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CONTENTS

THE ECONOMIST.

Opening of the Exhibition	473	NEWS OF THE WEEK:—	
The Protectionists at Drury Lane	474	Court and Aristocracy	484
North American Agriculture	475	Metropolis	484
Hyde Park and the House of Commons	476	Provinces	485
What gives Dignity to Labour?	476	Ireland	485
The Navigation Laws	477	Foreign and Colonial	485
Tariff—United States	477	Births, Marriages, and Deaths	486
AGRICULTURE:—		Commercial and Miscellaneous News	486
Tenant-Farmers' Complaints	478	Music and the Drama	487
Spirit of the Trade Circulars	479	LITERATURE:—	
FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE:—		Musgrave and other Tales	487
Paris	480	The Manufacture of Beet-root Sugar	
CORRESPONDENCE:—		in Ireland	487
Cotton Crop	481	The Heir of West Wayland	488
The Millers' League	481	Diseases of the Human Hair	488
Farmers and the Income Tax	481	The Newspaper Press Directory	488
IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT	482	The Illustrated Omnibus Guide	488
Parliamentary Papers	483	Books Received	488

THE BANKERS' GAZETTE AND COMMERCIAL TIMES.

Bank Returns and Money Market	489	American Corn and Flour Markets	493
The Bankers' Price Current	490	LONDON MARKETS:—	
Mails	491	State of Corn Trade for the Week	493
Weekly Corn Returns	491	Foreign & Colonial Produce Markets	494
Commercial Epitome	491	Postscript	494
Indigo	492	Additional Notices	494
Cotton	492	Liverpool Markets	495
Exports from the Port of Hull	492	Prices Current	496
Markets of Manufacturing Districts	492	Imports, Exports, &c.	497

THE RAILWAY MONITOR.

Railway Calls	497	Railway Share Market	497
Railway News	497	Railway Share List	498
Railway Traffic Returns	498		

The Political Economist.

NOTE.—The subject of Taxation and Finance will be resumed in our next number.

OPENING OF THE EXHIBITION.

LONDON had a general holiday on Thursday. The bulk of the population were early on foot wending their way to Hyde Park, to be present at the inauguration of the festival of industry. Though her Majesty was, as on all such occasions, the principal attraction, and did not proceed from her Palace till 11 o'clock, yet the great multitude of persons who had tickets, and who fell into a procession reaching from Hyde Park corner almost to Holborn, caused a very early gathering, and long before eight o'clock the streets were filled with persons eager to witness or to share in the great festivity. Crowds, in which were a great many ladies, collected around the doors of the building long before the time appointed for the opening, and though great care was taken to admit them first, it was not without many struggles that the eager visitors, oppressed by their own number and anxiety, obtained admittance. On entering the building there was at first—what might afterwards be the case we know not—a great difficulty in finding the places to which the tickets gave admission. The police, scattered in all directions, knew apparently little of the building, and either gave no directions, or misdirected the different applicants, causing some confusion. With this exception we saw no trouble nor inconvenience; and those who could not find places near the transept to witness the ceremony, were at liberty to roam through the empty shops and empty galleries. In fact, only the space around the centre of the transept could be said to be crowded; and the vastness of the building was vividly impressed on the mind by the knowledge that more than 30,000 persons were assembled, and yet immense spaces, particularly at the eastern end of the building, were vacant and silent. The doors were opened at 9 o'clock, and by 11 most of the long files of carriages had set down the visitors, who were all in their seats or walking about the building awaiting, in quietness and without impatience, the coming of Her Majesty.

They were surrounded with objects of great beauty and attraction, exciting many reflections, and giving great satisfaction. The lofty and light building—the height of which is to the eye, when viewed exteriorly, ridiculously diminished by the vast length which is

seen at the same time, and which is not observed within—was the subject of general admiration. So light and yet so strong, so large and airy while yet so crowded, it was the topic of general praise. The sun shone cheerfully, and yet not dazzlingly, through the glass and canvass-covered roof, imparting a genial temperature, with as much freedom from restriction on the playing of the lungs as in the open air. We know of nothing with which to compare it, but the scattered beauties of the gardens of Versailles, condensed into a single impression, of the eye. The gay building, the genial temperature, the ease with which the great multitude was accommodated, inspired every one with admiration for the genius of Mr Paxton.

In the neighbourhood, too, of the dense crowd under and about the transept, were a great abundance of works of art, such as the Crystal Fountain, equestrian statues of the Queen and Prince Albert, of the wonderful Amazon, the Colossal Lion, &c., &c., which interested and pleased every beholder. Mingled, too, with them were shrubs and other natural objects, while the great tree under the transept, beautifully green with the first shoots of spring, and undyed by one spot of London soot, gave delight to every eye. Colonel Sibthorp, perhaps for the first time in his life, was silently thanked for having performed a great public service in compelling the genius of Paxton to unwonted energy. The Colonel's protest, we believe, preserved the tree and gave us the transept, the noblest part of the building. With so many objects of attraction—with ample liberty for those to move about, if they pleased, who could not get seats, and were not anxious to crowd near the dais for the throne—no great multitude probably ever spent a more delightful time in waiting for a grand ceremony.

We may inform our readers that the place for Her Majesty was nearly in the centre of the transept, and that while the crowd filled the south, the eastern, and the western naves, the northern was kept free for her approach, and only occupied by her guards, attendants, and the police. Very convenient seats were ranged all round the centre of the transept, divided into galleries, marked and numbered so as to be conveniently found by those who had leisure to make themselves acquainted with the place, and were not driven by an onward pressure they knew not whither. Considering the vastness of the multitude, the arrangements were as good as could be made, and the authors and managers of them deserve the thanks of the visitors.

The approach of Her Majesty was first heralded by the applause bestowed on some of the conspicuous men whose arrival preceded that of the Queen. The Duke of Wellington came early, but he remained for a considerable time in the gallery set apart for persons of his rank, and when he descended and passed to his place near the throne, he was most heartily cheered. His Grace was for some time in conversation with the Chinese Commissioner, conspicuous by his robes and his peacock's feather, and, for a time, the observed of all observers. It was curious to see the hero of so many battles surrounded with the votaries of peace from all the nations of the earth. Believing that the Exhibition is one of the signs of great moral improvement, to us the veteran appeared like the emblem of war gone by for ever, and the things around him as the emblems of a better and more glorious humanity dawning on mankind than that of which his triumphs were a necessity and a part.

The impression made by his Grace on the people was light compared to that made by the entrance of Her Majesty and her illustrious Consort, who were welcomed with repeated cheers, His Royal Highness on this occasion, possibly more than any other, participating in that heartfelt loyalty of which Her Majesty is the object. To him the public felt they were mainly indebted for the successful exhibition they were met to inaugurate. To him, too, they were indebted for the privilege of gathering in such numbers to share in a solemn national ceremony, and behold Her Majesty, accompanied by the Prince of Wales, the Princess Royal, and the Court, and their loyalty to the Queen flowed back on the Prince, and gave him a full share of the enthusiastic cheers with which the Royal persons were greeted. The report of the proceedings read by His Royal Highness, and Her Majesty's answer—the

solemn prayer of the Archbishop of Canterbury, whose voice toned amongst the multitude—the sacred music—the gay procession of Her Majesty and a large *cortege* through the building before she declared it open—the number of well-dressed happy people—formed altogether such a scene as will never be forgotten by those who saw it, and perhaps will never be a second time witnessed in any one man's life.

Without pretending on the present occasion to appreciate all the bearings of this Exhibition, the opening of which at the time specified is almost a miraculous achievement, we may briefly notice its moral signification. The Queen of the mightiest empire of the globe—the empire in which industry is the most successfully cultivated, and in which its triumphs have been greatest—was fittingly occupied in consecrating the temple erected to its honour. But we cannot forget that political power which she so righteously wields has not always been equally benignantly employed, and that her presence, and the presence of the great Officers of State on such an occasion, is a profound but a very tardy homage of the political principle, to the noble but hitherto often-despised arts by which mankind are clothed and fed. The presence of the representatives of so many nations, and the sight on the top of the building of so many flags all waving over a common cause, if we cannot say a common country, suggest the contrast between a present national rivalry to serve the interests of humanity, and a past national rivalry only intent on destroying man, and those products of his art and labour which the building is erected to exhibit and to honour.

The contrast and the change we have noticed—the present devotion to peace, and the former appliance to war, telling of a future still more peaceful than the present—the former disdain of political power for humble industry, and the present honour it bestows, telling of a future when the hand or the skill of the labourer shall be held in still higher honour, and so sacred, like the life of which it is a part and a produce, that political power shall no more interfere with it—are convincing proofs of the moral improvement already made; and they give us irresistible assurances that a yet higher destiny awaits our successors even on earth. The Great Exhibition, as a sign of present peace throughout the civilised world, is a subject of great satisfaction; but as a sign of future and permanent peace, and of a community amongst nations, typified by their union in Hyde Park, and of a more glorious humanity than even poets imagined,—it is for reflecting minds a source of delight. In the eighteen hundred or two thousand years during which the Park has been uninterruptedly known to our ancestors and us, it has frequently witnessed at least the mimic pomp of war, but it has never witnessed any similar scene, to that of Thursday nor has any other part of the world; and the Exhibition, which will make Hyde Park for ever memorable, marks a more advanced epoch than even the discovery of printing in the history of humanity.

Some vanities it will foster, some needless luxuries it will encourage, some selfishness to gratify vanity and a desire for luxury it will strengthen—for what human exertion or contrivance is without alloy—some emulation growing into hateful rivalry or morbid spite it will engender, but notwithstanding the effects in this respect of the ostentatious display, it will produce a multitude of good; and the first of May, 1851, will, for a long period, be described in our books as one of the most memorable days in the history of Great Britain, and of the whole human race.

THE PROTECTIONISTS AT DRURY LANE.

SUFFERING makes men dangerous. They are ready to do anything or follow any one who promises them relief. There is no nostrum which the ailing and ignorant man will not swallow when he is told it will do him good. The common miseries of our nature and the credulity of the sufferers make the fortunes of quacks, and give power to pretenders. Such a disposition, unfortunate for individuals, when it infects the masses is dangerous for the community. They become the prey of designing politicians, and without knowing what they do, may put an end to the public tranquillity.

It cannot be denied, at least we have never attempted to deny, that the farmers are now generally in a state of considerable suffering. They are rarely a prosperous race—rarely free from complaints and difficulties—almost always on the brink of insolvency, and unable to resist any kind of pressure. They farm very often with borrowed capital—a sister's portion, a mother's jointure, or a brother's savings—and are thrown into distress whenever the world does not run on smoothly. They are accustomed also to rely on Protection—to look up to their landlords and others for their political opinions; they have comparatively little confidence in their own independent volitions, and, wanting self-reliance, they are apt to be blown down by every storm. Being generally in a poor condition, when they fall into distress they become tools in the hands of others, and it was only as long as the landlords ruled them, and the interest of both was supposed to be identical with the interest of the State, that their loyalty could be boasted of, and they could be described as the pillars of social order. Even then they were ready to operate against townspeople, and were more often in a state of hostility with classes of their own countrymen than with foreigners. Now that it pleases the landlords to be agitators,

and now that the farmers are sufferers, it may be anticipated, therefore, that the latter will be easily excited and aroused, and may become as dangerous as politicians to the common interests.

On Tuesday, a numerous body of these men, or persons representing them, assembled at Drury Lane Theatre. The place was indeed so crowded, that a large party swarmed off under the leadership of Lord Stanhope and Mr G. F. Young, and were hived in St Martin's Hall. On an authority which neither we nor the Protectionists will on this occasion question, that of the *Morning Herald*, we must put down the number present at the two places as nearly 8,000. The occasion was favourable for display. Many of the farmers were attracted to town to witness the opening of the Exhibition—others by cheap excursion trains from the suffering eastern part of England—others again were members of deputations gathered from most of the counties—others again were pleased to look on the nobility and gentry assembled, and all these causes combined to generate a large, boisterous, and yet unanimous meeting. They conceived themselves so numerous and powerful, that one of them proposed they should "request Prince Albert to grant them the use of the Crystal Palace for a day," when "they promised to fill it with a more magnificent exhibition than the world had ever seen, namely, a meeting assembled for the purpose of showing," not as Mr Ball, the mover, said, "that truth is indestructible," for that needs no voucher from those who would tax bread, but to show that the credulous farmers can be led on by political agitators to inflict injury on themselves and their country.

In the present agitation there is a broad distinction between the designs of political agitators and the sufferings of the farmers, arising rather from an unjust law too long continued, than from abolishing it. The latter are to be pitied, but the former are merely seeking to serve their own purposes by inflaming the minds of the farmers. They send round emissaries—they subscribe money and ask for subscriptions—they maintain the machinery of political agitation for a bad purpose, and use all the arts of men having some great grievance to redress when they at least suffer none, and are, like other political agitators, only anxious for a little turmoil. The very best that can be said of them is, that they keep alive discontent, and foster a sense of injury where none has been done. But for them the farmers would attend, even more than they actually do, exclusively to their own business, and leave politics, as was their wont, to their landlords and the Parliament.

As we deny not the sufferings, neither do we deny the sincere belief of the credulous farmers, that Free Trade has made them poor and indebted—has inflicted on them high rents, excessive tithes, too plentiful wages, exorbitant tradesmen's bills, the high price of the cattle they have to buy, the necessity for greater exertion to cultivate the land, and all the other evils of which they now complain and ever have complained. Neither do we deny that they believe, on the authority of Mr Butt, Q.C., from Ireland, that the partial depopulation of that country, and the emigration of many of its people, the criminality of those who remain, and the wretchedness of its inhabitants at all times, have been caused exclusively by Sir Robert Peel's measures of 1842 and 1846. But those who are most credulous are the most fit to become the tools of designing men; they are, too, the more dangerous, now that they have no longer a strong motive for avoiding agitation in the permission they received from the State to levy a tax on the bread of the people. Then the interest of the landlords made it their interest to support the laws as they were.

His Grace the Duke of Richmond, the chairman of the meeting, anxious to win back or extort the permission of the State to levy a tax on bread, "cares not for a conflict with a hundred thousand cotton-spinners," and relies on being followed by the tenant-farmers, and on the farmers being followed by their hardy labourers in the war which his Grace foresees. He has no fear, because the respectable operatives in the manufacturing districts agree more with the Protectionists than with Free-trade cotton-spinners. Whatever his Grace may believe, the farmers no doubt believe on his assertion—as they are accustomed to take such things on trust—that the bulk of the respectable operatives in the manufacturing districts are on their side, and that they will coalesce with them and their hardy labourers in winning back a tax on bread. It weighs not with them that these operatives are now getting excellent wages, and that "hardy labourers" are better off than ever they were—as we heard a farmer state, in fact, too well off—Free Trade having done more to elevate their condition in three years than the philanthropic legislation and paternal bounties of the landlords have done for ages. They believe that no harm will come from appealing, as his Grace proposes, to the operatives against their employers and to the hardy labourers to support a bread tax, making them the judges of the profits of the masters and of the wealth of the landlords, though Socialists and Communists, and those who look to the active exertions of the lower classes under their guidance to regenerate society, must be delighted beyond measure at the observations of his Grace and the assenting cheers of the farmers. There is nothing too gross for the credulity of these men to swallow, when recommended to them by such authorities as the Duke of Richmond and Mr Butt, Q.C., surrounded by several peers, a considerable number of members of

the House of Commons, and a great mass of baronets, knights, squires, and reverend gentlemen. A stage filled with such persons, and a house filled with assenting and cheering farmers, would excite great enthusiasm in the duller natures; and combining the credulity of the farmers with the wealth to be gained by prescribing for his present sufferings, the agitation begins to fore-shadow annoyance and disturbance.

There can no longer be any doubt—when we witness the same performers at Edinburgh and London, and know they are taking the same means to attain the same object, are agitating the country to get back Protection, and place Lord Stanley in office—that this is now altogether a political movement. The farmers, notwithstanding their sufferings, would remain quietly at home, and endeavour to mend their fortunes by attending to their business, did it not suit the political objects of a party to prevent them. They would adapt themselves to their circumstances, and settle with their landlords about rent; but to allow them to do that would let slip the opportunity afforded by their temporary sufferings to place the party that wishes to tax our bread, and undo the policy of the last ten years, in office.

It is of no consequence that the land is now better cultivated than ever it was, and that the want of employment in the agricultural districts is the exception not the rule. The politicians care nothing about such things. They want office, patronage, power; and the farmers are told that they will get high prices if they can only obtain in the House of Commons a majority for Lord Stanley. Accordingly they exert themselves from the hopes of a larger income to upset the Government. That the country is unexampledly prosperous and peaceable—that poor rates are diminishing and crimes decreasing—that we are daily consolidating our own peace and the peace of the world by extending and strengthening commercial relations, can be of no importance to them, because they want them not, and care not one straw about them. They make them their stalking horses, as they make the farmers their tools; but they aim at totally different objects from prosperity at home and peace abroad. They want office, emolument, power. The public welfare might possibly be the consequence of their advent to office, but that is a very remote and feeble consideration; the prime motive is to get fast and firm hold of the office they lately saw within their grasp. For that great object the Protectionist politicians gathered at Edinburgh and at Drury Lane, and for that object they are appealing, with a probability of success, to the passions of credulous following careless though they convulse the empire, and secure the triumph of the worst enemies of society.

Though Protection has been completely overthrown, and though it is certain that it cannot be restored and maintained for any considerable period—though it is contrary to justice, and opposed to progress—yet is this movement of its advocates not to be despised. The greater the certainty of their ultimate failure, the more mischief would a temporary success cause. The more derogatory are their doctrines to sound sense and justice, the more will those who, knowing their character, supinely permit them to triumph be to blame. Let them get a majority—let them be installed in office, and pass a law to impose a fixed duty on corn, and Parliament, even with a majority of a different character, would be slow to undo its own work. The people would have to thunder at its doors, and the success of the Protectionists now might be a revolution hereafter. A large extension of the franchise, admitting every bread-eater to decide on the validity of a tax on bread, which has been threatened by a powerful organ, would be one of the smallest evils of their success. If we would avoid great calamities by reversing the policy of the last ten years, it is now becoming a question whether their opponents should not at once take measures to meet, counteract, and defeat the Protectionists' agitation.

NORTH AMERICAN AGRICULTURE.

CONSTANT as is the communication between this country and the North America, and numerous as are the accounts which have been published, both of the British North American provinces and the United States, it is certain that we possess very little accurate information as to the agricultural capacity of North America. One consequence is, that we entertain the most exaggerated notions of the fertility of the soil, and its grain and meal producing power. Several causes have produced this—first, few travellers or writers have had any practical knowledge of husbandry, or have been able to distinguish good land from bad, and it has been assumed that all the untouched "virgin soil," of which such boundless tracts are seen, may readily be rendered largely productive; and, secondly, it has been an object with the advocates of restriction in this country to foster the belief in the inexhaustible fertility of the corn-growing districts of North America.

At length, however, we have a precise and discriminating account of the agricultural and economical condition of North America in the "Notes" of Professor Johnston, of the University of Durham. In 1849 Mr. Johnston visited North America for the purpose, amongst others, of removing "the mistiness of his own ideas as to the agricultural character and condition of its several great regions, to test the seeming exaggerations in which the natives and residents of this northern part of the New World

"are inclined to indulge;" and to obtain "a clear idea of the relation which American practice bears to English practice; the prospects and success of individual American to those of individual English and Scotch farmers; American past and future surplus wheat to the state and demands of the English market; the life of the settler in these new countries to the life he would have led had he remained at home." On each and all of these topics the author's knowledge of science, and its practical relations with agriculture, enabled him to obtain very clear and accurate views, which he has set forth in a way to render his book the very best manual for intelligent emigrants; whilst to the British agriculturist and general reader it conveys a more complete conception of the social, economical, and agricultural condition of these prosperous regions, than all that has hitherto been written on North America. Our limits do not permit us to follow the author through his interesting tour, and we must be content with stating some of the general conclusions he arrives at, referring our readers to the book itself as one which ought to be carefully read by all.

Now, one of the most important of these conclusions is, that the wheat-exporting power of North America has not only been much exaggerated, but is actually, and not slowly, diminishing. New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Lower Canada are importers of wheat; there is not sufficient wheat grown in those provinces for the consumption of the inhabitants. Their wheat soils have been exhausted, and oats are now grown where wheat formerly was the chief produce. And necessity is forcing on the French inhabitants of these provinces the use of oatmeal as their principal article of food, in spite of their aversion to its use. It appears, from statistics published by the Canadian Board, that while the produce of wheat in Lower Canada increased from 2,931,249 bushels in 1827 to 3,404,756 bushels in 1831, by 1844 it had declined to 942,835; and that the oat crop, which in 1827 was 2,341,529, had by 1844 increased to 7,238,753. Barley and peas had, also, increased in the same period, though in less proportions.

In Canada West, there is still a surplus produce of wheat, but the exhausting process is rapidly going on, so that all the older settled districts, from Montreal to Hamilton, and around the banks of the lakes, rivers, and bays, are what is there termed "worn out"; that is, they would require the generous manuring and skilful management of English farming to become productive of wheat. Probably so long as there are fresh and unoccupied land to fall back upon and to exhaust, individuals may find it easier to move to a new farm than to improve an old one. We agree with Mr. Johnston, however, that it would be more advantageous to the American farmer, settling upon new land, if instead of exhausting all the fertility of his land, he would avail himself of its virgin richness to keep it by good management in a state of permanently higher productiveness. It is a fact, too, which goes far to account for the bad husbandry of North America, that most of the immigrants from Europe have been driven from their farms by inability to progress with the times, either from want of capital or a blind adherence to antiquated practices, and that they have carried with them to their new homes the unthrifty practices and unimproving habits which have driven them from their former homes. And the Atlantic States of the Union, and the western part of New York, once so prolific in wheat, has now become almost exhausted, and Ohio is undergoing the same process, so that in the States the Western States are now the only districts from which a surplus of wheat is obtained, and the great length of the carriage of it to the Atlantic ports adds so much to its cost, that it is not likely to come into competition, except in very abundant seasons, with the growth of this country.

The Genesee valley in the State of New York, which is naturally one of the finest wheat soils in the world, but the produce here at present is not more than 16 bushels to the acre; and from 15 to 18 bushels per acre seems to be the average produce of all the western portion of this State, the fertility of which has been much exhausted. In Michigan, which has been supposed to be very fertile, the average produce of wheat to the acre is only 10½ bushels; and we must recollect that the Winchester bushel is always the measure used in America. We close our present notice of this valuable book—for we shall return to it on a future occasion—with the statement of a Syracuse (in New York) farmer as to the state and profits of husbandry in that district, and with whose opinions in all essential points many of the persons our author met with agreed. He said—"The results of my personal experience are that money is not to be made by farming in this State. If a farmer hire two men and work with them, and keep them at their work, he may maintain his family, and clear 8 per cent. upon the value of his farm. But if he farm more largely as a gentleman farmer, leaving the management to an overseer, he will not make more than, perhaps, 2 or 3 per cent. Farming is much less profitable in my county of Onondaga, during the last five years, than it used to be. Exhaustion has diminished the produce of wheat, formerly the great staple of the country. When the wheat fell off, barley, which at first yielded 50 or 60 bushels, was raised year after year till the land fell away from this also, and became full of weeds. It still grows 50 bushels of Indian corn, and this is the best crop we now get—but it must be manured. Much is now laid down to grass to be recruited; but

"those who are anxious to make money, are turning their hands to something else, and either selling or letting their farms. A farm in a good situation can be let to pay 5 per cent.; but as 7 per cent. is easy to be got for money, few persons care to continue the owners of farms which they cannot cultivate themselves, and can only let to yield a return like this.

