

The Economist:

A

POLITICAL, COMMERCIAL, AGRICULTURAL, AND FREE-TRADE JOURNAL.

"If we make ourselves too little for the sphere of our duty; if, on the contrary, we do not stretch and expand our minds to the compass of their object; be well assured that everything about us will dwindle by degrees, until at length our concerns are shrunk to the dimensions of our minds. It is not a predilection to mean, sordid, home-bred cares that will avert the consequences of a false estimation of our interest, or prevent the shameful dilapidation into which a great empire must fall by mean reparation upon mighty ruins."—BURKE.

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NOTICE TO OUR READERS.

We now publish an Early Edition in time for the Saturday morning mails, and, as will be seen, the size of our paper is permanently enlarged. We have also taken steps so as for the future to be able to publish weekly the most accurate statements of prices of Government Funds, Foreign Securities and Stocks, and of the various descriptions of Joint Stock Companies in Great Britain and Ireland, with the most recent information respecting the same, and in particular in respect of Railways. We beg also to remind our readers that we now publish a Second Edition, containing all the news of Saturday up to a late hour.

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"If a writer be conscious that to gain a reception for his favourite doctrine he must combat with certain elements of opposition, in the taste, or the pride, or the indolence of those whom he is addressing, this will only serve to make him the more inopportune. There is a difference between such truths as are merely of a speculative nature and such as are allied with practice and moral feeling. With the former all repetition may be often superfluous; with the latter it may just be by earnest repetition, that their influence comes to be thoroughly established over the mind of an inquirer."—CHALMERS.

GREAT NATIONAL ANTI-LEAGUE DEMONSTRATION.

In another part of this paper will be found an account of a meeting convened by the Secretary of the "National Anti-League Association," and described upon the admission card as a "Great National Anti-League Demonstration," held at the Freemasons' hall tavern, on Monday evening last. The chairman of the meeting declined to open the business by any remarks on its objects, and the only intimation given of them was by Mr Mailard, the secretary of the Duke of Richmond's Anti-League Association, who "announced that two members of the Spitalfields Weavers' Union attended as a delegation, and would address the meeting;" and the result, as well as the subsequent explanation of the Secretary, showed that it was an attempt to obtain the assistance and co-operation of the working classes, and particularly the Spitalfields weavers, in favour of "protective duties on corn." From the commencement of this agitation in favour of agricultural protection, we have looked upon it as one of the surest means of advancing free-trade doctrines; first, by the constant and universal discussion which it would necessarily promote; and secondly, by defining accurately and intelligibly the real objects for which these restrictions are maintained: for until lately all possible reasons and motives were professed for the existence of a corn law but the real ones; any selfish view to their own interests was strenuously repudiated by the leaders of the agricultural body in both Houses of Parliament. The Duke of Wellington stated again and again that the sole objects of the law were, by a high price, to encourage the growth of corn, so as in the long run to make it cheaper than it otherwise would be, and to render the consumer dependent rather on the certain produce of our own country than on the growth of other countries; and we were led to infer that high rents and prices, if they arose, were so rather as an unavoidable and accidental contingency in the operation of the law, than as constituting any part of its real objects. Now, however, all these doubts are cleared away;—from one end of the country to the other, the open declared and avowed objects are not, PROTECTION TO THE CONSUMER, BUT PROTECTION TO AGRICULTURE, HIGH PRICES, AND HIGH RENTS. That the promoters of this agitation, and of the meetings in support of it, should have used all their efforts and influence to make it appear that the interests of the farmers and farm labourers were deeply implicated in this system of protection we are not surprised. Nor are

we surprised that the attempt has to some extent succeeded, for we have observed that every act of legislation for the benefit of land was so framed as to appear in the first place to be an advantage or relief to the occupier of land, but who has always found that whether these benefits appeared in the shape of enhanced prices, or of relief from the usual public charges or taxes, very soon were resolved merely into higher rent; still there was in the first place a *prima facie* interest to the farmer and farm-labourer. We say, however untenable these first impressions may have been, and however much disappointed by experience, yet we are not surprised that by the aid of such impressions, and the influence otherwise which landlords exercise over tenants and labourers, they have in many places appealed to them with some little success for support in securing a continued protection to their land. But we must own that we were not prepared to find such an amount of hardihood, of either the dullest ignorance, or grossest hypocrisy, or of a mixture of both, as is displayed by this attempt to obtain the consent of the starving operative to his own starvation and misery; and by pandering to his ignorance and most dangerous prejudices to make it appear that he acquiesced in that principle on which landlords rely for their monopoly. We were not prepared to think that their case seemed so hopeless in their own estimation that they would have ventured on such an experiment.

However such is the case. It appears a preliminary meeting, for the purpose of enlisting the popular prejudices of this class, was held somewhere in Spitalfields a few evenings previous to Monday, which, continuing till after midnight, as the morning papers inform us, in one unbroken course of confusion, was concluded without any resolutions being agreed to. It appears, however, that Mr Mailard had succeeded in finding the two individuals whom he announced as speakers, to attend the meeting of the National Anti-League Association. The views and sentiments of these men will be best known by the resolutions which they proposed, and the opinions they expressed in doing so:—

"Mr Sherrard (an operative) then came forward, and after a great deal of confusion, obtained a hearing. He spoke amid interruptions for nearly an hour and a quarter. He stood there, he said, the representative of his trade; he meant of 8,948 Spitalfields weavers, who had signed a petition to parliament against freedom of action and in favour of protection for industry. The Anti-League Association had come to the trade, and had solicited their support; and the trade, knowing the evils which must accrue to the country from freedom of action (so the speaker continually described what is called free trade), had sent him there to arouse the people, and prevent them from falling into the League snare. (Uproar.) Their labour in Spitalfields had once been protected—for fifty years they had experienced the benefits of that protection; but Mr Huskisson had withdrawn it from them twenty years ago, and ever since they had been in a state of wretchedness and misery. Mr John Fielden had drawn up a table of wages, from which it appeared that in 1797 the working man earned 26s. 8d. a week, whilst in 1842 he only earned 3s. 6d. a week. What was this freedom of action, then, but a measure for the advantage of the mill-owner and the manufacturer, and the injury of the labourer? These millowners were making fortunes, whilst the people were starving. The League talked of slavery, but would it be slavery to protect such poor people as these? It was all very well to talk about slavery, but he (Mr Sherrard) had experienced the effects of poverty and hunger, and he knew what it was to be a slave. He could take them into scenes of the deepest distress and misery, all springing from the operation of the principle of freedom of action. HE WOULD URGE THE LANDLORDS AND THE AGRICULTURE GENERALLY TO BE UP AND DOING ALSO. IF THEY DID NOT DEFEAT THE MACHINATIONS OF THE LEAGUE, THEY WOULD NOT LONG WALK IN THE HALLS OF THEIR ANCESTORS, FOR THE LEAGUE WERE DETERMINED TO GOVERN BY GOLD, AND GOLD ALONE; AND, IF THEY WERE LEFT TO THEMSELVES, WOULD SOON CONVERT THE EMPIRE INTO ONE DULL AND SMOKING MANCHESTER. Mr Sherrard found it necessary to bring his speech to a conclusion by moving the following resolution, which was received with cheers and yellings:—"THAT IT IS THE OPINION OF THIS MEETING, THAT VERY GREAT DISTRESS NOW PREVAILS AMONG THE AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL CLASSES OF THE KINGDOM; AND THAT THE REMOVAL OF THE PROTECTIVE DUTIES ON CORN AND MANUFACTURES WOULD INCREASE THAT DISTRESS, AND INFLECT RUIN ON BRITISH INDUSTRY."—Mr Butrows, who stated himself to be the secretary of the Spitalfields Handloom-weavers' Union, seconded this resolution, speaking in much the same strain as the mover."

However strange and inconsistent such language and acts may appear to be in such men, we will not do them the injustice of supposing that they were actuated by any impure

motive, but only by ignorance of the real position in which they are placed, and of the tendency of the laws which they have been duped to support. If it were here our object to show these men how erroneous were their views as to the actual results of the free-trade experiment made by Huskisson on their interests, it would be no difficult task to do so; it would be no difficult matter to show, that however great may have been their sufferings and the difficulty of procuring food for the last few years, it was much greater during the period when they had a monopoly of the trade; that it is on Parliamentary record, that during that period distress was not only more frequent, but much more intense in Spitalfields than it has since been known. We could point to them the fact, that from 1791 up to 1820, while they enjoyed the strictest monopoly the law could give them, and while their numbers were rapidly increasing, the silk trade of this country remained almost stationary; nearly the same quantity of work continued only to be required, though the number of operatives were annually increasing. The whole quantity of silk manufactured was, in—

1791	1,446,868 lbs.
1800	1,167,335 "
1810	1,792,206 "
1819	1,847,970 "

We could then remind them that the continued increasing competition to perform nearly the same quantity of work rapidly reduced their wages; that whenever a temporary commercial crisis arose in this country, or a sudden change of fashion, their demand being confined to this country alone, in consequence of the artificial price of their goods, they were suddenly and frequently plunged into the greatest distress, and rendered dependent on an extraordinary appeal to national charity. We could then further show them, that since the restriction of their trade was partially abolished, it has extended in a manner without any previous parallel; that while the whole consumption of silk in 1819 was 1,847,970 lbs., it rapidly increased until, in 1829 (ten years), it reached 3,805,933 lbs., and in 1839 (another ten years) it reached 5,020,034 lbs.; that thus, while in thirty years, with restriction and complete monopoly, the whole increase of their trade was represented by an additional quantity of raw material, worked up to an extent of only 401,102 lbs., while during the next twenty years, with a free trade, that increase represented an additional quantity of raw material consumed to the extent of 3,172,064 lbs.; that they had commanded a market for their goods in every country in the world, even in those which before were considered their greatest rivals; so that now when trade may be bad, or fashions may change at home, they have recourse to numerous other markets for the disposal of that produce which was formerly confined to the narrow limits of our own home market. These and many other reasons we could give to convince them that the policy of free trade has been to them the greatest possible blessing; and as our province is teaching great truths, and illustrating them by facts and experience, we will take some pains to counteract the mischievous poison which the advocates of protection are now trying to instil into the minds of this large and industrious class of our countrymen, by pandering to their ignorance and prejudices. We will see, if it be practicable, that in every weaver's shop a perfect statement of all these actual results shall be suspended against the wall.

But our special business at this moment, and in this place, is with the large influential landlords, with the Dukes of Richmond and Buckingham, and the other members of their association, who, though not present themselves at this meeting, must be considered as identified with its objects, being called by their secretary and in the name of their association. Our wish is emphatically to call upon these noblemen to consider well the hazardous and dangerous course in which they are embarking, when they betake themselves to the lowest sinks of misery, deprivation, and hunger, which Spitalfields and Bethnal green can furnish, to drag out the wretched victims of scarcity and dearth, and, pandering to their ignorance or prejudices, parade them before a public meeting as sympathisers with that policy which makes food dear, employment scarce, and which has done its best to make them objects of the sheepest pity and compassion to look upon. Let these noblemen consider well how dangerous a thing it is for them to bring such objects of misery and emaciation familiarly to think and feel themselves the same beings, entitled to the same rights and advantages as those whom they see day by day revelling in the greatest luxury, and to find themselves considered as objects of convenience and necessity to carry out their views. Let these noblemen well consider that, if these men think at all, they will, they must very soon see that, whoever is right or wrong, they have been most cruelly victimised; for, in the first place, if we admit that the principle of protection is correct, that the Richmond and Buckingham doctrine is the only true one, will it not soon flash across the brains of these poor fevered objects of compassion, how dreadfully their interests have been neglected. Will they not ask, who are the men in the legislature who, being entrusted by the constitution with their rights and their interests, have made no opposition to the application of the principle of competition to the poor and unrepresented operative, but who have hitherto successfully defended only themselves from its operation; and who now, at the last moment,

when they fear the force of public opinion is becoming too strong for them longer to resist, fly to them for assistance and fraternity, after they have, on their own showing, suffered their interests to be sacrificed to what they deem a destructive principle? Could not the same power which preserved perfect the monopoly of corn, if it had been used, equally have preserved that of silk and other industry? If this protection is essential to the rich and the powerful, was it not equally essential to the poor and the helpless? If noblemen seek sympathy and common cause from the weaver when they are in need, what reply have they to make for the utter neglect of his interest, when, according to these principles, it was proposed to be sacrificed?

But whether the operative in Spitalfields takes this view of his interests, or whether he takes a wiser and more correct view, and recognizes the benefits which have resulted from an extended trade, what must be his feelings when some day, sooner or later, the real facts of his condition—of the true operations of these laws, flash clearly upon his mind—when, admitting that he has been benefited by the larger markets which free competition has provided—when, admitting that however much the law might have attempted to have excluded foreign competition, it could not have created trade, on the quantity of which alone he is dependent—when, knowing that he is, therefore, necessarily exposed to competition with the workmen of every other country, to enable the produce of his labour to be sold in the markets of the world—when he is informed, that only last year he was indebted to the following countries for the sale of the produce of his loom to the several amounts as below—

Germany, Russia, and North of Europe	£ 54,971
France, Italy, and Southern Europe	202,678
Africa	12,321
East Indies and Asia	41,542
North America	187,440
South America, and other foreign places	91,237
	£590,189

when he reflects that he can only retain these great markets by producing as cheaply as other countries—that if he lost them, the only tendency would be to make less work and more competition among unemployed weavers to secure it—that to retain them, he must in fact labour at the same rate as those weavers abroad with whom he has to compete, whatever attempt the law might make to protect him;—when he feels and knows as he assiduously plies his shuttle, that the very piece of goods on which he is occupied is to find a market in France or Germany, in competition with a similar piece making at Lyons or Criffield, where food is to be obtained at little more than one-half of what he has to pay—when he considers that the rich fabrics which are creating under his hand and skill are to contribute to the comfort and elegance of every country in the world, without conferring on him the power of receiving anything which they produce that he wants—when he sees that the law prohibits him from receiving in exchange for his labour that which alone could administer to his wants—when he sees his work disposed of in France and Germany, and denied the cheap provisions with which the weaver in Lyons and Criffield are sustained—when he sees that the law prohibits corn and any of the first necessaries which alone he requires, and that his labour is permitted only to exchange for the luxuries which minister to the gratification of those who exclude, by their laws, the very food of which he and his family stand so much in need—that his labour is made the instrument, not of procuring cheap bread for his children, but of foreign luxuries for the pampered tastes of those superiors in whose hands the constitution entrusts his interests;—and when he further considers that every year he has by increased ingenuity and harder efforts to maintain his place in the markets of the world produced his goods cheaper and cheaper, the benefits of which have been equally given to the home as to the foreign consumer—that while the cost of all manufactured goods have been within the last twenty years reduced at least one half, and that the price of food remains as high as ever;—when all these truths flash on his mind with their full force, and he thinks of the wicked attempt now made to parade his misfortunes, sufferings, and supposed ignorance before the world in support of a state of things, and of a class of men which, whatever principle be right or wrong, have been and are cruelly unjust to him:—it is indeed fearful to contemplate the consequences of that indignation which may be expected to burst out, at the full discovery of so much wrong to the unprotected and helpless, but hardworking poor—of so much selfishness and meanness on the part of those into whose hands wealth and station have thrown the power of legislation.

Let the noble Dukes and the associates reflect well on these matters; let them well reflect how they will be able to guide or quell at pleasure the storm they think of raising; if we had the slightest evil wish towards them we could desire more than that they should go on; but as we are most anxious that the wrongs of industry shall be righted peaceably, quietly, and constitutionally, we are anxious to warn these men of their impending danger.

THE DEBATE ON THE BRAZIL TRADE.

On Thursday night Mr Labouchere brought forward his motion—

“That an humble address be presented to her Majesty, representing to her Majesty the great importance to this country of the trade with the empire of the Brazils, and humbly praying her Majesty to adopt such measures as may appear best calculated to maintain and improve the commercial relations between the United Kingdom and the Brazils;”

and recommended it to the attention of the House by a clear, able, and comprehensive view of all our relations with that country. As a matter of course, the chief point of discussion arose on the propriety of admitting the produce of Brazil into consumption in this country, for after all, the great and important point to consider in all our foreign commerce, is to afford every facility to buy, and that being done, we may rest assured that we can do nothing more to secure a power to sell. Mr Labouchere established his case in all its parts with great perspicuity. He showed the influence of our restrictive system on our shipping,—by which the vessels that go from this country to Brazil with cargoes of goods, are unable to return here, but must seek cargoes to all other parts of Europe, from which they return in ballast. He showed the injurious effects on the demand for our manufactures, in consequence of which our exports had sunk from 3,000,000*l.* in 1836 to 1,750,000*l.* in 1842. He showed that the supply of sugar, the chief article of Brazilian produce, which we restrict from our consumption, is not only quite inadequate to our wants, but is falling off, while the population is increasing;—and while the consumption of all other articles in conjunction with which sugar is used, has also rapidly increased; and to complete this part of the case, he showed that while the supply of colonial sugars, alone available for our consumption, was falling off, that of foreign sugars, for the purpose of refining, in bond, and being re-exported, had increased upwards of 50 per cent. in two years. He dwelt upon the inconsistency of the objections to the introduction of sugar, on the ground of encouraging slavery, while we freely imported slave-grown cotton, coffee, tobacco, and copper ore. And he exposed the strong combination of interests which exist against a liberal commercial policy.

“They had heard denunciations proceeding from powerful quarters recently against such a policy, and the determination of that party not to allow any inroad on the good old system of protection and monopoly had been announced. He feared that those denunciations applied to questions of this kind as well as to the corn laws, and that many persons who felt that the present corn laws were not defensible in argument were not sorry to see other interests enjoying a similar protection. The sugar duties were looked upon as the buttress and bulwark of the corn laws; it was felt that the landed interest and the West India interest were exactly alike in regard to protection, and must support each other. (Hear, hear.)”

Mr Gladstone's defence of the Government from the charge of inconsistency is somewhat curious. He admits that we consume the slave-grown cotton of America, but then he says the object of the Government is not the suppression of slavery, but the slave trade; and, although in the United States they do deal in slaves from man to man, and from one State to another, yet they do not import them from Africa; and it is that traffic that they are so much disposed to put down by this means. Then with regard to coffee, for the freer introduction of which from Brazil under the new tariff he takes some credit to the Government, he says that this article is cultivated chiefly by women and children (slaves), while the great object of the dealers in slaves, the importers from Africa, is to obtain young men just entering the prime of life. He admits, however, that the slave vessels “make up about a fourth of their cargo with such unfortunate persons (women, boys, and girls), but their great object was to carry away young men.” So that the suppression of the slave trade in women, boys, and girls, is not to be attempted by discouraging the introduction of coffee, in the growth of which they are employed; but sugar being cultivated by “young men” must not be admitted. But then, when Mr Gladstone comes to the question of copper ore, in which the most arduous and strongest labour is required, he rests his excuse on the fact that the change in the tariff was not made for the purpose of encouraging slave-produced coffee. “What he maintained was that the change in the law of 1842 was not to favour the importers of copper ore, but to confer a benefit on the consumer and manufacturer.” Now does Mr Gladstone really think that any man wishes the introduction of Brazilian sugar for the purpose and with the object of encouraging slave-labour produce? Is it not exactly for the same object, “the benefit of the consumer and manufacturer,” that all the advocates of a free trade in sugar urge their policy? We sincerely believe there will be found among the latter class a larger proportion of true enemies to slavery in any form, than among those who support this monopoly.

The country, however, is told that there is little hope of any better or cheaper provision of sugar but by a course of immigration of free Africans into the West India Islands: on this we shall have much observation to make before long. We will only here remark, that Mr Gladstone admits that now the supply of labour in the Mauritius is comparatively abundant by the introduction of Hill Coolies from India, and yet what do we find is

the fact as to the progress of the production of that colony. They have for three years been importing labourers; Mr Gladstone admits they are at length abundant. Has the production increased? It was in

1839	612,586	cwts.
1840	544,767	”
1841	716,112	”
1842	676,237	”
1843	477,124	”

If such, then, be the result of a course of immigration of labour, what security has the British consumer in still waiting for a further development of such an experiment?

But by far the most important, the most dangerous, and, we believe, when fairly considered in all its bearings, the least maintainable statement made during the debate, was that by Sir Robert Peel, in which he expresses a distinct opinion that free labour cannot compete with slave labour. This is a most important and vital question, and will deserve our further consideration at an early period. Such a declaration going out to the world, in direct opposition to all we have hitherto professed, will do more to prevent the abolition of slavery, than will be counteracted by all the armed steamers and cruisers in our service.

THE PROGRESS OF DEMOCRACY.

Neither the friends nor the foes of democracy can deny its progress. The power of public opinion over standing law becomes everywhere acknowledged. It is already recognized as the ruler of the world. But hardly any two things can be more different than a wild democracy, and one subdued (*by itself*), effective, but not turbulent. Of the former sort the world has seen not a few suddenly start up and soon decay. The latter sort has been of slower growth, constructing before it destroys, and it bids fair on that account to become the more lasting. If there are dangers to be apprehended from this phasis of men's affairs (and there are dangers), they arise not indeed from the prospect of any sudden and rash innovations, but from an indiscriminate zeal against such, which fails gradually and prudently to accommodate established institutions to the varying opinions, circumstances, and necessities of mankind.

On this subject Mr O'Connell said at the Birmingham dinner given to him this week:—

“We should have equality of rights,” he said. “Now, have we equality of rights? I am not going to take up your time with many calculations, but I will just compare the condition of Cork, the county I represent, with the condition of Wales, as regards the number of representatives. I stand here as the parliamentary representative of 750,000 persons, and the county of Cork has only two representatives; while Wales, which has only one-sixteenth more of population than Cork, or 800,000 people, sends twenty-eight members to parliament. (Cries of shame.) Ay, shame, and sin, and sorrow, and blighting confusion to those who have not honesty enough to recognize the extent of that atrocity, and fear of man and God enough to redress the evil immediately. But it may be said that Wales is the richer of the two. Let us see. The customs duty paid by the county of Cork is 263,364*l.*, and the excise duty paid is 272,525*l.*, making a total of 535,889*l.*; Wales pays to the customs 26,139*l.*, and to the excise 176,046*l.*, making a total of 202,185*l.* So that Wales pays less than Cork county to the amount of 333,704*l.* (Cries of shame.) Now, I think this a piece of statistics worth knowing. Wales, which yields to the revenue only half which is yielded by Cork, has twenty-eight members, while Cork has only two. (Shame.) Suppose the case to be reversed, is there a single fiery Welchman, from the eldest son of Rebecca down to the last of them (a laugh), who would not burst forth in anger and indignation, who would not at once exclaim that he was a Briton, and insist, with the resolution of a Briton, that the tyranny should be put an end to? (Cheers.) But I will show you also how it operates with regard to the voters. Cork, with a population of 750,000, has only 1,500 voters, while Wales, which has only 800,000, has 36,000 voters. (Hear, hear.) Should I be a man if I stood quietly by and saw this without remonstrance?”

No! men will not stand quietly by and behold the continued perpetration of such atrocity. Governments are left only the choice of remedying such wrongs, or perishing amidst the violence to which they lead. “How ineffectual,” said the Roman poet, “are the wisest laws if they be not supported by good morals.” How ineffectual, may we say, are all our efforts to preserve the morals of a people, if the laws which regulate the political order doom a great part of them to indigence, to fraud, to servility, to ignorance, to superstition, and the remainder to be the slaves of all the follies and vices which result from the insolence of rank, and the selfishness of opulence? Such a state of society long continued is fraught with danger both to the oppressors and the oppressed. For the former, indeed, it bears in its bosom not only ruin, but annihilation; for the latter the postponement, at least, of the time when comprehending the claims of free-citizenship they might be rendered worthy of it and enjoy it.

The accumulated experience of ages has already taught the rulers of mankind that the most fruitful and the most permanent sources of revenue are to be derived, not from conquered and tributary provinces, but from the internal prosperity and wealth of their own subjects; and the same experience now begins to teach nations, that the increase of their own wealth, so far from depending on the poverty and depression of their neighbours, is

intimately connected with their industry and opulence, and consequently that those commercial jealousies which have hitherto been so fertile a source of animosity among different states, are founded entirely on ignorance and prejudice. Those talismanic words of the great Irishman—"WE SHOULD HAVE EQUALITY,"—are taking root in the hearts of congregated nations and of individual men. The doings of courts cannot any longer be made mysteries of, nor therefore can they continue to be revered except in so far as they are reasonable and just. The influence of secret negotiation on the relative situation of states declines with the progress of extended knowledge and power, and the studies of those who have heretofore been busied among the intrigues of cabinets and the details of diplomacy, if their public spirit and ambition should still induce them to devote themselves to the service of their country, are constrained to be directed to the liberal and manly pursuits of political philosophy.

It is thus that with the progress of democracy—with the advance of reason, we associate the happiness of the world. Are we justified in doing so? or, are we deluded in doing so, and the fair prospects which we look to only doomed to be marred? We cannot readily believe it. Civilization, indeed, has been sarcastically described as the sacrifice of one generation always for the supposed good of the next. But rather is it, that the enemies of civilization—the laggards behind in the great race of human improvement—would sacrifice, if they could, the happiness of after times for a fancied security to themselves. They cannot do it. They may dam up for a little the current of a nation's thoughts; but that will cause them to be accumulated, not spent; the delay adds to their force,—purifies them, perhaps, the while,—and makes their final accomplishment only the more sure and the more beneficial when it comes.

LAND RENTS IN PRODUCE.

We continue to receive communications on the subject of land rents in produce. What follow are extracts from two letters sent us by a Scottish landed proprietor, who, from the interest which he has and takes in the subject, and his intimate acquaintance with it, is entitled, at least, to a fair hearing:—

"Edinburgh, Feb. 22.

"I am sorry I cannot satisfy you that a farmer cannot pay a fixed money rent so easily when the price of corn is low, as when it is high; and that it is a relief to him to have less money to pay as rent, when money is not so easily got for produce. If the price of grain remained always the same, and the rent the same, it would be all very well. But to keep one fixed while the other fluctuates is not the same. Were I to take the rent in kind, without reference to money at all, the only difference would be that I should have the trouble of selling instead of the tenant. The rent in kind would be still favourable to him, supposing the quantity reasonable and a maximum fixed. It is an old calculation that one-third of the produce of a farm goes for expenses, one-third for rent, and one-third as profit to the tenant; in other words, that the tenant gets as much as the landlord, the trouble devolving on the tenant, who furnishes the working capital, to balance which the landlord sinks his share of capital on the necessary buildings and enclosures, so that they are like two partners. No farmer of mine would refuse me a third of the produce (they pay much less at present); and one with whom I am now negotiating for a renewal of his lease, offers this, and to pay the *Piar* price (an average price fixed by the Scotch sheriffs) in money. I was the first to commence this in ———; and all the tenantry have since pressed their landlords to adopt the same system,—a pretty strong proof that it is advantageous to them, though you do not think it is. Since you do not see any advantage in the plan, what would you propose to be the bargain between landlord and tenant, so that both should receive fair play?"

"Edinburgh, Feb. 29.

"You have failed to show that a money *fixed* rent is better for a tenant than a money *fluctuating* rent—fluctuating according to the value of his produce. There cannot be a doubt that a fixed rent is best for the landlord. But show me how it is best for the tenant, while the value of his produce fluctuates? Take a comparative view of the matter, and don't let theory make you dogged. Many a time when my rents were fixed money rents have the tenants begged for a deduction, on account of the fall in the price of produce; that was their plea. Not once have they asked me for deduction, though the value of wheat has varied from above 50s. to 30s., and other produce in proportion, since they had the movable rent; but when prices were low they uniformly said they wished they had more rent to pay—which meant, they wished prices to rise, that we might *mutually benefit*. Put yourself in a landlord's place, and in a tenant's place; and instead of *driving* a bargain, let *justice* and *fair play* guide you in making one. If on your principle a bargain was to be driven, what would be the feelings of landlords and tenants towards each other? Would it tend to harmony and good fellowship, and general benefit, to see them trying to overreach each other? Why should a tenant take chance? Why should he trust to prices rising? Why, in short, make a *blind* bargain, when he can make one which will *secure* him relief in bad times and prosperity in good times? I do not struggle with my tenants about the *quantity* of produce that is to be the nominal fixed rent. It is this idea that I think misleads you. Every farmer knows what land of a certain quality will yield on an average of seasons—and so should every landlord. Both of them can agree about the quantity which may reasonably be given as rent, the tenant knowing that what he reserves for himself will pay his expenses, and put a fair amount in his pocket, one year with another; and he is always certain, when prices fall, that his landlord gives him back in money what is *equivalent* to a *reduction* of the amount of the fixed quantity of corn—which is but a nominal amount—a pivot,

as it were, for the rent to turn round. A bargain is doubtless a bargain, but an *honest* man will make a *fair* bargain; and the question is, whether is the bargain I make with my tenants a *fair* one on *my* part and *their* part? A landlord has a good right to offer his lands to the highest bidder; but when there is competition he is a fool to take a high offer, because it will not be long before the tenant fails. I apprehend I shall fail to gain your approbation of what I and my tenants have done. But as both parties are quite satisfied with each other, you will not convince us that we do not see our mutual interest, and I sincerely hope you will fail to convince others. I regret I cannot see any force in what you state; and your leaving us to make the best bargain we can—that is, to try to overreach one another, when that can so easily be avoided, I cannot think a good principle for an economist. Why do the landlords desire protection? Because they wish their tenants to be able to pay their high rents. But prices fall in spite of protection—and where is the tenant then? All the world agrees that high prices justify proportional rents; but unless prices are permanent, you cannot make rents permanent. Seeing, then, that prices fluctuate, show me why rent should not fluctuate. Another condition in the farmer's case should come to your view. Should prices run so low with a fixed rent that he begins to lose his capital, he must declare insolvency before he can get rid of his bargain. If he has a lease he cannot otherwise get free; and when free he can apply to another trade. Without a lease he cannot employ his capital profitably. You are for tying him down tight; I am for keeping him easy; and experience has tried my plan, and it has not been found wanting."

