

THE EXAMINER.

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THE POLITICAL EXAMINER.

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

THE MOST IMPORTANT POINT OF ALL.

The sailor—the English sailor—is a skilled workman of a very peculiar kind. You may drill men to be spinners, weavers, soldiers, but you can drill no man into becoming “an able-bodied sailor;” he must be born near the ocean, and cradled upon it. He it is who has created, secured, and now guards the power of England; he mans those fleets that have extended her presence and spread her glory to the uttermost limits of the planet. How have we treated him?

To obtain his services at half their market value, the Queen sends a gang of ruffians who knock him down when they find him, put manacles on his hands, carry him on board, and put him in irons, if refractory, until he consents to say he “enters.” He is then kept in slavery for an indefinite time. We knew an able-bodied sailor who, during the last war, was thus treated in the year 1801, and who was not able to escape until the year 1815. If a Queen’s ship arrives in any foreign port where an English merchantman is lying, her Majesty’s captain forcibly seizes any of her crew he pleases, and transports them to her Majesty’s ship, where they are immediately robbed of half their earnings and reduced to slavery. It is the “Prerogative of the Crown” to rob, and to enslave in this manner.

This system of manning the Royal Navy is called Impressment; and we are told that ‘you must keep it in reserve in case of a sudden emergency—you should not resort to it indeed as long as you can get men without it, but you must not abolish it.’ We are told this by old captains, old admirals, who must know; and by Admiralty officials, ‘who, on a subject of such vast importance as manning the Royal Navy, are not prepared at once to reject the results of experience in obedience to the crude dictates of ignorant pretenders.’

There is an Influence whose agency in human affairs has been acknowledged in every age and clime, and which, under the dread name of Nemesis, the guilty ever supplicate to relent and to spare. And generally in vain; for this awful Power never yet left the scale of human wrong unbalanced, and for the all-unspeakable tyranny of “impressment” she has been slowly and surely preparing terrible and deserved retribution. To avert it, not many weeks—perhaps not many days—remain.

The British sailor was exposed to this brutal oppression without the means of redress, or the hope of revenge, until the emancipation of the American colonies in 1785; but it was not until 1812 that he fully understood that Providence had opened for him at last a harbour of refuge. He then availed himself of it; and when Captain Carden—after being compelled to haul down the flag that had braved for a thousand years the battle and the breeze—stepped on board the American frigate, and delivered his sword to her captain, he found she was chiefly manned with a crew of outraged Englishmen; and that two of her guns had been exclusively manned by sailors who had fought under Nelson on board the Victory at Trafalgar, and to these guns—hot with the fire that had humbled their country’s pride—they had given the names of Victory and Trafalgar, in remembrance of their former glory. Oh! that our statesmen would but condescend to read Admiral Carden’s letters on this most painful subject.

Of these men there are not fewer in American-merchant employ than 50,000 at this moment, and, speaking not lightly, or on insufficient grounds, it is our firm and full conviction that during the first three months of a war with Russia or any other power whatever, most of them will have naturalised themselves American citizens, in the sole view of saving themselves from the risk of being impressed. They will then be for ever lost to us. Any attempt to seize any one of them anywhere will involve us instantly in war with the United States, because the protection of these men in the full rights of their new citizenship is, and must be, the *sine qua non* of the existence of the power and of the independence of that country; and the new citizens will fight for their own freedom against that unnatural mother whose avarice seeks to rob and enslave them, with the exalted courage of the bitterest hatred.

We hear it said, ‘God forbid your prognostications should be realised, and certainly your fears are exaggerated, for the treatment of the sailor is now very different from what it was during the last war—impressment need not be resorted to, and certainly will not be, except perhaps in rare cases here and there, and the sailor of to-day has never had any experience of it, and thinks not about it.’ With assurances of this kind we are requested to be satisfied. We reply that the sailors—50,000—in American employ are frequently, and will now be constantly, told by

American shipowners and captains, “Remember, if you wish—in the event of a war between England and Russia, or England and France—to continue free to follow your business and to earn high wages on board our ships, your naturalising yourselves American citizens is the only way by which you can save yourselves from impressment and make us sure of your services;” and we further reply that the English sailors have heard of press-gangs, and do know that there is such a danger hanging over their heads, and that the act of a moment will save them from it altogether, while it will not alter their condition for the worse in any respect whatever.

We know that our authorities are quite aware that it will not do to attempt “pressing” any more—that it must be abandoned; but a false pride, and a respect for the ancient “Prerogative of the Crown,” induces them to wish that the question should be put aside quietly, and that nothing should be said about it. And were there no “United States” in the world this might do. But is it possible to suppose that as soon as the news of war between Russia and England arrives in New York, an English sailor just stepping on board a liner in which he has for several years been paid 4l. a month wages, bound for Liverpool, will be fool enough to expose himself to the slightest chance of being seized upon his arrival there, robbed of more than 2l. a month at once, and possibly sent to look after Russians in the North Pacific,—when, by simply stepping to an office ever open, he can provide himself with a certificate of American citizenship, secure his wages, and see his wife and children when he likes, or marry the girl of his heart if he chooses? If we desire to prevent this most formidable desertion, we must lose no time—not a week—in solemnly proclaiming the total abolition of impressment by a short and easily intelligible Act, or Proclamation, which shall be forthwith posted up in great numbers in every port of the United Kingdom and of all our colonies; so that the English sailor all over the world may at once know, that there is nothing for him to lose by continuing an Englishman, and nothing for him to gain by becoming an American. It is not sufficient to say that impressment is a dead letter—is obsolete—we must convince the sailor that it is so; and no means of doing this will be effectual but the simple one of conspicuously and directly renouncing it utterly, and abolishing it for ever.

The Queen claims indefeasible allegiance over all her subjects and over all their children, whether born in her dominions or not. But although the Queen cannot enforce her right by sending to Ohio or Kentucky to seize the Englishman, who twenty years ago settled there, she can seize the nautical emigrant who has been for twenty years navigating in American ships. Unless the Crown be now advised to renounce this power, the war with Russia, if it lasts any time, will not only cause the loss to England of a great part of her maritime population, but will surely involve us in a war with America. By clinging to this useless and dangerous prerogative, we transfer the *personnel* of our maritime militia to America, and place her in the high moral position of a protector of the oppressed. We trust that in a very few weeks the fears, if not the wisdom, of our rulers will avert from us this great danger. And they will do well to renounce gracefully those other foolish claims—foolish but pregnant with the thunder of American war—to which Mr Webster ominously called Lord Ashburton’s attention at the close of the Maine frontier controversy. Do we suppose that if America would not allow a British officer to land on her soil and take off a territorial settler, because, feudally, he is a Queen’s subject, she will allow him to enter an American ship and take out of it a nautical emigrant on the same obsolete ground?

There is no danger to us in the coming war with Russia but the danger which we create ourselves by our own obstinate pride;—this is indeed danger, but it comes to us, not from Russia, but from America. Common-sense, and regard to justice, may, however, dissipate it altogether in a single week, and, if we lose no time, will dissipate it with dignity.

CHARGES OF CORRUPTION AND SWINDLING.

At a public entertainment at Tuam, Dr. Gray, of the *Freeman’s Journal*, charged some of the representatives of Ireland with the foulest corruption, and in proof instanced the case of a gentleman who asked his advice whether it would be advisable for him to pay a Member of Parliament 300l. for procuring for him the situation of paid Poor Law Guardian, an office which, as Dr Gray informed his friend, was doomed to abolition in six months. This case, it will be observed, was a complication of corruption and fraud. It was nothing better than swindling. Another charge preferred before the same company, which included several members of the accused body, was made by a Mr Kelly, who asserted that he knew, of his own knowledge, the transaction, the nefarious details of which are thus narrated by the *Times*:

In one of the past Parliaments—not the present one—a stipendiary magistracy had been sold by an independent Irish member for the sum

of 1,000l. The conditions of sale, under the influence of mutual distrust, were settled in this way:—The sum of 500l. was to be paid by the magistrate *in posse* for the promise of the office when obtained from the Minister. The further sum of 500l. was to be paid by the magistrate *in esse* as soon as that promise should have been ratified, and had finally ripened into performance. This arrangement was a very proper one between the two rascals engaged. The man who parted with the money retained the power of turning upon his patron in case he should be inclined to play foul; but, on the other hand, the member had the ‘tangible security’ of the 500l. down, while his friendly exertions were quickened by the prospect of an equal sum when his jobbery was carried to a successful issue. Mr Kelly tells us, ‘The Minister was hard up for votes upon some particular division; the promise of the place was made; the Minister got into difficulty again, and the promise was ratified, and his worship, the magistrate, was duly installed into all the dignities of his office.’ So far of the bargain, and its completion on one side. What follows appears to be of a peculiarly local character, ‘racy of the soil,’ and forms a fitting conclusion to the story. No sooner was the magistrate installed than he refused to complete his share of the transaction by the payment of the remaining 500l. The M.P. caused his ‘solicitor’ to apply to Mr Kelly, and, through his intervention, an ‘indirect influence’ was brought to bear upon the magistrate. *Cetera desunt.* To this day we know not whether or not the magistrate has paid up. It may well be that, for the modest consideration of 500l., he has secured to himself 1,000l. per annum for life, which appears to us to be a tolerably successful performance.

These charges, which are referred to a Committee for investigation, do not imply a Minister’s connivance at the sale of an office, but that, in consideration of the support of a vote, he granted the request of an unworthy applicant, a middleman, as it were, capable of making booty of the patronage so obtained. Both the Minister and the Member in the case alleged would, however, be traffickers in their different ways; the Minister trafficking place for support, and the Member support for money; the Minister moreover bestowing an office, the preservation of which in credit and public confidence is of the very highest importance, without any care for the fitness of the object of his favour, and with regard to nothing but the dishonest vote to be won so unscrupulously. Such would be the character of the conduct, if the story be true; and of that we have very great doubts, for we know how much at random Irish gentlemen often speak of facts as within their own knowledge, which, when sifted, are reduced to nothing better than report.

There have been many accusations and inquiries of this nature in our time, and in no one instance with any satisfactory result. In some cases the charge has been utterly false; in others, in the Scotch phrase, not proven; in others the mal-practice has baffled formal detection, though enough has been established for the strongest moral conviction of guilt,—and in others again the offence has been proved beyond all doubt, and then left unpunished, which is the most pernicious example that can be presented to the public. Something of this kind we have just seen in the instance of Major Beresford, whose prosecutors, instead of producing evidence to prove their case, rest satisfied forsooth with the exposure that has been effected.

The stage of accusation is always the stage of the hot fit of public indignation, but by the time that the stage of conviction has arrived the cold fit has supervened, and the apologies come into play, and pleas *ad misericordiam*. If both these charges were proved, what reason have we to suppose that the delinquents would be dealt with more sternly than was Sir F. Smith for an offence of a kindred nature, though of minor degree of culpability? The house would prove, excuse, and then leave the matter; and the next number of the *Edinburgh Review* would have an article demonstrating that such transactions, though undoubtedly censurable under a high and strict moral standard, were yet so much a matter of usage that the minds of men revolt against a severe judgment upon them. *Et multi et boni idem fecerunt*, would be the burden of the apology; or, at most, there would be an emphatic warning against throwing the first stone. How easy it would be to push on an argument which we find in the October number of the *Edinburgh Review* (devoted to decrying Parliamentary Reform), so as to make it cover and varnish over the transactions now in question:

In truth, the practice which really constitutes the *essence* of electoral corruption—namely, the barter, direct or circuitous, of a vote for a ‘consideration’—the explicit or understood agreement between the elector and the elected that the ‘good things’ in the gift of the latter shall be distributed among the former—that I will gratify those who support me—is too general and constant in England to excite that degree of moral reprobation with which perhaps, if we judge these matters by a scrupulously righteous standard, it ought to be regarded. Senatorial sinners are kept in countenance by others.

Mr Lucas wound up the debate on Mr Butt’s motion for a Committee of Inquiry into the charges against Irish members by a sweeping accusation of systematic corruption against the Whig Administrations.

That the attack is unjust we are quite confident, but it is to be regretted that the journal which is supposed to be the organ of Whig opinions has become the apologist of corruption, from which hasty inferences might be drawn tending to more belief in Mr Lucas’s imputation than it deserves. Some jobbing there will be under every Government, and we will not pretend to believe the Whig Ministers immaculate in that respect, but we are quite sure that they will bear comparison advantageously with their Tory

rivals; and the recent disclosure of the management of the Admiralty under a Whig First Lord, and also under a Conservative, was no bad sample of the difference. But Mr Lucas had not a word of impugnation to spare for Lord Derby's Administration. The partiality belongs to the injustice of the charge.

Mr Duncombe's proposal to include Mr Hudson's expenditure to influence members in a certain railway interest has called from that gentleman a speech which can hardly be read without pain, though certainly without any of the respect that is ordinarily felt for the sufferer of a great reverse of fortune. A few years ago this man was something greater than Law in the great world of this aristocratic country. He was sought in every society which could hope to win his presence. To get near him was considered as an approach to fortune. He held a sort of court in which ladies of rank, women of fashion, and nobles were his foremost flatterers and sycophants. An American lady who gave an account of a visit to his country house said that it was hardly possible to be so seated at his table as not to sit next a duke. His testimonial remains on record, with its long list of names with their fulsome tribute, amongst which are some of the first in the land. It should be republished now, that we may discriminate the discriminating. At the time we suggested that the appropriate monument would be an alms-house for the victims of railway speculation and fraud. With the turn things have taken, hardly less suitable would be the application of the fund, whatever it may be, to the discharge of Mr Hudson's obligations to refund. Now, indeed, is the time for the friends of his prosperity to come forth, and testimonialise anew. Do not let them pretend that they did not know their man; they did know him, they knew him to be coarse, vulgar, uneducated; but they knew also that he had opportunities of making money and helping others to make money, and they troubled themselves not about the *how*. Their morality was like that of the man at a gaming-table who was asked by another, "What in the world am I to do? I have detected—cheating!" The short and quick reply was, "What are you to do? Why back him, to be sure."

Place Mr Hudson as low as you may in the moral scale, and lower yet must those be who adulated and fawned upon him when he was at his best in fortune and his worst in all else.

And what a world of meaning lies in these words uttered by the overthrown idol: "I have known what it is to live in popularity and favour, and to enjoy the confidence and smiles of the world. I have felt the bitter reverse."

He too may complain of deceptions, and has been sinned against as well as sinning. He had the smiles of the world, selfish, interested, false, but he never had its confidence, unless the word can be given to the sort of trust which the adviser in the illustration we have just offered placed in the gamester's play. And if another Hudson sprung up to-morrow he would have the same welcome, the same following, the same honour, the same encouragement to the same fate, just as the Railway King was himself a repetition of the South Sea schemer. Such characters, after all, are but the creatures and exponents of the vice of society. What would they be without inordinate covetousness and credulity to work upon?

THE GREAT IMPOSTURE.

To despise your enemy is dangerous. True—but it is often still more dangerous to over-estimate his power. We have ourselves chosen to realise this danger in regard to Russia, and have heretofore, in consequence, incurred the penalty of the dreadful war in Afghanistan, and are now about to suffer the additional penalty of a war with Russia itself. The real danger always consists in ignorance of the real force of the enemy, and then of his relative force. Now it is incontestably true that the relative force of Russia with respect to England, France remaining neutral, or with respect to France, England remaining neutral, may very safely be despised. But then we must first of all ascertain its real nature, and measure its dimensions justly, and compare the results of our examination with the position which England occupies in respect of them. We shall then understand the ground on which it is said that England may safely despise the power of Russia, because we shall clearly perceive the tremendous efficiency of that simple principle of coercion which the relative conditions of the two countries enable us to apply to Russia.

Her aggressional power towards us is obviously nil—her defensive power against the annihilating influence of the principle which we can employ is likewise nothing—and her impotence arises directly from the nature of her social and economical condition. Russia consists of a vast body of serfs and a small body of territorial proprietors or magnates, whose rents and revenues depend upon the exportation of raw produce in hides, tallow, hemp, &c. &c. A certain portion of these is of course consumed in Russia itself (as is the case with cotton in the United States), but the price of the whole, and its continued remunerative production, depend entirely upon the exportability of the surplus which is not wanted for Russian consumption. This surplus cannot be exported, if we blockade the Baltic and the Black Sea; and the condition of the Russian magnates thereupon, in regard to their rents and revenues—will be similar to that in which the English country gentlemen would find them, selves if they and the farmers and the labourers were left to consume as much as they pleased of their own beef, bread, and beer, but were unable to sell any of the surplus to the rest of the community. A rigorous blockade of the Russian ports, throwing one year's crop on their hands, and

steadily continued on to the time when in ordinary circumstances they would be preparing the subsequent crop, must break the Russian social system to pieces. We need not send a soldier, nor shed a drop of our own blood. We shall have to pay double price for candles and shoes for a year or so, and to incur the expense of augmenting our fleet. The Russian magnates will fight the rest of the battle for us; and if we simply confine ourselves to holding them tight to the work, they will, in the cause of rent and revenue, tear the Russian social system to tatters. If the present head of the house of Romanoff calls upon the magnates to sacrifice their revenues to his pride, they will treat him as they treated his immediate predecessors, Alexander and Paul.

People delight in complexity; but every agency in nature, when we succeed in detecting it, is simple, and so it is in human affairs. Legislation had overwhelmed the poor in this country with such a heap of laws that a condition of humanity arose like nothing that history had ever recorded, called "Pauperism," and was rapidly tending to absorb the whole working class. Legislators, Committees of both houses, Statesmen, the "prima virorum," were all in despair. There came a man at last who simply said, "What is the order of Providence? Are we not all placed by God between the alternatives of death by starvation, or life by labour? Imitate this order; place the applicant for relief between the alternatives of living by labour, or living under the annoyance and restraint of a workhouse." This simple proposal was adopted, and though incumbered with an apparatus of pedantic regulation which has much impaired its energy, yet under its single influence pauperism is disappearing. So it is with this bugbear of Russian Power. As long as we consent to accept it as a reality, as a fact, as a substantive existence,—as long as we suffer ourselves to be imposed upon by the Autocrat's pompous assumption of awful, immense, inaccessible power,—as long as we manifest our belief in its existence by all sorts of mean, indirect considerations for his arrogant caprices,—as long as we hold our breath till we learn whether M. Kisseleff goes to the Emperor's ball, and then how he looked, and then whether Count Orloff is, or is not, going to Berlin,—we create by such senseless folly a belief in the Russian mind that Russia is beyond our reach, that our armies cannot cope with hers, that we tremble to provoke her; and hence she is led on to drive us to the very combat from which she would have shrunk with horror had we known at first, and had we shown her that we knew, the fatal secret of her irremediable weakness. To that point let us now direct our energies, remembering that the giant before whom every armed warrior quailed was not slain by the sword or spear, but by a pebble from the hand of a naked youth who saw the vulnerable point and employed the simple weapon alone suited to giving the mortal wound.

We are not now deprecating the employment of military means under circumstances as they are; we shall be glad if a French and English army is transported to the Crimea to operate at once on the rear of the Russians, and we know that Sebastopol ought to be destroyed. But we can effect our end without this. If, shutting our ears for the present to the puffed-up conceit of busy diplomatists; telling Austria and Prussia that we want neither them nor their mediation, and requesting Lord Clarendon and M. Drouyn de l'Huys to lay their worn-out pens in their inkstands; we steadily and rigorously persevere in doing that which will deprive the Russian magnates of their revenues, we shall have them, within the year, humbly petitioning for peace on our own terms;—when, in discharge of that awful duty now evidently devolving on France and England to

assert Eternal Providence
And justify the ways of God to man,

we pray that they will not relax their grasp from the spoiler's throat, until prostrate Justice shall be raised again by the restoration of Finland to Sweden, and of Poland to Europe. Let these two great nations, France and England, brothers always in honour and at last in arms, redress in unison the great wrongs which Russian barbarism has inflicted on humanity. The most distant posterity will look back upon the deed as the great deciding fact in the onward progress of civilization, and will not the less admire it because it shall have been effected with little of the pomp of war, with scarce any bloodshed, and by simple means.

But lest the coercive principle which we propose to apply to Russia may be regarded as a crude suggestion thrown out at hazard, let us dwell upon it a little in the way of illustration. The principle was advocated in the *Times* newspaper in the year 1841, with reference to the war which then appeared imminent with the United States. It was there shown that England, by adopting the unusual plan of refusing to accept war from, or to wage it against, the southern or cotton-growing states, and at the same time blockading the northern sea board from New Bedford down to the Potomac, would enlist two powerful material interests on her side, whose united energies would either compel an immediate peace upon our own terms, or cause a separation of the Union, leaving us with the alliance and friendship of the cotton-growing interest in the south, and transferring the carrying trade of the Northern States to our ships. For the state of things was this: the cotton-growers at that time produced two million and upwards of bales of raw cotton, of which 300,000 were worked up by the New England factories, and the rest by the European and chiefly by the English. The growers depended on advances for the maintenance of their negroes and the upholding of their estates, and England must either have that cotton, or all its immense capital invested in cotton factories would be annihilated. England would, therefore,

have said to the Southern States, "We will neither accept war with you, nor wage it against you. We will take and pay for your cotton as usual; our cruisers shall nowhere make prize of it when bound for Europe; we will not molest or touch your cities, your soil, or your ships, under any provocation; we will treat you in all respects as if you were part of ourselves and at peace with us." The influence of this course on the cotton-producers, and all those directly and indirectly connected with them, cannot be doubted. Their interest would compel them to become our steady allies. They would sell to us, and to us alone; for to ship their cotton to New England would expose them to the loss, almost certain, of every shipment from our blockade of the Northern ports, and the capital invested in the New England factories would be paralyzed. Thus the well-understood application of the principle we advocate would have forced the United States to peace on our own terms by a twofold action. The northern capitalists would have been ruined, and the Southern States would have separated from them if the Central Government had remained obstinate.

We must further remark, in illustration of the overwhelming influence of this principle, that it was owing to his acting in diametrical opposition to it that the fall of the enormous power of the first French Emperor was solely due. Bonaparte might naturally have supposed, from his own experience of things in France and Italy, that the Germans and Russians could safely be forced to do without English manufactures; and, looking at his continental system on this side alone, he saw nothing in it beyond his power, apparently, to carry out. But he did not see, on the other side, that though men might be brought to dispense with English goods, they could never be reconciled to the loss of their own capital invested in producing those raw materials which they gave in exchange for English goods—that though they might submit *not to buy*, they would fight to desperation for the power to *sell*. Bonaparte was exceedingly able in his way; his military measures were simple and great, and admirably executed when he was present; with an oriental subtlety and vast penetration into the worst and the weakest sides of human nature, he governed men through their vices and fears. Within this range of ideas he appears always to have reasoned well—beyond it many a child could reason better—he was at once too deep and too shallow. Political Economy he despised as a matter of course—all such men do—and the insulted Power overthrew him. Alexander had engaged that the continental system should be applied to Russia. He could not keep his engagement; and the invasion of Russia, intended to prevent the Russians from *buying*, was repelled by them, because its effect was to prevent their *selling*. The Russian magnates resisted Napoleon because they felt that his triumph would have deprived them of their rents and revenues—it was a question of rent or no rent with them—and in his retreat through Germany the German heart did not throb at the prospect of again purchasing English produce, but of again selling their own, and obtaining rents. He had all the material interests of both Russia and Germany against him, and he fell. Now, in the present crisis of our affairs let us rally to our side those material interests which he made his antagonists. This will insure us a speedy, a cheap, and a complete victory. First of all let us make ourselves safe on our only exposed side—that of impressment and the right of search—and then let us blockade the Baltic and the Black Sea in that manner which will swiftly reduce the Russian proprietary body to poverty, to despair, to rebellion, and to submission.

THE RAILWAY DUES.

We are glad to see that opinion is ripening to the conclusion, that the legislature must interpose to protect the public against the increased and increasing dangers of railway travelling. Lord Montague well observed in the House of Lords:

As for the excuses and apologies which were offered by the companies for these accidents, he attached no importance whatever to them. They were asked to compare the number of accidents with the number of persons who travelled, and they were told that the proportion was so small that they should pass the question by with indifference. He could in no way recognise such a doctrine; for he contended that so long as any accident occurred which it was in the power of wise legislation or proper administration to avert, they should not be discharging their duty if they did not inquire into it. (Hear, hear.) It was not the proportion between persons travelling and persons injured which they had to look to, but the damage to life and limb which was actually produced by these accidents.

The Companies would seem almost to claim a right to so many lives and limbs annually, and to think that the public ought to be very grateful if injuries and death are kept within the averages. When a certain number of people travel by a train,—a leg, an arm, an eye, a tooth, or a fraction of a life, is due to the Company, and is carried to account for the next accident. The maxim *defendit numerus* is thus falsified, for in direct proportion to numbers is the certainty of mischance for a part. It is ruled and settled, that entire safety is an impossibility, and that no reasonable person can deny that one out of some thousands may suffer without impeaching railway care and management, or can complain if he happen to be that unlucky one.