On the other hand, Mr Johnston found some of the most intelligent agriculturists who asserted that, notwithstanding the high price of labour, land might be so farmed with hired labour as to return a good profit; but, practically, that is not much done in North America, and at present its husbandry is really in a very primitive state.

HYDE PARK AND THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE debate of Thursday evening in the House of Commons was a sad contrast to the splendid scene in Hyde Park in the early part of the day. At the latter all was harmony, kindness, and love, and men from all parts of the earth joined in expressing gratitude to the one Living God in these words:—

"We acknowledge, O Lord, that Thou hast multiplied on us blessings which Thou mightest most justly have withheld. We acknowledge that it is not because of works of righteousness which we have done, but of Thy great mercy, that we are permitted to come before Thee with the voice of thanksgiving, and that instead of humbling us for our offences Thou has given us cause to thank Thee for Thine abundant goodness. And now, O Lord, we beseech Thee to bless the work which Thou hast enabled us to begin, and to regard with Thy favour our purpose of knitting together in the bonds of peace and concord the different nations of the earth; for with Thee, O Lord, is the preparation of the heart in man. Of Thee it cometh that violence is not heard in our land, wasting nor destruction within its borders. It is of Thee, O Lord, that nations do not lift up the sword against each other, nor learn war any more; it is of Thee that peace is within our walls and plenteousness within our palaces; it is of Thee that knowledge is increased throughout the world, for the spirit of man is from Thee, and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth him understanding. Therefore, O Lord, not unto us, not unto us, but unto Thy name be all the praise. While we survey the works of art and industry which surround us, let not our hearts be lifted up that we forget the Lord our God, as if our own power and the might of our hands had gotten in this wealth. Teach us ever to remember that all this store which we have prepared cometh of Thine hand and is all Thine own. Both riches and honour come of Thee, and Thou reignest over all. In Thine hand it is to make great and to give strength unto all. Now, therefore, O God, we thank Thee; we praise Thee and entreat Thee so to overrule this assembly of many nations that it may tend to the advancement of Thy glory, to the diffusion of Thy holy word, to the increase of general prosperity, by promoting peace and good-will among the different races of mankind."

In the morning but one voice of general friendship was heard, and the nation, by its chief Hierarchy, thanked God for the assembling among us of so many nations. The hero of a hundred fights was gossiping with the apostle of peace. Her Majesty received with equal kindness the Jew treasurer, Baron Rothschild, and the Dissenting finance committee-man, Mr Peto. "A peaceful place it was but now," says Mr Thackeray in his admirable "May-day Ode":—

"A peaceful place it was but now
And lo! within its shining streets
A multitude of nations meet:
A countless throng,
I see beneath the crystal bow,
And Gaul and German, Russ and Turk,
Each with his native handiwork
And busy tongue.

I felt a thrill of love and awe
To mark the different garb of each,
The changing tongue, the various speech
Together blent.

A thrill, methinks, like His who saw
"All people dwelling upon earth
"Praising our God with solemn mirth
"And one consent."

Our brethren cross the Atlantic tides,
Loading the gallant decks which once
Roared a defiance to our guns
With peaceful store;
Symbol of peace, their vessel rides!
O'er English waves float Star and Stripe,
And firm their friendly anchors gripe
The father shore!

From Rhine and Danube, Rhone and Seine,
As rivers from their sources gush
The swelling flood of nations rush,
And seaward pour:
From coast to coast in friendly chain,
With countless ships we bridge the straits
And angry Ocean separates
Europe no more.

From Mississippi and from Nile—
From Baltic, Ganges, Bosphorus,
In England's Ark assembled thus
Are friend and guest.
Look down the mighty sunlight aisle,
And see the sumptuous banquet set,
The brotherhood of nations met
Around the feast!"

Adjourning from the peaceful, blissful scene—full of present harmony and abundantly rich in future promise—to the House of Commons a few short hours later, and there nothing is heard but the strife of tongues, Christian declaiming against Jew, Churchman against Dissenter, Englishman is pitted against Irishman, and all the fierce rancour of sectarians and of the narrowest nationality is poured forth with nearly all the bitterness of bigotry. A more sad and sorrowful moral contrast—a contrast more unsuitable to the day—more unworthy of the cordial invitation we had given to Jews and Christians, Buddhists and Mussulmen, to come to the show of peaceful industry from all parts of the world—more insulting to the many thousand men of a different faith from the one narrow species of Christianity professed by a part only of our community—a contrast more derogatory to the national character and to the House of Commons—it has never been our lot to ponder over with feelings of sorrow and shame for our country. By a narrow majority of only 25 in a house of 379 members, 177 members receiving the announcement of their great number and of the narrow majority with cheers and exultation, was the second reading of the bill for the relief of the Jews carried. It only required the narrow majority to be on the other side, to make the debate as disastrous as it was offensive. We will not indulge in personality, nor say one word of narrow sectarianism or legal quibbles; we content ourselves with pointing out to our readers the deep blow inflicted on the reputation of our country by so many gentlemen on such a day giving such a vote, and applauding such language and such proceedings. England aspires in Hyde Park, by her Sovereign, her assembled nobles, her citizens from every quarter of the land—a representation perhaps of every class—to take the lead in the great moral fusion of peoples and nations into one common humanity; and England, by a large number of her authorised representatives, strives in the Palace of the Sovereign at Westminster, where is legally enthroned the majesty of the people, to preserve the narrowest sectarian distinctions, and cherish the enmities of races and creeds. We mark the fact with deep regret for the House of Commons, which goes far to abdicate its place as the leader of the nation in the glorious mission it set forth on with delight from Hyde Park. The proceedings of the morning are strictly in harmony with the laws which determine the progress of society, and the proceedings, happily, of a minority in the House of Commons, were totally discordant with the spirit of the age and the mission of the nation.

WHAT GIVES DIGNITY TO LABOUR?

THE "dignity of labour" is a modern phrase of much significance. It seems to have been imported from the United States, and Channing, Emerson, and other popular writers, have given it extensive currency whoever may have invented it. The great Industrial Exhibition of all Nations recognizes the principle and is intended to increase the dignity of labour. It gathers together numberless products of skill and industry, and by the very act renders a profound homage to the art and hand of the labourer. It combines, as is done in the case of individuals, the highest products of intellect with the common labour of the hands, and unites beauty with ordinary drudgery. It may be considered as a continuation and a part of the policy or progress which in modern times and times of peace has led governments—for them a rare case—to think of providing for the wants, comforts, health, education, and morality of the masses. The avowed attempt made of late to couple a kind of parental care for them with the coercion which was heretofore considered the principal duty of governments, and which was obviously weakened to a mere rush-like support by the abolition of capital punishment in many cases and by the kindness bestowed on criminals, is a deference to the labouring classes. The attention given to emigration, the numerous societies formed to improve the condition of the lower classes, the bitter complaints which fill some journals of the neglect they are exposed to, the reduction of taxes and restrictions on industry, and on the means of supplying the wants of the labouring classes, the desire to relieve them from taxation and throw it on property, all tend to give dignity to labour. When we recollect that in the ancient world labour was almost invariably conjoined with slavery, the respect to which it has now attained marks one of the greatest and most beneficial changes in society that through ages have taken place; and it is worth while to advert briefly to some of those causes of the change which lie on the surface.

Labour is highly respected, notwithstanding the terrible slavery in the South, in the United States of America. It is carried to a much greater extent in England than in many of the countries of the Continent; we may infer, therefore, that it is connected with political freedom. It is in fact plain, that where many regulations and restrictions are carried into effect, the authors and supporters of them being considered essential to the preservation of society, while common drudgery can be performed

by all, must engross the respect of society. When that ceases, their power comes to an end. Many regulations and restrictions, therefore, such as prevail in France and Germany, necessarily raise all kinds of officials above the labourers in the useful arts, and tend comparatively to degrade their labour. If some kinds of labour, such as that of the press, and some kinds of arts, such as those of sculpture and painting, are elevated, it is rather as handmaids to the regulating classes than from a sense of their inherent dignity. The principle of such a distinction is inherited from a time of slavery. The upper and ruling classes were the masters of slaves, and many modern laws are the continuation of the police regulations of the nations of antiquity in which slavery prevailed. Freedom, therefore, as we find it in England and in the United States, is one of the sources of the modern idea that there is much dignity in labour. Free Trade adds to this dignity, and is a part, therefore, of the general ordained progress of society.

Competition, which is connected with freedom, is another source. It is not confined to mere manual labourers; it pervades all classes of society. Capitalists as well as landowners are competitors. They must labour and exert themselves to be successful against each other. An increase in families divides property, and those who could live in ease and splendour without labour, cannot leave the same advantages to numerous children. But the respect and dignity which belong to property can be transmitted to them, and is extended to the labour they are obliged to perform. Competition is usually spoken of as carrying with it the degradation of the labourer. Nothing can be more false. It is competition amongst capitalists, which, compelling them more and more to be also labourers or to exert themselves, while they are in possession of far greater advantages than labourers, which has spread all the dignity that naturally belongs to wealth and power, and that naturally belongs to superiority, from the upper to the middle and lower classes of society. Without competition, labour, solitary and isolated, would have remained mere drudgery—the wrestling of feeble individuals with the great material powers around them giving a perpetual sense of infinite inferiority. It is by man struggling with man, not by struggling with Nature, that he acquires a sense of superiority; and as each man has some peculiar attributes and advantages, the sense is without degradation for any one, while it elevates all. It is by competition with one another that men win more from Nature, and come to understand that, by combination of their strength, they can achieve what excites our wonder and delight.

These considerations seem to us worthy the attention of Socialists and Communists, as well as Protectionists. None of their schemes can possibly exist without numerous regulations. They are the children of a forcing system, and require regulations and restrictions to bring them into existence and maintain them. They carry with them, therefore, great respect for those who make and maintain constitutions of society. They give a false dignity to the very valueless kind of industry practised by the Louis Blancs and Fourriers. They degrade labour to a task, imposed by regulations, while the emulation of competition has all the ennobling dignity of voluntary exertion. The progress of society, as at present constituted, carrying it fast away from the old forms which are the objects of dislike to the Communists and the Socialists, is daily elevating labour in the consideration of mankind. Princes acknowledge its merits and are proud to share the admiration that belongs to it. Communists and Socialists and Protectionists would deprive, so far as they could, labour of these advantages, and make it pitiful and soulless drudgery. In their eagerness to rescue labourers from the rags of the old degradation which still flutter around them, they would fix on them the fetters of a worse system, and make them consenting parties to a worse degradation.

THE NAVIGATION LAWS.

THE value of the following letter is that it is written by one practically engaged in trade, and who explains in a practical way some of the causes of the shipowners' complaints:—

To the Editor of the Economist.

SIR,—I have lately perused the article headed "Navigation Accounts for 1850," in a recent number of your Journal, in which some very good explanations are given of the "apparent" falling off in the amount of British tonnage entered "inwards" from foreign parts in 1850, as compared with the preceding year. I say "apparent" falling off, for I am compelled to think it is so, and I am satisfied that the way in which the accounts have been handled and quoted of late, shows that the question has not been "fully" entered into.

About a month ago we were surprised to read of the "collective wisdom" of the nation in Parliament assembled, cheering Mr Herries when interrupting Sir James Graham in his speech, and correcting him in his assertion when he said the diminution of British tonnage reported inwards, as compared with 1849, was only 3,000 to 4,000 tons, and then with pompous solemnity exclaiming that it was 330,000 tons! I really hope that if any notion was entertained from this statement (true enough, *per se*) that the ruin of British ships, by the repeal of the hampering Navigation Laws, was thereby proved, that the cheers following such an announcement were confined to the "Protectionists," for really such an appalling instance of gullibility is somewhat astounding, and is well calculated to bring the character of the debating power of the House of Commons into disrepute.

If Mr Herries and his backers had ever been accustomed, as—and others of my fellow-brokers in merchants' offices have, to the drawing up of annual and semi-annual statistical statements, he would have paused before allowing his friends to jump in such a Rhode-like fashion to such a tremendously

distant conclusion, and have waited until the matter had been turned over in his mind, to see if there could not possibly be any qualifying or collateral circumstances to take into account.

My own impression is, that an annual account made up in the way evidenced is very fallacious, and that nothing less than a cycle of three years or more will suffice for full and conclusive evidence. For every one conversant with accounts in any shape must know, that if an attempt be made to draw up an account of the position of any one interested in the preceding twelve months' business, and if the nature of such business precluded the possibility of obtaining a speedy return of outlay, say not for four or five months and upwards, and no careful calculation be made of *outstandings*, the result would be apparently disastrous or unexpectedly fortunate, and nothing could be more deceptive; but if, on the other hand, the nature of the transactions were such that a speedy return of capital expended was possible, say once in one or two months, then probably a mere striking of the balance between income and outlay would suffice, and the actual result would nearly show the actual profit or loss. And I contend that in this case of the boasted evidence of falling off in our inward carrying trade by British ships from foreign parts, the conclusion is based upon quite as groundless statements, and proves nothing in the way contended for.

If "all" voyages could be performed out and home in two or three months, there might be less objection to such a conclusion, provided it could be shown that such ships were laid up (perhaps "broom" masted) in some dock for want of employment; but when every one is well aware that a large number of ships are employed in trades that compel their absence from home on a voyage of six to eight months, and some for longer trips than even this, then I contend such reasoning will no longer hold good; for it will be found that such ships will appear reported *twice inwards* in one year, and only *once outwards*, and the next year they will figure *once inwards*, and *twice outwards*, or if in ballast, *only once*; and this has been, as you justly remark, an event of far too common occurrence to indicate a healthy state of things.

During the last two years a larger number of ships have been thrown into the long voyage East India trade than usual by the deficiency of the cotton and other crops in the United States, and the discrepancy is thus apparently made greater.

The returns of British ships reported inwards from foreign parts stands somewhat thus:—

	Tons.
1845	3,600,000
1847	4,230,000 increase.
1848	4,030,000 decrease.
1849	4,400,000 in rease.
1850	4,070,000 decrease.

Now, although I don't profess to be a prophet, I should not hesitate to predict that in 1851, as great or greater an increase would appear to have taken place from 1850, as 1849 shows to 1848, and put it thus:—

1850	4,070,000 as above	} in alternate years.
1851	4,500,000 increase	
1852	4,100,000 decrease	
1853	4,500,000 increase	

I can see no more ground for lachrymose lament over the supposed dismal falling off in 1850 as compared with 1849, than I should for exuberant joy at the increase in 1849 over 1848. Both differences are apparent only, not real; and such statements will afford no clue to the merits of the case, without a much more careful weighing of the material points affecting the issue than is made by those who are attempting to reason on this subject at the present moment.

There is another circumstance, too, that has conduced to raise a dismal howl of indignant protest from Conservative (?) shipowners. I allude to the temporary fall in freights from the comparative high rates not long ago current in the East Indian seas. This, it is contended, is as

Ominous a sign in all countries,
As when crows and ravens croak upon trees.

But though this decline be only temporary, I agree with you it would be ridiculous to expect a return to the good old times of 6*l* to 7*l* or 8*l* per ton; for I remember in my own experience (not very extended), when some few years ago merchants were often backed of a profitable business in importing produce from these parts, by the absolute want of any shipping at hand; when orders were delayed in execution for months. Nay, it is notorious that orders for produce from merchants (who were not shipowners, and did not send a conveyance along with the instructions for shipment) were made out, in which the matters for *first attention* and primary importance were "freight engagements," and was no small source of anxiety and annoyance to those interested in executing the order. It is to be hoped in future that the effect of the repeal of the Navigation Laws will be shown in, doing away with such embarrassing circumstances, and that merchants will not have to dance after shipowners as they have too frequently been compelled to do.

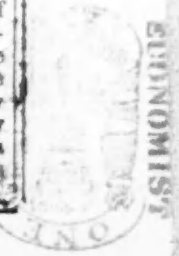
The real secret of the whole matter is, that the "shipowning business" (as it is called) is fast passing into new and a dier hands—men of larger means and more "go-ahead" enterprise, who are not horrified at the term "Cosmopolitan." This is evident to me by the number of new ships of improved models building, and quiet and ready sale of good and newly constructed ships, and the utter impossibility of parting with "old tubs" on any terms short of giving them away.

Your remarks about the decrease of ships leaving this country in ballast are true enough. In my present position I have ample means of testing this from actual experience. I know of no instance of ships leaving here in ballast during the last eighteen or twenty months to those parts where such an occurrence was frequent in the annals of trade; indeed, it is here a well known fact, that in the extensive trade to the Western World (America) the "piling" freights have been the *outward* ones with emigrants and export, while the inward rates have, in some instances, fallen off a little. British ships of good class always command a good share of pickings—the antiquated ones, of course, drag on a slow existence, and really putting some of them out of their existence would benefit all parties.

I must have trespassed on you time and patience long enough, and so conclude.—Your obedient servant, W. B.

TARIFF.—UNITED STATES.

THE following is the text of the circular which the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States has issued to the Customs Department to explain the manner in which the New Tariff is to come into effect. All the items which make up the charges that are to be included in the price for determining the *ad valorem* duty are clearly set forth, and freight is expressly excluded, though the Secretary says, "had the Treasury Department been now called upon to give a construction to the phraseology of the present law as regards



"this point, without reference to the wording of previous Tariff Acts, or to the uniform practice of the Department on the subject, it might come to a different conclusion."

TREASURY CIRCULAR.—OFFICIAL.

Circular Instructions to Collectors and other Officers of the Customs.

Treasury Department, March 27, 1851.

The following instructions are issued for the strict observance and government of the respective officers of the Customs in carrying into effect the provisions of the annexed Act of Congress, approved 3rd March, 1851, entitled "An Act to amend the Act regulating the appraisement of imported merchandise and for other purposes," which takes effect on and after the first day of April next.

It will be perceived, on examination of this Act, that it fixes the period of *exportation* to the United States as the time when the actual market value or wholesale price of any goods, wares, or merchandise, in the principal markets of the country from which the same shall have been imported into the United States, is to be appraised, estimated, and ascertained. This provision consequently supersedes and abrogates so much of the provisions of the sixteenth section of the Tariff Act of 30th August, 1842, as requires the market value or wholesale price to be appraised, estimated, and ascertained at the time when the goods were *purchased*.

The exportation contemplated by the Act is not deemed to apply exclusively to goods laden on board a vessel at a shipping port in the country of which the goods may be the growth, production, or manufacture, but likewise applies to any goods exported from any interior country remote from the seaboard having no shipping port, being *bona fide* destined in the regular course of trade for shipment to some owner, consignee, or agent residing in the United States, of which, satisfactory proof must be produced at the time of entry. For example goods thus exported from Switzerland, being of the origin of that country, which can only be, or most usually are, exported through the seaports of France; or goods from Saxony or other interior German possessions which must be, or most usually are, conveyed to a seaport for exportation to the United States. In these and analogous cases the exportation to the United States may be deemed to commence at the period when the goods leave the country of production or origin, and the true market value in the principal markets of said country is to be ascertained and appraised, to which is to be added, as dutiable charges, the cost of transportation to the port of shipment, with the expenses thereat, until the goods are actually laden on board the vessel in which they may be shipped to the United States.

Where goods are shipped directly from the country of origin, the bill of lading will ordinarily establish the period of exportation, and in the other cases referred to, the date of the authentication of the invoice by consular certificate; but, in the absence of such proof, other evidence satisfactory to the United States appraisers may be taken to fix said period.

Where goods have not been actually purchased, the invoice must exhibit the actual market value or wholesale price at the period of exportation, with all charges included, in lieu of such value at the time and place of procurement or manufacture, as required by the 8th section of the Act of March 1, 1823, and the oath required to be taken on entry may be so modified as to meet the case. When goods have been actually purchased, the invoice must, as heretofore, exhibit the true cost of the goods, and the owner, consignee, or agent, will still retain the privileges allowed by the 8th section of the Tariff Act of the 30th July, 1846, of adding to the entry to raise the cost or value given in the invoice to the true market value or wholesale price of the goods at the period of exportation, and will, moreover, become subject to the other provisions of said section.

The actual market value or wholesale price at the period of exportation to the United States having been appraised, estimated, and ascertained, upon the principles before stated, it becomes requisite to determine and fix the true dutiable value at the port where the goods may be entered, and upon which the duties are to be assessed. The law enjoins that there shall be added thereto "all costs and charges except insurance, and including, in every case, a charge for commissions at the usual rates." These charges are as follows, to wit:—

First. They must include "purchasing, carriages, bleaching, dyeing, dressing, finishing, putting up and packing," together with the value of sack, package, box, crate, hogshed, barrel, bale, cask, can and covering of all kinds, bottles, jars, vessels, and demijohns.

Second. Commission at the usual rate, but in no case less than 2½ per cent.; and where there is a distinct brokerage, or where brokerage is a usual charge at the place of shipment or purchase, that to be added likewise.

Third. Export duties, cost of placing cargoes on board ship, including drayage, labour, bill of lading, lighterage, town dues, and shipping charges, dock or wharf dues, and all charges to place the article on ship-board, and fire insurance, if effected for a period prior to the shipment of the goods to the United States.

Discounts are never to be allowed in any case, except on articles where it has been the uniform and established usage heretofore, and never more than the actual discount positively known to the appraiser; but in no case to be allowed unless it is exhibited on the face of the invoice. Special attention is called to this item of discounts, as, from information received by the Department, it is believed that numerous frauds have been practised on the revenue by excessive and unusual discounts being deducted on the invoices produced at the time of entry; and in no case are they to be allowed, except such per centage as may be ascertained to be customary on the different articles respectively at the places of purchase or shipment. Marine insurance is exempted by law.

Inquiry having been made whether freight from the country or place of exportation to the United States is to be embraced amongst the dutiable charges, it becomes proper to remark, that under no former revenue or tariff Act has such freight ever been deemed a

dutiable charge; but, on the contrary, it has uniformly been decided by the Department to be exempt therefrom.

If the Department were now called upon to give a construction to the phraseology of the present law as regards this point, without reference to the wording of previous Tariff Acts, or to the uniform practice of the Department on the subject, it might come to a different conclusion; but the language of the Act of 30th August, 1842, as regards the items of charges which are to form a portion of the dutiable value of goods, is precisely similar to that of the present law, and the construction put upon the former having been that freight from the port of shipment to the port of importation does not form a charge subject to duty, the Department, after very full and mature consideration, does not feel authorised now to change that construction, especially in the absence of any explicit legal designation of freight as a dutiable item, presuming that, as Congress was of course aware of the long practice of the Department on the subject, its views would have been clearly expressed respecting it, had the Legislature intended that the change should be introduced of including freight as one of the charges on which duty was to be levied.