Let us, in the first place, admit that we have never urged any *objections* against rent being paid in produce. We really do not see any objections to it; but that method had become so lauded, particularly by those whom we reckon our friends in the cause of free trade, that we were induced to inquire in what respect it was so much superior to the more common method of paying in money, and after having given to the subject the fullest consideration, and noticing all that our correspondent here says, we really cannot alter, in the smallest degree, the very modified and moderate opinion which we expressed.

In the first paragraph here quoted, our correspondent says,—“If the price of grain remained always the same, and the rent the same, it would be all very well, but to keep one fixed, while the other fluctuates, is not the same.” There is here overlooked the palpable fact that money (coin) is a commodity which changes its value precisely as grain does. A farmer who undertakes to pay, say 200 quarters of wheat of annual rent for his farm, we all know, in fact, pays a great deal more in one year than in another; but, so also, if his rent should be fixed at 500*l.* a year, that sum will be more valuable at one time than another.

Our correspondent says,—“There cannot be a doubt that a fixed rent is best for the landlord;” but we beg to remark that that entirely depends on the amount of it. Very likely tenants would ask deduction from such rents on finding them more than they could pay, or fancying that their request had any chance of being listened to. It is no unusual thing for one who has made a bad bargain, to try to escape some of its consequences; but, unless our judgment is more at fault than is consistent with common sanity, that proves but little one way or another. The same request for deduction would be as reasonable in the case of a farmer who had agreed to pay the current value for the year of any fixed quantity of grain, when perhaps a local storm, a dearth of crop, or a disease among his cattle, had lessened his means. We are taunted with not taking a “justice-and-fair-play” view of the matter; and in leaving parties “to make the best bargain they can,” we are accused of urging them to “try to overreach one another;” but we cannot see the justice of such imputations. Undoubtedly in making a bargain about rent, the landlord and tenant have so far separate and opposing interests; and in saying that each party must do the best for himself, we are only enunciating a principle which regulates, and *must* regulate, all business, and which we cannot see to be incompatible in the smallest degree with a love of justice on either side. We take it for granted that both parties have their eyes open—each on his own behalf. But we recommend no *fraud*.

“Every farmer,” our correspondent goes on to say, “knows what land of a certain quality will yield on an average of seasons, and so should every landlord. Both of them can agree about the quantity which may be reasonably given as rent, &c.” There is no difference in principle betwixt this and a fixed money rent. That is to us so plain, that thus to state it is to explain it as fully as we can. “Seeing that prices fluctuate,” we are asked, “why should not rents fluctuate?” We answer, that though nominally fixed, they *do* fluctuate. Our correspondent has a clear view of the injustice done to the tenant by “protection.” It is a fatal delusion by which both landlords and tenants have been misled, harming not only others but themselves. It is impossible by any contrivance that man can invent so to regulate the taking of land on lease for a term as that it shall not be subject to the varying influences of “many changing years.” In this respect it is not different from the other transactions of men. Farmers will find little relief from any change in the *manner* of paying their rents so long as those rents are paid under a false system of social and political arrangements. Their only relief will be in an adaptation of all our public arrangements to the order and principles of nature. For that issue let them struggle. No other is now worthy of diverting their attention.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Monday, March 4.

Lord BROUGHAM called attention to the fact of a man having been condemned to death in Louisiana for having assisted a slave to escape. He hoped that this public mention of the case would be sufficient to prevent so gross a violation of every principle of humanity and justice.

The Marquis of NORMANBY presented a petition complaining of the appropriation of an educational bequest to exclusively Protestant purposes in Ireland. The amount of the bequest was 7*l.* 10*s.* per annum; it was left for the endowment of the parochial school of Ballysax, and as there were few Protestants in the parish, its obvious appropriation was to the purposes of the national system.

The Duke of WELLINGTON promised to call the attention of the government to the subject; after which the petition was laid on the table, and the house adjourned.

Tuesday, March 5.

IRISH LANDLORD AND TENANT COMMISSION.—The Marquis of CLANRICARDE put three questions to the Earl of Devon on this question:—

“One question he wished to ask his noble friend was, whether the commissioners contemplated any alteration of the laws which would affect leases or covenants between landlords and tenants entered into previous to the commission? Another question was, whether the commissioners intended to make a report upon the proportion which rent bears to the value of land in different parts of Ireland? It was exceedingly difficult to pronounce an opinion upon the question of rent; at the same time, as an Irish landlord, he should be glad if something were said upon that subject, because an opinion prevailed too generally that Irish landlords received exorbitant rents. Such an opinion had arisen from misapprehension with respect to various surveys and valuations which had been made in Ireland for particular purposes, and which therefore ought not to be taken as any authority for forming an opinion upon the question of rents, or the rate at which farms should be let. Another question which he should ask his noble friend was, whether the commissioners intended to report the whole of the evidence which might be offered?”

The Earl of DEVON declined answering the two first questions in the present stage of his inquiries. The commissioners, he said,

“Had nothing to do with the general law of real property; that was not their business. (Hear, hear.) The commissioners were instructed to inquire into the occupation of land in Ireland, and it might become, nay, it did become necessary, that they should take an accurate review of all the laws which affected the dealings between landlords and tenants with respect to land. That was certainly a field wide enough; but it was narrow compared with the investigation of the whole law of real property in Ireland. It was really the business of the commission to inquire into the manner of holding lands, a subject particularly affecting tenant farmers, and therefore necessarily involving the classes immediately below them; but that was not the primary object of the commission. According to the terms of the commission, the commissioners were directed to inquire into the laws affecting the temporary occupation of land, and also into the nature of the burdens on land, and the manner in which they were respectively borne by landlords and tenants. . . . The real objects of the commission were pointed out, in order to disabuse the minds of those who fancied that it had other objects in view with which it could not interfere. He thought the commissioners would be able to point out beneficial alterations in the law affecting landlord and tenant, so as to remove present grounds of complaint and dispute. He had every reason to believe, that with the assistance of the four gentlemen with whom he was associated, such a report would be produced as would be found most useful in the work of legislation. They would give the whole subject their full attention, and in doing so they would not fail to point out wherein the present law was oppressive or ruinous in its practice; nor would they hesitate to state their honest convictions with regard to individual cases of hardship and real grievance. Upon the question of rents, also, they would be equally explicit and sincere, but at present, of course, he could not be expected to offer any opinion whatever.”

IRISH MARRIAGES.—The Lord Chancellor, in answer to a question put by the Marquis of Normanby, said he expected that a final judgment would be pronounced on the subject of mixed presbyterian marriages in Ireland in a very few days, after which he proposed to move the re-appointment of last year's committee of their lordships which sat on the question. Adjourned to Thursday.

Thursday, March 7.

The business done in their lordships' house this day was of no public importance whatever.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, March 4.

GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY BILL.—Mr PATTISON presented a petition from the city of London association of merchants against the 41st clause of the Great Western railway bill, which gives power to the company to examine every package sent for conveyance by that line, with the view of ascertaining whether it contain more than one parcel. The hon. member inquired of the member for Reading whether it was intended by the company to withdraw this objectionable clause?—Mr C. RUSSELL said the clause had been proposed merely to protect the company from what they supposed to be a fraudulent practice of carriers. The railway committee was now sitting, and it had undertaken the consideration of that question. The promoters of the Great Western railway bill had determined to withdraw that clause (hear), and to submit to any provisions of a general nature which the railway committee or the house might recommend for their adoption. (Hear, hear.)

SOUTH DEVON RAILWAY BILL.—Mr C. RUSSELL proposed the second reading of this bill.—Mr S. HERBERT stated that memorials had been presented to the Admiralty with regard to it, from which it appeared that the projected line passed down one bank of the river Ex, and up the river Teign, and that a considerable portion of the beach was infringed upon. Under these circumstances, the admiralty had sent down Mr J. Walker, the engineer, to report upon those memorials how far the interests of the navigation were interfered with by the proposed line. That being the case, he would only consent to the second reading

on condition of the promoters giving him a direct promise that no application should be made for a committee until Mr Walker's report should be received, and the admiralty had time to consider it.—Mr RUSSELL gave that promise, and the bill was then read a second time.

RAILWAY BILLS (GENERALLY).—Mr GLADSTONE proposed resolutions to be adopted with respect to all future railway bills, which have been recommended by the select committee on railways, and contained in their second report. The first of the resolutions was then proposed, when a debate of considerable animation arose, the contested point being whether or not it was equitable to exclude local agencies, and thereby local knowledge and experience, from the management of all future bills. The resolutions are peculiarly applicable to the cases of competing lines, and are intended to subject, in future, all railway bills to an ordeal similar to that of public bills. They were supported by Mr Labouchere and others, and carried by a majority of 200 to 3 on a division.

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHARITIES.—Mr O'CONNELL, having inquired if the government intended to introduce a measure relative to Roman Catholic charities in Ireland, was informed by Sir R. PEEL that it was the intention of the government to do so, in fulfilment of the promise contained in the royal speech.—Mr O'CONNELL then gave notice, for Monday next, of his intention to introduce a bill to alter the law relative to Roman Catholic charities and religious uses in Ireland.

ARMY ESTIMATES.—Mr WILLIAMS, on the motion for going into a committee of supply, in order to consider the Army and Ordnance estimates, commented on the general amount of these estimates, complaining that in reckoning the police and the embodied pensioners, in addition to the regular military force, we had a standing army of no less than 163,488 men, which was upwards of 33,000 more than on an average of the last twenty-four years. He commented generally on the constitution of the army, and asked if we kept up so large a military force, how could Sir R. Peel fulfil his pledge of taking off the income tax in three years?—To this Sir R. PEEL exclaimed, “I made no such promise!”—Mr WILLIAMS proposed that the estimates should be referred to a select committee.—After a few words from Sir H. HARDINGE, the amendment was withdrawn.

Mr S. CRAWFORD complained of the unconstitutional nature of so large a standing army. Why was it necessary to the safety of life and property that the standing army should be so large? Because the interests of the working classes were insufficiently considered, and discontent was, therefore, prevalent among them. Taxation, too, was unequally distributed, and affected the poor more heavily than the rich. The Irish poor law was another of the country's evils, and these troops were kept on foot to aid in levying the rates. If the people's grievances were redressed, there would be no need of an army; but as soon as parliament should have granted the army to the government there would be an end to the chance of getting those grievances redressed. He feared, indeed, that the time was not come when a stand could be successfully made against these grants. He did not find that either in or out of the house there was a sufficiently numerous body of men feeling and co-operating with him on this subject to make his opposition efficacious; but he would conclude on this occasion by moving, in the way of amendment, a resolution that the maintenance of a large standing army was unconstitutional and dangerous.—Dr BOWRING seconded this amendment. He protested against the grant of a large sum for a standing army, until taxation and representation should be made correlative. The discontent of the people was growing; it was now only a small cloud; but a time would come when it would cover the whole firmament.—The house divided, when there were—for the amendment, 8; against it, 87; majority, 79.

The house having gone into committee, Sir H. HARDINGE then moved some votes.—Mr WILLIAMS moved a reduction of the army by 20,000, but found very little support.—The further consideration of the votes was adjourned to Friday, and the committee was dissolved and the house adjourned.

Tuesday, March 5.

MIDNIGHT LEGISLATION.—Mr WILLIAMS proposed that no resisted motion should be discussed after midnight. He complained of the time wasted in unprofitable discussion; and recommended, that in order to save such waste for the future, the government should at once give way on the questions of Ireland and the corn laws. Mr WILLIAMS amused the house by his account of their own proceedings. On referring, he said,

“To the proceedings of last session, he found that the house sat 119 nights. During these 119 nights, the house sat 105½ hours after midnight, being nearly one hour after midnight for each sitting. He had often seen, for want of some regulation of this kind, business of the greatest possible importance forced upon the consideration of the house at one or two o'clock in the morning, sometimes even later; he had seen, in defiance of every remonstrance, measures brought forward at those hours which affected most materially the rights, the liberties, the lives, and the property of the people of this country. He had also seen, in defiance of all remonstrance, millions of the public money voted away without any consideration whatever. At these unseasonable hours he had seen gentlemen coming in to vote on important questions affecting the lives, properties, and liberties of the people, from their balls, their theatres, their operas, and their parties, and voting without any knowledge whatever as to whether those measures were good or bad with regard to the interests of the country. Such a state of things ought to be corrected, and there was no other means of doing so than limiting the hours of business to something like reasonableness. He had no objection to the debates between the two great parties in that house—one anxious to obtain power, and the other anxious to keep it—being continued, as he had often witnessed, till twilight peeped through the windows of the house, and members returned home, from what they call their duties, by the light of the rising sun. But he did object to public business being carried on at these hours. Nature intended that honourable members, instead of wasting their strength in that house, should refresh themselves by sleep. The right hon. baronet opposite (Sir J. Graham) smiled. (Laughter.) He was quite ready to bear his testimony to the right hon. baronet's attendance in that house, as well as that of the right hon. baronet at the head of the government. They were to be found in their places at the earliest and latest hours, and they certainly displayed an amount of physical strength that often astonished him. (Laughter.) But he thought a little more attention to their health and comfort would be an advantage. . . . If the good

of the country were consulted in these late hours, they might be tolerated, but the reverse was the fact. Laws were passed when hon. members were fast asleep, or in such a state of drowsiness that they hardly knew what they were about. (Laughter.) When he saw the time of the house consumed in passing acts to explain and amend other acts of parliament, which, if hon. members had not enacted them at those unseasonable hours, such a state of things would never have taken place, he must say that it was not creditable to the house. By keeping those unseasonable hours, when they ought to be asleep, they passed laws which were neither understood by hon. members themselves nor by the judges who were to administer them. There was no country in Europe which adopted such an unreasonable course of proceeding; and yet, notwithstanding their late hours, many of the grievances of the country were not redressed."

Mr BROTHERTON seconded the motion, speaking with similar contempt of the manner of proceedings of the house. Queen Elizabeth, he said, had, on one occasion, sent down a message to her faithful commons, admonishing them not to consume so much time in long speeches and useless motions. (Cheers and laughter.) If their beloved Queen were to send down a similar message to that house (cheers)—no one could deny its appropriateness; and, for his own part, he should be the first to join in a vote of thanks to her Majesty for her most gracious communication. (Cheers.) He was sure there were many speeches delivered in that house that might be usefully curtailed, and many motions brought forward that they would have lost nothing had they never heard of. (Cheers.)

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER opposed the motion, remarking that though the house had the power to introduce new matter for discussion after midnight, that power was not often exercised; but he hoped it would not be unadvisedly parted with. The house divided, and the numbers were—for the motion, 16; against it, 146: majority, 130.

PARISHES IN SCOTLAND.—The ADVOCATE, in moving for leave to bring in a bill to provide for the division of parishes in Scotland, said its object was to remedy various defects in the law which at present admitted of such division of parishes, but only, in the first place, with the consent of three-fourths of the heritors; an extent of assent the requirement of which he thought unreasonable, and it would be well to enable the power to be exercised on the assent of a majority simply, leaving to the court to judge of the reasonableness of any objections. Again, the power of division could at present be exercised only when parishes were unmanageable through mere extent of surface, and it was thought desirable to afford the means of exercising it equally when rendered expedient through excess of populousness. It was again considered proper to give the power of establishing new parishes for purposes only spiritual, and when contributions were offered from parties without any interference with civil rights of the heritors, or requiring any aid from them, independently of their consent. He did not propose to make the provisions of the bill compulsory without the consent of the heritors, and this might be sufficient for him to state upon the present occasion. Leave was given to bring in the bill.

THE METROPOLITAN POLICE.—Mr TUFFNELL moved for a committee to inquire into the cost of the metropolitan police, and the mode in which the assessment for its maintenance is now distributed among different districts. He complained that the rates were now unjust and unequal.—Mr H. MANNERS SUTTON opposed the motion, and defended the existing arrangements in a brief and lucid statement.—Mr BROTHERTON thought it hard that distant parts of the kingdom should contribute to the police of the metropolis.—Mr TUFFNELL reminded him that on emergencies the distant parts of the kingdom reaped great benefit from the aid of the metropolitan force, as Wales, for example, had done during the late disturbances. He was willing, after having thus brought the matter under consideration, to let his motion be negatived without a division. House adjourned.

Wednesday, March 6.

The house sat only for a very short time this evening. The only important business was a notice by the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER that he would, on Friday (last evening), in a committee of the whole house, submit a proposition for the reduction of the interest of the three-and-a-half per cent. annuities.—The county coroners bill afterwards went into committee, and that part of it which proposes an increase of mileage from 9d. to 1s. occasioned a good deal of discussion. The larger sum was carried on a division. The other orders of the day were disposed of without remark, and before seven o'clock the house adjourned.

Thursday, March 7.

FRENCH TREATY OF COMMERCE.—Sir R. PEEL, in answer to Mr Labouchere, said he could not hold out any hope of any reduction of duties by France in favour of this country, as the result of actual stipulation or formal treaty.

TRADE WITH THE BRAZILS.—Mr LABOUCHERE, in bringing on his motion respecting our commercial relations with the Brazils, observed, that that vast empire, with its fertile soil, climate, and increasing population, now amounting to seven millions, seemed to be formed by nature to hold beneficial commercial relations. Yet, while the maximum rate which the Brazils laid on our manufactures was only fifteen per cent., we laid upon their sugars a duty equal to three hundred per cent., and on their coffee two hundred per cent. *ad valorem*. The annual amount of Brazilian exports was upwards of seven millions sterling, and the three principal articles of export were sugar, coffee, and cotton-wool—the latter being the only one which we admitted at a reasonable rate. Our exports to the Brazils in ordinary years averaged about two millions and a half; but it was a struggling and declining trade; our merchants, unable to bring back directly return cargoes of Brazilian produce, were obliged to freight their ships with home cargoes from other countries; and thus, while our merchants and manufacturers were compelled to struggle in the Brazilian market with the active competition of the United States, France, Germany, &c., our shipping interest were obliged to maintain a losing circuitous trade.

The motion was seconded by Mr Ewart, and supported by Mr Milner Gibson, Mr Bright, Mr Francis Baring, and Lord Palmerston. The only speakers on the ministerial side were Mr Gladstone, Lord Sandon,

and Sir R. Peel.—Mr GLADSTONE declined at the present moment disclosing the intentions of government as to sugar duties.

"He would studiously abstain from disclosing, in the month of March, the financial plans of the government which ought not to be promulgated till April, so, whether or not the sugar duties were to be altered, he would leave to guess, and the chances were at least even that the guess might be wrong."

He then said he resisted the motion principally because to admit Brazilian sugar would be to encourage slavery which England had already done so much to extinguish, and "though desirous of seizing any legitimate opportunity for extending our trade with the Brazils, and feeling the inconvenience of the anomalous nature of our differential duty on so important an article as sugar, he yet hoped that the house and the country were not prepared to pursue commercial objects at all risks, involving the happiness of a large portion of the human race."

Mr Milner Gibson, Mr Bright, and Lord Palmerston, all scornfully repudiated the charge of desiring to encourage slavery. The first-named gentleman

"Could not see why our artizans should be deprived of the advantage of cheap sugar, because the Brazilians, in imitation of our two and three hundred per cent. duties, proposed to levy duties of thirty and forty per cent. Public opinion was the only means of effectually suppressing slavery; but we were preventing the formation of public opinion in the Brazils by our menacing demands. But the pretence of not encouraging slavery was mere pretence; these prohibitory differential duties were imposed when we were slaveowners ourselves, and were expressly for the protection of a favoured class."

And, said Mr BRIGHT,

"It was somewhat a drawback to the force of his arguments, that the right honourable gentleman the secretary of the board of trade, who had used them, was of a family which in former times had been connected with all the disgraceful features and practices of slavery. (Oh, oh.) He meant to make no charge against any individual, nor as to any particular acts. He believed that nothing had been done by any of the gentlemen of that family but what any person who had slaves was necessitated to do; but still the right hon. gentleman and his family notoriously belonged to a party which had always supported the principle of slavery, and had kept slaves as long as public opinion in the country allowed them to do so. He (Mr Bright) recollected that the hon. member for Evesham, who was sitting beside the noble lord, had some time back delivered some lectures at Liverpool in support of the cause of slavery, and that the only parties who supported him in that enterprise were those who supported the noble lord at his election. (Hear, hear.) He declared that he could only express the disgust and amazement with which he listened to the manner in which noble lords and hon. gentlemen spoke of the Africans in the Brazils, while entirely overlooking the famishing population in their own manufacturing counties and agricultural districts. (Hear.) Who were they who had scruples about the introduction of Brazilian sugar into this country? Not the poor, but the rich; and yet the rich were amply fed out of the short supply of that article before the poor could obtain a share. If the president of the board of trade, or the noble lord the member for Liverpool, had no scruple to use other productions of slave labour, how came it that they had a right, by reason of their conscientious scruples, to deny to five out of six of the population a supply of sugar, though coming from Brazils?"

Sir R. PEEL taunted the Whigs with not having equalized the duties on sugar when in office, but opposed it up to the year of their leaving office. He reiterated the slavery argument, and said that "with our vast colonial empire, he very much doubted if legislation, with an exclusive view to cheap sugar, would prove true economy." He hoped that the House of Commons would be animated by higher motives than those with which Mr Bright seemed to be imbued, and referred all farther discussion to the time when the financial statement came to be made.

On a division there were—for the motion, 132; against it, 205: majority, 73.—The house then adjourned.

COURT AND ARISTOCRACY.

The Queen held a Privy Council at a quarter before three o'clock on Monday afternoon at Buckingham Palace. It was attended by his Royal Highness Prince Albert; Lord Wharnclyffe, lord president; the Duke of Wellington, commander-in-chief; the Duke of Buccleuch, lord privy seal; Sir Robert Peel, first lord of the treasury; the Earl of Aberdeen, secretary of state for foreign affairs; Lord Stanley, secretary of state for the colonies; Sir James Graham, secretary of state for the home department; the Right Hon. H. Goulburn, chancellor of the exchequer; the Earl of Haddington, first lord of the Admiralty; Sir Edward Knatchbull, paymaster of the forces; and the Earl of Jersey, master of the horse.

We have reason to believe that her Majesty contemplates, during the ensuing season, a prolonged residence in the Isle of Wight. Negotiations have, we are informed, been for some time in progress to secure for her Majesty's use an appropriate residence upon the coast, so situate that it might afford the means of rapid communication by railway with the metropolis, and at the same time possess these facilities for yachting and aquatic amusements in which Brighton is so eminently deficient. Within the last few days, we believe, Osborne House, near Cowes, the seat of Lady Isabella Blachford, has been selected for the Royal accommodation; and should it be found sufficiently commodious, it will probably be taken at first only for a limited period, but with the right to purchase at a fixed price at the expiration of the term. It is hinted that in this case a bill will be brought forward in parliament to enable the crown to dispose of that costly but unsightly fabric, the Brighton Pavilion.—*Times*.

THE EARL OF CARLISLE.—We are happy to hear that the noble earl continues to improve in health. His lordship has within the last week regained strength, and hopes are fully entertained of his ultimate recovery, although it will probably be some weeks before he can be pronounced convalescent.

WASTE LANDS.—The largest quantity of waste land in any county of England is in the North Riding of Yorkshire, there being no less than 132,815 acres of common or waste land out of 1,898,592.

THE METROPOLIS.

FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.—On Tuesday evening a meeting of the friends of the free church was held at the Brunswick chapel, Dover road, Southwark. The Rev. Thomas Mills, minister of the chapel, presided. There were present—the Rev. Dr Forbes, the Rev. Hugh Mackenzie, the Rev. J. A. Wallace, &c. The chairman opened the meeting by referring to the recent proceedings in Scotland, as connected with the separation from the establishment. He remarked that he felt great pleasure in being in a situation to introduce to the meeting the members of the deputation that had attended for the purpose of explaining the principles and motives of the other seceding ministers. After some appropriate remarks the chairman concluded by introducing the Rev. Dr Forbes, who addressed the meeting at some length, giving the usual explanation respecting the secession. He was followed by the other clergymen and gentlemen, who, having concluded their addresses, the usual vote of thanks was passed to the chairman, and the proceedings terminated. Eighteen sermons will be preached at various dissenting chapels throughout the metropolis to-morrow, in aid of the building fund. The Rev. Dr Candlish will preach at the Surrey chapel, Blackfriars road.

THE SELECT VESTRY OF ST STEPHEN'S, WALBROOK.—Within the last few days a numerous-signed requisition from the inhabitant ratepayers of St Stephen's, Walbrook, has been presented to Alderman Gibbs, soliciting him, as churchwarden, to take the sense of the parishioners respecting the adoption of the act for the better regulation of vestries, enacted in the second year of the reign of King William IV, and commonly known as Hobhouse's Act, whereby the interest of the ratepayers would be more largely represented in the parish vestry than they are at present in the select one. In accordance with the above request, a notice was posted on the church door of St Stephen's, of which the following is a correct copy:—"St Stephen's, Walbrook.—The churchwardens of this parish of St Stephen's, Walbrook, having received a requisition, purporting to be duly signed according to the provisions of an act of the second year of the reign of King William IV, chap. 60, for the better regulation of vestries, the ratepayers of this parish, St Stephen's, Walbrook, are hereby required, all and each of them, on the 18th day of March, 1844, and the two following days, to signify to the said churchwardens by a declaration either printed or written, or partly printed or partly written, addressed and delivered to one of the churchwardens, at No. 33 or No. 2 Walbrook, their votes for or against the adoption of the aforesaid act, for the better regulation of vestries by the ratepayers of this parish. Signed, Michael Gibbs, W. Eddison, Churchwardens." This plan, it appears, was acted upon, in order that litigation might be avoided; and as the act above referred to allows twenty-five persons to be elected as vestrymen to so small a parish as St Stephen's, it is considered that the object for which an open vestry was desired will be obtained. It should also be observed, in fairness to Mr Alderman Gibbs, that at one of the earliest open meetings of the parishioners in the vestry room, he expressed his desire to enlarge the vestry as soon as he legally could do so, and it is therefore supposed that on the present occasion he will be willing to concede to the wishes of the ratepayers. There is no doubt but what there will be a large majority of votes in favour of the alteration, and that it will come into effect at Easter next.

MEETING OF THE ELECTORS OF THE TOWER HAMLETS.—On Wednesday evening a very large public meeting of the electors of the Tower Hamlets was held at the Court house, Osborne street, Whitechapel, to consider the propriety of adopting resolutions founded on Sir Robert Peel's policy in reference to Ireland and the corn laws. The large hall of the court house was densely crowded during the proceedings. Col. Fox, M.P., and Sir William Clay, M.P., were present, and were loudly cheered on making their appearance. George Offor, Esq., occupied the chair, and explained the objects of the meeting. The great majority of those present warmly expressed concurrence in the opinion that great injustice had been done to O'Connell in the late trials, and that the necessity for a repeal of the corn laws was urgent. But a small body of Chartists, under the guidance of "Sherrard," who was so conspicuous at the Protectionist meeting at Freemasons' hall, pertinaciously continued to interrupt the proceedings and annoy the speakers during the whole evening. Mr Martineau and Mr W. Coates, besides the members for the borough, were the principal speakers, and resolutions to the following effect were put and carried:—"That public meetings of the people to proclaim grievances, and to endeavour to redress them by peaceable and legal means, are the constitutional right of every subject of the United Kingdom."—"That this meeting feels great sympathy for the mass of the Irish people; that it recognises their claims to equal laws, and a just administration of them; that it deprecates the systematic injustice which has so long oppressed them; that it considers the present Irish church establishment repugnant to the creed and abhorrent to the feelings of seven-eighths of the people; and that unless an essential change take place in the mode of governing Ireland, the very existence of the union between the two countries will be put to hazard."—"That as it is now considered the wisest commercial maxim to encourage a free import of the first necessities of life, this meeting considers the determination of Sir R. Peel to make no change in the present corn laws as at variance with his own expressed opinions, and as utterly inconsistent with the best interests of the people at large."

THE FEAST OF ESTHER.—Tuesday being the feast of Purim, Sir Moses Montefiore, according to his usual custom, visited all the Portuguese charity schools, and presented to the children (amounting to several hundreds) a sum of money, varying from 1s. to 3s. each, all in new silver coin. This festival is the only one in which business is not prohibited. It is usually celebrated after business hours. On the eve of this festival the synagogues are numerous attended, to hear the Book of Esther read, and every mention of the name of Haman was formerly followed by a great noise produced by the striking of small wooden hammers, with which the younger branches of the congregation were provided, and which was attended by great injury to the buildings. This has all been of late prohibited, and the offensive word now meets with no interruption. At the east of the metropolis maskers

may be seen parading the streets, and visiting those houses where they know the festival is kept, and they cannot be got rid of without receiving a fee.

THE THAMES TUNNEL.—On Tuesday the annual meeting of the proprietors of shares in this undertaking was held at the London tavern, Mr B. Hawes, M.P., in the chair. From the report it appeared that the tunnel was opened on the 25th of March, 1843, and that it had been visited by her Majesty and H. R. H. Prince Albert in July last. From the 25th of last March up to the date of the report, 2,038,477 persons had passed through the tunnel, from whom, at a penny each, an income of 8,478l. 2s. 8d. had been obtained. In addition to that sum 460l. had been paid by stall keepers for permission to erect stalls for the sale of fancy goods between the arches.

FREEMASONRY.—At a numerous meeting of Freemasons, held on Wednesday night at Freemasons' hall, the Earl of Zetland was elected Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England and Wales, in the room of the late Duke of Sussex.

THE LARGEST ROOM.—It is stated to be a fact, that the largest room that was ever constructed is that in which the tobacco stores are kept in the London Docks. That room is said to cover nearly six acres, being, of course, under one roof! It is a curious circumstance, that this enormous apartment should be devoted to an article of mere luxury; not one of the necessaries of life—meat or bread, or drink of any kind—but to an article of enjoyment.

COACH AND CAB FARES FROM RAILWAYS.—The directors of the railways terminating at London bridge have caused to be posted at Greenwich, New cross, and more distant stations upon the several lines, a table, alphabetically arranged, of the coach and cab fares to 370 different parts of the metropolis. This is undoubtedly a great public accommodation, and it is most desirable that the principle should be followed out at the metropolitan and all other stations of the several railways leading into London.

DUTY UPON RAW COTTON.—A petition to the House of Commons is now in course of signature among the master spinners and manufacturers of Preston, for the repeal of the duty upon raw cotton.

