

THE EXAMINER.

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THE POLITICAL EXAMINER.

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

THE WAR AND THE DIPLOMACY.

Sinope, it appears after all, is not the crowning mercy of the Peace Party. A greater achievement was behind. Persia, a power the independence of which, as we are truly told by the *Times*, is essential to the safety of India, has formally tendered her alliance to Russia. Unlike Austria, who in joining the Western Powers confined her assistance simply to moral support, Persia has promised to Russia a respectable contingent of troops. We have therefore now, thanks to the policy which seeks by every means to evade war, and which grants to an adversary time sufficiently long to enable him to complete his preparations, the prospect of new commotions on our western frontier in India, and possibly of another Afghan campaign. We are told that the Indian Government are prepared for this enterprise. If so, it is a pity that they had not the direction of the affairs which are transacted in Downing street, where the blow appears to have been no less unexpected than the attack on Sinope.

In the meantime, the journals which have hitherto, with so much ability, performed the difficult task of defending the measures of the Four Powers, are indulging in very bitter reproaches against the Emperor Nicholas. "The affair of Sinope was a distinct breach of faith," says the *Morning Chronicle*:

The Western Powers are parties to the dispute; and they have hitherto been induced to abstain from active interference mainly, if not entirely, by the confidence they have reposed in the Emperor's solemn and repeated assurances of his desire for peace, and of his determination to attempt no further aggression, and to content himself with maintaining his position in the Danubian provinces.

This may be all very true; and as it is stated by journals that seem to have peculiar access to ministerial information, we are bound to believe it. Nor can we deny that complaints may justly be made by those, who, through placing implicit reliance on the solemn promises of the Emperor Nicholas, have been induced to sacrifice an ally, and, on "the flag that braved a thousand years the battle and the breeze," have brought the discredit of letting it be supposed to have no disposition to brave the battles and the breezes of the Euxine. Quite justified are they, who after such sacrifices have received such treatment, in asserting that "Russian good faith will henceforth be a bye-word." But in making the declaration, are they not deserting the prudent line of conduct which they have heretofore not only cautiously followed themselves, but have attempted imperiously to impose upon others. May they not venturing to speak the truth, even now, irritate the Autocrat? May they not compromise the success of the negotiations from which they have taught us to expect so much, and which are now for the third or fourth time perseveringly set on foot?

A little more national humiliation,—a little more display of that "eagerness to secure Russia from defeat," which we are assured by the *Morning Chronicle* is entertained by the united Cabinets,—and the Emperor, having succeeded in proving that as in Russia so throughout Europe there is no law except his own will, may possibly consent to leave us a little longer in that repose which, according to the philosophy of the Peace Congress, is to be preferred before such antiquated considerations as a regard for the balance of power, or the preservation of national honour.

We thoroughly agree with the *Chronicle's* very caustic remark, that "it will be our own fault if we are ever again misled by reliance on the Imperial promises." This declaration will no doubt be gall and wormwood to the Imperial mind. But will it make any very important change in the Imperial councils? and is it not now our own fault that we have been misled already by the Imperial promises? The present chief of the English Cabinet has had dealings with Meternich, has not been unacquainted with Talleyrand, has had some delicate discussions with Monsieur Guizot, and has, on Eastern questions too, encountered Pozzo di Borgo. Did the result of all this experience lead Lord Aberdeen to believe that solemn assurances are to be implicitly relied on? Surely the most confiding temperament might have acquired a shade of suspicion, from the affair of the Spanish marriages for example. For it is by no means clear that the Emperor Nicholas has in former years done anything which should cause him to be regarded as superior to the ordinary frailties of emperors and statesmen.

In the state of military affairs in the East, we have no very remarkable changes to report. The attempt of the Russians to cross the Danube, which was announced with such an important air of mystery, took place at Matschine on the Lower Danube, and by night. It was repulsed by the inhabitants of the Dobrudsche, who are we believe of Cossack origin. The Russians were defeated, even ac-

ording to their own admission, but with what loss is at present unknown. The affair is important chiefly because it shows the groundlessness of the assertion so frequently reiterated, that the Russians have refrained from crossing the Danube in pursuance of orders from St Petersburg, and not through a wholesome fear of the Ottomans. If they had succeeded in passing the river at Matschine, they might possibly, aided by the fleet which performed such prodigies of valour at Sinope, have attempted a *coup-de-main* on Varna.

On the Upper Danube, Omar Pasha still holds with a strong hand Kalafat, the position which he occupied at the commencement of the campaign, and the value of which, as cutting off the Russians from communication with the revolutionary party in Servia, and keeping within decent bounds the "neutrality" of Austria, we then pointed out. In the *Times* of Thursday, the letter of a correspondent who writes from Widdin gives a graphic account of the condition of that city. At the date of the letter, the 29th of November, a bridge across the Danube, between Kalafat and Widdin, was on the point of completion; the supplies of provisions appear to have been abundant, and the temper of the troops excellent. It will require better soldiers than those who attacked the entrenchments at Oltenitza, or more generalship than was there displayed, in order to drive Sami Pasha and his forces from so formidable a position.

In the meantime the interruption in the operations of the Turkish army, either by the weather, or as some well-informed persons assert, by the interference of the Four Powers, is giving time for the Russian re-inforcements to come up. They will probably arrive in the Danube, as we anticipated, about the present time; we are therefore not surprised that accounts from the theatre of war, on which we place every reliance, assume the speedy commencement of a fierce and decisive winter campaign. Very little rain had fallen this year in the Principalities, the cold was already nine and ten degrees below zero (of Reaumur) at night, so that for the movement of troops and artillery the soil of Bulgaria could not be in a better condition. The Russians were hurrying forward from Bessarabia and their northern encampments all the troops possible, and these were urged on precipitately, notwithstanding the great loss which the Russians invariably sustain by any hasty movement. Not a doubt was entertained but that all this was preparatory to a general advance of the Russian armies. Such does not seem to have been the intention at first. But they are so inspired by their successes at sea, by the victories, or shadows of victories, which their braggart bulletins claim for them on the Asiatic frontier, as well as by the complete inaction of the so-called friends of Turkey, that they may no longer hesitate to press to the decision of a battle the important question of which Power is to have the ascendant in the valley of the Danube.

The most sanguine friends of the Russians can however scarcely venture to anticipate any result in this quarter so "brilliant" as the battle of Sinope. Fortunately for the Turks, there is no combined English and French land force stationed at Shumla, to inspire their allies with a full confidence, and to lead them into a belief that Russia is waging merely a defensive warfare. Fortunately for the brave soldiers of England and France, they will not be exposed to the shame which has been inflicted on the naval forces of the two Powers, by being left to ride idly at anchor within a day's sail of the spot where the gallant Osman, with the resolution of a Nelson, was contending at the head of his feeble squadron against the whole navy of Russia in the Euxine. Such a stain is not easily effaced. Such a blow is not quickly recovered from. But though it has fallen so heavily on the favorite service of Englishmen, let us be thankful that at least English soldiers have been spared a similar degradation. The *Te Deum* which the Emperor has been blasphemously offering up in all the churches of his empire is as yet but a thanksgiving for having baffled only the naval forces of France and England. His triumph over their armies, and the blasphemous boasting with which he will commemorate it, are reserved for a future occasion.

As to the inflated bulletins published by the exulting Czar respecting the war in Asia, one hardly knows how to distinguish the truth from the lies in them. They are obviously "cooked;" and possibly to the extent (as was the case at Oltenitza) of converting defeat into victory. It is remarkable that in the description of the "memorable battle" which lasted from sunrise to sunset on the 14th of November, in the neighbourhood of Akaltzik, not a word is said respecting the relief of the Russian garrison in the citadel of that town. Night ever inopportunely comes on to prevent the completion of a Russian victory. It may be, that tired with the pursuit, the victors thought fit to repose in the citadel, and that the Turks ignorantly mistook this voluntary movement for a retreat. If this be the case, there may be no material discrepancy between the two accounts. At any rate it is difficult to conceive that news should travel faster by way of St Petersburg, than of Constantinople, from the south-eastern corner of the Black Sea.

THE MISUNDERSTOOD.

There is always a presumption against a man whose conduct cannot be understood, and the French accordingly convey some imputation in the word *incompris*. This is unfortunately now Lord Palmerston's case. What he has done cannot be comprehended, it can only be misunderstood and misinterpreted. At home people can hardly believe that he can have gone out on the Reform Bill. Abroad they will obstinately believe that he has gone out on the Eastern question, and everywhere this opinion has had the worst effect, encouraging where discouragement is desirable, discouraging where encouragement is desirable. To correct this mistake is extremely difficult, because foreigners suppose that the English Government is a faithful representative of English feelings and opinions. They cannot understand the wide chasm that may yawn between the so-called representative Government of England and the prevailing sentiments of the country. When therefore they see the backward-luke-warm policy of the Ministry with regard to the Turkish cause, they fancy they perceive the reason why Lord Palmerston conceals the true motive of his resignation, and ascribes it to his objections to the Reform project, instead of to his dissatisfaction with the conduct of the Eastern question. They imagine that he would be running counter to the public opinion of England in quitting his post on the latter ground. Here we all know that the fact is the very opposite to this supposition, and that if Lord Palmerston had really resigned upon the Eastern question he had every motive to proclaim the cause, and to make it ring through the country, calling it to the rescue of its character and honour. Lord Palmerston likes popularity, as every man may without reproach, nay laudably like it, when it is fairly his due, not as having been sought by him for its own sake only, but as having followed his services and deserts. And if he could have attributed his resignation to a dissatisfaction with the Eastern policy which is felt by ninety-nine people out of a hundred, he would not have permitted a day to pass without making the truth known, and correcting the misrepresentation assigning his secession to another, and that a most unpopular cause. He would never consent to remain under a cloud till the meeting of Parliament. He would have burst through the cloud if he could do so, presenting himself in the character which the country was fond to think his, the bold asserter of the rights of nations, and the unflinching foe of the insolent oppressor. Here, then, it is perfectly understood, by the well-informed and reflecting, that the assigned cause must be the true cause of Lord Palmerston's rupture with his late colleagues; or at least that the Eastern question cannot be the cause, as he himself does not proclaim it;—but abroad the pernicious belief prevails, that the real motive is concealed because it would destroy Lord Palmerston in the opinion of the timid English people, who prefer truckling to the Russian despot, and deserting or even betraying an ally in her hour of need to the chances of a war in a righteous cause. Utterly impossible it would be to make foreigners understand, that, in our vaunted representative system, there could exist the contrariety which does exist between the prevalent opinion of the country and the administration which conducts its foreign councils. And therefore, abroad, they must and will continue to set down Lord Palmerston's resignation to the account of a difference on the Eastern Policy; and to regard England as thoroughly subservient to Russia, or abjectly cowed by her bullying airs and attitude.

CHRISTMAS DAY.

Christmas Day, we hope, will find all Englishmen in the usual good humour to-morrow. Pudding is dearer than we could desire—so is the Christmas fire—but there is wherewithal to make holiday nevertheless. And since this greatest of our festivals happens this year to fall on a Sunday, men of business throughout the land, with almost perfect unanimity, have agreed that those whom they employ shall not be deprived of the additional most welcome day of rest which Christmas usually furnishes. We are all to abstain from work by mutual consent next Monday.

There is an exception, as might have been expected, but it comes from an unexpected quarter. To a request that the Government offices might on that day be closed, we see with regret a reply from Lord Palmerston which would certainly have been more appropriate in the mouths of the Glasgow Presbytery. Government, says in substance the late Home Minister, allows a holiday on Christmas Day only in order that the clerks may sit under their respective religious ministers, and as they will all be able to do that in the usual course on Sunday, he can see no need for an extra day of relaxation. The army of Downing street is therefore to keep Christmas as the gentlemen of Beauce break their fast, in memory of the day when Gargantua was there, and all the breakfast his mare got was but a little yawning and gaping. We repeat that we are sorry for it.

The performance of religious duties ought truly to form the chief part of our Christmas celebration. But happily we do not confine ourselves at this season to the mere cere-

monies of religion. It is Christmas for us out of the church doors, and beyond the shadow of the pulpit. We keep it as a yearly feast of mutual kindness and good will, which sends its influence far on into succeeding months. Our custom being so, we did not expect that Government, and of all men Lord Palmerston, would object to recognise and sanction that general national feeling.

Christmas Day itself, however, we all have. Its beef, its pudding, its good humour, and above all its gossip, will not fail us. If Lord Palmerston has annoyed some of us by the denial of one privilege, he has obliged all of us with another, in giving us plenty to talk about. For three successive December frosts Lord Palmerston has been doing his best to crack and split up Cabinets. He is becoming one of the institutions of the season. In a year or two he will take his regular place in our almanacks side by side with lunar and other changes. Against some date or other in December there will have to be chronicled a Transit of Palmerston.

Not at all cheerful is the other Christmas topic that will be rife at to-morrow's tables. The prospect of war has just now a dread interest, such as might belong to a ghost-story or a fireside tale of peril. Yet no doubt the best will be made of it. Certain is it at least that an immense number of bad jokes will be made, out of the connexion which the wits of families will detect between Turkey the country and Turkey the bird, and the worst of these jokes will have a reception given only to the best at other times. For the beginning and end of an English Christmas is good humour, and the strong desire of every man to please and help those who surround him. No season ever was kept holy in a truer way than this. There never was conceived a better, and in good truth we may say a sublimer way, of giving force to a religious celebration, than the custom we have of consecrating Christmas as the season when, in all of us, if at any time,

All generous feelings flourish and rejoice,
Forbearance, charity in deed and thought,
And resolution competent to take
Out of the bosom of simplicity
All that her holy customs recommend.

Even in our holly and our Christmas cheer there is something sacred, as we so interpret them. Particular customs of Christmas may have been dropped in modern days, but manifestly, we think, the really wholesome spirit of the season has of late years gained in strength. May it so continue, still strengthening. May we prosper in proportion as we keep our Christmas heartily and well—enjoying it ourselves as hospitably as we may, extending its enjoyment and hospitality where we can, and being now, if ever, charitable both in act and word.

LONDON DIRT AND NATIONAL GALLERY CLEANING.

London bids fair to take rank amongst the very dirtiest cities of Europe; nay, it promises ere long to surpass Lisbon itself. The more the moral of cleanliness has been pointed, the more the banefulness of dirt has been demonstrated as the ally of pestilence, the more filthy this perverse city has become. The metropolis used at least to keep up some appearances. She washed her hands and face, as it were, if she did nothing else. She showed a fair outside, and studied the eye if not the nose. She kept her filth in holes and corners, and bragged that she was not as Paris and other cities, whose streets were not safe against abominations after a certain hour of the night. She was not like that French lady who, upon a remark on the dirt of her hands, replied with vivacity, "You should see my feet"! London was nasty in parts, but not nasty everywhere. She is now attaining complete consistency, black and all black, foul and all foul. Her streets are becoming a match for her river, and the empire of dirt reigns throughout.

In the summer, when there is least need of cleaning the streets, the street orderlies were very busily at work, scraping the stones so smoothly that the horses' feet had not the requisite hold of the slippery surface, and frequent accidents were the consequence. With the advance of autumn those officious summer friends disappeared; and when the rains set in, mud ankle-deep was in complete possession of the town. For many days one could not be said to walk the great thoroughfares, the real operation being slipping; and to keep one's feet was a matter of no small difficulty. With the frost and snow came a change, indeed, but not a jot for the better. The snow was allowed to lie where it fell, or where it happened to accumulate. No measures were taken to compel housekeepers to have the pavement before their doors cleared, and the wealthiest neighbourhoods were those in which most neglect was shown of the public comfort and safety. The shopkeepers, for their interests, took care that their doors should be accessible, but the sweepings from their pavements into the kennel were permitted to lie in accumulated heaps, waiting a thaw to convert them into lakes of mud, and filling the air with a noxious chilling moisture in the process.

As the streets of London had never been so dirty as during the rainy weather, so they never were so dangerous as during the frost. The snow having, in most of the private streets, had undisturbed possession of the foot-pavement, and having been pounded to a hard level layer, the pot-boys and apothecaries' errand boys industriously applied themselves, according to their usage time immemorial, to establishing slides on the footpaths; in which labour of love they were of course zealously assisted by the large class of idle ragamuffins and vagabonds of all descriptions. The police, who have orders not to tolerate the obstruction of an apple-

woman's basket on the footpath, never interfere with the making of slides on the same; perhaps because they do not regard slides as obstructions, but rather as accelerating the movements of passengers, albeit sometimes with more haste than good speed, the head coming to the ground through the quickened motion of the heels. Be that as it may, we have often remarked the benignant interest with which a policeman has watched the aid which every passing ragamuffin contributes to the formation of a slide on the footpath. The officer has seemed to take an interest in the enjoyment of that part of the community in that particular sport; and whatever his orders may be, there is something in his feelings, his sympathies, or it may be in his antipathies, which forbids his thwarting the amusement. What is the result? A list of accidents, of broken limbs and injuries, from falls on those slides, at the end of last week, amounting to the mischief of a great railway disaster, to say nothing of the fear of these snares with which the streets are walked, or rather groped, at night.

A thaw, however, brings these nuisances to an end, in one shape, and reduces them to another expression of annoyance in lakes of mud and sludge, exhaling stench and steaming up influenza in the icy humidity imparted to the atmosphere.

The *laissez aller* system appears to reign supreme. There were scavengers once upon a time, and laws for cleanliness and the proprieties of the trivia enforced by the police: and most properly, for the urbanity of a people ought to be seen in more than their personal manners. Dirty streets are a rudeness, an incivility to the passengers; dangerous streets are an inhumanity. And how easy and how salutary would be the reformation of these nuisances! But parishes are remiss, and as for the police, it is utterly inert and useless as regards measures for cleanliness.

Having just waded through the enormous Blue Book on the National Gallery, how ardently are we made to desire that London could be put into the hands of the picture-cleaners, and the pictures left to the tutelary care which ought to watch over the streets and kennels, but which does nothing.

Seldom have we been so much interested and diverted as by Sir Edwin Landseer's truly graphic evidence before the Committee on the National Gallery, and it makes us speculate what would be the effect if this begrimed city could have the handling of Claude's 'Sheba.' We suspect there would be complaints like those against picture-cleaners; for there are folks who would lament the mellow harmony of London dirt. Does not Alderman Copeland, for one, boast that he has stood between London smoke, soot, and smut, and several bills for their suppression? And as every nuisance has its friend, as every Jack has his Jill, so there are people who would grieve to see the town purged of its various pollutions. "You must remember," says our great artist, "that if you have been accustomed to see a face always of the same hue, and that face is suddenly washed, you would say perhaps it had been injured: 'it is a startling novelty.'"

It would be a startling novelty indeed to see the face of our chimney-sweeper metropolis suddenly washed; but to be sure, there is little similarity between the aspect of our town in the best state of which it is susceptible, and the two Canaletti of which Sir Edwin speaks in words which paint the truth of feeling, and which we quote for the sheer pleasure of quoting them: "The two Canaletti I remember when I was a boy, and I think that the genial and pleasant warmth that belonged to them has been much damaged."

Oh that these picture-dealers would transfer their art to London! and surely it is because they are at the National Gallery that we miss the scrubbing due to our kennels.

Again let us quote Sir Edwin Landseer: "There is a picture next to the Claude, by Gaspar Poussin, which is most seriously dirty; but I have no doubt in the world, even if it were judiciously cleaned, you would be startled at seeing it with a clean face: you would say, 'Ah, look what they have done with this!'"

Lord Palmerston defines dirt as something out of place (excepting always a statesman in that predicament), and it seems that cleaning may be as much out of place as dirt; and heartily do we wish that the town and the pictures of the National Gallery could change places, that Claude's 'Sheba' had the immunity of our filthy Thames, and that our kennels were under those vigorous professional hands which are torturing paintings, bringing Claude's sun into Sir Edwin Landseer's eyes, and making a heretofore well-conducted tree as tyrannical as the Emperor of Russia.

THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT'S SPEECH.

The new President of the United States, notwithstanding many threats and forebodings to the contrary, has addressed Congress in that calm, unambitious, unprovoking tone, so grateful to all men of good feeling and sense, and for the most part so unsatisfactory in America. Recent accounts from the United States represent nearly all parties as discontented with General Pierce. A few words may explain this feeling, and throw some light on the message just delivered.

A great many different sections of the democrats and some few ill-tempered coteries of the whigs had sacrificed a strong mutual repugnance, and foregone very extravagant and peculiar desires, in order to effect a compromise and elect General Pierce. With what object except to keep out such men as Webster, no one at the time could ascertain. They succeeded. They raised to the Presidency a man perfectly

unknown, to the exclusion of every man eminent or known. The triumph of the obscure over the eminent, of the ambiguous politician over the frank and decided one, was complete. And it was not the first time that the electors of the United States had achieved such a triumph.

Accounts subsequent to the election, however, represented public opinion as highly dissatisfied with the result in the particular instance. General Pierce's choice of men to be ministers pleased nobody whatever. His Secretary of State, Marcy, was extremely unpopular. His own language as to things, too, seemed to satisfy the American public as little as his selection of men. This went so far, indeed, that the entire system under which this election of neutral and undistinguished persons to fill the first places in the government began to be loudly denounced. It was described as the tyranny of the caucus. It was attributed to the combined action and organisation of a few active individuals throughout the community, who thus managed to cheat public opinion, rather than direct or satisfy it. The local and state elections were all said to have been influenced by this feeling. The names recommended by the hitherto influential few had been universally set aside, and a large portion of the House of Representatives would thus, it was thought, consist of men almost wholly new.

Taking all this for granted, and assuming that such a revolution has really been effected, it will be curious to watch. Already it would seem to lead to the hope that if General Pierce keep the even tenor of his way, without giving in to any extremes or party exigencies, he may find in the majority of these new members an appreciation and a support which he would not have found from the old partisans, and which he has not at any time found from his friends in the press, whose habit it is freely to lift up and panegyrise one day, what they knock down and vilify the next.

The speech just delivered sanctions some such hope. It is as though composed for a new audience. Never was an address presented which deals so little in clap-trap, and in so slight a degree condescends to flatter any prevailing humour. The paragraph about Kesta, fully approving Captain Ingraham's conduct in that matter, may seem an exception; but it relates to a circumstance not only past, but exhausted, and from which consequences are no longer at all likely to flow. The language of the President with respect to relations and negotiations with England has not a phrase calculated to raise the slightest disquietude, though it unavoidably touches upon three questions unsettled, as to which negotiations are now passing between the countries. These are the fisheries, the relations of both powers with the states of Central America affected by the proposed passage between the oceans, and the demarcation of a frontier between the Oregon and the British territories in the north-west. The chief features of the latter being already marked, however, the details cannot possibly lead to much difference or difficulty.

The paragraph relating to France speaks of negotiations for increasing the freedom of commercial relations between both countries. The French Emperor has lately permitted the free importation of American corn, flour, and dried meats into France. Could any permanency be given to such a permission, it would be a great advantage to America, and a great step in advance for France.

The expressions used in regard to Spain and Cuba are what every fair and liberal man could desire. General Pierce deserves the highest credit for them, although such firm and calm language will as much disgust one particular party in the States, as the recommendation to repose on the subject of slavery will give umbrage to another.

The paragraph of the address which we looked to with most anxiety was that respecting Mexico, as both on the subject of the Tehuantepec passage and the northern frontier line, there were thought to exist serious differences. But the President only casually alludes to the latter, and accompanies his allusion with expressions of great respect for the independence and dignity of Mexico.

As to the financial prosperity and internal progress of the Union, they speak for themselves. The President, in alluding to them, does so with simplicity and truth, and with even less than the usual amount of magniloquence.

THE RENEWED ATTEMPT TO BETRAY TURKEY.

The *Débats* publishes the instructions to the Ambassadors of the Four Powers at Constantinople, from their respective Governments, and sorry are we to observe that the *Moniteur* cannot deny the authenticity of the document, but contents itself with the remark, that "if false it is a culpable manoeuvre, if true an unpardonable indiscretion."

If Byron be right in concluding that the "worst is ever nearest truth," then certainly we must receive these instructions as authentic, for it is difficult to conceive any counsels more mean, false, and unworthy.

The Ambassadors are to communicate to the Porte with a view to the proposed resumption of negotiation, and conference, that

The Governments of the Four Powers would be glad should the Sublime Porte declare, in the first place, that Austria, France, Great Britain, and Prussia, have not too much presumed on its conciliatory intentions in believing it to be still animated with the desire to terminate on favourable conditions the difference which has arisen between it and Russia, and still ready to come to an understanding for this purpose with the other Powers. That, recognising the assurance which Russia has on several occasions given, that it demands no new concessions nor rights infringing upon the sovereignty of the Sultan, the Divan is ready to renew its offers and to discuss the form in which peace shall be re-established, subject to the condition of not being called to accede to any of the demands which have been already refused, and to conclude an arrangement for the evacuation of the Principalities.

So the Divan is called upon to recognise the assurance given, on several occasions by Russia, that it demands no new concessions nor rights infringing upon the sovereignty of the Sultan! Why, the Divan knows too well that there is not a particle of truth in these repeated assurances, and that to recognise them would be to give up the ground for all its recent line of action. What was the construction put by the Czar upon the Vienna note, but the reinsisting on demands infringing upon the sovereignty of the Sultan? Why have the Powers abandoned that note, but because its meaning was wrested by Russia to claims deemed by them indefensible, and incompatible with the independence and integrity of the Turkish empire. The Emperor Nicholas has elaborately demonstrated the falsehood of the assurances the Powers now advise the Porte to recognise. The Western Powers have marked their conviction that the claims of Russia contradict those false assurances, and yet they counsel the Porte to recognise what they know to be a figment.

Turkey would put herself completely in the wrong if she professed belief in the assurances in question, for why in that case did she declare war, and put her armies in motion against the Russian forces. She declared war because not only was war made on her, but because the Czar had left no shadow of a doubt that he adhered to all those preposterous demands which constituted the Menschikoff ultimatum, and that he accepted the Vienna note, reading it as yielding all he had asked, and the Sultan had refused.

It is not beneath Russia to put forth notorious lies, but it would neither consist with the dignity nor with the policy of the Porte to adopt and re-echo them.

Another snake in the grass will be detected in this precious piece of advice:

We can understand the reasons which doubtless would not permit the Sublime Porte to negotiate with Russia in a part of its territory occupied by the arms of this Power. Russia, on its side, would have objections to negotiate in any town of Turkey. It would be proper, then, to leave the two parties to make choice of a neutral territory, and we abstain, therefore, from designating any particular place.

So the Powers coolly contemplate the continued Russian occupation of the Principalities during the negotiations. And this is to co-exist and consist with an armistice! That is to say, Russia is to remain in invasion of Turkey, and Turkey is to be bound to refrain from any endeavour to expel the invader. The one Power is to be undisturbed in wrong, and the other is to be fettered in her rights even of self-defence. The *sine quâ non* condition of justice and true policy would be the withdrawal of the Russian forces from the Principalities, preliminary to any resumption of negotiations. If it be said that the Emperor's pride will never yield this point, the answer is, that there is something stronger than the Emperor's pride, and which will infallibly make it bend and break if brought vigorously to bear. To indulge and humour this despot's pride is now to pamper the most dangerous enemy of Europe and Asia.

And while these object forbearances and compliances are practised and advised by the Powers, and while they are instructing their representatives to urge the Porte to pretend reliance on the Czar's assurances of all just and peaceful purposes, mark what earnest he is giving of his sincerity in Persia, where a long plot against both Turkey and England has been in concoction, and is now brought to the maturity of open rupture with both and actual hostilities with the former. We quote the *Times* in preference to making our own statements, which might be suspected of colouring the case against Russia, and also because nothing can be better said on the subject.

