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The Political Economist.

FRENCH FLOUR AND ENGLISH MILLERS.

On Tuesday the Earl of Desart called the attention of the House of Lords to the large importations of flour which have taken place during the last two years; the consequence of which has been a suspension to some extent of the mill power in this country, but especially in Ireland. In some respects, however, Ireland is differently circumstanced from other parts of the United Kingdom. In the first place, the Irish millers have never depended wholly upon wheat grown in the country; but have always imported from England, and sometimes from foreign countries, a considerable portion of the wheat which they made into flour. Again, they have never depended wholly upon Ireland for their market, but have exported a large portion of it to different parts of England, where it has enjoyed a considerable reputation for quality. In the present year the small crop and the bad quality of wheat in Ireland makes the miller more than ever dependent upon extraneous supplies. And no doubt the cost, first of importing wheat, and next of sending their flour to Liverpool or other parts of England, places them in a very disadvantageous position in the competition which they have to sustain against English millers more favourably circumstanced, and against foreign flour. We admit that we see some difficulty which flour mills will have to encounter, placed in the centre of a country far from any port, without a local supply of wheat, and dependent for the consumption of their flour on a distant market.

But with regard to the importation of flour, and especially from France, the greatest errors seem to prevail. The quantity imported has no doubt been very large—so large, we readily admit, as naturally to have secured easy credence to the errors which are now so industriously circulated, with a view of showing that these exportations from France, though new, are caused by circumstances in connection with our laws which will be permanent.

The first error is this:—It is said that the North and East of France always produce a great surplus. That hitherto, before our market was open, this surplus was conveyed by coasting vessels to the South of France, where there is habitually a deficiency of wheat; but, that since the repeal of our Corn Laws,

the growers in the North and East of France have found it more profitable to ship their wheat and flour to England, the voyage being shorter, than sending it to the South of France by a longer coasting voyage; and that the South of France derives its supplies from the Black Sea, through the ports in the Mediterranean. Now, no doubt this would be so far a reasonable solution of the question were the importation of wheat into France free of duty. But it is altogether forgotten, or overlooked, that the protective duty is so high at the present prices as to be altogether prohibitory. At the present moment, the import duty upon foreign wheat into the South of France is about 35s a quarter, while the average price of the whole kingdom does not exceed 31s to 32s. It is quite plain, therefore, that no foreign wheat can be imported for home consumption. It is equally plain that the wheat-growers and millers of the North and East of France would not select the English market in preference to that of the South of France, merely because the freight was a little less, when they could command in their own country a market protected by a duty of 35s a quarter against foreign wheat, and when, if they come to this country, they must compete on equal terms with Odessa and the United States.

Another way of explaining this unexpected phenomena, is that the South of France is permitted to take in, free of any duty, as much wheat as is the equivalent of any French flour or wheat exported from the North or other parts. This also is entirely an error. The different portions of France are as jealous of being protected as France is as a whole. France, for the objects of protection to corn, is divided into four classes. The 1st class is the middle of France, and has the greatest protection; the 2nd class is the South and South-East, and stands next in the scale of protection; the 3rd class is the East, the North, and part of the West; and the 4th or least protected class is the North-East and part of the West. Thus, consistently with the absurdity of the Protective principle, wherever wheat is scarcest and least grown, and where a deficiency always exists, the protection is highest, to enable the inferior soils to grow wheat.

Now, it is quite true, that, according to the French law, the millers are permitted to import foreign wheat free of duty, on giving bond that, within a given period, the flour made from it shall be re-exported, or the duty paid. This is an old law that has existed since 1820, with various modifications, the last of which were enacted last year. The jealousy of the French agriculturists has induced the Government to take the most stringent security against any abuse of this privilege. And one of the first regulations is, that the flour shall be re-exported from a port in the same class of country into which the wheat is imported. There is, therefore, no chance of flour being exported from Dunkirk, as the equivalent of wheat imported into Marseilles, as has been supposed.

Nor does it appear that a very large proportion of the flour exported from France has been manufactured from foreign wheat in bond under the law we have described. The accounts are kept separate. The following is from the official returns:—

	Flour exported from France.	
	Of French Wheat.	Of Foreign Wheat.
	q. met.	q. met.
1847	72,639	185,823
4848	487,614	135,829
1849	709,310	212,699
1850—11 months	512,708	175,900

It is plain, therefore, that the great bulk of the importations of French flour have been the produce of French wheat.

But there is still in these accounts an evidence that the French millers have some advantages over the English millers, or they could not afford to import wheat and send the flour to this market; for it is quite clear that the expense of importation, of giving the needful bonds, of unshipping and shipping, and other charges attendant upon such a closely-watched and regulated manufacture, must be much greater than would attach to the same wheat brought direct to this country and manufactured here. Indeed, it is generally admitted that the French millers are superior to the English, not perhaps in their machinery so much as in their mode of ma-

agement. We have much testimony to show that the quality of the French flour is superior to that of the English. This, however, we are satisfied will prove but a temporary advantage. We already hear of great improvements as the consequence of this competition.

There is, moreover, one great advantage to which Lord Grey adverted in the short debate in the House of Lords, which our large steam flour mills have in England over those in Paris and Rouen, which chiefly supply this market. Our steam coal is much cheaper; to say nothing of our great superiority in mechanical skill, and the greater cheapness of iron and of everything made from it. The French Government is not only sufficiently suicidal to place a high duty on all foreign coals, but upon English coal, best adapted for steam purposes, and most accessible by cheap sea carriage, they go even further, and place a differential duty upon it, as compared with the inferior inland coal of Belgium. These facts alone, were there none other, must ultimately decide the struggle in favour of the English miller. There may be some niceties in the management which he has yet to learn; but with the present competition he will soon acquire them, and we have no doubt will easily regain the trade he appears now to have lost.

PLAYING WITH PRINCIPLES.

REACTION IN RETALIATION.

"SAVE us from our friends." The occupation of the Protectionists is gone. Mr Disraeli and Mr Banks have only to sit with folded arms while the gentlemen opposite do their work. The Free Traders say to the Protectionists, "Shut your eyes and open your mouths, and see what Free Trade will send you. We will save you all the trouble of making your motions—of attacking our principles—and of defending *your own*. Give us but your votes against ourselves, and we forgive you everything else." Disinterested legislators! Incomparable chivalry! As if sufficient confusion did not already exist in the *parties* and the *personnel* of the House of Commons, that confusion is to be still further confused by a Babel of principles. Like the men of old engaged in rearing that famous tower, no man can understand his neighbour. "Exceptional cases." Of course every departure from principle is an "exceptional case." No sin was ever committed that had not some immediate necessity or powerful inducement to palliate it. They are all "exceptional." No man is hardy enough to admit wrong as his *rule*. The Corn Laws were "exceptional," because the land maintained directly and indirectly all the labourers and all the paupers. The Sugar Monopoly was "exceptional," because at any cost we had to suppress slavery and elevate free labour. The Navigation Laws, above all, were "exceptional," because our commercial marine was the nursery of our seamen, and our navy the only bulwark of the nation. It is as old as the hills that every man was a Free Trader, with "one exception": but as the Mussulmen dispute, according to their various tastes, which particular "joint of pork" the prophet intended to prohibit, "till bit by bit the hog is swallowed"; so this "one-exception" system of Free Trade landed the country in universal protection and restriction.

The last dexterous feat performed by "exceptional" Free Traders, or, looking to the individuals who appeared upon the stage on the occasion, we should rather say, of unexceptional Free Traders looking abroad for an *exception*, was on Thursday night. We have too much regard for these usually good Free Traders to disclose their names, as we hope the one unsuccessful desertion will be a warning against such mischievous frolics in future. As in those establishments near Paris where names are inconvenient (not to the bearers of them so much as to their nearest connections), the innocents are known by numbers, so we shall, from motives of delicacy, call the mover of the resolution No. 1, and the seconder No. 2. Well, No. 1 and No. 2 were among the most chivalrous supporters of the repeal of the Navigation Laws. It was in vain that they were told that some other countries were not so liberal—that it was even doubtful if they would ever become so. Nay, some ventured even to hint it was quite possible that our concessions, unconditionally made, would only encourage such countries to adopt a more restrictive policy; while those who had even the greatest faith in the progress of the principles, expected only to see our policy followed slowly:—to these gentlemen such warnings were all in vain. Strong in their principles, they brushed them all away as so many cobwebs—as so much rubbish, that entangled a great and a clear principle. They poo-hooped Mr Gladstone and Mr Bonverie when they talked of reciprocity. They gallantly followed the Minister into the new lobby, proclaiming that an English Legislature should legislate for the English people, and not for the Spanish or the French; that if other people would lash themselves, that was no reason why we should follow their example. They were for "fighting hostile tariffs with Free Trade;" and least of all were they disposed to allow England "to cut off her nose, by way of spiting her own face"—to cripple her own commerce, by way of giving a lesson to others.

What is the cause now of this new-born zeal? They discover that Spain is illiberal to British ships and unjust to her own

people. But this is nothing new. But then Spain still holds on to an old policy while we have relinquished it. Our Navigation Laws have been repealed just fifteen months, after they had existed upwards of two centuries; and even that reform was carried in one branch of the Legislature by a majority of only *ten*. But these gentlemen are indignant that all other countries have not already followed our example, but especially that Spain, the last country that was expected to adopt liberal principles, has not already copied us. But has even Spain done nothing? Since our Navigation Laws were repealed she has revised her tariff, and has reduced her differential duties from an average of 33 per cent. to 20 per cent. But it seems that as England for so many years thought it high policy that her people should eat dear bread and dear sugar, Spain has some such notion with regard to *salt-fish*. The penance of Lent she thinks right to aggravate by the penance of dear cod. As we place a high duty on sugar, the Spanish Government places a high duty on fish. As for the purpose of protecting our colonies, we till very lately entirely excluded (practically) the sugar of Havana, and still admit our own at a much lower duty; so the Spaniards, for the purpose of protecting their shipping, give the shipowners a great boon at the cost of the community of Spain, by relinquishing a large portion of the duty on fish brought in their own ships. The price of fish to the people is the same whether carried in an English or a Spanish ship; but the difference is, that in the case of an English ship all the duty that enhances the price flows into the Exchequer; while in the case of the Spanish ship, part only goes into the Exchequer, while the remainder goes in the shape of higher freight to bolster up the worst mercantile marine in Europe. But that is their business—not ours. And is it wise for people, who have hardly yet exchanged a glass-house for one of more substantial materials, to throw stones? The consumer in England pays the same price for the sugar of Cuba and that of Jamaica. In the case of Cuban sugar, all the duty flows into the Exchequer. In the case of Jamaica sugar, part of it is remitted for the benefit of the planter. When the Spaniards complained, we said, "That is our business—not yours."

But are the Spanish restrictions as prejudicial to the British producers as the British restrictions to the Spanish producers? Nothing of the kind. Indeed, so far as the Spanish restrictions go, they can have very little effect on the British curers of fish. It is not at them that they are levied. Our shipowners may complain, but not so much our fish-curers. In the case of Cuba, we give a great preference to our own colonies on their sugar, however it reaches the country. In the case of Newfoundland and Orkney, their fish may go in any quantity, and at the lowest duty, if only sent in Spanish ships. True, it is said, but the high duty, if sent by British ships, and the high freight, if sent by Spanish ships, raises the price and diminishes the consumption. But suppose the inequality of the duty on the ships were removed, by raising the Spanish rate to the English rate, the cause of our complaint would entirely vanish; but the Spanish fish-eater and the British fish-taker would be exactly where they are. The only difference would be, that the portion of duty which at present practically goes into the pocket of the Spanish shipowner, would then flow into the Spanish treasury. The price of fish in Spain would be the same, the demand would be as much restricted, and we should not have a word of complaint to utter against the Spanish Government on behalf of the Newfoundland or the Orkney fishermen.

But the most remarkable part of this feat is the way in which these gentlemen propose to mend matters for the British fishermen. They ask the House of Commons to resolve, that "it is expedient that such additional duties should be levied in the ports of the British empire upon goods *imported* or *exported* in Spanish ships, and on the tonnage of such ships, as may serve to countervail the differential duties on goods and tonnage levied in the ports of Spain and her dependencies on British ships."

Additional duties on goods *exported* or *imported*! What is this proposal in plain English? Try it first on goods exported. At present the Shetlanders and Newfoundlanders are said to suffer from high duties imposed on their fish in British ships. But they at least have one escape from the evil. If they can find as many Spanish ships as will carry their fish, it all goes in at the low duty, and so far as they are concerned the evil is cured. (There is no such escape for the Cuban planter). But let these gentlemen have their way, and how will the fishers fare? If they employ a British ship they sail free, but they will be met by extravagant duties in Spain. If they employ a Spanish ship, they will pay a small import duty in Spain, but a high export duty at the place of shipment. Whether Spanish or British ship, then, they will be hit as hard as they can possibly be under the worst circumstances now, and without any means of escape. Will the fish-curers feel themselves very deeply indebted for such "protection to their commerce?" Again, British cotton goods pay a higher import duty in a British than in a Spanish ship. But the mischief can now be evaded by the use of a Spanish ship. But under the proposed policy, whether a Spanish ship or an English ship the evil will be the same. If a Spanish ship, a high export duty will be imposed here; if an English ship, a high import duty in Spain.

Then as to imports. If the Spanish Government condemn their

subjects to eat dear fish, why should we condemn our people to eat dear oranges, and dear nuts, and to drink dearer wine; why raise the price of wool and of oil to our manufacturers? For years past we have been engaged in reducing all these duties, not to please producers abroad, but to consult the interest of consumers at home. And now to spite a foreign Government we are asked to reverse a policy, and to inflict a severe injury upon ourselves.

But then these gentlemen are indignant as to the infraction of ancient treaties with favoured-nation clauses. We have heard of "blowing hot and cold with the same breath." Why it was comparatively only the other day, when the Spanish Government set up those treaties on their own part, that the deliberate voice of both Houses of Parliament, by large majorities, voted them all waste paper, and refused to sanction them. In 1845 the Spanish Government urged these treaties as the ground for the admission of Cuba sugar on the same terms as that of Java. Parliament decided, not that the treaties contained no such provisions, but Mr Gladstone argued, and the House decided, that those treaties were all null and void; as we thought at the time, and still think, upon the shallowest and most unsupportable pretences. The Duke of Sotomayor, on the part of his Government, protested, but protested in vain. Lord Aberdeen, backed by Parliament, was firm, and after a long controversy, at length the Spanish Ambassador replied to this effect:—"Well, we think the treaties binding. You say they are waste paper; and you insist upon your view. Then be it so: in despair of success we comply: let them henceforth be dead and invalid." But what must be the astonishment of the ex-Spanish Minister to find now that the House of Commons knows no bounds to its indignation at the infraction of those same ancient treaties?

But then we ask these exceptional Free Traders, if they begin with Spain, where do they mean to end? Is France to be the next country where our trade is to be spited by imitating their restrictions? Then is Portugal to follow? Then are we to copy the tariff of America, and because they put a high duty upon our iron, should we do the same on their cotton? Why not iron as well as ships? Then shall we trouble ourselves about the Zollverein duties, and because they put a high duty on our manufactures, expend our spite upon our manufactures with dear wool?

But, then, are we contentedly to submit to such folly without resenting it? No doubt it is greatly to be lamented that other nations should be so foolish. It would be better both for them and us were they wiser. But shall we mend the matter by imitating their folly? What is more painful than to see a once promising, respectable, well-doing neighbour, going headlong to the dogs, depriving his friends of an agreeable companion and society of a useful member? But will his next door neighbour mend the matter, if he, to spite the reprobate who has disappointed him, being determined to make him suffer an equal inconvenience and disappointment, imitates his course and follows his steps?

As usual the Protectionists were not slow to profit by this exhibition. Mr Banks re-echoed all that had been said as to the ingratitude of Spain and the infraction of treaties, though he was one of those who had voted them waste paper. His argument was, if you do not punish Spain (by inflicting this evil on yourselves), Holland will soon follow her example by punishing herself in the attempt to punish you. The Dutch are too wise. Since we repealed our Navigation Laws they have copied our example almost to the letter. As was very justly remarked by Lord John Russell, if you look for countries which are rapidly sinking in commerce, you will find them those which indulge in restrictions of navigation; if you will find those that are flourishing, look where navigation is freest—look to England, America, Holland, the Hanse Towns, and the Baltic.

But the most ridiculous part of this frolic was in the division which was taken on the resolution. Free Traders can propose, but Protectionists can prevent them from withdrawing their motions; and they are quite right not to permit the time of the House to be trifled with, and not to lose a chance when it is thrown in their way. The result was, that No. 1, the mover of the resolution voted against it, while No. 2, the seconder, voted for it. But we must own that we incline rather to admire the inconsistency of the former than the consistency of the latter; for we have no doubt that where consistency leads to wrong, inconsistency becomes a virtue. We wish Free Traders would agree among themselves what Free Trade means.

But then people say, the debate will do good, by strengthening the hands of the Foreign Minister. How? Will it make the Spanish people—for it is no use talking of the Government—more disposed to relinquish a protective system, if they infer from our acts that we adopted it only as a means to extract concessions from others, and that when we fail in that object, we want to relinquish it? Would they not be much more likely to follow us, if they saw that we clung to the system for the advantages it conferred upon our country, in spite of whatever other nations did? All these notions are a mere rag of the antiquated notions which belonged to the old mercantile system, which Mr Newdegate has recently attempted to disinter, and to dress up in two blue-covered, grave-looking pamphlets on the balance of trade. We wish Members of Parliament would, if Adam Smith is too abstruse, read John Hopkin's Political Economy.

THE MILLERS' LEAGUE.

No class of men have benefited more by the abolition of the Corn Laws than the millers. It brought to their mills corn of all descriptions, from all quarters, while it in no way lessened the market for their produce. At the same time it permitted the flour from other countries to be brought in, that they might not have a monopoly of the manufacture both against the corn-grower and against the consumer. It appears by the returns for 1850, published in our journal of the 15th ult., that there was imported in the year 1850, 3,754,593 quarters of wheat, to say nothing of upwards of 4,000,000 quarters of other kinds of grain, of which an unknown portion was ground. Now, as 2,000,000 quarters of wheat is about the average importations of the last years of the Corn Laws, by the repeal of those laws the millers had at least 1,500,000 more quarters of wheat to grind than they would have had had those laws been continued. This great boon does not satisfy them, because it is shared by others; and they now propose to get up a Millers' League, in order to prevent the competition of foreign millers, and exclude the people from the benefit of cheap flour. They complain not of cheap wheat, but they propose to form a League to procure a restriction on the importation of foreign flour, and so enhance its price to the people, in order to increase their own gains. Here is one of their circulars:—

3, Bridge-street, Westminster, March 25, 1851.

THE BRITISH CORN MILLERS' LEAGUE.

Sir,—An association under the above title is to be formed for the purpose of obtaining from the Legislature relief from the ruinous competition which the British corn millers experience by the continued heavy importations of French, American, and other foreign flour.

The supineness exhibited by the millers while the Free-trade measure was in agitation, caused Sir Robert Peel to lose sight of the serious injury the British manufacturers of flour would sustain by the admission of the manufactured article at the same nominal duty as the raw material. That great statesman most probably never anticipated such an immense and constant influx of foreign flour and its consequences upon the home milling trade, or he would doubtless have modified his Corn Law Repeal Bill to have guarded against the evil.

Statistics are being prepared which will exhibit the vast amount of labour and machinery which is displaced at home by the admission of foreign flour duty free. Calculations are also being compiled to show the capital expended upon machinery in the corn milling trade.

The funds for advertising, preparing petitions, legal and incidental expenses for agitating this question in and out of Parliament, can be readily raised by a small *pro rata* sum from the proprietors of mills; for instance, a subscription of 10s for each pair of millstones worked in their mills. Every British miller has suffered so severely through this unnatural competition, that there can be no fear of one and all giving their aid to remedy the grievance, and an ample sum will speedily be subscribed. An irresistible case can be presented to Parliament.

I have to request the favour of being allowed to place your name upon the committee for managing this important movement, and by your returning me the enclosed signed.

A meeting will be convened at the earliest opportunity.—I am respectfully,
Sir, your obedient servant,
S. M. Cross, Secretary.

The "enclosed" to be returned was a declaration of adhesion to the "British Corn Millers' League," and by the fraternity probably those millers will be held up to opprobrium who do not adhere. As long as the millers were content to enjoy their good fortune, we saw and heard of their large profits with satisfaction. It was the natural result of Free Trade. They constituted a part of that superior remuneration for capital which was expected to be the consequence of the abolition of the Corn Laws. But now when they propose to form an unhallowed League to place a restriction on the industry of the flour importer and the shipowner, and lay a tax on the people's bread, to add to the profits on their capital, we are under no obligation to keep from the public the evidence of their large gains. Mr. W. Whitmore says, in his letter to the Duke of Bedford "On the Prospects of Agriculture":—"A miller buying wheat at 40s, the average of the past year, makes an inordinate profit at the price at which flour is now selling. The case stands thus:—

lbs	An imperial bushel of wheat produces:—	s	d
48½	flour selling at.....	6	4
11½	bran at 5s per cwt.....	0	6
1½	pollard, 7s per cwt.....	0	1
100	.....	0	0
62		6	11
		5	0
		1	11

That is more than double the profit of milling in ordinary times, and that sum the miller has made, not only on the mass of English-grown wheat, but on the foreign wheat which the abolition of the Corn Laws has enabled him to grind. Moreover, the millers are themselves great buyers of foreign flour, both American and French, in order to mix with their own flour, give it a better appearance, and obtain for it a higher price in the market. The proposed League marks its promoters—who, by their proposed tax of so much per pair of millstones, assume something like the functions of Parliament—as the selfish enemies of justice and their fellow-men.

That many of the millers may be suffering, we have no doubt. Ireland has ceased to produce much corn to grind, and having no great flour-consuming population, it is not very profitable to import wheat into Ireland to be ground for the English market, burdening it with the cost of double carriage. The Irish millers have little corn to grind therefore, and they cannot compete successfully with

the best of the English millers. The same is true of the inferior millers of England. The art of milling, for want of competition, has not gone forward like other arts in this country. The backwardness has only been discovered since competition began; and since then the best of our millers have introduced many improvements from France into their own mills. Gentlemen who have done that do not dread the competition of French flour; and they we believe, have been driving an enlarged trade. It is with them that the inferior English and Irish millers cannot compete with success.

These circumstances may convince the millers too that the restrictions they propose will not be advantageous to themselves. They will, on the contrary, diminish the whole sum of profit obtained by the labour of the community, and proportionably diminish their share. The plain consequence of such restriction will be to check importation; they will lessen trade therefore, and lessen the production of articles to pay for the flour imported. The capital and industry engaged in importing and producing commodities to pay for what is imported, must find some other employment; part of it will probably go into the grinding trade, as profits may for the moment be higher in that than other trades. Competition amongst the millers will soon reduce the rate of profit on their business to the rate of profit in other business, and the millers who have improved their art will alone be able to thrive. The object of the proposed League is foolish as well as wicked, and the more brilliant the success of the millers, the more completely they excluded foreign flour from our market, or the higher they raised the protecting tax, the more intense would be the competition amongst themselves, and the less in the end would be their gains.

We advise them to confine themselves to honest industry, and not take up the despised game of beggaring their neighbour. The field is open and free to them and to others; what more can they want? They have the advantage of cheap coal; they have cheap corn; they have admirable wheelwrights at their service; they, at least, are subject to no burdens not borne by the general consumers of flour; and they ask for a monopoly against the corn-growers, who complain of being subject to such burdens. It would be better for them to improve their gear and their grinding, than to employ themselves in devising a tax on the people. There is no chance even of their succeeding in their object. They are never very popular; they are a comparatively small body as opposed to the bulk of the nation; and when they aim at perpetrating injustice, they are more likely to receive injury than gain wealth. The scheme seems so monstrous, that we are half inclined to believe that the circular is a hoax, and "Cross" seems an appropriate name for imposing in this manner on credulous millers. Under this supposition, however, the scheme is worth notice as a specimen of the unhallowed things about us, awaiting only the glow of Protection to warm into loathsome and destructive activity.

THE REFINED SUGAR PANIC.

WE know of no greater misfortune that can attach to any particular branch of trade, than to have been the special object of the solicitude of the Government. By mere force of habit, those connected with such trades learn to refer every evil which they suffer to some act of the Legislature. It is with them a short cut to a solution of a difficulty, to lay all the blame on acts of Parliament. The mischief is two-fold:—First, it leads them on a false scent, and to a very unnecessary waste of honest energy and indignation in fighting with shadows. Second, it blinds them to the substantial cause of their suffering, and prevents them from taking a rational view of their position, and from using those means which alone are calculated to relieve their embarrassment, frequently arising, when rightly understood, from causes wholly of a temporary nature. After the Act of 1819 for the resumption of cash payments was passed, there was not an evil of any kind which befel any member of the community which was not referred to that act of Parliament. During the panic of 1847, men seemed agreed only in forgetting the wild speculations which for two years before had hurried on that crisis, and in referring all their sufferings to the Bank Act of 1844. And again, during the last two years, there has not been a grievance of any kind (fortunately in trade they have been few), which has not met with a ready solution by charging it to Free Trade.

There is now a panic among that extensive and important class of manufacturers, the sugar refiners. It is a trade of no small magnitude, employing an enormous capital, and embracing transactions to the amount of at least 8,000,000^l annually—on the assumption that one-half of the sugar now used, including molasses, undergoes a manufacturing process in this country. Moreover, it is conducted generally by men of great ability and energy. But these facts only tend to increase our surprise at the illusory and futile pretences which are now put forward, to account for a sudden and, we believe, a temporary

depression under which they are at present labouring. It is always our wish to treat with peculiar consideration an interest which asserts that it is suffering from Free Trade, because, from the uncompromising attitude which we have assumed on that subject, and in the correctness of which we are the more and more confirmed by every day's experience, we feel it our duty to suppress nothing which is urged against us of an opposite tendency. In another part of this number, therefore, we insert the following papers, which have been addressed to us on the sugar-refining panic: viz., Letters from Mr Jos. Liggins, from "A Sugar Refiner," from "An Old Bristol Sugar Refiner," and an extract from a printed circular of Mr Charles Coles, Jun., to which our attention has been especially invited. Our readers will at least admit that we have not been wanting in indulgence to these complainants, when they have perused their productions. We will endeavour to classify these complaints.

1. The unequal competition to which the British refiner is exposed, in consequence of the bounty supposed to be given by the Dutch Government to their refiners on the sugar exported.—*Coles. Liggins. An Old Bristol Sugar Refiner. A Sugar Refiner.*

2. That our refiners work from a highly-protected raw material, and labour, as a consequence, under many vexatious restrictions.—*Coles.*

3. That the respective duties on raw sugar and refined sugar are unjustly disproportionate to each other, so far as the British refiner is concerned.—*Coles. A Sugar Refiner.*

4. That the British refiner is not allowed to work in bond for exportation or for home consumption on payment of the duty.—*A Sugar Refiner. An Old Bristol Sugar Refiner.*

5. That the sugar duties are imposed on an unfair principle, inasmuch as the duty is not in proportion to the saccharine matter contained in the sugar, but is the same on raw sugars of different qualities.—*A Sugar Refiner.*

These communications are all from practical men of business. And before entering upon a consideration of the leading points which we have selected, we would ask these gentlemen, and others who are equally victims to the present panic, quietly to consider some of the most obvious and leading facts in connection with this trade, and which should have at once suggested to every reflecting mind, that whatever the cause of the existing depression, at least the reasons which are now insisted upon can have little or nothing to do with it.