THE SUGAR DUTIES.—During the last week there was rather a strong belief in Liverpool that ministers were going to make some alteration in the duties on foreign sugar in the present session, and it even produced some effect on prices, but this week the belief is less confident. A petition praying for an alteration in these injurious duties is about to be forwarded from Liverpool.—*Liverpool Times.*

MORTALITY IN THE METROPOLIS.—In the week ending March 2nd, the total number of deaths was 1,055, showing a decrease, as compared with the previous week, of 91, and exceeding the average by 54. We are glad to find that the deaths from diseases of the lungs have greatly decreased. On the previous week the number was 428, while last week it was 366, being 36 above the average. In the first class, including small pox, measles, scarlatina, and whooping cough, the number is still high, being 215, and 45 above the average. Of the 17 persons who died of small pox, 10 had not been vaccinated. The following is the analysis of the deaths caused by the diseases of the lungs:—Bronchitis, 34—average 19; pneumonia, 96—average 91; asthma, 51—average, 45; consumption, 156—average, 146. Of deaths from diseases of the heart the number is 34—average 21. Violent deaths, 19—average 25. Of these four were from fracture of limbs or contusion, seven from burns, and one from suicide. The thermometer was lowest on Tuesday, February 27th, 28 degrees; and highest on March 1st, 51.1 degrees. The barometer was lowest on February 26th, 28.66 degrees; and highest on the 28th, 29.47 degrees.

CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT.—LORD WILLIAM PAGET AGAINST HOLT.—The defendant in this case was brought up by *habeas corpus* from the Queen's Bench prison, where he has been confined for a libel against the Duke of Brunswick, which appeared in the *Age* newspaper, of which he was editor, and was charged with a wilful and malicious libel upon Lord William Paget. The libel in substance accused Lord William Paget of having entered into a scheme to betray Lord Cardigan on a late occasion, and extort money from him to avoid exposure. Mr Clarkson and Mr Doane conducted the prosecution; and Mr Wordsworth and Mr Wilkins appeared for the defence. The jury found the defendant *Guilty* upon all the counts in the indictment. The Recorder said, that as the defendant was already in custody under another sentence, he must be remitted back to the care of the officer, and he would consult the learned judge who was to sit to-morrow as to the nature of the sentence to be passed upon him.

THE PROVINCES.

"SHIPWRECK—DREADFUL INHUMANITY."—Under this head there is a letter in Wednesday's *Times*, signed by "A Clergyman," noticing the loss of the *Luca* of Hull, with the saddening addition, "crew drowned." He says—"The vessel was making for Hull, and within two hours of port, when the wind chopped round to the northward, and such a heavy sea came on, that she was obliged to turn and make for the 'deeps' to the south. Hardly had she got before the wind, when a sea 'pooped' her, split her mainsail, and rendered her unmanageable. She drove ashore at Huttoft, and kept drifting down from that place until she became fast on a sand bank at Mumby chapel, two miles below Huttoft. This was at seven o'clock. The crew consisted of the captain, his wife, and child, seventeen months old, and two men. At this hour they were near enough the shore to be heard, and were heard: numbers of people were on the shore, but none offered to lend a saving hand—they were helping themselves to the planks and spirits as they came ashore. A farmer being there from Huttoft on horseback, several persons, more humane than their fellows, begged him to ride home, only two miles, for the life-boat stationed there. He refused. They then begged him to lend his horse that one of them might go; he would not! This, sir, was at seven o'clock P.M.; the tide was coming in, the poor fellows shrieking, until the woman and the two men were washed off and drowned; the captain clasped his child in his arms until it died of cold; and was at last washed out of his arms a corpse. He then lashed

himself to the capstan, and remained there (would humanity believe it?) until two o'clock—seven hours—within a stone's throw of the shore, seen and heard by these people. At that hour a young farmer got down there, and seeing the apathy of the people ashore, he waded almost up to the vessel, and spoke to the captain, who said—"If you can come to me, I can come ashore." And so he did; he alone survived. Now, sir, let humanity beg you to expose these facts—facts known to the clergymen near; for there is, I fear, no means of punishing such murderous indifference to life and hardness of heart, and no engine of producing shame, but through such a journal as yours. Here was means of saving them by a life-boat, with a ready crew, within two miles to the north; and two miles to the south was Manby's apparatus, all ready to start; and Mr Smith, the farmer, of Huttoft, against whose very house was the life-boat stationed, would neither save them, nor let them be saved. God forgive him! The Bishop of Lincoln and other gentlemen in the county lately provided the coast with a life-boat, at a cost of 200*l.*; it has never yet been out, except to show off in fine weather. Do these gentlemen know this?"

INCENDIARY FIRE AT OFFTON.—Scarcely a night passes without intelligence reaching this town of a fire in the neighbourhood, and so accustomed are the inhabitants to hearing the cry of "fire" sounded in their streets, that upon the first alarm, hundreds may be seen hastening towards the spot where it is supposed to be raging. On Wednesday night last, about 7 o'clock, the cry of fire was sounded in St Matthew's, and the fears of the inhabitants dwelling in that part of the town wanted no confirmation, as the western horizon was illuminated with that vivid glare which clearly told that there was an awful conflagration, and, as many thought, at no great distance. It was ascertained to be on the premises of Mr J. Raynham, of Offton. The engines were soon on the spot, and succeeded in getting the fire under. The damage is estimated at 1,000*l.* We understand Mr Raynham had some threatening letters sent him about two months since, and an effort was made some time ago to fire the stacks, but without effect.—*Ipswich Express.*

EXTENSIVE FIRE IN MANCHESTER.—The most extensive and destructive conflagration with which Manchester has been visited for some years broke out shortly after six o'clock in George street, in that town, on the morning of Saturday last, in the basement story of Mr W. Bryan's warehouse, No. 9 George street, and speedily communicated to several adjoining warehouses. The pile of warehouses, which is now a heap of ruins, was erected only a few years ago, by Mr James Taylor, but had ceased to be his property. At the lowest computation, including both the buildings and the stocks which have been consumed, there cannot be a less amount of property destroyed than to the extent of 100,000*l.* Three or four firms are said to be insured to nearly that amount. Most of the warehouses are said to be insured. It is not known how the fire originated.

SINGULAR DISCOVERY OF COPPER ORE.—It is a well-known fact that copper mining in Cornwall is of comparatively recent origin, and that the mines in this county were, at no very remote period, worked only for tin, the copper ore being considered as useless, and, consequently, thrown aside. A singular confirmation of this has just occurred in widening the road in the neighbourhood of Chaeewater. Captain Davies, the contractor, in removing the old hedges, perceived among the stones of which they were composed a considerable number that contained copper, and has actually selected from them several tons of copper ore. These stones had, no doubt, been raised by miners in search of tin, at a period when their value was not known, and used as materials for constructing the hedges in which they were found. Captain Davies, in contracting for the job, has been so fortunate as to secure the stones of the old hedges, and is, consequently, a considerable gainer by the discovery.—*West Briton.*

THE PROPOSED COAL TAX.—MEETING AT HERTFORD.—On Monday evening a meeting was held at the Town hall, Hertford, for the purpose of taking into consideration the proposed addition to the tax on coals coming into the port of London. The meeting was very respectably and numerously attended. The mayor (J. Gilbertson, Esq.) having been called to the chair, said that the attention of the inhabitants of Hertford had been called to the proposed tax, because it was considered to be a very unjust impost. He, for one, could not conceive why the inhabitants of Hertford should be called upon to pay for the improvement and embellishment of the city of London. The city should tax itself for that purpose. Thousands of the people of Hertford would never see the banks of the Thames, and he could not see why they should be called upon to pay for its improvement. He objected to the tax on principle, and he hoped the meeting would petition the legislature to refuse an impost so manifestly unfair. Mr Crawley moved a resolution declaratory of the injustice of the tax, and of the determination of the meeting to oppose it. He said it would be about as reasonable to make the inhabitants of Bishopsgate within pay the Hertford lighting and paving rate, as to make the inhabitants of Hertford pay for the improvement of the city of London. The resolution having been seconded, was unanimously agreed to. A form of petition to the House of Commons was then agreed to, and resolutions passed, calling on the borough and county members to support it. Mr Lawrence, an extensive coal-merchant at Hertford, expressed his apprehension that should the city tax on coals, which is already 13*d.* per ton, be further increased, the coal trade with London would be materially injured, as the inland navigation would be able to enter into competition by the river Lea, and sell coals cheaper than the present Hertford merchants could do. It appeared also, from a statement made by the river Lea navigation, that the amount of coals brought by the Lea during the past year was 93,558 tons, of which quantity 15,359 tons were for the consumption of Hertford, and 13,784 tons for Ware, so that, should the result of an additional tax on coals be the closing of the trade with the port of London, the city itself would be a considerable loser, as it received on each of the 93,558 tons a duty of 13*d.*

FOLKESTONE.—The opening of the railway has caused a great influx of visitors to Folkestone. It has been said that this is the only place in England that has been benefited by a railway passing it, and we venture to predict that the permanent benefit arising to the town is only beginning to be felt, and is not as yet half appreciated. That the extraordinary rise in the value of property is the effect of the railway, and

the increase of population, is very clearly demonstrated by the eagerness with which everything in the shape of a house is sought. But three years ago 96 houses were unoccupied, and the new comers hired the best and most prominent establishments at a very low figure; now the houses are all occupied, and most of them permanently so, and rents have risen doubly, and in many instances in a treble ratio with what was paid in 1841. The trade of Folkestone, which was at a very low ebb three years ago, has increased wonderfully, and will probably continue to do so, from the inland and continental traffic which the railway has created.—*Canterbury Journal.*

BIRMINGHAM.—On Wednesday afternoon a public meeting, convened by the Mayor, was held in the Town hall of Birmingham, for the purpose, as was said, of taking measures for the protection of the constitutional liberties of the people from the dangers to which recent proceedings in Ireland have seemed to expose them. Mr O'Connell had reached the town the night before. On the morning of the day he was presented at his inn with an address from Repealers. The meeting was appointed to take place at one o'clock, and at that hour the hall, holding 9,000, was densely crowded. The Mayor would have presided but for the sudden death of his mother. In his absence Mr George Edmonds, the clerk of the peace of the borough, was called to the chair. Complete suffrage resolutions were moved by Joseph Sturge and his friends. Mr O'Connell, who was received with Irish enthusiasm by an English audience, spoke at great length on subjects connected with his country, and with general reform. Mr Sharman Crawford was present and spoke. A petition to parliament, condemnatory of the means taken to arrest the Repeal agitation in Ireland, and in favour of general freedom and equal laws, was unanimously agreed to. The meeting, having lasted four hours, terminated quietly.

STATE OF THEATRICALS AT BRIGHTON.—On Monday evening the theatre was opened to fifteen persons in the pit, two in the boxes, and two in the gallery! There was no performance, and the money was returned to the audience!

SCOTLAND.

ROXBURGHSHIRE.—Several farms, belonging in property to Sir W. Elliott, have just been let to enter upon at Whit-Sunday next, and though held at present on rack rents, these have been increased thirty, forty, and even sixty per cent., so little are the Roxburghshire farmers alarmed about a repeal of the corn laws. Indeed, they look with perfect contempt on such persons as the 1,300 serfs of the Duke of Richmond, having occupations of from 20*l.* to 30*l.* per annum, who have signed declarations hostile to repeal, although not one in fifty know anything whatever as to the probable consequences of such a measure. On one extensive estate in this county, consisting chiefly of hill farms, the tenants are to a man free traders.—*Correspondent of the Morning Chronicle.*

DEATH OF SIR FRANCIS WALKER DRUMMOND, BART.—We deeply regret to announce the death of Sir Francis Walker Drummond, of Hawthornden, Bart., which took place at his house at Midfield, on Thursday evening last week. He had been long labouring under disease of the heart, which as it yielded at times to the remedies administered, gave occasionally faint hopes of his ultimate recovery. But lately those hopes, long and anxiously cherished, gave way, and his family and friends witnessed, with the deepest grief, the sure progress of the fatal malady, which at last terminated his long and severe sufferings. He interested himself with activity in the local improvements of the city of Edinburgh, and in all questions connected with the county; and his zeal was never wanted in forwarding every business in which the public good was involved. He had been long known and esteemed in the society of Edinburgh and the neighbourhood; and from his urbanity, general information, and social qualities, was warmly received in all its most distinguished circles. He is succeeded in his title and estates by his son, Captain James Walker Drummond, of the Grenadier Guards.

IMPORT DUTY ON COTTON WOOL.—On Wednesday, a numerous and respectable meeting of cotton-spinners, powerloom-weavers, cotton importers, and others interested in the cotton manufacture, was held within the Glasgow Coffee-room to "consider what measures ought to be adopted, in order to press upon the government the justice, policy, and necessity, of repealing the duty on foreign wool; or, failing such repeal, of allowing a drawback corresponding thereto, on the exportation of cotton yarn and goods." Mr W. Hussey in the chair. Mr Alexander Graham addressed the meeting, to show the pernicious influence of the import duty on cotton wool on the cotton manufacture of this country, more especially in competition with that of foreign countries. He stated that last year the amount of duty was upwards of 550,000*l.*; and that according to the present rate of consumption, it would in all probability this year amount to 600,000*l.*; which, considering that at least four-fifths of all the cotton manufactures of this country were exported, operated as a very large premium to foreign manufactures not subjected to similar imposts. He stated this was the only article, practically capable of a drawback, on which an import duty was levied without a corresponding drawback; that, so far from foreign countries imposing any similar duty, the drawback given in some of the continental states operated as a bounty. It had been admitted by all statesmen, whether Conservative or Liberal, that taxes on the raw material of industry were the worst that could be imposed, wherever the manufacture was exposed to foreign competition; and that of all raw material, there was no one with which the prime minister ought to have a greater sympathy than with that used in the cotton manufacture, on which the fortunes of his family had been originally founded. He had little doubt that, if an energetic and universal movement were now made, an appeal to the government would, in all probability, prove successful. Indeed, Sir R. Peel had admitted, on a former application to him, that this duty was the first on which relief ought to be given. In these circumstances, he moved that a fund be raised by a subscription, and a committee of gentlemen be appointed to organize and carry through whatever measures they might deem best calculated for pressing upon the government the justice, policy, and necessity of repealing the duty in question. Provost Bankier seconded the motion, which

was unanimously agreed to, and a committee appointed, after which the meeting separated.

AN ANCIENT COUPLE.—A wedding took place at Gorthleck, in Inverness-shire, on Tuesday the 13th ultimo. The bridegroom, Donald Fraser, or Buie, was aged seventy-six, and the bride sixty-six. Thirty children and grand-children of the happy pair attended the ceremony, "and all went merry as a marriage bell."

IRELAND.

EXPENDITURE OF IRELAND.

Return showing the total present Expenditure of Ireland, including Debt, Army, Pensions, Civil List, Miscellaneous Estimates, and all Disbursements payable out of the Public Revenue.

THE EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDING JANUARY 5, 1843.

Payment for interest and management of the permanent debt ...	£.	s. d.	£.	s. d.
Terminable Annuities ...	1,192,133	4 4		
	601	18 10		
			1,192,735	3 2

Other permanent charges on the Consolidated Fund, exclusive of advances for Public Works ...	586,909	9 7		
Army ...	937,500	0 0		
Ordnance ...	97,050	0 0		
Miscellaneous services ...	398,503	12 10		
Total present expenditure ...	3,212,698	5 7		

THE EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDING JANUARY 5, 1844.

Payment for interest and management of the permanent debt ...	£.	s. d.	£.	s. d.
Terminable annuities ...	1,210,716	9 5		
	597	8 10		
			1,211,313	18 3

Other permanent charges on the Consolidated Fund, exclusive of advances for Public Works ...	561,328	15 3½		
Army ...	994,500	0 0		
Ordnance ...	84,870	0 0		
Miscellaneous services ...	332,682	14 3		
Total present expenditure ...	3,184,695	7 9½		

Treasury Chambers, Feb. 26. G. CLARK.

REPEAL RENT.—The amount of the repeal rent for the week ending on Monday, was announced at the meeting of the association held on that day as 495*l.* 4*s.* 9*d.*

THE LORD LIEUTENANT.—Notwithstanding all the reports to the contrary put into circulation within the last three weeks, I believe it may be now authoritatively stated that Earl De Grey has no present intention of resigning the duties of his high office, the responsibilities of which he is not just now prepared to abandon, even though the determination should be at the risk of a further sacrifice of health, already more or less impaired by the vicissitude of an ungenial climate. I have said that his Excellency has no "present intention" of quitting Ireland, because it may be—indeed, it is believed that such will be the case—that before the close of the ensuing autumn the noble Earl will feel it necessary to relinquish the Irish Vice-Royalty, in order to avail himself of the benefit of a continental tour; a step rendered absolutely requisite for the restoration to its wonted strength of an enfeebled constitution.—*Correspondent of the Times.*

MR O'CONNELL AND COMPROMISE.—Rumours are afloat that Mr O'Connell intends to give up, or at least greatly modify and soften down, the repeal agitation; and the latter part of his letter, which we publish in another page, countenances this report. The *Nation* is evidently alarmed, and cries out, with apparent misgivings, "No surrender!" We may take occasion to refer to this subject at another time; and, at present, we shall merely say that we should most heartily rejoice if Mr O'Connell were to adopt the course referred to, and use his powerful influence in helping to unite the friends of justice, in the two countries, in an effort for the benefit of all.—*Northern Whig.*

"PROSELYTIZING IN THE ARMY."—The *Cork Examiner* of Monday relates the following:—"Yesterday morning the troops quartered in our barracks were marched to St Luke's church to attend 'divine service,' as usual, when a scene occurred, the particulars of which have been communicated to us by a gentleman of unquestionable respectability. It appears that on coming up to the church two of the recruits refused to enter, they being Roman Catholics, when a sergeant came up and remonstrated with them on the impropriety of their conduct; but his interference being unavailing, he applied to the colonel, who unhesitatingly exercised his authority, and commanded the men to follow him into church, which they did with great apparent reluctance. However, when the tolerant gentleman had snugly ensconced himself in his velvet-cushioned pew, to sleep or pray as he might feel inclined, the poor fellows instantly withdrew. The gentleman who furnished us with the above intelligence further informed us that he had a conversation with some of the men, who assured him that the majority of the church-going military now in our barracks are of the Roman Catholic religion, but through fear of disobeying their superior officers they submit to be led to church. This is a matter that ought to be immediately laid before the Horse Guards; we doubt if the present commander-in-chief, however intolerant in other respects, would sanction such bigotted and tyrannical conduct."

THE KING OF GREECE.—Advices from Athens of the 10th ult. state that King Otho has had a narrow escape from being poisoned, owing to the carelessness of his cook, who prepared a dish in a vessel in which verdigris had been allowed to collect. The illness, however, soon gave way to proper remedies.

DUTY ON TEA.—It is said Government intend to reduce the duty, in consequence of the liberal measures of the Emperor of China in admitting British manufactures into the five ports.

MISCELLANIES OF TRADE.

THE SHIPOWNERS' WISDOM AND ITS RESULTS.—The shipowners of Great Britain—men who, as a body, strange to say, resisted the corn bill less than any other class of persons in the country—have seen their employment, as corn carriers, regularly sliding away from them, under the paternal management of the bread-taxers. The statistics of the Sound—the key to the Baltic—tell the sad tale in most piteous figures. The very nature of a "sliding scale" requiring that when corn is to be shipped in the foreign port, not a moment is to be lost, the foreign shipowner obtains the freight, not because he is able to accept it on lower terms than his British competitor, but because his vessel is on the spot, and the English one is not. The number of vessels which passed the Sound last year, it will be seen, by the subjoined table, was 1,262 less than in 1839—of which falling off the British shipowners have sustained the enormous proportion of three-fourths, the number of British vessels in 1839 being 4,509, whereas in 1843 it had slid down to 3,518. A better illustration, surely, could not have been afforded of that affection for the mercantile interests of the country, which the Tories perpetually preach but seldom practice. But we will let the figures speak for themselves.

NUMBER OF VESSELS WHICH PASSED THE "SOUND" DURING THE LAST FIVE YEARS.

NATION.	1839.	1840.	1841.	1842.	1843.
British - - -	4,509	4,071	3,788	3,520	3,518
Hanoverian - -	815	768	823	766	842
Danish - - -	1,123	974	1,017	1,068	1,399
Swedish - - -	1,243	1,364	1,133	1,219	1,431
Norwegian - -	1,656	2,025	1,687	1,860	1,625
Prussian - - -	3,057	2,996	2,864	2,811	2,580
Russian - - -	832	814	819	761	753
Dutch - - -	1,199	947	973	912	1,224
Hamburg - - -	19	23	20	16	28
Bremen - - -	70	59	73	60	37
Belgian - - -	33	21	11	6	6
French - - -	240	239	217	240	180
Mecklenburg -	995	962	959	821	851
Lubeck - - -	108	96	88	79	75
American - - -	114	143	123	113	144
Oldenburg - -	129	85	128	140	175
Italian - - -	44	52	15	59	69
Spanish - - -	20	18	14	4	8
Portuguese - -	3	5	2	2	2
Total - - -	16,209	15,662	14,754	13,957	14,947

—*Gateshead Observer.*

THE EASTERN SHIPPING TRADE.—In consequence of the great increase of our commerce with China, the East Indies, and our eastern colonies, a large number of vessels are lying in the various docks, being in course of preparation for goods to be forwarded to the above destinations. There are above 80 vessels which are announced at Lloyd's for despatch, many of them of heavy burden, and 16 carrying each above 1,000 tons. Of this fleet of vessels, one firm charters fourteen ships, amounting to 13,750 tons; another nine ships, carrying 8,250 tons; and another five ships, of a burden of 4,400 tons. The following are the names of the vessels with their amount of tonnage respectively:—The Seringapatam, 1,000; Wellesley, 1,150; Owen Glendower, 1,000; Agincourt, 1,050; Monarch, 1,400; Earl of Hardwicke, 1,000; Vernon, 1,000; Prince of Wales, 1,350; Madagascar, 1,000; City of Poonah, and Northumberland, 900; Windsor, 800; Malabar, 700; Carnatic, 700 (the above being the property of the Messrs Green, of Blackwall). Colombo, 600; Pekin, 650; Robert Small, 800; Ellenborough, 1,100; Bucephalus, 1,050; Gloriana, 1,100; Plantagenet, 1,100; Duke of Argyll, 800; Tudor, 1,150 (which belong to Messrs T. and W. Smith, Newcastle-on-Tyne). Samarang, 600; Essex, 650; Maidstone, 1,000; Calcutta, 1,350; True Briton, 800 (the owners of which are the Messrs Wigram, Blackwall). Oriental, 600; Anna Robertson, 500; George Fyfe, 460; Lady Rowena, 500; British Empire, 610; Thomas Lee, 350; John Knox, 540; Earl of Durham, 453; Orestes, 700; Arab, 484; Scindian, 650; Druid, 341; Unicorn, 375; Dowthorp, 450; Mellish, 500; Royal Tar, 388; Arabia, 400; Sumatra, 354; Royal Saxon, 700; Dale Park, 550; Vigilant, 400; Raymond, 600; Harriet, 465; Parland, 500; Surge, 560; Elizabeth and Jane, 336; Robert Matthews, 350; John Heyes, 400; Sophia, 586; John Woodell, 500; Georgetown, 412; Worcester, 636; Timandra, 432; Africa, 300; Brunette, 400; and Yare, 300. The united burden of the above vessels amounts to 44,274 tons. There are also the Rosebery, the Poitiers, the Lady, the Erin, the Earl of Liverpool, the Derwent, the Nelson, the Lady Gray, &c., whose amount of tonnage is not stated. When the trade of the East Indies was opened to competition, the East India Company sold their large-sized vessels, as it was thought that ships of a lesser burden would be sufficient to carry on that trade.

THE WHALE FISHERIES.—HULL.—The gradual decrease in the employment of British capital in the Greenland and Davis' Straits whale fisheries for many years, led in 1842-3 to a general inquiry into the whole subject, and much valuable information has been elicited; and we are happy to say the result has been a conviction that the want of a proper system, rather than any inferiority to our American competitors, has caused the very partial success of previous years. The vessels to sail from the port of Hull this spring will more than double the number of last year, a circumstance very gratifying to those who take an interest in the prosperity of this town. The brig *Forth*, Captain Toogood, the first ship of the season, sailed on Thursday last for Greenland, and her departure was witnessed by a large multitude of persons, who heartily cheered her as she cleared the harbour. The following vessels are preparing for immediate departure:—The *True-love*, Captain Parker, for Davis' Straits; the *Abram*, Captain Humphrey, for Davis' Straits; the *Hebe*, Captain Wells, for Greenland;

the Sarah and Elizabeth, Captain Willis, for Davis' Straits; the Jane, Captain Brown, for Greenland; the Prince of Wales, Captain Coudray, for Davis' Straits; the Anne, Captain Dean, for Greenland; and the Constantio, Captain Gravel, also for Greenland. We hear, too, on good authority, that Captain Thomas Lee has gone to Scotland to purchase another ship for the Davis' Straits fisheries.—*Hull Rockingham*.

CUSTOMS' FRAUDS.—The Commissioners of Customs have issued directions to the principal officers at the several ports of the United Kingdom, to prepare and transmit, with the least possible delay, the undermentioned account, according to the annexed form, so far as relates to their ports respectively, viz.:—A return of all persons charged with smuggling (either in the Court of Exchequer or before the magistrates) and of frauds on the Customs, during the years of 1842 and 1843, with an account of the expenses incurred in such proceedings (whether of solicitors conducting the proceedings, of witnesses, town clerk's fees, or of any other description), and the amount of duties or penalties received, or sums received where the penalties have been mitigated.—*Globe*.

CUSTOM-HOUSE FRAUDS.—Mr Hume's notice of motion for returns on the subject of the Custom-house frauds has brought this important subject again before the public. That notice was not given before it was wanted. Some more information is called for on this matter than the public now have. Mr Hume's motion will be a good beginning: it may lead to further concessions to the necessary and legitimate curiosity that is felt in the whole commercial body on points so deeply affecting its interests. At present people are in the state of knowing that there is and must be a great deal behind the scenes; and not knowing what that is, they see effects: the causes are concealed; but there must be causes. They see a thoroughly rotten, loose, and ineffective system of Custom-house management; this is clear from the results. What has brought the system into this state, they do not see. On the one hand is vast, overgrown corruption, and a most important branch of the public service prostrate and sprawling in the mud. How is this huge ramification of evil explained? By discovering half a dozen fraudulent landing-waiters. A few miserable subordinates and mere servants are brought and paraded before the public in prosecutions. Elaborate chains of evidence are produced to prove that this and the other landing-waiter pocketed so much unlawful cash on such days, thereby defrauding her Majesty's revenue to the amount of so many pounds, shillings, and pence. We doubt not landing-waiters are capable of being great rogues when they set about it. Nevertheless, the roguesy of this knot must have been an absolute focus, and got up to a white heat, to have produced all this mischief. Landing-waiters are capable of being rogues; so are other people who are higher than landing-waiters. . . . How far the department of the Customs is in this condition we cannot undertake to say.—*Times*.

RAILWAY LEGISLATION.—A very extraordinary clause is proposed to be introduced into the "Great Western Railway Bill," now before parliament; and which, to use the language of a correspondent of the *Times*, "if carried into law, will become a most oppressive, inquisitorial, and unconstitutional measure." The clause is as follows:—

"Be it therefore enacted, that it shall be lawful for the said company to fix the charges, and to charge separately in respect of the carriage of all goods and parcels collected by carriers, innkeepers, warehousemen, office-keepers, or other such persons, which shall be directed or intended for delivery to different ultimate consignees, and whether the same shall be included in one packet or consignment or sent separately; and it shall not be lawful for any such person as aforesaid, receiving or collecting any goods or parcels for conveyance in any carriage, waggon, or truck of the said Great Western Railway Company, to include two or more parcels or consignments of goods intended to be delivered to different ultimate consignees, or coming from different consignors to one ultimate consignee under one cover, or in one consignment, so as to conceal the number and addresses of such parcels and consignments; and if any such person knowingly and willingly so include two or more of such parcels or consignments, without informing the company thereof at or before the delivery thereof to the company, previously to paying the charge for the carriage of the same, or shall make any false declaration in respect of the same, such person shall, on conviction, forfeit for every such offence the sum of twenty pounds."

"I call it oppressive," the correspondent of the *Times* continues, "because it would immediately annihilate a large portion of valuable business which is now carried on by means of small parcels of goods, for cash on delivery, which are enclosed to agents in town or country in one parcel, but which, if singly charged with carriage, would not afford any profit to the seller or the buyer. It would operate similarly upon the purchases of goods by country buyers, who, being dealers in a large variety of articles, are in the habit of desiring the whole to be enclosed in one box or parcel, both for convenience and to save carriage. Take, for instance, the case of a haberdasher residing in Devonshire: he orders a piece of riband from one house, a dozen of handkerchiefs from another, some cases of pins and needles from a third (most of them as samples), and desires the whole to be sent for enclosure to the house where he buys the bulk of his goods. It is obvious that none of these parcels could bear separate charges for carriage. I call it inquisitorial, because it assumes that the company may open any parcels which they may suspect to contain more than one parcel. By this power, a door would be opened for mischievous interference with transactions of individual traders and merchants, the confidential character of their dealings might be exposed to rivals, and the security and sacredness of private business would be violated. I call it unconstitutional, because it allows individuals to do that on their own responsibility which is not permitted even to the revenue servants of the crown, except in the most extreme cases; and not then, without being generally armed with a magistrate's warrant, granted on the strength of affidavits alleging suspicion. And is it not a mistake to fetter trade by any such vexatious exactions? Why should not parcels be charged by weight or bulk, without reference to their contents? This is the true principle, and the less business is cramped by legislation, the more extensive and profitable will it be to all parties concerned, whether buyers, sellers, carriers, or railroad proprietors." This obnoxious clause is now withdrawn.

