

# The Economist,

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## The Political Economist.

### IMPORT DUTIES OR DIRECT TAXES? THE FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL POLICY SINCE 1815.

To a country with a debt of nearly 800,000,000*l.*, the yearly charge of which is about 28,000,000*l.*,—which has to raise annually, for Imperial purposes, including the cost of collection, a sum little short of 60,000,000*l.* by taxes on its property and industry, it must be of the most essential importance to determine upon, and to adopt, those principles upon which such enormous obligations can be sustained with least strain upon its energies, with greatest equity to the various classes of the community, and so as least to impede production and the accumulation of wealth. And yet it is, perhaps, not too much to say that there is scarcely a subject of common public interest with regard to which opinion is less defined—with regard to which there is so great a variety of crude and dangerous nostrums permeating society, notwithstanding all that has been written by Smith, Ricardo, M'Culloch, and others, and notwithstanding the continuous attention which has been given to the subject by the most eminent statesmen of the last thirty years.

During the first fifteen years of the century the attention that was given to financial questions was mainly confined to the efforts necessary for providing by any means for the enormous expenditure of the war. For several years after the definite peace of 1815, the attention of Parliament was confined to the repeal of some of the taxes, imposed exclusively as war taxes, and to some which were considered to press most severely upon the interests most powerfully represented in Parliament. These included a repeal of the property tax in 1815 to the amount of 14,942,000*l.*; a reduction of the malt duty in 1816 to the amount of 2,800,000*l.*, a further reduction of the same duty in 1822 to the amount of 1,429,000*l.*; and a reduction of assessed taxes in 1823 to the amount of 2,383,000*l.* During those years we discover, in the discussions which took place, no general broad principle on which financial measures were based. When there was a surplus, the taxes which, from the accidental circumstances of the day, were the most unpopular, and those which could command the strongest opposition in Parliament, were selected for remission. It was not until 1824 that an attempt was made by Mr Huskisson to lay down broad and general principles of legislation with regard to finance

and commerce. From that time to the present, the principles then first enunciated have been at different periods more or less acted upon, but most entirely so, during the last nine years from 1842. At a moment, then, when there is a large and influential party in the country which seeks to reverse that policy, it is of the greatest importance that the public should have placed fairly before them the actual results of the various financial experiments which have been made during the period referred to. And this inquiry will be the more useful, inasmuch as the period from 1824 to this time presents a sufficient variety of policies, or of the extent to which different policies have at different times been applied, to enable us satisfactorily to determine which has been most conducive to the general interests of the country, financially, commercially, and socially. Thus, from experience, we may hope to make some progress in the establishment of principles which will hereafter be unhesitatingly accepted as the guide of the Legislature.

The time that has elapsed since 1824, may be divided into three periods:—1, From 1824 to 1829, during which the counsels of Mr Huskisson chiefly prevailed:—2, From 1830 to 1841, during which the pressure of a mistaken popular opinion directly influenced some of the most important financial changes:—and 3, From 1842 to 1850, during which the principles first indicated by Mr Huskisson received their full and practical development by the late Sir Robert Peel, followed up by the present Government.

In 1823, the entire revenue of the United Kingdom amounted to 64,969,000*l.*, of which only 4,563,674*l.* consisted of direct taxes on property,—land-tax, window duty, and inhabited house duty. No less a sum than 44,813,855*l.* consisted of Customs and Excise duties. These included imposts of the most objectionable character. Raw materials of every description were loaded with enormous taxes. Foreign wool, cotton, flax, hemp, silk, iron, timber, were all subject to high duties. Some branches of manufactures were highly protected. Foreign silks and some other articles were entirely prohibited; and in the absence of competition, we had then in those articles scarcely any foreign trade. Spitalfields and Macclesfield depended alone on the home trade, and a very small demand from the colonies. On all imported articles, even of the commonest necessity and of the most general use, the rates of duty were so extravagant as materially to limit consumption and to injure the revenue, thus destroying the object of their imposition. The principle of Protection had found its way into all branches of production, whether home or colonial. In some instances, on the pretence of raising Customs revenue, high differential duties had been imposed on articles of foreign produce, which, while they raised the price to the consumer, gave little in proportion to the Exchequer. In others, home productions were protected by direct prohibitions of similar articles produced abroad. As a consequence of such a state of things, a complicated system of drawbacks existed, fruitful of frauds, evasions, and immorality. Smuggling was an organised and extensive profession. In short, there was not a single faulty or objectionable principle of finance, that did not then extensively prevail in the British tariff of Customs and Excise.

It was to this state of things that Mr Huskisson first addressed his attention in 1823 and 1824. We gather, from the character of his first experiments, that he fully appreciated the fundamental errors in the financial system of the day. In his first measures we discover the germs of all the great practical reforms which have been effected since. He commenced by reducing to nominal rates the duties on the chief raw materials of industry, of wool, flax, hemp, silk, and numerous inferior articles, &c. He abolished the drawbacks which had existed in consequence of those duties. He removed the prohibition against the silk and other manufactures of France, and the silk goods of India. He modified some of the protective duties. He reduced the rates of duty on several chief articles of daily use, which appeared most to interfere with consumption, or to encourage smuggling—coffee, tobacco, rum, wine, &c. Mr Huskisson thus laid the foundation of that great financial and commercial policy, which, in a greater or a lesser degree, has been followed by the British Legislature to

the present day, and the objects of which we may thus describe:—

*First.*—To remove all absolute prohibitions in the case of exports and imports.

*Second.*—To reduce and finally to abolish the duties on all articles, the raw materials of our manufactures.

*Third.*—To modify and finally to repeal all protective duties.

*Fourth.*—To reduce duties on articles of general use, which were so excessive in their amount as to encourage smuggling, or to limit consumption, thus interfering with the real interests of the revenue.

*Fifth.*—To abolish those Excise duties which more directly interfered with industry and with our power to compete in neutral markets with foreign producers.

*Sixth.*—To clear the tariff of a great mass of small and vexatious duties, which were so trifling in amount as barely to pay the cost of their collection, while they imposed upon commerce as much annoyance and inconvenience as if they had been ever so profitable to the Exchequer.

*Seventh.*—To get rid of those most pernicious of all fiscal arrangements, drawbacks and exemptions.

These we would lay down as the seven great cardinal points in all fiscal reform. In 1824, the British tariff presented a rich field for their application. The exportation of machinery, one of our largest branches of industry, was absolutely prohibited; the importations of foreign silks, gloves, and other manufactures, of some descriptions of provisions and of live cattle, were absolutely prohibited. Raw materials of every description were charged with high duties. The protection to corn, provisions, sugar, coffee, and timber was so high as to be in usual times prohibitory against the introduction of foreign produce. The duties on coffee, sugar, spirits, tobacco, and other articles of common use, were so high as to restrict their consumption, and render it nearly stationary. Printed cottons, hides, glass, and candles, all now articles of extensive exportation, were subject to heavy Excise duties, and to the restrictions of Excise officers.

The tariff consisted of upwards of twelve hundred articles, while more than eighty per cent. of the entire Customs revenue was derived from fewer than one hundred. An extensive system of drawbacks prevailed, in the case of the exportation of silk goods, of printed cottons, of glass, &c. &c.; in the case of timber used in mines and charches, and of soap used in manufactures;—all of which, there is no doubt, were productive of injury equally to the Exchequer, and to the morality of those concerned in the trades to which they applied.

During the last twenty-six years, since 1824, the boldest and most numerous experiments have been made upon the finances and commercial policy of this country that are anywhere recorded in history, with a view to give effect to the great principles to which we have now referred. It is of the first importance that we should now examine how far they have been successful for the great object contemplated, viz. of promoting the general prosperity and happiness of the community at large, which is the only true and legitimate end of all government. For this purpose we will at once proceed to the examination of the three periods which we have already indicated as those into which the twenty-six years are naturally divided:—*first*, from 1824 to 1829, during which Mr Huskisson was connected with the Government and influenced its policy;—*second*, from 1830 to 1841, including the Governments of the Duke of Wellington, Lord Grey, and Lord Melbourne;—and *third*, from 1842 to 1851, during which the policy we have indicated has received a more distinct application than at any former period.

FIRST PERIOD.—1824 to 1829.

In order fully to appreciate the merits of the task undertaken by Mr Huskisson in 1824, it is necessary to refer to the state of public opinion at the time, and to the policy, so different in its character, which had prevailed for some years before. We cannot better do this than by referring to the financial measures adopted by Parliament from the conclusion of the peace in 1815 to 1823. During that time, the amount of taxes reduced and repealed, after deducting those imposed, amounted to no less than 21,512,782*l*. This sum was thus made up:—

Property tax and assessed taxes .....	£
Excise duties reduced more than imposed .....	18,355,880
Post Office ditto.....	3,227,400
.....	17,500
	22,700,880

From which we must deduct:—

Custom duties imposed more than reduced...	£
Stamps ditto .....	656,700
.....	31,327
	688,107
Net total reductions .....	21,512,782

So little had the policy introduced by Mr Huskisson been understood or acted upon prior to 1824, that even so late as 1819 and 1820, new Custom duties were imposed to the amount of nearly 1,200,000*l*, including sheep's wool, cotton, silk, coffee, tea, tobacco, &c.; while in 1823 direct assessed taxes were reduced to the amount of 2,475,000*l*.

Let us now see how entirely Mr Huskisson reversed the policy that had prevailed up to 1823. In 1824 he repealed and reduced taxes to the amount of 1,805,000*l*, of which 1,515,000*l*

were Customs duties, consisting chiefly of those charged on raw and thrown silk, wool and other raw materials, spirits, and import duties on British manufactures in Ireland. In 1825, there were again taxes reduced and repealed to the amount of 3,676,239*l*, of which no less than 2,805,726*l* were Customs duties, and 618,000*l* Excise duties, consisting chiefly of those charged on wine, tobacco, coffee, iron, thrown silk, wool, flax, hemp, dye stuffs, &c., &c., and on flint, glass, and salt. Again, in 1826, the entire amount of taxes repealed was 1,967,315*l*, of which 766,000*l* consisted of Customs duties, and 1,140,000*l* of Excise duties. And, taking the entire period of six years from 1824 to 1829, both inclusive, the following were the results of the financial measures adopted by Parliament:—

TAXES REDUCED AND REPEALED FROM 1824 to 1829.

	£
Customs duties—Reduced or repealed .....	5,248,135
— Imposed .....	257,695
Net total reductions .....	4,987,440
Excise duties—Reduced or repealed.....	1,674,200
— Imposed .....	42,000
Net total reductions .....	1,628,200
STAMPS—Reduced .....	427,645
TAXES—Reduced.....	279,97
POST OFFICE—Reductions .....	80,000
— Additions.....	9,100
Net reductions .....	70,900

The entire net reductions during the period referred to, therefore, were—

	£
Customs .....	4,987,440
Excise .....	1,628,200
Stamps .....	427,645
Taxes.....	279,97
Post Office .....	70,900
Total net reductions .....	7,333,282

Here, then, we discover a great and marked change in the financial policy of the country. Direct taxes are steadily adhered to. Indirect taxes of Customs and Excise are freely relinquished, especially those which pressed most heavily upon the trade and the industry of the country, or which, from their excessive amount, interfered with consumption. And these reductions were made in the full confidence that the revenue of the country would not ultimately suffer by them; but, on the contrary, that it would be placed on a firmer and more substantial footing, through the increased employment of the people, the more extensive commerce of the merchant, and the more profitable application of the capital of the country. How far were these expectations realised? A great proportion of the reductions of Customs duties included in the large sum of 4,987,440*l*, had reference to raw materials, reduced to mere nominal rates, and which could not be expected to reproduce the revenue remitted, except through the increased general prosperity which was likely to flow from the policy adopted, and which would only be discoverable in the general state of the revenue. But there were some articles on which large reductions were made with a view to increase consumption; and by this means to reproduce the revenue remitted. Of these the chief were coffee, tobacco, rum, and wine.

1. *Coffee.*—In 1824 the duties on coffee were:—

	s	d		s	d
Colonial .....	1	0	per lb reduced to .....	0	6
East India .....	1	6	—	—	0
Foreign .....	2	6	—	—	1

In 1824, the consumption was 8,262,000 lb, and the net revenue 420,000*l* at the old rates of duty. Already in 1829, the consumption had risen to 19,476,000 lb, and the revenue to 484,975*l*, being 64,975*l* more than had ever been received at the high duties.

2. *Tobacco.*—In 1825, the duties on tobacco were reduced from 4s to 3s per lb on unmanufactured, and from 18s to 9s per lb on manufactured. The consumption in 1824 was 16,915,000 lb of the former, and 1,400 lb of the latter; and the net revenue was 3,378,000*l*. The estimated loss amounted to 846,509*l*. In 1829, when the reduced duties had been in operation only four years, the consumption had already increased to 18,885,000 lb, and the loss to the revenue was reduced to 529,000*l*; and in 1835, exactly ten years after the reduction was made, the consumption had increased so much, that at the lower duties the revenue had entirely recovered its former amount.

3. *Rum.*—In 1826, the duty on rum was reduced from 12s 7½d the gallon to 8s 6d. In 1825, the consumption was 2,095,687 gallons, and the revenue 1,284,628*l*. In 1829, or in only three years, the entire reduction was more than recovered, the net revenue of that year being 1,434,783*l*.

4. *Wine.*—In 1824, the duties on wines were 3s 0½d per gallon on Cape, 13s 9d on French, and 9s 1½d to 11s 3½d on other kinds. The consumption was 5,030,000 gallons, and the net revenue 2,153,000*l*. In 1825, the duties were reduced to 2s 5d on Cape, 7s 3d on French, and 4s 10d on other kinds of wine. Under these reductions the consumption had risen in 1828 to 7,162,000 gallons, and the first apparent loss of revenue, which was estimated at 1,000,000*l*, was already reduced to 453,000*l*. In 1831, the duty on Cape wine was raised to 2s 9d, and that on French and all other wines was equalised at 5s 6d the gallon. But to this day the revenue has never risen to that of 1824, that of 1850 being only 1,893,013*l*, on a consumption of 6,684,637 gallons;

sumption was larger in 1828 than it has been in any year since. The increase of duty upon the wines of Portugal and Spain in 1831, representing more than three-fourths of the entire quantity, seems to have acted very prejudicially upon consumption, as in 1832 the quantity on which duty was paid fell at once to 5,600,000 gallons. This experiment succeeded up to 1830, but, unlike all other articles, the consumption of wine has been nearly stationary since that time. How far the increase of duty in 1831 has led to this result, or how far it would have been different had the duties been further reduced, or how far a change of the habits of society would have produced the same effect, without reference to fiscal causes, it is impossible to say. But this is certain, that of all the articles of great and general consumption on which considerable reductions were then made, wine is the only one that did not, within a very moderate time, entirely recover, by increased consumption, the whole revenue surrendered by the reduction of duties.

Thus we find that of the four articles on which great reductions were made by Mr Huskisson, coffee reproduced the entire revenue which it yielded at the high duties in four years; tobacco in ten years; and rum in three years; while in the case of wine the first loss of 1,000,000*l* was in four years reduced 453,000*l*, but which to this day has never been entirely compensated, as the revenue in 1850 was still 260,000*l* less than in 1824. But looking to these articles as a whole, it must be admitted that an extraordinary success attended the experiments made in 1824 to 1826.

But let us examine the effect of the policy of Mr Huskisson on the revenue of the country as a whole. From 1824 to 1829 taxes had been reduced or repealed to the amount of 7,322,382*l*. We will place at one view the revenue under the different heads in 1824, the last year under the old duties, the amount of reductions which took place during the period, and the receipts in 1829. During this period there were so many transfers between the Customs and Excise, that in order to make the comparison perfect it is necessary to put those two heads together. The comparison will then be as follows:—

	Revenue of 1824.	Reductions between 1824 and 1829.	Revenue of 1829.
	£	£	£
Customs and Excise .....	46,270,450	6,515,640	43,624,613
Stamps .....	7,749,248	427,643	7,698,370
Taxes .....	5,228,197	279,097	5,212,569
Post Office .....	2,225,239	7,900	2,265,482
<b>Totals .....</b>	<b>61,473,134</b>	<b>7,322,382</b>	<b>58,750,414</b>
	Loss of revenue .....		2,713,700
			61,464,144

Thus we find that while reductions of taxes were made to the amount of no less than 7,322,382*l*, in the short space of five years the revenue had recovered its former amount within 2,713,700*l*. Therefore, whether we look to the experiments made by Mr Huskisson in their effect on the principal individual articles to which they were applied, or on the whole revenue of the country, they must be admitted to have been highly successful.

The protected interests chiefly affected by Mr Huskisson's measures were those of the shipowner, the sheep farmer, the silk manufacturer, the silk throwster, and the ironmaster. It may be conceded that all these suffered considerably during the first four or five years immediately succeeding the speculative year of 1825, in common with many other interests which were not affected by legislation. But, however that may have been, it cannot be denied that before ten years had passed away, there were no interests which exhibited signs of greater prosperity or more rapid progress. If we had now to refer to particular trades, as examples of remarkable progress during the last twenty years, we should select those of silk, iron, and shipping, as the most wonderful. And if we had to refer to the branch of agriculture which has enjoyed the most even prosperity during that period, it would be that of the flock farmer, who, in 1825, was practically deprived of all protection.

SECOND PERIOD.—1830 to 1841.

From the period that Mr Huskisson left the Government a marked change took place in the financial policy of the country. In 1830, under the Duke of Wellington's Government, taxes were repealed and reduced to the amount of 4,070,000*l*, but of these no less than 3,506,000 applied to Excise duties, and those of a character in no way calculated to reproduce themselves, or materially to increase the trade and industry of the country. The Excise duties on hides and skins were repealed, with no other effect than adding to the protection which the home producer already enjoyed against foreign hides; for as the duty on the latter remained the same, the supply was not increased, the price to the public was not reduced, and the repeal of the small countervailing Excise duty hitherto paid, only tended to enhance the price received by the British farmer and to add to his protection, under the pretence of cheapening the shoes of the poor. In this way the sum of 433,000*l* was surrendered. Again, the beer duty amounting to 3,110,000*l* was repealed. This, no doubt direct relief to the consumers of beer, had little or no tendency to increase employment, or to enlarge the commerce of the country, and very little directly or indirectly to restore the revenue at a later period. It was one of those most direct of indirect taxes, which, as we shall hereafter show, are least prejudicial in their character and consequences, and the repeal of which is attended with least advantage to the country at large, and especially

to the working classes. In 1831, taxes were repealed by Lord Grey's Government to the amount of 1,588,052*l*, but others were imposed amounting to 627,586*l*. The remissions of this year included two very valuable reforms, viz., the repeal of the Customs duty coastwise on coal, amounting to 955,000*l*, and of the Excise duty on printed calicoes, amounting to 529,000*l*; but the benefit of these measures was greatly reduced by the contradictory act of imposing on cotton wool an additional duty amounting to 420,494*l*, and other Customs duty amounting in all to 626,206*l*. From this time the public and the Legislature were so much absorbed with Parliamentary Reform, that little or no attention seems to have been given to financial or commercial questions. Mr Paulett Thompson, with all his zeal and ability, was enabled to effect only some very minor reforms. He made a great effort to deal with the timber duties; but from the indifference of Parliament to those questions, he was obliged to abandon the attempt. He succeeded, however, in effecting a partial reduction of the duty on cotton; in equalising the duty on French with other wines; in equalising the duties on sugar and coffee, the produce of the East and West Indies; and in reducing the duties to a small extent on some articles of raw materials. But perhaps one of the most beneficial reforms at this period, in its effects upon the trade of the country, was the repeal, in 1832, of the Excise on candles, amounting to 477,000*l*, which has led to a remarkable extension of this trade.

In the very crude state of public opinion at that time upon subjects of trade and finance, it is perhaps not a matter of surprise that the great influence which it had just obtained in a newly-reformed House of Commons, should have been directed rather to the removal of those taxes which more immediately pressed upon the classes who had just attained such an addition to their power, than to those which a regard to economical principles, and the lessons taught by Mr Huskisson, would have pointed to as those which, by their indirect influence upon the trade and industry of the country, were the most likely to ensure the future prosperity of the country, and the safety of its finances. Thus we find that a powerful clamour compelled the Government, in 1834—much we believe against the inclination of Lord Althorp—to relinquish the house duty, yielding 1,200,000*l*. The other chief reductions made during the period referred to, were a reduction of the paper duty and of newspaper stamps to the amount of 700,000*l* in 1836, and of the rates of postage in 1840 to the amount of 1,240,000*l*; Customs and Excise duties being imposed in the same year to the amount of no less than 1,842,000*l*.

During the first ten years of the reformed Parliament, the maxims and policy of Mr Huskisson seem to have been entirely lost sight of, notwithstanding the efforts of Mr P. Thompson to follow them out, and it was not until the production of the budget of 1841 by Mr Baring, that we discover any real effort to give effect to principles which had been rapidly making their way among all thinking men, and which had been warmly advocated by all sound economists. The three features of that budget were—1, a fixed duty of 8s a quarter on foreign wheat; 2, a reduction of the prohibitory duty on foreign sugar of 63s to 36s per cwt; and 3, a reduction of the almost equally prohibitory duty on foreign timber. So far as they went, no proposals could be more sound, with a view of increasing the trade of the country, securing general prosperity, and improving the state of the finances. These proposals, and with them the Government, were however defeated by the great Protectionist party of the day.

But in order fully to appreciate the character and the results of the financial measures of the period to which we now refer, we will shortly consider them as a whole, and the effects which they produced on the general revenue of the country. The following statements show the entire remissions of taxes in the twelve years from 1830 to 1841 both inclusive:—

TAXES REMITTED—1830 to 1841.		£
CUSTOMS—Reduced or repealed .....		2,663,351
— Imposed .....		1,912,678
<b>Net reductions .....</b>		<b>750,673</b>
EXCISE—Reduced or repealed .....		6,312,760
— Imposed .....		1,576,100
<b>Net reductions .....</b>		<b>4,736,660</b>
STAMPS—Reduced or repealed .....		567,144
— Imposed .....		23,493
<b>Net reductions .....</b>		<b>543,651</b>
TAXES—Reduced or repealed .....		1,670,910
— Imposed .....		315,011
<b>Net reductions .....</b>		<b>1,355,899</b>
POST OFFICE—Reduced or repealed .....		1,050,000
— Imposed .....		6,030
<b>Net reductions .....</b>		<b>1,050,970</b>
The net reductions, therefore, were:—		
	£	
Customs duties .....	750,673	
Excise duties, chiefly beer .....	4,736,660	
Stamp do .....	543,651	
Taxes, chiefly the house duty .....	1,355,899	
Post Office .....	1,050,970	
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>8,437,793</b>	

The contrast between the character of these reductions and those of the period from 1824 to 1829 is most striking, but not more so than their effect upon the revenue. In the former period, out of reductions amounting to 7,393,282*l*, no less than 6,615,640*l* consisted of Customs duties calculated directly to relieve commerce and to increase trade and employment; and in the latter period, out of reductions amounting to 8,437,793*l*, only 750,673*l* consisted of relief of this character. Let us now see what effect these latter reductions had upon the revenue:—

	Revenue in 1829, the last year before the reductions.	Reductions, 1830 to 1841, inclusive.	Revenue in 1841.
Customs, including tea charged in 1829 in the Excise.....	23,893,559	750,673	23,821,486
Excise .....	19,730,464	4,736,600	14,602,847
Stamps .....	7,618,370	543,651	7,276,360
Taxes .....	5,212,569	1,355,899	4,715,353
Post Office .....	2,265,482	1,050,970	1,495,540
Totals .....	58,750,444	8,437,793	51,911,586
	Net loss .....		6,838,858
			58,750,444

Thus, whereas, during the former period, in the face of reductions to the amount of 7,393,282*l*, the revenue at the end of five years had recovered the whole except only 2,713,700*l*, during the latter period, with reductions to the amount of 8,437,793*l* of a different character, the revenue at the end of eleven years suffered a net loss of 6,838,858*l*. Nor were the effects less prejudicial upon the general finances of the country. At the close of 1830, there was a surplus of income over expenditure of 2,913,672*l*; at the close of 1841, there was a deficiency of 2,101,370*l*, succeeding four others of recurring deficiencies. At the close of 1830, the balances in the Exchequer amounted to 5,993,940*l*; at the close of 1841, to 3,653,810*l*. At the close of 1830, the amount of the National Debt, funded and unfunded, was 783,096,646*l*; at the close of 1841, it was 790,874,608*l*, showing an increase of 7,777,962*l*. The contrast, therefore, of the financial results of the measures of the two periods is quite as striking, as is the contrast of their character. But if the commercial and financial measures of the first ten years of a reformed Parliament were attended with so little success, it must at least be admitted that those great political changes which gave representatives to Manchester, Birmingham, and other large towns, and which rendered the House of Commons much more amenable to public opinion, was the main cause which led to that more enlightened policy which has so justly and so peculiarly distinguished the last nine years, which we are now about to review, and which enabled Sir Robert Peel to effect those great reforms which will perpetuate his name as one of the greatest public benefactors which the country has produced.

### THIRD PERIOD.—1842 to 1851.

We now come to refer to by far the most important of the three periods to which we have referred. Sir Robert Peel's Government was formed in September 1841. He had been a colleague of Mr Huskisson, and a warm supporter of his commercial policy; and the measures which he proposed on the meeting of Parliament in 1842 showed his determination to adopt and adhere to that policy. But the first thing which demanded his attention was the state of the finances. The year 1841 had closed with a deficiency of 2,101,000*l*. The expenditure of 1842 was computed at 50,919,000*l*, and the income from existing sources at 48,350,000*l*; showing a further deficiency in the current year of 2,569,000*l*. Under these circumstances he had recourse to direct taxation, and proposed the property and income tax for the three-fold purpose—

1. Of meeting the existing deficiency in the revenue, and of restoring the finances.
2. With a view to the relief of commerce.
3. With a view to cheapen the cost of subsistence, as some compensation for the new tax which he imposed,

These were the three objects which Sir Robert Peel declared he had in view in imposing the property and income tax of seven-pence in the pound. This he estimated would yield 3,771,000*l*, the actual result, however, being that it produced 5,598,000*l*. He also imposed additional stamp and spirit duties in Ireland, in lieu of an income tax, to the amount of 410,000*l*, and by some strange inconsistency in relation to the general scope of his measures, an export duty on coal amounting to 270,000*l*; thus giving new taxes to the estimated amount of 4,451,000*l*. Of this 2,570,000*l* was absorbed in making good the deficiency of the year, leaving a surplus of 1,881,000*l* to deal with.

With this surplus at command, Sir Robert Peel remitted taxes to the amount of 1,596,366*l*, of which no less than 1,500,000*l* consisted of Customs duties; the principal items being coffee, timber, the export duties on British manufactures, and import duties upon a great number of articles of raw material, and other similar articles, amounting to 579,639*l*.

In 1843, a further reduction of the duty on timber was made to the amount of 126,453*l*, and of the Excise duty on spirits in Ireland, which proved to be so high as to give a great encouragement to smuggling, to the amount of 240,000*l*.

In 1844, taxes were further reduced to the amount of 458,810*l*, consisting chiefly of coffee, currants, wool, marine insurances, and glass.

In 1845, on the renewal of the income tax, duties were repealed to the amount of 4,535,561*l*, of which no less than 3,617,306*l* consisted of Customs duties, the principal items being sugar, 2,309,857*l*; molasses, 129,183*l*; cotton wool, 682,042*l*; export duty on coal, 115,438*l*; the duty on sundry small articles, 380,786*l*:—the Excise duties on glass were entirely repealed, amounting to 624,000*l*, and thus a most important trade was relieved from the restrictions to which it had been subjected by Excise regulations.

In 1846, taxes were again repealed to the amount of 1,151,790*l*, which consisted exclusively of Customs duties;—the chief items being foreign spirits, 482,286*l*; butter and cheese, 205,437*l*; silk manufactures, 162,985*l*; tallow, 101,966*l*; and other Customs duties on small articles amounting to 199,116*l*.

In these various measures Sir Robert Peel appears to have kept steadily in view the seven great cardinal rules of financial reform to which we have already referred. He abolished every remaining prohibition from the tariff, by the admission of provisions and live cattle, first at a moderate duty, and afterwards free of any duty. He repealed the remaining duties on all the chief articles of raw material, wool, silk, hemp, flax, cotton, dye stuffs, furniture woods, &c. He first modified and finally repealed some of the most important protective duties: those on coffee, sugar, and timber, &c., he greatly modified; those on provisions and corn he entirely repealed. He entirely repealed the Excise duty on glass, as interfering with a great branch of trade. He entirely swept from the tariff more than seven hundred articles, which yielded such small sums as barely to pay the cost of collection; and he got rid of some of the most objectionable remaining drawbacks and exemptions. In a word, the whole object of his policy was to relieve commerce, to extend trade and industry, to afford profitable employment for the labour and the capital of the country, and to secure to the great masses of the people the dearest markets for their labour and the cheapest markets for all the great necessities and comforts of life; and on these he relied as the best security for the permanent prosperity and peace of the country, and as the surest means of meeting with ease the great obligations which are imposed on the nation. Having effected all these important objects in the short space of five years, Sir Robert Peel retired from office in July 1846.

On the accession of the present Government, though near the close of the session, a measure was introduced for the admission of foreign sugar without regard to its origin, and providing for the ultimate equalisation of the duties, on all descriptions, at 14s the cwt;—a measure which, with reference to its effects upon the revenue, and relief to the consumer combined, was probably the most important but beset with the greatest difficulties of any one that had engaged the attention of the Legislature since 1824.

In 1847 and 1848, the country had to pass through the severe ordeals of the Irish famine, the commercial crisis, the railway reaction and losses, and the effects of the continental revolutions, and yet Customs duties were repealed in those two years amounting to 930,854*l*, consisting chiefly of timber, sugar, rum, and copper ore. In 1848, a modification of the Sugar Act of 1846 was effected, by which the duties will be equalised in 1854 in place of 1850, but at the reduced duty of 10s on all descriptions in place of 14s. In 1849, this measure led to a further reduction of the duty on sugar to the amount of 388,798*l*. In 1850, taxes were further remitted to the amount of 1,310,151*l*, of which the chief items were—sugar, 331,073*l*; stamps, 520,000*l*; and the Excise on bricks, 456,000*l*. Strictly speaking, this closes the period now under notice; but it is with pleasure that we add that, pursuing the same policy, Sir Charles Wood has in the present year reduced and equalised the duties on coffee, and further reduced, by one-half, the duty on foreign timber.

During the nine years, from 1842 to 1850, the entire net amount of taxes remitted is 10,251,294*l*, which are thus divisible:—

TAXES REMITTED—1842 to 1850.		£
Customs duties .....		8,218,958
Excise duties, chiefly glass and bricks .....		1,434,280
Stamps .....		598,056
Total .....		10,251,294

Here, again, we have a most striking contrast in the character of the taxes remitted during these years, and of those remitted from 1830 to 1841, as we shall find even a more striking contrast in the results on the finances and the commerce of the country, and, perhaps most of all, on the social well-being and prosperity of the great masses of the people. The different character of the reductions of taxes during the three periods now under review, will be best seen by the following comparison:—

	REDUCTION OF TAXES.		
	Six years, 1824 to 1829, inclusive.	Twelve years, 1830 to 1841, inclusive.	Nine years, 1842 to 1850, inclusive.
Customs .....	4,992,592	750,673	8,218,958
Excise .....	1,620,600	4,736,600	1,434,280
Stamps .....	427,645	543,651	598,056
Taxes .....	279,997	1,355,899	...
Post Office .....	70,900	1,950,970	...
Totals .....	7,393,282	8,437,793	10,251,294

We have already examined the effects which the reductions during the two first periods produced on the revenue and finances

of the country. Let us now examine those of the reductions during the last period.

In 1841, the receipts from the Customs were 21,898,000*l*; from 1842 to 1851, the reduction of Customs duties amounted to 8,218,958*l*; in 1850, the receipts from Customs were 20,442,000*l*, showing a loss of only 1,456,000*l*.

In 1841, the Excise receipts were 13,678,000*l*; from 1842 to 1850, the reductions were 1,434,280*l*; and in 1850, the receipts were 14,316,000*l*, showing an actual gain of 638,000*l*.

In 1841, the whole net revenue was 48,084,000*l*; from 1842 to 1850, taxes were repealed to the amount of 10,251,294*l*; and in 1850, the net revenue was 52,810,000*l*, showing an increase of income of 4,726,000*l*. But then the property and income tax had been imposed, yielding 5,500,000*l*. The actual increase in the net revenue, from 1842 to 1850, was therefore less by only 774,000*l* than the amount of the income tax. We thus arrive at the remarkable fact, that the entire amount of taxes surrendered since 1842, being 10,251,294*l*, has already been restored to the revenue by increased consumption, and altogether independent of the income tax, except the small sum of 774,000*l*; that is, that out of 10,251,294*l* remitted, 9,477,294*l* has already been restored. In this respect, then, the three periods thus compare:—

	Six years, 1824 to 1829.	Twelve years, 1830 to 1841.	Nine years, 1842 to 1851.
	£	£	£
Taxes remitted .....	7,393,282	8,437,793	10,251,294
Loss of revenue .....	2,713,700	6,838,958	774,000

But let us next examine the effect which the measures of the last nine years have had upon the state of the finances. At the close of 1841, there was a deficiency of income compared with expenditure of 2,101,370*l*; at the close of 1850, there was a surplus of 2,578,806*l*. At the close of 1841, the balances of the Exchequer amounted only to 3,653,810*l*, being insufficient for the dividends then due; at the close of 1850, they amounted to 9,245,676*l*. At the close of 1841, the public debt, funded and unfunded, amounted to 790,874,608*l*; at the close of 1850, it was 787,029,162*l*, being a reduction of 3,845,446*l*, and besides this, the debt contracted in 1847 and 1848 for the Irish famine, amounting to 10,000,000*l*, has been liquidated.

But however remarkable these financial results may appear, the commercial effects of the measures of the last nine years are not less satisfactory. Compared with the progress of our trade during the preceding period of twelve years, that of the last nine years forms a remarkable contrast.

1. *Imports*.—The official value of our imports in 1830 was 46,200,008*l*, and in 1842 it was 64,300,000*l*, showing an increase of 18,100,000*l*, or 39 per cent. in 12 years, or at the rate of 3½ per cent. per annum, being about double the rate of increase of the population.

In seven years, however, from 1842 to 1849, the last year for which the accounts are published, the official value of our imports increased from 64,300,000*l* to 105,800,000*l*, or by 64 per cent., or at the rate of 9 per cent. per annum, being six times the rate of the increase of the population. The official value is taken in the case of imports, as it is the only way in which they can be reduced to a common measure; and although the present actual values are very different from the official rates in almost all instances, yet for the purposes of comparison, and as a measure of quantity, it affords a sufficiently accurate criterion.

2. *Exports*.—In 1830, the declared value of our exports was 38,250,000*l*; and in 1842 it was 47,000,000*l*. The increase in twelve years then was 8,750,000*l*, or 23 per cent., or at the rate of two per cent. per annum, very little exceeding the ordinary increase of population.

From 1842 to 1850, the declared value of our exports increased from 47,000,000*l* to 70,000,000*l*, or by no less than 23,000,000*l*, being in eight years nearly 50 per cent., or at the rate of 6¼ per cent. per annum, about four times the rate of the increase of the population.

3. *Shipping*.—In 1830, the shipping entered inwards and outwards in the foreign trade of the United Kingdom was 5,799,000 tons; and in 1842 it was 7,347,000 tons, showing an increase in twelve years of 1,548,000 tons, or about 26 per cent., being at the rate of little more than 2 per cent. per annum.

From 1842 to 1850, the shipping entered inwards and outwards in the foreign trade of the United Kingdom rose from 7,347,000 tons to 12,020,000 tons, being an increase of 4,673,000 tons, or 63 per cent. in eight years, or at the rate of nearly eight per cent. per annum.

