschen boasts that he will make him pay for the bringing up of each of the pauper children at the rate of twenty pounds a year. Why, what is this but to turn society upside down in the wrong headed pursuit of a remedy for an exceptional evil which might easily and economically be provided for otherwise?

The simple, safe, honest, and cheap alternative to this glaring and grievous misuse of authority is to be found where our canny friends beyond the Border have found it,—in the method of placing or boarding out those children who, for various reasons, it is not desirable to keep in the parish school. Every conceivable motive of humanity and economy points that way. There cannot be anything more cruel or mischievous than what is now done. Orphans and foundlings peculiarly need the compensating influences, as far as they can be obtained for them, of family and of home. In the same way the children of the less numerous denominations might, with the greatest advantage, be placed with persons fit to take charge of them who agreed with their parents in religious belief. Instead of being exposed, as they now are, to gibe and jeer from their thoughtless playmates, or, it may be, from their narrow-minded teachers, for that which is not their fault, they would be brought up, without question or worry or taunt, in the faith of their fathers. The parochial authorities would not be troubled with the miserable contentions that now daily prevail about whether the dead parent of a poor little destitute child ever went to chapel, or sometimes went to church; and the ratepayers, instead of paying eight shillings, or six shillings, or four shillings for its bed, and board, and book, would for a much less sum afford it a much better chance of doing well in after life. One element of religious distraction and division would be extinguished, and Parliament would be spared the deplorable waste of its time, and lowering of its dignity, in the hearing of such appeals as that which the learned member for Marylebone felt himself obliged to bring forward the other night.

THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

A public meeting of merchants and others engaged in trade between the communities dwelling north of the St Lawrence and those who live south of that great waterway, was lately held in New York to express the desire that negotiations might soon be opened for the renewal of the Reciprocity Treaty of Commerce which some years ago was allowed to lapse. We cannot say that we have such a faith in conventions of the kind as would lead us to prefer them to complete freedom of intercourse, liable to be modified from time to time, according to the fiscal necessities of each uncovenanted State. The day, we hope, is not far off when an enlightened sense of self-interest may be relied on to prompt each nation to reduce its tariff to the lowest possible point, without troubling itself to argue the matter through the medium of diplomatic agents with any of its neighbours, or entering into any Custom-House bargain or contract with them. But, until that day comes, we should be glad to see arrangements made for the grubbing up of some of the thorn hedges, and for the filling up of some of the ditches that still intercept mutual and beneficial intercourse, even though others were suffered to remain as they are. Canada and the United States, though intimate neighbours and near of kin, are still divided by artificial barriers, where, in the judgment of their wisest

statesmen on both sides, there ought to be none. For a considerable period these devices for reciprocal injury were kept in abeyance by the well-known commercial treaty which permitted the carriage of goods to the sea from the North-Western States of the Federal Republic, and permitted the fishermen of the New England States to pursue their calling in-shore or on the coast of Newfoundland; while, in return, timber and manufactured goods were admitted on payment of moderate duties from the British Provinces. In an evil hour for the industry of both, the Reciprocity Treaty was brought to an end; and the consequence has been, that while the cost of timber for ship-building in the dockyards of the Republic has steadily risen, at the very time when the cost of other raw materials rendered it peculiarly desirable that the price of timber should be low, and while the cost of transit for agricultural produce from the far West has been materially enhanced and the breadth of land devoted to the growth of corn vastly increased; the profits of capital and labour in the United Colonies have proportionately been depressed at the very time when a new impulse towards emigration in England would have rendered it most advantageous for Canada to have been able to absorb and employ additional population. Thus international jealousy incurs, as it is sure to do, as much injury as it inflicts. The fact is hardly denied, but, as in a quarrel between employers and employed, there is a vague and vain desire to test reciprocally a neighbour's power of endurance, and to see which will first give way.

Other considerations, no doubt, intermingle with those more immediately connected with the wager of purse. A belief is prevalent in the United States that, by the law of political gravitation, Canada will, sooner or later, be drawn into union with them. It is often said, and often sincerely believed, that this tendency is accelerated by the commercial exclusion of colonial produce and manufacture; and the argument seems to be, that if the Reciprocity Treaty were renewed, that tendency would be checked, because the Canadians would then have the benefits of commercial intercourse without the responsibilities and obligations incident to a War Debt. On the other hand, the growing party of Free Traders urge that a Customs' Union is the best and safest preparative for political fusion. They point to the history of the last thirty years in Germany, as an obvious illustration of how corners are rubbed off by frequency of contact, and how the analogies of assimilation imperceptibly, but inevitably, tell upon the minds of men. Corresponding sentiments, no doubt, exist among the people of what are still called British Dependencies, but what are becoming, more and more, Independencies of the mother country. Provincial pride and ambition do not relish the prospect of absorption into a greater political body; and it is not always easy to answer the misgivings of some, which suggest the possibility that Free Trade might be conceded for the sake of establishing a Continental Zollverein in order to hasten annexation; and that annexation once effected, the annexed States would have no power to prevent the establishment of a high rate of taxation.

The truth seems to be, that the excessive tariff now kept up in the States for the benefit of certain localities and interests, effectually bars the way to progress and expansion of every kind. Until the national sentiment undergoes a thorough change, like that which has taken place within our own memory in England, Germany, and France, in favour of low tariffs and unrestricted competition, diplomacy will be able to effect little by its most ingenious efforts to re-enact reciprocity engagements. With all his power and all his civil courage, Napoleon III. would not have ventured to direct M. Rouher to sign the commercial treaty tendered by Mr Cobden if he had not been persuaded that popular opinion throughout the empire would sanction lowered duties and cheapened goods. He would not have risked for financial objects the damage and humiliation of being compelled to retrace his steps in such a matter, had he supposed that possible. The sagacity of his anticipations has been verified by the result. All the wit and eloquence of the men of the preceding régime were opposed to the change, and they have continued pitiless in condemning it. But the Imperial resolution remains utterly unshaken; and it is perhaps the only portion of Imperial policy regarding which nobody expects or dreams of any change. Until public opinion in America ripens with respect to Free Trade, negotiations with Canada for a Reciprocity Treaty will avail little.

THE GLORIOUS TWELFTH.

That section of the population of Ireland which delights to exhibit its faith in God by cracking a few skulls on the 12th of each July is, we are informed, making ample

preparations for the proper keeping of the great religious holiday. Circumstances are this year certainly provocative of a demonstration. Roman Catholicism stands a chance of being endowed. The Irish Church, as an establishment, is doomed. With these things to look forward to, it is clear that Orangeism will be more than usually rampant on Monday next; and we may expect to hear of many of those ignominious scuffles which are supposed in some indirect manner to further the Protestant cause. But we are inclined to believe that Orangeism will view with particular disfavour the present aspect of things, when it is rendered obvious that, in Ireland at least, the connection between Church and State is about to be dissolved. The union of Church and State—of politics and religion—is the *raison d'être* of Orangeism. Philosopher Square would have seen a new example of the fitness of things in this arrangement, so far as the Orangemen are concerned; for it is their great point, that where religion fails to give them something to fight about, politics may step in and supply the needed excuse. The political Protestantism which directs, that you shall testify to the faith that is in you by rending your neighbour's coat and giving him a black eye has an admirable theory of warfare. Religion, *per se*, would be unable to afford authority for a fight. Christianity tells Peter to put up his sword, and bids even Orangemen love their enemies. Unfortunately Orangemen cannot take out a dispensation to relieve them from the duty of loving their enemies on the 12th of July (we are inclined to believe that they would obey the precept if this one day in the year were exempted), and so they are obliged to fall back upon politics as their warrant. They will celebrate the glorious victory of the Boyne as a step in the progress of the world towards freedom; and if it should happen that, in their celebration of this event, a few Roman Catholic heads should be broken, then the Protestant religion incidentally prospers, and, in an underhand way, good is done to the Church. Since the beginning of history religion and politics have been inextricably mixed; many a religious movement has had its origin in politics, many a political movement has had its origin in religion; but never, we are convinced, in the history of the world, has the joint cause of religion and politics been advocated and fought for as it has been by the Orangemen of the north of Ireland. To drive a sword through a heretic soldier because he would not confess had something heroic and picturesque about it; but to shoot a man or run him through with a bayonet, in order to convince him of the error of transubstantiation, is an argument as sanguinary as it is inconclusive.

We are informed that a certain Captain Madden—one having authority among Orangemen—has issued an address embodying his suggestions as to how next Monday must be held. The brethren are besought to "give no handle and no excuse" to the Government "to enable them to carry out their base designs" of "legislating against our glorious society." This is picturesque, but unintelligible. Captain Madden should have told us what sort of handle would have enabled the Government to legislate against the glorious society; and further, whether the Government had undertaken the legislation by reason of some handle formerly offered. Apart from these Orange blossoms of rhetoric, Captain Madden shows himself to be practical, and to have a considerable sense of humour. He begs his Orange brethren, if they gather together in open-air meetings, not to "invite attack by the smallness of their numbers." This is admirable. These poor sheep, going out amongst wolves, must congregate in large numbers, for safety's sake, as it were; and then, if the wolves are foolish enough to attack this compact mass, they may discover that luck lies with the largest battalion. The Captain's friends are sent out like the Apostles, with neither scrip nor staff—unless the talismanic shillelagh be considered a staff—and they are to keep close together, for defence, not defiance. They are to show, however, in a legal way, their detestation of the Irish Church Bill. Here Captain Madden offers a few suggestions as to what they may, and what they may not, safely do. In order to show their detestation they may march along the roads playing music; but the music must not be party tunes, nor must they unfurl banners or wear sashes. These restrictions, however, may be avoided,—indeed, if the Irish Church Bill is to be destroyed, it must be by something more definite than music, which has not the least flavour of politics in it. What they want is the music which Joshua's trumpeters played before Jericho, so that

The tottering prelates, with their trumpery all
Shall tumble down, like ivy from the wall.

Now it happens that "in any field the property of a private individual" you may exhibit such colours, and wear such sashes, and play such tunes as you please. There is something painful in the notion that, in this land of free-

dom, people who are desirous of displaying their piety by means of banners and flags must be hunted off the Queen's highway and condemned to seek ignominious seclusion in a potato field. One can picture the procession of religious enthusiasts, fired with the holy zeal of the martyrs of old, and longing to distinguish themselves in fighting for the cause, compelled to go into a field to recruit their hearts with "Boyne Water." The enemies of the faith may stand in the road and jeer, while a protest of brass bands is going up to Heaven against the edict which enforces silence upon them so soon as they leave the shelter of the field. Surely the times are out of joint when a man is made to go and stand among turnips in order that he may make public profession of his belief by unrolling an Orange flag. Even the wearing of a sash is forbidden. Well may the pious Orangeman wish that he were even as that poor Forester, who wears such garments and colours as he likes, without interference from any one—who plays the music dearest to his heart, and is free to use the highway as his fraternal fancy directs. If the Orangemen are carried away by religious fervour into making any demonstration on the public road, they are liable to be seized by the police; and it is in this view of the case that Captain Madden hopes they will keep within the letter of the law. They are not to play party tunes, except in a field. They are not to use party expressions. They are "studiously to avoid giving offence to the Roman Catholics." All this may remind one of the story of "Don't nail his ears to the pump!" but it at least testifies to the fact that the Orangemen are impressed with a consciousness of what they risk in abandoning themselves to enjoyment on the glorious and turbulent 12th.

We do not mean to say that the mobs on the other side, who provoke and engage in fight, are a whit better than their opponents. The chances are that on both sides there would be a considerable bewilderment if each combatant were asked to explain what he was fighting about. The man who considers it his duty to display the soundness of his doctrine by hitting another man with a stick is not likely to be well informed about the tenets of his own belief. Nor is he likely to be able to say in what way these skirmishes benefit his form of faith, in the event of the person who gets the worst of the encounter remaining in his condition of outer darkness. There are men who will not be converted with a stick. What is the result of a "free fight" upon them? Some such struggle, of portentous dimensions, is already lowering in the horizon, according to Captain Madden. "We have little to rejoice about at present," observes the Captain, dolefully, "except the memory of the past, with hopes for the future that God may help us, the Orangemen and Protestants of Ireland, to quit ourselves like men when the day of trial comes, as come it will before long is my firm belief." The date is vague; but we must not pick holes in a prophecy. It may at least be said that the further the day of trial is postponed, the more annual rehearsals will take place. That of Monday next is likely to be an important one; and we can only hope that prudence will keep the Orangemen among the turnips or potatoes until their religious exaltation has cooled down so far as to allow them to furl their banners.

"RAILWAY COMPENSATIONS."

In referring to our article of last week upon this subject, the *Pall Mall Gazette* cites a number of instances in which actions for damages on account of personal injury have been preferred against companies other than railway companies and against private individuals. It is scarcely necessary to point out that we did not deny the legal liability of such companies, and of private persons, to be compelled to make compensation. What we insisted upon was, that whereas the injured person would in all probability never think of suing an omnibus company for damages if he happened to be run over (although he might prosecute the driver for carelessness), he would almost inevitably sue a railway company and endeavour to get as much money out of it as he could.

Accidents from omnibuses, as every man who walks in the streets or reads the newspapers knows, are of daily occurrence: where is the corresponding list of actions against the General Omnibus Company? The latter are so rare that we might challenge the most attentive newspaper reader to cite a single case, from memory, during the past year; while he cannot fail to remember innumerable paragraphs describing the accidents which ought to have been followed by such suits. Here is a typical case. A gentleman has his brougham driven into by a butcher's cart at the corner of Newington Green, and has his arm so badly hurt that he cannot leave his house for three weeks. He sues the butcher for damages done to the brougham (not for the injury done to himself), and gets 20*l.* towards the repairing of his carriage. Some few weeks after his recovery, he is travelling on the Great Western Railway, and gets shaken by a collision. He institutes a suit, produces

the ordinary doctor's certificate, and the jury award him 300*l.* for an injury trifling compared with that which he suffered at the hands of the butcher's shopman.

"We pointed out that juries "give verdicts of damages against railway companies which they would not return against any other public body." We held, and hold, that no jury would award a widow 30,000*l.* damages against a gunmaker, supposing her husband had been killed by the bursting of a badly-made gun; but, put a railway company up as the defendant, and she may make more by her husband's dead body than he could have earned in a lifetime.

It is not that other companies have any legal impunity in the matter—that they have any right to escape the consequences of the carelessness of their servants. It is that practically they do escape. Here and there we find a litigious person who will, contrary to common custom, claim from a company which is not a railway company, or from a private person, compensation for physical injuries; but these exceptions prove the rule. Whereas, a man who has never meddled with law in his life feels it his duty and his happiness to endeavour to get preposterous damages from a railway company for some injury which may very likely be in part the result of his own carelessness; and the chances are that he will find a jury as unreasonable as himself.

Correspondence.

PROFESSIONAL ADVERTISING.

Sir,—There is probably no kind of social influence more pernicious than the spirit of clique. It exists more or less in all classes of society, but is more intense and intolerant where one might expect least to find it—in professional circles. No swell of "the upper ten," no young lady just brought out, no leader of "a set" in the West-end is more jealous of all outside, however respectable, or more contemptuous to outsiders, if at all below their social standard in rank, birth, and wealth, than the prim professional, who, having glided gently and gradually into respectability, contemns and abhors everything not conventional, and every gentleman of his own profession who, on matters affecting professional status, has the eccentricity and oddity of possessing a mind of his own.

We hear a great deal of Trades' Unions, and their intolerable tyranny. There are no Trades' Unions like the professions. It is true they do not, in the latter circles of exclusiveness and oppression, blow a man's house up with a petard, as in Sheffield; shoot him, as in the brickfields of Manchester; or beat his brains out, as the Dublin sawyers and others used to do in the broad daylight, in the most frequented thoroughfares of that city; they only ruin the object of their disapprobation by excluding him from the practice of his profession, or by running him down as wolves would a wild deer. Now this often occurs, not because a man is incompetent or negligent in the discharge of his duties, but for some trivial breach of etiquette recognised in the school or profession, or some *particular clique* of a profession.

The Odium Theologicum is often referred to as the most inveterate of all hostilities; but this is frequently not so much a dread, or hatred, or both combined, of some supposed damning heresy, as it is an ecclesiastical contemptuousness, or a proud affectation of the superiority, in a respectable point of view, of the clique, which is liberal only in the *anematha sit*. Somehow, if any one wishes to contemplate this sort of thing to the greatest advantage for his own study, and the greatest disadvantage to the subject of it, he is sure to find such opportunity most easily afforded in the medical profession.

Did you ever live in a very small provincial town? I have known various instances in which one sect of the community was ranged against another under a sort of medical leadership; it was one class, or rather local clique, against another. Resentments almost too bitter and terrible to describe characterise those local feuds. I am not describing some obsolete peculiarity of remoter times; I could mention a score of places in which the like occurs now.

There is one class of the community from which we should expect a breadth of liberality greater than the peculiar constitutions of clerical and medical associations enable us to hope from them,—men of science; yet there is scarcely within memory a man of independent thought who has not been pooh-poohed by the *savants*. In no department whatever has less logical power and less concessive feeling been found than in scientific circles, when their clique prejudices are in the least degree infringed. That marvellous specimen of narrowness and bigotry, Robert Stephenson, in order to stand well with Lord Palmerston, and say the thing which was acceptable to English society, declared the Suez Canal to be an utterly impracticable scheme. It is now not only practicable, but accomplished, and many men knew that to be the case then, but dared not openly say so for fear of being run down as out of the *scientific* fashion of the period. Old Geordie Stephenson, father of Robert, one of the warriest and shrewdest of men, would never commit himself after his great success as the Father of the Railway system to any opinion, even in science, that was not the *ton*. Sir Humphrey Davy declared that it was an absurdity to state that London might be lit with gas! It was *the thing* so to talk at that time, and the great philosopher would not do justice to his own powers, but preferred subjection to the *otaria* with whom he acted, and from whom scientifically it would have been so easy to cast himself loose, although morally the intense

spirit of cliqueism which dominated him rendered him incompetent to do so.

Well, we have an instance of clique tyranny in connection with the medical profession just now. The *Lancet* assumes to dictate "the modes and manners" to the medical profession, and resorts to a tyranny as unendurable as that which any imaginable organ of a Trades' Union could display. This dictator, writing in the interest of the less scientific, the non-literary, and the old tail-coat school of the profession, declares that no physician should allow his works to be on his drawing-room table, as he thereby takes an unfair advantage of those gentlemen who do not write books, and, in all probability, could not write them.

But the sore place with the *Lancet* is, that medical authors should presume to advertise in any other but *Medical Journals* (sic). It displays great zeal for the dignity of the profession, but at least as much for the proper vehicle of advertising. The *Professional Journal* alone should be selected for advertising by the medical man,—of course for the dignity of the profession and the interest of the public! (Qy.)

The worst feature of the whole case is, that this coarse discipline is aggravated by personal attacks upon medical men who choose to advertise their works, or who allow their publishers to do so, in the *Times*, *Telegraph*, *Examiner*, *Saturday Review*, and other well-known papers of the day. I trust that the independent Press will aid medical men of ability in asserting their independence from this audacious Trades' Union denunciation.—I am, &c., M.D.

THE POOR OF EUROPE.

Sir,—In your review of the letter of the Central London School Chaplain, and Colonel Grant's paper on the Boarding-out System of Pauper Children, as well as in your leading article on "In-door and Out-door Relief of the Sick" you insist on the value of that which the whole force of our Poor-Law system is used to destroy, viz., of home. In an admirable recital of experiences among some London working poor, contributed to *Macmillan's Magazine* this month by Miss Octavia Hill, the power of a little help (seldom money help) when it is directed to the support and improvement of the very humblest and, at first sight, most hopelessly ill-regulated home—is forcibly manifested. But the experiment is a very old one. It has been tried for very many years in France, and has been flourishing on a great scale. The *Assistance Publique* authorities of Paris, and of other great French cities, regularly send out the pauper children to the agricultural districts, to become part and parcel of new homes. The plan is merciful to the children, advantageous to the agricultural families, and economical to the State. All this I set forth some five years ago when I visited every haunt and institution of the poor of Paris, and published my experiences and observations in some scores of columns of the *Morning Post*.