INTELLIGENCE FOR AGRICULTURISTS.—In the northern counties, during the last month or six weeks, cattle, horses, grain, and other agricultural produce have materially increased in price. At the horse fairs lately held at Dumfries, Carlisle, Cockermouth, Northallerton, Wigton, and other places, good horses have been very dear. Good draught horses were sold for from 16*l.*, 18*l.* and 25*l.*, to 34*l.* each. Roadsters were much in demand, and eagerly sought after by the dealers, who were in attendance in great numbers from almost every county in the kingdom. The very best of this description were sold for as far as 50*l.*, 55*l.*, and to upwards of 60*l.* Fat cattle bought up in the country for the southern markets have lately fetched higher prices, and are now becoming somewhat scarce. Grain of every description, it will be seen on reference to the returns, remains stationary, if not a little advanced in price. The wheat lands in almost every district are looking remarkably well and forward. It is gratifying to observe that all the petitions which have emanated from the newly-established protective societies have been most numerously signed, and there can be no doubt but that they will have the desired effect on being laid before the legislature.—*Berkshire Chronicle*.

GRAIN, MEAL, AND FLOUR.—A return, just printed by order of the House of Commons, of the grain, flour, and meal imported during the years 1841, 1842, and 1843, from each of the British colonies (including India), and stating the quantity imported in each year, gives the following result:—In the year 1841, the total quantity of grain and meal imported from various British colonies was as follows, viz.:—Wheat, 68,858 quarters (corn and grain of all sorts, 86,048 quarters); wheatmeal or flour, 665,561 cwts.; and oatmeal, 12,463 cwts. In this year nearly all the wheat was imported from Canada. In the year 1842, the total quantities imported were:—Wheat, 38,981 quarters (corn and grain of all sorts, 61,214 quarters); wheatmeal or flour, 561,966 cwts.; and oatmeal, 18,928 cwts. As many as 32,774 of the above 38,981 quarters of wheat were imported exclusively from Canada. In 1843, the quantities were as follows, viz.:—Wheat, 22,560 quarters (of which 20,676 came from Canada); corn and grain of all sorts, 33,250 quarters; flour, 339,457 cwts.; and oatmeal, 5,700 cwts. There was also, in each of these years, a trifling quantity of Indian corn, meal, &c., imported. The head "corn and grain of all sorts," includes wheat, barley, oats, peas, and Indian corn. It will be seen that the importation of wheat has decreased full two-thirds between 1841 and 1843; and that the imports of flour have decreased nearly one-half during the same period.

BEETROOT SUGAR.—The Administration of the Indirect Taxes of France has just published in the *Moniteur* an account of the production and consumption of home-made sugar since the commencement of the season of 1843-4, and the duties levied in 1844. At the end of January, 1844, there were 324 manufactories in activity, and 51 idle, but having sugar for sale. At the end of January, 1843, there were 382 at work, and 25 idle, showing a falling off for 1844 of 58 in the manufactories in activity. At the beginning of the season of 1844 the produce on hand amounted to 3,800,000 kilogrammes, whilst at the commencement of the season of 1843 it was 4,300,000 kilogrammes. The quantity manufactured from January, 1844, amounted to 20,000,000 kilogrammes. At a similar period in 1843 the quantity manufactured was 22,000,000 kilogrammes, the difference being 2,000,000 kilogrammes. The quantity issued for consumption from the 1st of January, 1844, was 15,952,102 kilogrammes, and at the same period in 1843 it was 17,982,926 kilogrammes. The duties paid in 1844 amounted to 1,125,603*l.*, and those at a similar period in 1843 to 1,197,677*l.*; the falling off being 72,074*l.*

LORD RADNOR ON FREE TRADE.

We this week give the concluding letter of the Earl of Radnor, which appeared in the *Wiltshire Independent*, which it will be seen embraces the question of free trade generally, and, though written to answer a local purpose, refers to general principles which have an abiding interest, and therefore deserves to be more permanently recorded:—

"If Mr Sotheron," says his lordship, "abhors free trade, he of course approves of restrictions on trade. Is it that he thinks there is too much trade and therefore it ought to be restricted? or is it that he thinks restrictions promote and facilitate trade? If the former, I can only say that he takes a view of the situation of the country, and of the sources of its greatness and prosperity, totally different from that avowed by any statesman that I have ever known or heard of, unless, perhaps, it be the writer in the *Standard*, who expressed, about a year ago, a wish that all the great manufacturing towns should be annihilated."

"The object and the result of all trade is, I apprehend, to promote and effect such an interchange of commodities that the superfluities of one individual, community, or nation, should supply the wants of another; and that thus each person, community or nation, should be supplied with such things as it may be in need of. Is this an object which Mr Sotheron deprecates? If so, to what extent will he go? Is every nation to supply itself, and to be content with such things only as it can raise for itself, whatever may be its soil or climate. And if every nation, why not every section of that nation, every county, hundred, or parish, or family? Nay, why should not every individual supply his own necessities, each raise his own food, make his own clothes, build his own house, &c.? If trade is a bad thing in itself, I do not see how he who maintains that proposition can stop short of this consequence; and if it is not a bad thing, and if its objects are legitimate, neither do I, on the other hand, see what limit we ought to put to it. It has no natural limit short of the universal distribution amongst all mankind, of all the commodities and conveniences which are anywhere produced. Then, on the other hand, to imagine that legislative restrictions can promote or facilitate trade, seems to me utterly absurd. Mr Sotheron will hardly contend that the legislature can, by general rules and laws, regulate all trades; neither even if it had time could it, by specific rules, lay down the plan for conducting any one trade better than the interest and intelligence of each individual trader will direct him to do for himself. Perfect liberty and freedom of action is above all things desirable in trade. What said the manufacturers of France when the minister Colbert, desirous to promote their manufactures, asked them what he could do for that purpose? "*Laissez nous faire*," said they—Let us alone. If I mistake not, there is not a maltster in North Wilts who could not explain to Mr Sotheron how the necessary regulations imposed by the excise hamper

him, and consequently injure the consumer. Indeed the maintenance of this proposition really involves a contradiction in terms. It is to say that restraint is freedom—that to be bound is to be at liberty—that a man is more able to act on his own suggestions and to determine for himself, when under the guidance and direction of another, than when altogether a free agent.

"This being so, I cannot believe; knowing, as I do, Mr Sotheron's cool and calculating habits, I cannot believe that he meant, however general and comprehensive his expressions, I cannot believe that he meant to condemn free trade, and to express his approbation of restrictions on trade generally, and in the abstract. I presume he meant to confine his observations to free trade in corn.

"I have heard others do this. They argue thus,—the principles of free trade are good theoretically, but they are inapplicable to the essential article of food. This is like saying that a rule, of morality, for instance, which is good in a small matter, is not binding in a greater; that it is right to resist a small temptation, but that if the temptation be a great one, it is lawful to yield to it. Be honest when it is an affair of a few pence or shillings, but if you can make a large sum by dishonesty, the eighth commandment does not apply. If an old and ugly woman solicit you, turn away; but if one that is young and handsome, do not hesitate to yield. If the rule and principles of free trade are good, the more important the trade, the more strictly they should be observed; if they are not to be observed in that case, it must be because they are in themselves not good; and if not good, why observe them in less essential matters? If not good when applied to corn or other articles of food, how can they be so when mere articles of luxury, when caviare or turtle, or perfumery are in question? I confess I see no answer to this.

"I hold, then, that it is impossible to contend that free trade in food is not as desirable as in any other article. But it is said, that if this principle is acted on, we shall be overwhelmed with immense importations, and that the price of corn will fall so low, that the owners of land will be ruined, and land thrown out of cultivation.

"In the first place it must be remarked, that it is a strange thing for benevolent men to contend that food will be too abundant and too cheap. The praise of the land of Canaan was this, that it is a land where thou shalt eat bread without scarceness. No man ever, till these late times, dreamed that scarcity and dearness were good things.

"Secondly, whence is this overwhelming quantity to come? Is it supposed that there is accumulated in some part of the world,—in Poland, or in the United States, a great stock of corn ready to be poured into this country; prepared beforehand for the time when our ports shall be opened, though we constantly maintain that we can grow corn for ourselves, and we will not admit it? I believe that it would be very difficult to discover this store. But it is said, there is land, waste and uncultivated, in itself very fertile, which if we at all times admitted the produce would be cultivated, and afford immense supplies. Be it so; but this land, to be cultivated, would require capital and labour; that labour must be procured and paid for, and the labourer must be fed. The capital must be withdrawn from some other occupation, and must continue unproductive while the soil is prepared, and till the produce is brought from distant lands at great expense of transport by sea and land to this country. I ask whether a small price would remunerate for the production of corn thus raised? or whether it is likely that so much would be brought as to render its production here unprofitable?

"Again, it is not a fixed or given quantity that would be required each year; the population increases at the rate of from 300,000 to 400,000 annually, so that if (as is generally calculated) each individual consumes a quarter of wheat per annum, some 350,000 quarters additional will be wanted in each year. Now, supposing that these new lands are so fertile and so well cultivated that they yield 3½ quarters per acre, there must be 100,000 fresh acres laid down to wheat each year, with all the additional labour and capital required to cultivate them, all the additional carriage by land and by sea to convey the produce hither—new roads to be made across desert wastes—waggons and wains to carry the goods—cattle to draw them—will these cattle be born and bred and brought up to maturity in a twinkling? Moreover, I presume Polish or American land will not, any more than English, yield wheat every year; suppose once in three years, will it lie barren the other two; or if cultivated, where will be found the market for its produce? In the one case the expenses would be increased, in the other the market which took its produce of the year when wheat was not grown would doubtless open a competing market for the triennial supply of wheat.

"Again, how is all this produce to be conveyed to our shores? In order to bring 350,000 quarters of wheat additional supply each year, there must be 70,000 additional tons of shipping employed; so that supposing each vessel to be of 200 tons, and to make three trips to and fro in the year, each year there would be to be made an addition to the shipping engaged in this trade alone, of 117 ships. I know not how many persons would be required to navigate these; I believe some six or seven men and a boy or two. Here would be employment for from 800 to 900 additional hands every year, besides all the additional employment of ship-builders, caulkers, sail-makers, rope-makers, with the further addition of the vessels in which would be brought to England the materials for these additional vessels, sails, ropes, &c.

"Again, it may be asked, how would all these imported articles—first, the corn itself, then the materials for making the vessels in which it shall be brought to this country, &c., how are these to be paid for, seeing that the countries from which these articles will come, prohibit and refuse to take our goods? They would come or they would not. If they do not come, the apprehensions of Mr Sotheron and other anti-free traders are groundless; if they do come, they must be either paid for or not; if not paid for, we should not lose much by obtaining all these things gratis; but if paid for, they must be paid for by such articles as we have to give. And as all we have to dispose of is the produce of our mines and manufactures, we must either give that produce, or what we can obtain for that produce of some third party. It is therefore clear that there would, on this account, be an annually-increasing demand for our exports abroad.

"And this brings me to remark, that it is altogether a fallacy to contend that the object of the free traders is solely to lower the price of food, and that if that object is not accomplished by free trade, on their own principles their object is defeated. That the people are benefited by cheapness of food, that is, by abundance, there can be no doubt. There may be cheapness proceeding from bad quality not from a large quantity, and this, instead of being beneficial, would be very injurious; but cheapness arising from abundance cannot but be of advantage. But an article may be cheap in proportion to the means of the buyer, though nominally the price may be high; and if by free trade the demand of labour should be much increased, wages dependent, as they are on the demand for labour, would rise, and the labourer might, and doubtless would, be better able to pay the increased price of food, than with the less demand for labour he is to pay the smaller price."

POLITICAL.

REGISTERED ELECTORS IN GREAT BRITAIN.—Mr Hume has procured, by order of the House of Commons, abstract returns of the number of electors on the register for each county, city, &c., in England, Wales, and Scotland, in the years 1839-40 and 1842-43, distinguishing their different qualifications. We subjoin the following interesting and important statistical information. The total number of electors on the various registers of all the English counties in the year 1842-43 was 479,530, exhibiting an increase of 20,254 over the number registered in 1839-40. Of these 479,530 electors, 312,873 were freeholders, 26,275 copyholders and holders by customary tenure, 22,722 leaseholders for a period of years or for lives, 106,736 50l. occupying tenants, 1,686 trustees, &c., 1,996 office-holders, &c., and 6,853 holders of joint qualifications, &c. In Wales the total number of county electors in 1842-43 amounted to 38,657, exhibiting an increase of 2,207 over the year 1839-40. Of this number 21,580 were freeholders, 29,255 50l. occupying tenants, and 6,450 leaseholders. The total number of electors on the registers of the various cities, towns, and boroughs in England amounted in 1842-43 to 328,686, exhibiting an increase of 9,290 over the year 1839-40. Of these 328,686 city and borough voters, 244,066 were 10l. householders, 52,161 freemen and liverymen; 6,187 freeholders or burgage tenants, 82,127 scot-and-lot voters, 3,630 potwallers, 54 office holders, and 16,051 holders of joint qualifications. The number of freemen has hardly fluctuated at all; but the 10l. householders have increased by 13,323. The total number of borough voters in Wales amounted in 1842-43 to 9,665, showing a decrease of 365 since 1839-40; of these 9,655, 6,068 were 10l. householders, and 2,581 freemen. Crossing the Tweed, and proceeding to Caledonia, we find that the total number of county electors in Scotland amounted in 1842-43 to 48,820, showing an increase of 1,314 since the year 1839-40; of these 48,820 voters, 18,126 were sole or joint proprietors, 2,679 life-renters, 23,853 leaseholders (including sole or joint occupants, &c.), 650 in right of wives, 1,175 office holders, 507 joint qualifications, besides 2,087 who have been transferred from the old to the new roll of freeholders. The total number of electors on the registers of the various cities, towns, and burghs of Scotland amounted in 1842-43 to 36,424; and in 1839-40 to 35,680. 12,012 were proprietors, 22,663 occupiers, 295 life-renters, 497 in right of wives, and 1,988 joint qualifications. It thus appears that the gross total number of electors (both county and borough) in Great Britain amounted altogether in the year 1842-43 to 941,782, showing a gross increase within three years of 33,394. Taking the total population of Great Britain at 18,000,000, it will be seen that 1-19th portion of the people exercise the elective franchise, which is nearly 5½ per cent.

A CONTRAST.—The bill for the protection of aristocratic gamblers, the *coup de grace* of parliamentary infamy, has passed the House of Commons, and requires only the royal sanction to become law. Its purport need not be reiterated. It is an act of indemnity, whereby certain aristocratic members of the turf are relieved from the consequences of illegal proceedings, which they profess to have pursued in entire ignorance of the liabilities to which they were thereby exposed. We have a striking contrast to this picture of class legislation. A few simple rustics, in a parish of one of the eastern counties, assembled on Sunday week last to celebrate a wedding. The clergyman of this village, "having to do duty" in another place, got through his morning service by about half-past ten; church hours for that parish, therefore, might be innocently regarded as fairly over. The friends of the bride and the bridegroom, as the custom is in those parts, sallied forth into the fields to fire off guns, as they expressed it, "on account of the wedding." It happened, however, that the report of their pieces reached the ears of a clergyman "doing duty" in an adjoining parish, whose habits were not so early as those of his reverend brother. The rustics, consequently, were brought before the bench on the following day, and, heedless of the plea put in by the delinquents that they were utterly ignorant of violating any law, the bench sentenced them to be forthwith put in the stocks—a sentence which was executed without the smallest ceremony. In a moral point of view the offence of these men can hardly be set down as equal to that of the aristocratic gamblers. Their ignorance of the law was as profound, and much more readily to be excused. But they were poor men, and poor men in this country have no protectors. The contrast is perfect, and demonstrates the tenacity with which the upper classes still hold by the opinion that "the poor have nothing to do with the laws but to obey them."—*Nonconformist.*

ATHLONE ELECTION COMMITTEE.—The labours of this committee have been suddenly brought to a close by the petition against the sitting member being withdrawn. Mr Collett, therefore, remains member.

LEGACY DUTY, &c.—Mr Hume has moved for a return of the capital on which legacy duty has been paid, and the amount of revenue received, in the United Kingdom, for stamp duty on legacies, in the year ending the 5th day of January, 1844, &c. It appears from this return that the total amount of capital on which the several rates of legacy duty have been paid in Great Britain during the year 1843 was 43,393,142l.—viz., 23,137,110l. at the rate of 1 per cent. legacy duty; 119,962l. at 2½ per cent.; 13,489,882l. at 3 per cent.; 93,400l. at 4 per cent.; 1,595,855l. at 5 per cent.; 210,552l. at 6 per cent.; 13,546l. at 8 per cent.; and 4,732,832l. at 10 per cent. An abstract of the total amount on which duty has been paid since 1797 gives a sum total of 1,249,425,910l. The total amount of legacy duty received in Ireland in the year 1843 was 39,034l., and the amount of duty on probates and administrations, 66,184l., the amount of capital upon which legacy duty was paid making a sum total of 1,484,997l. The gross total amount of legacy duty received in the United Kingdom during the past year was 1,240,909l.; and the gross total amount of duty received on probates, administrations, and testamentary inventories, 998,964l. The gross total amount of legacy duty received in the United Kingdom since the year 1797 makes a sum total of 37,144,752l. whilst the duties on probates, &c., during the same period, amount altogether to 29,691,206l. Of the first-mentioned amount (37,144,752l.), the sum of 34,392,977l. was paid by England, 2,037,524l. by Scotland, and 714,250l. by Ireland

MISCELLANEA.

NEW PLAN OF LEASING.—A correspondent of the *Wiltshire Independent* proposes the following as a plan for letting farms on lease; namely—that a lease (on a corn rent, of course) should be given for 21 years, with a proviso that at the end of six years it should be re-valued, and that if it was found that the tenant had not made any such improvement as it was capable of, he should be liable to have notice to quit; but that if he had judiciously improved it, the whole lease should be cancelled and a new lease granted for 21 years from that period; the rent for the first 14 years of the new lease to be the same as under the former lease, and that for the last seven years such as the farm would fetch in its then improved condition; and that this operation should be continually repeated at every succeeding period of six years after the granting of a lease. Thus, suppose a farm let on an improving lease for 21 years in 1844 at a corn rent of 500 bushels of corn; in 1850 it would have to be re-valued, and if it was then found that it was not improved (and still more if it was deteriorated) the tenant should have notice and be bound to quit at the end of the year, viz., in 1851; but that if the tenant shall have done his duty and the farm be adequately improved (say to the extent of 250 bushels per annum) that a new lease should be granted for 21 years from 1851, at the rent of 500 bushels up to 1865 (the period of the termination of the original lease), and at the rent of 750 bushels from 1865 to 1872; in 1857 it would be again re-valued, and if again improved, say to the extent of 200 bushels more, then that another new lease should be granted as before for 21 years, at the rent for the first seven years of 500 bushels, of the second period of seven years 750 bushels, for the third period 950 bushels, and so on indefinitely. The tenant would thus be secure of at least 14 years' enjoyment of any improvement he might make; and the landlord might reckon on having his estate in a course of constant improvement.

THE AMERICAN STEAM-FRIGATE "MISSOURI."—This once splendid, but ill-fated vessel, for a time the pride of the American nation, built at an enormous expense to transmit their first embassy to China, and to strike the minds of the Chinese with the power and magnitude of the Americans, was, as is generally known, accidentally destroyed by fire in the bay of Gibraltar six months since. The American Consul advertised for parties to undertake the raising of the wreck, lying in but six fathom water; and engaged a party with a small diving apparatus at 7*l.* per day. After two months' unsuccessful experimenting, further attempts were abandoned, and the wreck advertised for sale. At this juncture the *Wizard*, of London, Captain William Marshall, entered the bay, returning to Scio from England, having been fitted by that talented young mechanist, Isaac Blackburn, Minorities, London, with powerful steam-engines, air-pumps, and condensing apparatus, for the express purpose of diving in thirty-six fathom water; a bargain was concluded for 4,500*l.*, and the *Wizard* now only waits the coming fine weather to commence her operations against the immersed leviathan. It is expected it will be a most profitable job for the contractors; the boilers alone, being of strong copper, are considered worth from 10,000*l.* to 12,000*l.* old metal, and the facilities for operating against the engine and boilers are very great, the decks having been entirely destroyed.—*Preston Guardian*.

SOVEREIGNS OF EUROPE.—On a general glance at the ages of monarchs and ruling princes, of the fifty-two sovereigns of Europe, four are upwards of 70 years old—the King of Sweden, 81; the King of Hanover, 72; the King of the French, 70; the Pope, 70. Above 60—The King of Wurtemberg, the Elector of Hesse Cassel, the Grand Dukes of Hesse Darmstadt, Mecklenburg Strelitz, Aldenburg, and Saxe Weimar. Above 50—The Emperor of Austria, the Kings of Bavaria, Denmark, Belgium, and Holland. Above 40—The Emperor of Russia, the Kings of Prussia, Saxony, and Sardinia, and the Grand Duke of Tuscany. Above 30—The King of Naples. Above 20—Queen Victoria, the Sultan, the King of Greece, the Queen of Portugal, the Grand Duke of Mecklenburgh Schwerin, and the Duke of Nassau. Under 20, but one—the Queen of Spain, who is but 13½. The western world is the region of republics. The only sovereign is the Emperor of Brazil, still a boy, 18 his last birthday.

CHLORIDE OF ZINC IN TOOTHACHE.—According to Dr Stanelli, in the *Annali Universali de Medicina*, the chloride of zinc, liquefied by exposure to the air, possesses the property of relieving the toothache. His mode of application is most simple. By means of a small hair pencil, a small quantity of it is applied to the cavity of the painful tooth, and in the space of a few minutes it appeases the most acute sufferings, without causing any irritation. Before proceeding to the application, it is indispensable carefully to surround the tooth with cotton wadding, and when the chloride has been applied, to fill the cavity well with this cotton. The mouth is finally washed with a little warm water. Dr Stanelli says that he has obtained uniform success from this means in more than fifty cases, and that he has never observed the progress of the caries rendered more active by it.

RAILWAYS.—The following is the second report from the Select Committee on Railways, ordered, by the House of Commons, to be printed, March 1, 1844:—The Select Committee on Railways have agreed to report the following resolutions:—1. That in each case where bills are now pending to authorize the construction of new lines of railway, competing with one another, such bills be respectively referred to one committee. 2. That the committees for the consideration of such bills be specially constituted. 3. That bills now pending to authorize the construction of new lines of railway, which will compete with existing railways, be in like manner referred to committees specially constituted. 4. That such committees be composed of five members, to be nominated by the committee of selection, who shall sign a declaration that their constituents have no local interest, and that they themselves have no personal interest, in the bill or bills referred to them, and that they will not vote on any question which may arise without having duly heard and attended to the evidence relating thereto; and that three shall be a quorum. 5. That a select committee be appointed to consider which of the pending railway bills shall be deemed competing bills, according to the foregoing resolutions. 6. That such select committee be composed of five members, of whom

three shall be a quorum, and that the committee have power to send for persons, papers, and records. 7. That such of the standing orders as relate to the composition of the committees on private bills, and the orders consequent thereon, be suspended, so far as regards competing railway bills pending in the course of the present session."

BURN'S "COMMERCIAL GLANCE" for the past year has lately made its appearance, and gives the usual quantity of valuable information relative to our export trade in all descriptions of manufactured cotton goods. Taking the principal particulars in the order presented, it seems that the quantity of cotton yarn exported last year amounted to 149,214,437 lbs., showing an increase compared with all previous years as far back as 1834, when the amount was only 78,712,330 lbs.; since which period there has been a gradual increase. The Hanse Towns figure to the extent of 45,713,058 lbs.; Holland for 25,883,712 lbs.; India and China for 19,531,056 lbs.; Russia for 23,283,956 lbs.; Turkey and Levant for 11,932,573 lbs.; and Naples and Sicily for 6,518,569 lbs. With the exception of the Hanse Towns, which took 47,823,956 lbs. in 1842, these items show an increase. France has only taken 145,765 lbs. The exports of cotton thread have considerably decreased since 1839, the quantity in that year being 2,711,798 lbs., and last year only 2,594,783 lbs.; while in 1842 it amounted to 4,915,100 lbs. In this department the principal supplies have, as in the case of cotton yarn, gone to the north of Europe, Russia, and India and China. The export of plain calicoes has increased to 520,941,635 yards, being in excess of the four previous years by upwards of 150,000,000 yards. Of calicoes, printed and dyed, 257,787,304 yards have been exported; but the quantity falls below both the years 1839 and 1841, at which period the quantity exceeded 278,000,000 yards. Cambrics and muslins have decreased to 3,411,982 yards, having been in 1841 5,518,166. Lawns and lenos figure in this return for 25,834 yards; but in 1840 the exports amounted to 268,659 yards. Of hosiery, which is enumerated by the dozen, the amount in 1843 was 334,046, but had reached in 1839 the high figure of 516,156. In lace and net there appears to have been an increase upon 1842 of considerable extent, the return for the two years being 86,586,053 yards and 105,417,115 yards respectively, though in 1841 the three previous years showed a very steady advance, bringing up the quantity to 111,138,021 yards. Cotton and linen (mixed) manufactures exhibit considerable fluctuation. In 1839 the export of such articles reached 1,910,745 yards; in 1840 it dwindled to 1,375,302 yards; in 1842 it had recovered to 1,700,256 yards, and in 1843 the reaction has been so sudden as to reduce it to 1,209,678; the shipments to all the leading markets having decreased. Gingham and checks to the extent of 2,558,306 yards were exported in 1843, which, compared with 1841 and 1842, is an improvement, though in 1839, the quantity was 2,681,394 yards. Velvetens and cords show a diminished export, the quantity having decreased from 4,396,771 yards, the return for 1839, to 1,831,289 yards, the return for 1843. The dozens of tape, bobbins, &c., exported last year were 26,700, compared with 81,432 in 1839, since which date the decrease has been rather rapid. Ticks, checked and striped, figure at 187,415 yards, and though showing an improvement compared with 1840, 1841, and 1842, stand in startling comparison with 1839, when the quantity exported was 326,981 yards. The shawl return shows a good deal of steadiness in that department, for notwithstanding the number of dozens exported last year fell short in a slight degree of the number shipped in 1839 (the respective items being 638,400 and 686,616), there has nevertheless been since 1840 a progressive improvement to the present point. The value of "unenumerated" cotton goods exported in 1843 was 87,374*l.*, it having in 1839 amounted to 159,341*l.*, while in 1842 it had decreased to 73,222*l.* According to the particulars of the stock of cotton, &c., with its movements, as furnished in the *Glance*, it appears that the stock in the ports of London, Liverpool, Glasgow, Hull, and Bristol, on the 1st of January in the present year, was 758,955 bags and bales, of which 483,340 were American, 68,300 Brazilian, 27,475 Egyptian, 193,270 East Indian, and 13,570 West Indian.

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANSWERS TO INQUIRIES.

A Rural Economist shall have our early attention.

The Economist.

MARCH 9, 1844.

COMMERCIAL.

The accounts from Calcutta are down to the 19th of January. Money continued abundant, and business in a steady and healthy condition. In cotton piece goods, cotton twist, and coarse woollen, the demand was good, at improving prices. In metals, also, the demand had become more active. It is particularly noticed that a considerable demand existed for cotton wool for China, which would lead us to infer that the cotton manufactures of that country are not so much interfered with by imports from England as we had anticipated. Still we cannot but think that, at least in yarn, the Chinese will be unable to compete with Manchester. With their cheap labour and our cheap yarn, they may be better able to do so in piece goods. From China the trade accounts are not so satisfactory. Considerable difficulties arose from some new fiscal regulations. The total exports of tea from the 1st July to the 26th November, were 14,646,000 lbs. Of silk there was none in the market, and good quality would have commanded a price of 500 dollars.

We have nothing particularly new to remark upon in the markets at home, but a continued anxiety to discover channels of investment for the huge amount of stagnant capital. According to our anticipation last week, the Chancellor of the Exchequer has given notice of the intention of the Government to reduce the interest on the 3½ per cent. consols, to 3 per cent.,

the only effect which this operation has had has been to produce a tendency to a rise in all other securities.

We refer our readers to an elaborate statement in another part of our paper, containing a Review of the Coffee Trade of the whole world, which in the present state of the market, and the great interest existing in this article, cannot but be of much interest to most of our readers. In the debate in the House of Commons, last night, on Mr Labouchere's motion, though much caution was observed by the members of the Government as to their intention with regard to the sugar duties, we are still led to adhere to our former opinion, that it is very probable an alteration of duty in favour of free-labour sugar will take place, to the continued exclusion of that of Brazil and Cuba growth; but the alteration will not materially affect the price (in bond) of the respective kinds. We are confirmed in this opinion by the general expression in last night's debate, on the Ministerial side of the House, that commercially speaking, and looking to the interests of the consumers in this country, an alteration in the present rate of the differential duty is desirable. The whole argument rested upon the discouragement of slavery.

RAILWAY AND SHARE MARKET.

The notice of the reduction of the $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cents. has had a very decided effect on the price of railway shares, and all the important lines have considerably increased in price; the minor lines have also shared in this improvement. The new bills before the House are making progress, and we believe all that have come before the committee of standing orders have passed that stage. The difficulties of the Eastern line, from Cambridge to York, which we noticed last week, have not diminished. In the Western and Midland lines there is a continued increase of confidence. The preparatory steps for a line to extend from Carlisle to Edinburgh and Glasgow, to be called the "Caledonian" line, are, we have reason to know, in a very advanced stage; and we believe it will be brought before the public very shortly. This line has several points of recommendation: 1st. It is the line which the Government surveyors recommend as the best. 2ndly. It has the advantage of serving equally for Edinburgh and Glasgow, as the line proceeds from Carlisle to near Lanark, whence it diverges on the one hand to Edinburgh, and on the other down the Clyde to Glasgow. 3rdly. It will be a saving of distance to all the important places, from Edinburgh as well as Glasgow, when compared with a line along the eastern coast, as the following table shows:—

TABLE OF DISTANCES BETWEEN THE PLACES AFTER-MENTIONED BY THE FOLLOWING ROUTES, VIZ.:

	By Newcastle and Berwick.	By the Caledonian line.	Advantage in favour of the Caledonian line.
Edinburgh			
to London	417	407	10
" Liverpool	304	226	78
" Manchester	272	218	54
" Cheltenham	371	340	31
Glasgow			
to London	464	410	54
" Liverpool	351	229	122
" Manchester	319	221	98
" Newcastle-on-Tyne	164	163	1
" Bristol	457	380	77

We may notice a considerable improvement during the week in Eastern Counties, to be attributed to a probability of a further development of that line and its branches. We have also to notice a considerable revival in French lines, which are now fully higher than at any former time; for this there is no specific reason given, and it is thought to proceed rather from the fact that French speculators have been obliged to come into the market to enable them to deliver their speculative sales.