The change which has taken place in the pacific relations of the Court of Persia with the Ottoman empire, and even with this country, affords additional evidence of the deep-seated and deliberate course of policy pursued by Russia with reference to the present state of affairs in the East. It requires no demonstration that the hostile measures which the Persians are said to have taken are attributable to the direct influence of Russia, and must be considered as the result of a long system of intrigue at the Court of Teheran. Russia, therefore, probably anticipated, when she put forward her pretensions to a protectorate of the Christian subjects of the Porte, and took possession of a "material guarantee" in the Danubian Provinces, that the contest provoked on these pretences by Prince Menschikoff would soon spread to the shores of the Caspian, and that the attack directed against the Turkish empire would be felt by British interests in Central Asia. The means which Russia must have employed to urge Persia to take measures opposed to the faith of treaties and to the maintenance of a good understanding with England, and the time required for communications of this nature, suggest that the Emperor Nicholas has been labouring for some months past to implicate the Persians in the coming war, and that, while he was still talking of peace to Europe, he was preparing to extend the field of hostilities in Asia. It appears, however, that the quarrel which has taken place between the Shah's Government and the British Chargé d'Affaires, and which has led to a suspension of diplomatic relations, took place before the rupture between Persia and Turkey, and had been caused by affronts offered to servants of the Embassy, for which no reparation could be obtained. These petty vexations are, however, the mode in which such a Court as that of Persia betrays its hostility to a great Power, and the Persian Ambassador had been recalled from London some months before. The rupture with Turkey was more decided and abrupt, and was caused by the direct promises of the Czar, who offered to remit the debt still due to Russia, and to restore to Persia part of the disputed territory taken from her by the Turks.

A FABLE WORTH ATTENTION.

(From *Sohwan, or Waters of Comfort*.)

Likewise Omar Ibn Abi Bishr relates that Ali, the Commander of the Faithful, upon whom be the Peace of God, one day haranguing the People, and being interrupted by their clamours, descended from the Tribune and began to speak thus: "These People, Othman, and myself, are in the same case as the three Bulls, one white, the other red, and the third black, which lived in a jungle together with a Lion. Whenever the Lion attacked one of these three Bulls, they, by uniting their forces, repulsed him, so that he was unable to devour them. But one day the Lion said to the black and red Bulls, 'The colour of this white Bull will some day cause us to be discovered in the jungle in which we dwell. If you would suffer me to do so I would eat him up, and thus we should remain securely concealed, for no one would be able to discover us, seeing that your colour harmonies with mine, and mine with yours.' The two Bulls, therefore, closed their eyes to what was going on, and the Lion having devoured the white Bull remained with them, and when he sought to attack them, they united together against him. Then turning himself to the red Bull, the Lion said, 'This black fellow will bring disaster upon us, for his colour

attracts the eye. Conceive, therefore, to leave him alone, and I will eat him up, and then you and I shall remain here in safety, for the colour of my hide resembles yours, and yours and mine are the same.' Accordingly the black Bull was forsaken by the red one and slain by the Lion, who lived for a short time in peace with the survivor, until one day he called out to him, 'Oh! red Bull, I am coming to devour you.' 'You to devour me?' replied the Bull. And the Lion replied, 'I myself.' 'Since there is no help for it, then,' exclaimed the unfortunate animal, at least wait till I have cried out three times.' The Lion thereupon drew back, and the Bull cried 'Not to-day, not to-day doth he slay me; he slew me when he devoured the white Bull; he slew me when he devoured the white Bull; he slew me when he devoured the white Bull.' Even thus," continued Ali, "was I lost on the slaughter of Othman;" and this he repeated three times.

THE FOUR POWERS AND THE NOTE OF DECEMBER 5.—In the *Note of December 5*, attributed to the *Four Powers*, and appearing to be authentic, we read these words: "The assurance given on several occasions by the Emperor of Russia excludes the idea that that August Power entertains any wish to interfere with the integrity of the Ottoman Empire." And this paper the *Four Powers*, two of which are tied to the Tzar's throne, and a third is hardly less subservient, have the assurance to lay before the intelligent of Europe! the cool impudence to tell us he *excludes the idea, &c.*, when he already has seized the most fertile provinces, abolished its courts of judicature, driven into exile the best and noblest of the nation, thrust the merchant from his counter, the husbandman from his cottage, compelled the army to abjure its allegiance, and thrown into prison the officers who maintained it. Such is the modesty, the moderation, the morality, the Christianity, of the Tzar. He preserves his own integrity just as much as he preserves the integrity of the Ottoman dominions. Three of the *Powers* are perfectly in agreement: there is only one left. Curious that this one should ever have been accused by the others of bad faith. The Court of England has been doing more to render him popular than his own best efforts. Brave and honest men, who until now were unfriendly to him, at present look up to him from the gulph of ignominy into which their own princes have cast them. We raise by pressure the man we would keep down, and we bring into evidence the virtues we denied. Who is silly enough to believe that Prussia and Austria will during the continuance of another twelvemonth abstain from hostile demonstrations against him? And what is the consequence? It is for the interest of Belgium, which threw off the yoke of Austria, to keep it nailed up against the wall; and it is the feeling of Belgium that her constitution is unsafe where Austria sits paramount. Annexation to France would be beneficial to the trade of Belgium. It might not indeed be for our interest. But who cares for that? Certainly not the Ministers of the Crown. King Leopold and other princes of the same family have a stronger hold upon them. The smiles of a court, which fall superficially on the wise and virtuous, sink deeper into some breasts than love of country. We are changing men, it seems, but without a change of measures. This change, however, is close above our heads. In every great town throughout the kingdom there is already a loud exclamation against the duplicity of those who govern. But such audacious and insulting falsehood as that of the (so called) *Four Powers* rouses the most pacific. The human understanding is in revolt against it; a revolt which no court can stifle and no cannon quail.—WALTER SAVAGE LANDOR.—Dec. 19.

THE LITERARY EXAMINER.

STORIES FOR CHRISTMAS READING.

The storytellers should be liberal at Christmas, and should all of them produce their best. The genial literature proper to the season when all hearts are more than usually open, and men are more ready than ever to receive pleasure from good influences, must always be made up in a great part of stories about men and women, true stories or well feigned, which speak to the sympathies now so eager and so prompt to hear. We have a craving for stories at Christmas as for things that belong to it, like mince pies. Always very good, now they are relished most. They are a household institution; and being so, most properly are regarded as the fit supplement to a journal that bears and well supports the name of *Household Words*.

As a supplement to Mr Dickens's *Household Words*, then, we have *Another Round of Stories by the Christmas Fire*,* which is precisely what it ought to be, a round of stories that now make us smile by the playfulness of their wit, now make us draw more closely to the blaze in wonderment at ghostly accidents, now fasten the attention by hints of danger and crime, now arouse words and looks of tenderest sympathy, and remind us of those whom we ought never to forget, the sick, and the sorrowful, or the untaught ill-cared for Nobody whose name is legion. Full in every page of truth and genial wisdom, these stories are rich in the true Christmas spirit, and are moreover of such high literary value that the cheap-novel movement is not for many years likely to produce anything to compare with the thirty-six double-columned pages given here for three-pence. Thus the Round begins, the Schoolboy being the first speaker:

Being rather young at present—I am getting on in years, but still I am rather young—I have no particular adventures of my own to fall back upon. It wouldn't much interest anybody here, I suppose, to know what a screw the Reverend is, or what a griffin she is, or how they do stick it into parents—particularly hair-cutting, and medical attendance. One of our fellows was charged in his half's account twelve and sixpence for two pills,—tolerably profitable at six and threepence a-piece, I should think—and he never took them either, but put them up the sleeve of his jacket.

As to the beef, it's shameful. It's not beef. Regular beef isn't veins. You can chew regular beef. Besides which, there is gravy to regular beef, and you never see a drop to ours. Another of our fellows went home ill, and heard the family doctor tell his father that he couldn't account for his complaint unless it was the beef. Of course it was the beer, and well it might be!

However, beef and Old Cheeseman are two different things. So is beer. It was Old Cheeseman I meant to tell about; not the manner in which our fellows get their constitutions destroyed for the sake of profit.

Why, look at the pie-crust alone. There's no flakiness in it. It's solid—like damp lead. Then our fellows get nightmares, and are bolstered for calling out and waking other fellows. Who can wonder?

Old Cheeseman one night walked in his sleep, put his hat on over his nightcap, got hold of a fishing rod and a cricket bat, and went down into the parlour, where they naturally thought from his appear-

ance he was a Ghost. Why, he never would have done that, if his meals had been wholesome. When we all begin to walk in our sleeps, I suppose they'll be sorry for it.

Old Cheeseman wasn't second Latin Master then; he was a fellow himself. He was first brought there, very small, in a post-chaise, by a woman who was always taking snuff and shaking him—and that was the most he remembered about it. He never went home for the holidays. His accounts (he never learned any extras) were sent to a Bank, and the Bank paid them; and he had a brown suit twice a year, and went into boots at twelve. They were always too big for him, too.

In the Midsummer holidays, some of our fellows who lived within walking distance, used to come back and climb the trees outside the playground wall, on purpose to look at Old Cheeseman reading there by himself. He was always as mild as the tea—and that's pretty mild, I should hope!—so when they whistled to him, he looked up and nodded; and when they said "Halloa Old Cheeseman, what have you had for dinner?" he said "Boiled mutton;" and when they said "An't it solitary, Old Cheeseman?" he said "It is a little dull sometimes;" and then they said "Well, good bye, Old Cheeseman!" and climbed down again. Of course it was imposing on Old Cheeseman to give him nothing but boiled mutton through a whole vacation, but that was just like the system. When they didn't give him boiled mutton they gave him rice pudding, pretending it was a treat. And saved the butcher.

So Old Cheeseman went on. The holidays brought him into other trouble besides the loneliness; because when the fellows began to come back, not wanting to, he was always glad to see them; which was aggravating when they were not at all glad to see him, and so he got his head knocked against walls, and that was the way his nose bled. But he was a favourite in general. Once, a subscription was raised for him; and, to keep up his spirits, he was presented before the holidays with two white mice, a rabbit, a pigeon, and a beautiful puppy. Old Cheeseman cried about it—especially soon afterwards, when they all ate one another.

Thus the round ends with Nobody:

If you were ever in the Belgian villages near the field of Waterloo, you will have seen, in some quiet little church, a monument erected by faithful companions in arms to the memory of Colonel A, Major B, Captains C D and E, Lieutenants F and G, Ensigns H I and J, seven non-commissioned officers, and one hundred and thirty rank and file, who fell in the discharge of their duty on the memorable day. The story of Nobody is the story of the rank and file of the earth. They bear their share of the battle; they have their part in the victory; they fall; they leave no name but in the mass. The march of the proudest of us, leads to the dusty way by which they go. O! Let us think of them this year at the Christmas fire, and not forget them when it is burnt out.

Who does not recognise the same hand in both?—Nor is the poetry in this *Round of Stories* unworthy of the prose, for there are verses here which few will read unmoved, radiant with fancy, and striking some of the deepest chords of feeling.

The publishers began in good time to make tales and stories cheap for Christmas readers. They are to be had this year at three-and-sixpence or four shillings a volume, and to some of the last so published we now turn. Several volumes of good novel-writing have been issued under Mr Bentley's revised tariff since we first called attention to it in these columns, not many weeks ago. The three novels named below* have different degrees of goodness, but all of them are at least free from the feverish tone of which we complained in the work that introduced the series.

The first of the three, *Walter Evelyn*, is immensely sensible. The writer, who is by no means lacking in shrewdness, has the humour of the Mentor to an extent that would be quite atrocious in a duller man. He gives his advice and opinions on official salaries, on taking children from school, on the best method of travelling abroad, on the manners proper in society, on the best way of writing novels, on the political and social state of the continent, on the state of this country, on being made an executor, and upon scores of other things. In short he lends his brains to his readers with the utmost possible liberality, the surprising thing about which is that the brains are by no means bad. Though the novel is introduced with perhaps the silliest chapter that was ever printed by a man of sense (we think we may safely and certainly say so much)—and though "my public" is too much taken by the button, and far too frequently appealed to in the course of the narration or edification that is going on—and though the grammar is far from being always unobjectionable—yet positively and unquestionably the whole work is good. The writer evidently is a very well-informed man, who has moved in good society, who has been thrown among diplomatic people, and who has seen with his own eyes nearly all the things and places upon which he speaks. Whatever he has thus seen, too, he has been in the habit of thinking about, and has no reserve in stating the conclusions at which he arrives. Nor is he without the artist's faculty of catching the most picturesque and striking as well as the truest point of view from which to look at anything. Thus the story of his novel is slight, yet the scenes are so well conceived and grouped that they form pleasant pictures to the reader's mind. The long homilies, that interrupt it, often interrupt it pleasantly enough—being not so much in the nature of homilies, after all, as of tolerably agreeable table-talk, somewhat too confident perhaps, but clever. The book reads altogether like a flow of good conversation, and the story told is but the mutual friend introducing us to the society of its amiable, shrewd, talkable, and entertaining author. Readers who like to be set thinking in a pleasant, quiet, yet not too inactive way, will find *Walter Evelyn* to be upon the whole a novel well fitted to their humour.

Miss Emilie Carlen's novels we have often praised, and *John*, which is in a much quieter vein than is usual with her throughout a whole story, is one of her best. Fresh from the pleasure it has given us, indeed, we are disposed to

* Another Round of Stories by the Christmas Fire. Being the Extra Christmas Number of *Household Words*. Conducted by Charles Dickens. Office of *Household Words*.

* *Walter Evelyn, or the Long Minority*. 3 vols.—*John, or is a Cousin in the Hand worth Two Counts in the Bush?* By Emilie Carlen. Rendered by the Translator of the 'Birthright,' &c. 2 vols.—*Maud; a City Autobiography*. 3 vols. Bentley.

think it equal to any of Miss Bremer's novels, except perhaps the *Neighbours*. In one respect it excels all hers, for it is wholly free from sentimentalism. It is throughout playful, naive, and full of a quiet, delicate, home humour. It is a pleasant little mock romance, a *petite* parlour comedy of the best class, sustained by some half dozen *dramatis personae*, all amusing, and quite natural. We have here, in short, an unaffected bit of story never flagging in its interest, and containing a little trap of a mystery so neatly set, that, old novel-readers as we are, we are ashamed to have to say that we were caught in it, and did not extricate ourselves till we were half through the book. There is nothing either harrowing or tiring in these two volumes. The playfulness of an unbroken good humour keeps the reader from the first to the last page perfectly amused.

We must not tell the plot, but we may introduce some of the actors, and with them the fragment of a picture of Swedish middle life. The widow and daughter (Emerentia and Blenda) of a poor gentleman in the provinces, left by his death to live as they can, have been very much influenced by the reading of romances about paladins and so forth. The mother is a variety of the genus to which Mrs Nickleby belongs, and the daughter is as good and beautiful as she is wonderfully simple-minded. Having sold their little effects, the two poor ladies travel to Stockholm, where they are to live by needlework, and to have a room in the house of the widow's half-sister, Regina Sophia Thorman. Regina Sophia, Aunt Thorman, belongs for her part to the genus which includes Aunt Betsey Trotwood. She, also a widow, has been left in pretty easy circumstances by a second marriage. The son of her first marriage and first love, John, is a fine fellow out on his travels. He is her darling, and a hat-dresser by trade—that being the Swedish name for a dealer in jewels and ornamental ware. Her next son, Patrick, is a linendraper, married to a vain little beauty, Henrietta, who would have preferred marrying John. On their way to Stockholm, we must not omit to state, the ladies had met with an unknown knight, called the Scanian Count, who makes a first impression upon Blenda; and, while on board the steamer, Miss Blenda also gets into sad scrapes by her natural way of receiving the attentions of several dangles after her, a Baron T—sward, a commissary, a lieutenant, and a commercial traveller. However Aunt Thorman writes to her son John that decidedly she had refused the commercial traveller, "gentlemanlike" as he was, and indeed given no encouragement to any of the whole tribe of young gentlemen that had dangled after her. In the same homely, quaint, delightful letter she gives a character of Blenda at home, contrasting her by a number of exquisite traits with the sour, vain, ill-tempered wife of her other son Patrick, and in fact imploring John, in so many words, to come and fall in love with the fascinating little creature.

"Her poverty is of no consequence, for I say it is a blessing to have such a pious and cheerful hearted creature by one's fire-side. . . . I overheard a gentleman whisper quite loud to the chamberlain, 'That girl is just like one of Raphael's Madonnas.' For my part I have never seen his Madonnas; but the child is very pretty, of that there is no doubt. . . . I see plainly that, as yet, neither the chamberlain nor any one else has touched her heart, yet, child as she is, such a thing might happen. . . . I do not think that the girl herself has any coquetry in her; but she is young and joyous, and likes to chat with gentlemen, as she herself admits. I wish I could give her the very slightest hint of my wishes; but I know the objections you would make, as you have not seen her. . . . It would make me so happy to know before I am laid in my grave, who would love my John; and am so fond of the child, that I am quite astonished at myself."

Shortly after this letter, however, though not till she has unluckily thrust her son John in such a way before little Blenda as to make quite a disagreeable fact of him—the good aunt dies; and mother and daughter, for whom Henrietta has no love, go into lodgings and endeavour to support themselves. Here their simplicity, and Blenda's beauty, bring them into a series of difficulties; but the image of the Scanian Count, and the romantic mystery of his occasional kind interference in their affairs, sustains them safely through all perils. Visions of court presentations, empanelled carriages, and gorgeous dresses fill their heads—all of which are to be fulfilled when the Knight of the Black Riband shall reveal himself. Meanwhile little Blenda has fallen seriously in love with the said knight, who is in love with her, and shields her secretly. Now and then he approaches her even, but he is enveloped in a charming little mystery.

We will not penetrate it, and in giving an extract therefore must turn away from the most striking scenes. What we quote is simply to show the quiet natural way in which the story is told. The time is just before Christmas, and Blenda has been troubled with a slight attack of fever, which has hindered her from going to read and work with good old Mrs Gyllenhake, on the very day when she was to have met the count. The too agreeable count, we must add, she was in the habit of styling, according to a playful compact, Cousin John.—The real Cousin John—a hat-dresser indeed! being an unmarryable person whose name had been made a bugbear to her.—The two ladies are in their little room, it wants two days to Christmas, and, as we have said, Blenda has been detained all day at home unwillingly by illness.

"Oh! Mother, what will he say? what will he think? what will he not have reason to think? since I do not come—now that he has himself offered to escort me home. May he not look at this as a sign of most unwarrantable mistrust on my part?"

"No, dear child, he cannot do that; and besides we will send word to Mrs Gyllenhake how the matter stands."

"It would have been better if we had done so yesterday; it would have been no more than civil!"

"Well, did not I tell you so? but you put it off from hour to

hour in hopes of being better able to go yourself, until it was too late."

"Yes, yes, I was a goose; but I am much better to-day, and I assure you, if you will only let me go out the fresh air will quite set me to rights again."

Madame von Kühlen shook her head doubtfully.

"Hush!" cried Blenda with a sudden start—"Hush, there is a ring at the door-bell! Oh, think if he should be uneasy about me;—if he should have come himself!"

And, the flush deepening upon her cheeks, Blenda sat down on the sofa, having first convinced herself by a glance round the room, that its neatness was unexceptionable, that it even looked smart with the new curtains put up for Christmas.

Madame von Kühlen was always a pattern of tidiness; but today, stimulated by a secret hope coinciding with that just expressed by Blenda, she had done wonders with their one room.

It would be useless to endeavour to describe Blenda's feelings when the footsteps of a man were heard in the entrance. At the same moment the charwoman, who came every morning, and was not yet gone home, made her appearance, and informed the ladies that a gentleman who announced himself as an acquaintance, asked leave to pay them a visit.

"Is he young and distinguished looking?" asked Madame von Kühlen in a low voice.

"Is he dark and handsome?" whispered Blenda.

The charwoman nodded.

"Beg him to walk in. I know who it is!" said Madame von Kühlen, as she rose with trembling alacrity to receive her future son-in-law.

"For Heaven's sake, child," exclaimed she, as the servant closed the door, "come to yourself, and in this most important crisis of your life conduct yourself as becomes a woman whose fate is about to be linked with that of a man of character as noble as his birth. Doubtless he now intends to speak. Thank Heaven that I was led by a kind of presentiment to put on my new bombazine gown."

At that moment the door was opened by the charwoman with great ceremony. And there indeed stood a young man with an elegant figure, expressive features, and eyes which kindled as they rested upon Blenda; for never had she looked more lovely than at that moment, when, unable to look up, she waited in blushing confusion for the first words of her lover.

"Good gracious! what does this mean?" cried Madame von Kühlen, with a consternation which she made no attempt to conceal.

"Here is—yes, this is Baron T—sward of the steamboat."

"Baron T—sward of East Gothland, by your leave—that being rather more explicit. Yes, I am he, who last summer was compelled in a somewhat singular manner, if I may be permitted to say so, to break off our very agreeable acquaintance; but who now, having returned to Stockholm a few days ago, have used my utmost endeavours to discover you, in order to offer my poor services in case you might by any chance stand in need of them."

On recognising the Baron's voice, uneasiness and disappointment combined to convert the roses on Blenda's cheeks into lilies. What did this man want? Alas! Blenda had no longer her good aunt in whom to trust.

The manner in which she returned the unembarrassed and courteous greeting of the Baron could only be compared for coldness to the look which accompanied it.

The Baron perceived this sudden change with astonishment. It was but too obvious that she must have expected some one else. He was amazed to find the artless joyous little maiden of the steamboat converted into a marble statue so beautiful that her former charms sank into nothing in his eyes.

Madame von Kühlen's patriarchal habits were so ingrained that she could not force herself to so great a want of hospitality as not to ask the Baron to take a seat; but the tone in which she did it was one of constraint, and she hastened to prove to him how un-called for was this visit, by adding,—

"Thank God! we stand in no further need of the assistance of strangers; and, indeed, if I am not mistaken, something of the sort was expressed in the answer my sister sent to the little note you wrote me."

"Very true. But had I not been summoned home immediately afterwards, by the news of my father's sudden illness, I should certainly have had the pleasure of calling upon the excellent old lady in person. For her manner of expressing herself, although it implied some degree of unmerited suspicion, revealed so much firmness and uprightness of character that I should have been very glad of the opportunity of pleading my own cause. But, have I been correctly informed that you have lost your kind relation?"

"Yes, this excellent friend has been taken from us; but, as I said just now, she did not leave us altogether to our fate."

"I am delighted to hear it."

"And my nephew Patrick, the linendraper, a man of wealth and consideration here in Stockholm, does all he can to be of service to us, so that he is quite my right hand."

"That is but natural, and as he fulfils his duties as a relation so admirably, I shall certainly not presume to place myself in competition with him. I was, however, not aware of this, but on the contrary had heard," and as he spoke the Baron frequently directed an enquiring glance towards Blenda, "that you and your daughter, having lost your protectress, had been obliged to leave your former dwelling, and that you had been laid up with a severe attack of fever; and on hearing this, my only thought was, that by appealing to the friendly nature of our former acquaintance, I might venture to enquire whether I could be of any service to you."

This explanation was delivered with such frank simplicity, that our tender-hearted Madame von Kühlen was as usual quite softened and won over.

"Thank Heaven," thought she, "people always turn out better than one expects. My sister, God bless her, was often too severe in her judgment."

"When one has himself experienced a great loss," continued the young Baron, "one feels double sympathy for the sorrows of others. Since I saw you, I have lost my father, and I am now quite alone in the world."

"Indeed! I am grieved to hear it," exclaimed Blenda, who, pleased by the delicacy of the Baron in not addressing himself directly to her, could not withhold this expression of her feelings.

"A thousand thanks for your kind sympathy. My father died immediately on my return home, and the succession to a large entailed estate is no compensation for such a loss, for he was the kindest of parents. Four months have, however, passed since then, and now I am come to Stockholm to seek some diversion to my thoughts."

"Perhaps I am only in your way now," said the young Baron, with a side glance at the sofa, "but I hope I may be permitted to repeat my visit another day; it would give me great pain were you to refuse me this."

"I should be very sorry to give pain to any one, be he whom he may; but to tell the truth, Baron . . ."

"What?"

"I think you must perceive that it would not be proper for two lone women to receive the visits of a young gentleman. My daughter's only possession is her good name, and we must be very strict."

"But, my dear Madame von Kühlen, is it possible that the veriest prude could see anything to object to in a lady of your age

receiving the visits of an acquaintance? Surely that can offend neither against custom nor propriety."

"If my lamented sister were still living, she would answer you far better than I can do. All I can say is—Pray do not come to us; for the trifling pleasure which you might possibly find in the society of two poor women might cost us dear, and I am sure you are too honourable to desire that."

The Baron felt the colour rise to his cheeks; he was touched, and he took his leave with a resolution never to return.

But Blenda's last glance, her sweet smile when she perceived that he was about to obey her mother's injunction, branded itself upon his heart, and even while he said to himself, "Poor creature! I must be a villain indeed if such a request were unheeded—I will leave them in peace!"—even while he said this, his thoughts were occupied only with the possibility of again beholding this bewitching young creature.

In the end (which we may thus far anticipate) this Baron, who is really a good fellow, offers to make Blenda his Baroness; but she is by that time so far cured of her little vanities as to refuse him for the sake of Cousin John the hat-dresser. We must yet quote another page, or two. It is Christmas-eve.

The festive preparations in Madame von Kühlen's large and pretty room showed plainly that it was Christmas Eve, for the abundant gifts despatched by Patrick enabled her to make her arrangements in a style of very unusual luxury.

It was about seven o'clock in the evening, and as the charwoman had been engaged for the whole day, it was not necessary for the good woman to stay in the kitchen to stir the rice porridge herself.

Four tall wax candles, in well-polished candlesticks, burned on the table, for, said Madame von Kühlen, "as they were given us, we may as well light them." And upon the same principle she decked her tea-table with an abundance that would have served as well for five people as for two.

But if Madame von Kühlen could rejoice over the candles, tea-table, the pile of cakes, and especially the rice porridge, which surpassed all that they had ever dreamed of in the country, Blenda had, beside all these, her own particular source of pleasure.

In order to comprehend this, however, we must revert to the time when the Doctor's desire that she would keep her room for a few days disappointed and distressed her so much that she refused to be comforted even by the wise sayings of her respected great-grandmother.

Madame von Kühlen, kind, and all too weak as she was, was at first, indeed, a little offended, but could not endure the sight of her daughter's depression more than a few hours before she said to her,—

"Is there nothing, my sweet pet, which could give you a little pleasure?"

Blenda looked up with a most disconsolate expression of countenance.

"Just think, my darling, if there is anything; be sure you shall have it provided it is by any means possible."

Blenda let herself be pressed, or rather, entreated, for a long time; she knew of nothing which could make her even the very smallest amends for the great happiness of which her indisposition had deprived her, and the worst of all was, that it might never be offered to her again. At length, however, she said,—

"There is one thing, though, but only one, which would make me very happy."

"Well—thank Heaven for it!—what is it, dear?—tell me."

"But it is so foolish: I must confess that beforehand."

"No matter, if it can but give you pleasure."

"Oh, yes, the greatest."

"Well then, tell me what it is, my pet, that you may enjoy your pleasure the sooner."

"But it will cost so much."

"As we have had nothing to buy for Christmas, we have ten dollars banco still left; and if they are not sufficient, there are my earrings to be pledged."

"There is no occasion for that, dear mother—the money is more than sufficient. But would it not be wrong of me to take it?"

"What can you be thinking of? it is all that you have kept for yourself of the fifty rix-dollars that you have earned. And you may take it without misgivings, since—thanks to Patrick's and Henrietta's kindness, which we shall one day be able to repay—we are provided for at least three weeks."

"Very well, dear mother, then we will send out at once for some lawn and some lace; and we will speak to the dressmaker who lives in the house, and I have no doubt she will be so good as to do what I wish."

"Lawn and lace, child!—what peculiar sort of happiness can they afford you?"

Blenda coloured and smiled.