A sound, cheap, long-tried system has been formed, ready to our hands. I was told that it would never do in England when I first dwelt upon it; but the Poor-Law reformers of the present time appear to be fast strengthening themselves in a different opinion. We want a new cot in a cottage corner; humble refuges under thatches for our poor children—not architectural wings and wards. The little orphans or castaways yearn for foster parents, not matrons and governors. Fewer persons filling purses, with presentation to royalty as the reward; and more workers, away from committees, architects, stewards' wands, each in his unnoticed corner—is the want of the time.

Observe, moreover, as a stimulant to the agitating power of the ratepayer, that the home-trained pauper children of France do not cost one-half of the sum the English pauper child brought up in a great school, without the fortifying influences of domestic affection, entails on its parish.

My experiences of this year, on my way among the poor of Europe, have only confirmed the opinions I published in 'The Children of Lutetia.' I am, &c.,

Reform Club.

BLANCHARD JERROLD.

THE GOVERNMENT OF MALTA.

Sir,—Permit me, in the name of my fellow-countrymen, to thank you for the letter and leader which appeared in your last issue concerning the condition of affairs in Malta. Your article fully proves that the inhabitants of that island are outrageously deprived of their rights, and that Parliament and the Government are bound in policy, in wisdom, and in principle, to redress the grievances of her Majesty's Maltese subjects.

Earl Grey's charter is a standing insult to the understanding of a brave and spirited people; and one can easily conceive and appreciate the indignation which the people of Malta feel at being so contemptuously treated. The Council of Government, it appears, is constituted in such a way that the Governor has the power of passing any arbitrary and obnoxious enactment, under the semblance of the same being passed with the advice and approval of the people's representatives. A Legislative Council so constituted is a mere sham, as you justly call it; and it would be infinitely preferable that the Governor should act solely upon his own views and responsibility, rather than be under the necessity of resorting to so glaring a mockery of representation.

But it is to be hoped that the House of Commons and the Government will on this occasion repair the wrongs of several years, so that the loyal people of Malta need not despair of having at last full justice done to their irresistible claims. England's character and reputation must be dear to Englishmen alike in great matters and small. Ministers as well as members will undoubtedly admit that it is unwise and impolitic to foist upon the loyal community of Malta a form of government incompatible with their traditions, their feelings, and their wants. Ministers as well as members will, there is reason to believe, earnestly strive to introduce a temperate and rational change into the Maltese Constitution, such as may conduce to the credit of England and to the prosperity of Malta, without in the least affecting Imperial interests, or interfering with the inviolability of the military tenure of that island fortress by this country.

I am, &c.,

A NATIVE OF MALTA.

THE LITERARY EXAMINER.

Dottings on the Roadside, in Panama, Nicaragua, and Mosquito. By Bedford Pim, Captain, R.N., and Berthold Leemann, Ph. D., F.L.S., F.R.G.S. Illustrated with Plates and Maps. London: Chapman and Hall.

This volume is the result of joint authorship. The first half of the book is written by Dr Berthold Leemann, well-known as a naturalist; and the second half is from the pen of Captain Bedford Pim, of the Royal Navy. Both gentlemen have been long acquainted with the Central American States, of the capabilities of which they have formed a high opinion, and in the general welfare of which they have consequently taken a special interest. Having travelled widely in those countries, examined them under many phases with their own eyes, and formed deliberate judgments regarding them from inductions personally made, the declarations of the travellers are deserving of earnest consideration. The volume is, however, appropriately named 'Dottings on the Roadside.' It is characterised throughout by an easy swing and a casual almost a holiday air which remove it altogether from the category of the scientific treatise, and which, therefore, while not detracting from its real value, render it light and pleasant to read. The expedition of Dr Leemann was undertaken at the instance of the Central American Association. He was accompanied by Mr John Holman, a Cornish Mining Captain of great experience, and their chief object was "to explore the little-known districts of New Segovia and Matagalpa, for the purpose of ascertaining the value of their mines;" and for the purpose, we may add, of making a purchase, should a good chance offer. All the details recorded by the writer arise in the course of this expedition. The 'Dottings' are often exceedingly light, but almost invariably interesting, which is partly owing to Dr Leemann's scientific tastes, leading him to make a good selection of topics; but is mainly due to his general ability, which throws a sort of charm over most things that come under his observation. Captain Pim's share of the book is slighter, and not quite so cleverly executed, although it is but fair to say that it contains several very attractive chapters.

It would be useless to follow either of the writers through their voyagings and wanderings in Panama, Nicaragua, and Mosquito, by sea, river, or on land. The consideration of a few points must suffice. The nature of the countries described gives a touch of romance to the commonest incident; and one proof that the authors have not failed in the literary part of their work is the fact that a strong desire comes over the reader to start at once on a visit to Central America. After all abatements are made, the country must be described as one of great beauty and immense productiveness, in a mineral as well as in a vegetable point of view. It is rich in silver and gold, and there is hardly a thing necessary for the maintenance of human life that will not grow luxuriantly in its soil. In a sense, indeed, the capabilities of none of the Central States have been exhaustively tested. We believe that even for the precious metals the country has hitherto only been scratched. It seems not in the least improbable that gold and silver will yet be discovered in greater quantities than ever, nor that even the more useful metals will be found in large quantities. But supposing that the last ounce of gold and silver were taken to-morrow from the bowels of the land, its real and permanent riches would only then become properly known. For the gold mirage having melted, men's eyes would have the power to perceive wherein lay the ultimate source of the country's wealth. The Central American States, in addition to the extraordinary fertility of their soil, possess the singular advantage of acting as a thin partition, and therefore of becoming the ready medium of transit, between the Atlantic and the Pacific. To be the stage across which two worlds would willingly pass and repass on business and pleasure, to save time and money, and avoid inconvenience, must be a treasure to any country. Already, the railway across the Isthmus of Panama, the result of American enterprise, is the best paying line in the world. Manifestly, however, one such line of transit is totally inadequate for purposes of commerce; more are needed; and in his part of this volume, Captain Pim details his efforts for the establishment of a route from Pim's Bay, in Mosquito, to Lake Nicaragua by railway, through the Lake by steamer, and then by railway to the Pacific. Then the idea of a great ship canal across the Isthmus is a scheme which must sooner or later receive practical embodiment. The construction of these interoceanic routes would be the making of Central America, for their existence would call into being a system of internal road and railway making the effect of which would be to thoroughly develop the resources of the various States. It is needless to say, however, that such works will never be carried out by the present population, who possess neither the physical nor the mental energy, not to speak of the pecuniary means, necessary for speculations so large and important. The Spanish-Americans are a decaying race, and they know it; yet while they appear eager for the immigration of Europeans into their country, knowing that they would eventually redeem it from the slough in which it has long been sunk, they are, in reality, jealous of the white comers, of whose ultimate domination they have a prophetic dread. On this subject Dr Leemann thus shrewdly speaks:

The repugnance of Spanish Americans to foreign immigration seems to me perfectly natural. They have seen enough to under-

stand that it would be the making of their countries if a numerous striving population were to arrive, but they also feel instinctively that it would be their own "unmaking." They have neither the bodily nor mental power to hold their own against such rivals; and they therefore prefer vegetating in their own indolent way than to be hustled about by a superior race in a struggle for existence in which they know they will be worsted. The difference of colour is also very much in the way of a more favourable feeling towards foreigners springing up. Though by law colour as a distinction of caste has been abolished, and the natives try to deport themselves as if they were ignorant that any real difference ever existed, yet the foreign whites show them by their whole bearing that they know the full value of belonging to a race considered to be at the top of the classification of the different species of *Homo*, and the uneducated whites often give vent to regrettable utterances, not calculated to improve the friendly relations that should exist between people inhabiting one country. There is also the fact staring the natives in the face that their own race—an amalgamation, as it is, between white, Indian, and negro—is steadily decreasing, and that a day must come when the greater part of Spanish America will be cleared of its present occupants. I remember saying to a Nicaraguan gentleman who was admiring those noble monuments of architecture, the great bridges of London, "Some day your republic will have bridges like these." "It will," he replied, mournfully, "but they will be built after all my countrymen have passed away, and yours taken possession." Much against my own conviction, I endeavoured to make him take a more cheerful view of the future of Nicaragua; but I found that he was as fully persuaded in his mind as I was in mine, that his presentiment would be borne out by subsequent events. We agreed, as all those must who regard the subject dispassionately, that tropical America is the field of colonisation of the future. After the northern parts of the New World, Australia, and New Zealand shall have become fully peopled, our millions will pour into this long-neglected region, and found thriving colonies and happy homes along the magnificent mountain-ranges and on the splendid table-lands, while busy steamers will ascend the mighty rivers, railroads break in upon the stillness of the virgin forests, and silent telegraphs flash along intelligence, telling of the great deeds of mankind, and giving the latest account of the pulsation of the world. But that time is as yet distant, and Spanish Americans need not be afraid that the great immigration which they so much fear will speedily set in; but when it does, they and all their artful contrivances to keep foreigners out will be no more effectual than the attempt of man to stay the tide of the ocean.

Perhaps we might illustrate this passage by a few lines from some interesting remarks which Dr Leemann makes on the nature of "weeds," in which he points at the newly-discovered law of supercession which "seems to apply to the whole of organised nature:"

But if weeds have to surmount the obstacles which new-comers in all countries have to face, they also benefit by the advantages derived from their organisation coming for the first time in contact with a soil to them altogether virgin. This contact acts so powerfully that, provided the climate and other conditions required for the existence of a species are fulfilled, the new-comers will invariably become the victors in the great struggle for existence which immediately commences between them and the natives. This law seems to apply to the whole of organised nature, and man's own history furnishes some of the most striking proofs of its catholicity. The whites and blacks have usurped the place of the American Indians, and the light-skinned Polynesian, though a dying-out race in the Hawaiian Islands and New Zealand since the arrival of new-comers of Teutonic origin, has nevertheless managed to establish his ascendancy over the indigenous dark-skinned Papuan in many parts of Viti. New-comers, always provided they gain a firm footing, have ever the advantage over those species or races established in the country before their arrival. This is well known to farmers and gardeners, and induces them to procure from distant parts stock and seeds of kinds identical with those already in their possession, because they know that the newly-imported succeed better than their own. The law is further illustrated by a system of rotation crops, in which one kind of plants is most advantageously replaced by another; and here, at last, we get at a chemical explanation of the advantages enjoyed by new-comers, and why, in a struggle for existence between them and the natives of the soil, they must ever come off victorious.

After considerable travelling and investigation of mines in various localities, Dr Leemann and Mr Holman found what they wanted in Chontales, near Libertad, which the Doctor describes as the finest and most fertile district of Nicaragua. It abounds in rich grass lands, "which even at the end of the dry season retain their verdure, and afford pasture to thousands of heads of cattle. On nearing Libertad the ground becomes more elevated, and the climate considerably cooler, and you get occasional glimpses of the Lake of Granada, with its islands and majestic volcanoes. Libertad is rapidly rising to the dignity of a town, and is now full of people from all parts." It was in this splendid mining district that the travellers found for sale the Javali mine, which satisfying their ideas of richness, they ultimately purchased. There is a story connected with the discovery of this mine which, although slightly fabulous, is, perhaps, worth quoting:

The stillness of the virgin forests, which to this day cover a great part of Chontales, would probably not have been broken for generations if it had not been for the discovery of a very productive gold-mine, which, until recently, was the property of a Spanish American, and has now passed into the hands of English capitalists. For many years the first owner had drawn none but blanks in the great lottery of mining enterprise. Lucas Quiroz—for that was his name—had been one of the first settlers at Libertad, a place which derived its name from a grog-shop where everybody had liberty to do pretty much as he liked. One day, when hopelessly embarrassed, a man with the image of St Peter passed the house, asking whether anybody wished to offer up prayers to the saint. The poorer classes of Nicaragua do not always give money to these wandering image-bearers, but frequently whatever good things they may have in their possession, such as cacao beans, chocolate, lumps of sugar, wax candles, etc.; and the wife of the impoverished miner could lay her hands on nothing better than a piece of scented soap. But she promised to present a chalice to the village church if St Peter would let her husband, who had been so singularly unfortunate in gold-mining, find a good silver-mine. The husband having fully ratified the vow, both awaited with confidence the asked-for intercession. They were not doomed to be disappointed. A short time afterwards an Indian called, and the miner's miserable plight became at once the topic of conversation. "If it is rich stones you are harping after," said the Indian, "I can take you to a place where you shall find enough to last you a lifetime." The offer was gladly accepted, on condition that if the place turned out as rich as represented the Indian should receive

three cows for showing it. Chopping-knife in hand, and a few provisions on their back, the two entered the thick virgin forest which stretches from Libertad to the shores of the Atlantic Ocean. After travelling several leagues, they arrived at a place where the Indians were in the habit of shooting javalis, a kind of wild boar. "Will this satisfy you?" asked the guide triumphantly. The miner was dumfounded. After years of fruitless toil and search, he saw at last before him a property combining all the features of a good mine. On the slopes of a hill rising five hundred feet above a river-bed, and ensuring a natural drainage, he found a wide lode of quartz rock, rich in silver and gold, and traceable for several miles; magnificent waterfalls available for setting in motion the most powerful machinery; and in every direction timber of excellent quality for mining purposes. This was the now famous Javali mine, the ore of which up to that time was taken out in small quantities only, and ground to powder in mortars cut out of the solid rock of the river-bed, whenever the Indians required gold for trading purposes. Hastening to register his claims officially, the enraptured miner tried to raise the funds necessary for turning this valuable discovery to account; but his credit was so low that not one of his countrymen would lend him a few dollars to buy picks and shovels. He would have been obliged to abandon all thought of working the mine if a generous foreigner had not come forward with the necessary funds, and also stood between him and his relentless creditors, when the richness of the Javali came to be known. In a short time the miner was able to pay off all his and his father's debts, and purchase houses and estates. The chalice promised to St Peter's shrine was not forgotten. It was made of thirty-six ounces of gold, and by the hands of a German goldsmith, under whose hospitable roof the miner was living when his wife registered the vow.

On the discovery of the Javali, or, as Dr Leemann says, its betrayal by the Indian, the surrounding district was explored, when three hundred other mines, of more or less importance, were found. Dr Leemann thinks that a proper geological survey of this rich district—rich in silver and gold—"would more than a thousandfold repay the expenses of such an undertaking." The supply of the ore may be said to be inexhaustible, and its quality, "in respect to the ease with which it may be ground, is very good; in some parts of the vein it is more or less hard, but the majority of it is quite soft and friable; the hardest of it could without difficulty be reduced by proper stamps and modern machinery, even without calcination." What is important, too, in this district, is the unusual fact that the lay or percentage of gold in the ore seems to increase with the descent from the surface. The general average of gold in the ore is one ounce per ton, a proportion rendered peculiarly remunerative by the cheapness of labour in Nicaragua:

But when large quantities of auriferous quartz can be obtained in a country where the price of labour is not high, as in Nicaragua, it is not necessary that it should contain a large amount of the precious metal in order to render its treatment, by the aid of well-constructed machinery, remunerative. At Schemnitz, in Hungary, the managers extract with advantage one-eighth of an ounce per ton; and the St John del Rey, in the Brazils, yields a noble profit on five-eighths of an ounce per ton. Again, the average yield of gold from the quartz reefs in the colony of Victoria, for the year 1866, was 10 dwts. 16½ grs., a little more than half an ounce to the ton of quartz, at a cost of raising, crushing, and management of about 13s. per ton; the actual profit would, therefore, be about 17s. on every ton of quartz crushed. The very tailings of the Javali, which have now accumulated for many years, are equal in richness to the quartz reefs of Australia, the yield being 11 oz. of silver and ½ oz. of gold to the ton.

Among his numerous "Dottings," Dr Leemann has one on South American Pile-builders, in which he remarks that even to this day the Indians south of the Gulf of San Miguel build their houses upon piles, either into the sea or rivers. Many of the American aborigines, on their discovery by the Spaniards, seem to have been pile-builders. Venezuela signifies "Little Venice," the name being given to it on account of the fact that many villages on the coast were built on piles; and there still exists "a complete village in the Lake of Maracaibo, church in the centre, which is entirely built on piles, the little children being screened by ropes from falling into the water, just as Herodotus describes the custom as prevailing in his days in the old world." Dr Leemann mentions also that this system of architecture is practised in many parts of Polynesia. He found in the Viti Islands, that "nearly every village had one or more large pile-buildings either in sea, lake, or river, which were exclusively occupied by the boys and youths, grown-up people of either sex never inhabiting them." The writer vents some interesting speculations on the natural history of the cocoa-nut; and the whole of his eleventh chapter is devoted to the history of the Buccaneers, who were the terror of the West Indies during the great part of the seventeenth century, and one of whose exploits was the destruction of the original city of Panama.

Both Dr Leemann and Captain Pim have a low, in fact quite a contemptuous opinion of the negro, and they omit no opportunity of setting down that opinion in the most offensive form. The Captain thinks that the negro "must fail to progress, wherever he is cursed with absolute freedom." The Doctor's opinion is, "that the negroes will never be able to take a leading position, educate them as much as you may, and that, therefore, all attempts to place them on a footing of equality with the white man must prove futile." He does not think that the two races will ever live harmoniously together on a footing of equality. The next dozen years in the history of the United States will supply some useful experience on this subject. In opening Captain Pim's part of this volume, you discover that he is stationed at Jamaica with his ship *Gorgon*, but is about to sail for Greytown, on the Mosquito Coast. Bidding farewell to his friends, he wishes them all prosperity, "but," he adds, "take my advice, don't stop in Jamaica. The cloud hanging over you is becoming blacker and blacker, and you had better take shelter before the storm bursts. You have nothing to look for from home, as you

fondly call the old country. Mr Stiggins is in the ascendant, and we have a lot of journeymen tailors persisting in putting a new patch in an old Government." The sailor-like candour of such language must, we suppose, somewhat excuse its unstatesmanlike tone. Are we mistaken in the interpretation we put upon it when we say, that while the "journeymen tailors" would peacefully endeavour to patch up the old, torn, and bloody garment of justice with new energy and a few threads of mercy, the sea captains and the land captains would still whip the nigger into the rational and humane docility of beasts? We have no special affection for the negro; but we have a notion, which is perhaps stupid, that he could be compelled to do his duty to himself and the State without being tortured or murdered. It has at least been rumoured that Jamaica is doing well under the justice, skill, and energy of the present Governor. Is that true, Captain?

We cannot go into the latter part of the volume to any extent. As, however, it contains many curious things, it is well worth reading. We shall give one or two bits relative to Captain Pim's transit project. In a conversation the King of Mosquito remarked to the Captain:

"Since my unlucky country first became known to Europe, without intermission, up to the present time, it has concentrated more interest than any other part of the Continent. This is in consequence of its affording an easier route at certain points between the Atlantic and the Pacific than can be found elsewhere. Of course, as you know, there are other localities, such as Honduras, and Tejnantepec further towards the north, where a crossing might be effected; but nowhere so easily as through Mosquito and Nicaragua, or so quickly as *via* Panamá. As regards the latter, the object of transit is accomplished, and before my people become quite extinct some of them will no doubt see the locomotive disputing the right of way with the tigers, alligators, and boas of their native land."