In addition to the construction thus put upon the Tariff Act of 1842, and uniformly acted upon since that time, the records of the Department show that the question has been frequently brought to its attention as far back as 1799, under statutes of similar import to the present one, and extending through all the subsequent years down to the present time, and its invariable decision has been that freight to the port of importation was not an item subject to duty.

It will be seen that the second section of the Act gives full force and validity to the certificate of any one of the United States appraisers to establish the appraisement of any goods, wares, and merchandise required by existing laws at ports where there are United States appraisers; and at ports where no such appraisers exist similar validity is given to the certificate of appraisement issued by the revenue officer to whom is committed the estimating and collection of duties, as enjoined by the twenty-second section of the Tariff Act of 30th August, 1842. The law is deemed to refer to the certificate of a principal appraiser, or of one of the appraisers at large, appointed under the third section of the Act heretofore annexed, and not of an assistant appraiser.

Although the certificate before referred to is made conclusive evidence of any appraisement, yet it is to be distinctly understood that the law does not contemplate any relaxation or change in respect to the due inspection, examination, and other necessary acts required of the appraisers in making appraisements in pursuance of existing laws and regulations.

The regulations respecting the duties of the appraisers at large, appointed under the third section of this Act, will form the subject of separate circular instructions.

WM. L. HONGE,
Acting Secretary of the Treasury.

Agriculture.

TENANT-FARMERS' COMPLAINTS.

We turn from the too obviously political meeting, got up by the Duke of Richmond and his clique at Drury Lane Theatre on Tuesday last, to a more humble but more genuine meeting of farmers in Cheshire, at the "Wirral Agricultural Improvement Society," for an exposition of the real wants and true difficulties of the tenant-farmers at this moment. And we well know that the difficulties of farmers in many districts are sufficiently great, though not as many of their "friends" would have believed either insuperable or overwhelming. The class whose position is the worst, consists of the occupiers of small heavy land farms, who have not capital or energy—and we may add security of tenure—sufficient to put their farms into a fit state for profitable occupation, and whose landlords have not the will or the power to make the necessary improvements. All such farms require to be drained, to have additional buildings erected, and to have hedgerows and timber removed, before a tenant, let him be ever so enterprising, can be expected to expend more money in manures, better tillage, or improved stock. Yet it is only by means of extra manure, improved cultivation of the land, whether arable or pasture, and the better management of stock, that the small clay land farmers can hope to make a decent living by their business. If an occupier of a wet heavy land unimproved farm does not see his way to its permanent improvement, either by his landlord or himself, we tell him that he had far better quit it and go to work even for wages than continue to struggle on hopeless against a combination of adverse circumstances. And this is quite irrespective of protection or no protection, for so strong an impulse has of late years been given to agricultural improvement, and so widely extending is the circle of progress in husbandry, that if it were possible to exclude foreign competition—which it is not—the home competition of better farmers would effectually swamp the occupiers of unimproved clay farms. Nevertheless, much may be done with clay land, even by small occupiers, provided they are fairly met in the way of permanent amelioration by their landlords. And the opinions expressed by the practical farmers of Wirral coincide with this view. The association we refer to was established for the useful purposes thus stated by the Chairman of the evening:—

It was arranged we should meet the first Tuesday in each month, and the leading subject should be the farming operations required in that month. Accordingly we met regularly every month, the secretary took minutes of the proceeding, and at the year's end we had them printed in the form of a pamphlet, which is very highly prized by many, as containing the most useful and practical information on the agriculture of this district, which has just appeared in print. In addition to this we have a list of subjects for consideration, such as the best and most profitable breeds of cattle to keep in this district, either for dairy or grazing. The most suitable breeds of sheep, pigs, and the best sort of horses, implements, &c., and a variety of other subjects too numerous to mention, besides the advantage of getting information respecting the markets, prices, and the useful news of the day. And last, but not least, the pleasure

of becoming intimately acquainted with persons in the neighbourhood, which has a tendency to produce that reciprocity of good feeling which is desirable in every district.

Such a society with such objects fully acted out, cannot fail to be of great use in any agricultural district. Each member will be able to communicate something that may be turned to account either as an example or a warning; the more intelligent and skilful will aid their inferior brethren by statements of improved practices and their results; while the most inveterate stickler for old ways can scarcely attend the discussion of rural subjects without having his prejudices shaken, when the pecuniary gain of better farming shall be repeatedly brought to his attention. Another member, Mr Nield, of Spittal Hall farm, in proposing "Prosperity to the agricultural interest of the hundred of Wirral," took occasion to state his views of the present position of the tenants of that district; and as he was greeted with the applause of the meeting, we may assume that he expressed the opinions of the farmers of that locality entertain on their situation and prospects. Mr Nield said, "I fancy that farmer [of the hundred of Wirral], if there be one whose balance sheet on the past year shows a satisfactory result, is a very rare exception to the general rule," and then he adds—for the good man is a bit of a Protectionist,—

We sometimes hear it remarked that farmers are always grumbling about the times. I consider that this an ungracious remark, and only made by those who know little about the real character of an English farmer; and I fancy if some of those noisy, meddling, agitating politicians, who so slur the character of the farmer, were placed upon a clay land farm, out of which to pay their way and maintain a family, they would learn some practical wisdom, and would be forced to admit there must be something wrong in a system which worked certain loss to the occupier in spite of all his exertions.

But he counselled not despondency, though he seemed to think the present state of commercial and manufacturing prosperity was, "owing to recent legislation, abstracted from the agricultural interest;" and added that "a persisting in our present course must produce a direct taxation—with re-adjustment of rent, and all rent-charges—to meet present prices." Be it so; we have often said with Mr Nield, "how constantly we hear at our agricultural gatherings that landlords and tenants are in one boat—that their interests are reciprocal; this is quite a mistake." He thought rents ought to be now adjusted on the principle of a corn rent. And he said, with some force, that farmers must choose parliamentary representatives from their own body, if they expected to have their interests fairly represented in the legislature. One practical difficulty in the way of electing tenant-farmer representatives—apart from all others—consists in this, that a farmer's business especially requires the master's constant personal superintendence, which would be scarcely compatible with his parliamentary duties; but farmers may, if they please, select representatives who would watch their interests in legislation, which are usually distinct from and generally antagonistic to those of the landowners, under whose guidance farmers now almost exclusively act in politics. A correspondent, writing from this same district of Wirral, also tells us that "tenant-farmers throughout England [he probably judges of the whole from examples in his own locality] are in a bad case, and prospectively so too; and they must have rents, rates, tithe, labour, and tradesmen's bills made to sympathise with the altered prices of their produce."

Now, with perhaps the exception of the small clay land farmers, we more than doubt whether the occupiers of England are in a bad case prospectively, though doubtless the recent fall in prices has occasioned much present inconvenience; and we believe that it rests mainly with tenant farmers themselves to adjust rents, rates, and tradesmen's bills in accordance with present prices, while the tithe rent-charge will necessarily under the Commutation Act conform to the prices of grain. Over the price of labour farmers will have less control, for the progress of agricultural improvement is in most rural districts creating an increased demand for labour, which must keep up wages. But then the quality of the well-paid labour will be better, and the active farmer will have as much of his work as possible done by piece-work, and so get more work for his money, while the labourer gets the benefit of high pay for active exertion. The poor rates, also, will be further diminished by the better employment of the working classes. It will be useful in forming a judgment of these Cheshire complaints to learn something of the state of husbandry in the hundred of Wirral, and for that purpose we turn to the "Essay on the Farming of Cheshire," which in 1844 received the prize of the Royal Agricultural Society; we there find some statements which lead to the belief that the hundred is for the most part badly farmed, and that it requires only exertion and co-operation on the part of the landlords and tenants to effect an improvement to the full equivalent to the fall in prices.

The writer of this Essay says—"The agriculture of Cheshire is not of so high a character as that of some other counties in England; and perhaps it exhibits as great a variety of methods and as bad specimens of farming as can possibly be conceived." And of the hundred of Wirral, quoting a correspondent, the essayist says—"This may be said to be a dairy district, where the farmers chief attention is paid to his grass lands. The small extent of land which he is allowed by his tenure to plough, varying in extent from 1-3d to 1-4th and 1-5th of the whole farm, that portion which is under tillage is very soon reduced to poverty by wheat, oats, and clover in succession, with but very little assistance of either manure or cleaning applied to it; and in many instances the farmer comes to a stand-still for want of produce of straw; he is then compelled to request his landlord to allow him to break up a piece of his grass land 'to give him something' as he says, and the tenant has no hesitation in return to consent that a piece of his old tilled land shall rest. Rest indeed it must, as probably it has not done so for forty years."

And draining is notoriously much wanted throughout Cheshire; on this head it is said as to Wirral—"Rapid strides towards improvement [what an equivocal expression] in this branch of husbandry have been made within the last six or eight years; but from the

tenure being yearly the credit or discredit (as the case may be) should rest entirely with the landlord. About one-thirtieth part of the district has been drained within the last twenty years." Thus it would be seen that the "rapid strides towards" draining in Wirral have not yet reached the point of effective improvement, and consequently we are not surprised that it was thought necessary by the farmers in that district to call upon their landlords for reductions of rent, or that they deem their prospects as farmers not very cheerful. Then as to the implements used in Wirral hundred, we learn that "the plough varies in size, shape, and make, just as the located wheelwright fancies he pleases his customers by new shapes or sizes of implements. Little can be said in praise of any, and little will be said till the ploughman can do his day's work without a driver." Then as to tenures, that yearly tenancies are most prevalent in Wirral, and under the head of manures, it is stated, by the correspondent from Wirral, that "no improvements have been made in this district since 1808, except tile-draining to the extent before mentioned. Bone dusting, marling, and manuring were quite as well understood in 1808 as they seem to be here in 1844; and their increased application, and even draining, have only been practised in instances where tenants and landlords have both been well satisfied that mutual advantages would arise from such improvement."

Again, as to fences, the essayist says—"Some farmers not only never think of cutting their fences till thorns are wanted, but they never cleanse their ditches till they become so full that the water from them begins to flow over the adjoining land." Can anything more strikingly illustrate the defective management of the land than that statement? And in summing up his case, the reporter says—"While the agriculturists of this district make no pretensions to the palm of peculiar merit, they cannot admit the imputation of being the 'very worst farmers' in the kingdom." This is, however, a very faint denial of the charge which, we believe, is commonly made against the Cheshire farmers. And the writer appends to his report a sort of itinerary of the country, in which he says—"Commenced a tour through the hundred of Wirral, at Chester, and proceeded in a westerly direction. About the hundred, observed a large tract of land in a most wretched state of cultivation from want of draining; the land is a very thin soil, a great portion of clay being turned up in ploughing very shallow furrows; the butts are small and flat; in many fields not more than three feet wide, and in some not more than two feet six inches; every rein full of water, and the gutters not more than three or four inches deep."

It is plain, from the above extracts, that the Wirral Improvement Society have an ample field for useful discussion, without getting upon the vexed questions of protection or taxation. If we might venture to suggest to them topics for consideration, let them discuss and determine the extent to which draining is required in their district, the best methods of executing the work effectively and the cost, and the manner and proportions in which such cost should be contributed by landlord and tenant; let them ascertain the increased produce likely to be derived from the land when effectively drained; let them also consider to what extent it would be profitable to break up pastures, and the amount of profit likely to be derived therefrom; and having settled these points, let them estimate the degree in which such improvements would form an equivalent for low prices; and having come to a decisive opinion on these points, let each man go to his landlord and require such readjustment of his contract as, upon a dispassionate view of all the circumstances of the times, may be just.

SPIRIT OF THE TRADE CIRCULARS.

(From Messrs Grant and Hodgson's Tobacco Circular.)

London, May 1, 1851.

In the early part of last month business was extremely limited, being almost confined to a few small parcels of strips, two or three purchases for Ireland, and about 60 hds of Maryland. Subsequently sales have been effected to a large extent, particulars of which have not yet transpired; but we are fully warranted in stating that several parcels of western strips have been taken by influential buyers, who are no doubt fully in possession of the instructions given to the stemmers to reduce very materially the make of strips at their factories in America. A course of this kind is not improbable, as the parties most deeply interested are still the holders of a large portion of the imports of last season. It is reasonable to presume that the transactions referred to may have considerable effect on prospective prices. For exportation there has been very little done; and in the few sales effected prices have been slightly in favour of buyers.

Imports, 164 hds; deliveries, 765 hds, against 1,124 hds in the corresponding month of 1850; stock, 25,952 hds, against 24,270 hds in 1850, 23,451 hds in 1849, 28,677 hds in 1848, 29,595 hds in 1847, and 26,801 hds in 1846.

(From Messrs Hughes and Ronald's Circular.)

Liverpool, May 1, 1851.

During the past month less business has been done than we almost ever remember, although this is generally rather a dull period of the year, being between the seasons; besides the reduced stocks of all kinds, both British and foreign, offered no inducement to operate, the trade have therefore preferred to work up their stocks and wait till the new clip comes into the market, when they will meet with a good selection, and prices being once fairly established there will be more confidence in purchasing. There has been considerably more inquiry for wools generally during the last week, and in most of the Yorkshire markets there is a more cheerful tone of business. Prices are without change, although combing wools are held more firmly, and, in some cases, a little advance is required. Arrivals are now coming in freely from Australia, and public sales are already announced to commence in London on the 15th instant, when from 25,000 to 30,000 bales will be brought forward, and there is every prospect of the result being satisfactory to the importers, although we can hardly expect the rates of the previous public sales will be maintained in the face of the new clip pouring in.

The arrivals have been:—West Coast of South America, 3,206 ballots, of which about 800 ballots were alpaca; Mediterranean, 1,164 bales; Russia, 344 bales; River Plate, 190 bales; East India, 213 bales; Africa, 51 bags; China, 14

bates. There is very little business to report. About 1,500 ballots washed Penuvian had been sold at a trifle below previous rates, and about the same quantity of alpaca, including a portion to arrive at a decline on late quotations. The Russia had been sold some time previous to arrival. In other descriptions there has been a mere retail business done.

Scotch has been more inquired for, but there is no change in prices.

(From Messrs Mc.Nair, Greenhow, and Irving's Circular)
Manchester, April 30, 1851.

Owing to the action of the cotton market, and the influences arising from that and other causes, which in previous circulars we have pointed out, you will be prepared to learn, that from the commencement to the close of the month—interrupted only by a momentary feeling of alleviation—this market has been characterised by gradually increasing dullness and depression, accompanied with a material decline in the value of twist and cloth.

The demand, which throughout the month has been limited to existing wants, as indeed it was sure to be, has been essentially confined to export purposes, little or nothing having been done for the country trade, which continues in the same inanimate condition; and after perusing the details above given, some difficulty will be experienced in reconciling the actual amount of transactions, by no means small, with the general condition of the market, as at the outset indicated. So far, no stocks of any moment are to be met with, a fact attributable to the very general disposition on the part of producers, either to undertake new contracts or to dispose of their productions, at rates corresponding with the market value, for the time being. Prices are now exceedingly irregular, and positive offers again constitute the only means of ascertaining at what rates purchases can be effected. Such must continue to be the case until some positive knowledge can be arrived at with respect to the ultimate value of the raw material, for, until then, it cannot be supposed that purchases, beyond those required for immediate wants, can be entered into.

Altogether, the condition of this market cannot but be regarded as very unsatisfactory. Spinners and manufacturers are almost everywhere, with too much reason, complaining of the loss incidental to their calling, and no important or permanent amelioration need be apprehended, until something decisive can be realised, regarding the supply and value of cotton. Then, and not until then, can we expect a better state of things, for the recollection of the value of the raw material and the manufactured article in 1848, cannot be supposed to pass away from the memory so soon. The working of short time is on the increase, and many of the smaller class of producers, will, we fear, be obliged to give way to the pressure now operating against them.

(From Messrs Joseph and Charles Sturge's Circular.)
Birmingham, May 1, 1851.

The demand for wheat was languid during the whole of the past month, although the value of all qualities has been nearly maintained, with a short supply from the farmers; the arrivals of the better descriptions of foreign were also comparatively light, the greater proportion consisting of Egyptian, Ibrahim, Rumelia, Syrian, and other inferior qualities, most of which have been taken for Ireland, at rather improving prices. Great part of the Polish Odessa, Barletta, &c., has also been purchased on Irish account, at higher rates than are obtained for consumption in England. The stock at Gloucester is somewhat reduced, and there is less difficulty in providing good warehouse room; still we estimate the quantity of wheat there at 92,000 quarters. The import of flour from France continues undiminished, and the moderate price at which it is sold, taking into account its generally superior quality, operates greatly to the prejudice of the millers in most of the great consuming markets; and although very little has found its way to Birmingham, it has caused flour, manufactured in other districts, which in the ordinary course would be consumed elsewhere, to be pressed for sale on this market, thereby reducing the trade of our millers: this circumstance adds to their indisposition to hold more wheat than is required for their immediate wants, which feeling is strengthened by the fact, that this import of French flour has now continued three or four years increasing in quantity, and the reports that additional mills are in course of erection, principally for the supply of the English markets; but even if France regularly exports flour, we are persuaded that the British millers have advantages which will enable them to meet competition from any part of the world.

The weather has upon the whole been favourable to the growing crops, which continue to have a promising appearance; they are not unseasonably forward, and will be in some degree checked by the sharp frosts we have had this week.

We believe there is little wheat on passage from the Danube or Black Sea, but some quantity, chiefly inferior qualities, from Egypt, Syria, and the Adriatic ports, the whole of which seems likely to meet a ready sale, on arrival, for Ireland. The shipments of wheat from France are also rather increasing. Their crops, like ours, wear a favourable aspect, up to the present time. The price with us affords so little encouragement for exports from the Baltic at the present quotations there, that not much wheat is we believe coming forward to this part of the country, although the navigation has been open for some time; but some quantity has passed the Sound, on passage to Liverpool and the Eastern ports. Few shipments are reported from the United States; and notwithstanding our large stocks of wheat, our prices are so low, and consumption so great, that we think any unfavourable change in the appearance of the growing crops, either in England or France, might produce a material advance. Under any circumstances, we do not apprehend wheat will be much lower, but with the prospect of a good harvest, can hardly anticipate improvement in its value. Our last quotations from Dantzic, are 36s to 41s; Rostock, 35s 6d to 36s 6d; Hamburg, 33s to 37s; Nantes, 33s to 36s; Odessa, 23s to 30s 6d; Galatz, 21s to 24s; Alexandria, 11s to 17s. Our present prices are, Polish Odessa, 4s 5d to 4s 8d; Danube, 3s 9d to 4s 2d; hard Russian, 4s to 4s 3d per 60 lbs at Gloucester. English red, 5s to 5s 4d; white, 5s 4d to 5s 8d; French red, 5s to 5s 2d; white, 5s 4d to 5s 6d per 62 lbs at Birmingham.

The crop of English barley appears to be nearly all consumed, and we have had an unusual demand for feeding purposes for this season of the year, with an advance of about 2s per qr on all descriptions; but the arrival of several cargoes of French into Gloucester, has been quite sufficient to check the advance, and it is now difficult to make progress at our quotations. The price of barley having opened in Denmark and the Baltic ports fully 20 per cent. higher this year than last, will we expect cause even a greater quantity of this grain to be exported from thence than in 1850. The advance with us will also increase the imports from Alexandria. The quantity at Gloucester is about 3,200 qrs.

(From Messrs J. W. L. Frehe's Circular.)

St Petersburg, April 15, 1851.

Business transactions on contract for forward delivery, in the most of our staple articles, has not been very animated; the prices demanded by the Russian dealers have been too high to induce the foreign importers to make purchases here, and, with the exception of tallow and hemp, when in large speculative transactions have been entered into by resident merchants here, other Russian produce has been neglected. Our navigation is likely to open in ten to fourteen days, and after arrival of the spring barks, and the first ships, we shall

probably see more life in general. The trade in all import articles has also been very dull and unprofitable during the winter season, and several extensive failures have taken place amongst the merchants dealing with those goods in the interior and in Moscow.

TALLOW.—At the close of the navigation, 8,393 casks remained over on the spot, and, according to present accounts, the supply during the ensuing year will amount to about 105,000 casks, of which about 5,000 casks will be white candle, and about 17,000 to 18,000 casks soap tallow, against a supply of 107,775 casks in 1850, including the make on the spot, with an over-remaining stock of 28,828 casks same period last year. The make of sheep tallow has been considerable; and as, by command, the brack is to be much stricter this year, it is to be hoped that the general character of our yellow candle will improve. This article has been subject to great fluctuations, in consequence of the gambling nature of the transactions which have taken place; and, it is much to be regretted, that the legitimate business which might otherwise have been done, is totally interrupted by it. Purchases in the interior have in consequence been made by the dealers at rates quite out of proportion to the prices obtainable in England; and in stead of the dealers being sellers on our exchange, foreign export houses have been sellers from the very commencement, and the Russians have been buyers of a very considerable quantity; two of the largest Russian speculators alone, are said to have bought on our exchange 50,000 casks of P. Y. C. for August delivery, with hand-money, exclusive of what they may have contracted for in the interior. Great fluctuations, and a very uncertain market, must be the consequence of these transactions. Upon the higher rates paid in the London market last month for P. Y. C. from similar operations of the Bull party there, prices here were driven up in the middle of March to 121 ro., with 3 s. ro., hand-money, for P. Y. C. for August, and 116 ro. cash; but since then the market has been flatter again, and to-day purchases may be effected at 118 ro., with hand-money, and 114 ro. cash down for August delivery. For soap tallow, for August, the last quotations are 102 ro., all money down, and 105 ro. with hand-money, and about 4,000 casks may have been bought of this sort, chiefly for export; of all the Y. C. T. however, I expect that only a very small part has been secured for shipment. It is believed that about half the quantity sold by the merchants, with hand-money, has been bought in again with all the money down, and speculators do not appear disposed to increase their liabilities further, as most of them have gone already above their means. The English market influences ours to a certain extent, and should prices give way with you, the reaction may possibly be serious here; but as a real demand counteracts all machinations, our market will require a close watch, and those parties who are dependent upon importations from here will do well to deposit orders at limits, that the most favourable period may be taken advantage of to supply their wants.

