

The Economist:

A

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

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

No. 32.

SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 1844.

PRICE 6^d.

NOTICE TO OUR READERS.

In addition to the Table of Contents, it is desirable that readers should be furnished with a general idea of the order of matter in the making up of our paper. It is impossible that such order cannot be affected from time to time, by the superabundance of some parts and deficiency in others. But in future we purpose, as nearly as possible, that the principal divisions of the paper should follow each other thus:—POLITICAL LEADERS, Imperial Parliament, Free-Trade Movements, Anti-Free-Trade Movements, Correspondence, &c., COMMERCIAL AND POLITICAL EPITOMES, Court and Aristocracy, Metropolis, Provinces, Scotland, Ireland, Foreign and Colonial, Public Amusements, Literature, &c., with the usual Commercial information and other matter given. This general order our readers will be sure for the future to find adhered to, and the Table of Contents will always be specific in the direction.

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

PROTECTION TO LABOUR.

In a recent number of the *Times* we find the following:—

"One, and that the most characteristic feature of Jack Cade's legislation, we have already noticed. In an early stage of his brief career, he fixed the price of bread without reference to supply and demand and such economical considerations. Seven halfpenny loaves were for the future to be sold for a penny, and the three-hooped pot was to have ten hoops. This was an attempt to fix a pecuniary maximum of price, and, though a commercial solecism, had the merit of benevolence. If this, and the like of this, were all we knew of Cade, it might be said, that 'e'en his failings leaned on virtue's side.' Sir J. Graham is committed to a solecism as great, but not redeemed by a liberal intention. He maintains a system which in the midst of under-fed and over-worked millions fixes a minimum price of bread, and that on the supposition, rather a high one—a system which involves the occasional possibility of a halfpenny, or even a farthing loaf, being sold for a penny, and of a three-hooped pot being reduced to two hoops, or even one hoop. If it is Jack-Cade-ism to enact that women and young people shall not work in mills more than ten hours a day, what is to enact that they shall not pay less than fifteen pence for a tenpenny loaf? THEY SUFFER FROM PROTECTION—WHY MAY THEY NOT BENEFIT BY IT?"

This last interrogatory suggests reflections at the bottom of which lie the whole mischief and evils of the protective system; and we find the more it is investigated the more are we compelled to acknowledge that in any interference with industry and capital, the law is powerful only for evil, but utterly powerless for good; that the evils which protection to certain classes inflict on others, are not even in any degree compensated by any real advantage to the classes intended to be benefited. To many who are accustomed to take a short-sighted and narrow view of the relative interests of different classes, who think that one man only gains what others lose, who cannot recognise in the various productive classes of the same or even of different countries a perfect identity of interest; this position may appear somewhat an anomaly. Yet we believe there is no truth more easily proved, either by theory or experience, than that while protection is capable of inflicting suffering, it is utterly incapable of producing benefit.

In every country where there is a struggle for the employment of capital and industry, the first effect of any peculiar privilege which the law can afford to particular pursuits, is merely to attract a greater proportion of the one and the other to such pursuit, in the hope of benefiting by the proposed privilege, until competition reduces every advantage to the common level, whether of profit of capital or wages of labour. But there is an evil invariably attending such pursuits not so obvious at first sight;—the reactions and fluctuations to which they are always subject, by undue and artificial stimulants to production;—a production not based on the wants of the consumer, but on the temptation of a high price and exclusive privileges—and, therefore, a production with which consumption does not correspondingly increase; and thus, at length, a serious re-action of price takes place, injurious and often fatal to the producers whose whole calculations have been based on a high price. However much protection may be given to land, farmers never can obtain a higher profit than other trades, for competition must ever raise rents, until the profit common to other pursuits only is obtained; and as rents rise, the purchase money of land must rise correspondingly, and money thus invested can only yield the rate of interest which is determined by the competition to invest, without reference to the price of produce or the rent of land. True, it may appear that the present owner would at least be benefited by any rise of value; but experience proves that that benefit is more than counterbalanced by the invariable tendency which a reliance on such protection has to prevent those improvements which in a state of free competition would arise; as well as by those constant re-actions and fluctuations inseparable from the system, and the uncertainty attending them.

Again, with the West India interest, which has a more effective monopoly than any other, it is impossible to point to one part of its various members that is benefited by such protection,—no one will pretend to say that any of the dealers in colonial sugar in this country are interested in maintaining this protection; it has only a tendency to contract and lessen their trade, whether they be wholesale or retail grocers, importing merchants, brokers, or ship owners; all these could only be benefited by the consumption being as great as possible. But does the planter himself benefit? From no class do we hear such constant complaints. Competition here again precludes the possibility of their obtaining larger profits than other pursuits; but the fact of such temptation existing increases that competition, and even lowers the benefit. In this case competition exhibits itself in a great struggle to command an amount of labour insufficient for the claims made upon it, and all the expected advantage to the planter is lost in high wages, and the inferior management peculiar to protected interests. But does the high rate of wages benefit the labourers? It is true the competition for his work renders him very independent of his employer; he can dictate his own terms; but these terms, and the habits of idleness and irregularity which in most cases attend his course, are very far from being conducive either to his interests or happiness. With more competition, with less control over the labour market, and with a lower rate of wages, he would perform much more work, obtain much better aggregate wages, and be both a better and a happier man than he is. But though protection thus fails to benefit the interests to which it is applied, it nevertheless fails not to injure other interests—the community is as much injured by the high price of sugar and bread as if all the apparent and contemplated advantages to such interests were actually realized.

"They (the operatives in mills) suffer from protection—why may they not benefit from it?" We reply, because it is not in the power of the law, by any regulation it may make, to enable them to do so. True, too true, they suffer from protection, but that suffering will never be compensated by any protection that can be extended to labour. True, protection inflicts upon them high-priced bread and dear sugar, and that without even conferring any real advantage on others; the law is powerful for this evil: but protection can do nothing to secure them higher wages, or less work except at a sacrifice of their present wages;—the law is utterly powerless for this good. The law may enact that less work shall be performed and higher wages paid, but unless at the same time the law will provide a fund to ensure the same amount of consumption of dear goods as of cheaper, it must

utterly fail in its contemplated objects. Supply and demand are tyrants in such cases, which will not brook the interference of any law but their own; and as long as we have an excess of labour which must find a market in foreign countries, the demand must depend on our prices being at least as low as those of any other country. Our workpeople have only the alternative of labour at that rate or none. It appears to us, therefore, little better than mockery, to talk of protecting that over which we have no control—with which we cannot possibly interfere without producing mischief. It is difficult to conceive how the operative can be benefited, or enabled better to pay *fifteen pence* for a *tenpenny loaf*, by having his hours of labour reduced to ten instead of twelve, while he must beyond doubt receive a correspondingly less wage.

But if it be altogether beyond the power of the law to extend to industry the *benefits of protection*, it is within its power to remove the *suffering* which the *Times* admits that principle entails upon it; it can equally remove the necessity of paying *fifteen pence* for a *tenpenny loaf*, and all other restrictions which limit the demand for labour, and consequently its power over the necessities and comforts of life. It appears a miserable affectation of interest and sympathy for the working classes, which confines itself to attempting impossibilities in their behalf, while openly acknowledged and avowed evils, capable of a simple remedy, remain unredressed.

THE NEW FACTORY BILL.

The new bill in substitution for that withdrawn by the Government, was brought in by Sir James Graham, before the House adjourned for the present holidays. It does not propose to *repeal*, but only to *amend* the existing laws; so that in every respect in which this bill does not otherwise provide, the present law will continue in force. In drawing the new bill, while great care has been taken to exclude the direct mention of the two specific points on which Lord Ashley proposed his amendments, yet the same principles are indirectly and practically maintained by the Government. The new bill has no clause relating to *night work*, and therefore no definition of what *night* means—on which it was that Lord Ashley had a majority against the Government. Such part, therefore, of the act of 1833 as related to *night* and *night work* will remain still in force. That act provides night to mean *from half-past eight in the evening until half-past five in the morning*. By that act no child under nine years is allowed to work in any factory—the hours of work for all children under *thirteen* are restricted to eight, and that during the day; and those of all *young persons* from *thirteen* to *eighteen* are restricted to twelve hours; beyond this there are no restrictions of time.

The eighth clause of the *withdrawn bill* provided that *young persons* and *women* should not work more than *twelve hours*, thus differing only from the present act by placing women in the same category as all persons between *thirteen* and *eighteen*. Lord Ashley's amendment was that *ten* should be inserted in place of *twelve*; which consistently with his first amendment, defining *night* to mean from six in the evening to six in the morning, would have reduced the hours of labour to all alike to *ten*, and *two* for meals;—this was lost. The clause itself was also lost; and the practical effect of the divisions was, therefore, not only to leave women unrestricted, but also to release from the existing restriction *young persons* from *thirteen* to *eighteen* years. The only consistent course for such members to have pursued who disapproved of the new restriction of hours to women, but still approved of the restrictions provided in the bill of 1833, would have been to have moved as an amendment—"that the word *women* be left out of the clause."