1. The sugar duties, as now existing, were imposed in 1848, about three years ago. Refined sugar from Holland was then admitted at the same comparative duty as it is at this moment.

2. The Dutch refiner enjoyed then at least the same advantages that he does now, any modification of the law in Holland, either accomplished since 1848, or contemplated now, being against the refiner, and in favour of the public revenue of Holland.

3. If, then, for three years all the advantages which the Dutch refiner is alleged to enjoy have existed, and if all the disadvantages which are alleged to attach to the British refiner have during that period equally existed, how comes it that the consequences have only been felt during the last three or four months? How comes it that up to that time the British sugar-refining trade was probably never more prosperous for an equally long period, nor experienced so great an expansion? If the Dutch refiner really possessed the advantages, which it is asserted he does, how comes it that he has availed himself to so small an extent of the British market? Look at the facts. The entire consumption of sugar, and its equivalent in molasses, in the three years has been:—1848, 320,000 tons; 1849, 313,000 tons; 1850, 325,000 tons. Now, what have been the quantities of foreign refined sugar included in the consumption of those years? In 1848, 1,202 tons; in 1849, 765 tons; and in 1850, 5,084 tons; while of sugar refined in England there have been exported to the neutral markets of the world, in 1848, 12,435 tons; in 1849, 11,163 tons; and in 1850, 10,461 tons. Let us put these facts in a plain tabulated form:—

	Total consumption of sugar. tons.	Foreign refined sugar consumed. tons.	British refined sugar exported. tons.
1848	320,000	1,202	12,435
1849	313,000	765	11,163
1850	325,000	5,084	10,461

Well, looking at these simple facts, will any sensible man so impose upon his judgment as to endeavour to persuade himself that causes which have been in operation for three years, and which have only produced the results shown in this table, are seriously to be assigned as the reason for the present depression in the refined sugar trade? Will any sensible man really believe, that if the home refiner suffered under the disadvantages which are alleged, and if the Dutch refiner really had a bounty of 3s 6d a cwt, which is also gravely alleged, while both pay the same price for their raw material, that the quantities of foreign refined sugar which entered into our consumption would have formed so infinitesimal a proportion of the whole? Is there not in these facts a *prima facie* evidence of the absurdity of the conclusions come to, which should have prompted a further and more careful inquiry?

But let us shortly consider the points of complaint separately. *First.*—As regards the bounty supposed to be obtained by the Dutch,

refiner. Mr Liggins writes in somewhat an indignant tone that we should have expressed ourselves on March 15th as follows:—"The more we inquire into the facts of the Dutch and Belgian laws, the more we are satisfied that the regulations affecting their exports (very complicated in their character) do not operate as an effective bounty to their refiners." But Mr Liggins has just returned from the "region referred to," and the result of his inquiries is that he arrives at an opposite conclusion; and he "challenges contradiction, from whatever quarter it may come, that such is the effect of the working of the laws now in operation in those countries, that a real, *bona fide*, undoubted bounty is obtained on the export of refined sugar." Mr Liggins suggests that we may not have been sufficiently diligent in our inquiry, and that we may not have prosecuted it in the proper quarter, to solve this intricate question. But if Mr Liggins has been more fortunate, why has he not satisfied those interested in his trade with an explicit explanation of the operation of the Dutch law, and the precise amount of the bounty, instead of being satisfied with a simple assertion that it exists? He does no more than all our other untravelled correspondents do—allege that there is an effective bounty. In clearing up this point he would have done a real service to the trade. His letter is long enough, and certainly contains much that is neither so important nor interesting as such an explicit explanation would prove. But if more space is required for this purpose, we will afford it to him whenever he is disposed to favour the public with an exact solution of this difficult question. In the meantime we will endeavour to supply the deficiency. We have before us a copy of the last Dutch Sugar Act. Though Mr Liggins is ignorant of the fact, this is a subject which on former occasions we have so carefully investigated, that we cannot do better than quote an article from the *Economist* of the 23rd of July, 1848, as an explanation of the Dutch Act, the accuracy of which has been admitted by those who best understand it. The article is as follows:—

"At the present moment, when so much is said on this subject, and when the privilege enjoyed by the Dutch refiner on this score is so much overrated, the following accurate statement of the present state of the law in Holland cannot fail to be useful and interesting, taken from an old number of this paper, applying the present prices:—

"For every 100 kilogrammes of raw sugar which the refiner takes into use, he is charged with duty at the rate of 13½ florins, of which he pays *five per cent.* in money at the moment, and his account with the Custom house is debited with the difference. On exportation, his account is then credited with 9¼ florins for each 50 kilogrammes of loaves and lumps, and therefore the export of about 68½ kilogrammes of such will balance the import duty on 100 kilogrammes of raw sugar, with the exception of the payment of 5 per cent., which is not returned under any circumstances. Any further quantity, therefore, which he may export beyond this proportion, must be done without any drawback whatever. The export must take place within three months (formerly six months), or, if not, the balance of the duties must be paid in cash, and cannot afterwards be recovered.

"Formerly, the Dutch refiners made, on an average, from 100 kilogrammes of raw sugar, 50 kilogrammes loaves, 18 kilogrammes of lumps, being 68 kilogrammes of refined sugar, 12 kilogrammes of bastards, and 20 kilogrammes of molasses; but in the improved refineries, where steam power is used, a more profitable result is now obtained, and it is thought that of loaves and lumps as much as 80 kilogrammes are now made, with 20 kilogrammes of bastards and molasses, and these have the advantage, therefore, of the difference of the value of the 11½ kilogrammes of loaves and lumps, and the same quantity of bastards and molasses; but, on the other hand, recent revisions of the law have had in view these improvements to some extent, in fixing the rate of drawback at 9¼ florins for every 50 kilogrammes of loaves and lumps, and 9¼ florins for every 50 kilogrammes of candy.

"It is, therefore, very plain, that the advantage to the refiner in Holland of the drawback, must be determined by the price at which he can sell (after having paid the first *five per cent.* duty upon the whole quantity of raw sugar) what remains of the 68½ kilogrammes of loaves and lumps, which is all he can export in each 100 kilogrammes to exhaust his drawback, in the home market. The quantity of sugar which is consumed in Holland must practically limit the quantity exported; for of every 100 kilogrammes taken into use, 68½ kilogrammes only can be exported under drawback, while 31½ kilogrammes will be left for home consumption. If, however, a larger quantity of sugar is refined in order to increase the quantity exported, the quantity left for home consumption must increase in the above ratio to every 100 kilogrammes of raw sugar refined; and if this be more than the home consumption will absorb, the excess must either be sold at a loss, or exported without any drawback, also at a great loss. Beyond an extent of business, exactly so ordered that 31½ per cent. of the whole quantity refined can be profitably consumed at home, the premium intended for the refiner must either be sacrificed to the home consumer, or in exporting without any drawback.

"The following formula will explain the intricate operation more clearly:—

	Florins.
Suppose the refiner buys 1,000 chests of Havana sugar, weighing net 200,000 kilo, at 25fl per 100 kilo, the cost will be.....	50,000
He pays, and is debited with duty, 13½fl for every 100 kilo.....	27,000
Net cost, duty paid.....	77,000
This quantity he refines; and of the refined he sells lumps and loaves for export, as much as will exhaust his drawback: 138,648 8-9 kilo, at 27fl per 100 kilo in bond.....	37,422
And receives on this quantity at the rate of 2fl per 50 kilo, all the duty paid or debited which he is entitled to, viz., 27,000fl, less 5 per cent.....	25,550—63,072
Remains still to receive of the prime cost, besides working expenses, interest, and profit.....	13,928
And of the residue which he has refined he will have to sell for home consumption, say—	
Taken at present prices—22,000 kilo of lumps, at 27fl per 100 kilo.....	5,940
— 38,000 kilo of bastards and treacle, at 28fl per 100 kilo.....	10,640—16,580
Leaves to cover all expenses and profits.....	2,652

"This formula is, as nearly as possible, the exact result of these regulations at this moment, at present prices. But it must be plain, that if the Dutch refiners increased their whole quantity refined, in order to increase the exportation, the additional quantity of 31½ in every 100 kilogrammes, left on the home market more than it requires, would reduce the price, and destroy all the profit. Competition, therefore, must always regulate the exact quantity to be refined, so as to leave the smallest profit which will repay the refiner, according to the profits obtained on the portion exported, and of that consumed at home. It might sometimes happen, as it does, that by accidental circumstances, the profits on exportation are so great, that they would cover some loss on the portion sold for consumption in Holland. But in that case, the English refiner must equally share in such casual profits. For example, had this regulation been in force in the autumn of 1845, when refined sugar in this country was giving a profit of 10l a ton, the Dutch refiner would, no doubt, have taken advantage of such an accident, and have refined and exported more than usual, though he either sold sugar at home at a loss, or exported without a drawback."

We quote this explanation of the Dutch law for two purposes: 1, for the information which it contains; and 2, to clear the way for what we deem to be the only rational explanation of the existing depression in the refined sugar trade. Notwithstanding the present complaints of the sugar refiners, it cannot be doubted that, as a body, they have profited greatly by the Free-trade policy as applied to the sugar duties. In 1844 the entire consumption of sugar in this country was 207,000 tons, of which it was computed that 70,000 to 80,000 tons were refined. The reduction of duties diminished the price and increased the consumption so rapidly that in 1848 it had risen to 310,000 tons, of which it was computed that one-half or 155,000 tons were refined. This sudden and greatly increased demand for refined sugar raised a trade that had for many years been in a most depressed condition into one of great prosperity. For a long time the supply was unequal to the demand, and the price of refined sugar was consequently far above the ordinary relative proportion to the price of the raw sugar. That this state of the trade has led to a greatly increased power of production there can be no question, but perhaps not more than was required adequately to supply the rapid increase of consumption which has taken place in this country, and which is still going on.

In the meantime, however, it is also the case that the consumption of refined sugar has been rapidly increasing in other countries. The Mediterranean, America, and other foreign markets, have been sources of great demand during the last two years. A great increase in the trade has therefore taken place in Holland as well as England. But that that increase was not for the English market, nor caused by the change in our law in 1848, is sufficiently proved by the insignificant quantities of Dutch sugar consumed here. But in the foreign markets, to which the Dutch refiners resorted, the British refiner for exportation had no difficulty in competing with them, which should at least show how little the supposed bounty assisted them. That the Dutch refined sugar trade has greatly increased during the last three years, no one acquainted with the trade can doubt. But from the character of the Dutch Sugar Laws, as we have explained them, it must be obvious that just in proportion as the entire quantity, which is refined, increases, while no material increase takes place in the quantity consumed in Holland, the bounty incidental to exportation must become less, and the time would arrive when exportation must take place without even a drawback of the duty actually paid.

Now, towards the autumn of last year it became apparent that most of the foreign markets had been considerably overdone, and for the last six months the demand has greatly fallen off. But, by the Dutch law, the refiner must either export his sugar within three months from the time it was taken out of bond, or pay the entire balance of the duty without any power to recover a drawback afterwards. In order, therefore, to balance their accounts with the Custom house, the Dutch refiners have been compelled to export their sugar, having to elect between the loss of doing so to a market where they could not sell it at a profit, or to pay the whole balance of the duty, which could not afterwards be recovered, and thus throwing on the Dutch market for home consumption (already too largely supplied by the proportion necessarily

retained at home according to the entire quantity refined) a large stock for which there was no demand, and which must have been sold at an enormous loss.

The effect of such a state of things has been already very greatly to reduce the operations of the Dutch refineries, with, we believe, but one exception. And it is the operations of that exceptional firm which have so much harassed and alarmed our own refiners during the last three months, and which, we are assured, puzzle the other refiners in Holland as much as they do those at home. But of this we feel assured, that, especially under recent circumstances, any bounty obtained under the operation of the Dutch Sugar Act will not explain them, and especially when it is borne in mind that, under the most careful management, refined sugar cannot be brought from Holland to this port under a cost of from 1s 9d to 2s the cwt. We will not say that the peculiarity of the Dutch law has not led to these unexpected importations. But they are peculiarities which are attended with a heavy loss, and not with a bounty to the exporter. We have lying before us an able pamphlet, written three years ago, by one of the most eminent sugar refiners of Holland, strongly appealing to the Government on the great disadvantages of the existing law. So far was the writer from considering the system a real benefit to the Dutch refiners!

Second.—It is a complaint that the British refiner works from a highly-protected raw material. The consumer may complain of this, but surely not the refiner, since the duty on foreign refined sugar is computed in relation to that on *foreign* raw sugar, and not with reference to that charged on colonial sugar. The only complaint which the refiner preferred in 1848 was that he was confined to the use of sugar imported under the favoured flags; but the repeal of the Navigation Laws has since silenced that complaint. We have yet to learn of a single restriction to which the home refiner is now subjected.

Third.—When the relative duties upon raw and refined sugar were fixed in 1848, there was no complaint that the proportions were disadvantageous to the home refiner. On the contrary, we believe some of the principal refiners were consulted on the subject, and were perfectly satisfied with the relative rates, which we have always understood to be in their favour, rather than against them. The trivial quantity of foreign refined sugar taken for consumption seems to corroborate that belief.

Fourth.—It is complained that the British refiner in bond is not allowed to clear his sugar for home consumption or for exportation. It is quite clear that if this privilege were conceded to refiners in bond, every other refiner should have the same privilege. In short that all sugar should be refined in bond. Our correspondents cannot be ignorant that that subject was most carefully examined two years ago, and that the refiners themselves were of opinion that the Excise restrictions on their working, which would be needful to protect the revenue and the fair trader, would greatly counterbalance any advantage which they would derive from a change of the present system.

Fifth.—It is a complaint that the duties are not levied in relation to the saccharine matter contained in the sugar. No doubt this may be a cause of complaint on the part of the producers of very inferior sugar, but it is certainly none on the part of refiners. No one knows better than "A SUGAR REFINER," who prefers the complaint, that when he goes to buy sugar he pays only such a price for inferior sugar as will, when the duty is added, make it relatively as cheap, at least, to him as the finer qualities. He complains on the part of the producers of Indian Kaur sugar, but he cannot fail to remember that many finer qualities of sugar are also subject only to the same duty, and that the consequence has been to put a stop to the shipments of the very inferior qualities, and to improve the manufacture greatly throughout our possessions. At least, this is not a question for the sugar refiner.

After having thus referred to the leading points of complaint, we shall not be charged with indifference to what is so loudly pronounced a suffering interest. But of this we feel confident, that the more the subject is investigated, the more it must be apparent that the present depression has no connection with any of the permanent causes which have been referred to. It would, in our view, be equally reasonable for a linendraper, who, after some years of unusual success, suddenly found his business impaired, while a bankrupt stock was selling off next door, wholly to overlook that fact, and to search through the commercial code of the country for the cause of his sudden reduction of demand. A shrewd draper would rather step in next door, and see if he could not make an excellent speculation by buying up the stock much below prime cost.

One word to Mr Liggins, and we will dismiss the subject. That gentleman says:—"In the enthusiasm of your admiration of a Free-trade policy, you take advantage, I will not say unfairly, of the encouraging prospects and comparative recently improved state of affairs in the colonies of Demerara and Barbadoes, and apparently wish it to be inferred that such is the present condition of the West Indies generally." Now, near the conclusion of the article referred to, in order to show that we did not overlook the peculiar circumstances in Barbadoes favourable to its prosperity, we said:—"We are aware that Barbadoes has, in its numerous population, an advantage not possessed by all the other colonies." At the same we cannot forget that

Demerara has no such advantage, nor Trinidad; and that Barbadoes had at least the same advantage three years ago, when it was plunged in such deep distress. In spite of all prognostications to the contrary, we shall not despair of the ultimate success of our sugar colonies, so long as we continue to witness such evidences of the vigorous efforts which are being used to improve production both in quantity and quality, and especially when we see such evidence of the success of those efforts.

Agriculture.

THE COMING SEASON.

DURING the last three weeks a great and sudden alteration has taken place in the weather. For some months previous to March, there had been less than an average quantity of rain, so that though there had been an absence of frost, the land, except perhaps the tenacious clay soils, was in a tolerably dry workable state. The second week of the present month, however, brought with it very heavy and continuous rains; so that now many low grounds have been flooded, and a complete stop has been put to all out-door farm work. On the undrained clays it is probable mischief will be caused to the wheat crops, for so thoroughly saturated have such soils become, that it will take some time to dry them, and as the season is advanced the evaporation will be rapid and long continued, producing the most chilling effect on vegetation. On the light soils and on drained land it is not likely that any mischief has hitherto been done beyond the delay which so much wet has occasioned. Spring sowing and preparations for roots will be thrown back, and farmers, whose horses are now standing idle, are becoming uneasy lest their spring seed time should be brief and bad. The wheat plant on healthy land has, we think, been improved rather than otherwise by the late rains; and the large breadth of wheat which has been sown this season in most parts of England will, we hope, insure us against any extravagant rise in prices. But the price of wheat is creeping up, and the admitted facts that scarcely any wheat has been sown in Ireland, and that in France much less than usual has also been sown this season, render it probable that an advance in the price of wheat will take place. Sheep and wool have risen greatly in value; beef and pork, though still low in price, are somewhat more readily sold than of late; and with grain looking up the farmers will soon find that the worst of their transition period has passed away. A reference to our account of the corn markets during the past week, will put the reader in possession of the movement in the grain trade. Most of the reports of stock markets and fairs are more cheerful in tone than we have been accustomed to of late. As instances; at Northampton fair "trade was brisk, and the spirits of sellers seemed more lively than for some time past." At Great Eccleston fair "the supply was much less than usual, and the attendance of purchasers being numerous, few good animals remained undisposed of," although no marked alteration in prices could be quoted. At Bicester monthly market "there was an inquiry for good milking cows, and they were readily saleable. Beef was in demand at improved rates. In sheep stock there was an animated trade." With a moderately good season during the current year, we have little doubt that the position of farmers will be such as to enable them, by adjustment of contracts with their landlords, to get well through the difficulties by which they have of late been beset.

COMMERCIAL CONTRACTS FOR LAND.

THE paragraph on farm-letting from the *Scotsman*, which we reprint below, indicates the remnants of feudal notions which lurk in the minds of even the intelligent leaseholding tenant farmers of Scotland. The feudal principle of managing land assumes that the landlord is in some sort a patron or paternal protector of the tenant, and that the tenant is an attached dependent, towards whom, when performing his obligations, a kind of sentimental consideration is due. Now, though it cannot be denied that this sentiment, when really existing between landlord and tenant, does in some cases, and to a small extent, form a bond of union; yet in by far the majority of cases, and in by much the most important circumstances of their relation, it operates as a sheer delusion and often a very injurious one, especially to the tenant. It is for the benefit of the farming class to fully understand that the taking a farm is a contract to hold so much land on defined terms, for a certain period of time at a specified yearly rent. The stipulations are contained in the lease, and its renewal before or at its expiration must form the subject of a new contract, to which both parties must agree. And though, as a matter of good feeling, a landlord might naturally be assumed to make a new engagement with his old tenant rather than to let the farm to a new one, there is nothing in the circumstance of a farm having been occupied for a long series of years by the tenant and his forefathers which, on any sound business estimate of land management, should induce the concession of advantages on that account to the tenant on a new taking. Such a view of the relations of landlord and tenant will doubtless appear dry and hard to many of both classes who indulge in a sort of semi-feudal sentimentalism about land-letting, but all experience shows that such sentiment operates as a snare and a delusion to tenant farmers, who are never so safe as when they can make a dry and hard bargain for their farms, and look for no more, and will submit to no less, than may be contained within the four corners of their contract. The following is the paragraph we allude to:—

FARM-LETTING IN FORFARSHIRE.—Some sensation, we learn, has been created among the agriculturists in Forfarshire, by an incident in itself of a private nature, but having a not unimportant bearing on several questions now in agitation. Two farms on the Ardvie estate, which have been in the families of the present tenants (Messrs Fallarton and Adamson) for nearly a century, are about to go out of lease. Considering that they and their families had been

so long connected with the property, that they had greatly improved the land during their tenancy, and that they were reckoned as among the best farmers in the county, the expectation in the district was something very different from what has occurred. With receipts in the possession of the two tenants for all the rent ever due to the proprietors by them, their fathers, or their grandfathers, they were never even asked if they wished a renewal of their leases, and the farms were advertised for competition without their receiving the slightest notice. In the hope of reaping some of the outlay which, unsuspecting such a mode of procedure, they had continued to make till the last, they offered among the other competitors, and, in spite of low prices, at an *advance* on their previous rents. But they were outbidden, and are consequently to be ejected. Of course, the proprietor of Ardovie is entitled to do what he likes with what the law makes his own; but the incident throws light on two points—that some equitable and workable law regarding unexhausted improvements would be a much better security to the tenant than any reliance on local or family connections however ancient; and that, in spite of all the outcry, landlords can yet manage to get their land let as high or higher than ever.

Certainly the treatment of the two old tenants above described was not handsome; but when a lease is running out, that is about four years before its expiration, a prudent farmer would ascertain, by communication with his landlord, whether a new lease will be granted to him on any and what terms; or whether, at the expiration of his term, the farm will be offered to public competition. If no agreement for renewal be made, the tenant will adapt his management to the possible event that he may have to leave the farm; he will take more out of the land, and will incur less expense in cultivation. Doubtless this must often be done with injury to the farm, and perhaps with less profitable results to the tenant than he would have obtained during the same period had he been able to continue to farm in his accustomed manner. But what is in this more than occurs in other trades? When a contract capable of renewal is expiring, what man of business dreams of incurring more expense than may be absolutely necessary, until he has arranged terms for a new contract? And why is it not incumbent on the farmer to take the same precaution? It is plainly the interest both of landlord and tenant to come to a new engagement if they can several years before the expiration of the old lease. The landlord will avoid the running out of the farm, that withdrawal of capital invested, which the tenant will naturally make to the utmost extent his contract permits; and we have yet to see any contract that will prevent a tenant from leaving a farm much exhausted. He may also be able to secure an advanced rent from a tenant with whose resources and punctuality he is acquainted. On the part of the tenant, too, the advantages of an early renewal of his lease are obvious and numerous. He continues his usual routine of cultivation without check or impediment; he may undertake permanent and expensive improvements, with the certainty of reaping the benefit of them for a long period; he avoids the hazard, loss, and inconveniences which, more or less, attend the giving up one farm and removing to another. For these and other advantages which might be mentioned, a farmer could usually offer terms for the renewal of his lease which would be more than an equivalent to the landlord for any contingent benefit he could obtain by bringing his farm into the market at the expiration of the lease. Instead, however, of looking ahead, farmers too often go on trusting to the chapter of accidents until it is too late to make reasonably advantageous terms for the renewal of their leases. Then landlords may, and sometimes do, take advantage of them, as seems to have happened in the Forfarshire cases.

But it will be said farmers have long been in an uncertain state as regards protection and the like, and that they could not safely anticipate three or four years before the expiration of a lease on what terms it might then be prudent to renew it. And there is some truth in the objection, for it was one of the evils of the protective system, that it introduced fluctuation and uncertainty into all farming engagements. Henceforth, however, this source of difficulty will be absent, and farmers who mean to avoid the risk of loss, and to make their own bargains for their farms, must not relying on the possession or receipts for rent of their fathers or their grandfathers, they must look out for themselves, and by clear and provident contracts with their landlords trust neither to favour, sentiment, or by-gone associations.

SPIRIT OF THE TRADE CIRCULARS.

(From Messrs R. and W. Moffat's Circular) London, March 22, 1851.

During the past month, the great flatness which has so long prevailed on the market, has been relieved to some extent; partly by the scarcity of common congous, the demand for which has advanced prices $\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb, and has led to more extensive business in the grades immediately above them, viz., in blackish leaf congous at 1s 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ d to 1s 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d: considerable transactions have also naturally arisen out of the large arrivals; so that, although there is still an absence of buoyancy or animation, there is no longer that aversion to purchase, which had previously rendered the market so inert, and sales impracticable to any large extent. When prices shall have adjusted themselves and become settled, after the bulk of the recent arrivals have been shown, there seems reason to expect a good, steady, well-sustained market, so large a proportion of the import having now been received. The sorts in which sales have been principally and most readily effected, are common and good common congous at 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ d to 1s; blackish leaf at 1s 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ d to 1s 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d; and the new Shanghai greens. In good quality souchong some contracts have passed at previous rates, and also in flowery pekoes of plain and medium kinds, but the fine sorts of pekoe continue neglected. Ning Yongs are plentiful and dull of sale: for scented teas there has been a fair demand.

In green teas the chief business has been done in the new arrivals from Shanghai; prices of which have been well supported in gunpowder, but less fully in young hyson; and the imports of the latter from America and from the continent have greatly interfered with the value of this tea. In Canton gunpowders of ordinary mixt spurious kind, large sales have occurred at 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d and 11d. Of twankay, the stock is now so much exhausted, as to render the execution of shipping orders almost impracticable.

The public auctions this month have been unusually limited, viz., on the 5th inst. 5,000 packages, of which about 1,000 sold; on the 21st, 4,100, of which only 300 sold. More extensive auctions will take place on the 1st proximo.

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

Manchester, March 21, 1851.

There is no feature of particular interest in the course of business during the past month to which we have to call your attention. The demand has been moderately kept up from day to day, so that very slight variations have occurred in the value of the generality of our productions from that given in our last report. Notwithstanding that our home trade has been for a length of time, and still continues, in a state of inactivity, our stocks, with few exceptions, are exceedingly light, showing how active and continuous our foreign trade has been. A home trade demand cannot be far distant, when, from the lowness of stocks in the hands of dealers and shopkeepers, it will be found that a large quantity of goods will be required to satisfy it. The uncertainty attending the probable supply of cotton has, no doubt, produced a more than ordinary degree of caution on the part of all classes of buyers, and must continue to exercise a powerful influence for some time to come—the effect will be to keep our own more steady and prevent an over supply being thrown into foreign markets.

The transactions in 40-in. shirtings have been to a moderate extent, hardly reaching an average; the better classes have had most inquiry, and are now low in stock, whilst 6 and 7 lbs are plentiful, more particularly the former, which, until the last day or two, were pressing on the market at 6s, and in some few cases even lower. 7 lbs may be had at 7s 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d to 7s 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d as in quality. The letters per Overland Mail just to hand (6 o'clock p. m.), giving a more favourable report of the prospects in China, and those from India not calculated to depress our market, we may reasonably hope that prices will at least be maintained. 9-8 shirtings have not had their share of inquiry, and have in consequence receded about 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d per piece. Stocks are accumulating. As we reported last, so in this month, 7-8 printing cloths have been depressed, and may be had 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d to 3d per piece cheaper—the lower kinds, in the absence of our usual demand at this season for the Levant, are almost unsaleable. Stocks are heavier than we have known them for a lengthened period. Madapollams are pressing on the market at ruinously low prices—the production for some months past has been much in excess of the demand, and was held for the most part by those who, either from necessity or other cause, seem determined to realise. Long cloths have given way in price 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d per piece, not, however, from any excess in stocks, as the production is now, and has been for many months, on a moderate scale. T cloths have had little inquiry, still prices are well supported. Domestic, too, have been little dealt in, and are in some descriptions a shade lower; stocks, although by no means heavy, are on the increase. Grey jaconets are on the increase, and may be bought on easier terms. White jaconets, cambrics, and fancy muslins, continue to attract little attention.