In the share market generally there is a greater disposition to invest, and as a rule the shares of no safe company can be bought to yield more than 4 per cent. interest; whereas, some time ago, it was considered that these shares should not be bought at a higher rate than to yield from $5\frac{1}{2}$ to $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

REVIEW OF THE COFFEE TRADE.

The comparison of production and consumption is more decisive of the value of an article, than the extensive operations of wealthy speculators, who may temporarily support or even advance prices. The uninterrupted decline which coffee has experienced during the last four or five years has caused these most important features of the trade to be disregarded, and it has become difficult to collect materials from which a correct view of both could be obtained. The following result of an attentive and scrupulous investigation is, however, now submitted:—

The detail of the total production of coffee for the year 1838 has been stated at 3,540,000 cwts., viz. :—

The Brazils	1,000,000 cwts.
Java and Sumatra	680,000
Cuba	500,000
Porto Rico and Laguayra	350,000
St Domingo	230,000
French Colonies	210,000
Mocha and India	250,000
British W. Indies	150,000
Dutch W. Indies	100,000
Ceylon	70,000

In this table the actual crops and exports served for a basis as far as they were known in 1839, and where they had not yet been ascertained, the estimates of a favourable season. Proceeding upon the same plan, in order to learn how far the culture has increased, it appears that the production for the year 1843 amounts to 4,530,000 cwts., viz. :—

The Brazils (1,170,000 bags)	1,700,000 cwts.
Java and Sumatra (1,145,000 bags)	1,400,000
Cuba	450,000
Porto Rico and Laguayra	300,000
St Domingo	380,000
French Colonies	40,000
India and Mocha	60,000
British W. Indies	100,000
Dutch W. Indies	30,000
Ceylon	70,000

Thus, there appears to have been an increase in the produce during the space of five years of nearly 1,000,000 cwts., or about 28 per cent. There is a decided rise in the Brazils and Java, and, as marked a falling off in the West Indies. The largest culture is in the Brazils, but the impulse, by which it reached its present extent, originated with prices that are 75 to 100 per cent. higher than the European currency of the last two or three years. The largest export, including small parcels from Bahia, in which neighbourhood there is not any increased culture, appears not in any one year to have exceeded 1,700,000 cwts. It is a known fact that the value of Negroes—therefore labour—has advanced during the few last years in the Brazils at least 100 per cent., and that, in many instances, the proceeds at Rio have not covered the planter for the heavy expense of carriage to the coast. Who will, in a tropical climate, continue to grow an article that does not pay, or even extend its culture, when other agricultural objects can be produced, that are remunerating, and which cannot be wanting in a country like the Brazils? Without carrying this argument any further, it may be said that it is well known that the supply of coffee from the Brazils is not expected to be so large as it has been during the last seasons. Respecting the culture of coffee in Java, it has been impossible to obtain positive information in this country, and it is not likely that any such can be had even in Holland or from Batavia; the farming contracts of the Dutch government with the growers, which were made many years ago, are soon expiring, and it must then be seen what the effect of a new and different rate of payment will be. An increase of production is not likely to take place, when a reduction in the price which the grower will obtain may be considered as certain, and it is equally improbable that the Dutch company—as they did in September, and again for the forthcoming sale—should keep up prices by taxing their coffee at an upset price, if they were aware that their importation during the next year or two would be larger again. It appears to be unnecessary to state more on this subject in order to demonstrate the improbability of a further increase of the importation of coffee from Java.

It will be observed, that in a period of five or six years the increase of the production in Java has amounted to 100 per cent., and in the Brazils to 70 per cent. Is the present value in Europe such as to encourage a similar further expansion, or any increase at all? There has not been any material augmentation in the import of coffee from Java into Holland during the last two years. As regards the West Indies, there is no increase in most of the colonies, and a decided decrease in the produce of the British. Jamaica coffee is now, in bond, 100 per cent. dearer than a corresponding quality from Cuba, Laguayra, &c., and still it does not pay the grower his outlay of rent, &c.; the French and Dutch West Indies are not more prosperous. It may be concluded that the total produce of all the above-mentioned growing countries will not for the next following years exceed 4,500,000 cwts.

Proceeding to investigate the consumption of coffee in the countries which do not produce it, it appears that in 1837 and 1838 it is stated to have amounted to 3,270,000 cwts.; viz.—

England	240,000 cwts.
France	450,000
Holland and Belgium	700,000
Germany, Austria, &c.	950,000
Russia, Sweden, &c.	150,000
Italy and Mediterranean	300,000
Spain and Portugal	80,000
United States of North America	400,000

We must remark that the latter estimate, which is taken from the *American Almanac* for the year 1841, page 145, appears to be somewhat underrated.

At present the consumption, based as far as possible upon official statistical returns for the last two years, is stated to amount to 4,740,000 cwts.; viz.—

England	280,000 cwts.
France	480,000
Holland and Belgium	850,000
Germany (a) Customs Union	800,000
(b) Other Countries and Switzerland	200,000
(c) Austria and Bohemia	300,000
Hungary and East of Europe	80,000
Russia, Poland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, &c.	200,000
Italy, European Turkey, Levant, North Africa, and other Mediterranean Countries	350,000
Spain and Portugal	100,000
United States of N. America, Canada, Texas, &c.	1,100,000

The most important conclusion resulting from these statements is, that the consumption exceeds production; and though the excess of the former does not yet appear to be considerable, it is far more probable that it will further increase than that an opposite movement towards a surplus of production over consumption should be observable for some years to come.

The advance in the consumption, as shown, amounts, within the space of five years, to about 1,500,000 cwts., and is, therefore, much greater than that of the production; its greatest ratio is in the United States of North America, where it amounts to 150 per cent. according to official accounts, and where coffee is free of duty, a proof of the great expansion of which the trade in articles of consumption is capable, if unshackled.

In the states of the German Union the official returns of coffee duty paid in 1834, show 408,688 cwts. In 1842 the same documentary evidence states the quantity to be 713,682 cwts.; increase, therefore, in eight years, 75 per cent., or 9½ per cent. per annum. Taking all the consuming countries, besides the United States, the increase of consumption in five years amounts to 27 per cent., or 5 per cent. per annum; but including America, to 45 per cent., or 9 per cent. annually. It is not difficult to guess what, according to these calculations, the advance is likely to be in 1844 and in 1845. If the consumption is estimated at 9 per cent. more than 1843, 5,200,000 cwts. will be required; and it is probable that this estimate is rather too low. This quantity exceeds by about 700,000 cwts. the greatest amount that has been as yet produced.

Can it be expected that either the Brazils or Java, or both countries together, will in one year advance their growth so much as 700,000 cwts., or is a decrease of the consumption likely, when we see all the nations of Europe more prosperous than perhaps at any period within the last five years?

We have endeavoured to ascertain whether in the interior of the principal consuming countries the quantities held by dealers and retailers are larger or smaller than usually in former years. The result is, that in no one instance the stocks have been kept up as large as formerly; everywhere they are stated to be much smaller. This is easily accounted for by the total want of confidence in the prices caused by the almost perpetual decline in the value. It is sufficiently known, that our grocers and dealers, both in town and country, hold unusually light stocks. What would be the effect in all the great markets if every retailer and dealer, of which perhaps one may be counted for every 1,000 or 1,500 other individuals, began to take more stock, though each of them only at the rate of a few cwts.?

Since the great rise of the Brazils and Java, our English markets have become less important for export coffee. British manufactured goods represent the value of coffee which our merchants must take from the Brazils, whose principal medium of payment it is; and our restrictive commercial policy does not allow our trader to consume at home that which he has received in barter against the product of his industry; he must send it to other distant countries, and there exchange it against something else, which the law then allows him to take, such as wool from Germany, &c. &c.; thus we receive from the latter country the payment for the goods which we send to the Brazils. Still our stocks of coffee are considerable. In our market they consist of 65,000 cwts. of Ceylon and British West India, subject to a duty of 4d. per lb.; and 237,000 cwts., the produce of foreign colonies, on which the duty is 8d. per lb.; total, 302,000 cwts. Of this total, there are 145,000 cwts. exclusively applicable for home consumption, viz., 65,000 cwts. of Ceylon, 20,000 cwts. of Mocha, and 60,000 cwts. of high-priced East India descriptions. The remaining 157,000 cwts. consist of 70,000 cwts. of ordinary East India, 14,000 cwts. of St Domingo, 60,000 cwts. Brazil, and 13,000 cwts. of Laguayra, Havana, &c. Of these, 157,000 cwts., at least one-half, mostly belonging to opulent holders, has been long on hand; it could not be realized without loss, even at an advance of 50 per cent. upon present prices, and it is therefore withdrawn from the market. Of the other half, about 50,000 cwts. have recently passed into the hands of speculators, and are therefore held for higher prices.

The stock of coffee in the principal European markets (Holland, Antwerp, Hamburg, Trieste, Spain, and England) amounted, on the 1st of February, 1844, to about 1,500,000 cwts. If we add those in the less important ports, in the Baltic, Bremen, Bordeaux, Cadiz, Marseilles, Genoa, Leghorn, &c., which are estimated at less than 200,000 cwts., they form a supply not quite sufficient for half a year's consumption, at the annual rate of 3,600,000 cwts. for Europe alone, and not counting the probable increase of consumption in 1844.

The bonded prices of coffee in London are at present as follows:—British West India, ordinary to middling, 54s. to 105s.; Mocha, 67s. to 85s.; Ceylon, 67s. to 70.; Batavia, 38s. to 45s.; Padang, 32s. to 34s.; Sumatra, 28s. to 29s.; St Domingo, 31s. to 34s.; Brazil, 31s. to 35s.; Havana, 40s. to 45s., per cwt., in bond.

POLITICAL.

Ministers are hurrying on the estimates, which shows, perhaps, that they are not bad "business men" after all. With another year's cash secured, they no doubt calculate on being able to weather the storm for that period. In vain Mr Williams pro-

poses to reduce expenses, and Mr Crawford to reduce the number of the army. These are reckoned Quixotic proposals. So also is Mr Williams's motion that the business should all be gone through before midnight. Honourable members are of opinion that their work is most suitably accomplished in the darkness of night. They will find many to concur with them in the opinion. But they should rather look upon such concurrence as a reason for changing their method of legislation than any approval of it.

On Monday, Mr Crawford made a sort of formal announcement that he did not mean to persist in his motion for stopping the supplies. He very candidly confessed that he did not find such support either in Parliament or out of doors, as tended to justify him in any vexatious perseverance in his plan; and he therefore relinquishes it with good taste and in honour. To be successful Mr Crawford must be backed by a *strong public opinion*; let him, therefore, devote himself to the formation of that.

With the exception of the discussion on Mr Labouchere's motion on the Brazil trade, to which we elsewhere in to-day's paper direct specific attention, there has been nothing said or done in the House of Commons which calls in this place for any remark. Mr Cobden's notice of motion for inquiry into the condition of tenant farmers and farm labourers, as affected by the prohibitory taxes on foreign importations, now stands for discussion on Tuesday. But that being the day of the dinner to O'Connell, in Covent Garden, it may very probably be again postponed. Mr Hutt and Mr Ricardo have each also postponed their motions on the subject of the corn laws; and Mr Ewart has given notice that, on Thursday next, he will move for a repeal of the taxes which press heavily upon the people, as well as those which tend to encourage smuggling. There will be tough work for the anti-free-trade party before all these discussions are got over: and to crown all, Mr Villiers's annual motion will have to be met after Easter. Nor is it on the subject of free trade alone that attacks on Ministers are meditated. Mr Ward, honourably consistent in his career of opposition to the greatest blot of Christianity which Europe presents, has given notice that, on as early a day as possible after Easter, he shall move for a committee of the whole House to inquire into the present state of the temporalities of the Irish Church. Thus, on all hands, bigotry, tyranny, and injustice are attacked. By degrees they must, and will, give way.

The *Times* has this week had a couple of articles signalized by extraordinary malignity towards Mr O'Connell, and actually *bound* Ministers on to his imprisonment. In the meantime the agitator remains in England, regaining for himself all the sympathies which his late imprudence and excesses had lost. His reception at Birmingham on Wednesday appears to have been scarcely second in any respect to the welcome lately given him at Covent Garden; and again in that place, on Tuesday, he is to be the public guest of a great array of the talent, influence, worth, and rank of our metropolis. Where was there ever such a "conspirator" before? Giving way to a mean malignity, Ministers may certainly immure his body in a dungeon—but his influence is not to be destroyed. By such means it can only be heightened.

The *India Mail* brings word of more war, and the loss of nearly a thousand men. Ten gallant British officers, with General Churchill at their head, have perished on the field of battle, and in return we are to be acknowledged "protectors," and are no doubt in time to become the masters of an insignificant district called Gwalior! Indeed, a writer in the *Morning Chronicle* points to the ultimate fate of this kingdom with much frankness. As to the policy or justice of such proceedings, "much may be said on both sides." "We shall not," the *Chronicle* says, "apropos of Gwalior, exclaim against the iniquity of all wars and all conquests—a species of cant indulged in by those who very coolly accept and pocket the results. There is a difference between extending conquest beyond our frontiers, and beyond those limits which we have ourselves declared to be natural ones, and reducing those anomalous and nominally independent kingdoms which subsist in the midst, or, as Gwalior, in the very centre of our empire, disturbing its repose, and exposing us to such severe losses as we have just experienced in an effort—which was in reality merely an effort—to keep peace and order. Faith should be kept with princes and with princely families; but we should feel very little compunction in annexing such regions to our empire as are already surrounded by and dependent upon it, on the death of princes who leave neither heirs nor a system of government to be continued. If a due regard be had to economy, to living or hereditary interests, we see not why we should prolong a barbarous *regime* for form's sake, and for the affectation of a disinterestedness to which we have no just claim." We might well ask the *Chronicle*, What are the natural limits of the British empire? But we forbear. The question is surrounded with difficulties in practice, whatever view be taken; and we can only hope that the blessings of communicated Christianity, extended commerce, and civilization, will ultimately make amends for the present evils which attend our hostile, if necessitated, inroads on the weaker races of our fellow creatures.

FOREIGN.

REPORTED MILITARY CONSPIRACY IN PARIS.—The *Courrier Francais* states, that "although the report of a military conspiracy having been discovered amongst the troops in the garrison of Paris, as announced in the *National* of Monday, gains ground amongst the public, the friends of the ministry consider it as a pure invention. The ministerial journals, however, are silent on the subject. The fact is sufficiently important to be contradicted if it do not exist. Marshal Soult held a conference on Monday evening with several generals and commanders of regiments." We find the following in the *Reforme*:—"The ministerial evening journals do not in the most remote degree allude to the arrests which had taken place within the last two days in the 70th regiment of the line. This news, however, formed the principal subject of conversation in the chambers and at the Bourse. As ready as the ministry were to speak of the pretended conspiracy in the Rue Pastourel, they appear to be equally anxious to conceal what occurred at the barracks of Neuilly and elsewhere. It is, therefore, difficult to ascertain the truth in the midst of so much contradiction. The report of certain superior officers having been arrested has been contradicted, but there exists no doubt of the fact of a number of non-commissioned officers and privates having been committed to the prison of the Abbaye. It is said that the conspirators had confederates in other regiments. The military authorities are increasing their precautions; the garrison is consigned. All leave of absence has been withdrawn, and several councils formed of general officers have been held at the Tuileries."

PORTUGAL.

The cortes re-opened on the 21st instant. The minister, Cabral, called on the chambers for the continuation of the law of the 6th instant, suspending the guarantees of individual liberty, and the liberty of the press till the 31st of March. The official accounts represent the insurrection as nearly suppressed. Columns and brigades, generals, barons, and viscounts appear to have been continually pursuing the insurgents from the 6th to the 24th, and never to come up with them to the latter date. The latest intelligence from the Baron de Leiria, states that the insurgents had not succeeded in crossing the Douro at Alva, and that he counted within two days to be able to report the suppression of the revolt. A change of ministry appeared to be at hand—had it occurred six weeks ago an insurrection might have been avoided.

CAPTURE OF GWALIOR.

The intelligence brought by the Overland Mail possesses great interest. As the Governor-General could place no confidence in the ruler of Gwalior, orders were given to march the British army into Sindia, and on the 25th of December it entered that territory, not as an enemy, says the Governor-General, in a proclamation dated Dec. 27, but as a friend to the Maharaja, bound by treaty to protect his highness's person, and to maintain his sovereign authority against all who are disobedient and disturbers of the peace. The Governor-General has no object but that of seeing re-established in the territories of Sindia a strong government, willing and able to preserve the accustomed relations of friendship with the British government and all its allies—a government which may at all times do justice to the army as well as to the people, but command both for the good of all. The Governor-General cautions the evil advisers of the Maharane, that they will themselves be held responsible for any resistance which may be offered to the measures deemed to be necessary for the establishment of the Maharaja's just authority, and for the security of his person and rights. At first, affairs exhibited a peaceful tendency, but soon changed. On the 25th, it was found that the Mahratta troops had already taken up a position within six or seven miles of our camp. From the moment the Maharane heard of our intention to continue our advance, opposition had been resolved on. Colonels Baptiste and Jacob were sent to obstruct our progress with as large a force as could be collected. The Boondela and Pindarie tribes had been written to, and gathered in great numbers; so that, by the 28th a force consisting of about 14,000 infantry, and 3,000 cavalry, and 100 pieces of artillery, was posted in a formidable and well-selected position, right in the line of our march. On the 25th and 27th proclamations were issued for the information of the Mahrattas, explanatory of the objects and purposes of our army in entering the territory of Sindia. The left wing of the army, under General Grey, which had been assembled at Jhansee, had received directions to march up towards Gwalior, and hearing of this proceeding, the Mahaaree and her advisers despatched an army of 12,000 men, with thirty guns, under Colonel Secunder, to meet it. The enemy's principal position was the village of Maharajpoo, which they had occupied with seven infantry corps, each supported by four guns, and which were entrenched. This position had been taken up on the night of the 28th, and their occupation of it rendered some change necessary in the disposition of the troops. The British loss was rather severe, the list amounting to 144 killed, and 866 wounded. The British army, under the command of General Sir Hugh Gough, consisted of 14,000 infantry, 300 cavalry, and 40 guns. The force opposed to it was about 15,000 strong, with 3,000 cavalry, and 100 guns. We regret to state that several officers fell in the two actions, which took place on the 28th and 29th of December.

We are glad to find that the sickness in the army of Scinde, was much abated. Sir Charles Napier was to start on an expedition in the direction of Sukkur early this month. The regiments to accompany him are her Majesty's 86th, 78th Highlanders, and the 25th native infantry, with horse artillery, and a portion of the 2d cavalry. The whole of the Bombay troops in Scinde amounted, on the 12th of January, to 9,870—of whom 2,890 were unfit for duty, in consequence of sickness. The Bengal troops and Scinde horse amounted to from 4,000 to 5,000. A medical committee has been appointed to inquire into the causes of the recent sickness.

The state of affairs in the Punjab remained still very unsettled. The accounts from Afghanistan, Bundelkund, and the neighbouring states, furnish no intelligence of the slightest interest. The same may be said of the news from China.

PUBLIC AMUSEMENTS.

HAYMARKET THEATRE.—A new drama, in two acts, called the *Marriage of Reason*, was performed at this theatre on Monday night. Like nineteen out of twenty new pieces which are now-a-days produced at our theatres, it is an importation from France, but has suffered a good deal in the process of "doing into English." The subject is very slight. A young gentleman, the son of a French general, has fallen in love with a damsel of lower degree, his foster-sister. They have been brought up together from childhood, and she returns his passion. The old gentleman discovers their mutual attachment, and prevents a foolish marriage by ordering his son to go upon his travels; and bestowing the girl upon a lame sergeant, who had been his companion in arms. The girl consents to this self-sacrifice from a high-minded sense of duty to her benefactor's family. Not so the young gentleman: his love is selfish; and he refuses to give up his mistress, even when married to another. The young wife, at first, is in despair; but she discovers by degrees that her husband, a plain, blunt soldier, and lame to boot, is one of the worthiest of men; while on the other hand, she finds out that her lover had been as desperately enamoured two or three times before. She becomes, of course, reconciled to her lot, and happy in her "marriage of reason." These incidents, which are sufficient to make the subject of a one-act piece, are, by the help of a couple of buffo characters, who have no other business but that of making the audience laugh, and by the help of a great deal of prosy talk, are wiredrawn into two acts of very great length; and the business of the piece moves so very slowly, especially in the first act, that the audience exhibited unequivocal signs of impatience. In the second act the interest increased; and some effective scenes admirably acted by Madame Celeste and Webster were much applauded. But at the final fall of the curtain the applause was mingled with so much disapprobation that the result seemed to be a failure. Buckstone and Mrs Humby laboured hard to be entertaining in the parts of *Monsieur* and *Madame Pinchon*, a French rustic and his wife; and, if they were not very successful, the fault was certainly not of theirs.

Another French novelty was produced on Wednesday night—a version, by Buckstone, of *La Fille du Regiment*, which, with Donizetti's music, was so popular at the Opera Comique. It is called *Josephine*; or, *the Fortune of War*, and, on the strength of a couple of ballads sung by Mrs Fitzwilliam, and a couple of chorusses, it is called a musical drama. Setting the music aside, which (as performed) is no great advantage to the piece, it is exceedingly lively and entertaining, went off with great spirit, and was completely successful. The heroine, represented by Mrs Fitzwilliam, is a young girl, who, when an infant, had been found on one of Napoleon's bloody fields by one of his soldiers, and has been brought up among them. She is the *vivandiere* of the Twenty-first, "the daughter of the regiment," and the idol of her "eight hundred fathers." Nothing can be more piquant than Mrs Fitzwilliam's personation of the character, with her manners of the *corps de garde*, her military spirit, notions, and language, all tempered and softened down by native grace and feminine tenderness. During the first act she is in the midst of her comrades (or rather her fathers), in the neighbourhood of a chateau in the Tyrol. By a strange discovery it turns out that she is the niece of the lady of the mansion, her sister having married a young soldier who had fallen on the field where the infant was found. Before this occurrence she had formed an attachment to *Guillot*, a young peasant, who for her love had joined the regiment. In the second act we find her an inmate of the chateau. The restoration has taken place; for two years she has heard nothing of the Twenty-first, and with a heavy heart is undergoing the tortures of fashionable breeding, and about to be sacrificed by a marriage with an illustrious duke of the old aristocracy. The scene where the poor girl, dressed in the extreme of the mode of the *vieille cour*, is, after being duly disciplined and admonished, presented in form to her lordly admirer, whom she astounds by involuntary outbreaks of her old military *brusquerie*, threw the audience into convulsions. Meanwhile Napoleon has returned from Elba, his old soldiers are hastening to meet him. *Josephine* hears the distant sound of military music—she listens—it is the march of the Twenty-first. In an ecstasy of joy, she rushes from the room, leaving her courtly relatives staring after her, to fly into the arms of her old fathers. Among them she finds her rustic sweetheart *Guillot*, now a brave and distinguished officer, to whom, after several interesting and well-conducted scenes, she is, of course, united. This very clever piece owed its great success chiefly to the admirable acting of Mrs Fitzwilliam; and after her, to that of Mr Buckstone, who performed the part of *Guillot*. The fine old sergeant *Scalade*, *Josephine's* principal father and protector, was represented with manly roughness by Mr J. Bland. The aristocratic parts were poorly done—the manners of the old court being coarsely caricatured. On the whole, however, we have not for a long time seen a piece which has given us greater amusement.

ADELPHI THEATRE.—A new piece, by Mr Edward Stirling, under the title of *Ulrica*; or, *the Prisoner of State*, was produced at this theatre on Monday night. The drama consists of two acts, and describes the career of villainy pursued by a Prussian nobleman, *Count d'Osborn*, who accuses another, high in favour with the *King of Prussia*, of conspiring against the life of his sovereign. Having obtained his condemnation, the latter is immured for fifteen years in the dungeon of a fortress, of which the *Count* is governor. The latter afterwards alleges the death of his prisoner, weds his lady, and having gained possession of their infant daughter, gives her in charge to a peasant. At the expiration of fifteen years, the first scene opens with the accidental discovery by *Ulrica*, the daughter (Mrs Yates), that she is the child of the prisoner in the fortress, and she resolves to gain access to her parent. Her adventures in combination with collateral incidents make up the piece, and the *denouement* represents the happy union of the long separated parties, and the punishment of the baron. The piece appeared to have sufficient interest, and the characters were in general well sustained. It was favourably received throughout, and announced for repetition.

JULIEN'S BAL MASQUE.—The masquerade on Monday night at

Covent Garden, under the direction of M. Jullien, was the most splendid and best conducted affair of the kind ever attempted in this country. Its great success was the only thing against it, inasmuch as the immense assemblage precluded that freedom of locomotion which is so very desirable on all occasions, and more especially at a party of pleasure. The ball is said to have taken place under high patronage, and certainly all the boxes, public and private, were well filled with company. The costumes were numerous and mostly of a handsome description; but there was little attempt to keep up the assumed character. Decidedly the best mask was a Chinese, of full, vast face, and black robe. In order to add comfort to the other accommodations of the night, a new carpet, to the extent of 1,050 yards, had been laid down, reaching from the front of the dress circle, over the pit, to the back of the stage. The columns of the different boxes were wreathed with artificial flowers, whilst the *eclairage* combined the effects of gas, oil, and candles. One portion of the gorgeous display of light issued from six cut-glass chandeliers, each of the value (as we understood) of between 1,100*l.* and 1,200*l.*, whilst another portion proceeded from lamps of or-molu of the most expensive nature. The arrangements with respect to the dancing were of the most efficient character. Six masters of the ceremonies, each carrying a wand of office, had been appointed, whose sole duty it was to make up and regulate the various "sets," whether for quadrilles, for the waltz, or for the galop. As to the music, it will be quite sufficient to say that M. Jullien superintended this department, to make it perfectly clear that it was perfectly managed. There were seventy performers, who played the beauties of Musard, Tolbecque, Koenig, Strauss, Lanner, Auber, Costa, Cooke, Labitsky, in addition to many of the most popular of Jullien's own compositions. There was likewise a Scotch reel, for which the native music of Scotland was played by McKay, the magnificent piper to the late Duke of Sussex. In all there were forty-nine quadrilles, waltzes, and galops played.

BIRTHS, DEATHS, AND MARRIAGES.

The fifth annual report of the Registrar-General of Births, Deaths, and Marriages, in England (lately issued from Somerset house), embraces a large mass of deeply-interesting and important matter. The whole of the report, of which we purpose giving an abstract, deserves to be carefully perused and studied by all who take an interest in vital statistics. The mode in which the document is drawn up reflects great credit upon Mr George Graham, the Registrar-General. He has displayed great industry in the collection of his facts, and talent and ingenuity in their arrangement and classification. The marriages, births, and deaths, in the years 1839, 1840, and 1841, were as follows:—

	1839.	1840.	1841.
Marriages . . .	123,166	122,665	122,496
Births	492,574	502,303	512,158
Deaths	338,979	359,634	343,847

The marriages in 1841 were 1 in 130; births, 1 in 31; deaths, 1 in 46 of the population; the average of the two preceding years having been, of marriages, 1 in 127; births, 1 in 31; deaths, 1 in 45. Thus in 1841, 769 marriages, 3,217 births, and 2,160 deaths, were registered to every 100,000 of the population. The marriages have diminished slightly in number every year. The falling off was chiefly in the metropolis, in Cheshire, Lancashire, Yorkshire, and the western division of the kingdom. There was a remarkable decrease in Monmouthshire. The fluctuation is coincident with the depression or prosperity of industry or trade in various parts of the country. The greatest number of marriages took place in autumn, and the smallest in winter. The report contains an abstract of the number of widows and widowers remarried in the last half year of 1841. It appears of 65,498 women married, 5,888, or 9 in 100, were widows; of the same number of men, 8,476, or 13 in 100, were widowers. During the years 1839, 1840, and 1841, the average annual number of marriages was 122,777, so that 106,957 men, and 111,765 women, or 218,740 persons, marry every year.

One in every 72 males, and 1 in 72 females, are married annually in England. The proportion of re-marriages is greatest in the metropolis, and in the northern, western, and York divisions, where the mortality is highest, and where families are therefore most frequently broken up by the death of the husband or wife. Under the age of 21, 5,362 men and 16,285 women were married. This is a startling discrepancy. Thirty-three in 100 men, and 49 in 100 women married in 1841, signed the registers with their marks. Of the 122,496 marriages in 1841, 114,371 took place in conformity with the rites of the established church; 13 by special license; 972 by superintendent-registrar's certificate. By bans, 94,298 were married; by license, 19,088. Of the 8,125 marriages not performed in the established church, 5,882 were in registered places of worship, 2,064 in superintendent-registrar's offices, 66 between Quakers, and 113 between Jews. During 1841, 151 additional buildings have been registered for the solemnization of marriages.

BIRTHS.

In 1841, 512,158 births were registered; in 1840, 502,303; 1839, 492,574. Three births were registered to every two deaths. The rate of births over deaths during the three years (1839, 1840, and 1841) was 474,575, or 158,192 annually. More births take place in winter than in summer.

Years.	Winter.	Spring.	Summer.	Autumn.	Total.
1839	123,543	128,806	120,115	120,110	492,574
1840	132,305	129,059	119,822	121,117	502,303
1841	133,720	129,884	123,868	124,686	512,150
Total	389,568	387,749	363,805	365,913	1,507,027
Mean	129,856	129,250	121,268	121,971	502,345

In the last two quarters of 1841, of 248,554 children registered, 15,839 were illegitimate; so 1 in 16 of the children born in England is not born in wedlock. In England 64 to 100 children are born illegiti-

mate. The proportion in France is 71 in 100. Of the legitimate births the boys are to the girls as 105.4 to 100.0; of illegitimate births the boys are 108.0 to 100.0.

DEATHS.