What more, then, do we require to prove the triumphant success of the policy adopted by Sir Robert Peel in 1842, and steadily pursued to the present time? The finances of the country have been restored. In place of annually recurring deficiencies we find now an annually recurring surplus. Taxes have been reduced by the amount of 10,251,000*l* annually; but increased consumption has restored the whole amount to the revenue except 744,000*l*. The National Debt has been decreased by 3,845,446*l*, while the balances in the Exchequer at the close of 1850 were 9,245,676*l*, against 3,653,810*l* at the close of 1841. The official value of our imports has increased by 41,500,000*l*, or 64 per cent., and the declared value of our exports by 23,000,000*l*, or 50 per cent.; while the increase of tonnage entered inwards and outwards is

4,673,000 tons, or 63 per cent. What answer is there to these facts? And if the income tax be the "great engine," as it has been termed, by which all these reforms have been rendered possible, and by which alone the same policy can be successfully extended, it is impossible to conceive that any one, who is really cognisant of what it has accomplished, can object to it on the ground of inequality, were it ten times greater than it really is. It is an undoubted fact, that those who are charged under Schedule D have been in far the greatest degree benefited by the policy which the income tax has alone enabled the Legislature to pursue.

Having laid these plain facts before our readers, it is our intention next week to follow them up by such observations as we deem needful, in order to examine more fully the general principles which they seem to indicate as those on which the commercial and financial policy of this country can alone be safely based. Meantime these facts furnish materials sufficient for reflection to those who entertain any doubt as to the policy of maintaining what few direct taxes we have, or who have been tainted with any desire to reimpose import duties of any kind whatever. They show results for which it is surely worth while to make large sacrifices.

NOTE.—The facts referred to in this article are extracted chiefly from the following *Parliamentary Papers*—No. 386, 1833; No. 190, 1834; No. 192, 1835; No. 109, 1836; No. 506, 1837; No. 305, 1842; No. 79, 1847; and No. 140, 1851. The last named return, moved for in the present session by Mr Cardwell, though it does not enter into such details as many of the others, is for general purposes the most complete return of the kind ever laid before Parliament.

#### BACKWARDS OR FORWARDS?

The election at Boston, apart from the respective merits of Mr Freshfield and Mr Wire, is said to have been exclusively decided in favour of the former by the principle of Protection. We question not the assertion, though the close of the poll demonstrated that the bulk of the working classes, even in that borough, are not partial to the advocates of dear bread. The Protectionists, however, are quite wild with joy at their little success, and angry from it an immense majority on their side at the next general election. Mr G. F. Young is positively to be returned for Cambridgeshire. Oxfordshire is to substitute two stout Protectionist farmers for Lord Norris and Mr. Harcourt; and we know not how many other counties are to get rid of lukewarm, wavering members inclined to Free Trade, and replace them by men ready, like Lord Stanley, to upset the empire, in order to make wheat 5s the quarter dearer.

It is not to spoil their anticipations that we remind them that Boston is the great shipping port for the counties that suffered most by the mildew of last year; and, according to the general belief that all such sufferings are caused and can be remedied by legislation, many of the people of Boston naturally attribute the little demand for and low price of their mildewed wheat to Free Trade, and are ready accordingly to vote for anything or anybody that gives them a delusive promise of relief. What has happened at Boston, therefore, is no index to the general feeling; but we are willing to take the Protectionist view of it, in order to draw attention to the consequences of their promised success. Assuming, then, that the Protectionist hopes are realised—that a general election has given them a working majority in the House of Commons—that Lord Stanley is in office—that he proposes a fixed duty on corn as a part of his budget; assuming too that he carries such a measure, though it is somewhat doubtful in the face of the united opposition he would have to encounter, what then? Do the Protectionists believe that restrictive duties could thereafter be restored, continued, and extended over all things? Though we know that men suffering and disappointed are not accessible to reason, their leaders, who cunningly seek to profit by sufferings they do not feel, will take a calmer view, and will neither entertain such a belief, nor attempt to restore the system of restriction under the name of Protection.

There is already a great division in the camp. The millers are setting up for themselves, and want no duty on the raw material which will keep corn from their mills; they only demand a duty on the manufactured article. They are at issue with the farmers. They require foreign flour only to be taxed. Such ship-owners as are Protectionists will still desire to keep in the small edge of the Free-Trade wedge just to split off ships' provisions; and the Protectionists could not possibly object to serve the shipping interest. Ships will be victualled on the Free-Trade principle, and the millers are not likely to give up a supply of the raw material on the same principles. Nor will the graziers and others engaged in the fattening of cattle like to pay dearer for the Egyptian beans and the Indian corn they use. But supposing no divisions in the Protectionist camp, within a year or two of the imposition of a fixed duty a short harvest will occur, and then there would no doubt be found in the majority some man sagacious enough to see what was required, and honest and honourable enough to sacrifice his own consistency and the support of his

friends to the public weal. Then we should have acted over again the treachery, as it is called, of some chief, the dislocation of the Protectionist party, and the restoration of Free Trade. Sir Bulwer Lytton has reminded us that there have been a great many changes in commercial enactments. No momentary success of a party can now determine for any length of time the policy of statesmen. They must and will be guided by the wants of society; and the Protectionists who fancy that their success at the hustings will ensure them an eternity for restriction, may be disabused by referring to their triumph in 1841, and the abolition of the Corn Law by their own majority in 1846.

They have not yet learned to distinguish between a majority in Parliament and a national policy. Majorities cannot, however, control events, nor opinions, any more than minorities; and must form their judgment by them. They cannot stop the growth of population nor exercise much influence over the amount of food annually required; and such circumstances having a paramount influence over opinions, will also in a great measure determine the policy of statesmen. The history of our own country within the last 60 or 70 years shows that majorities give way to the opinions of minorities; and the policy of Government is determined by something different from votes, though votes sanction what becomes necessary.

At the latter end of 1792, till which period, from the close of the American war, the country had enjoyed under Mr Pitt's administration unwonted peace and prosperity, that minister declared war against certain opinions that were then the birth of times and circumstances. No minister had ever greater majorities. A large part of the opposition, terrified like himself, joined him. The minorities were small and disreputable. The action of the Legislature and the action of the Executive were both directed, with extreme rigour, to suppress opinions unfavourable to the constitution of Parliament. In carrying out his policy, Hardy, Horne Tooke, and others, were prosecuted for high treason. Previous convictions at Edinburgh of their auxiliaries and correspondents had emboldened the law officers of England, but they were defeated. The men they prosecuted were acquitted by a jury, and from that time the prosecutions were relaxed, the war against opinion was urged less fiercely, and the majority, to a considerable extent, gave way to the minority.

The acquittal of these men was in reality due to a great change in public opinion. In the early part of 1792 Mr Pitt could announce in Parliament the most flourishing state of the finances, and the most prosperous condition of the country. Then the bulk of the people were furiously anti-jacobin. At the close of 1792 they generally believed that the French were wholly disorganised, and must fall a prey to foreigners. They were eager for war, and were "instinctively loyal." But in the autumn of 1794, the condition of England, as contrasted with its condition in 1792, was amazingly altered. The burdens of the people had been increased, and their ability to bear them lessened. Corn had become comparatively scarce, the people were discontented, and loyalty was diminished. In 1793, the Lord Mayor and citizens of London presented a loyal address to the throne in favour of war; in 1795, they petitioned the Parliament for peace. The great change of opinion marked by the address and the petition, and which was in a great degree common to the whole country, was going on in 1794, and was sufficiently powerful to save the parties accused from the vengeance of the Government. Had they been tried in 1793, they would all undoubtedly have been hanged as their friends were transported from Scotland for less offences. The strong government of Mr Pitt, therefore, though backed by the largest majority that ever a minister had in Parliament, was checked in its policy by the wants of the people, and by the influence they exercised over opinion. From that moment the war which he had waged against political opinion relaxed. He gave way, in fact, to a necessity expressed by a minority, and moderated his policy accordingly.

His majority, and the majority of every succeeding ministry, was continually opposed to parliamentary reform. They tried all in their power to preserve in the hearts of the people respect for our institutions as they existed in the ante-reform period. Did these majorities succeed? Certainly not. The minority being reformers, had in the end their way. The increase of Manchester, Birmingham, Leeds, &c., made the old system of representation so thoroughly and truly absurd, that no majority, however disposed, could preserve it. Till the old system was worn out, there was a very considerable majority in Parliament in its favour. Nevertheless the slow growth of opinion had been against it; and the revolution of 1830 in France made that growth manifest, and compelled our statesmen to regulate their policy accordingly. The bulk of the opinions, which Mr Pitt and his followers made war abroad, and made a legal war on a portion of the people at home, to put down, became the general creed, and to that majorities of the constituencies and majorities in Parliament did homage.

A similar kind of change may be noticed as to the criminal law. Very large majorities in Parliament, till after the commencement of the century, were in favour of hanging men for a great multitude of offences; and between 1800 and 1810, 75 actions were added to the previous 160 actions that our laws made punishable with death. Then, however, it began to be manifest that the laws thus made by majorities had no effect in repressing crimes; and, though there is good reason to believe that the great majority

of the nation, of the constituencies, and of Parliament, continued favourable to the old plan, they gradually gave way to the wiser and perhaps more active minority, and capital punishment, except for murder and treason, has been extinguished.

Nor was this the only case. There is no doubt that the majority of the nation, the majority of the constituencies, and the majority in Parliament, were in 1829 still favourable to the maintenance of the Catholic disabilities; but they all gave way to the obvious necessities of the times, as explained by the minister. Overruled by them, he sacrificed his own opinion and his own consistency, and gave up an old law, because it was unjust and palpably mischievous. But had he stuck to it, he would have found a majority in the Houses of Parliament and the country to support it, till some great mischief or great event, like the French revolution of 1830, had made it absolutely ruinous.

The question, then, for wise and reflective men to consider is, whether the abolition of Protection (as restrictive laws on the supply of the necessities of life, on the industry and skill of the people, are most erroneously called) is, like parliamentary reform, criminal law reform, and religious disabilities reform, something just and proper in itself—something commanded by those material facts and moral laws to which all men are obedient, and against which majorities are hopelessly impotent; or something, as Sir E. Bulwer Lytton has described it, like a fiscal regulation—the substitution of a house tax for a window duty—which can be made and abolished at pleasure, submitting only to some trifling inconveniences. We have repeatedly stated our reasons for believing that Free Trade, including the abolition of all restrictions in the supply of food, is to be classed with the former. Majorities in Parliament were long opposed to removing maritime and commercial restrictions; but they gave way first to the necessity—as explained by Lord Wallace and Mr Huskisson, if we would not sacrifice our foreign trade—of relaxing our Navigation Laws; afterwards of abating the rigid monopoly of the Corn Laws, and allowing ships to be victualled in bond, and colonial corn to be freely imported; and so, step by step, far more minutely than we can stop to describe, but which we have often described, Free Trade came to be, like reform of Parliament, reform of the criminal code, reform of civil disabilities on account of religion—all of which are still in progress—the rule of our lives and of the national policy. All these great changes were alike founded on the material facts, which convinced us of the disadvantages of a corrupt and distorted representation, of a sanguinary code, of persecuting our countrymen because they differed from ourselves about things unseen and unknown, and of restrictions on industry; and of the moral laws of man's being, to which legislators are the first and foremost to profess homage.

What, then, can the Protectionists hope for, even supposing they get a majority in the next session of Parliament? Some may think that Corn Law abolition was not made in the wisest manner, and at the best time: it was so long resisted that at length it became a matter of hurried necessity; and that other things that ought perhaps to have been done were neglected. That is quite a different matter from going back to the Protection that has been abolished. One of the great arguments of the Protectionists is, that the abolition of restrictions has not gone far enough. They complain that freedom is not perfect—that malt and coffee and tea are taxed; and while, therefore, they clamour against freedom, they want more of it. They are quite as sensible as other men of the disadvantages of restriction and taxes on themselves; and inveighing against these on the general principles of freedom, they strengthen the cause and hasten the progress of the very principle which they oppose when applied to corn. If they can show how the taxes of which, on behalf of the labourers, they complain can be got rid of with advantage and honour, the Government will only be too glad to dispense with them; but to plead them as an injustice to the labourer, is only more emphatically to condemn a tax on his bread, levied not to pay for the services of the Government, but to enrich a class.

The Protectionists, in fact, acknowledge the validity of the principle on which the abolition of the Corn Law is founded, though they question the propriety of the time at which it was carried out, and the propriety of not previously relieving the agriculturists from other burdens. The result, then, of their having a majority and re-enacting a Corn Law, would in the end be, not the re-enactment of Protection, but only a ruinous squabble and a temporary change. Probably they would enkindle many slumbering enmities and half-stifled desires, and might endanger more precious institutions than a bread tax. They make all their present exertions, spend their money, and waste their time, in pursuit of an object which they could no more retain if they got it, than they could hold glowing iron in their hands without being burned. They may get office—they may have the momentary pleasure of a triumph over opponents at the hustings or in Parliament; but it will only be to confirm, when in office, the truth of doctrines and the necessity of a policy which, out of office, they have impugned. Free Trade, and especially Free Trade in food, though a different law may for a short period be foolishly re-enacted by Parliament, is as much a necessity of this age as a free press, an honest and fair representation, and an ameliorated criminal code. The Protectionists may rally their forces at Boston and at Edinburgh, they may practically declare that majori-

ties will settle the matter in another way, but they will be impotent to alter the facts, and suspend the influence of the moral laws, which, for thirty years at least, have continually impelled the Legislature to abolish restrictions on industry. Backwards they cannot drive society, and their efforts to accomplish it will only redound in the end to their own injury and disgrace.

#### THE PROTECTIONISTS AT EDINBURGH.

THE London Protectionist journals, calculating on a sufficient degree of ignorance in most of their readers as to Scotland, have represented a gathering of the Protectionists at Edinburgh on Tuesday, of which the Earl of Eglington was at the head, as a formidable national movement. The Noble Earl was supported by the Marquis of Ailsa, the Earl of Lauderdale, the Earl of Selkirk, the Lord Colville, Lord John Scott, the Hon. Francis Scott, Sir James Baird, and a score or two of knights and gentlemen of their respective ilks. Mr Sheriff Alison, from Lanarkshire, and Mr G. F. Young, from Limehouse, were, after the Noble Earl at the head of the table, amongst the prominent figures. The ranks were recruited, too, by Mr Newdegate and Mr Christopher. Professor Aytoun, a political celebrity, who still aspires, we believe, to represent Edinburgh on the Protectionist interest, was also present, and made an appropriate oration in honour of Mr Disraeli and the Protectionists of the House of Commons. If there were a great many persons present connected with the agricultural, shipping, and commercial interests, from almost every quarter of the country, only one of them, Mr Watson, of Keillour, showed, and he responded to the toast of the tenant farmers. Such a gathering of a few disappointed politicians and a few Protectionists in the capital of Scotland, after weeks of loud preparation, is as little like a national movement as the Chartist Convention of April 10th, which nobody heard of till it pleased the *Times* to announce that it had existed ten days after its decease. To those who recollect how omnipotent the Tories were in Scotland, it will be plain that the English Protectionist journals have taken the opportunity of distance to make their readers erroneously believe that their party is powerful and popular. The meeting has failed to frighten honest men, though it was spoken of, both before it came off and afterwards, as something to convulse and terrify.

Of course, at a meeting of Protectionists, the chiefs of the party were anxiously toasted. Lord Stanley and Mr Disraeli were the absent heroes of the day, and great care was taken to make the connection between them and the company known. The Protectionists were united as one man, the Chairman said, to claim Lord Stanley as their own. Mr Disraeli was described as the member of the Senate who had maintained their cause and advocated their rights. Whether these two statesmen are disposed or not to avow Protection as the basis of their policy, they are willing to use the Protectionists as long as they find them subservient and convenient; and the Protectionists are very firmly resolved to adhere to them, as the only persons of consideration who will use them. Though the statesmen might find the views and zeal of their supporters very troublesome were they in office, yet as they can only get in by means of the Protectionists, they are not unwilling to permit the latter to use their names and authority. But the Protectionists, remembering what has happened to them, are not without suspicion, and betray a great anxiety to connect these statesmen with the doctrine of Protection, and tie them down to its name and principles.

Those who have noticed the course of the leaders in Parliament will not be surprised at this. A few evenings ago, the principle of Protection was at issue in the reduction of the foreign timber duties, but the leaders of the party did not say one word against the resolution. They acquiesced in it as a matter of course. They had no other objection to make to the equalisation of the coffee duties but that chicory was allowed to be imported. Whatever may be the wishes of the party out of doors, the leaders in Parliament have given up Protection as a policy. It no longer exists. It is not even advocated. There is no intention of reviving it as to colonial products, and it is in all cases except one given up. This makes the exception, however, more odious. It is to be confined to corn. There comes in too much food for the people to please the landowners, who think they have a right to restrict the supply for all their countrymen to their properties, or make them pay for the privilege of getting bread elsewhere; and they confine their views now pretty nearly to levying a fixed duty on corn. There is no longer any disguise about the matter. The notion of making the nation independent of foreigners is given up as wholly untenable. Everything patriotic or national or a matter of policy is banished from it; the project is now purely and simply to raise the price of food for the benefit of one class. Surely this is the meanest and most paltry policy that ever was avowed. Formerly the bread tax was represented as only a part of a great scheme of legislation to promote the cultivation of our own soil and secure the extension of our own industry; now it is merely to enrich a class.

It is needless to refute the elaborate statistics quoted at the meeting, as we have refuted them in advance. Mr Sheriff Alison only repeated as to the property tax the errors which we amply exposed last week, and only stated some past errors of his own,

by jumbling the poor rates for Scotland and England together, while in the two countries they are of a different character, and date from very distant periods. In fact, new laws have given a claim to relief to people in Scotland who were before allowed to be driven from their homes and to perish by the way-side, and the Sheriff sets down this new provision against destitution as an increase of pauperism. Nor is it worth while to discuss the after-dinner representations of gentlemen more eager to make a display than to be correct; we must content ourselves with reiterating our assertion, and referring our readers to the proofs we have continually laid before them, from official and certain records, of the increase of our trade and revenue—the decrease of crime—the marked contentment of the people—the total absence of any agitation or disorder, except the little turmoil in the *salons* of the landed interest,—that Free Trade has not merely given us great prosperity, but has saved us, when there were so many causes at work to disturb and convulse society, from great injury if not from ruin. There are always an abundance of grumblers. The natural discontent of man holds good in politics as in morals, and he is apt to attribute the disappointments that result from his own imperfections to his rulers. In spite, therefore, of the complaints and meetings of a few farmers, and the louder complaints of landlords deprived of a law enacted for their benefit, which after all are but a slight disturbance of the general harmony—in spite too of all the noise continually made by the Protectionist drums of the press, we must reiterate our assertion that Free Trade in corn has been our salvation.

What may be the future consequences no man can tell. Prices are as yet, like the seasons, exceptional. That they are steadily to remain at their present level, however desirable that might be, is too much to hope for. All that seems certain on the subject is, that we shall hereafter be assured a much larger supply of food than heretofore at steady and reasonable prices. As prices are not yet however settled, neither can rent be. Whether it will be higher or lower in comparison to cost, and in comparison to what it has been, cannot yet be decided. Looking, however, to the certain increase of people to eat up all the food that can be produced, rent seems not likely to be relatively lower. However, for the bulk of the community that is of very little importance; but if the people be well provided, the landowners' share of the general provision will not be a small one.

One point, we may say, is settled. Tenants now generally hold their lands with a knowledge of the prices of the last two years, and an expectation that they will not rise again to the fictitious and famine level created by the late law. Their temporary sufferings must, therefore, be nearly at an end. They neither can nor will, whatever their pretended friends may say, continue to cultivate the land at a loss; they will obtain, we may be sure, the ordinary rate of profit on cultivating land, or capital will not be applied to the cultivation; therefore we conclude that the farmers' profits, whatever they may have heretofore been in relation to the general profit in the country, will be maintained. Farmers are notoriously never contented. Their occupation being one of the oldest, it is always overstocked with hands. There are no new and good farms continually offering, as in towns there are new arts continually arising to employ more people. Their sons are more numerous than farms, and the agreeableness of their occupation keeps up amongst them a very keen competition for land. No good farm ever long wants a tenant. From causes of this kind, the rate of profit amongst farmers will always be, as it always has been, comparatively low; but whatever may heretofore have been its relation to the profit of other classes, we may be quite sure that hereafter it will not be lower. That farmers obtain profit, is the essential condition for the rest of the people to obtain food; and, therefore, we may be quite sure that the usual rate of farmers' profit will be obtained.

As to wages, we are happy to see that they have risen. All the increased quantity of food imported has gone into consumption. It has been bought, paid for, and eaten. The owners of rent and capitalists have not very much and suddenly increased in numbers; they generally have as much bread as they can eat; the whole of the additional consumption, therefore, has been by the classes who subsist on wages. Unless their wages had risen, they could not have obtained this additional quantity of food. In fact food is their chief wages, and when they can command plenty of food, they are well paid. They will then probably also have other things. When they have not plenty of food, they can get nothing else. The vast increase in the supplies of food, therefore, while the number of the people has been, according to Mr Sheriff Alison, deplorably diminished by emigration promoted by Protectionist landlords, is a decided and unanswerable proof that those who have remained have been well off, or that the rate of real wages has generally risen in the community. If we may judge from what occurred at Boston, the people have a lively sense of this truth, and are not to be persuaded by grumbling farmers, discontented landlords, or learned professors, that a tax to make food dear and scarce would be for their advantage.

#### THE INSURRECTION IN PORTUGAL.

ACCORDING to telegraphic accounts received through Paris, and confirmed by accounts of previous movements received direct from Lisbon, the insurrection of Marshal Saldanha has been a

complete failure, and he has made for Spain. The active exertions of the King to secure Santarem, mentioned last week, were successful, and Saldanha, foiled in his attempt to occupy it, made for the north. He counted on the co-operation of Count de Casal, the general commanding in Oporto; but the Count gave him a very positive refusal, declaring that it was his duty to preserve her Majesty's prerogative "intact," at the sacrifice of his life. Not meeting, too, with the support from other quarters which he expected, the Marshal seems very speedily to have taken a resolution to seek safety in Spain. In conjunction with his failure, the world will know what opinion of the man and of the general rising which he asserts, in the following letter, he more than once prevented. It is addressed by Marshal Saldanha to the Duke of Terceira, at Santarem, and is dated Leira, April 11, 1851:—

Sir,—A general rising has long been prepared throughout the kingdom against the prevarications, peculations, and continued infractions of the constitution committed by the Count of Thomar. More than once have I prevented it by representing the possibility of ejecting that ill-omened man from the ministry by legal means, but the proceedings of the majorities in both Chambers convinced every one of its impossibility. The only thing I could do to avoid such rising was to accept the invitation of many of our brave companions in arms, who, horrified at the future which the presence of the Count of Thomar in the ministry prepared for us, urged me to put myself at their head, and by a military demonstration obtain the result which the nation wishes, needs, and will infallibly obtain. Until this moment all the chiefs of the popular party have remained quiet, but your Excellency may rest assured that in the same instant in which they are convinced that the military demonstration, at the head of which I resolved to place myself, is not sufficient to overthrow the extortioner, who oppresses the nation, a movement will manifest itself in all the provinces, the end of which no human perspicacity can foresee. I have just been told your Excellency has marched out of Lisbon at the head of some troops to support the pecculating minister—the man who unites in himself all the corruption and odium of the nation. I have the pleasing conviction that not one of those who accompany your Excellency will fail to participate in my ideas and in my wishes to deliver the nation from the yoke which oppresses it. Duke of Terceira! if you forget that after our time there is an inexorable tribunal called history, in which the glorious pages to which your Excellency has an incontestable right will be completely neutralised by those in which you will appear as the champion of the corrupt man, the infamous extortioner, the known prevaricator, remember, at least, that your Excellency's conduct not only places the throne of Her Majesty the Queen in imminent danger, but likewise causes her dynasty to run the greatest risk. Should your Excellency persist, to me the honour will be due of having done, for 14 months, all that lay in human power to avoid the evils of a revolution—to your Excellency the disgrace of having rendered it necessary, indispensable. Let us remember that if in heaven there is God's justice, the laws of morality are likewise not prohibited on earth. This insurrection will not be a struggle of parties; their interests will be foreign to it; its object will be a graver one—that of proving to Europe that the Portuguese nation will not consent that a system of corruption, of peculations, and unconstitutionalisms, should be raised on high by means of the Government and political doctrine. The movement represents purely and simply the resistance of the nation to the moral death which was prepared for it after prolonged agonies. The country during the indifference with which the Government has considered its most urgent necessities, and in the cry of anguish which it raises at this moment, limits itself to beg for justice and morality.

Your Excellency can avert the evils which menace us, save the country from the horrors you are preparing for it by causing Her Majesty the Queen to dismiss immediately this man fatal in so many respects, and call to the ministry persons deserving the national confidence. Never has there rested upon your Excellency so grave a responsibility as at this moment.

Duke of SALDANHA.

## Agriculture.

### THE GROWING CROPS.

ALL accounts until very recently have been unanimous in describing the condition of the wheat plant as satisfactory. The recent rains, though seriously retarding farming operations, have given a high degree of vigour to the young wheat, on all light soils or well-drained heavy land. Some instances have been mentioned to us where, upon undrained clays, the plant has recently assumed a rather sickly colour, and there can be no doubt that on such land the effect of a longer continuance of wet weather will be seriously injurious. Spring corn has been now for the most part sown, and wherever reasonable attention and activity have been exerted it has been got in pretty well, and the oats, peas, and beans are coming up vigorously and well. The meadows are everywhere looking remarkably green, and we do not recollect so great a promise of grass at this season for several years past. Hay around London has been very dear; meadow hay that last year could scarcely be sold for 3/ a load, is now selling for 4/ 10s, and even 5/ per load in some instances. Straw too has much advanced in price in the metropolis and the adjoining counties, and is becoming very scarce. During the autumn and winter, from 16s to 18s per load was about the highest price the farmers of the home districts (who usually sell their wheat straw) could obtain, and many of them consumed it at home or sold it for consumption there, rather than send it to the London markets for so little money.

At present the worst effect of this wet weather has been to retard all preparations for root crops. Mangold wurzel ought by this time to have been planted, but we have heard of few who have been able even to attempt it. The result will be that the crop will be late and light, a serious loss to the more advanced stock keepers of the south, who rely very much on mangold wurzel for keeping their stock during March, April, and May. There is yet time to get the land ready for turnips, but with much more wet it will be difficult to prepare it in the best manner. As we have before remarked, the present season reads farmers a lesson on the importance of autumnal preparation of their land.

Sheep have suffered much from the wet, and we have heard of

some extensive losses of both ewes and lambs. Store sheep as well as mutton and wool maintain high prices, and the most desponding hankerer after protection, admits he has nothing to complain as regards sheep. With a little patience he with probably ere long find himself in an equally comfortable position as regards corn, either from an advance of price, or, still better, from increased or cheapened production, through improved management.

### TITHE COMMUTATIONS.

THE commutation of tithes in England and Wales has been nearly completed, and the Tithe Commutation Commission is drawing to a close by the expiration of the term for which it was renewed. The Report of the Commissioners for 1850 has lately been presented, and a few of the statements it contains are worthy of note. The Commissioners, after stating in detail the progress made in the commutation, say—"At the close of 1850 we had confirmed 12,344 distinct mergers of tithe." And they say—"Of the work remaining finally to complete the commutations, and to prepare a quieting act, it may be found expedient, to prevent delays, agitation, and expense, to deal with a part summarily, instead of by those regular processes by which the bulk of the tithes have been commuted." And they say also there must be permanently existing powers (amongst other purposes) to authorise "mergers where lands and rent-charges now held separately come into the same hands." And then they add:—

In some cases where the lands and tithes are reported to us to belong to the same person, we find it impossible to get in mergers; and if we are to map lands and apportion rent-charges in such cases, great agitation would be created, and a vast unnecessary expense incurred. Perhaps it might be advisable to merge the tithes by act of Parliament in such cases, reserving the rights of all persons interested in the tithes at the time. In a very few cases, where different parties have interest in the tithes and in the lands, some litigation might follow; but in most even of these cases, after full notice, this litigation would proceed from the neglect of the parties, and be a much less evil than the compulsory commutation and apportionment of the whole of such tithes.

Now, in connection with this subject, a case has lately come under our notice, in which an expense arising under the Tithe Commutation Act has most hardly been thrown upon the landowner. The owner of a small estate of about 120 acres not subject to tithes, land in lieu of tithe having been allotted under an inclosure of the parish to the lord of the manor as the owner of the tithes; about eighty acres of land in the parish remained subject to tithes, but such titheable land formed no part of the estate in question. The owner was served with a notice of a tithe commutation meeting, and all the form of allotting and apportioning to his estate a rent-charge in respect of tithes, which had only a nominal (if any) existence, and belonged, if to anybody, to himself, and for this useless and absurd form he has been called upon to pay, as *his share of the expenses of the tithe commutation*, several sums amounting to nearly 40*l.* Surely there must have been some straining of the act here to throw some of the expenses of a commutation over a large class of persons than those liable to pay, or entitled to receive tithes.

The Commissioners make no allusion to such cases as the above, but they advert to the hardship of going through the cost of commutation where the amount of tithes payable is very small, saying—

In another class of cases, minute rent-charges must be established, which it will be probably found impossible to persuade the parties to redeem or apportion voluntarily, and which will create disproportionate burdens if they are apportioned compulsorily. For instance, the township of Great Claybrook, in the county of Leicester, consists of 1,071 acres, and contains 98 houses; the only tithes remaining to be commuted are the tithes of pigs, worth 20*s.*, and the tithes of a mill, worth 5*s.* To establish a rent-charge of 25*s.*, and to proceed by map and apportionment to finish the commutation, would be a harsh and burdensome proceeding.

There are apparently 100 cases of like character in the north of England, in which it would be impossible to complete a formal commutation at an expense amounting to less than 50 to 100 year's purchase of the annual value of the rent-charge; and of this the expense to the public would amount to a considerable proportion.

It is true the landowners might redeem these rent-charges; but where they are numerous, we find it impossible to persuade them to do so.

In such cases we think the rent-charges might, in the first instance, be charged on the parish rates.

It might be made the duty of the parish officers to call a meeting, and attempt to get the parties to agree to a voluntary apportionment, to be enrolled in the parish books; and if such agreement could not be obtained, the overseers might call magistrates to apportion and make a like enrolment, and thus the enormous expense of maps and all the regular processes of apportionment would be avoided; or it might be preferable that in cases of such trifling amount the rent-charge should be compulsorily redeemed.

The redemption might be fixed at 24 years' purchase on the sum awarded, and the money might, in the first instance, be made payable by the overseers and churchwardens of the parish, who might be directed to make a rate and levy the amount upon the parties, giving dissentients a right of appeal to the magistrates of the district.

These are rather rough measures, though we believe them to be justifiable.

What we have next to recommend would perhaps smooth the operation, or, at all events, greatly reduce the number of cases.

The final consummation of the commutation must be an act declaring tithes to have ceased to exist, and forbidding courts of justice to entertain claims for them.

### THE TURNIP FLY.

THE vexation and loss farmers frequently endure from the ravages of the turnip fly, especially in a dry spring, render any practical suggestion of a remedy worthy of attention. We believe the best preventive of loss of plant from the fly, is to have the ground in good condition and well prepared, to lay on a good coat of manure, and to drill at the same time with the seed some light stimulating tillage that will force the young turnip plant rapidly through the earlier stages of its growth; and also to put in a good quantity of seed. It is not, however, always possible to have all the turnip ground in first-



rate condition, or well prepared, especially on the heavier soils; and in any case the following method of preparing the seed is neither costly nor troublesome. Mr Gandy, a gardener, says—

As the season is now advancing when turnips, beetroot, mangold wurzel, radishes, and many other things are liable to be destroyed by the turnip fly, I am induced to communicate the following remedy, which I have found to be effectual against the ravages of this pest. Let the seed be put into a glazed pan, or any open vessel, and put to it as much rape-oil as will, when stirred together with a stick, be sufficient to make the seed moist. Next add as much sulphur as will, when again stirred together, cause the seed to separate. When properly mixed, all the seed will have a coat of sulphur adhering to it; and it will be found that the ingredients, in addition to keeping off the insect in question, will be a great stimulant to the growth of the crop. The seed thus managed may be sown or drilled with the same convenience as if it were clean. Should more seed be prepared than is found necessary to be sown at one time, it will keep well and not germinate for twelve months to come. This simple remedy I have never known to fail, and has only to be tried to be appreciated.

THE EDINBURGH PROTECTIONIST MEETING.

(Extract from the Scotlan.)

SEVEN hundred of the Scottish Protectionists, after long preparation and much whipping and spurring, bravely dined together last night—eating a capital dinner in token of their grief, and drinking foreign wines in dereliction of their principles.

It was a well got-up muster of a respectable but very small section of our countrymen. Any one knowing aught of Scotland will see at a glance that but a fraction not only of the property and the opinion, but even of the land and the Toryism, of Scotland, were represented at last night's dining tables. Beyond the chairman, there were but two or three of our greater class of proprietors (although some excused themselves on the plea of that unfailling accompaniment of distress, "the gout!") and the presence of Lord John Scott as croupier only rendered more marked the absence and known opposition of his brother and of the other natural leaders of the Tory landed aristocracy of Scotland. In a word, last night's muster showed but the divided and disheartened remnant of a party which, when entire and energetic, was overmastered at the polling-booth and everywhere else, and which, for anything that was last night said or shown, has not gained any new ground of hope or a single presentable recruit. Still it must not be forgotten that the party, though small and stationary, is strong in class interest; and that, as it was only by union and effort that it was beaten before, union and effort may be again required to preserve the fruits of our victory.

Mr Sheriff Alison's speech was one long tissue of statistical blunders—we would not say tricks—some of the chief of which, late as is the hour and brief our space, we shall be able to expose. We need not waste time on his emphatic statements as to "export manufactures" having been "nursed in protection;"—for to talk of protecting exports is mere nonsense and contradiction in terms so complete, that nothing is added even by the fact that the interest said to have been thus protected has to bring its raw material from the other side of the world, work it up, and take it again across the world for a market. Neither is it desirable to follow him into his attacks on "the holders of realised capital," whom, along with the manufacturers, he charged with all manner of baseness and cruelty, in covert pursuit of his wild theories about the currency. Let us rather take up some of his amazing misstatements and misapplications of important statistics.

The Sheriff's plan, or the mistake into which we find him falling throughout, is to take figures from the official returns, and then place them under the wrong dates. Thus, he dilates on an alleged decrease in Schedule D of the income tax (profits from trades and professions), showing that it was high in times of high prices, and has sunk much lower in 1851. This last date is enough of itself to indicate the blunder. Nobody has yet paid under Schedule D for the income of 1851, and very few for the income even of 1850. The tax is assessed to the 25th of March in each year, the return is made in the summer preceding, traders pay on the average of the three years preceding, and, as books are generally balanced at Christmas, the collection of 1851 is made on the income of 1847, 1848, and 1849. Correct the Sheriff's income tax statistics according to this key, and it will be found that they all go against him or go for nothing. If he will take another look at the tables, he will see that, according to his own way of reading them, the value of land has largely increased during the period he dealt with; and he must either accept this as fact, or forego all he stated in his speech on the self same authority. And since he was dealing with the revenue, why did he not think of grappling with the fact that, allowing for remissions, there was an increase of a million and a half on the year just ended? In the same way he deals with the statistics of pauperism—presenting the following as showing the increase of pauperism in Great Britain:—

Year	£
1846	5,886,000
1847	6,337,000
1848	8,516,000
1849	8,564,000

Now, we charge these figures, 1st, with being in every case annexed to the wrong year; and, 2nd, which will of itself strike every reader, with stopping apparently two but in reality three years short of the present time. The returns are made for the year ending 25th of March, and in each case Sheriff Alison applies them to the then commencing instead of the then concluding year. He also mixes up with England the case of Scotland, which is in quite a different position, an increase of legally-supported paupers having, till last year, been going on under a change in the law which Mr Alison, and our esteemed townsman his brother, had a main hand in bringing about. Let us stick to the case of England and Wales, put the figures under their proper dates, and give the price of wheat in each year—and see the result:—

Year	Wheat per qr.	Expenditure for corn.
1846	57 0	5,294,787
1847	60 9	6,180,765
1848	50 7	5,795,943
1849	44 2	5,395,022
1850	40 9	4,500,000

This last item is the estimate made by the Poor Law Commissioners in their report just issued; and is the lowest figure ever reached, except in 1835 when wheat was 39s. The feature there indicated is again shown with precision in the above figures—pauperism rising with the price of food, and decreasing with its cheapening. The only partial exceptions are 1846, when pauperism was lowered by the railway employment, and 1848, when it was raised by the pause in commerce consequent on the continental revolutions. We might go on to show that Mr Allison makes the same sort of misleading errors regarding crime; but the fact that crime has decreased within these two years is notorious, and Mr Allison is sufficiently condemned by the fact that on this point again he has not dared to bring his statistics within two years of the present date.