In the new bill no direct mention is made of *twelve hours*, but in the 32nd clause, which will effect the same object exactly as that openly expressed in the 8th clause of the *withdrawn bill*, on which the Government was in a minority, it is enacted "That no female above the age of *eighteen* years shall be employed in any factory save for the same time and in the same manner as *young persons* may be employed in factories." In the 71st clause "*young persons*" are declared to mean those from *thirteen* to *eighteen* years. Of the employment of such the new bill is silent, and, therefore, the *second* clause of the act of 1833 remains in force, which enacts that persons under *eighteen* years shall not work more than "*twelve hours in any one day, nor more than sixty-nine hours in any one week*." So that by this circuitous investigation we are brought back to the proposition which the house has already rejected, that women should not work more than twelve hours. It must, however, be acknowledged that the precise mode in which this object is sought by the new bill is much more convenient for all parties, and safer for the Government, and is indeed well calculated to assist many out of the difficulties into which the late divisions have thrown them. There is not one clause in the new bill on which Lord Ashley's amendment can properly be taken, as the question of the duration of adult labour does in no clause *directly* arise. It does by implication in clause 32, but there it is only proposed that *females above eighteen* years shall be confined to the same hours as those between *thirteen* and *eighteen*. So that Lord Ashley must bring his principle of *ten hours* before the house in a specific proposition to that effect; for as the bill now stands there is not

one clause on which he and his adherents will be called upon to oppose the Government to sustain their consistency; an additional clause, involving the principle of *ten hours* to all adult factory labour alike, will be the only consistent course open to him in the new form of the bill, to effect what his amendments proposed in the *withdrawn bill*. Against such a clause it is difficult to conceive any reason that can consistently be given by those who supported Lord Ashley's first amendment on the clause declaring the meaning of "*night*," but those who voted against Ministers in the division on the 8th clause, on the ground that it restricted adult women's labour, and thus apparently swelled Lord Ashley's supporters against that clause, will not of course vote for such a clause as we are supposing he will propose; but on the other hand, that class of the opponents to clause 8 of the *withdrawn bill* will effect their object much more plainly and simply by voting against clause 32 of the new bill; which clause, however, cannot but be supported by Lord Ashley and his friends, so that in a house constructed exactly as it was on the night when the divisions took place on clause 8, Lord Ashley's new clause must be lost, while that of the Government, affirming in its new form that adult female labour shall be restricted in the same manner as that of "*young persons*," or to *twelve hours*, will be carried by a large majority. It must be admitted that by the new form in which the bill is drawn, and by retaining the present bill in force, it has been most ingeniously contrived to retain the consistency of the Government, and to divide its opponents to this measure.

It has, however, been rumoured during the present week, that the Ministry has been threatened with a more serious opposition to this bill, by a large party interested in the sugar question, and even that the Government has been induced to enter into a compromise, and have undertaken not to introduce any change this session in the sugar duties, as the condition on which some of its refractory adherents will support it on this occasion. Such a threat, real or implied, may have been used; we do not place any credit on the rumour that it will be acted upon; and we have little doubt the new factory bill will be carried as it is; and that without altering the intentions of the Government respecting the sugar duties. The following are the provisions of the clauses of the new bill:—

1. Commencement of act.—The 1st day of October, in the year 1844; except any provisions for the taking effect of which any other time shall be hereinafter specially limited.
2. Restriction on power of inspectors and sub-inspectors.—No inspector of factories shall have power to act as a magistrate.
3. Power of inspectors and sub-inspectors.
4. Protection of inspectors and sub-inspectors.
5. Office of factory inspectors shall be provided in London or Westminster.
6. Management of the office, and regulating duties of inspectors, by one of her Majesty's principal Secretaries of State, or the inspectors, with the approval of such principal Secretary.
7. Persons beginning to occupy a factory to send notice to the office of factory inspectors within one month.
8. Certifying surgeons to be appointed by an inspector.
9. Form of surgical certificate.
10. Certificates not given by certifying surgeon must be by persons duly authorized, and countersigned by a magistrate.
11. Surgical certificates to be given at the factory.
12. Agreement between mill occupier and certifying surgeon.
13. Inspector may fix surgeon's fees.
14. Inspectors and sub-inspectors may annul certificates granted before the passing of this act by writing across the surgical certificate the word "Annulled," with his name, and the date of annulling such certificate.
15. Certificates of real age may be obtained.
16. Certificates to serve only for one factory.
17. Surgical certificates may be dispensed with for seven or thirteen days.
18. Factories to be limewashed once at least within every successive period of fourteen months, to date from the period when last white-washed; and all the inside walls and ceilings or tops of rooms in which children or young persons are employed, and which are painted with oil, shall be washed with hot water and soap once at least within every successive period of fourteen months, as aforesaid.
19. Protection of workers in wet-spinning flax mills from being wetted, and where hot water is used, for preventing the escape of steam into the room occupied by the workers.
20. Mill gearing not to be cleaned while in motion.
21. Machinery to be guarded.
22. Notice to be given of any accident before twelve of the clock of that day, by a messenger, to the surgeon appointed to grant certificates of age for the district in which the factory is situated.
23. Certifying surgeon to examine into the cause and extent of accident, and report thereon.
24. Prosecution for compensation by an inspector.
25. Compensation when recovered shall be paid, as soon after they are received as conveniently may be, to the person in whose behalf they have been recovered, or shall be otherwise settled for the use and benefit of the said person in such manner as shall be approved of by the Secretary of State.
26. The observance of time shall be regulated by a public clock, or by some other clock open to the public view, to be approved of in either case in writing under the hand of the inspector or sub-inspector of the district.
27. Registers to be kept in every factory.
28. Abstract of this act, and certain notices to be hung up in every factory.
29. Children may be employed in factories at eight years of age, in

the same manner and under the same regulations as children who have completed their ninth year.

30. Time of children's work not more than six hours and thirty minutes in any one day, unless the dinner time of the young persons in such factory shall begin at one of the clock, in which case children beginning to work in the morning may work for seven hours in one day.

31. How children may be employed on three alternate days of the week.

32. That no female above the age of eighteen years shall be employed in any factory save for the same time and in the same manner as young persons may be employed in factories; and that any person who shall be convicted of employing a female above the age of eighteen years for any longer time or in any other manner, shall for every such offence be adjudged to pay the same penalty as is provided in the like case for employing a young person contrary to law: provided always that nothing herein or in the factory act contained as to certificates of age shall be taken to apply to females above the age of eighteen years.

33. Provision for recovering lost time by stoppage of the machinery.

34. Provision for recovering time lost by partial stoppages.

35. Work to cease on Saturday at half-past four.

36. Additional regulations as to meal times, which shall be taken between the hours of half-past seven in the morning and half-past seven in the evening of every day, and one hour thereof at the least shall be given, either the whole at one time or at different times, before three of the clock in the afternoon.

37. Additional regulations as to holidays.

38. Additional regulations for the attendance of children at school during at least three hours after the hour of eight of the clock in the morning, and before the hour of six of the clock in the evening: provided always, that any child attending school after one of the clock in the afternoon shall not be required to remain in school more than two hours and a half on any one day, between the first day of November and the last day of February.

39. Occupier of factory to obtain school certificate, and to pay school fees, not exceeding twopence per week, and shall be entitled to deduct from the wages payable to such child any such sum as he shall have been required to pay for such expenses, not exceeding the rate of one-twelfth part of the weekly wages of such child.

40. Repeal of such part of 3 and 4 W. 4, c. 103, as limits the time for preferring complaints for offences against the said act.

41. Occupier of the factory to be liable in the first instance.

42. Notice of complaints of unguarded machinery shall be given four days at least previous to the day fixed for hearing the complaint.

43. Inspector or sub-inspector to give notice of dangerous machinery.

44. Complaints to be preferred within two months against this act.

45. Proceedings under this act may be had before any justice. Penalties may be recovered as in 5 G. 4, c. 18.—Power of distraining goods in factory where occupier is convicted.

46. Issue of summons for offences against act by any justice, upon complaint being made to him in writing by an inspector or sub-inspector, or upon oath before him by any other person, that to the best of the knowledge and belief of the inspector, sub-inspector, or such other person, such an offence has been committed.

47. Compelling parties to appear and bring register.

48. Inspectors and sub-inspectors competent witnesses.

49. Justices may enforce attendance of witnesses.

50. Inspectors and sub-inspectors may summon offenders and witnesses.

51. In case of partnership, one name sufficient for summons.

52. Evidence of employment.

53. Surgical certificates to be proof of age.

54. Proof of age of persons alleged to be sixteen, by an extract from a legal register of birth or baptism, that the said person had completed his sixteenth year of age.

55. Proof of age of persons alleged to be eighteen.

56. Penalties for employing children and young persons longer than allowed by the act, or for employing a child without having obtained a certificate from a schoolmaster where such certificate is required by law, for every such offence not less than twenty shillings, and not more than three pounds, for each child or young person so illegally employed, if it shall be proved that such offence was committed during the night, the penalty shall not be less than forty shillings, nor more than five pounds.

57. Penalty on parents for allowing children to be employed contrary to this act, or who shall neglect to cause such child to attend school as hereinbefore provided, shall be not less than five shillings, and not more than twenty shillings, for each offence.

58. Penalty for not limewashing the factory shall not be less than three nor more than ten pounds, and not less than two pounds additional penalty for every month during which the occupier shall allow it to remain without being limewashed or washed as aforesaid, after being convicted of this offence.

59. Penalty for not fencing machinery shall be not less than five pounds and not more than twenty pounds.

60. Penalty for not fencing dangerous machinery, after notice, not less than ten pounds, and not more than one hundred pounds.

61. Penalty for obstructing inspectors or sub-inspectors not less than three pounds and not more than ten pounds.

62. Penalty for obstructing inspectors or sub-inspectors in the night not less than twenty pounds and not more than fifty pounds.

63. Offences which shall be punishable by fine or imprisonment.

64. Penalty for offences not otherwise specified, not less than two pounds and not more than five pounds.

65. Penalty in case of second and subsequent convictions within twelve months, for the second offence any sum not less than one-half of the highest penalty for that offence; and if convicted three times within twelve months for an offence of the same kind, not less than two-thirds of the highest penalty; and if convicted more than three times for an offence of the same kind, the highest penalty.

66. Application of penalties under the direction of one of her Majesty's principal Secretaries of State.

67. How former conviction may be proved.

68. Convictions to be filed amongst records of county.

69. No appeal from convictions.

70. Who are to exercise the powers of justices.

71. Exemptions of silk mills.—That any child above eleven years of age employed solely in the winding and throwing of raw silk, may work without any proof of having attended a school, for any time not exceeding ten hours on any working day, but not after half-past four of the clock of the afternoon of any Saturday.