It has been statistically proved, indeed, that the number of persons killed and injured disappoints calculation, or in financial phrase, that the expenditure in life and limb is short of the estimates, and the public is indignantly asked, what would it have more? Last year for so many thousands you had so many killed, and so many injured, and now you

grumble that out of a largely increased number of travellers, there is a somewhat increased list of casualties.

When the exiles at Cayenne complained of the frightful mortality that was thinning their numbers, the Governor answered, "Gentlemen, did you think you were sent here to live for ever?"

And so the Directors of railways would ask their passengers, "Good folks do you think to travel for ever without a smash? Do you think that nothing is due but trains? Learn that accidents, deaths, and injuries are due also upon certain numbers and mileage; and be thankful that the proportion is not greater, and content with the share of evil chance in the scheme of the railway lottery."

WHO IS SOLVENT?

Now that, to all appearance, we are on the eve of a general war, it is not idle curiosity to enquire how many solvent states there are at present in the world—that is, states the revenues of which are in excess of their expenditures? For our part, we can only discover four countries—England, the United States, Brazil, and Denmark—which really are in that safe condition for war, called SOLVENCY. England had last year a surplus of three millions and a quarter sterling. The United States have nearly extinguished their debt by means of their surpluses, and are buying another slice of Mexico. Brazil has now annually some 400,000*l.* a year more than it spends, and is about to lower its customs Tariff. And Denmark had a small balance in hand last year—since gone the way of all coin, however, in the defensive armaments she has been obliged to make. What the state of Prussian or Swiss finances may be, we do not profess to know. Probably the Confederation may have some funds to spare, but that Prussia has a thaler to spend is highly improbable.

Insolvency is the general rule, solvency the exception. M. Bineau, indeed, lately made a report to the Emperor of the French, that in the year 1854, France would at last have a surplus. But that, of course, was on the assumption of peace. A war expenditure will effectually dispel any such anticipations, even if they were correctly formed. At all events it is notorious that France has not, in any one year of this century, had a sous in its treasury after defraying all demands thereon, and that since 1840 alone the French deficits have exceeded the frightful sum of thirty-six millions sterling. Already, too, we hear of the French Government borrowing eight millions sterling from the Credit Mobilier, and another two millions from the Bank of France.

As to Austria, the last six years only have accumulated deficits on its devoted head amounting very nearly to the same sum. Here they are, as published by its admirers—for such is the perversity or the venality of German nature, that even Austria has admiring scribes.

Year	Deficit	£
1847		706,000
1848		4,511,100
1849		12,500,400
1850		7,118,000
1851		5,174,000
1852		5,044,700
Six years of Austrian Deficit		£35,044,700

A deficit of 5,000,000*l.* annually in peace, with a revenue of barely 20,000,000*l.* a year! That is the best that can be said of Austrian finances. To look in addition at its paper circulation is to grow dizzy.

Belgium may be prosperous commercially, but, owing to the immense army it is obliged to keep up, its finances are not much better than those of its neighbours. Its revenue does not reach five millions sterling, and it is not two years since Belgium was compelled to borrow a million sterling to pay off outstanding scores.

Sardinia—more is the pity—is even worse off. Her expenditure is said to reach 6,000,000*l.*; to meet which her revenue is only 4,000,000*l.* For this, however, Sardinia has to thank Austria.

The Papacy has always been insolvent; Pio Nono more so than most of his ghostly predecessors. His holiness, however, keeps his balance-sheet as snug as he can in his portfolio. Nevertheless he cannot conceal a deficit of half a million sterling, or get himself out of the hands of the Jews; and the rumour runs in Paris that the profits of its bagnios and brothels were largely invested in his last loan. In that case, Vice has more confidence than Virtue in Roman honesty.

Tuscany, too, has been lately raising money; and Naples has been funding its deficits.

Russia has commenced the war by borrowing from—perhaps robbing—the church on whose behalf it has disturbed the world; and, as sacrilege already has proved insufficient, the Czar is issuing, ere his first campaign is concluded, Russian assignats.

If, then, money be the sinews of war, where—in the name of all that is Californian or Australian—are these countries to get money from, to carry on war? If they could not pay their way in peace, how can they ever pay their way in war? Cocker is a stubborn, perverse fellow, and to Cocker it must come at last.

The cause of these peace deficits is one and the same everywhere—enormous military establishments kept up in time of peace; and the only countries where this has not been the case are states blessed with constitutional governments in full play. These, and these only, a general war will find with "money in their purse."

What a lesson! Despotism, when the pinch comes, is found wanting. It has no money.

COOKERY.

We are glad to see in the *Mark Lane Express*, the farmers' journal, a very sensible article on the importance of instructing the female peasantry in cookery. This is a subject we have often discussed, and it may have appeared, indeed, that we have attached an importance more than due to the culinary art; but the truth is that the value of the art is not appreciated, for this simple reason, that the art has not yet existence for the people. The cookery as it might, could, or should be, is misjudged for cookery as it is. No notion exists of what might be gained in economy, in health, in morals, and in enjoyment, by improved culinary skill. What is to be wished is not the science of a Ude or Soyer, but sufficient skill to do a few common things well. The A. B. C. we take to be plain vegetable soup, a well-dressed mutton chop, and well-boiled potato. The last is at present a thing purely ideal—it has never come out of the pot in the experience of living men. Do not be rash—do not say you have seen, much less eaten one, for it is because you do not know what it is, or what it should be like, that you imagine you have done so. It should not be crude in the centre, nor should it be pulp, nor watery, nor what you see it every day in some abominable variety or other of maltreatment.

The truth is that boiling a potato requires a care, attention, and patience exceeding the qualities of any cooks past or existing. The Irish are said to be the only people competent to this performance, perhaps because it involves a practical bull, inasmuch as the first care in boiling a potato should be to prevent the boiling of the potato. "Upon the heat and flame of the distemper sprinkle cool patience." An ardent cook will improvise a mutton chop with sufficient success, who will never bear the strain upon the attention and patience which the potato exacts.

We trust that Lord Ashburton, who has so wisely recommended instruction in common things, will establish prizes for soup, broils, and potatoes. Common things are in one sense, most uncommon in another. What is wanted is a common cookery like common sense. Now what is called common sense is the most uncommon sense,—the sense applicable to common things, the sense constantly in requisition, and bending and fitting itself to the various occasions small and great.

We have asserted that economy, health, morals, and enjoyments, are all concerned in the question of cookery. Culinary skill (we will not say better culinary skill, for the comparative degree would argue a non-existing positive) would not only save much that is now wasted, but would find uses for much that is now unused—so much for economy; health would be promoted by a better prepared, and therefore more digestible food; enjoyment too, as a good dinner is not a great dinner, but a dinner upon what is good of its kind no matter how simple. Morals must have a sentence to itself. A bad dinner in humble life has for its common sequence a quarrel with the wife, and recourse to the dram-bottle or the public-house. The man disappointed of something to eat comforts himself with something to drink. If he has not the stimulus of wholesome food, he will have the stimulus of pernicious gin. He is out of temper and quarrelsome; and after having rowed his wife and beaten the children, he posts off to the public-house to console himself with "a cheerful glass." He knows that he cannot afford it, but what of that; it is not his fault that he has an empty stomach because the dinner was not eatable, and he must have something to support him. Amongst the middle classes the evil is modified, but still of the same type,—there is bad temper after a bad meal, and the bad digestion calls for more wine or spirits, according to the circumstances of the individual.

In the country which has the art of cookery in the greatest perfection, what good humour prevails in the after dinner, what moderation in the use of wine,—for no Frenchman thinks of having recourse to wine for the purpose of digestion, or to perform the fiery office in his stomach which the cook has failed to do in the stew-pan.

CODIFICATION.

There was some loose talk in the House of Lords on Thursday night on the very important subject of consolidating the statutes and simplifying the law. Lord Lyndhurst went the length of recommending the example of the State of New York. The government of that State employed not many years ago a commission of its most eminent jurists to digest the several portions of its laws, whether originating in custom or statute; the legislature of New York at once passed the code thus drawn up, as a whole; and our veteran ex-Chancellor, returning in old age to the sympathies and associations of his youth, praises the energy and success of these transatlantic law reformers. The Lord Chancellor is so far borne away by such homage to republican vigour as rather to hint at, than to insist upon, the difficulty of such a summary proceeding with ourselves. But Lord Campbell recovers courage by the time the Chancellor sits down, and declares that any proposal to codify the entire statute and common law of this country would be a scheme quite chimerical and impossible.

The Chief Justice instanced the *Code Napoleon* itself as no longer serving its purposes or fulfilling its expectations. Those expectations had been, that a code would supersede the necessity of that incessant diving into the precedents of past ages, which required of judge and advocate to be as profoundly learned among squadrons of contradictory cases and remote authorities, as expert in

common sense or in clear and decisive judgment. But what has been the result? In the working and application of the French code doubtful cases and knotty questions have gradually arisen and multiplied; its few and simple words have been found by no means available in their solution; and in order to arrive at any safe judgment or decision, it has become now as necessary as ever to ascertain primarily what the code meant, that is, what its framers meant, and this in each case has of course involved the necessity of diving into the sources of the law codified. Thus has a necessity for all the old legal learning come up in France once more; and the *Code Napoleon* has to be educed and elucidated, not from Imperial perorations before the Council of State, but from Cujas and Domat.

But admitting in some degree the force of Lord Campbell's argument, no one will doubt that there is a vast department of the laws here as well as in France which codification nevertheless most admirably adapts itself to. The criminal law, for example, with its procedures and its penalties, presents no difficulty that should be insurmountable; and who will question that as far as criminal jurisprudence is concerned, a very perfect and sufficient consolidation of both statute and common law is attainable and desirable.

If it be true that even the French code has failed to afford satisfactory decisions in cases affecting questions of property, it might certainly be a strong argument against any such attempt in England, where the tenure of property is so much more intimately interwoven with old habits, old usages, traditions, statutes, and fictions, that the title to land is become absolutely an occult science amongst us, which none but lawyers can presume to understand. But are we to give up all hope of throwing light into this dark place of our social system? Is there to be no hope for us in the direction of simplifying modes of tenure, registry, and transmission? Are we always to be talking about this subject and never doing, always to be beginning and never to begin? Might not a series of subjects be taken, and the experiment of codification on a small and departmental scale, as it were, be tried at once? We are convinced that this would be possible, and that when special branches of civil jurisprudence have thus been subjected to something like a reasoning analysis and arrangement, a general reconstruction and simplification of the whole fabric of our legal system will not be far distant.

PARTNERSHIP LIABILITY.

Mr Collier obtained leave on Monday night to bring in a bill for the better extension of the jurisdiction of the Stannaries Court from Cornwall over Devon, and for the improvement of the mines subject to it, especially by the introduction into their management of the system of partnership *en commandite*. In a very able and temperate way Mr Collier pointed out the advantage that would be derived from actual trial of the French system on a limited scale in this case of our English mines; and certainly the system must be good for them, if it be good for anything. A safer, more quiet, more efficient way of making an experiment that shall develop or repress, as may be most fit, the tendency towards a more extensive change, could scarcely be suggested. For the present we can only thus briefly advert to a question of the greatest importance, on which our views have been more than once expressed. We cannot doubt that in due time all undue restrictions upon partnership will go the way of other protective interferences with the free movement of trade, but it is well that so great a change should be begun with every care to obtain a safe as well as efficient trial of the principle it involves. What Mr Collier proposes will continue the responsibility of mine-owners and managers, but will make it possible for men, women, and even children in any part of the country to subscribe fractions of capital and obtain fractions of profit; and it must soon be made obvious whether or not this opening up of fresh resources is likely to give vigour to mining operations in England, and put an end to many hurtful speculations with which they have been too frequently connected. Let us take the opportunity of remarking the pleasure with which we lately read Lord Hobart's closely and accurately reasoned pamphlet (*Remarks on the Law of Partnership*) on this subject. It states very clearly the argument for *commandite* partnership, and replies satisfactorily to the chief arguments against it.

THE CHANGE IN THE TURKISH MINISTRY.

The electric telegraph makes a sad jumble of news from so remote a place as Constantinople, and especially when it does not confine itself to facts, but super-adds motives.

Thus the reported resignation of Mehemet, the seraskier, and brother-in-law of the Sultan, is construed to be the adoption of a desire on the part of the Porte to relax in its war policy. We believe nothing of the sort. There is probably about as much correctness in it as in the news which the same telegraph gives of the resignation of the Capudan Pasha as simultaneous with Mehemet's resignation, the former having taken place immediately after the affair of Sinope.

With respect to Mehemet, a great many reasons suggest themselves for his resignation, but we are disposed to connect it more especially with the measures consequent on that more active support which the allies of Turkey now propose to render to her. The French Government in one of its dispatches demands as a condition of France and England undertaking the military defence of the Porte, that to these countries shall

be left the arbitrament of any terms of peace; and in the same spirit, no doubt, if really active aid and support be given to Turkey, the control of military operations would also be required to a very great extent to pass into the hands of European generals. Already it has been stipulated that the Turkish fleets do not sail from harbour independently of the French and English Admirals, and something similar will probably now be demanded of the Turkish land forces. This is a sort of subordination, however, which though indispensable, is not likely to be pleasing to so impracticable, and we may add, not very capable a person as Mehemet. The seraskier is a politician who would say for Turkey, what certain Italian patriots have said for Italy, *Italia fara da se—Turkey can defend itself.* But though Turkey has surprised even her warmest admirers by the power she has unexpectedly and most gallantly exhibited of standing up unaided not only in defensive but offensive operations on the Danube, still it must be felt very generally how desirable it is that in the struggle now impending, her military resources should be as far as possible directed by the best European skill, as well as fortified and increased by European strength and numbers.

If, on the other hand, it were a question whether diplomatic arrangements could be entrusted more safely to English and French than to Turkish statesmen, we should feel by no means so confident in the matter.

PROTECTION OF THE LAWS IN AUSTRIA.

When, last August, the cessation of the state of siege was proclaimed in Austria, a political refugee residing in London was invited by his friends to return to his native land. The invitation was doubtless well meant, coming as it did from persons of respectability, and it was accompanied not only by offers of assistance, but also by the assurance that nothing was to be feared from the civil power. The refugee, however, not placing much confidence in the peace or amnesty, addressed the following questions to one of his friends, an advocate of respectability:

"Is there in Austria any legal security against arbitrary arrest and imprisonment?"

"Is an Austrian tribunal capable of making its decisions valid against the arbitrary acts of the police?"

"If an individual falls into the hands of the military, is there any civil body that can rescue him?"

"If a licentious soldier takes refuge among his comrades, what civil tribunal is able to lay hands upon him?"

"If I am maltreated by an officer, or by order of an officer, either in my own dwelling or in public, whence am I to obtain compensation? What public official will assist me?"

To the above questions no answer has been received, and in such cases no answer is of itself an answer. As for the real meaning of the abolition of the state of siege, it may be surmised from the circumstance that the military tribunals are still sitting to pass sentence, and never allow any one to escape who has once fallen into their clutches.

ERRATUM.—In the leading article of the *Examiner* of last Saturday, "The Explanations on the Eastern Question," instead of "When Lord Stratford, being already in negotiation with the Porte, delivered the collective note annexed to the Protocol," &c., read "When Lord Stratford, being already in negotiation with the Porte, refused to deliver the collective note," &c.

A DIALOGUE OF THE DEAD.*

NICHOLAS AND DIOGENES.

NICHOLAS. Dost thou know who I am, fellow! that thou dares to laugh in my face!

DIOGENES. Do not call me fellow.

NICHOLAS. What art thou else!

DIOGENES. Fellow I am, but no fellow of thine. I always spoke the truth aboveground; thou never didst. Desirest thou to know who are my fellows?

NICHOLAS. Not I indeed.

DIOGENES. I thought so; but thou shalt.

NICHOLAS. Threatenest thou crowned heads?

DIOGENES. Crowned heads! where are they?

NICHOLAS. Mine was.

DIOGENES. It was: until the world rose up against thee, and until thy own slaves struck off both crown and head together.

NICHOLAS. Laughest thou at a vile assassination?

DIOGENES. The gods forbid! I laugh at a blunderer who attempted to throw down all human laws before him; who succeeded in so doing; but was crushed under their fragments. Nobody tries to chain a mad dog up; every man pursues him unto death. Men and Gods unite in one grand hunt against the irreclaimable brute, the breaker of chain and muzzle; we knock him on the head, and sweep his kennel clean out. Assassination is not the word. But you despots see things inverted, and name them arbitrarily. What is great to others is small to you: what is smallest in the sight of Wisdom is greatest in the sight of Folly. Spider-eyed insects! your many eyes betray you, and ye are caught at last in the web ye have woven for the flies.

NICHOLAS. Audacious! and this to me?

DIOGENES. Verily to thee, the latest and most obvious witness of my indictment. However, I am not cited as thy accuser. Thy accusers will come forward, ten thousand at a time; and the hall, extending over half of these vast regions, must be cleared ten thousand times for them, and many times after, until at last comes the Sacred Band of my brave compatriots, from forth the blazing roofs and blood-red-den billows of Sinope.

NICHOLAS. It was a disaster they brought upon themselves.

DIOGENES. Yes, truly, by confiding in any word of thine. Assassination forsooth! and this was none! Peradventure I mistook thy meaning, which thou wert always fond of making people do; perhaps it was that "vile assassination" is assassination of the vile. Such a defini-

tion would have been bandied about in the grove of Academus, and caught upon perfumed beard and deposited upon budding. Nay, do not let my praises puff thee up afresh, and make thee a bigger and burlier, altho' ever an empty, shade. I will lower a chord of my lyre, as songmen say, and forbear to celebrate him who despatched thee hither. He may indeed have had no virtue or courage in him: but low as men hold the rat-catcher, they hold the rat lower.

NICHOLAS.

Audacious villain!

DIOGENES.

I was more audacious in the world above, where my fist could fairly have clutched thee. Miserable phantom! hast thou never been instructed what respect was paid me by the most powerful of kings, compared with whom thou art but a scorpion to a basilisk? I lived in poverty, and died in peace. Glorious prerogative! Dost thou fancy that myriads of slaves can ever make a man greater, wiser, or happier? Quite the contrary. But to reason with a madman is to be one.

NICHOLAS.

What a bladder of gall!

DIOGENES.

Thou shalt drink it to the last drop. Advance, my countrymen! Advance, and surround this miscreant, my brave fellow-citizens! and ye from the Bosphoros, confederates and defenders of Sinope! Turnest thou pale, O murderous dastard! turnest thou pale, O concrete slime of Styx and Acheron! Men without their limbs are sailing in the air around thee. Look up, "vile assassin!"

He dares not. Surround him ye who have arms and legs, and carry him off in the midst of you. Howl, howl after him, ye women, who wailed of late so unavailingly. Fear not, ye little children, to come nigh: approach: the fire that burnt your entrails is extinguished; at least for you extinguished; for him it never shall be. The Gods have condemned your murderer to carry it eternally in his heart.

WALTER SAVAGE LANDOR.

UNITED STATES DIPLOMATIC COSTUME. Sir, Assuming that the United States do not impose any rules as to dress on foreign officials, and that we ought not to do so, be it remembered that they, as well as we, have peculiar restrictions affecting gentlemen in black; and if the treatment on a mere point of etiquette of one gentleman clothed in black by human appointment should create any sensation, what feelings might not be expected to be roused at the treatment, in all that concerns their happiness, of between three and four millions clothed in black by appointment divine! That, however, is between the parties interested. But when you ask, "what right have we to force the representative of another power into a particular costume, or in default to shut the door in his face?" I would ask, by what international law have the United States, or any of them (as Louisiana), a right to object to the unchangeable costume of nature of British and other subjects of colour, and—not shut the door in their faces by forbidding their landing, but—seize and imprison them during their vessel's stay in port? You will recollect the New Orleans case of this kind some two or three years ago, when there was no redress, the "peculiar institution" carrying the day, as doubtless it does still. I speak with the warmest admiration of all that is great and noble in the Transatlantic young giant. Let the rule be altered, by all means; but if not, surely our American friends will not consider it a "studied slight or determined insult." No, Sir, they will not strain at our gnat, while we are swallowing their camel.—F. W. D.—9th Feb., '54

THE LITERARY EXAMINER.

Journal of a Residence in the Danubian Principalities in the Autumn and Winter of 1853. By Patrick O'Brien. Bentley.

Although there was long good reason to complain that the information furnished us respecting the events taking place on the banks of the Danube was of the most meagre and unsatisfactory character, this grievance has of late been remedied as regards the country in possession of the Turks, and we have had trustworthy accounts of the battle at Oltenitza, of the lines of Kalafat, and of the fortifications of Rustchuk. But from the Principalities little news has reached us except by telegraphic dispatches through Vienna, not always deserving the most implicit confidence.

Nevertheless it now appears that the curiosity naturally excited to hear how matters were proceeding at the Russian headquarters was happily destined to be gratified—Mr Patrick O'Brien, who seems to possess with the agreeable qualities a full share of the intrepidity which distinguishes his countrymen, having won his way through hosts of Cossacks and over impassable roads to the very heart of the Russian position. He assisted (as a spectator) at the battle of Oltenitza, under an escort granted by the Russian General, expressly for the purpose of providing for the safety of our traveller, and discreetly accepted by him with due expressions of gratitude.

The following is Mr O'Brien's description of the battle seen from the Russian side. It will be observed to differ from the accounts given by English witnesses chiefly in doubling the number of Turks engaged, and in stating that there was a hand-to-hand combat in front of the lines, no mention of which was made in the very graphic and apparently accurate description given by the correspondent of the *Morning Chronicle*.

The Turks, advancing from Tartukai, first took possession of the island, where they erected batteries, and then crossed over to the quarantine point. Here they cut a ditch from the Ardigh to the Danube, which enclosed the quarantine and the old fort. They also constructed a masked battery of nine guns. The Turks were allowed to pursue their operations quietly without molestation from the Russians, and this I observe to have been hitherto the constant tactic of Prince Gortschakoff and his generals. His idea seems to be to concentrate the Turkish troops as much as possible at one point, and then fall upon and crush them at a single blow. If this be the Prince's idea, he has certainly underrated the courage and skill of his adversaries.

When about ten thousand Turks were concentrated about the quarantine of Oltenitza, a body of Russian cavalry were sent forward to make a reconnaissance. The object of this movement was evidently to draw the Turks out of their entrenchments, and it naturally enough succeeded with troops excited as are those of the Sultan. At the fire which the Turks opened upon them the cavalry fell back, and the former, thinking them routed, threw planks across the ditch, and crossing over, advanced into the open country. The main body of the Russians then pushed forward under the fire of the artillery which was posted on the heights behind. When within a short distance of the Turks, the Russian infantry formed in line and charged. The Turks met them bravely, and for a few minutes it was a hand-to-hand fight. Generally speaking, the Russian infantry

soldier is a taller and a brawnier man than the Turk, and in a struggle which bone and muscle must decide, supposing the courage and skill of the combatants to be equal, the Russians naturally had the advantage. The Turks gave way and retreated within their works, and were hotly pursued by their adversaries. The Russians poured down in mass, thinking the day their own, and were swarming across the ditch cut by the Turks from the Ardigh to the Danube, when suddenly the guns of Tartukai, the batteries on the island, and the seven gun-boats anchored near it, opened a tremendous fire of round shot and shells, whilst the masked battery near the Quarantine belched out its grape and canister. General Dannenberg said subsequently, that since Borodino, he had not seen so well sustained a fire; and another of the Generals told a friend of mine, that since the siege of Warsaw, he had not seen so destructive a cannonade for the time it lasted. The Russians were completely paralysed at this unexpected reception. There were a few moments as if of stupefaction, no command was given, and the men stood still under the fire of their adversaries. Luckily for the Russians, this confusion lasted but an instant. Suddenly the order to retire was given, and the troops fell back steadily beyond the range of the Turkish guns. One thousand and five men of the Russians were put hors de combat on that day, and on an average, eight out of every ten of the wounded sent into hospital have since died. The Turks had a body of about eight hundred sharpshooters armed with the Minié rifle, under cover within their works, whose sole duty was to shoot the Russian officers whenever they came within range. This accounts for the number of officers killed and wounded.

In the night the Turks destroyed their works, and retired across the Danube to Tartukai, taking with them their killed as well as their wounded.

We particularly recommend the following extract to the consideration of Mr Cobden, and to those other politicians who, although they have not the courage, like him, to avow their real sentiments, are at heart equally desirous for the extension of Russian power.