"Do speak, for I cannot understand it at all,—and then I will go to the dressmaker."

"In all the modern novels that I have lately read, I have found mention of—a sort of dress which is worn by ladies of distinction, such as countesses and marchionesses. It is called a *peignoir*, and is a sort of loose wrapping-gown. These *peignoirs* are very full, and light, and richly trimmed—very airy and graceful. For weeks past I have dreamt day and night of one, and I think that such a dress would become me very well. How pretty it must be, with its wide, open sleeves! I am convinced that I should quite get over my disappointment and my illness if I could get one, and wear it to-morrow evening. Oh, it would be so nice, so very nice! and I should fancy that I was already a—"

"Countess?" interposed Madame von Kühlen, gaily. She was no less delighted with the idea than Blenda herself.

"Dear Mamma!"

"Well, my child, I will go this very minute and talk to the dressmaker."

The exertion of much sitting up, and thinking, and enjoyment of the *peignoir*, causes Blenda to begin her Christmas Eve by fainting—

"If you can but drink some tea, my child, I will try to be content."

"Oh, yes—a little drop. I could not fail to drink tea with you on Christmas Eve."

"Well, then, my poor child, shut your eyes, and rest a little, while I go and fetch it. I do not like the charwoman to do it, or else she would have an excuse all ready out and dried, if the rice porridge should be burned."

"Very well, dear Mamma."

Blenda made herself comfortable upon the sofa, took her mother's advice, and shut her eyes. If the young Baron could have seen her now, his noble resolution to shun a certain house in Knight street would have run a great risk of being broken.

It is true that the sofa on which she lay was made of common painted deal, and covered with coarse red and black stuff; but the effect of the soft folds of her white dress was heightened by the dark ground on which it rested, and her small foot, encased in its embroidered slipper, peeped forth from a cloud of delicate lace.

Her whole appearance revealed the elasticity and freshness of youth; but at this particular moment it was seen as through a delicate white veil; for the paleness of Blenda's cheeks, together

with the tint of her fair braided hair, exhibited a transparency of colouring which told of the faintness which was struggling for the mastery with the joyous energy of her young life.

But it is not the Baron's good fortune—it is the mysterious Count's—to see her thus:

A gentle ring at the door-bell failed to reach Blenda's ears; she had fallen into a light slumber, which no presentiment disturbed—nor was she the least conscious of that which was passing in the entrance—namely, that the charwoman, on hastening to open the door, found herself face to face with a gentleman,—who was not only seen but recognised with ecstatic delight by Madame von Kühlen through the crack of the kitchen door,—which gentleman desired her to inquire whether the ladies would admit a relation to pay them a visit.

"Let him in?" whispered Madame von Kühlen, as the charwoman thrust in her head with an inquiring glance, "let him in directly."

But when this was done, Madame von Kühlen made no particular haste with the tea, but, on the contrary, entered into a long whispered dispute with the charwoman, as to whether the water did or did not boil, which at length reached such an height, that for the first time in the course of our acquaintance, our good lady and her assistant were very near becoming seriously angry with each other.

Meanwhile the guest had laid aside his cloak, and entered the room indicated by the charwoman.

As of course the reader has jumped at the conclusion that this was Blenda's Knight, who being probably uneasy at not seeing her again, according to her promise, had at length determined to call in person upon her and her mother, he will easily conceive that the sight which met his eyes appeared to him to be scarcely one of earth.

Having convinced himself at a glance that no one else was in the room, he advanced noiselessly towards the sofa, holding his breath as if in dread lest the lovely vision should disappear—but it did not; and as he stood beside his sleeping beauty, gazing upon her as if he had never seen her before, vividly as every feature was stamped upon his recollection, a thrill shot through his frame, and the bouquet which he had brought with him fell at her feet. He durst not touch it, but obeying another and an irresistible impulse, sank down on his knees beside the sofa, his gaze still resting upon Blenda with astonishment and delight.

At that moment she awoke. Either the perfume of the flowers, or the quick breathing of some one beside her, who she felt was not her mother, had dispelled her light slumber, and when she beheld him of whom she had even now been dreaming, in a position of which too she had often dreamed, although not on this occasion, a low cry burst from her lips, so low, however, that it was heard by her Knight alone, who, unable at once to resume the footing upon which he had hitherto conversed with her, continued to gaze upon her without speaking.

His silence was very embarrassing to Blenda. "Is that really you, Cousin John?" asked she at length, "do speak to me!"

He took her hand and pressed it to his lips, and after retaining it for a few seconds he replied,—

"I have to entreat your forgiveness—it was my anxiety about you that brought me hither—but the Doctor had assured me that you were better."

"So I am—I am only resting a little."

"But when I came in you looked so pale, so deadly pale, that I really did not know what I was about."

And so saying, he rose and stood beside her, still unable to withdraw his gaze from her.

"Indeed, I am no longer ill—I was only a little faint,—but now I will get up and—"

"No, no, you must not do that. . . . Oh, Blenda, it seems to me as if I could never have seen you before—how lovely you are! Your poor Cousin's head will really be turned if you do not help him to recover the balance of his mind."

Blenda, whose head was very nearly turned too, by language so new to her, nevertheless rose at once. His appeal to her for assistance should not be made in vain.

She now perceived the bouquet—and it was doubly welcome to her at that moment, as it afforded her an excuse for resuming the tone in which their intercourse had hitherto been carried on; for notwithstanding the expression of feeling into which the Count had been betrayed, it was evident that it was not his intention as yet to lay aside his incognito, otherwise he would not have spoken of himself as her cousin!

"What! fresh flowers on Christmas day!" exclaimed she, in a tone of delight, caused probably more by the happiness of seeing her mysterious lover for the first time on his knees before her, than by the possession of his second nosegay. "Oh, Cousin John, you certainly understand how to win the gratitude of a young girl. . . . I must put them in my hair—I shall take off this cap, which, of course—you understand—I could not wear when you are here, and put them in. Now Cousin, do fetch the looking-glass, and hold it before me, and I will fasten in the rose-bud and the white elder-flowers together, and see—I almost think the geranium-leaves ought to go with them."

And with a joyous childish grace, which so delighted Cousin John that he had no further thought or wish for sentimental scenes, Blenda began to arrange her hair before the glass—fastening, unfastening, and arranging the flowers with as much unembarrassed ease, as if he who obeyed her orders with such ready good will in holding the glass, and turned it now this way and now that, to follow her every motion, had been at least a hundred miles away.

Books like this—for now we reluctantly close Cousin John, advising all readers to solve its charming little mysteries by reading it themselves as soon as possible—cannot be too cheap. Thousands should feel grateful to Mr Bentley, at this Christmas time, for enabling them to buy as a gift-book so pleasant a novel, at a third of the ordinary cost of such things. Let us also congratulate Miss Carlen on having found a competent translator.

As to the next work in Mr Bentley's new series, entitled *Maud*, we have not space to say much. It also is a story of an estimable young lady given to dreaming, but told in another and much inferior style. Justice will perhaps be satisfied if we commend it simply as a sufficiently agreeable addition to the novels of the season.

We now turn to the last tale in our list,* resembling in size and price Mr Bentley's cheap series, only still cheaper, because more closely printed, and written by one to whom heretofore we have been indebted for several very clever and striking books. Frankly we must say, however, that Mrs Crowe's *Linny Lockwood* has greatly disappointed us. The best we can report of it, that it is a tale

very suitable for any one who at this Christmas season finds himself or herself too cheerful. The authoress characterises novels in her preface as books meant to be read only once, and does not see why such books should be sold at one pound eleven and sixpence. Well, we are not sure whether it would not be a good thing if works that are not worth two readings had the stout prohibitive duty always to fight against. For ourselves we do not care to have any but good books cheap, and we should have liked best to meet with *Linny Lockwood* in the dear form. Although the story is full of the evidence of the unquestionable power which Mrs Crowe possesses, yet it is too much made up of incidents of theft, seduction, suicide, and sordid misery; it involves not a little bewilderment of plain notions of right and wrong; and it is moreover written carelessly both in regard to style and the management of plot. Its chapters, during at least the first half of the first volume, are in what appears to us an almost hopeless disorder and entanglement. If this be the kind of material produced by a cheap system of publishing works which, as Mrs Crowe says, "people generally read but once,"—if it be not made worth the author's while for profit's sake, if not for reputation, to regard the novel that is being written as a work of art to expend all strength and skill upon,—if so much cannot be done at three and sixpence a volume, let us pay more. If we get indigestible dishes only, or diet half prepared, for our half price, let us pay whole price for proper cookery. Mrs Crowe can put a spell upon her readers—and in some sense she does so even here—but she must not rely too much on her power. Effort must be sustained even after a reputation has been won. Capable as she is of writing books worth preserving, we are not content that she should slip down into an inferior vocation.

Our list for the present must close with a mention of a re-publication in one very cheap and very clearly printed volume, of Mr Warren's *Passages from the Diary of a late Physician*.* We have had much to object to, from time to time, in Mr Warren, but let us not hesitate to admit that this book is rich in many passages of beauty and interest; that the opening paper describing the early struggles of the physician is in particular a masterpiece of quiet, earnest, pathetic writing; and that cheap literature, and the story-telling fare of Christmas, may well be felicitated on such an addition to their stores.

FOUR SONNETS.

Io veggio ben che giammai non si sazia
Nostro 'ntelletto
Nasce per quello, a guisa di rampollo,
Appiè del vero il dubbio.—Dante, Par. iv.

There are who seem to hate the single eye
That seeks for guidance unto God alway:
Who claim a privilege to overlay
His Truth with superstitious pedantry.
Arachne-wise, they wage unholy strife
With Wisdom's self: they dim the aperture
By which the soul looks forth, and so obscure
The very fount of Spiritual Life.
Brain-spun perplexities of Doubt and Fear!
The strong break thro' them, but the weak are caught:
The Sceptic holds them scarcely worth a thought,
Or turns aside with ill-dissembled sneer:
"O for a Pope's-head broom, to sweep away
Such cobwebs, and let in the Light of Day!"

ATHANASIUS.

Harsh dogmas oft the soundest judgment craze
Where Knowledge halts: they warp the shafts of Truth
To random flight, when meek persuasive ruth
Had winged them to the mark. O Athanasæ,
The maledictions of thy bitter creed
Quench weakling Faith, and crush the bruised reed
Of Hope that strives in vain her head to raise,
And cries for succour in her utmost need.
Is, then, the soldier wiser than his chief?
Can blind Presumption lead our steps aright
To wilful trespass on the Infinite?
Nay, let us rather share that Convert's grief
Who sued to Christ, with tears, for clearer light:
Lord, I believe; help thou my unbelief.

LOCKE.

High Wisdom, with simplicity combined,
Severest Logic, founded on the Rock
Of Truth, are thine, irrefragable Locke!
Systems and Creeds are sifted and defined
Before the calm tribunal of thy mind,
Whose code is God's own Word: and meshes, wrought
By human craft to fetter human thought,
Like gossamers are scattered to the wind.
With thee we seek our guide in Holy Writ:
No crutch for Pride, or clue to mysteries,
No Will-a-wisp where Sin in ambush lies,
But such a scheme as patient mother-wit,
With spiritual aid, interpreteth
Into a Law of Reasonable Faith.

Non è il mondan romore altro che un fiato
Di vento che or vien quinci ed or vien quindi,
E muta nome perchè muta lato.—Dante, Purg. xi.

Faith, Understanding, Reason! Wherefore these?
Let Reason grasp the helm and guide the proue,
While Understanding labours at the oar,
And Faith makes sail to catch the favouring breeze.
All have their separate use, each aiding each:
But God's the chart, the compass God prepares,
Whose well-poised needle this inscription bears:
Be taught of Me who would the haven reach.
O Lord, implant in us a humble mind:
Let not Presumption's wing be over-wide,
Nor Sloth, that sees the better, choose the worse,
Nor vain Opinion, fickle as the wind,
That changes name because it changes side,
Pervert thy Blessed Gospel to a curse.

ENTERTAINMENTS FOR CHRISTMAS.

There is promise of an unusual number of pantomimes. Even the HAYMARKET giving way to this revival of a popular taste, and promising to open its doors and traps to Harlequin and Columbine. But all these entertainments will be in due course chronicled next week, and meanwhile we have only to record that two places of pictorial amusement, the GALLERY OF ILLUSTRATION AND BURFORD'S PANORAMA, have received strong reinforcements for the pleasure of their Christmas visitors. At Mr Burford's there is an extremely pretty picture of Constantinople, taken from the top of the Seraskier minaret, and embracing a very wide range of country, not delineating merely the city, but the city set in the surrounding landscape, and showing in the clearest manner the geography of the peninsula on which Constantinople is built, from the Sea of Marmora on one hand to the Bosphorus on the other, the Asian hills bounding the prospect. It appeared to interest the people at the Private View extremely. At the Gallery of Illustration the new attraction is a series of extremely effective Polar views illustrative of Polar adventure and incident—the whole, or nearly so, being taken from the spirited sketches of Captain Inglefield. The first picture is "Killing a bear." The next picture shows a schooner lying amid broken hummocks of ice, and the crew laying out ice-anchors. The third picture gives a representation of the flashing of the aurora borealis. Another, and one of the best of the whole series, is the encampment on the ice. The last scene exhibits a transverse section of the Investigator, shown in three sections. Above are the dreary decks, but sheltered by a roof, on which the snow lies thick. Below is the hold, with the stores so packed as not to leave an inch of vacant space. The third section displays the economy of the "between decks," with the men at dinner at long-stretching tables. Mr Stocqueler's lecture was excellent, and the whole exhibition new and delightful. Every one seemed charmed by it.

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL NEWS.

TURKEY AND RUSSIA.

THE SLAUGHTER AT SINOPE.

Although none but Russian, and therefore unreliable details have as yet been received of the cowardly and piratical act of the Russian Admiral Nachimoff in attacking the Turkish squadron—greatly inferior in force to their barbarian foes—while it was lying quietly at anchor in the Bay of Sinope, enough is known to enable the public to form a general idea of the murderous engagement. On the 2nd inst. the Taif, war steamer, arrived at Constantinople with a partial account of the disastrous conflict. It appears that about midday on the 30th of November, a thick fog which had all the morning completely enveloped the port of Sinope gradually cleared off, and the first object seen through the mist was the Russian fleet at a very short distance, consisting of four three-deckers, four 80-gun ships, six frigates, and four steamers, making eighteen ships in all, while the Turkish squadron, numbering only eleven vessels—three frigates, three corvettes, and two steamers—were lying quietly at anchor, the steam blown off, many of the crews on shore, and so situated as completely to obstruct the fire from the guns of their own fortress. A Russian three-decker placed itself between a Turkish frigate, the Nizamé, and the Egyptian frigate Damietta. These two ships, before the enemy could open his fire, threw in their broadsides so close that the Russian three-decker was very severely injured. In the meantime another Russian ship-of-the-line attacked two corvettes, between which it succeeded in placing itself. The rest of the Russian fleet quickly came up, threw in their fire together on the almost helpless Turkish vessels, and the combat became general. The Taif, foreseeing the disaster that was sure to happen, got its steam up, and, not without great difficulty and much danger, succeeded in gliding between the Russian ships, and made off, hotly pursued by two corvettes and a steamer. When it had got out of the reach of fire, it was found she had not less than seventeen cannon-balls in her, two men killed, and four wounded. Whether from accident or otherwise several of the Turkish ships blew up, the crews having sworn with one voice on the Koran never to strike. The destruction of some Turkish ships having cleared the way, the fortress at length opened a destructive fire on the enemy, and one ship-of-the-line was already disabled and going down when the Taif escaped from port. The action must have lasted long, for she was enabled to hear distinctly the cannonading for some hours after her departure from Sinope. The other steamer, Ereğli, belonging to the Turkish squadron, which at the outset had been ordered to depart with the Taif, was unfortunately sunk, in attempting it, by a broadside, before the Russian liners had sustained any injury. The general result of the action is stated to be as follows: On the part of the Russians, one line-of-battle ship and two frigates sunk; and on that of the Turks, one steamer sunk, two frigates burnt (or blown up), and five first run ashore and then burnt. When the Russians hauled off from the port, with one Turkish ship captured, on board of which was Osman Pasha, who commanded the town of Sinope was left in flames. The exposure of so weak a Turkish flotilla as that which has been destroyed at Sinope, in a sea where there was a strong Russian fleet favourably placed for intercepting it, is thus accounted for: Some time ago two divisions of the Turkish fleet put to sea; one, commanded by Mustapha Pasha, was charged to give convoy to transports laden with arms and ammunition for Circassia; the other, under Mushaver Pasha (Captain Slade), to cruise in the Euxine, and aid the other, if necessary. Captain Slade returned in a few days, without having seen or learned anything of the whereabouts of the Russian fleet; Mustapha Pasha accomplished his mission, fell in with the Russian fleet on his way back, but, owing to its superior numbers, availed himself of a favourable wind to evade an engagement, and returned to the Bosphorus, leaving a few ships and two steamers at Sinope. Advices were immediately afterwards received by the Turkish Admiralty, to the effect that a steamer belonging to a neutral power, having seen the ships at Sinope, on its passage to Trebizond, repaired to Sebastopol, and gave information of their force and whereabouts to the Russians, who forthwith despatched the immensely superior force which we have described to attack them. On the receipt of the above intelligence at Constantinople an English and a French steam-frigate, the Retribution and the Mogator, were at once despatched for precise details of the action, and Admirals Dundas and Lyons, with their French colleagues Admirals Hamelin and Jacquinet, left Beikos for Pera, on board the Caradoc. Lord Redcliffe, accompanied by the British Admirals, proceeded to the French Ambassador, General Baraguay d'Hilliers, and a conference between the Ambassadors took place, at which the naval officers assisted, when it is stated Admiral Dundas strongly urged that the combined squadrons should be sent in pursuit of the Russians, but his desire was overruled. The Caradoc was immediately despatched to Marseilles with important intelligence for the two Governments.—Advices from Constantinople of the 9th inst. state that the English and French steamers had returned from

* *Linny Lockwood.* A Novel. By Catherine Crowe, Author of Susan Hopley, Lilly Dawson, &c. &c. 2 vols. Routledge and Co.

* *Works of Samuel Warren, D.C.L., F.R.S.* Vol. 1. (*Passages from the Diary of a late Physician.*) Blackwood and Sons.

Sinope, with the confirmation of the fearful slaughter there, and brought back 110 wounded.

RUSSIAN OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE AFFAIR.—The 'Journal of St Petersburg,' of December 11th, publishes the following (lying) official report of Prince Menshikoff, transmitted to the Emperor by the Prince's aide-de-camp, Lieut.-Colonel Skulk-off: "The orders of your Imperial Majesty have been executed in the most brilliant manner by the fleet of the Black Sea. The first Turkish squadron which dared to present itself in battle was destroyed on the 18th of this month by Vice-Admiral Nachimoff. The Turkish Admiral, Osman Pasha, who commanded it, was wounded, made prisoner, and brought to Sebastopol. The enemy was in the roads of Sinope, where, sustained by the land batteries, he accepted battle. We destroyed seven of his frigates, a sloop, two corvettes, a steamer, and several transports. He only saved a steamer, which escaped through its speed. The squadron, it appears, was that which had been armed to seize Sukhunk-Kali, and carry aid to the mountaineers (of the Caucasus). We lost a subaltern officer and thirty-three sailors killed, and 230 wounded." For this "brilliant feat of arms" the Emperor has conferred a heap of decorations and promotions on the Russian officers engaged, beginning with the principal pirate, Admiral Nachimoff, and ending with Captain Proto-pop-off and the aide-de-camp, Skulk-off. To the crews of the Russian fleet have been distributed ten decorations of the military order per company, and a year's pay to all the sailors who took part in the engagement.

ANOTHER RUSSIAN VERSION OF THE SAME.—The 'Invalide Russe' of the 11th contains a circumstantial account of the battle of Sinope, and this account, compiled from the statements of persons who were present at the engagement, is to the following effect:

"Vice-Admiral Nachimoff, while cruising off the coast of Anatolia, saw in the harbour of Sinope a division of Turkish vessels of war. He would have run in on the following day, but his intention was frustrated by foul weather. He despatched the war steamer Bessarabia to Sebastopol, to announce the presence of a Turkish squadron in the harbour of Sinope. When this news reached Sebastopol, the Ville de Paris, Grand Duke Constantine, and the Tri Sviatitelia, of 120 guns each, were placed under Rear-Admiral Novosilski, and ordered to proceed towards Sinope, and effect a junction with Rear-Admiral Nachimoff's squadron. In the meantime a favourable breeze had sprung up, and Admiral Nachimoff went with three men of war and one brig to reconnoitre the harbour of Sinope. He ascertained the exact position of the Turkish squadron, which consisted of seven frigates, one war sloop, two corvettes, two transport ships, and two steamers. These ships lay at their moorings in a semicircle along the coast, but prepared to form in line at any moment, no matter from what quarter it might blow. Five batteries were on the coast; their position corresponded with the distance between the Turkish vessels. The junction of our two squadrons, under Admirals Nachimoff and Novosilski, was effected in the course of the night of the 27th of November, and on the 28th Admiral Nachimoff issued an order of the day, in which he declared his intention, as soon as the weather should allow it, to attack the enemy in two columns. The column on the right was to be under Admiral Nachimoff's command, who hoisted his flag on board the Empress Maria, and who, besides this vessel, had under him the Grand Duke Constantine and the Tchescme; while the column on the left, under Rear-Admiral Novosilski, was composed of the Ville de Paris, Tri Sviatitelia, and Rostislaff, men-of-war. At 9 a.m. on the 30th a favourable breeze sprang up. It blew from east-north-east, and the Admiral signalled to the fleet to clear for action, and run into the harbour of Sinope. The vessels of the two columns, with all their canvas spread to the wind, bore down upon the Turks, who, owing to a dense fog, saw them only when they had advanced to within half a mile. Vice-Admiral Nachimoff, on finding himself at the distance of near 250 saenes or toises from two Turkish frigates, dropped his anchor. The Ville de Paris anchored at the same time, and the rest of the squadron, each vessel in her turn, took the places which had been assigned to them. The Admiral had scarcely dropped his anchor when the Turkish ships and batteries opened upon them; the firing was terrible, and did much execution among our rigging, but our ships returned the compliment with a continued and well-directed fire. In less than five minutes the Grand Duke Constantine had demolished the battery which was next to her guns. The Turkish frigate which lay off that battery, and which she bombarded with the Paixbans guns of her lower battery, was blown up. Shortly afterwards the bombs which were thrown by the Ville de Paris told on the other Turkish frigate, and blew her up. The latter had, however, succeeded in cutting the cables by which the Empress Maria and the Tri-Sviatitelia held on; but these vessels had another set of anchors and cables clear, and anchored again under the fire of the enemy. At two o'clock p.m. the guns of the Turkish ships were silenced. Three frigates, one of them of seventy-four guns, with the admiral's flag on board, were burning, and of the two transports nothing could be seen but the masts. We had sunk them. The Turkish quarter of Sinope was in flames, and at 2.30 p.m. the admiral stopped the firing, and sent an officer with a flag of truce to tell the authorities of Sinope that if another gun was fired, either from the town or the strand batteries, he should certainly bombard and utterly destroy the town of Sinope. The officer landed, and stayed above an hour, but he could not find the Turkish authorities. He did not see a single Turk; they had all taken refuge in the neighbouring villages. When the combat commenced, and agreeably to the Admiral's orders, the two frigates, Kagouli and Koulovitcha, remained under canvas to cut off the retreat of any Turkish vessels that might seek to escape. They joined the squadron at the close of the engagement and acted against the corvette and the sloop which lay in the rear of the Rostislaff. On the 29th of November, as soon as the war steamers Odessa, Crimea, and Chersonese could get their steam up, the Adjutant-General Kornileff steamed them away from Sebastopol to join Admiral Nachimoff's squadron at Sinope. On the 31st, at twelve o'clock, the Odessa, commanded by Adjutant-General Kornileff, perceived across the isthmus on which Sinope is situated the commencement of the engagement, and the steamer made incredible efforts to hasten up to the rescue. When they made the Cape of Sinope they saw a Turkish steam-frigate of 20 guns, the Taif, which, during the engagement, had got her steam up, and sought to escape from the general defeat. Adjutant-General Kornileff hoisted his flag on the Odessa, and ran her down on the line of the Turkish frigate, but his intention was seen, and the Taif wore round, and proceeded along the coast. The Odessa, advancing to within gunshot, opened her fire, but, after an hour's firing, Adjutant-General Kornileff, to his great regret, found that the Taif was faster than the Odessa, and that, although three times stronger, she would not stay to accept the engagement. Adjutant-General Kornileff abandoned the chase, and steamed towards Sinope, to join Vice-Admiral Nachimoff's squadron. He was followed by the Crimea and the Chersonese. These two steamers were ordered at once to tow away the vessels which lay within range of the strand batteries, in case the enemy should resume the engagement in the course of the night. The Odessa was ordered to take the frigate Damiette, of fifty guns, in tow and to remove her from the coast. That vessel had least suffered from our fire, and yet we found on board her above fifty wounded. The captain and the officers had abandoned her at the commencement of the combat. They had taken all the boats and consulted their safety by an ignominious flight. In the course of the evening the guns of the burning vessels went off, one after another, as the fire came near them, and their balls came in our direction, without, however, doing the least damage to our ships. At last those vessels exploded, and their burning fragments were hurled upon the Turkish quarter of Sinope, which they set on fire, and about midnight the whole of that quarter, which is surrounded by a stone wall, became a prey to the flames, while the conflagration respected the Greek quarter of Sinope. On the following morning nothing was left of the twelve ships of the Turkish squadron but the Damiette, frigate, which had been in tow by the Odessa, and the sloop and the corvette—mere hulks—in the northern portion of the bay. On being examined, the Damiette was found to have her hull torn by seventeen cannon balls, and her rigging, &c. were in such a state that she could not be taken to Sebastopol. She was run on shore, and burnt. Orders were also given to burn the sloop and the corvette. The officers charged with the execution of these orders found on board the sloop Osman Pasha, the commander of the Turkish squadron, who had a wound in his right leg. They found also two captains and eighty sailors. The prisoners were at once removed to our ships. On that evening not a single Turkish vessel remained in the harbour of Sinope. The combat was scarcely over when our brave crews, who so well had worked their guns, commenced with a fresh ardour repairing da-

mages. The Empress Maria, the Tri Sviatitelia, the Grand Duke Constantine, and the Rostislaff, were found to have suffered most from the fire of the enemy. The whole of Admiral Nachimoff's squadron left the harbour of Sinope on the 2nd of December. The damaged vessels were taken in tow by the steamers, and on the 4th the Empress Maria, the Tri Sviatitelia, and the Grand Duke Constantine anchored in the roads of Sebastopol."

Accounts from St Petersburg of Dec. 13, state that a Te Deum had been sung in the Czar's chapel for the victories of Akhaltzik and Sinope. Te Deums have also been sung in all the churches of the capital.

The 'Allgemeine Zeitung' states that the Turkish vessels which were destroyed at Sinope were originally intended to convey an expedition to Crimea, but that the Russians, having been informed of the plan, and measures having been taken accordingly, the Turkish War-office altered its plan, and resolved to send certain stores, moneys, and troops to support the mountaineers in the Caucasus. The expedition was sent from Constantinople with great secrecy. The combined Turkish-Egyptian fleet entered the Black Sea at the same time, in order to deceive the Russian Admiral as to the object of the above-named expedition. After a cruise of eighteen days, the large fleet returned to Constantinople without meeting a single Russian vessel, and it was confidently believed that Prince Menshikoff, intimidated by the fleets of the Western Powers, kept his ships in the harbour of Sebastopol. It appears, however, that the Russian Admiral had a full knowledge of the intentions of the Turks, for he paid no attention to the three divisions of the Turkish-Egyptian fleet, but the strictest watch was kept on the movements of the expedition which proceeded along the coast of Trebizond. The Turkish Admiral, being informed of this surveillance, ran his division under cover of the batteries of Sinope; he could not, however, avoid his fate; his vessels were destroyed, and he himself captured.