The deaths in the year ending December 31, 1841, amounted to 343,847. Upon comparing the deaths in 1840 and 1841 there will be found a decrease of 16,787. The deaths were more numerous (99,069) in the winter of 1841 than in the winter of any preceding year; but in the spring the decline commenced, which reduced the mortality in the following quarters below the mean mortality of the four years. The deaths in the four winter quarters, viz., those of 1839, 1840, and 1841, were 385,764; in the four summer quarters, 305,333; the deaths in the four springs, 355,248; in the autumns, 338,662. If the mortality were uniformly at the same rate as in the winter, 391,059 deaths would happen annually; if at the same rate as in summer, 302,827 deaths would be registered. These exhibit the striking effects of cold upon mortality; also of the crowding and privations to which a considerable portion of the population is necessarily more exposed in cold than in warm weather. The births and deaths are most numerous in winter, marriages in autumn; whilst the smaller number of births and deaths occur in summer, and marriages in winter. An elaborate tabular statement, we are happy to say, establishes a decrease of the high rate of mortality which prevailed in 1839 and 1840 in the manufacturing divisions. The marriages and births are most numerous where the mortality is highest.

ECCLESIASTICAL COURTS BILL.—Lord Lyndhurst has introduced a bill entitled, "An Act to consolidate the jurisdiction and improve the practice of the Ecclesiastical Courts of England and Wales, and for otherwise altering and amending the law in certain matters ecclesiastical." It consists of as many as 101 clauses, and appears to be founded on the report of the Ecclesiastical Commission. By the provisions of this bill, all peculiar jurisdictions are abolished, and merged in the respective archdeacons and dioceses. The Archidiaconal Courts (with the exception of Cornwall, Leicester, Nottingham, and Suffolk) are deprived of the power to grant probates or administrations and marriage licenses. The Diocesan Courts, however, are allowed to retain their full powers, it being optional with the judge, or either of the parties to the suit, to send to the Court of Arches. Licenses are abolished, and compensation is provided for loss of emoluments, &c. Acting deputies are all to become principals, and to be paid by salaries, to be fixed by the judges of the respective courts, out of a fee fund, to which all fees, &c., are to be carried. The amount of salary is subject to the approbation of the Lords of her Majesty's Treasury. The act is not to extend to tithes within the city of London.

WHAT HAVE THE CORN LAWS DONE FOR TENANT FARMERS?—Whatever advantage the landlords may derive from the corn laws, it may be truly said that the tenantry have got no benefit from them, as I shall proceed to show from an examination of the result of farming on the estates of two large landowners in this county, the rental of which may be from 8,000*l.* to 10,000*l.* per annum. The first estate to which I shall allude is Gilmerton, belonging to Sir David Kinloch, and consisting of six farms, besides home farm, with grass parks, &c. Within the last thirty or thirty-five years, three tenants have left this property without being ruined—viz., Mr Brown, Markle; Mr Broke, Crauchie; and Mr A. Somerville, Athelstanford; the last-named gentleman being the only person who had a lease renewed during this period on the estate. Ruined and left their farms—one tenant of the farm of Athelstanford, a second tenant of Athelstanford, a third tenant of the same farm, a tenant of the joint farms of Markle, Markle Mains, and Crauchie, a tenant of the farm of Kilduff, a second tenant of Markle Mains, and a second tenant of Crauchie; making, in all, seven tenants ruined within thirty-five years. The other estate belongs to Mr Hope, of Luffness, now Under-Secretary for the Colonies, and consists of five farms, with grass parks, &c. There have left this property during the same time, without being ruined, two tenants—viz., Mr Yule, Aberlady Mains; and Mr Reid, Brownrig. Leases were renewed to three old tenants—Mr Reid, Mr B. Rennie, and Mr Darling. Ruined and left their farms during the same period—a tenant of Luffness Muir, a second tenant of Luffness Muir, a tenant of Westfortune, a tenant of Aberlady Mains, and a tenant of Waughton. Now, of the five tenants on both estates who left their farms without being ruined, it is well known that four of them succeeded to large sums of money by the death of relations, which rendered them quite independent of their farms—Mr Brown, Mr Yule, Mr Reid, and Mr A. Somerville; and hence, *only one tenant of those depending entirely on farming have left these estates for upwards of thirty years without being ruined!* Such, then, has been the working of the corn laws—such the effects of the boasted protection to the tenantry! Had a foreign enemy ravaged the county the consequences could not have been more disastrous to the tenantry, nor could they have suffered more than they have done by the corn laws; for trusting to parliamentary prices, which never have been realized, they have been induced to enter into large engagements, and to sink their capital in improving their farms; and when rent day came, being unable to satisfy the factors, their stock and all their means were sequestrated, and they were thus turned adrift penniless upon the world. The entire rental drawn from these estates during the period stated may probably amount to 300,000*l.* The tenants should have received as their fair share of this, or according to landlord logic, 100,000*l.*; but instead of this, I believe the capital *lost* by them during the same time is equal to the whole amount at present invested in the cultivation of these lands; for on the twelve farms which constitute these estates, the capital of thirteen tenants has totally disappeared, having been seized on by the landlords! Such, then, has been the result of farming extensively, under the present protective system, in a county situated in the best climate of Scotland, and where agriculture has been brought to the greatest perfection by the enterprise of farmers of intelligence, education, and large capital, by whose exertions and industry their landlords have been enriched and enabled to live in a state of luxury and splendour which their ancestors could never anticipate, while their tenants have at the same time been reduced to poverty and want.—*Correspondent of Scotsman.*

A new trade, namely, the importation of guano from Africa, is just now commencing energetically. Two cargoes have already arrived, and many more may be shortly expected; meanwhile the farmers in this neighbourhood are very backward in making a trial of it. Report speaks very favourably; and, indeed, it seems as if at low prices a considerable business might be carried with advantage both to the consumer and importer.—*Liverpool Mercury.*

AGRICULTURAL PROPHECIES TESTED BY FACTS.

In the year 1814, when wheat was selling at 74s. the quarter, the landholders and farmers took alarm at the *lowness* of the price.

The Commons' Committee in their summary say:—"It is the concurrent opinion of most of the other witnesses, that 80s. is the *lowest price* which would afford to the British grower an adequate remuneration." This is pretty well, but better remains. "Several other witnesses, equally distinguished for their knowledge and experience in matters connected with the letting of estates and the agriculture of the country, say that the price of 80s. a quarter will not afford a sufficient protection to the British grower."

Mr William Driver, land agent, says, that in 1809-10, lands were let on the supposition that wheat would bring from 25l. to 30l. per load, that is, from 103s. to 124s. the imperial quarter. At present (1814) they were let on the supposition of wheat yielding 80s. (or 82s. 6d. imperial.)

Mr John Bennett, Wiltshire, a landholder, who also farmed himself says that wheat could not be grown "on lands of fair average quality" at less than 12s. the bushel, or 99s. the imperial quarter. If it were to fall to 9s. 6d. (that is 78s. 6d. imperial quarter), rents would be reduced three-fifths, and a farm then paying 1,000l. would only yield 400l. This was clearly made out by elaborate calculations!

The famous Arthur Young, the agricultural oracle of the day, considered 87s. for wheat, 42s. for barley, and 31s. for oats, to be the prices necessary to enable the tenant to realize 10 per cent. on his capital, which he and all the other witnesses held to be the minimum rate of profit.

Nearly all the witnesses concur also in declaring, that if wheat fell below the prices named, large quantities of land would inevitably be thrown out of cultivation, and a vast number of labourers be deprived of employment. The lands which would be turned waste were the light lands, which yielded small crops of wheat with little labour, and the "heavy tillage or clay lands," which yielded good crops, but were expensive in working.

How ludicrous are these predictions when compared with the subsequent course of events! What a grotesque figure do the alarms and miscalculations of the landholders and farmers of 1814 cut, with the commentary which time has written upon them! Yet, in the face of these recorded failures, which are well known to themselves, they are trying to gull the public, and frighten the agricultural labourers, by playing off the same predictions, the same false alarms, the same fictitious calculations, over again. The landlords have an interest in misleading the other classes, and they have too long found the people credulous dupes; but happily, at length, even the farmers and labourers are beginning to open their eyes to the deceptions practised upon them.

Let us apply the touchstone of arithmetic to the prophecies of 1814, and we shall then be prepared to estimate the value of the new prophecies of 1844.

The population of Ireland was found, by an incomplete census in 1813, to be 5,937,000; that of Britain in 1814, can be shown by a calculation grounded on the census of 1811 and 1821, to have been 13,157,000. The population of both islands, in 1841, was 26,904,000; and the addition since, at 1-34 per cent. per annum, is 992,000. Hence—

Present population of Britain and Ireland.....	27,896,000
Population in 1814	19,095,000
	8,801,000

We now raise food for 8,800,000 persons more than existed in 1814. It follows that tillage must have been extended in the same proportion, namely 46 per cent., and nobody, so far as we know, pretends that the consumption of wheat is not as great in proportion to the other species of grain as it ever was.

Now, the average price of wheat under the late corn law, from 1828 to April 1842, was 56s. 11d., which will be reduced to 56s. 6d. by the lower prices of the last two years.

And we find, from a table now before us, that the average price of wheat for the whole period from 1815 to 1842, was 59s.

Let us now compare the Prophecies with the Facts:—
PROPHECY.—It was the nearly unanimous assertion of the agricultural prophets that the "lowest price" which would remunerate the farmer for growing wheat, was 82s. 6d. the imperial quarter. Many contended for 99s.

FACT.—The price realized has been 59s.

PROPHECY.—If the price fell to 64s. or 70s., it was affirmed that no rent could be paid.

FACT.—With an average price of 59s. rents have actually increased, as the income-tax returns will speedily prove.

PROPHECY.—If the price fell much below that mentioned (82s. 6d. to 99s. imperial), a vast quantity of land would be thrown out of cultivation; the orators of the party said one-third at least.

FACT.—With an average of 59s., so far from tillage being diminished one-third, it has been extended 40 per cent., or nearly one-half.

PROPHECY.—If the fall supposed took place, the number of labourers employed would be vastly diminished.

FACT.—A greater fall by far has taken place, and the number of labourers employed has increased 40 per cent. at least; for their number must be nearly in proportion to the produce.

Were ever assertions more completely disproved? Were ever prophecies more signally falsified by the event?

Yet, assuming that the public have forgot these things, "the creatures are at their dirty work again"—attempting to frighten the isle from its propriety by fabricated facts and baseless predictions, which have not a tittle of the plausibility of those with which their predecessors attempted to gull the last generation.

No sensible man believes, that with ports perpetually open, the price of wheat, on an average of years, would fall below what it was for many years before 1793, namely, 46s. the Winchester quarter, or 47s. 6d. imperial. Now, we have seen the price reduced from 90s. to 59s., and in recent years to 56s. 6d.; and if after such a fall farmers still make their bread, landlords still draw their rents, and labourers are at least as well off, and employed in greater numbers—we ask whether the slightest reason exists for raising an alarm about a possible fall which cannot exceed a few shillings more?—and this, too, in the midst of improvements which are every day adding to the productiveness of the soil.—*Scotsman.*

DEVIZES ELECTION.—Lord Granville Somerset has reported from the General Committee of Elections, that they have appointed Wednesday, the 20th day of March instant, to choose the select committee to try the Devizes Election Petition.

PETITIONS TO PARLIAMENT.—The total number of petitions against a repeal of the corn laws now amounts to 84, signed by 9,787 persons; against the union of the Diocese of Bangor and St Asaph 23 petitions, signed by 1,769 persons; and for a repeal of the union between Great Britain and Ireland 201 petitions, signed by 383,652 persons.

FREE-TRADE MOVEMENTS.

ANTI-CORN-LAW LEAGUE.

This body held its usual weekly meeting at Covent Garden Theatre, on Wednesday evening. The attendance was, as usual, overflowing. In the absence of Mr Wilson, who was attending a meeting at Manchester, the Hon. C. P. Villiers took the chair, amidst loud applause. Space would fail us to enumerate the distinguished gentlemen who took their places on the stage and other parts of the immense building. The minutes of the former meeting having been read and approved of,

The Chairman came forward and said—Gentlemen and ladies, the chairman of your conspiracy, I regret to say, is unable to attend this evening (hear, hear, and laughter), and I have, in consequence, consented to become criminal in his place. (Laughter.) I am happy to learn, however, that it is not for the purpose of being innocent or idle himself that he is absent from his post to-night (hear, hear); on the contrary, I hear that he is attending a meeting of very spirited conspirators in the country (hear, hear, and a laugh)—of men who have even less respect than ourselves for what I see the squires consider a cherished institution of the state, and which is, as you know, the law which provides for the necessities of great men out of the necessities of poor men. (Loud cheers.) Your chairman is, I hear, at Manchester to-night, presiding in the great hall which has been built there for the express purpose of conspiracy (laughter), and where the men of Lancashire do meet, and regularly combine, for the purpose of getting trade free and bread abundant (cheers), and where they endeavour, as we do here, to make known the principles of Sir Robert Peel (laughter), and gain credit for that sort of household wisdom which he found it convenient to preach on his late advent to power (hear, hear, hear), which, if I mistake not, amounted to this, that when people have occasion to purchase what they want, they should not pay more for it than they need (a laugh); and when, on the contrary, they want to dispose of what they have, not to take less for it than they can get. (Hear, and laughter.) These, if I mistake not, are the principles which Sir Robert did not hesitate to declare that he believed to be true (a laugh); and which one might have thought if an oracle of less note than the first minister had proposed would have been believed. (Hear, hear.) Still I fear, if history is fairly written, posterity will learn that what agitated British society most, and what chiefly engaged the attention of the British legislature, in the middle of the nineteenth century, was the difference of opinion about this simple rule, grave doubts being asserted of its wisdom, and graver difficulties being presented to its adoption. (Hear, hear.) Indeed, though two years have passed since it was said, the organ of the government, only two days since, devoted a column to its discussion, and then concluded that if Sir Robert Peel ever said it he never meant it. (Loud laughter.) His disclosure of the doctrine, however, is what has brought on him the charge of treachery by his friends, it is really what has caused discord in the Conservative family (laughter); and it is this which has drawn so large a portion of the peerage into the field of agitation. (Hear, hear.) It was at a meeting the other day I saw that some squire said that it was to expose and refute for ever this "fraudulent theory" that he had spoken out. (A laugh.) It was to crush this "pestilential fallacy" that some lord said he had come to St Alban's. (Laughter.) It is to protect the peasantry from this poison that the Tory papers say they see with deep satisfaction that the Duke of Richmond takes the chair, at his own house, and the Duke of Buckingham sits opposite to him (continued laughter)—it was on this account, in fact, that "the great chiefs," as Queen Pomare calls her Buckinghamians, have leagued together to suppress your rival body. (Cheers.)

But, gentlemen, however little chivalrous and ludicrous this occupation and position of the nobility of England may appear, yet we must remember that they have at present the best of the joke (hear, hear); and that it is far less ludicrous to enforce the rule of buying dear and selling cheap upon others, than to be subject, or to assent to it, ourselves. (Hear, hear.) We must not be idle, therefore, because they are foolish (hear, hear), and we must not lose the great advantage they are giving us by the course they are pursuing. What they call speaking out is just what we want them to do, and which, while they had the sense to leave their cause in Sir Robert's hands, was never done. (Hear, and laughter.) Our case was so plain, men would not believe it was rejected on its merits only; and while Sir Robert conducted their defence, no one did exactly know what he meant, or what we meant. Some thought we attacked the church, some thought the colonies, and some the constitution; and the result of a discussion was rather to mystify than clear the mind about the matter (laughter); but now, it seems, they repudiate Sir Robert's help, and have served us by taking their cause into their own hands, by becoming their own counsel, and having themselves for clients, which, as you know, is not always thought the wisest thing to do (hear, hear, and laughter); and by the line they have been lately taking, they bid fair to aid us, as an author in Swift is said to have aided himself, who was said to have wanted much to draw the public notice to some view he took, but in which, for some reason, though he wrote a pamphlet about it, he did not succeed; the notion then struck him that he would write another in answer to himself, and the line he took in the reply was to heap every kind of abuse upon himself, to impute every motive, and charge himself with every crime of which man could be guilty, and which he did to such degree, that shortly the world began to ask what this was that had been written, against which so much was said (hear, hear, and laughter); and, as the story goes, the town was for some time divided between the enemies of the author and of the supporters of his work. His object was then accomplished, his work was read, and a general verdict was given in his favour. (Loud cheers and laughter.) Just this, he expected, would follow from the vehement abuse which these great men were pouring upon the League. (Hear, hear.) There are thousands who, above want themselves, and not too much alive to the wants of others, had never given this matter of corn laws a thought, but are awakened by this cry of fire, and thieves, and murder, which the nobility and gentry have raised in all the counties (hear, and a laugh), and they are those whom we may count as converts, when they discover that the hubbub is owing to some classes of industrious men seeking to sell their wares where they can get most

for them, and buy their food where they can pay least for it (hear); and that the disturbance is, in fact, by those who deal in food, and have a monopoly in the sale (cheers and laughter): and the more people they awaken to a consideration of the subject, the better will it be for the League; for abuse the League as they may, charge it with crimes as they will, sooner or later the whole community will see that this is the question after all, and that the subject of the dispute is just as I have here described it. (Cheers.) That they will go on in just the course they are doing I sincerely trust, for nobody can better know than those who have had to fight this matter, what use it is that they should throw aside the mask, that they should put off all disguise, and no longer cloak their cause with false pretence. (Hear, hear.) They now come boldly forward and rest upon the strength of might, and with open weapons bid us all defiance. They have wisely driven from their agricultural societies the friends of agriculture, and have converted them into what perhaps they were always meant to be—namely, party clubs. (Hear, hear.) They have manfully thrown all their old pleas overboard, and have come to the conclusion of the *Morning Post*, that the great duty of the landlord is to take care of himself (laughter and cheers); and perhaps also to that of the *Morning Herald*, that they should seize the moment to get money for a future fight. (Hear, hear.) And I see, at a great meeting held for the county of Surrey, their present object and intentions have assumed a clear and definite appearance of this kind. It was summoned, as usual, for the protection of agriculture, but a spokesman selected on the occasion to represent the landlord interest was a Mr Drummond, a large proprietor and a man of great ability. He saw no necessity for reserve, and he, as they call it, spoke out on the occasion. He seems to be a loyal man, as the landlords are when things go right (hear, and a laugh), and he enters at first into some speculation about the safety of the throne; and he tells the meeting on what the throne must not rely, and that is on manufactures, railroads, and the funds. (Laughter.) There is no reliance there, he says; and the stock on which he says it can alone depend, is horses, pigs, together with the landlords and sheep. (Loud laughter.) However, he then proceeds to the business of the meeting, and I have here a report of what he said; and he deliberately told the meeting that he came there and that they came there for the purpose of protecting his and their own interest as landowners, and that he knew, and that they knew, that that interest was, that corn should be dear (hear, hear), and that the real question which they had come that day to discuss, was how they could make corn dear; and the real question before them was, whether what they proposed would have the effect of making corn dear. If it would, he was satisfied, but if not, he had an amendment in his pocket which he would propose. (Loud cries of hear, and laughter.) Now this was all clear, straightforward, and unequivocal; this was the view announced to the meeting by a leading landed proprietor. (Hear, hear.) I do now really hope that when anybody does see a flourishing account of a county meeting decked out as usual with dukes, barons, and baronets, that he will remember the speech of Mr Drummond as the honest and candid commentary on all their proceedings (hear, hear); and I do hope that those among our friends who are fastidious as to the manner in which this question should be argued, and who object to their views being imputed to our opponents, will see and will confess that there has been no exaggeration in what has been said (cheers); and I trust that the people, who know that the landlords of the country are the rulers of the country, will not be surprised in future when they hear that foreigners in every country view with suspicion and mistrust those professions of excessive zeal on our part to spread the gospel in the most distant parts of the world, and of excessive sympathy with the sufferings of the working classes of other countries where slavery exists. When they see that with all our anxiety to christianize savages and emancipate slaves, so regardless are we of the precepts of that gospel at home, and of the sufferings of the poor, that we have amongst us, that for the purpose of raising their incomes our rulers are daily engaging themselves in devising modes of rendering the food of the poor dear and difficult to attain, apparently regardless of the evidence which hourly offers itself of the misery and death they produce, and of all the hideous consequences of their policy. (Loud cheers.) Gentlemen, I have to apologise for making these observations; my duty to-night was more properly to introduce to your attention gentlemen far abler than myself to discuss the question, and I will now call upon Dr Bowring to address the meeting. (Loud and general cheering.)

Dr Bowring then came forward, and in a series of amusing illustrations, which elicited great laughter, urged the absurdity of all laws, rules, and regulations which barred the mutual advantages that must necessarily accrue from an interchange between nation and nation of those articles suited to each other's wants and desires, which they are respectively enabled to produce in the greatest abundance and at the least cost of labour. He concluded by reading, with a marked emphasis, Moore's fable of the bread tree, which was interrupted at almost every couplet or triplet, as the rhymes chanced to run, with loud applause and laughter.

Mr J. T. Leader congratulated the League on the position which it had gained since last year. Then it was sneered at—now it was *fêted*. Their opponents of the Anti-League boasted of their wealth, but if they were rich it was at the expense of the poor, and, whatever might be their wealth, they could not acquire in years the influence which the League exerted in weeks. For every blow which they made at the League, their own leader in the House of Commons was compelled to submit to a back-handed stroke. They called themselves the friends of the poor, but how did they prove it? They brought an enclosure bill into the house, under the pretence that if open lands were better cultivated the poor would thereby reap a benefit. An admirable article in the *Times* of yesterday treated this subject with great force and fairness. The measure was introduced by Lord Worsley, one of the best of his class; but, though it might be advantageous to places where there was much unenclosed land, as a general measure it would prove very injurious. A correspondent of the *Times* asked why should such a measure be permitted? but the answer simply was, that a majority of landlords could carry any bill they pleased. On a former occasion he (Mr Leader) opposed a similar bill; but the utmost he could procure was

the prevention of enclosures in large towns; yet, year after year, propositions were made for enclosing Hampstead heath and Blackheath. The cry for the protection of agriculture meant no more than that the landlord should have the lion's share, under the generous pretext of assisting the weak. They were told that the representative system of this country had been found to be so good that the agricultural interest should still continue to predominate. It was clear, therefore, that nothing was to be expected from parliament; yet they should not despair. Though the eloquence of Cobden made no converts in the Commons, the exertions of the League were making proselytes through the country. Though Sir R. Peel, in the motion which was to come forward next week, would illustrate what had been said by a celebrated French diplomatist, that language was given to man to conceal his thoughts, and the question would be disposed of by a packed jury, or rather by a tribunal which was both judge and jury, still they must not despair. Reform was still harder of achievement, and yet it had been yielded up to a determined agitation, though yielded too late. Emancipation, too, which, if granted at the time of the union, would have been attended with beneficial results, had also been won by agitation. Repeal of the corn laws must come, but, like all reforms in this country, it would come after resistance to it had occasioned great evils by preventing timely and profitable treaties with other nations. Come, however, when it would, the League could boast of having done vast good by promulgating those sound principles of convincing truth which were damnable to every system of mis-called protection. (Loud cheers.)

Mr T. F. Collier, son of the late member for Plymouth, said, the present was no common agitation, but would form an important passage in the history of this country. The Anti-League movement was the death-struggle of protection. There was no reasoning with parliament. Burke spoke to empty benches, and the house, as all reforms showed, could only be moved by the pressure from without. It was idle to say that the landowners were not benefited by the manufacturers. Manufacturers did more for them than bone-dust or guano. The latter only increased a crop of corn, whilst manufacturers made Liverpools and Manchesters spring up from barrenness, adding immense value to the rental of all the lands around. (Cheers.) It was sixty years since Smith put forth his doctrines of political economy, and in that period one would suppose, that even the most abstract thinkers—any philosophers, even as abstract as Mr Baring himself, would have time to digest them. (Laughter.) The state of the country was sufficient to show that there must be some gigantic error in its legislation, when the people, maddened with their suffering, were following every demagogue, and invoking the demon of Chartism to come to their aid. To meet this the apostles of the League went forth, and they were answered by the sneers of a parliament which mocked, rather than represented the people. (Cheers.) It was well, however, that Sir R. Peel had been driven out of error and nailed his standard to the mast of protection. All the authorities were in favour of free trade; even Sir R. Peel had avowed the principle; but then opposed to it was the *Morning Post*, which, if taken as a standard of modern reasoning, must present a melancholy exhibition of the human intellect at this period of the world. If a page of the *Post* by any chance survived to any future period in the lining of a trunk or the cover of a book, it would greatly disturb the course of history, and throw back the present period some few centuries. It should, therefore, be carefully destroyed, for fear of confusion, or, if preserved, it should be bound up with its antidote—*Punch*. (Cheers and laughter.) There appeared in that journal a letter from an M.P. to the farmers of Essex, advising them, not only to resist the introduction of foreign corn, but even to grow less at home, as any over-production in this country would lessen the price. If the writer of that letter were in a besieged town where a scarcity existed, and had an acre of ground, he would, on his own principle, only cultivate half an acre to enhance the price, even though his townsmen were dying around him for want of food. (Loud cheers.) The surest way to revolutionize a country was to starve its people, and he (Mr Collier) denounced as the worst of revolutionists the writer of that letter and the crew with which he was leagued. Those who brought up the rear under the redoubtable banner of the *Post* were the reciprocity men, who were afraid that foreign countries would inundate us with their produce, and take nothing in return. (Laughter.) This, indeed, would be killing us with kindness. The country was now intelligibly divided into two parties—on one side was truth, manfulness, and determination; on the other, ignorance, sophistry, and coronets; and he would not for an instant believe that in such a strife an insolent minister and a tyrant majority would be allowed to perpetrate the ruin of their country. (Loud cheers.)

Mr Fox then came forward and was received with immense cheering. He said the Anti-League associations were the greatest triumph the efforts of the League had yet achieved. It was a confession on the part of the aristocracy, that the popular voice must finally decide between them, and that parliament would not be the ultimate tribunal. They had dragged the aristocracy to the bar of public opinion, and compelled them to plead. (Cheers.) They were brought where they would be cross-examined as to the history of class legislation and its results, and where the plea—"Not guilty, upon my honour" would not be admitted. Where they would be asked "Were you ever in trouble before, and where?" whether they had or not, there would be required, with indemnity for the past, security for the future. They must not continue to underrate the intellects of the people, who, though not taught Latin or mathematics by professors, had eyes and brains, and were not to be won by that species of rhetoric called humbug. The rev. gentleman then proceeded to descend on a handbill which had been issued at a late meeting at the Freemasons' tavern, making it his text to show that the pro-corn-law partisans relied upon statements, the sophistry of which even the least educated were able to see through. He would caution their opponents against putting forth such documents, and he would also caution them against such exhibitions as had been lately made at Newton Abbot, where the agricultural flag, bearing the motto "Protection," was flanked on each side with cannon. It was not prudent for thousands to suggest such displays to millions. The millions had better weapons, for there was a power spreading through society which one electric touch would bring into action with a force

that nothing could resist. (Cheers.) The proselytes to the principles of free trade were daily on the increase, whilst the advocates for protection could not show a single convert. (Hear, hear.) The honourable gentleman, in alluding to the appeal to public opinion implied in the formation of protection societies throughout the country, concluded thus:—Here, then, on the ground taken by our opponents—here we are content to rest the question for the future. We go with them to the bar of public opinion—to its decision they have appealed, by its decision they must abide. (Cheers.) We go with them to opinion—the ruler of the world—opinion which is the breath of the body politic, without which it soon sinks in the death of despotism and becomes a mass of corruption—opinion, which anticipates the province of history—which glorifies those whom an unjust verdict may condemn (tremendous cheering, the whole assemblage rising as a man, and shouting enthusiastically)—opinion which, while it can irradiate the dungeon, strikes a cold apprehension into the bosom of the powerful statesman, that in history he may only find himself “damned to everlasting fame”—opinion, which gives its worth to whatever is most holy, without which a crown is but gold and velvet; and coronets, and mitres, and St Georges, are worth just as much as they will fetch at the pawnbroker’s (cheers)—opinion, which, when it refers to the great elementary principles of truth and justice, rarely, if ever, mistakes—opinion, to which monopoly has appealed—by which monopoly must stand or fall, and which has already, and does now by your own voices pronounce the corn laws a false policy—a base fraud—and an atrocious crime, which should be abolished at once and for ever from the statute book of this country. (Enthusiastic cheering, which continued some time after Mr Fox had resumed his seat.)

The Chairman then announced that the proceedings had terminated; and the vast assemblage gradually dispersed.

ANTI-FREE-TRADE MOVEMENTS.

ANTI-LEAGUE MEETING.

We abridge from the *Times* of Tuesday the following account:—

A meeting convened by the secretary of the “National Anti-League Association,” and described upon the admission-card as a “Great National Anti-League Demonstration,” was held last evening at the Freemasons’-hall tavern, Great Queen street. It was promised that the chair would be taken at half-past six o’clock, and, although no person was officially named as chairman, it was understood that Captain Polhill, the member for Bedford, would preside. At the time specified, however, the gallant Captain had not made his appearance, and although the body of the room was full, there were only about half-a-dozen persons in the reserved seats. One of these, after some impatience had been manifested, came forward and proposed “that Sir Richard Joddrell do take the chair.”

Several Voices—“Who is Sir Richard Joddrell?” “Who is he?” “Who?”

The Gentleman (emphatically).—“Sir Richard Joddrell.” (Cries of “Hear, hear,” and “Who’s he?”)

Sir R. Joddrell having, seemingly with some reluctance, taken the chair,

The Secretary came forward and announced that two members of the Spitalfields Weavers’ Union attended as a delegation, and would address the meeting.

A Gentleman—The Chairman has not opened the business of the meeting. (Cries of “Order,” “Hear, hear,” and “Chair.”)

The Chairman (in a low voice)—The resolutions will be read and proposed.

The Gentleman—You must open the proceedings. (Clamour.) This is out of all rule. Why don’t you speak?

The Chairman (amid great uproar) made a bow, and was understood to decline addressing the meeting. He called on Mr Sherrard.