72. Interpretation clause.—"Child" shall be taken to mean a child under the age of thirteen years; and the words "young person" shall be taken to mean a person of the age of thirteen years, and under the age of eighteen years; and the word "parent" shall be taken to mean parent, guardian, or person having the legal custody of any such child or young person.

73. Act may be repealed or amended.

RENT OBTAINED ON AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE, AND PLOUGHMEN'S WAGES IN EAST LOTHIAN.

In the article, March 16, on the "Rent obtained on Agricultural Produce," it was omitted to be stated that the quantity and value of the produce of the farms of Lawhead and Traprain, near Dunbar, Haddingtonshire, and the expenditure and distribution of the same, were given for the three years, 1832, 1833, and 1834 together, and the acreage under each crop during these years in Scotch acres, in the printed evidence of Mr Andrew Howden before the Committee on Agricultural Distress in 1836; whilst, to render his statement more intelligible to English farmers and the public, the statement in the *Economist* was given for one year on the average of the three years, the Scotch acres converted into imperial acres, and the average produce per acre inserted to indicate the quality of the land.

The omission of this explanation, and the alteration of the figures which appeared on comparison, has led the *Scotsman* to doubt the correctness of the statement as published, and to "think it is due to Mr Howden thus publicly to relieve him from all responsibility connected with the statement." But that no more follows than if the statement had been first published in Gallic, and afterwards correctly translated and published in English.

It was first intended to have reprinted Mr Howden's statement verbatim, and then the statement of the quantity and value of the produce for one year, as it appeared in the *Economist*; but to save space the original was omitted, and a reference made to the pages where it would be found.

The correctness of the statement in the *Economist* admits of being easily tested, allowing for a few typographical errors, which are immaterial. Thus, Mr Howden credits, in the first line, the gross produce for three years "of 1,948½ qrs. of wheat, at 48s. 4d., 4,708l. 11s. 5½d.;" and in the expenses he debits "seed wheat for 423 acres, at 1l. 4s. 2d., 511l. 2s. 6d."

Now as the first line of the expenditure states that 423 acres were under wheat in the three years, and that number of Scotch acres being equal to 528½ imperial acres, one third is 176¼ acres, the average quantity stated to be for one year; and as the total produce for three years was 1,948½ qrs., and the value 4,708l. 11s. 5½d.; one-third of the quantity is 649½ qrs., and of the value 1,569l. 10s. 6d.; and the quantity divided by the average, the produce per acre on the average of three years, which indicates the quality of the land or the state of cultivation. In the same way the other lines may be compared and found to agree.

It was not intended, in the article on the "Rent obtained on Agricultural Produce," to direct attention at all to the wages of the ploughmen or other labourers on the farm farther than to show the expenditure of produce under that head; the sole object being to give the formula by which any farmer might ascertain the rent paid by himself on his disposable produce, and to complete the working down to show the rent that entered into the 4 lb. loaves baked from his wheat.

For that purpose it was necessary to ascertain, as correctly as possible, the consumption of produce on the farms referred to, that the disposable quantity might be ascertained, as on the latter quantity all calculations as to the cost of production and the rent the farmer can afford to pay depends,—it being of no consequence to the farmer whether the price of the quantity that he cannot sell is cheap or dear, unless his horses, his servants, and his family, can be placed on a reduced allowance of food.

As Mr Howden only gave the expenditure of seed, it cannot be said that the "Analysis of the expenditure and distribution" is absolutely correct; but as it was made up with great care, and examined and verified by those of equal experience and local acquaintance as Mr Howden himself, it is confidently believed that a committee of East Lothian farmers would estimate the expenditure of produce at rather more than is stated, and that the real disposable produce was less. It is necessary to say real, because more produce may have been sold, and a portion afterwards re-purchased for consumption, as for seed, or butchers' meat and bread for the family. But the analysis is so distinct that any farmer can readily detect the slightest difference as compared with his own experience, which is really the object kept in view, and not to get up a case against the landholders, for any analysis that farmers make will open their eyes sufficiently to enable them to see that high prices are not required by them,

if the rent is proportionately reduced, which under any circumstances must take place.

Mr Howden states the expense of finding and upholding 21 horses at 770*l.* a year, including ploughmen, blacksmith, carpenter, saddler, &c.; and, as it necessarily consists of produce consumed and money expended, these have been distinguished in the analysis thus—

	IN PRODUCE.			IN MONEY.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Grass, hay, and corn for 21 horses	315	0	0			
Blacksmith, carpenter, and saddler				104	5	0
Wear and tear of 21 horses				42	0	0
Interest of capital in horses, harness, and implements				50	0	0
Tolls and marketing expenses				25	8	4
Ten ploughmen, produce wages	233	6	8			
Total money expenditure				221	13	4
Total produce expenditure				548	6	8
				£770	0	0

As this analysis is not given in evidence by Mr Howden, it cannot be made absolutely correct, nor could it be made so by any one without a reference to his accounts; but as he does not debit the wear and tear, interest of capital, tolls, and market expenses, they must be either omitted by him or included in the round sum of 770*l.* Many farmers will say that the allowance for grass, hay, and corn is too little, and Mr George Robertson, Balmanno, Kincardineshire, an experienced farmer and well-known land-agent, gave it in evidence, at the same time with Mr Howden, that the horses referred to by him consumed a quantity of produce which together was equal to 24*l.* 6*s.* 3*d.* each in the year, whilst Mr Howden is assumed to have estimated the consumption of his horses at only 15*l.* each; but he valued his grass and clover at 58*s.* the acre, whilst Mr Robertson's grass and clover is valued at about 6*l.* per acre in the same year.

The *Scotsman* appears desirous to ascertain the exact wages obtained by the ploughmen in East Lothian; but that is of infinitely less consequence, in the present state of the corn-law controversy, than the proportion of the disposable produce paid as rent to the landholders. The attention of the farmers ought to be especially directed to that inquiry, and any one who is pleased to adopt the formula which has been given can ascertain it for himself. Then it would be impossible to impose on them by such absurd statements as the following, made by Mr R. Barker, of Writtle, Essex, as chairman of the meeting of the Essex Protection Society, in the Town hall of Dunmore, March 26:—

"They would see the price of foreign wheat was from 35*s.* to 40*s.* He would ask them, and as farmers they were well acquainted with the matter, whether, if their rent were entirely remitted, they could grow wheat at such prices? (Hear, hear.) The difference between that price and 52*s.* was more than the rent. (Hear, hear.) At such prices it would be impossible to cultivate the land if it were rent free; for they all knew, although Mr Cobden had thought proper to put forth a very different statement, that rent was not an item of such magnitude as to greatly influence the price of agricultural produce."—*Economist*, page 636.

It is remarkable that one in the position of society of Mr Barker, and known to be a large farmer, could talk such nonsense. By referring to Mr Howden's evidence, it will be seen that he states

	£.	s.	d.
The rent at	1,124	7	1
The expenses at	1,830	8	7
The residue to himself, at	247	19	8*
	3,202	15	4

and by referring to the formula, March 16, it will be seen that Mr Howden could have sold his wheat at 22*s.* 2*d.* the quarter, exclusive of rent, and had the same profit for himself, paid the same wages, and allowed his horses the same quantity of food. It is also shown that the rent paid to the landholders was equal to 26*s.* 2*d.* the quarter, and other produce in proportion. By another step it could also have been shown that if the wheat had been sold at 35*s.* the quarter, that Mr Howden could equally well have afforded to pay about twice the rent paid on lease ending 1795, whilst the interest on funded property is two-fifths less than in 1795.

It would surely be an easy matter to ascertain the present wages of ploughmen in East Lothian, as their engagement is for the year or half year, and the terms vary very little in the different localities. It would also be important to ascertain the wages paid previous to 1795, when their past and present condition could be compared, and the share of the increased value of the produce obtained by the ploughmen would be ascertained, and found to be very small indeed.

THE SHORT HOUR MANIA.

BANKERS' CLERKS—DRAPERS' ASSISTANTS.

For some months past a mania for a reduction in the hours of business has less or more extended to every pursuit and to every part of the country. Shopkeepers in town and country, drapers'

* He makes an error of 3*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* against himself.

assistants, bankers' clerks in the metropolis, young men in the Manchester warehouses, nay, even merchants and brokers in the city, have been agitating for short hours—early closing—or for half holiday on Saturdays. More leisure and less work we cannot doubt would be in many ways a most beneficial and agreeable thing to the masses of industrious human beings who conduct the business of this great commercial country; at the same time we must say that we do not consider the eagerness shown for shorter hours as much in keeping with the constant complaints that we hear of the extreme difficulty to make profit, or of the low rate of remuneration of *talent* and *toil* of every description. Or is it, that it has not been sufficiently considered by these various interests that a reduction of the hours of business must be attended with a reduction in their salaries or incomes, if not instantly, yet before long? We rather apprehend this fact is overlooked; an impression prevails that if the same regulation of shorter business hours prevailed with all alike, that remuneration would remain the same. It appears to be forgotten, that there are other elements which determine the remuneration of services, besides the will of the immediate employer and employed. The intrinsic value of the service to the public requiring it, and the rate at which it can be performed, are far more important than the one or the other. In cases where services are remunerated by a given rate per hour, or for a given amount of work done, it is not so difficult, to see at once the effect which a reduction of time must produce on the amount earned; but though not so immediately evident, yet it is equally certain that a similar result would ere long apply to services paid by the week, the month, or the year, if by any reduction of hours the amount were abridged. In some professions part of the clerks are employed by the year, and others are paid by the quantity of labour performed. For example, in the offices of the writers to the Signet in Edinburgh, the practice is to perform the whole of the writing by clerks belonging to the establishment, the business of a law stationer being there unknown; but many, at least one half, of these clerks are employed at a fixed rate for a given quantity of work done, while others are employed by yearly salaries; but nothing can be more evident than the fact, that the rate at which the same work is performed under the one system must regulate the price which is paid under the other system of remuneration. The employer, always desirous to have his business conducted as economically as it is possible, on the one hand will carefully examine under what system he can perform it best; while the employed, equally desirous to turn his time to the best advantage, will seek to do so under that system which offers the highest reward, and thus competition must reduce each plan to the same level, all things peculiar to either considered. By a reduction of hours those who are paid a given rate for a given quantity would suffer a reduction in the amount of their earnings immediately, and if the weekly or annual salaries of those otherwise employed were not also similarly reduced, the latter mode would be proportionably more expensive than the former, to which employers would resort more generally; while the clerks under the worst paid system would press for employment under the more favoured system, until by such double action the rates were equalized. While the clerks of each class would thus suffer a reduction of salary equivalent to the time gained, the work itself would be performed no cheaper, as a correspondingly greater number of clerks must be engaged to accomplish the required labour.