"Well, king," said I, "you are quite right; the world at large would, undoubtedly, profit by an easy route through your country, and that of Nicaragua, so what do you say to giving me a concession for your portion of the line? and I will see what can be done in opening an interoceanic transit."

"You will break your heart over it," said the king; "you little know the disappointments in store. But if you really wish it, draw up the document you think necessary, and I will gladly sign it, not only to show my friendship for you personally, but also to prove my anxiety not to lose an opportunity of doing anything which may chance to advance the interests of England."

This conversation resulted in the formal concession which will be found in the Appendix, and which originated in my idea of opening a through route, by making a railway from the Atlantic to the Lake of Nicaragua, thence running steamers across to Granada, and from that place by another railroad to Realejo (now called Corinto) on the Pacific; an idea never before, so far as I am aware, entertained by any one, and which, at the time I am speaking of, only took form and shape on paper, for the nature of the intervening country between the starting-point, since called Pim's Bay, and the Lake of Nicaragua, was absolutely unknown even to the king himself.

The following points in connection with the same subject have a peculiar significance at the present moment:

The two great rivals for securing such a communication as Central America offered were the English and the Americans, and the bitter animosity which resulted from the insane rivalry which ensued has more than once brought these two countries to the verge of war. Indeed, there is hardly any subject which has given diplomatists more trouble than the much-vexed Mosquito question, under which name the "Battle of Transit" was fought.

The Americans, however, from the first adopted the bolder policy, and, therefore, to use a phrase of their own, were "bound to win." Their President, Mr James Monroe, about the time of Spanish-American independence (1820), proclaimed the famous Monroe doctrine, "America for the Americans," or, as it has subsequently been defined to mean, "America for the Yankees," by which the principle was laid down that no European enterprise should be countenanced on the American Continent.

Canning snapped his fingers at this; but his mantle has not descended upon any of his successors, and now that Lord Palmerston has gone, none of our statesmen, or rather politicians, would commit such an act of rudeness for the world. The leading idea of Canning and of Palmerston was how best to extend the commerce and influence of their country;—slightly different from present notions.

In this case England has once more proved no match for her Transatlantic offspring; the same farce was enacted at Greytown which had been previously carried out at Panamá, where John Bull was allowed to spend his money; to discuss the best routes between Chagres and Panamá, to test the distance by means of rockets, etc. etc.; and, ultimately, to read papers at the Royal Geographical Society. He was even allowed—and so was France, for that matter—to obtain concessions for carrying out the work; but so soon as Brother Jonathan thought it expedient, the poor old gentleman was rudely pushed on one side, while his more practical relative took possession of the ground, and in less than half the time spent in talking about the importance of the work actually built between the two oceans an excellent railway, which has subsequently earned for its enterprising proprietors an average dividend of over 25 per cent.

As it was at Panamá, so it has been on the Mosquito coast, save and except that in the former case superior energy, enterprise, and intelligence won the day, and, it must be admitted, most deservedly; but in the latter, diplomacy and intrigue; alternate bullying and cajolery; fraud and deceit; petty aggression and retaliation; the whole culminating in wanton outrage and undignified submission,—have characterised the efforts which have been and are still being made to open this route.

In his laudable desire and endeavours "to bring Mosquito and Nicaragua together, so as to form a united State, and then to connect their interests still more firmly by a road, laid down for the most part by immigrants, who, on proper encouragement, would have made the intervening country between the oceans their home," Captain Pim has for the present failed. But he still clings to the hope "of seeing this highly-favoured land ultimately reclaimed, and taking its proper position among nations;" and in that hope we sincerely trust that he will not be disappointed.

Travels in the Central Caucasus and Bashan. By Douglas W. Freshfield. Longmans.

The peaks, passes, and glaciers of the Central Caucasus have hitherto been so little described, that we doubt not

that a work recording the impressions of travel over such comparatively untrodden ground will be perused with interest by the stay-at-home reader, and will afford some hints and advice to intending visitors to that region. The present volume contains the adventures of a party of Englishmen and Americans, during the year 1868, in the two countries mentioned on the title-page. Some useful maps of the Caucasian provinces, reduced from the Russian Five Verst Map, and several illustrations from Russian paintings, photographs, and sketches, render the volume in a further degree useful and attractive. The author trusts that a record of his adventures in these mountain fastnesses "may prove of sufficient interest to draw the attention of our countrymen to a range surpassing the Alps by two thousand feet in the average height of the peaks, abounding in noble scenery and picturesque inhabitants, and even now within the reach of long-vacation tourists." He has not dealt with political topics at all, and apologises for the absence of ethnological details respecting the tribes of the Caucasus, but refers his readers to the many German works upon this subject which have been translated into English. He also considers that the truthful traveller may do some service by substituting new and correct information for vague and incorrect impressions; and, with respect to his present work, he feels bound to record the conviction that "the belief that there are 'Giant Cities' in Bashan is as unfounded as the still more prevalent idea that all the men in the Caucasus are brave, and all the women beautiful." Mr Freshfield always writes vigorously and correctly; and has an appreciative eye of the picturesque in scenery. He brings also to his assistance considerable experience in Alpine climbing, which enables him to compare many of the scenes among the wild ridges and valleys of the Caucasus with the familiar peaks and passes of the mountain ranges of Switzerland and Italy, and thus to make his descriptions more vivid and intelligible to the reader. From a literary point of view the work is somewhat defective, and this arises mainly from the hasty manner in which the author has put together his materials. He has left it too much in the form of a diary, and has not taken the trouble to reduce it to a continuously pleasant and readable book of travel. However, we have no doubt that it will add much to the knowledge of regions almost unknown and unexplored, notwithstanding its defective arrangement, and the omission of some details which would have made the work more valuable and interesting.

We need not linger with our travellers in the familiar regions of Egypt and Palestine, but will follow them at once to the land of Bashan, the rich district east of the Jordan, where we feel "if not all the emotions so eloquently described by the author of 'Eothen' on finding oneself in the Arab territory, at least a pleasant sensation of having escaped from the every-day track of travel, and of being on the edge of a fresh and unspoiled country." Having crossed the Jabbok, a tributary of the Jordan, "a clear trout-stream hidden in a dense thicket of oleanders," our travellers came upon an encampment of the Bedouins of the Beni-Hassan tribe, formerly of great power and renown. Thirty-five long black tents formed the centre of the picture; around them wandered tall camels and many cows, sheep, and goats, while "wiry little horses grazed or were picketed near the tents, and an odd donkey or two brayed a fussy welcome to his brothers in our train, who were not slow to return the greeting." Our author has not much to say in favour of the physiognomy of the crowd which soon surrounded him and his friends:

The villainous expression of countenance common to almost all the men reminded me of the Sepoy faces, as they were drawn in the illustrated papers, at the time of the Indian Mutiny. The Bedouin dress, the long burnous, and keffiyeh or scarf round the head, though picturesque, did not lessen the savage aspect of the assemblage. All our small belongings were objects of perpetual wonder—in particular, Williams's carved pipe and Cross's kid gloves. Never before had the Beni-Hassan seen a man with such a peculiar skin, or one so readily put on and off. The revolvers, which appeared to go off for ever, came in for their due share of admiration and awe. We had some difficulty in keeping the tents clear, but it was necessary to draw a line somewhere, and we sternly refused admission to any but the two chiefs. The sheep was cooked entire, and our muleteers, with a select circle of Beni-Hassan, kept up the feast round the camp-fire till a late hour.

The night passed peaceably. At breakfast a stork was brought in which Williams had wounded by a long shot the night before. The poor bird's wing was broken, and he hopped about, pursued by the Arab urchins, in a way that was both ludicrous and painful. Elias had been sharply reprimanded for his wanderings on the previous day, and warned that this kind of thing must not be repeated; he now came with pride to tell us that he had arranged with one of the Beni-Hassan to conduct us to Jerash. He took great credit for his choice, having, as he said, secured the greatest robber in the tribe. There was wisdom in this odd recommendation, as the man who had stolen most sheep was, by implication, he who best knew the roads and bye-paths to the neighbouring villages.

From this spot they were conducted by their guide to Jerash, and passed through a country green and well wooded, and free from the abundant crop of stones for which the soil of Palestine is infamous. Soon the ridges of Jebel Ajlun appeared in the distance, while in the foreground rose the round hill of Neby Hut, crowned by the tomb of a Moslem saint. The landscape reminded Mr Freshfield of some of the finer parts of South Wales, though the dilapidated ruins, near at hand, of a number of curious small houses, built against the rocks, destroyed the home aspect of the scene. A succession of picturesque glades followed, until, at length, another ridge was reached, and the columns of Jerash appeared close at hand beneath:

The scene was very striking: before us were the remains of a noble Roman town, its ruined walls four miles in circumference,

not only traceable, but in places almost intact; its public buildings still so perfect that, looking round, one could say, "Here is the theatre, there the circus, there the baths, there the colonnaded High Street, there the later Christian cathedral;" for it was only after three hundred years of Christian civilization that the Arabs laid waste the city. The fertile land around is still as capable as ever of cultivation; but a long period of insecurity to life and property has been the ruin of Syria, and now not a single inhabitant is to be found within the circuit of the ancient Gerasa.

We rode through the walls near their south-eastern angle, and, passing the massive ruin of a bath, crossed the oleander-fringed brook which runs through the centre of the deserted city. A very convenient site was selected for our camp, in the vaulted chamber of a second bath, where the tents were sheltered from the thick drizzle which had begun to fall. After an early lunch we set out to explore the ruins, which are fully described by Mr Tristram, and in Murray's 'Handbook to Syria.' We went first to the magnificent Temple of the Sun, the remaining columns of which, standing on elevated ground facing the east, are conspicuous in all distant views of the city. Near them, in the side of the hill, is the largest theatre. Returning to the great street, we stopped to admire the exquisite carving of a richly-decorated gateway, and then proceeded to the "Forum," an oval space surrounded with columns. On the brow above it, near the southern gate of the city, stand another temple and theatre. The latter is wonderfully little injured by time; the stage is almost perfect, and very tastefully decorated. When will some photographer carry his camera across the Jordan, and reap the rich, and as yet almost untouched, field which awaits him amidst the ruins of Amman, Jerash, and the Hauran?

Outside the town, on the top of the ascent from the Jabkok valley, stands a fine though florid triumphal arch, between which and the city is a circus. We went down to the banks of the brook in search of game, and then, retracing our steps, found a pretty waterfall, and the remains of an ancient mill. Having re-entered the town, we crossed the eastern quarter by a fine bridge of three arches, and explored its comparatively unimportant ruins.

In a village on the Haj road, near which our travellers encamped for awhile, dwelt a good-looking, merry old Sheikh, who visited them in their tent. Wonderful to relate, he refused the customary pipe, on the ground that his three wives would not allow him to smoke. Thus, even in the wild districts of Bashan, domestic tyranny is as cruelly exercised as amidst the aristocratic mansions of Mayfair; and that useful weed, which always soothes and never ruffles, is regarded with as much jealousy by the ladies of the desert as by the more refined denizens of the gilded boudoirs of Belgravia. But our friend the Sheikh had an additional cause of dissatisfaction with the unkindness of his wives, inasmuch as they had each of them cost him 35,000 piastres. "His last acquisition was the dearest of the three, and he was contemplating adding a fourth (the full number allowed to orthodox Musulmen) still dearer. All these 'dear things' together appeared to be somewhat too much for the old gentleman, and he seemed relieved to escape from home and chat with us, even though his fears of being accused of smelling of smoke prevented the enjoyment of a pipe." We need not dwell on Bozrah, which has been described by other travellers, but will proceed with Mr Freshfield to the city of Kureiyeh, the ancient Kerioth, upon which Jeremiah pronounced a special judgment.

We explored its ruins on foot, and found an old tank, beside which is a curious edifice, supported by stumpy columns. We saw no stone doors equal to those at Ghansam, and the houses were more or less dilapidated. On the whole, though we strove to repress our feelings, we were decidedly disappointed with the first of the "Giant Cities." I thus recorded, on the evening of the same day, the impression made on us by the famous stone-houses attributed by some recent writers to the Rephaim mentioned in Deuteronomy: "Among many houses, the comparatively recent date of which is evidenced by fragments of Roman sculpture built up into the interior walls, a few of earlier times probably exist. These may be of the time of Og, or they may not; there is nothing to show they were built by giants."

In the neighbourhood, the Druse women with their extraordinary horns and long white veils were especially noticeable. According to our author, beauties are rare in the Hauran, "and the ugly women are, much to the traveller's relief, uniformly bashful." The style of dress, however, allows some little coquetry, since the veils only cover one eye and cheek; the division being made vertically. At Misiyeh the Roman temple is the most striking ruin, from the roof of which there is a wonderful panorama to be seen: "on one side the green plain and hills, backed by snowy Hermon; on the other, the black Lejah, the most desolate portion of which is here visible, with the summits of Jebel Hauran rising in the distance behind Tell-Ahmar." Near is a large house in the Bashan style of architecture, but probably of Roman date; perhaps formerly the residence of the Roman governors of Trachonitis, of which province Misiyeh was the capital. Mr Freshfield considers that "no one without a preconceived theory to support, will maintain that where every public building—whether temple, theatre, triumphal arch, tomb, or church—is of Roman or later date, the private dwellings are, as a rule, 1,800 years older." He has also something to say respecting the mythical giants of Bashan:

The Pentateuch tells us that Bashan was once inhabited by giants, and it has been argued that the size of the stone houses show that they were built by a race of abnormal stature, and proves the date of their construction. In reality, however, the private dwellings are the reverse of gigantic, and the rooms they contain are to modern ideas small. If gates are sometimes found eight feet in height, they are (as far as we saw) always in positions where animals as well as men had occasion to pass under them, and those found at the present day in similar situations are of the same dimensions. The stone doors guarding the entrances to the vineyards around Tabreez are larger and more massive than any we saw in Bashan.

The extent and number of the ruined towns are used as an argument that they are the remains of the sixty fenced cities conquered and destroyed by Moses. Travellers are too apt to forget that Syria formed a portion of the Christian Empire of Constantinople, and that in the fifth century there were thirty-three bishops in the Hauran alone. The population which built the churches and the theatres was quite numerous enough to have

filled the ruined houses which now remain. If any buildings older than our era still exist in the Hauran, they are, I believe, exceptions, and do not disprove our conclusion that a false impression is given by describing the ruins of Bozrah, Kunawat, Suweid, and Shubba—in fact, those of Roman provincial towns—as "Giant Cities." It is not of Og but of the Antonines, not of the Israelitish but of the Saracenic conquest, that most modern travellers in the Hauran will be reminded.

We have given so much space to the interesting chapter on Bashan that we cannot do more than notice very briefly the remaining portion of the volume before us, devoted to the Caucasian provinces. The great chain of mountains which runs through the country in a south-easterly direction divides it into two divisions; that on the north being called Cis-Caucasia, and that on the south Trans-Caucasia. At the city of Kutais, according to Propertius the residence of the classic Medea, our travellers halted awhile to observe the manners and customs of the inhabitants. Among the most remarkable sights are the curious Mingrelian head-pieces. The baschik is a cloth hood with long flappers, worn by both sexes; while the Mingrelian cap is an oval-shaped piece of cloth, stuck on the back of the head, and fastened by strings under the chin. A curious legend is related at Kutais to account for the origin of the latter:

The story runs thus: St Peter, who is said to have visited the Black Sea shores, and first preached the Gospel there, was one day travelling through the Mingrelian forest. The saint was on foot, the heat was great, and the road long; he threw off his hat and shoes, and, lying down under the shade of a spreading beech-tree, fell fast asleep. Before long two natives, a Mingrelian and an Imeritian, rode by. They observed the sleeping saint, and the first idea which suggested itself to their profane minds, was to see what they could get out of him. He had no silver belt, not even a dagger, but the discarded hat and shoes offered an obvious booty. The Mingrelian secured the hat, the Imeritian the shoes, and the pair hurried off. Some time afterwards St Peter awoke, and discovered the robbery of which he had been the victim. Finding his property irretrievably lost, he had recourse to the natural consolation of cursing the thieves, which he did in the following form: "May the posterity of him who has taken my shoes go for ever barefoot! May no son of the man who has got my hat ever wear one on his head!" From that time no Imeritian peasant has ever had a pair of shoes on his feet, no Mingrelian a sufficient covering for his head.

After visiting Tiflis and other towns, Mr Freshfield and his companions made a pilgrimage to Mount Ararat, which is described as a "huge but gracefully-shaped mass, rising to a height of 16,916 feet, from a base of about 3,000 feet. It stands perfectly isolated from all the other ranges, with the still more perfect cone of Little Ararat at its side." The author can only compare its appearance to "the popular idea of Atlas, a huge head and shoulders supporting the sky." He is quite ready to admit "that the Ark must have grounded there, if it grounded anywhere in these parts." The vines which cover the valley of the Araxes in the neighbourhood of Ararat are, according to the traditions of the locality, the descendants of those planted by Noah after the Deluge; and Mr Freshfield considers there is some foundation for this "by the fact that the juice is still famed among the Russian officers for retaining the peculiarly intoxicating quality it possessed in the days of the Patriarch."

The chapters devoted to the glaciers and forests of the Central Caucasus are especially interesting, both from the glowing descriptions of mountain and woodland scenery, and from the somewhat novel information respecting districts seldom visited by tourist book-makers. Here is a description of "a lovely Alp":

The path still mounted, and soon even the birch, the tree always found nearest the snow in these regions, was left behind. A host of alpine flowers, amongst which the white rhododendron was again conspicuous, covered the ground, only just free from snow, which still lay in deep drifts in the hollows. The path for a long time followed a ridge, narrow at first, but gradually broadening into grassy undulations; on one side the ground broke away suddenly towards the Rion, on the other it sank more gradually into a barren recess, a branch of the Tchosura valley, above which rose a steep-sided range covered with small glaciers. The height of 8,500 feet we had already gained was sufficient to give us a good panorama of the Upper Rion basin, which served to confirm our previous estimate of its beauty. The ridge we were walking along now bent round to the northward, and separated the water flowing down into the Rion at Gebi from the upper basin of the stream, which joins the river close to its meeting with the Glola-Squali. Far below us, on our right, we looked down into a deep wooded dingle, the outlet through which this stream escapes. Here the track began to descend, but first made a long sweep round the hillside, before finally plunging into the beautifully-timbered little plain, at the mouth of the narrow glen which leads up, due north, to the Gardzieveesk Pass.

Knowing that this, the chief part of the day's walk, was still before us, we grumbled bitterly the 2,000 feet of height thus lost, and, having now been five hours on the march, determined to stop, and open our provision-wallet. The beauty of the spot, and a spring bubbling up under a clump of alders formed additional inducements to a halt. The level meadow in which we were sitting was partially covered with trees; the glades were filled with lush herbage, and bright with many flowering plants. Grass ridges, rising above the level of the forest, but not reaching that of perpetual snow, shut off this sequestered nook from the lower valley, and immediately overhead, on the east of the narrow trench, which offered a way up to the crest of the mountains, the steep snowy sides and tower-like summit of Tau Burdisula caught the eye. The glen up which our path lay was soon terminated, by a steep glacier falling over in a long icefall from the unseen snowfields above. The rich pastures of this beautiful plain, and the surrounding slopes, are not allowed altogether to run to waste; we passed herds both of horses and oxen, and saw smoke rising from the bivouacs of the peasants in charge of them. Steep walls of rock hem in the upper portion of the glen, and the glacier-torrent has covered the space between them with granitic boulders, amongst which we picked our way.