From other channels of intelligence we learn that the Turkish commander was, in point of courage, worthy of his men. Osman Pasha, when taken, was found lying on the deck of his frigate, with leg broken, and his head terribly wounded. Letters from Odessa of the 8th state that the gallant admiral was a prisoner in the arsenal at Sebastopol. The other prisoners lie on the casemates, and are all wounded or burnt. Since the affair at Sinope, the Russians appear to have fancied that their own ports were in greater danger of attack, for both at Odessa and Sebastopol land batteries have been provided in great haste, and command the sea for a considerable distance.

THE BATTLE OF AKAL-TSICHE.—The 'St Petersburg Journal' publishes, on the same occasion, a despatch from Prince Woronzoff respecting the "great success" which has attended the Russian arms under General Prince Andronnikoff, commander-in-chief of the army in the Caucasus. Making allowance for the rhodomontade of Russian bulletins, it would appear that General Andronnikoff was able to relieve the fortress of Akal-Tsiche, after a conflict which must have been severe. The loss of the Turkish general in killed amounted, according to the report of his enemy, to 1,000, and not to 4,000, as was first stated. What the Russian loss was we may probably never know, for General Andronnikoff's return of thirty-nine killed, when brought into comparison with a description which he gives of the formidable position and murderous fire of the Turks, becomes preposterous. The mail from Constantinople will probably place us in possession of another and very different account of the battle of Akal-Tsiche. It will not be forgotten, that according to the St Petersburg accounts of the affair at Oitenitza, the Turks were on that occasion defeated and driven into the Danube. Decorations, promotions, and recompenses are in the mean time showered upon the officers and soldiers who shared in this "brilliant victory," of which their commander says, "I cannot help considering it as one of the most extraordinary, and, I might say, unprecedented feats of arms on the part of troops who, at the voice of the august monarch, have taken arms for religion, sovereign, and country." He adds, "There can be no obstacles for an army which repeats the words of its monarch, 'In te Domine speravi; non confundar in aeternum!'"

—Another battle, as Russian despatches again say, has been fought at Ongush, in Asia. The date assigned is the 2nd of December (20th of November, Russian calendar). The report reads very much like that from Akal-Tsiche. It is alleged that Prince Rebutoff defeated the Turkish Seraskier on the Turkish territory, taking twenty-four cannon, the whole Turkish camp and material of war.

THE VIENNA PROTOCOL AND COLLECTIVE NOTE.

The 'Journal des Débats' gives the following as the text of the protocol signed on December 5, at Vienna, by the representatives of the four great Powers:

"The undersigned, representatives of Austria, France, Great Britain, and Prussia, in conformity with the instructions of their courts, have assembled at a conference for the purpose of seeking out means of smoothing down the difference which has arisen between the Court of Russia and the Sublime Porte. The propositions which that difference assumed, and the war which has burst out between the two empires, in spite of the efforts of their allies, have become for all Europe the object of most serious preoccupations; in consequence, the Emperor of Austria, the Emperor of the French, the Queen of Great Britain, and the King of Prussia, equally penetrated with the necessity of putting an end to these hostilities, which cannot be prolonged without affecting the interests of their own states, have resolved to offer their good offices to the two belligerent parties, in the hope that they would not themselves incur the responsibility of a conflagration, when by an exchange of loyal explanations they may still prevent it, in again placing their relations on the footing of peace and of a good understanding. The assurances given on several occasions by the Emperor of Russia exclude the idea that that august sovereign entertains any wish to interfere with the integrity of the Ottoman empire. The existence of Turkey, in the limits which treaties have assigned to her, has in fact become one of the necessary conditions of the European equilibrium, and the undersigned plenipotentiaries declare with satisfaction that the present war cannot in any case involve modifications in the territorial circumscriptions of the two empires, calculated to alter the state of possession which time has consecrated in the East, and which is equally necessary for the tranquillity of all the other powers. The Emperor of Russia, besides, has not confined himself to such assurances, but has declared that his intention had never been to impose on the Porte new obligations, or any that were not exactly in conformity with the treaties of Kutchuk-Kainardji and Adrianople, according to which the Sublime Porte has promised to protect in the whole extent of its states the Christian religion and its churches. The Court of Russia has added, that in demanding from the Ottoman Government a testimony of its fidelity to its anterior engagements, it had in no respect intended to attenuate the authority of the Sultan over its Christian subjects, and that its only object was to obtain explanations of a nature to prevent every motive of doubt and every reason for misunderstanding with a friendly and neighbouring Power. The sentiments manifested by the Sublime Porte during the last negotiations prove, on the other hand, that that Power was ready to recognise all its contracted obligations, and to pay full attention, in the measure of its sovereign rights, to the interest entertained by the Emperor of Russia for a religion which is his own, and that of the majority of his people. In that state of things, the undersigned are convinced that the surest and most ready means of attaining the object desired by their Courts, is to make a communication in common to the Sublime Porte, to explain to it the wish of the Powers to contribute by their friendly intervention to the re-establishment of peace, and to give it the opportunity of stating the conditions on which it would be disposed to treat. Such is the object of the collective note adjoined, addressed to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Sultan and of the identical instructions transmitted at the same time by the Courts of Austria, France, Great Britain, and Prussia, to their representatives at Constantinople."

The following is the collective note:

"The undersigned, representatives of Austria, France, Great Britain, and Prussia, assembled at a conference at Vienna, have received instructions to declare that their respective Governments behold with a profound regret the commencement of hostilities between Russia and the Porte, and prevent any fresh effusion of blood, and to put an end to a state of things assurance that she was disposed to treat, and the undersigned not doubting that the Porte is animated with the same spirit, they request, in the name of their respective Governments, to be informed on what conditions the Ottoman Empire would consent to negotiate a treaty of peace."

INSTRUCTIONS TO THE AMBASSADORS AT CONSTANTINOPLE.

The 'Débats' gives the following despatch as that by which the ambassadors of the four Powers have been instructed to act in execution of the protocol of December 5:

"Monsieur.—The Governments of their Majesties the Emperor of Austria, the Emperor of the French, the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and the King of Prussia have seen with great regret the outbreak of war between Russia and Turkey; and, with the object of abridging hostilities as much as possible, and of effecting a rapprochement between the belligerent parties, so important for the interests of Europe, they have thought it necessary to give a collective form to their efforts. The note which the representatives of the four Powers at Vienna have received orders to address directly to his Excellency Redschid Pasha, and of which they have had to transmit a copy to you, is a new and complete evidence of the identity of the views of their Courts, and of their warm desire to contribute by their union to the re-establishment of peace. I rely upon you, Monsieur, to second this conciliatory endeavour by your exertions, and have only further to indicate to you the counsels which you, with your colleagues, will have to give to the Minister of his Majesty the Sultan. The various documents which have emanated from the Sublime Porte, and the character of moderation with which they are marked, authorize us to hope that you will find Redschid Pasha disposed to admit that the propositions of the four Courts are as much conforming to the interests as they are to the dignity of the Ottoman empire. We place candidly before the Sublime Porte a question to which it will respond in the same spirit. We are convinced that it will circumscribe the contest which is now pending between itself and the Cabinet of St Petersburg within its true limits, and that all its cares will tend to resolve it without importing foreign elements into the actual war. In this hope, and acknowledging that it belongs to the Turkish Government to reply to the communication which is made to it in such a manner as its wisdom shall suggest, we at the same time consider that we may be permitted to call its attention to the points on which it will be sure to find us in agreement with it. The Governments of the four Powers would be glad should the Sublime Porte declare, in the first place, that Austria, France, Great Britain, and Prussia have not too much presumed on its conciliatory intentions in believing it to be still animated with the desire to terminate on favourable conditions the difference which has arisen between it and Russia, and still ready to come to an understanding for this purpose with the other Powers. That, recognising the assurance which Russia has on several occasions given that it demands no new concessions nor rights infringing upon the sovereignty of the Sultan, the Divan is ready to renew its offers and to discuss the form in which peace shall be re-established, subject to the condition of not being called to accede to any of the demands which have been already refused, and to conclude an arrangement for the evacuation of the Principalities. This discussion would naturally take place between an Ottoman and Russian negotiator, each furnished with plenipotentiary powers; but, in order to facilitate the agreement of the two parties, the plenipotentiaries so designated would not treat apart, but in presence of representatives of Austria, France, Great Britain, and Prussia. We can understand the reasons which doubtless would not permit the Sublime Porte to negotiate with Russia in a part of its territory occupied by the arms of this Power. Russia, on its side, would have objections to negotiate in any town of Turkey. It would be proper, then, to leave the two parties to make choice of a neutral territory, and we abstain, therefore, from designating any particular place. The object which the four Courts propose would not be completely obtained if the opening of the preliminary pour-parlers of peace were not at the same time the signal for the cessation of hostilities; but we believe that the Sublime Porte will have no good reason to oppose the conclusion of an armistice, the conditions of which might be afterwards debated, if it obtained from us the assurance that the terms in which it should declare itself disposed to treat would be equally accepted by Russia. It is, in any case, a demand which it might address to us; and, on the hypothesis that the terms proposed by the Ottoman Government should not be such as Russia should at first consent to, we would yet advise the sending of a Turkish plenipotentiary, and the appointment of a town where the plenipotentiaries of Russia and Turkey might meet the representatives of the Four Courts. The various points which I have just passed under review, and the observations by which they are accompanied, have the complete consent of Austria, France, and Prussia; and it is therefore to be desired that Redschid Pasha will look at them in this light, and make them the groundwork of the communication which we all expect from him. You will inform us of the reception which may be given to this communication; but we can hardly think that the Sublime Porte, weighing the advantages which such a combination offers to the Ottoman empire with the risks that always wait on war, will hesitate to enter into the path opened for it by an amicable inter-vention. I ask you, Monsieur, to repair with your colleagues to Redschid Pasha, to read this despatch to him, and fortify it with the authority of your advice."

ALLEGED ENTRANCE OF THE COMBINED FLEETS INTO THE BLACK SEA.—The semi-official 'Correspondenz' of Vienna announces that the French and English Governments, as soon as they had intelligence of the destruction of a Turkish squadron at Sinope, sent off orders to Admirals Hamelin and Dundas to enter the Black Sea without delay. By the same organ the Government had previously intimated the probability of such an event, adding that the ships would enter the Euxine on a peaceful errand. It is also understood that the last intelligence received by the two Governments from Constantinople makes it probable that the messenger conveying the orders above mentioned would find that the fleets had already entered the Black Sea.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.—It is reasserted, we cannot say confirmed, that Persia has declared war with Turkey. Indeed, advices from Bucharest of the 17th state that Persia has offered, through Prince Woronzoff, 30,000 troops to Russia, and demanded a Russian general. —Advices from Bucharest of the 17th announce that an action had taken place at Matchin (opposite Ibraila). It comes out that the Russians could not succeed. They made a reconnaissance with two steamers, five gun-boats, and four battalions of riflemen, and it is said destroyed the Turkish batteries below Matchin. The firing was sharp. The Russians lost ten killed and several cart-loads of wounded. —The Czar has published a Ukase, proclaiming the state of siege throughout Bessarabia and the governments of Oberson and Tauris, and placing those provinces under martial law. —Another Ukase releases a portion of the crews of the Baltic fleet until the spring—viz, twenty-eight men of each of the crews of the guard and forty-eight of those of the line. This measure is to remain in force till the 13th of March, 1854. —The British Consul at Jassy has left, by direction of Lord Stratford. A portion of General Osten-Sacken's corps, amounting to 4,000 men, appear at last to have passed through that town, and a telegraphic despatch from Bucharest, dated the 17th inst, says that his whole division entered Wallachia on the 7th. —We learn from Paris that telegraphic intelligence had reached that capital from Constantinople down to the 13th inst. The courier who conveyed the Collective Note and Circular Instructions of the Four Powers proceeded had arrived, and the Ambassadors of the Four Powers proceeded at once to take these documents into consideration. —A strict inquiry has been ordered into the cause of the destruction of part of the Turkish fleet at Sinope, which is attributed to the neglect of the Turkish authorities in not recalling those vessels after they had been warned to do so, or to the want of timely information that the

Russian fleet was cruising off the coast of Asia.—M. de Fonton, late Russian Consul-General in Serbia, has gone to St Petersburg. He will probably be sent on a special mission to Persia.—M. Pouillade, the French Consul in Wallachia, left Galatz on the 4th inst. on board a Lloyd steamer, which was bound for Constantinople. The Russians stopped the steamer at the Sulina mouth, and compelled her to proceed to Odessa.—The Constantinople correspondent of the 'Débats' says the rupture of diplomatic relations between Persia and England is officially confirmed (Mr Thompson having suspended diplomatic relations with the Court of Teheran), and that Persia has concluded a treaty of alliance offensive and defensive with Russia against Turkey.

FRANCE.—OFFICIAL VIEW OF LORD PALMERSTON'S RESIGNATION.—The 'Moniteur' notices the retirement of Lord Palmerston from the British Cabinet in the following terms:—"This retirement is the consequence of a difference of opinion that has arisen in the Cabinet upon a question of parliamentary reform. Foreign policy has nothing whatever to do with the noble lord's resolution, and this incident cannot, we are assured, in any respect affect the understanding so happily established between the French and English Governments regarding the great interests which pre-occupy Europe. It will not, however, be thought strange that our regrets should accompany his retirement from the Cabinet a statesman who has so actively contributed to bring about this concert, and whose sentiments have at all times been pleasing to his Majesty the Emperor's Government."

THE OPENING OF THE PIEDMONTSE CHAMBERS.—The opening of the Legislative Session took place at Turin on the 19th inst. The King delivered a speech which was warmly applauded, and in which his Majesty congratulated the Piedmontese nation on its intelligence, and recommended the parliament to encourage that spirit of union by the aid of which the Government might find force sufficient to maintain intact the dignity of the country, and preserve the noble principle of national independence from any insult. His Majesty concluded as follows: "Have confidence in me, and by our union we will crown the grand edifice raised by the hands of my father, and which mine will defend and preserve." The Royal speech was received with enthusiasm, and the King on his passage was hailed with the warmest acclamations by the people.

UNAUTHORISED PUBLICATIONS.—In publishing the instructions addressed to the representatives of the four Powers at Constantinople, which appeared in the 'Journal des Débats,' the 'Moniteur' appends a few words, which show that the French Government is annoyed at the publicity given by the partisans of Russia to documents which were intended to be private, and which afford abundant evidence of the tardiness with which the Powers treat the invader of Turkey, and the roughness with which the Sultan is called upon by his allies and protectors to do their behests. The 'Moniteur' says: "We have not to give any explanations as to the correctness of the diplomatic documents thus made public. If they are false, it is a culpable manoeuvre; if they are true, it is an unpardonable indiscretion. The Government has taken measures to avoid the renewal of similar acts." It appears that this threat has been acted upon, for on Tuesday M. de Persigny sent for M. Armand Bertin, and asked him from whom he had received the documents connected with the Vienna conference. M. Bertin stated that he had them from a German correspondent, but refused to give any further particulars. M. de Persigny then declared that the Government was determined not to allow a "war of publications" against it; and stated that, in the event of any future indiscretion of the kind, the hand of the Government would fall heavily on the 'Débats.'

THE AFFAIR OF CAPTAIN LAPORTE.—The following is the text of the judgment of the court-martial at Mezières, in the affair of Captain Laporte:—"The President presented two questions—First, is Captain Laporte guilty of having killed General de Brigade Count de Neully? Secondly, did the accused commit this act (*ce meurtre*) in legitimate defence? The Council, on the first question, declares unanimously that the accused is guilty; on the second question, by the majority of four votes to three, that the accused acted in the case of legitimate defence. In consequence, the Council, by a majority of four to three, acquits Captain Laporte of the accusation brought against him; and orders that he shall be immediately set at liberty, and be sent to his corps to continue his service."

MISCELLANEOUS FACTS.—The Emperor has granted a sum of 25,000fr. from his private purse for the establishment of four markets in Paris, where butchers' meat is to be sold by auction and by retail.—The Duke de Casigliano has suddenly died of typhus fever. His grandfather, Prince Corsini, now eighty-five years of age, had, in contemplation of the young Duke's approaching marriage with Queen Christina's daughter, agreed to settle upon him the whole of his enormous fortune, amounting to nearly half a million sterling.—At Lyons, last week, a man named Bienvenu Roux, recently arrived from Africa, was sentenced to three months' imprisonment for having said in a tobacco-shop—interrupting a conversation on the subject of the Empress's *fête* on November 15:—"That *fête* will not be kept next year, because within two months from this time the Emperor will be assassinated."—M. Arnold Scheffer, the brother of the celebrated painter, Ary Scheffer, and a well-known writer in the 'National,' under the management of Armand Carrel, is just dead.—It is said that at the reception of January 2, a striking modification of court etiquette will be made. The *corps diplomatique*, instead of passing in procession before their Majesties, will be ranged round the throne, as is the practice in Spain. This change is stated to have been ordered in compliance with the wish of the Empress.—Prince Gaston de Montmorency died on Monday in Paris.—The 'Echo de la Lys' states that the police of Aire (Pas-de-Calais), a few days since, discovered written on the window shutters of the establishment of Ursuline Nuns in that place the words—"Ledru-Rollin, du pain—Napoléon, du bâton—Pillage!" which they effaced.—Engineers are engaged in making the surveys for a line of railway round Paris, but at a distance of 100 kilometres (sixty miles) from the capital, so as to form a communication with all the great lines which start from it. Orleans, Chartres, Evreux, Amiens, Epernay, Montereau, Sens, and Auxerre, will come into this new line.—M. Dupin is very indignant that his nomination as a senator had not yet appeared in the 'Moniteur.' He said to a friend the other day, "They have appointed me as a senator, and they have not the courage to publish my nomination in the 'Moniteur.' It is a loss to me of 2,500fr. every month the publication is delayed."—The Academy of Sciences met on Tuesday to elect a perpetual secretary in place of the late M. Arago. The candidates were MM. Elie de Beaumont, C. Dupin, Lamé, Pouillet, and Senarmont. M. Elie de Beaumont was the successful candidate.—There is no doubt whatever that M. Leverrier will be the successor of M. Arago at the Observatory.—The Emperor has appointed the Prince Napoleon, President of the Commission of the Universal Exhibition, to be opened in the Crystal Palace now building in the Champs Elysées, in 1855.—The new Bonapartist club, the "Globe," has been inaugurated by a grand dinner, General Bar, the president, in the chair. M. Belmontet, the eminent ex-member of the 10th of December society, proposed as a toast the "Imperial dynasty," which he characterised as "the buckler of the present, and the lever of the future."—It is said that M. Scribe derives, as the profit of the pieces he has already written, the enormous income of 12,000fr. sterling per annum. This income does not represent the average annual remuneration

he may receive if he continues in a state of dramatic activity, but is simply the revenue derived from work already done. In Paris alone six plays of M. Scribe are, on an average, played every night.

UNITED STATES.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

The following summary contains the chief substance of the Message presented to the Congress of the United States at Washington, on the 6th inst. It opens with a thanksgiving for the general prosperity which the country enjoys, and then proceeds to discuss *seriatim* the external relations and internal condition of the Union.

FOREIGN RELATIONS.—The diplomatic relations of the United States with foreign powers are stated to be essentially unchanged since the last assemblage of Congress. The pending questions still under arrangement with some of these States are in course of amicable adjustment.

THE FISHERY QUESTION.—Negotiations are in progress with England respecting the fishery question, and there are fair prospects that a settlement of a favourable character for American fishermen will be come to.

CENTRAL AMERICA.—The President next refers to questions of an embarrassing nature that have arisen between the United States and England respecting Central America. England proposes arrangements calculated to produce an amicable adjustment of the matters to be arranged, and the American Minister now in London is at present engaged in the pending negotiations.

THE NORTH-WESTERN BOUNDARY.—The President recommends that the boundary line between the United States and the British North American provinces in the North-West should be traced and marked. The Message reports that some progress has been made in negotiating a treaty of commerce and navigation with France.

THE CUBAN EXPEDITION.—In reference to the piratical expeditions against the island of Cuba, the Message declares that since the last Congress no attempts have been made by an authorised expedition within the United States against the Spanish colonies, and that should any movement be made with such an object in view, all the means which the President has at his command shall be vigorously exerted to repress the attempt at any such organisation. Congress is recommended to make prompt payment of the Spanish claims in the case of the schooner *Amistad*.

THE KOSZTA AFFAIR.—With respect to the Koszta affair, the President declares that, after a careful consideration of the matter, he has arrived at the conclusion that Koszta was illegally seized at Smyrna, and that he was wrongfully detained on board the Austrian ship of war, and that at the time of his seizure he was clothed with the American nationality. The acts of the American officers under the circumstances are also declared to have been justifiable, and they are fully approved. The compliance with the subsequent demands of Austria is declined, while the principles maintained by the United States Secretary of State, in his correspondence with the Austrian Minister, Baron Halsemann, will on all similar occasions be applied and enforced.

A brief reference follows with regard to the expeditions despatched to China and Japan. The dispute between the United States and Mexico regarding the Mesilla Valley is stated to be unsettled. The Message reports that the United States Minister at the Court of the Brazils has been instructed to negotiate a treaty with that empire by which the navigation of the Amazon may be opened up. The recent dispute with Peru, arising out of the occurrences that took place at the Chincha Islands, is represented to be in a fair way of settlement, Peru agreeing to grant indemnity to the parties outraged.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS.—The Treasury report shows a surplus for the fiscal year of thirty-two millions of dollars, out of which some thirteen millions of dollars of the public debt has been paid, leaving the present debt of the United States at fifty-six millions of dollars. The President recommends that further progress be made towards extinguishing the debt of the Union. He also recommends a reduction of the tariff.—The navy is declared to be in an inefficient state, and measures for its improvement are recommended. An increase in the Army is also considered as necessary, especially on the frontiers.—The post-office revenue is reported to be deficient to the extent of two millions of dollars.—The President declares himself to be in favour of aiding the Pacific railroad by all constitutional means; and the Message concludes with a brief allusion to the death of the late Vice-President King.

The Canada, which brought the message, left Boston on the 7th. The mail steam-ship Humboldt, from Havre and Southampton, got ashore near Halifax on the 5th inst. She was expected to become a total wreck. The passengers were all saved. New Orleans is earning for itself exclusively the title of the "City of the Plague." The last victims to that scourge of tropical countries, the yellow fever, had hardly been buried, and the affrighted and runaway citizens returned to their homes, when a fresh scourge made its appearance in the shape of cholera, which has already, up to last advices, carried off 214 persons in one day. Mr Linn Boyd has been elected Speaker of Congress. The ship *Victoria*, from London, arrived at New York, had fifty deaths on the passage; and the *Southampton*, also from London, fifteen deaths.

FOREIGN GLEANINGS.

Count Valentine Esterhazy has been appointed Ambassador Extraordinary from Munich to St Petersburg.

According to advices from Copenhagen, it is asserted that a line of defence round the capital against an attack by sea is to be thrown up as in the year 1848, and that a corps of artillery has already received orders to undertake the necessary works.

The ancient custom of "breaking the shield" on a sovereign's death took place at Lisbon on the 3rd. A platform being erected in each of the three principal squares, a procession took place from the municipal chamber, and at each of the places the following words being audibly spoken, namely, "Weep, Portuguese, because your Queen, the Lady Donna Maria the Second, is dead," a shield was broken, and thrown on the floor. A religious ceremony followed.

The 'Bermuda Royal Gazette' of the 22nd ult. announces the arrival on the 17th of Governor Elliott. On the 21st there were no cases of yellow fever at St George's, and the epidemic appears to be subsiding throughout the island. The inhabitants of Bermuda take every opportunity of emigrating to Melbourne by any passenger ships which casually touch there.

The Austrian budget for 1854 shows a deficit of 45,000,000 florins under the head of ordinary expenses; while the extraordinary expenses create a deficit of 50,000,000 florins.

A duel took place at Madrid on the 10th inst. between the Duke of Alba and Mr Soulé, jun., son of the United States envoy at the Spanish court, arising out of the remarks made by the former on the costume of M. Soulé's wife at one of the Queen's balls. The parties fought with swords, but without either being wounded, and it ended in the seconds drawing up a minute of the proceedings as having been conducted in a manner satisfactory to the honour and reputation of both parties.

The 'Hamburg News' says: "Travellers from St Petersburg state that in the shops of that city are sold maps of Constantinople, in which the Turkish capital is divided into Russian police districts. A copy of this map, which was brought to Vienna, produced a great sensation, as it is well known that at St Petersburg no person can sell maps or engravings without the authorisation of the government."

A brutal murder has been perpetrated in Havana by an actor named Valdez, of the Tacon Theatre, on his wife, Matilda Dominguez, *prima donna* of the Spanish Opera, also belonging to the same company, and a great favourite in that place. With a poniard he inflicted thirty-two wounds on his victim, and then stabbed himself eleven times, but without effect. In his wounded state he was taken to prison, where he now remains, and is recovering. Sentence of death has been pronounced upon him, and as soon as he has sufficiently recovered he will be garotted. The cause assigned for the murder was jealousy, and the refusal of the wife to furnish him with money.

STATE AND CHURCH.

THE COURT.—Her Majesty, Prince Albert, and the Royal family left Osborne on Thursday for Windsor Castle, to pass the Christmas holidays there.

OFFICIAL APPOINTMENTS.—Mr W. Brodie, now unpaid attaché to her Majesty's legation at Stockholm, is appointed unpaid attaché to the embassy at Constantinople; the Master-General of the Ordnance has appointed Lieut.-Colonel the Hon. R. E. Boyle, Coldstream Guards, to be his secretary, in the room of Captain Lord Clarence Paget, R.N., resigned.

THE SECRETARYSHIP OF THE BOARD OF CONTROL.—It has been determined to assimilate the chief office for the government of India to the offices of the Secretaries of State in that particular. Of the two Under-Secretaries of State in each department of Home, Foreign, and Colonial Affairs, one is attached permanently to the office, without a seat in Parliament, and attends mainly to the legal and departmental business; whilst the other is in Parliament, attends chiefly to the legislative business, and goes in and out of office with the Ministry. Sir T. Redington, K.C.B., is appointed to the permanent secretaryship under the new arrangement.

MILITARY NEWS.—It is confidently reported that Major-General Wetherall will relieve Major-General Rowan in the command of the troops in Canada, and will be succeeded as Deputy Adjutant-General at head quarters by Colonel Torrens, whose place as Assistant Quartermaster-General will be filled by Lieut.-Colonel Cunynghame.—Favourable reports continue to be received of the health of Major-General M'Donald, who lately met with so severe an accident at Killenny.

THE MAURICE AND JELF CONTROVERSY.—Sir, The case of Jelf v. Maurice having already excited so much stir throughout the country, it may interest your literary readers to know that the question in dispute—viz., the Scriptural meaning of the word *αιων*—was critically examined and explained in a now somewhat scarce work, published in 1761, by Dr Stonehouse, a learned Oriental scholar. The title of his book runs thus: "Universal Restitution, a Scripture Doctrine, proved in several Letters wrote on the Nature and Extent of Christ's Kingdom; wherein the Scripture Passages, falsely alleged in Proof of the Eternity of Hell Torments, are rightly translated and explained." His first proposition is, "That the English words eternal, everlasting, for ever and ever, &c., are unscriptural, and express not the true import of the original words." In his second section he lays down that "The word *αιων* means not eternity;" and in six propositions he endeavours to establish his position by numerous proofs from Scripture; but to enter upon these would be unsuitable to your columns. Those of your readers who would wish to refer to this work of Dr Stonehouse's will find other learned dissertations upon Greek and Hebrew words. Thinking that at the present time it might interest some of your readers to know that Professor Maurice was not the only learned man who denied the popular reading of the Greek word *αιων*, I send you these remarks, and am, sir, yours, a subscriber, E. M. R.—[Our correspondent will excuse our having abridged his letter, as in a great part unsuited to our columns.]