Then, again, let us consider the effect on London bank clerks, a body, we believe, exclusively engaged by fixed salaries. Under present arrangements a given amount of business requires a given number of clerks to perform it in a given number of hours. The profits derived from such business must determine in some measure the amount of charges which it will bear; if the charges are too great the business must be relinquished, or the charges reduced. True it is, that some banking business would continue to be conducted, even though the present charges were much greater than they are; but the cheapness alone of banking facilities has produced the great extension of banks of late years, and can alone sustain them.

Now, if bankers were to reduce their hours of business by one or two hours in the day, one of two things must follow; always presuming that no more clerks are at present maintained in each establishment than the business requires—either must the amount of business done in such establishment be reduced correspondingly with the diminished hours, in which case the fund from which the clerks' salaries is paid would be to the same extent reduced, and a consequent reduction of such salaries must take place; or, if the same amount of business is to be accomplished in fewer hours, it can only be done by additional clerks, and as the fund from which they are to be paid continues only the same as before, it must be divided over the greater number, and the share of each would be correspondingly less. There might, by a reduction in the hours of business, be room for more banks and for more clerks, but there could be no increase of the profits derived from banking, or of the means of paying salaries; these would remain as they are, and would only be divisible among a greater number. In some employments in which hours are short, salaries are very low, from the fact that they are held by persons who calculate upon increasing the amount by a volun-

tary increase of the hours of labour in other ways. The same principle would hold good with respect to drapers' assistants as with bankers' clerks. We feel assured that competition precludes the possibility of more being at present kept than are needed in each house of business for its profitable conducting. Diminish the hours, and the same must occur as with banks; either a diminished quantity of business, and a smaller fund of profit for wages, or a greater number of hands to perform the same amount of business in less time, with the amount of profit the same as before; in either case the share falling to each person must be less.

In every employment the same principle must hold good. Neither would a reduction of salaries or wages in such a case be attended with the benefit to the community which attends such a change, where the cost of production, or of conducting certain business, is thereby lessened. In such cases, the lower cost of certain goods, or advantages, or facilities, has the effect of increasing the demand for them, and this increased demand is productive of a larger fund for maintaining them; and an extended employment is the result.

There is, however, too common a notion in treating of the remuneration of services, that there is a spare fund in the hand of the employer which is available for an increase of remuneration. Now the fact is, that the same pressure and competition which determine the salaries of clerks or shopmen, reduce also to the lowest possible rate the profits of their employers; and by this natural action of competition and reduction of price, the great amount of consumption is promoted, on which, rather than on any compact between employer and employed, must depend the demand equally for talent and labour.

All this agitation begins at the wrong end. If clerks, or shopmen, or labourers in factories, or in fact all dependent on industry, talent, or capital, for their incomes, would improve their conditions—would enjoy more leisure or better incomes, the only true and effectual way by which such can be accomplished, is by that policy which can create a greater demand for labour, and at the same time render it more effective. Shorter hours—more leisure—a greater command of the necessaries and comforts of life, will follow as the effect of restoring to industry the true value which belongs to it, under perfect freedom; but any attempt to make this effect precede the requisite cause, must be equally chimerical and delusive, and can only terminate in disappointment.

PROTECTION SOCIETIES.—RIGHT OF PUBLIC MEETING.

People begin to ask what has become of the great "Central Society for the Protection of Agriculture?" Since the failure and exposure of Mr Doran Maillard at the Freemasons' hall, nothing more has been heard of him, nor of the society, so far as we can find, except by a single advertisement of its existence in the *Times*. Where are its promised weekly meetings? How are its vast means employed? The Anti Corn-law League makes some show with the money which it boasts (and not without reason) of collecting. There seems to be "value received" for all that it obtains, in the great and numerous meetings which it convenes, and the vast mass of papers and publications which it continues, day after day, to disseminate. But what does the Central Society—what do all the societies for the protection of agriculture—with their means? Those means cannot be small, if the many subscriptions announced as having been made in the monopolist organs have been made, and the cash actually paid down. Now, to do the country gentlemen justice, we do not think them shabby. We hope and believe that they are quite incapable of parading nominal subscriptions all through the country, the said subscriptions being designed to end in smoke. This impression derives additional force from the reflection that they can have had no motive,—no sufficient motive for such a course. We conclude, therefore, that large sums of money have actually been subscribed. But the question recurs, What is being done with it? If Mr Doran Maillard is discarded, surely he can require nothing, and it is not to be supposed that the Duke of Richmond and his "honorary secretary" receive any *honorarium* for their honourable labours. Of the two Spitalfields weavers who attended that meeting at the Freemasons' hall and abused the League, one of them said he got half-a-sovereign, and the other said he had got nothing. That half-sovereign is the only actual announcement of expenditure that we can recollect to have been made on behalf of the Protectionists. Now, we ask, is the balance of their funds still in store for some great explosion yet to come? We do not believe that, entirely. Are they spending it, or any part of it, in hiring ruffians to put down the expression of public opinion everywhere that they can find admission? We would not rashly bring such a charge against them. But the monopolists have made an appeal, at least a pretended appeal, to public opinion in this great controversy. We ask them to make that appeal an honest and not a disingenuous one, and we are willing to stand by the result. We ask them, if they are not connected with, or do not connive at, those ruffianly interruptions of so many public meetings, to which we refer, generally got up by persons pretending to be Chartists,—we ask them to join with us in a sweeping condemnation of such practices. We ask them, in the name of common justice and fair play, to put forth

a claim, as we do, not for them, not for ourselves, but for all to meet in public for a specific purpose, without the chance of being annoyed and bullied, not by arguments, not by reason, not even by numbers but by a few noisy, tyrannical, unprincipled scoundrels, who can only be answered by the policeman and his *baton*. As yet, the monopolists have put forth no claim of that sort. They have never denounced such conduct—on the contrary, they are charged with conniving at it, if not causing it. They are asked for a disclaimer. If they furnish us with no disclaimer, and thus so far admit the imputation cast upon them, we would tell them that they are playing a dangerous game in thus tampering with freedom. The weapons of offence now put by them into the hands of instruments, which, while they use, they scarcely affect not to despise, are as sure in time to be turned against themselves, as it is certain that seed time is the precursor of the harvest. Injustice and chicanery never succeeded in any noble enterprise. The nature of things runs counter to such a result. Let our work, then, on both sides be open and above board, and we say—"Heaven defend the right."

CONSOLATION.

We have come through great distresses, as a nation, during the last few years. Conservatives denied the existence of distress for long, and when it could be denied no longer they admitted it, and—said they were sorry for it! There might have been—indeed there *was*—a very general inclination to say "thank you for nothing" to them, for that. But it now appears that this was rash. We had forgot that though things were in a bad way, they might have been in a worse; and then we ought to have bethought ourselves to whom it was that we were indebted for things not being brought to a dead stand.

These reflections have been suggested by reading the speech of Mr Lockhart, Member of Parliament for the county of Lanark, recently delivered at a protection meeting in the county town, and which is reported in our paper of to-day.

"Great as has been the distress," says the great man, "in this country for several years past, it would have been greater still but for TILE DRAINING!"

We confess to some liking for tile draining. It is one of those resources on which the farmers can rely, independently of the caprices of Parliament and Prime Ministers. We wish there were more of it. There will need to be more of it,—more of everything in the shape of work and self-reliance, and less talk and less leaning—not to call it by a harsher name—on other members of the community on the part of the farmers and farmers' friends than there has been as yet, before our distresses can be even partially obliterated. We trust some Member of Parliament,—say Mr Lockhart himself,—will move for a return of all the tile drains that have been laid down in England, Scotland, and Ireland, during the last six years. We doubt much if all the expenses thus incurred would be sufficient to pay for one good dinner to each of the inhabitants. But Mr Lockhart says it has lessened the distress, and so it has, so far, for which we would be more thankful, were we not forcibly reminded how much more it might have lessened but for causes put in operation by those who make such boasts. Their consolation is mockery and insult indeed.

WEEKLY COST OF PROTECTION TO SUGAR AND WHEAT.

(For the principles on which these calculations are framed see the *Economist* of the 16th inst.)

SUGAR.—Since last week the relative prices of Porto Rico and Jamaica Muscovado sugars have continued exactly the same; and therefore the difference of the cost of our weekly consumption of 77,792 cwts. above what the same would be on the continent, and paying the same amount of duty to the state that our colonial sugar does, amounts to 70,003*l.* for the whole country, and to 5,833*l.* for the metropolis alone, to be added to the respective balances of last week.

WHEAT.—The price of English wheat is a shade lower this week; but that of foreign wheat is also somewhat cheaper, and the difference is not changed.