HEMP.—About 39,000 poods remained over from last year. The total quantity to arrive this year, is estimated at about 2,000,000 poods, the quality of which will be very good, of bright colour, clean and strong; and from some districts where the article is generally better cleaned, a very superior description may be expected. There is not much for sale on the spot; the last purchase of 10,000 poods was made at 92 ro. for clean, and at 84 ro. for outshot, all money down. Already, during last autumn, considerable contracts were closed, and the total quantity purchased till now is estimated at 925,000 poods. The present prices for June and July may be quoted as follows:—

	ro.	ro.	ro.	ro.
Clean	86	to 87	.....cash at	88 to 89 with hand money
Out-hot	80	81	.....do	82 83 do
Half-clean	75½	74	.....do	76½ 78 do

The quantity of half-clean will be rather small in proportion to the supply of Polish, or cut hemp, 6,000 poods may have been taken for June and July, at 94 ro., 90 ro., and 86 ro. for the three sorts, all money down. Stocks of last year's hemp, in the United Kingdom, are represented to be heavy, and the prices paying with you are not in proportion to our quotations. Upwards of a million poods remain yet to be disposed of this year, and it appears very probable that a considerable quantity bought on contract is yet in the merchants' hands; and as freights cannot rule high during the ensuing season to stimulate ship-building, the prospects for a brisk trade in this article are not very encouraging, and higher prices can scarcely be calculated upon, should not unforeseen circumstances take place to create a brisk demand. It must not, however, be overlooked that the fine quality of our this year's supply, in the face of a much smaller one of an inferior description for next year, will materially tend to maintain our market, and induce speculators to invest, and even our wealthy dealers will, under these circumstances, rather prefer holding over for next season, than selling at a loss; a material decline therefore, from present rates, cannot reasonably be calculated upon.

FLAX.—The supply will be considerably short of last year's, but the accounts vary about the quantity to be available for shipment, and nothing positive can be said. Some of our English export houses have supplied the dealers with large sums of money, on certain conditions, to settle prices in June and August, so that my quotations are quite nominal; 100 tons have positively been bought at these rates, and about 1,800 tons more, with the proviso above referred to; the market, however, is flat, and I doubt whether there would be buyers at 120 ro., 110 ro., and 100 ro. About 10,000 poods of all kinds of old flax remain still in the dealers' hands on the spot, the bulk of which is of a very common description. 200 tons tow have been taken at 70 ro., and for Codilla 30 ro. to 32 ro. is asked.

Foreign Correspondence.

From our Paris Correspondent.

Paris, May 1, 1851.

Anxiety is every day increasing about the political crisis, as we are advancing towards the legal moment which has been fixed by the constitution to propose its revision. The National Assembly may debate on that question from the 29th of this month, and it seems more doubtful than ever that it will obtain the majority of the three-fourths of the Assembly which is declared indispensable. The Elysée have already attempted negotiations with all the parties to obtain their support in favour of the revision; but each of them made their condition which could not be agreed to by Louis Napoleon. The Legitimists and Orléanists have rejected the overtures which have been made to them by the Elysée. M. Falloux, who was in correspondence with M. Abbateucci and M. Persigny, declared that the Legitimists would consent to vote for the revision and the prolongation of the powers, if Louis Napoleon consented to sign an engagement in which he would solemnly promise to abandon his high station at the end of four years, and even to employ all his personal influence in favour of the Count de Chambord. Such a condition amounted to a formal

rupture of negotiations. M. de Persigny made then an attempt with M. Changarnier, from a desire to obtain a reconciliation between the General and Louis Napoleon, and to make an alliance with the Orleanists. But he was received with much coolness by the General, who has even told his friends the particulars of the interview, so that they were published in the papers, and this incident has still increased the difficulties of the Elysée.

It seems now that the Elysée is abandoned on every side except by the Bonapartists.

The Legitimists will not vote for the revision, unless it be agreed upon by all parties that the revision will open the debate between monarchy and republic.

The Orleanists are equally averse to the revision and to the projected prolongation of Louis Napoleon's presidency; they hope that M. Changarnier might be elected in the future contest for the second Presidency of the Republic.

It is thus almost certain, that after much agitation and serious anxiety, every thing will remain in *statu quo*. The constitution of 1848 will continue to rule the country, and another President will be named in the place of Louis Napoleon.

It is however apprehended that Louis Napoleon will not submit himself to the necessity of abandoning the ambitious views he had entertained from the very first moment of his being elected by six millions of electors. His most intimate friends say that he cannot become again a private gentleman, as he is involved in debts and accustomed to a large expenditure. He is, besides, known for the adventurous spirit which has led him into the desperate undertakings of Boulogne and Strasburg. But if he attempts a *coup d'état*, it is most likely that he will not succeed, and it might involve again the country in new political convulsions. Some of his friends have, however, advised him to take a more skilful line of conduct, and to publish a new manifesto to the nation, in order to declare that he will demand no revision of the constitution, and descend from his Presidential seat after he has accomplished his time of power. Such a declaration would restore in some degree the public tranquillity, might give him many new partisans, and he would easily obtain a new credit from the Assembly, or a subscription from the nation to pay his debts.

The Ultra-democratic party have begun to agitate the country, and to threaten the Elysée and the majority of the Assembly, in case they should violate directly the constitution. Two bloody proclamations have been issued in the name of the Central Committee of Resistance. But these proclamations are disavowed by all the Republican and even Democratic party. They openly announce murder, plunder, and confiscation against all the aristocrats. Never was there during the terrorism of 1793 such horrible language used by the Marats, Robespierres, St. Justs, and Fouquier Tinville. The opposition papers have hinted that these documents had been secretly published by the police. That is not probable, or if it were true, it would be highly discreditable to the police of France. But the Elysée and Monarchical parties hasten to avail themselves of those proclamations to affrighten the middle classes, and allure them into their political views.

Vague reports have been circulating every day that political manifestations and disturbances would take place on Sunday next, on account of the anniversary of the Proclamation of the Republic. It is certain, however, that the public tranquillity will not be troubled on that day. The Republican and Democratic papers recommend every day to their friends to abstain from giving any pretext to collisions on the 4th inst. Many workmen have taken a sort of engagement not to go to the public ceremonies. The Government have taken on their side very important measures, in order to be able to repress any attempt at disturbances. Several regiments have entered Paris, or are stationed in the environs. Large supplies of powder have been brought to the Tuileries and the Hotel de Ville.

Trade continues in a very bad situation. Besides the political apprehensions, there was a continual emigration of all our tradesmen and wealthy citizens to London, in order to see the opening of the Universal Exhibition.

The following are the variations of our securities from April 24 to May 1.

	f	c	f
The Three per Cents declined from	57	0	55 55
The Five per Cents declined from	92	5	90 5
The Bank Shares	2095	0	2040 0
Northern shares	473	75	465 25
Strasburg	357	50	341 25
Nantes	277	50	271 25
Orleans	827	00	822 50
Rouen	630	0	612 50
Havre	260	0	250 0
Marseilles	2	5	2 0 0
Central line	437	50	420 0
Bordeaux	400	0	394 75
Boulogne	242	50	240 0

HALF-PAST FOUR.—The new Democratic proclamations and the public anxiety which prevails as to the revision gave a new shock to all the securities at the beginning of the market. It was said that the Central Committee of Resistance had issued a new bulletin, in which they engage the people and peasants to take their guns and pikes and fight against the reaction. However, the prices were more steady at the end of the affair, when the settlement of the last account was finished for the public stocks.

The Three per Cents, varied from 55f 20c to 55f 80c; the Five per Cents, from 89f 30c to 90f; the Bank Shares from 2,020f to 2,030; the Northerns from 465f to 471f 25c; Strasburg from 360f to 362f 50c; Nantes from 270f to 271f 25c; the Central Line from 420f to 421f 25c; Orleans declined from 822f 50c to 815f; Rouen from 612f 50c to 610f.

Correspondence.

COTTON CROP.

To the Editor of the Economist.

SIR,—Many of your readers who are interested in the cotton trade will recollect the accounts which we received from the United States in July and August last relative to the serious damage done to the then growing crop of cotton. These accounts were so general and circumstantial, that they obtained much credence, and gave rise to many fears that the ultimate yield would be scarcely worthy of the name of a "crop."

But the advices we are now possessed of, not in the shape of rumours and reports, but under the more stable and fixed character of "receipts," show either that the accounts circulated in August last were untrue, or at all events grossly exaggerated, and that any damage done bore a small proportion to the quantity planted, and to the preparation made.

At the time I refer to, middling Orleans advanced to 8d per lb, and estimates fluctuated between 1,500,000 and 2,000,000 bales as a maximum. According to W. P. Wright's New York Circular of 16th April, 1851, it appears that the receipts of the present crop amount to 1,935,000 bales, and according to the New York Printed List, the stock in the interior towns amounted to 154,500 bales, making together 2,089,500 bales, an amount fully equivalent to the total crop of 1849-50. But leaving aside the stock at Augusta, Macon, Memphis, &c. &c., the receipts at the cotton ports now amount to 1,939,000 bales, and the following table will show that we have every right to estimate the crop of 1850-51 at 2,300,000 bales as a minimum:—

	Receipts up to 16th April, bales.	Receipts between 16th April & 1st Sept, bales.	Total crop, bales.
1845-47	1,475,000	303,000	1,778,000
1847-48	1,773,000	574,000	2,347,000
1848-49	2,198,000	530,000	2,728,000
1849-50	1,728,000	362,000	2,090,000
1850-51	1,939,000	...	...
		1,769,000	
		Average	442,000 bales.

In the face of the quantity actually received, and of the prospects as to further receipts, it is no wonder that the speculation based upon the failure of the crop of 1850-51 should have recoiled upon its promoters; but the result should be a standing warning as to the degree of credence to be placed in the rumours now rife as to ungenial weather for planting, &c. &c.

Two years of high prices must have stimulated the cultivation of cotton, and under even moderately favourable circumstances will ensure a yield that must before long bring down our still excessive prices.—Truly yours, A. Liverpool, 1st May, 1851.

THE MILLERS' LEAGUE.

To the Editor of the Economist.

SIR,—As there is such a hubbub about French flour, I should be obliged to you, in one of your future numbers, to give us a statement of the quantity of flour imported during the last four years, and also from what quarter it came. This, I think, will show that we are not indebted to France for our greatest supply of flour. I was quite disgusted in reading in your paper that some of the millers had formed a League for protection to themselves against the temporary importation of a few hundred thousand sacks of flour from France, while the importation from America has much fallen off, and when at the same time they have had the grinding of more foreign wheat than they ever had before since England has been a nation. They may rest assured that their League will be scouted by every right-thinking man in the trade. The millers above all others to play into the hands of Protectionists! who derive more benefit than any other class of tradesmen from Free Trade, though the poor reap the most benefit from it, having now a sufficiency of wholesome food.

I should be obliged to you also to give us a statement of the quantity of English wheat brought to market from the 31st of August to the 1st of May during the last and the present year. As the last harvest was a very deficient one, I am inclined to think that the necessities of the farmers have forced a greater proportion of the crop to market than usual, and that we shall find our supply from them fall off very much before harvest.

I am, Sir, your constant reader, A COUNTRY MILLER. April 23, 1851.

[We regret that there is no Parliamentary Return which shows the importation of flour distinct from wheat as imported from each separate country. Of flour alone the imports have been from all quarters:—

	cwts.
1846	3,198,000
1847	6,339,000
1848	1,765,000
1849	3,470,000
1850	3,855,000

ED.]

FARMERS AND THE INCOME TAX.

To the Editor of the Economist.

SIR,—In your remarks on the various schedules of the income tax returns, in your paper of 19th inst, you advert to the different estimates made by mercantile men and by farmers of their profits;—the former "keeping his business accounts altogether separate from his household expenditure; the latter, if he only makes both ends meet at the close of the year, concludes that he has made no profit, although his household and personal expenses are all discharged."

I can, from a considerable acquaintance among my brother farmers, testify to the truth of this description of the shape in which the agricultural mind shadows out to itself (rarely on paper, save in Blackwood's *coloured figures*) its business balance sheet.

Could not the Chancellor of the Exchequer do something to school us in book-keeping? I think he could do this; and also put a considerable sum in the public purse, by simply taking us (a majority of us always understood) at our own word. Let him no more class us in a separate schedule, and charge according to rental, by which a large number escape this most fair tax. Let him treat us as *manufacturers*, prosecuting what Montesquieu terms "the greatest of all manufactures—the manufacture of a nation's food"—and ask a return of our manufacturing profits.

When we come to make up our returns, and count, as we must then do, our personal expenditure, supplies from farm, and house rent, among our *profits*, we should find these swell up to more than are now wot of, and perhaps be, thus, made more satisfied with our position.

Had we been summoned, in the year 1850, to make payments on return

made in '49 of the average profits, thus calculated, for '46, '47 and '48, the agricultural pocket would have been drawn upon for an amount not to be despised even by a Chancellor with a surplus.—I am, Sir, your very obedient servant.
A FARMER NOT NOW PAYING INCOME TAX.
North Britain, April 27, 1851.

Imperial Parliament.

PRINCIPAL BUSINESS OF THE WEEK.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—*Thursday*:—Routine.
HOUSE OF COMMONS.—*Monday*:—Property Tax Bill read a second time—Stamp Duties Assimilation Bill, Exchequer bills Bill, and Indemnity Bill respectively read a third time and passed. *Tuesday*:—Leave given to bring in a Bill for the better supply of water for the metropolis. *Wednesday*:—Highway (South Wales) Bill passed committee—Lodging House Bill read a second time, as was also the Farm Buildings Bill—Leave given for a Bill to extend the acts for the commutation of manorial rights, for the gradual enfranchisement of copyholds, &c., and for Bills to amend the acts regulating the proceedings at petty sessions and out of sessions in Ireland; and for the better collection of fines and forfeited recognizances in Ireland. *Thursday*:—Oath of Abjuration (Jews') Bill read a second time—The Civil Bills, &c. (Ireland) Bill was read a second time and referred to a select committee.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Thursday, May 1.

The House of Lords sat only for a short time, and adjourned after despatching some business of no particular interest.

Friday, May 2

Lord Stanley gave notice that he should, on Monday, present a petition from Liverpool, and another from Shields, on the subject of the Mercantile Marine Act.

The bills on the table were forwarded a stage, and their lordships adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, April 28.

The house reassembled for the first time after the recess.

Lord J. Russell intimated that it was not the intention of the Government to adopt the amendments of the Ecclesiastical Titles Bill of which notice had been given by Mr Walpole.

On the order of the day for the second reading of the Property Tax Bill,

Mr Spooner entreated the house to pause before it continued a tax which pressed most unjustly and unfairly upon many of the great interests of the country; which was not required by any peculiar emergency; which had been originally proposed as a temporary tax, whereas, if the house assented to this bill, it would put its seal to the permanency of an impost the vexation, fraud, and evasions attending which, as well as its inequality, the present ministers, when in opposition, had been foremost in proclaiming. If the tax must be prolonged, it should be extended to Ireland, the poverty of which was paralleled by that of many districts in England since the adoption of the new commercial policy. He showed how oppressively the tax fell upon the landed interests in comparison with the fundholder; and he called upon the house, if the bill should reach the committee, to remodel the tax so as to relieve the classes now unequally affected by it. He, however, moved that the second reading of the bill be deferred for six months.

Mr Muntz seconded this amendment, subscribing to nearly all that had fallen from Mr Spooner. He urged the unjust manner in which this tax operated upon the tenant-farmers and the small manufacturers, who were made to pay whether they had an income or not. He resisted the tax, moreover, first, because it was a breach of faith; and, secondly, because he could see no end to it.

Mr Frebield should not oppose the second reading of the bill, but he hoped that in the committee the extent of time for which the tax was to be continued, and modifications as to the subjects and the amount of the tax, would be taken into serious consideration.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer said, the house had already determined to relinquish a given amount of revenue and to renew the income tax; but if the amendment were carried, not only must the reduction of the duties upon coffee and timber and the commutation of the window duty be abandoned, but it would be necessary to impose other taxes, since the rejection of the bill would create a deficiency.

Mr McGregor supported the bill.

Mr Disraeli suggested that as Mr Spooner would have an opportunity of expressing his opinion upon the details of the bill, it would be better not to divide.

The amendment was accordingly negatived, and the bill was read a second time.

The Stamp Duties Assimilation Bill, the Exchequer-bills Bill, and the Indemnity Bill were respectively read a third time and passed.

After some other business, the house adjourned at a quarter to 7 o'clock.

Tuesday, April 29.

Sir G. Grey moved for leave to bring in a bill for the better supply of water to the metropolis. He referred to the large amount of information in possession of the house upon this subject, contained especially in the reports of the Board of Health, which showed, first, that some extensive change was necessary in order to insure an adequate supply of good and wholesome water; and, secondly, that competition could not be trusted to for that object. The first question, therefore, whether the existing system should be adhered to, or that some essential change should be made in it, admitted of an easy answer; the second was, what substitute the Government should propose and Parliament adopt. The Board of Health had recommended, in the first instance, that the existing sources of supply should be altogether abandoned, and that recourse should be had to deposits of rain water collected in gathering grounds near Bagshot. They had subsequently so far modified their recommendation as to propose that instead of rain water spring water should be collected and brought to London in pipes. This very change of opinion inculcated caution, and the Government had laid the reports of the Board of Health and all the evidence before three gentlemen eminent for their skill and ability, that they might report upon the chymical properties of the water, and to what extent the existing sources of supply should be retained or new sources be opened. The minuteness and labour of this inquiry had hitherto prevented them from making a report, and in the meantime he had thought it better to lay before the house the outlines of a scheme by which he proposed to substitute a new machinery for that of the nine water companies, each occupying a separate district. The Board of Health had recommended that instead of a plurality of managements there should be one combined management, as the best means of securing a sufficient supply

and service of water with a diminution of cost; and this combination, they suggested, might be effected by purchasing the stock of the existing companies at a liberal valuation, but they found it necessary to depart from another recommendation, to vest the management of the water supply in representative bodies, and proposed to place it under a Government board of salaried officers. There were, therefore, three general modes of effecting the object in view—first, by the existing companies; second, by municipalities, on the representative principle; third, by a salaried board, acting under the immediate control of the Government and indirectly responsible to Parliament. The objections to the latter plan were formidable, and nothing but necessity would induce the Government to adopt it. If, indeed, they were dealing with this as a new question, irrespective of private interests and the habits of the people, he should certainly prefer the plan suggested by the Board of Health; but as an extensive system was already in existence, and, as no representative machinery was to be found, the principle of the measure he proposed was the consolidation of the existing companies into one, by the purchase of their respective stocks either by valuation or by arbitration, with a consolidated capital, the consolidated body being charged with the whole supply of water to the metropolis, subject to the control of Government and Parliament. Sir George explained the functions, powers, and obligations with which the bill proposed to endow this body, and observed that the plan would accomplish the ends of saving expenditure, increased efficiency in management, Government control under responsibility to Parliament, and reduction of rates to consumers, realising, at the same time, the principle recommended by the Board of Health of a contract between the Government and the company. He anticipated an obvious objection, that the companies could not be compelled to consent to this arrangement; but they were entitled to the first offer, and they had met the communications of the Government in a reasonable spirit, reserving their decision until they saw the details of the bill, which he proposed to refer to a select committee, so that the companies would have ample opportunity to advance their claims.

Sir J. Johnston gave various explanations on behalf of the water companies, who were favourably disposed towards the measure.

Mr Cochrane considered that such a bill would only strengthen the existing monopoly, continuing all its evils and confirming its power by uniting the existing companies into one.

Mr Hume thought there would be no difficulty in adopting the principle of competition by allowing new companies to come in.

Sir B. Hall was of opinion that the amalgamation of the existing companies, though it might save some expense, would make the combined company a very powerful one, whereas the object of the Government should be to abolish a monopoly which had existed too long.

Lord Ebrington reviewed the subject of water supply at some length, and condemned the scheme of the Government as defective in principle.

Sir W. Clay contended that competition could not be applied to the principle of water supply. He admitted that the poor of the metropolis were ill provided with water; but this arose from no indisposition of the companies to supply it, or from any deficiency of the article, but because the proprietors of small tenements refused to take means of supplying their occupants. He defended the water companies against the charges of extortion, waste and extravagance, and expressed his perfect confidence in the fair dealing of the Government and the house, which, by acting unjustly towards the companies, would only injure the country. The question was entirely for compromise, which would be the cheapest, as well as the fairest course.

Mr Mowatt objected to the scheme, that it contained no provision for a new source of supply instead of the present impure one, and that it made the suppliers of the water responsible, not to the consumers, but to the Government.

Sir G. Grey, in his reply, offered explanations upon various points, and, with reference to Mr Mowatt's objection, stated that the bill gave power to the Secretary of State in respect to the sources of supply.

Leave was then given to bring in the bill.

Mr Ewart then moved a resolution, that it is expedient to extend the mitigation of the law with respect to capital punishment to the colonies; but a member having moved that the house be counted, and only 33 members being present, an adjournment took place at 7 o'clock.

Wednesday, April 30.

Lord J. Russell moved an address to Her Majesty, praying that Her Majesty will be pleased to issue a Royal proclamation, with a reward, for the discovery apprehension, and detention of the four persons—named Waggett, Hayward, Skeggs, and Birchmere—who, in connection with the St Alban's election, had hitherto eluded the service of the Speaker's warrant.

Mr Banks stated various objections to the course of proceeding in the matter of this election, which was defended by the Solicitor-General.

Mr J. Stuart, on the other hand, considered that there were grave doubts as to the legality of the committee's proceedings.

Mr E. Ellice, the chairman of the committee, explained and vindicated its proceedings, and after some further discussion the motion was agreed to.

In reply to a question put by Mr Hume,

Mr Labouchere said, the question relative to the gratuitous admission to the Exhibition of all exhibitors, without limitation, raised in a petition to Her Majesty which had been referred to the Royal Commissioners, had been already most maturely considered by them, and, with every desire to deal in the most liberal manner with exhibitors, they had come to the unanimous conclusion that it would be impossible to allow the unlimited admission of 15,000 exhibitors at all times. Exceptions would be made in peculiar cases, and he had reason to know that it was the intention of Her Majesty to visit the Exhibition on one of the Saturday mornings when the general public would be admitted.

Upon the order of the day for the house going into committee upon the Highway (South Wales) Bill,

Dr Nicholl moved an instruction to the committee to give power to extend the provisions of the bill to England; which, after some debate, he withdrew.

Sir George Tyler then moved that the bill be committed that day six months.

The bill was supported by Lord Evelyn, who had introduced it, and also by Mr C. Lewis, who was favourable to its principle, which was discussed by Mr Morris, Mr J. Vivian, and Mr Richards, and the amendment being negatived, the house went into committee upon the bill, the clauses of which were agreed to with amendments.

The Lodging House Bill was read a second time.

Mr Cochrane, in moving the second reading of the Farm Buildings Bill, gave a brief explanation of its object, which was to authorise the charging of estates with loans for the repair and erection of farm buildings.

The bill was opposed by Mr Trelawny, Mr Mullings, Mr Hume, and Mr W. Miles, but upon a division the second reading was carried by 66 against 25.