Mr G. F. Young, the most active leader of the English Protectionists, proved himself a bore before he had spoken many minutes, and was treated accordingly. To do the Scotch Protectionists justice, though their orators are neither powerful nor lively, they require something better than the twaddle and tediousness which are found good enough for their southern brethren.

CLAUSSEN'S PATENT FLAX FIBRE.

We have upon many occasions directed public attention to the important inventions of the Chevalier Claussen, by which flax could be so prepared as to be spun upon cotton, silk, or woollen machinery, and be treated in every way the same as those substances, and from the intimate knowledge which had been afforded us of the most minute details connected with the process, we felt confident that the result would fully equal the expectations which we had formed of it. The Chevalier Claussen, however, not satisfied with adapting flax to new branches of manufacture, and opening up new markets for an article which could profitably be produced at home, has for some time past, in conjunction with Mr Thomas Graves, of Manchester, been devoting his attention to the subject of improving the modes of preparing flax for the ordinary flax machinery and linen manufactures of the country. The state of the linen manufacturers of this country is a peculiarly anomalous one. The raw material used by them can be produced at home at a price of less than one-half of that at which cotton is imported into this country, notwithstanding which the price of linen, as is well known, is considerably more than double that of fabrics made from cotton. There are various causes for this state of things, the most prominent of which is the great difficulty which exists in the way of weaving and bleaching linen, in consequence of the imperfect manner in which the fibre is usually cleaned previous to being manufactured. The average period required for producing a piece of linen from the flax straw may be taken to be about six months, the greater portion of which is consumed in the bleaching process. For the purposes of the linen manufactures a separation of the fibres of the flax is required, which separation has hitherto been obtained by the action of fermentation upon the glutinous substance which binds the fibres together. While undergoing the usual processes of steeping for this purpose, the fibres receive a considerable amount of impurity and injurious dyes, which it is necessary to remove in subsequent stages by the tedious bleaching process to which we have already referred.

The great want of the linen manufacture was, therefore, a perfectly clean and undeteriorated fibre, and to the attainment of this object the attention of Chevalier Claussen was accordingly directed; and we have now lying before us the successful result of his labours, the advantages of which, to the linen manufacturers of this country, it appears almost impossible to overrate.

Messrs Pegler and Co., linen manufacturers of Leeds, have forwarded to us two pieces of linen made from flax prepared upon the new process, one of which is bleached, the other unbleached. The whole process of spinning, weaving, and bleaching occupied less than six hours; while within about forty-eight hours previously the flax was in the straw, in the same state in which it was pulled in the field. Mr Pegler considers it as one of the most extraordinary operations connected with flax manufacture that he has ever witnessed. We are informed that, in the process of bleaching, no chemical ingredients calculated in the least degree to weaken or deteriorate the fabric are employed; and comparing the pieces of linen prepared upon the old process, of the same numbers, which are now lying before us, with the cloth produced upon the new process, we should unhesitatingly pronounce an opinion in favour of that of the latter process. We understand that Mr Pegler intends to show at the Great Exhibition, along with his other productions, some damask cloths made from the flax prepared upon Chevalier Claussen's process, the whole period occupied in the manufacture of which from the flax in the straw, will not exceed one week.—Morning Chronicle.

SPIRIT OF THE TRADE CIRCULARS.

(From Messrs Witherby and Hanson's Circular.)

London, April 23, 1851.

There have not been any direct arrivals of currants at this port or at Liverpool since our report of the 22nd ult. A cargo has lately arrived at Bristol. The London clearances for home consumption, from 19th ult. to 17th inst., have been 1,000 tons against 750 tons, 1,020 tons, and 650 tons in the like period of 1850, 1849, and 1848. From 1st January to 17th inst. they have been 3,410 tons, against 1,730 tons in 1850, and 3,050 tons in 1849, during the like period. The Liverpool deliveries have increased of late, those of the four weeks ending 15th inst. having been 455 tons, against 320 tons in the previous four weeks. They are now on a par with those of April 1850. The increase in the consumption

of the United Kingdom during the first two months of 1851, as compared with 1850, has been 725 tons, which is a recovery of more than half of the deficiency in that of the entire year 1850.

This article has partaken of the general dulness which has pervaded the colonial and other markets. The tendency has been downwards, and low prices have of late been submitted to for ordinary fruit by public sale and by private contract. Fine Vostizza fruit has realised 43s in parcels, and of such the supply is very small, and is not likely to be increased. Similar fruit was sold in April 1850 at 41s, and fine Zante at 42s; whilst 39s was the lowest quotation for Gulph. In April 1849, currants reached the lowest point of that season, good Gulph then selling at 34s. At that period the consumption was about the same as at present, whilst raisins were 3s to 4s dearer. We may therefore look for a continuance of extensive clearances.

The arrivals of raisins since our last have been very light. The clearances exceed those at the like period of 1850. The only novel feature in the market is a further decline in the prices of Turkey fruit, which appears to be coming more into consumption, since of 500 tons of raisins cleared for home consumption during the last seven weeks 330 tons are Turkey. Our quotations for Valencia are nominal in the absence of much business to establish a price. A better demand is expected after the holidays.

(From Messrs Carlisle, Capel, and Norbury's Circular.)

London, April 21, 1851.

Our market presents much the same features as last month—an active demand for common teas, with continued depression in all the finer descriptions. The business of the month has, however, upon the whole been satisfactory, and the transactions have taken off a large proportion of the late extensive arrivals. The deliveries for home consumption continue to show a steady increase, the extent of which has more than overbalanced the decline in our export demand.

During the early part of the month a very active demand existed for common and fair blackish-leaf teas up to 1s 1d, and the transactions in these kinds have been on a more extensive scale than we have known for some time past. Since the arrival of the mail the demand has been less active, but we do not quote any change in value. For sound common congou the market has been buoyant throughout the month, and the whole of the arrivals of this class has been taken at full prices to 1d advance on last month's quotations. In good blackish leaf kinds at 1s 0½d to 1s 1d large sales have been made, and prices firmly supported, whilst for the next better grades a decline of fully ½d per lb must be quoted. Fine medium and fine congous continue neglected, and the few transactions which have taken place show a decline of about 1d per lb; our quotations for these kinds must, however, still be considered nominal. For souchongs there is a limited inquiry for the finest descriptions—other sorts neglected. In flowery pekoes a large business has been done in all kinds, but, as the market has freely been supplied, prices must be quoted 1d to 2d per lb lower: the demand has been principally for the Levant and Baltic markets, Germany having been supplied direct. In scented teas a good demand has been maintained for orange pekoes, and as they have been held firmly, an advance of 1d per lb has been established, at which a fair amount of business has been transacted. Capers also continue in limited demand. Olongs have been heavy, and a further decline of 1d to 2d per lb has taken place.

In green teas the arrivals from Shanghai have generally met with a ready sale. Gunpowders have realised previous rates, and have all been taken. Young hysons have been comparatively difficult of sale, and prices have declined 1d to 2d per lb. Old season's teas, of which a considerable quantity still remains, have been quite neglected and almost unsaleable. In Canton-made teas a good business has been done in all the common grades, the buoyant state of the market for common black tea having brought them more into notice.

There have been three public sales since our last, viz. on the 26th ult. and 1st and 10th instant, comprising in all 39,000 packages, of which 16,000 were sold.

(From Messrs Gibson, Ord, and Co's Circular.)

Manchester, April 22, 1851.

Up to the commencement of the present month we had an animated market, with a general advance in prices, but since that period we have been gradually settling down to a state of inactivity, and which now prevails to an extent beyond what we have been accustomed to of late, or would seem to be justified by the lightness of our stocks and lowness of prices compared with the cost of production. An explanation to this state of things is to be found in the absence of all exciting cause during the past month from foreign markets, together with the heavy supplies sent forward at an earlier period than usual to the markets of the East, and to the depression which has ruled for so long a time in our home trade. The dull state too of the produce markets throughout the whole of the present year, has no doubt exercised a very prejudicial influence on this market. Within the past ten days rather more business has been doing in our home trade warehouses, which we hope and believe will prove the commencement of a very extensive demand to meet the requirements of the operative and middle classes, who are preparing to visit the Exhibition. Certain it is, that the London dealers, and drapers throughout the country, are unusually low in stock, and therefore any demand that may arise will be immediately felt in this market.

In the ten days succeeding the date of our last monthly report we experienced a very animated demand in 40-in. shirtings (in common with other descriptions of goods), at an advance of fully 3d per piece; but since that time we have had a gradually declining market, until we have not only lost this advantage but very nearly, if not quite, as much more, and we close with a feeling of considerable depression. 6 lb shirtings may be had at 6s, and 7 lb, of good makes, at 7s, and choice at 7s 1½d. The sales of the month barely reach an average, still they must have been to a fair extent, as stocks continue light. 9-8ths shirtings have been little inquired for, and may be had at a reduction in price from this time last month of 1½d to 3d per piece. Stocks are heavier than for some time past. 7-8ths printing cloths, as was the case in the two preceding months, have been much depressed in all the various qualities, and may be had relatively lower than any other article in our market. Stocks are heavy but not accumulating, as many of the looms have either been stopped or turned to the manufacture of other fabrics. Madapollams have had some attention, from the lowness of the rates at which they have been offering. A good article may be purchased at 12d per lb, and a choice make at 12½d to 12½d—rates ruinous to the manufacturer. Although the production has for some time been in excess of the demand, stocks cannot be said to be heavy. Long cloths are down since last month 1½d per piece; the transactions have been limited. T cloths have also been less inquired after, and may be purchased at lower rates by 1½d to 3d per piece. Domestics, owing to the inactivity of our home trade, have been comparatively little dealt in, and are lower this than last month 1-16d per yard on the low and medium qualities, and ½d on the higher descriptions. Grey jaconets, from the same cause, have accumulated in stock, and are pressing on the

market, at prices much below the cost of production. White jaconets, cambrics, and fancy muslins, continue neglected.

Yarns have had a moderate but steady demand throughout the month; prices, day by day, yielding slightly in sympathy with the Liverpool cotton market, which now exercises a controlling influence over all our movements. Our German buyers have operated cautiously, but to an extent to keep our stocks within manageable compass. For India the transactions have been inconsiderable. The decline during the month has been about ¼d per lb on shipping qualities of mule, and ½d per lb on water twist.

(From Mr John Barclay's Circular.)

Glasgow, April 16, 1851.

Few periods in the history of the iron trade have been so marked by continued depression in prices as the last twelve months. The causes have been various, and the results severely felt by all engaged in the manufacture.

The large production of last year, and the heavy stocks on hand at 31st December, added to the dulness which usually then prevails, prevented purchases being made to any extent by either consumers or speculators, and prices, in consequence, have ruled low up to the present time.

Since I last addressed you our market has been comparatively steady, or, at least, with but such unimportant variation in price as to be scarcely worth notice. It was expected that makers would, in accordance with the wishes of a majority of their number, and of the dealers, have reduced the make by at least one-third, and thus more rapidly decrease what appeared to be a too large stock on hand. This proposal, though deferred, has not been abandoned, and should prices remain equally low, and, as is generally understood, unremunerative, for sometime longer, there is little doubt it will be adopted.

As I formerly advised you at the close of last year, the stocks in the hands of consumers at a distance were unusually light. The very large quantity, principally for consumption, shipped up to this date since the beginning of the year, has borne out this remark. The stocks in the hands of the dealers, both in the home and foreign markets, are still very bare. For your information, I beg to annex a *résumé* of the present position of the stock and shipments:—

	tons	
Stock on 31st December, 1850, estimated at .....	230,000	
Add production of 108 furnaces, at the average of 120 tons per week—14 weeks.....	181,440	
	411,440	
Deduct shipments to 12th April .....	137,572	
— consumed in foundries & malleable works in and round Glasgow, same ratio as last year .....	70,000—207,572	
On hand .....	203,868	
Showing a decrease in stock of 26,132 tons.		
COMPARISON OF SHIPMENTS IN 1850 AND 1851.		
	1850	1851
	tons	tons
January .....	18,551	28,509
February .....	17,345	31,247
March .....	32,436	54,732
To 12th April .....	18,009	23,496
	86,632	137,374

Increase in 1851 over 1850 .....

The effect of such large shipments and the consequent decrease in stock, has been to make holders more confident.

(From Messrs G. W. Schroder and Co's Circular.)

Riga, April 14, 1851.

We have now the pleasure to inform you that the ice in our river is broken up. The immediate prospects for an active business are not very encouraging; we are likely to have a very slow spring trade, and freights will rule low. Prices of all raw produce have been kept up at such a high figure by the growers and dealers, that an unusually small contract business has been done during winter; but, as according to all accounts a fair average supply of all our staple articles will be coming forward, we expect to see more animation when sellers and buyers meet, and then freights will likely also improve.

FLAX.—The quantity for exportation will be smaller than last year. The stock on the spot at present amounts to about 80,000 berks; by the barks, and by land during this month, we shall probably receive 40,000 berks more—a sufficiently large quantity to satisfy all immediate demands from abroad; but as importers on your side appear determined to look on passively, it will take some time before buyers and sellers meet each other. At present there is a difference of about 2 ro per berk between them, and each party appears determined not to give in; sooner or later, however, necessity will compel them to come to terms. About 30 to 40,000 berks may be in the merchants' hands for foreign account, and the rest remains to be disposed of. During last week scarcely any business has been done; a couple hundred berks of grey CM and WCM were offered out at 38 s. ro; but only 36 s. ro was bid for it, whilst for mixed parcels of WCM, LPCM, and PCM, 36, 35, and 34 s. ro is demanded, and only 2 ro less offered. Some small lots of Spanish white flax have been taken at 42 and 45 s. ro, according to quality. 31 s. ro was paid last for some CM suitable for the English market, and 34 and 38 s. ro for some PHT and WPHF; these latter marks are scarce this year.

CRUSHING LINSEED.—The supply by the barks will probably be as large as last year's, the bulk of which will consist of inferior stuff; one-fourth perhaps may be fine, and one-fourth good average quality. We are led to infer this from the samples by which the dealers offered to sell during the winter; it is, however, possible they may not have produced the better samples at all on account of the high prices paying in the interior for fine seed. Our quotations are quite nominal for the present, and as this article has to stand in such a competition from other places in all foreign markets, our dealers will undoubtedly have to submit to lower prices, but it will take some time before they do so.

## Foreign Correspondence.

From our Paris Correspondent.

Paris, April 24, 1851.

There has been a great calm in our political salons during the last week, owing to the Easter holidays. The Assembly had no sitting, and most of the representatives were absent from Paris. The new ministers availed themselves of that respite in order to prepare a majority in their favour in the Assembly. It is said that M. Leon Faucher is sure of the support of a fraction of the Legitimists. M. de Falloux, who has been already Minister of Public Instruction, and

enjoys a certain influence with the Legitimists, has repaired to Venice and has endeavoured to persuade the Count de Chambord that the true interest of his party would be to maintain Louis Napoleon at the head of the Government during a new period of five years. If they refuse to revise the constitution in favour of the present President and a new election takes place, it will be to the benefit of the ultra-Democrat party, or of the Prince de Joinville, and the Legitimists will be set aside.

The friends of Louis Napoleon say that M. de Falloux has succeeded with the Count de Chambord, and he returns with an assent of the Prince to the prolongation of the President's powers. M. Leon Faucher has offered the office of the foreign affairs to M. de Falloux, who has just returned to Paris. If he accepts it, M. Baroche would take the department of justice, and M. Rouher would withdraw. But it is not sure that M. Baroche would consent to such a change. He was dissatisfied at the superiority which M. Leon Faucher had assumed in the new cabinet, and he will not easily abandon his present department for a less influential one.

You know that M. Leon Faucher is reputed to be a stiff and unmanageable man, who can deal with nobody. But he makes great efforts, since he joined again the Government, in order to appear more condescending towards his inferiors, and more amiable towards his equals.

M. Leon Faucher has, however, a great quality for a statesman. He is without pity for certain abuses, and he turns a deaf ear to solicitors. He proposes to make important changes among the prefects and sub-prefects. He will dismiss those who are incapable, as well as those who are known as Democrats.

He will also introduce into the Assembly a series of new political bills. He will demand a law against the convicts and outlaws who publish political pamphlets and papers. It is, indeed, singular that a man who is condemned in his country, and has fled from it, may publish papers for which they cannot be responsible before the tribunals.

Our papers are now daily engaged in very animated polemics about the constitution, and the possibility of doing without its revision.

The Elysée papers, with the *Constitutionnel* at their head, declare that the regular revision is not possible, and the Government must immediately make an appeal to the people to obtain the prolongation of the powers of Louis Napoleon. That paper declares to the traders, that if they do not subscribe to such a revision, they will be miserable during one whole year, that they cannot make business, and will be liable to bankruptcy and utter ruin.

The moderate Republicans, headed by M. Lamartine, answer that if there is no confidence, it is only owing to those who endeavour to frighten the traders, and force them by fear to comply with Louis Napoleon's request. They say, with an appearance of reason, that the course which is advocated by the Bonapartists would only give a pretext to the Democrats, who might justly declare that the constitution had been violated, and they accordingly owe no obedience to the Government.

The Orleanists and Legitimists have not yet taken a definitive resolution. They will probably vote for the revision of the constitution, with a hope to obtain a vote of the people in favour of monarchy or of the Prince de Joinville.

As to Louis Napoleon himself, he will take no decisive step before attempting to obtain, by ordinary and regular means, the majority of the Assembly for a revision of the constitution. But that majority must be the three-fourths of the Assembly, and it is considered as nearly impossible to obtain such a number of votes.

The following are the variations of our securities from April 17 to April 23 :

	f	s	d
The Three per Cents improved from.....	57	0	57 15
The Five per Cents declined from.....	92	25	92 20
The Bank Shares .....	2100	0	2095 0
Marseilles .....	203	75	202 50
Rouen .....	635	0	632 50
Northern improved from.....	472	50	473 75
Strasburg.....	368	75	370 0
Nantes.....	276	25	278 25
Bordeaux.....	400	0	402 50
Orleans was without change at .....	830	0	...
Havre .....	260	0	...

HALF PAST-FOUR.—Our securities were without important variation, and the money market was very dull. The Three per Cents varied from 57f 25c to 57f; the Five per Cents, from 92f 15c to 92f 5c; the Bank shares without change at 209f 5c; the Northern shares at 473f 75c; Rouen at 630f; Havre at 260f; Bale at 145f; Central Line at 437f 50c; Bordeaux at 400f; Orleans declined 2f 50c at 827f 50c; Strasburg 2f 50c at 367f 50c; Nantes 1f 25c at 277f 50c.

Correspondence.

INDIGO SALES.

To the Editor of the Economist.

SIR—The statement and table respecting the conduct of the indigo periodical sales, which has been largely circulated among the trade, created the greatest sensation amongst all the parties interested. In led it well might, it being impossible to deny the accuracy of the writer's statistics, and the correctness of the views he enumerated, as to the position both importers and the buyers for the home and export trades are placed in by the method now, and for some years back, pursued in the conduct of these sales.

As a merchant deeply interested in the article, I have carefully studied every line of both statement and table, and, with the exception of a few insignificant errors, can guarantee their correctness; and the author is entitled to, and receives, the hearty thanks of nearly every one in the trade, whether merchant, dealer, or broker.

It is, however, advisable that the exposition of the indigo trade should be still more copious, and I will therefore, with your permission, give you some

further particulars respecting it, giving you my name and address as a guarantee for my good faith.

Referring to the sales of all last year I find the following results:—

	1850	February	May	July	October	Total
Declared .....	14,319	12,228	12,296	17,100	55,923	
Not printed .....	560	1,404	931	976	3,856	
Printed .....	13,809	10,824	11,299	16,114	52,067	
Withdrawn .....	3,115	3,861	4,280	8,860	20,316	
Bought in.....	3,750	1,194	1,076	1,855	8,305	
Sold in the room...	6,400	5,369	5,931	5,429	23,132	
Sold afterwards ...	600	1,200	1,190	1,500	4,490	
Total sale.....	7,000	6,569	7,124	6,929	27,622	

It is here seen that the same principle pervaded all the four sales, and referring to the last, if all the brokers had declared in excess of the printed catalogue to the same extent as one firm, the result would have been that nearly 4000 chests of indigo would have been advertised more than was in the docks. It is evident that this system might be carried to an indefinite extent, and, unless checked by some vigorous movement of the trade, it is quite possible, and almost probable, that we may some day see more indigo advertised for sale than is in existence.

Once more I find, on examination, that 55,923 chests of indigo have been offered at the four sales of last year, 20,000 chests twice, 15,000 chests have been offered three times, and 10,000 chests have been in all the sales. Now, Sir, it is perfectly evident that pretended offers of goods for sale, if continued for any length of time, can deceive no one; but they may cause serious interruption to the regular course of business, and, consequently, injury to some, if not to all concerned. The vanity of the selling broker may be gratified by a large declaration and a heavy printed catalogue, but he can, after all, only obtain his commission; he may fancy that he increases his influence and connections, but, if that were really the case, other parties would pursue the same course, and thus neutralise the illegitimate efforts of his neighbours. As regards the merchant, the proper and natural effect of large offers of goods is to bring free buyers into the market, in the hope of obtaining stock at such prices as would leave some profit in the investment; but when these latter find that instead of actual sales, these once respectable serials degenerate into "mock auctions," they, as the "Merchant" truly states, stay away, and restrain their orders for immediate wants; and thus the merchant finds, to his cost, that instead of heavy withdrawals giving firmness to prices, they give way, as was the case at the sales just concluded. Now, though the circulars of the brokers expressed surprise at the result of these sales, that result was the legitimate and inevitable result of an exciting cause, viz. the buyers withdraw from competition in a greater proportion than the goods themselves were withdrawn. As to the idea that the importers advantage by the creation of a speculative movement, I am certain, from many years' experience, that it is a fallacy. All the money obtained by the speculators is so much withdrawn from the pockets of producing importers, dealers, or consumers, and the buying power of the latter is, *pro tanto*, crippled, and, ultimately, the profits of those who supply their wants; and the inevitable effect of unnaturally high prices is to excite production to an undue extent, while the consuming power being lessened, the reaction to below the average is greater than the action upwards, thus producing inevitable loss to all concerned. So much for the system as it now prevails, and then for the remedy.

A few years ago, the prevalence of the practice we now all complain of, induced the brokers to attempt a remedy, by putting all second-hand goods into a supplementary catalogue marked B, refraining from bringing these goods forward until the expiration of the first week. We may extend this system with advantage—sales by a third classification; thus, A, goods the property of the original shippers or importers; B, not the property of those, but which have not been previously sold; and C, the same class of goods which now are placed in catalogue B. Under such, or a similar system, importers and buyers would equally profit; the former by the patronage the new goods would command, and the latter by the discouragement given to mere jobbing investments—investments as we all know made, and not long ago, for the purpose of temporarily raising prices to consumers, without having the legitimate foundation of a short supply or an increased consumption. Such, Sir, are my views, and I do trust that after the able and crushing statements of the "Merchant," means will be taken by the leading houses to preserve from utter degradation a trade which was for many years second to none in respectability, whether the wealth or integrity of its members be considered.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

London, April 2, 1851. ANOTHER MERCHANT.

UNITED STATES.—THE TARIFF.

(Extract of a private Letter.)

I have just returned from Washington, which place I visited on account of having received a letter from one of the Senate that the tariff of 1846 was in great danger. I am gratified to say that the alarm proved a false one, and that, with the exception of one or two changes, the tariff of 1846 remains untouched, and may now, I think, be considered as permanent as anything can be under our changeable legislation. The bill which has made these changes was proposed and advocated by Mr Hunter, of Virginia, a sincere and free trader as there is in Congress. It proposes to appoint four appraisers at large, to visit each Atlantic port, and see that all duties are uniform; to take the value of goods at the date of their shipment, instead of the date of the invoice, as the basis of duty; and, in case of appeal, to have the case decided by one appraiser appointed by the Government, one merchant chosen at large, and by the collector. The bill is so drawn, also, that I fear it imposes a duty on the freight, and that nothing is excepted but insurance. I opposed all those provisions except the appointment of the appraisers, but could not persuade Judge Bayly, chairman of Ways and Means, to oppose the bill, and so it passed the house at midnight, March the 3rd, without discussion. To my surprise I found Mr Walker approved it. My reasons were, that the invoices presented by the importer was all the Government had a right to ask for, whenever dated; that the sailing of the vessel was immaterial, and would lead to disputes and law-suits as to the difference in value between the purchase and the departure of the ship; that, in case of appeal, it was unfair to have the public appraiser and collector and only one merchant as arbitrators, as they would be sure to decide for the Government, and that their decision, being final, it deprived the merchant of the right of trial by jury, our only safeguard against oppression, especially as all the custom houses now are filled with the nominees and agents of the American manufacturers. We have yet to see how this law can be executed. There was no need of passing it, had Judge Bayly opposed it. I cannot easily describe the time, money, and influence used by the Protectionists to carry a high protecting tariff during the recent session of Congress. They have had their agents and committees there all winter, keeping of whom, and tempting and trying every member; they have expended large sums, and are greatly disappointed that all their attempts have failed to impose a prohibiting duty on imports. Everything is carried at Washington by money or promise of office; and corruption there is daily in-

crossing. Upon the whole, however, the Free Traders have great cause to rejoice that the session is over, and that so little mischief has been done.

We are all waiting anxiously for later news from London, to see how a new ministry can be formed. I was sorry to see Messrs Hume, Cobden, Bright, and others, voting against Lord J. Russell. They will have, in my opinion, to look sharp to find a better man.

You will have seen probably an extract of Mr Lawrence's letter, cautioning his country not to import so many goods. His publishing Mr Webster's letter to the Austrian Minister is much blamed. That letter is considered as too severe. March 11, 1851.

## News of the Week.

### COURT AND ARISTOCRACY.

HER MAJESTY and the Royal Family continue at Windsor. The Duchess of Kent, Lord John Russell, Lieutenant-Colonel F. H. and Lady Emily Seymour, have visited at the Castle in the course of the week.

### METROPOLIS.

OPENING OF THE EXHIBITION.—The general dissatisfaction expressed at the exclusion of the season-ticket holders from the State opening of the Exhibition, has resulted in an arrangement under which they are to be admitted, and a programme of the ceremony detailing the proceeding has been issued. This having resulted in an immense demand for tickets (no less than 10,000 having been applied for on Wednesday), the Executive Committee decided that from Thursday morning the price should be increased by a guinea, in the hope that this addition to the charge would limit the number of visitors to something like what the arrangements originally contemplated would accommodate. The demand on Thursday, however, though by no means equal to that of Wednesday, was still considerable.

The "PILOTE DE LONDRES," a French Daily Newspaper, is about being published. Its purpose is to secure the good understanding between England and France, counteracting the prejudices that still exist between these two great nations. His Royal Highness Prince Albert, His Grace the Duke of Buccleuch, Lord Granville, Lord Brougham, the heads of the aristocracy, bankers, and merchants, have subscribed to the paper.

THE HEALTH OF LONDON.—The return for the week ending last Saturday exhibits a further improvement in the public health. The deaths in London, which in the last week of March rose to 1,418 and declined in the two subsequent weeks to 1,059 and 1,042, have now fallen to 938. It appears from a comparison of the 10 corresponding weeks in 1841-50, that the deaths of last week were exceeded in only one instance—namely, in 1849, when they rose to 1,089. If the average of corresponding weeks, which was 934, be increased in the ratio of supposed increase of population, it becomes 1,019, and on this estimated amount the present return shows a decrease of 21. The birth of 706 boys and 719 girls, in all 1,425 children, were registered last week. The average number in six corresponding weeks of 1845-50 was 1,364. At the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, the mean height of the barometer in the week was 29.776 inches. The mean temperature was 46.3. The wind was in the east or north-east during the first four days; and during this period the mean daily temperature was about 42 deg., or about 5 deg. below the average of the same days in 10 years. During the last three days the wind was in the south and south-west, and the mean temperature rose 10 deg. higher, or from 4 deg. to 6 deg. above the average.

### PROVINCES.

BOSTON ELECTION has terminated in the return of Mr Freshfield. Mr Wire, notwithstanding his retirement from the improbability of success, was proposed as a candidate, and the show of hands was greatly in his favour. A poll was demanded on behalf of Mr Freshfield. At its termination the numbers were—For Mr Freshfield, 368; for Mr Wire 251; majority 117. On attempting to address the electors, after the declaration of the poll, Mr Freshfield was maltreated by the crowd, who were vociferous for "cheap bread." He and his friends were obliged to retire into the assembly room, where they were kept prisoners by the crowd until midnight.

REPRESENTATION OF ROCHDALE.—At the last meeting of the reform committee, after considerable discussion, but with much unanimity of feeling, it was agreed to request Edward Miall, Esq., of London, to meet the electors, and to address them in explanation of his political views. The day of the meeting will be fixed to suit Mr Miall's engagements. We believe no other name was mentioned at the meeting of the committee that was thought at all likely to meet the opinions of the constituency of Rochdale.—*Manchester Examiner*.

A LAMENTABLE OCCURRENCE.—The *Carlisle Journal* has an account of a shocking affair which happened on Wednesday night, at the parsonage of Walton, a village near Brampton. The Rev. Joseph Smith was about the house at half-past 11 at night, after the family had all retired, and was alarmed by a tapping at the window of his study. He took from a drawer a six-barrel revolving pistol, got a lantern, and went to the street-door, which, after making a great noise, he opened, stepped out, and fired three or four times. In the morning, the body of Mr Armstrong, a wealthy farmer and landowner of the district, was found pierced with several bullets! At the inquest, Mr Smith explained that he had fired merely in the hope of frightening away the supposed thieves. The jury brought in a verdict of manslaughter. It appears that the unhappy gentleman has since fallen into a state of mental imbecility.

UNION EXPENDITURE.—At the weekly meeting of the Board of Guardians of the Blandford Union, held on Saturday last, the clerk reported a decrease in the expenditure of the Union for the year 1850, as compared with the year 1849, of upwards of one thousand pounds—and that a considerable portion of such decrease appeared to be owing to the reduced number of recipients, from the reasonable price of provisions and other necessaries of life; and not from any great reduction of the weekly allowance to the aged, sick, or the orphan; nor from any alteration in the dietary, clothing, or comforts of the inmates of the workhouse.—*Poole Herald*.

### SCOTLAND.

INCREASE IN RENT.—Ninewells grass parks were let this year at a rise of two per cent., Whitehall at a rise of four per cent., and Ayton at a rise of four per cent. The Dunse Castle and Oxendean parks were let on Thursday, the 27th ult., when the rise was twenty per cent. on the Oxendean park, and

on the Dunse Castle and Oxendean parks together the rise was ten per cent. The Kimmerhame parks were let on Monday, the 31st ult., when also there was a small rise. Ladykirk parks were also let on the 3rd inst., at an advance of 4½ per cent. above the rents of last year.—*Kelso Mail*.—There have been a good many of these parks let within the last few days; and although the rise in prices has not been considerable, we understand that in some instances there has been a small advance.—*Perth Constitutional*.

## IRELAND.

LONGFORD ELECTION.—The sham-battle was renewed on Saturday morning, but the affair passed off without interest or excitement, in consequence of the overwhelming majority obtained on the first day by Mr More O'Ferrall. The gross poll at the close stood as follows:—O'Ferrall, 938; Sleanor, 80; majority, 858.

INVESTMENT OF ENGLISH CAPITAL.—It is sincerely to be hoped that there may be some solid foundation for the following piece of intelligence furnished to the *Freeman's Journal* in a letter dated "London, Saturday evening:"—"I have just learned, from a source on which reliance may be placed, that a conference took place this week between the directors of three of the largest insurance companies in London, for the purpose of discussing the expediency of advancing money on the security of Irish estates, and that it resulted in a determination to lend, at 5 per cent., on Parliamentary titles, to the extent of half the ascertained value."

AGRICULTURAL OPERATIONS.—The *Belfast Mercury* states that in several extensive districts of the county of Tyrone there is this year a decided improvement in agricultural prospects; and it is added—"There will not be so much emigration there this year as there has been for some time past; and many farms that have been out of cultivation and unoccupied since 1847 are now being actively cultivated. All the small farmers who can procure seed are making great exertions to put down as much potatoes as possible, and in that planting there will be an improvement on that of last year. There is a fair proportion of winter-sown wheat, which, in general, looks well. Spring-sown does not promise equally."

EDUCATION.—Large numbers of the working classes now attend at lectures in Trinity College University—a circumstance altogether novel. This was particularly the case in a course of lectures on botany which has just been brought to a close, and during which the audience was composed largely of practical horticulturists and working gardeners.

## FOREIGN AND COLONIAL.

### SAXONY.

A circular to all the district officers of the police calls their attention to an issue of notes or certificates of shares in a so called German National Loan, which have been put in circulation in Saxony. They are in imitation of the Italian notes of Mazzini and his associates, and are intended for a similar purpose—to raise a revolutionary fund for the future or present use of the German Revolutionary Committee in Paris. That committee has appointed a finance commission to manage the loan and receive the contributions. The amount proposed to be raised is five millions of thalers, bearing five per cent. interest.

### SPAIN.

The *Heraldo* of Madrid, of the 17th, announces that General Ortega, having left Madrid to exert his influence in the elections of Arragon, the Government had given orders that he should be arrested. The same journal states that the Governor of the province of Valladolid had been dismissed, for having declared that he could not prevent the election of M. Alonzo, author of the amendment on the ministerial bill for the settlement of the debt.

Eighty bankers, merchants, and stockbrokers of Amsterdam and Rotterdam have just addressed a demand to the Minister of Finance in Spain, that the stipulations of 1831 relative to what is called the Deferred Debt, of which they are large holders, shall be religiously observed, or that the certificates of the Deferred Debt of 1831 shall be placed on the same footing as the Active Five per Cent. Debt, with the arrears from the 1st November, 1834.

### SARDINIA.

The commercial treaty with Belgium and England has been adopted by a large majority in the Chamber of Deputies. A like success was expected in the Senate.

The *Risorgimento*, a most respectable paper, that rarely admits paragraphs coming from a doubtful source, stated a few days since, on the authority of its Florence correspondent, that the English Government had delivered notes to the Cabinets of Vienna and Paris, complaining of the protracted occupation of the Roman and Tuscan States, and calling on both Powers to withdraw their troops.

### AUSTRIA.

Vienna correspondence is of the 20th instant. It announces the appointment of Prince Schwarzenberg to the Governorship of Transylvania, *vice* General Wohlgemuth, deceased.

A change of measures may be expected with regard to Hungary. The official papers publish a list of the newly-appointed members of the Imperial Council. They are the Barons Krieg, Hogenden, Parkhard Syogenu, of Magyar-Syogen; Salbotti, of Eichen Craft; Baumgartner, Buol, Vern, Burga, the Count Zichy, and the Prince of Sateriffercheeds Krantheim.

The great news of the day is the approaching return of Prince Metternich to Vienna. For months it has been rumoured that he was about to visit his estates in Bohemia, but now his villa in the suburb Rennweg is anew fitted up for him.

The diplomatic intercourse with the Porte has lately assumed a tone of great acerbity.

Austria protests against the Sultan's proposal to liberate the Hungarian refugees in Asia Minor.

It is expected that the Pope's Government will solicit the intervention of Austrian troops.

The mercantile advices from Vienna of the 20th inst. show the financial embarrassments of the State to be seriously increasing. The rate of exchange on London had risen to 13.8, and the premium on gold was 39, and on silver 33½ per cent. No particular political event had occurred to account for these unfavourable circumstances, and they were chiefly attributed to the notification, which was unexpectedly sudden, of the intended emission on the 1st of November next of the bonds to be given in compensation for the abolition of territorial rights, and which will amount to a sum equal to more than 20,000,000 sterling. But for the efforts of some leading capitalists on behalf of the Government to arrest the movement in the rate of exchange by offering bills, to a large amount, the quotation would have been still more unfavourable, and at Trieste, where the market was left to its natural course, such had been the case. The funds at Vienna had fallen about 1½ per cent. and railway shares 3 per cent.

#### PRUSSIA.

The *Cologne Gazette* intimates that the contents of the last Austrian note are as follows:—The note rejects totally a partition of powers, but consents to go back to the old Diet, under the condition that essential reforms are to be brought about in Frankfort. These reforms are among others—a new mode of voting in the plenum as well as in the narrower council; the establishment of a general Austro-Germanic Zoll Union; a federal system of public instruction, or the establishment of schools and universities in Germany; and, finally, the institution, not of a political, but of a military power, to maintain order at home and peace abroad.