Obituary.

THE MARCHIONESS WELLESLEY, widow of the elder brother of the late Duke of Wellington, died on Saturday last, at her apartments at Hampton Court Palace, after a short illness. The deceased was a daughter of Mr R. Caton, and when the late Marquis Wellesley married her she was widow of Mr R. Patterson. She was the marchioness's second wife, to whom she was united 29th October, 1825.

THERESA, COUNTESS OF EGLINTON, died on the 16th inst., from aneurism. Her ladyship was a daughter of C. Newcomen, Esq., and widow of R. H. Cockerell, Esq., and was married in 1841 to the Earl of Eglinton, by whom she has left four children. Her many good qualities will be held in remembrance alike by the rich and the poor. Distinguished by great personal beauty, the countenance was only the reflex of a noble mind and a gracious heart. From the day on which she arrived at the ancestral seat of Lord Eglinton, she became endeared to every inhabitant, but especially to the poor around Eglinton Castle, whose wants were never left unsupplied by a hand which responded to every good claim. The Ragged School in Ayr, and all kindred institutions in the west of Scotland, had her ladyship for a zealous friend. In Ireland, while Lord Eglinton officiated as Viceroy, brief as was the period of their residence there, it sufficed to make her ladyship's character fully known.

THOMAS GROSSI, next to Manzoni, the most distinguished literary man of Italy, has just died. Though the author of several poetical works, he is best known in England as the writer of "Marco Visconti," one of the few good Italian novels. He was the bosom friend of Manzoni and Massimo d'Azeglio, and although, like the former, he did not take any active part in politics, curiously enough he was the notary who drew up and attested the act of fusion between Piedmont and Lombardy in 1848. Grossi was only sixty-five years of age, and was as much beloved for the sweetness and suavity of his disposition as admired for his literary talents.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

The weekly report of the Registrar-General shows that in the week that ended on Saturday the total number of deaths registered in London was 1,358. Increased coldness of the weather has acted unfavourably on the public health during recent weeks, and the present return shows that its effect, an advanced rate of mortality, has not abated. In the ten weeks corresponding to last week of the years 1843-52, the average number of deaths was 1,210, which, if raised in proportion to increase of population, becomes 1,331. The 1,358 deaths of last week show an excess of 27 on the calculated amount. Zymotic diseases are in the aggregate scarcely more fatal than usual, but the mortality of hooping-cough is high, 64 children having died from it. Small-pox was fatal in only 3 cases, measles in 39, scarlatina in 33, croup in 10, typhus in 56, diarrhoea in 27. The number of deaths from cholera was 11. Fatal cases arising from diseases of the respiratory organs amount to 319, whilst the corrected average of ten corresponding weeks is 299. In this class bronchitis was most fatal, numbering 163; pneumonia carried off 121 persons, nearly all children, aethma 20, laryngitis 4. The deaths from phthisis were 144. Last week the births of 771 boys and 736 girls, in all 1,507 children, were registered in London. In the eight corresponding weeks of the years 1845-52 the average number was 1,413. At the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, the mean height of the barometer in the week was 29.512 in. The mean temperature of the week was 59.7 deg., which is 7.3 deg below the average of the same week in thirty-eight years. On Friday "a painfully cold day," the mean daily temperature fell 13 deg. below the average of the same day; and on four other days it was 8 deg. or 9 deg. below it. The mean dew-point temperature was 29.4 deg. The wind blew for the most part from the north-east.

CITY CORPORATION COMMISSION.

On Tuesday the Commissioners renewed their inquiry. Mr S. Hopwood, clerk to the Paving Commissioners of St Andrew's, Holborn, and St George the Martyr, attended to complain of the tax on carts entering the City. One of the main inlets to the City passed along these united parishes, namely, Holborn, and on their side of the metropolis the inhabitants paid the expenses for the repair of the road. A great portion of the traffic on that road consisted of goods entering the City, on which they levied no tax, though, if they did, it would diminish the expenses. It was a great hardship, therefore, on the inhabitants of these parishes to pay the tax on their carts when they enter the City.—Mr A. Moore, silk manufacturer, said: I am connected with the City as a freeman, and as director of some companies. My object in coming here is to give evidence of a general character respecting the corporation of the City. I am of opinion that it would be wrong to abolish that corporation or to unite it with metropolitan corporations. I think that a federation of corporations for the whole metropolis would be inexpedient and unwise. So large a population as two and a half millions united together might be an embarrassment to the government. I think the corporation should have the control of its own police. The City has hitherto elected its own magistrates, and they have given great satisfaction. I would have the aldermen elected for life, whether they are to continue magistrates or not. I think there is great advantage in having an independent body like the aldermen of London, and their independence would not be so great if they were periodically elected. I see no objection in having the aldermen elected by the wards, the constituency of those wards being altered. I think the municipal constituency ought to be assimilated to the parliamentary. With respect to the trading privileges of the citizens of London, I do not see any advantage to be derived from their continuance. I would therefore abolish those trading privileges. I would unite some of the small wards, and divide the large ones. This would assimilate the size of the wards to a considerable extent, whilst it would preserve their boundaries, and leave to each the administration of its charities. I would not diminish the number of aldermen. I would have the Lord Mayor elected in Common Hall by the aldermen who served the office of sheriff. I think it would be objectionable to elect the Lord Mayor from the general body of the citizens. It would take away a motive for seeking the inferior offices. Besides a person filling the office of first magistrate of the City ought to have some previous acquaintance with corporate business. I would give the Crown the right of confirming the election of the Lord Mayor. The Sheriff of London should be appointed by the Common Hall, but the Sheriff of Middlesex should be appointed by the Crown. I would retain the power of fining for not serving the office of sheriff, because otherwise you might not get proper persons. But I would draw up regulations which would prevent the abuse which now exists, namely, that of electing persons who it is known would not serve for the purpose of getting the fine. In order to take away this motive for fining, the fine after being imposed might be taken away from the corporation. I think the aldermen should name the gentlemen who should serve the office of sheriff three months before their appointment, and give notice thereof three months beforehand—the election to be made by the Common Hall. But then I would assimilate the Common Hall constituency to the parliamentary one. I would have the ward-mote elections made by the same constituency, and confined to one day. The Chamberlain might, I think, be elected by the Common Council. The Lord Mayor and Sheriffs should alone be elected by the whole constituency. I would abolish all such offices as were not suited to the times we live in. The Court of Aldermen has, I think, given satisfaction to every one, and I would therefore retain it. I would have the office of Recorder confirmed by the Crown. I think the aldermen should delegate to one or two of their body to act as police magistrates or magistrates, to be paid by the Common Council, with a power of confirmation in the hands of the Secretary of State. I would empower some to act as magistrates, but would not restrain any from acting. The duties of magistrate now devolve by rotation on the aldermen. I would retain the Lord Mayor and aldermen on the commission of the Old Bailey. It is an old privilege, and I would not deprive them of it. I believe the Recorder or Common Serjeant does sometimes ask the aldermen as to the amount of punishment to be inflicted on a criminal. The aldermen superintend the management of the City gaols, and as they perform that business well, I think it should be continued to them. The Court of Aldermen should, I think, regulate the management of the Stock Exchange. The City takes a bond of security for good behaviour, and I have no doubt they enforce it when they can. The parties who act fraudulently generally run away. I think the Court of Aldermen would be the very best body for directing the regulations of the Stock Exchange. The higher class of merchants do not take part in the corporation simply because, I believe, it is too numerous a body, too antiquated in its forms, and too political in its conduct. I think these merchants would serve in the corporation if they were sent there to do business, and not to talk, as is too much the case now. I would not abolish the Lord Mayor's show, but I would have it executed in a different way. It cannot please the citizens of London to see men in armour riding before the Lord Mayor; but if men of a better taste were elected these things would be remedied, and a better arrangement made. I think that a decent and liberal hospitality should be maintained by the Lord Mayor, but I would not wish to see that hospitality exercised in the extravagant way that sometimes takes place. I believe that a certain sum is appropriated out of the City funds for dinners to committees, in order to induce the members to attend. I by no means approve of that system. I don't think that municipal institutions would be of any advantage to the metropolitan boroughs.

Mr Lewis: What advantage, then, do you think the corporation of London has conferred on the citizens? Mr Moore: I think the police and the administration of justice in the City are well managed, and I would retain the corporation because it exists.—You would retain the corporation, then, because it exists, not because it is beneficial? On both grounds.—Does the corporation at present represent the general commercial interests of London? Not at present, because the corporation does not consist of the right sort of men. There are merchants who would not associate with some of the members of the present corporation, because they were not their equals, but I think it probable these merchants would take part in the business of the corporation if it was modified. With respect to the fourpenny coal tax, I don't think the City should have the administration of affairs beyond its own boundaries, or that a tax should be imposed on a general district to be applied to a particular locality.

Mr E. Wilson, silk manufacturer, gave evidence in which he advocated views for the improvement of the corporation of a character similar to those of the previous witness.

Mr M. Seward stated several reasons for objecting to divided police jurisdiction in the metropolis.

Mr H. Roy gave evidence on the subject of the Stock Exchange regulations. He was of opinion that those regulations should be under the corporation, and that their license should be sufficient for a broker, independent of any regulations made by the members of the Stock Exchange, which was in fact a close market. The regulations of the corporation would afford ample security to the public, if properly carried out, and no others were necessary.

There being no other witness in attendance, the Chairman stated that the Commission proposed to adjourn till the 11th of January, when they would enter upon the examination of witnesses connected with the corporation. If they found it necessary to sit for the examination of any other witnesses before then, which was not likely, notice would be given of their intention to do so.

REFORMATION OF JUVENILE CRIMINALS.

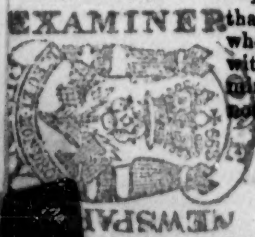
A conference on the subject of the reformation of juvenile criminals was held at Birmingham on Tuesday. There was a very large attendance of gentlemen from all parts of the country. Sir J. Pakington presided, and amongst his supporters were Lords Shaftesbury, Harrowby, and Calthorpe, the Mayor of Birmingham, Mr M. D. Hill, Q.C., Mr Adderley, M.P., Mr M. Milnes, M.P., Mr J. Sturge, Mr J. Symonds, Sir F. Scott, Mr Scholefield, M.P., Mr Muntz, M.P., Mr Spooner, M.P. The proceedings of the conference were opened by prayer, after which Mr Morgan, town clerk of Birmingham, read extracts from a large number of letters received from all parts of the country expressive of regret at the inability of the writers to be present. In a letter from Mr Hume, M.P., it was said: "I would submit, if I were present, that the first resolution is too limited in its operation and scope, as it contemplates the wretched state of the children only, and I would venture to suggest that reformation is required as much for the interests of the community at large as for the neglected children, and the conference of the 20th proximo ought to express by their resolutions that the best interests of our country, as well as of the cause of humanity, require the interference of the legislature to arrest, if possible, the progress of ignorance and crime."

The Earl of Shaftesbury moved the first resolution, which declared that the conference adopted the conclusions of the select committee of the House of Commons, which had declared that a large proportion of the present aggregate of crime might be prevented, and thousands of miserable human beings who have before them under the present system nothing but a hopeless career of wickedness and vice, might be converted into virtuous, honest, and industrious citizens, if due care were taken to rescue neglected and criminal children from the dangers and temptations incident to their position. He spoke of the enormous cost resulting from a persistence in the present system. At Liverpool alone it was estimated that there was a loss of 700,000l. annually by pilfering alone; whereas one-third of that sum would go very far to carry out the objects which this conference had in view. In carrying out the reformatory system he strongly impressed upon the conference the law of kindness. By the adoption of that principle the most beneficial results ensued; he had witnessed its effect instantaneous on the most hardened; even the worst of criminals melt under the influence of kindness; that was the great secret of the success of the ragged schools; and in the establishment of the reformatory institutions he recommended that in all cases there should be a small number at the commencement, gradually increased, by which means the whole number might be leavened so that the success of the institution might not be endangered. He recommended the union of voluntary labour with legislative enactments; by voluntary efforts alone could those minute, paternal, and individual exertions and appliances be brought to bear which were invariably attended with the largest amount of success. His lordship mentioned an instance or two of gratitude and thankfulness on the part of youths now in a distant colony, in whose reformation he had himself had concern. One young man had sent over a gold nugget, with a request that the proceeds of it might be appropriated to the assistance of schools in which he had himself received instruction.—Major Mair, of the United Industrial School at Edinburgh, spoke of the warm interest which his fellow-labourers in that city took in the proceedings of the present conference.—The resolution was unanimously carried.

Mr Adderley, M.P., moved the second resolution, which was seconded by the Rev. J. A. James, affirming that "the conference is of opinion that the country requires legislation for the encouragement of reformatory schools for children convicted of crime or habitual vagrancy, and that such schools should be founded and supported partially by local funds and partially by contributions from the state;" accompanying it with a few remarks in reference to his bill before parliament.—Considerable discussion took place on this resolution, and one or two verbal amendments were moved, after which the other resolutions were put *seriatim* and carried.—Mr Hill, Q.C., announced, with reference to the 200l. for the best essay, offered by Lady Byron at the last conference, that it had been increased to 300l., in consideration of two of the essays sent in being of the highest, as well as equal merit. He further announced that her ladyship offered to defray all the expenses of a lecturer, if it was thought by this conference that the employment of such means would aid the object they had assembled to promote.—The conference then adjourned.

In the evening a public meeting took place in the Town Hall, at which, in addition to those whom we have enumerated above, were the Bishop of Lichfield and Lord Lyttelton. Upwards of 3,000 persons were present. The chair was taken by the Earl of Shaftesbury, who said, their national honour, social peace, and private welfare were deeply concerned in the solution of the question they had met to consider. They all knew the amount of juvenile delinquency in this country was far greater than was consistent with the honour and dignity of a Christian Government. These considerations had naturally induced many persons to turn their attention to this important subject, and to consider the whole question of secondary punishments and the modes and probabilities of effecting the reformation of juvenile criminals. He would not now enter into any discussion as to the preference that should be given to Government grants over voluntary contributions. He was himself most decidedly of opinion that the two should be combined, because he was sure that they would work harmoniously and fruitfully together. They never could be successful apart, because voluntary efforts would never be adequate to this great undertaking, and Government aid by itself would render the system cold, formal, and ineffective. (Hear, hear.) Great results had already sprung from the efforts that had been made for the reformation of juvenile criminals, and it was with the view of improving and extending the system which had been commenced that that great meeting had been called together. Doubtless, the whole question of secondary punishments—the question of the best mode of producing reformation—was dark and intricate, and led to an almost endless diversity of opinion. Nevertheless, he was convinced that under right management the object was not beyond attainment. The work they were undertaking required great sagacity, much experience, much patience, much labour, and great delicacy and penetration, because, though the principle remained the same, its application must vary in different instances according to the character, the condition, and the circumstances of those who might be the subjects of their efforts. In what other way, except by the desire of improvement implanted in the human mind, could they account for the vast numbers of ragged children who pressed in every direction to the uninviting discipline of the schools which had of late years been established? One institution in London, with which he was connected, had, during the last two years, received no less than 3,000 applications from men who had undergone their periods of sentence, praying in the most earnest and affecting manner that they might be admitted within its walls, although they were aware that they would be subjected to a strict, searching, and painful ordeal, as a test of their sincerity. They were exposed to a fortnight's solitary confinement upon bread and water, but during this time the doors of the establishment were open, and they were fully at liberty to leave if they chose, knowing that if they did leave they would never be allowed to return. The result of the discipline and instruction afforded in such institutions had been that thousands of persons had gone forth from them into different parts of the world to fulfil the great and noble duties of Christian citizens. (Cheers.) The difficulties in the way of permanent reformation were no doubt very great, but he was of opinion that the endeavours to effect permanent reformation had, in the great

majority of cases, been unsuccessful, in consequence of their neglect to superintend or care for criminals after they had quitted prisons and asylums. (Hear.) There was a difference in the systems pursued in the various refuges now established. Some persons might prefer the system adopted at Parkhurst, and others that pursued at Red Hill; but in all these refuges and asylums a certain effect was produced. It was upon that effect they wished to work, and which might be carried to a happy result, provided the unhappy objects of their sympathy were not at once removed altogether from their care and supervision. (Hear, hear.) Could they wonder at the numbers of those criminals who, having been discharged from prisons, were speedily recommitted, when they considered the destitution in which such persons were sent forth, and the difficulties and temptations by which they were beset? (Hear, hear.) Many boys and adults were discharged from penitentiaries and prisons without a friend in the world, without decent clothing, without a farthing in their pockets, without character, without the possibility of obtaining employment, without the chance of gaining an honest livelihood, and who were compelled to resort to their old haunts, where they were beset by their old associates and exposed to all their former temptations. Let them consider the great and trying necessity to which such persons were exposed—the absolute necessity of daily bread. He had been told by many of these boys and men that, do what they would, they found it utterly impossible to obtain the slightest employment. It was not surprising, under such circumstances, that they should consider self-preservation before the laws of the land; they committed offences, though not for the offences' sake, and they were again consigned to the punishment of a gaol. (Hear, hear.) He (the chairman) had once presided over a meeting consisting of about 350 of the most abandoned and profligate men to be found in the city of London. He attended upon their invitation. The meeting was held in the Minories, and the object of these persons was to obtain his advice as to the best mode in which they could be extricated from their miserable condition. He believed that such a meeting was unparalleled in history. (Hear, hear.) These men gave him an account of their lives, and many of them said that such was their state of destitution, that, if something was not done for them, they must that very night commit some act of robbery in order to procure the means of subsistence. (Hear, hear.) Now, most of these men were placed in a position which enabled them to earn a decent livelihood, and on inquiring about them the other day, he was informed that there were not twenty who had resorted to their former courses. (Hear, hear.) But there was another mode of dealing with this subject which was still better—the mode of prevention. This undertaking was by no means so arduous as many persons might be led to imagine. No doubt all classes of society contributed their quota to the list of criminals; but that seedplot, which was the main source of the crime that desolated all our great towns, was limited in extent and very capable of cultivation. He had ascertained that the whole number of children in London who were actually in a course of training for a life of fraud, theft, and violence, did not much exceed 3,000. Further inquiry brought him to the conclusion that the whole number of those who entirely depended for their subsistence upon robbery did not exceed 6,000. From the investigations he had made he arrived at the gratifying conclusion—that not two in 100 of those persons who had reached the age of twenty, without falling into crime and evil courses, were ever guilty of dishonesty in adolescence or old age. (Hear, hear.) He knew they would be told that education was the great panacea for many of these evils. No doubt that was most true, but something more must be given than mere education, according to the usual acceptation of the term. If a child went through any period of education, the necessities of the case required that he should have fair play,—that he should have the means of reducing to practice the lessons he had been taught. It must be remembered that the children of the working classes were exposed to a thousand temptations which did not beset the children of the better classes. He might very briefly indicate some of those abominations which existed in all great towns, and which offered almost irresistible temptations to numbers of these helpless and ignorant children. First there were the penny theatres. He had examined as many as 100 children, and he had ascertained from them that the first dishonesty of which they had been guilty was the theft of a penny from their parents, or some other person, with a view of indulging their taste for the penny theatre. (Hear, hear.) He would also remind the meeting of the hazards to which these unfortunate children were exposed in what were called "casual wards." He was satisfied that if children were excluded from these places, and also from the low lodging-houses, one of the most prolific sources of early delinquency would be destroyed. Another great source of crime was the prevalence of receptacles for the purchase of stolen goods. Poor children were often led to commit a theft because they knew they could readily dispose of the produce of their crime to a receiver. (Hear, hear.) These were, however, subordinate considerations compared with the monster evil of all—the gross indecencies, the terrible immoralities, the disease, and the filth which existed to so frightful an extent in the courts and alleys inhabited by the poorer classes. (Hear, hear.) So long as this state of things existed they would establish reformatories or schools for little or no purpose. They might educate children at schools for four or five hours a day, but what advantage could result from such education if the poor children were sent back home to witness, during the remaining nineteen or twenty hours of the day, the most disgusting scenes and the most horrible debaucheries? (Hear, hear.) He would, then, urge those whom he was addressing to bestir themselves, and, if possible, to ameliorate and elevate the position and character of parents. (Hear, hear.) What was most required, and without which they would make little or no progress, was another generation of parents, who would understand the duties which devolved upon them, and who, instead of squandering in the gin-palace and the beer-shop the rewards of honest industry, would devote some portion of their earnings to promote the temporal and eternal welfare of their children. (Hear, hear.) This, he believed, was the main root of the evils they had to deplore, but he hoped that there was now growing up in this country a body of young people who would fulfil their high calling, who would retrace the steps of their forefathers, and who would lead their own children in a better and safer way. (Cheers.) There was another class of unfortunate children to whose case he wished to direct the attention of the meeting—he alluded to the class of young mendicants and vagrants who were being brought up by their parents in habits of mendicancy, as a preparation for the more dangerous practice of violence and crime. (Hear, hear.) He had no doubt the meeting would be surprised if he were to prove to them, as he could do, that a very large proportion of the ragged, sickly, miserable objects they saw in the streets, were the children of parents in the receipt of wages varying from 16s. to 30s. and even 40s. a week. This sum such parents consumed in drunkenness and debauchery, and then they sent out their miserable children to be ruined in body now and in soul hereafter, solely that they might obtain increased means for gratifying their disgusting and ruinous propensities. (Hear, hear.) He hoped a law would be passed providing that children found in the streets as mendicants should be consigned to the reformatories which it was their object to establish, and he considered that to all those reformatories should be attached a wing for children who were neglected but untainted with crime (hear, hear), where such unfortunate beings might receive that paternal care which their natural protectors neglected to accord to them. (Cheers.) He hoped that, when children were sent to those establishments, the parents would be compelled by law to contribute amply to their maintenance and education. (Hear, hear.)



In introducing a bill on this subject into the House of Lords, he had cited a number of instances in proof of the statements he had just made, and a new instance had recently been made public in one of the police reports. [The noble lord here read the report of the examination of a boy named Sullivan, at the Marlborough-street police-court last week, on a charge of vagrancy, when the lad said he obtained sometimes as much as 2s. a-day in charity, which was expended in gin and ale.] He (the chairman) considered that the abolition of transportation, and the legislative detention of criminals within this country, should stimulate them, not only to endeavour to effect the reformation of criminals, but, if possible, to cut off the supply. (Hear, hear.) Great Britain had something more to do than to spend her time and strength in retracing her steps, in recovering what had been lost, and in chastising the guilty: her great vocation was to cover the world with the laws, the liberties, and the religion of the Anglo-Saxon race. (Cheers.) Let her send forth every year swarms of industrious, sober, Christian citizens to people the forty great colonies that composed her colonial empire. If she did that in a proper spirit, she would have everything to hope and nothing to fear. The blessing of Almighty God would rest upon such a work; the effort would return into her own bosom, and her children would rise up and call her blessed. (Loud and continued cheering.)

Sir J. Pakington, having given a brief sketch of the proceedings which had taken place at the conference in the morning, and of the resolutions which were then adopted, submitted to the meeting the following resolution: "That this meeting, having received information of the proceedings of the conference held this day, in reference to the national treatment of 'morally destitute and criminal children,' expresses its hearty concurrence with the resolutions which have been adopted." In the course of his observations he remarked that there were three great social questions which in the present day deserved serious attention. The first was the system of secondary punishments with which crime should be visited; the second, how and to what extent they should afford to the people the means of general education; and thirdly, in what manner they should deal with the destitute and criminal population. No one was more anxious than himself that the Government should speedily take measures to render sound elementary education universal in this country. (Cheers.) Mr Adderley, M.P., seconded the resolution, and observed that he had withdrawn the measure he had introduced into the House of Commons on this subject during the last session, after it had passed through two stages, in consequence of a promise made by her Majesty's Government that they would take up the question during the ensuing session. He feared that other matters of apparently pressing importance might divert the attention of the Government from this subject, and expressed his hope that petitions in favour of a reformatory system would be sent up to Parliament from all parts of the kingdom.—The Rev. J. Clay, chaplain of Preston gaol, supported the resolution, and urged the importance of training children in industrial habits. He observed, that in the three months preceding the strike at Preston there were committed to the gaol of that place 183 persons of either sex and of all ages. During the three months after the commencement of the strike, the number of commitments was 162, although 7,000 children had been deprived of work; and he argued from this circumstance that the industrial habits which the children had acquired in the factories had in a great measure preserved them from criminal practices.—The motion was then adopted, as were several other resolutions expressive of the objects for which the meeting had been held, and the petitions based upon them, to be presented to the Houses of Parliament, were entrusted to the Earl of Shaftesbury and Sir John Pakington.

IRELAND.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.—The Dublin distillers have reduced the price of whisky 3d. per gallon.—The payments out of the Encumbered Estates Court last week amounted to 50,000l.—The chair of mathematics in the Queen's College, Galway, left vacant by the death of Professor Mulcahy, has been filled by the appointment of Dr G. Allman, of Trinity College, Dublin.—The 'Galway Packet' states that it is rumoured in that town that Sir Thomas Burke, Bart., one of the members for the county, is about to resign his seat in Parliament.—Some of the gloomy anticipations to which the gale of Sunday night gave rise, have been realised. Two or more ships have been wrecked on the coast between Howth and Drogheda, with a loss of life to an extent as yet not ascertained. Another vessel has gone down in a collision in Kingstown harbour; several vessels have suffered material damages, and painful apprehensions are entertained for the fate of any shipping that may have been exposed to the fury of the storm at this side of the channel.—A conditional order for an attachment bearing date 15th December has issued against J. Sadler, Esq., M.P., one of the Lords of the Treasury, to compel the payment of the purchase money of the portions of the Glengall estate bought by him on the 11th November last. The amount is 67,970l., of which 1,000l. has been paid in. It is understood that Mr Sadler only made the purchases in trust, and that his responsibility in the affair is not of a personal character.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.

THE CANCER HOSPITAL.—This institution for meeting one of the most painful of afflictions was established in 1851, in Cannon row, Parliament street, with provision for in-door patients at Brompton, and already it has given proof that it well deserves a wide and enlarged support. Nearly 400 persons were under treatment in the course of the last year, either as in- or out-patients, and of these only 15 died, the disease probably having gone so far as to be beyond human aid; and of the remainder, 319 of whom were females, a great proportion have been sent back, relieved or cured.

THE STRIKES AND INTIMIDATION.—On Monday the factory owners at Wigan threw open their mills for such of the operatives as would return at old prices, and 1,000, or about a sixth of the whole, availed themselves of the opportunity. Many more would probably have returned to work, but trades' delegates, attended by a large crowd, were in the streets at an early hour in the morning, to intercept, persuade, and intimidate all they could, out of going to work. The magistrates and police did all they could to protect the hands going to the mills, and this they also did again on Tuesday and on Wednesday. On Monday and Tuesday they found it necessary to apprehend several persons for undue interference with persons going to work, and for inciting to a breach of the peace. The system of intimidation does not apply to those alone who go to work at old prices, but in other towns it applies to persons refusing or neglecting to subscribe funds to the Preston and other strikes. At Stockport, on Monday, and at Ashton on the same day, men were brought before the magistrates for acts of intimidation, and there is no doubt that a wide-spread system of tyranny prevails throughout the whole manufacturing districts to extort money from the operatives in work at the mills to support those out of employment through the strikes. The people complain of it loudly at the shops where they buy their provisions, and it is talked of everywhere. The state of things at Preston remains unchanged.