On the next order, for going into committee upon the Sunday Trading Prevention Bill,

Mr Anstey complained of the manner in which the bill had been dealt with in the select committee, and recommended the house not to adopt the measure, which, though bad enough when it went into the committee, had come out much worse. The only clause which recognised the principle that the poor should be protected against being compelled to work on Sunday had been expunged, and

the effect of the bill would be to place the small tradesmen at the mercy of policemen, who were to be clothed with judicial powers, not touching the wealthier classes. Mr Anstey argued at much length against the policy as well as the provisions of the bill, and moved that it be committed that day six months.

The amendment was seconded by Mr B. Wall, who likewise complained of the course pursued by the select committee, which had precluded him from offering evidence adverse to the bill, and urged that a measure like this should not be local, but general.

Mr Lennard also opposed the bill, and moved that the debate be adjourned to that day to-night, which was agreed to.

Mr Mullings obtained leave to bring in a bill to extend the acts for the commutation of manorial rights, for the gradual enfranchisement of copyholds, &c.

Sir W. Somerville obtained leave to bring in bills to amend the acts regulating the proceedings at petty sessions and out of sessions in Ireland; and for the better collection of fines and forfeited recognizances in Ireland.

The house adjourned at half-past 5 o'clock until 6 o'clock on Thursday.

Thursday, May 1.

On the order of the day for the second reading of the Oath of Abjuration (Jews) Bill,

Mr Newdegate opposed the further progress of the measure, which created, he said, a new qualification, abolishing an existing qualification; which was a direct invasion of the Christian character of that house, and which would destroy its constitutional harmony with the other estates of the realm. Since the admission of Jews to the Parliament of France, the Church of France had been gradually alienated from the State, and, referring to certain demonstrations in our own Church, he appealed to the example of France as a warning. The religion of the Jews was not, he asserted, the religion of the Old Testament, but, as he endeavoured to show from authorities, that of the *Talmud* and the oral traditions embodied in the *Mishna*; it was for the house to consider whether such a creed was a qualification for a British legislature, for he repudiated the doctrine that religion had nothing to do with this question. A proposition to admit Jews into the Parliament of Prussia had been rejected upon the distinct ground that the Parliament was determined to uphold the Christian character of the state. The Senate of Hamburg had refused to admit Jews; in Austria and other continental states they laboured under civil disabilities; and he considered that the change of this oath was worse than the abrogation of all religious qualifications whatever. He moved that the bill be read a second time that day six months.

Mr Roebuck, avoiding as much as possible, the collateral questions introduced by Mr Newdegate, addressed himself to the essential points—first, what did a member swear to when he came to the table; secondly, how did he swear? He swore fidelity to the Sovereign, and he bound himself by what was called a religious sanction. What, then, was a Jew to do? One class of Jews took an oath at the risk of incurring the anger of the God who governed the world if he falsified the oath; another class believed that that anger would pursue him after death. Did any member of the house impose upon himself a more solemn obligation? Mr Newdegate had said the *Talmud*, in the opinion of the Jews, superseded the Bible; but he had not asserted that they were bad subjects, fathers, husbands, or citizens. The oath of abjuration related to a family now extinct. It was, therefore, practically useless; but at the end of the oath were a few words which need not exclude any but a man of sensitive honour. They would drive away an honest Jew and admit a Gibbon, and the retention of them gave to men of weak and narrow minds the power of spitting their spite against better men than themselves.

Mr Wigram considered that the principle of this measure went to the admission of all non-Christians. He could not understand why any distinction should be made in favour of Jews; he could not see where the Legislature could stop, or why some of our wealthy Mahomedan fellow-subjects should not become naturalized and obtain seats in Parliament. This was not a question of a mere title of individual honour or dignity; a representative sent to that house was a servant of the public, and in considering this subject they were bound to disregard the privileges and benefits accruing to individuals; the question was, what constitution of that house was best calculated to promote the benefit and advantage of the community at large, whose respect and confidence it should command? He should vote against the principle of this measure, because he believed that if that house were constituted without reference to the Christian character of its members, it would lose the respect and confidence of the country.

The Solicitor-General declined to enter into theological discussions, and, in replying to Mr Wigram, observed that if in this country there was a large body of Mahomedans who were taxed and charged with the burdens of citizenship, they would be entitled to its privileges, one of which was the right to sit in that house. What excluded Baron Rothschild but his religion? The principle was, a right to sit in that house without a legislative disqualification, and it was a farce to say that Jews are legislatively disqualified. Whilst levelling penal enactments against Roman Catholics, certain words were introduced into this oath, which by accident affected the Jews. Baron Rothschild had been admitted to the table; he had taken certain oaths; he had been recognised as a member; the only question was, whether, in taking a particular oath, he should use a form binding on his conscience, or be compelled to utter words not so binding, and which had been introduced for a different purpose. This was no question of reconstructing that house. The question of disqualifying Jews should have arisen when they were permitted to reside as citizens in this country. For 13 years there had been nothing to exclude Jews from Parliament; and if they were excluded on the ground of their religion, this was persecution. He should feel degraded if at this moment those strangers who had been summoned hither from all the countries in Europe should find that we had retrograded in our political pre-eminence, and fallen back upon dark epochs and periods of persecution.

Sir R. Inglis disputed the position of the Solicitor-General that Jews were excluded by terms in the oath introduced by mere accident, and contended that from the earliest periods of our constitution they were repelled by the form of taking oaths upon some symbol or book which afforded a test of the party being a Christian. He denied that a seat in that house was the common right of all subjects; it was a privilege which had always been limited by qualifications as to property and religious principle, which it was the object of this measure to destroy. The further consideration he had given to this subject had only deepened his conviction, not only of its importance, but of the practical bearing of the measure upon our religious institutions.

Mr J. A. Smith vindicated himself from an accusation of Mr Newdegate, in connection with the appearance of Baron Rothschild at the table, and upon the general question, claiming for himself a sincere devotion to the Christian faith, he declared he should continue to do his best to promote the admission of Jews to Parliament, because he believed it was inconsistent with that faith to affix civil disabilities to religious opinions.

Mr Goulburn said as the Solicitor-General had argued this as a question of admitting Jews to Parliament, it was right that the house should have before it the whole course of legislation which had been proposed by the Government upon this subject, as well as the effect of this measure, which would admit Jews not merely to the two houses of the Legislature, but to every administrative function, however high, in this country, from which they were now excluded only by the oath of abjuration.

Mr Anstey argued that the oath of abjuration expired with the demise of George III.; but waiving this point, the house, having decided that the seat was full, had recognised the capacity of a Jewish gentleman to sit in that house, and this was a measure, of the nature of a declaratory law, to obviate a practical difficulty, though he was of opinion that the house had it in its own power to dispense with the obnoxious words.

Colonel Sibthorp supported the amendment.

Lord J. Russell said the question was, whether Parliament meant to make this restriction, and whether, if so, it was a reasonable one. It was important to observe that, whilst there were other matters of substance with regard to which members were required to take oaths, in none of these oaths was there a restriction of this kind. Baron Rothschild had taken the oaths of allegiance and supremacy, and all the substantial portions of the oath of abjuration; but the house had determined that he could not take his seat without taking the entire oath. The Solicitor-General had at that time maintained that it was not necessary that the Baron should use the words "upon the true faith of a Christian," and this argument had been supported by the high authority of Mr Wynn. He (Lord John) had been unwilling, however, that that house should take a legislative power upon itself which the other house might resist; and he trusted that, in a question affecting the privileges of the House of Commons and the rights of electors, the other branch of the Legislature would give it a fair consideration. The only argument he had heard to-night which wore the appearance of novelty was Mr Wigram's, that Jews were debarred from that house because otherwise it would not enjoy the confidence of the country. But the house was chosen by the country, and the repeated election of Baron Rothschild afforded a strong presumption against this argument. The question was, whether the country desired the exclusion of any class by reason of their religious opinions; and he believed it no longer thought such opinions were a disqualification. Having removed disabilities from dissenters, from Roman Catholics, and even from the Jews themselves, would they now leave remaining upon 40,000 of our fellow-citizens the badge and stigma of being incapable of sitting in Parliament?

The house having divided, the second reading of the bill was carried by 202 against 177.

The Civil Bills, &c., (Ireland) Bill was read a second time and referred to a select committee, after observations by Mr Sadler, Mr French, Sir W. Somerville, Mr S. Crawford, and Mr Scully.

Some further business was disposed of, and the house adjourned at a quarter past 12 o'clock.

Friday, May 2.

In reply to a question, Lord Seymour said that the Metropolitan Buildings Bill would be abandoned and another substituted.

In reply to a question from Mr Childers respecting the diocesan synod contemplated by the Bishop of Exeter.

Lord John Russell said, that it did not appear to him that that assembly, though called by the Bishop of Exeter, bore in any respect the character of a synod, either as to the mode of assembling, or the subjects which were proposed to be brought before it. The Bishop of Exeter had expressly declared that the assembly which he proposed to call should not declare any canons. It was, therefore, very clear, whatever purpose the Bishop had in view, he did not intend to contravene the Act of Henry VIII., or, as it was called, the Act of Submission.

Mr Horsman thought, however, that the consequences of the act proposed by the Bishop of Exeter would extend farther than the noble lord anticipated, and he would like to know from the Attorney General whether it was not directly forbidden by the 73d canon.

The Attorney-General said that canon applied more particularly to provincial synods. The act which it was thought the Bishop had offended against was the 24th and 25th of Henry VIII. The canon was either invalid or insufficient.

Mr Ewart wished to ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether buildings subdivided into different dwellings (like model lodging-houses, and houses occupied in flats or portions of flats, as in Scotland)—such dwellings being valued under 20s a year and rated separately—will be subject to the house duty?

The Chancellor of the Exchequer said it would be very difficult to draw a distinction between houses so occupied in order to exempt them from house duty.

On the motion for going into committee on the Property tax Bill,

Mr William Williams moved that the provisions of the said bill, as far as regarded the imposition of that tax on the interest of the public debt, salaries and emoluments of public officers, pensions and sinecures, be extended to Ireland. The hon. member said nothing tended more to sever the union which ought to exist between England and Ireland, than the adoption of a different system of laws and taxation in the two countries. On all the occasions when the income tax was discussed in the house he had never heard one efficient reason given why it should not be extended to Ireland as well as England. The only reason of any value assigned was that Ireland was too poor, but he considered that a man in Ireland in the receipt of 150l a year was as capable of paying the tax as a man receiving the same sum annually in England. He consequently ought to be made to pay the tax.

[LEFT SPEAKING.]

PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS.

- 172 Ejectment (Ireland)—abstract of return.
- 184 Arterial Drainage, &c. (Ireland)—return.
- 187 Railways—return.
- 195 Poor Rates—return.
- 197 Newspapers—return.
- 199 Lighthouse (Guernsey)—correspondence.
- 148 Coroners' Inquests—abstract of returns.
- 204 Guano—account.
- 202 St Alban's Election Petition—minutes of the proceedings of the committee (a corrected copy).
- 206 Bill—coalwhippers (port of London).
- 196 Steam Vessels—return.
- 203 Ennistymon Union—correspondence.
- 205 Church of England—copy of Sir George Grey's letter to the Archbishop of Canterbury, &c.
- Coals (Steam Navy)—third report by Sir Henry De La Beche, and Dr Lyon Playfair.

News of the Week.

COURT AND ARISTOCRACY.

HER MAJESTY and Prince Albert, accompanied by the Prince of Wales, Prince Alfred, Prince Arthur, the Princess Royal, and the Princesses Alice, Helena, and Louisa, left Windsor Castle on Monday, and proceeded to Buckingham Palace, where they arrived at one.

Her Majesty held a court in the afternoon for the reception of His Royal Highness Prince Henry of the Netherlands. His Royal Highness was also presented to Prince Albert.

The Queen held another court on Tuesday, at which M. Musurus had an audience to deliver his credentials from the Sultan of Turkey.

On Wednesday the Queen and Prince Albert, accompanied by the Prince and Princess of Prussia, Prince Frederick William and the Princess Louisa of Prussia, visited the Exhibition building, in Hyde Park. Thursday was the day for the State opening, of which an account is appended.

METROPOLIS.

OPENING OF THE GREAT EXHIBITION.

This great event so long anticipated, and respecting which so many hopes and fears have been excited, took place on Thursday, under the most flattering auspices. The weather, though occasionally threatening, was on the whole favourable, and the scene, both within and without the Crystal Palace, exceeded in splendour and animation all description. As might be expected, London was to a considerable extent emptied. Rivers of human beings filling Oxford street, Piccadilly, Parliament street, and the Kensington road, poured incessantly from seven to ten o'clock into Hyde Park. And when it was found that all desirable standing room in Hyde Park was occupied, the crowd gradually filled the Mall, Constitution hill, and the ground in front of Buckingham Palace, and the space to the right at the head of Birdcage walk.

Long before nine o'clock all the avenues leading to the Park were lined with carriages from the eastward as far as Charing cross. The arrangements at the gates were excellent, and no confusion occurred. Before ten o'clock 10,000 persons had arrived, and among the earliest visitors was the Duke of Wellington, who was loudly cheered.

At half-past eleven all the spectators, about twenty-five thousand, had obtained admission, but so vast was the area of the building, that it appeared capable of holding five times the number. At this hour, the Royal Commissioners assembled in the transept, opposite the platform, together with their Executive Committee, and the foreign acting Commissioners, all in full dress, or in plain evening dress. The Archbishop of Canterbury, Her Majesty's Ministers, the great Officers of State, and the Foreign Ambassadors and Ministers, also took their places on the platform, to the right and left of the chair of state, in full dress. At the same time Her Majesty, proceeding in state, with the Royal Family, her foreign guests, and her and their suites from Buckingham Palace, up Constitution hill, and down Rotten row, entered the Exhibition Building by the north entrance precisely at twelve o'clock.

Her Majesty having taken her seat, the organ pealed forth the National Anthem, the words being sung by the various metropolitan cathedral choirs, assisted by the chorus of the Sacred Harmonic Society. The music having ceased, Prince Albert appeared at the foot of the throne, accompanied by the Royal Commissioners, and delivered the following address:—

"May it please your Majesty.—We, the Commissioners appointed by your Majesty's royal warrant of the 3rd January, 1850, for the promotion of the Exhibition of the Works of Industry of all Nations, and subsequently incorporated by your Majesty's Royal Charter of the 15th of August in the same year, humbly beg leave, on the occasion of your Majesty's auspicious visit at the opening of the Exhibition, to lay before you a brief statement of our proceedings to the present time.

"By virtue of the authority graciously committed to us by your Majesty, we have made diligent inquiry into the matters which your Majesty was pleased to refer to us—namely, into the best mode of introducing the productions of your Majesty's colonies and of foreign countries into this kingdom—the selection of the most suitable site for the Exhibition—the general conduct of the undertaking, and the proper method of determining the nature of the prizes, and of securing the most impartial distribution of them.

"In the prosecution of these inquiries, and in the discharge of the duties assigned to us by your Majesty's Royal Charter of Incorporation, we have held constant meetings of our whole body, and have, moreover, referred numerous questions connected with a great variety of subjects to committees, composed partly of our own members and partly of individuals distinguished in the several departments of science and the arts, who have cordially responded to our applications for their assistance at a great sacrifice of their valuable time.

"Among the earliest questions brought before us, was the important one as to the terms upon which articles offered for exhibition should be admitted into the building. We considered that it was a main characteristic of the national undertaking in which we were engaged, that it should depend wholly upon the voluntary contributions of the people of this country for its success; and we therefore decided, without hesitation, that no charge whatever should be made on the admission of such goods. We considered also that the office of selecting the articles to be sent should be entrusted in the first instance to local committees, to be established in every foreign country, and in various districts of your Majesty's dominions; a general power of control being reserved to the commission.

"We have now the gratification of stating that our anticipations of support in this course have in all respects been fully realised. Your Majesty's most gracious donation to the funds of the Exhibition was the signal for voluntary contributions from all, even the humblest, classes of your subjects, and the funds which have thus been placed at our disposal amount at present to about 65,000*l*. Local committees, from which we have uniformly received the most zealous co-operation, were formed in all parts of the United Kingdom, in many of your Majesty's colonies, and in the territories of the Hon. East India Company. The most energetic support has also been received from the governments of nearly all the countries of the world, in most of which commissions have been appointed for the special purpose of promoting the objects of an Exhibition justly characterised in your Majesty's royal warrant as an Exhibition of the Works of Industry of all Nations.

"We have also to acknowledge the great readiness with which persons of all classes have come forward as exhibitors. And here again it becomes our duty to return our humble thanks to your Majesty for the most gracious manner in which your Majesty has condescended to associate yourself with your subjects by yourself contributing some most valuable and interesting articles to the Exhibition.

"The number of exhibitors whose productions it has been found possible to

accommodate is about 15,000, of whom nearly one-half are British. The remainder represent the productions of more than 40 foreign countries, comprising almost the whole of the civilised nations of the globe. In arranging the space to be allotted to each, we have taken into consideration both the nature of its productions and the facilities of access to this country afforded by its geographical position. Your Majesty will find the productions of your Majesty's dominions arranged in the western portion of the building, and those of foreign countries in the eastern. The Exhibition is divided into the four great classes of—1. Raw Materials; 2. Machinery; 3. Manufactures; and 4. Sculpture and the Fine Arts. A further division has been made according to the geographical position of the countries represented; those which lie within the warmer latitudes being placed near the centre of the building, and the colder countries at the extremities.

"Your Majesty having been graciously pleased to grant a site in this, your Royal Park, for the purpose of the Exhibition, the first column of the structure now honoured by your Majesty's presence was fixed on the 26th of September last. Within the short period, therefore, of seven months, owing to the energy of the contractors, and the active industry of the workmen employed by them, a building has been erected, entirely novel in its construction, covering a space of more than 18 acres, measuring 1851 feet in length and 456 feet in extreme breadth, capable of containing 40,000 visitors, and affording a frontage for the exhibition of goods to the extent of more than ten miles. For the original suggestion of the principle of this structure the Commissioners are indebted to Mr Joseph Paxton, to whom they feel their acknowledgments to be justly due for this interesting feature of their undertaking.

"With regard to the distribution of rewards to deserving exhibitors, we have decided that they should be given in the form of medals, not with reference to merely individual competition, but as rewards for excellence in whatever shape it may present itself. The selection of the persons to be so rewarded has been entrusted to juries composed equally of British subjects and of foreigners, the former having been selected by the commission from the recommendations made by the local committees, and the latter by the governments of the foreign nations the productions of which are exhibited. The names of these jurors, comprising as they do many of European celebrity, afford the best guarantee of the impartiality with which the rewards will be assigned.

"It affords us much gratification that, notwithstanding the magnitude of this undertaking, and the great distances from which many of the articles now exhibited have had to be collected, the day on which your Majesty has been graciously pleased to be present at the inauguration of the Exhibition is the same day that was originally named for its opening, thus affording a proof of what may, under God's blessing, be accomplished by good-will and cordial co-operation amongst nations, aided by the means that modern science has placed at our command.

"Having thus briefly laid before your Majesty the results of our labours, it now only remains for us to convey to your Majesty our dutiful and loyal acknowledgments of the support and encouragement which we have derived throughout this extensive and laborious task from the gracious favour and countenance of your Majesty. It is our heartfelt prayer that this undertaking, which has for its end the promotion of all branches of human industry, and the strengthening of the bonds of peace and friendship among all the nations of the earth, may, by the blessing of Divine Providence, conduce to the welfare of your Majesty's people, and be long remembered among the brightest circumstances of your Majesty's peaceful and happy reign."

To which Her Majesty returned the following answer:—

"I receive with the greatest satisfaction the address which you have presented to me on the opening of this Exhibition.

"I have observed, with a warm and increasing interest, the progress of your proceedings in the execution of the duties entrusted to you by the Royal Commission; and it affords me sincere gratification to witness the successful result of your judicious and unremitting exertions in the splendid spectacle by which I am this day surrounded.

"I cordially concur with you in the prayer, that by God's blessing this undertaking may conduce to the welfare of my people, and to the common interests of the human race, by encouraging the arts of peace and industry, strengthening the bonds of union among the nations of the earth, and promoting a friendly and honourable rivalry in the useful exercise of those faculties which have been conferred by a beneficent Providence for the good and the happiness of mankind."

The Royal answer having been read, his Royal Highness resumed his place by Her Majesty's side, and his Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury delivered an appropriate prayer, of which the greater part will be found in another column.

The Hallelujah Chorus having been sung with very fine effect, the Royal procession was then formed as described in the programme, and proceeded round the building. Her Majesty being greeted with the greatest enthusiasm. The procession turned to the right, moved to the west end of the nave by its north side, returned to the east end of the nave by its south side, including the south end of the transept, and came back to the centre along the north side of the nave; thus enabling all those present to see Her Majesty and the procession.

During the procession, and at the Queen's approach, the organs successively played marches selected by the Committee.

On Her Majesty's return to the platform, the Queen declared "The Exhibition opened" which was announced to the public by a flourish of trumpets and a firing of a royal salute on the north of the Serpentine; whereupon, the barriers, which had kept the nave clear, were thrown open, and the public allowed to circulate.

Her Majesty returned to Buckingham Palace by the route by which she came.

All the doors, closed at half-past eleven o'clock, were, upon her Majesty's departure, opened again.

GREAT PROTECTIONIST DEMONSTRATION.—On Tuesday the "National Association for the Protection of Industry and Capital throughout the British Empire" held its second anniversary meeting, in the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane. At eleven o'clock, a dense crowd of persons, the great majority of whom appeared to be substantial yeomen, besieged the avenues to the theatre; and, as soon as the doors were opened, a rush took place, which speedily filled the pit and boxes. The galleries also filled by degrees, and an almost impassable crowd was still left in the streets, who vainly endeavoured to obtain admission. St Martin's hall, in Long acre, had been engaged for this contingency, and large numbers repaired to that building shortly after the proceedings within the theatre had commenced. The proceedings within the walls of "Old Drury" were marked by great enthusiasm, which manifested itself in almost a continuous fire of applause, and by a sustained attention, which never flagged throughout the whole of the proceedings. It is impossible, remarks the *Times* reporter, for an impartial observer to attend these meetings without perceiving that the tenant-farmers are undergoing a political education, which is converting into patient and intelligent politicians men who were formerly content to take everything upon trust. The stage contained some hundreds of influential

friends of the cause, among whom were Protectionist delegates from almost every county in England. The Duke of Richmond presided; Earl Winchelsea and Mr Isaac Butt, the Irish Q.C., were the principal speakers at the theatre—Mr G. F. Young and Mr Ball at St Martin's.

PAUPER AGRICULTURAL TRAINING.—The guardians of the poor of St James's, Westminster, have purchased a site of twenty acres of land, adjoining Battersea Common, Surrey, where industrial schools for boys, girls, and infants, are about to be erected. These schools are to be strictly industrial. The larger portion of the boys will be occupied on the land.—*Builder.*

ENTERTAINMENT AT THE MANSION-HOUSE.—On Thursday the Lord Mayo and the Lady Mayoress gave a grand entertainment in the Egyptian hall to the aldermen, sheriffs, and members of the Corporation, and their ladies who attended at the opening of the Royal Exhibition, where seats were provided for them by order of the Executive Committee, with the privilege of the entree. In all probability there will take place in the Guildhall, in a very short time, an entertainment in honour of the Exhibition of all Nations, the following resolution having been passed at the last Common Council after strangers were ordered to withdraw:—"That a special committee be appointed to consider whether it is desirable to invite the distinguished foreigners who will visit this country on the occasion of the Great Exhibition to an entertainment or ball in the Guildhall of this city, or what other steps (if any) shall be taken, and to report thereon."