The *Cologne Gazette* says, that in the highest political circles at Berlin it is generally reported that Austria is ready to make many concessions to Prussia to gain her decided co-operation in making a stand against the protests of England and France on the incorporation question.

The Prussian ministerial papers speak of a secret treaty between Russia and Austria, and say that they endeavour to gain the support of Prussia. The object of this treaty is to protect Europe against the results of the crisis which is impending in France.

The *Kasse'er Zeitung* maintains, in one of its last numbers, that the admission of the whole Austrian empire into the Bund is already an "accomplished fact," as Austrian troops, without distinction of nationality, Hungarians, Croats, Slavonians, have been employed, with the common consent of the German States, as "Diet's troops," for the pacification of Holstein.

The Ministerial papers state that Austria has proposed, in case of certain events, to march 200,000 troops through Piedmont. This proposal, which has been submitted to the Cabinet of Turin, has made a deep impression at Berlin.

The Direction of the Berlin and Cologne Railway, by the co-operation of the proprietors of the Brunswick line, will be enabled to run a train, from the 1st of May, from Berlin to Cologne in sixteen hours. It will leave the first named city at six in the morning, and arrive at Cologne at ten the same evening. It is not stated that the improvement will be continued by a night train from Cologne to Ostend and Brussels, which would quicken the communication with London and Paris by a day. At present the English and French mails will remain as before at Cologne for the night, and be forwarded by the morning train as usual.

#### PORTUGAL.

Dates from Lisbon are to the 13th, and from Oporto to the 20th instant.

Saldanha, according to the last accounts from Lisbon, was in a most critical position in the neighbourhood of Viseu. Col Joaquim Bento, at the head of the 5th Cassadores, had not succeeded in effecting a junction with the Duke, although he had managed to cross the rivers Tagus and Zezere. He was subsequently flanked by the first brigade of the King's forces, and compelled to recross the river.

Count de Casal, the Governor of Oporto, had refused to pronounce in favour of the insurrectionary movement of Marshal Saldanha.

An express had reached Lisbon from Madrid, with assurances of support from Spain in the shape of a force on the frontier, and two Spanish steam frigates had been ordered to proceed to the Tagus.

Another account says, although Saldanha had been disappointed, there is every probability that the troops will not fight against him. It was believed that if Saldanha were willing to unite with the Junta party, he would carry his point. Lisbon was perfectly quiet. Bento, with about 650 men and a quantity of baggage, crossed the Tagus in the face of the King's army on the 16th, to join Saldanha's head quarters. A late report at Lisbon was that the King had left Santarem, and was marching on the north.

#### BOSNIA.

From Bosnia accounts state that on the 8th Omer Pasha, after having routed 3,000 of the insurgents at Kozarac, advanced towards Friedor. The inhabitants of Banjaluka had been mulcted in 1,000 and those of Turkish Gradiska in 250 purses. Skender Beg was advancing with 3,500 men towards Bihaqs. Ibrahim Kapie, formerly a Cadi, was killed during his flight from Jaicza to Banjaluka, and Ali Stalzewitz, who has for a long series of years been the cause of unspeakable misery to the Christian population of the country, was accidentally shot in the camp near Banjaluka.

#### CANADA.

Montreal journals are to the 7th instant. The *Gazette* understands "that it is the intention of the Trinity Board to lower by one-half the dues payable by vessels coming to this port. The act imposes specific rates, but an order in Council has been obtained, authorising the above-mentioned reduction, and a bill to impose the lower rates will be brought into Parliament next Session. This will be a great relief to shipping. The excess of revenue over the expenditure enables the Board to effect the change."

The Post Office department was transferred, on the 5th, from the British to the provincial authorities. The rates throughout Canada are to be five cents.

The annexation feeling has lately shown some symptoms of revival in Lower Canada. A public meeting has been held in the county of Huntington, at which annexation was decidedly maintained by a portion of the speakers. It was opposed by the Roman catholic clergy. A leading politician has drawn up a scheme of federal union for the British provinces, including the Hudson's Bay Company's territories. The plan is similar to the federal system of the United States. The author of the programme is a prominent conservative, but the great features of his plan are strongly radical.

#### UNITED STATES.

There are advices from New York to the 8th, Boston to the 9th, and Halifax to the 10th inst. No further disturbances had occurred at Boston touching the fugitive slave arrested there on the eve of the Franklin's departure. Large meetings of the populace were being held, and the Rev. Theodore Parker and other speakers urged resistance to the laws; but the prisoners were safely guarded by military.

New York papers announce the launch of the steam-ship Pioneer, of 2,700 tons, on the 5th, intended to carry passengers to Europe to the Exposition.

Although the Presidential election will not take place until the fall of 1852, yet the politicians are already beginning to move. On the part of the Whigs, the prominent names mentioned are—Winfield, Scott, Millard, Fillmore, Daniel Webster, and Henry Clay. General Scott, the first-named, has already been nominated by the Whig members of several of the State legislatures of the north, and is warmly urged by a number of influential Whig journals. Mr Fillmore, the present incumbent, is also frequently mentioned in connection with the coming campaign; and especially by the Whig Journals of the south. Mr Webster and Mr Clay are occasionally mentioned; but as yet there has been no organised demonstration with reference to either. On the part of the democrats, the prominent names are Lewis, Cass, James Buchanan and Samuel Houston.

Letters from Washington, in the *New York Journal of Commerce*, express a probability that a Deficit Bill for 12,000,000 dollars will be presented on the re-assembling of Congress.

Several new and somewhat threatening crevasses had occurred on the Mississippi.

From Texas we learn that the Hungarian colonists had met a most favourable reception.

Mercantile letters from New York state, that owing to the influx of gold from California, &c., the threatened decline in sterling exchange had not been realised.

The California Legislature has failed to elect a senator in the place of Colonel Fremont. After 144 ballots, the joint Convention in effect adjourned *sine die*.

Though there had not been any remarkable discoveries of gold, yet the general tenor of the news from the interior is decidedly favourable to the miners. The quartz mines are being worked with much success, and the stories heretofore published of the richness of the *placers* at Trinidad Bay are corroborated by this arrival. Miners were going to the Gold Bluff in great numbers.

The accounts from the survey of the route for the Tehuantepec Railroad are highly encouraging. It is supposed that the work will be completed in about four months. The members of the expedition remain in excellent health.

#### WEST INDIES.

From Jamaica, dates to the 31st ult., *via* New York (14 days later than those brought by the Clyde), announce that the cholera had reappeared in the Lonidas Bale district. Numerous deaths are reported. His Excellency the Governor had transmitted to the House of Assembly a long despatch from Earl Grey on the labour supply question, on which subject much discussion was expected.

From St Domingo accounts state that a political conspiracy had been detected at Port-au-Prince, and several persons supposed to be concerned in it condemned to death by court-martial. Among them was one of the three Cabinet Ministers, and the late Chief Justice, M. Francique. These proceedings, however, were annulled, and a new trial ordered, of which the result had not been announced. The efforts of the American, French, and English agents to settle the difficulties between the two parts of the island have not yet been brought to a successful termination. The subject was to be brought before the Legislature on the 25th ult. The coffee crop, it is thought, will be inferior to those of former years.

#### BIRTHS.

On the 23d inst., at Writtle park, the Hon. Mrs Frederick Petre, of a son and heir. On the 22d inst., at No. 7, Sussex terrace, Hyde park, Mrs William Copland Judd, of a daughter.

#### MARRIAGES.

On the 23d inst., at St James's church, Westminster, by the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Winchester, Henry Perin Steele, Esq., of Fenagh lodge, county of Carlow, Ireland, J. P., and one of Her Majesty's Deputy Lieutenants of and for the county of Dorset, to Ellen, fourth daughter of the late George King, Esq., of Burton Manor house, Hants, and Burgate, Surrey.

On the 23d inst., at St George's, Hanover square, Captain John Hamilton Elphinstone Dalrymple, Scots Fusilier Guards, son of the late Sir Robert Dalrymple Horn Elphinstone, Bart., to Georgina Anne, eldest daughter of the late W. P. Brigstocke, Esq., M.P., and widow of Francis Garden Campbell, Esq., of Trapp and Glenlyon.

#### DEATHS.

On the 18th inst., at Brighton, the Right Hon. Lady Erskine. On the 17th inst., Major-General Palmer, many years M.P., for Bath, aged 74. On the 9th inst., at Clifton, Bristol, Lady Thornborough, relict of Sir Edward Thornborough, K.G.C., Vice-Admiral of England.

#### COMMERCIAL AND MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.

The *Morning Chronicle* of Thursday, in drawing attention to Post-office abuses states that a petition will be laid before Parliament shortly after the recess from the late postmaster of Berwick-on-Tweed, containing statements as to the malversations in that office alone for a given period—authenticated by official vouchers—in which the defalcations during nine months of 1849 are alleged to amount to 414,194 4d lost in transit, and to 2,294,13s in bills.

The *Newcastle Journal* states that the project for an extensive wet dock of 40 acres, or thereabouts, with an entrance at or near the old porchouse, high end of South Shields, is favourable progressing.

It is with regret we announce the dreadful wreck of the Jenny Lind, East India trader, a new ship of nearly 800 tons burden, with passengers for London from Singapore, on a reef of coral rocks in the Southern Pacific Ocean, 400 miles off the Australian coast, where they endured the utmost suffering and privation for a period of 35 days.

The treaty of commerce and navigation between England and Sarlinia, &

ratifications of which were exchanged on the 8th inst., has just been printed. It states the reciprocal desire of the two nations to give full effect to the benefits to be derived from the repeal of the Navigation Laws in England, and to the act of the 6th of July last for the abolition of differential duties in Sardinia. Perfect equality in all matters connected with shipping, merchandise, and general rights, is stipulated for in the usual terms on behalf of the subjects of each country, participation in the coasting trade being, of course, excluded on both sides. The vessels of either power, however, may discharge part of their cargo at one port, and proceed with the remainder to other ports at pleasure. As regards the freedom to be enjoyed by British subjects of entering into trading occupations in Sardinia, exceptions are made in connection with the existing Crown monopolies of tobacco, salt, gunpowder, ball and shot, and playing cards, while, on the other hand, it is agreed that in compensation for the advantages granted to Sardinia by the treaty, the reduction in the Customs duties conceded by Sardinia to Belgium in January last shall also be conceded to Great Britain from and after the 1st of June next. These reductions will apply to metals, glass, China paper, books, refined sugar, leather, and codfish, as well as to yarn and manufactures of wool, flax, hemp, and cotton. In almost every case the reduction is equal to about 50 per cent. from the previous duties. In that of codfish it is 25 per cent. At the same time, the export duties are lowered upon raw silk to 1*l.* 50*s.*, upon raw lamb skins to 1*l.* 5*s.*, and upon kid skins to 3*l.* A special declaration is also made that the advantages of the treaty shall be applicable to the Ionian Islands in their trade with Sardinia, so soon as the local Government of the islands shall extend similar privileges to that country.

Henry Bickersteth, Lord Langdale, late Master of the Rolls, died on Good Friday, at Tunbridge Wells, to which place he had lately repaired for the benefit of his health—impaired by long continued mental labour, resulting in a paralytic stroke, which took place shortly before his death. The deceased nobleman was born on the 18th June, 1783, in the county of Westmoreland, where his father was possessed of a small property.

The line of dead wall that frowned gloomily between Kensington gardens and the Bayswater road is at length pulled down, and iron railing is now being fitted up instead. This will add greatly to the cheerful aspect both of the gardens and the road.

The monster table cloth for Soyer's Symposium, arrived from Barnsley on Monday night last. Its length is 307 feet, breadth 8 feet, weight 2 cwt, and cost upwards of 5*l.*

Apartments have been engaged during the present week for a number of the French police, who are intended to be located in the metropolis during the period the Great Exhibition remains open.—*Globe*.

The number of passports delivered throughout France for persons going to the London Exhibition amounts already to 240,000. The greater part are small proprietors, whose fortune does not exceed 150*l.* a year. Paris is expected to furnish 100,000 excursionists.

The celebrated preacher Pere Ravignan, of the Society of Jesuits, is preparing to leave Paris after the Easter holidays to proceed to London, where he will preach during the period of the Great Exposition.

The Queenstown suspension bridge in Canada, the largest structure of the kind in the world, being 1,000 feet long, and costing 50,000 dollars, was opened to the public on the 19th February.

The series of receptions at the Mansion-house already announced will take place after the opening of the Great Exhibition, and we understand that it is the intention of the Lord Mayor to receive at these reunions, the *literati* and scientific men of this country and of the continent.

THE NEW M.P. FOR COVENTRY.—Mr Geach, the new M.P. for Coventry, was, it is stated, formerly a clerk in the Bank of England, at a salary of 80*l.* per annum. He was subsequently director of a banking establishment at Birmingham. The hon. gentleman is now a large iron merchant, whose income has, it is stated, lately been returned at 30,000*l.* per annum.

## MUSIC, THE DRAMA, &c.

ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA.—On Tuesday Mario made his first appearance for the season in the part of Raoul in the *Huguenots*. He was warmly received. The late inhospitable weather, of which so many singers have had to complain, has evidently affected him; and though he went through the first two acts with his usual efficiency, his voice failed him in the third. Gris acted and sung with her usual efficiency, as also did Formes. We cannot say as much for the chorus, however; it lacked somewhat of that beautiful precision which usually distinguishes it, and quite gave the impression that more rehearsals would be an advantage. Possibly atmospheric influences had something to do with it; for it is a fact, though one that seems but little known, that singers neither maintain the pitch nor keep so well together when the barometer is low as when it is high. On Thursday *Roberto il Diavolo* was given for the first time this season. We were not present, but the daily papers describe the performance as being a first-rate one, and if it paralleled that of last season we can well believe it.

LYCEUM THEATRE.—The Easter entertainments provided by the lessees ensure the visitor to this theatre abundant amusement. *Cool as a Cucumber*, a farce by Mr Blanchard Jerrold, (who by the way is a good example of hereditary talent,) affords plenty of scope for the peculiar drolleries of Mr Charles Mathews. It has evidently been written for him; and abounds in humorous writing which, as may be supposed, loses nothing in his hands. The extravaganza, founded by Mr Planché on another of the Countess d'Anois fairy tales, "The Queen of the Frogs," is put upon the stage with that magnificence for which the Lyceum management is noted. The Hall of Diana and its contents form together one of the most elegant scenes we ever saw. The dialogue of the piece is not, however, so witty as usual, and some of the jokes are not original. Nevertheless there is plenty of entertainment in it; and as it is followed by another farce, exhibiting the comicalities of Mr Charles Mathews, the audience are sent away almost surfeited with fun.

ST JAMES' THEATRE.—Of the many caterers of public amusement now flocking to the metropolis are the professors of magic, and of these (by no means the least celebrated) is the Great Wizard of the North, who has taken up his quarters at the St James' Theatre. Professor Anderson cheats you with your eyes open. He tells you that he is about to impose upon you, and he defies your detection. Need we say that he perfectly succeeds? The great extinguisher trick, in which a young gentleman or lady is "abolished" by merely placing a wicker cage over them, has been improved by some more intricate mechanism, and the effect produced is, consequently, greater. It would occupy too much time to give a detailed account of every clever trick with which the Wizard beguiled his audience; suffice it to say, that they frequently evinced their approbation, and that the neat precision which marked the professor's operations stamp him a great master of the black art.

## Literature.

SANITARY CONSOLIDATION. *The Quarterly Review*. No. CLXXVI. John Murray, Albemarle street.

THE number of the Quarterly Review for March contains an article on what the writer calls "Sanitary Consolidation," which is avowedly the following up of the article on the water service noticed at some length in the *Economist* of Oct. 19, 1850. As in that article, so in this, there are a great number of statements, some of which are so curious that, wholly independent of the doctrines of the reviewer, they deserve to be brought to the knowledge and demand the consideration of our readers. Our first extract will relate to the incoherency of our central legislation in reference to the municipal rights and duties it undertakes to establish and direct. It will be found very instructive in respect to the great paradox announced by the reviewer of

### SELF GOVERNMENT BY CENTRALISED LEGISLATION.

It was in the year 1846 that public attention was first strongly directed, by the evidence taken before the Commons' Committee on private bills, to the extreme incoherency of the old local administrative system, and to its *previously unsuspected centralising tendency*. It then, for the first time, became generally known that the Imperial Parliament passes, every year, a larger number of private and local than of public bills; the measures of the former class enacted from the date of the Union to 1845 inclusive numbering 9,200, while the general statutes carried during the same period amounted only to 5,300. The local government of the corporate towns in England and Wales was carried on under no less than 700 Acts, not only at variance with each other, but in many cases utterly inconsistent with the general laws of the country. Nay more, each individual town was found to be governed under a series of voluminous and conflicting Acts, numbering frequently several scores, utterly defying popular apprehension, perplexing the magistrates, and baffling the acumen (while filling the pockets) of the very lawyers themselves.

Liverpool, for example, was found to be governed under no less than sixty local Acts—some antiquated and dormant—some amended and partially repealed—others, on the contrary, confirmed and extended, by their successors; so that each new question, as it arose, involved laborious research, and led to costly litigations, ending often in the discovery of some preposterous ambiguity or contradiction, equally vexatious to both the parties. Under these incoherent statutes, grafted on the ancient common law, five or six independent local authorities had grown up in Liverpool, ruling fragmentary districts with divided powers, and mutually obstructing each other's functions. To complete this strange confusion, an outlying district called Toxteth Park was governed by independent commissioners of its own; who, within their little realm, exercised collectively all the powers, dispersed, in Liverpool itself, amongst half a dozen conflicting boards. Nay, by an almost incredible blunder of the legislature, power had been conferred on one set of commissioners to interdict the drainage of private dwellings into the sewers under their control; so that they could enforce on the inhabitants the retention, in stagnant cesspools, of the very refuse which sewers are provided to remove. The Fire-committee were crippled by an equally perverse severance of functions naturally allied; the water brought into the town expressly for the extinction of conflagrations being, strange to say, withdrawn from their control, and confided to the Sewer-department. Hence, doubtless, the frequency of such calamities as that recorded by Mr Rushton, the stipendiary magistrate; who told the committee that Mr Gladstone (the mayor of Liverpool) as well as himself, had seen a hundred thousand pounds' worth of property consumed by fire, for want of timely water-supplies. Of the administrative chaos resulting from this medley of incongruous jurisdictions some idea may be formed from the fact, that, while the *surface* of the streets belonged to the Surveyors of Highways, the *soil* beneath was vested in the Corporation; so that before an area could be widened, or a branch water-pipe laid on, two separate bodies had to be petitioned—one for leave to take up the kerbstone, the other for permission to dig below it. "Hence," said Mr Rushton, "double expenses of all sorts; double establishments and sets of officials; surveyors, engineers, clerks, lawyers, and all sorts of people in duplicate." Such a pass, indeed, had this random legislation reached, that the same proceeding which, under one Act, was a sineable offence, was expressly authorised under another, "passed in the very same session of parliament, and sanctioned by the royal assent within a few weeks of its companion."

Nor was Liverpool put forward as an exceptional case. Its local arrangements were selected for description, as a fair type of the municipal organisation prevalent in all the cities of this realm. Birmingham, for example, was found to be governed by no less than eight local powers, employing eight separate sets of officers; and acting with such utter want of concert that while one Board (the Birmingham Commissioners) had expended large sums of money to keep the town-sewage out of the river Rea, another Board (the Edgbaston Surveyors) had built a sewer for the express purpose of turning their refuse into that stream.

That may serve as a specimen of the manner in which centralised legislation has regulated local matters. Another and a more specific specimen is to be found in our system of sewerage, which has notoriously been long under the control of commissioners and bodies appointed by the great central power. It was not a thing the vulgar herd could know anything about; only the master minds in high places were competent to deal with such a general and artistical subject as drainage, and the reviewer shall explain how it has been managed. The people have never, we believe, had anything to do with electing sewers commissioners, certainly they have not had in Westminster; and here is what the reviewer says of the royal centralised management by commissioners of

### SEWERS FOR WESTMINSTER.

The recent consolidation of the old District Sewer Commissions, which formerly divided London amongst them, jobbing and peculating at their ease, has resulted in a reduction of no less than 43 per cent. in *management-costs alone*. The Westminster district, under the old regime, paid its surveying staff, for services of a fragmentary and imperfect kind, salaries amounting to 6,000*l.* a year; a charge reduced by consolidation to 4,700*l.* concurrently with a great improvement in the character and efficiency of the staff. The superior *tone* of the consolidated Commission was significantly indicated at their very first meeting; when the old system of dining together at the public cost, was discontinued by a formal resolution; and when, as the noble chairman declared in his opening address "they felt it their ungracious duty to disallow, as illegal, dinner-bills to the amount of 186*l.* run up by their predecessors during the last two months of their continuance in office."

### A WESTMINSTER IMPROVEMENT.

In 1849 an outbreak of epidemic fever, in the cloisters of Westminster Abbey, induced the Dean and Chapter to consent to a similar subterranean re-

volution in that heretofore stinking quarter. On opening the ground a hideous sight was disclosed. A series of cesspools, barrel-drains, and brick sewers, were found so large and so crammed with stagnant filth that no less than 500 loads were taken from a single portion of the network, serving only 15 houses! The sewer at one part measured seven feet wide—at another 17 feet high! Under the Westminster School the soil stood nine feet deep—a pleasant reflection for parents who have had sons, paling over their books, day after day, amidst the fumes of that pestiferous gulf. The area of the 15 houses, the school, the chapter-house, &c., with the connected grounds, was about two acres; the evaporating surface of subterranean filth was 4,800 square feet—or about 5½ per cent of the whole area. This mass of abomination was at once swept away by Messrs Austin and Lovick; who replaced the old stagnant drains and cesspools with 3,000 feet of tubular mains, submains, and capillaries, measuring respectively nine, six, and four inches in diameter. These drains work perfectly; the immemorial stench has ceased, and the inhabitants have ever since enjoyed an unaccustomed exemption from sickness. The Dean of Westminster, in a letter to the Commissioners, says, "I beg to report that the success of the entire new pipe-drainage laid down in St Peter's College has, during the last twelve months, been complete. The Clerk of the Works has examined every closet once a week, and entered his written report on a book laid every Wednesday before the Dean and Chapter; and not one case of failure or imperfect working has occurred."

#### COMMISSIONERS' DRAINAGES.

In some of the old sewage districts, small courts, containing only six houses, are drained by vaulted conduits no less than 4 feet high by 2½ feet wide; whilst recent experiments have shown that a little pipe, 4 inches in diameter, amply suffices to carry off the sewage of such a place. Nay, in a trial work, superintended by Mr Morris under the direction of the late Metropolitan Sewer Commission, 150 houses were found to be perfectly well drained by a single earthenware pipe 6 inches in diameter.

Mr Hall experimented on a sewer in Upper George street, Edgeware road, measuring 5½ feet high by 8½ feet wide, and receiving by several tributary conduits, the whole drainage of about 44 acres. This great vein Mr Hall proceeded to tie, as Magendie might tie a rabbit's. For this purpose he chose a point, only 560 feet above the mouth of the conduit; and where, consequently, its current was swollen by the collateral streams from the whole area drained. Here he built a brick wall across the sewer; leaving only a hole 1 foot in diameter for the passage of the stream. From this hole a pipe, one foot in diameter, was carried to the outlet; a distance, as we have said, of 560 feet. This portion, therefore, of the old vein, was virtually replaced by a new one, of less than a twentieth the former size, and about as big as an ordinary arterial water-main. The results of this experiment were capital, and very curious. The original sewer had—like all its monstrous tribe—been wont to accumulate deposits, which were only partially kept under by incessant flushing. But in this twelve-inch pipe no deposit whatever took place; a result attributable, of course, to the increased velocity of its closer pent stream. This, indeed, ran 4½ times faster in the little conduit than in the large one; so that broken stones of several ounces weight each, when put in at the top of the pipe, were heard rattling along it, and speedily issued at the other end. Nay, when the pipe was flowing about half full, two brickbats, weighing 1½ lbs each, were carried through its whole length, and emitted with such force from its mouth as to strike the man who was watching for them a blow on the legs which he declared to be painful. And a live rat, put in on the same occasion, came out at the lower end in so headlong a fashion, as proved him to have lost all control over his own motions.

Nor were Mr Lovick's experiments less instructive. They took place in a flat-bottomed sewer, 3 feet wide by 5 feet high, draining 1,200 houses, and accumulating no less than 6,000 cubic feet of foul deposit per month. Here was laid down a pipe of 15 inches diameter; through which, by an intercepting wall, the whole of the sewage was made to flow. This pipe, like Mr Hall's, transmitted the stream far more swiftly and freely than the great sewer which it replaced had done; and its own scour sufficed to keep it free from deposit. Such tubes, we learn from the engineering estimates before us, may be laid down for less than a fifth the cost of ordinary brick sewers built on the old "Roman grandeur" principle. Nay, the mere cost of flushing these latter amounts in many districts to 29l per mile per annum; whilst the total construction-cost of the self-flushing tubular sewers, if distributed over 20 years, would barely amount to 20l per mile per annum. Even in the comparatively well-managed Holborn and Finsbury district the flushing-costs amount to 17l 5s per mile per annum, so that, striking a fair average between the higher and the lower figure, we may venture broadly to assert that London might be drained (de novo) on the tubular, or physiological system, not only without levying fresh rates on the inhabitants, but with a direct and immediate diminution of existing charges.

#### HOUSE DRAINS.

Your ordinary private-house drain is very commonly a foot in diameter; and large enough, therefore, to carry off the sewage of 44 acres, according to Mr Hall's experiments; or of 1,200 houses, according to Mr Lovick's results. The minimum size of house-drains permitted by the Building Act is 9 inches diameter; and the collective sectional area of these private drains in London equals, on a low estimate, fivefold the sectional area of the Thames at Waterloo bridge, during high water. To keep these capillaries full and flowing would take a river above 1,000 feet wide by 100 feet deep, running at the rate of two miles per hour; whereas the actual water-supply of the metropolis—all that really passes through them—would scarcely keep a brook nine feet wide by three deep flowing at the same rate. The consequence is that our house-drains, lacking water to scour them, get choked with a pitchy coagulum—like the stagnant blood in a cholera-patient's veins.

For ludicrous incongruity between its structure and its function, the house-drain, if possible, outdoes even the water pipe. Though it is essential that these channels should be water and air-tight, they are yet built of bricks, so porous that each will absorb about a pint of water; and so small that a thousand of them, with a thousand chinks between, go to the making of an ordinary house-drain. The chinks no doubt are stopped; but in a rude fashion; and with so soft a mortar, as readily gives way (like the bricks themselves) before the teeth of the rats. Hence fluid leakage into the soil beneath, and gaseous exhalation into the air above;—pernicious damp dissipating the foundations of the house, and poisonous miasmata undermining the health of its inmates. Beside evils of such magnitude as these, it may seem almost peevish to notice the annoyance of the puffering rodentia admitted through these sieve-like drains into our larders. Yet this is no light evil in the aggregate. It is computed that the wholesome food which the rats of London consume or spoil, would suffice for the nourishment of several thousand men. Their multitude is at once the measure, and the reproof, of the foulness of our social organism; which is infested by these vermin, as the unclean individual is by other parasitic swarms—equally nimble and equally loathsome.

#### AN EXAMPLE.

A gentleman of distinction, occupying an elegant mansion in one of the principal streets in London, found his abode so haunted by unpleasant smells that he at length made up his mind to abandon it. So far his case was commonplace

enough. But the circumstance which especially provoked and perplexed our friend was, that the stench invariably arose in greatest strength, whenever he gave a party. He had, of course, caused the drain of his house to be opened, and search to be made for any obstruction or lodgement of foul matter within it. But nothing of the sort was found; nor could any of the builders, consulted on the case, explain the mysterious aggravation of the nuisance precisely on those occasions when the gentleman's friends were assembled around him, and his house was swept and garnished for their reception. It seemed as if some malignant agency were at work underground for his especial vexation and discomfort. At last, when he was on the very point of giving up the house, a bolder more sagacious than the rest, traced the strange evil to its physical cause. The house-drain, which ran beneath the kitchens, had become leaky, through the fall of mortar from between the bricks, and the gnawing of holes by the rats. Whenever a party was given, more fires than usual were lighted in the house; while the windows and doors were kept shut for the exclusion of cold and noise. The upward draught of air through the chimneys being thus increased, while the ordinary channels of indraught were diminished, a stronger suction power naturally took effect on the column of foul gas within the drain; and this gas, as it streamed upward into the house, was replaced by fresh supplies from the common sewer—of which, therefore, in simple fact, this house (like many others in London) was virtually a mere recess.

#### INCONSISTENCY OF THE PRESENT PLAN.

Every one knows that water is chiefly consumed and sewage produced in the offices at the back of our houses; whereas the water-mains and sewers are, with a strange perversity, laid down before them, in the middle of the street, some 60 or 80 feet from our back offices. Hence four important evils. First, the capillaries, arterial and venous, of each house, must be 60 or 80 feet long (more or less)—instead of 10 or 15 feet, which would suffice were our sewers and water-mains laid in the rear. Under this single item, therefore, five-sixths of our expense would be knocked off at one blow by Structural Consolidation. Secondly, the branch drain, in order to reach the sewer in the street, must pass beneath the house which it relieves; whereas to reach a postern sewer it would pass beneath the back-yard only, and its exhalations would ascend, not into the house, but into the open air. Thirdly, a front drain 60 or 80 feet long, can rarely have a good fall, so as to ensure a rapid and free discharge; whereas with the shorter back drain, we should command a fivefold slope, affording proportionately swifter and more certain evacuation. Lastly, with drains under our houses and sewers under our streets, we are subject to frequent invasions of workmen, who tear up our kitchen floors to repair the private ducts; and obstruct our streets with great trenches and barricades of paving stones to operate on the public conduits: from which grievous annoyances the postern system would deliver us for ever, only imposing on us in their stead, the comparatively trifling evil of an occasional incursion into our back-yards.

Another fact connected with our system of drainage is, that the drains, large as they are in general, are in some places so small compared to the surface they drain, or so imperfectly constructed, getting stopp'd at times, that in storms and floods they "blow up," and have confirmed the opinion and the practice that immense openings are everywhere necessary to carry off the utmost quantity of rain that can at one time fall. Of course, if the drains be smaller they must be more equally distributed, and care must be taken to direct the surface water of storms which falls on a given area to its appropriate conduit, so that no part of it runs into another, and the limited tube not have more water flow into it than can flow out of it. With precautions of this kind, the following remarks are to be considered:—

As for the discharge of storm-water through these 2 and 4-inch house-drains, this much-vexed question was experimentally determined by Mr Medworth, acting under the directions of the late Metropolitan Commissioners of Sewers. Mr Medworth ascertained that a 4-inch drain pipe, 50 feet long, laid with a fall of 1 in 120 (or 5 inches higher at its upper than at its lower end) discharged 100 gallons of water (equal to 24 hours' supply of sewage from a house) in one minute and a half. One-sixteenth of sand, mixed with the water, was freely discharged by the sweep of the current. As the heaviest rainfall known in this country does not deliver more than one gallon on each square foot per hour, such a pipe would discharge the storm-water of 4,000 square feet. And even this abundant discharge was more than doubled by increasing the declivity of the pipe to 1 in 60. As for the velocity of the current in these pipes, its rate was found to be four miles an hour, even with so slight a fall as 1 in 240: so that refuse, thus discharged at any given moment from the Post Office, would, within 45 minutes, be already beyond the three miles' radius; and within 2 hours, be far beyond the utmost limits of the metropolis.

There are many similar instructive statements in the article, carrying conviction with them that the two subjects of supplying large towns with water, and carrying away perfectly their refuse, are as yet very imperfectly known; and, as a natural consequence, those who have made regulations on these subjects, or endeavoured to provide for them, have committed grievous faults. Nor when we reflect on how close to us is the period when it first became palpable to sense and was demonstrated by science, that the gregarious habits and increase of the species continually tend to make living in towns the inevitable lot of mankind, is this at all surprising. It is only lately, and only yet in a few places, that a town life, properly speaking, has not been a narrow exception to the general mode of living. The towns of antiquity and of the middle ages were either walled places of refuge, where beginning civilisation found protection against the predatory inhabitants of the land—often containing within their boundaries fields and parks and gardens sufficient, with the tributes their inhabitants in accordance with the customs of the age levied on all they could subdue, for supplying the people with food—or they were the seats of government, the abode of the sovereign and his court, or the senate and its officers, growing more from the political than the natural organisation of society, from which population and splendour fled on any change in the government; and it is only in modern times that town life has plainly and palpably become the inevitable condition of many millions at present, and the probable future condition of the bulk of mankind. It is only lately, therefore, and could be only lately, that the many problems connected with such a condition of existence were forced on attention. It is only lately, accordingly, that they have been at all studied and a few of them solved; and only lately that numerous facts, similar to those we have copied from the Review, have been carefully observed. The novelty of the study makes caution necessary in forming conclusions, but the individuals who have been fortunate enough to bring some of these facts to light, impressed with their magnitude, and virtuously eager to remedy the evils they perhaps have discovered and certainly have exaggerated,

have jumped at once to the conclusion, that legislation—which was necessarily ignorant of this new condition of mankind—ought to have provided for it, and is now at once capable, as Hercules *æto*; out the Augean stables, of introducing a perfect system of arrangements for the supply of water and for carrying off all refuse. This is obviously a false conclusion. Problems of legislation are perfectly different from problems in engineering; and when we know the physical object, such as draining a town, required to be accomplished, we may still be very ignorant of the best moral means of accomplishing it, as not to stop the attainment of similar objects hereafter. Those who have discovered the material defects and evils, may not necessarily be the most judicious advisers in providing the remedies.

The author of the article from which we have made these quotations, couples them with, and quotes them, in fact, to illustrate a theory of legislation and government that demands, before it be acted on, the most serious consideration. It is his opinion, namely, that, as in all animal life, including man, the highest type, there is a twofold concentration; "the one *local* and subordinate, determining the development of various organs, each well defined, self-centred, and working with spontaneous powers to a special end; the other *central* and dominant, enforcing the harmonious co-operation of these manifold parts and their subservience to a collective unity. And this concurrent expansion of the central and local vitality is not casual but necessary; each being, obviously, the indispensable condition, as well as the inevitable consequence, of the other; while in the well-balanced intensity of both we recognise alike the sign and the source of man's organic supremacy. This counterpoised duality of individual life is repeated, on a vaster scale, in the social organism; which is impelled to a similar double development, as well by blindly striving popular instinct, as by conscious philosophic statesmanship. And as, within the womb, the embryo man springs at first from a mere nerveless cell, or simple monad, which unfolds itself gradually, by simultaneous expansion of its local and central forces, into many-ganglioned, full-brained humanity; so likewise does society, during long ages of painful gestation, unfold progressively its double life, ganglionic and cerebral (or local and central), from primal anarchy to well knit constitutional government."

The author of the article is well versed in medical science, and this physiological analogy, which runs through the whole of it, is the basis of a theory to justify the many aggressions recently made on the old system of government by the advocates of boards of health, of commissioners to regulate the supply of water, new sewers commissions, and all the sanitary consolidation and sanitary regulations that have of late given rise to some heart-burnings and much discussion. It seems, however, strange, if the analogy be well founded, that this double development should be left by Nature to such totally different and opposite causes. The dual principle of life is naturally inherent in "the cell, or congeries of cells," that "constitute the lowest form of life." It is implanted there by the self-same power, and for the same purpose; but when we come to the theory of society, as stated by the author, we find two distinct and totally different principles brought together to complete the analogy. There is what the writer calls "*blindly striving popular instinct*," and there is "*conscious philosophic statesmanship*;" the one impelling the people, the other guiding their rulers and controlling them. Without for one moment setting instinct in opposition to reason—believing, in fact, that one is the natural corrective of the other, that observation must inform impulse, that the heart and the head belong together as well as the hand and the eye—we must say by all which has yet been ascertained of "*conscious philosophic statesmanship*," that it is itself so blind, so opposed to the blindly striving popular instinct, and so feeble in comparison, that, instead of directing the latter, it has to look to it for precepts, to take the rules of its conduct from the results of instinct, and generally to stand out of its way. Conscious philosophic statesmanship, as in the case of restrictions on trade, including corn laws, is obliged to remove the barriers it has built and is continually renewing to stop the effects of the blindly striving instinct. It is not the ruler, but the ruled. When theoretically perfect, it draws the rules of its conduct from that form and condition which society assumes under the striving of instinct. What do all the facts and deductions we have quoted amount to—what do all the improvements proposed amount to, but observation of the condition to which society has been brought by the progress of the blind instinct of population, and proposals to adapt philosophic statesmanship to that condition, and to the probable future condition to which society will be carried by the same instinct? The amount of population which statesmanship has only to observe, controls all the relations of society. Between the two principles enunciated by the author there is this difference, that the one is naturally inherent in man, the cause of the growth and the limitation of society; the other is a mere art—the art of governing—the offspring of ignorant ambition more than of knowledge, which, if it have any foundation in Nature, is obviously in the first formless stage of its existence.