It follows, therefore, that the difference of the cost of bread consumed during the last week, compared with what the same would cost on the continent, has been 288,460*l.* more for the whole country, and 24,038*l.* for the metropolis, to be added to the respective balances of last week. The account will now stand thus:—

FOR THE WHOLE KINGDOM.	
Balance from last week	£4,660,020
Extra cost of sugar this week	70,003
Ditto of bread	288,460
<hr/>	
Total extra cost from January 1st to this day	£5,018,483
FOR THE METROPOLIS ALONE.	
Balance from last week	£888,332
Extra cost of sugar this week	5,833
Ditto of bread	24,038
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Total extra cost from January 1st to this day	£918,203

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Monday, April 1.

NEW ZEALAND.—The Earl of MALMESBURY having presented a petition from the inhabitants of the town of Wellington and the district of Cook's Straits, New Zealand, praying that a permanent armed force might be established for their protection, and that government would adopt some course for the purpose of settling the titles to land there, the Earl of RIFON said that a force had, by the orders of government, been sent from New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land to New Zealand, for the protection of the settlers, under existing circumstances. But at once to establish a body of troops there might be extremely inconvenient; he could not say, therefore, how long they would remain. It would be right to ascertain what the inhabitants could do for their own protection, and how far their claims for the establishment of a permanent force were well founded. There certainly were means within the reach of the colonists which they might adopt for their own safety. The governor was authorized to levy a militia, and to establish a constabulary force, as in Ireland, for their safety; and, when there were 10,000 inhabitants, he could not see why such a course might not readily be adopted. His lordship, alluding to the melancholy occurrence which occurred at Cook's Straits on the 17th of June, 1843, remarked that so far as government was concerned no blame could be attached; and Captain Fitzroy, the new governor, he said, was furnished with instructions relating to the settlement of titles to land which, it was hoped, would prove satisfactory.

CONNEXION WITH CHINA.—The Earl of ABERDEEN, in laying on the table the supplementary treaty with China, said the ports of China were now fully open to British commerce, with every prospect of the most extensive benefit to the two countries; and, what was most satisfactory to state, the change was received with the greatest good humour on the part of the Chinese people, and with every appearance of the best feeling towards us. Therefore he trusted that the precautions which had been taken for the purpose would effectually prevent that good feeling from being removed or weakened. His lordship took occasion to pay a high compliment to Sir Henry Pottinger, "the very distinguished man whose labours had given those benefits and advantages to his country:"

"Acting in a country so entirely new, and so entirely different from any in which his experience had previously been engaged, he had contrived (great and complicated as the difficulties were by which he was surrounded), by the energy of his character and by the activity of his mind, to surmount them all. (Hear, hear.) And, what was most remarkable, in a country where suspicion and distrust were proverbial, he contrived to establish complete confidence amongst those with whom he had to negotiate, almost to a miracle. (Hear, hear.) Great as were the benefits that had been secured to this country, he did not hesitate to say that they were mainly attributable to the personal energy and ability of Sir H. Pottinger. (Hear, hear.)"

The Marquis of LANSDOWNE expressed his warm concurrence in this eulogium.

COMMERCIAL TREATY WITH TURKEY.—The Earl of ABERDEEN, in reply to Lord Beaumont, admitted that British commerce was placed under disadvantageous circumstances in the Levant, owing to the treaty between Russia and Turkey. On the other hand, the other European powers had refused to accept on similar terms the same advantages which had been conceded to Russia. The English government were, however, anxious to place our trade in the Levant on the same terms as the most favoured nations, and existing treaties, he said, gave them the power to have that done.

ECCLESIASTICAL COURTS BILL.—On the third reading of this bill being proposed, it was once more subjected to the severest criticism by Lords Cottenham and Campbell, who on this occasion were joined by Lord Denman; but it passed, and their lordships afterwards adjourned.

Tuesday, April 2.

RESTRICTIONS ON TRADE.—Lord MONTEAGLE brought in a bill to repeal certain laws now upon the statute book but obsolete in practice, though liable to be brought into mischievous operation at any time, restricting the purchase and sale of goods, which restrictions were opposed to the spirit of modern legislation, and if carried into effect would interfere with almost every operation of trade. In Ireland none of these acts had been repealed, and his object was to make the law similar to that in England, and also to improve the latter. This was only pursuing the same course which had been long since recommended in the House of Commons. He wished that the bill should be immediately printed, and that it should be read a second time as early after Easter as possible. The noble lord concluded by moving that it be now read a first time.—The bill was then read a first time.

APPEALS IN CRIMINAL CASES.—Lord CAMPBELL presented a bill, the object of which was to remove a great objection which, as the law now stood, might be taken against the administration of justice in this country respecting appeals and writs of error. The purpose of the proposed measure was to enable parties convicted, but who may have moved proceedings by writ of error to their lordships' house, to give bail and be at large pending the final judgment on their case:—

"Their lordships would be aware that the right of appeal was given both in civil and criminal cases; respecting the decision in an appeal in one of the latter class of cases, he had that night presented a petition in which the appeal had been against a conviction for bigamy. In civil cases the parties prosecuting the appeal entered into recognizances of double the amount in dispute, and the execution of the judgment was suspended until the decision on the writ of error was given. There was, consequently, in civil cases, no difficulty. But in criminal cases much doubt existed as to what should be done with the party convicted while the appeal was pending—that was, whether or not the sentence should be carried into effect pending the appeal. As an instance of the inconvenience and injustice which might be inflicted by carrying the sentence into effect, notwithstanding an appeal against the conviction, suppose the case of a man sentenced to transportation, he might be sent abroad before the appeal was decided, though it might be ultimately found that the conviction was wrong, and the party undeserving of punishment; while on the other hand, if the sentence were unconditionally suspended until the superior court had decided, every criminal would appeal in the hope of delaying

or escaping the punishment due to his offence. To remedy this, the bill he was about to submit provided that upon the defendant giving security to the satisfaction of the court, and in such sum as the court might direct, that any fine that might be imposed should be paid, and that the defendant should be forthcoming to undergo any sentence which might be pronounced upon him, that sentence should be suspended until the court of appeal should have decided upon the merits of the case. He did not propose that this alteration in the law should be retrospective, and therefore he had inserted a clause providing that the bill should not come into operation until the 1st of August next."

The bill was laid upon the table, read a first time, and ordered to be printed.

FEES TO JUSTICES' CLERKS.—The Marquis of LANSDOWNE moved for a return from each of the clerks of the peace at the several assizes in England and Wales of the amount of the fees received by him during each of the last three years ending the 31st of December, 1842, his object being to bring before their lordships a tabular statement of those fees in continuation of those returns which had been already ordered in respect to the fees taken by the clerks of the magistrates:—

"He would take that opportunity also of stating, that having seen the partial returns which had been laid before the other house upon this subject, his opinion was confirmed that this was a case requiring legislative interference, and legislative interference under the authority and sanction of the government. From all the information he had obtained he was persuaded that there existed two or three classes of poor persons on whom the system, as it prevailed in regard to these fees, pressed most severely and unjustly, and whose case called for redress. In the first place there were those poor persons who, though guilty of small offences, were by the practical effect of that system subjected to a punishment out of all proportion to the offence committed; then there were those persons who were charged with those small offences, but were acquitted; and then, though declared to be guilty of no crime, were nevertheless punished by being taxed with certain fees; then again there were those persons who, in the protection of their own property, found it necessary to prosecute, and then, though prosecuting justly, were yet subjected themselves to punishment in the shape of pecuniary demands made upon them, and which they were compelled to pay. In regard to the first class of persons, those who were convicted and sentenced to pay such fines, this was a matter which pressed most heavily upon them, because the costs they were called upon to pay also amounted in many cases to twenty or thirty times the amount of the fine. For instance, in one case a man had been fined 1s., and the costs were 22s. 6d. Thus, as he had stated, there was no proportion between the crime and the punishment to which the unfortunate culprit was subjected. On the other hand, the charges to which the prosecutor was liable deterred him in many cases from prosecuting the offender. A clergyman had informed him that in one case, in which a farmer had prosecuted a party for stealing some trifling articles of garden produce, he had been mulcted in the sum of 18s. as fees; and the consequence had been that in that parish no one would now prosecute, and a system of lawlessness, resulting from the impunity with which these crimes could be committed, prevailed."

He asked the Duke of Wellington if government intended to do anything in the matter?

The Duke of WELLINGTON said the subject was under the consideration of the secretary for the home department, and he believed a measure would be introduced by government during the session.

Lord CAMPBELL said that as the subject was about to be taken into consideration by her Majesty's government, there was one point upon which he hoped they would take care to make provision, namely, that the amount of fees should not depend upon the length of the proceedings. He knew that great extortion was practised at present by swelling out the proceedings, for the mere purpose of increasing the costs at so much per folio.

Some other noble lords having spoken on the subject, the motion was put and agreed to.—The house then adjourned to the 16th.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, April 1.

Among the preliminary business brought forward to-night was the following:—

"Mr COBDEN gave notice that, after Easter, he would move for a select committee to inquire into the influence of protective duties on the national debt."