Not a treaty has been quoted in these pages, that has not been violated by Russia. Russia, claiming to form one of the great family of the civilized nations of Christendom, has violated the treaty of Vienna, in taking possession of the mouths of the Danube, and obstructing their navigation; she has violated the treaty of Adrianople, in occupying the islands in that river; she has trampled on the treaty of Balta-Liman, by crossing the Pruth with her armies in last July, and even the "Reglement Organique," drawn up by herself, was flung aside as a dead letter, by both that Power and Turkey, in the irregular nomination of MM. Sturbez and Ghika. It is difficult to say where national faith and national honour have found a refuge in these days, when we see a great Christian Power, with whom no promise is sacred and no treaty is binding, meeting with only a qualified approval from the other governments of Christendom. Before the Christian subjects of the Sultan call out for the Protectorate of Russia, let them look first to Moldo-Wallachia, and see the baleful effects of that Protectorate in these Principalities. Since 1829, the power of the Porte in the Danubian provinces has been but a name. The Czar, under the modest title of Protector, has been, since that period, the virtual sovereign of these countries. Not a single appointment, from that of Hospodar, down to the elder of a village, can be made without his approval. The Russian Consuls-General have had the finances under their control, and the chief of the quarantine, which is a police institution, is a Russian. And has Russia, since obtaining the Protectorate of these Principalities, gained the goodwill of the inhabitants? Was it from sympathy for them, as members of the Greek Church, that she interfered in their concerns? Has the conduct of the Czar towards them, as head of their Church, been paternal or kind, or even just? Russia tolerates serfdom, and has permitted to the Boyards certain feudal privileges, which they can exercise over their own people, but they, themselves, are in their turn but the bondsmen of Russia. She introduced that fatal scourge, her police laws and her espionage, and held up to the imitation of a people, emerging from barbarism, the corruption which pollutes her own institutions.

The following is a striking instance of the advantages resulting to trade from the substitution of Russian good government for Turkish misrule. It must prove extremely gratifying to the Manchester Chamber of Commerce. When the Sulina mouth of the Danube was in possession of the Turks, about sixteen feet of water were maintained at the bar, by a regulation that all vessels should drag, on passing over it, a heavy iron rake attached to the stern. The effectual but barbarous practice was abolished when the supremacy of Russia was established. That progressive government introduced (after several years of unheeded complaints on the part of English merchants) a steam dredging-machine, and this was the result:

On the morning following our departure from Varna, we anchored at about a mile from the mouth of the Danube. There being only six feet of water above the bar, we could not approach nearer. The expanse of muddy water before us was strewn with wrecks. There was something fearfully desolate in the scene. Where the water was shallow, the dark hulls of ships were peering above the yellow tide, like half-covered corpses, and in other places, the masts alone of the sunken vessel were seen rising up from the water, like the outstretched arms of a drowning man. Stranded on the shore was the large hull of a Dutch-built vessel, rotting in the sun, and close to us were some men in boats, trying to fish up the cargo of a vessel which had gone down the day before.

Might not some of the compassion which is so liberally bestowed on the Christian subjects of Turkey in the provinces south of the Danube be justly extended to those who are enjoying the full blessings of Russian protection?

As far as the inhabitants of Moldo-Wallachia are concerned, a more docile, hard-working, and honest people is not to be found. Such things as drunken riots are unknown, and robbery by a Wallachian is far from being common. Even the gypsies, who here form a comparatively large portion of the population, are not addicted to theft; a vice which, in other countries, seems to be inherent in that strange people. With regard to the upper classes, I have met amongst them men as well educated and as gifted as any of the same rank in England or France. But there is no public career open to them in their own country. There is no incentive to honourable ambition, there is no occupation for the exercise of the intellect. The Government is an ignoble vassalage under another name, and its public institutions are but a mockery of independence. The office of Hospodar, so far from being a mark of distinction, conferred by the nation upon the most deserving citizen, is generally attained by the person who is most successful in ingratiating himself with the Russian authorities, and who has shown most tact in the distribution of bribes at the Porte.

Humanity demands that something should be done by the great powers of Europe for the amelioration of these Principalities. Under the present system they are exposed to the invasion of a Russian army, on the slightest pretext, and they are afterwards forced to pay the expenses of the occupation, and to support to a great extent those foreign troops whilst they remain in the country. In the present quarrel between Russia and the Porte, the Moldo-Wallachians, without a shadow of justice, are made the first victims. Their commerce is ruined, the industry of the country is suspended; the peasant is dragged from the cultivation of his fields to transport the baggage of a foreign army, his house is occupied and his scanty store of food eaten by the soldiers of another nation. The farmers cannot pay their landlords, for the produce of their land is rotting in the open air at the ports of the Danube, for want of the means of transport. The forage and other stock brought to the markets of Bucharest and the other towns of the Principalities, are sold at a price fixed by the Russian Commissariat; a price which was established in the abundant season of last June, and which is less than half what the same produce ought to bring at the present time. It is evident that if this state of things be permitted to last, these Principalities, notwithstanding the immense resources with which they are endowed by nature, must fall to ruin.

Mr O'Brien appears to have been treated with civility and hospitality by the Russians, and to be far from entertaining any prejudices against them; but he is indignant

* Dialogues of the Dead belong to poetry exclusively; to Homer, Æschylus, Virgil, and (above all) Dante; but some also which were written in prose have had their readers.

at the remorseless oppression which they systematically exercise, as is every honest man who has witnessed its actual operation.

The Slave Son. By Mrs William Noy Wilkins. Chapman and Hall.

This is an indignant expression of a deep sense of the wrongs of slavery. It takes the form of a novel highly wrought, and in parts very powerful, yet it must not be regarded as the work of a lady who is imitating Mrs Stowe. The book treats of slavery in Trinidad, the date of the narrative is the year 1832, and the main topic is a new province of the wide region of horrors over which slavery extends. The hero is a mulatto, slave to his own father, and inheriting his father's pride. Mrs Wilkins writes from experience, and, as she says and is most evident from the book, out of a deep and long-established feeling. Her youth was spent among the slaves of Trinidad, and she thus describes what may be taken as the incident that first directed her mind strongly to a topic upon which it has now for a long time been engaged:

There came to the Colony where we lived a young lady of colour from Europe,—a lady, I repeat the word. To a refinement of breeding which only belongs to the best society, she added accomplishments and manners of the first order; she was spoken of as a wonder. But soon it was understood that she would not receive gentlemen unless they presented themselves respectfully, and as they would to white ladies. Instantly society was in a ferment. Ladies who customarily made closet companions of coloured women whose life was an open acknowledgment of their degradation, were here all amazed at the impudent assumption of virtue by this coloured girl; and although crowds would gather at night opposite her window to hear her sing, in the daytime she was avoided as if struck with the plague. Those who met her in the street would turn back, or cross to the other side; and every invention was put in play to show her how completely she was thrust from the position she had dared to assume. I was then very young, scarcely better than a child, and just at that age when the heart is fresh and open to all the most generous feelings of our nature; and, romantic as it may seem, in my room that night I made a vow that it should be my one great task through life to raise the coloured race to social emancipation and respect. In my youthful enthusiasm I felt persuaded that my one little feeble voice would shame away prejudice from the millions of white people who entertained it; and I came to England full of my subject and elated with my hopes of doing good, in spite of the ridicule which was often thrown on my endeavours and remarks. Of course such illusions passed away with growing years and riper judgment, but I never once lost sight of my subject, even when the cares of life were thickening around me. I prepared a series of stories (of which the following is the first) calculated to show what these people are, and to create such an interest in their behalf as might lay the groundwork for their future rising; and I still hoped on through it all, that the time would come when I should have leisure and opportunity to finish what I had begun.

And the time is come, thanks to Mrs Stowe! when my subject is no longer irrelevant to the topics of the day.

A mulatto woman shunned for being virtuous certainly was an illustration of a state of society that might cause the cheeks of the white woman to flush, and for this and many other reasons most heartily we welcome Mrs Wilkins as a worker in a field that will yet occupy the time of many earnest labourers. She writes with the vigour of strong feeling, and has displayed both power and dexterity in the conception of her plot. The date of her tale enables her to introduce incidents connected with the Obiah poisoning used by the negroes against their masters, with a melo-dramatic effect certainly, but with the effect of good and striking melo-drama. Of this poisoning, one of the speeches in a dialogue relates two or three facts:

I will tell you what I saw myself in the year 1822 in Martinique. I went there on business, and remained long enough to witness the completion of the tragedy I am about to relate. The Obiah had spread its ravages to such a fearful extent, that a Court was instituted, to stay the progress of its crimes. The bloodthirsty Davoust was chosen to execute its decrees: he went about with two hatchets,—a large one for cutting off heads, a small one for cutting off hands,—summoning before him every Negro suspected; he then and there pronounced sentence, without hearing or appeal, and had such forthwith executed. Such terrific examples were intended to scare away the Obiah; but, like an evil genius, it only seemed to open still wider its dark and terrible wings over the island. Davoust became sanguinary with the practice of his office, and, weary of the too lenient execution with the hatchet, had sixteen of the most hardened Negroes caged up in the great Place Lamentin, and ordered them to be burned, one after the other. Twenty thousand slaves were called from all parts of the island, to witness the scene; a small drizzling rain fell the whole day, as though sent on purpose to render their deaths more slow and torturing; yet in the face of this not a word was uttered by the sixteen criminals, nor by the twenty thousand who looked on: they remained impenetrably silent. The square was like a black sea of human beings, silent, sullen, dogged. I saw them go away in the evening in the same gloomy mood, and during that night there was not an estate on the island where death from poison did not occur. The evil was in no degree arrested, and, wearied out and conquered by the persevering horrors of Negro vengeance, the Court closed its sittings in 1827.

In other passages Mrs Wilkins gives us a graphic account of the arrival of a slave ship, and of the sale on board of its contraband ware; we have also many touches illustrative of the position of the mulatto, and an exceedingly good picture of the slave hospital upon a large estate. We prefer, however, to quote one or two detached incidents connected less directly with the tale itself; taking for granted that this is a book which, both on account of its subject, and of its vigour considered merely as a romance, will be very widely read.

Here is an instance of the edification of the slaves by a religious teacher:

"My wife," continued the planter without attending to the question, "spent days in teaching those savages, and we had a priest here to perform the ceremony in a little pavilion attached to the house, which we always use for religious service; I will show it to you. But the good Father neither spoke nor understood a word of the Negro patois; perhaps he would have thought it desecration of his subject to give his sermon in it if he could; be that as it may, he held forth in courtly French on the blessings of Christianity and the errors of heathenism, and he concluded with 'My friends, will you

become the children of God? Now my wife had taken particular pains to instruct them as to the way they should answer the priest whenever he put a question to them; but the poor devils, addressed in a language they could not understand, had puzzled away their brains until startled by the question, and then they stood completely stupefied. 'Will you become the children of God?' again asked the priest kindly and encouragingly; when one fellow, that young black rascal you saw with me this morning—"

"Do you mean the mean the one you called Quaco, who fell into the water?"

"The same; he was a lad of about sixteen or seventeen, apt and rash; he called out, at a venture, 'Non, mon Père!' Instantly the rest of the gang took it up, and the pavilion resounded with a loud chorus of 'Non, mon Père!' The poor priest was taken aback: 'What!' he cried, 'do you wish to become the children of the Devil?' and Quaco, taking the lead, and thinking to correct the error, the pavilion again resounded with 'Oui, mon Père!' Out strided our impetuous pastor; he would have nothing more to do with such incorrigible heathens, he said; and it was with difficulty that, suppressing our laughter, we could pacify his anger and bring him back. So you see it is quite hopeless."

We shall very well illustrate the author's skill as a narrator, and at the same time interest our readers, by the quotation of a part of the account of a plague of ants which occurred in 1780. The ant in question is a small red one, justly called by entomologists omnivorous.

"One morning I went to the fowl-house, to see after some chickens just hatched. As I walked, I felt my poor bare feet stung all over—the ground was covered with ants; I could not go on, so I went to the carpenter's workshop to get a plank to walk upon, and I set it down from the door of the fowl-house to the coops; but the hens were off their nests, dancing and screaming as hens will do when they are stung, and the little chickens, when I looked at them, were all dead; the nests were covered with ants. I called to one of the women to come and help me, and between us we took out all the hens, picked off the ants, and got tobacco-plants, which we left burning on the ground. It was late now: I took my pail and went to milk the cows for breakfast. On my way I looked in at the sheep, there had been a sick one among them I wanted to see. Hey ho! my friends, it was dead! covered with ants thick upon it, so that you could not make out what the living heap could be till you brushed them off like a piece of thick crust. I did not stay then: I called to the cowboy to take away the sheep, and I went to get the milk. As soon as I had done, I made all haste to take it to the house, for by this time breakfast should be ready. I found Missis very cross: the breakfast was spoiled with the ants, the coffee was full of them, so were the cassava-cakes; and the syrup, which the white people use instead of sugar, was a mess of them. I had my tale to tell, and the family had nothing to drink but the milk I brought in. But the worst of all was the bread: wherever you cut it, there were ants inside; when you put a piece in your mouth, ants stuck to your tongue and stung it. We spent the whole of that day, we house-servants, pouring boiling water over the boards of every room and into every hole; and I stole out in the afternoon to look at the fowl-house, which I cleaned and smoked, and then strewed the ground with chopped tobacco-leaves. I felt so tired that night with having worked hard all day, that I had only time to throw myself on my mat and I was instantly asleep.

"Next morning I woke early, and then I went to the fowl-house again. Oh, it was worse now! the hens were all dying, the bigger chickens were dead already, and the new-laid eggs were bored through and swarming inside. As to the ground, I could not find a spot to walk upon, and no sooner had I put the plank down than I had to sweep it again, it swarmed so. I heard Missis's voice calling already, though it was so early; she was very cross,—everybody was cross,—ants were everywhere. The nurse of the hospital was at one door, crying out that ants were swarming in the beds of the sick; the cook was at another door, grumbling that the kitchen was all swarming with ants in every corner; and before any of us had a bit of breakfast, there we were, busy, all busy,—some scraping the meat, some sweeping the shelves, some scalding the vegetables, some straining the syrup, some trying to clean the flour; but no use, no, not a bit! The dinner was ant-soup, ant-stew, ant-fricassee, and ant-pudding,—ants everywhere, ants in everything. After dinner the same business over again, and we were obliged besides to put every pot and kettle down, even to the frying-pan, to boil water in, for flooding the kitchen flags and walls; and the vessels not being enough for this, some of the Negroes were sent to borrow more pots from the estates near us. No sooner were these gone, than messengers arrived on the same errand from the very place Missis had sent to. We stared, I can tell you, when we heard those estates were just like ours, overrun with ants. By-and-by our Negroes came back with stories still worse: in one place the cattle were eaten up alive in the night; in another place a sick mule was found eaten in spots to the bone, though he was not yet dead; and we soon fared no better ourselves,—the next day nothing could be got for the Master's dinner but some fried plantains and omelettes; and some of the field niggers were kept about the house, to sweep the paths and pour hot water wherever they appeared. There was now something to see: such running here and there from the house to the kitchen and back again! such talking! such work!

"When night came we were all of us troubled to think how we should keep the bread fit to eat. Some of us thought to place jugs standing in basins or tubs of water, and on the top of the jugs to put dishes and plates with the bread and anything else that wanted keeping. Then we placed all these in a row, and giving a last scald to the floors of the different rooms, we thought we might go to bed, for it was very late; and I laid myself down as usual at the foot of the young ladies' bed on the floor, and soon fell asleep. This did not last long: I soon started up out of my sleep with the stings of the ants, they were all over me. I got up, and went to the lamp to pick them off me,—a hard thing to do, as I found, for no matter how you brushed them off, the heads always remained behind stuck in your skin. But just when I had begun this work, there I heard one of the young ladies calling to me that her bed had ants in it, and the next minute both young ladies were on the floor, crying out for help. Soon after, the whole family was up,—Missis and all the servants, for the same cause: nobody could sleep, and we were obliged to bring large calabashes, into which we lifted the bed-posts, and then filled the vessels with water. Of course we brushed and picked the beds until they were cleared. Missis allowed me to take the old hammock, and hang it up to sleep in, and I felt nothing more till day-break.

"It was now the fourth morning since the ant-swarming began, and everything had been tried to stop it, but no sooner was I up than I found them in more plenty than ever. The fowl-house was a great moving mass of them. The cattle were covered with them, and dying; and when dead their bones were laid quite bare and white in one hour after. In the fields, the coffee-berries, at that time nearly ripe, were all eaten dry on the bush. The Negroes could no longer dig without shoes; Master had to get a pair for every one of them. Everybody now began to be frightened,—white people, Mulatto people, niggers: all Granada was running with ants, no house was free; no window, no door, no box or keyhole, but they went in and out like a stream. The paths were thick with them, in some places they were stopped up with hills of living ants. There were more and more every day. They took to eating something more than people's victuals: they ate silk, Master's black coats, Missis's stuff table-covers, then glue; then the horsehair from off the sofa and chairs, and

all the shoes, and the saddles and leather. When these were all gone, what did they do but begin to eat the young ladies' linen, the cotton petticoats, the muslin frocks, paper, wood,—yes, and brass!"

We break off the account before we reach the climax. Of the characters of the story we may add, that they are nearly all well drawn. We might object that a perceptible colour of lingo is given to the negro speech, but that we hold this to be no great disadvantage, because if the imitations be not marvellously clever, any excess annoys the reader; and we know no writer except Mrs Stowe who has used it largely with complete success. We should not perhaps omit to remark that the story told by Madelaine, which is good matter in itself, is inconsistent with her character, and that there are one or two minor defects in the work. But upon these it would be improper to dwell in a notice such as this, which is but large enough to hold the full measure of hearty commendation to which a book so able and so very earnest is well entitled.

Handbook to the Library of the British Museum, &c. &c. With some Account of the Principal Libraries in London. By Richard Sims, of the Department of Manuscripts. J. R. Smith.

Mr Sims, who begins his very useful little manual with a brief history of the Museum Library, writes for the literary working men who frequent that institution. To those who are not "readers," it is of little or no use; to those who are, it is of great value, and of most value to those whose visits are rare or occasional, who go at odd times for a special purpose, and who do not wish to be detained longer than needful in foul air, or to be cut up alive by fearful and incessant draughts. What the Museum reading-room is to become when it has been revised and corrected by the architects, we do not know; strange rumours are abroad upon the subject;—but the right place for it, as we think, is in the quadrangle, where it would lie conveniently within the ring of libraries formed by the printed-book and manuscript departments, and where there would be space enough for the accommodation of all readers. Now there is no such space. Ten men studying ten books a-piece in the engine-room of a small Chelsea steamer, would be as to space and air very much in the same position, as the two hundred readers who are made to cuddle side by side and back to back together in the reading-rooms of the Museum. If there be no provision of more space soon made, it will become necessary to economise that which exists; and frequenters of the reading-room will thus perhaps fall under the kind of discipline to which the limits of Smithfield make it requisite to subject oxen. They will have to be manœuvred by the rope and stick until they are brought into round knots, with their heads well together. Tables and chairs might indeed be suspended from the ceilings, and accommodation for two hundred additional readers might in that way be furnished out of the existing space. Deterioration of the air would not be a consideration, as it is absolutely impossible that the air of the Museum reading-rooms can be deteriorated. It would be found, we believe, fatal to mice.

Man can adapt himself to anything, but he requires a change in his constitution before he can adapt himself to any great change thoroughly. The native of the British Museum reading-room is as distinctly an ethnological phenomenon as the Papuan negro or the Esquimaux. His skin is converted into a dirty white parchment, his hair grows preternaturally, he becomes desponding and abstains from brushing it, his spirits fail so that he dares not touch a razor. His clothes moulder on his body. Mere visitors to that region become acclimatised through a long series of headaches, but if they are wise they take care not to settle among its inhabitants. It is a rich country, famous for its products, of which the affairs are administered by a most able ruler, in which all the officials are most courteous and attentive to the interests submitted to their charge;—it is a fine place, therefore, to become acquainted with,—indeed we could say so much for the Niger,—but we advise no man, woman, or youth with bloom upon the cheek to go and dwell there. To such fortunate souls let us say, if you visit the place as travellers, take with you the handbook Mr Sims provides.

This handbook has, moreover, two uses that will be recognised even by old denizens of the pestiferous regions upon which it treats. It gives of course every information as to laws, manners, and customs necessary to a perfect stranger, and on this account,—because it thinks nothing too well known to be worth naming,—it will be of great use to any person who intends trying the ground for the first time. Its main bulk is, however, made up of two features, which are also its two main recommendations. It contains a catalogue of all the books on the reference shelves, accessible without the writing of a ticket; a sort of catalogue that has been often wanted. It contains also a classed list of the manuscript collections.

Even the experienced reader must be more or less bewildered by the manuscript department, of which the contents are comprised in eleven separate collections, each with its own catalogue. Of each collection Mr Sims gives briefly the history, and states the character. He then, under the heads of Theology, History, Biography, &c.—these heads being subdivided—classes the departments of knowledge illustrated by the manuscripts, and gives under each class a reference to the manuscripts that illustrate it, whether they be Hargrave, King's, Harleian, Egerton, or any other. A classed list of this kind must inevitably be rough and imperfect, but, executed carefully and elaborately as it here is, it becomes a most important guide and assistant to all students. By its help there is secured to them, in very

many cases, access to stores of which, without such help, they never might have heard; and there is a very considerable lessening both of the time and labour that are consumed often in the business of research.

The short practical account of other Libraries of the metropolis, more or less accessible to the public, will be found brief, sufficient, and entirely to the purpose. We applaud, then, unreservedly, this little work; and we trust that its second, or at least its third edition, may have to describe another reading-room and other shelves, and may be in the hands of more men than are now to be found willing to change their skins like snakes, or lay their lungs upon the altar of Minerva.

Mabel. A Novel. By Emma Warburton. 3 vols. Newby.

Mabel was a young lady, right-minded, pious, and beautiful, who discarded her lover when it appeared after his return to France that he had imbibed atheistical principles. Her trouble is now over, and she has become his wife. During her probation she resided with a worldly aunt and three conquest-seeking cousins; and upon one of them she exercised a wholesome influence. The adventures of her maiden life were numerous, and they are in this novel cleverly told. Notwithstanding what we have said of the story, it is by no means to be assumed that this is in the vulgar sense of the word a religious novel, a compound of pulpit phrases and profanity. It is entirely free from cant, or indecorous fingering of sacred things; and it is only a religious novel in the best sense of the term, a novel so constructed as to reveal the fact that it is the work of a pure mind, the production of a religious woman who is strict in her opinions and yet no Pharisee. Mabel is a good young lady of deeds, and not of words. There is no preaching whatever in the book; it is full of cheerful or stirring incidents, and kindly thoughts. The power displayed in it, though not great, suffices amply for the entertainment of the reader; and we may commend the book most justly to all seekers of new novels as wholesome and satisfying fare.

The Parliamentary Companion for 1854. (Twenty-second year.) By Charles R. Dod, Esq., Author of the 'Peerage,' &c. 'Electoral Facts,' &c. Whittaker and Co.

What need we say for a book that has reached its twenty-second yearly publication beyond the fact that it has done so? What member of parliament, what constituent of a member of parliament, what admiring friend or captious assailant of a member of parliament, does not know that his *Dod* is his only safe or thoroughly reliable *Companion*? Why, Mr Speaker himself is not more of a necessity to a session than Mr Dod, and certainly knows less than that indefatigable gentleman of the opinions of the unruly and variable house of which he is the mouthpiece. For what does Mr Speaker know of the obscure corners, or far away on the back benches, or up in the galleries, where honourable gentlemen sleep and vote—whereas what does Mr Dod not know of all of them? He knows Smith and Jackson just as well as Dizzy or Lord John, and often a good deal better than they know themselves, for the dull men are as proverbial as the wits for short memories. In the little paper accompanying Mr Dod's volume we find this pregnant remark—

The close balance of parties renders continued vigilance necessary in recording the politics of each member. In most cases the exact words of the member himself have been preferred to any other statement of his political opinions. Considerable pains have also been taken to record pledges and the most recent votes upon Reform in Parliament, the Ballot, the Maynooth Grant, National Education, Free Trade, &c.

Any body but Mr Dod might have put this into offensive language. There is nothing more remarkable, however, considering his temptations, than the utter absence of everything of that kind in his little book. There is never a touch of political bias. You may read it from the first page to the last without detecting the slightest leaning one way or the other. And of this particular edition we must add that it receives peculiar value from the fact of the decision of so many election committees last year as to render it almost a new work. In the Commons alone forty-four new members appear, and we need not indicate other changes to give strength to our commendation of a handbook which has become as indispensable a yearly companion as an almanack or any other record of continual change.

THE THEATRICAL EXAMINER.