Our author considers that, as a whole, Caucasian must rank above Alpine scenery. The grouping of the Suanetian ranges is grander and on a more magnificent scale than that of the mountains of Switzerland or the Tyrol. The peculiar characteristic of the peaks of the Caucasus, is that

they "shoot up from the valleys at their base in unbroken walls of rock and ice. Enormous cornices of ice are frequent, and sometimes crown the highest peaks, presenting an insuperable obstacle to the climber." Another peculiarity is the presence of "red snow," sometimes, but very rarely seen in the Alps. Among the Caucasian ranges, however, it is continually encountered, and the effect produced is "as if the whole surface of the slope had been sprinkled with brickdust." The description of the forest scenery ought to send all our wandering artists this autumn to Kutais. A thick growth of grasses, flowers, and creepers occupies every spot of ground that is not covered by perennial plants, while the trees present every tint of green; the sombre shadows of the fir, cypress, and tamarisk, alternating with the lustrous leaves of the laurel, and the Colchian poplar's silver sheen. Clusters of grapes hang from every branch, while dense masses of azaleas and rhododendrons light up the thickets with their brilliant colours. The ascents of Elbruz and Ararat; the review of the inhabitants of the Caucasus, together with many other suggestive pages of the work, we must leave to our readers, who will find the volume a perfect storehouse of information respecting the countries visited by Mr Freshfield and his adventurous companions.

Cataract and its Treatment, Medical and Surgical. By Jabez Hogg, Senior Assistant-Surgeon to the Royal Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital, &c. London: Henry Renshaw.

This useful and intelligent treatise on the Synthesis of Cataract is the embodiment of a paper read by Mr Jabez Hogg before the Medical Society of London. Such a production must, of course, be to a great extent technical, as it is designed for the use of the profession; but there is much in it, however, which cannot fail to interest and instruct general readers. The author's opinions, of course, derive considerable weight from the fact that he is, as an ophthalmic surgeon, connected with one of the largest Eye Institutions, where he has derived large experience. The writer insists upon the outset that the first care of a skilful practitioner is a complete and accurate diagnosis, and he shows how marvellously the ophthalmoscope, brought to its present perfection, aids such a purpose. Treatment of cataract has a history of its own, a sort of scientific history, which shows that the disease may not only be treated surgically but medically, and to demonstrate this is one of the main objects of the work. Mr Hogg traces the disease to many influences, which may, he holds, be encountered opportunely and effectively. Thus, for instance, in treating upon it when created by diabetes, he says: "To detect the disease is to stay the hand and knife of the operator; as, in the last stage of the disorder, a very modified operation can scarcely be undertaken with safety or hope of partial success. So that the synthesis of sugar cataract will undoubtedly do much towards establishing a plan of meeting it far more successfully than has hitherto been done."

It is gratifying to learn that operations on the eye are less painful than almost any other. "Few persons," says our author, "can, however, duly estimate the liberties which may be taken with the eye, until they have seen several operations performed; when the false ideas they have imbibed will be completely removed." We commend this useful brochure to the perusal of every one interested in the preservation of the eye, and the arrest of lenticular disorder.

Adventures in the Apache Country: a Tour through Arizona and Sonora, with Notes on the Silver Regions of Nevada. By J. Ross Brown. Illustrated by the Author. Sampson Low, Son, and Marston.

If a novel subject, a lively style, and a clever pencil can command success, then these travels in the far West will enjoy an extensive and enduring popularity. Every tourist who is bound "Westward Ho!" must give this pleasant book a place in his knapsack, for he will find our versatile and enterprising American a most agreeable and entertaining "compagnon de voyage." The book is inexpensively got up, and is not a book to be read and returned to the library; but to be bought and thumbed over by the rising generation, for, with its hundred and fifty illustrations, it will continue to be a family favourite long after the rich and beautiful country, opened up by the Pacific Railway, has ceased to be the topographical topic of the day. The Apache is the Bedouin of the far West, and for three centuries he has effectually hindered the progress of civilisation in this region, so highly-favoured by nature that its description reads much more like romance than reality. Of late years he has been aided in his evil work by the refuse population of Texas and California, who have found in Arizona a safe asylum from law; so that its capital, Tucson, became the head-quarters of vice, dissipation, and crime; probably the nearest approach to Pandemonium on the North American Continent. The Territory of Arizona was purchased by Congress from Mexico, in September, 1853. Two years later the Boundary Survey was completed. In 1857 a semi-monthly stage-line was established, and in the following year superseded by a semi-weekly mail, under a contract with the Postmaster-General, to perform the distance of 2,500 miles, within twenty-five days; by the sole power of horse-flesh. On some occasions it was actually done within sixteen days! Congress had committed the mistake of acquiring the

territory before it could extend over it the protection of law. Jealousies respecting the railroad question, agitation on the slave question, and the clashing and clamorous claims of political adventurers, prevented the settlement of a constitution and government. The rich mineral discoveries in Washoe caused a rush from California, and a few fortunes were made. In April, 1861, the rebellion broke out, the mail was stopped, the few Federal troops that were in the country fled, roving bands of Apaches and Sonorians scoured the country, plundered the mines, and destroyed the machinery. Citizens and miners congratulated themselves if they could escape with their lives, and the Indians boasted and believed that they had stamped the whole white population. These facts will furnish a reason for the slow growth of this interesting territory, and show why a country with wonderful resources, and a climate equal to Italy, has failed to attract a population. Its misfortunes have been unparalleled in the history of American settlements, but in 1863 its Territorial Government was established.

Although it was my intention to visit Arizona some time or other, as it is to visit every part of the habitable globe, I had no more idea on Saturday morning, December 5, 1863, of starting on such an important expedition at 4 p.m. of the same day, than I had of going on a prospecting tour through the Mountains of the Moon. Yet who can say what an hour may bring forth? A man's fate, as the Arabs say, is written upon his skull, and I suppose it was mine to leave on that day for Arizona. At all events it so chanced in my peregrinations about San Francisco that I fell in with my old friend, Charles D. Poston, the Arizona Pioneer, who had just arrived from the East by the overland route through Salt Lake. He was now Superintendent of Indian Affairs for the new Territory; held various commissions as director of mining companies; was full of the romance and fascinations of Arizona. The best years of his life had been spent there. He knew every foot of the country; talked Spanish like a native; believed in the people; believed in the climate; had full faith in the silver; implicitly relied upon the gold; never doubted that Arizona was the grand diamond in the rough of all our Territories. He looked and talked and acted like a man perfectly sane; and when he confidently assured me that if "feet" chimed with my aspirations, I could have as many as I pleased by accepting a seat in his ambulance from Los Angeles to the Promised Land, cooks and teamsters and vaqueros were all projected; and for military escorts he held the documents in his hand. We would have a grand time; we would feast and hunt and hold pow-wows with the Indians, and do up the whole country even to the Moqui villages, which he informed me, on the authority of an English missionary, were inhabited by a race of Welshmen who made a voyage to the Continent of North America in ancient times. Could flesh and blood stand such a proposition as that? Here was a chance for locomotion on a grand scale; and fortune smiled in the distance. "Poston," said I, "consider me a partner. At 4 p.m. this memorable day I'm on hand. Should the Apaches get my scalp, you, my venerable friend, and you alone, are responsible to my family and to mankind."

We pass over the introductions to the remainder of the party, but we cannot omit the author's eloquent description of the pleasures of the voyage:

Of the voyage I have only to say that it was smooth and pleasant—a mere Lake Como trip, with the addition of a finer climate, a greater extent of scenery, and a much more commodious boat than any to be found on the waters of Como. The change from the chilling fogs of San Francisco to the balmy atmosphere of the South is one of the luxuries of a winter's trip. Few of those unfortunate beings who dwell upon the shores of the Atlantic have any conception of the delightful climate with which we are blessed on the Pacific coast. Bright sunshine sparkles over the sea and nestles among the declivities of the mountains; the earth rejoices in the generous flood of light poured down upon it from morning till night; the birds of the air and the beasts of the field revel in the groves and pastures that stretch back from the rock-bound shores; nothing in life or in nature seems wanting in the measure of a joyous future; all is rich and glowing and full of beauty and promise. A voyage along the shores of California is a feast of soul for all the years to come. The mountains, barren as they appear at the first sight, are strangely fantastic in form and wonderfully rich in colouring. The full swell of the ocean unobstructed for thousands of miles, falls like the majestic peal of a mighty organ upon the embattlements of solid rock that line the main. Beyond the Point of Conception the beautiful islands of Santa Barbara loom up over the bright sparkling sea, barren of foliage yet wonderfully picturesque in the glowing tints of the southern horizon. What a luxury of lights and shades; what a balmy, ecstatic atmosphere; what broad blue fields of water and infinite distances of landscape! Could it be that a grand mistake was made in Mohammedan history—that Paradise is nothing more than a faint attempt to delineate the beauties of California!

Landing at San Pedro, he finds that the old town has not much improved since his visit in 1860, and that in Banning's new town of Wilmington, six miles inland, there is still plenty of room for houses. Phineas Banning is the soul of Los Angeles county. The state of society in this county is peculiar; it is not considered safe to travel about without a double-barrelled shot-gun, a revolver, a bowie-knife, and two Derringer pistols. Bullets in the back of the head are to be expected, and it is as well to carry an open knife ready to cut the lassoes that are likely to be thrown round one's neck.

Several days are required at Los Angeles to complete the outfit, as Poston, who knows Arizona, insists that it is painfully destitute of everything necessary for the convenience of civilised man. Twelve days thence brought this party and its guard of six soldiers to Fort Yuma, the road being chiefly in the neighbourhood of that most erratic of rivers, the Colorado, whose channel never continues in the same course for two years. The season was remarkably dry, the river unusually low, the country a desert; yet requiring only irrigation to render it extremely productive. The ruins of ancient cities prove that Montezuma and the early Spaniards redeemed extensive ranges of country, and irrigated at least a hundred thousand acres of land by a system of acequias, of which the remains, with walls twenty feet high, are still to be seen. The Indians were at this moment reduced by the drought to the very verge of starvation; nearly all their cattle had died of hunger, their crops of corn, wheat, pumpkins, and melons had failed; so had also the mesquit beans, wild peas, and berries on

which they were accustomed to depend in unfavourable seasons; and they were now subsisting on rats, mice, lizards, and snakes. We have a very ludicrous account of a grand pow-wow our party held with these Yuma Indians, when they distributed among them the very acceptable gifts of dry goods from the Great Father at Washington. The portraits of the chiefs are, no doubt, to the life, and beautifully absurd.

Gila city has collapsed, and Tucson, the present metropolis of Arizona, is not a desirable stopping-place; it is a city of dingy and dilapidated mud boxes, littered about with refuse of every description and utterly barren of verdure, without a hotel or lodging-house. Nine miles only from this desolate place, it seemed strange to come upon a picturesque and beautiful edifice that would have been an architectural ornament to New York. It is the Jesuit mission of St Xavier del Bac, founded in 1668:

A village of Papago Indians, numbering some two or three hundred souls, partially surrounds the mission. There are also a few Mexicans living among the Indians; but they are regarded with distrust, and the complaint is made that they have intruded themselves against the wish of the tribe. Mr Poston, upon investigation of the matter, ordered the Mexicans to leave.

As far back as our knowledge of the Papagoes extends they have been a peaceable, industrious and friendly race. They live here, as they lived two centuries ago, by cultivating the low grounds in the vicinity, which they make wonderfully productive by a system of irrigation. Wheat, corn, pumpkins, and pomegranates are the principal articles of subsistence raised by these Indians; and they seem to enjoy an abundance of everything necessary for health and comfort. They profess the Catholic faith, and are apparently sincere converts. The Jesuit missionaries taught them those simple forms which they retain to this day, though of late years they have been utterly neglected. The women sing in the church with a degree of sweetness and harmony that quite surprised me. At the time of our visit two Padres from Santa Clara, California, who had come as far as Tucson with the command, had just taken up their quarters in the mission. From my acquaintance with them on the road, I judged them to be very sincere and estimable as well as intelligent men. We furnished them with a Pimo grammar, published by Mr Buckingham Smith, late American Secretary of Legation to Spain; and they are now studying that language with a view of holding more advantageous intercourse with the Papagoes, who are originally a branch of the Pimos, and speak the same language. The reverend fathers entertained us during our sojourn with an enthusiastic account of their plans for the restoration of the mission and the instruction and advancement of the Indian tribes, with whom they were destined to be associated for some years to come.

These enterprising relics of Jesuit enterprise abound in this country. From Fort Yuma to Tucson the country is, from want of water, a mere desert; but the valley of Santa Cruz is one of the richest and most beautiful grazing and agricultural regions in the world, and three years ago it was well settled by an enterprising set of frontiers men. When the rebellion broke out and the Overland Stage Line was withdrawn, the Apaches, as before mentioned, supposing that they had created the panic among the whites, became bolder than ever in their forays, and ranch after ranch was desolated by fire, robbery and murder; no white man's life was safe beyond Tucson, and there the few inhabitants lived in constant terror. The roadside is now marked with the graves of these unfortunate settlers, but there is not a living inhabitant to enliven the solitude. To travel through such a scene of desolation and ruin is most depressing. In the valley of Nogales, or the "walnut trees," the grass was up to the horses' shoulders and the hills clothed with luxuriant groves of oak. When we leave the American territory and cross the boundary into Sonora, we cannot fail to perceive that a great change is coming over that country. Every steamer from San Francisco lands at Mazatlan and Guaymas from 100 to 200 passengers, most of whom contrive to make an honest living. In the northern parts of Sonora there are millions of acres of the finest land unsurpassed as cattle and sheep ranges lying completely idle; but the condition of the towns and of their inhabitants is most deplorable. Mine owning is here a very precarious business. The rights of Americans are respected so long as it is desirable to encourage them to erect machinery and develop the mines, but it is very doubtful whether their claims are protected by law; and both here and in Arizona every mine seems to have its tragedy, its tale of murder and Apache ferocity. Only a month before our party visited the Mowry or Patagonian Mine, two of the employes were murdered in an ambush laid for them by the Apaches; and of the seventeen white men interred in the graveyard, only two had died from natural causes. At the Santa Rita Mine a similar tale is told, three managers in succession have been murdered by the Apaches.

No country that I have yet visited presents so many striking anomalies as Arizona. With millions of acres of the finest arable lands, there was not at the time of our visit a single farm under cultivation in the Territory; with the richest gold and silver mines, paper money is the common currency; with forts innumerable there is scarcely any protection to life and property; with extensive pastures, there is little or no stock; with the finest natural roads, travelling is beset with difficulties; with rivers through every valley, a stranger may die of thirst. Hay is cut with a hoe, and wood with a spade or mattock. In January one enjoys the luxury of a bath as under a tropical sun, and sleeps under double blankets at night. There are towns without inhabitants, and deserts extensively populated; vegetation where there is no soil, and soil where there is no vegetation. Snow is seen where it is never seen to fall, and ice forms where it never snows. There are Indians the most docile in North America, yet travellers are murdered daily by Indians the most barbarous on earth. The Mexicans have driven the Papagoes from their southern homes, and now seek protection from the Apaches in the Papago villages. Fifteen hundred Apache warriors, the most cowardly of the Indian tribes in Arizona, beaten in every fight by the Pimos, Maricopas, and Papagoes, keep these and all other Indians closed up as in a corral; and the same Apaches have desolated a country inhabited by 120,000 Mexicans. Mines without

miners and forts without soldiers are common. Politicians without policy, traders without trade, store-keepers without stores, teamsters without teams, and all without means, form the mass of the white population. But here let me end, for I find myself verging on the proverbs.

Desiring within our narrow limits to give a tolerably connected view of an almost unknown country, we have been obliged to pass over the amusing sketches of character, as, for example, "George the love-sick driver," with which the book abounds. Nor have we space to enter into particulars of any of the numerous startling stories of rapine and wrong, of endurance and courage, that already lend an interest to the history of the new State, and which are admirably told by our author. We can only allude to the terrible tragedy of the Oatman family, to the determined resistance and marvellous escape of Bill Rhodes, to the story of "Old Pennington and his Family," the romantic narrative of Dona Inez, and the tale of the "East-woman" whom our party picked up at Cocospers; and must refer all lovers of adventure to the book itself for the particulars of these exciting, and, we presume, veritable narratives.

The journey in the Nevada district is of a different stamp. That country is already pretty well settled, and we descend from the wild region of romance to the commonplace details of life, hotel accommodation and mining affairs in Washoe, Bodie Bluff, the Walter River country, and the Reeve River country. Our author gave the world the result of his experiences in this district at an early period of its development; he now marks the alterations which four years of progress have made in the country, and declares that no country has made so rapid an advance with so little benefit to capitalists or individuals. Whilst wages are four dollars a day the ore that will yield a fair dividend must be extraordinarily rich; and whilst provisions are at famine prices, a digger will not get rich even on four dollars a day.

Letters from Australia. By John Martineau. Longmans, Green, and Co.

Every contribution which may in any way serve to dissipate some of the extraordinary ignorance that, notwithstanding our brotherhood with Australia, exists amongst us as to the present condition of these important Colonies is valuable; and we therefore hail with welcome this pleasant, readable volume, the result of a fifteen months' residence in the three Colonies of Victoria, Tasmania, and New South Wales,—the first-named being at the present moment the most prosperous, the most thoroughly business-like, the most energetic; the second the most agreeable; the third the most venerable of the group. Mr Martineau, feeling a great dread and horror of democracy, sees breakers ahead in the Government of Victoria, but there is good reason to hope that the Colony will escape shipwreck. We have the satisfaction of knowing that it has gone on better during the two years which have elapsed since his visits, and are assured that the land system of which he speaks so unfavourably, having undergone alterations and modifications, is now working well. Though we are inclined to distrust him as a political guide, we are much interested in his vivid descriptions of the local features of the three Colonies; of the flourishing towns of Victoria, the picturesque scenery of Tasmania, the magnificent vegetation of New South Wales. Sudden changes of temperature render the climate of Sydney rather trying, but the salubrity of Tasmania seems to point it out as a sanitarium for busy, dry Victoria; and our author devotes a chapter to demonstrating the benefit English "poitriaires" might hope to reap from a trip of eighteen months to Australia, arranging their route so as to spend November and December in Melbourne, the summer in Tasmania, and autumn in Victoria, winter and spring in Queensland and New South Wales; the second summer, if possible, in New Zealand, thus avoiding the English winter.

THE MAGAZINES.

Blackwood revives the Byron controversy, and revives it only to add an intemperate and injudicious article to the long list of special pleadings that have been heard on both sides. What good is there in speculating as to whether Lord or Lady Byron were in the wrong, when the cause of rupture between them was kept a profound secret, which is now never likely to be revealed? The writer of the present article acknowledges that Lady Byron, when she stated her case to Dr Lushington, bound over the recipient of her confidence never to divulge what she had told him; and this something—by which she justified herself in having separated from her husband—was never made public to the world. Doubtless the world was wrong in assuming that Lord Byron was the only person to blame, and in condemning him unheard; but is the 'Blackwood' essayist right in assuming the reverse—in maintaining that Lady Byron kept this secret in order to punish her husband by laying him open to these unwarranted accusations? Here is the summing-up—but it is the summing-up of an advocate, not of a judge—

We have thus laid before the reader everything connected with this subject that deserves the name of evidence. The conclusion at which we arrive is, that there is no proof whatever that Lord Byron was guilty of any act that need have caused a separation or prevented a reunion, and that the imputations upon him rest on the vaguest conjecture. That whatever real or fancied wrongs Lady Byron may have endured are shrouded in an impenetrable mist of her own creation—a poisonous miasma in which she enveloped the character of her husband—raised by her breath, and which her breath only could have dispersed.

"She dies, and makes no sign—O God, forgive her!"