Foreign Correspondence.

From our Paris Correspondent.

Paris, March 27, 1851.

Nothing has been done for the establishment of a definitive cabinet, and we still remain with the transitory Government. They could not unite in the same cabinet M. Odillon Barrot and M. Baroche. The first insisted for the repeal of the Electoral Law of May 31, and declared that M. Baroche had been too much compromised by several votes of which had been inflicted on him by the Assembly. M. Baroche said that M. Barrot would not obtain a sufficient authority over the Assembly, and desired to enter the cabinet with M. Leon Faucher. It is said now that M. Odillon Barrot's combinations are again abandoned, and new negotiations are going on with M. Leon Faucher, who would be the head of the cabinet. Many persons suspect that these eternal shufflings for the formation of a Government are but a tactic of Louis Napoleon, who desires to preserve, as long as possible, his transitory cabinet, who have no authority of their own, and are obliged to consult the cabinet council for every thing. It is scarcely possible, however, to remain for a long time in this provisional state. When the transitory cabinet was appointed, the new ministers declared that they would only occupy themselves with the material affairs of the country; but they have been five months at the head of the Government, and they could do nothing, as they have no authority with the Assembly.

It was reported two days ago that the late cabinet would be again appointed, viz., M. Baroche, M. Fould, M. Rouher, &c. The only ministers who would be changed are M. Bineau and M. Bonjean. Their successors would be M. Magne and M. Chasseloup Laubat. It seems, however, that nothing has been decided upon, and the transitory cabinet will continue for some time longer.

This ministerial question does not, however, excite much interest in the public, as it is quite indifferent to know who are the ministers, since they can do nothing without the formal assent of Louis Napoleon. But much alarm has been created by the approaching question of the revision of the constitution. The Elysean papers begin to declare openly that the Elyseé intends making an appeal to the people, if the majority of the Assembly refuses to grant the revision, and they have besides announced that the Electoral Law of May 31st would be set aside for the presidential election.

The question of revision may be raised in the National Assembly at the end of May next, and all the parties are already as if on the eve of a solemn fight. The Government endeavour to frighten all the placid citizens into compliance with their own views, by convincing them that the democratic party is always threatening, and the Socialists are making every day new progress. They hope thus that every body will prefer the continuance of Louis Napoleon's Government to a change of President. It is said that the Socialists of the departments are uniting everywhere to make a supreme effort in order to throw off the present Government.

There are, indeed, some exasperated demagogues who dream of the overthrow of the moderate republic. But they are not dangerous, as they have been abandoned by the working classes. The sole danger is now that trade should be at a complete stand-still, so that the operatives have no work. Indeed trade is at this moment in a sad condition. Our manufacturers have no orders for exports, and they sell nothing for the interior. It is probable, however, that the business will revive during the universal exhibition of London. All the strangers buy nothing at this moment, saying that they desire first to see the goods of the exhibition. Most of the visitors of

London, from May to August, will certainly come to Paris and make purchases before returning to their countries.

The Committee of the Budget are still examining the best means of balancing the expenditure and revenue. M. Passy insists on demanding an income tax of 3 per cent., but it is not accepted by the majority of his colleagues. Others propose to reduce the army. One of them would have abolished entirely the National Guard and provided that no citizen should be allowed, under any pretext whatever, to preserve arms in his possession, but at the same time the Gardes Champêtres would be embodied. Each city and borough would be obliged to entertain a certain number of firemen, and they might be employed with the Gardes Champêtres to maintain good order and repress any riots. Then the army would be diminished by 150,000 men, so that the Government would obtain a great economy.

The Committee of the Budget continue to speak of the necessity of soon negotiating a new loan; but M. Germiny, the present Minister of Finance, and M. Fould declare that the Treasury does not want it. They even intend to repay the Bank 50 millions out of the 100 millions which had been advanced in 1848. You know that the Bank were obliged to advance 50 millions, for which they received Treasury bills, bearing interest at 4 per cent. But the other 50 millions were advanced on current account, so that when the current account of the Treasury amounts to 50 millions, it has no interest to give the Bank. As the current account of the Treasury in the Bank at this moment is 116 millions, and it will remain more than 80 millions after paying the half-yearly dividend of the 5 per Cents, the Minister of Finance would repay the 50 millions bearing interest at 4 per cent. That financial operation will be good if the Minister be certain to be able to dispense with a new loan, but if he should be obliged to negotiate a loan at 5 or 6 per cent. in order to repay a loan for which it gives but an interest of 4 per cent., it would be a very bad affair for the State.

The Assembly will, within a few days, begin the debates on the Paris and Lyons and the Lyons and Avignon Railways Bill. New propositions have been made by companies for the grant of these two railways. One of them is principally composed of English capitalists, headed by Messrs Baring Brothers, Mr Locke, and M. Charles Lafitte. But all the companies demand the guarantee of a minimum of interest, and the Assembly is not ready to grant it.

The following are the variations of our securities from March 20 to March 26:—

	f c	to	f c
The Three per Cents declined from...	57 95		57 75
The Five per Cents	94 15		94 10
Bank Shares	2185 0		2135 0
Northern Shares	483 75		481 25
Strasburg	376 25		373 75
Nantes	277 50		275 0
Bordeaux	407 50		406 25
Central line	448 75		445 0
Orleans	893 75	improved to	895 0
Rouen	660 0	declined to	655 0
Havre	290 0	improved to	295 0

The general yearly assemblies of the Paris and Orleans, and of the Central Railway lines, have taken place. The dividend of the Central line was fixed at 9f 25c, and of Orleans at 42f 75c. The interest must be added to these dividends, that is 20f for the Central Line, and 15f for Orleans.

HALF-PAST FOUR.—We had a desponding market, and all the securities were looking downward except the railway shares, which were kept up by purchases for English account. The Assembly will begin to-morrow the debates about the probability of employing the law of May 31 for the presidential election, and it is apprehended that a new dissidence will arise between the two powers. The Bank shares were declining rapidly, as it seems decided the Government will immediately repay the 50 millions of Treasury Bills, which were taken by the Bank in 1848, and for which the Treasury paid an interest of 4 per cent. The 3 per Cents. varied from 57f 70c to 57f 60c; the 5 per Cents., from 94f to 93f 80c; the Bank shares, from 2,235f to 2,095f; Northern shares, from 480f to 481f 25c; Strasburg, from 373f 75c to 375f; Nantes, from 277f 50c to 278f 75c; Marseilles, from 202f 50c to 208f 75c; the Central line, from 450f to 451f 25c.

Correspondence.

CHEAP LABOUR.—A HINT TO THE WEST INDIANS.

To the Editor of the Economist.

MY DEAR SIR,—Hoping you will excuse the liberty I take in thus addressing you, I trust that the subject, to which I purpose calling your attention, will speak in my favour for doing it, as it is, I presume, of so much interest to every thinking man, that I have overcome the natural shyness of all who are not accustomed to write for publicity, to address to you these lines, and shall be happy if my suggestions, or rather communication of facts, contribute at a future period to alleviate the lot of many of our fellow creatures, who are, until now, condemned to work without reaping the benefit of their exertions, or without any hope of obtaining that independent position in life which should be, to a certain extent, in the reach of every one, and which is so essential to men's mind and happiness—I allude to the slavery question.

It has always been of much interest to me to follow the discussions of this question in the public papers or elsewhere, and also in your paper I have read many interesting articles about it. However a final solution of it I have not found. But, in coming to China, and after a residence of more than three years, I became acquainted with circumstances which, as they may be the means of doing away with slavery altogether, and as they do not seem to be much known in the West, I shall now take the liberty of communicating to you.

You will be no doubt aware, that for some years past exportations of Chinese coolies or labourers have taken place to the West Coast of South America; and, as these have been repeated last year, and there being now three vessels with about 300 coolies each under despatch, (British vessels: Coromandel, Brown master, Mariner, Harland master, and French vessel, Chili), it is a proof that the experiment has answered. The question, therefore, naturally arises—Why, then, do not the planters in the West Indies, and in the South of the United States, do the same? I hope I shall be able to show you that a Chinese coolie is as cheap to a planter as a slave, and there can be, therefore, only two answers to my question; viz., the first, that they are not acquainted with the fact; and the other, that they having invested a considerable amount of their capital in slaves, it would be a severe loss to them if they would now employ free labour. If you insert this, or take the matter in your more able hands, the first will be overcome to a great extent I have no doubt; and if this way of getting labour for hot climates is approved of by competent judges in such countries, the people there will overcome the second by gradually converting slave into free labour.

But now I will come to the point. The contracts made here with the Chinese are as follows:—The Chinese engages himself to work for five years in such or such a country (after arrival there), for which he receives 4 dols a month wages, besides maintenance during the term, and clothes, as also a free passage to the country and back. Now, the cost of passage to the West Coast and the charges for getting the coolies here is about 50 dols a head, and, assuming that after expiration of five years the same vessel which carries them back will take in new ones, we may take the charges for the home voyage at highest at 40 dols, in all 90 dols, which would give in proportion 18 dols a year. Add wages, 12 months at 4 dols, 48 dols, gives in all 66 dols. The charges for maintaining the Chinese need not be taken into account here, as they will be quite the same as those for the negroes. I find it stated by a correspondent of yours (ECONOMIST, No. 353, 1st June, 1850), that the average price of a slave of a picked gang (and certainly you may assume the Chinese to be such) is 500 dols, which, taking interest at the same rate, say 12 per cent., and average loss by death at 3 per cent., together 15 per cent., would give 75 dols a head per annum; thus showing free labour to be cheaper than slave labour by 9 dols a head per year, besides the advantage of not being obliged to lay out a large amount of capital.

Though at first sight the difference does not appear remarkable, it becomes more so if I call your attention to the quality of the labour. The Chinese are a steady, hardworking, and quiet people. Born under a scorching sun, they are prepared to stand any similar climate; and as sugar, cotton, and tobacco are cultivated in their country, they are familiar to this kind of labour. So far no attempt has been made to colonise Chinese in far distant countries, in not exporting women at the same time; and, though it seems that it speaks against my argument, I must confess that this will be difficult to do to a large extent at once, yet I do not assert too much in expressing my belief that it might be done gradually; and if we assume that the thing is managed in this way, viz., to induce the Chinese to take their wives with them and remain in the country where they are required, there is every possibility that at a future period negroes will not be required at all.

To what extent the cost of labour might be reduced by the latter experiment, one may guess by looking into the wants and the income of the Chinese here. Though they have often hard work to perform, and, according to our ideas, would require substantial food, yet they live entirely upon rice, now and then some vegetables (greens) and dried fish; and rice being as low as 1½ dols a peck (133½ lbs), accounts for their being able to live upon two to three dols wages a month, which is presumed to be the highest average for common labourers in China. I speak of such working in the fields, of which the wages vary, as they are paid in produce. The Chinese look, therefore, upon the above-mentioned contract as a way of becoming rich, and eagerly embrace the opportunity to avail themselves of it. The Chinese are fond of old customs, and if it were held out to them that they might live in the new country in the same manner as in their old one, without any one interfering in their private affairs, it would be an inducement more for them to emigrate. But let the case stand as it is, supposing that only men are engaged in above-said manner, even then there is a gain upon free against slave labour; and for the sake of humanity, as well as for reducing the cost of production, it is well worth the attention of the planter and other parties concerned.

In conclusion, I beg to say that I am actuated in thus addressing you on this subject only from the desire of putting a stop to slavery—disgraceful as it is to the human mind to be obliged to own that it does exist—and thereby advancing the lot of many of our fellow-creatures, without intending to do any harm to those who are at this time holders of slaves; for I am of opinion that there will be and must be found some means of gradually converting slave into free labour, as soon as the latter is to be had at fair prices.

The warm interest you have always taken in promoting free labour, and the liberality with which you make room in your wide-read paper for anything which has a tendency to cause improvement, induces me to hope that you will give also to my observations your attention. And I have much pleasure in subscribing myself, my dear Sir, your most obedient servant,

Canton, Jan. 16, 1851.

HUMANITY.

LABOUR IN THE WEST INDIES.

To the Editor of the Economist.

SIR,—I rather think that both you and I agree as to the vileness of the endeavour to establish again a sort of West India slavery, under the pretext of a greatly exaggerated loss of coloured people in Jamaica from the cholera. The Legislature of that large island has been invariably hostile to freedom of the negroes, as well as to any amelioration of the infamous laws against them; and how it can suppose that free men, who cannot have the shadow of justice shown towards their wrongs, will voluntarily go there, one is at a loss to imagine.

But independently of this very material point, what are we to say to the

strange obstinacy of the planters, who might so easily have had labour in abundance long before this day, if they would have cultivated their cane pieces with the plough, instead of the powerless instrument—the light hoe.

I presume you know that the really practical planters admit that they can't get a gang of efficient labourers to *hole* an acre per day through the season, unless it consists of from thirty-seven to forty; whereas you as well know that one plough, with a fair ploughman, and a boy to attend the oxen, will make an acre in an incomparably superior state for the cultivation of the cane. Here, then, is a saving at once of 35 to 38 hands. But again, the acre when *holed* in the usual way is manured by negroes, each carrying a basket of dung (generally on their heads) of about 80 pounds weight; whereas four or more carts, according to distance, will, with something like a mere tithe of the human labour, manure the field in less time. Once more, in crop time, when hands are so much wanted, a cane piece *holed* must have the crop carried off on the negroes' heads or shoulders; whereas a cane piece, properly ridged, may have the whole crop carted off with very few hands as quickly as the canes can be cut and dressed for the mill.

I have not stated the great saving of human labour during the growth of the crop, in keeping the canes clean, &c.; nor have I alluded to the remarkable increase in the quantity of sugar which, *ceteris paribus*, invariably follows the correct management by ploughs, &c.; because I wish just now to remind you of the almost inveterate obstinacy of the West India planters, who, although the plough has been strongly recommended for above half a century, and in the few places where fairly tried has been found to answer, have not availed themselves of the advice, and are now making a very false statement, to enable them, as would appear, to persist in the very worst method of cultivating the cane that could well have been devised.

Some symptoms of amendment are appearing in the island of Barbadoes, as to the diminution of human labour; but nothing of importance, that I hear of, is going on in Jamaica.

This country has already paid twenty millions (to say nothing of the three millions per annum so long continued by protecting duties) for the folly and wickedness of the West India planters; and here is an attempt to saddle us again with re-established slavery.—I am, with much esteem, yours respectfully,

Kendal, March 24, 1851.

GEORGE BRAITHWAITE.

[A good deal has been done in many of the islands to remedy the imperfection mentioned by our correspondent.—Ed. Econ.]

A FARMERS' OPINIONS.

To the Editor of the Economist.

SIR,—The "farmer's friend" journals seem to think they are "slaying the Phillistines" by their repeated "missiles" manufactured for the occasion, and signed "Agriculturist," &c. Living in an agricultural district of Lanarkshire, where farmers are generally contented and land improving; and having some intercourse with practical, enterprising agriculturists in East Lothian, I am bound to report a very different state of mind on this subject.

Permit me with this view to copy *verbatim* the words of one of this class, near Dunbar, to whom I had occasion lately to write in a friendly way, and without adverting to Free Trade, believing from what I had formerly known of his opinions, the subject would not be agreeable. After some apology for his delay in reply, and other general topics of business, he proceeds thus:—"There is a great change in agricultural matters now, and most of us East Lothian people think the change will be much in our favour as farmers, and consequently the majority are what are called Free Traders, of which class I am one. I see no cause of any fear of being driven from the market by any foreigners, and have no doubt we will grow wheat as cheap, if not cheaper, than any of them; but the great object is to get the masses able to consume, and no fear for importations. It will turn out with corn as with butcher meat and live stock, the importations only being 3½ per cent of the consumpt." Bravely spoken my intelligent friend. No *whining* here you see, Mr Editor, and it is such men only who are worthy to cultivate the British soil. I am a small freeholder, but having a *name* at your service, I subscribe it. Yours respectfully,

Clydeside, March, 1851.

JOHN ANDERSON.

AMERICAN STEAMERS.

To the Editor of the Economist.

SIR,—I observe that in an article in your last impression you quoted, from the letter of the American correspondent of the *Times*, the wonderful account of the performance of the steamer Prometheus. Now, I take the liberty of observing that I have very great doubts as to the correctness of the information given to the writer of the letter, for I have heard, read, and seen so much of the inflated accounts of the American sea-going steamers and their performances, that I am very sceptical of all the reports from that side of the water.

If we take the case of Collins' steamer Baltic, we find her trial trip extolled by the American press, who all told us that her speed was fully 20 miles an hour. Well, what is the truth? Has she done anything like 20 miles an hour since she was put upon the trial station between New York and Liverpool? At least, if she done it, neither the Asia nor Africa have thought of attempting such a feat.

Again, the Americans, according to their own statements, have sea-going steamers to Cuba, Mexico, &c., whose average rate of speed is said to be 350 miles per day. Do Collins' line of steamers average 350 miles per day? And if they do not, how is it that Jonathan should keep his first-rate going boats on his own shores, and send second-class going steamers to Britain and France? and why are not such extraordinary boats as the Prometheus put on to out out the Cunarders, or even the screw-steamer City of Glasgow?

There is another matter connected with these sea-going steamers calling for reform; and that is the large amount of monies paid to them by the American and British Governments, and for the mileage the former pays higher than the latter. When the business was new, it was well enough to foster the establishment of ocean steamers; but ten years should have found the trade strong enough to be weaned from all reliance on Government support.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Glasgow, March 25, 1851.

J. A. O.

[Accurate information on the subject which this letter refers to will be very acceptable to us. We are and have long been satisfied that whatever the Americans can do on this point, we can do.—Ed. Econ.]

REFINED SUGAR.

To the Editor of the Economist.

SIR,—The general policy and tone of your columns towards the British West India colonists, is such as to render them so unattractive to me, that I very rarely permit myself to peruse them; but my attention has been directed to your number of the 15th inst., wherein I find a running commentary on the letter of "A Sugar Refiner," and you therein state that—"The more we inquire into the facts of the Dutch and Belgian laws, the more we are satisfied that the regulations affecting their exports (very complicated in their character) do not operate as an effective bounty to their refiners."

I will not be guilty of the rudeness of questioning the diligence of your inquiry, nor the channels in which it was pursued and directed, nor insinuate that, from their complication, you were unable to discover the practical results of the Dutch and Belgian laws relating to exports, though it may be that the framers of those laws did not wish them to be understood in England; but I will affirm that I have been making inquiries on that, to me, most interesting subject, in the regions to which you have referred, from whence I returned in the last month.

It was from no idle curiosity that I have endeavoured to ascertain what you denominate "the facts" of this case, and with regret I may venture to assure you that I have arrived at a conclusion directly opposite to your own; and I hereby challenge contradiction, from whatever quarter it may come—whether from Holland, or Belgium, or Downing street—that such is the effect of the working of the laws now in operation in those countries, that a real, *bona fide*, undoubted bounty is obtained on the export of refined sugar.

Not only is a bounty obtained on the export of foreign colonial sugar, but it is well known, and will not be denied by those who have a local knowledge on the subject, that a considerable quantity of native beet-root sugar is likewise exported, on which the bounty is received by the exporter, though not intended by the law; and this operation—so prejudicial and so unjust to the British colonial sugar producer and the British refiner—is, I much fear, likely to continue, until the mass of the people in those countries have their attention awakened to the fact, that they are unduly taxed for the benefit of the native manufacturer, and some others in high places.

In the enthusiasm of your admiration of a Free-trade policy, you take advantage, I will not say unfairly, of the encouraging prospects, and comparative recently improved state of affairs in the colonies of Demerara and Barbadoes, and apparently wish it to be inferred that such is the present condition of the West Indies generally. But you are unaware of peculiar local circumstances—you have not seen, as I saw last year in my wanderings in the West Indies and residence in a British colony, the many once-affluent colonists irretrievably ruined—who have not witnessed the sorrows and lamentations of distressed families—who have been reduced to absolute want—you have not seen, as I have seen, many once profitable estates now abandoned and valueless to their present owners; and, therefore, I can scarcely expect you to give credence to my statement, that one-half of the original proprietors are hopelessly ruined, and the remainder are struggling hard for a bare subsistence!

The above unhappy state of affairs is the natural consequence of a policy as mistaken as it is unjust, and the advocates of that policy evidently lost sight of its essential element, viz., fair competition.

As a British sugar producer, I know that my fellow-colonists, who have any means left to them available, would survive the difficulties and embarrassments that have beset them since the fatal year 1846, if they were exposed only to fair competition, and that under such a system they would not fear the efforts of the Cuban and Brazilian! I also know that while free labour can be obtained in the British colonies only for eight hours per day (from which we have to deduct breakfast and dinner time) for five days in the week, we cannot successfully compete with coerced labour for eighteen hours per day for six days in the week, as we find to be the case in Cuba.

It is almost incredible that such a state of things should have the sanction of the British Government; but they will, I suppose, continue until we have in the House of Commons some ardent spirit—a restless agitator—who will worry the Minister by day, and fret him at night,—who will infuse the influence of our colonial prickly pear into the cushion on the Treasury bench, and whether it be occupied by a Wood or a Graham, make them "know the reason why."—I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,

JOSEPH LIGGINS.

87 Mincing lane, March 19, 1851.

To the Editor of the Economist.

SIR,—In the *Economist* of the 8th instant appeared the following:—"We have been utterly at a loss to understand the great importance attached to the competition of the continental refiners of sugar in this market, when we see to how small an extent it has entered into our consumption." Now, Mr Editor, a drop is an insignificant thing, and still a single one may cause the cup to overflow. The refiners are suffering, it may be from but a drop too much, but still they are suffering, and I cannot but think that the writer of the above paragraph, who treats the matter so lightly, must either have been labouring under the same influence, or writing without reflection.

Every one in business is aware, that a very trifling excess in the supply of an article daily wanted has frequently a mighty influence in causing a flat market, and giving a downward tendency to prices; whilst, on the other hand, a very small deficiency gives a surprising firmness to the seller and confidence to the buyer. The refining trade must now at all times labour under the depressing effect of the former state of things, and never can benefit from the latter, for both grocer and refiner know that there is in the bonded warehouses a quantity far more than ample to make up for any temporary shortcoming of home-made goods. That a business so situated can ever be in a healthy position must be evident to all.

The simple reason for the quantity of continental refined admitted into consumption having been so trifling, is, that the home refiner has been compelled to undersell his continental competitor to keep his goods out of the market.

But has the quantity really been so very unimportant? Duty was paid in the month of January upon 842 tons, and the deliveries since have been going on even at a greater rate. This may appear insignificant to some, but it is about a sixth of the whole refined sugar consumed, and equal to the production of three of our first-class refineries. The old establishments being sufficient to supply the demand, would the produce of three additional ones, suddenly thrown upon the market, have little perceptible influence on the supply? Dutch and Belgian refined sugar is thus displacing three of our refineries. Do you, Mr Editor, consider it a trifling matter, the sacrifice of the large sums expended on these works, or the depriving of employment and throwing upon the labour market—already sufficiently overburdened—the numerous artisans and labourers connected with these sugar-houses?

You may say that the evil will cure itself. Doubtless it will, but if foreign Governments continue their present system of bounties, and our own the present scale of duties, not until every home refiner is seriously injured, and some ruined.

Is it, then, the duty of a paternal Government to allow a trade to fall that neither asks bounties nor prohibitions, but simply fairplay?

The question then comes to be, does or does not the trade get fairplay? I assert that in several respects it does not.

In the first place, our refiners do not get justice. They cannot compete on equal terms with continental ones, unless they have an opportunity, as the latter have, of working either for the home or export trade, as may suit them.

This privilege they clearly are prevented from enjoying, as they virtually are forced to pay 17s duty on all the raw materials they use, whilst the drawback on exportation is calculated as if the duty was only 11s.

Even on and after July, 1854, when the duties will be equalised, the drawback is only to be 12s 9d, although 13s 4d is considered as equivalent to a duty

of 10s. Why not at least make the drawback 13s 4d? Such being the case, can it be said that justice is done to our home refiners?

Another grievance I have to complain of, is the unfair and unreasonable adjustment of the sugar duties.

Were the duties on importation imposed something approaching to the saccharine matter contained in each quality, the refiner would have little to fear; but this is very far from being the case. Is it fair or consistent with common sense, that Khaur and other inferior qualities, containing so much moisture and treacle and a little saccharine matter, should be taxed as heavily as sugar that had gone through a process of refinement in Holland or our colonies, which is the case at present, as fine pieces are admitted from the former, and highly crystallised from the latter, at the same duty as brown clayed, or 17s and 11s per cwt respectively.

Can the growers of Khaur and such like have any chance of prospering, when their wretched stuff has to pay a duty of 10s, and the very finest double refined only 13s 4d?

It is apparent that they cannot; so our refiners, who depend very much for their supply upon inferior descriptions, un-fitable for home use in the state they are imported, will lose that supply, and be thus forced to abandon their business, or remove to more favoured countries.

If the duty on raw sugar is unfairly imposed, that on refined is even more so; for besides being inadequate for the saccharine matters contained in it, it is altogether inadequate to compensate for the peculiar advantages that foreign refiners enjoy, even independently of the bounties granted them by their own Governments. To prove this will be easy. It is well known that in the process of refining sugar, there is a waste, varying in proportion to the description made use of. One quality with another, this waste will amount to 4 lbs per cwt. The foreigner works upon sugar which costs 20s, while the same stands the home refiner, 37s; 4 lbs at the one price is 8½d, and at the other 15½d, so that the home manufacturer works at a disadvantage of 7d per cwt, as compared with his competitor.

It is likewise well known that treacle is produced, varying in amount according as the sugar operated on is weak or strong. The value of this article on the continent is fully higher than it is here. This fact is evident, for our bonded refiners ship largely of it to the continent, and they obtain the same price for it as our home refiners do.

The continental refiner then uses sugar at 20s, and sells his treacle at 14s; losing 6s per cwt upon the treacle produced. The refiner here has to pay 37s for the same sugar, and gets 14s for his treacle, thus losing at the rate of 23s per cwt.

Upon the average the quantity of treacle may be taken at 14 lbs for each cwt of raw. The foreigner thus loses 14 lbs at 6s, or 9d per cwt, and the home refiner 14 lbs at 23s, or 2s 10d per cwt;—a difference in favour of the foreigner of 2s 1d per cwt. Even when the duties come to be equalised, the home refiner will work to a disadvantage of 1s 7d from these two causes.

In justice, then, to the producers of inferior qualities of raw sugar in our colonies, and in fairness to the sugar refiners of this country, there ought to be an additional duty of not less than 3s per cwt imposed upon refined sugar, and sugar equal to white clayed imported from the continent, over and above the rates under the existing act of Parliament.

It is, I know, argued that the freight and charges bringing sugar from the continent act as a protection to our refiners; but this is a fallacy. Sugar refiners must be situated near to where are large importations of the raw material; therefore, every town cannot have its sugar-house as it has its bake-house. The whole of Ireland, Newcastle, Aberdeen, and many other populous places and districts are equally open to both parties, for the freight to such places is about as high from London, Liverpool, or Glasgow, as from Rotterdam or Antwerp.