Guy Mannering is very nicely produced at the HAYMARKET THEATRE. The scenery is new, the grouping is effective, the cast is tolerably good, and there is one piece of acting in it of the highest and most striking kind. Miss Cushman's melodramatic Meg Merrilies has quite as indisputably the attributes of genius about it as any piece of poetry or tragedy could have. As soon as she enters, the interest of the piece is drawn to her, and she becomes the central and sole attraction. Such is her power over the intention and feeling of the part that the mere words of it become a secondary matter. It is the figure, the gait, the look, the gesture, the tone, by which she puts beauty and passion into language the most indifferent. But we must also confess that when these mere artifices are continued through a series of scenes, a certain strain becomes apparent, and the effect is not wholly agreeable. Nevertheless every one ought to see so singular and impressive an example of what the unassisted resources of acting may achieve with the mere idea of a fine part, stripped of fine language, unclothed as it were in words. The human tenderness blending with that Eastern picturesqueness of gesture, the refined

sentiment breaking out from beneath that heavy feebleness and clumsiness of rude old age, are wonderfully startling. Mr Compton is a good Dominic Sampson, and Miss Harland looks and sings very pleasingly in Lucy Bertram. Mr Howe is not enough of the ruffian in Dirk Hatteraick. He looks rather an honest fellow; and though he might have been as innocently fond of a garden of tulips as Scott makes his Dutch smuggler, he would not have plundered and murdered on all sides simply to obtain that pleasing natural enjoyment.—How quaint and pretty the introduction to the pantomime at this theatre is, and what a nice little dancer and actress is the heroine of the three bears "Little Silver Hair!" She is a true heroine for a nursery story, dancing and talking and laughing as if she meant never to grow bigger or more foolish or less cheerful.

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL NEWS.

TURKEY AND RUSSIA.

REJECTION OF COUNT ORLOFF'S PROPOSITIONS.—The terms of the Russian counter-project taken by Count Orloff to Vienna were, it is understood, as follows:—First, it was proposed that a Turkish Plenipotentiary should be sent either to the head-quarters of the army of occupation, or to St Petersburg, to treat directly with Russia, but to be free to see and advise with the Ministers of the Four Powers. Secondly, the former treaties between Russia and the Porte to be renewed. Thirdly, Turkey to enter into an engagement with respect to political refugees—to the effect, it is supposed, that they should not henceforth be harboured in the Ottoman dominions. And lastly, that Turkey should enter into an engagement not to give an asylum to political refugees; and that the Porte should recognise, by a declaration, the Russian protectorate of the Greek Christians, which was the origin of the quarrel. This project was communicated to the Conference by Count Buol, and was at once rejected as totally inadmissible. But the propositions addressed by the Czar to the Emperor of Austria and the King of Prussia were scarcely less humiliating. Of them he required an absolute and unconditional armed neutrality in the Eastern quarrel; but, as if he foresaw and acknowledged that such a neutrality was, in fact, a co-operation with his own designs, and would probably expose the German States to the hostility of the Western Powers, he gave the assurance that Russia would protect them; and as a recompense for this service, Count Orloff was to promise them that in the approaching dissolution of the Ottoman empire their interests should not be forgotten. On hearing this communication the Ministers of Austria and Prussia felt an astonishment and irritation they did not disguise; and the propositions were peremptorily rejected. The rejection by Russia of the note of the Porte, which was approved by the Four Powers, and sent to the Czar on the 13th of January, has not yet been officially notified to the members of the Vienna Conference. This will not be done until Count Orloff shall have reached St Petersburg; he left Vienna early on Wednesday morning, and the report which accompanies the announcement of that fact represents him as taking with him the positive assurance that Austria and Prussia would remain neutral. That statement is entirely at variance with the latest and most direct assurances of the two German Courts, which have constantly refused to give any pledge of the kind. The 'Times' says:

"We know with certainty from Berlin that Baron Budberg's overtures had been so ill received that Count Orloff gave up his intention of visiting the King of Prussia on his way back to St Petersburg. No such assurance could have been given in Vienna on behalf of Prussia, and as for Austria, every expression she has used, and every step she has taken in conjunction with the Allied Powers, has shown her anxiety to preserve her full liberty of action. We therefore retain our conviction that Count Orloff has failed in his mission, and in all respects. It seems, however, that he did produce a second instalment of propositions, somewhat less absolute and inadmissible than his first demands; but these too were held to be inadmissible, by the Conference, and the negotiation came to an end."

THE TWO ARMIES ON THE DANUBE.—Omar Pasha has divided his army into three independent corps. The first corps—about 45,000 strong—forming the left wing of the army, is commanded by Ismail Pasha, whose head-quarters are at Florentin, and where he is watched by the Russian General Bellegarde; his flanks rest on Widdin and Orsova. The second corps—about 48,000 strong—forms the centre of the army, has its head-quarters in Sistova, and stands under the command of Mustapha Pasha, so well known for his talents as a commander. The third corps—the right wing of the army—with head-quarters in Karassu at the wall of Trajan, is commanded by the able Halil Pasha; it is said to be now about 46,000 strong. Mustapha Pasha has caused Said and Soliman Pasha to make a reconnaissance of the Russian positions from the line of the Danube between Rustchuk and Nikopoli, so as to guard against any grand attack meditated against Rustchuk for instance. Halil Pasha, for a similar purpose, has placed 24,000 men in garrison at Silistria, in order to keep the two Russian divisions at Kallarush in check. The movements of Ismail Pasha at Florentin are also quite of a nature to keep alive the attention of Lieut.-General Aurep. On the other hand, Mahmud Pasha is observing from Rahova the Russian division that is operating between the Aluta and the Shyl. Selim Pasha now commands in Kalafat, under the eyes of Mughir Omar.—The Russian forces in the Principalities and in Bessarabia amount altogether to 156,328 men of all arms, and 520 guns, of which 72 are of large calibre. They are thus distributed: 1, Troops of the 3rd corps d'armée, under the command of General Osten-Sacken, 39,388; 2, Troops of the 4th corps d'armée, commanded by General Dannenberg, 57,956; 3, Troops belonging to the 5th corps d'armée, commanded by General Luders, 21,938; 4, Siege artillery, 5,826; 5, Transports, 4,480; 6, Troops in Bessarabia, 26,760.—Since the arrival of General Schilders, a retrograde movement on the part of the Russians in Little Wallachia is observed. The head-quarters were to be transferred from Radowitz to Slatina. General Gortschakoff arrived at Krajova on the 5th, to have an interview with General Schilders. According to the report of the latter to the Russian Embassy, the army of occupation is in a pitiable condition, the original corps being 35,000 men weaker than when it crossed the Pruth in July last. An Imperial ukase, issued at St Petersburg on the 28th ult., confirms the summoning to arms of all the reserves, as well as the soldiers on furlough. A telegraphic despatch from Vienna of the 7th inst. says:

"On the 5th a smart affair took place near Glurgevo between the Turks and Russians. The loss on either side was considerable. It appears that 3,000 Turks crossed the Danube, routed the Russian outposts, and attacked the town, after which they retired."

THE RETURN OF THE COMBINED FLEETS FROM THE BLACK SEA.—On the 16th ult. the *Caton* arrived at Constantinople from the Black Sea with despatches for Lord Redcliffe and M. Baraguay d'Hilliers, announcing the intention of the admirals to return with their fleets to Beycos. The decision of the admirals had been produced by the want of good ports and the dangers of the Black Sea. On the 17th the Ambassadors of France and England met to deliberate on the line of conduct adopted by the admirals, and on the

18th they sent the *Sampson*, to the naval chiefs with the following communication:

"The Ambassadors cannot but express their astonishment at learning the sudden resolution of the admirals, particularly at the present moment, when a Turkish flotilla is on the point of setting out with stores and ammunition for the army of Anatolia. The orders of the French and English Governments, which arrived here ten days back by the *Caton*, were formal and precise as to the protection which the combined fleets ought to accord to the Turkish flag and territory; and the two admirals are again requested to make themselves perfectly alive to the peremptory nature of those instructions which have already been communicated to them. It would seem that the admirals are of opinion that the measures, the execution of which is entrusted to them, may be as well effected whilst the fleets are at Beycos Bay as if they were at Sinope. In that matter the admirals can only consult their own opinion, and the responsibility will remain with them. The Ambassadors abstain from all intervention in what relates to matters of nautical interference. The wishes and intentions of their Governments having been duly notified to the two admirals, it is for them to conform to them, and to find means of taking them more clearly into consideration to carry them into execution."

The latest despatches from Constantinople are to the 30th of January. The 'Chronicle' correspondent writes:

"One English and one French steamer have started on a cruise in the Black Sea. The Turkish admiral is preparing an expedition of troops and ammunition for the army in Asia. English and French ships accompany the same to-day. The *Banshee* has arrived with despatches for the English Ambassador."

CHANGE IN THE TURKISH MINISTRY.—Telegraphic despatches from Constantinople of the 29th of January announce that Mehmed Ali Pasha, the Sultan's brother-in-law, and head of the war party, had left the Ministry, and been replaced by Riza Pasha. Various rumours are afloat as to the cause of this change, but perhaps the most reliable one is that which assigns it to the superior administrative capacity of Riza Pasha, and not to any diminution of energy on the part of the Porte.

GREEK CONSPIRACY.—The arrest at Widdin of a Greek priest, named Athanasius, had led to the discovery of a conspiracy organised by a secret society in concert with Russia. The arrest of that Muscovite emissary led to that of Baron Elnser, a Russian officer; of Emmanuel Bollanos, of Chiriacos, and Dimitrios Constantinos, father and son (Chiriacos Constantinos, a Greek officer, was aide-de-camp of Marco Botzaris), and likewise Karaaiscakis and Metanas. The latter, as well as Baron Elnser, paid frequent visits to a Greek named Manakis. The Turkish police, directed by Aarif Pasha, discovered the accomplices in this conspiracy, which extended to Bulgaria, Janina, Salonica, Smyrna, and the principal islands in the Archipelago. Important letters had been seized, and prove that there are forty-four persons in Constantinople seriously implicated, of whom four are Russian officers, and one of them was formerly Russian postmaster-general in the Levant.

MISCELLANEOUS FACTS.—The latest accounts state that Omar Pasha, who had been ill, is entirely restored to health. A Wallachian General, two or three American officers, and several French and Swedish officers, have arrived at head-quarters to take service in the Ottoman army. Considerable reinforcements are on march from Sophia for Kalafat, where there is already assembled an army of 25,000 men, provided with a numerous and excellent train of artillery.—Before the entry of the Fleets into the Black Sea the Russian cruisers were constantly in observation upon the Turkish coast. They have since entirely disappeared, and the Turks have complete possession of the Euxine.—The last accounts received at Constantinople from the seat of war in Asia described the position of the Turks as becoming every day better. The presence of Hurschid Pasha (General Guyon) had produced the best effect. He had succeeded in paying the army the arrears due to them, and that measure, together with the arrival of reinforcements, had revived its courage.—The fact is confirmed that the officers embarked on board the *Retribution* had succeeded in making a plan of Sebastopol. A draught of the plan had even been published and sold at Constantinople, and copies sent to France and England.—The 'Patrie' says that General Dannenberg, who commanded at Oltenitz, is in complete disgrace, and has been left behind at Bueharest, upon the pretext of his being ill. He will have no share in the new combat now preparing.

FRANCE.—PREPARATIONS FOR WAR.—The military preparations in France are being pushed on with great energy. Decrees are expected calling out the remaining moiety of the contingents of 1849 and 1850, and the whole of the contingent of 1853—a total of 160,000 men; so that in a short time the army will be raised to 550,000 effective men. One manufacturing establishment in Paris has received an order for the supply of 150,000 haversacks, and another for 26,000 shirts, and other minor establishments have similar orders in proportion. Large orders have also been given for an immense supply of harness and similar equipments for the artillery, and an order has been sent to an extensive ironmaster in the department of the Pas de Calais for 3,000,000 cannon balls, of various dimensions. Letters from the departments announce that the young soldiers are already en route for their destination. General Pelissier has returned to Africa to organise a body of from 20,000 to 25,000 men—the flower of the army of Africa. The exact amount of the force to be sent to Turkey is not stated, but it is reported that it will be composed of four divisions of 10,000 men each. The officer again spoken of for the command in chief is Marshal St Arnaud. The French Atlantic squadron under Admiral Bruat, which is stationed at Brest, sailed on the 6th instant. It is confidently stated that this squadron is to proceed to Toulon, to Algiers, and to Civita Vecchia, for the purpose of embarking the troops which are to form the expeditionary column about to proceed to Constantinople. The provisions for the expedition have already been contracted for. The 'Toulonnais' states that the *Trident* and the *Ville de Marseille*, ships-of-the-line, have been put in commission, and are to be fitted for sea immediately. The greatest activity prevails in the naval dockyard in that port, and in about six weeks six sail-of-the-line and a sixty-gun frigate will be completely ready for active service. Private letters from Lorient describe the extraordinary activity going on in that arsenal. The ordinary artisans of the establishment have been for weeks past kept at work many hours beyond their usual time, and all the carpenters and workers in wood of the place are additionally employed night and day in making cases to contain projectiles called *boulets asphyxiants*—hollow balls filled with a composition which stifles those among whom it falls. Its powers are said to be of the most destructive kind. Mr Tucker, an English Cabinet courier, carrying despatches from the French and English Governments for the two Ambassadors at the Porte, Sir J. Burgoyne, and Colonel Ardant, of the French Engineers, embarked on the 2nd inst. at Marseilles, for Constantinople, on board the *Caradoc*. DEPARTURE OF THE RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR.—M. de Kisseleff quitted Paris on Monday evening for Brussels by the express train. He expects to meet Baron Brunnow in that city. Before leaving Paris M. de Kisseleff addressed a circular to the Russians residing in the capital, requiring them, in the name of the Czar's Government, to leave France within the next month and return to Russia, on pain of Imperial displeasure. M. de Kisseleff, on leaving Paris, was accompanied by all the personnel of the Legation. There now only remains at Paris the Consul-General

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Monday, February 6.

THE EASTERN QUESTION.

The Marquis of CLANRICARDE called the attention of the house to the state of the country with reference to the question of peace or war. He had intended to make some observations on the papers lately laid before parliament, but, as a semblance of negotiation was still going on, all he wished to ask was whether any reply had been received from the Emperor of Russia to the last proposals forwarded from Vienna, and what was the present state of our diplomatic relations with Russia?—The Earl of CLARENDON replied that on the 2nd of this month counter-proposals of the Emperor of Russia had been presented to the conference at Vienna, and rejected as entirely unsuitable. With respect to our diplomatic relations with Russia, they were suspended; and Baron Brunnow, as he (Lord Clarendon) understood, had left London that morning. In the course of the week the note of Baron Brunnow, communicating the despatch from the Emperor of Russia, together with the reply of the British government to that despatch, would be laid before the house.—The Earl of ELLENBOROUGH had always thought that the course pursued by the Emperor of Russia must result in war. He had no doubt that we were at the commencement of one of the most formidable wars in which the country was ever engaged, of the magnitude and probable duration of which people in general seemed not to be at all aware. Under these circumstances, it was absolutely essential that we should take the sea in the Baltic, at the breaking up of the ice, with an overwhelming force. He hoped the government were prepared to do this.—The Marquis of CLANRICARDE urged the government to fix that day week for a complete discussion of the subject.—Earl FITZWILLIAM thought the present state of things had lasted far too long. Whatever might have been the conduct of the ministry during the earlier part of these negotiations, it was the duty of every man, in the present position of affairs, to give them all the support in his power.—Lord BEAUMONT thought Lord Clarendon might have afforded the house fuller information on the subject, instead of a meagre statement.—The Earl of CLARENDON was sorry to find his noble friend thought his statement meagre. As further negotiations had been mentioned, it was his duty to tell the house that he had no expectation that negotiations could be reopened, or, in short, that peace could be preserved. Instructions would be sent by the French and English governments to-morrow to St Petersburg, ordering the French and English ambassadors to suspend diplomatic relations with Russia.

Tuesday, February 7.

FREQUENCY OF RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.

Lord MONTEAGLE called the attention of the house to the alarming increase of railway accidents, and asked if the government had any objection to lay before their lordships, as speedily as possible, returns of all accidents down to the present period. In the course of his observations he said: "As for the excuses and the apologies which were offered by the companies for these accidents, he attached no importance whatever to them. They were asked to compare the number of accidents with the number of persons that travelled, and they were told that the proportion was so small that they would pass the question by with indifference. He could in no way recognise such a doctrine; for he contended, that so long as any accident occurred which it was in the power of wise legislation or proper administration to avert, they would not be discharging their duty if they did not inquire into it. (Hear, hear.) It was not the proportion between persons travelling and persons injured which they had to look to, but the damage to life and limb which was actually produced by these accidents."—Lord FITZWILLIAM thought that further legislation on the subject was absolutely necessary. Such a measure, for obvious reasons, which he declined to specify, should originate rather in the upper than in the lower house.—Lord STANLEY of Alderley admitted the importance of the subject, and said that a bill was being brought forward in the House of Commons founded on the report of the committee which sat last session. He had no objection to adopt the suggestion of Lord Monteaule as to a speedy publication of reports on railway accidents.—Earl GREY thought the house had the means of punishing railway companies in its own hands, if it would only insist on inserting clauses for the protection of the public in every bill that came before them.—Lord CAMPBELL was also of opinion that further legislation on railways was indispensable.

THE NAVY LIST.

The Earl of HARDWICKE called the attention of the house to the inefficient state of the active admirals list, the youngest of whom was seventy-five years of age. He moved for a select committee to inquire into the subject.—The Earl of ABERDEEN admitted many of the evils complained of by Lord Hardwicke, but declared that after the fullest inquiries and examination of the subject he had come to the decision at which all preceding Boards of Admiralty had arrived, that upon the whole the present system, although attended with individual cases of hardship, was nevertheless the most just and advantageous to the service that had been proposed.—The Earl of ELLENBOROUGH thought it very desirable that the orders in council which regulated these appointments should be reconsidered. He thought it also most desirable to guard against the introduction, or rather the extension, of anything like party feeling in the selection of any officer for any employment in the service of the crown. It was hardly too strong an expression to say that it was a public crime in a man at the head of the naval department when, from personal or party motives, he promoted an officer over the head of another who was deserving of the appointment.—The motion was then withdrawn.

Thursday, February 9.

COUNT ORLOFF'S MISSION.—Lord FITZWILLIAM gave notice that he should put a question next day to Lord Clarendon as to the mission of Count Orloff to the German Courts, and as to its results.

CONSOLIDATION OF THE STATUTES.

Lord LYNDBURST asked the Lord Chancellor what progress the Commission for consolidating the Statutes had made, and what course the government intended to pursue when the report of that commission was presented.—The LORD CHANCELLOR explained the mode of proceeding adopted by the commission, and said that, after it had concluded its labours and embodied its recommendation in bills, the government would consider whether those bills were such as it could recommend parliament to adopt.

Friday, Feb. 10.

COUNT ORLOFF'S MISSION.

Earl FITZWILLIAM asked his promised question touching the objects of Count Orloff's mission to Vienna.—The Earl of CLARENDON stated that the Count was not entrusted with anything which could be called a counter-project; he was merely the bearer of four propositions. I. That the Sultan should send a plenipotentiary either to St Petersburg or to the Russian head-quarters to negotiate a peace. II. That if the negotiations took place in St Petersburg the representatives of the Four Powers might assist at them, but that no formal conference should be held. III. That a protocol should be drawn up, in which the Sultan should enter into certain agreements regarding the privileges of his Greek subjects, and the Czar undertakes to evacuate the Principality. IV. That arrangements should be made respecting refugee agitators and revolutionists. The Foreign Secretary added that Count Buol had considered the propositions alto-

gether inadmissible. As to any further purposes of Count Orloff's mission he possessed no official information. If any such there were, he believed they related merely to the relationship between Russia and Austria, and had resulted in vindicating the complete independence of the latter country.—To a question by the Earl of Ellenborough, the Earl of CLARENDON replied that Sweden and Denmark had given assurances of perfect neutrality in any war that might arise.

THE NEW REFORM BILL.

Earl GREY inquired whether the new reform bill would be introduced on Monday.—The Earl of ABERDEEN replied in the affirmative, but explained that the next stage of the measure would be postponed so as not to interfere with the army and navy estimates. Nevertheless war could not be said to have begun, nor did he as yet believe that it was inevitable. Preparations were making for the worse event, but he could not abandon the hope of maintaining peace.—The Earl of DERBY regretted that the government intended to persist in bringing forward a measure which might disturb the unanimity of the country at a critical moment. There was some inevitable consequences, also, to be apprehended. If unsuccessful, the bill would lead to a resignation of ministers; if successful, to a dissolution of parliament.

PEACE OR WAR.

The Marquis of CLANRICARDE asked and pressed the question whether negotiations for peace were still going on?—The Earl of ABERDEEN refused to believe that all prospect of peace was extinct, but confessed that the Vienna negotiations had come to a close without any others being opened elsewhere within his cognisance.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, February 6.

PARLIAMENTARY OATHS.

Lord J. RUSSELL, in moving that the house do resolve itself into a committee to consider the oaths of allegiance, supremacy, and abjuration, and the oath taken by Roman Catholics, observed that his object was to induce the house to consider generally these oaths, with a view to substituting one oath, which should be as simple and intelligible as possible, and should bind the taker of the oath only to what he could engage to perform, instead of his being made guilty almost of profanation, by committing himself to objects some of which were no longer applicable to the present time. The oath of allegiance was an intelligible obligation, and he did not think that any objection could be taken to it; but, with regard to the other oaths, of supremacy and abjuration, they had been framed to meet certain dangers then existing, but they contained matters totally unnecessary to be affirmed at the present day, and what he proposed was to get rid of the superfluities,—to act as in common life, and when the danger had ceased, not to continue precautions which had become a mere mockery. He read the form of the single oath which he had framed for this purpose, and then considered, first, whether this oath should be applied to Roman Catholics; secondly, whether the words, "On the true faith of a Christian," should be retained. With respect to the first point, he thought the declarations required specifically from Roman Catholic members should no longer be insisted upon; and, as to the words "On the true faith of a Christian," he repeated what he had often urged, that these words were introduced into the oath, not for the purpose of excluding persons of the Jewish religion, but to bind Roman Catholics, and especially Jesuits, to the substance of the oath—namely, to bear due allegiance to the authority of the crown, and he insisted upon the injustice of disabling any class of subjects by the casual operation of law. Whatever view parliament might take of the policy of admitting Jews, he had no doubt that it ought not to maintain the oaths in their present state, for they kept up a form which had become a mockery and a profanation.—Sir F. THESIGER, after a short examination of the forms of the oaths, observed that it was a startling thing to bring forward at the present moment a proposition to make one and the same oath applicable to protestants and Roman Catholics, by removing what was intended to be a safeguard of the protestant religion. But further, the proposed oath, he contended, involved an attack upon the established church, since it omitted a recognition of the spiritual and ecclesiastical supremacy of the crown, which was the keystone of the church. He should not oppose the going into committee, but, upon the second reading of the bill, he should offer every opposition to it in his power.—The house then went into committee, when Lord J. RUSSELL moved, that the chairman be directed to ask for leave to bring in a bill to substitute one oath for the oaths of allegiance, supremacy, and abjuration, and for the oath now taken by Roman Catholics.—The motion was agreed to, and leave was given to bring in the bill.

Tuesday, February 7.

CHARGE OF CORRUPTION AGAINST IRISH MEMBERS.

Mr BUTT moved that the clerk at the table should read an article published in the 'Times' newspaper of the preceding day, and a previous publication in the 'Dublin Freeman's Journal,' in which a trafficking in places was imputed to members of that house. He described the articles as insulting to one section of the members, and derogatory to the character of the whole house; and, having briefly adverted to the character of the charge made by the writers, namely, that Irish members bartered political support for patronage, he adduced precedent for the course he was taking, which was, formally to complain of the publications, and to move that they be referred to a committee of privileges. Stating the specific charges made in the publications, he urged that the character of a sixth of the house could not be lowered without injury to the rest, and, moreover, that the accusations were damaging to the character of ministers, whose patronage was said to be corruptly administered. The Irish gentry had an especial right to demand an investigation, inasmuch as the government had taken the appointments made the subject of the allegations out of the hands of that gentry, because political partizanship was apprehended, and then it was stated that such appointments were sold. It was most essential that the saddle should be put upon the right horse. Reading a passage from the 'Times' article, in which the general body of Irish members are described as needy place-hunters, he indignantly demanded whether such wholesale condemnation was justifiable, and declared that such unfair and ungenerous articles did mischief, by damaging the amity which should exist between the two countries. There were Irish members who might not have the advantage of rank or wealth, but who were as incapable of dishonourable courses as any other members of the house; while, if any were guilty, the odium ought to fall on them, and on them alone.—Mr J. O'CONNELL seconded the motion for reading.—The 'Times' article having been read by the clerk, who excited some amusement by beginning, instead of the leader in question, one upon foreign politics, Mr BUTT moved that it be referred to a committee of privileges.—Mr J. O'CONNELL seconded the motion, but said that it could not be wondered that English papers attacked the Irish members, when Irish journalists set the example, and he deplored the party malignity which tended to make Ireland the laughing-stock of the world. He believed that the specific charges would be found utterly baseless, and he censured Dr Gray for having concealed the matter so long as that gentleman admitted he had done. It ought not to have been left to Mr Butt to bring it forward, inasmuch as some of those who were present at the dinner at which the charges were originally made ought to have taken the subject up.—The question having been put, Lord J. RUSSELL said that there was not a shadow of doubt could exist as to the course which should be taken in regard to the sweeping charges in question. He would not follow the mover or seconder into details, but as the house had the names of Dr Gray and Mr Kelly before it, as those of persons who had made the accusation, they had the means of an investigation,

Ebeling, charged with civil and commercial affairs. The Princess Lieven has also left for Brussels.