The writer of the article does not avow any official character, and if he did, it is clear that the observations he makes in the Review, the description he gives of the faults of our system of drainage and water supply, are made entirely on his individual authority. They are not, therefore, the result of any appointment he may hold, but of his having, from some peculiar circumstances, such as induce one man in the common division of labour to study political economy, and another to investigate systems of drainage, devoted much attention to the subject. The same observation may be extended to Mr Chadwick, Dr Southwood Smith, and all the other leaders and members of the Sanitary Reform body. They all acquired celebrity as sanitary reformers, under the common system of division of labour, before they held any official appointment. In truth, all the complaints made by the reviewer and others are of the inefficiency of various officials, such as sewers commissioners, municipal authorities, members of the legislature, &c., and the consequent proposed improvement originally sprung from individuals who had no official appointment, but

had, from some peculiar circumstances, been induced to devote particular attention to the subject. Their exertions, so far, whatever may be the case when they get into office, were not provided for nor dictated by conscious philosophic statesmanship, but sprung from the blind instinct which gives rise to the division of labour. No improvements in social organisation, and very few improvements even in the administration of government, have sprung from officials, but generally from some one of the great public beyond the sphere of office, though office may ultimately be his reward, and the grave of his peculiar aptitude. We do not at present, for example, hear much of Mr Rowland Hill, and it is a fact that the great improvement he suggested in the administration of the post office was in all its details completed in his own mind before he was installed at St Martin's-le-Grand. Now, the division of labour which takes place in society, and from which all these improvements have sprung, is not the result of conscious philosophic statesmanship, but of popular instinct. Wherever and whenever conscious philosophic statesmanship has interfered with division of labour, from the institution of castes in the East to the latest check given to retail trade in the West by licenses and laws, it has impeded and deranged division of labour. Whether we consider this great natural principle as it operates amongst members of the same community, or amongst the members of different communities—it being then called, though very inaccurately, territorial division of labour—we find it the parent of knowledge and civilisation, and particularly of that kind of knowledge which is possessed by engineers and the members of the sanitary bodies. From this source, individuals acquire different degrees of knowledge of different objects, practise different arts, are enabled to suggest improvements, some in draining, others in trade, and so carry forward society in its destined career of civilisation. Division of labour carries with it, in the competition of individuals, a due restriction and restraint. The two united under the same phrase of blind instinct completely fulfils, as is seen in the supply of food and clothing, the analogy which the author suggests between the principle of individual life and the principle of society. "Conscious philosophic statesmanship," so far as this analogy is concerned, does not belong to it. It lies wholly beside and beyond the principle, which begins and carries society to perfection. It is a mere excrement—a surplusage—an incident in time—a casual not a necessary part, and is not required either to complete the analogy, or to complete society. It falls entirely away, therefore, and all the fine reasoning which the reviewer has based on the analogy, and on conscious philosophic statesmanship being the corrective and complement of blindly striving popular instinct, rests on no foundation whatever. If the strange phrase "sanitary consolidation" have any justification, it must be found in some other theory; for that of the reviewer being altogether based on an imperfect analogy, is entirely worthless.

What the reviewer appears to mean by "sanitary consolidation," is that all the matters supposed to influence health—such as the supply of water and the drainage of towns, the ventilating of streets and houses, the disposal of the dead, and the exuvia of the living, all precautions necessary to check or prevent contagion—should everywhere be placed under the control of some one body of men, or some one public officer. That is sanitary consolidation. At the same time, as that one body or officer would have to devote its or his attention exclusively to these connected subjects, while at present they are under the supervision of different bodies and different magistrates, that would be division of labour. Then it is supposed that all the improvements which the writer imagines or supposes possible, or have actually been on some small scale and in some places carried into effect, shall be introduced everywhere, and established by this said officer or board. From proposing such improvements the inference is readily drawn, that they will be carried into effect by the said board or officer; and then comparing this picture of his imagination with the actual facts, he concludes that sanitary consolidation and sanitary centralisation, which are to produce such blessed imaginary effects, would be infinitely superior to our present system of administering the affairs of parishes, towns, and kingdoms, so far as sanitary matters are concerned. All these fancies are in the domain of possibility, but the writer states no other reasons to justify his conclusion than a false analogy, and a most fallacious comparison. The comparison he establishes is between a certain ideal perfection and what actually exists. It is somewhat remarkable, however, that all the examples he quotes of maladministration flow from the action of the centralised and consolidated legislature, or conscious philosophic statesmanship. Not one of his instances of failure results from blind instinct or division of labour. Every one is the offspring of what a few years or a century ago would have been classed, on this writer's theory, as "conscious philosophic statesmanship." "The popular instinct spreads population over the globe, and carries with it division of labour, art, skill, and knowledge. Conscious philosophic statesmanship stands in their way. The author's theory leads him to recommend the consolidation of parties possessing a particular species of knowledge resulting from division of labour into one centralised body; and while it is doubtful whether that would provide for even immediate improvement—for the suggestions that are made when striving for power are very often forgotten or found impracticable when office is possessed—it is quite certain that it would, by the centralised consolidation, stand in the way of further division of labour, and be a bar to future improvement. We cordially admit that many of the facts mentioned by the reviewer are curious, but his theory is as unsound as any theory we ever met with. It is an additional proof that very clever engineers or medical men, or professional or technical men of any kind, are not philosophic statesmen.

In all this discussion a great practical question is involved that now perplexes the heads of the wisest—namely, the best means of getting the common good promoted, including all the necessary regulations for the future town life of mankind, and of course including water supply and drainage; but this great practical question cannot be promoted by theories framed on imperfect analogies; and, believing that



it will be better settled by the blindly striving instinct and its consequences than by conscious philosophic statesmanship, we shall not discuss it. We shall only say that all the consequences of division of labour in supplying mankind with food and clothing, with comforts and conveniences, are infinitely diverse, complicated, and extensive, compared to the little part of them that concerns draining the metropolis and supplying it with water, though "these baffle, by their extreme complexity, the unintermittent study of the ablest engineers;" and that they are all brought about, and all the separate and distinct labourers in England, in China, and in the West Indies, who concur to provide us our daily breakfast, work admirably well together, without any visible head, and without being directed by any conscious philosophical statesmanship. Nay, it has been long ago proved that the said statesmanship never interferes with the means of supplying our food and drink, without deranging and often dislocating the admirable natural machinery supplied by instinct. The reviewer seems disposed to "take a lesson from Nature," and he may find such lessons in the actual physiology of society, as it is developed under blindly striving popular instinct, as well as in the physiology of the body.

**A PRACTICAL TREATISE ON THE LAW, PRIVILEGES, PROCEEDINGS, AND USAGE OF PARLIAMENT.** By THOMAS ERKSINE MAY, Esq. Second Edition. Butterworth, Fleet street.

The seven years that this work has lived have testified to its great value. It has been continually referred to. It has been the text book for parliamentary lawyers, and for those who have discussed parliamentary privileges. The present edition is only so much better than the first edition that has already received the public approbation, inasmuch as it contains more matter, and is adapted to all the changes that have been made in the seven years. The arrangements are otherwise the same, but every new precedent has been noticed, and every alteration adopted. The history of the great alteration, for example, made in the proceedings of the House of Commons in relation to the presentation of petitions and debates on them, which used within our memory to be the occasions for the most interesting contests to the obstruction of the settled business of the house, and which have been put a stop to, is carefully given, and the present mode of presenting petitions described. That great alteration, though it has saved the time of the house, has not left time enough for the increasing number of orators in the house to speak. If it have on the one hand prevented a great number of members from taking part in such desultory debates as arose on the presentation of petitions, it may on the other have compelled many, who would have made short speeches on such occasions, to qualify themselves for taking part in the more regular debates, when they prepare and make much longer speeches; wasting possibly as much time on the one hand as is saved on the other. The greatest alteration, however, which has been made in the proceedings of Parliament is in the management of private business, the vast accumulation of which has compelled the Houses of Parliament to make these changes, and has made Mr May's third book, which treats of them, a new treatise on parliamentary procedure. It may be very delightful to the members of the two houses to exercise the control given them by private business over the fortunes and pursuits of individuals; but we must say that it is quite foreign to the legislation for the interests of a great empire, to decide between the rival claims of gas and water and railway companies. Certainly one of the most feasible and most constitutional reforms of Parliament, would be the removal of private business from the control of the two houses into some court constituted and appointed to settle such questions. The court might have the power, under certain limitations derived from Parliament, to decide all such controversies between private property and the public good as arise from proposed new enterprises, and of compelling a man to give up his land when necessary. To preserve that power in the hands of Parliament is the main reason alleged for leaving with it a control over much of the business of individuals. Questions of this kind, and all questions connected with the proceedings of the house, as they are suggested by the work, can only be discussed by having Mr May's book in the hand, and referring to it for information of the existing practices. He has taken great pains in compiling it, and it will be equally useful to the members of both houses, to the parliamentary lawyer, and the agents of parties, and to all journalists and public writers. Being corrected by the assistance of Mr Speaker, which is graciously acknowledged, to the present time, it is an authority which no man should neglect who has to act or speak of the rules of Parliament, or guide his conduct by them.

**THE PRESENT CONDITION OF THE WORKING CLASSES, GENERALLY, CONSIDERED.** In two Lectures. By ROBERT BAKER. Bradford: H. O. Mawson and others.

This little book is composed in a kind and careful spirit, anxious to serve the working classes, but cautious in making recommendations. The author is a sub-inspector of factories, and has good opportunities of acquiring a knowledge of the subject he writes about. One or two extracts will show the spirit of the pamphlet and the knowledge of the man:—

**HOSPITALITY OF THE POOR.**

Till within the last three or four years, few of the working classes ever saved anything comparatively, whilst their improvidence has been and is trite. But if it is, their hospitality is equally so, and their kindly feeling one towards another is inimitable. In none of the higher walks of life is there more, if so much, real sympathy for distress, such community of kindness, such thorough Christian charity, as among the working classes. For the beggar from door to door, in days of the deepest want, they have always a slice of bread; in memory, probably, of the r own necessities in times of sickness; the theory of contagion slinks away behind their moral courage; and if death overtakes them, they contribute to the decent interment of one another.

These are remarkable excellencies—uniform, almost, throughout all districts—and they cover a multitude of failings.

**CHANGE IN THE NATURE OF CRIME.**

The records of public crime show, that when times are bad, crimes against property prevail; but when trade is good, crimes of and against the person predominate—i.e., crimes which are the result of animal impulses unsubdued by reason—in other words, that uneducated persons obey the lowest gratifications when these are not submissive to desires of a stronger character. Generally speaking, the less the cultivation, the stronger are these impulses; and what is of more consequence, they are often hereditary.

**IMMIGRATION INTO TOWNS.**

Into the large manufacturing towns of this kingdom, where from the rapid introduction of machinery, the indigenous population is often insufficient for its wants, immigration takes place to a great extent from the surrounding villages. Young females, at ages varying from 13 to 30, unite to form a company, and take lodgings with some resident family; or perhaps take a small house of their own, and thus establish an independent residence. These lodgers return home to their parents every Saturday evening, walking five or six miles, and walk the same distance back again on the Sunday evening, to be ready for their work on Monday morning. Such girls as these are soon beyond parental supervision. They are their own servants, cooks, and waiters; they rise at 5, and have only from 7 to 10 of every day for all the purposes of domestic life—for education or for religion. Need there be any comment upon this process of inhabitation and its product; and yet it is the history of thousands of those who are hereafter to be the wives and mothers of the working classes of this country.

**BOOKS RECEIVED.**

The Heir of West Wyalund. By Mary Howitt. Simms and McIntyre.  
St Paul's Epistles to the Corinthians: their Spirit and Significance. By John Hamilton Thom. Chapman.  
The Times on Sanitary Misrule, Corporate and Parochial, &c. (Pamphlet.) Effingham Wilson.

**To Readers and Correspondents.**

Communications must be authenticated by the name of the writer.

Letters from S. P. B.; G. B., Carmarthen; A Country Miller; A Reader, Glasgow; and a subscriber, Manchester; are received, and will receive attention.  
W. B., Wakefield. There is no drawback nor bounty on hardware exported, and if it is sometimes cheaper in New York than in Sheffield, it can only be when the market is accidentally overstocked, on the same principle as a farmer's produce can be bought cheaper sometimes after he has sent it to a distant fair than at his own farm.

**The Bankers' Gazette.**

**BANK RETURNS AND MONEY MARKET.**

**BANK OF ENGLAND.**  
(From the Gazette.)

AN ACCOUNT, pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th Victoria, cap. 32, for the week ending on Saturday the 19th day of April 1851:—

**ISSUE DEPARTMENT.**

Notes issued .....	26,733,660	Government debt .....	11,015,100
		Other Securities .....	2,984,900
		Gold coin and bullion .....	12,800,285
		Silver bullion .....	33,375
	26,733,660		26,733,660

**BANKING DEPARTMENT.**

Proprietors' capital .....	14,553,000	Government Securities, including Deal Weight Annuity ..	13,938,794
Reserve .....	2,109,443	Other Securities .....	11,638,650
Public Deposits (including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts) .....	4,102,458	Notes .....	6,847,180
Other Deposits .....	10,256,573	Gold and Silver Coin .....	608,738
Seven Day and other Bills .....	1,058,932		
	33,071,366		33,071,366

Dated the 24th April, 1851. M. MARSHALL, Chief Cashier.

**THE OLD FORM.**

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

<b>Liabilities.</b>	<b>L.</b>	<b>Assets.</b>	<b>L.</b>
Circulation inc. Bank post bills .....	20,993,412	Securities .....	25,022,418
Public Deposits .....	4,102,458	Bullion .....	13,312,398
Other or private Deposits .....	10,256,573		
	35,264,443		38,364,816

The balance of assets above liabilities being 2,100,431, as stated in the above account under the head REST.

**FRIDAY NIGHT.**

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

A decrease of Circulation of .....	£134,162
A decrease of Public Deposits of .....	620,865
An increase of Other Deposits of .....	92,233
A decrease of Securities of .....	413,182
A decrease of Bullion of .....	247,138
An increase of Rest of .....	2,474
A decrease of Reserve of .....	147,293

The present return shows a decrease of circulation, 134,162l; a decrease of public deposits, 620,865l; an increase of private deposits, 92,233l; a decrease of securities, 413,182l, 150,000l being Government securities, and 263,182l private securities; a decrease of bullion, 247,138l; an increase of rest, 2,474, and a decrease of reserve, 147,293l. The decrease of public deposits and part of the decrease of bullion of course come from the payments of the dividends, the effects of which are continued in these returns. By selling Government securities, and by private securities being withdrawn, the Bank has at the same time decreased the circulation, though so large a sum has been taken from its coffers, by the diminution of the public deposits. The diminution of bullion which has now gone on for several weeks continues, we believe, in the present week, but we shall not know the exact amount till we receive the returns next Friday.

The Money Market continues easy. Money is placed on call

at 2½ per cent., and the terms for discounting the best bills are 2½, the discount business being almost wholly confined to the joint stock banks and private houses. On the Stock Exchange an opinion prevails that money will be dearer, and it is very probable that after the opening of the Exhibition, when its effects will be known, enterprise will extend, and a demand for money increase.

A considerable arrival of silver was announced to-day, by the Thames, from the West Indies, of which the East India houses continue to be the chief buyers.

In the Exchanges there is no alteration of importance to notice, but in the present state of the exchanges with Russia it is becoming advantageous to import gold, and unless they alter a considerable importation is expected.

The Stock Market was not so firm to-day and Consols declined ¼ per cent. Considerable sales were made by two brokers, the principals of one of whom required the money to complete an industrial enterprise, and very probably the other sales were for some similar purpose. The sales had no political cause, nor were they made for the Bank. The foreign market shared in the flatness of the home market through the week. The market has undergone little variation, as our usual list of the opening and closing prices of Consols every day in the week, and the closing price of the other principal stocks yesterday week and this day will show.

Consols.		Account	
Opened	Closed	Opened	Closed
Saturday .....	97½	97½	97½
Monday .....	97½	97½	97½
Tuesday .....	97½	97½	97½
Wednesday .....	97½	97½	97½
Thursday .....	97½	97½	97½
Friday .....	97½	96½	96½

  

	Closing prices last Thursday.	Closing prices this day.
3 per cent consols, account money .....	97½	97
2½ per cents .....	97½	97½
2 per cent reduced .....	96½	96½
Exchequer bills, large .....	54s 7s	53s 6s
Bank stock .....	211 12	211 12
East India stock .....	261 3	230
Spanish 3 per cents .....	39 ½	39 ½
Portuguese 4 per cents .....	32½ 3½	33½ 4½
Mexican 5 per cents .....	34 ½	35½
Dutch 2½ per cents .....	59 ½	59 ½
— 4 per cents .....	90 ½	90 ½
Russian, 4½ stock .....	59 ½	59½

In Railways there was not much doing to-day, the speculators preparing for the settlement. The late unpleasant occurrences have rather weakened confidence, and made caution the prevailing feeling. The following is our usual list of the closing prices of the shares of the principal lines yesterday week and this day:—

	Closing prices last Thursday.	Closing prices this day.
Birmingham and Oxford gua.	28½ 25½	28½ 9½
Birmingham and Dudley	84 9½ pm	84 9½ pm
Bristol and Exeter	80 2	80 2
Caledonians	15 2	15½ 4
Eastern Counties	7½ 2	7½ 2
East Lancashire	17½ 2	17½ 2
Great Northern	17½ 18½	17½ 2
Great Western	88 9	88 9
Lancashire and Yorkshire	62 3	63 2
London and Blackwall	84 2	84 2
London, Brighton, & S. Coast	26½ 7½	26½ 7½
London & North Western	128½ 9	129 3
London and South Western	88 9	88½ 9½
Midlands	62½ 3½	63½ 2
North British	104 2	104 2
North Staffordshire	6½ 2 dis	6½ 2 dis
Oxford, Worcester, & Wolver.	17½ 18½	17½ 18½
South Eastern	27½ 8	27½ 8½
South Wales	31½ 2½	31½ 2½
York, Newcastle, & Berwick	21½ 2½	21½ 2½
York and North Midland	27 2	27½ 2

  

FRENCH SHARES.	
Boulogne and Amiens	9½ 10
Northern of France	14½ 15
Paris and Rouen	25 6
Paris and Strasbourg	54 5 dis
Rouen and Havre	10½ 2 ex div
Dutch Rhénish	5 4½ dis

The statement made in the course of the week of a forgery having been committed, and stock sold out under it to the amount of 10,000, is not quite correct. No forgery has been committed, but a trustee has made away with property which did not belong to him. It was sold out in his own name, and misapplied; but as he was the only trustee, there was no occasion to commit a forgery. The guilty party does not reside in the metropolis, and the transaction was carried on through a country bank and its correspondent in London. The London bank which negotiated the transfer, and the Bank of England, will both escape harmless; but it is doubted whether the country bank will escape, as it may be involved in pecuniary transactions with the culprit, which may make it responsible to some extent to the party defrauded.

It is expected on the Stock Exchange, that at the opening of the Great Exhibition on May 1st, a close holiday will be observed.

PRICES OF BULLION.		£	s	d
Foreign gold in bars, (standard)	per ounce	3	17	9
Spanish doubloons		0	0	0
Foreign gold in coin, Portugal pieces		0	0	0
New dollars		0	4	1½
Silver in bars (standard)		0	5	1½

THE BANKERS' PRICE CURRENT.

PRICES OF ENGLISH STOCKS						
	Sat	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri
Bank Stock, 8 per cent	211½ 12	...	...	211½	211½ 11	...
3 per Cent Reduced Anns.	96½ 2	96½ 2	96½ 2	96½ 2	96½ 2	96½ 2
3 per Cent Consols Anns.	97½ 1	97½ 1	97½ 1	97½ 1	97½ 1	97½ 1
3 per Cent Anns., 1726	...	...	...	...	...	...
3½ per Cent Anns.	98 1	98 1	98 1	98 1	97½ 1	97½ 1
New 5 per Cent	...	...	...	...	...	...
Long Anns. Jan. 5, 1860	75-16	75-16	75-16	75-16	75-16	75-16
Anns. for 30 years, Oct. 10, 1859	...	...	...	...	71-16	71-16
Ditto Jan. 5, 1860	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ditto Jan. 5, 1880	...	...	...	...	...	...
India Stock, 10½ per Cent	262½ 4	251	251	261 2	...	260
Do. Bonds, 3½ per Cent 1000, 63s 5s p	59s 6s p	59s 6s p	59s 6s p	52s p	62s 5s p	61s 6s p
Ditto under 1000	59s 6s p	59s 6s p	59s 6s p	62s p	...	...
South Sea Stock, 3½ per Cent	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ditto Old Anns., 3 per Cent	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ditto New Anns., 3 per Cent	...	...	...	96½	...	...
3 per Cent Anns., 1751	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bank Stock for acct, May 13	97½ 2	97½ 2	97½ 2	97½ 2	97½ 2	97½ 2
3 p Cent Cons. for acct, May 13	97½ 2	97½ 2	97½ 2	97½ 2	97½ 2	97½ 2
India Stock for acct, May 13	...	...	...	...	...	...
Canada Guaranteed, 4 per Cent	...	...	...	...	...	...
Excheq. Bills, 1000/ 14d	54s 7s p	57s 6s p	57s 6s p	54s 7s p	57s 4s p	56s 3s p
Ditto 500/	57s p	57s 4s p	57s 4s p	54s 7s p	...	...
Ditto Small	57s p	57s 4s p	57s 4s p	54s 7s p	...	53s p
Ditto Advertised	...	...	...	...	...	...

COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

	Time	Tuesday.		Friday.	
		Prices negotiated on 'Change.		Prices negotiated on 'Change.	
Amsterdam	short	11 15½	11 16	11 15½	11 15½
Ditto	3 ms	11 17½	...	11 17	11 17½
Rotterdam	...	11 17½	11 17½	11 17	11 17½
Antwerp	...	25 25	25 27½	25 25	25 30
Brussels	...	25 25	25 27½	25 25	25 30
Hamburg	...	13 8½	...	13 8	13 8½
Paris	short	25 5	25 10	25 5	25 10
Ditto	3 ms	25 25	25 30	25 27	25 30
Marseilles	...	25 27	25 30	25 22½	26 30
Frankfort on the Main	...	119	119½	118½	119½
Vienna	...	13 20	13 30	13 25	13 30
Trieste	...	13 25	13 31	13 26	13 33
Petersburg	...	37½	...	37½	...
Madrid	...	50	50½	50	50½
Cadiz	...	50½	50½	50½	50½
Leghorn	...	30 50	30 55	30 52½	30 55
Genoa	...	25 50	25 55	25 50	25 55
Naples	...	41½	41½	41½	41½
Palermo	...	124½	124½	124½	124½
Messina	...	124½	124½	124½	124½
Lisbon	90 ds dt	53½	53½	53½	53½
Oporto	...	53½	53½	53½	53½
Rio Janeiro	60 ds sgt	...	...	...	...
New York	...	...	...	...	...

FRENCH FUNDS.

	Paris		London		Paris		London	
	April 21	April 23	April 22	April 24	April 23	April 25	April 25	
5 per Cent Rentes, div. 22	F. C.	F. C.	F. C.	F. C.	F. C.	F. C.	F. C.	
March and 22 Sept.	92 45	...	92 40	...	92 30	...	...	
Exchange	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
3 per Cent Rentes, div. 22	57 30	...	57 30	...	57 25	...	...	
June and 22 December	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Exchange	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Bank Shares, div. 1 January	2100 0	...	2100 0	...	2050 0	...	...	
and 1 July	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Exchange on London 1 month	25 5	...	25 5	...	25 5	...	...	
Ditto 3 months	24 87½	...	24 90	...	24 90	...	...	

PRICES OF FOREIGN STOCKS.

	Sat	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri
Brazilian Bonds, 5 per cent	89½	89	...	...	...	...
Ditto New, 5 per cent, 1829 and 1839	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ditto New, 1843	...	...	89	...	...	...
Buenos Ayres Bonds, 6 per cent	54½	...	...	...	...	...
Cuba Bonds, 6 per cent	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chilian Bonds, 6 per cent	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ditto 3 per cent	...	...	...	64	...	...
Danish Bonds, 3 per cent, 1825	...	...	...	...	...	76½
Ditto 5 per cent Bonds	102	...	102	...	...	...
Dutch 2½ per cent. Exchange 12 guilders	...	...	...	...	...	...
Equador Bonds	32½	...	...	...	...	...
Grenada Bonds, 1½ per Cent	17	...	...	...	...	...
Ditto ex Dec. 1849 coupons	16½	...	17	...	...	...
Ditto Deferred	4½	...	...	...	...	...
Greek Bonds, 1824 and 1825	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ditto ex over-due coupons	...	...	...	...	...	...
Guatemala	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mexican 5 per cent, 1846, ex Jan. coupons	36½ 5½	35½ 2	35½ 2	35½ 2	35½ 2	38½
Peruvian Bonds, 4½ per cent, 1849	...	...	...	...	...	94½
Ditto Deferred	39	39½	39½	39½	39½	39½
Portuguese Bonds, 5 per cent	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ditto 5 per cent converted, 1841	...	34½	...	...	...	...
Ditto 4 per cent	32½	33½	33	33½	33	33½ 4
Ditto 3 per cent, 1848	...	...	...	...	...	...
Russian Bonds, 1822, 5 per cent, in £ sterling	...	...	...	112	...	...
Ditto 4½ per cent	99½	99½	99½	99½	99½	99½
Spanish Bonds, 5 per cent, from Nov. 1840	19½ 2	19½ 2	19½ 2	19½ 2	19½ 2	19½ 2
Ditto ditto ditto 1843	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ditto ditto ditto 1845	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ditto ditto ditto 1846	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ditto Coupons	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ditto Passive Bonds	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½
Ditto 5 per cent Spanish Bonds	39½	39½	39½	39½	39½	39½
Venezuela 2½ per cent Bonds	32½	33 2½	...	33	...	...
Ditto Deferred	12	...	...	...	...	...
Dividends on the above payable in London.						
Austrian Bonds, 5 per cent, 10 gu. p. £ st.	...	...	...	...	...	...
Belgian Scrip, 2½ per cent	...	...	...	24½	...	...
Ditto Bonds, 4½ per cent	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ditto, 5 per cent	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dutch 2½ per cent. Exchange 12 guilders	59½	...	...	...	59½	59½
Ditto 4 per cent Certificates	90½	90½	90½	90	90	...
Ditto 4 per cent Bonds	...	...	...	...	...	...

LATEST PRICES OF AMERICAN STOCKS.

	Payable.	Amount in Dollars.	Dividends.	London Prices, April 25	Amer. Proc. April 8
United States Bonds	6	1868	65,000,000	Jan. and July	110 1/2
— Certificates	6	1862	—	—	112
— Certificates	6	1867-8	—	—	106 1/2
Alabama .. Sterling	5	1858	9,000,000	—	90
Indiana ..	4	{ 1861 } { 1866 }	5,600,000	—	72 1/2
—	2 1/2	1861-6	2,000,000	—	36 1/2
— Canal Preferred	5	1861-6	4,500,000	—	41 1/2
— Special do	5	1861-6	1,300,000	—	18
Illinois ..	6	1870	10,000,000	—	66
Kentucky ..	6	1868	4,250,000	—	105 1/2
Louisiana .. Sterling	5	{ 1850 } { 1852 }	7,000,000	Feb. and Aug.	96 xd
Maryland .. Sterling	5	1888	3,000,000	Jan. and July	88 1/2
Massachusetts ..	5	1868	3,000,000	April and Oct.	106 1/2
Michigan ..	6	1863	5,000,000	Jan. and July	—
Mississippi ..	6	{ 1866 } { 1871 }	2,000,000	May and Nov.	—
—	5	1850-8	5,000,000	Mar. and Sept.	—
New York ..	5	1860	13,124,270	Quarterly	96
Ohio ..	6	1875	19,000,000	Jan. and July	106
Pennsylvania ..	5	1854-70	41,000,000	Feb. and Aug.	82 1/2
South Carolina ..	5	1866	3,000,000	Jan. and July	89
Tennessee ..	6	1868	3,000,000	—	103
Virginia ..	6	1857	7,000,000	—	—
United States Bank Shares	—	1866	35,000,000	—	2 1/2
Louisiana State Bank	10	1870	2,000,000	—	—
Bank of Louisiana	8	1870	4,000,000	—	—
New York City ..	5	{ 1860 } { 1856 }	9,600,000	Quarterly	87 xd
New Orleans City ..	5	1863	1,500,000	Jan. and July	—
— Canal and Banking	—	1863	—	—	16 1/2
Camden & Amboy R. R.	6	1864	£225,000	Feb. and Aug.	90
City of Boston ..	—	1864	—	—	—

Exchange at New York 110 1/2.

INSURANCE COMPANIES.

No. of shares.	Dividend	Names.	Shares.	Paid.	Price pr. share
2,000	3/10s	Albion	500	50 0 0	85
50,000	7/14s 6d & bs	Alliance British and Foreign	100	11 0 0	21 1/2
50,000	6/12 p c & bs	Do. Marine	20	5 0 0	—
24,000	13s 6d & bs	Atlas	50	5 10 0	17 1/2
3,000	4/1 p cent	Argus Life	100	16 0 0	—
12,000	7s 6d	British Commercial	50	5 0 0	7 1/2
5,000	5/1 p c & bs	Clerical, Medical, and General Life	100	10 0 0	20
4,000	4s	County	100	10 0 0	20 xd
—	14s	Crown	50	5 0 0	15
20,000	5s	Eagle	50	5 0 0	6 1/2
4,651	10s	European Life	20	20 0 0	11 1/2
—	—	General	—	5 0 0	5 1/2
1,000,000	6/12 p cent	Globe	Stk.	—	136
20,000	5/1 p cent	Guardian	100	45 0 0	56
2,400	12/12 p cent	Imperial Life	500	50 0 0	245
7,500	12s	Imperial Fire	100	10 0 0	18
13,453	14s & bs	Indemnity Marine	100	20 0 0	47 1/2
50,000	—	Law Fire	100	2 10 0	2 1/2
10,000	1/16	Law Life	100	10 0 0	45 1/2
20,000	—	Legal and General Life	50	2 0 0	4 1/2
3,900	1/1	London Fire	25	12 10 0	19
31,000	1/1	London Ship	25	12 10 0	19
10,000	15s p sh	Marine	100	15 0 0	75
10,000	4/1 p cent	Medical, Invalid, and General Life	50	2 0 0	24
25,000	5/1 p cent	National Loan Fund	20	2 10 0	2 1/2
5,600	8/1 p cent	National Life	100	5 0 0	—
30,000	5/1 p cent	Palladium Life	50	2 0 0	2 1/2
—	—	Pelican	—	—	—
—	3/1 p sh & bs	Phoenix	—	—	155
2,500	1/15s & bns	Provident Life	100	10 0 0	30
200,000	5s	Rock Life	5	0 10 0	6 1/2
689,220 1/2	6/12 p c & bs	Royal Exchange	Stk.	—	220
—	6 1/2	Sun Fire	—	—	209
4,000	1/16s	Do. Life	—	—	48
25,000	4/1 p c & bs	United Kingdom	20	4 0 0	4
5,000	10/12 p c & bs	Universal Life	100	10 0 0	—
—	5/1 p cent	Victoria Life	—	—	5 1/2

JOINT STOCK BANKS.

No. of shares.	Dividends per annum	Names.	Shares	Paid	Price pr share
22,500	4/1 per ct	Australasia	40	40 0 0	—
20,000	5/1 per ct	British North American	50	50 0 0	—
5,000	—	Ceylon	25	25 0 0	—
20,000	2/1 per ct	Colonial	100	25 0 0	—
—	6/8 1/2 s 6d bs	Commercial of London	100	20 0 0	—
10,000	6/12 per ct	London and County	50	20 0 0	—
60,000	6/8 1/2 s 6d bs	London Joint Stock	50	10 0 0	17 1/2
50,000	6/12 per c bs	London and Westminster	100	20 0 0	27 1/2
10,000	6/12 per ct	National Provincial of England	100	35 0 0	40 1/2
10,000	5/1 per ct	Ditto New	20	10 0 0	—
20,000	5/1 per ct	National of Ireland	50	22 10 0	—
20,000	8/1 per ct	Provincial of Ireland	100	25 0 0	—
4,000	8/1 per ct	Ditto New	10	10 0 0	—
12,000	15/1 per ct	Gloucestershire	—	—	—
4,000	6/12 per ct	Ionian	25	25 0 0	—
—	6/12 per ct	South Australia	25	25 0 0	—
20,000	6/12 & bns	Union of Australia	25	25 0 0	—
8,000	6/12 per ct	Ditto Ditto	—	2 10 0	—
60,000	6/12 per ct	Union of London	50	10 0 0	12 1/2
15,000	—	Union of Madrid	40	40 0 0	—

DOCKS.

No. of shares	Dividend per annum	Names.	Shares	Paid.	Price pr share
313,400 1/2	4 p cent	Commercial	Stk.	—	84
2,065,688 1/2	6 p cent	East and West India	Stk.	—	145
1,038 1/2	1/1 p sh	East Country	100	—	—
3,628,310 1/2	5 p cent	London	Stk.	—	112 1/2
300,000	3 1/2 p cent	Ditto Bonds	—	—	—
1,352,752 1/2	3 1/2 p cent	St Katharine	Stk.	—	75 1/2
500,000	4 1/2 p cent	Ditto Bonds	—	—	—
7,000	2 p cent	Southampton	50	50 0 0	15

FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON AT THE LATEST DATES.

	Latest Date.	Rate of Exchange on London.	
Paris	Apr. 24	f 25 5	3 days' sight
—	—	—	1 month's date
Antwerp	— 24	f 25 90	3
—	—	f 25 7 1/2	3 days' sight
Amsterdam	— 22	f 11 7 1/2	3 days' sight
—	—	11 6 1/2	2 months' date
Hamburg	— 22	m. 13 3/4	3 days' sight
—	—	13 3/4	3 months' date
St Petersburg	— 11	37 1/2 d to 37 11-16	3
Madrid	— 18	50 35-100d	3
Lisbon	— 19	54d	3
Gibraltar	— 15	51d	2
New York	— 8	10 to 10 1/2 per cent pm	60 days' sight
—	—	1 per cent pm	30
Jamaica	Mar. 31	1/2 per cent pm	60
—	—	par	90
Havana	Apr. 3	7 to 7 1/2 per cent pm	90
Rio de Janeiro	Mar. 14	29 to 29 1/2 d	60
Bahia	— 17	30d	60
Pernambuco	— 22	29d	60
Buenos Ayres	Feb. 27	24d	60
Valparaiso	Jan. 26	45d	90
Singapore	Mar. 5	4s 10d to 4s 11d	60 days' sight
—	—	... to ... per cent dis	1
Ceylon	— 14	10 to 12 per cent dis	3
—	—	—	6
Bombay	— 16	—	1
—	—	2s 3/4 d to 2s 7/4 d	6
—	—	2s 2 1/2 d to 2s 2 1/2 d	6
Calcutta	— 7	—	4
—	—	—	1
Hong Kong	Feb. 27	5s 6 1/2 d to 5s 2d	6
Mauritius	Jan. 13	6 per cent dis	6
Sydney	— 9	2 per cent dis	30 days' sight

COMPARATIVE EXCHANGES.

The quotation of gold at Paris is about 3 per mille discount (new tariff rate), which, at the English mint price of 3/17s 10 1/2d per ounce for standard gold, gives an exchange of 25/10; and the exchange at Paris on London at short being 25 05, it follows that gold is 0.20 per cent dearer in Paris than in London.