You will say that it is easier to find fault, than to suggest a remedy. The simplest plan would be to permit our bonded refiners to enter their produce for home consumption direct from the sugar-house. I am aware that there are difficulties in the way, but none that are insuperable.

If an alteration in the duties were wanted, I would suggest the following:—

	Colonial.		Foreign.	
	s	d	s	d
Refined	14	0	23	4
Equal to white clayed	12	0	18	8
— brown clayed	10	6	15	6
Muscovado below standard	9	6	14	0

Our colonies labour under so many drawbacks, imposed upon them by the Home Government, that they are justly entitled to a small protection.

As it would be unfair to stand in the way of our colonists improving their manufacture, their refined and equal to white clayed, ought to be admitted on more favourable terms than foreign of the same description.—I am, Sir, respectfully yours,

March 17th, 1851.

A SUGAR REFINER.

To the Editor of the Economist.

SIR,—The article under the above head in your last number does not give a full and fair representation of the case. The imports of Dutch lump sugar are increasing. 1,500 tons have been entered for home consumption in the first two months of this year—equal to 9,000 tons against 5,000 of 1850. The total consumption of refined lump sugar in Great Britain is not more than 70,000 or 80,000 tons.

In order to keep out of the market an inundation of foreign refined, the home manufacturer is compelled to submit to an unremunerative price.

We should not object to this reduction, were it the effect of fair competition, but it is not so. The Dutch refiners are bribed by a Government bounty to send their goods to our market. It is difficult to define accurately the extent of this bounty, but it is known to be considerable.

¶¶The following fact establishes this point:—I have now in my possession a sample of fair average raw sugar (No 12 Dutch standard), and a sample of good Dutch lump sugar. They are both offered for sale in this market; the price of the manufactured article is one shilling per cwt more than the raw article; the difference to the Dutch manufacturer is made up by the Government bounty. This is not fair competition, nor can the British refiner stand up against it.

The British refiner is subject to positive disadvantages. First.—The prohibition to work in bond for the supply of the home market. Second.—The withdrawal of a sufficient drawback which prohibits exportation. Third.—The undue privilege given to foreigners to import refined at a reduced duty on the 1st of July, without giving the home manufacturer any time to dispose of his high-duty stock, in process or otherwise.

Free Trade is understood to imply competition with foreigners upon equal terms. Of such I am not afraid, but the British sugar refiner is placed in a much worse position than his rival.—I am, Sir, respectfully yours,

Bristol, March 13, 1851.

AN OLD BRISTOL SUGAR REFINER.

To the Editor of the Economist.

SIR,—Were these importations and corresponding low prices the fruits of fair competition, our refiners could have no ground of complaint. But the objection to them rests on two grounds:—

First.—That our refiners, while working, run a highly-protected raw material,

and labouring, as a consequence, under so many vexatious restrictions, ought themselves to be protected from competition with the refineries of those states not the place of growth, and where a bounty is avowedly given to encourage exportation of the manufactured article.

Secondly.—The fact of the scale of duties in the present Sugar Duties Bill being in opposition to every principle of justice. They were protested against by all practical men when the Act was passed, and should it ever come into full force three years hence, a thing which appears impossible, it will then be seen that the law, so far from being one to encourage Free Trade, contains in the scale of duties a bounty on refining abroad. The duty will then be 10s per cwt. on the very lowest brown sugar, and 13s 4d on double refined. The present scale of 17s on foreign brown clayed, and 22s 8d on foreign refined, is in degree as unjust; [but what, with the scale of 10s on brown, and 13s 4d on double refined in July, 1851, is to become of the raw sugar produced not only in our colonies but also in foreign states, unless, indeed, it be sent first to some other country to be refined and then introduced into this in a manufactured state, at the low duty of 13s 4d. This is a question quite independent of protection, which certainly our refiners do not seek, and it is one equally affecting the growers of raw sugar, whether colonial or foreign, in fact all who do not wish to see the sugar trade driven out of the country.]—I am, your obedient servant, CHARLES COLES, Jun., Broker.

London, 86 Great Tower street, March 15, 1851.

P.S.—The present bounty allowed by the Dutch Government on the exportation of refined sugar amounts to about 3s 6d per cwt. This reduces the duty actually payable on double refined Dutch loaves, selling for home consumption in this market, to 19s 2d, while the lowest brown clayed foreign sugar, worked by our refiners, pays a duty of 17s. In July, 1854, the Dutch bounty, if persisted in (which is very probable), will reduce the duty of 13s 4d on double refined to 9s 10d, while the lowest brown Muscovado West India sugar will pay a duty of 10s per cwt.

Imperial Parliament.

PRINCIPAL BUSINESS OF THE WEEK.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—Friday: County Courts Extension Bill read a second time. Monday: Sale of Arsenic Regulation Bill read a third time—Returns and petitions. Tuesday: Conversation on the status of the Church in the Colonies. Thursday: Conversation on the re-enactment of the Alien Act.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—Friday: Adjourned debate on the Ecclesiastical Titles Bill. Monday: Ditto. Tuesday: Ecclesiastical Titles Bill read a second time. Thursday: Committee appointed to inquire into steam communication between England, India, and Australia.—Motion to put a duty on goods imported in Spanish vessels negatived.—Vice-Chancellor Bill read a first time.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Friday, March 21.

[CONTINUED FROM OUR LAST.]

Lord Brougham moved the second reading of the County Courts Extension Bill, and entered, at some length, into an explanation of its details.

The Lord Chancellor, Lord Cranworth, and Lord Abinger, offered some comments upon the bill, chiefly in reference to the clauses by which the courts were made into courts of conciliation, respecting which some doubts were expressed whether they would work well. The bill was then read a second time, and their lordships adjourned.

Monday, March 24.

The Sale of Arsenic Regulation Bill was read a third time with additional clauses, and passed on the motion of Lord Carlisle.

The Earl of Desart moved for certain returns of wheat and flour imported in 1849, 1850, and 1851 into Great Britain and Ireland, and called the attention of the house to the great inconvenience which had attended the importation of flour into the United Kingdom, and especially to the injury which it had inflicted on millers.

Earl Grey admitted that the importation of foreign flour had been great, but believed it had been far from disadvantageous to the country at large. It might be that our millers were suffering from French competition, but the French possessed no advantages which were not equally available to the British miller, while the British had advantages which the French miller did not possess.

Lord Stanley, in spite of the noble earl's observations, thought the facts of the case, as exhibited in the sufferings of the millers, were entirely against him.

After some further discussion, in which Lord Fitzwilliam and Lord Malmesbury took part, the motion of Lord Desart was agreed to.

The Earl of Winchelsea, in presenting a petition against papal aggression, was about to enter upon the case of Miss Talbot, which he stigmatised as one of the greatest conspiracies ever heard of, when Lord Campbell reminded the noble earl of the impropriety of making remarks on cases which were *sub judice*.

Their lordships then adjourned.

Tuesday, March 25.

A conversation, commenced by the Bishop of Oxford, took place respecting the status of the established church in the colonies. Earl Grey confessed that some hypothetical difficulties existed, but no practical questions had yet arisen, and, before proceeding to legislate, recommended the completion of an inquiry which, he intimated, was already commenced in some of the colonial dependencies.

Lord Malmesbury presented several petitions remonstrating against the injustice of the present assessment for the poor rates levied upon tithes and rent-charges. These petitions the noble lord supported on behalf of the working clergy, and elicited a statement that the Government had no intention of introducing a bill upon the subject.

A brief discussion ensued, after which the petitions were laid on the table, and their lordships adjourned at 7 o'clock.

Thursday, March 27.

Lord Lyndhurst referred to the existence in this country of certain societies, composed of foreigners, in correspondence with the revolutionists in various continental states, who were raising funds, and endeavouring to disturb the peace of nations in alliance with England. He inquired whether the Government had taken any steps upon the subject, and recommended the re-enactment of the Alien Act.

Earl Grey stated that the administration were aware of these foreign societies, and had in consideration whether any means could be adopted to restrain their proceedings. He deprecated, however, any recourse to a new Alien Act, which had never been employed except to preserve the tranquillity of this country, and this could not be said to be threatened.

The report from the committee upon the County Courts Extension Bill was brought up.

Their lordships then adjourned at a quarter to 7 o'clock.

Friday, March 28.

Earl Fitzwilliam, in presenting several petitions against papal aggression, took the opportunity of stating that the intensity of the popular feeling on this subject had increased, and under these circumstances he was astonished that those who had charge of the bill on this subject in the other house should have abandoned those clauses which were calculated to make the provision of the bill effectual.

This led to a brief conversation, in which Lord Carlisle, Lord Aberdeen, and Lord Grey, took part.

Their lordships then adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Friday, March 21.

[CONTINUED FROM OUR LAST.]

Mr Bernal Osborne feared that silence would be more prudent, but was compelled by conscience to speak. He dissented from the doctrine that an arrogant and mediæval rescript from Rome justified an act conceived in a similar spirit by the British Parliament. The bill might be mild in terms, but was fraught with a dangerous precedent for intolerance. Our jealousy of endowments, and our terror at the Roman canon law, had become quite morbid in their intensity. It was preposterous to prohibit episcopal titles and leave the substance untouched. The hon. member commented upon various expressions used by preceding speakers in support of the bill, and then cited passages from royal coronation oaths and official speeches to prove that persecution had been a feature in all religions. Alluding to the diversity of teaching in the Anglican church, he recommended the advocates of protestantism to purify their own establishment and reform their universities. The extension of the measure to Ireland was inexcusable. It had revived the sectarian differences in that country at a time when the *odium theologicum* was disappearing and the people were thinking more of potatoes than popes. He enlarged upon the virulence that had prevailed at the late meetings both in England and Ireland, and showed that protestant prelates and ecclesiastics had opposed national education and the Government quite as vehemently as the Synod of Thurles.

Mr B. Cochrane asserted that the English protestants had employed arrogant and insulting expressions as well as the Pope, and supported his assertion by numerous quotations from addresses delivered at public meetings, from speeches in Parliament, and the lectures of Father Gavazzi. He protested against this language, because while intending to vote for the bill he did not wish to be classed with men whose religion appeared to be nothing but intolerance.

Mr Clibchester Fortescue regretted to oppose the Government, but could not assent to a bill founded upon an unreasonable and transitory outburst of protestant feeling.

Mr Child felt justified in voting for the measure on the principle of self-preservation.

Mr Gould believed that we had treated the Pope as badly as he had treated us. In refusing all diplomatic intercourse, we had brought upon ourselves all the consequences that had ensued. Considering that there had been neither insult nor aggression sufficient to entitle the legislature to interpose, he intended to vote for the amendment.

Mr W. J. Fox laid down the maxim that the state had a right to interfere only with an established church, and objected to the bill that it occasioned an interference with the internal organisation of a non-established hierarchy. The Government had conceded both the fact and the principle, in the case of the Scotch Kirk, and he claimed admission for the same plea for the catholics. Did they mean to circumscribe the privileges of the methodists, whose organisation included bishops in everything but name; or prohibit the possible formation of a free episcopal church in England, on the model already set them in Scotland? The allegation of foreign intrusion and divided allegiance had been obsolete these twenty years. Christianity over-rode nationality, and its chief ministers and teachers were nowhere foreigners. Dwelling upon the greater necessity of a hierarchy among the catholics, he contended that the instances of ambition or misconduct quoted against the clergy of that faith were the common characteristics of all priests. The state must always watch and check the encroaching tendencies of a priesthood. He believed that the catholic body were as anxious to promote education as the protestants, and had availed themselves of all opportunities as largely. Contending that the aggression, which defied legal remedy, would be best encountered by a reform of the protestant church and by throwing open the doors of the universities to the best spirits of the nation, he refused to subscribe to a measure which had disturbed England and inflamed Ireland, to gratify some titled ecclesiastics in their pride of place.

Mr Walpole divided the question into three branches:—Whether the papal rescript was aggressive; how we ought to notice it; and whether the bill now before them was the fittest method of doing so. The first proposition had been admitted, even by Sir James Graham. On the second he submitted that the nation could not permit an outrage, by which the Sovereign herself was included within the see placed under the authority of Cardinal Wiseman, to pass without a legislative repression. A prosecution under existing statutes would probably have failed; or, if successful, would have proved more irritating than a new law, and left untouched the papal rescript, which was the gravest part of the offence. Respecting the measure itself he admitted its inadequacy, and propounded several additions which he should have desired to see introduced. He, however, consented to accept it, and enlarging upon the necessity of giving a formal protest, such as Europe might hear, against papal encroachment, and trusting that, from the moment of its enactment, the executive would take care to have all its provisions carried out with firmness, he concluded with a picture of the dangers that might hereafter arise from ultramontane intrusion, if not rebuked in time, and hoped the country would always reply to the appeal of the Sovereign demanding to rule as a free Queen over a free people.

Mr Roebuck ridiculed the fear of the "poor old priest," whose intrusion, it seemed, was apprehended into an empire the most powerful in the world, and whose moral influences were endowed with the greatest vigour. He cited history to show that in ages of comparative ignorance the Pope had never succeeded in making his authority paramount in this country; and maintained that the canon law was not dangerous, and synodical action nothing more than was allowed to dissenters without apprehension. The catholics, he remarked, had proved loyal and submissive under all the disabilities they endured before emancipation, adding that they would be stirred into disaffection, at least in Ireland, if the present bill passed. Commenting upon the singular deadlock at which the Government of the country now stood, he traced its cause to the unprecedented letter of Lord John Russell, and the blundering bill he had founded upon it. He quoted the general understanding to support his assertion that when this unlucky measure was disposed of, the present ministry would give way to a new combination in which Sir James Graham was to take a leading place. He pronounced the bill a failure, and believed that the country was quite tired of the discussion.

The Attorney-General intended to prove, first, that the Pope's rescript had a temporal action involving peril to the liberties of the subject, from which it

would follow that the Government were called upon to interfere; and upon the second question, whether their intended mode of interference was fit and appropriate. He proceeded to argue, and illustrated his argument by recent instances, that by the Roman canon law an extended jurisdiction over temporalities was given to bishops holding territorial titles, and while he admitted that this law was nominally foreign, traced the technical links by which it could be made operative in this country, even as to enforce from our own Court of Chancery a sanction and guarantee for its decrees. Having then justified legislation, he turned to the bill itself. In Ireland he observed the trusteeship of bequests and endowments had been permitted to the catholic prelates for three centuries, and as the second and third clauses of the bill would prohibit this arrangement it was judged proper to omit them. Respecting the clause to be retained, he showed that its effect would be to interfere with legal instruments or synodical action held or performed by persons using prohibited titles only so far as those instruments or that action required reinforcement by the civil courts of the country. The prohibition thus limited had existed without causing complaint in Ireland since emancipation, and was at that era accepted as a gratifying measure of relief when compared with past disabilities. He could not therefore understand why it should now be clamoured against so loudly. Explaining some expression used in former speeches and misinterpreted during the present debate, he stated that the establishment of a diplomatic intercourse with Rome had been an object with the Government three years since, and a bill for that purpose had passed the Commons, but was rendered inoperative elsewhere through the addition of certain clauses by parties who now alleged that such an intercourse would have obviated the necessity of the present measure. He submitted that the bill was now rendered as mild as possible, enacting every limited penalty and deprived of all oppressive and insulting elements, and sent forth among the catholic body, trusting to their loyal acceptance and obedience.

The debate was then adjourned, after a brief recommendation from Lord J. Russell that the discussion should terminate on Monday next.

The house rose at half-past twelve o'clock.

Monday, March 24.

In reply to a question,

Lord J. Russell said, that in the present state of the public business, he did not think he should be justified in proposing that the house should adjourn for the recess on the 11th of April.

After a short explanation between Mr Reynolds and Sir B. Hall on the subject of Miss Talbot's case, the adjourned debate on the second reading of the Ecclesiastical Titles Assumption Bill was resumed by

Mr W. Fagan, who complained of the terms which had been used by Mr Drummond on Thursday with reference to nunneries, and explained the circumstances under which Miss Talbot became an inmate of the Lodge, at Taunton. He then applied himself to the bill before the house, which he believed originated in a desire to arrest the spread of the Roman catholic religion in this country. He repudiated the offensive doctrines imputed to Roman catholics, who, he said, adhered to the Gallican declaration of 1682, which disowned the jurisdiction of the Pope in temporal or civil affairs. He disputed the statement of the Attorney-General as to the effect of the introduction of the canon law and the establishment of a normal system of ecclesiastical government. With the exception of canons of faith and doctrine, no Roman catholic, priest or layman, was bound to receive any canon in contravention of the municipal law. The doctrines of the Roman catholic church were unchangeable; but its discipline was adapted to times and circumstances. Assuming, however, that the dread of the canon law was reasonable, neither this nor any other bill would prevent synodical action. The people of Ireland looked upon this measure as an insult upon their religion—and without the people of Ireland, the noble lord well knew that, in the state of parties, his power could not stand—whilst it would not satisfy the people of England. He opposed the bill because it was a retrograde step in legislation, an infringement of the act of 1829, an abrogation of the Charitable Bequests Act, an instalment of other measures against Ireland, and, above all, a violation of the principles of civil and religious liberty.

Mr Smythe opposed the bill as an absurd and a suicidal measure against a sham aggression. What, he asked, had the Pope done? He had accorded territorial titles with no territorial faculties. The head and front of his offending was his conferring spiritual faculties; it was against these faculties they were about indirectly to legislate. Had the Pope meant an aggression, he had an army in the order of Jesus more powerful than the armies of Russia.

Mr M. Milnes, after the closest investigation of the subject, should support the bill, being unable to deny that there had been an assumption of ecclesiastical titles which it was right and just to hinder. He could not be blind to the unequivocal manifestation of public opinion upon this subject, and he did not believe that the letter of Lord J. Russell had any real effect in exciting the country. The object of the bill was to assimilate the Roman catholic hierarchy in this country, in form and legal condition, to that of Ireland. Making every allowance, it was impossible not to see that there pervaded the recent acts of the Romish authorities here a distinct assumption of territorial power; and, from the example of other countries, where the power exercised by the court of Rome could not be dissociated from political influence, he argued that suspicion must attach not only to the fact of a Roman catholic hierarchy being established in this country, but to the manner in which it had been done. Believing, therefore, that the bill was justified by the facts of the case and called for by public opinion, and considering that it was a wise measure, not infringing the religious liberty of Roman catholics, he should vote for its second reading.

Mr Sadler replied to Mr Milnes, and contended that it was precisely because in England, as that gentleman alleged, Roman catholics were comparatively few, they needed the protection of a parochial clergy, and to be relieved from the servility to which they might be subjected by a bad Pope, of whom vicars-apostolic would be the mere creatures and nominees. To this state of independence they had been elevated by the act of Pius IX. He admitted that the papal documents displayed a gross ignorance of the religious feelings of the people of England, and, so far as the expression of their opinion was confined to the supposed aggression of the Pope, he respected it; but he complained of the absence of facts, law, and argument in that house in favour of this penal bill, which was a reversal of the enlightened policy of the last 20 years. He justified the proceeding of the holy see in the appointment of Dr Cullen, with reference to the Queen's colleges; he defended the Synod of Thurles against the strictures of Lord J. Russell; and, reading a legal opinion to the effect that the bill would prevent the free action of the Roman catholic hierarchy in Ireland, he declared that he would resist the measure, as charged with mischief to that unhappy country.

Mr H. Berkeley supported the bill, believing that the papal bull was an aggressive insult upon the supremacy of the Queen, whether temporal or spiritual, and that legislation was necessary in order to express the opinion of the people of England, and to prevent the recurrence of such an aggression. He thought the noble lord had steered a judicious course between the bigotry of Exeter hall and the *dolce far niente* of Sir J. Graham. The Pope had been waiting for 10 years, hoping that the church of England would drop into his mouth, and, losing patience, had shaken the tree with no other effect than to bring down the unripe fruit. Mr Berkeley enlarged upon certain exhibitions in some of our

churches, and observed that the Pope and his advisers might thence have naturally inferred that England was prepared for a change of faith. The people of England would not think this bill enough, but would call for a reform of the church of England, by giving it a defined rubric and ritual.

Sir J. Young bore testimony to the opinions of different religious classes in Ireland adverse to this measure. He feared its effects in that country; rigour would provoke opposition, and opposition would provoke fresh rigour. Roman catholicism, it was admitted, was unchangeable and inflexible; that inflexibility could not be met by penal laws; it must be encountered by free discussion. He opposed this bill because he believed that all the state could do was to maintain in dignity and respect the established church, and that it should resist all departure from complete toleration. He warned the protestants of Ireland—the prosperity of which this measure would long retard—that it would lead to a severe struggle, and that they would have to bear the brunt and heat of the strife.

Mr Grattan agreed with Sir J. Young, that this bill would cause a struggle in Ireland—though he would call it war. And what, he asked, had Ireland done to be put in the bill? He replied to some of the arguments offered in support of the measure, against the whole policy of which he inveighed at great length, with much warmth and vehemence.

Mr Grantley Berkeley rose to repudiate what he considered a most disgraceful attack upon the Roman catholics by Mr Drummond, upon whom he retorted a charge of believing in supernatural agency. The bill he supported on principle, because he thought some legislation was necessary.

Lord Castlereagh, although he had no sympathy with the religious opinions of his Roman catholic countrymen, was proud upon this occasion to be arrayed with them on the same platform for the cause of their country and of religious liberty. The measure before the house, he observed, satisfied no one, and was peculiarly obnoxious to the people of Ireland, who might also justly take exception to the language used in that house. How was it proposed to govern Ireland under this bill? Would any Roman catholics take office? Convinced that the measure would be impracticable, as well as irritating in Ireland, and that it would not satisfy the people of England, he should oppose the second reading.

Mr A. B. Hope spoke in opposition to the bill, amid considerable interruption. Granted, he said, that the Pope had insulted us, the insult came from the Pope; the bishops, against whom the bill was directed, were innocent parties. The measure was at variance with the great principle of toleration, which was the glory of the Anglo-Saxon race, and he should oppose it as discreditable to the civilisation of that race, and discreditable to the magnanimity of the country.

A motion by Mr Hobhouse, again to adjourn the debate, was resisted by Lord J. Russell, and upon a division, was negatived by 414 against 64.

The motion was renewed by Mr M. O'Connell, and Lord J. Russell thereupon gave way.

Another division took place upon the question whether the debate should recommence at 12 o'clock on Tuesday, or 5 o'clock, when the former proposition was carried by 306 to 43.

Further opposition being offered, Lord J. Russell consented to the adjournment of the debate until the usual hour, 5 o'clock.

Upwards of an hour and a half having been lost in this discussion, the house, after some further business, adjourned at 2 o'clock.

Tuesday, March 25.

Mr Hawes, replying to Mr Christopher, stated that the return of Sir E. Tennent to this country was solely owing to domestic circumstances, having no connection with the Ceylon inquiry, and without any recall having been sent out by the Government.

Mr Hobhouse re-opened the discussion of the Ecclesiastical Titles Bill by arguing that the papal rescript inflicted no insult and produced no aggression that warranted legislative interference. He apprehended much injury from the acrimonious debates which the subject had occasioned, fearing especially the handle that would be given to the scoffers against all religion.

Mr Portal, in a maiden speech, dwelt upon the infelicitous scope that was given to the bill, just enough to irritate, and not enough to resist, rendering it as a measure impotent for good, but all powerful for evil. Acknowledging that the papal act was an aggression upon the church, he thought that the church should not rely on the state for protection; and, proceeding to examine the measure as a piece of legislation, contended that it could not be made to work effectually.

Mr J. O'Connell maintained that the bill was unjustifiable, and that the debate had been a mine of exploded calumnies against the catholics.

Mr C. Lawless accused the Prime Minister of inconsistency, having professed to govern Ireland on tolerant and liberal principles, while in reality he passed nothing but coercion bills and penal enactments, of which the present bill was the latest specimen.

Mr Munz found in the aspect of the Christian world, where every country owning the supremacy of the Pope was less advanced than the protestant nations, the best reason for resisting every attempt at intrusion and aggression by the Papacy. He owned that very cogent arguments had been urged against the bill by Sir James Graham, but had not found his determination to support it shaken thereby.

Mr Scully opposed the bill, controverting the assertion that the Pope had committed any act of aggression.

Mr Hume had watched with pleasure the progress of recent years in which sectarian acerbities had become mollified and governments deprived of an excuse for persecution. He therefore noted with the greater sorrow the retrograde policy of the ministry, who were about to undo the work of thirty years; although themselves had borne a chief share in building the edifice of toleration they now seemed determined to destroy. On first reading the letter of Lord J. Russell he had sympathised with the political necessities which, he presumed, had compelled him thus to prepare employment beforehand for unquiet spirits during the session. But he found no justification for the bill now before them, or for the speech by which it had been introduced by the Prime Minister, and he saw no proof that the rescript was an aggression. The establishment of the catholic episcopacy had been urgently demanded by the English members of that faith, was currently talked about years since, and was merely a copy of the system existing and recognised in Ireland. It was childish folly to adopt petulant measures, at this time of day, against so trivial an aggression. The bill would create many inconsistencies in Scotland, and many difficulties in Ireland.

Sir F. Theisger remarked upon the opposite points from which the subject had been argued, on one side by those who saw in the papal act an exercise of indefeasible spiritual right, and on the other by those who viewed that act as an aggression upon the religious liberties of the country. Assuming for argument's sake the latter position, he contended that the present measure raised no barrier against the aggression, nor provided any prevention of further mischief. On the opposite side again, he maintained that no explanation had been given of the alleged religious necessity which was said to have existed for the serious hierarchical changes effected by the Pope's rescript. He was forced to seek for other motives, and, after a brief historical survey of past transactions, inferred

that these motives partook of a political and intrusive character, which demanded the most vigorous measures of defence. Examining the state of the law in Ireland from the date of the Revolution of 1688, he argued that the existence of catholic bishops in that country was at first absolutely prohibited, and had never since received a statutory permission. The appointment of such prelates in Ireland by the Pope was, therefore, as clearly an act of aggression as it was in England. Adverting then to the laws restraining the introduction of papal bulls, he regretted the inconsiderate kindness, which, since 1829, had removed all the penalties from those laws, and by dismantling the fortress of our nationality, allowed an enemy to take possession. But by ignoring all the long-established safeguards provided by law, the new act of the Minister had done a great injury to the very cause it was designed to serve. He found in the terms of the rescript the assertion of a principle whose natural development would speedily lead to an universal dominion. The new episcopacy it was alleged would constitute a fresh barrier between the English catholics and the Pope, but what advantage was that if the religion itself aggrandised its power in this country? In the bill he detected a crooked and timid policy, since it would interfere indirectly with ordination, synodical action, and other ecclesiastical functions, against which the framers did not venture to enact an express prohibition. Altogether, he concluded that the Minister, consistently with the maxims that induced him to prune away the second and third clauses, must vote against his own bill, unless he admitted into the retained clause a series of exceptions so wide as to swamp the whole of the purport of the measure. For his own part he intended to vote for the second reading; partly because he thought legislation so necessary that he would exceed even a minimum measure, but principally because he looked forward to the probability of getting it largely strengthened in committee. In no other way did he think it possible that the public could be satisfied, or the legislature of England be saved from becoming a by-word throughout Europe.