HEALTH OF LONDON DURING THE WEEK.—The deaths registered in the metropolitan districts in the week ending last Saturday were 1,675. Taking the same week in each of the 10 years 1841-50, it appears that the deaths did not rise in any instance so high as in last week, that in 1849 they rose to 1,658 but in most cases scarcely exceeded 900. The average of the ten corresponding weeks was 904 which, if corrected for a small increase of population, becomes 986. Above the estimated result, there was an increase last week amounting to 89. Last week, the births of 771 boys and 732 girls, in all 1,503 children, were registered. In the six corresponding weeks of 1845-50, the average number of births was 1,449. At the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, the mean height of the barometer in the week was 29.546 in. The mean temperature was 40.9, which is about 2 deg. above the average of the same week in 10 years.

PROVINCES.

REPRESENTATION OF THE ISLE OF WIGHT.—The *Hampshire Independent* announces that the member for the Isle of Wight, Mr John Simson, on Monday last, embraced the doctrines of catholicism. Under these altered circumstances, with differing views and a different faith, the hon. member has deemed it most consistent with his sense of honour, duty, and propriety to resign his seat, and immediately accept the Chiltern Hundreds. Captain Hammond, son of Sir G. Hammond, Bart., is spoken of as a candidate for the island on Protectionist principles. Mr C. Clifford is certain of the support of the dissenting body, whose numbers are large in the island, and he will also receive the assistance of the majority of Mr Simson's liberal supporters.

THE REPRESENTATION OF PLYMOUTH.—The result of the recent negotiations appears to be that Mr Roundell Palmer will be rejected should he ever attempt to offer himself, which appears very doubtful. Lord Ebrington will certainly be re-elected, and the seat of Mr Palmer be filled, probably, by Mr Collier.

AYLESBURY ELECTION.—A petition presented to the House of Commons against the return of Mr Bethell, sets forth that he was by himself and agents guilty of bribery and corruption at the last election.

DREADFUL ACCIDENT ON THE CHESHIRE JUNCTION RAILWAY.—Another alarming accident, which has resulted in the certain loss of five lives, and in the severe injury of many other persons, took place on Wednesday evening, on the Chester and Warrington Junction Railway. Three trains are concerned in the circumstances that led to it. A mixed train left the Chester station at five minutes to seven o'clock in the evening; another left the same place at a quarter past seven, also a long and heavy train; and a third left at nearly eight o'clock. The first train advanced at a regular speed up to a tunnel about a mile and a half long, called the Frodsham Tunnel, about ten miles from Chester. The line runs on an incline down this tunnel towards Chester, and on coming to the pull up the lower gradient, the engine seems not to have had sufficient power to do its work; the speed slackened, and eventually the train came to a dead stand-still. In this state the passengers remained when the second train came up, at what speed is not known, but it could not have been great, for it ran into the first train with a comparatively slight shock, and it is alleged that this second engine was also short of steam. The guard of the first train had been sent forward toward Frodsham with a light, to give warning of the difficulty in which the train was, but it was not seen by the driver of the second train, who ran on through a dense smoke impervious to vision. In this condition they remained for some time, when the third train came up at a speed of about ten miles an hour, the incline having caused the speed to slacken, and ran into the second train, the engine-driver not being aware of its presence, for, though there was a light at the tail of the second train, it was obscured by the smoke and steam. The effects were appalling. The third engine appeared to leap up, and was thrown violently off the line, across the way, and blocked up the passage. The people in the carriages were thrown in all directions. Altogether it is computed that not fewer than fifty persons are injured, in addition to those dead.

IRELAND.

THE AGGREGATE MEETING OF THE ROMAN CATHOLICS came off on Tuesday in the Rotunda. The large round room was packed as full as it could well hold (the admission being by purchased tickets), not less, it may be fairly estimated, than 2,000 persons having been present, and many more having to go away for want even of standing accommodation. Among those upon the platform were the Mayors of Cork, Limerick, Kilkenny, Drogheda, and Clonmel, Sir Colman O'Loghlen, Bart., W. Keogh, M. P., John Reynolds, M. P., Christopher Fitzsimon, D. L., Sergeant O'Brien, Q.C., Thomas O'Hagan, Q.C., Richard Deasey Q.C., J. D. Fitzgerald, Q.C., J. T. Devereux, M. P., James Power, D. L., Thomas Meagher, M. P., George H. Moore, M. P., Sir T. O'Brien, Bart., M. P., Andrew Ellis, F.R.C.S.I., John O'Connell, M. P., &c. The chair was taken by the Hon. Mr Charles Preston (son of Lord Gormanstown). The following were the leading resolutions:—"Resolved,—That as we, the Roman Catholics of Ireland, yield to none in our loyalty to the Queen, and attachment to the constitution, we challenge, as our undoubted right, the same full, free, and unrestricted religious liberty which is enjoyed by our fellow-subjects."—"That we consider the Ecclesiastical Titles Assumption Bill now before Parliament a gross and intolerable violation of religious liberty; and that the alterations proposed to be made by the Government in that measure in no respect diminish our abhorrence of the obnoxious principle which it involves."—"That we call upon our representatives in Parliament, and our countrymen in general, not only to

oppose, by every constitutional means, the bill itself, but also to give an active opposition to any administration which proposed or supports that or any other similar measure."

EMIGRATION.—The "rush" across the Atlantic continues with unabated vigour. A Nenagh paper states that the once-populous district of Thurles, and various other parts of Tipperary, appear to be almost totally deserted. The congregations attending the chapels have become, as contrasted with former years, miserably thin; and the once "finest peasantry in the world" have all but vanished. During the last week 400 emigrants left Thurles and its vicinity, and so great was the pressure at the railway station that additional carriages had to be put in requisition for their transit to Dublin. A letter from Waterford mentions that five emigrant ships, freighted with fully 2,000 souls, left that port for America on the 22nd inst., and on the 24th another large vessel, also laden with emigrants, sailed for the same destination. The accounts from the west are even more startling. A magistrate and landowner in the county of Mayo speaks in terms of the utmost alarm at the prospect of the country being left without sufficient hands to till the ground. From Westport and Castlebar shopkeepers, farmers, and able-bodied labourers are flying as if from a plague; in many districts cultivation, as a matter of course, is wholly neglected, and the population seems to be limited to the inmates of the workhouses.

INVESTMENT OF ENGLISH CAPITAL.—Another London letter in the *Freeman* asserts that the report of several large English capitalists having resolved to make advances upon Irish property on certain terms has received confirmation, as well as the plan for the formation of land companies.

REPRESENTATION OF BELFAST.—The *Belfast Chronicle* is "authorised to state" that on the dissolution of the present Parliament Sir James Emerson Tennent intends becoming a candidate for the representation of his native town. A requisition from a numerous body of electors is in progress of signature, and Sir Emerson, it appears, in compliance with their wishes, will request their suffrages when the occasion offers.

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL.

SPAIN.

The Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs has assured Lord Howden that Spain will not interfere in the affairs of Portugal, excepting in a case of extreme danger to the Monarchy.

PORTUGAL.

A telegraphic despatch from Lisbon via Paris, states that the garison of Oporto joined the Duke of Saldanha's insurrection on the 24th ult.

Saldanha, who was on his road to Vigo, where he intended to embark, was recalled by the insurgent troops and inhabitants of Oporto.

SWITZERLAND.

The *Courier Suisse* of the 25th says:—"The Hungarian refugees are awaiting in the Canton of Neuchâtel the reply of the French Government, relative to their passage through France to America. The cost of their transport to America is to be placed at the charge of the Canton of Tessino. It appears that, in consequence of some steps taken by the Charge d'Affaires of Sardinia in Switzerland, the residence of Sardinian emigrants who are provided with passports is to be permitted. The rumour which has been in circulation of other Hungarian deserters having taken refuge in the Tessino, from the Austrian regiments, is confirmed."

AUSTRIA.

The Minister of Finance has summoned Messrs Rothschild and Sina to a consultation with respect to the financial situation of the country. The knowledge of this fact has had a very good effect in commercial circles.

The Vienna correspondent of the *Times* says:—"According to news of the 17th from Cassel, a report is current that an army of 60,000 men is to be concentrated near Frankfort. Austria and Prussia are to contribute 20,000 men each; Bavaria 10,000, and the other States 10,000 among them. That a standing Federal army will be formed in Germany as soon as the great Powers have come to an understanding admits of no doubt, but I can give no credit to the foregoing statement, as it is obvious that Bavaria's contingent would be out of all proportion to that furnished by the smaller Kingdoms and States."

Further opposition is being made against Mr Bruck's plan of an Austro-German customs-union. A Court coalition has been got up to put down the Free Trade tendencies ascribed to the Minister of Commerce. A portion of the aristocracy, headed by Archduke John, persist in prophesying the downfall of the monarchy from the "Cobden doctrines" of the "merchant minister of Trieste," as Mr Bruck is invariably termed by the Protectionists, who, being owners of extensive iron works in Styria and Corinthia, would see Austria screened from the world by a Chinese wall sooner than risk or lose a half-penny in the pound of their incomes. There is a rumoured crusade of the Roman Catholic hierarchy against the University. The pious prelates are said to preach the necessity of rusticating the *alma mater* of Vienna, professors, students, and all, into some Slavonian wilderness, not exactly for the purpose of diffusing useful knowledge among the primitive boors of the Hanna (in Moravia), but rather with a view of keeping the students out of the reach of political books, newspapers, and conversations. The professors themselves are pronounced black sheep, and past spiritual recovery, unless speedily sent out of the infected atmosphere of Vienna. Incredible as this rumour may appear, it is believed by well-informed persons; and if anybody shrugs up his shoulders at it, he is told, "Nothing is impossible under the reign of Schwarzenberg and his brother, the cardinal."

The approaching return of Prince Metternich to Austria seems to be exciting a good deal of alarm in Vienna. It is feared that his presence may revive the old Conservative ultra-Monarchical party.

A census just taken at Vienna shows that the population amounts

to 477,634 persons; of these 10,670 are Jews, 8,173 Protestants, 820 of the Greek Church, and 21 Mahometans. The number of foreign visitors was 17,000.

PRUSSIA.

M. Bismark Sconhausen is to accompany M. Rochow, appointed ambassador to the Diet, to Frankfort, and M. Bernstorff is to take M. Rochow's place for the few months during which M. Rochow will be absent from the court of St Petersburg.

The commission of the Second Chamber has struck out some of the most stringent provisions of the press law as it came down from the Upper House. It proposes to release religious and scientific periodicals from the obligation of depositing a sum of money as security, calculated according to the frequency of publication and the population of the cities or towns in which they appear. The power of prohibiting the sale and circulation of books published in foreign States by an order of the Minister of the Interior is also cancelled. The prohibition is only to be issued after a judicial decision. The destruction of a periodical seized, if it contains a punishable article, however, may be ordered, even if the author is acquitted on the prosecution. The alterations may make the loss of the bill altogether a matter of comparative indifference to the Government, which has always the decrees of June, 1850 (the present actual law,) to fall back upon, and they are severe enough for all purposes, as late events have amply proved.

The *Augsburgh Allgemeine Zeitung* maintains that Austria, so far from having given up the project of incorporating all her States in the Bund, has consented to Prussia's demand for a return to the old diet, and for a working party (Austria retaining the presidency of honour,) on the condition that Prussia will abide by her promise to advocate the admission of the whole Austrian monarchy into the Bund—and will further make a direct opposition to the protests of England and France on that subject; Prince Schwarzenberg says that the English and French governments may protest as long as they like, for that he knows they cannot make war.

It is settled that a number of the Berlin police are to be sent to London to assist their London brethren in dealing with the questionable characters that are likely to be visitors of the World's Fair, among the thousands who will arrive from legitimate motives.

CANADA.

It is announced, on good authority, that Mr Lafontaine, the leader of the French Canadians, and the Attorney-General for Canada East, will retire from public life at the close of the present Parliament.

An association has been formed by the High Church party to prevent the secularisation of the clergy revenues, but it fails to attract attention, and will probably produce no decided effect.

UNITED STATES.

The Baltic steam ship has arrived from New York in twelve days, and brings above two hundred passengers—the largest number that has yet been carried by a steamer. The case of the fugitive slave at Boston had terminated in his being given up and returned to the South, without any serious rioting on the part of the citizens, but amidst much excitement. He was led down to the vessel between files of armed police, and the steamer mounted two loaded cannon. As she put off, many of the crowd sang hymns, and a minister offered aloud a prayer, invoking Divine compassion on the captive and speedy deliverance to his brethren. Some of the church bells tolled as for a public calamity, and the abolitionists invited the citizens to hold with them a religious service. The approaching annual convention was to be held at Syracuse, as not a building was to be procured in New York for "love of gold or love of liberty." Mr Thompson was expected to attend; his addresses at Toronto had given a great stimulus to the Anti-slavery movement there.

The news from Yucatan is the most important of any received by the arrival. It mentions that the whites in that territory were in a most precarious condition, so much so that General La Vega had been despatched from Mexico to command against the Indians. The latter had the advantage in the recent conflicts with the whites, and by the latest accounts, March 10, contemplated a descent upon the city of Merida.

From Hayti intelligence arrives that eight prisoners (one of them a minister of justice) had been shot, in pursuance of the sentence passed on them for treason.

The Cuban invasion was again revived. The Spanish minister had notified the American authorities that a new organisation was being carried on, and that the present place of meeting was Apalachicola.

To add to the confusion of the political world at this moment, Mr Seward, the United States senator from this State, and John Van Buren, have each published letters addressed to the Boston abolitionists, in which they both agree in denouncing the Fugitive Slave Bill, and recommend opposition to it in almost every form.

This remarkable coalition between two men who have hitherto been inveterate political enemies, attracts great attention, and there is an evident determination on their part to make the most of abolition while it rages.

TURKEY.

Austria has raised fresh difficulties about the liberation of Kosuth and his companions in exile, and insists upon their continued detention. Sir Stratford Canning had had an important interview with the Sultan. The Russians seek to prolong their occupation of the Danubian provinces indefinitely, by raising claims with which the Porte is not in a state to comply.

The *Augsburgh Gazette* states from Constantinople, 12th ult. :—"It is said to be in contemplation to marry the eldest daughter of the Sultan, now twelve years of age, with Mehemet Ali Bey, youngest son of Mehemet Ali. Abbas Facha is, however, opposed to it, as he fears

being dismissed by the Ottoman Porte in favour of this son-in-law of the Sultan. Letters from Bucharest renew the assurance that the Russian troops would take their departure on the 13th ult.

WEST INDIES.

The last American mail has brought dates from Jamaica to the 6th inst.

The cholera is still prevailing in certain districts of the island. At St Thomas in the East there were sixty cases, of which eighteen were fatal, during a portion of the month of March. Among the victims at St Thomas in the Vale was the Rev. Robert Seer. At St Lucia there had been several fatal cases. A return made by the secretary to the Board of Health of St Andrew, to the House of Assembly, shows that the deaths by cholera in that parish, from the 18th of October, 1850, to the 21st January, 1851, as far as ascertained, were: males, 931; females, 967; total, 1,948.

The *Falmouth Advertiser* of the 1st inst. says, that the crops of February this year will be abundant, although they will fall short one-quarter of what was expected.

AUSTRALIA.

At Port Phillip the preparations for celebrating the advent of the Separation Act were still employing the excited minds and super-abundant means of the colonists.

Coal had risen to 2l 10s per ton. This is said to be owing to the great demand for coal at Newcastle, where no less than eighteen vessels were waiting to take cargoes for California.

Some Germans had established a pottery at Melbourne, with very good prospects of success.

Nine places of worship, with accommodation for 5,000 persons, were in course of erection at Melbourne.

BIRTHS.

On the 26th ult., at Newcastle, county of Longford, the lady of the Hon. L. H. King Harman, of a son.

On the 28th ult., at 103 Westbourne terrace, the wife of R. Cobden, Esq., M. P., of a daughter.

On Monday, the 28th ult., at 35 Sussex gardens, Hyde park, the wife of C. S. Thomas, Esq., of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

On the 24th ult., at St Mary's, Stoke, by the Rev. James Money and Rev. Stephen Croft, Charles, eldest son of the Rev. C. Cameron, to Marcia, daughter of the late Hon. Lindsay Burrell, of Stoke park, Suffolk.

On Wednesday, the 30th ult., at St George's, Hanover square, by the Rev. Henry Knapp, M. A., vicar of Swaton-cum-Spanby, and uncle of the bride, John Ringrose, of Cottingham grange, Yorkshire, Esq., to Augusta Ann, second daughter of the late Hamby Knapp, Esq., of Brook street, Grosvenor square.

DEATHS.

On the 30th ult., at his residence, 24, Upper Montagu street, Montagu square, the Right Hon. Lord Montfort, in the 78th year of his age.

On the 28th ult., in Eaton square, Admiral Sir Edward Codrington G. C. B., aged 81.

On the 28th ult., at Ashford hall, Salop, Major-General Lechmere Russell, C. B., of the Bombay Horse Artillery, aged 61.

COMMERCIAL AND MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.

It is understood that the Bank of England have adopted a resolution to purchase, for the future, American coined gold (eagles) at a fixed price, the rate named being 37 1/2s 3d per ounce. It is calculated that under this arrangement a remittance might be made from the United States at a cost which would be equivalent to a bill of exchange at 109 1/2, and as the last quotation was 110 1/2, there is a consequent probability that it will temporarily increase the shipments from that country, although of course the sellers of paper will speedily adjust themselves to the alteration.

There is little doubt that the Royal Mail Steam-ships from Liverpool to New York and Boston will at no very distant date receive orders to make Holyhead their mail station. We believe, however, this alteration will be confined to the inward mails solely; the outward being despatched from Liverpool direct, in order to enable the commercial men of the Mersey to avail themselves of the last moment of time previous to the departure of the steamers.—*Liverpool Albion*.

The *Piedmontese Gazette* of the 21st announces that it has received by express the intelligence that the Viceroy of Egypt has definitively sanctioned the construction of the Alexandria, Cairo, and Suez Railway.

A sum of 1,200l has been raised by subscription in New South Wales, for the purpose of introducing alpacas into that colony, where it is hoped that those animals will thrive.

There is a prospect of the re-commencement of the Crown and the London Dock Company case. The Attorney-General having moved in the Court of Exchequer for a new trial on the ground of misdirection, and Sir F. Kelly for entering a verdict for the defendants, both rules were granted.

Mr Peto, Mr Brassey, and Mr J. L. Ricardo, have got the contract for the first railway undertaken in Norway. It is to run from Lake Meuson to Christiania. It is expected to be opened in May, 1853.

The new duties on coffee and timber have already commenced—they came into force on the 15th of April, and goods in warehouse on the 16th ult. are to be subjected to the new duties. On coffee the new duty is 2d, and on kilndried, roasted, or ground, 6d per lb.

The *Herald of Peace* for May, just published, announces that the Great Peace Congress to be held in London this year will open its sittings on Tuesday, July 22nd, and will continue for several days during that week.

Captain Guesdon, commanding the French whaler the Salamandre, just arrived at Havre, gives an account of the discovery of a cluster of islands which is not marked on any of the charts. They lie in 172 deg. 56 min. west longitude of the meridian of Paris, and 9 deg. 38 min. south latitude. They are from 25 to 30 in number, three of them of some extent, and all covered with cocoa-nut trees.

A congress of merchant seamen has been and is still sitting at Manchester, to deliberate on the best way of resisting the Mercantile Marine Act. Delegates from the principal ports in the kingdom are present.

A Parliamentary paper announces that the sum required to be voted towards defraying the expenses of the Caffre war for the years 1850-51 and 1851-52 is estimated at 200,000l.

Mr Henry Berkeley, the Liberal member for Bristol, delivered a lecture last week in Broadmead rooms, on "The Ballot." It was announced as a "popular" lecture; and, says the *Mercury*, it was so in every sense of the word.

Mr W. Thackeray has volunteered the discharge of the Laureate's duty, having produced a "May Day Ode" of 40 verses.

The President of the French Republic has awarded a silver medal of honour of the first class to Mr Anderson, a master in the English Royal Navy, commanding the coast guard station at Downerry, for saving, at the risk of his own life, the crew of the *Fietan*, of Bayonne, on the 15th of January last.

At a public meeting at the Council hall, Sheffield, on Thursday last, it was resolved, "That Ebenezer Elliott's long, zealous, and successful advocacy of free trade, and his great genius as a poet, deserve to be publicly acknowledged, by the erection of a monument to his memory." A subscription has accordingly been entered into, and 2301 has been already subscribed, chiefly in Sheffield.—*Sheffield Times*.

The Edinburgh Town Council have appointed a deputation to proceed to London with the view of obtaining that the committee to be appointed by Parliament to inquire into the subject of the church rates in England and their operation, should also be instructed to make a similar inquiry with regard to the annuity tax in Edinburgh, Montrose, and Canongate.

The Turkish frigate *Teizi Baari*, Captain Shamsi Bey, arrived at Southampton on Saturday from Constantinople, having left that port on the 6th inst. She had on board 207 packages, containing 3,000 articles for the Great Exhibition. Amongst the distinguished persons who have arrived in the *Teizi Baari* are, Gemeidin Pacha, a near relative of the Sultan of Turkey, on a visit to this country during the Exhibition; Vice-Admiral Moustapha Pacha, an officer of the highest rank in the Ottoman dominions; M. Constantine Musurus, the new ambassador from the Sublime Porte to the Court of St James's.

Gore house and the grounds attached to it, now in the possession of M. Soyer, of gastronomic celebrity, have undergone a perfect metamorphosis, and the arrangements are now completed for the reception of the hosts who are expected to visit the Exhibition of the Crystal Palace.

On Tuesday last an explosion took place at Seaton Engine, on the Durham and Sunderland Branch Railway, which blew a boiler to a distance of 70 yards from its seat. A youth, named Farrow, was severely scalded, and lies in a very precarious state.

MUSIC, THE DRAMA, &c.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—A pretty little *piece de circonstance*, a divertissement appropriate to the day, was introduced on Thursday evening, after the performance of *Masaniello*. The rising of the curtain disclosed a well-painted scene of the Crystal Palace, and the stage covered with an immense multitude of both sexes, disposed in picturesque groups, and attired in a great variety of national costumes. "God save the Queen" was first sung, and then a cantata, consisting of solos and chorus, to the following words:—

All hail! Give welcome to this happy day,
War throws his sword and spear and helmet down,
And, wreathed with hawthorn, laughs the Lady May,
And Peace smiles, glad, beneath her olive crown.
Welcome to Britain's land,
Welcome with heart and hand,
Welcome all.
When the merry bells ring round,
And the jocund rebecks sound,
To many a youth and many a maid
Dancing in the checker'd shade.