By advices from Hamburg the price of gold is 426 per mark, which, at the English mint price of 3/17s 10 1/2d per ounce for standard gold, gives an exchange of 13 5/8; and the exchange at Hamburg on London at short being 13 6 1/2, it follows that gold is 0.35 per cent dearer in London than in Hamburg.

The course of exchange at New York on London for bills at 60 days' sight is 110 1/2 per cent; and the par of exchange between England and America being 109 23-40 per cent, it follows that the exchange is nominally 0.67 per cent in favour of England; but, after making allowance for difference of interest and charges of transport, the present rate leaves no profit on the importation of gold from the United States.

INDIA EXCHANGES.

Commercial bills at 60 days' sight	E. I. Company's bills at 60 days' sight	Amount of E. I. Company's bills drawn from April 7 to 23.
per Co.'s rupee.	per Co.'s rupee.	£ s d
Bengal ... 2 0 1/2 to 2 0 1/2	2 1 to 0 0	110,412 9 7
Madras ... 2 0 1/2	0 0 ... 2 1 0 0	1,132 16 0
Bombay ... 2 0 1/2	2 1 ... 2 1 1/2 0 0	305 0 0
Total of East India Co.'s bills, from April 7 to 23		124,850 5 7
Total of do from Jan. 7 to April 23, 1851		644,822 6 5
Total of do. from May 7, 1850, to April 23, 1851, (East India Company's official year commencing from May 1)		3,221,570 16 0

N.B.—Bills against indents from India and shipments to India vary according to the articles drawn against.

The Commercial Times.

GENERAL POST-OFFICE, LONDON, APRIL 12, 1851.—On and after Wednesday, April 23, all persons wishing to post paid letters at the Lombard street branch, must reach that office before fifty minutes past five o'clock p.m., and fifty minutes past six p.m. respectively. The boxes for the reception of stamped and unpaid letters will be open until six, and for stamped only until seven p.m.

THE FRENCH MAILS.—Since the 15th instant the Paris mail leaves that capital at 7.30 instead of 8 p.m., and arrives at Calais at 2.10 a.m. An extra mail train from Dover has been started at 5.20 a.m., reaching London at 7.30; and the result is that the desired object of having the French mail here in time for the first delivery and morning's mail to the provinces, has been effected. Meanwhile the relative position of the two routes by Boulogne and Calais remains unchanged.

Mails Arrived.

LATEST DATES.

- On 15th April, WEST INDIES and MEXICO, per *Clyde* steamer, via Southampton—Grey Town, March 5; Chagres, 11; Cartagena, 14; Santa Martha, Feb. 27; Vera Cruz, March 8; Tampico, 8; Berberie, 15; D. merara, 16; Trinidad, 17; Jamaica, 17; Grenada, 18; Barbadoes, 19; Martinique, 20; Porto Rico, 20; Antigua, 20; St Thomas, 21; Fayal, April 7.
- On 19th April, AMERICA, per *Franklin* steamer, via Southampton—New York, April 5.
- On 22nd April, INDIA and CHINA, per *Indus* steamer, via Southampton. Dates as received 16th inst. via Marseilles.
- On 22nd April, AMERICA, per *Canada* steamer, via Liverpool—Newfoundland, April 3; Prince Edward Island, 3; St John's, 11; Montreal, 7; New York, 8; Boston, 9; Halifax, 10.
- On 22nd April, CALIFORNIA, March 5, via United States.
- On 22nd April, VALPARAISO, Feb. 25, via United States.
- On 22nd April, PANAMA, March 26, via United States.
- On 22nd April, JAMAICA, March 31, via United States.
- On 22nd April, HAVANA, March 31, via United States.
- On 21st April, PENINSULAR, per *Madrid* steamer, via Southampton—Gibraltar, April 15; Cadix, 16; Lisbon, 18; Oporto, 19; Vigo, 19.
- On 25th April, WEST INDIES and PACIFIC, per *Thames* steamer, via Southampton—Panama, March 22; Nassau, 18; Honduras, 21; Havana, 25; La Guayra, 26; Demerara, 27; Grenada, 28; Carthagena, 29; Barbadoes, 30; Antigua, 30; Hayti, 31; Jamaica, 31; St Thomas, April 6; Valparaiso, Feb. 26; Callao, March 5.

**Mails will be Despatched FROM LONDON**

On 28th April (morning), for VIGO, OPORTO, LISBON, CADIZ, and GIBRALTAR, per steamer, via Southampton.  
 \*On 29th April (evening), for AMERICA, per Arctic steamer, via Liverpool and New York.  
 †On 29th April (evening), for CALIFORNIA, via United States.  
 †On 29th April (evening), for HAVANA, via United States.  
 On 2nd May (morning), for WEST INDIES, MEXICO, VENEZUELA, and CALIFORNIA (Cuba, Honduras, Nassau, Chili, and Peru excepted; mails to these places on the 17th of each month only), per Clyde steamer, via Southampton.  
 On 2nd May (evening), for BRITISH NORTH AMERICA, BERMDA, and UNITED STATES, per Cambria steamer, via Liverpool and Halifax.  
 †On 2nd May (evening), for CALIFORNIA, via United States.  
 †On 2nd May (evening), for HAVANA, via United States.  
 \* Letters and Newspapers for Canada, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island, intended to be forwarded per these vessels, must be specially addressed, "Via United States."  
 † Letters and Newspapers to go forward per this route, must be specially addressed "Via United States."  
 The Ganget steamship is appointed to sail from Southampton 1st May, for Gibraltar, Malta, and Alexandria; letters in time on the 30th inst.

**Mails Due.**

MAY 5.—Malta, Greece, Ionian Islands, Syria, Egypt, and India.  
 MAY 5.—West Indies.  
 MAY 5.—Mexico.  
 MAY 6.—Spain, Portugal, and Gibraltar.  
 MAY 8.—America.  
 MAY 13.—Brazil and River Plate.  
 MAY 16.—Cape of Good Hope.  
 MAY 23.—West Indies.  
 MAY 23.—Western Coast of South America (Chili, Peru, &c.)  
 MAY 23.—Havana, Honduras, and Nassau.  
 MAY 23.—Malta, Greece, Ionian Islands, Syria, Egypt, and India.  
 MAY 23.—China, Singapore, and Straits.

**WEEKLY CORN RETURNS.**

From the Gazette of last night.

	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Rye.	Beans.	Peas.
Sold.....qrs	65,653	34,084	18,023	75	5,551	630
	s d	s d	s d	s d	s d	s d
Weekly average, Apr. 19.....	39 5	24 5	17 5	24 7	24 10	25 9
— 12.....	39 0	24 2	17 5	24 7	25 4	25 6
— 5.....	38 4	23 10	17 0	23 11	25 11	24 8
Mar. 29.....	38 1	23 7	16 7	23 5	25 7	24 6
— 22.....	37 5	23 3	16 9	22 8	25 8	25 9
— 15.....	37 2	23 1	16 6	23 2	25 6	25 8
Six weeks' average.....	38 3	23 9	16 11	24 7	26 0	25 4
Same timelast year.....	38 0	23 2	15 1	21 11	23 10	25 2
Duties.....	1 0	1 0	1 0	1 0	1 0	1 0

**GRAIN IMPORTED.**

An account of the total quantities of each kind of corn, distinguishing foreign and colonial, imported into the principal ports of Great Britain, viz:—London, Liverpool, Hull, Newcastle, Bristol, Gloucester, Plymouth, Leith, Glasgow, Dundee, and Perth, in the week ending April 16, 1851.

	Wheat and wheat flour	Barley and barley-meal	Oats and oatmeal	Rye and rye-meal	Peas and pea-meal	Beans & bean-meal	Indian corn and Indian-meal	Buck wheat and buck-wheat meal
Foreign ...	qrs 67,345	qrs 10,258	qrs 23,319	qrs 75	qrs 1,225	qrs 1,209	qrs 542	qrs 9
Colonial ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total ...	67,346	10,258	23,319	75	1,225	1,209	542	9
Total imports of the week .....	104,411 qrs.							

**COMMERCIAL EPITOME.**

FRIDAY NIGHT.

The Corn Market was dull to-day at previous prices. To the general surprise, and perhaps to the horror, of the millers, there have been again large arrivals of flour in the week—larger, perhaps, and from a wider surface, than has taken place in any one week since the Corn Law was abolished. From April 20 to April 24, 17,880 sacks and 4,400 barrels were imported, and it is expected that, before the week is concluded, the number of sacks imported will not be less than 20,000. The supplies were chiefly from France, including the French ports of the Mediterranean, some having been brought from Marseilles. As a great number of French are coming to the Exhibition—we have heard that upwards of 240,000 passports have been granted in Paris—they are sending a supply of food before them. Some flour has been imported from Sicily, and some from Leghorn. Happy people that we are whom all the world thus combine to feed, increase, and strengthen. The supply will have what the farmers call an unfavourable effect on prices, and it is expected that on Monday they will rule lower. Other arrivals are short.

The following are given by Messrs Gillies and Horne as the total arrivals of foreign and colonial corn in London during the fourth quarter 1850 and the first quarter 1851, being the winter supplies:—Wheat, 408,781 qrs; barley, 133,301 qrs; oats, 244,348 qrs; beans, 48,912 qrs; peas, 41,736 qrs; flour, 66,410 barrels and 164,222 sacks. The principal part of the wheat came from France, 33,698 qrs; from the Neapolitan dominions, 42,830 qrs; from Mecklenburg, 23,984 qrs; from Prussia, 73,882 qrs; from the Black Sea, 77,159 qrs. Of the 164,222 sacks of flour, 154,867 came from France.

The Colonial Produce Markets are firm. Sugar has a tendency upwards. Mauritius is a shade better. White Benares is 6d better, and it has now risen 2s from the lowest point. There is an increased demand on the whole, the grocers getting into stock and the market is healthy.

Coffee, though rather less in demand to-day, has improved since the uniform duty of 3d came into operation. Prices are from 1s to 3s higher, and plantation Ceylon sold to-day at 49s 6d for fine ordinary, to 53s for middling, and fine from 70s to 71s. The price for native Ceylon is 42s.

The price of tea is unaltered.

The decline of the cotton market at Liverpool had an unfavourable effect on the market here, and the chief part offered was taken in. About 470 bales were privately sold for exportation.

"The inactivity reported on the 1st instant, in silk," says Mr Eaton, "continued unaltered during the early portion of the month, but within the last ten days, some of the importers having evinced a disposition to meet the trade, provided it would induce business, about 1,000 bales of China silk have changed hands, at a reduction of 1s to 1s 6d per lb upon the prices of February, say, best silk at 20s, best seconds at 19s, other sorts from 17s 6d to 18s, Taysams from 11s 6d to 15s 6d. In Bengals the operations have been extremely limited, but in any that have taken place, a concession in price has been made. Notwithstanding the reduction in price, there is little disposition to purchase to-day, and the market ruled dull."

Rice has rather declined. Saltpetre of the best kind is in demand, as the price is somewhat higher.

There are still complaints generally of the dulness of trade, though on the whole it assumes a more favourable character this week than for some time past. But through the five months that complaints have been made of dulness there has been a steady demand for consumption, which is the general character of all the markets. There are continual and large sales, but there is no speculation. For the public morals and public happiness, these are favourable circumstances, but they are less pleasing to those who like great activity and frequent changes of possession before the goods come to the consumer. Mr Edward Higgins and Company, in their circular dated Liverpool, April 17th, 1851, have the following remarks on the subject:—

A dull and sluggish feeling has predominated during the month in most departments of trade and commerce. In produce an almost universal decline has taken place, though the markets have not been over-supplied, and the consumption has been considerable. Except in the articles of coffee and timber, no fiscal measures have been causing injury and distrust. Money has been easy, and the exchanges have been turning in our favour; there is abundance of credit, and confidence is unshaken. Yet the month has been marked by dulness and languor, the result in some measure of the tendency to reaction, caused by the speculative and anticipatory business which took place early in the year; yet much more caused by the hoarding of their means by the masses of our people in the large towns, with the intention of subsequently spending the amount so saved in visiting the Great Exposition in London. This has occurred to an extent greater, perhaps, than at any time of actual panic—and will continue to act injuriously for the next two months, or even until the harvest has been secured. Injury has thus arisen to commerce, the worst of which, however, we think, is now past; and when such hoarded monies find their way into circulation, as they will partly after July, we see no reason with the easiness of the money market, and the peaceful and generally prosperous state of the country, to anticipate a continuance of inactivity.

By the West India mail arrived at Southampton to-day, we have received commercial advices from the Havana to the 25th of March. They are not in fact so late by nine days as those derived through the United States, but they are more detailed. The Messrs M. de Embil and Co. write to their correspondent, Mr Bade, as follows:—

The sugar market, after a trifling decline in prices, produced by the scarcity of vessels, is now active, and a great demand exists for qualities from No. 12 to higher numbers, and for whites for Russia.

Our stock is abundant, say 100,000 boxes, notwithstanding the heavy exportations lately, and prices rule as follows:—

	Prices in rials per arroba.	Prices in sterling per cwt free on board at 8 per cent exchange.
Cucuruchos .....	4½ to 5½	16 3 to 18 0
Brown to common .....	5½ to 6½	18 8 to 19 4
Good to fine .....	6 to 6½	19 11 to 21 2
Floretes and Derosno .....	6½ to 7½	21 9 to 24 3
Low whites to good .....	8½ to 9	26 0 to 27 3
Superior and floretes .....	9½ to 10½	27 11 to 30 4

Coffee is rather neglected, the general attention being paid to sugars; prices continue to decline, and our quotations are:—

		s d	s d
1st qualities .....	8½ to 9½ per qr, or	49 0 to 50 3	
2nd do .....	8½ 9½ do	46 7 to 49 0	
3rd do .....	8 8½ do	44 2 to 45 4	

Almost all the vessels in port have been chartered at 3l to 3l 5s for Cowes and a market between Havre and Hamburg, or Gibraltar and a market, as far as Genoa; the same to St Petersburg direct, and 3l for a direct port in England; 75l to 80l for France; United States 1½ dols to 1½ dols per box; 1½ dol to 2 dols per box for Spain.

Exchanges have improved, and now quote on London 8 per cent. prm.; Paris 4 per cent discount; New York 3 to 3½ per cent discount, 60 days' sight; New Orleans 1 per cent discount, short sight; Spain 1 to 1½ per cent. premium.

From the Messrs O'Hara, Jacob, and Co., of Porto Rico, we learn:—

Sugars have declined in value, and we cannot now quote our best brands generally at over 3½ dols, although for very choice parcels 3½ dols per 100 lbs would probably have been paid, which is equal to about 17s 4d to 18s per cwt, f.o.b., without freight. Refining grades might be purchased at 3 dols to 3½ dols, which in same manner would cost, f.o.b., 15s to 16s 3d per cwt. The quality of sugars usually shipped to France will cost, free on board, 17l 9s to 18l 6s per 50 kilos.

Molasses has not, thus far, come in in sufficient quantities to meet the demand for the United States, and prices have been sustained at 12 cents per gallon, or about 8s per cwt, f.o.b., at which price it is readily taken. In coffee very little is doing, and the quotation of 9 to 9½ cents is merely nominal.

Owing to the extreme difficulty in procuring suitable tonnage, very little produce has gone forward from this port to Great Britain; the last freights paid were 2l 15s to 2l 17s 6d, for a calling port in Great Britain, and must be considered the minimum rates. For France (direct) no engagements have taken place.

The present crops will, from all appearances, turn out fully equal to those of last year, which amounted to 114,927,673 lbs sugar, 5,059,816 gallons molasses, and 13,124,991 lbs coffee, in exports from the whole island, and from the lateness in commencing the crop, we shall have produce for shipment till a late period in the season.

Exchanges—St Thomas 5 per cent; London 475 dols per 100l; Columbian doubloons 17 Macqo."

We must call the attention of our readers to an advertisement which appears in another place, announcing a large sale of furniture woods at Liverpool, on the 30th inst. It is another instance of the great care taken to make commerce equal and regular by wide-spread announcements, and so bringing to bear on every operation a large number of persons, and in proportion giving to each operation the regularity of general laws. The gigantic scale on which commerce is carried on altogether has similar effects, and as it extends, we may expect that those vicissitudes, which have hitherto been considered characteristic of trade, will disappear, and instead of being that uncertain thing it is usually represented to be, it will impart stability and uniformity to markets at all times, by equalising the effects of seasons and of climates.

INDIGO.

Since the speculative operations took place, of which our last issue furnished the particulars, several other purchases, although of less magnitude, have been made by speculators, without exception at somewhat higher rates than those of last February, but yet below October 1850. Besides, about 1,000 chests, which were held by speculators, have gone over into other hands within the last few days, with the chance of being held out of the market till the end of the year. Various smaller transactions for export and for home consumption are likewise reported at full market prices, which are now very nearly on a par with those of October last year.

The declarations for the May sale now amount to about 5,600 chests, and it is expected that a few thousand chests more will be added.

A public sale of 620 serons Guatemala, which was held yesterday, went off with spirit at from 2s 2d per lb. for very low Cortes to 4s 10d for Flores; these prices are 2d to 4d per lb higher than they were in the sale of Guatemala indigo on the 4th instant.

EXPORTS FROM THE PORT OF HULL.

From 1st January to 15th April, 1851, and the corresponding period in 1850. (Extracted from the Customs Bill of Entry.)

To—	Cotton Twist		Worsted Yarn.		Other Yarns & Threads		Cotton Goods		Wool- len Goods		Cotton Wool	
	1850	1851	1850	1851	1850	1851	1850	1851	1850	1851	1850	1851
Petersburg.....pkgs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hamburg.....pkgs	8869	8203	1225	1475	1212	1608	3370	3586	1866	1602	3074	6993
Bremen.....pkgs	83	114	2	...	21	25	83	27	13	25	65	210
Antwerp.....pkgs	1408	731	549	139	416	254	311	183	432	217	333	2037
Rotterdam.....pkgs	3704	3754	258	323	382	413	2074	2023	748	756	425	1044
Amsterdam.....pkgs	151	197	33	20	62	57	628	591	175	160	...	...
Zwolle.....pkgs	332	147	1	...	11	7	24	7	7	4	...	...
Kampen.....pkgs	768	608	21	14	16	15	119	143	29	37	...	...
Leer.....pkgs	1296	571	2	2	9	4	22	25	13	24	288	403
Denmark, Swed., &c.	422	405	4	3	48	41	165	215	161	190	490	382
Other European Ports	106	221	17	24	15	9	9	2	67	5	...	2
All other parts.....	303	75	...	...	...	...	10	199	177	...	...	...
Total.....	17433	15026	2112	2400	2222	2525	7504	6889	3502	3025	4075	11676

—Messrs Brownlow, Pearson, and Co's Circular.

MARKETS OF THE MANUFACTURING DISTRICTS.

MANCHESTER, THURSDAY EVENING, APRIL 24, 1851.

(From our own Correspondent.)  
COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF THE COTTON TRADE.

	Price April 24, 1851.		Price April 1850.		Price April 1849.		Price April 1848.		Price April 1847.		Price April 1846.	
	s	d	s	d	s	d	s	d	s	d	s	d
RAW COTTON:—												
Upland fair.....per lb	0	7 1/2	0	6 1/2	0	4 1/2	0	4 1/2	0	6 1/2	0	4 1/2
Ditto good fair.....	0	7 1/2	0	6 1/2	0	4 1/2	0	4 1/2	0	6 1/2	0	4 1/2
Pernambuco fair.....	0	8 1/2	0	7 1/2	0	5 1/2	0	5 1/2	0	7 1/2	0	5 1/2
Ditto good fair.....	0	8 1/2	0	7 1/2	0	5 1/2	0	5 1/2	0	7 1/2	0	5 1/2
No. 40 MULE YARN, fair, 2nd qual.....	0	11 1/2	0	10 1/2	0	8 1/2	0	7 1/2	0	9 1/2	0	7 1/2
No. 30 WATER do.....	0	10 1/2	0	9 1/2	0	7 1/2	0	7 1/2	0	9 1/2	0	7 1/2
26-in., 55 reed, Printer, 29yds, 4lbs 2oz	4	1	5	0	4	4 1/2	3	9	4	7 1/2	4	4
27-in., 72 reed, do, do, 5lbs 2oz	5	6	6	0	5	3	4	9	5	7 1/2	4	6
39-in., 60 reed, Gold End Shirtings, 37 1/2 yds, 8lbs 4oz	8	10 1/2	8	9	7	9	7	3	8	3	8	0
40-in., 66 reed, do, do, do, 8lbs 12oz	9	9	9	6	8	1 1/2	7	6	9	1 1/2	8	4 1/2
40-in., 72 reed, do, do, do, 9lbs 4oz	10	9	10	3	8	10 1/2	8	3	10	3	9	4 1/2
39-in., 48 reed, Red End Long Cloth 36 yds, 9lbs	8	1 1/2	7	6	6	6	6	9	7	9	7	4 1/2

We are still without any change for the better in our market, but rather greater difficulty is experienced in effecting sales, consequently prices are again slightly lower.

There is nothing in the transactions of the week that differs sufficiently from the character of business for the previous fortnight that requires more particular notice.

The news received by last steamer from America is in no way calculated to remove the existing want of confidence.

LEEDS, April 22.—We have had only a quiet market to day at the cloth-halls, but there has been a fair quantity of goods delivered to order. Business continues rather dull in the warehouses for the home trade; but the shipping houses are busier.

Huddersfield, April 22.—In our market of to-day a flatness has prevailed, and generally not so much business is transacted on an holiday Tuesday. The stocks in the cloth-hall are visibly on the increase, and the trade in plain woolsens of the lower qualities is flat at present. A fair business has been done in the fancy trade; and light goods, of new patterns, have taken very freely. The warehouses have been doing a fair home trade during the week. The export warehouses are flat at present.

Macclesfield, April 22.—We have no alteration to notice in the state of the manufactured goods trade. Very little business is doing, and yesterday being Easter Monday most of the warehouses were closed for the usual holidays. In thrown silk there is absolutely nothing doing, the recent transactions in raw, which is now ascertained were done at a reduction of 1s 6d per lb on previous prices, having destroyed all confidence for the present.

Rochdale, April 21.—There has been a quiet market to-day, a thin attendance of buyers, and a limited number of sales. The wool market has been dull, with little doing, and prices stationary.

Halifax, April 19.—There were not many buyers in our piece-hall to-day, and they manifested great reluctance to purchase to any extent. There is more doing in yarn, and the quotations exhibit a little more firmness. The same may be said of wool, which is selling more freely, at fully late rates.

LONDON MARKETS.

STATE OF THE CORN TRADE FOR THE WEEK.

MARK LANE, FRIDAY MORNING.

There was a limited supply of wheat at Mark Lane on Monday from all the near counties, much of which was in soft condition, and the trade was without any animation, the best parcels commanding about the rates of the previous week, inferior parcels being very dull, and rather cheaper. The importations of foreign wheat were to a trifling extent, consisting of 350 qrs from Antwerp, 362 qrs from Ghent, 509 qrs from Hamburg, 962 qrs from Stralsund, and 2,050 qrs from Wolgast, making a total of 4,911 qrs. The business transacted in all descriptions was to a limited extent, without any quotable change in the value of good samples. The arrivals of flour coastwise were 3,295 sacks, by the Eastern Counties Railway 5,854 sacks, from France 8,386 sacks, and from New York 1,326 barrels. The warmer state of the weather induced some factors to press sales more anxiously, and in instances a decline of 1s a sack was accepted from a fear that much would soon go out of condition this season from the want of frost throughout the winter months. The demand for malting barley was checked by the higher temperature now prevalent, but there was a good sale for grinding qualities at full prices, and only 1,620 qrs foreign had arrived, with 697 qrs from our own coast. The arrivals of oats from our own coast, Scotland, and Ireland, were unimportant, but there were good imports of foreign, amounting to 11,070 qrs from Holland, Denmark, and Sweden: heavy sweet corn sold steadily to the consumers at full prices, with rather more disposition on the part of dealers to purchase, from the consumption more than keeping pace with the arrivals from all quarters.

The imports at Liverpool on Tuesday were somewhat large both of wheat and flour, and, although there was a fair attendance of buyers, they evinced no disposition to purchase to any extent, and the best wheat was 1d and other sorts 2d per 70 lbs cheaper: average, 39s 7d on 379 qrs. A reduction on flour was submitted to of 6d per barrel and 1s per sack.

There were not many arrivals at Hull, with a moderate supply of wheat from the farmers, and a slight decline was submitted to: average, 37s 5d.

A moderate quantity of wheat was up for Leeds market, and factors were not willing to give way in price; sales proceeded slowly: average, 39s 10d on 2,457 qrs.

Ipwich market was very dull, and wheat gave way fully 1s per qr: average, 41s 4d on 1,301 qrs.

There were limited fresh arrivals of English grain at Mark Lane on Wednesday, and only moderate quantities of foreign, with, however, a large supply of flour, mostly from France. Wheat was steady in value and demand. Good oats were quite as dear. Flour met a dull sale, tending down.

The weekly averages announced on Thursday were:—39s 5d on 85,653 qrs wheat, 24s 5d on 34,084 qrs barley, 17s 5d on 18,023 qrs oats, 24s 7d on 78 qrs rye, 26s 10d on 5,551 qrs beans, 25s 9d on 630 qrs peas.

The Scotch markets held this week have been dull and lifeless. At Edinburgh the supply of wheat was good from the farmers, and most of it in fine condition; such maintained full prices, although the sale was slow: average, 40s 9d on 746 qrs. The imports at Leith were moderate, yet no improvement in the demand for wheat was experienced; the few sales effected were at former rates. Barley was sold readily at quite as much money. Oats have fully supported prices. There were good imports of wheat at Glasgow up the Clyde, but only short to Grangemouth from the eastward. There was no change in the value of prime samples. Flour was abundant, and 6d per sack cheaper.

Birmingham market was shortly supplied with wheat, and a slow demand took place at previous quotations: average, 40s 9d on 1,348 qrs.

The farmers' supply of wheat at Bristol was moderate. Trade continues inactive, and a decline of 6d to 1s per qr was submitted to: average, 38s 1d on 146 qrs.

At Newbury, trade for wheat was 1s per qr cheaper, with a good supply: average, 41s 4d on 714 qrs.

The quantity of wheat brought forward at Uxbridge was limited, and a dull trade took place at 1s per qr lower rates: average, 46s 3d on 536 qrs wheat, 24s 11d on 65 qrs barley, 18s 1d on 66 qrs oats.

At Mark Lane, on Friday, there were moderate fresh arrivals of English grain; fair imports of foreign wheat, barley, and oats, with a large quantity of flour reported since Monday. There was no material change in the value of any description of wheat, but the millers took it very slowly, the very large import of French flour checking the trade in both articles. Good oats commanded full prices, with a steady demand from the consumers. The imports of this article still continue short of the consumption.

The London averages announced this day were,—

	Qrs.	s	d
Wheat.....	3,740	12	4
Barley.....	1,311	16	1
Oats.....	4,782	18	3
Rye.....	75	24	6
Beans.....	406	24	10
Peas.....	145	24	5

	Arrivals this Week.			
	Wheat. Qrs.	Barley. Qrs.	Malt. Qrs.	Oats. Qrs.
English.....	3,630	1,610	1,850	280
Irish.....	...	...	...	2,800
Foreign.....	8,140	1,990	...	4,300

Flour. 1,410 sacks  
17,880 sacks  
4,460 brls

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL PRODUCE MARKETS.  
TRANSACTIONS OF THE WEEK.

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

MINING LANE, FRIDAY MORNING.

**SUGAR.**—The market opened on Wednesday after the holidays with rather a firmer appearance, importers being less desirous to press sales, and prices showed a slight improvement. There has been a moderate amount of business done in West India at full rates. 184 casks Barbadoes at auction sold steadily, from 37s 6d to 42s for good brown to fine yellow. The stock continues small. There is not any improvement in the deliveries, which were 2,144 tons during last week. The total stock in London on the 19th instant was 51,862 tons, against 69,923 tons in 1859. Numerous cargoes of foreign have since arrived.

**Mauritius.**—9,926 bags were submitted on Wednesday, when the importers required rather higher prices, and not more than 3,000 bags sold, chiefly at 6d advance; grocery, good to fine, 39s to 47s; low to good middling, 36s 6d to 39s; low to good greyish, 36s 6d to 39s; middling to good strong brown, 32s 6d to 36s per cwt. The deliveries are steady, and the stock continues to show a large deficiency compared with former seasons.

**Bengal.**—1,034 bags were only partly disposed of at full prices, fair soft yellow bringing 39s; damp browns taken in at 31s 6d to 32s 6d per cwt. White Benares is rather scarce, and in good demand.

**Foreign.**—Yesterday 397 casks, 212 barrels Porto Rico were sold at full prices, from 39s 6d to 41s 6d for middling to good yellow; and market to low middling, 35s to 39s. 319 casks Cuba also found buyers at the market value: low to fair grey, 36s 6d to 39s 6d; low to good middling grocery, 37s to 40s 6d; brown, 35s 6d to 36s 6d.

**Refined.**—The market has been steady, refiners asking rather higher rates, and the supply of goods is much reduced: brown patent lumps have sold at 48s; middling to good and fine tilters, 48s 6d to 52s; wet lumps and pieces are more in demand. Treacle quiet at 12s 6d to 19s. A limited business has been done in sugars refined under bond for export. Fine crushed is held at 28s 6d; second quality has sold at 27s 9d, being rather lower. Some inferior Dutch has sold at easier rates: 10 lb loaves quoted at 30s 6d to 31s.

**Other East India.**—6,897 bags Manila were taken in above the market value: low dark to good soft grainy brown, 30s 6d to 35s. About 3,000 bags have sold privately. By private contract, a cargo of yellow Havana is reported for a port in this kingdom at 21s 9d, and a cargo of brown Pernams, 18s 6d.

**COFFEE.**—There has been a better feeling in the market, with a steady demand by the home trade, at rather higher prices than quoted last week. Native Ceylons show an improvement of 1s, owing to limited supplies offering, and 42s has been paid for good ordinary. The sales of plantation, comprising 337 casks 2,746 bags, have gone off well at very full rates, the whole of that quantity being sold: a few lots good brought 72s 6d to 75s; low middling to good middling coloury, 5s to 67s; fine to fine fine ordinary, 51s to 54s; ragged and ordinary, 47s to 50s; triage, 42s 6d to 46s. The stock continues much in excess of last season's at same period. 29 bales 530 half-bales Mocha sold at rather higher rates, greenish to fair clean garbled yellow bringing 68s to 71s; long berry, 76s; small triage, 36s to 40s. 400 bags Dutch Company's Java, of old import, partly sold at 40s to 51s. Costa Rica has brought rather higher rates for qualities adapted to the home trade, 1,400 bags being disposed of at 49s to 54s 6d for good to fine fine ordinary; ordinary and pale, 46s to 48s; pea-berry, 63s 6d to 64s. 102 casks pale La Guayra were sold at 46s. A few lots Rio brought steady rates: fine ordinary, 49s; ordinary, 40s 6d per cwt. A limited business has been done for export.

**TEA.**—The market has been rather inactive since the mail arrived last week, fine teas generally still suffering the greatest depression, although quotations are much lower than at this time last season, and do not compensate importers for the advance on common descriptions. On Wednesday 3,000 packages were offered by public sale, consisting chiefly of greens by the recent arrivals, when 1,100 packages sold without change in prices. By private contract less business has been done than for some weeks past. Common congous are still sought after, and some sales reported at 1s to 1s 0½d, barely sustaining the last quotation; other grades up to the finest are so dull that prices must be considered almost nominal. Two more vessels have arrived this week.

**COCOA.**—Yesterday, 400 bags Trinidad were chiefly taken in at full prices, the market being quiet. A few lots fair greyish red sold at 50s to 50s 6d per cwt.

**RICE.**—The large stock of East India has prevented any speculative demand, and the market remains dull. Yesterday, 1,365 bags Bengal were chiefly bought in at 10s for good white, rather broken; a few lots low middling broken white sold at 9s to 9s 6d per cwt.

**PEPPER.**—There has not been much inquiry for any kind of black, but the few small orders executed have been at previous rates. The stock keeps very moderate. White is scarce.

**OTHER SPICES.**—Some further arrivals of nutmegs and mace have taken place. A limited business has been done this week. Nearly all kinds of ginger are quiet. The cinnamon sales will be held on Monday next, and comprise about 1,700 bales.

**SALTPETRE.**—The market has been flat this week, owing to the large public sale this day. 746 bags Bengal offered yesterday were sold at high rates for fine qualities, while inferior showed a decline of 1s; good crystalline white, refract 5½ to 3½, 29s to 29s 6d; 8 to 7½, 25s per cwt. The stock is 1,300 tons less than at same period last year.

**COCHINEAL.**—The market continues quiet, and the limited business done shows no further alteration in prices. The stock is large, consisting of 8,853 serons on the 15th inst.

**LAC DYE.**—Few transactions are reported in this article, as the market remains flat. The deliveries do not show any improvement.

**DRUGS.**—At the fortnightly sales yesterday, East India gums met with a good demand. Olibanum realised high prices from 50s 6d to 53s for fair to good qualities; good to fine bold pale Arabic sold at 64s to 69s. Animi at extreme rates. Castor oil went rather easier in some instances, 4d to 6d per lb for seconds to very good pale quality. A parcel camphor sold at 80s per cwt, being the previous value. Gambier has been quiet. Safflower has been also steady, but firm.

**METALS.**—The iron market remains quiet, and there is scarcely any change in the quotations. The transactions in Scotch pig are limited at previous rates. Spelter has been dull with sellers at 157 per ton. East India tin continues neglected, and prices quite nominal. Tin plates are 6d per box lower. No change has occurred in British copper or other metals since our last.

**HEMP.**—More business has been done in Baltic kinds at the quoted prices. Manila meets with a good demand. There is no further alteration in Jute.

**FLAX** is firmer, but not very active.

**TALLOW.**—The trade continues to make few purchases in foreign, and the late advance has not been maintained. Further speculative sales are reported at 35s 6d on the spot, and 39s to 39s 3d for the end of the year; but, yesterday, there were sellers at 38s 9d to 39s, a decline of 1s 6d from the highest paid last week. The deliveries have fallen off, being only 777 casks last week. Stock on Monday, 34,242 casks, against 29,182 casks last year. Town made was reduced 1s 6d this afternoon.

POSTSCRIPT.

FRIDAY EVENING.

**SUGAR.**—The market closed with a firm appearance, Mauritius and Bengal sugar showing an advance of 6d for the week. Only 189 casks West India sold, making the entire business 840 casks. Mauritius—2,055 bags sold at the extreme rates of Tuesday. Bengal—Of 4,700 bags submitted, 1,500 bags only sold, good middling to good white Benares brought 41s 6d to 43s: soft yellow, 37s 6d to 40s: good to fine Dhobabs bought in at high prices. Refined—The market was very firm to-day.

**COFFEE.**—The sales of plantation Ceylon, comprising 144 casks, 282 bags went off at the previous rates, and all sold. 200 bags ordinary native withdrawn, at 42s per cwt.

**COCOA.**—A few lots Grenada were taken in at 40s.

**TEA.**—Of 2,000 pkgs in public sale only 600 sold, without change in prices.

**SAGO.**—259 boxes middling small grain sold at 19s 6d to 20s per cwt.

**PIMENTO.**—116 bags sold at stiffer rates, chiefly 5d, one lot 5½d per lb.

**NUTMEGS.**—12 boxes brown part sold from 2s 2d to 2s 7d per lb.

**GINGER.**—267 bags Bengal were taken in at 18s 6d to 19s per cwt.

**SALTPETRE.**—3,859 bags Bengal were chiefly taken in at 28s 6d for good qualities, refracting 5½ to 4: 6½ refract sold at 25s 6d per cwt.

**COCHINEAL.**—146 bags Honduras silvers chiefly sold at 3s 2d to 3s 6d, being previous rates: 36 bags Mexican taken in at 3s 2d per lb.

**TALLOW.**—The sales went off at lower rates, and a small proportion sold; 592 casks Australian, 34s to 38s; 342 chests 589 pkgs South American, 34s 6d to 38s per cwt.

ADDITIONAL NOTICES.

**REFINED SUGAR.**—The home market for refined sugar has rather improved, and prices have been obtained this week of 3d to 6d per cwt. advance on the lower and middling qualities; several parcels of Dutch and Belgian lumps and loaves at previous rates. The bonded continues very much neglected, without any alteration in prices for loaves or crushed. Treacle flat. Dutch crushed for the lower qualities have declined, some sales having been made from 22s 6d to 25s, free on board in Holland.