Sir J. Graham having corrected some dates which had been impugned, Mr Gladstone remarked upon the boldness with which Sir F. Theisger had repudiated the principles of toleration. Conscious that he stood alone among the university members as an opponent to the bill, he could not while consulting the highest interests of the established church, consent to let it stand in the invidious position of a barrier between a large class of the subjects and their religious liberty. Adverting to the difficulties and divisions within the church, he trusted that they might be cured by temperance and wisdom, but was convinced they would only be aggravated by secular interference. All the arguments in support of the bill were based upon an hypothetical aggression, hereafter possibly to be developed, but which he contended ought to be left for remedy when it became something more than a supposition. He confessed that the manner and language of the papal rescript and Dr Wiseman's appeal were offensive, but it was the substance only with which it became our dignity to deal. If it were true that the aggression constituted a breach of the law of nations, how preposterous was it to attack by a law or stigmatisation in a ministerial letter an act which ought to have been met by diplomatic remonstrance or a declaration of war. For the bill itself hardly any serious defence had been made. Every one seemed to confess that it was either indirect, inadequate, or inconsistent. In Ireland the measure was to be a dead letter; in England, a living principle. Commenting upon the absurdity of voting upon a bill in one shape which was to be passed in another, the right hon. member contrasted the various legal opinions pronounced upon the effect of the omissions designed to be made, and declared that the measure was in every sense contradictory and irrational. The temporal character of the papal aggression had never been fairly proved. One class of arguments, asserting that the catholic religion generally produced temporal evils, went much too far. Another class, based upon the assumption that all acts of the Pope had a temporal significance because he held in Italy the title of a temporal prince, fell just as much too short. Interference could not be justified until it was shown that the new bishops were appointed for temporal purposes and invested with a temporal authority. This, he contended, had never been done; and, failing in this, he had no right to fetter the spiritual liberties of the catholic subject. To the apprehensions expressed against the Roman canon law, he replied that the bill contained no provision to keep it out. But the fact was that the canon law would create a safer and more constitutional government of the catholic church in this country, and leave it less in the power of the papacy than it was at present. It was a serious matter to invoke the secular authority upon religious subjects; and to this question he invited the solemn consideration of the house. If an act must be passed, he insisted that it should be made uniform, including the Presbyterian and Wesleyan bodies, and not making an invidious exception against the catholics. The real import of the papal measure had been altogether misapprehended. It was a fact not generally recognised, but which he quoted many authorities to substantiate, that the establishment of an episcopate in England had been for three centuries vainly sought by the moderate section of the Anglican catholics, as against the extreme or ultramontane party, and in that desire had been supported by the Government, even in the days of Queen Elizabeth. Gross, therefore, was the injustice of now seeking to prohibit this proceeding under a pretended fear of ultramontane intrusion. Mr Gladstone concluded by protesting against the present miniature of a penal law, which might be a nullity in practice, but was a persecution to conscience and feeling. It was disgraceful to attempt, and impossible permanently to effect, a retrograde step towards religious intolerance.

Mr Disraeli combated the assertion that the Pope was practically powerless, showing that in times when Rome was besieged and humiliated, the papacy maintained its immense power, and was now supported by an army of a million priests. He suspected a hidden purpose in the advocacy of religious liberty against the royal supremacy, and hinted that the arguments in favour of spiritual independence, urged on behalf of the catholics, would be hereafter repeated by the patrons of the established church, leading to a denial of the Queen's headship, and a practical separation of church and state. The very possibility of a contest between catholicism and protestantism terrified him; and, under this apprehension, he examined the Government measure, and found it doubtful and ineffectual in its operation. He argued that a better proceeding was suggested by Lord Stanley—to rest satisfied at present with a formal protest, and found a vigorous measure upon fuller information. Dwelling upon the faults and fallacies contained in the bill, he yet felt himself debarred from criticism, because, not being a friend of Lord John Russell's, he was bound to respect his feelings. Believing the measure utterly insufficient, he should vote for the second reading for the same reason as that urged by Sir F. Theisger, sharing his hope that it might be improved in another stage. Mr Disraeli proceeded to comment upon the speech of Mr Gladstone, remarking that the hon. member had not always refused his assent to a measure because it was the reversal of a policy. Adverting to some passages in the address of Sir J. Graham, he alluded to the probable junction of the right hon. baronet with the ministry, and predicted that no Government could stand which did not make the preservation of our protestant constitution the guiding star of their policy.

Sir G. Grey, in replying, conceded every principle that had been claimed on behalf of perfect liberty of religion and conscience. He viewed the measure not as an attack upon another's liberties, but a defence of our own, and, briefly touching upon various objections offered during the course of the protracted de-

date, contended that the legislature had been justified in interfering, and the Government well advised in constructing the bill now offered for their adoption. After a few words from Mr R. Howard, the house divided—For the second reading, 438; amendment, 95; majority, 343.

The bill was then read a second time, and the house adjourned at a quarter-past three till Thursday.

Thursday, March 27.

Major Ponsoby took the oaths and his seat for Dungarvan. New writs were ordered to issue for the borough of Longford and the county of Somerset (East).

In reply to queries from Mr Hume, Lord Palmerston stated that Sir James Brooke still held the offices of Governor of Labuan and Consul-General to the Sultan and independent chiefs of Borneo. With respect to the district of Sarawak any authority exercised therein by Sir James was derived from some private arrangement with the Sultan, as the British Government claimed no jurisdiction in a territory which did not belong to the British crown.

In reply to Mr Henry Herbert, The Chancellor of the Exchequer said that a bill for the regulation of savings banks was in readiness, and would be brought forward if the public business should begin to move more rapidly so as to afford a fair chance of getting it passed.

Mr Grantley Berkeley, briefly referring to some recent scenes, inquired of the chair whether it was possible so to extend the rules under which debates were conducted as to prohibit the introduction of matters collectively insulting to any body of members in the house.

The Speaker stated that the regulations now in force in that house consisted of unwritten laws, deriving their authenticity from ancient observance. Around this code, however, there was a secondary series of rules, based upon courtesy and good feeling, which he trusted would be sufficient to preserve the personal and religious sensibilities of honourable members from insult.

Viscount Jocelyn moved the appointment of a committee to inquire into the state of the existing steam communication between England, India, and Australia, and to report as to the most fitting mode in which such communication may hereafter be improved or extended.

Lord Naas moved an amendment designed to give priority to the Australian section of the inquiry, and commented upon the great loss of time already incurred through the tedious negotiations which were still pending, and meanwhile the schemes for effecting a steam communication with that colony were kept in abeyance.

After some discussion, The Chancellor of the Exchequer suggested some alteration in the wording of the resolution, by which the committee were to be allowed a wider scope for their inquiry, and the steam communication with China would be included among their investigations.

Sir T. D. Acland having suggested that Plymouth would be a more convenient point of departure for the Oriental mails, however despatched,

A brief conversation ensued, after which Lord Naas withdrew his amendment, and the resolution as modified by the Chancellor of the Exchequer was agreed to.

Mr Anderson, in pursuance of a notice, called attention to the differential duties charged upon British ships in the ports of Spain, and moved, under the plea of a just protection to our own commerce, that countervailing duties should be levied in English ports upon goods imported or exported in Spanish vessels. The hon. member proceeded to remark upon the want of reciprocity shown in the Spanish system of commerce. Since the beginning of 1850 we had allowed Spanish ships to enter our ports on terms of perfect equality with our own vessels, while the duties levied upon the Spanish coasts had been so contrived as to give Spain a practical monopoly in the trade upon both sides. The remedy, he argued, was in our own hands, and a moderate duty would be enough to vindicate the rights of British commerce.

Upon an intimation from the Speaker as to the regular method of placing the question before the house, a resolution was proposed that the house should, on some future day, resolve itself into a committee to deliberate upon the subject.

Mr Moffatt, who seconded the motion, denied that his advocacy was at all connected with protectionist principles. He looked upon the case as altogether exceptional, and wished merely to force the Spaniards into a concession of reciprocal facilities.

Mr Labouchere admitted that Spain had acted in a very unfriendly and one-sided spirit in meeting with enhanced customs duties our liberal reductions of the tariff. The Secretary for Foreign Affairs was however now engaged in negotiations which might possibly result in a satisfactory arrangement; but if that hope turned out fallacious, it might be necessary to appeal to the house for authority to adopt vigorous measures whereby to resist the hostile duties levied in the Spanish ports. Promising that the Government intended to keep a careful watch upon the subject, he submitted that any inconsiderate resolution passed now by the house, would only render the settlement of the question more difficult.

Alderman Thompson wished to have the example set, not only to Spain, but to other countries, that our relaxations of the customs duties were conceded under the impression that they would be met in a reciprocal spirit.

Mr Hume looked upon the nations who did not follow our free trade example rather with pity than with anger, and could not sanction a measure of retaliation for an offence which arose entirely from ignorance.

After a few words from Mr M. Gibson,

Lord Palmerston admitted that we had some fair grounds of complaint against Spain, but attributed the acts on which those complaints were founded to an ancient prejudice rather than recent objections to a free-trade policy. The tendencies lately shown by the Spanish authorities were in favour of relaxation, and he believed that the eyes of the Government of that country were opened as to the real consequences of commercial restrictions. Negotiations were still pending, in which the Government had omitted no effort to obtain a more liberal arrangement, and had not lost all hopes of succeeding.

Some further discussion followed, after which Mr Anderson consented to leave the question in the hands of the Government.

A division was, notwithstanding, called for, when there appeared—For the resolution, 53; against, 98; majority, 45.

Lord J. Russell, in moving for leave to introduce a bill, sanctioning the appointment of a new Vice-Chancellor, entered into an historical detail of the increments in the business of Chancery Courts since the year 1812, which had rendered necessary the establishment of a subsidiary court, over which a Vice-Chancellor was appointed to preside. The facilities and acceleration of business thus occasioned had resulted in an enhanced increase of cases brought before the Chancery for decision. This progress had now advanced to a stage when the work to be done required still further reinforcement of the judicial functionaries, especially as the tendencies of the age were manifested in an increased appreciation of the Courts of Equity over those of mere law. Proceeding to examine the projects designed to reform the administration of the Court of Chancery, Lord J. Russell discussed in much detail the chief proposition ten-

dered, by which the functions of the Lord Chancellor were to be divided into three—one part to be retained by a permanent Judge in the Court of Chancery, a second transferred to a Speaker of the House of Lords, and a third assigned to a Minister of Justice, dependent upon the administration of the day, and their official adviser upon all legal enactments. After showing the practical difficulties that would follow the adoption of this plan, the noble lord included in a condemnation almost as unsparring the modified proposal to cut the Lord Chancellor's jurisdiction into two, one including the political the other the judicial functions. Lord John Russell then explained the bill he designed to bring in. He proposed to retain the present combination of legal and political functions in the office of Lord Chancellor, but to give him the assistance of the Master of the Rolls and a common law judge, in order to get through the accumulating business of the Chancery court. The salary of the Lord Chancellor he intended to retain at its present amount, viz., 10,000*l.*, with a retiring pension of 5,000*l.* It was further intended to transfer the vast ecclesiastical patronage now vested in the Lord Chancellor to the Crown, and the minister of the day would be responsible for its disposition.

Mr Stuart offered a variety of comments upon the bill indicated by Lord J. Russell, objecting chiefly to the additional jurisdiction given to the Master of the Rolls, which would involve a neglect of the duties now attached to that responsible office.

Mr R. Palmer added some criticisms upon the practical working of the bill, which he feared would prove acceptable neither to the profession, the suitors, nor the public. He thought it was unwise economy to cripple the administration of one court in order to effect the paltry saving of the salary of a new judge in another.

Mr S. Wortley and Mr Headlam having followed up the question with some additional strictures,

Lord J. Russell replied; and leave being given, the bill was brought in and read a first time.

After some routine business the house adjourned at two o'clock.

Friday, March 28.

In answer to questions respecting the influx of foreigners at the Great Exhibition,

Sir G. Grey said that as to preventing large bodies of foreigners assembling and making declaratory speeches, he could only state that the Government would not fail to avail themselves of every legal means to prevent a breach of the law of any description, whether by foreigners or other parties.

In reply to a question from Mr Reynolds respecting the business of the house,

Lord John Russell said that Government proposed to go on with the army estimates on Monday. Having got these settled, they proposed on Friday to go into the great financial statement, and his right hon. friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer would intimate what the intentions of the Government were. He should propose to take the Committee of the Ecclesiastical Titles Bill on Monday, the 5th of May. In deference to the intimations he had received from many parts of Ireland of the feelings of the inhabitants, he should not, this session, introduce any measure for the suppression of the office of Lord Lieutenant. [LEFT SITTING]

PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS.

- 36 Ceylon—minutes of evidence (session 1850).
- 104 Cholera (Jamaica)—return.
- 91 Bankruptcy—annual return.
- 93 (1) Railways (Eastern Union Railway Company)—report of the Auditor.
- 93 (2) Do. (Monmouthshire Railway and Canal Company)—Do.
- 93 (3) Do. (Eastern Counties Railway Company)—report relating to the accident at the Fender's End Station.
- 115 Military Savings Banks—account.
- 120 Committee of Selection—third report.
- 106 (1) Army—accounts (session 1852).
- 106 (2) Kilmalham Hospital—papers (session 1834).
- 114 Metropolitan Buildings Office—report of John Mellor, Esquire, and Joseph Gwilt, Esquire.
- 121 Steam Boat "Pelican"—correspondence.
- Tampika Trusts—report of the Secretary of State.
- 63 Metropolitan Buildings Act—return.
- 117 Clonmel Endowed School—copy of evidence.
- 79 Bill—Civil Bills, &c. (Ireland).
- 127 Stationery, &c.—copies of Treasury orders, &c.
- 112 Mails (East India)—return.
- 118 Waterford, Wexford, Wicklow, and Dublin Railway Company—copies of communications.
- 125 Bill—Prisons (Scotland).

News of the Week.

COURT AND ARISTOCRACY.

The QUEEN and Prince Albert left Osborne on Tuesday afternoon, accompanied by the Prince of Wales, Prince Alfred, Prince Arthur, the Princess Royal, Princess Alice, Princess Helena, and the Princess Louisa, and arrived at Buckingham Palace at half-past five o'clock.

The Queen held a Levee on Wednesday afternoon in St James's Place. The Levee was numerously attended, and was the third held by Her Majesty this season.

METROPOLIS.

OFFICIAL CHARGES.—Sir John Romilly has been sworn into office as Master of the Rolls in place of Lord Langdale. He will not, however, take up the cause list before the commencement of Easter term. The new Vice-Chancellorship will be given to Mr George Turner, or to Mr Kindersley; but it is thought that the chances are in favour of Mr Turner, who is at present member for Coventry.

CASE OF MISS TALBOT.—On Thursday, after the first hearing had been adjourned to Saturday (this day), the Lord Chancellor stated that he had heard from Lord Shrewsbury that the young lady was received in the convent as a parlour boarder at the time his attention was first drawn to her being a ward of the court; but when informed by Mr Craven Berkeley that she was there as a postulant he at once wrote to Dr Doyle and the solicitors, that the matter should be brought before him as to her future residence on petition, as he determined upon removing her from the convent; and he had arranged that the young lady should be in town on Monday. He had had interviews with a lady of of rank and unblemished reputation, to whom Miss Talbot was known, the name of whom he would privately furnish counsel, who had consented to receive her until the scheme for her residence was determined on.

REFEAL OF THE WINDOW TAX.—A meeting of metropolitan delegates, for obtaining the total repeal of the window tax, was held on Tuesday evening at the Marylebone Court-house, "to take the most efficient measures in order to secure the above object." There was a large attendance of delegates, including representatives from the parishes of Marylebone, St Pancras, St Anne's, Soho; St

James's, Westminster; St. Giles's, St. Luke's, Old-street; and St. Mary's, Islington. There were also present Sir B. Hall, M. P. and Mr Mowatt, M. P.

THE MERCANTILE MARINE ACT.—The seamen of the port of London had another meeting early in the week, for the purpose of agitating against the new Mercantile Marine Act. The attendance was rather large, and there were delegates from Liverpool, Hull, Shields, and other ports. The seamen were urged to deposit their register tickets (without which they could not be shipped) in a box, which would be placed in the hall under proper care, as a guarantee that they would all aid in redressing their grievances. Other ports were ready to do likewise, and it was stated that in the north, they could be collected in two hours. Arrangements were made for holding meetings at Poplar and Rotherhithe, and the forming of a procession on Thursday through the streets, in order to bring their complaints more fully before the public.

THE CENSUS.—During the last few days the delivery to householders of the forms to be filled up with the population returns, has proceeded, and is now nearly completed, as far as the metropolis is concerned. Householders should remember that the papers must be filled up by Monday next, on which day the collectors will call for them. Delay will expose the negligent party to a penalty of 5*l.* The various directions should be carefully followed, as the same fine will be inflicted on those who make false statements, or conceal the required facts.

HEALTH OF LONDON DURING THE WEEK.—The official report says:—"The aggravated rate of mortality in London, which marked the first two weeks of the current month, has prevailed without abatement in the period embraced by the present return. The deaths, which increased to 1,247 in the beginning of March, and subsequently rose to 1,401, amounted in the week ending last Saturday to 1,412. Taking for comparison the ten corresponding weeks of 1841-50, it appears that the highest number was 1,197, and occurred in 1815 (in a week when the mean temperature had fallen about ten degrees lower than usual), and that the average mortality was 997. This average, if corrected according to the supposed rate of increase in the population, amounts to 1,088, and the increase above it exhibited in last week's return is 324. Last week the births of 824 boys, and 756 girls, in all 1580 children, were registered. The average of six corresponding weeks in 1845-50, was 1431. At the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, the mean reading of the barometer for the week was 29.351 in. The mean temperature of the week was 44.9 deg.

PROVINCES.

HEREFORDSHIRE REPRESENTATION.—Mr Wegg-Prosser retires at the dissolution of parliament. The choice of the protectionists has fallen upon the Hon E Hanbury, (brother to Lord Bateman) and Mr King King. The free traders, when the election comes, will bestir themselves to secure a liberal colleague for Mr Cornwell Cewis.

THE ELECTION FOR SOUTHAMPTON.—News reached Southampton on Wednesday night that Sir Alexander Cockburn, M.P. for that town, was elevated to the office of Attorney-General, and that Mr Page Wood was appointed Solicitor-General. Sir Alexander was seen yesterday in Southampton in deep consultation with several of his principal and most influential supporters. His re-election is certain. The Tories have for some time past, however, talked of contesting the borough with him, and Sir John Campbell, late chairman of the Oriental Steam Navigation Company, and Mr Wigram, the Southampton ship-builder, have each been spoken of as a Conservative candidate.

THE VACANT SEAT FOR SOMERSET.—Lord Dungarvon is in the field to succeed the late Sir A. Hood in the representation of West Somerset. The noble lord belongs to a Whig family, and is a Protectionist. On Tuesday, Ralph Neville, Esq., of Butleigh, put in private circulation amongst the magistracy of the county an address to the electors. Mr. Nevill intimates, that as a fortnight has elapsed and their suffrages are still unsolicited, he is induced to come forward as a candidate. He avows himself an opponent of the present government, and of its measure on papal aggression, all legislation on which subject he is decidedly opposed to, and he "sincerely believes that a 10s or 5s protective duty on corn would be as injurious to the producing as to the consuming classes." Mr. Gore Langton also issued an address to the electors on Wednesday, in which he demands their support as a conservative and a protectionist.

COTTON IN THE WEST INDIES.—On Wednesday a meeting of cotton-spinners and manufacturers was held at Farnworth, near Bolton, to consider a proposal for the establishment of a model farm in the island of Trinidad. Mr Walkinshaw, late of Trinidad, is the gentleman with whom the proposition originated, and the plan which he submitted to the meeting was that 10,000*l.* should be raised, and lent to him at interest, for the purpose of carrying it out. Mr Walkinshaw's scheme met with the general approbation of the meeting, and a resolution was passed appointing a committee to act with him in carrying it out.

IRELAND.

REPRESENTATION OF YOUGHAL.—The *Cork Constitution* says it is understood that Isaac Butt, Esq., Q.C., is about to be invited by the conservatives of Youghal to offer himself as a candidate for the representation on the first opportunity.

THE ELECTION FOR DUNGAROW ended in the return of Mr. Ponsonby. The numbers were for Ponsonby, 158, for Maguire, 83; majority for Ponsonby, 75.

ECCLESIASTICAL TITLES BILL.—The overwhelming majority by which the second reading has been carried has come like a thunder-clap upon the Roman Catholic party, who were by no means prepared for such decisive evidence of the state of English feeling upon the Papal Aggression question. Since the delivery of Sir James Graham's speech the impression every day became stronger that the minority would count at least 150 votes.

REPRESENTATION OF CLARE.—Several candidates are already mentioned for the seat about to be vacated by the retirement of Major M'Namara; among others Colonel Crofton Vandeleur, of Kilnash-house, and Mr. Cornelius O'Brien, who was defeated by Sir Lucius O'Brien at the last general election. Meanwhile the Roman Catholic and Liberal party of Clare mean to present an address to Mr. M'Namara, requesting that he will retain the seat until they can pitch upon some fit and discreet person to take his place in Parliament.

REPRESENTATION OF LONGFORD.—According to the *Longford Journal* a candidate is already in the field for the seat about to be vacated by the appointment of Major Blackall to a post in the colonies. The aspirant for Parliamentary honours is Mr. Willoughby Bond, D.L., a Protestant, and reputed Conservative, who, it seems, "during the last week, accompanied by the Rev. Mr. Reynolds, C.C., waited on Dr. Higgins, the Roman Catholic bishop, with a view of negotiating terms for his return for the county."

THE REPEAL ASSOCIATION.—The committee of the Repeal Association held a meeting at Conciliation Hall, on Monday, Mr. M. Murphy in the chair: when it was announced that a sum of 39*l.* 12*s.* had been collected towards defraying the debt due upon the hall.

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL.

GERMANY.

The chief news brought by the German papers is that there are many symptoms of an approaching good understanding between the cabinets of Vienna and Berlin. A speedy retreat to the old Diet seems to be the condition on which the agreement of the two courts has again been brought about. A strong executive, however, is still talked of. The *Kolner Zeitung* says that something decisive may be almost immediately expected.

SWITZERLAND.

A letter of the 22nd inst., from Berne, states that on that day, at eight in the morning, 80 peasants made a descent on the radical town of Fribourg, and succeeded in getting possession of some cannon in the old establishment of the Jesuits. The government caused the tocsin to ring, and the *generale* to beat. The militia marched against the peasants, who occupied the upper part of the town. The affair was smart, but of short duration. Eight were killed or wounded. The 80 peasants in question formed the advanced guard of a body of 2,000, which dispersed when they heard of the defeat of their comrades.

TURKEY.

Letters of the 4th inst. from Constantinople, state that news had been received from Bucharest that fresh columns of Russians had entered Bessarabia; they consist of the 11th and 13th divisions; each division is composed of 18 infantry battalions, 12 squadrons of cavalry, two Cossack regiments, and the necessary artillery. The whole army may amount to 70,000 or 80,000 men.

AMERICA.

The Europa arrived at Liverpool on Sunday. she left Boston on the 12th. Congress having broken up, there is no political news. The Californian *Alta* speaks of several recent conflicts with the Indians. The "Bluffs," thirty miles north of Trinidad are pronounced auriferous, and the Pacific Mining Company are preparing for operations.

War has actually broken out in Central America. A battle between the armies of Guatemala and of Salvador and Honduras took place on the 21st of January at a village called San Jose, about three leagues from Chiquimala. It continued from 9 o'clock in the morning until 3 in the afternoon, when the forces of Salvador and Honduras were completely defeated.

The operation of the Fugitive Slave Law excites much feeling in British America. A large Anti Slavery meeting has been held in Toronto, and clergymen of almost every denomination were among the speakers.

The new Postage Law is looked on but as a temporary measure, that must result in a uniform rate of two cents prepaid; thus, at all events, reducing the enormous expenditure now caused by the transmission and sorting of unpaid and dead letters.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

The Cape of Good Hope papers contain little fresh intelligence respecting the position of affairs on the frontier. Apprehensions, however, appear to have been excited that the Hottentots had joined the Caffres, and had deceived the settlers in their professions of faithfulness and subordination. Matters were quiescent at Cape Town, but further news from the Governor was awaited with great anxiety.

WEST INDIES.

The advices received from Jamaica by the Avon add little to those already received by way of the United States. The weather was very favourable for the crops, which were large, but would require more labour to get them in than was at present available. Active measures are, however, being taken by some influential persons in Kingston to promote the emigration of free coloured people from the United States. The market was glutted with American produce, and trade generally was dull. In Barbadoes, Grenada, and the other islands, the prospect of the crops was equally favourable.

The finances of Guiana are stated to be in so flourishing a condition that his Excellency recommended to the Combined Court a comprehensive measure of reduction of those burdens which press most heavily on the poorer classes, as duties on imported food. He recommends a reduction of taxation to the amount of 200,000*l.* Amongst other reductions he proposes that of 50,000 on the port dues.

BIRTHS.

On the 25th inst., at 44 Upper Brooke street, the Viscountess Stopford, of a daughter.

On Sunday, the 23rd inst., at No. 5 Upper Harley street, the Lady Caroline Gardner, of a son.

On the 24th inst., at the Hague, the Mon. Mrs Henry Elliott, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

On the 24th inst., by the Rev. Charles Woodcock, Alexander Robert Sutherland, Esq., of Silver hill, Torquay, to Maria Theresa, only daughter of Vice-Admiral Sir Thomas Cochrane, K.C.B., and cousin of the Earl of Dundonald.

On the 4th ult., at Nassau, Bahamas, Cornelius Hendericksen, eldest son of the late Lawrence Kortright, Esq., and grandson of Cornelius Hendericksen Kortright, Esq., formerly of Hylands, Essex, to Emily, third daughter of Major the Hon. John Grant Anderson, Receiver-General and Treasurer of the colony.

DEATHS.

On the 20th inst., at 17 Cumberland terrace, Admiral Sir Edward Hamilton, Bart., K.C.B., aged 79.

On the 27th inst., at Dundee, aged 45, deeply lamented, Anne, the wife of General Sir William Chalmers, C.B., K.C.H., of Glenrich, Perthshire.

On the 25th inst., at Woolwich common, after a short illness, Major-General John Boteler Parker C.B., late of the Royal Artillery, and Lieutenant-Governor of the Royal Military Academy.

COMMERCIAL AND MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.

At a general court of the Canada Company just held, it was stated that the lands of the company had greatly increased in value, and that the proposed railway from Quebec to Halifax, if carried out, would be of great importance to their future interests. The system of leasing land had been found to answer admirably. A large balance was shown in favour of the company, sufficient to maintain the dividend usually declared. The report was considered highly satisfactory by the largest meeting held in the court for many years.

At the fourth annual meeting of the Professional Life Assurance Company this week, a very satisfactory report was read, showing that the business transacted during the past year had nearly equalled the amount of all the preceding years together. The total income of the company at the present time, derived from premiums, after deducting assurances lapsed by death, amounted to upwards of 11,450*l.*, the total number of policies issued was 1,155, and the total sum assured was 354,513*l.* Local boards of management had been formed at Manchester and Birmingham, and in some of the colonies. A dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. for the past year on the paid up capital, was agreed to.