This begging of the question is seriously to be deprecated. No one knows what Lady Byron revealed to Dr Lushington—it may have been the story of some wrong which she could not publish to the world, even to justify herself; and in the absence of all direct evidence, it is wholly unfair and ill-advised to assume the guilt of either party in the unfortunate quarrel. The article on "Morris's Poems" is appreciatively written; but the writer does not even mention "The Defence of Guenevere." "A New Theory of Earthquakes and Volcanos" endeavours to shift the origin of these cosmical disturbances from a presumed central fire to our old friends the electric currents. Much doubt has been recently thrown upon the notion that the earth is a ball of melted rock and metal surrounded by a thin crust of cooled matter. Whether the doubt is a sufficient authority for this theory is another question, which we leave scientific men to decide.

In the *Fortnightly Review* Mr Swinburne publishes an article on Victor Hugo's 'L'Homme qui rit,' which is a curiosity in criticism. It tells us absolutely nothing about the work in question, but does tell us a great deal, in rhetorical language, about Mr Swinburne's notions of Victor Hugo. These are rather vague in detail; and their effusive extravagances of expression do not conceal the remarkable poverty of thought that lies underneath. Indeed, the article is in no sense a criticism; and those who happen to be attracted by it will admire it merely for its fine writing. The opening paragraph, the best in the paper, may be taken as a specimen of its prevailing style:

Once only in my life I have seen the likeness of Victor Hugo's genius. Crossing over when a boy from Ostend, I had the fortune to be caught in midchannel by a thunderstorm strong enough to delay the packet some three good hours over the due time. About midnight the thundercloud was right overhead, full of incessant sound and fire, lightning and darkening so rapidly that it seemed to have life, and a delight in its life. At the same hour the sky was clear to the west, and all along the sea-line there sprang and sank as to music a restless dance or chase of summer lightnings across the lower sky: a race and riot of lights, beautiful and rapid as a course of shining Oceanides along the tremulous floor of the sea. Eastward, at the same moment, the space of clear sky was higher and wider, a splendid semicircle of too intense purity to be called blue; it was of no colour nameable by man; and midway in it, between the storm and the sea, hung the motionless full moon; Artemis watching with a serene splendour of scorn the battle of Titans and the revel of nymphs, from her stainless and Olympian summit of divine indifferent light. Underneath and about us the sea was paved with flame; the whole water trembled and hissed with phosphoric fire; even through the wind and thunder I could hear the crackling and sputtering of the water sparks. In the same heaven and in the same hour there shone at once the three contrasted glories, golden and fiery and white, of moonlight and of the double lightnings, forked and sheet; and under all this miraculous heaven lay a flaming floor of water.

Mr P. G. Hamerton resuscitates "an unknown satirist," one Claude Zillier, whom lovers of literature will be glad to hear about. Some of the specimens here quoted are marked by great happiness of sarcasm, and there is one passage, counselling Frenchmen to assume their right of being master in their own house—that is, of governing France—which is remarkably eloquent and powerful. Mr Bernard Cracroft concludes his intelligent and suggestive sketch of "The Academy of 1869;" and Mr Frederic Harrison contributes a clear exposition of the Trades Union Bill at present before Parliament. Twenty years hence there will be few stages in our political history more calculated to excite astonishment than the opposition which has been directed against the granting to combinations of working men that freedom and protection which common custom and common sense yield to every other social combination.

Temple Bar proceeds with its crusade against contemporary poetical reputations, and this month is "down upon" Mr Swinburne. No one can question the ability of the writer of these articles, nor the ingenuity he displays in, occasionally, defending a weak position. His judgment upon Swinburne we consider to be, on the whole, sound; and there is much to provoke reflection in his complaint against the feminine restraint that is now placed upon our literary and artistic movements. He is far from palliating the grossnesses with which Mr Swinburne at times disfigures his musical and sonorous lines; it is in another direction that he deprecates the dominant influence of women. Here, for instance, is a most suggestive passage:

We have just had, from a much revered source, an essay on the Subjection of Women; but we think it would not be difficult to show that men, and especially in the domain of art, are, and have for some time been, quite as subject to women, to say the least of it, as is desirable. In the region of morals, women may, in modern times, have had a beneficent influence; though, as we shall see when we come to treat of Mr Swinburne's particular genius, recent phenomena have somewhat shaken our once favourable opinion on that score. But there can be no question that, in the region of art, their influence has been unmitigatedly mischievous. They have ruined the stage; they have dwarfed painting till it has become little more than the representative of pretty little domesticities; and they have helped poetry to become, in the hands of Mr Tennyson at least, and of his disciples, the mere handmaid of their own limited interests, susceptibilities, and yearnings. We do not say that Mr Tennyson is never by any chance and on occasion fairly manly, though we think no one can doubt who considers the matter, that he is not even fairly manly very often, and never conspicuously so; and the most unreasonable of his worshippers would not dare for one moment, in describing his supposed merits as a poet, to call him masculine. That feminine is the proper word to apply to his compositions taken in their entirety, no impartial judge, we feel convinced, would dream of denying.

The list of articles in this month's 'Temple Bar' shows several most interesting topics, which are cleverly and intelligently treated; while the twin stories exhibit their

ordinary characteristics. Considering the condition into which magazine illustrations have sunk during the past two years, we can scarcely help regarding it as a relief that 'Temple Bar' is not illustrated.

Belgravia opens with a story entitled "Stern Necessity," by the author of "Poor Humanity." These opening chapters will be found interesting by those who care to study a peculiar kind of fiction. The story, so far as it goes, exhibits marks of a workmanship which is merely mechanical. The characters, situations, dialogues, and descriptions are dry and marrowless—the mere husks of story-telling; and they contrast strangely with the chapters of "My Enemy's Daughter," which are lambent with sympathetic power. By and by, we presume, "Stern Necessity" will develop a plot; and there will not be wanting people to follow out its mechanical evolutions and watch the positions of the various puppets. Mr Percy Fitzgerald's "Ostend Gaieties" is clever and bright; and the same must of course be said of Mr Sala's "Strangers in Paris." The latter is a description of Kotzebue's experiences of Paris; and may be the first of a series of papers on the various strays of notoriety who have visited the capital of Europe. There are several other interesting papers in this month's 'Belgravia.' From that on "Kotzebue," which we have already mentioned, we make the following extract:

Of course, Kotzebue strolled through the *cafés* of the Palais Royal, and read all the *affiches* and *annonces* in the newspapers and on the walls. Some of these advertisements amused him mightily. One of them ran thus: "A young man of about thirty years of age, of good family" (the time was rapidly approaching when young men who talked about the goodness of their families in public would be in peril of losing their heads), "but constrained by circumstances to retire to a pleasant country situation, at the distance of a league from an agreeable town, and at about twenty leagues from Paris, upon an income of a hundred louis, wishes to associate himself with a female of good education, and with a fortune of about half his own, who would be willing to pass her days with him; not in the way of marriage, only as a companion. An answer is requested in the *Mercur de France*." The stranger was naturally shocked at the coolness of cynicism displayed in this *annonce*; but had he lived in this moral age, he would have found in the most popular newspapers in America, and in more than one of our cheap London periodicals, advertisements quite as cool and quite as cynical. In the 'New York Herald' I once read: "Two beautiful young Jewesses wish to form a matrimonial engagement for a short time only.—P.S. Gentlemen who wish to make fun need not apply." "An elderly gentleman" wished to "meet with a lady matrimonially disposed. One who wears gold-rimmed spectacles preferred." But there was innocence in this. I knew a young lady once who was ravishingly pretty so long as she wore spectacles, but directly she took them off she became plain. And how many men, in their time, have fallen in love with a pair of black-silk stockings, or with a dainty white-satin slipper sandalled over an openworked instep! In another Paris journal our Stranger noticed an advertisement, stating that a tutor was wanted for a young man of rank, who must be "d'une religion éclairée." "What is meant by, 'an enlightened religion?'" the unsophisticated Stranger asks. He might have remembered that Voltaire and Condorcet and the Baron d'Holbach, with the assistance of Mr Thomas Paine of England, had already given some very striking lessons in religious enlightenment to the French; and that ere thirty months were over, enlightenment would take the form of a grand bonfire of all religion in France.

Macmillan exhibits its usual characteristics—a goodly show of excellent subjects too slightly treated, with some bad poetry between. Professor Seeley's first lecture on "Roman Imperialism" must be taken out of the category, because it is only an instalment of an essay which already shows signs of masterly investigation and arrangement. Mr Bennett's "The Condition of Opera in England" merely hovers round a capital topic; and Mr R. H. Hutton's endeavour to give intuitional ideas an independent position betrays an effort at impossible compression. If it is worth while dealing with grave and important subjects in monthly magazines, it is worth while dealing with them comprehensively and exhaustively; and we are inclined to think that, had Mr Hutton laid out his views more amply on the vexed question of the origin of our moral ideas, he would not have been found calling upon that insignificant portion of time which is comprised in history to show the transformation of a utilitarian principle into a moral intuition. But, so far as it goes, the article is a thoughtful and suggestive one. Dean Stanley contributes a short paper on "The Pope's Posture in the Communion;" but in this case the article is quite long enough in proportion to the importance of the subject. The verses are poor. In the article on English Opera, we are glad to perceive a protest against the neglect suffered by Middle Titiens at the hands of people who know nothing of the comparative merits of operatic singers, and run after the novelty of the day.

The *Cornhill* continues its studies in English literature; this month dealing with "Andrew Marvell." These articles are very pleasant reading, and unquestionably do good service in spreading a knowledge of authors who are too little read in these days of rapid literary production. An article on "Useless Knowledge" protests in a good-humoured fashion against the incoherent mass of facts and speculations which each member of society is expected to master. "History," the writer says,

"if it is understood to mean an account of everything that ever happened, would include vast masses of rubbish that ought to be left to unbroken repose in the dusthole. Dryasdust and his brethren have filled libraries with profoundly learned speculations, and when they did not abuse each other like pickpockets, have kept up an exchange of elaborate compliment, which the poor innocent public has naturally taken in good faith. Who wrote the letters of Junius? Who was the man in the Iron Mask? Where did Julius Caesar land in Britain? To these and hundreds of other questions of a similar kind, many persons would answer simply, 'We don't care.' It does not make the very slightest difference in any possible way. Somebody wrote Junius who was dead and buried a good many years back, and their influence on politics was just the same whoever was the author. The simplest

plan would surely be to follow the precedent of the naval captain, who makes it twelve o'clock. Let us assume, in future, that Sir Philip Francis was the writer; the S. S. U. K. would be entrusted with the destruction of all evidence and all arguments making in a contrary direction; the future historians of the eighteenth century would be relieved from a very thankless task, and nobody, so far as I can see, would be one penny the worse. In the same way I would decide, once for all, that Julius Caesar landed (say) at Deal, and insist upon the question being finally laid on the shelf, and antiquarians turning their energies to some more fruitful field. Such disquisitions have had their use, like the pieces of imaginary gold for which the old man in the fable advised his sons to dig in the vineyard. They have incidentally produced a great turning-over of original authorities, and thrown light upon more important inquiries. But this is an inducement for children; we are old enough to know what is really valuable, and to seek for it systematically and straightforwardly. It is useful to give boys puzzles to exercise their arithmetical talents; but when they grow to be real mathematicians the puzzles sink to their proper place as mere playthings."

There are also articles in this number on "Friends in High Latitudes," "Indian Railways," "Pre-Reformation Shrines and Pilgrimages in England," and "A Night with a Salmon." The opening chapters of "Sola" are very pleasantly and tenderly written. The verses entitled "At Sea" fall below the *Cornhill* standard of poetry—in fact, the title describes the poet, not the poem.

St Paul's for this month contains a salmagundi of articles as varied in style and interest as the monuments of the temple from which it derives its name. Romance is supplied in two places under the respective headings of "The Three Brothers" and "Leaves from the Diary of an Old Bachelor." The latter is neatly written, and dashed with the sort of sugary pathos which is popular with novel readers. "Austria in 1869" is rather a ponderous contribution, and the article on naturalisation and allegiance, though carefully constructed, is not light reading. A criticism of M. Hugo's 'L'Homme qui rit,' or that portion of it which deals with England, gave the writer more trouble than the subject was worth. We cannot expect an eloquent Frenchman to be accurate, and M. Hugo is all the more entertaining for his complete ignorance of the manners and customs of the period he attempts to describe. We should have a great deal less of clever fiction if he made himself better acquainted with facts.

Tinsley's Magazine contains no less than three current stories, all written by authors of note; and a fair collection of short articles, including one on the "Royal Irish Constabulary," which is exceedingly well informed, and another on the "Decline of the Ring." The writer of the latter contribution recommends the extinction of the prize-fighter:

His occupation is gone; the relish for him is as dead as the taste for China monsters or for public executions. It is well enough to keep up the good-natured jargon of courage, self-defence, &c., but it won't do in connection with the sodden, flaccid rogue who shirks a fair fight, and is engaged in as many lays and plants as the proprietor of race-horses. I do not subscribe to a great deal of the nonsense written about the Ring; I think the Spanish bull-fight a much more hideous and altogether a more disreputable show; but prize-fighting is too much for our modern weak stomachs, and bull-fighting is being mitigated by the use of velocipedes for horses.

The disquisition on "Joseph," by the Bishop of Oxford, in this month's *Good Words*, is a clever piece of pious speculation, and will, no doubt, be well received in religious circles. Mr Kingsley contributes a useful and timely remonstrance touching the topic of tight lacing. There is, however, an odd jumble of chemistry, pulpit phrases, and the mechanics of stays in the article which gives it a rather tawdry appearance. The "Sailor Boy" is a very pretty poem by Miss Smedley. Children of a smaller growth than those who listen to 'Good Words' should read "Good Words for the Young." Mr Camden's "Blushing Fred" is exceedingly clever, while George Macdonald's "At the Back of the North Wind" is as beautiful a phantasy as ever a poet schemed to attract the wonder of a little boy.

A SONNET.

IN MEMORIAM: MR WALTER SAVAGE LANDOR,

Writer and Poet. Born 1775. Died 1864.

(Suggested by Mr John Forster's 'Memoirs,' recently published.)

Gone with the frost of age upon thy brow,
But all the world's young beauty in thy song;
What balm had'st thou for those who suffered wrong,
What scorn for those who did it,—even now
Pulses of that high soul which could not bow,
Beat from thy foreign grave, till hearts that long
For times when only goodness shall be strong,
Yearn for the prophet's voice, to seal their vow.
"Ay, but his wreath was sullied," one will say,
"And shame was mingled with the old man's pride."
"Strip off the laurels." Oh, ungracious day!
That takes the long life toil, so fair and wide,
And with one cruel shadow mars it all.
Have we no dead leaves in our Coronet?
London, July, 1869. ALSAGER HAY HILL.

SIR H. BULWER'S MOTION.—On the urgent appeal of Mr Gladstone, that Sir Henry Bulwer should not at present proceed with his intended motion regarding the Alabama claims—the right hon. member for Tamworth has consented not to bring it on during the present session. The Premier stated that notwithstanding the rejection of the Treaty recently signed by Mr Reverdy Johnson, he had reason to believe that the Government of the United States did not consider the question at issue to have been finally closed. Sir H. Bulwer under these circumstances stated that he had no choice but to leave the responsibility unshared by Parliament upon the Administration.

MUSIC.

ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA.

DINORAH.

It was a happy inspiration on the part of the directors of the Opera to alternate *Dinorah* with *Hamlet*. Leaving out of view the immeasurable distance which separates these operas in point of merit, one has now an opportunity of contrasting two impersonations which are marvellously fine and remarkably different. In both operas the heroine is mad—indeed, madness has always been a favourite subject with composers, who have directed the full power of their genius upon the task of exhibiting in musical phrases that strange condition which is full of wild suggestions, incoherent snatches of dramatic effect, and the most utter pathos. We recently endeavoured to show in what measure *Mlle Nilsson* had taken up the character of the mad Ophelia, and given it a power, and meaning, and individuality of her own creation. This Ophelia is no sentimental and apathetic girl, vaguely conscious of her sorrow; but a great-hearted woman, who has glimpses, in the midst of her unreason, of the splendid possibilities of life she has missed, of the tragic fate which has fallen upon her. When one has sat mute and almost awe-stricken before this fine exhibition of human passion and suffering, one cannot do better than go, on the next evening, to see *Dinorah*. Here, also, is madness; but so very different! Patti was formed by nature to hover like a butterfly on the edge of emotional chasms—never precipitating herself from the brink, and horrifying the spectators with the catastrophe. In her charming impersonation of the young Bretonne whose lover has deserted her, she makes madness quite pretty and engaging. She is a happy, contented little soul, who is full of fun and mischief, who loves the white kid which is perpetually running away from her, who amuses herself with the moonlight and dances to her own shadow, while she sings snatches of pearly song and laughs gently at her own sorrow. There is none of the gloom of madness in the part; and there is nothing, also, to suggest that *Dinorah*, like Ophelia, is sometimes confronted by an awful consciousness of her own misery. There are no abysses in the character, no shadowy backgrounds, full of spectres and chimeras dire. You see that *Dinorah* enjoys herself, is fond of singing, and is not averse to bouquets from the boxes. She makes one feel as though the foot-lights were an unnecessary line of division—as though only a few yards separated the back part of the theatre from the front. When Ophelia is on the stage, the scene is separated from you by thousands of miles, by unknown centuries. It is the real Ophelia whom you see, the Ophelia of whom Shakespeare, looking back upon the old story, dreamed and wrote. When Ophelia lays herself down among the rushes and floats away upon the stream, it is as if one of the old legends in the "Des Knaben Wunderhorn" had come to a close, the pictures it had called up fading out of sight. *Dinorah* is pretty, and pleasing, and familiar; Ophelia is grand, heroic, and distant. In short, *Dinorah* is theatrical, while Ophelia is human. Much as the contrast is likely to strike one, however, it does not necessarily follow that we are to undervalue the rendering of the more trivial and tricky character by Madame Adelina Patti. No one on the lyric stage at present could give us such a fascinating picture of the young girl who wanders about in the moonlight, frightening honest peasants, and waltzing with her own shadow. Such as the character is, Patti makes the most of it; and we need not quarrel with a tinkling brook because it is not a stormy cataract.

MR HENRY BAUMER'S CONCERT.

As a rule, concerts given by societies of amateurs are not very attractive to the outside public, however interesting they may be to a particular circle of friends. But the Society of Amateur Musicians, which is conducted by Mr Henry Baumer, has arrived at a pitch of training which renders the performances of the society scarcely distinguishable from the ordinary professional concerts; and, accordingly, on Friday evening last, the announcement of the society's first evening concert of the season drew together a very brilliant and fashionable assembly, which entirely filled St James's Hall. The programme included selections from the *Walpurgis Night* and from *Oberon*, with various songs and pieces interspersed. It is scarcely possible to overpraise the accuracy and finish with which the choruses in the *Walpurgis Night* were sung; nor were those of Weber's opera—with all their strange and mystic melody—less satisfactorily rendered. Among the incidental pieces, Wallace's "Beware, Sir Knight," was very prettily sung by a member of the society; and Benedict's "Carnival of Venice" was most brilliantly executed by another lady. The solos in the two larger works were, on the whole, creditably sung; but special mention must be made of Fatima's song in *Oberon*, "A lovely Arab maid," which was sung by a young lady, the singular softness and richness of whose voice were only equalled by the delicate artistic finish which was everywhere perceptible throughout her singing. The concert was, altogether, an excellent one; and if the society perseveres in its efforts at reaching and maintaining a very high standard, we shall soon have to record the occurrences of Mr Baumer's concerts as among the most noticeable features of the London musical season.

Imperial Parliament.

HOUSE OF LORDS, JULY 5.