MISCELLANEOUS FACTS.—The 'Bulletin de Paris' announces a complete and radical re-organisation of the Bibliothèque Impériale in the Rue Richelieu.—M. Sainville, a celebrated actor, who for the last twenty years has been wont to set the Palais Royal a-fire in a roar, died at Pau on Jan. 31, in his forty-eighth year.—There are at this moment in the French navy two admirals, eleven vice-admirals, twenty rear-admirals, thirty-six captains of the first class, seventy-four captains of the second class, and 227 captains of frigates,—in all, 370 superior officers.

SPAIN.—The Queen left the Palace on the 2nd inst. for the first time since her confinement. She is in excellent health; but letters from Madrid state that the young Princess of Asturias is dangerously ill. Her death would once more open the succession to the Duchess of Montpensier. Letters from Madrid, of Feb. 6, state that a democratic conspiracy had been discovered, and that fourteen persons had been arrested, *flagrante delicto*, being a portion of a revolutionary club. General Joseph Concha has been proclaimed a rebel. He had escaped from Barcelona, and was said to have embarked for France.

UNITED STATES.—By the Europa we have accounts to the 25th ult. M. Bedini, the Pope's Nuncio, who is in Washington, a guest of M. Sartiges, the French Minister, being in dread of personal injury from those who have participated in the demonstrations against him, has applied to the Cabinet for some sort of diplomatic recognition; as a means of greater security, basing his claim upon the fact that he brought an autograph letter from the Pope to the President. The Secretary of State declined to sign any other paper than a mere passport, whereupon the Nuncio intimated that the consequences would be visited upon Mr Cass, jun., the Armenian Chargé at Rome. Under these circumstances General Cass introduced a resolution into the Senate calling upon the Government for any papers in its possession concerning M. Bedini's position, on which a long discussion took place, thus conferring upon the matter a national importance that will probably tend to strengthen the excitement existing in different parts of the country. The losses by the late fires in New York are estimated at 1,672,500 dollars. The final meeting of the merchants of New York upon the subject of the San Francisco calamity had taken place, the total amount of the funds raised for the purpose of rewarding the rescuers of the people on board the unfortunate steamer, &c., was 17,082 dollars, which sum, or its equivalent in services of plate or metals, is to be distributed among the officers and crews of the Three Bells, the Kilby, the Antarctic, and the Lucy Thompson, and others. In addition, 6,000 dollars have been raised in Boston, and subscriptions are in circulation in Philadelphia and Baltimore, so that by the time the various lists are closed the total amount will probably reach 35,000 dollars, all of which is to be expended in remunerating the brave men who so nobly exerted themselves in rescuing the passengers and crew of the San Francisco.

INDIA AND CHINA.—By the Bombay overland mail of the 14th ult., we learn that the steamer sent up the Persian Gulf for intelligence had not returned to Bombay. Captain Latter, the Deputy Commissioner at Prome, has been assassinated. The steamer Medusa has been lost between Prome and Meadway. A Dacoit chief had assembled 5,000 men near Fonghro. The garrisons at Moulmein and Matabar have been apprehensive of attacks. The Governor-General arrived at Rangoon on the 14th of December, and left for Prome. Madras is threatened with famine. The rains and crops have failed. There have been grain riots in Mellore, and there will be a great loss of revenue. The Nizams are dominant in Abada State, and the country is overrun by predatory hordes. The north-west frontier is tranquil.—Canton and Ningpo remain quiet; matters have resumed their usual course at Amoy. A large portion of Shanghai has been burned down by the Imperialists. A portion of the rebel forces had proceeded northward, and had taken Teen-thin, about eighty miles from Peking. The Emperor of Japan is dead, and the Court goes into mourning for the year, during which no embassies can be received.

DEATH OF SILVIO PELLICO.—The Piedmontese journals announce the death at Turin of Silvio Pellico, the well-known prisoner of Spielberg, of consumption. His age was sixty-one. He leaves a brother and a sister, who will, says the 'Armonia,' of Turin, render the best possible homage to his memory, by publishing his manuscript works, which are voluminous, and among which is one entitled, 'My Life before and after my Imprisonment.'

HEALTH OF LONDON.—The Registrar-General reports that the number of deaths registered in London, in the week that ended on Saturday last, was 1,204, and shows a small increase on those of the two previous weeks. In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1844-53, the average number was 1,091, which, with a correction for increase of population, becomes 1,200. The actual result of last week agrees very closely with the calculated amount. While diseases of the respiratory organs have declined, those of the zymotic class have increased. Deaths referred to the latter (viz., epidemics) were 263 last week, which is more than the corrected average by 19. Hooping-cough is still fatal, and carried off 78 children; the mortality of croup is unusual, the deaths from it having risen to 17; diarrhoea numbers 31; only one death from cholera was registered, it occurred on Jan. 28, on board the ship Emma, off Union stairs, Wapping. In the last week of 1853, 10 deaths from cholera were registered; in five weeks of the current year the whole number has been only 6. Last week the births of 857 boys and 798 girls, in all 1,655 children, were registered in London. In the nine corresponding weeks of the years 1845-53 the average number was 1,470. At the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, the mean height of the barometer in the week was 29.958 in. The mean temperature of the week was 42 deg., which is 4.3 deg. above the average of the same week in thirty-eight years. The wind, which blew from south-west, on the first four days, afterwards changed to north.

IRELAND.—The payments from the Encumbered Estates Court last week amounted to the large sum of 170,000l.—The 'Limerick Chronicle' says that the friends of Smith O'Brien now entertain a well-grounded hope of his free pardon before the end of the present year, as it is understood he has no desire to lead or follow in political conflict.—A woman named Sullivan, the wife of a comfortable farmer, was eaten by dogs near Bantry last week. It is supposed that the unfortunate woman had only fallen in a field from weakness, when she was attacked and devoured by a number of starving dogs, with which the neighbourhood swarms.—An inquest was held on Saturday in Dublin, on the body of an infant, which had been killed and partly devoured by rats.—Notwithstanding the imminence of a continental war, prices of corn continue to decline in Dublin, and another fall has taken place in the staple article of food. The tone of the provincial corn notes harmonises with that of Dublin.—Lord Palmerston's proposition for the enrolment of the Irish militia promises to be an extremely popular measure with all parties at this side of the Channel.—Dr Newman has arrived in Dublin. It is understood that the object of his visit is to take immediate steps for organising the Cullen University, and putting down the "godless" colleges.

and he hoped that it would be as searching as possible.—Mr J. BALL likewise hoped that the subject would be sifted in the most searching manner.—Mr LUCAS said, he had heard the case mentioned by Dr Gray at the Tuam banquet stated by him before, and believed it to be true. He had brought similar accusations, in a general way, himself; he believed them to be true, and it was, he said, utterly impossible for any gentleman to take a part in political conversations in Ireland without hearing frequently cases of this kind mentioned, on evidence which it was impossible to disbelieve. He hoped that the desire for inquiry into these two cases did not spring from a wish to cloak the fact that a system of corruption, by Whig ministers on one side and Irish members on the other, had, for a series of years, kept the former in power; and he protested against the result of this inquiry being taken as decisive of the general fact. Mr Lucas entered without reserve into the *arcana* of alleged exercise of corrupt influence over Irish members, which he described as the *rationale* of the relations between the Whig government and a branch of the Irish representation.—Mr DUNCOMBE said that this inquiry could not stop at Ireland. A member of that house (Mr Hudson) had put on record, on oath, a statement that he had distributed railway shares among members of parliament to secure their good offices on a certain railway bill, and the transaction had been mentioned in the judgment of the Master of the Rolls, who had severely remarked upon it. "Will not" continued Mr Duncombe, the noble lord (Lord J. Russell), who is on Friday to move for leave to bring in a bill to prevent the bribery and corruption of poor electors, take some notice of this subject? Why is a poor man who accepts a pot of beer, or who takes a bribe of 4*l.* or 5*l.*, as at Liverpool,—is he to be placed in comparison, as a criminal, with those who have corrupted members of this house? (Hear, hear.) We have disfranchised St Albans—we have disfranchised Sudbury for much smaller offences than those committed by Mr Hudson. (Hear, hear.) I therefore call upon the noble lord, to have his charge also investigated. (Hear, hear.) We know, in this case, who the corrupter is, because he has sworn to it on oath (cheers, and a laugh); and I must say that Mr Hudson, in having to disgorge this large sum of 54,000*l.*, will be one of the most ill-used men under the sun, unless those parties whom he corrupted indemnify him and return him the money that he was obliged to return to the company. (Hear, hear.) I ask the government whether they can allow that charge, now that it is formally brought before the house, to remain in its present position? (Hear.) The motion was then unanimously agreed to.

Wednesday, February 8.
MR HUDSON'S VINDICATION.

After the coasting trade bill had been read a first time, Mr HUDSON rose to complain of the manner in which his name had been introduced by Mr T. Duncombe in the debate of the previous evening, and especially that heavy charges had been preferred against his conduct without notice being given to him. Referring to the statement of his having recorded on oath that he had distributed railway shares among members of parliament to secure their good offices on a certain railway bill, he said:

"I never have made, nor intended to make imputations. On my honour I have made no charges against any member of this house. (Hear.) I say it is utterly impossible, in my long intercourse with this house and society, for any gentleman, be he where he may, or be he who he may, to say that I ever said, directly or indirectly, I had ever tampered with any member of this house; and, therefore, I say the charge is as false and malicious as it is unjust and untrue. But the hon. member is not content with referring to these charges—he talks of disgorging—he says that I am called on to disgorge a sum of money. I admit, by the decision of that tribunal, I am so called on; but neither that, nor any tribunal, will venture to say I am called on to disgorge what, to a great extent, I never received. It is true that by a legal construction I am placed in this unfortunate position, but from that position I am advised I have a good right of appeal. I say again, that it is admitted even by my opponents, that a large sum of the money which I have been charged to refund to that company never reached, and never could have reached, my hands by any possibility. I say, therefore, my position is one of misfortune—morally right, but legally wrong. I invite the hon. member—I have no objection, if the house thinks right—to take me from my cradle and follow me to this day, and if they can fix on me any charge of a dishonourable character, or which would render me unworthy of the confidence of my friends, or of a seat in this house, or any public position, I shall retire. But till I am convinced I have done anything not only legally but morally wrong, I shall abide amid the vituperations of the press or of any individuals who may think it right to attack my character and position. If I had consulted, perhaps, my own position, I might have pursued that press by prosecutions in the courts; but through a long life I have hitherto abstained. I have known what it is to live in popularity and favour, and to enjoy the confidence and smiles of the world. I have had the bitter reverse. I bear against it, I hope, with the fortitude with which it is right for a man to bear it who is conscious of his own innocence; and I may, perhaps, refer in future life with as much pride and satisfaction—I may leave to posterity the works of utility which I have either projected or promoted (and they will perhaps bear my name when the hon. member for Finsbury and I are gathered to our fathers), which will bear comparison with anything he has ever done in public or in private life. I hope he will pursue the course he wishes the government to follow. I am ready to unravel and unfold everything. I have stood the brunt before a jury of my countrymen, and, when attacked by all that the intelligence and ability of counsel could bring to bear against me, I have left the court, after an examination of two or three hours, amid the congratulations and smiles of my friends and the discomfiture of my enemies."

Thursday, February 9.
THE LEADERSHIP OF THE HOUSE.

Mr CAYLEY moved for a select committee to consider the duties of the member leading the government in that house, and the expediency of attaching office and salary thereto. In this motion, which he had brought forward, he said, without any communication with the noble lord, he could be actuated by no possible motive but a sense of public duty, and of the duty which the public owed to those who served it. He dwelt upon the severe labour which fell upon the government leader, whose toils multiplied in proportion to the increase of the business of the house, and he asked whether it was reasonable or fair that services of this kind, which taxed so heavily the physical powers, and disabled the individual from holding any public department, should be unrewarded. He thought there was no public office which entitled the holder to a higher reward, but he only sought for an inquiry into the best mode of correcting a manifest anomaly.—Sir C. WOOD assumed that the object of Mr Cayley was to attach a salary to an office which did not in fact exist, or of which the duties were undefined. The leadership of the house was generally held in conjunction with some high office of the government, and it was not consonant with constitutional principles to affix a salary to the discharge of the former functions. He hoped the house would reject the motion, for which, he thought, no ground had been laid.—Mr W. WILLIAMS opposed the motion, as uncalled for.—Mr WALPOLE took occasion to suggest, as a constitutional question, that the peculiar and almost unprecedented position of Lord J. Russell as the organ of the government in that house, without any official responsibility other than that of being a privy councillor (which was imperfect), was inconvenient, if the precedent should be followed, since the country would be debarred from knowing who were the responsible advisers of the crown, for he could conceive cases in which advice might be given and adopted when the real adviser was in the background.—Lord J. RUSSELL briefly replied to the objection suggested by Mr Walpole, agreeing with him so far as to admit that, generally speaking, the leader of the house should hold a responsible office.—Mr CAYLEY then withdrew his motion.

Friday, February 10.
Lord J. RUSSELL explained, in reply to Mr French, that the reasons which had induced the admirals of the combined fleets to return to Beiras arose simply from the danger they would incur by remaining in the Black Sea during the inclement season. The proceeding was doubtless contrary to the instructions given by the ambassadors, but he thought it was justified by the cause alleged.

THE NEW REFORM BILL.
On the motion that the house should on rising adjourn to Monday next, Viscount JOCELYN, after remarking upon the disturbed state of our foreign relations, inquired whether the government persisted in its purpose of introducing a new reform bill on the appointed day.—Lord J. RUSSELL saw no reason to postpone the measure. He intended, however, to appoint a somewhat distant day, the 13th of March, for the second reading, believing that the interval would afford ample opportunity for any discussion which might be called forth upon the naval and military estimates.—Mr HUME saw in the pending crisis abroad a strong reason for reforming the system of representation. National periods required to be met by a united people, and union could be best ensured by removing class injustice.—Mr DISRAELI took the opportunity of stating that the opposition intended to offer no resistance to the introduction of the new reform bill. But if that measure should tend to reduce still farther the influence of the land, already so unjustly and unwisely diminished, then on the specified 13th of March they should oppose it to the uttermost, leaving to the ministry all the responsibility of having disturbed the country within a moment when it was surrounded with dangers from without.—Mr BRIGHT remarked that war was not yet proclaimed, and, if it were existing, could only add fresh expediency to a just and wise measure of reform.—Lord J. MANNERS denied that the public cared anything for reform. They did, however, wish for the vigorous, unimpeded prosecution of the approaching war.—The subject then dropped, and the motion was agreed to.

BRIBERY AT ELECTIONS.
Lord J. RUSSELL moved for leave to bring in two bills designed to secure electoral parity. By one of these measures the laws relating to bribery, treating, and undue influence at elections, were to be consolidated and invigorated; by the other he proposed to amend the enactments regulating the trials of election petitions and the inquiries into corrupt practices. Acknowledging the improvement which recent acts and public opinion had already effected, the noble lord gave an outline of his intended measures. Respecting bribery, he intended to abolish the 500*l.* penalty inflicted under the existing law on the receiver of a bribe, and to make his offence a misdemeanour, punishable by fine and imprisonment, and further visited with forfeiture of the franchise for ever. Upon the candidate who should bribe, or employ undue influence of the description to be defined in the bill, in addition to a fine of 50*l.*, the punishment of perpetual disqualification was to fall, with minor penalties for any persons who should resort to such practices not on their own account. With regard to election petitions, he proposed to establish a preliminary tribunal composed of fifteen members, and having duties analogous to those of the grand jury in criminal cases. They were to examine the petitioners' case, whenever bribery or undue influence were among the allegations, and hear evidence thereon, and decide if it deserved to be proceeded with. After being thus confirmed, the petition should go before the usual committee, as at present constituted, and if the petitioner were then successful, his costs were to be defrayed at the public charge: if defeated, he would be required to pay the costs of the defence. In addition, he proposed to enact that, when an elected candidate was found to have obtained votes by bribery, his opponent should obtain the seat, provided he had not been inferior by more than one-third in the number of his votes on the poll. Lord J. Russell concluded by explaining some of the working details of his proposed bill.—Mr M. GIBSON approved of the attempt to extinguish electoral corruption, but doubted whether any remedy would be found complete which did not include the ballot. He considered that the proposal to give a seat in parliament to a candidate not returned by a majority of the recorded votes, was unconstitutional under any circumstances.—Sir F. KELLY concurred in this interpretation of the constitutional law.—Col. SIBTHORPE reiterated his conviction that ministers would never make an honest effort to abolish corruption.—Mr HUME suggested the means of supplying some deficiencies in the proposed bills, and recommended the ballot as one of the best.—Mr H. BERKELEY noticed that there was little or no protection offered against intimidation. Believing that there was no effectual shield except the ballot, he declared his purpose of again bringing before the house that important measure—whose adoption he felt convinced was only a question of time.—Mr PHINN also denounced the prevalent practice of intimidation, but recommended for its prevention that it should be made an indictable offence. A discussion, turning chiefly upon points of detail, was continued by several members. Leave was then given to bring in the bills.

THE LAW OF SETTLEMENT.
Mr BAINES moved for leave to bring in a bill to amend the laws relating to the settlement, removal, and chargeability of the poor in England and Wales. After detailing the chief points of the bill he proposed to introduce, he said, the principle on which it was founded was this—that the right to relief depended not on settlement but on destitution. The bill would therefore at once abolish the power for the compulsory removal of paupers, and enlarge the area of rating and chargeability. For these new areas he proposed to take the unions established under the poor law. These presented the advantage of tolerable uniformity, and of identity of interests; offering a judicious mean between the national-rate suggested by some reformers and the 14,614 existing parishes; and preserving in full activity the wholesome agencies of local government. Respecting the proportion of the rate to be contributed by each parochial member of the new districts he designed to aim at an ultimate equality, but, not to interfere too rudely with existing interests, proposed to appoint a period, say of ten years, during which the present ratings were to be gradually melted down and approximated to an equal average.—Mr HILDYARD denounced the injustice which would be committed under the proposed measure upon proprietors in well-regulated parishes by compelling them to pay towards the rates of other worse managed members of the union to which they belonged.—Several other members having spoken, leave was given to bring in the bill.

MINOR TOPICS.
Monday.—STEAM COMMUNICATION WITH AUSTRALIA.—Notice was given that on an early day Lord NAAS would call the attention of the house to the desirability of taking measures to secure a regular monthly steam communication with Australia.—THE HACKNEY CARRIAGE ACT.—In reply to a question from Sir W. CLAY, Mr FITZROY said there was an intention on the part of the government to introduce a bill to alter the point from which the four-mile circle was to be calculated. The public convenience would be much better served by taking Charing cross as the centre, than by taking Temple bar, as while there were 121 cab-stands to the west, there were only 97 to the east of Temple bar—that 39 of the latter were in the City, and that there were very few cabs on each of these stands.—THE MALTESE CODE.—Lord J. RUSSELL stated, in reply to Mr KINNAIRD, that as great objections were taken in the house to the Maltese code, and as some of those objections were considered to be reasonable, the whole code was disallowed by government. A new code has since been enacted, and from this the whole of the chapter relating to offences against religion has been omitted.—ASSAULTS ON WOMEN.—Mr PHINN wishing to know whether it was the intention of government to introduce any measure this session for the better protection of women and children from assault, Lord PALMERSTON replied that he had at present no intention to propose any measure in addition to that passed last session, as he did not think that sufficient time has yet elapsed to enable the government to judge of the effect of that law. The six months' imprisonment inflicted under that act had, in many cases, not yet expired, and he should rather prefer to wait and see the effects which were produced by the report made by persons who had undergone that punishment when that term had expired.—IMPROVEMENTS IN NAVIGATION.—Sir J. GRAHAM, answering Mr HEYWOOD, who wished to know whether it was probable that an office would be established to co-operate with Captain Maury and the American Government in oceanic and other scientific observations, replied in the affirmative, and explained the course which it was proposed to adopt.—THE SLIGO BOROUGH ELECTION.—Mr I. BUTT moved for a select committee (which was agreed to) to inquire into the allegations contained in a petition of Mr J. P. Somers, relative to the election for the borough of Sligo.
Tuesday.—NATIONAL EDUCATION.—Lord J. RUSSELL stated, in answer to Mr ADDERLEY, that the education bill of last session would

not be introduced, but that government would wait to see the fate of the Scottish educational measure of the Lord-Advocate.—MASTERS AND WORKMEN.—Mr T. S. DUNCOMBE gave notice that on that day fortnight he should move for leave to bring in a bill to amend the law relative to the arbitration of disputes between masters and workmen.—THE STANNARIES.—Mr COLLIER moved for leave to bring in a bill to extend the jurisdiction of the Stannaries court; to define and regulate the cost-book system of mining; and to limit in some degree the liability of parties in cost-book mines. He dwelt earnestly upon the advantage to be derived from the adoption of the principle of limited partnership liability, towards which, as regarded certain localities, this measure would be an advance. After some discussion, leave was given to bring in the bill.
Thursday.—THE SLAVE TRADE IN CUBA.—Lord J. RUSSELL said, in answer to Mr HUME, that, in consequence of the remonstrances of government, the late Governor of Cuba had been recalled, and that since such recall the state of matters connected with the slave trade had been improved.—PROTESTANT BURIAL GROUNDS IN MADRID.—Lord J. RUSSELL said, in answer to Mr MILNES, that an enclosed burial-ground was in course of formation, in which Protestants dying at Madrid might be interred with decency.—CLAIMS OF BRITISH SUBJECTS ON PORTUGAL.—Mr T. CHAMBERS moved for a select committee to investigate the claims of a mercantile firm, named Yuille, Shortridge, and Co., against the Portuguese government, for compensation for losses incurred through breach of treaty.—Mr HORSFALL, in seconding the motion, made some severe remarks upon the general ingratitude of Portugal towards England.—Mr ATHERTON and Mr D. SEYMOUR also supported the motion.—Lord J. RUSSELL said that the motion, if carried as it stood, would be a precedent of a very inconvenient character. He thought, however, that the case was one for attention, and he was prepared to produce the papers in the possession of the government. But he did not think that, without further inquiry, a committee should be granted on an *ex parte* statement.—Mr G. BUTT and Mr OLIVEIRA supported the motion, after which the house divided, and the motion was carried by 126 to 74.

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.—Oxford University.—A Convocation was held at Oxford on Tuesday, to elect a member in the room of Sir R. Inglis. There was no opposition to the return of Sir W. Heathcote, who was declared duly elected.—Ludlow.—The Hon. Colonel Percy Herbert (brother to the Earl of Powis) was on Tuesday elected without opposition.—South Staffordshire.—The nomination took place at Litchfield on Wednesday, the candidates being Lord Paget and Lord Ingestre. The election comes off to-day.—Louth.—The nomination will take place on the 20th inst. Mr McClintock will not come forward upon the present occasion. The contest will be between Mr Fortescue and Mr Cantwell.—Cambridge.—A meeting was held at Cambridge on Saturday, at which the Hon. W. F. Campbell attended and explained his political opinions to the electors at great length. A motion was made that Mr Campbell should be recommended to prosecute his canvass, but to this proposition an amendment of a contrary character was proposed, which amendment was carried, and the meeting was then adjourned.—South Shropshire.—On Wednesday Mr R. Clive (late M.P. for Ludlow) was returned for this division of the county without opposition.—South Devon.—The nomination takes place on Tuesday next.—Wendover.—Lord C. Wellesley, one of the members for this borough, has intimated that he is about to resign his seat, on the ground of ill-health.

THE HULL CONSTITUENCY.—The commissioners appointed to inquire into the existence of corrupt practices at the Hull elections, report that systematic corruption has always prevailed at Hull. Before the Reform act there was a general practice of paying the freemen, then the only voters, head-money at the rate of 4*l.* 4*s.* for a plumper, and two guineas for a split vote; since that act the mode and amount of payment has changed, but the system of corruption has not been discontinued. It has prevailed at every election. At the election of 1841 each party paid between 600 and 700 voters; in 1847 about 1,200 were bribed; in 1852, of the 3,983 who voted, nearly 1,400 were bribed. The constituency consists of 1,500 freemen and 3,000 occupiers, and the commissioners state that 1,100 of the freemen were bribed once at least, and the greater number of them oftener, in the course of these three elections. Not that the occupiers are clear. It appears that a great part of them are always anxious for an expensive contest, and would be dissatisfied without it. A witness says, "If it had not been for the printers and some few lawyers, I believe we should not have had a contest this last time." The commissioners state that the mode of corruption is very much by employing voters as clerks, canvassers, colourmen, or messengers, more generally termed "runners," the employment being real employment, if possible, but if that is not sufficient, colourable employment is found; "but the vote is the substantial consideration for the money." "Almost every person actively engaged in the election contests, has been not only cognizant of, but a party to, the prevalent corruption." They state that, as every one of the last three elections systematic bribery was committed on behalf of Mr Clay, with his knowledge and assent; that in 1841 Colonel Thompson, knowing of this systematic bribery for Mr Clay, conspired with him, and thereby obtained the advantage of Mr Clay's purchased votes; that systematic bribery was committed by Mr Baines in 1847, but without his knowledge and contrary to his wish; that in 1852 systematic bribery was committed on behalf of Lord Goderich, and he had knowledge of facts which should have caused him to inquire into the mode in which his money was being expended; that systematic bribery was committed on behalf of Mr Bramley Moore and the Hon. C. L. Butler, and the former during the election had knowledge of corrupt practices being committed on his behalf, while the latter agreed before the election to pay a large sum under circumstances which ought to have led him to inquire whether it would not be expended in corrupt practices. The cost of the last three elections was nearly 27,000*l.* to the candidates—nearly 9,000*l.* for each election. The cost of the last election was 2,226*l.* of which there was paid for cabs 354*l.*; colours, 300*l.*; to printers, 1,096*l.*; legal agents, 2,066*l.*; while the money expended directly on the voters amounted to 3,543*l.*, 3,000*l.* being paid as for wages to runners.