HOLIDAY ON THE 26TH INST.—The views of Government with reference to making Monday next a public holiday are at length known, and are adverse to any direct interference in any way with the regular course of business. The Government offices, therefore, will consequently remain open on that day. This decision will impede, but not entirely prevent, the successful progress of the movement for a general holiday. Every private house of business that can will be closed, and all others will as far as possible curtail their transactions

and hours of labour. The St Katherine and the East and West India Dock Companies are disposed to close, and it is understood that the Government will, if the dock companies desire it, direct that the Custom-house shall be closed.

DUMAS IN AMERICA.—Alexander Dumas has written a letter to a friend in New York, in which he says: "Find for me on the borders of the St Lawrence, the Hudson, the Delaware, or the Ohio, a corner where, surrounded by my chosen friends, I may spend my last days, and die in tranquillity under the sun of liberty." It is stated that M. Dumas has already confided several manuscript works to the hands of his agents, who have established a publishing house in New York, for the purpose of bringing them out originally and exclusively in this city. The manuscript of his comedy, the "Youth of Louis XIV," which was prohibited at the Theatre Français, is in the hands of his agents. Several of the New York managers are in negotiation for its production.

WARDMOTE ELECTIONS.—The Wardmotes in the City, on Wednesday, met to elect Members of the Common Council and Ward officers, and in the great majority of cases the old members were re-elected. The important Ward of Farringdon Without, forming about one-fifth of the whole city, desires that the Corporation should be rendered "a pattern of sound, useful, and efficient municipal government to the metropolis and to the country;" and Aldersgate adopts a summary "order of a proposed new Corporation;" which succinctly expresses the essentials of a complete reform. Aldersgate, however, accompanies this desire for reform with a declaration that the City should express its "undiminished attachment to municipal institutions, as the best bulwarks of constitutional monarchy, the preservation of self-government, and the true barriers of feudality."

THE FOUR-MILE RADIUS.—Sir R. Mayne has written to the various local boards of trustees for lighting the roads leading from the metropolis, to the effect that the most effectual mode of giving information to the public, at night as well as by day, of the point of the circumference of a circle of four miles radius from Charing cross is to place a lamp-post at the spot, upon which a notice of the distance may be affixed. The trustees are therefore requested to cause a lamp-post to be put up at the exact place, which will be pointed out by the superintendents of the respective divisions of police in which they are situated; and who will supply the iron plates on which the notice is embossed in white raised letters upon a black ground.

EXTRAORDINARY NEWS FROM AUSTRALIA.—The following extraordinary intelligence is contained in a letter received by J. Abraham, Esq., of Bristol, from a relative in Hobart Town, dated last September. For really startling intelligence it beats everything that has yet reached us from that golden land:—"A great discovery has again been made on the Geelong side, about 56 miles from the town. They have been digging very deep, and have come on a table of gold about 100 feet from the surface, apparently inexhaustible. Every tub-full of earth raised from these holes contains pounds weight of gold. Near Geelong a gold quarry has been discovered 100 to 150 feet from the surface of the earth, putting all other diggings in the shade; 18,000 oz. have been taken out in three days by a few persons, and one person has got a lump weighing 190lb. in one solid piece. This is no exaggeration, and the greatest excitement prevails."—Bristol Journal.

CHRISTIANITY AND MOHAMMEDANISM.—Christianity and Mohammedanism have been lately brought into contrast by the present state of Turkey and Russia, and the great superiority of the former belief pointed out. The writer, cordially admitting the claims of pure Christianity, will not advert to that argument, but simply offer to the public mind the duty of comparing the religion of Mahomet with that of Paganism; many shades of which exist under British government in India and elsewhere, exciting the laudable exertions of British and American missionaries. Let us consider the soul-depressing influence of caste, the gross sensualities and revolting cruelties of the worship of Juggernaut, the self-inflicted tortures of the pagan devotees, the sacrifice of widows in the fires of the suttee, legal destruction of new-born infants, and many other inhuman rites which an Indian resident could readily name. Add the horrors developed in the half-regal, half-religious institutions of Pagan Africa. When these have been pondered, let us turn to the Mahometan law, which teaches the essential doctrines of one Almighty Creator and Preserver of the universe, and of a future state in which men will receive the just recompense of their conduct here. Rejecting all graven images and symbols of the Deity, it presents him purely and spiritually, and offers one Teacher (though not the true one) as commissioned to instruct mankind. If the argument be fairly weighed, and the greater facility with which true doctrine may be infused into minds already half instructed, the writer feels it very probable that the result may be a persuasion that the votary of Allah should be considered as the pioneer who breaks up the rough flinty soil of Paganism, leaving it open for the fertilising seed of the all blessed and blessing religion of Christ, to which it becomes a most useful though unconscious assistant. So deeply has this religion impressed the conscience of its followers with the absolute duty of Truth as the foundation of morality with noble frankness disclaiming all mental reservation—the modern synonym for falsehood—that no person who has resided among them would not, like the writer, place implicit confidence in the promise of a Mussulman.—S.

A MONUMENT TO JENNER.—(To the Secretary of the Committee for the Jenner Monument.)—Sir, The note you address to me this morning is very honorable to your feelings, and very satisfactory to mine. You know I am no friend to monuments; but, if ever monument was due to mortal man, it is due to Jenner. The delicacy of the French Emperor, at once magnificent and frugal, withheld him from subscribing to a larger sum than has been given by our own Prince Albert. Each of these illustrious personages may feel grateful (if princes ever do) for death warded off from those who are the dearest to them, and at a period when no other than the tenderest affections can be excited. Louis Napoleon has little to spare from the decoration of his capital and the defence of Europe; and his Royal Highness Prince Albert can hardly be expected to exceed the donation of twenty-five pounds out of his scanty pocket-money of only fifty or sixty thousand a year. Perhaps the people of England might be well pleased if the memory of their greatest benefactor and of the world's, had been honoured at the value of one diamond, the smallest of those which, it is reported, have lately been presented to royal hands in this country. I am, Sir, with high respect, &c., W. S. LANDOR.

ELEMENTARY INSTRUCTION OF THE POOR.—During the present week the Wolvesey Training School for Schoolmasters has been the scene at Winchester of a lengthened course of examination of the students of the institution, together with many schoolmasters from the dioceses of Winchester and Salisbury, as candidates for the certificates of merit awarded by government to those who are found duly qualified for their profession. The examination was conducted by the Rev. W. H. Brookfield, her Majesty's Inspector for Schools. On Monday the whole body of the candidates, accompanied by many other schoolmasters, adjourned to the Central National School in Colebrook street. The object of this adjournment was to receive Lord Ashburton, who stated that he proposed to offer prizes of some amount, to be annually competed for by schoolmasters and schoolmistresses, with a view to encourage a knowledge of common, household, and familiar things, as an ingredient in the elementary instruction of the poor. At the examinations for registration at Easter, 1854, the following prizes would be awarded: A scholar's prize of 8l. for the most extensive knowledge of common things; two teachers' prizes of 15l. and 7l. for the most effective teaching of common things. The competition would be open to male students who had finished their training at the diocesan school of Winchester, and to male teachers of schools open to inspection in the counties of Hants and Wilts. Similar prizes, of similar amounts, to the female students of Salisbury Training School and the female teachers of schools open to inspection in Hants and Wilts.

DIPLOMATIC DUELS.—Two duels have taken place in Madrid, arising out of the joke made at one of the Royal balls by the Duke of Alba on the dress of Madame Soulé, the wife of the American minister at the Spanish Court. The first duel was between the Duke of Alba and Mr Soulé, jun. The parties fought with small swords, and the affair lasted three quarters of an hour. At length Mr Soulé fell; when the Duke, with the point of his sword to his breast, forced his opponent to retract. The principals in the second duel were M. de Turgot, French ambassador, and Mr Soulé. The seconds of the former were Lord Howden and General Calier, French commissioner on the boundary question. Mr Soulé was attended by Gen. Valdez and Senor B.A. de Gamindo. The duel took place on the 17th, with pistols, at twenty paces, at Chamsartin, a league from Madrid. The first fire took place without effect. On the second fire, M. de Turgot was shot through the leg, near the knee. Mr Soulé was not wounded.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"T. O. R." Such questions are not answered in this journal.

Latest Intelligence.

SATURDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 24TH.

By accounts received from Constantinople, of the 12th inst., it would appear that the French and English fleets were at that date still in the Bosphorus. The Porte had placed a very clear case before the ambassadors and admirals of France and England, and had asked for the support of the fleets. The ambassadors promised that on certain eventualities, such as an attempt on the part of Russia to land troops upon Ottoman territory, the fleets should enter the Black Sea. The popular sentiment was fast turning against England. A firman has been issued in favour of Serbia, in which the privileges formerly conceded to that state are declared and confirmed. The declaration of war by Persia had not been received, but Achmed Khan had broken off all relations with the Porte. The Emperor of Russia has sent an autograph letter to Prince Menschikoff, thanking the Russian seamen for the success of the national flag, and stating that "the victory of Sinope proves evidently, that the Russian Black Sea fleet has shown itself worthy of its destination." Had vigorous counsels prevailed at Constantinople, the Russian fleet would indeed have found a destination worthy of its sanguinary and cowardly commander.

The Vauban, steam-frigate, now at Toulon, has been ordered to join the French squadron in the Bosphorus.

The steamer Bombay arrived at Trieste yesterday, from Alexandria, with the Overland Mail from India. Accounts from Burmah are of a more satisfactory character. Pegu is more tranquil; the Dacoits are disappearing, and famine no longer prevails. Viscount Melville is appointed to the command of the Sirhind division in the room of the late Gen. Godwin. In China, the insurgents keep possession of Shanghai, but those at Amoy have been defeated by the Imperialists.

The Baden Government has decreed the expulsion of the Jesuits. The Baltic has brought accounts from New York to the 10th inst., by which we learn that Congress had adjourned for a few days, out of respect for the memory of Mr King, the late Vice-President of the United States.

Respecting the ministerial arrangements consequent upon the resignation of Lord Palmerston, we find the following paragraph in the 'Daily News':—"All day yesterday the question still was,—Who will be Home Secretary? the balance of opinion being that Lord Palmerston would be induced to return to office. Another arrangement strongly canvassed was that the scruples of Sir James Graham might perhaps be overcome, and that he would assume the post thrown up by the Honourable Member for Tiverton,—the vacancy thus made at the Admiralty finding an occupant in Lord Panmure.

One club rumour yesterday was, that Lord Aberdeen was going out, but, as we before stated, there is no reasonable cause to suppose he will retire from office before he has at least given in Parliament an explanation of his remarkable Russian policy. This last likelihood, perhaps, is as strong as any one connected with the present arrangements of the Ministry. The season—Christmas—is not one for fomenting differences and discontents, and is thus rather in favour of a new "patch-up" of the whole Coalition."

Vice-Chancellor Sir W. P. Wood gave judgment yesterday in the case of the Attorney-General v. the Trustees of the Shrewsbury Free Grammar School, by deciding that the Rev. Mr Morie was not duly elected to the curacy of St Mary's, Shrewsbury, and granting an injunction to restrain him from preaching in that church.

In the Court of Queen's Bench yesterday, in the case of May v. the Eastern Counties Railway Company, the jury gave 100l. damages for an injury inflicted on the plaintiff's wife on the rail near Mile end, owing to the negligence of the officers of the company.

We have been requested to state that for the convenience of the public, and to afford the opportunity of making searches on that day, the Office for the Registry of County Court Judgments will not be closed on Monday.

Captain Brock, who was many years in command of a surveying vessel in the Mediterranean, has been appointed additional captain to Admiral Dundas's flag-ship, in order to make surveys of the Black Sea.

It is understood that the election in East Gloucestershire will take place on Saturday the 7th, or Monday the 9th of January. Both candidates, Sir Michael Hicks Beach, on the Conservative side, and Mr Holland, in the Liberal interest, will, it is confidently stated, go to the poll.

TOWN AND COUNTRY TALK.

Early on Monday morning a labourer, on his way to work down Irvin's-place lane, East Acton, discovered the naked body of a youth about sixteen years of age, quite dead, and with a number of bruises and other marks of violence upon it.

The Orinoco has left for the West Indies, having on board Dr Cullen, Messrs Gisborne, Ford, Bennett, and some assistant engineers, who go out for the purpose of commencing a survey of the Isthmus of Darien.

A notice has been issued by the large houses in the iron trade, stating that the practice of giving Christmas boxes is discontinued.

A large meeting was held on the 16th inst., at Bristol, on the subject of the vote by ballot. The meeting was unanimously in favour of secret voting.—A similar meeting took place in London on Tuesday with the same results.

The firemen of the London Brigade and West of England Office were actively engaged from five o'clock p.m. on Saturday until past five o'clock the next morning, there having been, during that period, no fewer than seven fires at which they had to give their assistance. The distance between some of them was nearly twenty miles.

The hardship regarding the serious deductions made from the pay of naval officers serving on foreign stations, in discounting their bills, is about to be removed.

Letters for officers, seamen, and marines, serving in her Majesty's ships Enterprise, Rattlesnake, and Plover, will be in time to be forwarded, if sent to the Admiralty on or before the 1st of January, 1854.

It is rumoured, says the 'Builder,' that the Government are not indisposed to grant 50,000*l.* towards the estimate of the cost of the Albert park, viz., 250,000*l.*, leaving the balance to be supplied by the borough in the shape of an improvement rate, extending over a lengthened period, which, as the money will not be required instantly, will not be overburthensome to the ratepayers.

The Rev. A. M'Canl, D.D., is elected to fill the chair of Ecclesiastical History at King's College, lately held by the Rev. F. D. Maurice, in addition to that of Hebrew and the Old Testament, which he has hitherto held.

Namik Pacha, who was formerly ambassador from the Porte to this country, has arrived in London to negotiate a loan to enable his country to carry on the war vigorously against Russia.

The ecclesiastical costs in the case of Madan v. Karr, which three years ago came before the Court of Arches, being a suit promoted by the Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol against the vicar of Berkeley for alleged gross immorality, have just been settled.

There seems little doubt that the proposed holiday on the 26th in lieu of Christmas-day will be very generally, if not universally, observed throughout the country.

The four persons in custody on the charge of being concerned in the late robbery at Leighton Buzzard have been sent down to that place to be tried for burglary.

It has been determined to hold the second great Metropolitan Poultry Show at the Baker-street Bazaar on the 10th, 11th, 12th, and 13th of January next, in consequence of the large amount of patronage which the club has received since last year.

On Monday evening, between five and six o'clock, a glazed leather bag, containing two thousand pounds' worth of jewellery, was stolen from a brougham standing at the door of a tradesman in the Strand.

The opening of the South Wales Extension from Carmarthen to Haverfordwest has been fixed for the first week in January. The extension will, for the present, be worked upon a single line of rails.

In the 'Medical Times and Gazette' of the 17th inst. are reports, by Dr Davidson, of the cases of two men who were flogged on board one of her Majesty's ships, one of whom was removed from the gratings in a fit of epilepsy, and the other had an apoplectic attack.

The Submarine and European Telegraph Companies have just opened offices in the centre of Chatham and Canterbury. The tariff adopted from London to Gravesend has been extended to the new stations, and messages of twenty words may now be transmitted between Chatham and Canterbury and London, Gravesend, Deal, and Dover for one shilling, while no portage is charged for the first mile.

The 'Durham Chronicle' says that during the cold weather at the beginning of last week the boa constrictor in Wombwell's travelling menagerie was carefully wrapped in flannel, and two young crocodiles put beside it, with the object of imparting heat; on the keeper, however, opening out the flannel to look after his charge, to his utter astonishment he discovered that one of the crocodiles had been swallowed by the boa!

A final trial was made on Friday of two of Dr Church's breech-loading cannons that have been prepared to be sent to Woolwich. They were fired fifty times with heavy charges of powder and ball with perfect success. No defect in any respect could be pointed out by the best judges.

In consideration of the public services of the late Mr James Simpson in the cause of national education, her Majesty has granted his family a pension on the Civil List of 100*l.* a year.

Much distress has been occasioned in several families of Glamorganshire by a fever of fatal character having attacked a number of those who attended the recent Cowbridge Hunt Ball. A few days after it took place an epidemic strongly resembling that at Croydon broke out among nearly forty of the guests, two of whom, the Rev. G. Traherne, and Miss Richards, of Roath, have since died.

It is currently reported that Mr Disraeli has prepared the outlines of a measure of parliamentary reform.

The examination for the King's scholarships, which become annually vacant, took place on Monday. The scholars elected were—Miss Rosa P. Lyne and Mr J. Barnett. Miss Rosetta Vinning was recommended a scholar for one year.

One day last week, says the 'South-Eastern Gazette,' as Mr Delevan, formerly in the coast-guard service, was walking near Cross-gate, near Mr Bigg's farm, Minster, Sheppy, he saw something glittering on the ground; he picked it up, and found it to be a nugget of gold attached to a stone, which he sold for 3*l.*

The 'Manchester Guardian' says it is understood that a bill is in the course of preparation, which will be introduced at the meeting of Parliament, with a view to throw open the coasting trade to foreign ships, and thus disposing of this "last rag" of protection.

Notwithstanding the apprehension of five persons on Saturday last for attempting to pass counterfeit florins in New Oxford street, of the same party paid another visit on Wednesday to that neighbourhood with the same object, at the shops of the new Bazaar. They had commenced dealing with a shop girl, who had some misgivings of its genuineness, which being observed by the female, a part of the gang, she requested to be allowed to substitute another; instead of doing so, however, she ran away with the counterfeit coin, and escaped.

Mr Peto has placed 2,000*l.* annually at the disposal of the Baptist Missionary Society for the next seven years.

The Meteor Gravesend steamer was run down in the Thames, on Sunday night, by the Sylph Dublin screw steam ship, the passengers and crew of the former having a narrow escape from perishing with her.

The tombstone and grave of the daughter of Moore the poet, in Hornsey Church-yard, have been recently done up by the direction of the rector, the Rev. R. Harvey.

The Marylebone Poor-law Inquiry was opened by Mr Austin on Monday, but has not yet been brought to a close.

An advance of pay has been granted to the different grades of the City of London Police, to commence from the 1st of January next.

At the York Assizes, on the 16th inst., a man named Connor, who was convicted of a garrotte robbery, had sentence of death recorded against him.

The election of a new Principal of Brasenose, in the room of the lamented Dr Harrington, is fixed for Tuesday next, the 27th inst., as the statutes of the college do not permit any further delay.

The hunting stud of Sir Clifford Constable, of Burton Constable, was sold by auction, at York, on Monday last. The attendance of buyers was very great, comprising most of the principal English dealers and several foreigners. The total proceeds of the sale amounted to 1,418*l.*, which gives an average price of nearly 129*l.* for the eleven horses sold.

Lord Paget has issued his address to the electors of South Staffordshire, in which he adverts in full to his liberal policy.

LAW AND POLICE.

THE CASE OF SIR J. COLQUHOUN AND THE CLYDE STEAMER EMPEROR came on for advising on the 15th ult. The judgment of the Lord Justice Clerk was very elaborate, and was concurred in by Lords Cockburn, Murray, and Wood, and concluded by affirming that Sir John Colquhoun had not established his right to the interdict which he prayed. The pith of the judgment will be found in the following propositions: "At present we assume what the suspender himself sets forth. And on his showing we are of opinion that a party who builds piers in such situations, avowedly for the accommodation of all who frequent them, and opens them to all who resort to them, on payment of dues, and levies dues from all who come to them, in order to derive a revenue from the use of these by the public, must be taken to make these piers public piers, so far as his position and obligations are concerned—that in respect of, and in return for this levy of dues, he entitles all and sundry to go to and use these piers, and that he has no more right to exclude any of the public than a burgh in possession of a grant of free port. The fact that he built the piers to induce the public to come there as a source of revenue to himself, and at his own hand, without authority, levies dues from the public, cannot put him in a better situation than the owner of a regular port, or harbour, or pier, established by competent authority. On his own showing he has placed himself in the situation of being liable in duties and lying under burdens by reason of and in return for the public levy of dues, and must submit to the consequence of such piers being open and patent to the public in the same way as if he had legal authority for the exaction of dues. On the showing of the suspender in this record, he probably has subjected himself (though I give no positive opinion on that point) in liability to actions for renewed accommodation in proportion to the increase of resort to the pier and of the revenue drawn therefrom, and it may be to maintain the pier whether the revenue is sufficient for that purpose or not, so that he could not drop any of them, or allow any of them to fall into disrepair."

CAB QUERIES.—On Tuesday a gentleman, in the laudable pursuit of knowledge, looked in upon Mr Bingham at Marlborough street, with a written paper in his hand, which he stated contained several questions in relation to the new cab act which he begged to have answered, not only for his own information, but for the guidance of the public generally. The questions were as follows: 1. Was a cabdriver, on reaching his destination, bound to ring at the bell or knock at the door if required to do so by his fare? Mr Bingham thought not. It was only a matter of courtesy to do so. 2. Was a cabdriver, on being hired, bound to open and shut the door of his cab to let in and out his fare? Mr Bingham considered he was, for he thought that, if a cabdriver refused to do so, the refusal might be construed to come within the meaning of misconduct. 3. Was a cabdriver bound to deliver the ticket at the time the fare hired the cab, or might he deliver it during any period of the journey? Mr Bingham was aware that the commissioners of police were in favour of the reading of the clause which compelled cabmen to give the ticket at the time of the hiring, and was also aware that some magistrates had decided that any time during the journey to give the ticket was a sufficient compliance with the act. For his own part, he should be reluctant to convict in a case where a driver was summoned for not giving a ticket at the time of hiring, but who proved that he had given the ticket some time during the journey. Without giving any positive opinion on the question, he would say that he thought it would be more generally convenient if the ticket were given when the hiring commenced. 4. Was a cabman required to put his name and address on the ticket? Mr Bingham said the law did not require him to do so; but the driver's address could always be had at Scotland yard.

THE JEREMY DIDDLE "A PERFECT WRECK."—At the Mansion house, on Monday, T. Downing, a person of respectable appearance, was charged with having fraudulently attempted to obtain money from Mr Fortescue, lock manufacturer, of Cheapside. The name given by the prisoner is supposed to be fictitious. Mr Fortescue said: On Saturday evening the prisoner called at the shop and told me he knew an intimate friend of mine named Weston, and asked for one of our cards of address, as he had a country friend who wished to buy some of our locks. I gave him the card of our firm, and he left the shop. In a few minutes he returned, and asked me if I could give him Mr Weston's address. I did so, and he went away; and in about four minutes he returned, and said that Mr Weston was not at home, that he had a bill to meet of 7*l.* in Walbrook, but was deficient 4*s.* of the amount, and asked me to let him have the loan of that sum, as a friend of Mr Weston. I told him I made it a rule not to lend money to strangers, but that he had better go and knock at Mr Weston's door again, who, I thought, would be sure to be at home, and he left me. I then saw him go into our factory in Lawrence lane, adjoining our house, and speak to the foreman, and he then went to Mr Weston's house in Lawrence lane, and I saw him go up the staircase, and heard some conversation between him and Mr Weston, and I went upstairs and asked Mr Weston if he knew the prisoner, to which the reply was that he had never seen the man before in his life. I said I would give the prisoner in charge for endeavouring to obtain money under false pretences. The prisoner then said, "Mr Fortescue, I beg mercy of you. Consider my position." Mr Weston said, Mr Fortescue is a friend of mine. I do not know the prisoner. I was at the top of the stairs when he called. I heard some one ask for Mr Weston's warehouse, and he was told to go upstairs to the first floor. The prisoner then came up and said, "Is Mr Weston at home?" I said, "Yes, my name is Weston." He said, "May I beg the favour of a few minutes' conversation with you? I am a particular friend of Mr Fortescue's, and I called upon him just now, but neither he nor his partner were at home. (Laughter.) The object of my calling upon him was that I have a little amount of about 4*l.* to make up to pay in Walbrook," and he pulled out his porte monnaie, and at that moment Mr Fortescue came up the stairs and said to me, "Do you know that party?" I said "No; he has just called upon me and said he was a particular friend of yours." Mr Fortescue said that the prisoner had just called upon him, and had claimed the acquaintance and friendship of me. I said, I had never seen the prisoner before in my life. The prisoner then said, "I beg your pardon, Mr Weston, I have seen you frequently." I

asked him where. He replied, "At the house opposite." I asked what house. He said, "At a public-house." There was no public-house. He then said at Lake's dining-rooms in Cheapside. I stated that I had not been there for two years, and Mr Fortescue said the prisoner was an impostor, and gave him in charge to a policeman. The prisoner said, upon receiving the usual caution from his Lordship,—"I hope you will be inclined to think that it is more an error of the head than any intention to defraud. It's true—I do not question their evidence—that I did as they described. I have had three attacks of delirium tremens, and I was on the 24th of last month discharged from St Thomas's Hospital after having had the third attack, and such is my prostration of mind and body, with the recollection of what has occurred, and the severance of friendships I hold most dear, that sometime I do not recollect what has occurred. In May last I charged myself with embezzlement, which was not true. In fact, I am a perfect wreck, and if it please the Almighty to take me I shall be thankful indeed. A licensed victualler, who sat in the justice room, said,—I have known the prisoner for some years. He came to me and to others four years ago, and victimized us exactly in the same way. The prisoner was committed for trial.

ACCIDENTS AND OCCURRENCES.

MURDER AT YORK.—A shocking murder has been perpetrated in York. It appears that Mr. J. Hall, of Swainton New Inn, near Scarborough, was at York attending the Great Christmas Horse Show. On Tuesday evening, being in liquor, he fell into the company of two girls, who induced him to accompany them on to the King's-stair, a dark lonely place near the river Ouse. A little before 6 o'clock a man named Sargent saw Mr. Hall with these two girls, who were pushing him about, with a view, it is supposed, of robbing him, he having about 50*l.* in his possession. He endeavoured to beat the girls off, but was so much intoxicated as to be unable to do so. Sargent shouted to the girls, "Let the poor man go," but they took no notice further than to laugh at him, and persisted in their attack upon Mr. Hall until they forced him gradually down to the water's edge, when one of them gave him a push, and he fell backwards off the staitth into the water. Sargent immediately procured assistance, and an oar was held out to the drowning man; but, on account of the state we was in, he was quite unable to help himself, and he sank, and was sucked under a vessel lying close to the spot where he was knocked into the water. The river was dragged for about two hours afterwards, when the body was drawn from the water and conveyed to a public house in the neighbourhood, when it was found that if the girls intended robbing the deceased, they had not accomplished their object, as there were taken from his pockets six *l.*-notes, 19 sovereigns, 5*s.* 6*d.* in silver, and some copper. As soon as the girls had pushed the deceased into the water, they ran off; and, from a description given of them by Sargent, two girls, named Campbell and Nicholson, both prostitutes, were shortly afterwards apprehended not far from the scene of the catastrophe, they having just emerged from a dram-shop. On being taken to the police-office, the women were searched, and on Campbell was found a purse, but no money; neither had Nicholson any money in her possession. They were brought up for examination on Wednesday, and remanded until Saturday.

THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE.—The Ottoman empire extends over a part of Europe, Asia, and Africa, embracing an area of about 918,000 square miles. The Turkish possessions in Europe generally pass by the name of Rumili, and those in Asia by that of Anadolu; though, properly speaking, Rumili is but an eyalet of Albania and Macedonia, while Anadolu means only that part of the Asiatic provinces in which the Turkish and Arabic are spoken. The African possessions are called Garb.

Table showing population statistics for European Turkey (Rumili), Asiatic Turkey (Anadolu), and African Turkey (Garb). Includes sub-tables for population by race and by religious creeds.

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There are now also about 2,000 Protestants domiciled in Turkey. They are divided into ten communities; three belong to Constantinople and the suburbs, and the other seven to Brussa, Ismid, Adabazar, Merzifon, Trebizond, Erzeroum, and Aintab. Nor is the country deficient in gypsies, who, though professing the religion of the majority of the inhabitants among whom they live, have in reality no religion whatever. Ethnographically, they are Indians; politically, Turkish subjects; geographically, vagabonds; and religiously, heathens at best.—Nicholson's Turkey.

NOTABILIA.