In Committee on the Irish Church Bill, Viscount LIFFORD moved the insertion of a new clause after Clause 28, with the object of repaying to the Presbyterian body the value of churches and manses erected since 1838, but it was opposed by Lords GRANVILLE, KIMBERLEY, and GREY, and withdrawn. The Archbishop of CANTERBURY moved an amendment in Clause 29, abolishing the limit of 1660 as applied to private endowments; but upon receiving an intimation that the Government would be willing to pay a lump sum of 500,000*l.*, he allowed the consideration of the question to be postponed till a future day. Another amendment proposed by the most rev. prelate in the same clause, reserving to the Church what are generally known as "the Ulster glebes," which are at present held under grants from Queen Elizabeth and King James I., led to a much more protracted discussion. It was opposed by the Government and Earl GREY. On a division, the amendment was carried by a majority of 50—105 to 55. On Clause 33, which provides for the redemption of the tithe rent-charge by landowners, the Earl of LIMERICK moved an amendment to entitle a landowner redeeming the rent-charge to make a deduction on account of poor-rates from the redemption money, which was ultimately carried by 91 to 64. Clauses up to 41 were then agreed to. Lord FITZWALTER moved the rejection of this clause, which repeals the Maynooth Acts and gives compensation to the professors and others on the cessation of the annual Parliamentary grants. The proposal gave rise to much discussion, but it was finally rejected by 146 to 22. The succeeding clauses, down to 67 inclusive, were then agreed to.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, JULY 5.

On the order for the second reading of the Dublin Freeman Bill, Sir F. HEYGATE moved that it be read a second time that day three months.

Mr E. VERNER seconded the motion, and Dr BALL objected to the Bill on the ground that it was making laws not to meet general but particular cases. It was supported by the CHIEF SECRETARY and the ATTORNEY-GENERAL for IRELAND, on grounds similar to those which they advanced on the introduction of the Bill; and, upon a division, it was carried by a majority of 120—246 to 126.

On going into Committee of Supply,

Mr NEWDEGATE blamed the Government for allowing the House on a recent occasion to be counted out at the evening sitting, and Mr GLADSTONE expressed his regret at the occurrence. Mr BENTINCK complained that the plan of morning sittings abridged the time of private members. Mr GLADSTONE thought the plan worked well, and that the real difficulty was that the House had more business on its hands than it could manage.

Mr FAWCETT, who had given notice of a resolution declaring that the ends of justice may be imperilled by the retaining of the Solicitor-General for the defendants in the case of Regina v. Gurney and others, called attention to "the grave evils" which might result from such a circumstance.

This drew a very sharp reply from Sir J. COLERIDGE, who maintained that his position was consistent with law, with common sense, and with honour.

In Committee of Supply eleven votes relating to Public Works and Buildings were agreed to.

The Marquis of HARTINGTON in explaining the measures which had been taken to acquire by purchase the telegraphs of the United Kingdom, stated that the total sum to be paid to the telegraph companies was 5,715,047*l.*, being 1,320,940*l.* less than had been demanded. The negotiations with the railway companies were not yet completed, but, so far as the London and North-Western Railway and the Great-Western Railway were concerned, the arrangement for the transfer of their lines was concluded, and the total sum to be paid to all the companies would not exceed 700,000*l.* The gross revenue was estimated at 675,838*l.*, and the working expenses at 359,484*l.*, leaving a surplus of 314,354*l.* to meet the interest on the capital created. Presuming the money to be raised at 4 per cent., the net profit on the transaction would be 44,000*l.* per annum, but should it be raised at 3½ per cent. it would be 77,000*l.* The money might be raised by Exchequer Bills, Exchequer Bonds, Terminable Annuities, or the creation of stock, but this was a matter which might well be reserved for further consideration. Having explained the advantages of the Government scheme over the present system (and stated incidentally that the Post Office could not hope to enter into possession of their new property until the 31st of December next), the noble lord concluded by moving a series of resolutions on which a Bill will be founded and laid upon the table this day.

Mr WARD HUNT, Mr CRAWFORD, and Mr MACFIE added a few words of approval, and the resolutions were agreed to.

The Endowed Hospitals (Scotland) Bill and the Assessed Rates Bill were read a third time and passed.

HOUSE OF LORDS, JULY 6.

In Committee on the Irish Church Bill, Lord CAIRNS moved his amendment on Clause 68, which appropriates the surplus. Lord GRANVILLE opposed the amendment, while Lord MALMESBURY thought the proposed delay would give time for the maturing of public opinion on the question of concurrent endowment.

Lord CLANRICARDE denied that the Government plan for the disposal of the surplus was popular in Ireland. Lord TAUNTON would vote for the clause as it stood; while the Duke of CLEVELAND reiterated his arguments in favour of applying the surplus in part to providing residences for the clergy of the various denominations.

The Duke of ARGYLL congratulated Lord Cairns on having framed his amendment very skilfully to catch votes. He thought it had not been proved, but rather the reverse, that there was a majority in Ireland in favour of concurrent endowment. He disputed the assertion that the Government plan would relieve only the landowners; it would be still more for the benefit of the occupiers. Lord SALISBURY regretted the course which Lord Cairns had induced his party to take on Friday, but he vindicated

him at all events from the Duke of Argyll's insinuation, that he desired to endow the Roman Catholic Church. On the other hand, he described the Government scheme as another of the many conjuring tricks played in this Bill.

Lord KIMBERLEY showed that to relieve the county cess would be to relieve the occupiers, and not merely the landlords; while

Lord GREY objected in particular to the discretionary power which the Bill gave the Government of dealing with so vast a sum.

After a brief reply by Lord GRANVILLE to Lord Grey, and some further remarks by Lords GREY and KIMBERLEY and by Lord LUCAN, the House divided, when the amendment was carried by 160 to 90.

Lord HOUGHTON addressed the House on the subject of concurrent endowment.

The Bishop of OXFORD proposed to add to Clause 69 a provision to give the Irish clergy the same status in the Church of England as the clergy of the Scotch Episcopal Church now enjoyed by statute.

The Bishop of GLOUCESTER approved the clause, but doubted whether a saving clause, like Clause 69, was the proper place for inserting what was in some measure a disabling clause.

Lord CAIRNS took the same view, and it was finally agreed that the amendment should be reserved till the Report.

Clause 69 and the remaining clauses were then agreed to, Clause 72 being amended in accordance with a suggestion of Lord NELSON.

The House then considered the postponed Clauses, 19-22, which provide for the future government of the Church.

After some discussion Lord Cairns' amendment on Clause 19 was agreed to.

The Archbishop of Dublin's amendment to save the rights under the Bill of any clergyman who may dissent from future changes in the articles or rites of the Irish Church was eventually agreed to without a division.

Clauses 21, 22, and the preamble were also agreed to, and the Bill passed through Committee, and was ordered to be reported on Friday.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, JULY 6.

In Committee on the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Bill, Clause 15 was rejected on a division by 220 to 160.

Mr H. RICHARD brought under the notice of the House the recent proceedings of certain Tory landlords in Wales towards their tenants on account of their votes for Liberal candidates at the last election. He narrated numerous instances of these practices, and concluded with a resolution condemning them as unconstitutional, oppressive, and an infringement of popular rights.

The motion was seconded by Mr O. MORGAN, and supported by Mr LEATHAM.

After a lengthy discussion Mr RICHARD withdrew his motion.

Mr BOUVERIE brought before the House an alleged failure of justice in the Coventry election inquiry by the withdrawal and falsification of certain evidence, and moved for a Select Committee to inquire into a petition complaining of this; but on Mr HARDY pointing out that, since the House had parted with its jurisdiction in these matters, the proper mode of meeting these offences was by prosecutions before the magistrates, the motion was negatived.

Mr T. CHAMBERS, in calling attention to the recent correspondence between the Poor-law Board and the Marylebone Guardians in reference to the separate education of Roman Catholic children, made an animated attack on those Roman Catholics who had deliberately set themselves to oppose the policy of mixed education sanctioned by Parliament, and ended with a resolution declaring that where Guardians have made provision for the religious instruction of Non-conformist children within the workhouses the Poor-law Board ought not to order the removal to schools not under the control of the parish authorities.

Mr GOSCHEN defended the action of the Poor-law Board on general grounds of policy and on the economical advantages to the ratepayers.

The discussion was continued by Mr NEWDEGATE, Mr SYNAN, and Mr WHALLEY, and on a division the motion was rejected by 71 to 29.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, JULY 7.

Mr HUGHES moved the second reading of the Trades' Unions Bill, and prefaced his explanation by a long retrospect of past legislation and the history of the Sheffield outrages, and the inquiry into the whole subject which had followed it; and he pressed the Bill on the House not only on the ground of expediency, but of strict justice to the working classes. The criminal law for the repression of outrages and coercion might be strengthened, but, with that exception, employers and employed ought to be left in complete freedom. The present combination laws had utterly failed, and there never would and never ought to be peace until these societies were relieved from their present disabilities.

Mr T. BRASSEY supported the Bill, though his arguments all went to show that the influence of Trades' Unions was much overrated. Particularly he maintained that they could not increase the rate of wages in defiance of the ordinary laws of supply and demand, and in support of this assertion he gave numerous interesting details from his own experience of the employment of labour on a large scale in different countries.

Mr PLATT approved Trades' Unions for certain purposes, but when they were used for restraint of trade they were chiefly injurious to the working men themselves. Like Mr Brassey, he did not seem to attach over much importance to Trades' Unions from the employers' point of view, and he predicted that whenever they became too troublesome there would be a conflict between the Trades' Unions and the capitalists, in which the latter must win.

Mr CHARLEY, Mr PLIMSOLL, and Sir C. DILKE supported the Bill, while

Mr E. POTTER described it as an anti-free-trade measure, in favour of combination to prevent competition, and pointed out that it would destroy many of the benefits of friendly societies.

Mr MUNDELLA argued warmly and earnestly in favour of the measure, laying chief stress on the feeling of equality between employers and employed which it would create—for it would make little difference in their practical relations,

Lord GALWAY expressed a hope that, if the combination laws were to be altered, ample protection would be retained for those against whom these societies were directed.

Mr BRUCE regretted sincerely that the Government had not been able to legislate on the subject this year, but he promised that it should be thoroughly looked into, and that a Bill should be laid on the table at the very commencement of the next Session. He pointed out, however, that this Bill would not effect a satisfactory settlement.

Lord J. MANNERS hoped that after the satisfactory statement of Mr Bruce the Bill would not be pressed, and in reply to a question from him,

Mr W. E. FORSTER said that the Government would support the second reading if it were pressed, on the general ground that the combination laws required amendment, and that the funds of these societies ought to be protected.

Mr HENLEY, being of opinion that the Unions had been very hardly treated, deeply regretted that legislation should be postponed even for a year; and, after some observations from Mr SAMUDA and Mr BONHAM-CARTER, the Bill was read a second time.

HOUSE OF LORDS, JULY 8.

The Life Peages Bill was rejected on the third reading by a majority of 29—106 to 77. The debate upon the Bankruptcy Bill was confined almost entirely to the law lords, and eventually the measure was read a second time without a division.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, JULY 8.

Mr GLADSTONE appealed to Sir H. Bulwer to abstain for the Session from calling attention to the result of recent negotiations between this country and the United States with reference to the Alabama claims. Sir Henry yielded to this appeal, but with evident reluctance.

In Committee of Supply a debate arose on the question of the responsibility of Ministers, and the control of the House of Commons over the National Finances, in connection with the proposed alterations of the Central Hall of the Palace of Westminster. Eventually a compromise was agreed to by a majority of 90—187 to 97; Mr Layard giving up between 2,000l. and 3,000l.

The third reading of the University Tests Bill was carried by a majority of 51—116 to 65—and no further opposition was offered to the passing of the measure. Fifty-five clauses of the Valuation of Property (Metropolis) Bill were also passed by the Committee.

GOSSIP FROM THE OWL.

For some days past a rumour has been current that Lord Clarendon intends to appoint Lord Howden to the vacant post of Minister to Spain. We can hardly believe that a Government representing progress can seriously contemplate the nomination of a septuagenarian who has been twelve years out of employment to a post the difficulties of which would require all the energies of a young man.—The hitch which occurred lately in giving effect to the new system of army control will be removed by the adoption of an important modification. The local control of the finance business of the War Department will probably be conducted by a special staff unconnected with any of the executive branches. It was scarcely to be expected that an arrangement under which the great supply or spending department should have the control of its own accounts and finance would satisfy the present heads of the Treasury.—Mr Secker has been appointed Secretary to the Norwich Election Inquiry Commission, and Mr Collier, brother of the Attorney-General to that at Beverley.—It has been remarked upon that none of the military attachés of the foreign embassies in London were present on the occasion of the recent Windsor Review. The Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs is to be interrogated upon the matter, and an effort made to learn the reason why invitations were withheld, as well as which is the department to blame for the omission.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH.

The deaths registered in London during the week were 1,231. It was the twenty-sixth week of the year, and the average number of deaths for that week is, with a correction for increase of population, 1,327. The deaths in the present return are less by 96 than the estimated amount.

The deaths from zymotic diseases were 305, the corrected average number being 357. Four deaths from small-pox, 22 from measles, 75 from scarlet fever, 4 from diphtheria, 90 from whooping-cough, 12 from typhus fever, 14 from enteric fever, 14 from simple continued fever, and 20 from diarrhoea, were registered.

The son of a brush-maker, aged 3 years, died on the 24th of June, at 3 Edward Street, Mile-end Old Town East, from "convulsions and scarlet fever, accelerated by bad sanitary arrangements." Post-mortem. (Inquest.)

The deaths from scarlet fever exhibit an increase on the numbers returned in many previous weeks. One hundred and seventy-four deaths occurred from phthisis, 85 from bronchitis, and 61 from pneumonia. The deaths of 6 persons from alcoholism, of 4 infants from syphilis, of 5 persons from drowning, of 3 infants and 1 adult from suffocation, and of 8 persons who committed suicide, were recorded.

A working silversmith, aged 38 years, and his wife, aged 39 years, committed suicide by taking prussic acid on the 28th of June, at 15 Hosier Lane, West Smithfield, City; they had previously poisoned, with prussic acid, their 6 children, aged respectively 13 years, 11 years, 6 years, 5 years, 3 years, and 1 year.

OATHS TO WITNESSES' COMMITTEE.—The Select Committee appointed on the motion of Mr TORRENS to inquire into the propriety of the House of Commons examining witnesses on oath, as is done by the House of Lords, having taken the evidence of the late and the present Speaker, of Colonel Patten, and Sir Erskine May, have decided on recommending the change proposed; and their Report to that effect was presented on Thursday by the Member for Finabury.

News of the Week.

Home Notes.

£ The tenth annual competition of the National Rifle Association opened at Wimbledon on Monday, and will be continued until the 17th inst.

At a meeting of the Cork Town Council on Monday, a resolution was unanimously passed calling upon the Government to release the Fenians who are still in prison. A "monster meeting" is convened on Sunday next, to condemn the language used by the Attorney-General for Ireland during the discussion on Mr Moore's motion.

Earl Grosvenor presided over a Congress which assembled on Monday at the Hanover-square Rooms, to take measures for the better distribution of charity, and for the repression of mendicancy. A scheme was submitted and approved, and a hope was expressed that similar organisations would shortly be in existence throughout the Metropolis.

Three of the leaders in the riot at Cork, in which several of the police were injured, were brought before the local magistrates on Monday, and sentenced to be imprisoned for two months.

The arguments in the Shedden case were brought to a close on Monday in the House of Lords. The Court below decided that the elder petitioner, Miss Shedden's father, was not a natural-born subject of her Majesty, and against that judgment the present appeal was brought.

Dean Stanley, in his morning sermon on Sunday last, alluded to the anniversary of American Independence, which fell on that day. He strongly deprecated the use of irritating expressions by those in any position of authority to either of the two countries (England or America). And, said the Dean, "Woe to those—woe to those who, by any act of theirs, strive to put asunder those who by blood, speech, race, and the grace of His Gospel, God hath joined together!"

The Attorney-General on Tuesday applied to the Lord Chief Justice for a postponement of the Overend and Gurney trial until December. The Solicitor-General and Sir John Karslake, who represent the Messrs Gurney, Mr Birkbeck, and Mr Gordon, stated that it would be impossible to complete the trial at the present sittings, and the case was postponed on the understanding that the prosecution is, as the Chief Justice said, "then to be really, and *bona fide*, and properly conducted."

At Mallow Sessions on Tuesday a respectable farmer named Callaghan was committed for trial for assaulting and attempting to disarm a sergeant of the 39th Regiment in a train between Cork and Mallow, and for using seditious language.

The action of "Jacomb v. Watkin and Thompson" was brought to a conclusion on Tuesday last. The jury expressed an unanimous opinion that the plaintiff had not proved his case, and the Chief Justice having expressed his concurrence in this view, the plaintiff was nonsuited.

At a meeting of colliers, held at Wigan on Monday, an agent of the Miners' Association recommended that, if an attempt be made by the masters to obtain a further reduction in wages, a general strike should take place for an advance.

In the suit brought by Lord Brougham against Dr Cauvin, the Master of the Rolls has decided that the plaintiff must pay the costs from the date of a letter written by the defendant, in which he had offered to take 200l. and submit to a reference respecting the remainder of the claim. The costs incurred previously to the date of that letter are to be equally divided.

The death is announced of Lord Castlemaine, one of the Irish representative peers, in the seventy-eighth year of his age. His eldest son, the Hon. Richard Handcock, who was born July 25th, 1826, succeeds to the title and estates.

A serious collision took place on Tuesday morning on the North-Eastern Railway near Malton. A Doncaster excursion train, consisting of thirty-six well-filled carriages, came round the sharp curve from Kirkham, and ran into a goods train, causing great confusion among the excursionists, many of whom were looking out of the train, and at once spread the news of the danger. The stoker jumped off the engine, and some of the passengers jumped out of the train. A considerable number of them were badly cut and bruised.

The new docks at Lynn were opened on Wednesday by the Prince and Princess of Wales. The dock company, the municipality, and the townspeople united in giving their Royal Highnesses an enthusiastic reception.

Lord Carington appeared at Marlborough Street on Wednesday last, in answer to two summonses, one charging him with having assaulted Mr Grenville-Murray, and the other with having used language with a view of provoking the complainant to fight a duel. The result was that Lord Carington was committed for trial on the second charge. At the close of the case a rush was made for the possession of a box containing certain papers alleged to have been stolen. A desperate struggle ensued, and it was some time before the police were able to restore order.

The Court of arbitration appointed to inquire into the matters in dispute between the Crown and Mr Leonard Edmunds assembled on Tuesday. The Attorney-General was the leading counsel for the Crown, and Mr Digby Seymour led for Mr Edmunds. Very little progress was, however, made, and the inquiry was adjourned to October 21.

The Wearmouth Colliery strike, by which the whole of the workings of the colliery have been suspended for two months, and about 1,200 men and boys laid idle, has come to an end.

A petition was lodged on Wednesday afternoon against the return of Mr Charles Seely, M.P. for Nottingham, on the ground of bribery, treating, and undue influence.

The Archbishop of Canterbury gave his annual dinner on Wednesday at Lambeth Palace to the stewards of the recent Festival of the Sons of the Clergy. The Duke of Cambridge and Prince Teck were among the company.

A party of emigrants proceeding to Canada, and assisted by the British and Colonial Emigration Fund, embarked on board the steamship *Cleopatra*, in the Victoria Docks, on Thursday last.

At Judges' Chambers on Thursday two summonses, arising out of the Duke of Newcastle's affairs, came before Mr Baron Martin in the action *Padwick v. Beyfus*, taken out by the defendant, that the feigned issued be delivered, and that a

commission be granted to examine the Duke of Newcastle at Homburg. Mr Baron Martin appointed a time to hear the two summonses.

France.