Mr Sherrard (an operative) then came forward, and after a great deal of confusion, obtained a hearing. He spoke amid interruptions for nearly an hour and a quarter. He stood there, he said, the representative of his trade; he meant of 8,948 Spitalfields weavers, who had signed a petition to parliament against freedom of action and in favour of protection for industry. The Anti-League Association had come to the trade, and had solicited their support; and the trade knowing the evils which must accrue to the country from freedom of action (so the speaker continually described what is called free trade), had sent him there to arouse the people, and prevent them from falling into the League snare. (Uproar.) Their labour in Spitalfields had once been protected—for fifty years they had experienced the benefits of that protection; but Mr Huskisson had withdrawn it from them twenty years ago, and ever since they had been in a state of wretchedness and misery. Mr Vallance, one of the most respectable manufacturers in Spitalfields, had made a calculation that, for the first three years after Mr Huskisson’s act passed, the Spitalfields’ trade suffered to the extent of of 300,000*l.* a year; and he (the speaker) was now prepared to show that they had altogether lost not less than 700,000*l.*, and all this through the operation of the principle of freedom of action (hear, and dissent); but it was not Spitalfields alone that had suffered. Mr John Fielden had drawn up a table of wages, from which it appeared that in 1797 the working man earned 26*s.* 8*d.* a week, whilst in 1842 he only earned 3*s.* 6*d.* a week. What was this freedom of action, then, but a measure for the advantage of the millowner and the manufacturer, and the injury of the labourer? These millowners were making fortunes, whilst the people were starving. Look at the poor type founders. They had been “out” in a strike against their tyrannical masters for the last six months, and the other day one of them fell down dead from starvation, though his master was a subscriber to the League. (Cries of “Name,” and confusion.) He hardly knew his name, but he believed it was Figgins. He was a subscriber to the League, and the chairman of a board of guardians (general cries of “Hear, hear”), and he told his men to work for what he would give them, or they should get nothing at all. The League talked of slavery, but would it be slavery to protect such poor people as these? Would it be slavery to protect the slop-makers, the type founders, and

Moses’s, the tailor’s, victims? It was all very well to talk about slavery, but he (Mr Sherrard) had experienced the effects of poverty and hunger, and he knew what it was to be a slave. He could take them into scenes of the deepest distress and misery, all springing from the operation of the principle of freedom of action. What had roused the Spitalfields weavers? Why, one man, and he by no means the worst in Spitalfields, had taken a shilling a yard off his journeymen’s wages. The League talked of the demand for goods governing the rate of wages. What a fallacy. Why, this same manufacturer (cries of “Name, name”)—his name was Gibson.—Mr Gibson had taken 3*d.* a yard off his journeymen’s wages when the demand last summer was at its height. It was on account of these things that he came forward to urge working men to be up and doing, to prevent the League from robbing and plundering the people. (Confusion.) He would urge the landlords and the aristocracy generally to be up and doing also. If they did not defeat the machinations of the League, they would not long walk in the halls of their ancestors, for the League were determined to govern by gold, and gold alone; and, if they were left to themselves, would soon convert the empire into one dull and smoking Manchester. (Interruption.) He saw that the lecturers of the League were determined to interrupt him, but let them come forward upon that platform, and if they did not beat them hollow in argument, he would eat his head. (Laughter.) Why didn’t they come? [Here a grimy-looking artisan sprang over the railings from the body of the hall, and, with a very determined air, took his stand, amid much cheering and laughter, beside the speaker. He appeared to be about to address the meeting, when the chairman and secretary interfered, and amid much uproar, and with apparently some little difficulty, induced him to withdraw. Great confusion ensued, and Mr Sherrard found it necessary to bring his speech to a conclusion by moving the following resolution, which was received with cheers and yellings:—

“That it is the opinion of this meeting, that very great distress now prevails among the agricultural and industrial classes of the kingdom; and that the removal of the protective duties on corn and manufactures would increase that distress, and inflict ruin on British industry.”

Mr Burrows, who stated himself to be the secretary of the Spitalfields Handloom-weavers’ Union, seconded this resolution, speaking in much the same strain as the mover.

Many speakers attempted to gain the ear of the meeting afterwards. Among the rest, Mr Mailard, the secretary of the National Anti-League Association, came forward and said, that there had been some misunderstanding as to the objects of the meeting. It was convened for the purpose of giving the operative class an opportunity of responding to the profound sympathy which the Anti-Corn-law League had been proffering in their behalf. If the operatives had suffered nothing from the inroads of free trade, they would respond to that proclamation of sympathy in the affirmative; if, on the other hand, they have suffered, they will declare in the negative. He advised the working classes not to be led away by any one. They must not be led away by Cobden. (Hurrah, and three cheers for Cobden.) Cobden must yet go in the mud. (Renewed cheers for Cobden, with some hisses, and three cheers for the Charter.) It was nothing to him whether those before him were Tories, Conservatives, or Whigs. (We are Chartists.) Their object was to unite all classes and parties in opposition to the League. You say, gentlemen, you are Chartists, I address myself to you, therefore, as opposed to the League. (Cheers, and no, no.) Every person, in the society they proposed to form, could have a voice in opposition to the League. Let them originate a society in opposition to the conclave of Leaguers (hisses and cheers), and they would do well for this country. (Confusion.) The evil did not confine itself to one class. The danger from free trade went through all the ramifications of society—and at last it fell on the soil. (A pause—and, from a voice, “stuck in the mud as you are.”) He called upon the Spitalfields weavers to come forward and show to their fellow sufferers in the manufacturing districts throughout the country that they were thoroughly alive to all the injuries which would be inflicted upon them from the adoption of free trade. He closed by seconding the resolution. (Hurrahs and hisses.)

So far the National Anti-League Association had possession of the meeting; it now, however, changed hands.

On the resolution being put,

Mr Ridley came forward, and, in the midst of greater uproar than ever, appealed for a fair and manly hearing. They had met there to perform a duty to their country. Let them look at the antagonistical parties—the League and the Anti-League. Let them ask, then, if both of these parties had not sacrificed the lives of their forefathers (no, no, no), and were they both not now ready to sacrifice the lives of the present generation? Would they not denounce both these parties as cruel, brutal, and base? They both lived on the vitals of the poor, and of their offspring. He warned them not to acquiesce in the proceedings of the League—a body base and treacherous to the working classes (no, no). That body was only seeking an opportunity to sacrifice them, and the Anti-League had the same object in view. He would put them in possession of the real question, by reading the amendment it was his intention to propose. It was to the following effect:—“Resolved, That while this meeting is of opinion that the policy of the League is erroneous, and that its doctrines would be injurious if brought into operation; it is also of opinion that every other agitation is equally valueless and erroneous in policy, which has not for its object the carrying of the document known as the People’s Charter.” (Tremendous and prolonged cheering.) By this amendment they would tell the party who had brought them together that evening, that they (the Chartists) considered the movements of the Anti-League equally base and unjust as were those of the Anti-Corn-law League. He called on all present to support the amendment, and thereby prove to the League, and the Anti-League, that they considered them both in the light of the Kilkenny cats, and that they should leave them to eat up and devour each other at their leisure (Laughter and cheers.)

Mr M’Grath then appeared, and spoke in precisely the same strain in support of the amendment.

The next who came forward was Mr Mause, a Chartist, in white

kid gloves, which seemed considerably the worse for wear. He presented himself to propose the third resolution:—

"That this meeting utterly disbelieves the assertion of the League, that if corn were admitted duty free, foreign nations would receive British manufactures in return, and thereby create permanent employment for our manufacturing classes; but, on the contrary, this meeting boldly affirms that the unrestricted admission of foreign grain would, by destroying the agricultural interests of the kingdom, involve every branch of British industry in one common ruin."

By this time, however, the meeting was in a state of the most hopeless disorganization. Mr Mause retired, and

Mr Clark next came forward to claim its attention. Before he could proceed he was asked by fifty voices at once, if he was a Chartist? Some denounced him as a spy and a renegade, and as an agent of the League, and warned the meeting not to be deceived by one who wanted to put a trick upon them. He said little more than that the poor could not get political power until they acquired property, when the uproar which prevailed compelled him to desist.

Mr Wheeler, who had previously been refused a hearing, then reappeared, and said that he could do no good in carrying the meeting on any further, and moved that the chairman leave the chair, and that the meeting should adjourn. The seconder of the motion said that one of his reasons for seconding it was, that he always looked with suspicion on those who moved resolutions in white kid gloves. (Hear, hear.) Mr Wheeler, in moving a vote of thanks to the chairman, said he had not been as efficient as he might have been, but still that he had acted with great fairness. (Much laughter.) The meeting then separated, with three cheers for the Charter, three groans for the Whigs, and an equal number for the Tories.

MEETING AT UXBRIDGE.

A meeting for protection to British agriculture was held at the White Horse Inn, Uxbridge (at which about 200 persons were present), on Thursday last. This meeting should have been called a meeting to protect the interests of landlords, instead of a farmers' meeting.

James Tillyer, Esq., in the chair.

Mr Maydwell, the secretary, opened the meeting by informing the company that this was a meeting called for particular purposes, and that no resolutions counter to those proposed by the gentlemen who would be called upon by the chairman could be entertained. This precluded all discussion, amendments, or observations from any one.

The Chairman proposed the first resolution, and Col. Wood, sen., M.P., seconded it, and dared the Anti-Corn-law League to appear in the county he represented, where, if they did, he would promise them they would meet their deserts. He was amused, he said, at his bootmaker the other day, who had brought his son home some new top-boots. When he asked him the price of them, which he was told was 2l. 5s.,—"Well," he asked the bootmaker, "what news was afloat?" to which the reply was, "Oh, sir, we are all in favour of free trade, and a total repeal of the corn laws." But he said to the bootmaker, "If this free trade be so fine a thing, I understand the French make excellent boots, and cheaper than the English workmen; suppose we have free trade in boots too." "Oh, no," said the bootmaker, "we want free trade in corn, but not in boots." (Loud cheers, and cries of "you a parliament man, and not know that the tariff had admitted French boots already.") The gallant colonel concluded by seconding the resolution.

Mr Stent, a wealthy landowner and farmer, moved the second resolution.

Mr Pownall, late candidate for Middlesex, seconded the resolution in a long speech. He regretted the necessity of the present meeting, but the Anti-Corn-law League compelled them to come forward and oppose the agitation, which, by large subscriptions and extended operations, sought to enlist the entire feeling of the country against one particular branch of industry. (No, no, and cheers.)

Mr Newman moved the third resolution in a long speech, pointing out how well the British labourer was paid.

C. Newdegate, Esq., M.P. for North Warwickshire, seconded the resolution.

Mr Sherborn moved the fourth resolution, which was seconded by Sir J. Gibbons.

Mr J. May moved the fifth resolution, which was seconded by the Rev. W. Hewson, who began by asking—Are there any Roman Catholics here? You have Catholic Emancipation; you have no grievances to complain of. Are there any Dissenters here? Are not the Test and Corporation Acts repealed? You have no grievances to complain of. In fact, said the speaker, the nation have no grievances to complain of. (Cries of "empty bellies, bread, bread, bread.") I say, sir, the people have no grievances to complain of. Here the meeting stopped him by cries of "question" from all quarters. The monopolists were alarmed, and joined in stopping this no-grievance man.

The proceedings were hurriedly brought to a close, to the disappointment of the rev. gentlemen, who seemed quite ready to go the whole hog.

COMMERCIAL MARKETS.

FRIDAY NIGHT.

INDIGO.—The letters by the India Mail, dated Calcutta, the 23rd of January, were delivered yesterday morning. They contain nothing of any importance on Indigo. Up to the 19th of January about 17,000 chests were shipped for England, and 3,300 chests to France; to other parts very little as yet. There had been much activity in the Indigo market in Calcutta in the course of the month, and prices paid are rather higher than those now ruling in Europe. But a great proportion of the crop was expected to be shipped to England on account of the planters; consequently, without being bought or sold in India. The maximum of the crop is about 180,000 maunds, or 50,000 chests, of which it is expected that 40,000 chests will reach Great Britain in the course of this season, in addition to considerable supplies expected from Madras, where much more Indigo has this season been manufactured than in any previous year. We must, therefore, look for unusually large quarterly sales in July and October. But the consumption of the article is good now, and the deliveries from the London warehouses for home consumption and shipping continue to be larger than in the first two or three months of the previous year. Our market is quiet but steady, and prices rule fully as high as at the last public sales

in January, and occasionally a shade higher. No declarations have as yet been made for the April sales, to commence on the 15th of that month; but it is expected that about 8,000 chests will be brought forward, including a parcel or two of the new crop, which are expected to arrive in time.

COCHINEAL.—In a public sale held last Tuesday, low silvery were a shade cheaper, but better sorts keep their value as recently established.

SUGARS.—Refined: The market for home-trade goods has been pretty steady, though not active, and export sorts continue firm, but in these likewise only a moderate business has been doing. The British Plantation market, with the present small supply, is necessarily very inactive, and the quantity sold is only about 750 casks; prices, however, are firm. Foreign: The speculative demand for this article having abated, the market has become very quiet, and the only transaction reported privately is a cargo of yellow Havannahs floating for a near port, at 20s.

COFFEE.—The home-market has continued pretty firm, though without activity, since our last report. Of British West India we are still without a supply. Of Mocha, 148 bales and 82 bags have been offered in public sale, which were taken off freely at very full prices, viz.—fair clean, garbled quality, 71s. 6d. to 72s. 6d. Ceylons: Some sales have been made privately early in the week on rather easier terms; but, on the whole, a fair extent of business had been done up to yesterday at about previous prices. Foreign: Although the demand has been less animated, the market has a strong and healthy appearance; holders are extremely firm, and an extensive business has again been done at somewhat improved prices.

COCOA.—There is more demand for British Plantation, at rather better prices. Forty bags common Trinidad, in public sale, sold at 46s. to 46s. 6d. Foreign sorts continue to be held firmly.

RICE.—The business has not been extensive this week, but the article remains extremely firm, and 812 bags Bengal, in public sale, chiefly sold: middling and good white 12s. to 12s. 6d.

PIMENTO is without inquiry. 57 bags in public sale, of middling quality, sold at 3d. to 3½d.

PEPPER.—Malabar is scarce, and well maintained, but the demand for eastern sorts is less brisk.

CINNAMON is quiet, but firm.

CASSIA LIGNEA continues in fair demand. 181 boxes have been offered in public sale, the sound part of which was mostly held for higher prices, and bought in, the remainder sold at an advance of 1s. to 2s. Good ordinary 66s. to 67s.; mouldy and damaged 58s. to 61s.; broken 50s. to 51s.

Other Spices are steady, but the business doing is only on a limited scale.

SALTPETRE.—Good qualities continue very scarce, and for these full prices are obtainable, but common sorts have been dull.

For **NITRATE OF SODA** the demand is less active, but prices are steady.

The Cotton market continues dull.

FOREIGN.

Hamburg, 2nd March.—The purchases of coffee have again during this week been upon a very extensive scale, amounting to upwards of 50,000 bags. Prices have experienced a further advance in St Domingo as well as in the more colour descriptions, of which several cargoes of Porto Rico have been taken at high prices before arrival, the risk how the quality will turn out being the buyer's. Sugar was pretty firm without much doing, but towards the end of the week the demand appeared to be improving. Cotton neglected. Rice more in demand.

Antwerp, 6th March.—The demand for coffee, which had become less animated towards the close of last week, has been more lively; since the beginning of the present, prices are much firmer again, and purchases have been considerable in proportion to the smallness of the stock in the market. Two cargoes of Brazil and St Domingo have arrived, but will not be offered, belonging to English speculators, and being held for higher prices. Sugar without decline in price; but the largest holders showing a disposition to offer their stock, it has damped the market, though higher prices than hitherto paid are demanded by them. In Carolina Rice extensive business has been done on speculation, it is reported, on English account. Amsterdam and Rotterdam 5th of March.—Coffee is very firm; but the Company's sales being so near, purchases are suspended; the only transaction worth noticing is the sale of 1,000 bags of Sumatra Coffee at Rotterdam, at an advance of about 5 per cent. upon previous prices. Some parcels of the finest qualities of Sugar out of the Company's sale of the 27th ult., have been resold at a slight advance. Cotton neglected. The Corn and Seed markets are rather firmer.

Havre, 4th March.—Cotton firm, notwithstanding the dull accounts from Liverpool, and business doing to a fair extent, with small arrivals. Coffee buoyant and prices rising, considerable purchases having been made at a further advance, both on the spot and for arrival. In French plantation sugar the purchases were more extensive than for many months past, nearly one-third of the stock having changed hands, and the bonded price being now nearly 25 per cent. higher than what it was two months ago; it is stated that it is not a speculative but an actual demand for consumption which has occasioned this consumption. Of Carolina rice considerable parcels that are recently arrived have been bought at full prices. Of whalebone, large supplies have come to hand, and prices have declined about 30 per cent.

PRICES CURRENT.

GOVERNMENT FUNDS.	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Friday.
Bank Stock, 7 per cent.	—	194½	—	—	—	—
3 per Cent. Reduced	98½	98	98½	98½	—	—
3 per Cent. Consols	97½	97½	97½	97½	98½	98½
3½ per Cent. Ann. 1848	—	—	—	—	—	—
3 per Cent. Ann. 1736	—	—	—	—	—	—
3½ per Cent. Reduced	103½	103	103	103	—	103
New 3 per Cent. Ann.	102½	102½	102½	102½	102½	102½
New 5 per Cent.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Long Ann. Jan. 5, 1860	—	12½	—	—	—	12½
Ann. for 30 years, Oct. 10, 1850	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ditto Jan. 5, 1860	—	12 9-16	12½	12½	—	12½
Ditto Jan. 5, 1850	—	—	—	—	—	—
India Stock, 10½ per Cent.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ditto Bonds, 3½ per Cent. 1,000l	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ditto, under 1,000l.	86	86	88	89	90	—
South Sea Stock, 3½ per Cent.	—	—	—	111½	110½	—
Ditto Old Ann. 3 per Cent.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ditto New Ann. 3 per Cent.	—	—	—	—	—	—
3 per Cent. Ann. 1751	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bank Stock for Opp. 4 per Cent.	195½	196	—	—	196	197
3 per Cent. Con. for Account, ditto	97½	97½	97½	97½	98½	98½
India Stock for Account, ditto	—	—	—	—	280	282
Canada Guaranteed Deben. 4 per Cent.	112	—	—	—	—	—
Exchange, 1,000l. 14d.	71	71	69	71	73	73
Ditto 500l. 14d.	71	71	69	71	—	71
Ditto Small 14d.	71	72	70	72	74	73
Ditto Commercial, 14d.	67	65	—	—	—	—

RAILWAYS.

	No. of Shares.	Dividends per Annum.			Shares.	Paid.			Friday.
		£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.	
Edinburgh and Dalkeith	1,154	5	0	0	50	0	0	48½	
Glasgow and Ayrshire	12,330	2	10	0	25	0	0	14	
Glasgow and Greenock	16,000	2	10	0	25	0	0	28	
Glasgow and Garmkirk	4,000	6	10	0	25	0	0	24	
Dundee and Arbroath	4,000	—	—	—	25	0	0	62	
Birmingham and Derby	6,300	2	8	0	100	0	0	50½	
Ditto Third's, iss. 8½ dis.	6,300	0	18	8	35	6	8	1 10 0	
Ditto Eighth's	6,300	0	2	8	—	—	—	41	
Birmingham and Gloucester	9,500	3	0	0	100	0	0	80	
Ditto New, iss. 7½ dis.	10,000	0	15	0	25	0	0	19½	
Bristol and Exeter	15,000	4	0	0	100	0	0	71	
Chester and Birkenhead	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	111	
Eastern Counties	56,000	0	6	0	25	0	0	132	
Ditto New	88,000	0	8	0	25	0	0	132	
Ditto Extension	114,000	5	0	0	6	13	4	1 p.m.	
Glasgow, Paisley, and Ayrshire	12,500	2	0	0	50	0	0	60	
Edinburgh and Glasgow	18,000	10	0	0	50	0	0	60	
Ditto New	18,000	0	12	6	12	10	0	14½	
Ditto Registered	10,918	10	0	0	100	0	0	—	
Ditto Half Shares	10,918	10	0	0	50	0	0	—	
Ditto Quarter Shares	—	—	—	—	25	0	0	—	
Great North of England	10,000	3	5	0	100	0	0	—	
Great Western	25,000	3	18	0	100	0	0	113½	
Ditto Half Shares	25,000	3	0	0	50	0	0	71	
Ditto Fifties	37,500	0	14	4	25	0	0	194	
Hull and Selby	8,000	5	10	0	50	0	0	—	
Ditto Quarter Shares	8,000	—	—	—	12	10	0	6	
Lancaster and Carlisle	16,000	—	—	—	50	0	0	6½	
Leeds and Bradford	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Leeds and Selby	2,100	—	—	—	100	0	0	103	
Liverpool and Manchester	5,100	10	0	0	100	0	0	—	
Ditto Half Shares	7,968	10	0	0	50	0	0	—	
Ditto Quarter Shares	11,475	10	0	0	25	0	0	—	
London and Brighton	36,000	2	0	0	50	0	0	45	
Ditto Loan Notes	—	5	0	0	10	0	0	—	
London and Blackwall	48,000	0	2	6	—	—	—	—	
London and Greenwich	43,077	—	—	—	16	13	4	5	
Preference or Privilege	1,130	5	0	0	—	—	—	—	
London and Birmingham	1,125,000	10	0	0	—	—	—	210	
Ditto New Quarter Shares	54,450	10	0	0	2	0	0	29	
Ditto New Third's	41,250	14	0	0	32	0	0	—	
London and South-Western	46,200	3	0	0	4	10	0	82	
Ditto Eighth's	—	6	5	0	0	15	0	34	
London and Croydon	33,000	0	14	0	10	0	0	17½	
Ditto Scrip, issued at 50¢ dis.	7,000	—	—	—	7	10	0	14	
Manchester and Leeds	13,000	3	17	0	100	0	0	114½	
Ditto New Shares	13,000	1	13	0	50	0	0	50	
Ditto Quarter Shares	13,000	0	4	0	—	—	—	2½	
Manchester and Birmingham	30,000	1	0	0	70	0	0	45	
Ditto Extension	—	—	—	—	70	0	0	—	
Midland Counties	10,000	4	8	0	100	0	0	93	
Ditto Quarter Shares, iss. 10 dis.	10,000	1	2	0	25	0	0	22½	
Ditto Fifties	10,000	0	2	4	20	0	0	76	
Norwich and Brandon	19,000	—	—	—	20	0	0	29	
Newcastle and Darlington Junction	—	0	6	0	25	0	0	93	
North Midland	15,000	4	0	0	100	0	0	45½	
Ditto Half Shares, iss. 10 dis.	15,000	—	—	—	50	0	0	30	
Ditto Third's, iss. at 11½ dis. 14 dis.	28,500	1	6	8	21	10	4	37½	
Northern and Eastern	10,256	2	5	0	50	0	0	37½	
Ditto Scrip, issued at 50¢ dis.	3,136	0	15	0	50	0	0	25	
Ditto Quarter Shares	12,208	—	—	—	12	10	0	16½	
Paris and Orleans	80,000	—	—	—	20	0	0	34	
Paris and Rouen	72,000	1	17	0	20	0	0	34½	
Preston and Wyre, appropriated	2,000	—	—	—	50	0	0	—	
Ditto, not all appropriated	2,600	—	—	—	25	0	0	—	
Rouen and Havre	40,000	—	—	—	20	0	0	15½	
Sheffield, Ashton-under-Lyne, and Manchester	7,000	5	0	0	100	0	0	82 10 0	
Sheffield and Rotherham	1,000	1	15	0	25	0	0	—	
South-Eastern and Dover	1,500	15	0	0	100	0	0	36½	
Ditto New, iss. 25 dis.	28,000	—	—	—	50	0	0	37	
Yarmouth and Norwich	7,500	—	—	—	20	0	0	25	
York and North Midland	6,700	10	0	0	50	0	0	126	
Ditto New Shares	6,700	10	0	0	25	0	0	56	
Ditto Scarborough Branch	—	—	—	—	2	10	0	21	

JOINT STOCK BANKS.

No. of Shares.	Dividends Per Ann.	Shares.	Paid.	Friday.	
		£.	£. s. d.	Mar. 8.	
15,000	—	(Agricultural and Commercial) of Ireland	25	10 0 0	
15,000	8½ per ct.	Australasia	40	40 0 0	
7,500	—	Do. New	—	10 0 0	
20,000	6½ per ct.	British North American	50	50 0 0	41
5,000	6½ per ct.	Do. New	—	25 0 0	
8,000	—	County of Gloucester	100	25 0 0	
1,000	5½ per ct.	Commercial of London	—	200 0 0	
20,000	5½ per ct.	Colonial	100	25 0 0	
4,000	6½ per ct.	London and Westminster	100	20 0 0	25½
40,000	6½ per ct.	London Joint Stock	50	10 0 0	13½
60,000	6½ per ct.	Metropolitan	—	25 7 10 0	
40,000	8½ per ct.	Provincial of Ireland	100	25 0 0	
20,000	8½ per ct.	Do. New	10	10 0 0	
4,000	6½ per ct.	Royal of Australia	—	10 0 0	
10,000	2½ per ct.	National of Ireland	50	17 10 0	
10,000	6½ per ct.	National Provincial of England	100	35 0 0	34½
10,000	14½ per ct.	Do. New	—	10 0 0	
21,500	—	Northamptonshire Union	25	5 0 0	
10,000	6½ per ct.	Gloucestershire	50	10 0 0	
20,000	6½ per ct.	(West of England and South) Wales District	20	12 10 0	
20,000	6½ per ct.	Wiltshire and Dorset	15	7 10 0	
20,000	8½ per ct.	Union of Australia	25	25 0 0	25½
10,000	8½ per ct.	Do. do.	—	2 10 0	
60,000	5½ per ct.	Union of London	50	10 0 0	

FRENCH FUNDS.

	Paris, Feb. 29.	Paris, Mar. 1.	Paris, Mar. 2.	Paris, Mar. 4.	Paris, Mar. 5.	Paris, Mar. 6.
5 per Cent. Ann. 22 Mar. and 22 Sep. Exchange	125 75	125 99	125 85	125 30	125 55	124 50
4½ per Cent. Ann. payable Exchange	—	112 50	—	—	—	—
4 per Cent. Ann. 22 Mar. and 22 Sep. Exchange	106 10	106 10	—	106 50	—	106 53
3 per Cent. 22 June and 22 Dec. Exchange	82 40	82 20	82 80	82 80	82 65	82 25
Bank Shares, 1 Jan. and 1 July Exchange on London 1 month	3,270	3,270	3,270	3,270	3,270	3,265
Exchange on London 3 months	25 55	25 57	25 57½	25 57½	25 57½	25 57½
Exchange on London 3 months	25 47½	25 50	25 50	25 50	25 50	25 50

BANK OF ENGLAND.

LIABILITIES.		ASSETS.	
Account of the Liabilities and Assets of the Bank of England on the average of the Quarter, from the 2d of December to the 24th February, 1844	Circulation £20,414,000	Securities, £22,482,000	
	Deposits, 13,924,000	Bullion, 14,993,000	
	£34,338,000	£37,475,000	

IRISH STOCKS.

	Wed.	Thurs.	Friday.	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.
3 per Cent. Consols	97½	97½	97½	97½	97½	97½
Reduced Do.	101½	101½	101½	101½	101½	101½
34 per Cent. Stock	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reduced Do.	101½	101½	101½	101½	101½	101½
31 Stock, New	—	—	—	—	—	—
34 per Cent. Debentures	—	—	—	—	—	—
Exchequer Bills	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bank Stock	—	130	—	130	—	130
Royal Canal Stock	—	—	33½	—	—	32½
Grand Canal Stock	—	—	—	—	83	83
Do. Debentures 6 per Cent.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Do. Do. 4 per Cent.	55½	55½	—	—	55½	55½

PUBLIC SECURITIES OF UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

	Per Cent.	Redeemable.	Amount in Dolls.	Dividends.	London Prices, Mar. 5.	Amer. Prices, Feb. 15.	London Prices, Mar. 1.	Amer. Prices, Feb. 15.
Alabama	5	1852	500,000	May & Nov.	—	—	—	—
Do. Sterling	5	1858	2,000,000	Jan. & July.	82½	82	82½	82
Do.	5	1861	3,500,000	May & Nov.	—	—	—	—
Indiana	5	(1861)	1,600,000	Jan. & July.	—	—	—	—
Do. Sterling	5	1861	1,600,000	—	—	—	—	—
Illinois	6	1870	5,000,000	—	40	42½	40	42½
Do. Sterling	6	1870	1,000,000	—	—	—	—	—
Kentucky	6	1868	1,250,000	—	—	—	102½	102½
Louisiana, Sterling	5	1848	1,800,000	—	—	—	—	—
Do.	5	1843	—	—	—	—	—	—
Do.	5	(1844)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Do.	5	1847	7,000,000	Feb. & Aug.	—	—	—	—
Do.	5	(1850)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Do.	5	(1852)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Do.	5	1853	150,000	May & Nov.	—	—	—	—
Do.	6	1867	300,000	April & Oct.	—	—	—	—
Maryland	5	1850	750,000	—	—	—	—	—
Do. Sterling	5	1858	3,000,000	Jan. & July.	—	—	—	—
Massachusetts	5	1867	1,000,000	—	—	—	—	—
Do. Sterling	5	1868	300,000	April & Oct.	—	—	—	—
Michigan	6	1863	5,000,000	Jan. & July.	—	—	—	—
Mississippi, Sterling	5	(1850)	5,000,000	May & Nov.	—	—	—	—
Do.	5	(1851)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Do.	6	(1861)	2,000,000	Mar. & Sep.	—	—	—	—
Do.	6	(1871)	—	—	—	—	—	—
New York								

PRICES OF BULLION.

Foreign Gold in Bars (Standard)	(per ounce)	£3 17 9
Foreign Gold in Coin Spanish Doubloons		0 0 0
Do. do. Portugal pieces		3 17 5
New Dollars		4 4 94
Silver in Bars (Standard)		0 4 11 1/2

CORN MARKETS.

(From Messrs Gillies and Horn's Circular.)

CORN EXCHANGE, MONDAY, MARCH 4.—We have very wet weather, the preparation of the land for the spring sowing is quite at a stand. The arrivals of Irish oats are large, of everything else the supply is moderate. Wheat is firm, and in some instances is dearer. Barley is cheaper. Oats, is cheaper. Beans and peas quite as dear. Flour remains firm.