IRRIGATION.—This balance-sheet (says Mr Mechi of his profitable balance-sheet) opens up a vast question for reflection, both in town and country. Why is it so different from my former one? Principally because I have the power of irrigation. It is true that prices are higher now than then, but crops are less productive, and expenses are higher. Nearly the whole difference between this balance-sheet and the former one arises in the live-stock account. By irrigation I am enabled to double, if not triple, my green and root crops, and thus render them profitable instead of unprofitable. It is quite clear that if I can double my stock, I also double the quantity of my manure, and thus affect importantly the cereal crops. If I double my green and root crops, I diminish their cost one-half. This is actually the fact, and therein is my present and most agreeable position. Every practical farmer knows that the losing part of his farm is the root crop (I mean in the Midland, Southern, and Eastern counties, where we have hot summers and little rain). That root crop costs him more than the animals' repay, and leaves a heavy charge on the ensuing grain crops. Irrigation changes all this, and permits each crop to be responsible for its own annual charge, thus rendering them all remunerative. I am forcibly and frequently reminded of the truth of this statement by a five-acre pasture opposite my residence. Vainly did I try, by solid manures, to render this vile plastic clay into a useful pasture. It was like birdlime in winter and cast iron in summer—poor, indigenous, and drab-coloured grasses choked and eradicated the finer kinds I had sown—and the animals wandered about, hollow and dissatisfied. In the space of eighteen months irrigation has changed all this—new, fine, and fattening grasses have clothed the field with perpetual verdure—it keeps three times as many animals, and the close and shaven pasture indicates their affection for it—butter, milk, and cream alike testify by their richness to the fertility of irrigation, whilst the animals are improved in their condition. Professor Way, in his recent valuable analysis of grasses, in the Royal Agricultural Society's Journal, has revealed the astounding truth, that irrigated grasses contain twenty-five per cent. more meat-making matter than those not irrigated. We all know that grasses are voracious drinkers—they cannot stand drowning on un-drained land in stagnant water, from which their roots soon extract all the oxygen; but see how prim and green they look beside any trickling rivulet. [And how well men write of what they well understand! That little description of the grass looking so prim and green is a bit of the poetry of nature.]

HOW WE CONTRIBUTE TO THE SELF-IMPORTANCE OF CRIME.—The juveniles are, when in prison, of all its inmates the most troublesome; they strut from cell to chapel and from chapel to cell with such an air of impudence and self-importance as is seldom seen in older criminals. Their manner and their questions in the dock declare how their present mode of discipline operates on their minds. The expression of their conduct, if not of their lips, is of this kind: 'There's the policeman; he must mind and not ask me any questions about my offence. There's the turkey; he is my servant to bring me my breakfast, dinner, and supper; and if he don't give me enough, I'll send for the scales to weigh my bread and meat. There's the schoolmaster; he must give me instruction and supply me with books. There's the doctor; he must come and ask me how I am twice a week, and every day that I want him. There's the chaplain; he must visit me frequently. And the governor must not neglect me: and the magistrates, they come twice a week, and ask me if I have any complaint to make. The officers are obliged to mind what they are about.' This swells the frog into an ox.—Prize Essays on Juvenile Delinquency.

THE GREAT BARRED-OWL OF AMERICA.—It came noiselessly gliding down on its balanced pinions into the close vicinity of our campfire on the Natchelash, by the blaze of which I was smoking my pipe quietly, wrapped up in a shaggy watch-coat, for the weather was cold with a keen frost wind, while two or three of my white companions lay around me fast asleep, and twice as many Indians, no less silent than the sleepers, sat huddled up in their blankets, proving themselves to be quite wide awake only by the prodigious volumes of kinnekinnick which they kept assiduously outpouring from their carved soap-stone pipe-bowls. So totally noiseless was his advent, that not even the quick-eared Indians—who, I have often fancied, must be able to hear the grass grow as it is told in many a Scandinavian legend of the old Runic god, Humdallar, and as I know by experience that they can smell a coming, but far distant, change of weather—had the least suspicion of his advent, until I, chancing to perceive him as he glided, without a clap of his noiseless pinions, across my line of vision, and alighted on a scraggy branch of a tall pine tree, at a little distance from the foot of which lay the paunches, livers, and offal of several great white hares, off the better portions of which we had feasted royally, pointed with my finger to his perch. In a few minutes he let himself drop, still without the slightest sound which should indicate his movements, from branch to branch, as if he were descending a ladder, till he struck the mossy ground and dead leaves at the base of the trunk. Here he sat for some time, his beautifully-barred plumage glistening redly in the broad glare of the fire, with his wide eyes reflecting the blaze like two great globes of green fire, turning his head, from time to time, in all directions, without moving his body, until one would have thought he must have dislocated his neck. His owlship was evidently well aware of our presence, and seemed to apprehend something of danger from our proximity, for he kept himself entirely quiet for above ten minutes, merely cocking his head and gazing mysteriously now at ourselves, now at the fire, and now at the tempting morsels which our Pottawattomies had set aside carefully to constitute their morning meal. After a little, waxing bolder from the patient immobility of the Indians, who at my signal on his first appearance had assumed the attitude and fixed aspect of so many bronze statues of listening Fauns or Sylphs, not so much as drawing their pipes to a blaze, he began to walk slowly round, continually drawing nigher and nigher to his intended prey, with so perfectly slow and silent a motion that it was really difficult to divest one's self of the impression that there was something supernatural and magical in his presence; and my mind was wandering back to Faust and Der Freischutz, the witches' sabbath and the wilds of the Schwarzwald, when suddenly seizing a heart and casting sidelong looks of love at a brace or two of ruffed grouse, which hung by their heels in perilous proximity to his perch, the materials intended for our morning meal; then fishing up one of the grouse with his dexter claw, he cut the leash of sinew by which the heads of the game were connected as gnostically as I could have done it with one of Chevalier's best hunting knives, and uttering his whoop, as if in triumph, set out on his airy path, bearing our breakfast with him, and, rising at once, literally without fanning the air, or making more noise than a floating snow-flake. He was making off with his booty, when he was neatly brought down by a charge of duck shot.—Putnam's Monthly Magazine for December.

WHAT MISS BREMER SAW OF SLAVERY IN AMERICA.—I beheld the old slave hunted to death because he dared to visit his wife,—beheld him mangled, beaten, recaptured, fling himself into the water of the Black River, over which he was retaken into the power of his hard master. And the law was silent! I beheld a young woman struck, for a hasty word, upon the temple, so that she dropped down dead! And the law was silent! I heard the law, through its jury, adjudicate between a white man and a black, and sentence the latter to be flogged, when the former only was guilty. And they who were honest among the jurymen in vain opposed the verdict! I beheld here, on the shore of the Mississippi, only a few months since, a young negro girl fly from the maltreatment of her master, and he a professor of religion, and fling herself into the river.—Homes of the New World.

Prices of Stocks, Railway Shares, &c.

THE FUNDS.

MONDAY.—Consols were dealt in at 94 1/2 to 94 3/4, and closed at 94 1/2 to 94 3/4. Reduced Three per Cents. were dealt in at 94 1/2 to 94 3/4, and the Three-and-a-Quarter per Cents. at 96 to 96 1/2; Long Annuities, 5 1/2 to 5 3/4; Bank Stock left off at 219 to 221; India Bonds, par to 4s. premium; and Exchequer-bills, 2s. to 5s. premium.

TUESDAY.—Consols opened at 94 1/2 to 94 3/4, and left off at 94 1/2 to 94 3/4, at which quotation they are very firm. Reduced Three per Cents. were dealt in at 94 1/2 to 94 3/4; and the New Three-and-a-Quarter per Cents. were done at 96 to 96 1/2; and Exchequer-bills, 2s. to 5s. premium.

WEDNESDAY.—Consols opened at 94 1/2 to 94 3/4, and closed at 94 1/2 to 94 3/4 ex div. for the opening. Reduced Three per Cents. were dealt in at 94 1/2 to 94 3/4; New Three-and-a-Quarter per Cents. at 96 1/2 to 96 3/4; Bank Stock closed at 219 to 221; and Exchequer-bills, 2s. to 5s. premium.

THURSDAY.—Consols opened at 94 1/2 to 94 3/4, and closed at 94 1/2 to 94 3/4. The Reduced Three per Cents. were dealt in at 94 1/2 to 94 3/4; and the Three-and-a-Quarter per Cents. at 96 1/2 to 96 3/4; India Bonds, par to 3s. premium; Long Annuities, 5 1/2 to 5 3/4; Bank Stock left off at 219 to 220; and Exchequer-bills were operated in at 3s. to 6s. premium.

FRIDAY.—Consols were done at 94 1/2 up to 94 3/4, and the latest prices were at 94 1/2 to 94 3/4. The Reduced Three per Cents. were dealt in at 94 1/2 to 94 3/4; and the New Three-and-a-Quarter per Cents. at 96 1/2 to 96 3/4; Bank Stock, 219 to 220; and Exchequer-bills, 3s. to 6s. premium.

SATURDAY MORNING, ELEVEN O'CLOCK.

Table with columns: BRITISH, Price, FOREIGN, Price. Lists prices for Consols, Do. Account, 3 per Cent. Reduced, 3 1/2 New, Long Annuities, Bank Stock, India Stock, Exchequer Bills, India Bonds, and various foreign securities like Belgian 4 1/2 per Cent., etc.

RAILWAYS AND PUBLIC COMPANIES.

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

Table with columns: SHARES OF, RAILWAYS, PAID, CLOSING PRICES. Lists various railway and public companies such as Blackwall, Brighton, Bristol and Exeter, etc., along with their share prices.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

An Account, pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th Victoria, cap. 32, for the week ending on Saturday, the 17th day of Dec. 1853.

Table with columns: Notes Issued, Government Debt, Other Securities, Gold Coin and Bullion, Silver Bullion. Shows financial figures for the Bank of England.

Dec. 22, 1853, M. MARSHALL, Chief Cashier.

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Table showing banking figures: Proprietors' Capital, Rest, Public Deposits, Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts, etc.

Dec. 22, 1853. M. MARSHALL, Chief Cashier.

Trade and Commerce.

Smithfield Market, Monday.—The arrival of cattle and sheep from the Continent into the port of London during the past week has been very small. The official Custom-house return gives an entry of 152 oxen, 47 cows, 215 calves, and 573 sheep, making a total of 985 head only. The state of the weather has been adverse to the importation of beasts from the Continent. This being the first Monday's market after the great day, the supplies of meat at Smithfield to-day were considerably under the usual numbers.

FRIDAY.—The trade was very slow to-day at Smithfield for every description and quality of meat; and prices were lower.

Table with columns: Prices per Stone, At Market. Lists prices for Beef, Mutton, Veal, Pork, Lamb, Beans, English, Foreign, Peas, Oats, etc.

Corn Market.—Monday.—The weather has again become foggy, and in consequence business is much impeded. The arrivals are short, probably from the thick weather preventing the ships moving. Wheat is dull to-day, and where sales are forced to, 2s. has been taken. Barley is dull, and 1s. to 2s. lower. New oats are 1s. lower, and old are a quiet sale. Beans and peas are 2s. to 3s. lower. The top price for flour has been reduced to 70s.

Table with columns: Per qr., Beans, English, Foreign, Peas, English, Foreign, Oats, English, Scotch, Irish, Foreign. Lists prices for various grains.

FRIDAY.—The arrivals are liberal. Wheat is firm at Monday's prices, but the sale is not so wholesome as that day, the holidays interfere with the deliveries. Barley is steady. Oats are firm, but not dearer than on Monday last. Flour is Trade firm.

IMPORTATIONS

Table with columns: Into London from Dec. 18 to Dec. 22, both inclusive. Lists importations of Wheat, Barley, Oats, Malt, Flour.

FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE.

Tuesday, December 20.

Bankrupts.—W. Hinde, Bedford, plumber. [Linklater, Suez lane, City.—C. Ambrose, Sheerness, ironmonger. [Weirfield, Basinghall street.—H. Wheeler, Richmond, baker. [Reynell, Staple inn.—W. Cutler, jun., Ryde, Isle of Wight, carpenter. [Buchanan, Basinghall street.—R. F. Millar, Hammer Smith, coach-builder. [Smith, Southampton buildings, Holborn.—T. Hayward, Gloucester, cook. [Smallidge, Gloucester.—J. Innell, Weston, Herefordshire, grocer. [Kearsey, Stroud.—J. Johnson, jun., Liverpool, estate agent. [Evans and Son, Liverpool.—J. Andrew, Manchester, commission agent. [Do Lard and Fogg, Manchester.

Friday, December 23.

War-office, December 23.—2nd Regiment of Dragoon Guards: Lieut. M. J. B. Dyne, from the 10th Light Dragoons, to be Lieut. vice Clements, appointed to the 15th Light Dragoons—3rd Dragoon Guards: Cornet T. Wright to be Lieut. without purchase, vice Winterbottom, deceased; Serjeant-Major W. Blenkinsop to be Cornet, without purchase (Riding Master), vice Wright—4th Light Dragoons: Lieut. G. A. Hartman, from 15th Light Dragoons, to be Lieut. vice Warde, prom. without purchase, to an Unattached Company—9th Lt. Drags.: Cornet G. D. Rich to be Lieut. by purchase, vice Young, who retires; Cornet R. Blair, from the 16th Light Dragoons, to be Cornet, vice Rich—10th Light Dragoons: Lieut. W. O. Bird, from the 15th Light Dragoons, to be Lieut. vice Dyne, appointed to the 2nd Dragoon Guards—15th Light Dragoons: Lieut. J. Clements, from the 2nd Dragoon Guards, to be Lieut. vice Bird, appointed to the 10th Light Dragoons—19th Regiment of Foot: Lieut. E. Chippindall to be Capt. by purchase, vice Moore, who retires; Ensign P. Godfrey to be Lieut. by purchase, vice Chippindall; Lieut.-Col. J. Genie, to be Ensign, by purchase, vice Godfrey—27th Foot: Lieut. C. Carnegie, from 7th Foot, to be Lieut. vice Kidd, appointed Plymouth, 27th Foot—46th Foot: Lieut. and Adj. H. C. Wise to be Capt. by purchase, vice Morley, who retires; Lieut. F. S. Blyth to be Capt. by purchase, vice Caudler, who retires; Ensign F. C. H. S. Baddeley to be Lieut. by purchase, vice Wise; E. H. M. Tod, Genie to be Ensign, by purchase, vice Baddeley; C. F. Brooke, Genie to be Ensign, by purchase; Ensign G. A. B. Buckle to be Adj. vice Wise, promoted—38th Foot: T. Fitz Gerald, Genie to be Ensign, by purchase, vice Johnstone, who retires—60th Foot: Major C. H. Spence to be Lieut.-Col. without purchase, vice Nesbit, deceased; Capt. the Hon. H. L. Powys to be Major, without purchase, vice Spence; First Lieut. R. J. Felton to be Capt. without purchase, vice Powys; Second Lieut. G. B. Mac Queen to be First Lieut. without purchase, vice Felton—62nd Foot: Ensign A. A. Wombwell to be Lieut. by purchase, vice Roberts, who retires; B. Ramsay, Genie to be Ensign, by purchase, vice Wombwell—63rd Foot: Lieut.-Col. J. Stoyte, from Inspecting Field Officer of a Recruiting District, to be Lieut.-Col. vice Pole, who exchanges; Major E. S. T. Swyny to be Lieut.-Col. by purchase, vice Swyny, who retires; Capt. P. Lindsey to be Major, by purchase, vice Swyny; Lt. Lt. H. F. Barclay to be Capt. by purchase, vice Lindsey; Ensign E. J. Hunt to be Lieut. by purchase, vice Barclay; T. K. Morgan, Genie to be Ensign, by purchase, vice Hunt—71st Foot: Capt. G. W. Hamilton, Viscount Kirkwall, from 92nd Foot, to be Capt. vice Horne, who exchanges—92nd Foot: Capt. J. Horne, from 71st Foot, to be Capt. vice Viscount Kirkwall, who exchanges—97th Foot: Lieut. S. M. Hawkins to be Capt. by purchase, vice Gowan, who retires; Ensign O. B. Cannon to be Lieut. by purchase, vice Hawkins; D. A. McGregor, Genie to be Ensign, by purchase, vice Cannon—2nd West India Regiment: Ensign H. E. J. Waldron to be Lieut. by purchase, vice Bovill, promoted—3rd West India Regiment: C. B. Higman, Genie to be Ensign, without purchase, vice Qui, promoted.

STAFF.—Lieut.-Col. A. C. V. N. Pole, from 63rd Foot, to be Inspecting Field Officer of a Recruiting District, vice Stoyte, who exchanges.

BEVER.—The under-mentioned Cadets of the East India Company's Service to have the local and temporary rank of Ensign, during the period of their being placed under the command of Colonel H. D. Jones, of the Royal Engineers, at Chatham, for Field Instruction in the art of Surveying and Mining: E. B. Holland, J. Le Mesurier, F. Murray, A. Mc Noll, F. L. Tandy, W. A. Baker, J. H. White, H. Tulloch, W. C. Hammond, and J. O. Hasted, Gentlemen.

ERRATUM in the 'Gazette' of 16th inst.—85th Foot: For, Lieut. the Hon. E. J. Boyle to be Capt. by purchase, vice 'Warde,' who retires. Read Lieut. the Hon. E. J. Boyle to be Capt. by purchase, vice T. H. 'Ward,' who retires.

Office of Ordnance, Dec. 22.—ROYAL REGIMENT OF ARTILLERY: Second Lieut. T. B. Strong to be First Lieut. vice Garvey, deceased; Second Lieut. F. Lyon to be First Lieut. vice Leonard, deceased.

MEMORANDUM.—The date of Lieut. W. Carey's promotion has been altered to 20th November, 1853.

Bankrupts.—R. Mooney, Pleasant row, Holloway road, tea dealer. [Harr, South square, Gray's inn.—J. Smith, King street, Snowhill, stationer. [Linklater, Suez lane, Bucklersbury.—W. Harkness, Barking, Essex, builder. [Hewitt, N. Nichols lane, City.—R. W. Spendlow, Market Drayton, salop, chemist. [Warren, Market Drayton.—J. Watson, Liverpool, broker. [Cross, Liverpool.—E. A. Dorington, Manchester, woollen cloth merchant. [Taylor, Manchester.

Births.—On the 16th inst. the Lady Alfred Hervey, of a daughter.—On the 18th inst. at Torquay, the wife of Sir F. Hunter, of a son.

Marriages.—On the 17th inst. W. Lowther, Esq. Secretary of Legation at Naples, to Charlotte Alice, daughter of Baron Parko.—On the 18th inst. Thomas May, Esq., of Basingstoke, to Maria Elizabeth, eldest daughter of R. Willoughby Stevens, Esq., of Gosport.

Deaths.—On the 13th inst. the Countess of Mar and Eglar.—At Manor terrace, Chelsea, in his 90th year, W. Coles, Esq.—On the 16th inst. at Bath, Mrs Theophila Ellis, aged 87.—On the 16th inst. at Canterbury, H. Toddman, Esq., aged 87.—On the 14th inst. at Plymouth grove, Wexham, Mr. E. S. Salmon, Esq., aged 93.

BONNIE BESSIE GRAY, the new Scotch Ballad sung by Miss Poole. Kitty Tyrrell, the new Irish Ballad sung by Miss Poole and by Mr. Lester, 2s. each, post free.—Which are the two most successful songs of the season? Unquestionably Bonnie Bessie Gray and Kitty Tyrrell, by the Author and Composer of Jeannette and Jeannot. The sale of these songs is already counted by thousands.
London: Charles Jefferies, 21 Soho square.

OLYMPIC THEATRE.

Lessee and Manager—Mr. Alfred Wigam.
MONDAY, December 26th, and during the week, will be presented a New and Original Drama in Three Acts, called **PILOT AND PASSION**. Principal characters, Messrs F. Robson, Emery, Leale, Cooper, White, and Vincent; Miss E. Turner and Mrs. Strirling. After which will be presented a New Grand Comic Christmas Historic-Geographical Pantomime, entitled **HAR LEQUIN COLUMBUS**, or the Old World and the New. Har Lequin, Mr. T. Morland, Columbine, Miss Wyndham; Clown, Mr. Roche; Pantaloon, Mr. W. Roche.—Box-office open from Eleven to Five—Doors open at Seven, and commence at Half-past Seven.—Stalls, 5s.; Boxes, 4s.; Pit, 2s.; Gallery, 1s.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS.

ROYAL POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION.
PATRON—H. R. PRINCE ALBERT.
FIRST EXHIBITION OF PHOTOGRAPHIC PICTURES MAGNIFIED about 40,000 times on the Disc, with an ENTIRELY NEW SERIES OF DISSOLVING VIEWS.
LECTURE by Dr. BACHOFER on WILKINSON'S NEW PATENT UNIVERSAL ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH.
LECTURE by J. H. PEPPEY, Esq. on SPONTANEOUS COMBUSTION, with Brilliant Experiments.
An HISTORICAL and MUSICAL LECTURE, illustrated with DISSOLVING SCENERY, entitled "THE ROAD, the RIVER, and the RAIL," by J. E. CARPENTER, Esq., assisted by Miss Blanche Young, daily at a Quarter to Four, and every evening, except Saturday, at Nine o'clock.
Open Mornings and Evenings. Admission, 1s.; Schools, and Children under Ten years of age, Half-price.

THE MUSEUM OF ORNAMENTAL ART.

MARK LOROUGH HOUSE, PALL MALL, will be opened FREE daily, except Saturdays, during the Christmas Holidays, from the 26th of December to the 4th of January.

THE EXHIBITION OF THE ELEMENTARY

WORKS OF STUDENTS in all the SCHOOLS OF ART OF the DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND ART, both Self-supporting and Subsidized, will be opened at KENSINGTON GORE on THURSDAY, December 27.—Admission FREE, daily from 10 till 4.

CHRISTMAS WEEK.—Mr. ALBERT

SMITH will give his ASCENT OF MOUNT BLANC every Morning at Two o'clock, and every Evening (except Saturdays) at Eight o'clock, and on Sundays at Eleven o'clock. Stalls can be secured at the Box-office every day from Eleven to Four.—Egyptian Hall, Piccadilly.

ROYAL GALLERY OF ILLUSTRATION.

At Regent street, a LECTURE DISCOVERIES.—An illustrated Lecture on the NORTHERN WEST PASSAGE (the pictorial illustrations principally contributed by Capt. Inglefield, R.N.) will precede the pictures of Constantinople and St. Petersburg and the highly popular Diorama of the OCEAN MAIL to the Cape, India, and Australia. Now exhibiting daily at Three and Eight o'clock. Admission, 1s.; Stalls, 2s.; Reserved Seats, 3s.—Children, half-price.

MATRIMONIAL INSTITUTION.

Founded 1816.
This Institution has been established many years (with great success) as a medium for the introduction of parties unknown to each other, who are desirous of forming Matrimonial Alliances, but who, from some cause or other, cannot find Partners in their own circle of acquaintance, suitable in position, &c.
The strictest honour and secrecy is maintained in every case. Prospectuses, Application Forms, Rules, and every information sent free to any name, initials, or address, on receipt of 12 stamps. By order of the Director.
LAURENCE CUTHBERT, 12 John street, Adelphi, London.

MR ROCHE'S EDUCATIONAL INSTI-

TUTES FOR YOUNG LADIES, CADOGAN GARDENS, and 1 NORTH AUDLEY STREET (8th Year).
French History, Geography, and Astronomy; Mr. Roche.
German, and History of Fine Arts; Dr. Kinkel.
Italian; Signor Biagini.
English; Signor Marzani and Yerra, and Mr. May.
Singing; Signor Marzani and Yerra, and Mr. May.
Piano and Harmony; Mr. Buechler and Mr. L. Sloper.
Drawing and Painting; Mr. James Doyle.
Dancing; Mme. Michau Davis.
Applications to be addressed to Mr. A. Roche, 1 North Audley street, Grosvenor square, or Cadogan gardens.

AN ELEGANT CHRISTMAS PRESENT FOR ONE

SHILLING.

RIMMEL'S PERFUMED ALMANACK.

Printed on Satin, emits a delightful odour, and forms a most acceptable present to friends at home or abroad. Sent by post on receipt of thirteen postage stamps.
Sold by all Perfumers, Booksellers, and Chemists; and by E. Rimmel, Sole Proprietor of the Toilet Vinegar, 39 Gerrard street, Soho, London.

PAU-DE-VIE.—Another failure of the

vintage in France, inducing the distillation of "REAL COGNAC RICHARDY," from Beet-root and other inferior Vegetables, must greatly enhance the comparative value of our much approved Eau-de-Vie, which we are now supplying (pale or brown) at 10s. per gallon, and 5s. per gallon for Brandy; or in French bottles, with French labels, at 31s. per dozen, bottles included.
HENRY BRETT and Co. Old Farnival's Distillery, Holborn.

ADVANCE IN THE PRICE OF PALE ALE.

The principal Firms of Burton having advanced the price of East India Pale Ale 6s. per hhd., Messrs TETLEY and SON think it necessary to inform their Friends, that they do not intend to alter the price of their Ales on orders registered before Christmas next.
The quality and condition shall be such as to maintain the character it has heretofore sustained.
The Brewery, Leeds; City Street, 26, Crosby Hall Chambers.—October 24, 1853.

THOMAS SALT and CO.

EAST INDIA PALE ALE BREWERS,
BURTON-ON-TRENT.

STOPS.
London..... 22 Hangerford wharf.
Liverpool..... 53 Hangerford street.
Manchester..... 37 Brown street.
Birmingham..... 29 1/2 Bull street.
Bristol..... Back hall, Baldwin street.
Nottingham..... 14 Milton street.
Dublin..... 4 Crown Alley.
Edinburgh..... 17 Downie place.
Dundee..... 13 New Inn Entry, High street.
The successful results of the last half century have proved beyond question that **ROWLANDS' MACASSAR OIL** possesses singularly nourishing powers in the growth, restoration, and improvement of the Human Hair, and when every other specific has failed. This celebrated Oil is now universally acknowledged to be the cheapest, and superior to all other preparations for the Hair. It prevents a fall of hair, or, if already falling, it strengthens weak hair—produces a thick and luxuriant growth—cleanses it from Scurf and Dandruff—and makes it beautifully soft, curly, and glossy. Its operation in cases of baldness is peculiarly active; and in the growth of Whiskers, Eyebrows, and Mustaches, it is unequalled in its stimulative operation. For Children it is especially recommended, as forming the basis of a beautiful head of hair. Price 3s. 6d. and 7s.; Family bottles (equal to four small), 10s. 6d. and double that size, 21s.
CAUTION.—On the wrapper of each bottle are the words, ROWLANDS' MACASSAR OIL, in two lines. The words are engraved on the back of the wrapper nearly 1,500 times, containing 29,028 letters. Sold by A. ROWLAND and SONS, 20 HATTON GARDEN, LONDON; and by Chemists and Perfumers.