BARNSTAPLE ELECTION.—The commissioners appointed to inquire into the existence of corrupt practices in Barnstaple, report that the election in 1847 was a pure one, but that corrupt practices extensively prevailed at the election in 1852, 255 of the 696 who polled, having been bribed—viz., 121 householders, and 134 freemen. Only five of Lord Ebrington's voters were bribed. In the course of the canvass, his lordship and those with him were repeatedly told by voters that they should be glad to vote for him, and that it would be his own fault if they did not; he was told by a woman related to a voter that the candidate she preferred was "Mr. Moss." The commissioners complain of the prevarication of witnesses, and say: "We found men whose position in life ought to have placed them beyond the reach of corrupt influences attempting to screen their venality by denying it upon oath. Among the many grievous results of the system of bribery that came under our notice, none appeared to us more painful than that apparently decent and respectable tradesmen were induced, under its demoralising influence, to commit the crime of perjury, in order to preserve their position in the eyes of their fellow townsmen, and to hide the shame of their electoral corruption." The majority of the bribed voters appear to have endeavoured to satisfy their consciences by receiving the bribe under the name of expenses.

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.—By a Parliamentary return just issued it appears that the total number of persons of every description killed and injured on all the passenger railways open for public traffic in Great Britain and Ireland, during the half-year ending 30th June, 1853, amounted to 148 killed and 191 injured, and may be classed as follows:—10 passengers killed and 114 injured, from causes beyond their own control; 14 passengers killed and 7 injured, owing to their own misconduct or want of caution; 39 servants of companies or of contractors killed and 43 injured, from causes beyond their own control; 44 servants of companies or of contractors killed and 20 injured, owing to their own misconduct or want of caution; 40 trespassers and other persons, neither passengers nor servants of the company, killed, and 7 injured, by crossing or walking on the railway; 1 suicide. Total: 148 killed and 191 injured. The number of passengers conveyed during the half-year amounted to 45,080,316. The length of railway open on the 31st December, 1852, was 7,336 miles. The length of railway open on the 30th June, 1853, was 7,512 miles. Increase of mileage during the half-year, 176 miles.

THE TAXES ON KNOWLEDGE.

The Association for promoting the Repeal of the Taxes on Knowledge gave a soiree on Wednesday night at the Whittington Club to Mr Milner Gibson in honour of the repeal of the advertisement duty.

He considered the course which he had taken with reference to the taxes on knowledge was the only one consistent with his duty as a representative of popular interests. They must not forget that members of Parliament were but frail reeds in the House of Commons unless they were backed by the public voice.

Mr Cobden spoke next, and said— "There were two questions before the meetings as to the future—the paper duty and the newspaper stamp. The paper duty was simply a fiscal question, involving about 1,000,000 sterling. No party in the country had any prejudice to gratify in maintaining it; and when there was a surplus of revenue enabling the Chancellor of the Exchequer to dispense with it, there would be no opposition to its removal.

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After advertising to the inability of the poor man to purchase the latter, however admirably it might be written, and to his want of sympathy with the bulk of the facts contained in it, he continued: "If, however, perfect freedom prevailed in the press, in every market-town there would be a weekly paper of some kind or other at 1d., or perhaps, even less, and this would give the news of the neighbourhood—the news of most interest to the class to which he referred.

penny paper was started there, under the delusion that it might be published fortnightly without a stamp. He (Mr Cobden) knew the individual who conducted it—a Franklin in his way—who wrote all the leaders, set up the type, and was his own reporter. (Cheers.) It circulated into all the villages within twenty miles of where it was published, and to his (Mr Cobden's) knowledge it penetrated into places where a newspaper had never been seen before; but Mr Timms, of the Inland Revenue Board, pounced upon it, threatened heavy damages, extorted 5l. as a compromise (very much like obtaining money under false pretences), and compelled the owner to stamp it.

THE OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS ON THE TURKISH QUESTION.

We resume our notice of the diplomatic papers on the Eastern question, which have been laid before Parliament, with a history of "The Vienna Note," and its rejection by the Cabinet of St Petersburg after it had received the Turkish modifications.

Russia having waived her claim to a treaty—that is to say, to a deed of reciprocal engagements between the Czar and the Sultan, had consented to receive an assurance proceeding from the Turkish Government alone, but this assurance the Porte had refused to give in the terms demanded by Russia, though it had offered an equivalent in terms of its own.

"A desire for war, founded on the conviction that France and England must still persevere side with Turkey, and that the war, therefore, will be a successful one for the Sultan, and obtain for him guarantees for the future which will materially strengthen his tottering power."

The "preservation of peace" was, however, no object with Russia in comparison with the attainment of her original purpose, and notwithstanding the recommendations of the Four Powers, the Vienna Note, with the Turkish modifications, was rejected at St Petersburg, and the dispute resumed its original form. But Russia went further than this: she justified her rejection in the despatch from Count Nesselrode to which we have adverted, and then it was that the Russian interpretation put upon the Turkish modifications became the light by which the Western Powers saw that the sagacity and foresight of the Porte in making the alterations in the Vienna Note was greater than their own.

tuted anew. It is not necessary that we should repeat the terms of Count Nesselrode's objections, nor the examination of them by the Cabinets of France and England, but we may cite some passages from a despatch written by Lord Clarendon, on the 30th September, to Sir G. Seymour, at St Petersburg, in which he defends the principle on which the Turkish modifications were made:

"Count Nesselrode appears to think that the modifications are by no means insignificant; but he seems not to be aware that this goes far to justify the Turkish Government in proposing them; and his Excellency altogether fails to show by what right, or in reparation of what injury, Russia claims admissions and concessions from the Sultan, who is unwilling to make them, and whose independence Russia, together with the other Powers of Europe, has determined to respect."

Lord Clarendon, adverting to the fact that it would be highly dishonourable to her Majesty's Government to press the acceptance of the Vienna Note on the Porte, when they had been duly warned by Russia that another and a totally different meaning had attached to it by that Power, had previously said:

"And, even if this were not dishonourable, it would be in the highest degree impolitic for the reasons stated in Count Nesselrode's despatch with reference to admitting of any amendments, viz., that the Emperor would expose himself to renew political relations with Turkey under unfavourable auspices, which would deprive them of all solidity for the future, and inevitably bring about a fresh and more decided rupture."

Such was the diplomatic position at the close of September, but before Lord Clarendon's conclusions had been set forth, the aspect of affairs in the East had entirely changed. On the 26th of September the Grand Council at Constantinople, feeling how deeply the cause of Turkey must suffer by further delay, which only afforded Russia the opportunity she sought of augmenting her forces in Wallachia, solemnly pronounced itself for open war, leaving the declaration of the fact to the discretion of the Sultan.

But when war had been openly declared the Straits were no longer closed; a formal requisition for the presence of the fleets was made on the 8th of October, and on the 20th Admiral Dundas was required by Lord Stratford to concert measures with the Commander of the French squadron and to enter the Dardanelles. On their own part, the Turks, having elected for war, lost no time in carrying their decision into execution. On the 29th of October, Lord Clarendon learnt from Berlin that the Turks had possessed themselves of an island in the Danube opposite Widdin, and two days later a telegraphic despatch from Vienna announced the occupation of Kalafat by the same detachment.

"The causes in question," he writes, "may be reduced to the following heads:—Want of information as to the movements of the Russian fleet, an unwillingness to incur any risk of collision, or to narrow the claims of peace by premature provocation of any kind, and an impression that we should do best to wait for an invitation from the Turkish Government. In aid of these leading considerations come the strong prevailing northerly winds which retarded the squadrons in their passage from Besika Bay, and the delays occasioned by the departure of one French Ambassador and the arrival of another."

"Our proposals," writes Lord Stratford, "are formally accepted under the Sultan's sanction, and it now remains with the Four Powers to obtain the assent of the Emperor of the French who would enter the Black Sea, and would require every Russian ship which they might meet with to re-enter a Russian port. On the very next day, however, as if to complete the alterations of these transactions, a step which had been almost decisive of peace was counterbalanced by another intended to be decisive of peace. The 'collective Note' and 'Protocol' above described as concerted by the European representatives at Vienna had been anticipated by certain arrangements concerted, in the same town, by the European representatives at Constantinople. Without entering into the particulars of this diplomatic episode, we may briefly state that the Constantinople project was finally successful."

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of Russia, and to set on foot the negotiation which they have expressed their desire to obtain, and which, if the Court of St Petersburg be sincere in its professions, ought to terminate at an early period in peace."

These proposals, being transmitted to Vienna, were adopted by the Conference there sitting, as agreeing with their own, and were by them duly signed on the 13th of January, the day after Count Nesselrode had been apprised of the entry of the fleets into the Black Sea. The Porte, as was announced by Redschid Pasha to the four representatives,

"Is prepared to conclude a peace in the manner pointed out to it by its allies; and, if intelligence is received that the Cabinet of St Petersburg likewise accepts these bases, the Porte will name and send a plenipotentiary to a congress to be held in a neutral city, which shall be specified by the Four Powers, and at which delegates of the Four Powers shall assist, for the arrangement of affairs with the plenipotentiary of the Court of Russia; and thereupon, as is natural, a temporary armistice for a fixed period will be concluded."

The four representatives at Vienna acceded, in the names of Great Britain, France, Austria, and Prussia, to the terms here mentioned, and this is the stage at which the papers before us conclude. The intelligence received on Tuesday supplies the complement of the story. The conditions thus devised by the representatives of Europe at Constantinople, accepted by the Sublime Porte, endorsed by the representatives of Europe at Vienna, and transmitted to St Petersburg with these recommendations, have been rejected by the Czar.

PREPARATIONS FOR WAR.

NAVAL INTELLIGENCE.—The command of the fleet destined for the Baltic is to be given to Vice-Admiral Sir Charles Napier, K.C.B., having under him Rear-Admiral Corry, now on the Lisbon station, and Rear-Admiral Chads, C.B., late Captain of the Excellent, who has done so much to bring naval gunnery to its present state of perfection. Admiral Chads has been commissioned to hoist his flag in the Edinburgh, 53, screw steam-ship, of 450 horse power. The ships of the Baltic fleet are ordered to assemble at Spishend for the Downs, before the 6th proximo. The Neptune, 120, Captain E. H. Scott, flag of Rear-Admiral Martin, Superintendent of Portsmouth Dockyard, has received orders to fit for sea service with all possible despatch, and to complete her complement of men to 900. The Cuesar, 91, Captain Robb, embarked her Marines on Tuesday, consisting of one captain, one first lieutenant, two second lieutenants, two sergeants, two corporals, two drummers, and eighty-seven privates of the divisional companies; and one second lieutenant, one sergeant, one corporal, and twenty-five gunners of the artillery companies. The Monarch, 84, Captain J. E. Erskine, was commissioned on Monday, at Sheerness, for active service at sea. The Blenheim, 60, screw, Captain the Hon. F. T. Pelham, will be one of the Baltic fleet. She is painted like a frigate, with only one streak of ports, so that any enemy falling in with her, and mistaking her for a single deck frigate, will be taken in. The Conway is to be fitted as a temporary flag-ship for the Commander-in-Chief at Queenstown, the Ajax, 58, screw, block-ship, being required for the Baltic fleet. Orders were received at Devonport, on Wednesday, for the Royal George, 120, screw; James Watt, 91, screw; Nile, 91, screw, Commander Booth; Pique, 36, and St George, 120, to be got ready for sea with all possible despatch.

An order was promulgated at Portsmouth on Monday, that one half of the number of men employed in the coast guard shall be immediately draughted for service on board ship. This will at once enable many ships to fill up their crews with the finest seamen (already trained by Captain Jermyingham to great gunnery and man-of-war exercises) they could have. There are about 2,800 of these able-bodied, hardy, and trusty coast guardmen fit for service afloat, and of themselves at once a nucleus for a fine fleet's crew.—Captain Peter Fisher concluded his enrolment of men for the Royal Naval Coast Volunteers on Monday, at the Sailor's Home, Portsea. Forty is the number of men he has entered, but he might have enrolled 200 more, had he accepted all who came forward. Volunteers continue to come in very briskly, and much enthusiasm seems to prevail. An order was received from the Admiralty at Woolwich, on Tuesday, to make a return immediately of every pensioner serving in the dockyard, distinguishing those who have served as seamen and marines; and it is supposed they will be called upon to serve afloat, as they would be found highly useful in instructing and bringing forward by their good example the numerous landsmen now daily entering the service. Some idea may be formed of the numbers of recruits entering the Royal Marine branch of the service, when it is stated that during the month of January 130 fine young men passed their medical inspection for the Woolwich division, and they are now instructed daily in their drills and a knowledge of the ship-gun exercises under Captain Payne.—The following order was promulgated at Portsmouth, on Wednesday: "All Greenwich pensioners under sixty years of age, no matter how employed or engaged, are directed to attend at the Pension-office between this day and Saturday next, for the purpose of receiving a printed form to attend on Tuesday, the 14th inst., for inspection by officers from the Admiralty to ascertain their fitness for service. If this notice is not attended to they will be subject to loss of pension."—Pamphlets entitled respectively "A Few Words of Advice to the Mariners of England and Enterprising Youths inclined for the Sea Service, showing the advantage to be derived by Service in the Royal Navy, by a Seaman's Friend;" and "A Few Words of Explanation to Seafaring People on the Coast who are disposed to join the Royal Naval Coast Volunteers," are being extensively circulated at the seaports by order of the Admiralty.

Contracts have been taken on behalf of the Crown at the Clarence Victualling Establishment, Gosport, for 1,500 quarters of wheat, at an average of 88s. 6d. per quarter. The Clarence yard is in most active operation, the officers and men being at work from six in the morning until ten at night. 100 fine bullocks are being slaughtered here weekly, thirty of which are salted, i. e., the finest parts of the beasts, for provisions for the navy. Biscuit-making, hammock bedding-making, and storing provisions of every description for the fleet are going on with unprecedented speed.—Captain Austen, R.N., Admiralty superintendent of packets at Southampton, and Lieutenant D'Arande, R.N., have been engaged in inspecting two ships belonging to the Peninsular and Oriental Company, to report thereon to the Board of Admiralty, as to their capabilities for the conveyance of troops to Malta, or elsewhere if required. The ships inspected are the Ripon, engaged on the Alexandria line, and fitted out to take the heavy portion of the East India and China mails on the 20th, and the Manilla, intended to leave on the 27th, for Constantinople, with ship letter bags, cargo, &c. The estimated number of troops which these vessels are capable of conveying will be from 800 to 1,000. Other vessels—viz., the Sultan and the Euxine—belonging to this company, may also be brought into use for the purposes above stated; and with the Royal Mail Company's steam-ship, Medway, and the Australasian and Pacific Royal Mail Company's screw ship, Emu, means may at once be provided at this port alone by which several thousands of men may be conveyed in a short space of time to their required destination. Such is the perfect state of each of the vessels that the addition of a few guns is all that would be needed in rendering them fit for such service.

MILITARY INTELLIGENCE.—The following is relied on as an authentic list of the regiments under orders for service who are to embark in the course of next month:—4th (King's Own), 7th (Royal Fusiliers), 9th, 14th, 17th, 21st (Royal North British Fusiliers), 27th (Enniskillens), 28th, 35th, 38th, 39th, 42nd (Royal Highlanders), 50th (Queen's Own), 62nd, 63rd, 79th (Cameron Highlanders), 82nd, 88th (Connaught Rangers), 89th, 90th (Perthshire Light Infantry), 93rd (Sutherland Highlanders), 95th. This would reduce the infantry force in the United Kingdom (irrespective of the brigade of Guards) to eleven regiments—viz., the 34th, 20th, 97th, 46th, 83rd, 77th, 91st, 12th, 19th, 23rd, and the

Rifle Brigade. It is intended early in the ensuing month that a camp consisting of 30,000 English militia, shall be formed either at Chobham or such other place as the General in command of the army shall deem fit.—Great activity prevails in recruiting for the regiments to 1,000 rank and file. A large number of recruiting parties have recently been sent to the manufacturing towns, also to Ireland and Scotland to raise recruits, besides beating up at the head-quarters. Many fine young lads have offered themselves, and there is no doubt but the required number will soon be obtained.—The 'Globe' states that the first portion of the military force to be despatched to the East will consist of four battalions of the Foot Guards and six regiments of Infantry from Ireland. These troops will embark with the least possible delay for their destination, which will probably be Malta in the first instance.

CITY CORPORATION COMMITTEE.

The Commissioners resumed their sittings on Monday. Mr Payne the coroner for the city, briefly explained the duties of coroner. The Town Clerk then entered into a lengthened statement, and brought up a number of reports with respect to alterations that had been made by the corporation in numerous offices. Mr Anderton, under-sheriff, entered into details concerning his office. His emoluments as under-sheriff for the last quarter amounted to 175*l.*, which was a fair average of the sum received for the office. He had to keep up some little state—viz., a carriage, with a pair of horses; he had to attend the sheriffs and to contribute to charities. The use of the office of under-sheriff is to indemnify the sheriff for any losses he may sustain, and for that indemnification the under-sheriff received the fees of the office. Witness had to pay 200*l.* in the shape of indemnity during his last under-sheriffship. The officers from whom he took security in that case failed, as did also their sureties. The witness went on to say that he had been a Common Councilman for seventeen years, and had stood thirteen contests without soliciting a single vote or spending a single sixpence. In the year 1846 he was Deputy-Governor of the Irish Society, he visited the estates in the summer of that year, and never passed so agreeable a month in his life. The corporation had no more to do with the Irish Society than any gentleman in this room. They did not receive a shilling of profit from it, and their only connexion with it was that they had a visitatorial power. The Irish Society had done a great deal of good in Ireland. Referring to Mr T. Hankey's evidence upon the subject of the Lord Mayor's annual dinner, he said whatever might be Mr Hankey's opinion of that banquet, it was quite clear that Mrs Hankey thought differently, for on two occasions the former had made applications to the Remembrancer for tickets on her behalf. He hoped the Lord Mayor's Show would never be done away with, as it always afforded an evidence of the disposition of the people to submit to self-government, neither the attendance of the military nor even of the police being necessary—a fact which would be a source of some surprise to a foreigner.—Mr Richardson, who was examined on a former occasion with reference to the 'Citizen' newspaper, wished to repeat his former statement that Mr B. Scott and Mr Toulmin Smith were joint purchasers and proprietors of that paper. He thought it necessary to appear for the purpose of repeating this statement, because Mr Scott had in some manner contradicted him.—Mr Turnley, chairman of the Navigation Committee of the corporation, deposed that the committee had not sufficient funds to keep the navigation in as efficient a state as was desirable. The river was not a source of profit to the corporation, but rather the contrary. The witness went on to say that in June last he was elected one of the sheriffs, but declined to serve. A man named Rose came to him and said "he was very sorry, but he must make him sheriff to-morrow." The witness said he would neither serve nor pay the fine. Witness was a member of the Merchant Tailors' Company, and no doubt Rose thought he was fair game for plunder. Rose had importuned him every year, but witness had kept his hand out of his pocket. Not having paid Rose money to keep him out of the office, witness was at last elected sheriff. He then memorialized the Court of Aldermen to excuse his paying the fine, and had told them that they might have his body, but they should never have his property. After Mr Rose had done him the honour of electing him, he sent him hundreds of "unwashed gentlemen" to ask him to pay them for electing him, but he did not comply with their request. On another occasion Rose made a similar application to him, but witness said he had 400 persons who would hold up their hands against his election, and the man replied that he could find 900 who would hold up their hands for him. There were 200 bankers' clerks who came out at one o'clock to their dinners, and they would vote for him. (Laughter.) The system was certainly a most disgraceful one, and some steps ought to be taken to put an end to it. The corporation had nothing whatever to do with Mr Rose's proceedings.—Mr Jones, solicitor, of Crosby square, said he had been a member of Common Council for the last twenty years, and had acted as a member of the Irish Society in 1843 and 1844. The expenses of the management of that society were certainly rather large, but there was no analogy between the estates of the society and those of a private individual. Upon the subject of law expenses, the witness said the suits were now at an end, and the society had been driven into litigation to defend its rights, and had no other alternative than to embark in these proceedings or give up their property. Mr Jones concluded his evidence by entering generally into a defence of the corporation, especially in regard to the manner in which the members of that body discharged their magisterial functions.—The Commissioners sat again on Thursday, but the evidence was not of an interesting character.

THE PRESTON STRIKE.—OPENING OF THE MILLS.

A great sensation was created in Preston on Wednesday, by the unexpected publication of a placard announcing in the following terms the opening of the mills on the following day:

"At a special meeting of the associated masters, held at the Bull Hotel, Preston, on Wednesday, the 8th of February, 1854, it was unanimously resolved that, in consequence of the greatly increased disposition shown by the operatives to resume work since the meeting of the associated masters on the 26th January last, and firmly believing that large numbers have been deterred from openly manifesting a desire to free themselves from their present leaders and to return to their respective employment only by fear of ill-treatment and of the loss of their present means of subsistence—this meeting is of opinion that the time has at length arrived when it is incumbent on the masters, in fulfilment of the pledges repeatedly given by them, to re-open their mills, in the hope of thereby bringing this unfortunate and protracted dispute to an end, and of rescuing the town and neighbourhood from that wide-spread and rapidly increasing distress from which they are now unhappily suffering. Public notice, therefore, is hereby given, that the several mills of the associated masters will be reopened, and will be prepared for a resumption of work to-morrow (Thursday), at eight o'clock in the morning, upon the terms and in accordance with the resolution passed on the 4th of November last; and all persons desirous of obtaining employment may depend upon constant work, and are reminded that the masters are pledged, and are fully determined to protect them against any improper interference or molestation."

The operatives were called together in the Orchard in the afternoon. There was a very large attendance. After hearing several addresses, the multitude pledged itself not to resume work without the advance claimed. The meeting concluded with three hearty cheers for the ten per cent.

On Thursday morning, pursuant to the above resolution, the factory bells were rung at eight o'clock, but very few hands indeed returned to their employment. At some of the mills there was not a

single applicant for work. Messrs Almond and Co. have given the ten per cent. and obtained a full complement of hands.—The largest and most enthusiastic meeting ever witnessed in the Orchard was held in the morning. The excitement was intense, but the utmost order was preserved throughout the proceedings. Mr Grimshaw assured his hearers that if they remained firm another fortnight the cotton lords would be compelled to give in. Mr Cowell spoke, and said, "You who are determined never to succumb, who are determined to walk the streets in unwilling idleness until the masters of Preston think proper to concede your just and inalienable rights, hold up your hands." The response was instantaneous and universal, and the hearty hurrahs of the vast multitude rent the air. A more extraordinary scene of the kind was never witnessed. The immense concourse dispersed quietly.

EXPENSES OF THE STRIKE.—From a statement published by the operative committee, it appears that since the commencement of the strike, which has lasted twenty-three weeks, the total amount distributed in relief among 16,174 hands has been 3,049*l.*, giving an average of about 3s. 8*d.* to each; and the cost of management is as follows: "Salaries, travelling expenses, &c.," 183*l.* Rent of rooms and sundries," 20*l.*; and, lastly, "Reports and other printing," 150*l.* Adding together the last three amounts, it appears that 300*l.* a week, or 15,000*l.* a year, is being paid for the maintenance of organised agitation at Preston, by the operatives of Blackburn and other places.

TERMINATION OF THE BURY STRIKE.—The strike at Bury, which has continued during a period of thirteen weeks, has been brought to a close, the last mill, that of Messrs Charles Openshaw and Sons, Bury, having been opened on Thursday, and others had opened on different days during the week.

Latest Intelligence.

SATURDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 11TH.