**DRY FRUIT.**—Three cargoes of currants are reported this week, three cargoes of Turkey raisins, and one of Valentia. All these articles continue in a very depressed state, and a reduction in price has again been submitted to, which led to some extensive sales in inferior currants yesterday, at 30s to 31s per cwt. For che-nuts in last week's notice, read a cargo of Ches mes (raisins) it being an error in printing.

**GREEN FRUIT.**—The arrivals of oranges have been of an extensive character, and many of the cargoes landing in bad condition from length of voyage; any of sound condition realise a high figure. A cargo from St Michael, 500 boxes Figuera, and 500 Lisbon, sold by Keeling and Hunt, at public sale, went at prices equal to those obtained last week. Lemons without alteration. Nuts in better demand. The bad state of the weather has acted prejudicially to the consumption of fruit this week.

**ENGLISH WOOL.**—A rather improved feeling pervades the English wool trade, with an increased demand, and prices in favour of the sellers.

**COLONIAL AND FOREIGN WOOL.**—No change has taken place in the market this week; everything remains quiet; the arrivals of colonial, though close at hand, and daily looked for, are kept out by contrary winds. As soon as they arrive the public sales will be announced.

**COTTON.**—The demand has been limited, and the market dull, the transactions being confined to a few export orders; prices have declined 4d during the fortnight. On Thursday the 730 bales Surat declared for public sale were all withdrawn for want of buyers. Sales from the 17th to the 24th inst. inclusive:—200 bales Surat, at 4½d to 5d, middling to fully fair; 270 bales Madras, at 5½d, good fair Tinnevely.

**FLAX AND HEMP.**—Flax not any alteration. For hemp a few inquiries, and a few sales made, but not at high prices.

**LEATHER AND HIDES.**—No leather market at Leadenhall in Easter week. We have no new feature to notice in the state of the trade, a moderate business has been doing at former prices.

**METALS.**—We notice the same inactivity in the metal trade which has prevailed during the past few weeks, copper and zinc being the only metals which firmly retain their prices. The demand for both is fair. Lead may be expected to be increasing. Iron and spelter are both dull. In tin there has not been any transactions, and tinplates are in very small request.

**SEEDS.**—Canary is fully as dear as last week, and the supply comes slowly to hand, finding buyers at the quotations. In other seeds the demand is not so good, excepting white mustard for shipments.

**MOLASSES.**—138 casks of Cuba, of good quality, were taken in at 16s 6d per cwt.

**PIMENTO.**—Stiffer rates have been paid for some; a few small parcels fair quality bringing 5d per lb, and a limited business done.

**LINSEED.**—Several sales have been effected in good Petersburg this week at 48s; fine Black Sea on the spot is quoted at 49s. A further advance has been paid for cakes, and stocks are very low; fine English 7½s per cwt.

**TERPENTINE.**—Spirits are very firm at 34s to 34s 3d per ton, for British drawn.

**OILS.**—Nearly all kinds of fish are quiet, without however any material alteration in prices. Linseed has been dull, with few buyers, at 33s per cwt. on the spot. Rape inactive, and refined does not command more than 34s per cwt. Palm and cocoa nut remain the same as last quoted.

**RUM.**—A very limited amount of business has been done this week.

ENSUING SALES IN LONDON.

MONDAY, April 25.—1,500 bales Ceylon cinnamon.  
TUESDAY, April 26.—150 hids Barbadoes sugar; 112 bags, Ceylon; and 159 casks coffee  
WEDNESDAY, April 27.—100 casks Ceylon, 2,550 bags Rio, 560 do African coffee; 1,670 bags Guayaquil cocoa; 2,000 do Bengal rice; 16 tons E.I. and Cape ivory.  
THURSDAY, May 13.—4,915 chests E.I. indigo.

PROVISIONS.

Very little bacon offering, for shipment next month 60s made, while the price landed has not reached over 58s. Mamburg offering at 54s landed, buyers at 53s.

Lard firm.

The stock of old Irish butter is reducing, but at prices that will leave heavy loss to holders.

The supplies of foreign butter very good.

Comparative Statement of Stocks and Deliveries.

	BUTTER.		BACON.	
	Stock.	Delivery.	Stock.	Deliveries.
1849 .....	14,700	5,479	2,667	1,129
1850 .....	6,010	1,629	4,290	2,271
1851 .....	7,448	3,975	4,874	1,571
		Arrivals for the Past Week.		
Irish butter.....				350
Foreign do.....				12,352
Bale Bacon.....				2,309

NEWGATE AND LEADENHALL MARKETS.

MONDAY, April 21.—Notwithstanding that our markets are very moderately supplied with each kind of meat, the general demand is in a very inactive state, and, in some instances, the quotations have a downward tendency. About 600 carcasses of foreign meat have appeared on sale since our last.

FRIDAY, April 25.—The late heavy supplies of meat having been nearly cleared off, the general demand is steady at our quotations.

At per stone by the carcass.

Table with columns for meat types (Inferior beef, Mutton, etc.) and prices in shillings and pence.

SMITHFIELD CATTLE MARKET.

MONDAY, April 21.—The total imports of foreign stock into London, last week, amounted to 1,883 head. During the corresponding period in 1850 we received 1,244; in 1849, 1,093; and in 1848, 1,256 head.

At the northern outports the arrivals were small; but 217 beasts and 225 pigs were received at Lowestoft from Hjerting, from which port large supplies are expected during the present year, and which will, we understand, be mostly forwarded per railway to this market.

The supply of beasts on offer to-day was very moderate, but its general quality was good. As the attendance of both town and country buyers was small, and the weather by no means favourable for slaughtering, the beef trade ruled excessively heavy, at a decline in the quotations of 2d per 8lbs, and a total clearance was effected.

From Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, and Cambridgeshire, we received 2,150 Scots, short-horns, &c.; from other parts of England, 300 of various breeds; and from Scotland, 320 horned and polled Scots; the remainder of the bullock supply being derived from abroad and the neighbourhood of the metropolis.

With sheep we were heavily supplied, considering the holidays. All breeds met a very dull inquiry, and prices gave way 2d per 8lbs. The top quotations for Downs in the wool was 4s 4d; out of the wool, 3s 8d per 8bs.

Lambs, the number of which was large, were in moderate request, at from 1s 8d to 6s per 8lbs. Only 20 came to hand from the Isle of Wight.

We had a very slow sale for calves, at drooping currencies.

In pigs so little was doing that their prices were almost nominal.

SUPPLIES.

Table showing supplies for Beasts, Sheep, Calves, and Pigs on April 23, 1849, April 22, 1850, and April 21, 1851.

FRIDAY, April 25.—Our market to-day was fairly supplied with beasts, both as to number and quality. The weather having become more favourable for slaughtering, the beef trade ruled steady, and a good clearance was effected at fully Monday's prices.

Per 8lbs to sink the offals.

Table with columns for meat types (Inferior beasts, Second quality do, etc.) and prices in shillings and pence.

Total supply at market—Beasts, 704; sheep, 6,921; calves, 210; pigs, 250. Scotch supply:—Beasts, 68; sheep, 70. Foreign:—Beasts, 150; sheep, 590; calves, 102.

POTATO MARKETS.

WATERSIDE, April 24.—This market continues to be well stocked, with a moderate business, at the following rates:—York Regents, from 80s to 100s; Scotch ditto, 65s to 75s; Cambridge ditto, 60s to 75s; Kent and Essex ditto, 70s to 90s; ditto Middlings, 40s to 50s; ditto Shaws, 60 to 70s; Cambridge Kidneys, 60s to 70s; French Whites, 60s to 70s per ton.

BOROUGH HOP MARKETS.

MONDAY, April 21.—The trade for fine qualities is moderate, but prices are firm at fully recent quotations. Sussex pockets, 65s to 80s; Weald of Kent do, 75s to 85s; Mid and East Kent do, 84s to 140s per cwt.

FRIDAY, April 25.—Fine colour hops are in moderate request, at prices fully equal to those obtained last week. In all other kinds we have very few quotations to report Factors' quotations as under:—Mid and East Kent pockets, 47 4s to 67 15s; Weald of Kent ditto, 37 15s to 47 4s; Sussex ditto, 37 5s to 47 per cwt.

BATTLE, April 16.—Some few gardens are being ploughed, and if the weather permits, we may expect to see every pole erect in three or four days.

HAY MARKETS.—THURSDAY.

PORTMAN.—Old meadow hay, 75s to 85s; inferior ditto, 65s to 70s; old clover, 75s to 85s; inferior ditto, 70s to 75s; wheat straw, 27s to 31s, at per load of 36 trusses.

SMITHFIELD.—Fine upland meadow and rye grass hay, 81s to 86s; inferior ditto, 63s to 68s; superior clover, 88s to 90s; inferior ditto, 70s to 75s; straw 21s to 28s per load of 36 trusses.

WHITECHAPEL.—This market is rather on the advance, as the following rates will show:—Best meadow hay, from 60s to 86s; inferior ditto, 55s to 65s; best clover, 70s to 80s; inferior ditto, 50s to 65s; straw, 23s to 28s per load.

COAL MARKET.

MONDAY, April 21.—Bate's West Hartley 13s 6d—Buddle's West Hartley 14s 3d—Howard's West Hartley Netherthorn 14s 3d—Longridge's West Hartley 14s 3d—Red-hough Main 13s—Tanfield Moor Butes 13s—West Wylam 13s—Wylam 13s 3d—Eden Main 14s 6d—Cowpen Hartley 14s 3d—Hartley 13s 6d—Nixon's Merthyr and Cardiff 21s—Sidney's Hartley 14s 3d—Wall's-end: Brown 13s—Eden 14s—Gosforth 14s—Horton 15s—Hilda 13s 3d—Riddell 13s 9d—Walker 13s 6d—Wharmcliffe 14s—Bell 14s 6d—Belmont 14s 6d—Braddyll 15s—Hetton 15s 6d—Hawwell 15s 6d—Keeper Grange 15s—Lambton 15s 3d—Richmond 14s 6d—Russell's Hetton 15s 3d—Searborough 14s 3d—Stewart's 15s 6d—Whitwell 13s 9d—Hartlepool 15s 6d—Heugh Hall 14s 6d—Kelloe 15s 6d—South Hartlepool 15s—South Kelloe 14s 6d—Whitworth 12s 6d—Adelaide Fees 15s—South Durham 13s 9d—St Helen's Tees 13s—Tees 15s 6d. Ships at market, 155; sold, 93; unsold, 62.

WEDNESDAY, April 23.—Bate's West Hartley 13s 6d—Buddle's West Hartley 14s—Chester Main 12s 9d—New Tanfield 13s—Ravensworth West Hartley 14s—South Peareth 11s 6d—Tanfield Moor 13s—Tanfield Moor Butes 13s—West Wylam 13s—Wylam 13s 3d—Wall's-end: Brown 13s—Bewick and Co. 13s 9d—Gosforth 13s 9d—Hetton 13s 9d—Hedley 13s 6d—Peareth 13s 6d—Riddell 13s 6d—Eden Main 14s 3d to 14s 6d—Bradlyll 14s 9d—Hetton 15s 3d to 15s 6d—Hawwell 15s 6d—Lambton 15s—Lunley 14s—Richmond 14s 6d—Russell's Hetton 15s—Stewart's 15s 6d—Whitwell 13s 6d—Heugh Hall 14s 6d—Kelloe 14s 3d—South Kelloe 14s 6d—Thornley 14s 6d—West Kelloe 13s 6d—Whitworth 12s 6d—Adelaide Fees 15s—Maclean's Tees 13s—Tees 15s 6d—West Cornforth 13s 6d—Cowpen Hartley, 14s 6d—Langenech 2s 6d—Sidney's Hartley 14s 6d. Ships at market, 106; sold, 55; unsold, 51.

LIVERPOOL MARKETS.

WOOL.

FRIDAY NIGHT.

We cannot report much business having been done; there has, however, been considerably more inquiry during the past week, and this is usually the first step towards an improved demand.

FOREIGN MARKETS.

PETERSBURG, April 12.

CORN.—A purchase of 6000 bushels at 2.70 co. S. is reported, but wants confirmation. DEALS AND FLAX, without business. HEMP.—The transactions during the week have been very considerable, and at advancing rates—say about 1,600 to 2,000 tons, at from 84 to 85 to 87s, cash, and from 87 to 88 to 90, with 10 ro down; and it is now firm at the higher quotations. In sorts trifling done at the quotations; with very few sellers of outshot. TALLOW.—Quiet, at the quotations; and several buyers at 114 to 114½ for August have withdrawn. Little done beyond 600 casks soap tallow at 10½ to 10s, and 200 casks at 106, 10 ro down. Rather increased estimates of the supply gain ground. WEATHER.—Very fine and warm; sledge roads quite destroyed, and the ice expected to move in about 10 days.

The Gazette.

Friday, April 19.

PARTNERSHIPS DISSOLVED.

Rothon and Whitlock, Ferrace, Davies street, Berkeley square, tailor—Guest and Small, Chester and elsewhere, coal dealers—Bin-ted and Co., Railway arches, Rotherhithe New road, japanners—J. and L. Wilkinson, Leeder, clockmakers—W. and E. Cullwick, Wolveston, saddlers—J. and J. Gill, Leeds, Joiners—Buddley and Tyson, Newcastle under-Lyme, haberdashers—J. and J. Watson, Leeds, manufacturing chemists—C. and J. Myers and Co., Newcastle-upon-Tyne, wholesale chemists; as far as regards J. Myers—Brier and Dyhranfarth, Ingersley Vale, Cheshire, and Manchester, calico printers—Beardsall and Hazledine, Suckton Nottinghamshire, grocers—Franklin and Hatch, Greenwich, surgeons—Kelsall and Todd, Bolton-le-Moors, gold thread manufacturers—McCarthy and Bell, Bath, equestrians—T. and J. Kenyon, Newton Heath, near Manchester, manufacturing chemists—Bonnell, Newby, and Co., Bradford, Yorkshire, worsted spinners; as far as regards W. Isherwood—Cook and Hill, Audium, Cheshire, corn millers—Hamilton and Co., Halifax, Yorkshire, wire workers—Symonds and Co., Circus, Minorities, and Gloucester yard, Tower-hill, galvanizers of iron—Begg and Wuyers, Lechnagar Royal Distillery.

DECLARATION OF DIVIDENDS.

W. Thompson, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, grocer—first div of 3s 4d, on Saturday, April 19, or any subsequent Saturday, at Mr Baker's, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. W. Mawby, Liverpool, merchant, first div of 10d, on Wednesday, April 30, or any subsequent Wednesday, at Mr Turner's, Liverpool. J. Dixon, Morley, dye, first div of 2s 6d, any day after April 21, at Mr Young's, Leeds. H. Crosby, Burnley, Lancashire, linendraper—first div of 1s, any Tuesday, at Mr Mackenzie's, Manchester. R. Lister, Balper, Derbyshire, draper—final div of 5½d and 1/4, any Tuesday, at Mr Mackenzie's, Manchester. T. Dyson, Bradford, Yorkshire, linendraper—first div of 2s 4d, any Tuesday, at Mr Mackenzie's, Manchester. T. Cox, Manchester, wine merchant—final div of 1s 3d, on Tuesday, April 19, or any subsequent Tuesday, at Mr Pott's Manchester. W. Shaw, Jun., Salford, printer—final div of 7½d, on Tuesday, April 29, or any subsequent Tuesday, at Mr Pott's Manchester. N. Hedge, Bath, silversmith—first div of 1s 1½d, any Wednesday at Mr Miller's, Bristol. R. Miles, Pontypridd, Glamorganshire, grocer—first div of 2s, any Wednesday, at Mr Miller's, Bristol. S. Vick, Brecon, victualler—first div of 5d, any Wednesday, at Mr Miller's, Bristol. D. Simons, Froxbridge, Wiltshire, general dealer—first div of 4d, any Wednesday, at Mr Miller's, Bristol. T. P. Collins, Bristol, tailor—second div of 3½d, any Wednesday, at Mr Miller's, Bristol.

BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.

William Ford, High Holborn, haberdasher. J. Flockhart and Son, Kinross, carriers. J. Wilson, Leith, coal merchant. Napier and Crichton, Glasgow, engineers. The Rev. A. Campbell, Saddle and Skipness, Argyshire, grazier. A. Young and Co., Glasgow, engineers.

Tuesday, April 22.

PARTNERSHIPS DISSOLVED.

J. and W. Dobson, Bradford, Yorkshire, spindle and fly makers—Chetham and Novell, Chadderton, near Oldham, and Manchester, cotton spinners—J. and W. Leigh, Birmingham, Cheshire, commission agent—Redfern and Bourne, Birmingham, gun-makers—F. H. and D. Wheeler, Frome, Somersetshire, butchers—M. Caloch and Co., Liverpool, outfitters—Bakesley and Co., B. and street, Cheapside, wine merchants—Hill and Martin, Park street, Camden town, chemists—Stearns and Pittman, Hercules passage, Threadneedle street, stock brokers—Sharpe and Co., Swadincote, Derbyshire, and Ashby Wouls, Leicestershire, manufacturers of fire bricks—Gaskell and Thomason, Liverpool, tobacco manufacturers—D. and A. Denny and Co., Glasgow, merchants.

DECLARATIONS OF DIVIDENDS.

A. C. Handley, Maldon, Essex, linendraper, second div of 1½d, on Thursday, April 21, and three subsequent Thursdays, at Mr Stansfeld's, Basinghall street. P. M. Chitty, Shaftesbury, Dorsetshire, scrivener—final div of 1½d, on Thursday, April 21, and three subsequent Thursdays, at Mr Stansfeld's, Basinghall street. E. Parkes, Canterbury, shoe manufacturer—first div of 1s 9½d, on Thursday, April 21, and three subsequent Thursdays, at Mr Stansfeld's, Basinghall street. W. Perkin, Uttoxeter, Staffordshire, timber merchant—first div of 7s 6d, on Thursday, April 21, and any subsequent Thursday, at Mr Valpy's, Birmingham. J. F. B. et al, Gatehead, Durham, tailor—first div of 4s, on Saturday, April 26, and any subsequent Saturday, at Mr Wakley's, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

BANKRUPTS.

Alfred Smith and George Smith & Co., Aylsham, Norfolk, ironmongers. Joseph Alfred Riches, Halesworth, Suffolk, maiter. William Newman, late of Great Chart street, Huxton, colour maker.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATION

J. Marshall, Glasgow, baker.

Gazette of Last Night.

BANKRUPTS.

Richard Silver Smith, ironmonger, Southsea, Southampton. Adolphus Blumenthal, wine merchant, John street, Crutched Friars. Charles Smelling, hosier, Gracechurch street. Richard Brown, auctioneer, Old Broad street. John Pearson, inkkeeper, Kingswinford, Staffordshire. Robert Alexander, grocer, Maesteg, Glamorganshire. George Savoy, grocer, Heywood, Lancashire. Margaret Meikle, pawnbroker, Liverpool.

SALARIES TO CORONERS.—By a bill in the House of Commons, which is to be read a second time after the recess, it is proposed to pay coroners by salaries to be fixed by quarter sessions or town councils, instead of the present mode of 10 6s 8d for every inquest, such salaries to commence from Michaelmas next.

COMMERCIAL TIMES Weekly Price Current.

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

LONDON, FRIDAY EVENING.

Add Five per cent to duties, except spirits, tallow, sugar, nutmegs, and timber.

Ashes duty free

Table listing prices for various ash types: First sort Pot, U.S. p.cwt 28s 0d 28s 6d, Montreal 28 0 28 6, First sort Pearl, U.S. 28 0 28 6, Montreal 28 0 28 6.

Cocoa duty B.P. 1d p lb. For 2d.

Table listing prices for cocoa: Trinidad per cwt 44 0 54 0, Grenada 42 0 46 0, Para, Bahia, & Guayaquil 28 0 31 0.

Coffee duty B.P. 4d p lb. For 6d.

Table listing prices for coffee: Jamaica, triage and ord., per cwt, bond 46 0 46 0, good and fine ord 47 0 50 0, low to good middling 52 0 65 0, fine middling and fine 70 0 100 0. Includes other varieties like Ceylon, Mocha, Sumatra, Padang, Batavia, Manila, Brazil, St Domingo, Cuba, Costa Rica, La Guayra.

Cotton duty free

Table listing prices for cotton: Surat per lb 0 4 0 5 1/2, Bengal 0 0 0 0, Madras 0 4 1/2 0 5 1/2, Perna 0 0 0 0, Bowd Georgia 0 6 1/2 0 7 1/2, New Orleans 0 7 0 7 1/2, Demerara 0 0 0 0, St Domingo 0 0 0 0, Egyptian 0 0 0 0, Smyrna 0 0 0 0.

Drugs & Dyes duty free

Table listing prices for drugs and dyes: COCHINEAL (Black 3 5 5 0, Silver 3 2 4 0), LAC DYE (D.T. 1 10 1 11, Other marks 0 6 2 6), TURMERIC (Bengal 15 0 17 0, China 16 0 18 0, Java and Malabar 12 0 16 0), TERRA JAPONICA (Cutch, Pegue, gd, p.cwt 19 0 21 0, Gambier 15 0 16 0).

Dyewoods duty free

Table listing prices for dyewoods: Logwood (Jamaica per ton 3 11 4 10, Honduras 5 0 5 5, Campechy 6 10 7 0), FUSTIC (Jamaica per ton 3 10 4 0, Cuba 6 10 8 10).

NICARAGUA WOOD

Table listing prices for Nicaragua wood: Lima per ton 13 10 14 10, Other large solid 10 0 13 0, Small and rough 9 0 10 0.

SAPAN WOOD

Table listing prices for sapan wood: Bimas per ton 16 0 12 0, Siam and Malabar 8 0 12 0.

BRAZIL WOOD

Table listing prices for Brazil wood: Unbranded per ton 18 0 50 0.

Fruit—Almonds

Table listing prices for almonds: Jordan, duty 25s p cwt, 1 s 1 s, new 5 10 9 9, old 6 10 6 0, Barbary sweet, in bond 2 13 2 14, bitter 1 2 2 3. Includes Currants, Zante & Cephal, Patras, Figs, Raisins, Prunes, Raisins, Denia, Valencia, Smyrna, Sultana, Muscatel.

Flax duty free

Table listing prices for flax: Riza, P.T.R. per ton 42 0 48 0, St Petersburg, 12 head 0 0 0 0, 9 head 0 0 0 0, Friesland 35 0 52 0.

Hemp duty free

Table listing prices for hemp: St Petersburg, clean, p ton 30 0 30 10, outshot, new 28 0 0 0, half cleaned 26 0 0 0, Riga, Rhine 0 0 0 0, Manila, free 35 0 38 0, East Indian Sunn 0 0 0 0, Bomby nom. 0 0 0 0, Jute 10 0 0 0.

Hides—Ox & Cow, per lb

Table listing prices for hides: B.A. and M.Vid. dry 0 5 0 7, Do. & R Grande, salted 0 3 0 4, Brazil, dry 0 4 0 4 1/2, dry salted 0 3 0 3 1/2, salted 0 2 1/2 0 3 1/2, Rio, dry 0 4 0 4 1/2, Lima & Valparaiso, dry 0 5 0 6 1/2, Cape, salted 0 2 0 4, New South Wales 0 2 1/2 0 3 1/2, New York 0 0 0 0, East India 0 4 0 9 1/2, Kips, Russia, dry 0 9 0 9 1/2, S America Horse, p hide 5 6 7 0, Germana do 0 0 0 0.

Indigo duty free

Table listing prices for indigo: Bengal per lb 2 9 6 6, Oude 3 6 5 0, Madras 2 8 4 5, Manila 2 4 3 6, Java 4 6 5 9, Carracas 2 10 5 0, Guatemala 2 8 4 5.

Leather, per lb

Table listing prices for leather: Crop Hides 30 to 40 lb 0 9 1 0, do. 50 65 0 11 1 1/4, English Butts 16 24 0 11 1 1/4, do 28 36 1 0 1 1 1/2, Foreign do 16 25 0 10 1 1/4, do 28 36 0 10 1 1/4, Calf Skins 20 35 0 10 1 1/4, do 40 60 1 0 1 1/4, Dressing Hides 0 8 1 1/2, Shaved do 0 9 0 12, Horse Hides, English 0 7 1 0, do Spanish, per hide 5 0 11 0, Kips, Petersburg, per lb 1 0 1 3 1/2, do East India 0 8 1 1/4.

Metals—COPPER

Table listing prices for copper: Sheathing, bolts, &c. lb 0 9 1/2 0 0, Bottoms 0 10 1/2 0 0, Old 0 8 1/2 0 8 1/2, Tough cake, p ton 28 4 0 0, Tile 23 0 0 0.

IRON, per ton

Table listing prices for iron: Bars, &c. British 5 15 6 0, Nail rods 6 12 1/2 6 15, Hoops 7 15 8 0, Sheets 8 10 0 0, Pig, No 1, Wales 3 5 3 7 1/2, Bars, &c. 4 15 5 0, Pig, No 1, Clyde 2 3 2 4, Swedish, in bond 11 15 0 0, LEAD, p ton—Eng, pig 17 10 17 15, sheet 18 5 0 0, red lead 18 10 0 0, white do 24 10 0 0, patent shot 20 0 0 0, Spanish pig, in bond 16 7 1/2 16 10, STEEL, Swedish, in kg 14 15 15 0, in faggots 15 0 15 5, SPELTER, for, per ton 15 0 0 0, TIN duty B.P. 3s p cwt, For. 6s, English blocks, p ton 8 4 0 0, bars 85 0 0 0, Banca, in bond, nom. 85 6 86 0, Straits do 82 0 0 0, TIN PLATES, per box Charcoal, 1 C 32s 0d 33s 0d, Coke, 1 C 27 0 0 0.

Molasses duty B.P. 4s 2d, For. 5s 9d

Table listing prices for molasses: West India, d p, ser cwt 14 0 17 0, Refiners', for home use, fr 12 0 20 0, Do export (on board) bd 12 0 14 0.

Oils—Fish

Table listing prices for fish oils: Seal, pale, p 252 gal d p 32 15 33 0, Yellow 31 10 32 0, Sperm 86 0 87 0, Head matter 92 0 94 0, Cod 37 0 37 5, South Sea 29 19 30 0, Olive, Galipoli, per tun 38 10 39 0, Spanish and Sicily 37 10 38 0, Palm 28 10 29 0, Cocoa Nut 28 0 32 0, Seed, Rape, pale (Forgn) 34 10 0 0, 33 5 0 0, Black Sea p q 49 6 50 0, St Petersburg Morsbank 49 0 51 0, Do cake (English) pr ta 7 0 7 5 1/2, do Foreign 5 0 7 1 1/2, Rape, do 4 0 4 5.

Provisions—All articles duty paid.

Table listing prices for provisions: Butter—Waterford new 60s 0d 70s 0d, Carlow 70 0 70 0, Cork 74 0 75 0, Limerick 65 0 70 0, Friesland, fresh 80 0 82 0, Kiel and Holstein, fine 84 0 88 0, Leer 65 0 0 0, Bacon, singed—Waterfd. 58 0 60 0, Limerick 0 0 0 0, Hams—Westphalia 50 0 70 0, Lard—Waterford and Limerick bladder 60 0 62 0, Cork and Belfast do 0 0 0 0, Firkin and keg Irish 48 0 50 0, American & Canadian 0 0 0 0, Cask do do 0 0 0 0, Pork—Amer. & Can. p b. 0 0 0 0, Beef—Amer. & Can. p t c 75 0 80 0, inferior 0 0 0 0, Cheese—Edam 36 0 42 0, Gouda 26 0 32 0, Canter 20 0 0 0, American 42 0 46 0.

Rice duty B.P. 6d p cwt, For. 1s

Table listing prices for rice: Bengal, white, per cwt 8 0 11 0, Madras 7 6 8 0, Java 7 6 12 0.

Sago duty 6d per cwt.

Table listing prices for sago: Pearl, per cwt 18 0 23 0, Flour 15 0 16 0, Saltpetre Bengal p cwt 25 0 29 6, Madras 25 6 37 6, NITRATE OF SODA 14 6 15 0.

Seeds

Table listing prices for seeds: Caraway, for, old, p cwt 28 0 32 0, Eng. new 32s 34s, old 32 0 0 0, Canary 41 0 44 0, Clover, red 39 0 42 0, white 40 0 54 0, Coriander 14 0 20 0, Linseed, foreign, per qr 38 0 46 0, English 0 0 0 0, Mustard, br, p bush 16 0 14 0, white, 5 0 8 6, Rape per last of 10 qrs 226 0 231 0.

Silk duty free

Table listing prices for silk: Surdah per lb 13 0 18 6, Cossimbuzar 9 0 18 0, Gonatea 7 6 18 6, Comercolly 13 0 19 0, Bauleah, &c. 5 6 15 6, China, Tsatlee 18 6 22 6, Raws—White Novi 24 0 28 6, Fossombrone 23 0 26 0, Bologna 19 0 23 0, Frinli 19 0 22 0, Royals 20 0 22 0, Do superior 23 0 25 0, Bergam 23 0 26 0, Milan 23 0 26 0.

ORGANINES

Table listing prices for organines: Piedmont, 22-24 28 6 30 6, Do 24-28 27 6 28 6, Milan & Bergam, 18-22 28 6 29 0, Do 24-26 26 0 27 0, Do 28-32 24 0 25 0, TRAMS—Milan, 22-24 27 0 29 0, Do 24-28 25 0 26 0.

BRUTIAS—Short reel

Table listing prices for brutias: Long do 13 0 13 3, PERSIANS 9 0 10 6.

SPICES—PIMENTO, duty 5s

Table listing prices for pimento: per cwt... per lb bond 0 4 1/2 0 5, PEPPER, duty 6d p lb, Black—Malabar, half-heavy & heavy bd 0 3 1/2 0 3 1/2, light 0 3 0 2 1/2, Sumatra 0 3 1/2 0 3 1/2, White, ord to fine 0 6 0 1 1/2.

GINGER duty B.P. 5s p cwt, For. 10s

Table listing prices for ginger: Bengal, per cwt 16 0 50 0, Malabar 18 0 118 0, Jamaica 50 0 210 0, Barbadoes 30 0 35 0, CAS, LIGNEA duty B.P. 1d p lb, For. 3d, ord to good, p.cwt, bd 91 0 94 0, fine, sorted 95 0 96 0, CINNAMON duty B.P. 3d p lb, For. 6d, Ceylon, per lb—1st 2 2 3 6, second 1 6 3 4, third and ordinary 0 9 2 4.

CLOVES, duty 6d, per lb

Table listing prices for cloves: Amboyna & Bencoolen 0 10 1 6, Cayenne and Bourbon 0 6 0 6 1/2, MACE, duty 2s 6d, per lb 1 8 2 0, NUTMEGS duty 2s 6d, small to fine, per lb 2 2 3 9, shrivelled and ord 0 9 1 3.

Spirits—Rum duty B.P. 8s 2d p gall, For. 15s 4d

Table listing prices for spirits: Jamaica, 15 to 25 O.P., per gal... bond 2 6 2 8, 30 to 35 2 8 3 4, fine marks 4 0 5 0, Demerara, 10 to 20 O.P. 1 10 2 0, 30 to 40 2 2 2 4, Leeward I., 1 to 5 O.P. 1 7 1 8, East India, proof 1 0 1 7, Brandy duty 15s a gal, 1840 p 5 10 h 6 0, Vintage of 1847 5 5 5 7, 1st brands 1848 5 0 5 2, 1849 4 7 4 9, 1850 4 4 4 6, Geneva, common 1 7 1 8, Fine 2 6 0 0, Corn spirits, duty paid 9 6 9 7, Malt spirits, ditto 11 0 12 6.

Sugar duty B.P. 11s or 12s 10d p cwt, For. 15s 6d, 17s, or 18s 1d

Table listing prices for sugar: W.I. B.P. br d p, p.cwt 35 0 37 6, middling 38 0 40 0, good and fine 41 0 43 0, Mauritius, brown 31 0 37 0, yellow 27 6 39 0, good and fine yellow 29 6 42 0, Bengal, brown 28 0 31 0, yellow and white 33 0 42 0, grainy brown 35 0 37 0, yellow and white 38 0 48 0, Madras, brown 27 0 39 0, yellow and white 33 0 45 0, Java, brown and yellow 55 0 40 0, grey and white 41 0 45 0, Manila, low brown 29 0 31 0, current qual. of clayed 35 6 36 0, Perna, brown and yel 32 0 37 0, white 29 0 42 0, Bahia, brown and yellow 34 0 38 6, white 39 0 43 6, Havana, brown & yel 36 0 44 0, white 48 0 55 0, Porto Rico, low & mid. 35 0 39 0, good and fine 35 0 43 0, REFINED duty Br. 14s 8d, For. 22s 8d, Bounty in B. ship, per cwt, refined 12s 9d, bastards 1s, Do leaves, 8 to 10 lb free 56s 0d 57s 0d, Equal to stand, 12 to 14 lb 56 0 53 0, Titlers, equal to stand 48 6 49 6, Ordinary lumps, 45 lb 47 6 47 0, Pieces 37 0 43 6, Bastards 29 0 37 0, Treacle 12 6 20 0, In bd, Turkey lvs, 1 to 4 lb 43 0 45 0, 6 lb leaves 32 0 32 6, 10 lb do 30 6 31 0, 14 lb do 29 6 30 0.

SUGAR—REF. contd. bd s d s d

Table listing prices for refined sugar: Titlers, 20 to 28 lb 29 6 0 0, Lumps, 40 to 43 lb 19 0 0 0, Crushed 28 6 0 0, No. 2 28 0 0 0, Dutch superior 27 0 0 0, No. 1 26 0 0 0, No. 2 24 0 25 0, Belgian crushed, No. 1 25 6 0 0, No. 2 25 9 0 0, Pieces 26 0 26 6, Bastards 19 0 20 0, Treacle 12 6 0 0.

Tallow

Table listing prices for tallow: Duty B.P. 1d, For. 1s 6d p cwt, N. Amer. melted, p cwt 37 0 39 0, St Petersburg, 1st YC 39 0 39 3, N. S. Wales 37 0 38 6, Tar—Stockholm, p bri 19 0 19 6, Archangel 20 0 21 0.

Tea duty 2s 1d per lb

Table listing prices for tea: Congou, ord and com bd 0 11 1 0 1/2, middling to good 1 0 1 1/2, fine to finest 1 3 1 1/2, Soucheong, ord to fine 1 0 2 9, Caper 1 0 1 8, Pekoe, Flowery 1 6 3 6, Orange (scented) 1 2 1 9, Twankay, ord to fine 0 11 1 6, Hyson Skin 0 10 1 6, Hyson, common 1 3 1 4, middling to fine 1 5 3 6, Young Hyson 0 11 8 2, Imperial 1 5 3 4, Gunpowder 0 11 3 6.

Timber

Table listing prices for timber: Duty, foreign 7s 6d, B.P. 1s per load, Danzig and Memel fr 55 0 to 70 0, Riga 0 0 0 0, Swedish 85 0 0 0, Canada red pine 56 0 70 0, yellow pine 40 0 0 0, New Brunswick do, large 75 0 80 6, do small 55 0 0 0, Quebec oak 90 0 170 0, Baltic 70 0 100 0, African—duty free 160 0 220 0, Indian teak duty free 200 0 220 0, Waincoat logs, 18ft, each 50 0 85 0, Deals, duty foreign 10s, B.P. 2s per load, Norway per 120 of 12ft... £ 17 to 22, Swedish — 14ft... 18—22, Russian, Petersburg standard 12—14, Canada 1st pine 13—15, 2nd 8 1/2—10, spruce, per 120 12ft... 15—17 1/2, Dantzic deck, each 16s to 24s, Staves duty free, Baltic per mille... £ 115 to 140, Quebec 60 62 1/2.