The Bishop of Grenna, Mr Linton, died on the 14th inst., at Grenna Hall, thus passing beyond the power of the Ecclesiastical Titles Assumption Bill. Sir James Brooke, the Governor of Borneo, was a passenger in the Ripon, from Alexandria to Malta.

A petition was presented to the House of Commons, on Thursday, against the return of Mr Phipps for the borough of Harwich.

We understand that the Rev. Mr Bennett has formally completed his resignation of the incumbency of St Paul and St Barnabas.—*Times*.

Captain Warner has, it appears, offered his services to terminate the Caffre war cheaply and quickly—it is presumed by the long range. The offer has been politely declined by the authorities.

Wm. Smith O'Brien, we learn from the latest advices from Hobart Town, has consented to accept a ticket-of-leave.

A woman, named Maria Clark, is in custody at Eye, Suffolk, upon a charge of having buried alive her illegitimate child, a fine boy, six weeks old, in a meadow. She has confessed the crime, and is now awaiting the verdict of the coroner's jury.

At the adjourned general court of proprietors of the Bank of England, held to decide by ballot the amount of dividend that shall be payable for the half-year, the increase to four per cent. was carried.

One of the most remarkable passages ever made across the Atlantic under sail only has just been accomplished by the new American ship Typhoon. She sailed from Portsmouth N.H., U.S., for Liverpool on her trial trip, coming over in ballast only, and entered the Mersey to-day, completing the passage in the extraordinarily short time of fourteen days from port to port.

The continued wet weather still keeps alive the fear that the ridge and valley roof of the Crystal Palace cannot be made watertight—at least, not in time for the opening on the 1st of May.

Literature.

STATISTICS OF BRITISH COMMERCE. By BRAITHWAITE POOLE, Esq. Hamilton, Adams, and Co., Paternoster row.

THIS work is thrown before us without one word of introduction or explanation. It is alphabetically arranged, published in parts in double columns, and begins with the word, "Acetate." It is a dictionary, but to what extent it is to go, or what purpose it is to answer, we can scarcely tell. A long title page, indeed, informs us that it is intended to be a compendium of the production, manufacture, imports and exports of the traffic of the United Kingdom, in agriculture, minerals, merchandise, &c. It is also a condensed book of reference for all the persons engaged in the commerce of the country. It is not elaborate, but it contains a great number of articles, the interesting facts concerning which are succinctly stated. Thus, under the word, ANCHORS, we are told that "few of them are now made in the Royal Dockyards. They are chiefly manufactured at Newcastle-on-Tyne, Sunderland, in South Staffordshire, Liverpool, and Saltaey, near Chester. Those made at the last named place are among the most esteemed by practical men." BLACKING, we are informed, "is manufactured to the extent of 11,500 tons, and the average price being 30*l.* per ton, the value is equivalent to 345,000*l.*, or blacking is annually made of the value of more than a third of a million." Handsome fortunes may be picked up from shoe polishing. Considerable quantities are exported to the East and West Indies and America. The information given in the book under each head is concise, and the work will be useful, though not likely to interfere with standard works, much more profound, and much more elaborated. The first part, containing 64 pages, includes a portion of the letter C as far down as chicory, and the whole work, we presume, will extend to 400 pages. It usefully gives the average market prices of commodities, and the duties they are now subject to.

ENGLAND AS IT IS: Political, Social, and Industrial, in the Middle of the Nineteenth Century. By WILLIAM JOHNSTON, Esq., Barrister-at-Law. John Murray, Albemarle Street.

IT is a pity Mr Johnston has given himself a great deal of trouble to no purpose. He has ransacked Porter and parliamentary papers, digested blue books and abridged statistical tables, to no other end than to make right wrong, and wrong right. He professes to have a dislike of liberalism, but to be fond of justice and truth, while liberalism is only justice and truth embodied into law. He desires to promote the public welfare, by inducing an earnest and generous sense of duty in all classes; and he writes that one class may be extortioners and oppressors, and another class submit to be fleeced and be oppressed. He is avowedly a party writer, and the party he writes for has been in the wrong for thirty years. Lawyers, brought up to advocate a cause without regard to its justice, are always to be suspected of speaking or writing under the influence of a fee; it may be the hope of a place or cash given, and there are now so many places to which barristers only are eligible, and the hopes of the Protectionists re-possessing themselves of office are so strong, that we look with mistrust, bordering on horror, on the statistics of gentlemen of the bar who avow a hatred of justice and truth under the name of liberalism. Mr Johnston's work was begun with a view of informing a friend on the Continent of the present state of England; and had he limited his design to deceiving his friend, that would have been a venial fault, but the publication of his lucubrations to deceive the world is unpardonable.

What can be thought of a writer, but that he wishes to mislead, who states as follows:—"In the year 1841, while the corn law of 1848 was still in force—[1848 is, we presume, a misprint for 1828]—the gross re-

venue of the Customs yielded 23,515,374*l.* Since then many duties have been reduced, and some have been repealed." Then, without showing what duties have been reduced or repealed, by which alone a comparison can be justly formed, he makes the following deduction:—"When we can show an increase within a few years (five) before the establishment of free trade of more than 2,000,000*l.* in the year upon three articles of consumption, it is certainly unreasonable to assume that an increase of little more than 1,000,000*l.* upon all the items of revenue in Great Britain since the adoption of free trade—[the precise epoch of the adoption not being defined]—must be the result of that new system." If Mr Johnston had honestly wished and meant to show that the new system had been injurious, or had not been beneficial, he would have stated the successive progress of trade and revenue year by year for a period of years, the successive reductions or increase of duties, and would have shown that from 1842, when Sir R. Peel avowedly began his system, trade had diminished, the revenue had fallen off, and the prosperity of the nation had been less rapidly progressive, than in the few years immediately antecedent to 1842. Mr Johnston's jumbling method of treating the subject is either a specimen of ignorance, which makes him unfit to write on such topics, or of a desire to deceive. It is just such an aspect as a lawyer having a brief would endeavour to give the case.

Within a few pages of this jumble, we find Mr Johnston adopting from Mr Spackman the extraordinary conclusion, that the trade of France has increased more than that of England and the United States since 1815, and that the export trade of the States has also increased more than that of England, while its imports have been stationary. "It is very remarkable," he says, "that a country making such progress in population and wealth as the United States should appear to be stationary as regards imports. This can only be accounted for, by supposing a more gradually increasing and more earnest direction of the people to the supply of their own wants." The circumstance would be indeed remarkable if true, and might console those who are dreadfully alarmed at the growth of the States. The inference insinuated, that the paucity of imports is owing to protectionist legislation which encourages home industry, might then serve protectionist purposes. But who in the face of the world would believe, on Mr Spackman's authority, that our progress in mercantile intercourse has not equalled in activity since 1815 that of the French? or that the imports into the United States were for thirty years after that period stationary? Why, the mercantile marine of France has in that time gone nearly to decay, and she has made comparatively little progress in population and in wealth; while our shipping have been amazingly increased, our population enlarged nearly two-thirds, and our wealth increased in a still greater degree. It can certainly be asserted with truth, as Mr Spackman has asserted, "that the imports into the United States are set down as rather less in value in the five years ending 1840 1844, than in the five years 1816-1820." But what makes the assertion true? Why, in 1813 and 1814, owing to war, the imports were only 42,000,000 dollars, and to fill up the vacancy caused by the interruption they amounted in the two next years to 260,000,000 dollars. Now, by including the largest of these two very exceptional years in one period, and including in a second period a year of which the returns are not complete, it can be made out, on American authorities, that the imports were something less in value in the five years 1840 1844 than in the five years 1816 1820. It is at the same time impossible for Mr Spackman, or any other man, to run his eye over the tables of imports into the States, such as are contained in the "American Almanack," and doubt whether the imports into the States have on the whole gradually, successively, and continually increased. The person who makes the assertion which Mr Johnston adopts, must either be wonderfully ignorant of what he writes about, or he must write to deceive. In sixty years, by successive increments, the imports into the States have trebled. In 1791-1793, they were 118,000,000 dollars; in 1847-1849 they were 449,000,000 dollars; and as in that period the objects imported fell very greatly in price, the quantities imported probably increased sixfold, while the value was trebled. Mr Johnston is wholly inexcusable for adopting the gross error he states on Mr Spackman's or any other man's authority, and such things render a book filled with statistical researches worthless.

Mr Johnston adopts another exceptional case from Mr Alison, and puts it forth as part of the present condition of the people. The learned, but bombastic and wrong-headed Sheriff has somewhere said, "that serious crime in Lanarkshire was in 1840 advancing at the rate of 52 per cent. every three years; in other words, it doubles in about five years and a half, while population doubles in about thirty years, so that crime is increasing six times as fast as the numbers of the people." That is given as a part of a description of the moral condition of the people of Glasgow in 1851, in a book intended to decry liberalism, particularly the liberalism as to trade, which has been so much extended since 1840. Had such a proportion of crime continued even under the Sheriff's own administration in Lanarkshire since 1840, the county would not have been habitable for honest men, and the Sheriff would have been perpetually occupied in taking precognitions and other criminal duties, to the total suppression of the continual repetition of such strange statistics, either in monthly or other publications. Even if such a fact existed in the single year 1840, we know that it has long since ceased. We quoted no longer ago than January 25th, a series of facts, showing a great increase of morality in Glasgow. By making use of such a paltry exaggeration, originally put forth no doubt for some party purpose, without any correction for the present times, Mr Johnston shows such a rabid credulity in believing what he ought not to believe, that his book is quite unworthy of confidence. If the increase of crime stated by the Sheriff were a truth, and not a fallacy deduced from an exceptional fact, it should have made Mr Johnston, in conjunction with the present condition of Lanarkshire, of which he ought to be aware, bless the free trade that has saved that county from becoming, by such an immense and continual increase of crime, the opprobrium of the empire.

After these specimens of Mr Johnston's own skill in mystifying, and his readiness in adopting the mystifications of others, which we find almost on opening his volumes, it is not necessary to carry our readers through his multifarious pages. He treats, *de omnibus rebus*, of the "Rural Aspect of England," of "Manners and Conversation," of "The Blue Books," of "The Press," "Science," "Railways," "Executions," "Chartism," and "Sir Robert Peel," of "The Church," "The Law," of "The Clergy," and "Lawyers," of "Beer Shops," and the "Supply of London with Meat," and of almost every topic that the editors of daily journals, in the course of the last half-dozen years, have been compelled to write about. His authorities are the Spackmans and the Alisons of the Tory periodicals; and, by their help, he gets up, for the instruction of his friend on the Continent, a Tory picture of England. But the likeness is a distortion in every way—moral, political, and material. Like a great multitude of well-educated young men, Mr Johnston is master of a good style; but we cannot justly give him any other praise. He is neither a careful compiler, nor a correct, nor even a striking thinker. His book is essentially common place. It is composed to depreciate free trade, and is neither sufficiently correct, nor sufficiently spirited, to serve his friends or harm his opponents.

To say something of the spirit of all such works, which is now necessary, we must observe that to appropriate the property of another is theft; and that the corn laws and all protecting laws, as such legislation is called, being made for the express purpose of appropriating property wrongfully, are nothing but fraud, and must be so treated. The excuse is that the appropriation is trifling. It is only a farthing on a 4-lb loaf, say its defenders. It is a bastard child truly, but such a little one that it is not worth speaking of. But property, even less than chastity, admits not of degrees, and little or big, the violation is a moral wrong. A farthing to the poor man who is taxed by his loaf, is equivalent to a pound for many of those whom the tax levied on a great multitude is to enrich. What is inherently wrong of itself cannot be made otherwise by act of Parliament. Right and wrong are natural relations between individuals—the result of the decrees of the Creator of the universe—the necessary consequences of the peculiarities of man's constitution and his condition, and they cannot be altered by any decrees of a legislature. Gentlemen meeting and deliberating at Westminster cannot make the slave trade, thuggism, or piracy, virtues. How, then, can they alter the character of unjust appropriation? So strong is the general opinion on the subject, as interpreted by the censure of certain writings, that the authors of "Jack Sheppard" and similar works are held to be guilty of a great offence by even portraying crimes in a holiday dress. On the same principle those who advocate and defend them are worthy of extreme reprobation. If, then, the corn laws and all similar laws are deliberately ordained to take away the property of one class, and give it to another class—to pervert the fair exchanges of the market, and by legal violence take toll on them for the benefit of a few—we can only speak of such policy as downright plunder, and must regard all works drawn up to defend such policy as outrages on morality. We have no alternative but to hold them up to the detestation of all honest men, however high may be the situation of those who write them.

Legislation is either to enforce morality, the natural relations of man to man and to the material world, or it is not. If it be not, then it is to enforce immorality; and legislation must be loathed and resisted as we would loath and resist the Mannings, the Courvoisiers, and the Greenacres. There is no middle term, and no quarter is to be given to the unholiness. But legislation intends to enforce morality. It has no claim to be honoured and obeyed, except as it professes to protect right and do justice. It must not profess one thing and do another—must not put itself forward as the instrument of right, and then do the party or class work of those who fancy it is expedient that they should be wealthy. It must not assume the attributes of divinity to devour the people. It must not ask the obedience of the multitude, in order to enrich the aristocracy. It must not seek to remedy any injustice it may have done, by an unfair distribution of taxation between manufacturing and landowning capitalists—if it have done such injustice—by taking away the bread from the poor. It must not correct inequalities of its own creation by a general confiscation. If the manufacturing capitalist be too much favoured—which we, however, do not believe—it must not, therefore, tax the labourers' bread. It must be tightly tied down to the right, and must leave expediency to the Jesuits. The attempts making and threatened to re-enact restrictive laws, in order to put money into the pockets of farmers and landlords, make it necessary to speak out and warn the gentlemen who, under the advocacy of such writers as Mr Johnston, now openly avow such a design for such a purpose—casting off every disguise of the public welfare formerly assumed—that to succeed they must overthrow their own teaching, and the teaching of the clergy of all religions—they must reverse all the moral laws and change the character of man, before they can make spoliation the cement of social order, peace, and happiness.

From the specimens we have lately had of lawyers becoming the advocates of Protection—Mr Sergeant Byles, Mr Johnston, and Mr Sheriff Alison, being the examples amongst ourselves, while President Fillmore, Mr Webster, and Mr Corwin, are examples across the Atlantic—we suspect there is something in their legal education which perverts their views. They have, professionally, a great reverence for law. For them there is nothing so sacred. They do not, as the rule, therefore, seek beyond their own books and beyond the laws for the principles of human actions. They know little or nothing, comparatively, beyond legal enactments. They are never, therefore, good judges of the principles of legislation. They are not acquainted with, if they do not professionally ignore, all other laws but those expounded by judges or embodied in statutes. Other men endeavour to find out the commands of Nature; the lawyers consult only the errors of other men embodied in laws. For them there is no chance of being right; other men may discover the truth. In cases of this kind, the question however is, not what the law is, on which we should not venture to

give an opinion, but what the law ought to be; and on that lawyers are, for the reasons assigned, less able to form correct opinions than other men. The question lies for appeal to a tribunal where they have little practice, and are of no authority.

RECOLLECTIONS OF A RIFLEMAN'S WIFE AT HOME AND ABROAD.
By Mrs FITZMAURICE. Hope and Co., Great Marlborough street.

A PLEASANT book which does credit to the writer, and may be read with pleasure, albeit the recollections date from upwards of twenty years ago. They will contain all the more novelty for their reference to the past for the young of this generation. Ireland, Devonshire, France, Sardinia, &c., form portions of the recollections; the language in which they are told is plain and perspicuous—a little disfigured occasionally by French phrases, but on the whole simple and pleasing. One chapter gives us anecdotes of the Rifle corps in the Peninsula, which are rather traditions of the corps than recollections of the writer. Some of them we have not before met with. We quote one specimen:—

On the 3rd of April, 1811, the Light Division, in consequence of the ignorance of the guides, were brought unexpectedly in face of Reynier's rear-guard of 16,000 men before Sabugal. These they repulsed with great gallantry before the third and first division could join in the action, as had been intended by the Duke. In this affair the 43rd particularly distinguished themselves, having taken two guns and a howitzer, for which the enemy fought hard, literally "to save their bacon," the gun-carriages being thickly hung with fitches and hams plundered from the poor Portuguese. While the Rifles were driving a line of the enemy's skirmishers before them, through a beautiful chestnut wood, and a private, of the name of Finn, was taking aim at a Frenchman, a hare started from under cover of the ferns with which the ground was covered, the rifle was quickly brought round, and the hare dropped. The officer to whose company the man belonged, good-naturedly called him to account for letting the Frenchman escape. "Ah, your honour," said he, "we can kill a Frenchman any day, but it is not always we can bag a hare for your supper." Soon after this, at Fuentes d'Honore, the French had been driven out of a wood, and were observing rather a more respectful distance than Riflemen are accustomed to fire at. This man and his comrade were observed to leave the lines, and walk towards the enemy's outpost. An officer, who saw them, pointed them out to the sergeant, suspecting some desertion. "Oh no, sir," was the answer, "it is only for a little amusement;" and he then watched them go to the banks of the stream which divided the parties, and after kneeling down to quench their thirst (for it was a sultry day towards the end of May), took a deliberate aim, which evidently told on the opposite side; then held up their caps on their rifles to receive the fire in return, and afterwards walk quietly back to their companions. The coolness of the men in action, and their apparent indifference to anything like danger, I have often heard spoken of by their officers, and it was no wonder, with such materials as then constituted the British army, that such victories should have been gained against such superior numbers; the feeling seemed to be, that each man had but to do his duty, in perfect confidence that all that skill and forethought, on the part of their leader, could effect, would not be wanting to ensure success.

The most busy men and women might employ an hour less profitably and agreeably than in accompanying Mrs Fitzmaurice in her recollections of the many places visited by the "Rifleman's Wife."

BOOKS RECEIVED.

- Phillip Augustus. By G. P. R. James. (A double vol. of Parlor Library.) Simms and Macfartyre.
Notes on North America. 2 vols. By James T. W. Johnston. Blackwood.
The Gold-Worshippers; or, The Days we live in. 3 vols. By the Author of Whitefriars. Farry and Co.
Nineveh and Persopolis. By W. S. W. Vaux, M.A. 3rd edition. Hall, Virtue, and Co.
Historical Sketch of Logic, &c. By Robert Blackley. Baillière.
The Practice of Insolvency under the Protection Acts, &c. By D. C. Macrae, Esq. Crockford.
The History of Greece, &c. By Miss Corner. Dean and Son.
Papa and Mamma's Easy Lessons in Geography. By A. M. Sergeant. Dean and Son.
Domestic Pigs, &c. By H. D. Richardson. W. S. Orr and Co.
Catholicity, Spiritual and Intellectual, &c. (No. V.) By Thomas Wilson, M.A. Chapman.
Tait's Magazine for April.
The Dublin Magazine for April.
The Property and Income Tax the best Tax for the Community. (Pamphlet). By E. E. Scott, F.S.A. Effingham Wilson.
The Flax Movement, &c. (Pamphlet). By the Chevalier Claussen. Effingham Wilson.

To Readers and Correspondents.

Communications must be authenticated by the name of the writer.

A CONSTANT READER.—Received.
F. F.—According to the Assize Acts, a sack of flour, weighing 280 lbs, is supposed to be baked into 80 quarter loaves.

The Bankers' Gazette.

BANK RETURNS AND MONEY MARKET.

(BANK OF ENGLAND.
From the Gazette.)

AN ACCOUNT, pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th Victoria, cap. 32, for the week ending on Saturday the 22nd day of March 1851:—
ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

L.		£.	
Notes issued	27,715,620	Government debt	11,015,100
		Other Securities	3,984,900
		Gold coin and bullion	12,682,345
		Silver bullion	33,376
	27,715,620		27,715,620

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' capital.....	14,553,000	Government Securities, including Dead Weight Annuity	14,145,250
Rest	2,619,296	Other Securities.....	12,907,809
Public Deposits (including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts)	8,792,245	Notes	9,221,390
Other Deposits	8,977,263	Gold and Silver Coin	653,440
Seven Day and other Bills	1,016,085		
	36,957,739		36,957,739

Dated the 27th March 1851. M. MARSHALL, Chief Cashier.

THE OLD FORM.

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

Liabilities.		Assets.	
Circulation Inc. Bank post bills	19,516,495	Securities	25,500,059
Public Deposits	8,792,245	Bullion.....	14,399,060
Other or private Deposits.....	8,977,263		
	37,279,913		40,899,119

The balance of assets above liabilities being 2,619,266l, as stated in the above account under the head REST.

FRIDAY NIGHT.

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

A decrease of Circulation of	£270,022
An increase of Public Deposits of	564,256
A decrease of Other Deposits of	310,563
An increase of Securities of	3,521
A decrease of Bullion of	17,081
An increase of Rest of	2,839
An increase of Reserve of	244,034

By the present returns, which refer to the events of last week, the circulation had decreased 270,022l, the public deposits had increased 564,256l, private deposits had decreased 310,563l, securities had increased 3,521l, bullion had decreased 17,081l, the rest had increased 2,839l, and the reserve had increased 244,034l. In these returns there is no feature of great interest, the diminution of private deposits shows that some parties had found a more advantageous employment for their money.

The demand for money on the Stock Exchange has given firmness to the general money market, but we have no alteration of terms to notice. From the great profit made, it is found advantageous to borrow from the Bank and lend on continuations in the Railway Share Market; and considerable sums, it is said, have been taken from the Bank, on the deposit of Stock and Exchequer Bills for this purpose. There is otherwise nothing of importance to remark in the Money Market.

Silver continues in demand.

Bills on Holland were a little more in demand to-day, but in the Exchanges generally there is no alteration, and business is not brisk.

We have no great changes or fluctuations to notice in the market for the Public Funds. It has been steady through the week, with little business doing. On Thursday it was rather heavy, owing to the demand for money to carry over railway shares. To-day it has been firm and steady. We add our usual list of the price of Consols at the opening and closing of the market every day, and of the prices of the other principal stocks last Friday and this day:—

	Consols.		Account		Closing prices last Friday.	Closing prices this day.
	Money	Account	Money	Account		
Saturday	96 1/2	96 1/2	96 1/2	96 1/2	96 1/2	96 1/2
Monday	96 1/2	96 1/2	96 1/2	96 1/2	96 1/2	96 1/2
Tuesday	96 1/2	96 1/2	96 1/2	96 1/2	96 1/2	96 1/2
Wednesday	96 1/2	96 1/2	96 1/2	96 1/2	96 1/2	96 1/2
Thursday	96 1/2	96 1/2	96 1/2	96 1/2	96 1/2	96 1/2
Friday	96 1/2	96 1/2	96 1/2	96 1/2	96 1/2	96 1/2
3 percent consols, account	96 1/2	96 1/2	96 1/2	96 1/2	96 1/2	96 1/2
3 1/2 percents	Shut	Shut	Shut	Shut	Shut	Shut
Exchequer bills, large	52s 5s	50s 2s pm	50s 2s pm	50s 2s pm	50s 2s pm	50s 2s pm
Bank stock	Shut	Shut	Shut	Shut	Shut	Shut
East India stock	Shut	Shut	Shut	Shut	Shut	Shut
Spanish 3 percents	38 1/2	38 1/2	38 1/2	38 1/2	38 1/2	38 1/2
Portuguese 4 percents	34 1/2	33 1/2	33 1/2	33 1/2	33 1/2	33 1/2
Mexican 5 percents	33 1/2	33 1/2	33 1/2	33 1/2	33 1/2	33 1/2
Dutch 2 1/2 percents	84 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2	84 1/2
— 4 percents	91 1/2	91 1/2	91 1/2	91 1/2	91 1/2	91 1/2
Russian, 4 1/2 stock	110 1/2	97 1/2	97 1/2	97 1/2	97 1/2	97 1/2

The Share Market has been comparatively firm and steady to-day, a considerable number of the weaker Bears having been compelled to sell the shares they wished to hold over at a disadvantage, instead of continuing them. This operation relieved the market to a considerable extent, and gave it comparative firmness. The sums given for continuations have been quite extraordinary, the highest being 120 per cent., and the lowest 20. Thus, to continue over North-Western shares, 30s a share was given; Great Western, 30s; Lancashire and Yorkshire, 30s; Midland, 30s; Dover, or South-Eastern, 20s; Blackwall, 5s; Caledonian, 10s; York, Newcastle, and Berwick, 10s; York and North Midland, 12s. The speculators must have a very good opinion of the future prospects of these lines, when they are willing to borrow at such a high rate of interest to hold over the shares. A more troublesome and important settlement has not occurred since 1847 than the one which occupied the speculators in railway shares yesterday and to-day. The market was heavy at the close. The following is our usual list of the price of the principal shares last Friday and to-day:—

RAILWAYS.

	Closing prices last Friday.	Closing prices this day.
Birmingham and Oxford gua.	28 1/2	28 1/2
Birmingham and Dudley	8 1/2 pm	8 1/2 pm
Bristol and Exeter	8 1/2	8 1/2
Caledonians.....	15 1/2	14 1/2
Eastern Counties	7 1/2	7 1/2
East Lancashire.....	17 1/2	17 1/2
Great Northern.....	18 1/2	17 1/2
Great Western	89 9/16	88 9/16
Lancashire and Yorkshire	62 3 ex div	60 1/2
London and Blackwall	8 1/2	8 1/2
London, Brighton, & S. Coast	96 7	95 6
London & North Western.....	130 1	129 1/2
London and South Western.....	89 9/16	88 9/16
Midlands	63 1/2	62 1/2
North British.....	10 1/2	10 1/2
North Staffordshire	6 5/8 dis	6 1/2 dis
Oxford, Worcester, & Wolver.	18 1/2	18 1/2
South Eastern	28 1/2 ex div	27 1/2
South Wales	37 1/2	36 7/8
York, Newcastle, & Berwick	21 1/2 ex div	21 1/2
York and North Midland.....	27 1/2	27 1/2

FRENCH SHARES.

	Closing prices last Friday.	Closing prices this day.
Boulogne and Amiens	10 1/2	10 1/2
Northern of France	15 1/2	15 1/2
Paris and Rouen	26 7	26 7
Paris and Strasbourg	5 1/2 dis	5 1/2 dis
Rouen and Havre.....	11 1/2	11 1/2
Dutch Rhenish	4 1/2 dis	4 1/2 dis

The news from California this week is, that the arrivals from that country of gold dust were so small, and of passengers so numerous, that the facts had excited attention and remark. It is, however, the season when the remittances decline and the persons returning augment. The following is the account of the coinage at Philadelphia, at the Mint of the United States, for February, 1851:—

The gold bullion deposited during February was two millions less than the preceding month. From California there was received	2,860,000
From other sources	140,000
Total	3,000,000

The silver bullion deposited during the month for coinage, was but 7,700 dols.

The following are the Mint statistics for February. The coinage is the largest ever accomplished in a single month:—

	Value
GOLD COINAGE.	
228,049 double eagles	4,560,980
133,326 quarter do	333,315
188,702 gold dollars.....	188,702
550,977	5,082,997
SILVER COINAGE.	
105,000 dimes	10,500
100,000 half dimes	5,000
COPPER COINAGE.	
1,686,610 cents	16,866
2,441,687	5,115,363

In January the coinage of gold was 2,620,966 dols, and the total of gold, silver and copper, 2,705,193 dols 40 cents.

FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON AT THE LATEST DATES.