The last-arrived number of the new Russian newspaper published at Bucharest, and entitled the 'Wallachian Moniteur,' contains a general order by Prince Gortschakoff, enacting that all the male population from eighteen to forty years of age, married or unmarried, and of whatever profession, may be required by the generals, colonels, or *chefs de corps*, to render compulsory service (*robota*) to the Russian army; that horses, oxen, and all other draught cattle, besides waggons, may in like manner be taken for the same use; and lastly, that all the barks, boats, and barges, found on the Danube may be taken at any moment for the Russian service. This ordinance applies to all Wallachian subjects, and any person attempting to evade it will be brought before a court-martial. According to accounts from Krajova, the bad weather has alone prevented the Russians from attacking Kalafat. The investing army has made a movement in advance, but active operations will not begin before March, when the bridges for crossing the Danube will be ready.—The Russians have attacked the redoubt called Sefo, held by the Turks, about four miles from fort St Nicholas, and have been repulsed with loss. Schamyk has marched to attack Zakatala, at the head of 16,000 men.—Advices from Vienna of the 6th announce the mobilisation of a corps of 25,000 men on the frontier of Lesser Wallachia, to protect the Austrian frontier.

The 'Journal des Débats' of yesterday announces that the French Government has refused the numerous offers that have been made to it for effecting a loan, and has concluded an arrangement with the Bank of France, which has placed at its disposal a sum of 60,000,000*l.*

The 'Journal de Limbourg Maestricht' announces that a resolution of the Dutch War-office orders the raising of four corps of 1,000 men each—a step which indicates the intention of Holland to place her army on a war footing.

It is announced semi-officially that the Danish Government will concentrate a military force on the Island of Seeland, besides fitting out three frigates, three corvettes, three brigs, and four war steamers, to protect the neutrality of Denmark.

It is now confidently stated that the number of troops to be despatched to Constantinople at once is 10,000 officers and men; but as many more will be held in readiness to reinforce the British contingent should their services be required. If possible, the following will proceed on the 18th or 19th:—three battalions of the Guards; 7th Fusiliers; 28th, 33rd, and 79th regiments; 2nd battalion of the Rifles; and four companies of Artillery. The others will follow as soon as the transports can be got ready. It is also intended to send out at least three regiments of Cavalry. We learn from Dublin that the first division of the 62nd embarked at Queenstown on Thursday on board the Sir Charles Pollock, transport, for Malta; and on the day preceding the first division of the 9th was put on board the Canterbury, transport, and sailed for the Mediterranean. The 90th is shortly expected at Cork for embarkation; and the 50th, which passed through Cork en route from Plymouth to Dublin, have been ordered back in order to take shipping for the Mediterranean. The 46th stationed at Kilkenny, under orders for Australia, are countermanded, and remain on home service.

Yesterday, notices from the Admiralty were posted on 'Change, at Lloyd's, and in the various coffee-houses, one of which was to the effect that on Friday next they will be ready to receive tenders for the hire of steamers for the immediate conveyance of troops to Malta, the owners victualling the troops; and another intimating that on Tuesday next the Admiralty will also be ready to treat for the hire of seven or eight good coppered ships, of from 500 to 700 tons, new measurement, to be employed as regular cavalry transports for four months certain, and, if required, for a longer period.—Captain James Hope, C.B., who commanded the Firebrand steam-frigate at the destruction of the boom at Obligado and in forcing the Parana, and rendered other most important services during all the operations in that river against Rosas in 1845 and 1846, is appointed to command the Majestic, 81, screw steam-ship of 2,589 tons burden and 400-horse power, commissioned yesterday at Sheerness.—By accounts from Lisbon of the 4th inst., we learn that at that date the following vessels-of-war were in the Tagus: Arrogant, Valoros, Prince Regent, Duke of Wellington, Amphion, Tribune, Imperieuse, Desperate, and Odin, all English; and the French steamer Newton.

An inquest was held yesterday on the remains of the persons burnt to death in the late fire in Princes street, Soho, and the verdict of the jury, after stating that there was no evidence to show how the fire originated, expressed the opinion that some plan should be immediately adopted by the parish to secure the efficient use of the fire-engine when required.

Yesterday, at the Liverpool Police Court, William Cartcheon was brought up on a remand charged with conspiring with a Mr Goden, now in custody in London, to defraud the London and North Western Railway Company, by altering balances in the

books of the Liverpool station in order to cover alleged deficiencies. The prisoner was fully committed on a charge of larceny, and remanded on that of conspiracy.

The appointment of accountant-general to the Admiralty, Somerset House, is vacant, caused by the superannuation of Sir J. T. Briggs, 1,300l. per annum; in the gift of the First Lord of the Admiralty.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.

CAN WE DO WITHOUT A LEVY OF SEAMEN?—Sir, Some six or seven years ago I remember reading in a professional paper a letter signed "One who has Served," in which the writer recommended the Government to turn its attention to the building of steam instead of sailing ships. This has, at the eleventh hour, been done; but there is a want of seamen to man them. To obviate this I would suggest that the batteries on board our men-of-war should be served by experienced artillery-men. Ten real seamen are wanted in a steamer, and honest but rash Jack is too thoughtless to be entrusted with the management of a shell gun. I send you the following translation from the "Constitutionnel," which shows that the French are alive to the subject.

"The application of steam to navigation has placed France on an equality with England. During the last war England's superiority was the natural consequence of her fleets being manned with superior seamen to those of France. At present manœuvring is out of the question, and soldiers can fight on board ship as well as sailors."

The batteries of the Turkish fleet, I believe, are manned in the manner I have alluded to, and at Navarino did good execution. Greek seamen sail these ships, and soldiers fight them. Why not follow the example, and embark our artillery from Woolwich?—I am, Sir, your obedient servant, BLUE PETER.

GONE AT LAST!—Baron Brunnow, the Russian Minister, left London for Dover on Wednesday, and sailed for Calais on the following morning, en route for Brussels.

CANCER HOSPITAL.—The Archbishop of Canterbury preached a most impressive sermon on Sunday last, to a crowded congregation, at the parish church of St Mary, Newington, in aid of the Cancer Hospital. His Grace referred to the great sufferings from that awful disease which the institution had been specially established to alleviate, and the good effect which was likely to result from the greater extension of its sphere of usefulness.

MR DOWNING BRUCK'S PROPOSED PLAN FOR THE REFORM OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL COURTS.—The plan I would suggest may be shortly stated. All the original wills throughout England should be deposited with the officer appointed by the crown; they should all be printed in the form of the present Chancery proceedings, and an index of the whole should be formed. A copy should be sent to each county court. In future, all the wills should be printed at the expense of the executor, and a copy sent free to the Stamp-office. This would save the country a considerable sum per annum. One copy should be sent to the county court of the district in which the person died. These wills and indexes should be placed under the care of a proper civil officer, and really for such a purpose none appears so proper as the principal registrar of marriages, &c., for that county. Each person named in the will should have a printed notice from the principal officer of the court. The county courts might decide all cases under 50l., and in disputes of a larger amount the superior courts should have jurisdiction. All proceedings should be exercised in the name of her Majesty, and all proceedings headed "Her Majesty's Court of Probate."

THE MONITORIAL SYSTEM.—Sir, I have read with great interest your observations on the Monitorial System at Harrow,—but you do not lay sufficient stress on, indeed few seem to consider the effect which such a system must have on the monitors themselves. All the sympathy of the humane and generous is bestowed on the boy who is unmercifully beaten; but let me beg of you to look upon it from the other side, and consider what must be the effect on young men from seventeen to eighteen, or perhaps nineteen, whose characters are forming into manhood; that as a reward for their good conduct, and high distinction at school, they should acquire the privilege of punishing the misdeeds of their erring companions and equals, by blows with a cane, be it only three instead of thirty. It is indeed a short-lived privilege, and can be of no use to them in after life. Distinction at the University, the Bar, or the Houses of Parliament, confer none such, and the man who may be called upon to exercise it is degraded in his own eyes, and in those of the world. Why, then, force such degradation on boys at school, when at an age that their judgment must be so weak, and their impulses so strong, as in some degree to excuse them for the crimes they are empowered to commit. For it is a crime when punishment becomes torture. Let me entreat of you to consider the subject from this point of view, and see if, as English Christian gentlemen, the characters of the monitors (both now and for the future) may not be deeply injured, by having such despotic power put into their young hands.—MENTOR.

TOWN AND COUNTRY TALK.

The Marquis of Anglesey has rallied. In answer to the latest inquiries, it is stated that his lordship was convalescent.

It is now necessary that travellers to France should be provided with passports verified by the agents of France in England.

Some important alterations are to be made with respect to the admissions to Winchester School. Stricter examinations are to be made, and wealth and power will cease to have such influence in admissions as hitherto.

The country between Bridgwater and Taunton is almost one sheet of water, from the overflowing of several streams since the late heavy rains. These overflows cause a rich deposit, and the districts contain some of the finest pasturage in England. The young wheat looks very vigorous and healthy; the snow gave it adequate protection in the severe weather. The same remark may be made of other crops.

A return has been printed, showing the great increase in the last fourteen years in chargeable letters delivered in the United Kingdom. In 1850, the number was 347,000,000, being an increase on the previous year of 9,500,000. In 1851 360,500,000; increase 13,500,000. In 1852, 379,500,000; increase, 19,000,000. And last year 411,000,000 letters were delivered, being an increase of 31,500,000.

There is no foundation for the statement that the Cunard steamers have been engaged by Government to convey troops to Turkey.

A movement in favour of reformatory schools for young criminals has been commenced at Torquay. A numerous signed petition sets forth the present unwise system of committing children to prison for felony, vagrancy, &c., prays for the establishment of reformatory schools for the correctional training of young criminals, and that power may be given to judges and magistrates to commit children to such schools for any period they may think fit.

A new church is being commenced between Orchard street and Duke street, Manchester square, and a committee has been formed to collect the necessary funds.

The inquiry into the death of Mr Ellison, of Norwich, who died from the effects of injuries which he sustained in the recent collision on the Eastern Counties Railway, being the sixth sufferer, was concluded on Monday, before the borough coroner. The jury returned a verdict of manslaughter against Mr P. Ashcroft and Mr Latham (the inspector).

"A system which has been found by experience to be inferior to no other system in the formation of the character of an English Christian Gentleman."—Vide Dr Vaughan's Letter to Lord Palmerston

It is understood that all the large game preservers near Maidstone are about to discharge their keepers, and give up the occupation of preserving.

Early on Friday morning, Mr R. Leicester, of Cambridge villas Cheltenham, who was attending the Bachelors' ball, at the Assembly rooms, was suddenly seized with a fit, and died in about ten minutes.

One of the largest diamonds known was deposited on Tuesday at the Bank of England by a London house, to whom it was consigned from Rio Janeiro. Its weight is 254 carats, and its estimated value according to the scale 280,000l. It is said to be of the finest water, and without a flaw, and was found by a negro slave, who received his freedom as a reward.

The case of Lumley v. Gye is specially fixed to be tried in the Court of Queen's Bench on Monday, the 20th instant. The damages are laid at 30,000l.

The convict Tapner, whose execution was referred by the authorities at Guernsey until yesterday, made a declaration last week that he alone was guilty of the crime for which he was condemned.

Mr Serjeant Stephen, one of the Bankruptcy Commissioners of the Bristol district, has resigned his office.

The Town Council of the city of Bath unanimously resolved on Tuesday to petition Parliament against the measure which, it is said, the Government intends bringing into Parliament for centralising the police of the entire country.

The 'Manchester Examiner' says that Government are making arrangements for supplying the intended Baltic fleet with coal at Great Grimsby.

The freedom of the city of London was presented on Thursday to Mr Layard, M.P.

The President of the Council has caused a circular to be addressed to the principals of training schools, calling their attention to the importance of thoroughly imbuing the students under their charge with such a practical knowledge of decimals as will enable them to disseminate the information needed to accompany the change now contemplated in our coinage and weights and measures.

LAW AND POLICE.

COURT OF QUEEN'S BENCH.—Wednesday.—DAMAGES AGAINST A RAILWAY COMPANY.—PHILLIPS v. THE GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY.—This was an action to recover compensation for injuries the plaintiff had sustained by reason of the negligence of the defendants' servants. The defendants had paid 228l. into court. The plaintiff is a horse-dealer, and was in the train at the time of the accident at Hornsey some time since. At first he did not feel any particular injury, but in three days afterwards he became seriously ill, was attended by a surgeon, and confined for upwards of five weeks. The plaintiff claimed compensation for the loss he had sustained in consequence of not being able to attend to his business during the most important part of the year. The most essential part of his evidence was the following: "I am very extensively engaged in the foreign trade for the Belgian, French, and Sardinian Governments, and all over the continent. At the time of the accident I was on a preliminary journey before my long tour of a month. I was to have been at Howden and Horncastle fairs. I had heavy foreign commissions for stallions. The Belgian Government allowed me 25l. for each horse. They averaged from 150l. to 400l. each. I supply the funds first. I have always obtained from eight to ten horses annually. The confidence is placed in me personally. I had orders from Prince Beauveau and others. Mr Allen, a great dealer, had died, and his stud was for sale. I expected to buy a great many horses at that sale. I had commissions from several French noblemen for stallions and brood mares. I had to procure from eighteen to twenty trade horses for a person in Paris, at 10l. a horse. I also wanted to supply my own stud. The whole was lost to me, as I could not attend to business in consequence of my illness. I also became acquainted with all racehorses, and I could not attend the Doncaster meeting. My returns are about 40,000l. a year." Mr Cawthorpe, the plaintiff's cashier, stated that in 1851, the second half-year, the plaintiff purchased 187 horses, the profit upon which was 8,450l.; the expenses of the trade for the year were 5,351l. In 1853 he bought 222 horses; the profit was 4,300l. In 1852 he bought 260 horses; the profit was 5,000l. Mr East—"I am in partnership with Mr Dickenson, as job-master. The plaintiff does a very large business. I saw him at Peterborough; his legs were in a very bad state. His loss must have been very serious." Mr Chambers, for the defendant, submitted that the company had acted very well in the matter; they had put him to no trouble as regarded proof of the accident or negligence, and they had paid into court that sum which they thought to be an adequate compensation. The evidence only went into an exaggerated statement of imaginary profits. The profits of the three years, as shown by the evidence, were extremely variable and uncertain. Supposing Baron Rothschild met with an accident, could he recover the amount of his losses of perhaps 200,000l. or 300,000l.? and yet a great deal might depend very much upon his presence in the stock market. If a jury, therefore, once gave an opening to an argument of this kind it might be the utter ruin of any company. Lord Campbell, in summing up, said the jury were to determine whether the sum of 200l. was a reasonable compensation for the injury done to the plaintiff. By law he was entitled to compensation for the pecuniary loss he had proved to their satisfaction that he had sustained. The jury returned a verdict for 150l. beyond the sum paid into court.

THURSDAY.—THE QUEEN v. BERESFORD AND OTHERS.—This was an indictment charging Major Beresford and ten others with conspiring to corrupt and bribe the electors of the borough of Derby at the last election, which took place on the 7th of July, 1852.—Mr James, after giving a brief outline of this well-known case, observed that the transaction had undergone more than one investigation. It had been twice submitted to the consideration of select committees of the House of Commons, and by means of their reports the facts of this case had become publicly known. It had been alleged by the Conservative interest at Derby that those proceedings arose out of a conspiracy formed by those who had espoused the Liberal cause; but, however idle and ridiculous that charge was, it was necessary that the present indictments should be preferred in order to set that matter right. But now, inasmuch as it was believed that the exposure which had already taken place would prevent the recurrence of such proceedings at Derby, and those who had made the charge that the Liberal party had entered into the conspiracy alleged had withdrawn the charge, it was not his (Mr James's) intention, on the part of the prosecution, to offer any evidence in support of the present indictment.—Lord Campbell said, that as no evidence was offered on the part of the prosecution, it was the duty of the jury to say the defendants were not guilty.—A verdict of "Not guilty" was accordingly taken.—Sir F. Theiger then rose, and said he could not allow this prosecution to pass off thus and end, without publicly, and in the most unequivocal language, declaring that the course pursued by the prosecution had not been the result of any arrangement on the part of Mr Beresford, or any one on his behalf. It was only justice to Mr Beresford and to himself, as Mr Beresford's advocate and friend, to say, that no consideration on earth would have moved him to consent to a compromise of this charge against him. Mr Beresford attended here this day, under circumstances of great pain, having for that purpose risen from a bed of sickness, to which he had been confined by a serious accident. He had come into court and claimed an inquiry into the charge made against him, confident of the result, before an honest and impartial tribunal. After this charge had been impending over his head for many anxious months, he was for the first time yesterday informed by a communication made to his attorney that it was not the intention

of the prosecutors to offer any evidence against him. He had no expectation of this sudden change of purpose, and was ignorant of the reason for it. Sir F. Theiger was bound on Mr Beresford's behalf to say that he had done what he could to force this inquiry forward, and the very record had been brought here by him for the purpose of this inquiry. Sir F. Theiger was bound to say that an application had been made on the part of the prosecutors, before the meeting of Parliament, to delay the trial, upon the ground that it would be necessary to produce before the jury documents which could not be so produced without the leave of the House of Commons. The House had now met, and he had ascertained, upon inquiry, that no attempt had been made to obtain those documents. It had not been suggested that the witnesses were not forthcoming, and if any ground could be laid to show that any witnesses were kept out of the way, he was sure his lordship would not allow justice to be defeated in any such way. He had thought it right to give this explanation, for, if any suspicion were entertained on the part of the public that Mr Beresford had attempted to stifle the inquiry, his present acquittal would be a reproach instead of a benefit. He was now entitled to say that, having challenged his accusers in a court of justice, he might have intrusted his character safely in the hands of a jury, in the confidence that they would put an end to those cruel accusations under which he had so long laboured.—Mr James said that no compromise, direct or indirect, had been entered into.—Lord Campbell said he was bound to say that, but for these assurances, there might have been a suspicion in the public mind that some corrupt compromise had been made; but that suspicion had now been repelled. He (Lord Campbell) was also bound to say that Mr Beresford had repelled the charge made against him, and had brought the case on for trial, and now it must be considered that there was no evidence to support the charge.

FRAUD BY A RAILWAY AUDITOR.—Mr T. Goden, chief officer in the audit department of the London and North Western Railway Company at the Euston square station, was charged at the Marylebone office, on Wednesday, with defrauding the company. The charge against the prisoner was to the effect that he had taken a sum amounting to 2,184l. 14s. 4d. between the 11th of October and the 1st of November, the property of the company, which he had not accounted for. The money was received on account of the goods department at the Tipton, Spond lane, Smethwick, and Duffield stations of the Stour Valley line, attached to the Birmingham station. Mr Soar deposed that he had received letters from the prisoner dated the 15th, 25th, 29th, and 31st of October, and the 1st of November, 1853, in which he acknowledged the receipt of the money, the ground of the present charge, which was on account of the goods department on the Stour Valley line. He took instructions from the prisoner, who, he understood, was concerned with all cash affairs. The money was sent to him by his directions. The prisoner was formerly treasurer of the Grand Junction line in the north. F. Whittle, clerk in the audit department at the Euston square station, said that the prisoner's duties were to examine remittances, and to take credit on the goods accounts current which came up from the country stations. In the early part of October, finding that the remittances were not as usual, he had a communication with the prisoner, who stated that the audit committee had decided on having the cash from the line sent direct to London; that he was receiving the money, and that he had special instructions from Captain Huish respecting the money. The sums he ought to have received were 559l. 10s. 7d. from Duffield, 1,013l. 8s. 0d. from Tipton, 438l. 6s. 10d. from Spond lane, and 173l. 7s. 2d. from Smethwick. No one had to look over the prisoner's accounts but the committee. Mr W. Heley, assistant cashier at the Euston square station of the London and North Western Railway Company, said that his duty was to receive money from Mr Soar for the goods stations on the Stour Valley line. From the 11th of October to the 1st of November he had received no money. He had received money since, but he could not tell on what account. The money should have been paid to him. (The goods account book was produced.) He was not aware that any arrangements were made for the money to be transmitted to London, nor that any alterations had been made by the audit committee that the money should be sent to it (the committee). The prisoner got leave of absence of ten days after the decision of the committee, and gave directions at Birmingham that the money should be sent to him. Had witness been aware of the alterations, he should have made inquiries. Mr Broughton observed that the witnesses ought to be produced who could give evidence showing the alteration that had taken place. It appeared extraordinary that money should be directed to be sent up to London, and that the cashier should know nothing of the alteration. The committee ought to have given notice to the cashier. The prisoner was remanded till Wednesday next, and it is expected that on that day it will be shown that his defalcations will turn out to be more extensive than have at present come under the magistrate's notice.

ACCIDENTS AND OCCURRENCES.

LOSS OF EIGHT LIVES BY FIRE.—A lamentable fire occurred on Tuesday morning in Princes street, Soho, by which eight lives were sacrificed. The house in which it took place was let out in apartments. The shop and parlour were occupied by a man named Reeve, a print and bookseller; in the first floor resided the ostensible landlord, James Arthur, a painter and glazier, with his family; the second floor was rented by an interfefer named Puzzi, who, with his wife and three young children, occupied the two small rooms of which it consisted; and in the front and back attics lived respectively an aged woman, whose name is unknown, and a journeyman tailor named Adams, with his wife. The alarm was first given by a policeman about a quarter to five in the morning. While on duty he observed smoke issuing from the windows of the first floor, and a flickering light as of flames kindling. He gave an immediate alarm, and messengers were despatched to the various brigade stations in the neighbourhood, the constable, with other persons, endeavouring to arouse the inmates. The flames had made considerable progress before the discovery took place, and almost before the inmates could be alarmed the fire had reached the second and third floors, at the windows of which several persons were observed imploring assistance. The fire-escape had not at this time arrived, and, it being impossible to render aid by any means at hand, the most disastrous consequences were feared, as from the old character of the building, it was plainly seen that its destruction would be completed in a very short time. Within a very few minutes after the outbreak had been discovered, Puzzi, who with his wife and three children, had been observed at the windows imploring assistance, precipitated himself into the street, falling with great violence on the flagstones, and sustaining such injuries as necessitated his immediate removal on a shutter to the Charing cross Hospital. In a very few minutes afterwards, and before the arrival of either the engines or the fire escape, all those previously seen at the windows had disappeared, and their terrible fate was too apparent. When the Wells street and other engines came they were soon got to work, and the fire was very shortly subdued, leaving the ground floor untouched and a large portion of the first and second floor staircases standing. At eight o'clock an examination of the upper rooms was made under the direction of Paul Giraud, of the Wells street brigade station, when the full extent of the calamity was at once apparent. In the second floor front room, and near the window from which Puzzi precipitated himself, were found the half-charred remains of his unfortunate wife and three children, the youngest only two years of age. In the back attic the bodies of the journeyman tailor and his wife, and of the old woman who had occupied the front attic, were found lying in a heap, as if they had fallen down and died together. The remains of all the deceased persons were gathered up

as carefully as possible, and a number of shells having been procured, they were conveyed to St Ann's dead-house, to await the coroner's inquest. The occupants of the upper floors were in very poor circumstances, and have mostly been in receipt of parochial relief during the winter. During Wednesday morning Mr Giraud, the engineer, left in charge of the ruins, together with the brigadesmen under him, made a searching inquiry, for the purpose of ascertaining how and in what part of the building the fire commenced. The result of that inquiry was as follows:—Mr Arthur, house decorator and grainer, who occupied the first floor, stated that he was awake by the servant, who slept along with her daughter on the same floor, but nearest the street, by hearing her clapping her hands, and crying "murder" and "fire." He got out of bed, and found the room so full of smoke that he could scarcely breathe. He, however, shook his wife for some time, and at last succeeded in awaking her. Owing to the confusion they were both in, neither of them were able to unlock the room door. Mr Arthur, therefore, was obliged to force it, when on entering the front room he found an exceedingly small portion of a wooden cornice, immediately over a cupboard running from the floor to the ceiling, in flames. So dense, however, was the smoke that neither he nor his wife had time to collect a single article of wearing-apparel, and they were obliged to rush into the street in their night dresses. Mr Arthur is of opinion, from the fact of Mr Puzzi's children sleeping on the floor over his loose shavings and straw, and his not returning home until half-past three o'clock on the morning of the fire, that he had probably struck a match to light a candle before going to bed, and by that means had dropped a spark amongst the straw, which had smouldered for some time, and eventually had broken out into flame. He also stated that Hannah Dady, his servant, on discovering the fire ran upstairs in her night dress to Mr Puzzi's floor, when on entering she found the room in flames. She cried out "Murder and fire," but was unable to awake him for some time, and when she at length succeeded he jumped out of bed, said nothing, but opened the window, and without attempting to arouse his wife and family, leaped out and met with the serious accident of which he is still suffering, and which it is feared will cost him his life. After that the woman had time to return to her room on the first floor and save her boots and two or three articles of wearing-apparel. She is therefore of the same opinion as her master, that the fire commenced in Mr Puzzi's apartments. Giraud, on the other hand, entertains quite a contrary opinion, for as fire always ascends, and from the examination he has made, he has no doubt that the fire began in or near the cupboard in Mr Arthur's front room. It is an extraordinary fact that the fire took place within a few yards of the engine-house connected with St Ann's parish—so near, indeed, that Spendlow, the engineer, an old experienced fireman, could, had necessity have required it, set the engine to work from a pump in front of his engine-house, and thereby have confined the fire to whatever part of the house was then on fire. Strange to say, about twelve months ago Spendlow received orders in writing that he was not again to take his engine out to any fire that might occur in the parish. The official report states that the upper part of the house, from the second floor, is destroyed, and the contents consumed, eight persons burnt to death, and the lower part of the house damaged by water.