Tobacco duty 3s per lb, s d s d

Table listing prices for tobacco: Maryland, per lb, bond 0 6 0 0, Virginia leaf 0 4 1 0, — script 0 7 1 6, Kentucky leaf 0 4 0 9, — script 0 5 1 2, Negrohead, fine 1 6 1 11, Columbian leaf 1 3 2 0, Havana 1 0 5 0, Havana cigars, bd duty 9s 7 0 14 0, Turpentine duty For. Spirits 5s, Rough... per cwt d p 8 3 8 6, Eng. Spirits, without cks 34 0 34 6, Foreign do., with casks 35 6 36 0, Wool—English.—Per pack of 240 lb, Fleeces, So. Down hogs 144 0s 147 10s, Half-bred hogs 14 0 15 0, Kent fleeces 12 10 13 10, S. Down ewes & wethers 11 0 12 0, Leicester do 11 0 12 0, Sorts—Clothing, picklock 14 0 15 0, Prime and picklock 12 0 13 0, Choice 11 0 12 0, Super 10 0 11 0, Combing—Wethermat. 15 0 15 10, Picklock 12 10 13 10, Common 11 0 12 0, Hog matchin 18 0 20 0, Picklock matching 15 0 16 0, Super do 12 0 13 0, FOREIGN—duty free.—Per lb, Spanish:—, Leonesa, R's, F's, & S 1 5 1 6, Segovia 1 3 1 4, Caceres 1 2 1 4, Soria 1 2 1 3, Seville 1 0 1 2, German, 1st and 2d Elect 3 3 4 6, Saxon, prima 2 6 3 0, and secunda 2 0 2 4, Prussian, tertia 1 8 1 11, Moravian, Electoral 3 6 5 0, Bohemian, prima 2 9 3 3, and secunda 2 2 2 8, and tertia 1 9 2 0, Hungarian, Lamb's 2 3 4 0, Australian and V D L, Combing and Clothing 1 1 2, Lambs 1 0 1 2, Locks and Pieces 0 6 1 0, Grease 0 5 1 1 1/2, Skin and Slips 0 10 1 7, S. Australian & Swan River, Combing and Clothing 1 2 1 8, Lambs 1 3 1 7, Locks and Pieces 1 2 1 3, Grease 0 7 0 11, Skin and Slips 0 0 0 0, Cape—Average Flocks, Combing and Clothing 1 1 2 1, Lambs 1 0 1 5, Locks and Pieces 0 6 1 5, Grease 9 5 10 1/2, Wine duty 5s 6d per gal, Port 24 0 52 0, Claret 5 0 45 0, Sherry 12 0 78 0, Madeira pipe 16 0 44 0.



STATEMENT

Of comparative Imports, Exports, and Home Consumption of the following articles from Jan. 1 to April 19, 1850-1, showing the stock on hand on April 19 in each year. FOR THE PORT OF LONDON. If those articles duty free, the deliveries for exportation are included under the head Home Consumption.

East and West Indian Produce, &c.

	Imported		Duty paid		Stock	
	1850	1851	1850	1851	1850	1851
<b>SUGAR.</b>						
<i>British Plantation.</i>						
West India	12,950	16,559	19,937	14,597	9,509	4,214
East India	21,382	16,945	13,995	14,546	22,407	16,378
Mauritius	12,937	10,553	9,739	7,754	8,728	6,276
Foreign	...	...	9,295	11,012	...	...
	47,269	38,056	52,966	47,909	40,644	26,868
<i>Foreign Sugar.</i>						
Cheribon, Siam, & Manilla	6,422	1,657	902	322	8,961	6,210
Havana	2,482	1,306	5,35	602	13,885	11,150
Porto Rico	277	550	805	17	2,570	2,371
Brazil	777	5,924	2,363	1,229	5,972	10,191
	9,958	9,437	9,705	2,170	31,391	29,922

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

From the British Possessions in America	26	31	per cwt,
— Mauritius	26	62	—
— East Indies	28	82	—
The average price of the three is	27	14	—

MOLASSES.

	Imported	Duty paid	Stock
West India	1,586	489	2,290
			2,289
			4,282
			4,188

RUM.

	Imported		Exported		Home Consump.		Stock	
	1850	1851	1850	1851	1850	1851	1850	1851
West India	357,480	335,790	402,390	210,555	461,715	409,770	527,255	1,109,115
East India	125,190	96,300	124,110	81,090	29,520	17,775	389,160	336,320
Foreign	33,570	14,715	21,550	28,440	90	225	140,850	101,835
	516,240	446,805	548,050	320,085	491,325	427,770	2,057,265	1,547,370

COCOA.—Cwts.

	1850	1851	1850	1851	1850	1851	1850	1851
Br. Plant	3,435	5,869	408	88	6,005	5,251	8,853	7,786
Foreign	6,721	3,885	1,737	433	1,057	1,866	12,213	8,648
	10,156	9,753	2,145	521	7,062	7,117	21,066	16,434

COFFEE.—Cwts.

	1850	1851	1850	1851	1850	1851	1850	1851
Br. Plant	396	51	74	202	3,356	2,584	6,446	6,792
Ceylon	38,178	17,990	2,075	2,832	57,101	48,407	177,853	185,406
Total BP.	38,484	17,644	2,149	3,034	60,487	50,991	184,299	193,198
Mocha	3,099	14,226	363	552	4,320	5,851	10,795	21,064
Foreign EI.	2,401	227	3,742	730	2,559	1,915	18,576	14,679
Malabar	...	...	...	...	25	30	194	202
St Domingo	321	1,454	13	1,862	1	29	1,942	4,178
Hav. & P Ric	335	256	597	115	272	37	4,588	5,406
Brazil	12,501	27,350	8,204	9,354	2,324	4,553	29,863	57,291
African	1	...	...	...	1	...	2	660
Total For.	18,059	43,613	12,919	12,643	9,435	12,415	56,866	103,489
Grand tot.	57,143	61,257	15,068	15,677	69,942	63,406	241,165	296,678

RICE.

	1850	1851	1850	1851	1850	1851	1850	1851
British EI.	918	3,214	609	725	3,247	3,133	17,541	19,152
Foreign EI.	501	509	87	24	473	83	2,657	1,939
Total	1,422	3,723	687	749	3,720	3,216	19,598	20,551

PEPPER

	1850	1851	1850	1851	1850	1851	1850	1851
White	582	138	6	107	1,032	1,282	3,167	2,218
Black	3,163	7,606	2,100	5,022	6,701	7,155	40,423	49,115

NUTMEGS

	1850	1851	1850	1851	1850	1851	1850	1851
Do. Wild.	415	708	152	190	369	253	400	848
...	...	21	5	...	60	29	578	534

CAS. LIG.

	1850	1851	1850	1851	1850	1851	1850	1851
...	11,302	1,652	5,317	1,301	321	271	6,551	1,685
CINNAMON.	3,676	2,661	2,385	1,326	215	157	3,356	3,923

PIMENTO

	1850	1851	1850	1851	1850	1851	1850	1851
...	3,448	5,518	407	4,845	594	1,180	5,365	10,314

Raw Materials, Dye Stuffs, &c.

	1850	1851	1850	1851	1850	1851	1850	1851
<b>COCHINEAL.</b>								
Serons	6,332	4,869	...	...	2,984	4,641	7,260	8,833
chests	995	2,268	...	...	1,303	1,812	3,168	5,770
<b>LAC DYE.</b>								
tons	1,399	1,636	...	...	1,863	1,489	898	1,850
<b>FUSTIC.</b>								
...	435	1,516	...	...	681	816	223	1,424
<b>INDIGO.</b>								
East India	4,570	5,433	...	...	9,187	5,840	24,440	26,774
Spanish	851	2,640	...	...	619	1,663	629	2,082
<b>SALTPETRE.</b>								
Nitrate of Potass	4,856	2,490	...	...	3,720	2,120	4,212	2,859
Nitrate of Soda	1,100	484	...	...	1,173	1,279	2,738	1,246
<b>COTTON.</b>								
American	2,028	628	...	...	613	151	1,617	506
Brazil	...	4	...	...	...	...	105	82
East India	11,628	21,910	...	...	7,981	14,661	23,867	55,685
Liverpl., all kinds	516,734	484,035	41,050	21,140	378,500	380,400	570,770	837,109
Total	530,420	506,577	41,050	21,140	387,094	395,215	596,299	593,273

The Railway Monitor.

EPITOME OF RAILWAY NEWS.

SHREWSBURY AND BIRMINGHAM.—The London and North-Western lease of the Shrewsbury and Birmingham Railway is ill received by the people of the district. A meeting of the inhabitants, merchants, and traders of Wolverhampton, assembled on Monday, in conformity with an appointment made by Mr Joseph Walker, mayor, in compliance with a requisition signed by 100 merchants and upwards of the town, at which resolutions, deprecating of any connection of the Shrewsbury and Birmingham with the London and North-Western Company, together with a memorial to the Commissioners of Railways to the like effect, were unanimously adopted.

PROPOSED RAILWAY FROM WYCOMBE TO WINDSOR.—On Tuesday, a public meeting of the inhabitants of Maidenhead took place at the town-hall, to consider the best means of establishing a railway communication from Wycombe to Windsor, passing through Wooburn, Maidenhead, and Bray, thereby affording an opportunity of reaching London by the South-Western Railway, and avoiding the journey from Paddington to the city. An unanimous opinion was expressed in favour of the project, and a committee was appointed to negotiate with the South-Western Railway Company on the subject.

RAILWAY TRAFFIC.—An analysis of the railway traffic returns of the United Kingdom for last week, published in *Herepath's Journal*, shows that the total receipts on 6,238 miles were 248,480l, being at the rate of 39l 15s per mile per week. For the corresponding period of 1850 the receipts were 236,487l on 5,648 miles, or at the rate of 41l 15s per mile per week. There is thus an increase in the aggregate amount received of 11,993l or 5.07 per cent., an increase in the mileage of 590 miles or 10.64 per cent., and a decrease of 2l in the amount received per mile per week. The *Railway Times* estimates, the gross traffic returned since the 1st of January at 3,336,063l, which on 6,189 miles, gives an average of 539l 0s 7½d per mile. Last year, for the same period, the receipts on 5,621 miles were 3,044,454l, equal to 541l 12s 5d per mile, so that the balance is still against the present year to the extent of 2l 11s 9½d per mile.

RAILWAY SHARE MARKET.

LONDON.

MONDAY, April 21.—The railway market opened with increased firmness this morning, and prices in some instances improved, but the advances was not maintained up to the close of the day.

TUESDAY, April 22.—Business in the railway market was rather limited to-day, but there was greater firmness in prices towards the close of the afternoon.

WEDNESDAY, April 23.—At the commencement there was some appearance of animation in the share market to-day, but it was not maintained up to the termination of business.

THURSDAY, April 24.—The railway market opened with firmness to-day, but although no material alteration occurred in prices, most descriptions became heavy towards the close of business.

FRIDAY, April 25.—Railways are all lower. The 100l shares have dropped about 10s to 17, and others 5s to 10s.

MISCELLANEOUS.

EJECTMENTS IN IRELAND.—A Parliamentary return, printed by order of the House of Commons, shows the number of actions in ejectments in Ireland during the years 1847, 1848, and 1849, to have been 32,531, exclusive of those in the country of Dublin, from which no return had been received. The number during each year was respectively 7,942, 12,222, and 12,267. The total number of judgments in ejectments for plaintiff during the same years was 25,739, of which 6,926 were in 1847, 9,657 in 1848, and 10,956 in 1849.

NEWSPAPERS.—A return has been printed by order of the House of Commons, from which it appears that the number of stamps issued for newspapers in the year 1850, at one penny, was, in England, 65,741,271; in Scotland, 7,643,045; and in Ireland, 6,302,728. At one half-penny, the number was, in England, 11,684,423; in Scotland, 241,045; and in Ireland, 43,358. The number of newspapers in the United Kingdom, in 1850, was as follows:—London, 159; English provinces, 222; Scotland, 110; Ireland, 102—total, 593. The number of advertisements in them was 2,252,550, of which the London newspapers contained 891,650; the English provincial papers, 875,631; the Scottish papers, 249,141; and the Irish papers, 236,128. The rate of duty is 1s 6d in each advertisement, except on those contained in the Irish newspapers, in which the rate of duty is 1s. The total amount of duty paid last year was 163,038l.

EXTRAORDINARY APPLICATIONS.—Several journals having stated the Calcraft was too much engaged to be able to execute Maria Clark at Ipswich on the day named, and the remark having been made that the Sheriff was in a "fix" and would have to perform the task himself, sundry individuals have sent written applications to the authorities at our county jail, offering their services in the capacity of hangman! One asks 20l for the job, and the most of them state their qualifications for the office. We believe no less than ten offers have been made!—*Ipswich Express*.

EXTRAORDINARY SCENE.—Some of the good citizens of Gloucester, perambulating the docks on good Friday morning, were alarmed by a terrible noise on board a Greek ship lying in the middle of the basin. The captain and others appeared to have one of the crew amongst them, around whose neck a rope was attached, and before any interference could be offered, the body was run up to the yardarm, and after a few apparent struggles, so far as the victim was concerned, all was still. The noise had hardly subsided, when a similar scene appeared to be going forward on board another Greek vessel lying alongside the first-mentioned, the body in this case being lowered over the side into the water, and then as if the murderous wretches had changed their intentions, it was hauled on deck, severely belaboured amidst shouts and execrations, and speedily hauled up to the yardarm. The excitement on seeing two bodies dangling high in the air was most intense; some of the crowd assembled were calling out for the police, and two or three, more courageous than the rest, got on board one of the ships to demand an explanation, and with the determination to take the culprits into custody. The explanation was duly given, and a hearty and general laugh was the result. The seamen were only performing a custom of the Greek church, usual on Good Friday, by stuffing an effigy with straw, with a bag in his right hand, to represent Judas Iscariot, and hanging it, expressive of their abhorrence of his conduct in betraying our Saviour. The next morning the effigies were hauled down, and treated with great indignity, amidst renewed shouts and the discharged of muckets.—*Gloucester Paper*.

LUNATICS (SCOTLAND).—The total number of pauper lunatics in Scotland on the first day of the present year was, according to a return just published, 3,362, and the total annual cost for their maintenance was 41,023l 1s 3d, making the average cost per head 13l 10s 10½d.

The Economist's Railway Share List.

The highest prices of the day are given.

Main table containing three sections: ORDINARY SHARES AND STOCKS, ORDINARY SHARES, &c.—Continued, and LINES LEASED AT FIXED RENTALS. Each section lists company names, share amounts, and prices.

OFFICIAL RAILWAY TRAFFIC RETURNS. A large table with multiple columns: Capital and Loan, Amount expended, Average cost, Dividend per cent., Name of Railway, Week ending, Receipts (Passengers, Merchandise, Total), Traffic per mile, Miles open in. Includes data for various railways like Aberdeen, London & North Western, etc.

Postage of Foreign and Colonial Letters. (FROM THE DAILY PACKET LIST.)

Table listing postage rates for various locations including Aden, Alexandria, Algeria, Austria, Baden, Bavaria, Belgium, Berlin, Bremen, Brunswick, Buenos Ayres, California, Cape of Good Hope, Canada, Canary Islands, Ceylon, Chili, China, Constantinople, Cracow, Cuba, Curacao, Cuxhaven, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Frankfurt, Galatz, Galicia, Gibraltar, Greece, Hanover, Heligoland, Hesse, Holland, Honduras, Hong Kong, Ibrail, India, Ionian Islands, Jamaica, Jassy, Java, Lippe, Lubeck, Lucca, Madeira, Majorca, Malta, Mauritius, Mecklenburg, Meiningen, Mexico, Modena, Moldavia, Naples, Nassau, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, New Granada, Norway, Nova Scotia, Oldenburg, Oregon, Papal States, Penang, Peru, Parma, Placentia, Poland, Portugal, Prince Edward Island, Prussia, Reuss, Russia, Salonicia, Sardinia, Saxony, Saxo Coburg, Schaumburg, Schwartzburg, Scutari, Sierra Leone, Silesia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and Java.

Table listing postage rates for various locations including Java, Lippe, Lubeck, Lucca, Madeira, Majorca, Malta, Mauritius, Mecklenburg, Meiningen, Mexico, Modena, Moldavia, Naples, Nassau, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, New Granada, Norway, Nova Scotia, Oldenburg, Oregon, Papal States, Penang, Peru, Parma, Placentia, Poland, Portugal, Prince Edward Island, Prussia, Reuss, Russia, Salonicia, Sardinia, Saxony, Saxo Coburg, Schaumburg, Schwartzburg, Scutari, Sierra Leone, Silesia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and Java.

FIRE-PROOF BOOK SAFES AND DEED BOXES GRIGG AND JENKINSON BEG TO offer to BANKERS, MERCHANTS, SOLICITORS, and MEN OF BUSINESS in general, requiring safe deposits for VALUE PAPERS, &c., a medium of security in their WROUGHT-IRON SAFES and BOXES, which cannot be surpassed. They embrace in a peculiar manner all requisite features. Great strength and neatness, undoubted resistance to FIRE, and Locks which it is impossible either to force or pick. Their prices are strictly moderate. Also IRON DOORS, and every description of strong fastenings. MANUFACTURERS—GRIGG and JENKINSON, FINSBURY IRON WORKS, 119 and 120 BUNHILL ROW.

NOT SOLD BY ANY HOSEIERS OR DRAPERS. FORD'S EUREKA SHIRTS are not sold by any Hoseiers or Drapers, and can therefore be obtained only at 185 STRAND, LONDON. They are made in two qualities, the first of which is 40s the half-dozen, and the second 30s the half-dozen. Also, Ford's Eureka Shirt Collars; possessing an improved method of fastening, which entirely dispenses with the use of Strings, Loops, or Elastic Contrivances. It also adapts itself to any size, and is suitable for once or twice round cravats. They may be had in three different sizes, and either rounded or pointed. Price 8s 6d and 11s 6d per dozen; two of the best quality as samples sent post free, on receipt of 28 postage stamps. List of prices with direction for self-measurement sent post free. R. FORD, 185 STRAND.

BOTTLED ALES, STOUT, &c.—Messrs HOLMES and ZOHRAH, having made arrangements with Messrs James Thorne and Co., of the Westminster Brewery, for the exclusive bottling of their celebrated ales and stout for exportation, are now prepared to execute orders in the most liberal terms, and to any extent, for beer, in proper condition, which they can guarantee will bear any voyage or climate. Messrs Holmes and Zohrah have warehouses for their beer at Carpenter and Smith's wharf, Tooley street, or will receive and attend to any orders at 2 Fen court, Fenchurch street. List of prices can be had on application either personally or by letter.

COFFEE AND ITS ADULTERATIONS. ANALYTICAL COMMISSION. The LANCET of January 4, 1851, contains the analyses of between twenty and thirty samples of Coffee, "purchased at the Establishments of different Metropolitan Grocers, Tea and Coffee Merchants," the whole of which, with two exceptions, were found to be adulterated with chicory, roasted corn, beans, or potatoes. The report concludes by noticing two exceptions in the following manner:—"We feel much satisfaction in announcing that the two Establishments, where unadulterated, excellent Coffee was purchased at reasonable prices, were those of Mr J. F. BETTS, 262 Oxford street (corner of North Audley street); and Messrs KNIGHT and SON, Gracechurch street. The Coffee purchased at these addresses was of excellent quality and high flavour; no very marked difference existing to distinguish the one from the other. The price paid at the shop of Mr Betts was 1s 4d per lb; at the shop of Messrs Knight, 2s per lb. In both instances the article was entirely free from adulteration." The Commissioners offer a few hints to Coffee drinkers, among which is the following:—"Never buy coffee contained in Canisters, for we assured it is even more adulterated than other coffee, it being necessary not only to pay for the coffee, but also the canister."—See LANCET, January 4.

ANTAGONISTIC TO SOPHISTRY, PREJUDICE, AND EMPIRICISM. 147 Woodcuts, 41 Cases, 2 vols, 1s each, by post 1s 6d. ON SINGLE AND MARRIED LIFE. To be, or not to be, that is the question. By R. J. CULVERWELL, M.D. (1841), M.R.C.S. (1827), L.A.C. (1824); 25 years Medical and Forensic Referee in these matters. Programme:—Advent of Puberty and corresponding Associations—Duties and Casualties of Single Life—Marriage and its considerations—Happy and Fruitful Alliances, mode of securing them—Infelicitous and Infertile ones, their obviation and removal. Sherwood, 23 Paternoster row; Mann, 39 Cornhill; Carvalho, 147 Fleet street; and all booksellers; or by post, from the Author, 10 Argyll place, Regent street. At home daily, 10 till 5; evening, 7 till 9.

THE NATIONAL MEDICINE IS PARR'S LIFE PILLS, which are acknowledged to be THE BEST MEDICINE IN THE WORLD. The attention of all classes has been attracted to the undeniable virtues of PARR'S LIFE PILLS, and a vast majority of the people have evinced their unqualified approval of the high character awarded this medicine, and are daily becoming more and more convinced, not only of the efficacy, but to use a more familiar term, the innocency of this renovator of the human race. Cases of the most severe description have been cured by their use; and, although powerful in conquering diseases, they are yet as pure and harmless as new milk, and may be administered with confidence to the invalid, however weakly from long ill-health. TO LADIES.—PARR'S LIFE PILLS are especially efficacious in all the variety of ailments incident to the Fair Sex. Ladies even of the most delicate constitutions will find them particularly beneficial both before and after confinement; and for general use in Schools they cannot be too strongly recommended. They mildly and speedily remove all Skin Eruptions, Sallowness of Complexion, Nervous Irritability, Sick Head-ache, and Depression of Spirits, Irregularity, or General Derangement of the System. None are genuine, unless the words "PARR'S LIFE PILLS" are in White Letters on a Red Ground, on the Government Stamp, pasted round each box; also, the fac-simile of the signature of the Proprietors, "T. ROBERTS and CO., Crane court, Fleet street, London," on the directions. Sold in boxes at 1s 1/2, 2s 6d, and family packets at 11s each, by all respectable medicine vendors throughout the world. Full directions are given with each box. Sold by all Chemists.

**FLOOR CLOTHS.**

Best quality, warranted ..... 2s 6d per sq yd.  
 Persian and Turkey pattern .. 2s 9d —  
 Common Floor Cloth ..... 2s 0d —  
**COCOA-FIBRE MATS and MATTING.**  
**INDIA MATTING**, plain and figured.  
**JAPANNED FOLDING SCREENS** from 32s.  
**JOWETT, Manufacturer, 532 New Oxford street.**

**POWER-LOOM CARPETS, BRUSSELS AND VELVET PILES.**

THE PATENT POWER-LOOM BRUSSELS CARPETS, manufactured by BRIGHT and CO., are now offered in various qualities and in great variety of designs. They are TWENTY per CENT. cheaper than any other goods of equal quality offered to the public.

THE VELVET PILE CARPETS, manufactured by the same patent processes, are of extraordinary beauty, and of the very first quality.

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**CARPETS.—BRIGHT'S PATENT BRUSSELS.**

HAVING Sold upwards of 30,000 Yards, we can confidently recommend them. Their VELVET PILE and EXTRA quality of BRUSSELS are unequalled by any other production, at 20 per cent less cost.

TAPESTRY for CURTAINS, in colour, design, price, and durability UNRIVALLED.  
 BEST BRUSSELS CARPETS, Old Patterns at a great reduction. KIDDER and other CARPETING.  
 FRENCH SILK, and Worsted DAMASKS in great variety.

TURKEY CARPETS, FLOOR CLOTH, &c.  
 LUCK, KENT, and CUMMING, 4 REGENT STREET, WATERLOO PLACE.

**SASSAFRAS CHOCOLATE.**

—Dr DE LA MOTTE'S nutritive health restoring AROMATIC CHOCOLATE, prepared from the nuts of the Sassafras tree. This chocolate contains the peculiar virtues of the Sassafras root, which has been long held in great estimation for its purifying and alterative properties. The aromatic quality (which is very grateful to the stomach) most invalids require for breakfast and evening repast to promote digestion, and to a deficiency of this property in the customary breakfast and supper may in a great measure be attributed the frequency of cases of indigestion generally termed bilious. It has been found highly beneficial in correcting the state of the digestive organs, &c., from whence arise many diseases, such as eruptions of the skin, gout, rheumatism, and scrofula. In cases of debility of the stomach, and a sluggish state of the liver and intestines, occasioning flatulencies, costiveness, &c., and in spasmodic asthma, it is much recommended. Sold in pound packets, price 4s, by the patentee.

12 SOUTHAMPTON STREET, STRAND, London; also by appointed Agents, Chemists, and others throughout the Kingdom.

N.B.—For a list of Agents, see Bradshaw's Sixpenny Guide.

**HUBBUCK'S PATENT WHITE ZINC PAINT.**

THE PERMANENT WHITE OF THE ANCIENT ARTIST, Combines Elegance, Durability, Health, and Economy, THE WHITEST OF ALL PAINTS.

retains its whiteness for years, being unaffected by bilge-water, noxious vapour from cargo, or from red heat on the funnels of steam vessels. Neither exposure to damp or to salt water, nor change of climate, act upon it. Under these and other circumstances, when every other paint hitherto known and tried has failed, the "White Zinc Paint" has preserved the fastness of its colour. In addition to its preservative properties, when applied to outside wood work, it is invaluable for iron ships and iron work exposed to salt water. By virtue of its galvanic action it enters the pores of the iron, and forms a species of amalgam of the two metals, which is a strong preservative.

The "Patent White Zinc Paint" becomes cheaper than the inferior paints hitherto used, from its spreading over a much larger surface. Two cwt of this paint covers as much space as is usually taken up by three cwt of white lead.

"Paralysis and painter's colic are entirely avoided by its use. Apartments may be immediately used without injury to the health of children or the most delicate persons."

"For public schools, and all rooms occupied by children, there will now be no excuse for using poisonous paints. Parents have remarked that their children on returning from the country to newly-painted houses have suffered from health. The reason is evident. The breath extracts the poison from paint, even after several months drying, and the lungs draw in the deadly vapour."

"Amongst other tests to which it has been subjected, has been that of painting the hold of a sugar vessel, which, after a voyage to St Kitt's and back, is found as white as the first day the paint was applied."—**BELL'S WEEKLY MESSENGER**, June 22, 1850.

"We trust that it will not be long ere the Royal Navy discards the injurious white lead paint for Hubbuck's healthy and otherwise valuable substitute."—**UNITED SERVICE GAZETTE**, August 17, 1850.

Each cask is stamped "HUBBUCK—LONDON—PATENT."

A circular, with full particulars, may be had of the Manufacturers.

**THOMAS HUBBUCK and SON,**  
 Colour Works, opposite the London Docks.

Specimens of the Paint may be seen at the Office of **ARTISAN JOURNAL**, 69 Cornhill.

**PERUVIAN GUANO.—CAUTION TO AGRICULTURISTS.**

It being notorious that extensive adulterations of this manure are still carried on, ANTONY GIBBS and SONS, as the only importers of Peruvian Guano, consider it to be their duty to the Peruvian Government and to the public again to recommend farmers and all others who buy to be carefully on their guard.

The character of the parties from whom they purchase will of course be the best security; and in addition to particular attention to that point, ANTONY GIBBS and SONS think it well to remind buyers that the lowest wholesale price at which sound Peruvian Guano is or has been sold by them during the last two years is £9 5s per ton, less 2½ per cent.

Any resales made by dealers at a lower price must therefore either leave a loss to them, or the article must be adulterated.

**DEANE'S TWO-HOLE BLACK PENS,**

which are unequalled for their durability and easy action, are adopted by the gentlemen of the Stock Exchange, and the principal bankers, merchants, and public companies of the city of London, besides several of her Majesty's judges, the most eminent counsel, and the reverend the clergy. Their cheapness and popularity have induced many unprincipled people to put forth imitations of the genuine article, which are equally useless to the purchaser, and disgraceful to the vendor. The public are therefore cautioned, and respectfully requested not to purchase any as DEANE'S GENUINE TWO-HOLE BLACK PENS, unless each pen is stamped,

"G. and J. Deane, London Bridge," and the box, which contains exactly twelve dozen, has thereon a variously coloured label, inscribed, "G. and J. DEANE'S Two-Hole Black Pens, 46 King William street, London bridge."

**OVERLAND ROUTE.—HICKIE, BORMAN, and CO.**

forward Goods and Parcels to all parts of India and China, per Overland Route, every month. They also ship goods to all parts of the World, both by Steamers and Sailing Vessels. Passages Secured, Baggage Shipped, and Insurances effected at low rates. Letters of Credit on Bombay, Madras, Calcutta, and Hong Kong. Parcels for India received to the 17th May.—For particulars apply at 127 Leadenhall street, London; and 4 Oriental place, Southampton.

**AUSTRALIAN LINE OF PACKETS.**

The undersigned dispatch a regular succession of first-class, fast-sailing British vessels, for SYDNEY, PORT PHILIP, VAN DIEMAN'S LAND, &c. These ships have most superior accommodations for passengers, and sail punctually on their appointed days. Load at the Jetty, London Dock.

The following are now on the Berth:—

Ships	Tons	Commanders	Destination	To sail.
Caroline	831	J. Rowlands	Sydney	May 10
Phoenicia	650	H. Sproat	Sydney	June 5
Undine	450	T. Farr	Hobart Town	June 1
Prince of Wales	450	H. R. Rich	Launceston	May 10
Statesman	1,150	J. W. Lane	Port Phillip	May 20
Samuel	669	J. W. Hurst	Port Adelaide	May 1
Flash	250	J. W. Smith	Port Phillip	May 5
Borneo	255	C. Bartley	Port Natal	May 10

For terms of freight and passage money, &c., apply to MARSHALL and EDRIDGE, 34 Fenchurch street.

NOTICE TO SHIPPERS.—United States Mail Steamers from Liverpool to New York. From April to November inclusive the Rate of Freight by these steamers from Liverpool will be £5 per ton of 40 cubic feet, charged at four dollars and 80 cents to the pound sterling.

**UNITED STATES MAIL STEAMERS** between LIVERPOOL and NEW YORK.

Goods for the "ARCTIC" cannot be taken after twelve o'clock at noon on TUESDAY the 29th April, nor can parcels be received after six o'clock in the evening of that day.

The rate of passage by these Steamers is Thirty-five Pounds; reserving six or eight of the largest State Rooms for Families, for which an extra price will be charged.

No berth secured until the passage money be paid.

The steam ships comprising this line are the ATLANTIC, Captain WEST; PACIFIC, Captain NYE; ARCTIC, Captain LUCE; BALTIC, Captain COMSTOCK; ADRIATIC, Captain GRAFTON. These vessels are appointed to sail as follows:—

From LIVERPOOL.  
 ARCTIC ..... WEDNESDAY, 30th April.  
 BALTIC ..... WEDNESDAY, 14th May.  
 PACIFIC ..... WEDNESDAY, 28th May.

From NEW YORK.  
 BALTIC ..... WEDNESDAY, 16th April.  
 PACIFIC ..... SATURDAY, 10th May.  
 ARCTIC ..... SATURDAY, 24th May.

These ships having been built by contract expressly for the American Government service, every care has been taken in their construction, as also in their engines, to insure strength and speed; and their accommodations for passengers are unequalled for elegance or comfort.

An experienced surgeon will be attached to each ship. The owners of these ships will not be accountable for gold, silver, bullion, specie, jewellery, precious stones, or metals, unless bills of lading are signed therefore, and the value thereof therein expressed.

For freight or passage apply to EDWARD K. COLLINS, 74 South street, New York; or to BROWN, SIPLEY, and Co., Liverpool.

Agents in London—E. G. ROBERTS and Co., 13 King's Arms yard.

Agent in Paris—L. DEAPER, Jun., 8 Boulevard, Montmartre.

Agent in Havre—G. H. DEAPER, 44 Rue de Bordeaux.

NOTICE TO SHIPPERS.—From April to November inclusive the rate of freight by these steamers will be FIVE POUNDS per ton.

**BRITISH AND NORTH AMERICAN ROYAL MAIL STEAM SHIPS,** appointed by the Admiralty to sail between LIVERPOOL and NEW YORK, direct, and between LIVERPOOL and BOSTON, the Boston ships only, calling at Halifax to land and receive passengers and Her Majesty's Mails.

The following or other vessels are appointed to sail from Liverpool every Saturday as under—

CAMBRIA, for BOSTON, Saturday, May 3.

AFRICA, for NEW YORK, Saturday, May 10.

Cabin passage, including steward's fee, £35, but without wines or liquors, which can be obtained on board. Dogs charged £5 each. These steam-ships have accommodation for a limited number of second cabin passengers at £20 each, including provisions. For passage or other information, apply to J. B. Foord, 52 Old Broad street, London; S. Cunard, Halifax; S. S. Lewis, Boston; Edward Cunard, Jun., New York; D. Currie, Havre, and 10 Place de la Bourse, Paris; G. and J. Burns, Buchanan street, Glasgow; or D. and C. M'iver, Water street, Liverpool.

**STEAM TO THE CAPE**

of GOOD HOPE, carrying Her Majesty's mails, leaving London on the 10th, and Plymouth on the 15th, of every month. The PROPONTIS, 560 tons, Captain J. W. GLOVER, will leave Plymouth on the 15th May, at noon, with mails and passengers. For passage, apply at the General Screw Steam Shipping Company's Offices, 2 Royal Exchange buildings; for goods and parcels to BALFOUR, LAMING, and OWEN, 157 Fenchurch street, London, and at Liverpool.

**STEAM TO INDIA AND CHINA, via EGYPT.—Regular**

Monthly Mail Steam Conveyance for Passengers and Light Goods to CEYLON, MADRAS, CALCUTTA, PENANG, SINGAPORE and HONG-KONG.—The Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company book Passengers and receive Goods and Parcels for the above Ports, by their Steamers starting from Southampton on the 20th of every month, and from Suez on or about the 10th of the month.

BOMBAY.—Passengers for Bombay can proceed by this Company's Steamers of the 29th of the month to Malta, thence to Alexandria by her Majesty's Steamers, and from Suez by the Hon. E. I. Company's Steamers.

MEDITERRANEAN.—Malta—On the 20th and 29th of every month. Constantinople—On the 29th of the month. Alexandria—On the 20th of the month.

SPAIN and PORTUGAL.—Vigo, Oporto, Lisbon, Cadiz, and Gibraltar, on the 7th, 17th, and 27th of the month.

For plans of the vessels, rates of passage money, and to secure passages and ship cargo, apply at the Company's Offices, 122 Leadenhall street, London, and Oriental place, Southampton.

**REGULAR LINE OF PACKET SHIP TO CAL CUTTA,**

the very fine fast-sailing Liverpool-built ship HARRIET HUMBLE, 12 years A 1, 500 tons register, P. INGLIS, commander, loading in the London Docks; will sail punctually on the 1st of May. This ship has excellent accommodation for passengers.

For passage apply to Captain LUDLOW, 18 Cornhill. For freight or passage, apply to Messrs GLOVER and DUNN, 16 Chancery lane, Manchester; or in London to W. S. LINDSAY and CO., 8 Austin Friars, and 54½ Old Broad street.

**REGULAR LINE OF PACKET SHIPS.—For CAL CUTTA** direct, to follow the Harriet Humble, the following splendid, new, fast-sailing, frigate-built, British ships, will sail punctually on the days named:—

ALIPORE, 811 tons register, B. D. FREEMAN, commander; to sail 1st June.

CASSIOPHE, 820 tons register, A. A. D. DUNDAS, R.N., commander; to sail 1st July.

For passage apply to Captain LUDLOW, 18 Cornhill. For freight and passage apply to Messrs GLOVER and DUNN, 16 Chancery lane, Manchester; or in London to W. S. LINDSAY and CO., 8 Austin Friars, and 54½ Old Broad street.

**FOR BOMBAY, DIRECT,**

the splendid new fast-sailing frigate-built British ship BARRACKPORE, 816 tons register, E. UNDERWOOD, Commander, loading in the London Docks; will sail punctually on the 1st June. This ship has superior accommodation for Passengers.

For passage, apply to Captain LUDLOW, 18 Cornhill. For freight or passage, apply to Messrs GLOVER and DUNN, 16 Chancery lane, Manchester; or in London to W. S. LINDSAY and CO., 8 Austin Friars, and 54½ Old Broad street.

**FOR HONG-KONG AND SHANGHAI,** to follow the Equator,

the splendid fast-sailing, clipper-built ship LAND O' CAKES, A 1 for 13 years, 561 tons register, J. E. GRANT, Commander, will meet with immediate despatch.

For passage, apply to Captain LUDLOW, 18 Cornhill. For freight and passage, apply to Messrs GLOVER and DUNN, 16 Chancery lane, Manchester; or in London to W. S. LINDSAY and CO., 8 Austin Friars, and 54½ Old Broad street.

**FOR PENANG DIRECT,**

the splendid fast-sailing ship MARY STEWART, A 1, and coppered, 339 tons register, J. DAVISON, Commander; loading in the London Docks; having all her dead weight engaged, and will meet with immediate despatch.

For freight or passage apply to W. S. LINDSAY and CO., 8 Austin Friars, and 54½ Old Broad street.