	Latest Date.	Rate of Exchange on London.	
Paris	Mar. 26	£.25 0	3 days' sight
		24 3/4	1 month's date
Antwerp.....	— 27	£.11 7/2	3 days' sight
Amsterdam	— 25	11 6/8	2 months' date
		m.13 5	3 days' sight
Hamburg	— 21	13 3/4	3 months' date
St Petersburg	— 14	37 1/2 to 37 1/2	—
Madrid	— 21	50 1/2	—
Lisbon.....	— 19	54 1/2	—
Gibraltar	— 20	51 1/2	—
New York	— 12	10 to 10 1/2 per cent pm	60 days' sight
		1 1/2 to 1 1/2 per cent pm	30
		1/2 to 1 per cent pm	50
		1/2 to 1/2 per cent pm	90
Jamaica	— 1	6 per cent pm	90
Havana	Feb. 23	29 1/2 to 30 1/2	60
Rio de Janeiro.....	— 11	29 1/2 to 30 1/2	60
Bahia	— 15	30 1/2 to 30 1/2	60
Pernambuco	— 17	30 1/2 to 30 1/2	60
Buenos Ayres	Jan. 19	3 1/2	60
Valparaiso	— 26	46 1/2	90
Singapore	Feb. 4	4s 10d to 5s 0d	60 days' sight
		10 to 10 1/2 per cent dis	1
Ceylon	— 16	10 to 12 per cent pm	6
		—	1
Bombay.....	— 15	2s 2 1/2d	6
		2s 2 1/2d to 2s 2 1/2d	6
Calcutta.....	— 8	—	4
		—	1
Hong Kong	Jan. 30	5s 1 1/2d	6
Mauritius	Dec. 19	6 per cent dis	6
Sydney	Nov. 18	2 per cent dis	30 days' sight

INDIA EXCHANGES.

	Commercial bills at 60 days' sight per Co.'s rupee.	E.I. Company's bills at 60 days' sight per Co.'s rupee.	Amount of E. I. Company's bills drawn, March 7 to 22.
Bengal	2 0 1/2 to 0 0	2 1 to 0 0	133,810 10 8
Madras	2 0 1/2 to 0 0	2 1 to 0 0	19,414 11 7
Bombay	2 1 0 0	2 1 1/2 0 0	3,641 5 0

Total of East India Co.'s bills, from March 7 to March 22

Total of do from Jan. 7 to March 22

Total of do. from May 7, 1850, to March 22, 1851, (East India Company's official year commencing from May 1)

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

COMPARATIVE EXCHANGES.

The quotation of gold at Paris is about 3 per mille discount, which, at the English mint price of 3l 17s 10½d per ounce for standard gold, gives an exchange of 25·10; and the exchange at Paris on London at short being 25 0, it follows that gold is 0·40 per cent dearer in Paris than in London.

By advices from Hamburg the price of gold is 425½ per mark, which, at the English mint price of 3l 17s 10½d per ounce for standard gold, gives an exchange of 13·5½; and the exchange at Hamburg on London at short being 13·5½, it follows that gold is 0·18 per cent dearer in London than in Hamburg.

The course of exchange at New York on London for bills at 60 days' sight is 110½ per cent; and the par of exchange between England and America being 109 23·40 per cent, it follows that the exchange is nominally 0·67 per cent in favour of England; but, after making allowance for difference of interest and charges of transport, the present rate leaves no profit on the importation of gold from the United States.

PRICES OF BULLION.

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

The Commercial Times.

Mails Arrived.

LATEST DATES.

- On 22nd March, UNITED STATES, per *Cambria* steamer, via Liverpool—New York, March 8.
- On 24th March, AMERICA, per *Europa* steamer, via Liverpool—Prince Edward Island, March 6; Montreal, 9; Newfoundland, 10; St John's, N.B., 11; Halifax, 14; California, Feb. 1; New York, March 11.
- On 25th March, PENINSULAR, per *Iberia* steamer, via Southampton—Gibraltar, March 15; Cadix, 16; Lisbon, 19; Vigo, 20.
- On 25th March, WEST INDIES and PACIFIC, per *Acron* steamer, via Southampton—La Guayra, Feb. 18; Grey Town, 19; Honduras, 19; Carthagena, 27; Chagres, 25; Santa Martha, 13; Nassau, 17; Havana, 21; Jamaica, 27; Berbice, 26; Demerara, 27; Trinidad, 27; Barbadoes, March 1; Hayti, 1; Martinique, 2; Antigua, 3; Porto Rico, 3; St Thomas, 6; Valparaiso, Jan. 26; Cobija, 30; Iquique, Feb. 2; Lima, 8; Callao, 9; Guayaquil, 15; Buenaventura, 17; Panama, 22.
- On 27th March, INDIA and CHINA, per *Ripon* steamer, via Southampton. Dates as received 21st inst., via Marseilles.
- On 27th March, CAPE OF GOOD HOPE, Feb. 3, per *Nile*, via Deal.

Mails will be Despatched

FROM LONDON

- *On 1st April (evening), for the CAPE OF GOOD HOPE, per H. M. steamer *Rhadamanthus*, via Plymouth.
 - On 2nd April (morning), for WEST INDIES, MEXICO, VENEZUELA, and CALIFORNIA (Cuba, Honduras, Nassau, Chili, and Peru excepted; mails to these places on the 17th of each month only), per *Dee* steamer, via Southampton.
 - On 4th April (evening), for BRITISH NORTH AMERICA, BERMUDA, and UNITED STATES, per *America* steamer, via Liverpool and Halifax.
 - On 7th April (morning), for VIGO, OPORTO, LISBON, CADIZ, and GIBRALTAR, per steamer, via Southampton.
 - On 7th April (evening), for the MEDITERRANEAN, EGYPT, and INDIA, via Marseilles.
- * Letters and papers intended to be forwarded per this vessel, must be specially addressed "Per H. M. S. *Rhadamanthus*."

Mails Due.

- MARCH 26.—Brazil and River Plate.
- APRIL 5.—Malta, Greece, Ionian Islands, Syria, Egypt, and India.
- APRIL 5.—West Indies.
- APRIL 5.—Mexico.
- APRIL 6.—Spain, Portugal, and Gibraltar.
- APRIL 10.—America.
- APRIL 20.—Western Coast of South America (Chili, Peru, &c.)
- APRIL 20.—Havana, Honduras, and Nassau.
- APRIL 23.—China, Singapore, and Straits.

WEEKLY CORN RETURNS.

From the Gazette of last night.

	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Rye.	Beans.	Peas.
Sold.....qrs	79,370	51,857	24,296	120	6,490	1,132
	s d	s d	s d	s d	s d	s d
Weekly average, Mar. 22.....	37 5	23 3	16 9	22 8	25 8	25 9
— 15.....	37 2	23 1	16 6	23 2	25 6	25 8
— 8.....	36 9	22 7	16 2	24 4	25 7	26 7
— 1.....	35 11	22 7	16 5	24 4	25 3	25 8
— Feb. 22.....	37 2	22 10	15 11	23 8	25 4	27 1
— 15.....	37 8	22 11	16 2	23 10	25 5	26 10
Six weeks' average.....	37 2	22 11	16 3	23 8	25 6	26 3
Same timelast year	38 1	23 8	15 3	22 1	24 5	25 9
Duties.....	1 0	1 0	1 0	1 0	1 0	1 0

GRAIN IMPORTED.

An account of the total quantities of each kind of corn, distinguishing foreign and colonial, imported into the principal ports of Great Britain, viz:—London, Liverpool, Hull, Newcastle, Bristol, Gloucester, Plymouth, Leith, Glasgow, Dundee, and Perth, in the week ending March 19, 1851.

	Wheat and wheat flour	Barley and barley-meal	Oats and oatmeal	Rye and rye-meal	Peas and pea-meal	Beans & bean-meal	Indian corn and Indian-meal	Buck wheat & buck-whit-meal
Foreign ...	qrs 111,240	qrs 12,219	qrs 8,425	qrs 20	qrs 1,139	qrs 9,406	qrs 829	qrs ...
Colonial ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total ...	111,240	12,219	8,425	20	1,139	9,406	829	...

Total imports of the week 143,281 qrs.

COMMERCIAL EPITOME.

FRIDAY NIGHT

The Corn Market, which was brisk on Monday, at an advance of one shilling, was dull to-day. The French market, which showed symptoms of improvement a week ago, is again dull, and its

condition affects our market. Fine French flour, however, sold for 55s, while English flour not of the first kind was selling at 35s, and for the former there was a demand. The inferior French flour hangs on hand, and it is thought not impossible that it may hereafter find a better market in France than in England. The rise in our market on Monday had a considerable effect at Antwerp and places in Holland; prices there rose considerably, a certain indication that there is no great stock to depress the market, and that it will rise rapidly on the least improvement in the market here. Though the average prices at present are not so low as they were at this time last year, when the grain was much finer than the grain this year, the commencement of a rise in most of the great markets of England, and the continuance of a great demand for consumption, make it highly probable that the lowest point has been passed, and that a rise is now likely to be continuous, if not great. The heavy rains we have lately had are not seasonable nor favourable, and it begins to be suspected that we shall not find ourselves too much encumbered with food by the end of July.

With reference to the subject of metage which engages much attention, a correspondent has sent us the two following extracts from his accounts, by which the reader will distinctly see the amount of the tax levied on corn by the city of London. The metage dues are said to be auxiliary to the Poor Laws, and provide pensions for those who might otherwise have to seek relief. If the services of the meters are required, let them honestly be paid for, but let us not be taxed for mock services. There are too many shams amongst us without continuing them in trade, to the great inconvenience of the trader:—

FROM THE BALTIC.		FROM LINCOLNSHIRE.	
Wheat, 5.8 qrs.		Wheat, 329 qrs 5 bush.	
	£ s d		£ s d
Metage	1 18 6½	Metage.....	0 14 2
Tillage	2 1 1½	Tillage	1 2 8
Lastage	0 5 2	Lastage	0 2 10
Portage	8 14 5	Portage.....	4 16 1½
	12 19 3		6 15 9½

The Produce Markets are dull. The prices of sugar are the same as last week, but they are maintained with difficulty. The market closed heavily to-day.

Coffee has declined in price nearly 2s, and native Ceylon has been sold at 43s to 41s. A cargo of Rio coffee, of 4,200 bags, has been sold afloat to be transhipped here for Copenhagen at 40s; a low price.

A large business has been done in cotton to-day. 5,050 bales of Surat were sold at from 4½d to 5½d for middling to good, 70 bales of good fair Bengal at 5½d, and 1,300 bales of Madras at from 4½d for fair Western to 6d for good Tinnevely.

With this exception, our market for all kinds of colonial produce is dull, and the same is the condition of the markets of the Continent. One acts on the other, and the political uneasiness which still continues there, affects the producers of sugar, coffee, &c., in the other hemisphere.

A commercial letter from Porto Rico of July 26th says:—

Our sugar market has continued active, and prices have been so far sustained, notwithstanding the apparently discouraging accounts from abroad. This is owing chiefly to an accumulation of tonnage in our ports, but buyers are now beginning to hold off; and should other circumstances not occur to prevent it, we are of opinion that prices must shortly give way; we quote 2½ to 3½ cents, equal to about 16s 6d and 18s 10d per cwt, f. o. b., without freight.

Molasses has been much in request, and is now firm at 12 cents per gallon, about 8s 2d per cwt, f. o. b.

Purchasers of coffee are not disposed at present to pay over 9 dols to 9½ per quintal, which we make our quotations.

Freights for Great Britain, 2l 12s to 2l 15s; for the Continent, no engagements have yet taken place.

Exchanges—Columbian Doubloons 17 dols Macoquino; Macoquino 5 per cent; London, 47s per 100l; Paris, francs 5·22½ to francs 5·25 per dollar.

We have also been favoured by the following extract of a letter from St. Domingo, Feb. 18, 1851:—

Our commerce with England begins to increase. At present there are nine English vessels loading on this coast. The arrivals and departures in 1849 and 1850 were as follows:—

	Arrived		Departed	
	Vessels	Tons	Vessels	Tons
1849	22	3,580	17	2,388
1850	38	5,832	37	6,023
	AT PORTO PLATA.			
1849	61	1,535	49	1,207
1850	57	1,246	59	1,081

The importation of English manufactures from St Thomas and direct from England amounted—

	£
In 1849	65,600
— 1850	121,300

If *Emperor* Solonque leaves us at rest, there is no doubt our trade will increase accordingly.

The trade of New York, flourishing in the past year, is continuing to flourish in the present year. The returns for the first two months from the *Journal of Commerce* will show the value of goods exported from the port of New York in February, was as follows:—

	dols
Domestic merchandise	2,535,786
Foreign merchandise, free	65,930
Foreign merchandise, dutiable	295,567
Specie	1,007,689
Total	3,945,972

The exports of February for three years were—
Table with 3 columns: Year (1851, 1850, 1849), Domestic, Foreign, Specie, Total

For January,
Table with 3 columns: Year (1851, 1850, 1849), Domestic, Foreign, Specie, Total

The exports of 1850 were unusually large, but those of the present year are still larger, even after deducting the specie. Of the latter commodity, 2,273,970 dols has left us within two months.

IMPORTS. Entered for consumption in February, 1851.
Table with 3 columns: Year (1851, 1850, 1849), Free, Spec, Dutiable, Total

It appears from the above, that the imports of goods at this port during the past two months, exclusive of specie, were 5,149,737 dols more than in the corresponding months of 1850, and 8,418,310 dols above the imports in the same months of 1849.

* Of which, 2,478,289 dols was from California.

EXPORTS FROM THE PORT OF HULL.

From 1st January to 19th March, 1851, and the corresponding period in 1850. (Extracted from the Customs Bill of Entry.)

Table showing exports from Hull for various commodities (Cotton, Wool, etc.) across multiple years.

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

INDIGO.

A marked improvement has taken place this week in the demand for indigo; between 300 and 400 chests are reported to have changed hands at full February rates, amongst others, 135 chests Bengal, mark C Mc K, at 5s 3d per lb.

During that period of 30 days since we addressed you last, affairs in our indigo market have never recovered their former activity; the Bank of Bengal raised their rates of discount and loans on Company's paper and other securities by one per cent., and then one more within a few days.

In the midst of these adverse circumstances, the business of this indigo season has been dragging on rather slowly, yet very nearly 11,000 chests have been shipped to all parts, 3,919 chests offered at eleven public sales, of which 3,022 were disposed of, including the two above-mentioned marks, and the balance of last crop at present remaining available is reduced to a few thousand maunds.

Table listing indigo products and their prices: H M Chests 105 Neemtollah-Rajmahal, R S R 112 Taranagubhr, G B 103 Munra, D F 115 Native Jessore.

On the 3rd instant 590 chests of D. & Co., Meerzunge, Jessore, were resold by public sale at an average, all round, of Co.'s rs. 167-14-5, or, setting aside 74 chests described in the catalogue as "wet" and 15 chests of "broken" and "dust," 500 chests of sound indigo average Co's rs. 175-7-1 per factory maund.

The following is a summary of the calculations which we lately made, and have carefully revised at short intervals, in order to ascertain the present position of the market: Stock on hand 1st November 1850, say: European manufacture, Chests 472 Fy. Mds. 1,925

Crop of cultivation 1849-50, as per invoices, say
Table with 3 columns: Item, Quantity, Value

Total quantity available for sale or shipment, say
1. Shipped to all parts up to 7th February inclusive, as per memorandum at foot

In course of shipment, say: Balance of private sales, Ditto of public sales, Ditto of purchases made by Arabs and Moguls

3. Balance of indigo sold for arrival, at present in strong second hands, and not to come into market again unless at a premium on the original cost

4. Ditto of Doab produce bought on speculation on the spot for eventual re-sale in Calcutta or shipment home, also in strong hands

Total quantity out of the market, or in course of shipment, or most likely to be shipped hereafter on present owners' account

Balance apparently available 8th February, 1851

The London letters lately received by the steamer allude to a short crop of indigo in Java. As late as the end of August letters from Batavia reported the probable reduction of the crop of 1849 50 to 900,000, or, at most one million of English pounds, the only cause alleged being the transfer of a large proportion of the former indigo lands to the culture of sugar and paddy.

With us, in Bengal, the scarcity and high price of seed has been for some time past a cause of much uneasiness, though we abstained from even alluding to the subject in our last report, lest it might be inferred that we wished to puff indigo up. It is nevertheless pretty well ascertained at present that the heavy and cold rains which fell in the Doab zillahs in the last days of October not only delayed the seed crop much, but actually damaged it to some considerable extent, and the deficiency in the supply of up country seed for cultivation 1850-51 is generally estimated by parties who deal in that article at from 40,000 to 60,000 bazaar maunds.

Assuming that to grow of a crop of 1,35,000 factory maunds of indigo at the rate of 14 beegahs per maund, which would allow for a fair average of unfavourable contingencies during the season, 1,620,000 beegahs (average measurement) should be the area of land under cultivation, the sowings of which at the rate of 4 seers per beegah, or 10 beegahs to a bazaar maund of seed, would require a total supply of 1,62,000 bazaar maunds, a deficiency of say, 40,500 bazar maunds (seed-merchants should never be fully believed), or 25 per cent, would apparently reduce the capability of the present cultivation from 1,35,000 to 1,01,250 factory maunds. But we cannot help thinking that the fate of next crop mainly depends upon the influence which the weather and other atmospheric combinations may have on the progress of vegetation, the yield of the plant, the state of the rivers, &c. in 1851.

We shall, of course, continue to hope for the best, but one point appears to be, even now, pretty evident, namely that we cannot have a very large crop of indigo in 1850-51.—William Moran and Co.'s Circular.

COTTON.

NEW YORK, March 8.—The feeling of depression and downward tendency in our cotton market which has prevailed of late, has been succeeded by a much more buoyant tone, induced by a belief that prices had fallen lower than was warranted by existing circumstances, which was subsequently confirmed by the reception of telegraphic accounts from New Orleans and Mobile, advising better prices there than were expected and some falling off in receipts and estimates.

Table showing cotton prices for Atlantic Ports, Florida, and Gulf Ports with various grades (Inferior, Low to good ordinary, etc.)

LIVERPOOL MARKET, MARCH 28. PRICES CURRENT.

Table of market prices for various goods including Upland, New Orleans, Pernambuco, Egyptian, and Surat and Madras.

IMPORTS, CONSUMPTION, EXPORTS, &c.

Table showing import and export data for 1851 and 1850, covering the period from Jan 1 to March 28.

There has been a good demand for cotton throughout the week, much excitement having been apparent in the early part.

MARKETS OF THE MANUFACTURING DISTRICTS.

MANCHESTER, THURSDAY EVENING, MARCH 27, 1850. (From our own Correspondent.)

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF THE COTTON TRADE.

Table comparing cotton trade prices for RAW COTTON (Upland, Ditto good fair, Pernambuco, etc.) across different years.

Since our last the news from America caused an advance in the price of cotton, and at the same time gave an upward tendency to this market.

The India and China letters more than confirmed the favourable telegraphic accounts we received of our commercial prospects in those markets.

BRADFORD, March 27.—The wool sales during the week have been somewhat increased where an inducement in price has been conceded.

LEEDS, March 25.—We have had dull markets at the cloth-halls to-day, but a fair quantity of goods continue to be delivered to order.

HUDDERSFIELD, March 25.—Our market to-day has been an average one, and a fair business has been done among plaids and checks of the newer patterns.

MACCLESFIELD, March 25.—We have had some buyers here since our last, and are glad to say that business resulted, although not to the extent usual at this season of the year.

HALIFAX, March 22.—We have had no improvement to report this week in the demand for worsted goods, either in the piece hall or in the warehouses.

CORN.

AMERICAN CORN AND FLOUR MARKETS.

NEW YORK, March 8.—GRAIN.—In wheat there has been something done in Genesee, but the particulars have not transpired; there is more inquiry, and an increased disposition to realize.

Southern white and yellow, closing at 65 for Southern yellow—included in the above was a lot of 4,500 bushels very handsome Southern white at 75 cents.

LOUR AND MEAL.—The flour market has been dull and declining since our last, there being no demand of moment for export, and though there has been more doing to go East, holders have evinced a desire to realize—hence the reduction;

LONDON MARKETS.

STATE OF THE CORN TRADE FOR THE WEEK.

MARK LANE, FRIDAY MORNING.

The supply of English wheat at last Monday's market was a very short one, and selected samples commanded an advance of 1s per qr, whilst all other qualities brought the full prices of the previous week.

At Hull, the averages of foreign grain were moderate, the farmers brought forward a liberal quantity of wheat, prices were 1s per qr higher, average, 34s 10d on 519 qrs.

The arrivals of wheat at Leeds were fair, and that market was rather higher, with a steady sale, average, 39s 1d on 1,545 qrs; most agricultural markets held on this day were 1s per qr higher for wheat.

At Mark-lane on Wednesday, the fresh arrivals of English grain were very short, but there were a few cargoes of foreign wheat in, and a good import of French flour.

The weekly averages announced on Thursday were 37s 5d on 79,971 qrs wheat, 23s 3d on 51,857 qrs barley, 16s 9d on 21,296 qrs oats, 22s 8d on 120 qrs rye, 25s 8d on 6,491 qrs beans, 25s on 1,133 qrs peas.

Birmingham market on Thursday was shortly supplied with wheat; the millers took it off slowly at 1s per qr advance; average, 40s 10d on 1,679 qrs.

At Bristol there was a small supply of English wheat, and a fair demand was experienced at 1s per qr higher rates; average, 36s 2d on 152 qrs.

The deliveries at Newbury were moderate of wheat from the farmers, and it met a ready sale at fully 1s more money; average, 38s 6d on 667 qrs.

Uxbridge was firm for wheat, supplies moderate; average, 44s 6d on 620 qrs.

The fresh arrivals of English grain at Mark-lane on Friday, were very short, but of foreign wheat and flour there were good importations, but of all other articles they were very limited.

The London averages announced this day were,--

Table listing average prices for various grains like Wheat, Barley, Oats, Rye, Beans, and Peas.

Arrivals this week.

Table showing arrivals of grain from different regions: English, Irish, and Foreign.

SEEDS.

Table listing prices for various seeds including Linseed, Rapeseed, Hompsseed, Canaryseed, Mustardseed, and Cloverseed.

PRICES CURRENT OF CORN, &c.

BRITISH AND IRISH.

Per quarter.

Table of corn prices including Wheat, Barley, Malt, Beans, Oats, Flour, and Tares, categorized by region and quality.

FOREIGN.

Table of foreign corn prices including Wheat, Maize, Barley, Beans, Oats, Flour, and Tares from various international sources.

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL PRODUCE MARKETS.

TRANSACTIONS OF THE WEEK.

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

MINCING LANE, FRIDAY MORNING.

SUGAR.—There has not been any animation in the demand during this week, prices occasionally showing a further slight reduction.

Mauritius.—1134 bags offered on Tuesday, and consisting chiefly of refining kinds, went off flatly, but chiefly sold without material alteration in prices.

Bengal.—1892 bags found buyers at previous rates: good white Benares, 42s to 42s 6d; low middling to middling, 40s 6d to 41s 6d.

Madras.—Low descriptions are still depressed. 1,436 bags were chiefly taken in at last week's rates: middling to fine strong grocery, sulphury, 37s 6d to 41s.

Foreign.—The market is quiet, but sales to some extent are reported at rather easier rates. A cargo of yellow Havana has brought 22s 6d, and about 800 boxes (40s duty paid, or allowed).

Refined.—The market has been extremely flat this week, yet refiners have not pressed rates at any further decline, and the supply of goods continues moderate.

MOLASSES remain without alteration for the few parcels sold.

COFFEE.—The unfavourable intelligence previously received from Colombo was confirmed by the last mail, the crop showing a considerable falling off as compared with the preceding seasons.

TEA.—Importers have not shown any disposition to press sales in the recent arrivals, and prices of most descriptions remain without alteration.

The letters by the Overland Mail were delivered on Friday last, but they did not have any effect upon the market.

Imports and deliveries of TEA to March 16, with the stocks on hand at same time.

Table showing imports and deliveries of tea for 1851 and 1850, with corresponding stock levels.

COCOA.—Yesterday, 213 bags Trinidad were chiefly taken in at the previous market value.

taken by the trade at 29s. 600 bags were delivered for home use last week—100 bags low Para were taken in at 28s.

RICE.—The market has been rather dull during the week, but yesterday 2,217 bags Bengal sold with some spirit at full rates to 3d advance, from 9s to 10s 6d for middling to good white.

PIMENTO.—Further supplies having been brought upon the market, prices are again rather lower. 557 bags about two-thirds sold at 4d to 5d per lb for very ordinary to good.

PEPPER.—A limited business has been done in black by private contract. At public sale 500 bags Penang and 241 bags Malabar were taken in at previous rates—the former at 3d for common, the latter at 3d per lb.

OTHER SPICES.—15 cases mace were chiefly taken in at previous rates, one or two lots Batavia bringing 2s 4d. Large supplies will shortly be brought upon the market.

SPIRITS.—The rum market remains inactive. Demerara have been sold at 2s 4d to 2s 6d, and Leeward Island proof 1s 7d per gallon.

SALTPETRE.—Very few transactions have been reported in East India by private contract during the week. Yesterday, 1,439 bags Madras, refracting 14 per cent., were taken in at 25s 6d to 26s for good grey.

NITRATE SODA is firm at 14s 6d per cwt.

COCHINEAL remains dull, the present large stock preventing any speculative inquiry. 57 bags Honduras were only partly sold at 3s 6d to 3s 11d per lb for ordinary damp to good bold silver grain.

LAC DYE.—This article has been nearly neglected.

DRUGS, &c.—At the public sales yesterday several parcels castor oil found buyers, and in some instances at rather stiffer rates for some qualities: very good to fine pale, 5d to 5d; other kinds from 3d to 4d per lb.

METALS.—The markets remain in a very dull state. No material change has occurred in the prices of Welsh or Staffordshire iron.

OILS.—Nearly all kinds of fish have been quiet. Cod cannot be bought under 38s per ton. Sperm is steady at the quotations.

TURPENTINE.—British drawn spirits are in good demand, and have advanced to 33s per cwt. Rough is firmer.

TALLOW.—There has been less business done, and prices have receded about 1s compared with the highest paid last week. Yesterday, first sort yellow candle on the spot was quoted at 40s to 40s 3d.

POSTSCRIPT. FRIDAY EVENING.

SUGAR.—Rather lower rates were again established in the public sales to-day, the market closing flatly. Only 170 casks West India sold, making the week's transactions 990 casks.

COFFEE.—193 casks 191 bags plantation Ceylon were chiefly taken in, a few small parcels unclear and ordinary selling rather cheaper.

TAMARINDS.—200 cases E. I. brought 11s 6d to 12s.

OTHER GOODS.—340 bags damaged Cutch partly sold at 19s to 19s 6d, onelot sound withdrawn at 21s 6d.

OILS.—60 tons southern partly sold from 30l to 31l per ton. 45 casks E.I. rape taken in at 32s; Gingly at 32s 6d.

TALLOW.—Very little was disposed of at the sales this afternoon. 80 chests Australian went from 37s to 38s 6d; 30 chests 166 boxes South American part sold, 35s 3d to 39s; 28 cks Belgian, 36s 3d to 38s 9d per cwt.

ADDITIONAL NOTICES.