The music of this cantata, composed by Balfe, was very good and extremely well executed. Then there was a series of characteristic dances of various nations, among which an English horn-pipe took the lead, followed by French, Italian, Spanish, Swiss, Polish, Russian, &c. This divertissement was received with great applause, and will doubtless have many repetitions.

PRINCESS'S THEATRE.—The Easter entertainments at this house proved highly attractive. Mr Bourcicault's new comedy, *Love in a Maze*, has nearly reached its fiftieth representation, and continues to draw. Though not particularly original in plot, it is written with so much point, and is so excellently acted, that it is still loudly applauded. The new burlesque, *The Alhambra, or the Three Moorish Princesses*, founded on a story of Washington Irving, by Mr Albert Smith, is, as might be inferred from his name, full of puns and witty sayings. The story is not particularly dramatic, but it serves as a thread whereon to string plenty of drolleries. The scenery is much to be admired; that representing a balloon voyage from Brompton to the Alhambra particularly so. There are also some elegant dances, in which Miss Leclercq especially distinguishes herself. The humours of Keeley and Wigan as acrobats were exceedingly laughable; nor must we forget to mention the acting of Mr Wynn, whose talent for burlesque was new to us.

Literature.

MUSGRAVE AND OTHER TALES. By Mrs GORDON. Hope and Co., Great Marlborough street.

Mrs GORDON's former work, "Kingsconell," has found great favour with the novel-reading public. A very interesting story or legend, interwoven with considerable skill in the history of a modern family, served to withdraw attention from that portion of the work which might prove objectionable to many, namely, the strong sectarian tendency of most of the characters, and the oft-repeated and very lengthened disquisitions on religious subjects, which we, with many others, deem out of place in a novel. The present work is infinitely more liable to this objection, not only because the desire to influence the reader's religious opinions is much more evident, but because the story is weaker in its separate portions, less well-knit together, and conse-

quently much less interesting. It is a curious fact, that the Puseyites or Tractarians—we know not what fitter or more generally accepted name to give them—are all more or less inclined to revive the belief, generally deemed superstitious, in ghosts and supernatural influences. We little dreamed forty years ago, of finding in English books of this day admiring criticisms of and belief in the story of Grillparzer's "Abnfrau"—a work which even then, in much believing Germany, met with more mockery and disapprobation than approval or belief. Mrs Gordon's style is extremely agreeable, and her tales generally interesting. It is a pity, therefore, she should counteract the effects her writings might have by attempting what she is not likely to attain.

GILBERT'S VISITORS' GUIDE TO LONDON, &c. With a Map. Editions in French and German. James Gilbert, Paternoster row.

GUIDES to London in all the tongues of Europe are pouring in on us. Mr Gilbert takes up the traveller on his arrival, and conducts him from the Custom House to his hotel, telling him by the way about public conveyances and fares and English money, but does not set him down at any particular hotel. He adverts to most of them, and describes their peculiarities, leaving the visitor to choose from amongst them his lodging for himself. He afterwards conducts the traveller to the various parts of the metropolis, and tells him something en route about Great Britain. In short, Mr Gilbert's book will be a useful help to our numerous visitors; and all the more agreeable to many of them that they will be able to read in their own language what they will find most necessary to know. The book is accompanied by a useful map of the metropolis.

THE MANUFACTURE OF BEET-ROOT SUGAR IN IRELAND. By WILLIAM K. SULLIVAN. Dublin: James McGlashan, Upper Sackville street.

Is sugar from beet-root destined to supersede in Europe sugar from cane? This is an important question for cane and beet-root growers, sugar refiners, and governments which levy large revenues from cane sugar, and it begins to loom rather ominously on the horizon. Professor Sullivan, the chemical officer of the Museum of Irish Industry in Stephen's Green, commences his pamphlet by referring to an opinion, expressed by Mr McCulloch in his "Commercial Dictionary," that a law passed in France in 1842 would go far to annihilate the growth of beet root sugar in France. Such, however, has not turned out to be the case. Mr Sullivan says of the cultivation of beet in France: "In the year 1840, just a few years before his prophecy, 142,495 acres of land were devoted to the cultivation of beet, which required 29 7/8 9s 3/4d worth of seed, that is at the rate of 4s 3d per acre; the produce from which amounted to 1,549,895 tons 17 cwt 2 qrs, which, at the average price of 15s 1/2d, yielded 1,159,178l, that is, a mean of 8l 2s 2 1/2d per acre. The quantity of sugar manufactured from this quantity of beet root was 51,201 tons, value 1,880,000l. In the year 1850, the quantity of sugar produced exceeded 100,000 tons! It had thus doubled in ten years; but, in 1840, the duty was only a few shillings per cwt, and in 1850 it amounted to from 18s 7d to 1l 2s per cwt on raw sugars, according to quality, and 1l 6s 7d on refined. Had Mr McCulloch's opinions prevailed amongst French statesmen, this admirable and important branch of industry would have been completely annihilated."

The improvements made in the art of refining sugar has had much to do with extending the cultivation of beet on the continent, and have probably not been without their influence over the successful competition of Dutch and Belgian refiners with our own refiners, of which they complain. A Mr Crosley, who writes a pamphlet entitled "Reasons for the Introduction of the Manufacture of Beet root Sugar into Ireland," which he sends to us, we presume, for notice, but marks "confidential," and may mean that his statements are not to be relied on, but cannot surely mean that they are to be locked up in our bosoms after our eyes have drunk them in, and who assures us that he has had extensive experience as a sugar refiner, and taken out several patents to improve the art of sugar refining.—Mr Crosley, after having made various improvements which promoted a revolution in the manufacture of sugar on the continent, goes on to say that he has "since succeeded in discovering and perfecting still greater improvements, by which the whole of the saccharine matter can be extracted from the raw roots, instead of leaving a large residue as formerly; and by which not only is sugar of superior quality produced, but this is done with a rapidity truly astonishing; for, by the invention of a Belgic refiner, conjointly with the other improvements alluded to, leaves of sugar are made direct from the juice of the roots in a few hours—a process which it required nearly three months to accomplish 40 years ago." If this be true, it may be profitable to cultivate beet-root sugar in Ireland or in England, paying an equal duty to that paid by cane sugar, and it is to this point the pamphlet of Professor Sullivan is chiefly directed. In his opinion, Ireland is not, under existing circumstances, a country adapted for growing corn, and he gives the following table of the mean produce per acre of different countries, both of wheat and green crops:—

MEAN PRODUCE PER ACRE OF WHEAT.	
	Bushels per acre.
Ireland.—General average for good years	31 6*
— Average for 1848	21 2*
England.—Best soils	34 4†
— Average	30 2
Lombardy.—Irrigated lands	54 6†
— Average for Venetian Lombardy	15 9
Germany.—Northern Plain	26 9
— Lavanthal	22 3
Prabant and Flanders	28 8
France.—Alsace	22 3 to 29 7
— Environs of Paris	25 2 †
— Department of Oise	21 5
America, East of the Alleghanies.—Rich lands	35 2
— — — — — Middling	29 9
— — — — — Poor lands	44 3
— — — — — Middling	27 5
— Venezuela.—Valley of Aragua	44 0

* Statistique de l'Agriculture de la France. Par Moreau de Jonnes. Paris, 1848. p 261

AVERAGE PRODUCE OF WHEAT PER ACRE IN 1848.		
	Bu.-shels.	Barrels of 20 stones
Wicklow	30.0	6.33
Armagh	25.5	5.37
Wexford	24.7	5.18
Down	23.0	4.83
Mayo	22.4	4.71
Kildare	21.3	4.49
Galway	19.5	4.11
Cork	17.8	3.73

AVERAGE PRODUCE OF GREEN CROPS.		Tons
Ireland.—Mean produce in favourable years		15.0*
— " — " 1848, and other unfavourable years		14.0*
France.—General average from Government statistics		10.80†
— Ditto, according to Bousingault, for several years		10.50
— Roville.—Mean of seven years		7.16‡
Germany.—Northern part		10.50‡
Southern Germany		9.30‡

* Calculated from the Government Returns. † Bousingault, *Economie Rurale*.
‡ Various sources of very recent date.

In growing wheat we scarcely exceed in produce the middle and eastern parts of Europe, even comparing our favourable years with their general average, and in unfavourable years we fall below them; and yet our agriculture is far superior to most parts of France and Germany, our soil in general about the best in Europe, and our facilities for obtaining manures extremely good.

From a comparison between the average produce of beet and turnips per acre in Ireland in 1848, and of the sugar beet in several departments of France, he comes to the conclusion "that the produce of an acre of land in Ireland, sown with beet, even in unfavourable years, is far higher than the general average of the best cultivated departments of France."

He further concludes, from a great variety of details which he gives which we cannot verify, and of which only a well-informed practical farmer can judge, that no crop will pay better for cultivation in Ireland than beet-root; that beet crops are larger in Ireland than are obtained elsewhere, and the profits greater than growing corn; and that the quantity of beet grown in Ireland is equal to that grown on the continent for the manufacture of sugar. The plain and avowed object of the somewhat elaborate pamphlet of the Professor is of course to recommend the cultivation of beet-root and the manufacture of sugar in Ireland, even on the supposition that on the beet sugar a duty is to be paid, according to the law at present, equal to that paid on cane-grown sugar. We have placed some of the Professor's facts before our readers, and believe they are worth consideration by those who, being engaged in agriculture, and having an interest in the improvement of Ireland, are competent to judge of their bearings. When the Professor, taking the average of Ireland, says that the agriculture there is far superior to the agriculture of most parts of France and Germany, he is undoubtedly in error. The most improved agriculture of Ireland is probably superior to the best of Germany or France, but the average of Ireland is much below the average of those countries. If that speaks against his estimate of their relative cereal capacities, it would be in favour of the probable production of beet had that too been taken at a fair average; but it is clear that the cultivation of green crops in Ireland is the exception. It is the work of the best agriculturists, and hence, while we doubt the accuracy of the first comparison, we do not agree in the conclusion Professor Sullivan draws from his statements. We do not say this to discourage the attempt to cultivate beet in Ireland, but to recommend caution. Theoretical husbandry is an art to be suspected; and under any present pressure men should be careful how they engage in new pursuits. Improvements in agriculture must, as the rule, like almost all other improvements, come from those engaged in the art, though scientific and observing men, or other individuals, may and must suggest the principles on which improvements can be carried out. Ireland has for ages been the victim of all kinds of quackery, and now that she seems likely to be replaced by stern necessity under the tutelage of reality, and to have Nature or circumstances for her teacher, we ought not to encourage any new quackery, however pleasing its form, to interfere between the Irish and the actual circumstances of their condition. If beet root can be cultivated profitably in Ireland, and sugars can be profitably manufactured there, individuals and companies will no doubt rapidly come forward to realise these advantages. On the continent the manufacture of beet-root sugar is making considerable progress, and it may possibly be as advantageous in Ireland as in Belgium. There is no restraint on the growth of beet here, except that the sugar will be liable to the same duty as cane-grown sugar; and as long as the industry is free, individuals are left without bias to engage in it or not, as private interests dictate. As long as the Government does not interfere either way, the question must be wholly left to those who have a personal interest in, and are practically acquainted with it. Whether beet for sugar can be profitably cultivated or not, we will not decide, even after reading Professor Sullivan's carefully compiled and elaborate pamphlet.

THE HEIR OF WEST WAYLAND. By MARY HOWITT. *Parlour Library*. Vol. LVII. Simms and McIntyre, Paternoster row.

Mrs HOWITT writes very entertaining, and occasionally instructive tales, and this is one of them. Her easy, simple style, her power of describing scenery, and in some cases her skill in the delineation of character, make her a favourite among the readers of light literature. The "Heir of West Wayland" is somewhat more ambitious in its aim than "Wood Leighton," or any other of Mrs Howitt's former tales; it would have been a few years ago a "three volume" novel; but the change that has taken place in the manner of publishing works like this, has given it the form of one volume—a number of the "Parlour Library," and it is a worthy sequel to the many well-written works that have already appeared in this excellent selection. The peculiarity of Mrs Howitt's tales, for it may not perhaps deserve the name of a fault, is their tendency—if we may borrow a phrase from drawing—"to make her shadows too dark." The contrast between the good and bad characters is much to great, and the

villains particularly are beyond probability. In this story the unprincipled manœuvring mother and the prodigal heir are not consistent with the experience of real life, and the scenes in which they show forth appear, therefore, unnatural.

DISEASES OF THE HUMAN HAIR. From the French of M. Cazenave. By T. H. BURGESS, M.D. Henry Renshaw, 356 Strand.

THE minute dexterity which division of labour gives the hand, as set forth in most books of political economy since the day of Smith, is properly considered one of the moral wonders of man's organization. But it is trifling compared to the minute dexterity in observation which, confining the attention to one subject and judiciously investigating it, gives to the mind. The Germans and the French, amongst whom *savans* are very numerous, supply numerous examples of these kind of skilful investigations into parts of natural history. Lately our own countrymen have quite rivalled them. In the hands of careful observers, the microscope has revealed to man the secrets of the formation of the many tissues of his body, the sources of many diseases, and the structure of the most minute and delicate portions of the human frame. The knowledge thus detected by skill patiently investigating one small subject, is finer and more delicate than the minute work of the most elaborate Chinese ivory carver. Man, in truth, by the most carefully elaborated works of his hands, is only an imitator at an immeasurable distance of the minutely and carefully elaborated works of Nature. His mind being at best but a reflex of these, can only impart to his hand a little of the skill discovered in them. The investigations into the growth and formation of hair, with a view to describe its properties and suggest an easy natural mode of keeping it clean and healthy, by M. Cazenave, is a specimen of laborious and minute observations turned to a very useful purpose. Common experience has, indeed, preceded science in teaching us to keep the hair clean, and to avoid daubing it with those unguents and ointments, pomades and flour, by which our ancestors converted the hair into a dirty pudding; but it is pleasant to have instinct confirmed by science, and the easy comfortable way we deal with our hair demonstrated to be the best for preserving that great ornament to man and woman. The various applications invented to keep the hair moist, &c., including the celebrated Macassar oil, are said to be "always useless, and frequently injurious, no matter whether the hair is naturally either dry or moist. In the first place, they prevent the scalp from being properly cleaned, and act as a foreign substance in addition to the ordinary products of the secretions of the parts, and so, according to the nature of their composition, excite more or less irritation in the skin, and even inflammation itself. These results almost invariably occur when rancid grease or oil are often used, and especially when cosmetics containing active ingredients, as canilla, quinquina, are habitually employed." Much similar practical instruction, as well as much information concerning the structure of the hair, is contained in this little book, which we commend to the attention of all admirers of beautiful heads of hair. Let us add, that twisting and twining the hair, and tightly binding it up and round, are apt to break the hair and otherwise injure it, though certainly no ornament is more graceful to females than a "tidy" head of hair.

THE NEWSPAPER PRESS DIRECTORY. A New Edition. By CHARLES MITCHELL. C. Mitchell, Red Lion court, Fleet street.

We are glad to see Mr Mitchell's very useful compilation at its third edition. There is no other book which gives so completely the statistics of the Newspaper Press, at once "the head, the heart, and tongue of all." Long ago it became a recognised truth that the Press is as necessary to society in its present condition as food; it is essential to the existence of society, though abroad a useless and mischievous bureaucracy tries to put it down; and from supplying the wants of the day and the hour, the daily and weekly press seems likely to absorb in itself almost every other form of literature. When knowledge is rapidly accumulated and diffused, a multiplication of books becomes unnecessary, and a great burden. They are mere lumber. Books for preservation, therefore, are not likely to be much multiplied. The newspaper of the day, recording all the events of every day, will be sufficient for the wants of the day; and the more fragile its leaves, the thinner the paper—that it too may not, like books, become an incumbrance—the more suitable it will be to the world. Mr Mitchell's statistics of the Press is a complete guide to the newspaper press of the whole empire. It contains, too, a valuable abridgment and exposition of the law concerning newspapers, and is a very useful book to advertisers, public writers, and the public at large.

THE ILLUSTRATED OMNIBUS GUIDE. With an Original Map of London for ascertaining Cab Fares for Foreigners and Country Visitors. W. H. Smith and Son, Strand.

An ingenious method of running lines across a map of London, dividing it into a number of angles, the sides of each being exactly half a mile, enables the cab traveller to tell almost at a glance, within 4d, the amount of a fare to any distance. This is very convenient. The Guide informs the world, too, very completely, the hours at which every kind of omnibus runs, the fares, &c., and is about as useful a little book as the present influx of strangers has called into being. It has, however, a permanent value, and will be continued and corrected every month; we venture to predict, to meet the alterations that are constantly making, for many months and years.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

The Official and Illustrated Catalogues of the Great Exhibition. Family Pastime; or, Homes Made Happy. Houlston and Stoneman. Chambers' Papers for the People. Vol. VIII.

The Family Tutor and School Companion, &c. 6 Parts. Houlston and Stonean.
 The Family Friend 4 Parts. Houlston and Stonean.
 The Parlour Magazine, No. 1. Houlston and Stonean.
 Penn. Maps, Part X. Chapman and Hall.
 Tait's Magazine for May.
 The Dublin Magazine for May.
 The Colonial Magazine for May.
 The Bankers' Magazine for May.
 The Farmers' Magazine for May.
 The Church of England Magazine for May.
 The New Monthly Belle Assemblée for May.
 The Sportsman's for May.
 The British Quarterly Review for May.
 Synopsis of the Contents of the Great Exhibition. By Robert Hunt. Spicer Brothers.
 The Temperance Cyclopaedia. By the Rev. W. Reid. Houlston and Stonean.
 Logic for the Million. By a Fellow of the Royal Society. Leneman and Co.
 The Church of England in the Reign of Henry VIII., Edward VI., and Queen Mary.
 (Library for the Times) Crescent, Bla kfriars.
 Soft Spring Water from the Surrey Sand. By the Hon. W. Napier. Smith, Elder,
 and Co.
 Timethrift No. 1 and 2.
 Familiar Things. No. 5.
 Highland Destination. Second Report for 1850. Blackwood.

To Readers and Correspondents.

Communications must be authenticated by the name of the writer.

MERCATOR, Glasgow.—The apparent discrepancies in the Paris Exchanges on the 4th and 11th ult., we find on investigation to have arisen from typical errors in printing the Exchange List. They should have been April 4—Paris, 3 months, 25 1/2 to 25 1/2;—and April 11—25 1/2 to 25 1/2. Considerable fluctuations have recently taken place from the speculative railway business between the two countries.

H. L. W., U. U. Club.—This letter is received, and will be noticed when the subject is resumed next week.
 A. Y. X.—We will endeavour to comply with this correspondent's wish.
 E. H., Knightsbridge.—This enquiry is too general for us to give any distinct reply to it. Probably some general information on the subject would be found in Dr. Ures's Dictionary of Manufactures, &c.; but the best information would be found in the woollen districts by personal enquiry. If there is any specific point which we can answer we shall be glad to do so.
 J. S., Atholman, Glasgow.—We fear the information required cannot be given complete, but we will see how much of it can be correctly given.

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 26th day of April 1851:—

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.	
Notes issued	26,622,475
Government debt	11,015,100
Other Securities	2,984,900
Gold coin and bullion	12,629,100
Silver bullion	33,375
26,662,475	26,662,475

BANKING DEPARTMENT.	
Proprietors' capital	14,553,000
Reserve	3,103,984
Public Deposits (including Exchange, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts)	4,308,927
Other Deposits	9,812,983
Seven Day and other Bills	1,041,984
32,860,794	32,860,794

THE OLD FORM.	
Circulation Inc. Bank post bills	20,950,889
Public Deposits	4,308,927
Other or private Deposits	9,812,983
35,072,799	35,072,799

M. MARSHALL, Chief Cashier.	
Government Securities, including Dead Weight Annuity	13,929,905
Other Securities	11,505,951
Notes	6,783,570
Gold and Silver Coin	627,372

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

An increase of Circulation of	£15,477
An increase of Public Deposits of	206,469
A decrease of Other Deposits of	443,590
A decrease of Securities of	135,592
A decrease of Bullion of	52,551
An increase of Rest of	3,501
A decrease of Reserve of	74,976

The present returns inform us that the circulation had increased 45,477; the public deposits, the payment on account of the dividends having now nearly ceased, had increased 206,469; private deposits had, however, decreased 443,590, they being at present 9,812,983 against 10,907,429 at the corresponding period last year; securities had decreased 135,592, the decrease being of private securities; the bullion had decreased 52,551, the drain not having been last week so much as was reported; the rest had increased 3,501; and the reserve had decreased 74,976. The principal feature of the return, the decrease of private deposits, indicates an extended demand for money.

There is no alteration in the terms of the Money Market, but money is somewhat stiffer. The expectations that the Bank would raise the rate of interest have been again disappointed, nor could such a step be of much service. The Joint Stock and other Banks would continue to lend at a lower rate than the Bank of England, and the chief effect, therefore, of the change would be to increase the profits of its rivals. At present its functions seem to operate to its own disadvantage, and it influences, if it cannot regulate the rate of interest, without being able to profit by it.

Bar silver has fallen 3/8, the India houses being no longer buyers. Dollars remain at their former price.
 The Exchanges are rather worse, which is accounted for by both Bank of England notes and gold being in demand abroad to pay the expenses of the journey of our visitors. The great influx of them must, however, bring a good deal back. One banking-house in Paris, it is stated in the circular of Messrs Trueman and Rouse, has opened an account here, and informed its correspondent that on that account 50,000 different persons might possibly operate. We see a considerable number of strangers in the streets, but as yet we suffer no inconvenience from the influx.
 In the Stock Market little business is doing. Though there have been some sales of stock for money, &c., the market closed flat. Money in the Stock Market is not so much in demand as it was, and loans on Exchequer Bills are obtained at 3 per cent. The following is our usual list of the opening and closing prices of Consols every day in the week, and the closing prices of the principal stocks last Friday and this day:—

	CONSOLS.		Account	
	Money	Money	Money	Money
Saturday	97 1/2	96 7/8	97 1/2	96 7/8
Sunday	96 3/4	96 1/2	96 3/4	96 1/2
Tuesday	96 3/4	96 1/2	96 3/4	96 1/2
Wednesday	96 3/4	96 1/2	96 3/4	96 1/2
Thursday	96 3/4	96 1/2	96 3/4	96 1/2
Friday	96 3/4	96 1/2	96 3/4	96 1/2

The Railway Market has not been animated through the week, though the settlement was made on easier terms than was expected, and the continuations were not so heavy as they have been. It seems that the high rates of interest obtained for some time past on loans for the continuations, have brought a new class of tenders into the market, which has enabled the bears to carry over their accounts on easier terms. This has given an appearance of firmness to the market scarcely warranted by the heavy bear accounts hanging over it. The following is our usual list of the closing prices of the principal shares last Friday and this day:—

	RAILWAYS.	Closing prices
Birmingham and Oxford	28 1/2	28 1/2
Birmingham and Dudley	8 1/2	8 1/2
Bristol and Exeter	80 1/2	80 1/2
Caledonian	13 1/2	13 1/2
Eastern Counties	7 1/2	7 1/2
East Lancashire	17 1/2	17 1/2
Great Northern	18 1/2	18 1/2
Great Western	88 9	88 9
Lancashire and Yorkshire	63 1/2	63 1/2
London and Blackwall	8 1/2	8 1/2
London, Brighton, & S. Coast	96 1/2	96 1/2
London & North Western	129 1/2	129 1/2
London and South Western	88 1/2	88 1/2
Midlands	63 1/2	63 1/2
North British	10 1/2	10 1/2
North Staffordshire	6 1/2	6 1/2
Oxford, Worcester, & Wolver.	17 1/2	17 1/2
South Eastern	27 1/2	27 1/2
South Wales	31 1/2	31 1/2
York, Newcastle, & Berwick	21 1/2	21 1/2
York and North Midland	27 1/2	27 1/2

Our latest news from California brings no confirmation of the news that immense masses of gold dust had been found at the mouth of the Klamath. Some complaints indeed are beginning to be made of the falling off in the quantity of gold obtained from other sources, and as the adventurers experience disappointment, they lose their temper, and quarrelling, lynchings, and murders become the order of the day.