IRISH REGISTRATION AND FRANCHISE BILL.—Lord ELIOT moved for leave to bring in bills regulating the parliamentary and municipal franchises in Ireland. His lordship expressed his belief that the system of registration now established in England was a satisfactory one, and he proposed to establish a like system in Ireland, with only three material differences:—that the polling places should be appointed by the lieutenant; that the annual revision should be by the assistant-barristers; and that the appeal from them should be to the court of exchequer chamber, seven judges being made for this purpose a quorum. He proposed that the names on the present register should be transferred to the new one, there to remain undisturbed for the rest of the term for which they were then enrolled, unless when the tenant should have parted with some portion of his qualification. For the purpose of defining the qualification itself with respect to counties, the bill would contain a clause giving effect to the construction which the majority of the judges had put upon the phrase "beneficial interest." He admitted that this definition, which was the adoption of the solvent tenant test, would displace a great proportion, perhaps nearly two-thirds, or about 25,000 of the 40,000 voters now registered for this kind of franchise; and in order to restore a sufficient constituency, he proposed to give the right of voting to every occupier rated to the poor on an amount of 30*l.* or upwards. When all deductions should have been made, this would give about 55,000 electors instead of the 25,000 struck off, making so far, on the balance, an addition of about 30,000 constituents. To these it was proposed to add, yet further, those who possessed a freehold of inheritance or a leasehold, renewable for ever, of the value of 5*l.* a year. These interests were intended to confer the franchise without actual occupation by the proprietor. With respect to the parliamentary franchise of cities and boroughs, the proposal of government was, that it should belong to every man paying poor rate, borough rate, and police tax. His lordship trusted that this plan would be regarded as a full

Tuesday, April 2.

redemption of the pledge contained in the Queen's speech, and that the new electors would consider the trust thus conferred upon them as given, not for the benefit of their own peculiar districts alone, but of the whole kingdom. The noble lord then proceeded to explain the object of the other bill, relating to the municipal corporations. That object was to extend to the Irish corporations the principle of the English municipal bill, by giving a vote to every inhabitant who had paid certain town rates for a residence of three years.

Mr M. O'FERRALL, while taunting ministers with their abandonment of the principle of Lord Stanley's bill on Irish registration, brought in when they were in opposition, and so far, therefore, approving of the present measure, said that it was far short of what was requisite. He criticised some of the details given by Lord Eliot, and expressed his fears that the 30*l.* rating clause would throw the county constituency into the hands of the landlords.

Lord J. RUSSELL and Lord HOWICK both concurred in this last opinion.

Sir R. PEEL entreated the house to take time for consideration, and not prejudice the subject by precipitate declarations. He re-advanced some of the statements made by Lord Eliot, as to the nature of the registration and franchise bill, and contended that the government were giving evidence of their intention to act with fairness towards the people of Ireland.

Several members on both sides having expressed their opinion on these bills, leave was given to bring them in.

On the question for going into committee of supply being put,

LORD BROUGHAM'S APPELLATE JURISDICTION BILL was made the subject of a short discussion by Lord J. RUSSELL. He hoped that it was not to be sent down to the Commons from the Lords at so late a period as to preclude its due consideration, and asked Sir R. Peel if he thought that there was a necessity for the appointment of a judge to preside over the judicial committee of the privy council, with a salary; also if it were true that an office not yet created had been three times offered to and refused by Lord Brougham?

Sir R. PEEL said he was as free and unfettered as Lord J. Russell to exercise an independent judgment on the bill whenever it came before them for consideration. He reminded the house that Lord Cottenham had introduced a bill to separate the judicial and political functions of the Lord Chancellor, and in which he had proposed a judge to preside in the privy council. The government had offered to Lord Brougham the presidency in the privy council, under the impression that the crown had the power to create such a judge, provided no salary were annexed to it. Lord Brougham did not think at that time such an appointment necessary, but he had since taken up the subject, though the bill was not a government measure.

Mr R. YORKE thought this a very flagitious case, and if ever the bill came down to them he would use every form of the house to throw it out.

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY.—CIVIL CONTINGENCIES.—The house then went into committee of supply, when

Sir G. CLEEK moved for 100,000*l.* as the expenses of British ministers at foreign courts.

Mr W. WILLIAMS objected:—

"He especially complained of the enormous amount of the charge for the embassy to Constantinople, viz., 15,800*l.* The embassy to Hanover cost 4,500*l.*, which the King of Hanover ought to be called upon to pay out of the 21,000*l.* he annually derived from this country. He also objected to certain sums charged for conveying foreign princes in British ships of war. He also adverted, in terms of strong censure, to the two items of 800*l.* each for conveying out governors to such paltry settlements as Van Diemen's Land and New Zealand, as well as to the charges for collars, &c., for Knights of the Bath. Those who received the distinction, he argued, ought to be content to pay for it. He entertained the highest respect for the memory of the Duke of Sussex, but he saw no reason why the public should be called upon to pay 1,332*l.* for the expenses of his funeral. He thought the sums charged for expenses incurred by colonial bishops, in going about in British steam ships, exorbitant and unnecessary, and particularly instanced the journey of pleasure taken by the Bishop of Gibraltar to Athens and Constantinople and back, for which the treasury was required to pay 211*l.* The sum of 1,352*l.* was inserted in the estimates for teachers in Lancashire, provided by the Bishop of Chester, but the late government had refused to pay this sum on the authority of a report of a committee appointed to examine into the subject. He hoped the Chancellor of the Exchequer would state what was the cause why the government had not paid for 11½ years, unless it absolutely refused. If they withdrew the charge from the funds of the Duchy of Lancaster, they ought not to charge it upon the public, but upon the surplus of the ecclesiastical funds. If the money had not been paid, he certainly would have divided the house against it. In page 14 there was an extraordinary charge of 68*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.* a year, for watering Park-gate street, in Dublin, for the years 1841 and 1842. This was a curious charge upon the people of England. Then there was a grant of 400*l.* for the college of St David's, for the education of the clergy of South Wales; he did not object to this charge, for he thought the education should be efficient, especially as it was for the education of the clergy of a church which had been despoiled of its income at the time of the reformation."

Mr HUME concurred in the justice of part of those charges:—

"He complained of the item, 'fees to the officers of the Order of the Garter upon the installation of his Majesty the King of Prussia, as Knight Companion, 439*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.*' He thought if such an honour was conferred upon a foreigner, the country ought not to be saddled with the expense; as to a charge of 821*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* for conferring the honour of Knights of the Grand Cross of the Bath on Sir W. Parker, Sir Henry Pottinger, Sir George Pollock, Sir William Nott, and Sir Charles Napier, these were individuals well worthy of the honour (hear, hear); but where individuals received an honour as a reward for public services he thought no charge should be made. There were many items in these estimates which ought to be expunged, and he thought if they were submitted to a committee up stairs, chosen from both sides of the house, he should carry his objection by a majority. (A laugh.) He did not think well of Tories in a lump, but, taken separately, they were as good as other people. (Loud laughter.)"

The vote, however, and several others, were agreed to, after a very miscellaneous discussion.—Adjourned.

The house only sat for a very short time this night.

WESTMINSTER BRIDGE.—Sir R. H. INGLIS moved for a return of the amount of money expended upon Westminster bridge for repairs, alterations, professional and other services, previous to the year 1837. II. Return of the sums of money already expended, or now due, in respect of the repairs and alterations of Westminster bridge since the year 1837; specifying separately the costs of the works and services relative to the elongation of the piers, with a view to the widening of the superstructure, and of the works lately executed in lightening the superstructure, and filling up the bed of the river, in consequence of the recent sinking of the foundations. III. Return of the sums of money required to defray the probable cost of the further works and services required in repairing, altering, and widening Westminster bridge, under the following heads:—1. For repair of foundations and arches; 2. For the elongation of piers to receive a widened superstructure; 3. For repairs and alterations of the superstructure; 4. For superintendence and miscellaneous services. IV. Return of the income of the commissioners of Westminster bridge arising from property belonging to the commission; specifying the nature and extent of such property, in detail, and the rents payable in respect of it, as well as all other sources of income, if any exist; and also whether there are any, and, if any, what incumbrances upon the same.—Returns ordered.

STATE OF THE NAVY.—Lord J. RUSSELL having adverted to what he understood was the intention of government with respect to our naval force in the Mediterranean, which he apprehended was about to be left at too low an amount—Sir R. PEEL submitted that the constitutional course was to leave the distribution of these forces to the discretion of the executive power. It was not always expedient to communicate to parliament the reasons for that distribution.—Lord PALMERSTON urged the necessity of keeping a considerable force in the Mediterranean.—Mr HUME was for the minimum of an establishment.

"He had lately received a letter from a naval officer at Malta, in which the writer stated there could be nothing more disadvantageous to the interests of the navy than leaving large line-of-battle ships in the Mediterranean. They laid up at Malta and other places there for nine months, and were exposed to losing their discipline. He also trusted that the right honourable baronet would see the necessity of removing the swarm of gun boats from the Shannon, which cost 150,000*l.*"

SIR HENRY POTTINGER.—Sir R. PEEL, in laying on the table a copy of Sir H. Pottinger's treaty with China, bore testimony to his great ability and fidelity, and expressed the regret of the government that he had now, after half a century of public service, determined to retire into private life.

"He could not lay upon the table the last paper from Sir H. Pottinger without bearing testimony to the singular ability, zeal, firmness, and discretion with which he had performed the duty undertaken by him under critical and difficult circumstances, and performed by him in a manner which secured to him the confidence and esteem of the Chinese government, equally with that of the government which he represented. (Hear, hear.) He was disposed to say more upon the merits of that distinguished gentleman, but he was aware that a panegyric was weakened by being diluted. (Hear, hear.) He would only say, that it was impossible to bear higher testimony than he could to the merits of Sir H. Pottinger. (Hear, hear.)"

Lord PALMERSTON expressed his warm concurrence in the eulogium.