BRITISH.	PER QR.	FOREIGN AND COLONIAL.	PER QR.
Wheat, Essex, Kent, Suffolk, white	57s to 62s	Wheat, White Spanish, Tuscan	60s to —
Lothian, Fife, Angus, do.	52s to 60s	High mixed Danzig	64s to —
Inverness, Murray, &c.	52s to 60s	Mixed do.	58s to 63s
Essex, Kent, Suffolk, red	52s to 58s	Rostock, new	60s to —
Cambridge, Lincoln, red	52s to 55s	Red Hamburg	— to 60s
Barley, English Malt, and Chevalier	35s to 36s	Polish Odessa	52s to —
Distiller's, English & Scotch	31s to 33s	Hard	50s to —
Coarse, for grinding, &c.	— to 31s	Egyptian	—
Oats, Northumberland & Berwick	21s to 22s	Barley, Malt, &c.	—
Lothian, Fife, Angus	21s to 22s	Grinding, &c.	— to 31s
Murray, Ross	21s to 22s	Oats, Brew, &c.	—
Aberdeen and Banff	21s to 22s	Polands, &c.	—
Catthiness	21s to 22s	Feed, &c.	—
Cambridge, Lincoln, &c.	20s to 21s	Do. dried, Riga, &c.	—
Irish	18s to 20s	Rye, Dried	—
English, black	20s to 21s	Undried	—
Irish	19s to 20s	Beans, Horse	34s to —
Potato, Scotch	25s to 26s	Mediterranean	25s to 29s
Irish	20s to 25s	Peas, White	32s to —
Poland, Lincoln, &c.	22s to 26s	Yellow	34s to —
Beans, Ticks	28s to 32s	Flour, French, per 280lbs. nett weight	—
Harrow	29s to 37s	American, per Bar. 195 lbs. nett weight	—
Small	30s to 38s	Danzig, &c., do. do.	32s to 35s
Peas, White	35s to —	Canada, do. do.	30s to 32s
Boilers	35s to —	Sour, do. do.	—
Flour, Town-made Households	40s to —		
Norfolk and Suffolk	40s to —		

CORN EXCHANGE, FRIDAY, MARCH 8.—The weather has been very fine for the last two or three days, but previously a great deal of rain had fallen, and the country in some parts was flooded. The arrivals this week are short, but the trade is dull, no article being inquired for at the late prices except old beans, which are getting scarce, and boiling peas which are wanted probably in consequence of the cold weather.

LONDON AVERAGES.

For the week ending March 8.

Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Rye.	Beans.	Peas.
6,331 qrs. 57s. 3d.	71,08 qrs. 34s. 9d.	16,311 qrs. 20s. 8d.	99 qrs. 25s. 0d.	1,221 qrs. 28s. 4d.	1,362 qrs. 32s. 1d.

IMPERIAL AVERAGES.

Weeks ending	Wheat.		Barley.		Oats.		Rye.		Beans.		Peas.	
	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
Feb. 1st	52	3	33	8	19	0	32	4	29	6	29	10
— 8th	52	6	33	2	18	11	33	10	29	8	30	8
— 16th	52	3	33	1	19	1	32	9	29	10	29	6
— 23rd	53	6	33	1	19	6	33	5	30	6	31	1
— 29th	55	1	33	7	19	7	32	10	30	4	31	2
Mar. 7th	56	2	33	9	20	0	35	3	30	5	31	0
Aggregate of the six weeks	53	8	33	5	19	4	33	5	30	1	30	11
Duties till Mar. 13th inclu.	18	0	5	0	7	0	9	6	10	6	10	6
On Grain from B. Possession out of Europe	5	0	0	6	2	0	1	6	2	6	2	6

Flour—Foreign, 12s. 0d. per 195 lbs.—British Possession, 3s. 0d. ditto.

SMITHFIELD MARKET.

MONDAY.—There was an evident improvement in trade this morning, for notwithstanding the unfavourable change in the weather since yesterday, a very active business was done, and prices generally improved. The supplies, it is true, were moderate, which of course contributed to the better state of trade; but, independent of this, there was a better feeling in the market, the butchers not pressing too warmly for lower rates. There is now no longer a fear that the importation of foreign cattle will injure the English trade to the great extent at first apprehended. There is no doubt, however, that if little or no advantage be in future taken of the trade opened by the tariff, that to its altered form are the graziers and the public indebted for the lower price of meat at the present day. The operation of the tariff in the first instance was a decline in prices which the market has never yet permanently recovered, although attempts have been made to effect that object. The only parties who in future may be expected to derive anything like a permanent advantage from the introduction of continental beasts will be the great contractors, who purchase only the inferior cattle, and of which quality, with a few exceptions, these beasts have as hitherto been comprised. The number of beasts on offer today was 2,200, being a similar supply to that of last Monday. If anything there was a general improvement in quality. All kinds of beef found a ready and brisk sale at a rise in price of 2d. per stone, and all sold by the close.

FRIDAY.—The supply of beasts on sale was rather extensive, and of good average quality, yet the demand was steady at fully Monday's quotations. The numbers of sheep were scanty. In calves a good business was doing. Pigs moved off freely at our quotations. Milch cows were sold at from 16l. to 19l. 5s. each, including their small calf.

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Prices per Stone.				At Market.			
Monday.		Friday.		Monday.		Friday.	
Beef	3s 2d to 4s 4d	2s 6d to 3s 6d	Beasts	2,251	919		
Mutton	3s 4d to 4s 6d	2s 8d to 4s 6d	Calves	98	160		
Veal	4s 0d to 5s 0d	3s 8d to 4s 8d	Sheep	23,100	2,440		
Pork	3s 8d to 4s 8d	3s 0d to 4s 4d	Pigs	375	300		

Prices of Hay and Straw, per load of 36 trusses.
Hay, 2l. 15s. 0d. to 2l. 12s. 0d. | Clover, 4l. 0s. 0d. to 5l. 0s. 0d. | Straw, 1l. 6s. 0d. to 1l. 10s. 0d.

BOROUGH HOP MARKET.

The Market continues very firm, with considerably more doing.

COAL MARKET.

Prices of Coals per Ton at the close of the Market.—Carr's Hartley, 15s.—Holywell Main, 16s.—Morrison's Hartley, 14s.—Townley, 15s.—Wylam, 15s.—Wall's-end: Clennell, 15s.—Elm park, 16s.—Hedley, 15s. 6d.—Killingworth, 16s. 6d.—Ramsay, 13s.—East Hetton, 17s.—Kelloe, 19s.—St Helen's Tees, 16s. 6d.—Seymour Tees, 18s. 3d.—South Durham, 17s. 6d.—Tees, 17s. 4d.—Merthyr, 20s. 3d.—Lewis's Merthyr, 18s. 9d. Ships arrived, 4.

THE GAZETTE.

Tuesday, March 5.

PARTNERSHIPS DISSOLVED.

J. G. Marzetti and G. Jones, provision agents.—R. Saunders and W. Benning, Fleet street, City, booksellers.—J. Esterford and J. Nunn, Greenwich, Kent, boot makers.—T. Goodill and J. B. Stain, Clipstone Lodge, Northamptonshire, farmers.—T. Beardmore and B. Moore, Halifax, Yorkshire, bakers.—G. and F. Robinson, Hexham, Northumberland, linen drapers.—S. Matthews and R. Noblet, Liverpool, cork manufacturers.—H. Fox and J. Grice, Liverpool, ship brokers.—W. Shuttleworth, J. Ingham, J. Fielden, and W. Verity, Bradford, Yorkshire, manufacturers (as regards J. Ingham).—T. and W. De la Rue, and C. Button, Bunhill row, wholesale stationers (as regards C. Button).—R. H. Taylor and R. Sergeant, Birmingham, linendrapers.—W. Harris and R. Jennison, Kingston-upon-Hull, linendrapers.—J. Brown and C. Sears, Roydon, Essex, sheep dealers.—Mary Buckpitt and G. Gillett, Trowbridge, Wiltshire, carpenters.—T. and D. Morris, Liverpool, grocers.—P. and T. Barker, Preston, Lancashire, coal merchants.—J. H., and D. Hunt, Bristol, coal merchants.—T. S. Richards and W. L. Wood, Bishopsgate street within, City, export ironmongers.—Harriet West and A. Rawbon, Bristol, lace manufacturers.—J. and Louisa Bland, Sulley, Glamorganshire, farmers.—J. Mills, E. Braley, and T. Longman, Castle Donington, Leicestershire, gimp manufacturers (as regards T. Longman).

BANKRUPTCIES ANNULLED.

SOUTHGATE, H., Fleet street, City, auctioneer.
WOOD, W. L., Bishopsgate street within, City, export ironmonger.

BANKRUPTS.

BLAKE, N., Edgware road, linendraper. [Pain and Hatherley, Great Marlborough street.
MOTTRAM, C. M., Friday street, Cheapside, warehouseman. [Reed and Shaw, Friday street, Cheapside.
CHEESEMAN, W., HODSON, J., and OLIVER, W., Brighton, china-men. [Cattlin, Ely place.
HAWKES, W. R., Brighton, common brewer. [Rickards and Walker, Lincoln's-inn fields.
TUCK, E., Haymarket, silversmith. [Mawe, New Bridge street.
HUGGINS, J., York place, High street, Portland town, and Vernon place, Bagnigge-wells road, poulterer. [C. W. and C. H. Lovell, South square, Gray's inn.
TARVER, J., Daventry, Northamptonshire, ironfounder. [Addis and Guy, Great Queen street.
RIDDEY, C. J., Little Creaton, Northamptonshire, innkeeper. [Weller, King's road, Bedford row.
COUCHMAN, C., Edward square, Kensington, carpenter. [Atkinson, Carey street.
JOSEPH, J., late of Richmond, Surrey, but now of Peter's hill, London, clerk to a book-keeper. [Lane, Argyle street, Regent street.
TAYLOR, H., Bilston, Staffordshire, victualler. [Manby and Hawkeston, Wolverhampton.
CRUMP, J., Stanway, Gloucestershire, corn dealer. [Bell, Bedford row.

DECLARATION OF INSOLVENCY.

J. McLarty, Ratcliffe highway, retailer of beer.—J. Gaunt, Pudsey, Yorkshire, auctioneer.—R. Roffey, Deptford, Kent, bricklayer.—J. C. S. Kelly, Wardrobe place, City, livery-stable keeper.—R. Ayles, Portsea, Hampshire, baker.—H. Smith, Farlington, Hampshire, carpenter.—E. J. Bradshaw, Wolverhampton, Staffordshire, professor of drawing.—J. Whips, Nicholl street, Haggerstone, coal merchant.—W. Eggleston, Hulme, Lancashire, salesman.—J. Shaw, Highburton, Yorkshire, fancy manufacturer.—T. Johnston, Hadley, Shropshire, travelling draper.—N. B. Smith, New Millman street, Gray's-inn lane, journeyman carpenter.—B. Kaye, Halifax, Yorkshire, journeyman woollen spinner.—J. Young, Fudsey Fartown, Yorkshire, blacksmith.—J. Shepherd, Huddersfield, Yorkshire, boot maker.—W. Dobson, Leeds, flour dealer.—J. Scott, Northowram, Yorkshire, labourer.—W. Ratcliffe, Birkenhead, Cheshire, police officer.—J. Addey, Selby, Yorkshire, joiner.—L. W. Williams, Brydges street, Covent garden, eating-house keeper.—A. Liddlelow, Seymour place, Camden town, butcher.—R. Spensley, Baringham, Yorkshire, innkeeper.—I. Price, Stepey green, undertaker.—W. Walker, Oldham, Lancashire, journeyman basket maker.—J. Bendall, Welbeck street, Cavendish square, tailor.—J. Fryer, Cock hill, Ratcliffe, tobacconist.—T. Minchew, Bilston, Staffordshire, carpenter.—T. Scott, Bishop's Cleeve, Gloucestershire, carpenter.—J. Slade, Bexley, Kent, carpenter.—J. Seel, Walton, Lancashire, builder.—H. G. Huxford, Broadway, Ludgate hill, lamp contractor.—W. Richardson, Liverpool, builder.—W. Dickenson, Nottingham, baker.—J. Ahrenfeld, Well street, Jewin street, City, commission agent.—R. Tennant, Ward street, Lambeth walk, beer retailer.—H. Haslip, High Holborn, cutler.—J. Rowling, Beaumont street, Marylebone, plumber.—T. Cheshire, Dunstable, Bedfordshire, cabinet maker.—W. Marriott, jun., St Andrew's road, New Kent road, hat manufacturer.

DIVIDENDS.

March 26, F. B. Courtenay, Great Marlborough street, bookseller.—March 26, J. Andrew, late of the Crown public house, Lad lane, City, and now of Guildford street East, Wilmington square, licensed victualler.—March 26, P. Axmann and J. G. Christ, Mark lane, City, merchants.—March 26, W. Read, King street, Covent garden, engraver.—March 28, T. Maggs, Cheshunt, Hertfordshire, upholsterer.—March 28, W. Keep, Northumberland street, Strand, tailor.—March 28, C. Sharp and W. D. Clarke, Berners street, Marylebone, upholsterers.—March 28, E. Mackintosh, Haymarket, army accoutrement maker.—March 27, J. G. West, now or late of High street, Walworth, cheesemonger.—March 27, J. Wills, Osborne street, Whitechapel, ale merchant.—March 27, R. Kennett, formerly of New Bond street, and now of Lincoln's-inn fields, tooth-ache curer.—March 26, T. Baines, Bradford, Yorkshire, worsted spinner.—March 30, W. Fretwell, Leeds, colonial merchant.—March 29, R. Hunt, Kingston-upon-Hull, hosier.—March 29, J. Crowther, Huddersfield, Yorkshire, corn miller.—March 29, T. Eyre, Gainsborough, Lincolnshire, corn merchant.—March 27, J. Taylor, Middlesborough, Yorkshire, coal fitter.—March 28, G. Walker, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, ship broker.—March 26, H. Featherstonhaugh, late of Bishop Wearmouth, Durham, coal fitter.—March 27, C. B. Buchanan, and W. Cunningham, Liverpool, merchants.—March 26, T. Bomford, late of

Elmstone Hardwick, Gloucestershire, and now of Cheltenham, hay dealer.—March 27, P. James, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire, and Birmingham, coal dealer.—March 29, R. Beasley, Gaddesby, Leicestershire, worsted spinner.—March 29, M. Hadley, Walsall, Staffordshire, chemist.—March 27, H. Fulford, Birmingham, draper.

CERTIFICATES.

March 26, C. Killick and J. Sudd, Blackman street, Borough, paper-stainers.—March 28, T. W. Vine, Peerless row, City road, carpenter.—March 28, F. B. Courtenay, Great Marlborough street, bookseller.—March 28, A. Westmore, West Derby, Lancashire, joiner.—March 27, E. Charles, Radipole, Dorsetshire, brick maker.—March 28, G. W. Hyde, Nottingham, dyer.

CERTIFICATES.—MARCH 26.

W. Reed, King street, Covent garden, engraver.—R. Greenhow, Wrexham, Denbighshire, iron master.—J. Sewell, Charles street, Paddington, victualler.—H. Congreve, Peckham, Surrey, dealer in patent medicines.—J. Lawrence, Birmingham, spirit merchant.—J. Pierce, Dean street, Soho, licensed victualler.—J. Smalley, Duxberry mill, Lancashire, miller.—J. Why, Holborn hill, City, laceman.—H. Laybourn, Hattlepool, Durham, ship broker.—E. Munn, Stanhope terrace, Hyde park, corn chandler.—C. Duffield, Bath, grocer.—W. Kearse, late of Cork, but now of Belgrave place, Walworth road, tailor.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATION.

P. Sinclair, Edinburgh, auctioneer.

Friday, March 8.

BANKRUPTS.

EDWARDS, H., coal merchant, St Alban's.
WILKINSON, T., boot maker, King street, Holborn.
BARWICK, J., omnibus proprietor, Great Carter lane, Doctors' commons.
FOORD, G., seed merchant, Lentham, Kent.
MONTEFIORE, J., and BARROW, J., merchants, Nicholas lane, City.
BARRER, R., druggist, Manchester.
DOUGLASS, J., rope manufacturer, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.
BREWSTER, T., pavior, Liverpool.
LEWIS, R., wine and spirit merchant, Perrygroes, Flintshire.
THOMPSON, J., iron manufacturer, Stoke-upon-Trent, Staffordshire.
PAYNE, J. D., and RUSHTON, L., furriers, Birmingham.

MARRIED.

On the 2d instant, at Stonehouse, Francis James Polkinghorne, first lieutenant in the Royal Marines, to Charlotte, youngest daughter of Matthew Wiggins, Esq.

DIED.

On the 3rd instant at his house, in New Broad street, aged 81, George Kinloch, Esq., of Kair, Kineardineshire, N.B.

On the 2d instant, at his house, New grove, Mile end, William Simmons, Esq., late of the East India House, in the 79th year of his age.

On the 2d instant, the Dowager Countess Beauchamp, at her mansion in St James's square, at an advanced age. She was relict of William Lygon, first Earl Beauchamp, and only daughter of Mr James Donn, and by that noble Earl, who died on the 21st of October, 1816, her Ladyship had issue nine children, including the late and present Earl Beauchamp, the Hon. Major-General Henry B. Lygon, the Hon. Major-General Edward B. Lygon, the Countess of Longford, and Lady Louisa Lygon.

On the 4th instant, James John Markby, of the Secretary's Department in the General Post-office, aged 23 years, eldest son of James Markby, Esq., of Aberdeen place, Maida hill.

On the 4th instant, at her house at St Alban's, in the 89d year of her age, Hannah, the widow of the late Rev. John Payler Nicholson, A.M., Rector of St Alban's Abbey Church.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

THE NEW LIGHT.—GREAT NOVELTY.—The Patent CAMPHINE LAMP gives a light of surpassing power, softness, and purity, without any kind of grease or dirt, smoke or smell. The lamp is simply and beautifully constructed, and can be fitted to any description of lamp, pedestal, or gas fitting. It is not easily put out of condition. The Camphine (also a patent) is 4s. per gallon, and is so pure that if spilt on any article of dress or furniture, will not leave either mark or stain, while it consumes so slowly that, at the cost of three farthings for two hours, it gives a light equal to twelve mould candles, without any attention. It will be found far less expensive than any, and incomparably superior to all existing light. To be seen burning at RIPPON and BURTON'S (sole wholesale and retail agents for ENGLISH'S PATENT CAMPHINE), Wells street, Oxford street.—Lamps from 3s. each; Lamp heads (with Chimney and Ground Shade) for fitting to any Pedestal, 21s. each if of Brass or Plain Glass; 23s. each if of Ground Glass.

A BRONZED SCROLL FENDER for 15s.—

Rippon and Burton, 12 Wells street, Oxford street, are now offering the most extensive assortment of Fenders in London, embracing every possible variety, at prices 30 per cent. under any other house. Iron fenders, 3 feet long, from 4s. 6d.; 3 feet 6, 5s. 3d.; 4 feet, 6s.; ditto bronzed, 3 feet, from 6s.; 3 feet 6, 7s.; 4 feet, 8s.; rich scroll fenders bronzed, from 15s.; or with steel rod and moulding, from 21s.; polished steel and ormolu mounted fenders at proportionate prices. Fire irons for chambers, 1s. 9d. per set; ditto steel ditto, from 3s. 6d.; handsome ditto with cut heads, 6s. 6d.; newest patterns, with elegant bronzed heads, 11s. 6d.—Detailed catalogues, with engravings, sent (per post) free.

GUNS.—LONDON PROVED GUNS.—A SINGLE-BARREL GUN, with twisted barrel, and patent breech

A ditto ditto, London proved	28s.
A double-barrel Gun, with twisted barrel and patent breech	35s.
A ditto ditto, London proved	58s.
A ditto ditto, London proved	65s.

A single-barrel Gun, 18s., usually charged two guineas.

Single Guns, to 6l. 10s.; double ditto, to 15l.

Hitherto there has been no certain way of obtaining a good gun without paying an extravagant price. Guns sold at low prices have been made by those with whom quality has not been so much a consideration as the production of a showy cheap article, which has generally proved worthless, if not dangerous. This has led Rippon and Burton to engage persons of known ability and great experience in the manufacture of guns, and they now solicit sportsmen to inspect their extensive assortment.—Mahogany cases, fitted with cleaning tackle, shot pouch, powder flask, &c., in great variety.—12 Wells street, Oxford street. (Established 1820.)

NATIONAL ANTI-CORN-LAW LEAGUE.

THE COUNCIL of the LEAGUE beg to announce that their next MEETING in COVENT GARDEN THEATRE will not take place until WEDNESDAY SEVENIGHT, the 20th inst., engagements having been made by the Proprietors of the Theatre for next week which will preclude the possibility of making the requisite arrangements for holding the usual weekly meeting.

VENICE, the ISLAND CITY.—Under the Patronage of the Emperor and Empress of Austria, the Kings and Queens of Prussia, Holland, Bavaria, &c. (whose signatures may be seen in the "Royal Album," in the Exhibition Room).—A perfect model, on an immense scale, of this extraordinary and most interesting City is now exhibiting at the Egyptian Hall, Piccadilly, every day from eleven in the morning until nine at night, beautifully illuminated. Admission, 1s.; Children, 6d.

N. B.—A rare Picture by Coreggio, to be seen at the Exhibition Room, and which is for sale.

FRAMPTON'S PILL of HEALTH effectually relieves the stomach and bowels by gentle relaxation, without griping or prostration of strength. They remove head-ache, sickness, dizziness, pains in the chest, &c.; are highly grateful to the stomach, promote digestion, create appetite, relieve languor and depression of spirits, while to those of a full habit and free livers, who are continually suffering from drowsiness, heaviness, and singing in the head and ears, they offer advantages that will not fail to be appreciated. Sold by Prout, 229 Strand, London, price 1s. 1½d. per box, and by most Medicine Venders in the Kingdom.

DAYLIGHT AT NIGHT! CAMPHINE!—The PATENT CAMPHINE LAMP gives a rich light, surpassing Gas in pureness and brilliancy, is simple in construction, and emits neither smoke or smell. May be seen burning at F. Barnett's Furnishing Ironmongery and Lamp Warehouse, 25 Oxford street, where a large assortment may be selected from, all at the lowest possible prices. Any Lamp Pillar may be fitted with a Camphine head. Patent Camphine Lamp, Spirit 3s. 8d. per Gallon. N. B.—25 Oxford street, one door west of Rathbone place.

PATENT ENAMELLED KITCHEN WARE is the most durable and cleanly article ever introduced, stands the test of any acid, never requires repairing, and is strongly recommended for chemical purposes. Saucepans, from 1s. 6d.; Stew pans, from 2s.; Tea kettles, Preserving pans, Frying pans, Gridirons, &c. &c. full twenty per cent. under any other house. Catalogues sent in answer to a post-paid application.

HALL LAMPS, 11s. 6d.; ground glass Patent Solar Lamps, from 2s. 6d.; Palmer's Patent Candle Lamps, from 5s. A most elegant assortment of Table, Bracket, Sideboard, and Suspending Lamps, in ormolu and bronze, at extraordinary low prices. Lamps cleaned or altered to the Solar principle; Lamp shades, 5s.; Cottons, 4d. per doz.; Palmer's Patent Candles, 8d. per lb.

ELIOS STOVE, price 35s. will warm a Room 20 feet square at the cost of 2½d. per diem.; is peculiarly agreeable and wholesome, and well adapted for Sitting or Sleeping rooms, Conservatories, or Shops. Drawings and Catalogues of prices sent in answer to post-paid applications. Country orders are requested to contain either remittance, or a reference in Town.

From 18s.—**GUNS and RIFLES, London Government proved.**—A large assortment of Spanish-ribbed Twist Single and Double-barrelled Fowling Pieces, of superior manufacture and finish; some Rifles by the very best makers Pistols, shot-belts, Powder-flasks, &c., at least 30 per cent. cheaper than London Makers' exorbitant charges.

F. BARNETT, 25 Oxford street, one door west of Rathbone place.

PATRONIZED BY HER MAJESTY,

H. R. H. PRINCE ALBERT, THE ROYAL FAMILY, AND THE SEVERAL COURTS OF EUROPE.

ROWLAND'S MACASSAR OIL.

This elegant, fragrant, and pellucid oil, in its preservative, restorative, and beautifying qualities, is unequalled over the whole world. It preserves and reproduces the hair, prevents it from turning grey, or if so changed, restores it to its original colour; frees it from scurf and impurity, and renders it soft, silky, curly, and glossy.

CAUTION.—Each genuine bottle has the words "ROWLAND'S MACASSAR OIL," engraved in two lines, on the wrapper, and on the back of the wrapper nearly 1,500 times, containing 29,028 letters—without this none are genuine.

Price 3s. 6d.; 7s.; family bottles (equal to four small), 10s. 6d.; and double that size, 21s. per bottle.

ROWLAND'S KALYDOR

Pleasingly dissipates all Pimples, Spots, Blotches, Redness, Tan, Freckles, and other Defects of the Skin. Gentlemen will find it peculiarly grateful after shaving in allaying the irritation of the skin.

Price 4s. 6d. and 8s. 6d. per bottle, duty included.

ROWLAND'S ODONTO, OR PEARL DENTIFRICE.

A fragrant white powder. It eradicates Tartar and decayed Spots from the Teeth, polishes and preserves the enamel, to which it imparts a pearl-like whiteness, fixes the Teeth firmly in the gums, and imparts sweetness and perfume to the breath.

Price 2s. 9d. per box, duty included.

CAUTION.

Spurious imitations are frequently offered for sale under a Fictitious Name or the word "Genuine." It is therefore imperative on purchasers to see that the word "ROWLAND'S" is on the wrappers. The Proprietor's signature is also engraved on the Government Stamp, thus

A. ROWLAND & SON, 20 HATTON GARDEN, and affixed to the KALYDOR and ODONTO.

* * * All others are FRAUDULENT COUNTERFEITS.

N.B.—The principle on which each article is prepared is confined solely to the knowledge and practice of A. ROWLAND & SON, 20 HATTON GARDEN, LONDON,—the amalgamation of their purely vegetable materials neutralizes all attempts to separate their component parts, and thus proves the imposition of all other articles bearing the same names.

The genuine preparations are sold by the Proprietors, and by Chemists and Perfumers.

NEW WORKS BY THE CONDUCTORS OF 'THE ARTIZAN.'
THE APPRENTICE: A Weekly Journal of the Operative Arts. Edited by the ARTIZAN CLUB. Published every Saturday, price Three Halfpence.

Part I, containing Four Numbers, is now ready, price Sixpence. Office, 2 Tavistock street, Covent garden.—The Part may be had of Messrs Simpkin and Co.

A TREATISE ON THE STEAM ENGINE. By the ARTIZAN CLUB. In twenty-four Monthly Parts, One Shilling each, quarto.

Each Part will contain an Engraving on Steel, besides Woodcuts. The first Part will be issued on the 1st of July. Persons wishing to take the work are recommended to make an early application, as the work will not be stereotyped, and only 6,000 will be printed.

London: Longman and Co.

AMERICAN PACKAGE EXPRESS OFFICE AND SHIPPING AGENCY AT LIVERPOOL,



In connexion with New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Charleston, New Orleans, Baltimore, Montreal, Quebec, Halifax, N. S., St John's, N. B., and the principal ports throughout the West-Indies, and South America.

WILLMER and SMITH, SHIPPING and FORWARDING AGENTS, offer their services at the port of Liverpool to British and other Manufacturers and Shippers of Goods, and beg to state, that they are prepared to receive and ship, with great punctuality and despatch, Boxes, Parcels, Specie, and Packages, of every description, to all parts of the United States, Canada, the West Indies, and South America.

Their connexion with Messrs HARNDEN and Co. of Boston, New York, and Philadelphia, enable them to state that Goods shipped through WILLMER and SMITH for the United States and Canada, are landed immediately and forwarded as directed, by Daily Express Cars, which run to and from all parts of the Western Continent, accompanied by a Messenger.

All Goods consigned to WILLMER and SMITH are lodged in an excellent Dry Warehouse, on their own Premises, and are under Insurance whilst in their care. In all cases they request to be advised of the contents and value (for Custom-house entry) of Goods sent for Shipment; which should be especially addressed to their care.

WILLMER and SMITH can give the most satisfactory References; and beg to assure parties who may entrust their commands to them that the most punctual attention shall at all times be given to every description of business with which they may be honoured. They are also prepared to offer their services to parties importing Goods from all parts of the Western World.

15 per Cent. Discount for Cash to Shippers, Captains, and Emigrants.
SILVER SUPERSEDED, and those corrosive and injurious metals, called Nickel and German Silver, supplanted by the introduction of a new and perfectly matchless ALBATA PLATE.

C. WATSON, 41 and 42 BARBICAN, and 16 NORTON FOLGATE, aided by a person of science in the amalgamation of Metals, has succeeded in bringing to public notice the most beautiful article ever yet offered; possessing all the richness of Silver in appearance, with all its durability and hardness—with its perfect sweetness in use—undergoing, as it does, a Chemical Process, by which all that is nauseous in Mixed Metals is entirely extracted—resisting all Acids, may be cleaned as Silver, and is Manufactured into every Article for the Table and Sideboard.

	Plain.	Threaded.	King's.
Table Spoons and Forks	16s. 6d.	30s. 0d.	85s. 0s.
Dessert Ditto Ditto	12 6	25 0	30 0
Tea Spoons	5 6	13 6	13 6
Salt Ditto	6 0	12 6	12 6
Fish Knives	5 6 each	12 6	12 6
Sauce Ladles	3 6 pair	7 6	7 6
Gravy Spoons	3 6 each	7 6	7 6

C. WATSON begs the Public will understand that this Metal is peculiarly his own, and that silver is not more different from gold than his Metal is from all others—on its intrinsic merit alone he wishes it to be tested, and from the daily increasing eulogiums he receives, he is convinced that nothing can prevent its becoming an article of universal wear.

C. WATSON'S handsomely ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE and PRICE CURRENT, is just published, and Families who regard economy and elegance, should possess themselves of this useful Book, which may be had Gratis, and Post Free from the above Address.

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