The Emperor gave an audience on Sunday last to M. Buffet, a member of the Third Party. A meeting of Deputies was held at M. Jules Brames' (Third Party), at which rather a warm discussion took place on the question of bringing forward in the Legislative Body an interpellation demanding Ministerial responsibility. Mr Louvet proposed to add, after "Ministerial responsibility," the words "coupled with that of the Sovereign." This addition was rejected, and it is probable that a certain number of those who signed the interpellation will withdraw their signatures.

M. Rouher, Minister of State, had a long interview on Monday morning with the Emperor. The agreement drawn up by the Franco-Belgian Commission was signed in the evening. In Monday's sitting of the Legislative Body, forty-nine elections were declared valid.

The *Public* of Tuesday evening says the rumours circulating in Paris of approaching changes in the Ministry are inaccurate, and devoid even of the semblance of truth. The *France* also gives denials to certain reports current here. It says the Government has no intention of shortly recalling its troops from Rome; that the Emperor and Empress of Austria are not about to visit Paris; and that the Baron de Talleyrand-Périgord, the French Ambassador at St Petersburg, has not been recalled. According to the *Moniteur*, M. Buffet was not received by the Emperor on Sunday.

Spain.

In Monday's sitting of the Cortes, Senor Figuerola, Minister of Finance, brought in Bills ordering the sale of the patrimonial property of corporate bodies, and the suppression of the salaries and pensions of individuals who refused to swear fidelity to the Constitution. The band of Republicans in the provinces has dispersed. Senor Herrera, the newly-appointed Minister of Justice, has tendered his resignation. Senor Zorilla (Progressist) will probably be Minister of Justice; Senor Martos (Monarchical Democrat), Minister of Public Works; and Senor Becerra (Monarchical Democrat), Minister for the Colonies. Fresh complications have, however, arisen with reference to the Ministerial question, which had been considered settled, and it is thought possible that the whole Ministry will resign. It is also stated that Senor Rivero, at present President of the Cortes, would be entrusted with the Presidency of the Cabinet.

Italy.

The examination of witnesses before the Committee appointed to investigate the charges of venality against a member of the Chamber of Deputies was concluded on Tuesday afternoon, and the President declared the Parliamentary inquiry closed.

Hungary.

The Lower House of the Diet has been engaged for twelve days in discussing a Bill relating to the appointment of Judges. The debates terminated on Tuesday, and the Bill, which entirely does away with the principle of election, was passed by 203 votes against 156.

Belgium.

The *Independence Belge* of Thursday announces that the final obstacles to the settlement of the Franco-Belgian railway question have been removed, and that it has reason to believe that the arrangement arrived at by the Commissioners does not include the Grand Luxemburg line.

Russia.

An Imperial ukase has been issued sanctioning the foundation of an Imperial University at Warsaw, which is to replace the Warsaw College. The curriculum of study will embrace the four faculties.

Persia.

Cholera appeared on the 1st inst. at Teheran, and was still on the increase. There were about thirty cases reported every day.

Cuba.

Intelligence from Cuba announces that General Caballero de Rodas has released a number of political prisoners, and is pursuing generally a conciliatory course. He is, however, at the same time, reorganising the Spanish forces for a vigorous campaign, if necessary. The insurgents, under General Jordan, have captured Holguin.

The Cape of Good Hope.

Nearly all the Australian gold-diggers have left Natal, returning to Australia. Herr Mauch, however, continues to believe the goldfields would ultimately pay, provided proper machinery were used. Sir John Swinburn's party were crushing quartz at the rate of twenty tons per day, with a yield of 40z. of gold to the ton. More diamonds have been discovered. A large quantity of rain has fallen, and has put Cape farmers in good spirits.

India.

The *Indian Daily News* says that from all parts of the country comes news of the intense heat. "Fatal cases of apoplexy are daily occurring around us (it adds), and in the more central stations, where the heat is most intense, the cases reported in European regiments are very numerous. Cholera in several stations in the Central and North-West Provinces has been adding to the mortality. Horses suffer terribly from the noon-day heat, and a humane inventor has brought out a horse's solah topee. Hacks may now be seen driven about the town with white head coverings that look as extraordinary and hideous as they are undoubtedly useful."

Cholera has again broken out in her Majesty's 58th Regiment at Allahabad, in the new barracks. The regiment has, in consequence, been broken up in detachments, and quartered in the Clydesdale, Mansfield, and Chatham lines.

The *Calcutta Englishman* says that a railway employé, named Daley, having been committed to the Allahabad Sessions on a charge of drunkenness while on duty, was confined in the Mirzapore gaol while waiting trial for fifty days. The cell was six paces long by six wide. The attention of Government has been drawn to the subject.

The port dues at Calcutta are to be doubled, with a view to clearing off the debt of 23 lakhs (23,000l.) with which the

port fund is burdened. The Chamber of Commerce has protested against this step, which is thought to be peculiarly ill-judged at a time when the completion of railway communication between Bombay and Calcutta is approaching.

The *Times* of India states that a Sepoy of the 35th Native Infantry in Madras, because passed over for promotion, shot Lieutenant Brooking, the adjutant, and then killed himself. Lieutenant Brooking is still lingering, but his case is considered desperate.

China.

Intelligence from Omsk, of the 2nd ult., reports that six hundred Chinese, while pursuing a tribe of Kirghiz, had approached the frontier district of Saisank. They were driven back with great loss by a detachment of Russian troops.

America.

A few leaders of the Cuban filibusters have been committed for trial, and the remainder have been discharged. Colonel Ryan and 300 men are still uncaptured. Terrible floods have occurred in Northern Missouri and Kansas, and have been attended by great loss of life and property. The Swedish settlement on the Kan River has been inundated and twenty of the settlers were drowned. The anniversary of the Declaration of Independence was observed as a general holiday throughout the United States, and was celebrated enthusiastically in the North, but much apathy is reported to have been manifested in the South.

The majority obtained by Mr Walker, the Conservative candidate for Governor in Virginia, is about 40,000. The new Constitution has been adopted, the disfranchising section being rejected. The returns of the election of members of Congress are not yet complete, but tend to show that six white Conservatives and two negro Radicals are the successful candidates. In Mississippi Judge Dent, President Grant's brother-in-law, has been nominated by the Republicans as their candidate for the Governorship.

The Irish Republican Convention has adopted a resolution denouncing free trade. Mexico has failed to pay the interest of her National Debt.

Court and Fashion.

This day (says the *Court Journal*), the Queen, with the Royal family at the Castle, and Prince and Princess Christian, leaves for Osborne, and will remain there till the middle of August. The Queen will then pay a second visit to Balmoral, and will not return to London before the last week of October or first week in November.

Her Majesty held a private investiture of the Order of the Bath on Tuesday, at Windsor Castle. The new Knights Grand Cross are the Earl of Lucan, General Sir J. Yorke-Scarlett, General Sir G. Buller, and Admiral Sir A. L. Kuper. At the same time the Queen held an investiture of the Order of the Star of India, when Lord Monck, Earl Grey, and Earl Russell were honoured with the riband and badge of the first class.

The Prince and Princess of Wales gave a ball on Monday evening, to which a number of distinguished persons were invited. Coote and Tinney's band were in attendance, and performed a selection of dance music.

The Princess of Wales drove out on Tuesday, attended by the Hon. Mrs Stonor; and in the afternoon her Royal Highness was present at a juvenile party given by the Countess of Derby, in St James's Square. In the evening the Prince and Princess of Wales went to the St James's Theatre.

Their Royal Highnesses Prince Albert Victor, Prince George, Princess Louise, and Princess Victoria of Wales, attended by the Hon. Mrs W. Grey, arrived at Windsor Castle on Wednesday morning on a visit to her Majesty. Madlle. Christine Nilsson, accompanied by Mrs Anderson on the piano, had the honour of singing before the Queen and the Royal Family in the afternoon.

The marriage of Viscount Petersham, son of the Earl of Harrington, with the Hon. Eva Carrington, was solemnised on Monday morning, at St Martin's-in-the-Fields Church.

Captain Barrington B. D. Campbell was married on Wednesday morning to Miss Mildred Catherine Hawley, daughter of Sir Joseph Hawley, at St George's, Hanover Square. The Rev. H. C. Hawley, Rector of Leybourne, Kent, officiated.

Notabilia.

The Queen has contributed 100*l.* towards the funds of Mrs Gladstone's Convalescent Home, and has presented for the use of its inmates a copy of her journal with an autograph inscription.

The latest rumour regarding the festivities at Agra in January next, when the Duke of Edinburgh visits India, is that Messrs Kellner and Co., of Allahabad, have already secured the contract for the supply of viands, and that a dinner has been ordered at a cost of 5,000*l.*—*Times of India.*

It is announced, by telegraph from New York, that Mr Peabody has given a million of dollars to the Southern Educational Fund, in addition to his previous donations.

Baron Gustave de Rothschild has purchased the Duchess de Bauffremont's mansion in the Champs Elysées for 2,500,000 francs.

A Madrid letter of the 29th ult., in the *Courrier de Bayonne*, says: "In yesterday's debate in the Cortes a very active and intelligent working man, M. Alsina, deputy for Barcelona, took an important part, his speech attracting great attention and being much applauded. This is the first time that a Spanish Parliament has seen a workman debating on terms of equality public affairs with a Spanish grandee and a Minister of Finance."

Velocipedes bid fair to become a permanent institution in Paris. They can now be hired in most parts of the capital at 2*d.* the hour. A great number of firms have bought velocipedes for their porters.

The *Lima Nacional* of 13th May says that the most extraordinary and unheard-of phenomenon has been discovered in the road of Locumba, worthy of being studied, and which appears to have been caused by the late earthquakes. Every beast that reaches a certain spot immediately falls dead. This

has so often taken place that immense numbers of carcasses are heaped on the spot.

The *John Bull* says one of the sons of the Viceroy of Egypt is about to be entered as a student at Oxford.

General Garibaldi has intimated to a friend in the North, if events should enable him to do so, he will visit England this year.

M. Bullier, the proprietor of the dancing garden dear to students and immortalised by Paul de Kock and Alexandre Dumas, has left a large fortune. His will bequeaths a legacy of 12,000*fr.* to each of eight servants, and one of 30,000*fr.* to his wife's lady's maid.

The *Levant Herald* of the 28th ult. says that the Empress of the French is expected to reach Constantinople in October, and that the Sultan has ordered the Palace of Beylerbey to be prepared for her. Some brilliant fêtes are to be given in honour of her Majesty's visit.

Earl Fitzwilliam has given a large plot of ground, situated at Swinton Bridge, near Sheffield, for the site of a chapel for the Primitive Methodists.

Sixty-one new newspapers were started in the United States during May.—*New York Tribune.*

The International Exhibition of Works of Art at Munich will probably be opened on the 20th July. Almost all countries will be represented in it. Austria sends 327, Italy 225, Belgium 95, Paris 60, Holland 53, Switzerland and England 19 objects for exhibition, while America, Sweden, Denmark, and Russia each send several pictures.—*North German Correspondent.*

A new German Alpine Club is talked of, with a view to the thorough exploration of the German Alps, and the publication of periodical works on the subject. Munich is to be the first place of meeting.

The "Star of South Africa" is the most beautiful gem ever saw. It has not, of course, glittering facets, like a cut diamond, but it is as perfectly white and pure as the clearest crystal, and has besides a rich silken exterior that marks it a genuine aristocrat amongst precious stones. The greatest dullard could never mistake "the Star" for a common crystal. It is about the size of a small walnut, and in shape somewhat resembles a heart, being broad at one end and tapering slightly at the other. It is very difficult to detect the diamond shape in the irregular form of the stone, but it, nevertheless, looks living and beautiful, as if it were meant one day to glisten in a diadem.—*Cape Argus.*

HEALTH OF THE QUEEN.—The public will have seen with satisfaction that her Majesty has been able of late to take a greater share in public ceremonial than has been her wont since the lamented Prince Consort's decease. We are not revealing medical secrets, but simply stating what is well known to all her Majesty's inner circle, that the presence of a crowd or the succession of persons who are presented at Court produces on her nervous system the giddiness and other symptoms common to landsmen at sea. Considering her Majesty's habits of punctuality, and the hard labour and anxiety she has undergone during her happily protracted reign, it cannot be matter of surprise that the nervous system should become fatigued.—*Medical Times and Gazette.*

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.—A return has been issued of the number and the nature of the accidents and injuries to life and limb which have been reported to the Board of Trade as having occurred on all the railways open for traffic in England and Wales, Scotland, and Ireland respectively, during the year ended 31st December, 1868. The number of accidents to passenger trains was 92. The result from these was 92 passengers and 10 railway servants killed, and personal injury to 516 passengers and 44 railway servants. Nine accidents occurred to goods and mineral trains, whereby eight railway officials were killed and five injured.

THE OPENING OF THE SUZ CANAL.—The Alexandria correspondent of the *Levant Herald* writes: The Viceroy has issued orders for the building of three new palaces—one at Sakarah, the ancient Necropolis, another at the base of the Pyramids, and the third at the Virgin's Tree. They must all be finished by October for the reception of the expected Royal guests. The first is situated four leagues from Cairo, in the middle of the desert, in a waste of sand, to which water has already been brought for the use of travellers from the Nile, which is two hours' distant. The second will be built under the shadow of the tombs of the ancient Pharaohs, and will form a ridiculous contrast to these magnificent works executed by the power which formerly ruled in the land; and the third will be raised under the consecrated shadow of the tree which is said to have sheltered Joseph and Mary during their flight into Egypt.

THE DRESS OF THE PERIOD.—Will British husbands who are afflicted by the length of uxorial milliners' bills gather any comfort from hearing that there are husbands in other lands as ill-fated as they? The dressmaker's account which the Princess of Metternich submitted to her husband last week, before leaving Paris, was 112,000 francs (4,480*l.*) Unlike Prince Bariatinski, who last month flatly refused to pay 10,000 francs (400*l.*) for a "petite toilette de matin en crepe de Chine," his Excellency the Austrian Ambassador opened his purse like a prince. Madame la Princesse then produced the bonnet bill, which amounted to 2,250 francs (330*l.*) This his Excellency paid again, remarking this time, with exemplary resignation, "My dear, I have noticed that in proportion as your bonnets diminish in size the price of them increases. One of these mornings we shall be having the milliner bringing nothing but the bill."—*Pall Mall Gazette.*

LORD GLASGOW'S WILL.—The *Illustrated News*, in its "Wills and Bequests," mentions that the Earl of Glasgow, whose personal estate was sworn under 170,000*l.*, was the oldest member of the Jockey Club, and he has bequeathed to Mr George Payne 25,000*l.* in addition to one-half of the horses in training, leaving the other portion to General Peel. He bequeaths to the Hon. James Macdonald, 8,000*l.*; to the Hon. Col. H. Forester, 5,000*l.*; to Mr Cunningham, who had charge of his stud paddocks at Doncaster, 500*l.*, and also leaves him the stallion Tom Bowline; and to Mr Aldcroft he leaves, by codicil made only two days before his lordship's death, a legacy of 500*l.* Mr G. Payne, above noticed, intends running the horses bequeathed to him in his lordship's colours—white body, crimson sleeves and cap.

RIDING DOWN THE INNISKILLINGERS.—They laugh at the Volunteers, do these Horse Guards fellows. They must have laughed on the other side when the tidings came up from Aldershot that the 7th Dragoons had ridden into the Inniskillingers. But we don't see the fairness of blaming Captain D'Olier George for not halting his men, at sixteen miles an hour, instead of "by fours right." How could he halt them? You may guide a horse at speed so as to avoid collision when close, but as for pulling up it is impossible. The question to be answered is, why were the Inniskillingers in the way? Simply from the want of calculation in the brigadier. Given, two lines galloping at 100 yards distance at the same pace, and each line 200 yards in length, it is arithmetically obvious that, if the front line attempt to sidle off to the left (or right) it will only be half of it, or 100 yards, that can be clear out of the way before the rear line is upon the same ground and in collision. Now, both lines in this instance were at full stretch of their gallop. No alteration or difference in pace had been made, or, indeed, could have been made, and the result was as unmistakably consequential as the multiplication of 2 by 2. The squadron officers are not culpable; the fault lies with the commanding officer. The coroner's jury have pronounced to the best of their judgment. They know better at the Horse Guards, and we await with curiosity the result of their inquiry.—*Echoes of the Clubs.*

THE MOORS.—The accounts which have just reached us from the Moors are excellent; there is no disease either in Scotland or in the northern districts of England, and in all the low moors the birds seem to have bred well, as the average of the broods is reported to be from six to eight. The young birds are strong on the wing, and take a good flight. On the very high grounds in Scotland many nests were destroyed by the snow storms, but most of the old birds will breed a second time, so that there will be some backward coveys to come in late in the season. The weather has proved most unfavourable to young pheasants, many of the very early broods having been killed by the frosts. Partridges have also suffered considerably, but an average season may be expected. A correspondent asserts that the home breeding of pheasants has proved most successful. Lord Skelmersdale, however, has lost a great many of his young pheasants. Upwards of three hundred have died from some mysterious cause. "The birds seem healthy," he writes, "when suddenly they fall, and on picking them up we find them with one or both thigh-bones broken."—*Land and Water.*

A LITERARY DISCOVERY.—A discovery of "lost letters" has just been made which is of singular interest—nothing less curious than the suppressed correspondence of Charles the First with his friends on the eve of the Battle of Naseby. The House of Commons printed at the time a collection of Royal letters under the name of "The King's Cabinet Opened." These letters were thirty-nine in number; but it has been always known that, for reasons of State, a good many of the King's letters were kept back. These suppressed letters are the papers recently found. They are in private hands; but we hope to hear that in due time copies of them, at least, will be obtained for public use.—*Athenaeum.*

A BENGAL VILLAGE SCHOOL.—Entering the village, we stop at a small house whence issues a monotonous chorus of childish voices. It is the village academy, a private institution presided over by a venerable moonshee, who, to judge from his appearance and that of his surroundings, lays claim to no great erudition or high position among the learned of the earth. In matters temporal he seems to be on a level with his juvenile scholars, some twenty half-naked brats of from four to eight years old, who, seated in a semicircle round him, are taking their first, and apparently most nauseous, sip of the Pierian spring. The schoolmaster rises, and greets his patron with a grateful smile and a respectful obeisance. "Well, and how are your scholars getting on?" asks the magistrate. "As well as they can, poor little fellows," replies the dominie, turning with a pleasant smile to his class of little urchins, whose chubby faces immediately reflect their master's good humour. "Will you let them repeat the alphabet, moonshee? My friend here wishes to hear them." The schoolmaster turns to his scholars, elongates his face, and opening his mouth until all his other features seem to disappear in the capacious cavity, eliminates therefrom a loud "ar;" a cry which his young pupils take up with equal gusto, if not with equal impressiveness. So they go through the whole alphabet, chanting in chorus every letter. This method of attaining a knowledge of the elements of learning has been handed down to the present time from the earliest ages of the country. But the course of instruction pursued at the Government school—which, as its name implies, is under the patronage and protection of the Indian Viceroyalty—soars higher. The branches of education taught, or attempted to be taught, are those in common use throughout the academies of England, divinity excepted; but an English child ten years old will show a more appreciative understanding of every subject than any of the students at our Government academy. These latter will, indeed, if required, write you out, from memory, a problem of Euclid, or translate you a portion of Delectus; but the former production will be a mere hotch-potch of mathematical terms, unconnected by any shade of reasoning, and the latter will be a mass of nonsense, bearing no likeness whatever to the original.—*Dickens's 'All the Year Round.'*

WHAT BECOMES OF THE TAXES?—The revenue of Great Britain is the largest in the known world, yet, with all our wealth, a smaller proportion of it is spent upon the Government itself than in other European States, as the following comparison of revenue appropriations will clearly prove:

	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
	In Russia, they spend 25 on War Forces, 17 on Debt, 57 on the State.		
In Russia, ..	34	12	54
In Spain, ..	25	15	57
In Portugal, ..	26	23	51
In Austria, ..	29	27	44
In France, ..	26	31	43
In Gt. Britain, ..	43	42	15

It follows from this statement that while those six States spend a large proportion of their national income upon the Government, we spend 85 per cent. of ours on debt and war. There is truly no similar extravagance in the known world.—(From a Paper read before the National Reform Union, at Manchester, by Mr Stokes.)