WRECK OF THE 'TAYLOR.'—The 'Wakefield Journal' publishes the narrative of one of the passengers, Mr B. Tew, jun. son of a banker in that town. Mr Tew says—"Just as I came on deck a lady came up to me and asked if I could swim. I told her I could. (She was the same lady who afterwards offered 3,000l. for her life.) She said she would keep near me; she, however, went away. I had been actively engaged from the time we first saw land. I had had no time to be frightened. I was one of the few who kept my senses to the last. I went to the side of the vessel furthest from the shore. I sat down for about half a minute, and made up my mind to swim in rather a different direction in order to avoid the dead bodies. I then dropped quietly down a chain into the water, and had not swam above a couple of yards when I saw a boy about ten years old clinging to a piece of wood. I immediately made to him; he was crying and told me his mother was drowned. He said it was no use my trying to save him, for he should be drowned. However, I was determined to try, and accordingly took him by the collar and placed him on the top of a large spar, and made him take hold of a piece of iron which was standing out. I still had hold of his collar with my right hand, and kept the broken pieces of wood and spars off with my left hand. It was then that I experienced difficulties which required almost superhuman efforts to overcome. A heavy sea was rolling over us every moment, large spars threatening to crush us and almost perpendicular rocks, as black as death, staring us in the face. Well, I was determined not to have our heads dashed against the rocks, as had been the fate of so many of my fellow passengers. As we neared the rocks the boy was washed off the spar, but I still had hold of him. I put out my hand to save our heads and received a cut in the hand, but I felt the land, and told the boy we were saved. But not so, for we were washed back again. I made to land a second time, and was washed back again. I tried a third time, and was treated in the same way. I was making towards the rock a fourth time, determined to save the lad or die with him, when a spar struck him on the right side of his head—the side I had no control over—and entered his skull; it knocked me under at the same time, but I rose again, and a rope was thrown to me, which I twisted round my arm twenty times at least, and with the assistance of a sailor clambered up the rock. I just got there in time to see the whole ship go down. I found the captain had arrived before me. He had swam ashore, and the two passengers who assisted him out of the water were both washed back again into the sea and drowned. The captain said he could feel the dead bodies with his feet as he swam. Several other people were washed back into the sea in the attempt to save life. One Frenchman saved a child in the following manner:—He had undressed to the shirt, intending to swim, but, seeing so many die in the attempt, he chose rather to try the rope, but just as he was getting on to the rope, he saw a child sprawling upon the deck. He snatched it up, took hold of its back with his teeth, and carried it safely to shore. The child is unowned. I believe I was the last man who left the ship, and the last that arrived safely on shore. There were only two persons who saved themselves by swimming besides myself, the captain and a passenger sailor. You would see some limping with their legs sprained; one man had a broken arm, another man had only a shirt on, and another had only got on a pair of trousers, while others were without shoes or stockings. One man had lost six sisters, four brothers, and a mother; a German had lost a whole family. Another man told me he had lost his brother, his brother's wife, her three sisters, and four children; others had lost their wives and children. The loss of property was immense, and no one seemed to have insured. One man told me he had about 750l. worth of goods on board; they were not insured, but he had insured his life for 1,000l. The night was dreadful; we were almost starving; many of us were nearly naked and wet through. We had straw next to us to lie down upon. In this state we passed the night. The next day was as bad as the day before. When we went to the wreck we found bodies piled over each other, all naked and mangled in such a manner that no one could tell who they were. I helped some of the sailors down the rocks by a rope which was fastened round my waist. I then sat down and fixed my feet against a projecting piece of rock. In this way I could have supported a bullock, and of course the rope could not slip from my hold. I was obliged to remain in this way for an hour, every one declining to take my post; but one man was good enough to cover my feet with suds to keep the cold off. There was only one lady brought up the cliff she was naked all but her stays, and had two diamond rings on her fingers. I was told about two hours after that some inhuman monster cut her fingers off for the rings."

THE FUNDS.

MONDAY.—The closing price of Consols was 92½ to 92¾. The Reduced Three per Cent. were done at 92½ to 93½; New Three-and-a-Quarter per Cent., at 94 to 94½; Bank Stock closed at 215 to 217; India Stock, 251; and Exchequer-bills, 15s. to 16s. premium.

TUESDAY.—Consols opened at 92½, and closed at 91½ to 91¾. New Three-and-a-Quarter per Cent. opened at 93½, and closed at about 93; Bank Stock closed 215 to 217; India Bonds, 2s. to 6s. premium; and India Stock, 250 to 253.

WEDNESDAY.—Consols were first quoted at 91½ to 92½, and closed at 91½ to 91¾. The Reduced Three per Cent. were first done at 92½; and afterwards at 92½; New Three-and-a-Quarter per Cent., at 93½ down to 93; Bank Stock closed at 215 to 217; India Bonds, 7s. to 10s. premium; and Exchequer-bills, 17s. to 20s. premium.

THURSDAY.—Consols opened at 91½ to 91¾, and closed at 91½ to 92. The Reduced Three per Cent. were done at 92½ to 92¾; and the New Three-and-a-Quarter per Cent., at 93½ to 93¾; India Bonds, 7s. to 10s. premium; and Exchequer-bills, at 17s. to 20s. premium.

FRIDAY.—Consols opened at 92½ to 92¾, and were last operated in at 91½ to 91¾. The Reduced Three per Cent. were dealt in at 92½ to 92¾, and last at 92; New Three-and-a-Quarter per Cent. at from 93½ up to 94; India Bonds, 6s. to 10s.; and Exchequer-bills were operated in at 17s. to 20s. premium.

SATURDAY MORNING, ELEVEN O'CLOCK.

Table with columns: BRITISH, Price, FOREIGN, Price. Lists various financial instruments like Consols, Do. Account, 3 per Cent. Reduced, etc.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

An Account, pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th Victoria, cap. 32, for the week ending on Saturday, the 4th day of Feb. 1854.

Table with columns: ISSUED DEPARTMENT, £, PAID DEPARTMENT, £. Lists Government Debt, Other Securities, Gold Coin and Bullion, Silver Bullion.

Feb. 9, 1854. M. MARSHALL, Chief Cashier.

Table with columns: BANKING DEPARTMENT, £. Lists Proprietors' Capital, Rest, Public Deposits, Exchequer, Savings Banks, etc.

Feb. 9, 1854. M. MARSHALL, Chief Cashier.

RAILWAYS AND PUBLIC COMPANIES.

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

Large table with columns: SHARES OF, RAILWAYS, PAID, CLOSING PRICES. Lists various railway and public company shares like Blackwall, Brighton, Bristol and Exeter, etc.

Trade and Commerce.

Smithfield Market, MONDAY.—The arrival of cattle and sheep from the Continent into the port of London during the past week has been moderate. The official Custom-house return gives an entry of 376 oxen, 196 cows, 311 calves, 97 pigs, and 1,000 sheep, making a total of 2,010 head.

FRIDAY.—The trade was good to-day at Smithfield for all descriptions of meat at a slight advance in prices.

Table with columns: Prices per Stone, At Market. Lists Beef, Mutton, Veal, Pork, Lamb, Beans, Sheep, Calves, Pigs.

Corn Market.—MONDAY.—A moderate supply of English wheat, in bad condition, was only saleable at a decline of 2s. to 3s. per quarter. Foreign wheat was in limited request at 1s. reduction. Barrel flour was 6d. to 1s. cheaper.

Table with columns: Wheat, English, Foreign, Barley, Oats, Irish, Foreign, Beans, English, Foreign, Tares, Canary Seed, Flour, English, Foreign.

FRIDAY.—Wheat: Arrivals very short here, but a good many cargoes are reported at Cork and Falmouth. We have speculative buyers at about 5s. below the top price, and could not have got more on Monday. Barley: Large supplies of home growth, market very slow, and 1s. to 2s. lower than Monday. Oats: Very short supplies, but trade still dull. Flour: Barrels large supply and 1s. lower. Norfolk Households have been bought at 5s.

IMPORTATIONS.

Into London from Feb. 5 to Feb. 9, both inclusive.

Table with columns: Wheat, Barley, Oats, Malt, Flour. Lists quantities in Qrs and Sacks.

FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE.

Tuesday, February 7.

War-office, February 7.—17th Light Dragoons: Major-General Sir J. M. Wallace to be Colonel, vice Major-General T. W. Taylor, G.B., deceased—16th Regiment of Foot: Major-General T. E. Napier, G.B., to be Colonel, vice General W. Carr, Viscount Beresford, G.C.B., deceased—60th Foot: Lieutenant-General Viscount Gough, G.C.B., to be Colonel-in-Chief, vice General Viscount Beresford, G.C.B., deceased.

Office of Ordnance, February 6.—Royal Regiment of Artillery: Brevet Colonel W. Brereton to be Colonel, vice G. Brown, deceased; Cap'n J. McCoy to be Lieutenant-Colonel, vice Brereton; Second Captain H. Clerk to be Captain, vice McCoy; First Lieutenant G. S. Robertson to be Second Captain, vice Clerk; Second Lieutenant E. Keate to be First Lieutenant, vice Robertson.

Bankrupts.—T. J. Burton, B. J. Gabby, and F. R. Cruchley, Wigmore street, Cavendish square, church furnishers. [Smith.—J. Crofts, Thredneedle street, mine sharer. [Wyatt, Furnish buildings.—W. Grand, Lower Tottenham, builder. [Wright and Bonner, London street, Fenchurch street.—E. Belding, Speen, Berkshire, builder. [Rickards and Walker, Lincoln's-inn fields.—H. E. Ticknell, Mark lane, and Roydon, Essex, brewer. [Ashurst and Sons, Old Jewry.—J. A. Homes, High street, Southwark, and Portland cottages, Hatcham, wood-lender. [Lawrence, Plew, and Boyer, Old Jewry chambers.—G. S. Amstutz, Frederick street, Hampstead road, common brewer. [Piercy and Hawks, Three Crown square, Southwark.—T. Turner, Eokington, Derbyshire, grocer. [Fernald, Sheffield.

Friday, February 10.

War-office, February 10.—10th Regiment of Light Dragoons: Major G. A. Wilkie to be Lieut-Col. by purchase, vice Tritton, who retires; Capt. Lord J. A. Beauclerk to be Major, by purchase, vice Wilkie; Lieut. J. W. Clarke to be Capt. by purchase, vice Beauclerk; Cornet J. A. Clark to be Lieut. by purchase, vice Clarke—4th Regiment of Foot: Lieut. W. T. Arnold to be Capt. by purchase, vice Stewart, who retires; Ensign S. Winter, from the 59th Foot, to be Ensign, 47th Foot; Ensign the Hon. B. M. Ward to be Lieut. by purchase, vice Estwick, who retires; E. Croker, Gent. to be Ensign, by purchase, vice Ward—50th Foot: F. G. Noot, Gent. to be Assist-Surgeon, vice J. C. Purves, M.D., who resigns—53rd Foot: A. K. French, Gent. to be Ensign, by purchase, vice Brock, appointed to the 95th Foot—54th Foot: W. A. Galbreith, Gent. to be Ensign, by purchase, vice Ord, appointed to the 86th Foot—59th Foot: A. B. Westwood, Gent. to be Ensign, by purchase, vice Winter, appointed to the 4th Foot—71st Foot: Lieut. W. S. Prince to be Capt. by purchase, vice Scott, who retires; Ensign E. Mirhouse to be Lieut. by purchase, vice Prince; G. Eddie, Gent. to be Ensign, by purchase, vice Mirhouse—76th Foot: Ensign W. M. Westropp to be Lieut. by purchase, vice Poole, deceased; Ensign G. H. J. Heigman to be Lieut. by purchase, vice Westropp, whose promotion by purchase on the 20th January 1854, has been cancelled; Gentleman Cadet G. H. Best, from the Royal Military College, to be Ensign, without purchase, vice Westropp—83rd Foot: Ensign W. Fitzroy to be Lieut. by purchase, vice Richardson, who retires; Ensign G. Myne, from the 95th Foot, to be Ensign, vice Fitzroy—86th Foot: Ensign R. E. Henry to be Lieut. by purchase, vice E. B. Weaver, who retires; Ensign A. R. Ord, from the 5th Foot, to be Ensign, vice Henry—91st Foot: Ensign T. T. Lane to be Lieut. by purchase, vice Borwick, who retires; G. B. Blackall, Gent. to be Ensign, by purchase, vice Lane—95th Foot: Ensign J. H. L. Brooke, from the 54d Foot, to be Ensign, vice Myne, appointed to the 83rd Foot—2nd West India Regiment: Lieut. C. J. Patterson to be Capt. by purchase, vice Fraser, who retires; D. B. Davy, Gent. to be Ensign, by purchase, vice Waldron, promoted.

HOSPITAL STAFF.—J. J. Adrien, Gent. to be Assistant-Surgeon to the Forces, vice Stewart, appointed to the 98th Foot.

ERRATA in printing the 'Gazette' of the 3rd Instant.—Gold Coast Corps: For George "Clarke," Gent. to be Ensign, without purchase, vice Deane, read George "Clarke," Gent. to be Ensign, &c.

REVER.—For Capt. J. G. Holmes, of the "49th Regiment of Bengal Native Infantry," to have the rank of Major in the Army in the East Indies, read Capt. J. G. Holmes of the "59th Regiment of Bengal Native Infantry," &c.

Office of Ordnance, February 9.—ROYAL REGIMENT OF ARTILLERY.—Second Capt. F. B. Ward to be Capt. vice Marston, deceased; First Lieut. D. E. Hoste to be Second Capt. vice Ward; Second Lieut. T. W. Blackston to be First Lieut. vice Hoste.

MEMORANDUM.—The date of promotion of the undermentioned officers has been altered as follows, viz.:—Capt. A. Thompson, Second Capt. A. Dew, and First Lieut. R. C. Longley, 11th January, 1854; and Capt. H. Clerk, Second Capt. C. S. Robertson, and First Lieut. E. Keate, 12th January, 1854.

Bankruptcy Annulled.—February 1, J. S. Gorely, Ewell, Surrey, brick-maker.

Bankrupts.—G. Coode, Victoria street, Westminster, patent irrigator manufacturer. [Hill and Mathews, Bury court, St. Mary Axe.—W. T. Ashford, Church street, Lambeth, lithographic printer. [Moss, Moorgate street, City. Cox, Bridgefield Villa, Wandsworth, builder. [Wilson, Gresham street.—J. Carter, Gloucester, scrivener. [Bevan and Girling, Bristol.—R. G. Diamond, Newton Abbott, Devonshire, stationer. [Stogdon, Exeter.—R. Hammond, Ripon, builder. [Hindle, Ripon.—J. R. Gibson, Waterloo, near Liverpool, innkeeper. [Hinde, Liverpool.—J. Ellis, Ardwick, near Manchester, builder. [Blair, Manchester.—T. Worley, Macclesfield, Chester, clock maker. [Sole and Turner, Aldermanbury.

Births.—On the 5th inst., the Marchioness of Omundeville, of a daughter.—On the 3rd inst., at 81 Eaton square, the Countess de Oremelis, of a son.—On the 6th inst., Viscountess Brackley, of a son.—On the 5th inst. at Berry Hill, Notts, Lady Walker, of a daughter.

Marriages.—On the 9th of December, at St Andrew's Church, Singapore, by the Rev. C. J. Quartley, John Skinner, Esq., of the Oriental Bank Corporation, to Elizabeth, only child of the late Charles Gold, Esq., London, step-daughter of John Mitchell, Esq., of Abbey place, St John's wood.—On the 2nd inst., at St James's, London, Count Anthony L. de Brzezanski, to Anne, relict of the late William Case, Esq.

Deaths.—On the 2nd ult., aged 81, Mrs. Todd, of Kensal green.—On the 4th inst., at Northfleet, in her 82nd year, Mrs. Millett.—On the 4th inst., in her 83rd year, Mrs. Moore, of Maida hill.—On the 3rd inst., at Edinburgh, P. Irvine, Esq., of Inverness, in his 81st year.—On the 31st ult., at Windsor, Mrs. Barnard, in her 80th year.—On the 4th inst., at Sudley, near Liverpool, in his 85th year, N. Robinson, Esq.—On the 6th inst., at Stoke Newington, in his 81st year, W. Dudley, Esq.—On the 6th inst., Capt. J. J. Enoch, late of the 50th Regiment.—On the 6th inst., at No. 7 Gloucester place, Hyde-park gardens, in her 88th year, Margaret, widow of G. Brown, Esq.

TO NERVOUS SUFFERERS.
A RETIRED CLERGYMAN having been restored to health in a few days, after many years of great nervous suffering, is anxious to communicate to others the means of cure; will, therefore, send (free), on receiving a Stamped Envelope properly addressed, a Copy of the Prescription used.
 Direct—The Rev. E. DOUGLASS, 18 Holland street, Drixton, London.

GRADUATES of the UNIVERSITIES
 and Proprietors of Schools who are desirous of becoming CANDIDATES to fill the remaining vacancies as Corresponding Directors of the Society, will be furnished with the particulars of the remuneration and duties on application, addressed to the Head Office, 18 Basinghall street, London.

English and Irish Church and
 University Assurance Office,
 Secretary,
 January 23, 1854.

QUALITY THE TEST OF CHEAPNESS.
 BERBODE'S LIGHT OVERCOATS and CAPES resist any amount of rain. One of the largest Stocks in London of Superior Garments, at lowest charges. First Class DRESS COATS, 32 ROYAL SUIT, 11d. per inch, according to height.
 96 NEW BOND STREET, and 69 CORNHILL (nowhere else).

ANNUAL SALE.—ALLISON and CO.
 238, 240, and 242 Regent street, beg to call the attention of Ladies to their ANNUAL SALE OF SUMMER and AUTUMN STOCK of last season, the whole of which has been greatly reduced in price to effect an immediate clearance. The advancing price of New Goods, and the probability of its continuance, renders an early inspection very desirable.—Regent House, Allison and Co., 238, 240, and 242 Regent street.

MELCHI and CO'S CASTELLATED TOOTH BRUSHES. 4 LEADENHALL STREET, LONDON.
 Price 6d. and 9d. each; in Ivory, 2s.
 MELCHI is the sole and original inventor of this article. All imitations without his name are spurious. Nail, Hair, Hat, and Cloth Brushes in great variety, wholesale and for shipping; Russia Brush Cases, Naples and Windsor Soap, and everything for the Toilet and Dressing Case; Ivory Hair Brushes and Shell Dressing Combs, elegant or plain.

METCALFE and CO'S NEW PATTERN TOOTH-BRUSH and PENETRATING HAIR-BRUSHES. and SMYRNA SPONGES.—The Tooth-brush performs the highly-important office of searching thoroughly into the divisions and cleansing in the most extraordinary manner; hairs never come loose. Smootherly penetrating Hair-brushes, with durable unbleached Russia Hairs, which will not soften like common hair. Improved Clothes-brush, that cleans harmlessly in one-third the usual time. The new Velvet Brush; and immense stock of genuine unbleached Smyrna Sponges, with every description of British and Foreign Perfumery, at METCALFE, RINGLEY, and CO.'s only establishment, 130a and 131, Oxford street, second and third doors west from Holles street. Caution—Beware of the ward "from Metcalfe's, adopted by some houses.—Metcalfe's Alkaline Tooth Powder, 2s. per box.

SLACK'S NICKEL SILVER is acknowledged to be the purest metal in existence, at one-twelfth the price of silver, made into every article for the table, as cruet-frames, tea-pots, candlesticks, &c.—
 Fiddle Strongest Thread King's Pattern
 Table Spoons and Forks, per dozen ... 2s. and 15s. ... 2s. 30s.
 Dessert do. do. 10s. and 15s. ... 21s. 25s.
 Tea Spoons do. do. 6s. and 6s. ... 11s. 12s.
 A sample tea-spoon sent free, on receipt of ten postage-stamps. Slack's Table Cutlery has been carefully examined by a century for quality and cheapness, every article warranted.
 RICHARD and JOHN SLACK also solicit an inspection of their extensive Stock of Paper and Japan Tea-trays, Palmer's Candle Lamps, Dish Covers, as well as every article in Furnishing Ironmongery; every article marked in plain figures, at such prices that will fully convince purchasers of the advantages of their establishment. A most elegant assortment of Broomed Featherers, at prices that defy competition. Their Catalogue of Drawings and Prices may be had gratis, or sent post-free. Orders above 2l. sent carriage-free, per rail, within 200 miles.
 RICHARD and JOHN SLACK, 336 STRAND (Opposite Somerset House).

T. COX SAVORY and CO. 54 Cornhill
 London, invites attention to the elegant and extensive variety of FLAT HORIZONTAL WATCHES, received from Switzerland, in gold and silver cases; the high finish and accuracy of the work ensuring durability and correct performance. Every Watch is accompanied by a written guarantee.
 SILVER WATCHES.
 Horizontal Watch, very flat, in engine-turned silver case with neat enamel dial; the movement jewelled in four holes, and having maintaining power to continue going whilst being wound ... £2 15 0
 Ditto, with double-backed engraved or engine-turned case, and enamel or richly-ornamented silver dial ... 3 10 0
GOLD WATCHES.—Six rows Latin.
 Horizontal Watch, very flat, in richly-chased and engraved gold case, with handsome gilt dial, the movement with maintaining power, and jewelled in four holes ... 6 15 0
 Ditto, ditto, with elegant gold dial ... 7 12 0
 Ditto, with extra strong case ... 7 9 0
PARIS OR FLEUVE CLOCKS, to strike the hours and half-hours, and perform fifty days, warranted. The Stock includes a large variety of designs, emblematic of historical, classical, and other subjects. The following have been generally admired:—

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La Vandanaise	... 6 3 0	... 5 3 0	... 4 3 0
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An Illustrated Price List may be had gratis, or will be sent, post free, on application.—T. COX SAVORY and CO. Watch and Clockmakers, 54 Cornhill, London.

EUROPEAN COURTS.
 Endless embassies and fruitless negotiations have occupied the Courts of Europe for sometime. Whether the constellation of the Great Bear is an unlucky one, we must leave for the consideration of all observers; but the momentous policy has been pursued by the patrons of the Establishment of E. Moss and Son, who have negotiated affairs of Dress on a scale of unprecedented magnificence and economy.
 The war of elements is totally subdued by the attire manufactured by E. Moss and Son, and all the advantages of a complete victory are secured by an artistic fit which combines fashion and comfort.
 As ambassadors to the Court of Fashion, E. Moss and Son are the most successful negotiators which the commercial world ever acknowledged. They have produced Styles of Dress which have gained them a national reputation. Their present facilities for executing the commands of Noblemen, Merchants, Men of Business, Labourers, and all other sections of society, possess an indescribable amplitude, associated with superior quality, infinite variety, and the most economical charge.
 Liveries, Sporting-dress, Military and Naval Costumes, are made by E. Moss and Son, with the greatest uniformity and precision.
 Hats, Caps, Boots and Shoes, Hosiery, Shirts, Ladies' and Children's Clothing, of the most elegant and serviceable kind, is furnished by E. Moss and Son at considerably lower prices than are customarily charged.
 The Wholesale Department of E. Moss and Son's business is highly advantageous to Merchants, Captains, and Emigrants; their Clothing, Boots and Shoes, Outfits, &c. &c. are the best shipments which can be made to Australia, or any part of the world.
 Full Lists of Outfits for Ladies and Gentlemen, with Shipping information, may be had on application, or post free.

CAUTION.—E. Moss and Son regret having to guard the Public against imposition, having learned that the unscrupulous falsehood of "being connected with their Establishment," or "It's the same concern," has been resorted to in many instances, and for obvious reasons. They beg to state they have no connection with any other house, in or out of London, except their own Establishments, as follows:

- London City Establishment (154, 155, 156, & 157, Minories; 83, 84, 85 & 86, Aldgate opposite the Church); all communicating.
- London West End Branch (506, 507, & 508, New Oxford street; 1, 2, and 3, Hart street, all communicating).
- Reading (Yorkshire) Branch, 19 and 20 Bridge street.
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IMPORTANT.—Should any article not give satisfaction, it will be exchanged (if desired); or, if preferred, the money will be returned without hesitation. All goods are marked in plain figures the lowest price, from which no abatement can be made.
 The Establishments are closed from sunset on Fridays till sunset on Saturdays, when business is resumed till Twelve o'clock.
 A New Book, "The Epitome of Comfort and Economy," containing full lists of prices, our system of self-measurement, &c. &c. may be had on application, or post free.
 A handsome Almanack for the year ending 1854 can be had (gratis) on application.
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