REFINED SUGAR.—The home market for refined sugar continues very flat, and 6d to 1s lower for inferior wet lumps and pieces.

DRY FRUIT.—No arrivals this week. The business done in currants and raisins has been at a reduction upon previous rates.

GREEN FRUIT.—The weather still operates against the sale of fruit, and sales have to be made cautiously to prevent further reduction in price.

SEEDS.—There is a steady trade passing in most seeds considering the unfavourable state of the weather for out door occupations.

TIMBER.—The amount of business done in timber has been contracted, pending the doubt as to a reduction of duty. At auction, this day, buyers took off a large quantity of goods at full quotations.

ENGLISH WOOL.—The market remains very quiet, though more inquiry for the article has taken place than for some time past.

COMMERCIAL TIMES Weekly Price Current.

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

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

Ashes duty free First sort Pot, U.S. p cwt 28s 6d 29s 0d Montreal 28 0 29 0

Cocoa duty B.P. 1d p lb. For 2d. Trinidad 42 0 54 0 Grenada 42 0 48 0

Coffee duty B.P. 4d p lb. For 6d. Jamaica, triage and ord. per cwt, bond 46 0 46 0

Leather, per lb. Bengal 2 9 6 6 Oude 3 6 5 5 Madras 2 8 4 5

Metals-COPPER Sheathing, bolts, &c. 0 9 0 0 Bottoms 0 10 0 0

IRON, per ton. Bars, &c. British 5 15 6 0 Nail rods 6 12 6 15

SEEDS Caraway, for old, p cwt 28 0 32 0 Eng. new 32s 34s, old 32 0 0

SUGAR-REF. contd. bd s d s d Tilters, 20 to 28 lb 29 6 0 0

TALLOW Duty B.P. 1d, For 1s 6d p cwt N. Amer. melted, p cwt 37 0 39 0

TEA duty 2s 1d per lb Congou, ord and com bd 1 0 1 0 midding to good 1 0 1 2

TIMBER Duty, foreign 15s, B.P. 1s per load. Dantzig and Memel fir 60 0 to 75 0

WINE duty 5s 6d per gal. Port, equal to stand 48 6 50 0

Wool-English-Per pack of 240 lb. Fleeces, So. Down hogs 14 6 14 10

Wool-English-Per pack of 240 lb. Half-bred hogs 14 0 15 0

Wool-English-Per pack of 240 lb. Kent fleeces 12 10 13 10

Wool-English-Per pack of 240 lb. S. Down ewes & wethers 11 0 12 0

Wool-English-Per pack of 240 lb. Leicester do 11 0 12 0

Wool-English-Per pack of 240 lb. Sorts-Clothing, picklock 14 0 15 0

Wool-English-Per pack of 240 lb. Prime and picklock 12 0 13 0

Wool-English-Per pack of 240 lb. Choice 11 0 12 0

Wool-English-Per pack of 240 lb. Super 10 0 11 0

Wool-English-Per pack of 240 lb. Combing-Wethermat. 15 0 15 10

Wool-English-Per pack of 240 lb. Picklock 12 10 13 10

Wool-English-Per pack of 240 lb. Common 11 0 12 0

Wool-English-Per pack of 240 lb. Hog matching 18 0 20 0

Wool-English-Per pack of 240 lb. Picklock matching 15 0 16 0

Wool-English-Per pack of 240 lb. Super do 12 0 13 0

Wool-English-Per pack of 240 lb. FOREIGN-duty free-Per lb. Spanish- Leonera, R's, P's, & S 1 5 1 6

Indigo duty free Bengal 2 9 6 6 Oude 3 6 5 5 Madras 2 8 4 5

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Wool-English-Per pack of 240 lb. FOREIGN-duty free-Per lb. Spanish- Leonera, R's, P's, & S 1 5 1 6

Wool-English-Per pack of 240 lb. Regovia 1 3 1 4

Wool-English-Per pack of 240 lb. Caceres 1 2 1 4

Wool-English-Per pack of 240 lb. Soria 1 2 1 3

Wool-English-Per pack of 240 lb. Seville 1 0 1 2

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Wool-English-Per pack of 240 lb. Soria 1 2 1 3

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STATEMENT

Of comparative Imports, Exports, and Home Consumption of the following articles from Jan. 1 to March 22, 1850-1, showing the stock on hand on March 22 in each year. FOR THE PORT OF LONDON.
If those articles duty free, the deliveries for exportation are included under the head Home Consumption.

East and West Indian Produce, &c.
SUGAR.

British Plantations.	Imported		Duty paid		Stock	
	1850 tons	1851 tons	1850 tons	1851 tons	1850 tons	1851 tons
West India	6,299	7,372	15,855	11,410	6,957	4,234
East India	17,685	12,467	10,647	11,004	22,676	15,451
Mauritius	9,744	5,580	6,397	5,194	8,890	3,904
Foreign	...	...	7,699	8,861	...	...
	33,728	25,519	40,598	36,469	37,953	23,649
Foreign Sugar.						
	Imported		Exported		Stock	
Oberibon, Siam, & Manilla	5,067	1,260	593	197	8,114	6,317
Havana	2,147	475	2,966	549	17,378	11,053
Porto Rico	123	119	210	12	3,553	2,172
Brasil	731	3,260	1,914	1,163	6,383	8,402
	8,068	5,114	5,593	1,921	35,228	28,004

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

From the British Possessions in America	27 0/2	per cwt.
Mauritius	27 1/2	—
East Indies	28 3/4	—
The average price of the three is	27 9	—

MOLASSES.

	Imported	Duty paid	Stock
West India	1,265	232	1,544
	1,265	232	1,544

RUM.

	Imported		Exported		Home Consump.		Stock	
	1850 gal	1851 gal	1850 gal	1851 gal	1850 gal	1851 gal	1850 gal	1851 gal
West India	189,450	252,180	275,715	160,965	370,800	319,860	1,579,725	1,161,915
East India	91,665	61,020	98,865	49,725	20,520	16,155	389,880	334,125
Foreign	27,810	14,715	13,050	26,820	90	225	143,595	103,455
	308,925	327,915	387,630	237,510	391,410	336,240	2,113,200	1,602,495

COCOA.—Cwts.

	1850	1851	1850	1851	1850	1851	1850	1851
Br. Plant	927	2,749	370	85	4,904	3,766	7,409	6,154
Foreign	6,721	1,793	1,017	233	570	1,515	13,621	7,987
	7,648	4,542	1,387	318	5,334	5,281	21,030	13,241

COFFEE.—Cwts.

	1850	1851	1850	1851	1850	1851	1850	1851
Br. Plant	114	54	12	196	2,774	2,168	6,928	7,214
Ceylon	26,187	13,963	1,286	1,268	42,735	36,273	180,957	196,472
Total BP	26,301	14,017	1,298	1,464	45,509	38,446	187,925	203,686
Mocha	1,896	9,193	336	456	3,486	4,672	9,943	17,307
Foreign EI	999	95	2,982	722	1,874	1,548	18,628	14,321
Malabar	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
St Domingo	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hav. & P Rico	336	162	339	31	186	37	4,882	5,392
Brasil	12,254	26,817	2,698	6,144	1,693	2,845	26,761	61,766
African	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	660
Total For	14,976	36,568	6,558	7,770	7,268	9,161	61,937	104,561
Grand tot.	41,277	50,585	7,656	9,234	52,797	47,607	249,862	308,247

RICE.

	1850 Tons	1851 Tons	1850 Tons	1851 Tons	1850 Tons	1851 Tons	1850 Tons	1851 Tons
British EI	445	2,060	288	412	2,379	2,216	18,248	19,158
Foreign EI	803	509	5	20	281	70	2,330	1,416
Total	1,248	2,569	293	432	2,660	2,316	20,578	20,614

PEPPER.

	1850 Bags	1851 Bags	1850 Bags	1851 Bags	1850 Bags	1851 Bags	1850 Bags	1851 Bags
White	468	61	4	85	816	1,067	3,277	2,378
Black	1,257	5,791	1,686	3,917	5,014	5,605	40,423	51,675

NUTMEGS.

	1850 Pkgs	1851 Pkgs	1850 Pkgs	1851 Pkgs	1850 Pkgs	1851 Pkgs	1850 Pkgs	1851 Pkgs
Do. Wild.	290	412	127	141	254	203	375	563
CAS. LIG.	9,399	678	4,025	819	280	244	5,881	1,123
CINNAMON.	3,278	2,203	2,027	1,214	197	129	3,353	3,605
PIMENTO	1,636	4,022	303	2,578	527	1,008	4,724	11,557

Raw Materials, Dye Stuffs, &c.

	1850 Serons	1851 Serons	1850 Serons	1851 Serons	1850 Serons	1851 Serons	1850 Serons	1851 Serons
COCHINEAL	4,026	3,401	...	...	1,768	3,091	6,170	8,935
LAC DYE	719	1,907	...	...	953	1,563	3,302	5,858
LOGWOOD	1,025	1,591	...	...	1,343	1,106	1,944	2,028
FUSTIC	390	1,209	...	...	611	716	245	1,210

INDIGO.

	1850 chests	1851 chests	1850 chests	1851 chests	1850 chests	1851 chests	1850 chests	1851 chests
East India	1,379	3,185	...	...	7,154	4,372	23,582	25,994
Spanish	651	1,752	...	...	332	968	716	1,794

SALTPETRE.

	1850 tons	1851 tons	1850 tons	1851 tons	1850 tons	1851 tons	1850 tons	1851 tons
Nitrate of Potash	3,159	1,857	...	...	2,656	1,616	3,579	2,840
Nitrate of Soda	904	21	...	...	953	890	2,402	1,183

COTTON.

	1850 bags	1851 bags	1850 bags	1851 bags	1850 bags	1851 bags	1850 bags	1851 bags
American	2,005	628	...	...	450	40	1,757	617
Brazil	...	...	...	...	...	...	105	78
East India	5,565	10,081	...	...	6,201	9,267	19,516	49,153
Live, all kinds	396,635	322,433	23,160	13,759	265,600	271,810	490,510	431,800
Total	314,205	333,142	23,160	13,759	272,259	281,117	812,188	541,648

The Railway Monitor.

EPITOME OF RAILWAY NEWS.

EASTERN UNION.—It appears from the report of Messrs J. Head and C. L. Webb, the auditors of the company, that 2,121,139/ had been received on capital account, including 27,393/ from revenue, and 45,440/ from profits of the year ending June, 1850, and 2,236,238/ expended, from which is deducted 119,103/ for bills payable but not due. The amount outstanding on debenture and mortgage bonds on the 31st of December last was 523,874/, of which 56,600/ was borrowed at 6 per cent, 442,068/ at 5 per cent, 20,656/ at 4 1/2 per cent, and 4,550/ at 4 per cent. In December next 201,002/ will become due, of which 11,500/ was borrowed at 6 per cent, and 189,512/ at 5 per cent. The estimated liabilities and assets on capital account show the liabilities amount to 430,049/, and the assets to 87,236/, leaving a balance against the company of 342,813/. The estimated liabilities on revenue account to the 31st of December last amounted to 53,629/, and the assets to 22,526/, leaving a balance against the company of 31,103/. The solicitors' bills to 1849 amount to 103,787/, out of which 64,497/ was paid on account, leaving a balance of 39,290/ due, irrespective of accounts not sent in. The Parliamentary powers unexercised appear to be 505,340/; the balance of estimated liabilities, 342,813/, and the sum necessary for the construction of the Harwich line, estimated at 150,000/—together 492,813/, which being deducted from the 505,340/, shows a balance of 12,526/. The traffic for the half-year ending December 31, 1850, amounted to 58,963/, and the expenses to 31,280/, including 2,282/ for Government duty and rates and taxes, leaving a balance of 27,703/ as the actual profits on the half-year's working. From the report of the auditors it does not appear that they have been enabled to satisfy themselves that all the accounts are correct. They state that in the matter of the Norwich agreement, the difference between the amount estimated and taken credit for in the weekly returns of the Eastern Union traffic as due from the Eastern Counties Company and the sum alleged by the latter to be due makes a total of 963/ to be adjusted between the companies. The amount taken credit for by the Eastern Union to the 31st of December last was 5,055/, and the amount admitted by the Eastern Counties 4,691/. The account of rents for land shows a return of 993/ against 260/ for June, 1850, but this account requires further investigation before the auditors can state what is really due either to or from the company. The revenue stores in hand are returned at 4,528/, but they stand in the company's books at 5,284/, showing a difference unaccounted for of 756/. It also appears that a debenture bond for 500/ was issued in the early part of 1849 to certain parties on account of an assumed debt, and on taking an account the sum of about 50/ only appeared due. Interest having been paid on the bond, that sum has been more than covered, and the auditors have suggested the advisability of recovering the bond.

EDINBURGH, PERTH, AND DUNDEE.—The half-yearly report of the directors of this company state that the receipts from revenue amounted to 63,397/ and the expenses to 32,635/, including 2,273/ for taxation and Government duty, leaving a balance of 30,762/; out of which 17,605/ is deducted for interest on debenture loans, and 4,510/ for interest on preference shares, leaving a balance of 8,647/, which the directors have placed to the credit of interests paid during the half-year on the outstanding liabilities of the company and bank loans. The traffic of the half-year, as compared with the corresponding period of last year, shows an increase of 4,800/, which, on the whole, is considered satisfactory. The directors propose that the 5/ quarter-shares (1847) should be restricted to the nominal sum of 10s per share, being the amount already paid on these shares by the present holders. The capital account to the 31st of January shows that 2,408,751/ had been received, and 2,476,200/ expended, leaving a balance of 67,593/ against the company. The total expenditure amounts to 2,744,683/, including 267,795/ on the Edinburgh and Granton section. The revenue for the half-year amounted to 63,397/, and the expenditure to 32,635/, interest on loans and preference shares 22,114/, leaving a balance of 8,647/. The total receipts for the half-year ending July 31, 1849, amounted to 52,330/; ending January 31, 1850, 58,597/; ending July 21, 1850, 58,503/; and January 31, 1851, 63,397/. The working expenses amounted to 38,576/, 33,010/, 31,936/, and 32,635/ respectively.

RAILWAY SHARE MARKET.

LONDON.

MONDAY, March 24.—The railway share market was in a depressed condition throughout the day, and prices showed a further tendency to decline.

TUESDAY, March 25.—In the railway share market there was greater confidence exhibited among the operators, and prices slightly improved during the day.

WEDNESDAY, March 26.—In the railway market the chief business transacted was in connection with the approaching arrangement of the account, and high rates were paid for continuation. Prices at the close of business were not altogether well supported.

THURSDAY, March 27.—The share market was very much unsettled to-day. The dealers were fully occupied with the settlement of the account expiring to-morrow, which as we anticipated, proves very heavy, and the enormous "continuations" demanded for carrying over to the next account of the 16th of April brought forward many persons who preferred realising and closing their accounts, especially in the earlier part of the day. Later on, however, a good deal more firmness became apparent, with the exception of Great Westerns, which remained heavy, prices rallied considerably, the decline from yesterday's rates being generally only fractional at the close.

FRIDAY, March 28.—Railway shares have been again depressed, and there is a marked falling off in business. The enormous charges for carrying off have disgusted the weaker speculators, and we may expect for a time a much quieter market.

The Economist's Railway Share List.

The highest prices of the day are given.

Table with three main sections: ORDINARY SHARES AND STOCKS, ORDINARY SHARES, &c.—Continued, and LINES LEASED AT FIXED RENTALS. Each section contains columns for No. of shares, Amount of shares, Name of Company, and London prices (M. F.).

OFFICIAL RAILWAY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

Table with multiple columns: Capital and Loan, Amount expended per last Report, Average cost per mile, Dividend per cent. per annum on paid-up capital (1847-1850), Name of Railway, Week ending, RECEIPTS (Passengers, Merchandise, Total receipts), Traffic per mile per week, Miles open in 1851 and 1850.

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

Single Rate of Postage upon Foreign and Colonial Letters when conveyed by packet.

a Signifies that the postage must be paid in advance. b Denotes that the rate includes British and Foreign postage combined.

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

Table listing various locations (Aden, Alexandria, Algeria, etc.) and their corresponding postage rates in different currencies (s, d, oz).

Table listing various locations (Jassy, Java, Lippe, etc.) and their corresponding postage rates in different currencies (s, d, oz).

Table listing various locations (Switzerland, Syria, Turkey, etc.) and their corresponding postage rates in different currencies (s, d, oz).

FLOOR CLOTHS. Best quality, warranted... Persian and Turkey pattern... COCOA-FIBRE MATS and MATTING.

BOTTLED ALES, STOUT, & C.— Messrs HOLMES and ZOHRAB, having made arrangements with Messrs James Thorne and Co., of the Westminster Brewery...

THE PATENT GALVANISING and CORRUGATING IRON COMPANY, Glass-house yard, opposite the London Docks, Working Crawford's Patent under License.

THE STUDENT'S SELF-INSTRUCTING FRENCH GRAMMAR, consisting of Twelve Progressive Lessons, wherein the Parts of Speech are Exemplified in Conversational Phrases...

OPINIONS OF THE PRESS. "Mr. Aird's object in publishing this grammar is to simplify to the English the study of the French language. He has not failed in his endeavour..."

THE WANDLE WATER AND SEWERAGE COMPANY, for the supply of the metropolitan districts South of the Thames, at constant and high service. Capital, £300,000 in £30,000 Shares of £10 each. Deposit, 12s 6d per Share, of which 7s will be returned in the event of an Act not being obtained in the present Session of Parliament. All the requisites of the standing orders have been complied with.

Trustees.
Joseph Somes, Esq., of Blackwall, Shipowner.
George Stone, Esq., of Lombard street, Banker.

Directors.
Samuel Whitfield Daukes, Esq., 14 Whitehall place.
Edward Esdaile, Esq., City Saw Mills, Regent's Canal.
John Laurence, Esq., H. E. I. C. S., 15 Regent street.
John Macgregor, Esq., M.P., No. 1 Princes terrace, Hyde park.

Charles Reynolds, Esq., Wallington Lodge, Carshariton, Surrey.
Thomas Robinson, Esq., Bernard street, Russell square.
John Peury Williams, York street, St. James's square; and Abercrombie, Brecon; Thomas Wilson, Esq., York terrace, Queen's road, Pockham, Surrey.

ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR.—F P Thompson, Esq., Water Works Chambers, Orange street, Trafalgar square.

CONSULTING ENGINEERS.—Messrs Easton and Amos, Grove, Southwark.

BANKERS.—Messrs Martin, Stone, and Martin, Lombard street.

SECRETARY.—William Holloway, Esq., 15 Tokenhouse yard, Lothbury, City.

SOLICITORS.—Messrs. Mullins and Paddison.

The objects of this Company are chiefly—To supply the inhabitants SOUTH OF THAMES, with a cheap, abundant, and CONSTANT SUPPLY of pure and wholesome WATER. The plan proposed to be adopted is to let the Wandle perform all its functions to the Mills, as at present, without altering or diverting the course of its waters, or feeders, in any part; to remove and exclude all impurities, by means of a complete system of intercepting sewers and drains, extending from the neighbourhood of the springs at its source, to the Thames at Wandsworth; and to take the water, in its unpolluted state, at Wandsworth, after it has done its work for the Mills, and raise it to reservoirs on Wimbledon Common, nearly 160 feet above Trinity high-water mark. A sufficient elevation being thus obtained to give HIGH SERVICE to any building in the districts to be supplied.

After payment of the deposit, no call will be made unless an Act be obtained in the present Session of Parliament; and in the event of the Act not being then obtained, 7s per share will be returned to the Shareholders.

Application for shares to be made to Messrs SHERRARD and Sons, 28 Threadneedle street, City, where the Plans may be seen, and detailed information obtained; and also to the Secretary, at the Offices of the Company, No. 15 Tokenhouse yard, Lothbury.

DAMP WALLS.—NEW ELASTIC PAINT, an effectual remedy inside or out; will dry in a few hours, and may be immediately papered over if desired.

PATENT MINERAL PAINTS, invaluable for cheapness, beauty, and permanence; ready for use; will stand any climate, and well calculated for exportation.

PATENT LIQUID CEMENT, ready for use on the Fronts of Houses; only one-eighth the cost of Oil Paint; for beauty pre-eminence, giving the appearance of fine-cut stone. In casks of 1 cwt., 2 cwt., and 3 cwt., at 8s, 15s, and 21s each. Casks returned.

G. BELL and Co., Steam Mills, 2 Wellington street, Goswell street, London.

HUBBUCK'S PATENT WHITE ZINC PAINT.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THOMAS HUBBUCK and SON,
Cannon Works, opposite the London Docks,
Specimens of the Paint may be seen at the Office of the ARTISTAN JOURNAL, 60 Cornhill.

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

MANUFACTURERS—GRIGG and JENKINSON, FINSBURY IRON WORKS, 119 and 120 BUSHILL ROW.

PERUVIAN GUANO.—CAUTION TO AGRICULTURISTS.

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

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

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

ANTAGONISTIC TO SOPHISTRY, PREJUDICE, AND EMPIRICISM.

147 Woodcuts, 41 Cases, 2 vols. 1s each, by post 1s 6d. **ON SINGLE AND MARRIED LIFE.**

"To be, or not to be, that is the question."
By R. J. CULVERWELL, M.D. (1841), M.R.C.S. (1827), L.A.C. (1824); 25 years Medical and Forensic Referee in these matters.

Programme:—Advent of Puberty and corresponding Associations—Duties and Casualties of Single Life—Marriage and its considerations—Happy and Fruitful Alliances, mode of securing them—Inelicitous and Infertile ones, their obviation and removal.

Sherwood, 23 Paternoster row; Main, 29 Cornhill; Carvalho, 147 Fleet street; and all booksellers; or by post, from the Author, 10 Argyll place, Regent street. At home daily, 10 till 5; evening, 7 till 9.

OVERLAND ROUTE.—HICKIE, BOYMAN, and CO., forward Goods and Parcels to all parts of India and China, per Overland Route, every month. They also ship goods to all parts of the World, both by Steamers and Sailing Vessels. Passages Secured, Baggage Shipped, and Insurances effected at low rates. Letters of Credit on Bombay, Madras, Calcutta, and Hong Kong. Parcels for India received to the 18th April.—Every information afforded on application at 127 Leadenhall street, London; and 4, Oriental place, Southampton.

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

The following are now on the Berth:—
Ships Tons Commanders Destination To sail.

Bank of England	950	J. Davison	Sydney	April 10
Phœnician	650	H. Sproat	Sydney	May 10
Undine	450	J. Farr	Hobart Town	May 10
Prince of Wales	450	H. R. Rich	Launceston	April 20
Statesman	1,750	J. W. Lane	Port Phillip	May 20
A Ship	600		Adelaide	May 15

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

FOR PORT LYTLETON, Canterbury Settlement, with liberty to land passengers and goods at the undermentioned ports in New Zealand, the first-class passenger ships, LABUAN, 547 tons register, Canterbury, Nelson, and New Plymouth, to sail on the 8th of April. DOMINION, 584 tons register, Canterbury and Otago, to sail on the 8th of May. BANGALORE, 877 tons register, Canterbury, Wellington, and New Plymouth, to sail on the 8th of May; lying in the East India Dock, chartered and provisioned by the Canterbury Association.

Rates of passage: Chief Cabin (a whole Cabin) between decks, £42; second Cabin, £5; steerage, £16. Each ship carries an experienced Surgeon.

For freight passage, or further information, apply to Filby and Co., 157 Fenchurch street; J. Stayner, 110 Fenchurch street; or to Frederick Young, Manager of Shipping for the Canterbury Association, 74 Cornhill.

NOTICE TO SHIPPERS TO CALCUTTA. All goods for the "EUGENIA," 714 tons register, C. JACHTMANN, commander, loading in the London Docks, must be down and cleared by noon of the 1st of April, as she will leave the Docks on that day.

For passage apply to Captain LUDLOW, 18 Cornhill. For freight or passage apply to Messrs GLOVER and DUNN, 16 Chancery lane, Manchester; or in London to Messrs W. S. LINDSAY and CO., 8 Austin friars, and 54 Old Broad street.

STEAM TO THE CAPE of GOOD HOPE, carrying Her Majesty's mails, leaving London on the 10th, and Plymouth on the 15th, of every month. The BOSPHORUS, 569 tons, Captain J. V. HALL, will leave Plymouth on the 15th April, at noon, with mails and passengers. For passage, apply to the General Screw Steam Shipping Company's Office, 2 Royal Exchange buildings; for goods and parcels to BALFOUR, LAMING, and OWEN, 137 Fenchurch street, London, and at Liverpool.



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

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

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

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

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



STEAM COMMUNICATION between LOWESTOFT and NORTH of EUROPE.—On and after the 1st of April, the

NORTHERN STEAM PACKET COMPANY'S Steam Ships will leave LOWESTOFT for HJERTING and BALLUM every Saturday at 11 P.M. on arrival of the London 5 P.M. train; returning from HJERTING or BALLUM every Wednesday. Fares, rail and vessel:—London to Hjerting—First class, £3; Second class, £2; Third class, £1. This is the shortest route to COPENHAGEN, and all the northern towns of DENMARK.—Particulars of Freight, &c., from Capt. SMALL, Lowestoft; DICK, MOLLER, and MAY, Muscovy court, Tower hill, London; Messrs MOLLER and CO., Hjerting; or from Mr MOSLEY, Eastern Counties Railway Goods station, Brick lane, London.

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



BRITISH AND NORTH AMERICAN ROYAL MAIL

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

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

AFRICA, for NEW YORK direct, Saturday, March 29.
AMERICA, for BOSTON, Saturday, April 5.
ASIA, for NEW YORK direct, Saturday, April 12.

Cabin passage, including steward's fee, £35, but without wines or liquors, which can be obtained on board. Dogs charged 2s each. These steam-ships have accommodation for a limited number of second cabin passengers at £20 each, including provisions. For passage or other information, apply to J. B. Foord, 52 Old Broad street, London; S. Cunard, Halifax; S. S. Lewis, Boston; Edward Cunard, Jun., New York; D. Currie, Havre; G. and J. Burns, Buchanan street, Glasgow; or D. and C. M'IVER, Water street, Liverpool.

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



UNITED STATES MAIL

STEAMERS between LIVERPOOL and NEW YORK. Goods for the "PACIFIC" cannot be taken after twelve o'clock at noon on TUESDAY the 8th April, nor can parcels be received after six o'clock in the evening of that day.

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

No berth secured until the passage money be paid. The steam ships comprising this line are the ATLANTIC, Captain WEST; PACIFIC, Captain NYE; ARCTIC, Captain LUCE; BALTIC, Captain COMSTOCK; ADRIATIC, Captain GRAFTON. These vessels are appointed to sail as follows:—

From LIVERPOOL.
PACIFIC WEDNESDAY, 9th April.
ARCTIC WEDNESDAY, 30th April.
BALTIC WEDNESDAY, 14th May.
..... WEDNESDAY, 28th May.

From NEW YORK.
PACIFIC WEDNESDAY, 19th March.
ARCTIC WEDNESDAY, 2nd April.
BALTIC WEDNESDAY, 16th April.

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

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

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

Agents in London—E. G. ROBERTS and Co., 13 King's Arms yard.
Agent in Paris—L. DEATER, Jun., 8 Boulevard, Montmartre.
Agent in Havre—G. H. DEATER, 41 Rue de Bordeaux.