JOINT-STOCK COMPANIES.—Mr GLADSTONE moved for a committee of the whole house to consider the law relating to partnerships: his objects being to provide for registering and regulating joint-stock companies, for investing them with certain corporate privileges upon certain conditions, for improving the remedies at law and in equity, by, against, and between their members, and for enabling private partnerships to register the names of their partners, and to sue and be sued in the names of their firms:—

"The greater part of this proposal was founded on the report of a select committee, which had sat in several sessions, for the purpose of investigating the subject. That committee did not extend its consideration to banking companies; but, with that exception, it had investigated the whole subject. There were two classes of evils which it was meant by this bill to meet. One which arose from the fact of fraudulent companies being frequently set up with the names of respectable persons as directors, which induced many unwary persons to join them, to their great and often ruinous loss. The other referred to companies which, though not actually fraudulent, were ill conducted. It was proposed to apply a remedy to those evils in various forms. It was not proposed on the one hand to give indiscriminate encouragement to such companies; neither was it intended to restrain them more than was necessary for manifest public advantage. He should propose first to apply the most effectual remedy, that of publicity, to bring the power of public opinion to bear on the proceedings of joint-stock companies. For this purpose he should ask leave to bring in a bill for the registration of joint-stock companies; but in registering them it would be necessary to recognize them for certain purposes as corporate bodies. This, although an alteration of the law, would not change, but rather accelerate its course. In the present state of the law they had, by the necessity of circumstances, extorted from courts of justice a recognition of their existence; and, without any statutory enactment, they had become, to all intents and purposes, acknowledged creatures in the eye of the law. He should propose that these companies, on being registered, and on submitting themselves to efficient inspection, both as regarded the persons who composed them and the manner in which their affairs were conducted, should acquire the privilege of suing and being sued, and therefore of doing certain legal acts for the purpose for which they were associated with as much facility as they could be done by individuals. At the present moment such companies were not able to appoint any one of their number to sue and be sued, although they contrived to evade the restriction for purposes beneficial to themselves, and, by appointing trustees, were able to attain many of their purposes, which they would attain with much greater facility if they possessed the legal privilege of being able to sue. In other respects, however, this inability operated injuriously; it was a complete bar to the public in endeavouring to obtain redress from them; and in giving them this power, the house would be giving to the public a complete means of calling them to account when guilty of malversation. Though a great boon to the companies, this concession was not to be justified only on the ground of its being a boon to particular bodies, but as being one of much greater importance to the public. He proposed to provide another bill for the further regulation of joint-stock

companies, that was—to make a certain number of provisions, which the house might restrict or extend, as it saw good, to determine the constitution which joint-stock companies were to have. Although there was no general enactment on this subject, there were bills applying to particular companies which were now in operation; it seemed to follow that the house should take securities with respect to joint-stock companies at large, which heretofore had been usual with particular isolated cases in which they had been the subjects of statutory enactments. He should propose also to take measures for the correction of another great evil to which the present state of the law regarding these companies gave occasion, the extreme deficiency of legal remedies as applicable to them—remedies not only for the shareholders against the managers and directors, but for the public against the companies in general. This was a part of the subject on which it would be the least convenient to enlarge in the present early stage of the discussion; but the resolutions of the committee on joint-stock companies, which were now on the table of the house, to a great extent comprised the measures which it was proposed to take to improve those remedies, in law and equity; and the bills which he trusted shortly to lay on the table would completely explain the nature of them. He should, lastly, propose a bill to introduce modifications in a particular portion of the law of partnership as it related to private persons. At present, private partnerships laboured to a considerable extent, though not to anything like the same extent, under the inconveniences attaching to joint-stock companies—that was, though there was really no ground for exercising over them the restraints which the legislature ought to exercise over larger associations constructed on the principle of joint-stock companies, yet private partnerships were not in a condition to appoint any persons to sue, or to sue by the common name under which they acted, for the purpose of obtaining redress from persons against whom they might have a complaint. If the house were to confer the power of suing or being sued on joint-stock companies, and withhold it from private partnerships, they would be acting in contravention of the principle which had hitherto obtained universal sanction. With respect to the regulation of commercial concerns, which was that wherever persons could attain a commercial purpose by means of private partnership, you should so attain it, and should only resort to those larger associations, in which the principle of responsibility and individual control was much weaker, in occasional cases, where, from the amount of capital required, or the extent of risk, or some other peculiar cases, you could not work out your purpose by means of private partnership. He should, therefore, ask leave to bring in a bill for the purpose of enabling private persons associated in partnership to sue and be sued in their collective capacity."

The house having resolved itself into committee, Mr GLADSTONE moved resolutions authorizing the initiation of bills for effecting those objects. These resolutions were carried and reported forthwith.

THE IRISH STATE TRIALS.—Mr WYSE moved for some papers connected with the Irish jury lists.—Lord ELIOT opposed this motion.—Mr SHAW objected on principle to the production of his own judicial notes.—Lord J. RUSSELL contended that the house had a right to inquire into the conduct of any judge.—Mr SHAW admitted this, but denied that the house could sit as a court of review upon his judicial proceedings.—Mr WYSE pressed his motion.—Sir R. PEEL would not attempt to draw a precise line for the jurisdiction of the house; but he apprehended that in point of discretion they would scarce call for the notes of a judge.—Mr WYSE modified his motion by omitting some of its requisitions, and it was then carried.

POST OFFICE.—On the motion of Mr HAWES the following return was ordered:—"Of the number of chargeable letters which have passed through the London general post (inwards and outwards) since the first general reduction of postage on the 5th day of December, 1839, dividing the time (as far as practicable) into periods of four complete weeks each, and distinguishing, as regards each period, the unpaid, paid, and stamped, and total number of letters; also, of the estimated average number for four weeks of the year immediately preceding the reduction distinguished in like manner. Return of the number of letters which have passed through the London district post (exclusive of all general-post letters) for the same periods; and distinguishing in the same manner as the last return. A comparative statement of the number of letters (including franks during the existence of the franking privilege) delivered in the United Kingdom in one week of each calendar month, beginning with November, 1839, and ending with the present time. An account showing the gross and net post-office revenue, and the cost of management, for the United Kingdom, for each of the years ending the 5th day of January, 1839, 1840, 1841, 1842, 1843, and 1844, excluding from the account, whether of gross revenue or cost of management, any advances that may have been made by the English to the Irish post office, and advances to the money-order office. Account, showing, as nearly as it can be given, the gross amount of postage revenue for England and Wales (exclusive of returns for refused letters, &c.) for the month ending the 5th day of January, 1840 (during which the fourpenny rate was established); and also for the months ending the 5th day of January, 1842, the 5th day of January, 1843, and the 5th day of January, 1844. An account of the payments by the post office made during each of the years ending the 5th day of January, 1839, 1840, 1841, 1842, 1843, and 1844, for the conveyance of the mails by railway in Great Britain; distinguishing in each instance the payments for work done within the year from payments for work done in previous years. Return of the number and amount of money orders issued and paid in England and Wales during each quarter, from the quarter ending the 5th day of April, 1839, to that ending the 5th day of January, 1844, inclusive. Similar return, as regards money orders issued and paid in London. Return by the admiralty, showing in detail the different items which compose the sum of 612,850*l.* charged for packets, in return No. 201, of session 1843. Return of all provincial post offices in which, owing to the death or resignation of the deputy postmaster, compensations have lapsed to the revenue since September, 1839, showing in each case the amount of such compensation, and the total cost of the office to the revenue, both before and after its re-arrangement; the cost after re-arrangement being stated, first, as originally proposed by the post office, second, as authorized by the treasury. Copy of all railway mails, as directed by the treasury to be made in August, 1842; together with an addition, showing the length of each line as per official notice to the company, as per post-office time bill, and as per actual payments by the post office to the company, past and present; also an explanation of any discrepancy which may appear in

such return. Annual return of fees, perquisites, &c., for the year 1842 as ordered by the treasury minute of the 13th day of May, 1842. Return of the details, as submitted to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, on which the estimate No. 201, of last session, was prepared. Return of letters registered in the travelling post office in a week, in July or August, 1843."

The house then adjourned to Monday, 15th April.

FREE-TRADE MOVEMENTS.

COUNTY OF ROXBURGH.

The intelligent farmers of this county—one of the best-cultivated in Scotland—are not well pleased to have their opinions sent forth to the world as those of Lord J. Scott, Lord Polworth, and others, whose speeches were given in their leading parts in our last week's paper. Accordingly we find, by the *Kelso Chronicle*, that they have applied to his Grace the Duke of Buccleuch, as Lord-Lieutenant, to call a general public meeting for the discussion of the subject. The following is their requisition:—

"To His Grace the Duke of Buccleuch and Queensberry, Lord-Lieutenant of Roxburghshire.

"We, the undersigned, most respectfully request that your Grace will be pleased to call a meeting of the justices of the peace, commissioners of supply, landowners, heritors, farmers, farm labourers, and others, in the upper district of the county, comprising the parishes of Ashkirk, Minto, Castleton, Hobkirk, Hawick, Kirkton, Cavers, and Lilliesleaf, to be held at Hawick on an early market day, to consider the effects of the protective duties on corn and other provisions upon the interests of tenant farmers and farm labourers of this district of the county."

Public opinion in that county would thus be fairly tested. We ask, with our contemporary, "Will the Lord-Lieutenant deny the privilege asked?"

ANTI-FREE-TRADE MOVEMENTS.

LINDSAY AGRICULTURAL PROTECTION SOCIETY.

On Friday last we find a meeting of this society reported as having taken place at the City Arms hotel, Lincoln, "to take into consideration a communication received from the Central Society." An address accordingly was read from the Central Society, of which the most material point was the following question:—"How much money you consider yourselves able to allot to us at present, and how much, or about how much, we may expect from you annually?" There does not appear to have been much discussion. The general impression seemed to be, that it would be better to send only a portion of the funds at the present time, until it could be seen whether the Central Society administered their money economically, and applied it judiciously. The following resolutions were ultimately adopted:—

"That the treasurer of this society be directed to forward to the Agricultural Protection Society in London a donation of 100*l.*, with a direction that a further sum will be sent if required, and that next year the sum of 100*l.* will be also sent if required; but as the funds of this society are derived from donations, and not from annual subscriptions, the society cannot bind themselves to remit an annual subscription, but that they will use their best endeavours to support the Central Society.