MR GLADSTONE ON CONCURRENT ENDOWMENT.

The following letter has been received by the Rev. Dr Gordon, of Walsall:

10 Downing street, Whitehall, July 2, 1869.
 Sir,—I am directed by Mr Gladstone to acknowledge the receipt of your letter on the 1st inst., enclosing a copy of a resolution adopted at a meeting of Nonconformist and Wesleyan ministers at Walsall, to the effect that the endowment of Episcopalians, Presbyterians, and Roman Catholics in the shape of glebes, mansees, and otherwise, would be in direct opposition to the leading principles of the Irish Church Bill, and a violation of religious equality. Mr Gladstone desires me to request that you will observe that the plans in question have neither originated with nor found countenance from her Majesty's Government.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
 Rev. A. GORDON, LL.D. ALGERNON WEST.

DREAMERS' EXPERIENCES.

Another meeting of the Committee of the Dialectical Society, which is investigating "spiritual manifestations," took place on Tuesday evening for the purpose of receiving evidence on the subject of apparitions, dreams, and other phenomena of that kind. The Master of Lindsay said that on one occasion he saw the apparition of Mr Home's late wife when sleeping in the same room with Mr Home; the next day he saw, in an album, a photograph of the lady, and recognised the features as those he had seen the night previous. As to foretelling, he remembered that a friend at Rome, when he was there, one day advised him to play on three particular numbers that evening. He declined. His friend said he had dreamed those numbers would win, and played for a small sum on those numbers, and won. A Mr Rowcroft stated that he attended a *seance* last autumn, and among other extraordinary phenomena he had seen a spirit hand moving the keys of an accordion, and heard "most brilliant music produced, no human hand being near the instrument;" that the family commenced a hymn tune, "but the key being too low, the instrument, in a gentle tone, gave the true pitch. The family then sang three verses, the spirit playing in perfect time and tune on the accordion." Mr J. Jones, of Enmore Park, said that he had scores of times, in the presence of many persons, been touched by spiritual beings; "that the sensation was like that which would be felt by the pressure of a glove filled with air; that he had often seen the form of a hand rise between the table and the cloth; that he had felt them, and on one occasion it dissolved while he was vigorously pressing it." A medical gentleman stated that a friend of his in the same profession called on a lady patient, who said, "Do you believe in dreams? If so, last night I dreamt that the winner of the Derby would be No. 19 on the racing card." The doctor made inquiry, found No. 19 was "nowhere;" 20 to 1 against it; took the bets, and cleared 2,000. Another gentleman said that "when his late wife was ill, early in March, he heard a voice, as if in the centre of his head, repeating at short intervals, 'the 7th, the 7th.' The sound was clear, like a silver bell." Considering it a prediction as to the "fatal crisis day" of his wife, he told the three attendants that the crisis day would be on the 7th of April, and requested them to remember the date. On the morning of that day, when his wife was leaning on the breast of one of her sons, she died.—*Pall Mall Gazette*.

LETTER OF PRINCE HENRY DE BOURBON.—Prince Henry de Bourbon has addressed the following letter to the Minister of State at Madrid: "Paris, June 23, 1869.—In testimony of my respect for the national sovereignty, and recognising in the proceedings of the Constituent Assembly of the Cortes a guarantee for all the radical reforms which modern society demands, I swear fidelity to the Constitution. In taking that step I am influenced neither by interest nor ambition. I have not been, nor shall I ever be a pretender to the crown that has fallen from the brow of Isabella the Second by her own fault. To aspire to a throne without any other right than that of a blind ambition, one must be a hypocrite or a consummate intriguer, and I am neither. I believe that the Prince deceives himself who in our time devotes all his thoughts and efforts to the foundation of a dynasty, for the universal tendency is towards a Republic. Those who oppose that inevitable fact prepare all the storms and misfortunes which the ardour of a desperate struggle could produce, and merit the reprobation of history. In making this declaration I give an unexceptional evidence of my sentiments, and convictions in favour of such a Democracy as the elevated and civilising spirit of our age demands. I am not Louis Philippe, calling himself a simple citizen to possess himself of the throne of Charles the Tenth; I am not his father, Philippe Egalité; for, in order to serve the real interests of humanity, it is necessary to keep oneself honest and worthy. I am not the plagiary of any ambitious egoist. Neither my policy nor my pen shall ever exalt the memory of Caesar, the memorable despot of Rome; for I affirm that there exists more profit to humanity and more glory for a public man in the illustrious model of Washington. The legislator creates, whilst the hero of war scatters mourning in the midst of his blood-stained laurels; he constantly destroys and stains liberty with his fatal personality. I pray the Government to make this manifestation public, because it is indispensable that the nation should know the inmost thought of every citizen that occupies an elevated position."
 "HENRI DE BOURBON."

On the 15th of September next the creditors of Overend, Gurney, and Co. will receive another 1s. dividend, which will make 20s. in the pound, and all that will then remain due to them will be the interest on their claims. This was to have been paid at the same time as the final 1s. of principal, but the liquidators have found more difficulty in realising the assets than they expected, and have, therefore, been compelled to ask for an extension of time till the 30th of June next.

At the annual meeting of the Edinburgh Life Assurance Company at Edinburgh, on Tuesday, the report stated that during the year 750 new policies had been issued, assuring 353,219*l.*, and yielding in new premiums 10,841*l.*

MONETARY REVIEW.

The markets for Public Securities have shown no important fluctuations during the past week. Contrary to general expectation, the directors of the Bank of England separated on Thursday without making any alteration in the minimum rate; but this had little or no effect on the discount market. Consols have been improving during the week, and now show firmness and an upward tendency. In the Railway Market transactions have consisted chiefly of sales, and the prices are generally lower. Foreign Securities are flat, and Spanish have been adversely affected by the recent advices from Cuba, and the fresh Ministerial complications at Madrid. Consols are now at 93½ to 93¾ for money, and 93¾ to 93¾ for the account; New and Reduced Three per Cents. 93¾ to 93¾; Exchequer Bills, March, par to 4s. prem., and the June issue 2s. to 6s. prem. The improvement this week is due to the easy state of the money market. Bank Stock has advanced 1 per cent., being at 241 to 243. In Indian Securities, the Five per Cent. Stock is at 111½ to 112; the Four per Cent., 100½ to 100¾; the Bonds, 15s. to 20s. prem.; and Ditto Debentures, 103 to 104.

In the Foreign Stock Market, Brazilian Five per Cents., 1865, are 83½ to 84; Chilean Six per Cents., 1867, 94 to 95 ex div.; Ditto Seven per Cents., 1866, 100 to 102 ex div.; Egyptian Seven per Cents., 1862, 84 to 85; Ditto Railway Debentures, 97 to 98 ex div.; Ditto Nine per Cent. Viceroy Loan, 95½ to 96; Ditto Seven per Cent. Viceroy Loan, 80½ to 80½ ex div.; Ditto, 1868, 79½ to 80½; Italian Five per Cents., 1861, 53½ to 54½ ex div.; Ditto State Domain, 82 to 83; Mexican, 12½ to 12¾; Peruvian Five per Cents., 1865, 77 to 77½; Portuguese, 33½ to 34½ ex div.; Russian Four-and-a-Half per Cents., 86 to 88 ex div.; Ditto Three per Cents., 52½ to 53½; Ditto Five per Cents., 1862, 85 to 85½; Ditto Anglo-Dutch, 1866, 90½ to 90½; Moscow-Jaroslaw, 79½ to 80½; Nicolas, 65½ to 66½; Charkof-Azof, 79½ to 80½; Spanish New Threes, 28½ to 28½; Turkish Six per Cents., 1854, 86 to 87; Ditto, 1858, 67½ to 68½; Ditto, 1862, 66 to 67 ex div.; Ditto Five per Cents., 1865, 45½ to 45½.

In American Securities, United States 5-20 Bonds are at 81½ to 81½; Ditto 10-40 Bonds, 72½ to 72½; Erie Shares, 19 to 19½; and Illinois Centrals, 95 to 96.

In the Railway Share Market, South-Eastern have declined ¾, and London and North-Western, ½. The prices are as follow: Brighton, 44½ to 44½; Caledonian, 79½ to 79½; Great Eastern, 38½ to 38½; Great Western, 50½ to 51½; Great Northern, (A), 107½ to 107½; Lancashire and Yorkshire, 125½ to 125½; London and North-Western, 118½ to 119½; London, Chatham, and Dover, 16½ to 17; Metropolitan, 97½ to 97½; Midland, 117½ to 117½; North British, 34 to 34½; Sheffield, 56½ to 56½; South-Eastern, 76½ to 77½.

Bank Shares are firm. Chartered Mercantile are 30½ to 31½ ex div.; Consolidated, 3 to 3; London and County, 50 to 51; London Joint Stock, 32 to 33; London and Westminster, 2½ to 63; National, 36 to 37; Ditto Australasia, 6½ to 7; Oriental, 41 to 42; Ottoman, 1½ to 1½ ex div. prem.; Union of London, 37 to 38; and Victoria, 37 to 39.

In Miscellaneous Securities there is a further rise of 1 in Telegraph Construction, and ¾ in French Atlantic Shares. Anglo-American Telegraph are 20½ to 20½ ex div.; Anglo-Mediterranean ditto, 14 to 14½ ex div.; Atlantic Telegraph, 20 to 21; ditto Eight per Cent. Preference, 37-16 to 39-16; Credit Foncier, 27-16 to 29-16; General Credit, 7 to 7½ dis.; Hudson's Bay, 12½ to 13; International Finance, 2 to 1½ dis. ex div.; Telegraph Construction, 24 to 24½ ex div.; Peninsular and Oriental, 46 to 47 ex div.; Royal Mail, 42½ to 43½; Cape Copper, 6 to 6½; French Atlantic Shares, 21½ to 21½.

The dividend to be declared by the Union Bank of London, at the meeting to be held on the 14th inst., is officially announced at the usual rate of 15 per cent. per annum; to which will be added a bonus of 2½ per cent. on the paid-up capital, making together 10 per cent. for the last half-year.

At the annual general court of proprietors of the Atlas Assurance Company, held on Wednesday, a dividend of 16s. per share, free of income tax, was declared; and the directors retiring by rotation were re-elected.

At the meeting of the Bombay Gas Company (Limited), held on Wednesday, a dividend of 2 5-6ths per cent., free of income-tax, was declared, making, with the interim dividend of 1 2-3rds paid in January, a total distribution of 4½ per cent. for the year.

The Directors of the Birmingham Joint Stock Bank have declared a dividend at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum for the past half-year.

At a meeting of the Spring Valley Coffee Company (Limited), held on Wednesday, a dividend at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum was declared.

The directors of the London and Westminster Bank have resolved to declare a dividend and bonus equal together to 8 per cent. for the half-year ended the 30th of June, carrying forward 1,200*l.* This is the first dividend upon the augmented capital of two millions, and is equivalent to a division of 16 per cent. upon the old capital of one million.

The Great Northern Railway Company are inviting tenders, deliverable by the 19th inst., for the construction of the Wood-green to Enfield line, which is upwards of four miles in length.

An ordinary general meeting of the London and St Katharine Docks Company is convened for the 27th inst., when a half-yearly dividend is to be declared.

The official liquidator of the Joint Stock Discount Company lately instituted proceedings in Chancery to compel the directors and two of their officers to refund to the shareholders 30,000*l.*, which had been, without their authority, paid out of the company's funds for shares in Burned's Bank. Vice-Chancellor James has decided that the purchase of the shares was a breach of trust, and ordered the directors to refund the 30,000*l.* with interest.

The fifth ordinary general meeting of the Merchant Shipping Company (Limited) will be held on the 28th inst., when a dividend will be declared.

At the annual meeting of the Dutch Rhenish Railway Company, held on the 29th ult., at Utrecht, a dividend of 4s. 3d. per share was declared on the 8*l.* shares, and of 14s. 4d. on the fully paid-up shares.

An extraordinary meeting of the Westminster Brewery Company (Limited) is convened for the 15th inst., for the purpose of declaring an interim dividend.

A sum of 5,160*l.* being now applicable to the redemption of

the New Granada foreign debt, it is notified that tenders will be received for the redemption until the 15th inst.

The half-yearly interest on the debentures of the Australian Mortgage Land and Finance Company (Limited) will be paid on and after the 15th inst., on presentation of the coupons at the Imperial Bank.

At the meeting of the shareholders of the Colonial Bank, held on Tuesday, a dividend of 6 per cent. was declared for the half-year, in addition to an "extraordinary" dividend of 1 per cent.

The half-yearly meeting of the Fore-street Warehouse Company (Limited) will be held on the 20th instant, for the declaration of a dividend for the past half-year, &c.

The half-yearly meeting of the proprietors of the Consolidated Bank (Limited) will be held on the 16th instant, at Manchester.

The Reversionary Interest Society have declared a dividend for the year at the rate of 4½ per cent., clear of income-tax.

At a meeting, on Tuesday, of Hodges' Distillery Company (Limited), it was decided to wind up the undertaking voluntarily.

The half-yearly meeting of the proprietors of the London and South African Bank is called for the 11th of November.

LATEST INTELLIGENCE.

The match at Wimbledon between the Lords and the Commons has resulted in a victory for the Commons by 353 to 315 points.

Corporal Peake, of the 6th Lancashire Volunteers, who won the Prince of Wales's prize of 100*l.* on Monday, has been disqualified from further competition at Wimbledon during the present meeting. He discharged a rifle loaded with ball cartridge within the camp on Wednesday evening, to the imminent danger of life. Corporal Peake is a singularly unfortunate man. He won the Queen's Prize last year, and was then disqualified for not having used the regulation ammunition.

The inquiry into the circumstances which led to the fatal riot at Portadown was resumed on Thursday. Evidence was given to the effect that the police were not justified in firing upon the crowd.

PARIS, July 8.—The *Peuple Francais* of this evening publishes an article signed by its chief editor, M. Clement Duvernois, in which it says that the Deputies who have signed the "interpellation" of the Third Party are friends of the Government, and do not wish that the Emperor should renounce his initiative, but that he should cause the Chamber to share in it. The *Peuple* believes that the Emperor is not disposed to refuse the demands of the interpellation, and adds: "The situation is not disquieting, for while one side does not desire to put forward exaggerated claims, the other is equally resolved not to oppose an exaggerated resistance. The crisis will finish by a compromise, satisfaction being given to public opinion."

The belief which has been expressed by Paris journals, that M. Pujade, French Consul-General at Alexandria, had resigned, is unfounded. M. Pujade is only coming to Paris on leave of absence.

The Legislative Body has to-day declared seven more elections to be valid. During the sitting M. Jules Favre urged upon the Chamber the necessity of electing the bureaux and otherwise carrying out the formality of constituting the House, in order that it might approach the discussion of the great political questions which pre-occupy the mind of the Chamber and of the country. He added that all the delays which had been demanded had no other object than to allow time for a reconstruction of the Ministry. M. Rouher replied that the Government was ready to discuss all public affairs, adding: "A Ministerial crisis is spoken of, but the great questions to which allusion has been made do not relate simply to a few individuals; they affect our institutions and the future of society, and are bound up with the question of the barrier which must be raised against revolution. I do not know when or by what men an agreement will be arrived at, but I know perfectly well on what vital forces the Chamber will rely in order to preserve society."

BREAST, July 8.—Captain Sherard Osborn telegraphs respecting the French Atlantic Cable, as follows: "Up to ten a.m. Greenwich time, about seven o'clock ship time, all going on well on board *Great Eastern*. The tests and signals satisfactory. She is still evidently rolling considerably; but according to latest news last night the wind has abated. She will be in shoal water to-night, or early to-morrow."

MINOU (BREAST), July 8.—Gooc telegraphs position of *Great Eastern* at noon to-day as follows: "Lat. 43°50'; lon. 46°33'. Distance run, 1,754 miles; cable payed out, 1,977 miles. Insulation is very high. We shall be in shallow water to-morrow morning. All well on board." Mr May reports—"Tests here (Minou) satisfactory as usual. We receive very freely from ship; she is apparently rolling heavily." Despatched 7.0 p.m., Greenwich time.

MADRID, July 8.—The Cortes discussed to-day the proposal to pass a vote of censure upon Senor Herrera. The motion was, however, rejected by 163 votes against 94. General Prim expressed regret that the Democratic party were separating themselves from the majority.

NEW YORK, July 8.—Nearly complete returns of the Virginia elections have been received. The Conservatives have elected six and the Radicals three Congressmen, one of the latter being a negro.

The Ohio Democratic State Convention has nominated General Rosecrantz as Governor of that State.

Secretary Boutwell has ordered the New York Treasurer to purchase bonds to the amount of 3,000,000 dollars to-morrow.

Sir John Young was enthusiastically received at Quebec yesterday.

Advices from Cuba state that General Caballero de Rodas has issued a proclamation, declaring that the insurgents are now only maintaining a guerrilla warfare.

Admiral Hoff has sent a vessel of war to Santiago, to investigate the outrages which, it is reported, have been perpetrated on American citizens.

THEATRE ROYAL, ADELPHI.

Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr BENJAMIN WEBSTER; Directress, Mrs ALFRED MELLON. Immense attraction. Revival of the celebrated Drama of THE WILLOW COPSE, in which Mr Benjamin Webster will appear. On Monday and during the Week, at Seven, DOMESTIC ECONOMY. Mr G. Belmore. At a Quarter to Eight, THE WILLOW COPSE. Mr Benjamin Webster. Messrs G. Belmore, J. G. Taylor, A. Stirling, C. H. Stephenson, Ashley, Stuart, Eburne, C. J. Smith, E. Romer; Miss Furtado, Mrs Alfred Mellon, Mrs Leigh Murray, Miss M. Harris. And DID YOU EVER SEND YOUR WIFE TO CAMBERWELL. Mr G. Belmore and Mr R. Phillips.

WILL SHORTLY CLOSE.

FRENCH GALLERY, 120 Pall-mall.—The SIXTEENTH ANNUAL EXHIBITION OF PICTURES, the contributions of Artists of the French and Flemish Schools. Admission 1s. Catalogue 6d.

THE INSTITUTE of PAINTERS in WATER-COLOURS, 55 PALLMALL, WILL SHORTLY CLOSE THEIR THIRTY-FIFTH ANNUAL EXHIBITION. OPEN daily, from Nine to dusk. Admission 1s. Catalogue 6d. JAMES FAHEY, Sec.

LONDON and WESTMINSTER BANK.—Notice is hereby given that a SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING of this Company will be held at the Bank, on Wednesday, the 21st July next, at one o'clock precisely, for the purpose of receiving a Half-yearly Report from the Directors, and to Declare a Dividend. WM. EWINGS, General Manager.

June 2, 1869. The Transfer Books of the Company will be Closed, to prepare for the Dividend, on the 1st July next, and will re-open on the 5th July. Proprietors registered in the book of the Company on the 30th June will be entitled to the Dividend for the current half-year, on the number of shares then standing in their respective names.

SPANISH INVOICE CLERK.—Sought in the Office of a London Merchant, must be a good Accountant, and have a fair knowledge of Manufactured Goods. Address, stating qualifications and salary required, to R. A., care of Messrs DAWSON and SONS, 121 Cannon street, London, E.C.

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