COMPARATIVE EXCHANGES.

The quotation of gold at Paris is about 3 per mille discount (new tariff rate), which, at the English mint price of 3l 17s 10 1/2 per ounce for standard gold, gives an exchange of 25 1/10; 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 3l 17s 10 1/2 per ounce for standard gold, gives an exchange of 13 5 1/2; and the exchange at Hamburg on London at short being 15 5 1/2, it follows that gold is 0 18 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 25 1/4 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.

THE BANKERS' PRICE CURRENT.

PRICES OF ENGLISH STOCKS. Table listing various stocks such as Bank Stock, Consols, and India Stock with prices for Saturday through Friday.

COURSE OF EXCHANGE. Table showing exchange rates for various cities including Amsterdam, London, and New York.

FRENCH FUNDS. Table listing French government bonds and funds with prices for Paris and London.

PRICES OF FOREIGN STOCKS. Table listing stocks from various countries like Brazil, Buenos Aires, and Russia.

LATEST PRICES OF AMERICAN STOCKS.

Table listing American stocks including United States Bonds, Alabama, Indiana, and others with columns for Payable, Amount in Dollars, Dividends, and Prices.

Exchange at New York 110 1/2.

INSURANCE COMPANIES.

Table listing insurance companies such as Albion, Alliance British and Foreign, and others with columns for No. of shares, Dividend, Names, Shares, Paid, and Price.

JOINT STOCK BANKS.

Table listing joint stock banks including Australasia, British North American, and others with columns for No. of shares, Dividends, Names, Shares, Paid, and Price.

DOCKS.

Table listing docks such as Commercial, East and West India, and others with columns for No. of shares, Dividend, Names, Shares, Paid, and Price.

FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON AT THE LATEST DATES.

Latest Date.	Rate of Exchange on London.	
Paris	Apr. 30	f.25 2½
Antwerp	— 30	24 85
Amsterdam	— 29	f.25 7½ to f.25 11 7½
Hamburg	— 29	m.13 4½
St Petersburg	— 17	37½d
Madrid	— 26	51d
Lisbon	— 19	54½d
Gibraltar	— 15	51d
New York	— 16	1) to 10½ per cent pm
Jamaica	Mar. 31	1 per cent pm
Havana	Apr. 8	5½ to 6½ per cent pm
Rio de Janeiro	Mar. 14	29 to 29½d
Bahia	— 17	30d
Pernambuco	— 22	29½d
Buenos Ayres	Feb. 27	3½d
Valparaiso	— 26	47d
Singapore	Mar. 5	4s 10d to 4s 11d
Ceylon	— 14	10 to 12 per cent dis
Bombay	— 16	2s 2½d to 2s 0½d
Calcutta	— 7	2s 2½d to 2s 2½d
Hong Kong	Feb. 27	5s 0½d to 5s 2d
Mauritius	Jan. 13	6 per cent dis
Sydney	— 9	2 per cent dis

PRICES OF BULLION.

	£	s	d
Foreign gold in bars, (standard)	3	17	9
Spanish doubloons	0	0	0
Foreign gold in coin, Portugal pieces	0	0	0
New dollars	0	4	11½
Silver in bars (standard)	0	5	1½

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 23, 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 & buck-wheat meal
Foreign ...	68,825	19,128	8,905	505	6,913	5,939	...	...
Colonial ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total ...	68,825	19,128	8,905	505	6,913	5,939	...	...

Total imports of the week 110,216 qrs.

COMMERCIAL EPITOME.

FRIDAY NIGHT.

The Corn Market, in which the prices fell on Monday, is again dull to-day. The arrivals were at the same time short, except of foreign wheat and flour and oats. Between the 27th ult. and the 1st inst., the foreign wheat imported into London was 22,310 qrs; of foreign oats, 20,980 qrs; and of foreign flour, 5,980 sacks and 2,340 barrels. At the same time more flour from abroad may be expected, but orders sent to the North for wheat have not been executed, as the prices were higher than the purchasers would give. On a reference to Messrs. Gillies and Horne's Circular, we find that the average price of wheat is 2s 2d, of barley 2s 3d, and of oats is 2s 10d higher than at this period last year. The grain, however, is now of a worse quality than then, and having regard to this circumstance, both oats and barley of equal qualities are now at least 5s a quarter dearer than last year. The farmers, too, have got very little to sell, and cannot complain, after their stack-yards have been cleared out, that we go to the stack-yards of other people for our supplies. They have received a fair price for their produce, and must not charge the mill-dew on the abolition of the Corn Law.

The Colonial Produce Market is, on the whole, good, and there is a revival of trade, with a promise of a still brisker trade. The demand for sugar has been active, and nearly all that was offered was sold at an advanced price. To-day the market closed firmly, and the advance was fully maintained. From the Circular of Messrs. Trueman and Rouse, we copy their account of the sugar market for the month just expired:—

"The import which last month appeared to be 6,800 tons in excess of the same quarter of 1850, now shows a comparative decrease of 8,900 tons, although the supply in April, has been fully an average one, and several cargoes of foreign sugar, which were destined for the Continent, have been diverted hither. In the deliveries of raw sugar for home use there appears to be a slight falling off, but this is more than counterbalanced by the quantity of foreign refined which has gone into consumption, and which is estimated as equal to about 5,000 tons of raw, so that the demand is fully sustained. The deliveries for export exhibit a very serious deficiency, being only 1,000 tons against 9,200 to the same period of last year. This, no doubt, arises in some measure from the unsettled state of Europe having materially affected the consumption of the article abroad; but is also in part owing to the increasing use of beet-root sugar in France and Germany superseding the tropical production. Were it not for the constantly-increasing demand for the latter in the United States, the supply to the European markets would be greater than their wants; the consumption of the former, however, seems to be almost without limit, and is taking off a very large proportion of the production of Cuba, Porto Rico, and the Brazils."

The coffee market has receded, and all that was sold to-day went at lower prices.

In the other colonial articles there is not much to notice. In cotton and silk nothing of consequence has been done.

The public sales of colonial and other wool will commence on Thursday, 15th May. Up to the present date about 17,000 bales have already arrived. They will consist almost entirely of wools of the new clip. The market has, during the last week, been extremely quiet, but prices remain firm.

With respect to timber, Messrs Churchill and Sim state:—

"Coupled with the reduction of import duty, the arrival of a fleet of Baltic ships with timber from Memel and Dantzic, enables the consumers to reap the full benefit in supply and in prices, so that the remission of duty is well timed. To a certain extent the price of deals and battens recently arriving from Norway is abated, and appears likely to settle with an advantage of two-thirds of the difference of duty to the consumer, and one-third as an aid to the foreign shipper and producer, which offers inducement to augment the trade steadily on both sides.

"The value of staves continues high, and there is still a disposition to speculate on the brewers' demand for the season, in the introduction of new shipments.

"Colonial deals are not affected by the reduction of prices in the Baltic trade, but remain as they have stood during the spring. If Canadian red pine timber and small white pine timber had been lying over here in stock, it would have felt the influence of reduced rates on Baltic fir; as there is no such stock here, however, the quotations will remain nominal until the fresh supply can come forward from Canada."

The Commercial Times.

GENERAL POST-OFFICE, APRIL, 1851.—Henceforward all letters and newspapers addressed to Port Natal will be forwarded from this country by the contract screw steam packets leaving Plymouth on the 15th of each month for the Cape of Good Hope, except such letters, &c., as may be specially directed by the writers to be sent by private ship or by any other conveyance. Letters for Port Natal will be liable to the packet-rate of one shilling the half-ounce, which must be paid in advance. Newspapers will be transmitted free of charge.

Mails Arrived.

LATEST DATES.

On 29th April, AMERICA, per *Baltic* steamer, via Southampton—Halifax, April 5; Montreal, 12; New York, 16.
On 29th April, HAYTI, April 1, via United States.
On 29th April, HAVANA, April 8, via United States.
On 1st May, RIO DE JANEIRO, March 14, per H.M. packet *Sea Gull*, via Falmouth.

Mails will be Despatched

FROM LONDON

On 7th May (morning), for VIGO, OPORTO, LISBON, CADIZ, and GIBRALTAR, per steamer, via Southampton.

*On 7th May (morning), for AMERICA, CALIFORNIA, HAVANA, per *Franklin* steamer, via Southampton.

On 7th May (evening), for the MEDITERRANEAN, EGYPT, and INDIA, via Marseilles.

On 9th May (morning), for PORTUGAL, MADEIRA, CAPE DE VERDE ISLANDS, BRAZILS, and RIVER PLATE, per *Tay* steamer, via Southampton.

*On 9th May (evening), for AMERICA, CALIFORNIA, HAVANA, per *Africa* steamer, via Liverpool.

* Letters and Newspapers for California, Havana, Canada, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island, intended to be forwarded per these vessels, must be specially addressed, "Via United States."

Mails Due.

MAY 3.—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 10.—Cape of Good Hope.
MAY 13.—Brazil and River Plate.
MAY 23.—West Indies.
MAY 22.—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	72,383	26,370	15,939	210	4,905	521
	s d	s d	s d	s d	s d	s d
Weekly average, Apr. 26.....	39 3	24 4	17 1½	21 2	26 9	25 5
— — 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.....	34 4	23 10	17 0	23 11	25 11	24 8
— — Mar. 29.....	28 1	23 7	16 7	28 5	25 7	24 6
— — 22.....	27 5	23 3	16 9	22 8	25 8	25 9
Six weeks' average.....	38 7	23 11	17 2	24 5	26 2	25 3
Same time last year.....	37 10	22 11	15 1	21 9	23 9	25 2
Duties.....	1 0	1 0	1 0	1 0	1 0	1 0

raw material. This may probably be attributed in part to the approach of the new silk crop on the continent, which, as it may prove favourable or otherwise, will undoubtedly exercise a great degree of influence for the time being.

HUDDESFIELD, April 29.—To day we have had an average market; a fair business has been done in the hall, though not so much as is expected generally at this time of the year. Mixtures and black doeskins have been most in request in the plain woollen market. The fancy trade continues pretty brisk, and a fair business has been done in the vesting branch to order, for the home summer trade. Some of the export warehouses are pretty brisk with American orders, but generally the warehouses have not been very busy during the week. Yarns have been in rather better demand. Not much has been done in the wool market to day, and the approaching May sales, which are fixed for the 16th, will have some effect upon the trade at present.

ROCHDALE, April 28.—The flannel market has been dull, and a limited amount of business has been transacted to-day, at prices much the same as those of the preceding week. Wool has undergone no change in price, but the dealers complain of having very little to do.

HALIFAX, April 26.—The worsted trade is still in a languid condition, and presents no aspect of improvement since our last report. The transactions in yarn are rather more numerous, and prices firm, though they cannot be quoted higher. More wool has been changing hands; and the quotations, though not advancing, exhibit more firmness.

CORN.

AMERICAN CORN AND FLOUR MARKETS.

NEW YORK, April 16.—There is a better demand for wheat for milling, and prices are pretty well supported, though there is a disposition on the part of holders to realise; the sales are 9,300 bu-hels white Genesee at 1 dol 12 1/2 to 1 dol 15c for good; and 7,000 mixed Ohio, supposed 1 dol. Corn has been in moderate supply and good demand for home use, and there is an occasional inquiry for export—prices close firmly at some improvement; the sales are 46,000 bu-hels, closing at 69 cents for Southern yellow, 68 1/2 to 69 for round yellow, 70 for Jersey white, and 68 for Northern white, to arrive soon. For future delivery, there has continued an active demand, and the sales reach 155,000 bu-hels mixed Western, for May, June, July, and August, at 62 to 62 1/2 cents, almost all at 62 1/2; 10,000 round yellow, for May, 63; and 6,000, deliverable May 1st, 66, weight.

FLOUR AND MEAL.—There has continued a steady good demand for flour for City and Eastern use and the British provinces, and some descriptions are a little higher, the market closing firmly. Canal navigation was resumed yesterday, and considerable supplies may be shortly expected. New Orleans is steady, with moderate sales at 4 dols 68 1/2 to 4 dols 87 1/2. The sales of Canada are 1,000 bbls at 4 dols 56 1/2 to 4 dols 62 1/2; and 1,000 do, deliverable on the opening of navigation, 4 dols 50c in bond. The sales of domestic were—Saturday 5,000 bbls, Monday 6,000, and yesterday 5,500. We quote superfine No. 2, 4 dols 18 1/2 to 4 dols 25c; common State, 4 dols 50c; straight do, 4 dols 50c; favourite do, 4 dols 56 1/2 to 4 dols 62c; mixed Wisconsin, 4 dols 56 1/2; mixed Indiana, Ohio, and Michigan, 4 dols 56 1/2; straight Michigan and Indiana, 4 dols 62 1/2 to 4 dols 68 1/2; fancy Michigan, 4 dols 68 1/2 to 4 dols 75c; pure Genesee, 4 dols 93 1/2 to 5 dols 6 1/2; good Ohio, 4 dols 68 1/2 to 4 dols 81 1/2; round hoop do, 4 dols 68 1/2 to 4 dols 87 1/2. Corn meal has been in good request, and closes firmly, with some advance on Brandywine; the sales are 500 bbls Jersey at 3 dols; and 100 Brandywine, 3 dols 3 1/2 to 3 dols 37 1/2 cash.

EXPORT OF BREADSTUFFS, from the United States to Great Britain and Ireland, since Sept. 1, 1850.

Table with columns: Flour, Meal, Wheat, Corn, Oats, Barley. Rows: From—, New York, New Orleans, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Boston, Other ports, Total, About same time last year.

LONDON MARKETS.

STATE OF THE CORN TRADE FOR THE WEEK.

MARK LANE, FRIDAY MORNING.

There was a moderate quantity of English wheat on sale at Mark lane on Monday, which met a slow sale, the best dry samples at nearly the rates of the previous week, but all other sorts were 1s and 2s per qr cheaper, with a dull, dragging trade. The imports of foreign wheat were to a fair extent, consisting of 1,450 qrs from Alexandretta, 878 qrs from Amsterdam, 33 qrs from Antwerp, 1,400 qrs Buletta, 30 qrs from Cien, 20 qrs from Candeece, 1,652 qrs from Duukirk, 734 qrs from Ghent, 1,386 qrs from Hamburg, 580 qrs from Lubeck, 880 qrs from Manfredonia, 450 qrs from Rostock, 3,500 qrs from Segus, 195 qrs from Treguir, and 1,340 qrs from Trieste, making a total of 13,838 qrs; in any description only a limited business was transacted, and generally at a reduction of 1s per qr. The arrivals of flour coastwise were 2,347 sacks, by the Eastern Counties Railway 4,018 sacks, and from foreign ports 22,844 sacks and 4,400 barrels; with the exception of 1,200 sacks from Leghorn, &c., the whole of the sack flour was from France, being the largest import of the article from that country in one week on record. The barrel flour was from New York. A return of very cold weather for the season checked any pressure of moment by this immense supply. Known and approved marks were held on about former terms, whilst inferior qualities were only 6d and 1s per sack lower. Fine barley was more sought after, from the favourable state of the weather for the manufacture of malt, and full prices were paid for this and all other descriptions. The arrivals coastwise were 2,460 q, and from foreign ports 2,397 qrs. The oat trade was very firm, and good sweet corn realised 6d to 1s per qr enhanced rates. There were only 339 qrs coastwise, and 823 qrs from Scotland, but 3,950 qrs from Ireland, and 14,553 qrs from foreign ports, making a total of 19,655 qrs, being about one week's consumption. The imports at Liverpool on Tuesday were moderate, and there was a fair

attendance of millers and dealers, who took wheat at a reduction of 1s per 70 lbs on the currency of the previous Tuesday: average, 42-41 on 29 qrs. Flour was 6d per barrel on American and 1s per sack on French reduced in price.

There were good arrivals of wheat and barley at Hull, and a fair quantity of wheat was brought forward by the farmers at that market; this article was 1s per qr cheaper: average, 36s 11d on 752 qrs; whilst barley was fully as high.

The fresh supply of wheat at Leeds was good, amounting to 9,026 qrs, and sales were with difficulty effected at 1s per qr reduction: average, 39s 6d on 1,324 qrs.

At Mark lane on Wednesday the fresh supplies of all English grain were quite trifling, but the imports of foreign were large, and no quotable change occurred in the value of any description of grain, with limited sales of all articles.

The weekly averages announced on Thursday were 39s 3d on 72,383 qrs wheat, 24s 4d on 26,370 qrs barley, 17s 10 1/2 on 15,939 qrs oats, 24s 2d on 210 qrs rye, 26s 9d on 4,908 qrs beans, and 25s 5d on 521 qrs peas, every article being higher than at the same period last year.

There was a good supply of wheat from the farmers at Edinburgh, and the demand was extremely dull, and all kinds were quoted 1s to 1s 6d per qr cheaper: average, 39s 7d on 9,670 qrs.

The imports at Glasgow were large of wheat and beans, mostly Egyptian, and trade was heavy for all articles, without any material variation in the value of good qualities.

At Birmingham trade was languid, and although a short supply of wheat, prices were unaltered: average, 41s 1d on 857 qrs.

Bristol market was 1s per qr cheaper for wheat, with a moderate quantity offering: average, 37s 7d on 122 qrs.

There was a large delivery at Newbury of wheat, and prices receded 1s to 2s per qr, with a slow trade: average, 40s 6d on 617 qrs.

Trade at Uxbridge was very limited for wheat, at prices somewhat in favour of the buyer: average, 44s 8d on 393 qrs.

At Mark lane on Friday, there was very little English wheat on sale, but a considerable supply of foreign, and the trade ruled slow for all sorts, but sellers seemed disinclined to give way any further, and not many transactions took place. Flour was steady in value and demand. Barley met a fair sale at full prices. Oats were in good request from both dealers and consumers, and somewhat higher rates were again obtained for all fresh heavy corn. English and Scotch were very scarce, but a few cargoes of Irish have arrived during the week, and the imports of foreign are pretty liberal.

The London averages announced this day were,—

Table with columns: Wheat, Barley, Oats, Rye, Beans, Peas. Rows: Wheat, Barley, Oats, Rye, Beans, Peas.

Arrivals this Week.

Table with columns: Wheat, Barley, Malt, Oats, Flour. Rows: English, Irish, Foreign.

PRICES CURRENT OF CORN, &c.

BRITISH AND IRISH.

Table with columns: Wheat, Rye, Beans, Oats, Flour, Tares. Rows: Wheat, Rye, Beans, Oats, Flour, Tares.

FOREIGN.

Table with columns: Wheat, Malze, Barley, Beans, Peas, Oats. Rows: Wheat, Malze, Barley, Beans, Peas, Oats.

SEEDS.

Table with columns: Linseed, Rapeseed, Hempseed, Canaryseed, Mustardseed, Cloverseed, Trefoil, Linsed cake, Rape. Rows: Linseed, Rapeseed, Hempseed, Canaryseed, Mustardseed, Cloverseed, Trefoil, Linsed cake, Rape.

COMMERCIAL TIMES Weekly Price Current.

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.

Table listing various commodities such as Ashes, Cocoa, Coffee, Hides, Indigo, Leather, Metals, and Spices with their respective prices.

Table listing various commodities such as Hides, Indigo, Leather, Metals, Spices, and Seeds with their respective prices.

Table listing various commodities such as Seeds, Spices, and SUGAR-REF. with their respective prices.

Table listing various commodities such as SUGAR-REF. contd., Tallow, Tar, Tea, Timber, and Tobacco with their respective prices.

The Economist's Railway Share List.

The highest prices of the day are given.

Table with multiple columns: ORDINARY SHARES AND STOCKS, ORDINARY SHARES, &c.—Continued, PREFERENCE SHARES, LINES LEASED AT FIXED RENTALS, FOREIGN RAILWAYS. Each section lists company names, share amounts, and prices.

OFFICIAL RAILWAY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

Table with columns: Capital and Loan, Amount expended per last Report, Average cost per mile, Dividend per cent., Name of Railway, Week ending, Receipts (Passengers, Merchandise, Total), Traffic per mile per week, Miles open in 1851 and 1850.

THE ECONOMIST

Can be forwarded, by packet FREE OF POSTAGE, to the following British Colonies and Foreign Countries, viz.:-

Table listing various locations such as Aden, Antigua, Bahama, Barbadoes, Berbice, Bermuda, Canada, etc., with their respective shipping routes and postal rates.

Postage of Foreign and Colonial Letters.

Single Rate of Postage upon Foreign and Colonial Letters when conveyed by packet. Signifies that the postage must be paid in advance. Denotes that the rate includes British and Foreign postage combined.

* In all cases where a Letter is not specially directed to be sent by any particular route, the rate of postage first mentioned is chargeable.

Main table of postal rates for various countries and regions, including Aden, Alexandria, Algeria, Austria, Baden, Bavaria, Belgium, etc., with columns for rates and shipping routes.

Table of postal rates for various countries and regions, including Hanover, Hesse, Holland, Honduras, Hong Kong, India, Ionian Islands, Jamaica, Java, Lippe Detmold, 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, Prussia, Reuss, Russia, Salonica, Sardinia, Saxony, Saxo-Altenberg, Saxo-Coburg, etc.

Table of postal rates for various countries and regions, including Saxony, Schaumburg Lippe, Schwartzburg, Scutari, Sicily, Sierra Leone, Silesia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Tuscany, United States, Venezuela, Wallachia, Weimer, West Indies, Western Coast of South America, Wurtemberg, etc.

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.

COLES'S ALGA MARINA, a Concentrated Essence of the Sea Weed, as used and recommended by most of the faculty, is now rapidly superseding all other external remedies in cases of weakness, relaxation, contraction of the limbs and joints, whether of delicate children or in mature age.