ALTHOUGH WOOL IS 6d. a pound higher

than it was a few months ago, our Customers will discover hardly any alterations in our prices of the following goods. We believe them to be better value than any we have ever sold.
Damask for Curtains, 6d., 8d., 10d., 12d., 15d., 18d., 2s. 6d., 3s. 6d., 4s. 6d., 5s. 6d., 6s. 6d., 7s. 6d., 8s. 6d., 9s. 6d., 10s. 6d., 11s. 6d., 12s. 6d., 13s. 6d., 14s. 6d., 15s. 6d., 16s. 6d., 17s. 6d., 18s. 6d., 19s. 6d., 20s. 6d., 21s. 6d., 22s. 6d., 23s. 6d., 24s. 6d., 25s. 6d., 26s. 6d., 27s. 6d., 28s. 6d., 29s. 6d., 30s. 6d., 31s. 6d., 32s. 6d., 33s. 6d., 34s. 6d., 35s. 6d., 36s. 6d., 37s. 6d., 38s. 6d., 39s. 6d., 40s. 6d., 41s. 6d., 42s. 6d., 43s. 6d., 44s. 6d., 45s. 6d., 46s. 6d., 47s. 6d., 48s. 6d., 49s. 6d., 50s. 6d., 51s. 6d., 52s. 6d., 53s. 6d., 54s. 6d., 55s. 6d., 56s. 6d., 57s. 6d., 58s. 6d., 59s. 6d., 60s. 6d., 61s. 6d., 62s. 6d., 63s. 6d., 64s. 6d., 65s. 6d., 66s. 6d., 67s. 6d., 68s. 6d., 69s. 6d., 70s. 6d., 71s. 6d., 72s. 6d., 73s. 6d., 74s. 6d., 75s. 6d., 76s. 6d., 77s. 6d., 78s. 6d., 79s. 6d., 80s. 6d., 81s. 6d., 82s. 6d., 83s. 6d., 84s. 6d., 85s. 6d., 86s. 6d., 87s. 6d., 88s. 6d., 89s. 6d., 90s. 6d., 91s. 6d., 92s. 6d., 93s. 6d., 94s. 6d., 95s. 6d., 96s. 6d., 97s. 6d., 98s. 6d., 99s. 6d., 100s. 6d.
Watered Moreens in all colours.
Victoria Printed and Embossed Table Covers.
Brussels Carpeting, 4s. 6d., 5s. 6d., 6s. 6d., 7s. 6d., 8s. 6d., 9s. 6d., 10s. 6d., 11s. 6d., 12s. 6d., 13s. 6d., 14s. 6d., 15s. 6d., 16s. 6d., 17s. 6d., 18s. 6d., 19s. 6d., 20s. 6d., 21s. 6d., 22s. 6d., 23s. 6d., 24s. 6d., 25s. 6d., 26s. 6d., 27s. 6d., 28s. 6d., 29s. 6d., 30s. 6d., 31s. 6d., 32s. 6d., 33s. 6d., 34s. 6d., 35s. 6d., 36s. 6d., 37s. 6d., 38s. 6d., 39s. 6d., 40s. 6d., 41s. 6d., 42s. 6d., 43s. 6d., 44s. 6d., 45s. 6d., 46s. 6d., 47s. 6d., 48s. 6d., 49s. 6d., 50s. 6d., 51s. 6d., 52s. 6d., 53s. 6d., 54s. 6d., 55s. 6d., 56s. 6d., 57s. 6d., 58s. 6d., 59s. 6d., 60s. 6d., 61s. 6d., 62s. 6d., 63s. 6d., 64s. 6d., 65s. 6d., 66s. 6d., 67s. 6d., 68s. 6d., 69s. 6d., 70s. 6d., 71s. 6d., 72s. 6d., 73s. 6d., 74s. 6d., 75s. 6d., 76s. 6d., 77s. 6d., 78s. 6d., 79s. 6d., 80s. 6d., 81s. 6d., 82s. 6d., 83s. 6d., 84s. 6d., 85s. 6d., 86s. 6d., 87s. 6d., 88s. 6d., 89s. 6d., 90s. 6d., 91s. 6d., 92s. 6d., 93s. 6d., 94s. 6d., 95s. 6d., 96s. 6d., 97s. 6d., 98s. 6d., 99s. 6d., 100s. 6d.
Kidderminster ditto, 1s. 6d., 1s. 10d., 2s. 3d., 2s. 6d., 2s. 9d., 3s. 2d., 3s. 5d., 3s. 8d., 3s. 11d., 4s. 2d., 4s. 5d., 4s. 8d., 4s. 11d., 5s. 2d., 5s. 5d., 5s. 8d., 5s. 11d., 6s. 2d., 6s. 5d., 6s. 8d., 6s. 11d., 7s. 2d., 7s. 5d., 7s. 8d., 7s. 11d., 8s. 2d., 8s. 5d., 8s. 8d., 8s. 11d., 9s. 2d., 9s. 5d., 9s. 8d., 9s. 11d., 10s. 2d., 10s. 5d., 10s. 8d., 10s. 11d., 11s. 2d., 11s. 5d., 11s. 8d., 11s. 11d., 12s. 2d., 12s. 5d., 12s. 8d., 12s. 11d., 13s. 2d., 13s. 5d., 13s. 8d., 13s. 11d., 14s. 2d., 14s. 5d., 14s. 8d., 14s. 11d., 15s. 2d., 15s. 5d., 15s. 8d., 15s. 11d., 16s. 2d., 16s. 5d., 16s. 8d., 16s. 11d., 17s. 2d., 17s. 5d., 17s. 8d., 17s. 11d., 18s. 2d., 18s. 5d., 18s. 8d., 18s. 11d., 19s. 2d., 19s. 5d., 19s. 8d., 19s. 11d., 20s. 2d., 20s. 5d., 20s. 8d., 20s. 11d., 21s. 2d., 21s. 5d., 21s. 8d., 21s. 11d., 22s. 2d., 22s. 5d., 22s. 8d., 22s. 11d., 23s. 2d., 23s. 5d., 23s. 8d., 23s. 11d., 24s. 2d., 24s. 5d., 24s. 8d., 24s. 11d., 25s. 2d., 25s. 5d., 25s. 8d., 25s. 11d., 26s. 2d., 26s. 5d., 26s. 8d., 26s. 11d., 27s. 2d., 27s. 5d., 27s. 8d., 27s. 11d., 28s. 2d., 28s. 5d., 28s. 8d., 28s. 11d., 29s. 2d., 29s. 5d., 29s. 8d., 29s. 11d., 30s. 2d., 30s. 5d., 30s. 8d., 30s. 11d., 31s. 2d., 31s. 5d., 31s. 8d., 31s. 11d., 32s. 2d., 32s. 5d., 32s. 8d., 32s. 11d., 33s. 2d., 33s. 5d., 33s. 8d., 33s. 11d., 34s. 2d., 34s. 5d., 34s. 8d., 34s. 11d., 35s. 2d., 35s. 5d., 35s. 8d., 35s. 11d., 36s. 2d., 36s. 5d., 36s. 8d., 36s. 11d., 37s. 2d., 37s. 5d., 37s. 8d., 37s. 11d., 38s. 2d., 38s. 5d., 38s. 8d., 38s. 11d., 39s. 2d., 39s. 5d., 39s. 8d., 39s. 11d., 40s. 2d., 40s. 5d., 40s. 8d., 40s. 11d., 41s. 2d., 41s. 5d., 41s. 8d., 41s. 11d., 42s. 2d., 42s. 5d., 42s. 8d., 42s. 11d., 43s. 2d., 43s. 5d., 43s. 8d., 43s. 11d., 44s. 2d., 44s. 5d., 44s. 8d., 44s. 11d., 45s. 2d., 45s. 5d., 45s. 8d., 45s. 11d., 46s. 2d., 46s. 5d., 46s. 8d., 46s. 11d., 47s. 2d., 47s. 5d., 47s. 8d., 47s. 11d., 48s. 2d., 48s. 5d., 48s. 8d., 48s. 11d., 49s. 2d., 49s. 5d., 49s. 8d., 49s. 11d., 50s. 2d., 50s. 5d., 50s. 8d., 50s. 11d., 51s. 2d., 51s. 5d., 51s. 8d., 51s. 11d., 52s. 2d., 52s. 5d., 52s. 8d., 52s. 11d., 53s. 2d., 53s. 5d., 53s. 8d., 53s. 11d., 54s. 2d., 54s. 5d., 54s. 8d., 54s. 11d., 55s. 2d., 55s. 5d., 55s. 8d., 55s. 11d., 56s. 2d., 56s. 5d., 56s. 8d., 56s. 11d., 57s. 2d., 57s. 5d., 57s. 8d., 57s. 11d., 58s. 2d., 58s. 5d., 58s. 8d., 58s. 11d., 59s. 2d., 59s. 5d., 59s. 8d., 59s. 11d., 60s. 2d., 60s. 5d., 60s. 8d., 60s. 11d., 61s. 2d., 61s. 5d., 61s. 8d., 61s. 11d., 62s. 2d., 62s. 5d., 62s. 8d., 62s. 11d., 63s. 2d., 63s. 5d., 63s. 8d., 63s. 11d., 64s. 2d., 64s. 5d., 64s. 8d., 64s. 11d., 65s. 2d., 65s. 5d., 65s. 8d., 65s. 11d., 66s. 2d., 66s. 5d., 66s. 8d., 66s. 11d., 67s. 2d., 67s. 5d., 67s. 8d., 67s. 11d., 68s. 2d., 68s. 5d., 68s. 8d., 68s. 11d., 69s. 2d., 69s. 5d., 69s. 8d., 69s. 11d., 70s. 2d., 70s. 5d., 70s. 8d., 70s. 11d., 71s. 2d., 71s. 5d., 71s. 8d., 71s. 11d., 72s. 2d., 72s. 5d., 72s. 8d., 72s. 11d., 73s. 2d., 73s. 5d., 73s. 8d., 73s. 11d., 74s. 2d., 74s. 5d., 74s. 8d., 74s. 11d., 75s. 2d., 75s. 5d., 75s. 8d., 75s. 11d., 76s. 2d., 76s. 5d., 76s. 8d., 76s. 11d., 77s. 2d., 77s. 5d., 77s. 8d., 77s. 11d., 78s. 2d., 78s. 5d., 78s. 8d., 78s. 11d., 79s. 2d., 79s. 5d., 79s. 8d., 79s. 11d., 80s. 2d., 80s. 5d., 80s. 8d., 80s. 11d., 81s. 2d., 81s. 5d., 81s. 8d., 81s. 11d., 82s. 2d., 82s. 5d., 82s. 8d., 82s. 11d., 83s. 2d., 83s. 5d., 83s. 8d., 83s. 11d., 84s. 2d., 84s. 5d., 84s. 8d., 84s. 11d., 85s. 2d., 85s. 5d., 85s. 8d., 85s. 11d., 86s. 2d., 86s. 5d., 86s. 8d., 86s. 11d., 87s. 2d., 87s. 5d., 87s. 8d., 87s. 11d., 88s. 2d., 88s. 5d., 88s. 8d., 88s. 11d., 89s. 2d., 89s. 5d., 89s. 8d., 89s. 11d., 90s. 2d., 90s. 5d., 90s. 8d., 90s. 11d., 91s. 2d., 91s. 5d., 91s. 8d., 91s. 11d., 92s. 2d., 92s. 5d., 92s. 8d., 92s. 11d., 93s. 2d., 93s. 5d., 93s. 8d., 93s. 11d., 94s. 2d., 94s. 5d., 94s. 8d., 94s. 11d., 95s. 2d., 95s. 5d., 95s. 8d., 95s. 11d., 96s. 2d., 96s. 5d., 96s. 8d., 96s. 11d., 97s. 2d., 97s. 5d., 97s. 8d., 97s. 11d., 98s. 2d., 98s. 5d., 98s. 8d., 98s. 11d., 99s. 2d., 99s. 5d., 99s. 8d., 99s. 11d., 100s. 2d., 100s. 5d., 100s. 8d., 100s. 11d.

MESSRS NICOLL, REGENT STREET.

In England, or from France and Germany, the best talent in cutting, workmanship, and materials are secured for the use of gentlemen by this firm, who combine EXCELLENCE with ECONOMY, as illustrated in the PATENT TWO GUINEA PALE TOP, sold in the County, and of the latest recognised Agents, but in London ONLY at 22 CORNHILL, and the Principal Depot in the centre of REGENT STREET, viz. Nos. 114, 116, 118, and 120.

THE WINTER CAMPAIGN.—Officers pro-

ceeding to cold regions, on observation or active service, are recommended to use the TOGA, or Sleeved Cloak; also, the Legs and Feet Casings, lined with warm and handsome fur, such being also highly necessary for travellers of both sexes during inclement weather. The outfit will not usually exceed Eight Guinea, and may be equally well ordered of H. J. and D. NICOLL, 114, 116, 118, 120 REGENT STREET, and 22 CORNHILL, London.—Ladies can inspect the same at WARWICK HOUSE, 142 and 144 Regent street, where females are in attendance.

TO THE CHARITABLE.—Members of Soci-

eties and others, now preparing their customary gifts to the Poor at this inclement season, are advised that FLANNELS, BLANKETS, and all similar materials, calculated to give not merely an empty appearance, but the actual warmth and usefulness intended by benevolent donors; such are the FLANNEL, PALE TOP, sold in the County, and of the latest recognised Agents, but in London ONLY at 22 CORNHILL, and the Principal Depot in the centre of REGENT STREET, viz. Nos. 114, 116, 118, and 120.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS.—It is truly said that

few things form a more welcome Present than an elegant SHAWL, a Mantle, or Silk Dress, that can now be obtained at half their real value, owing to the RETIREMENT of Mr MERRETT, and the necessity for an immediate SELLING OFF. Every article is marked in plain figures, and will fully sustain the high reputation enjoyed during a quarter of a century by WARWICK HOUSE, 142 and 144 Regent street, London.

THE most comfortable NEW YEAR'S

PRESENT is HEAL and SON'S EIDER DOWN QUILT. It is the Warmest, the Lightest, and the most Elegant Covering suitable for the Bed, the Couch, or the Carriage; and for invalids its comfort cannot be too highly appreciated. It is made in three varieties, of which a large assortment can be seen at their Establishment. Lists of Prices of the above, together with the Catalogue of Bedsteads, sent free by post. HEAL and SON, Bedstead and Bedding Manufacturers, 195 Tottenham-court road.

TO NAVAL and MILITARY OFFICERS.

J. C. RUTTINGER, Wholesale Dealer in Foreign Cigars and Fancy Tobaccos, begs to invite the above Gentlemen to inspect his last importation of HAVANA CIGARS, which for richness of flavour cannot be equalled by any other house in the Kingdom. The same are sold in London at the Turret Clock and Compass Factory, at Somerset Wharf, Strand.

CHRISTMAS! JOLLY CHRISTMAS!

Who is it that does not rejoice when Christmas comes? bringing its festivities, gay parties, and brilliant gatherings. Costume is necessary to its enjoyment. Hence it is that HEMMENT and CO. Proprietors of THE PALE TOP, has long been distinguished by their ability to clothe every gentleman in the gayest and most fashionable apparel, at the lowest possible rates.

BERDOE'S WINTER OVERCOATS and

CAPEs.—One of the largest stocks in London of Superior Garments, at reduced Charges, all possessing the distinguishing important advantage of resisting any amount of rain, without occasioning perspiration (the fatal objection to all other Waterproofs). Also of SHOOTING-JACKETS, LADIES' CAPES, MANTLES, &c. The well-known Ventilating Waterproof Light Overcoat, THE PALE TOP, has long been distinguished by the most economical and valuable Garments ever invented. Price 45s.
W. BERDOE, 95 New Bond street, and 69 Cornhill (and nowhere else).

PLEASURE IN WRITING.—PARKINS and

GOTTS NEW ELASTIC POST-OFFICE PEN combines the flexibility of the quill with the durability of the hardest tempered steel, and is warranted free from that disagreeable scratch so peculiar to all other metal pens; 6d. the dozen per post or 4s. the gross. Parkins and Gotts's everlasting Gold Pens in neat slip-up holder, 10s. 6d. each, equal to those charged 21s. This pen will be found invaluable to those persons who have hitherto used the quill pen (a useful and acceptable present); inferior gold pens, from 2s. 6d. each; Parkins and Gotts's School Pens, 2s. per gross; useful steel pens, from 4s. per gross. All the above are stamped "Parkins and Gotts, 25 Oxford street."

E. LAZENBY and SON, having numerous

complaints from families who are imposed upon by spurious imitations of their HARVEY'S FISH SAUCE, request Purchasers to observe that each bottle of the genuine article bears the name of "WILLIAM LAZENBY" on the back in addition to the front label used so many years, and signed "ELIZABETH LAZENBY."
E. LAZENBY and SON'S ESSENCE OF ANCHOVIES continues to be prepared with that peculiar care which has rendered it so justly admired as sauce for Salmon, Turbot, Cod, Soles, Eels, &c. and is manufactured only at their old-established Fish Sauce Warehouse, 6 Edward street, Portman square, London.

CHARLES FRODSHAM (Successor to the

QUEEN, &c.) begs to return his grateful thanks to the nobility, gentry, and public in general, for their favour and the kind confidence placed in him as the sole representative of the house of J. R. Arnold since 1813. Charles FrodsHAM respectfully begs to add that he has no other house of business than at Arnold's, 94 Strand, established A.D. 1777, an announcement rendered imperative by the extensive forgeries of the names of Arnold and Charles FrodsHAM on the commonest description of watches, both at home and abroad.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS and CHRISTMAS

FESTIVITIES.
Good cheer—smiling faces, warm-hearted wishes—visits—balls—amusements—everything pleasing—variety triumphing over monotony, pushing the dull system of things entirely out of practice, and helping every one to be cheerful. All the observations of the preparations made for Christmas festivities by E. MOSES and SON will easily understand how this is accomplished. There is not anything more necessary to cheerfulness than First-rate Attire; and that presented by E. MOSES and SON exhibits greater excellence and variety than any previous season.
For the festive season E. MOSES and SON have rendered their gigantic commercial resources available for every one—the best and cheapest articles of Attire being offered for Ladies, Gentlemen, and Children.
The variety in Overcoats and Winter Clothing is produced by an extraordinary association of Skill and Experience, which has selected the most fashionable and durable materials, and fashioned them to the most celebrated habiliments of the age.
The variety in Dress for Christmas Parties entirely surpasses description—every material in which Taste and Fashion is conspicuous is made into the most magnificent Attire ever witnessed.
Juvenile Attire is rendered unusually attractive by new modes of Cutting, Making, and Trimming. More new styles are introduced, as distinguished for fashion and comfort as the goods are for durability and economy.
The New Stock in the Ladies' Dress Department comprehends all the novelties in the world; and Hosiery Goods for Ladies and Gentlemen the richest and cheapest articles ever offered.
Variety is the charm of Christmas Parties; and it was never so magnificently provided as this year by E. MOSES and SON, and in presenting the best and cheapest articles of Dress as Christmas gifts to their Friends, Patrons, and the Public—"A MERRY CHRISTMAS."

CAUTION.—E. MOSES and SON regret having to guard the Public

against imposition, having learned that the unscrupulous falsehood of "being connected with their Establishment," or "it's the same concern," has been resorted to in many instances, and for obvious reasons. They beg to state they have no connection with any other house, in or out of London, except their own Establishment, as follows:
London City Establishment (154, 155, 156, & 157, Minorities; 83, 84, & 85, Aldgate (opposite the Church); all communicating.)
London West End Branch, 1, 2, & 3, Hart street, all communicating.
Bradford (Yorkshire) Branch, 10 and 20 Bridge street.
Sheffield Branch, 59 Fargate.
Colonial Branch, Melbourne, Australia.
Merchant Tailors, Clothiers, Hatters, Hoosiers, Furriers, Boot and Shoe-makers, and General Outfitters for Ladies and Gentlemen.

IMPORTANT.—Should any article not give satisfaction, it

will be exchanged (if desired) or if preferred, the money will be returned without hesitation. All goods are marked in plain figures the lowest price, from which no abatement can be made. The Establishments are closed from sunset on Fridays till sunset on Saturdays, when business is resumed till Twelve o'clock. A New Book, "The Epitome of Comfort and Economy," containing full lists of prices, our system of self-measurement, &c. &c. may be had on application, or post free. Tel' on Paris Francis. Qui si parla Italiano. After Spritman Deutch. Aqua si habla Español.

THE OLD TOAST for CHRISTMAS.—All

Friends round Saint Paul's, not forgetting "NUMBER ONE."

A MERRY CHRISTMAS to our FRIENDS.

DAKIN AND COMPANY,
TEA and COFFEE MERCHANTS,
NUMBER

BANK OF DEPOSIT, 7 St. Martin's
place, Trafalgar square, London.—Parties desirous of INVESTING MONEY are requested to examine the plan of this Institution, by which a high rate of interest may be obtained with perfect security.

Interest payable in January and July.

PETER MORRISON, Managing Director.

Prospectuses free, on application.

SCOTTISH UNION FIRE AND LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY, 37, Cornhill, London.—Notice is hereby given, that a DIVIDEND of 74 per cent. (free of income-tax) on the capital stock of this Corporation, will become PAYABLE on the 31st January next, and Proprietors, resident in and near London, can receive the same at the office, 37 Cornhill, on that or any subsequent day, between the hours of 10 and 4 o'clock.

F. G. SMITH, Secretary.

37 Cornhill, London, December, 1853.

GENERAL HOLIDAY.—THE NATIONAL PROVIDENT FREEHOLD LAND SOCIETY.—The Office, 47 New Oxford street, will be closed for business on Monday, the 26th inst.—City Agency, 23 Basinghall street.

Chairman.—The Right Hon. Lord Viscount Chelston.

COUNTY FIRE OFFICE, 50 REGENT STREET, AND 2 ROYAL EXCHANGE BUILDINGS, LONDON.

ESTABLISHED 1806.

DIRECTORS:
The Rt. Hon. Lord Northwick, Frederick Squire, Esq.
Maj.-Gen. Charles Richard Fox, Henry B. Churchill, Esq.
Sir Richard D. King, Bart. The Rev. James Sherman
Sir Guyane Earle Welby, Bart. The Rev. Isaac Spencer
The Hon. Arthur Kinnaird, William Henry Stone, Esq.
M.P.

MANAGING-DIRECTOR.—John A. Beaumont, Esq.

The Rates of Premium charged by the County Fire Office are upon the lowest scale consistent with security to the Insured. When a Policy has existed for a period of seven Years, a return of 25 per cent. or one-fourth of the amount of premiums paid during that period, is declared upon such policy. The returns paid to the present time amount to nearly 200,000*l.* All Losses are settled with promptitude and liberality. It is respectfully notified to parties holding Policies in this Office, the Renewals of which fall due at Christmas, that the same should be paid on or before the 9th of January. The Receipts are lying at the Office in London, and in the hands of the several Agents.

CHARLES STEVENS, Secretary.

INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER AND SPECIAL ACT OF PARLIAMENT.

NORTH BRITISH INSURANCE COMPANY.
4 NEW BANK BUILDINGS, LOTHBURY.
PRESIDENT.—His Grace the Duke of Sutherland, K.G.
SIR PETER LAURIE, Alderman, Chairman.
LIFE INSURANCE.

Policies effected before the 31st of DECEMBER NEXT will share in the Profits of SIX YEARS at the SEPTENNIAL DIVISION in 1854; and in the event of becoming Claims earlier, are guaranteed in a PROSPECTIVE BONUS of ONE PER CENT. on the Sum Insured for each Premium paid.

SPECIMEN OF THE BONUSSES ADDED TO POLICIES TO 1851.

Date of Policy.	Sum Insured.	Bonus.	Amount.
1825	5,000	1,026 2 4	6,026 2 4
1825	2,000	770 9 9	2,770 9 9
1825	3,000	1,058 2 4	4,058 2 4

EXEMPTION FROM STAMP DUTY AND INCOME-TAX.—Policies are now issued by this Office free of Charge for Stamp-duty; and by the Act 16 and 17 Vic. c. xxxiv, Annual Premiums securing Life Assurances or Deferred Annuities, effected by any person on his own life or on the life of his wife, are exempted from Income-tax.

ROBERT STRACHAN, Secretary.

NORWICH UNION FIRE INSURANCE SOCIETY.—Established 1821.
CAPITAL, 550,000*l.*

DIRECTORS:
PRESIDENT.—Anthony Hudson, Esq. Banker.
VICE-PRESIDENT.—Lieut.-Gen. Sir Robt. John Harvey, C.B.
Charles Evans, Esq. Chancellor of the Diocese of Norwich.
Edward Stewart, Esq.
Thomas Blackiston, Esq. R.N.
Timothy Stewart, Esq.
George Durrant, Esq.

The Rates of Premium are in no case higher than those charged by the other principal Offices making no returns to their Insurers.

The business of the Company exceeds 62,000,000*l.* and, owing to the liberality with which its engagements have been performed, is rapidly increasing. The Duty paid to Government for the year 1852 was 74,977*l.* 9*s.* 11*d.*; and the Amount Insured on Farming Stock was upwards of 9,066,050*l.* This Office is wholly distinct from the Life Office.

SCOTTISH EQUITABLE LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.—Incorporated by Royal Charter, and Special Act of Parliament.
Head Office.—Edinburgh; 28 St Andrew square.
MANAGER.—Robert Christie, Esq.
London; 126 Bishopsgate street, Cornhill.
Glasgow; 103 S. Vincent street.

The Scottish Equitable Life Assurance Society is an Institution peculiarly adapted to afford Provision for Families. It was established in the year 1811, upon the principle of Mutual Contribution, the Surplus or Profit being wholly divisible among the Members; and the Accruals which have been made to Policies at the Periodical Investigations of the Society afford satisfactory evidence of the propriety of the Institution, and the great advantages derived by its Members.

The following Examples exhibit the Additions already made:—

A Policy for 1,000*l.* opened in 1832, is now increased to 1,808*l.* 9*s.* 4*d.*
A Policy for 1,000*l.* opened in 1836, is now increased to 1,407*l.* 18*s.* 1*d.*
A Policy for 1,000*l.* opened in 1840, is now increased to 1,297*l.* 15*s.* 7*d.*

The Profits are Ascertained and Divided Triennially amongst Policies of more than Five Years' duration.
The Annual Revenue is upwards of 140,000*l.*
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The Annual General Meeting of this Society was held on the 26th of May, 1853, when a Report of the business for the last year was presented, exhibiting a statement of most satisfactory progress. It appeared that whilst the Assurances effected in 1851 were 44 per cent. beyond those of 1850, nearly 70 per cent. beyond those of 1849, and 130 per cent. beyond those of 1848, the Assurances effected in 1852 considerably exceeded those of 1851, 325 new Policies having been issued in that year, covering Assurances to the extent of 1,186,500*l.* the yearly Premiums on which amounted to 25,108*l.* It also appeared that the transactions of the first five months of the present year were greater than those of the corresponding months of 1852, or of any preceding year, whilst during the whole period referred to, the claims arising from deaths were much below their estimated amount. A resolution was thereupon passed, continuing a reduction of 30 per cent. on the Premiums payable on all Policies on the participating scale, on which five or more Annual Premiums had been previously paid.

The following Table exemplifies the effect of the present Reduction:

Age Assured.	Amount Annual Premium Assured, hitherto paid.	Reduction of 30 per Cent.	Annual Premium now payable.
20	1,000	29 17 6	6 5 3
25	1,000	33 9 0	10 2 0
35	3,500	43 15 0	13 2 6
45	2,000	80 11 8	24 3 6

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Age.	PROPRIETARY.		MUTUAL.	
	Half Premium First Seven Years.	Whole Premium for Remainder of Life.	Annual Premium.	Half-Yearly Premium.
30	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
30	1 19 2	23 3 6	3 2 7	1 4 2
40	1 9 2	2 8 4	3 2 7	1 4 2
50	2 2 6	4 3 4	6 2 7	1 4 6
60	3 6 8	6 13 0	9 2 2	1 4 6

E. R. FOSTER, Resident Director,
ANDREW FRANCIS, Secretary.

THE QUARTERLY REVIEW.
No. CLXXXVII.—ADVERTISEMENTS for the forthcoming Number must be forwarded to the Publisher by the 2nd, and BILLS for insertion by the 4th of January.

JOHN MURRAY, Albemarle street.

MESSRS GEORGE ROUTLEDGE and Co.
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THE RAILWAY LIBRARY. 'The Times' of December 17 says, "It is the testimony of Farringdon street that work published at Five Shillings, producing a large sale of 3,000 copies, when issued at a Shilling has an issue of 60,000. Messrs Routledge and Co. on the 1st of January, commence the issue of SIR E. BULWER LYTTON'S WORKS, in volumes varying from One to Two Shillings."

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