"That the secretary do make application (by circulars) to those noblemen, gentlemen, and farmers, who have not already identified themselves with this society, requesting their aid, and also to request those gentlemen who have already given their names to forward their subscriptions to the treasurer, as it is necessary this society should know what funds they may have at their disposal in aid of the above object."

In Lincolnshire there are now twenty protection societies, and the amount of subscriptions raised in the various districts varies very much. The Holbeach society has not raised more than 50*l.*; the Lincoln society, nearly 500*l.*; the Sleaford society upwards of 1,000*l.*, &c. The county of Lincoln could readily raise 10,000*l.* if it should be required.

SELBY, YORKSHIRE.

We find a protection meeting reported as having taken place here on Monday. It was a meeting "assembled in consequence of a requisition from the Selby Farmers' Society, in order to consider the best means of maintaining protection to agriculture." John Foster, Esq., was in the chair, and the two principal speeches delivered were, one by a landed proprietor, and the other by a clergyman. We subjoin them as reported in the *Post*, with little abbreviation.

G. P. Dawson, Esq., of Osgodby hall, on rising, was received with much applause. He said the agriculturists had been attacked as a body, and as a body they had a right to defend themselves. The first law of nature called upon them to protect themselves. It was in vain for the League to argue this question; they might twist and turn it in whatever way they could, yet it was utterly impossible that, under existing circumstances, the English farmer could compete with the foreign grower. He would put the matter to them in this way. Suppose there were a farming district in this country favoured by government—that it had privileges which other districts had not—he would take Sunk Island (near Selby) as an instance. Supposing the farmers of Sunk Island were permitted to grow corn without being burdened with what were technically called "drawbacks." Supposing, with these advantages, they shipped their corn to Selby market, he wondered who in that meeting could compete with the farmers of Sunk Island. Was there one of them that could sell a single load of corn with such competition? Clearly not. These farmers of Sunk Island would undersell all their competitors, and would not that be a monopoly? He thanked the League for teaching him that word—its signification was odious; yet Sunk Island would have a monopoly. (Hear, hear.) Now, supposing Sunk Island was ten times—a hundred times larger than its actual size; supposing it was as large as the continent of Europe or America (for that was the argument he was coming to), the supply would be almost infinite: and then, what would become of those farmers who had to bear all the burden of taxation,

such as was imposed in this country? Would not the advantages of monopoly be in favour of Sunk Island, or rather, the foreign continent? (Hear, hear.) But the League told us that with free trade even, the general demand for corn would be of such an extent as to raise the price of grain to nearly the same level as at present. In answer to this, however, he would remind them that the quantity of corn grown abroad now was at the minimum amount. "But," said the League, "look at the bad roads over which the corn has to be brought." Did they not know that traffic made good roads? (Hear.) Give a demand for corn, and he assured them there would be soon good roads. (Hear.) Then, on the other hand, the League said, "Look what cheap bread we shall have," and appealed to the labourers; but where was the advantage of having cheap bread if they had nothing to buy it with. (Hear, hear.) It reminded him of the story he had heard of an Irishman going into a shop to purchase an article which he thought a good deal too dear, and said he could get as good in Dublin for tenpence; but on being asked why he did not stop in Dublin, said, because he could not get the tenpence. (Laughter.) And that was really and truly the position in which the labourers of this country would be placed under a free trade in corn. (Hear, hear, hear.) It was said that this was a landlord's question. So it was; and he was rather surprised to find some gentlemen diffident about avowing it; but it was equally the tenant farmer and the labourer's question (hear, hear, hear)—aye, and the shopkeeper's, and every other person, directly or indirectly, dependent on agriculture. (Hear, hear.) The landlord, no doubt, would feel the effect of a repeal of the corn laws very severely. He would not be able probably to enjoy some of the luxuries which were now spread before him: and perhaps some would be so much reduced as to be compelled to dig their own land; but the tenant farmer and labourer would feel the effect still more, as they would be altogether excluded from earning a livelihood. (Hear, hear.) There might be some exceptions to the general fate amongst the very great landowners, such as those who had joined the League (hear, hear)—who had money in the funds and other investments which rendered them not entirely dependent on agriculture; for when one interest went down the other might go up. (Hear.) He did not mean to ascribe to these gentlemen any unworthy motives; but it seemed to him that their conduct could only be accounted for by a perversity of intellect which prevented them from seeing that which was good for their country. He believed that a repeal of the corn laws would not be injurious to these wealthy men, but it would to the poorer. (Hear.) It had been said that the tenant farmer might turn merchant; but how could he when his capital was all gone? And was it nothing for him to lose all those habits and associations amidst which he had been born and reared? (Hear, hear.) Were not his feelings to be at all considered, and were he to change his means and manner of existence without a struggle? They might as well transplant the ancient oak. (Cheers.) He firmly believed that there was no class of people happier than the agricultural labourer. True, there might be situations of distress and misery; but take them as a body, and a happier and more contented race of men did not exist. (Hear, hear.) Their very daily labour was a pleasure to them, for their work was amongst sweet sights and pleasant sounds. (Hear, hear, hear.) And with a repeal of the corn laws what was to become of these men? What chance would they have in the districts of tall chimneys, amongst a population who had been accustomed to factory smoke all their lives? None at all. And, with God's help, they never should go. (Hear and cheers.)

The Rev. Richard Paver, vicar of Brayton, next rose. He was known to many of them; and he need hardly say he was friendly to their cause. (Hear, hear.) He begged to say that he was born in an agricultural district, bred in one, and hoped to continue, as long as he lived, amongst the farmers. (Hear, hear, hear.) He knew them, and felt for them, and when they were in danger he would always stand forward and support them in the best manner he could. He thought they ought to support one another; and he felt sure that in supporting the agriculturists he was supporting the interests of his own class as well; for if the farmers were to be ruined, it would soon be the turn of the clergy. (Hear, hear.) It was his opinion that the efforts of a certain class tended not only to the ruining of agriculture, but to the overturning of all kinds of government. They applied all sorts of repulsive epithets to the farmers, and said that "the heads of the ploughmen were as thick as the clods they cultivated." But those ploughmen and their employers were now fairly aroused—they were, perhaps, slow to move, but when they were moved they would not be put down easy—(hear, hear)—they would bear a good brunt before they would submit to be trodden under foot. (Hear, hear, hear.) Mr Paver next alluded to the cultivation of land in that district. There was some thin sand land which, not a long time ago, had been waste; but he had observed some fine sheep near Brayton Bar, grazing upon an excellent crop of turnips. But under a free trade this land must be thrown out of cultivation—instead of turnips it would produce only wick, brooms, and all kinds of rubbish. The next thing would be that we should be entirely dependent upon foreign states for the greater part of our corn. (Hear, hear, hear.) We should have to go to the Emperor of Russia or the King of Prussia for our food. And then what would be the consequence? The Emperor of Russia would probably refuse us when our own land was thrown out of cultivation, and say, "No, you shan't have any corn from me; you may take care of yourselves;" and in that way they would be thrown overboard. (Hear, hear, hear.) This reminded him forcibly of a passage in Scripture where it was stated that King Herod was very much displeased with the inhabitants of Tyre and Sidon, who made Blastus, the king's chamberlain, their friend, and induced him to intercede with the king on their behalf for a supply of corn; "They desired peace because their country was nourished by the king's country." Now suppose Sir Robert Peel going to the Emperor of Russia to ask for corn through his chamberlain—a pretty figure we should cut. (Hear, hear, hear, and laughter.) Instead of "Britannia rules the waves," it would be, "Briton's sons are slaves." (Hear, hear, hear.) Now, what would become of the labourers with a repeal of the corn laws? The agriculturists of this district had just formed a very excellent and praiseworthy society—the Selby Farmers' Club—and the other day they had ploughing matches, which were very good things

to encourage the farm labourers of their district, and he hoped they would continue. (Hear, hear.) But what use would these be if the League people were to have their way? There would then be no use for labourers and ploughmen, they would all become cotton spinners, or something worse. He hoped and believed, however, that this would not be the case; he trusted that the League would be defeated. (Cheers.) He concluded by moving the third resolution.

A subscription was entered into before the meeting broke up.

COUNTY OF LANARK.

"A meeting of the justices of the peace," we find, by the *Morning Post*, "commissioners of supply, heritors and farmers, of the county of Lanark, convened by his Grace the Duke of Hamilton and Brandon, Lord-Lieutenant of the County, in compliance with a requisition signed by three hundred of the proprietors and farmers of the district, was held at Lanark, on Friday, within the County buildings, for the purpose of agreeing to petitions to both houses of parliament, to continue protection to the produce of land." Landowners mustered in great strength, and Sir Norman M'Donald Lockhart was nominated chairman.

Sir Norman, on taking the chair, shortly stated the object of the meeting, and

Sir A. Campbell rose to address the meeting. He considered the question now to be brought before them one of very general importance, and which did not merely concern the county of Lanark, but every part of Scotland—he might say every part of Great Britain. He felt that no person who wished well to the interests of this great country—and he felt himself to be one of these—would be ashamed to do his utmost in every place, whether he was more or less interested in it, to advocate, to the extent of his information and ability, correct views on the question which this meeting was called upon to consider, and in all probability to support, by resolutions. Before reading the terms of the resolution, he hoped he would be allowed to say a few words on the subject of free trade. This was a subject which was often brought forward and much handled at the meetings of the Anti-Corn-law League, an association as to which he would not trust himself with saying anything. They might see, however, from what he had hinted, that he did not approve of the proceedings of that body. In this and in every part of Great Britain, both in the meetings of the League and elsewhere, the subject of free trade was much discussed, and he begged leave to say that it seemed to him that what was called free trade was very much misunderstood or misrepresented by the Anti-Corn-law agitators. Unless free trade was reciprocal, he did not understand the meaning of it. (Hear, hear.) If it were a new question, which they were at liberty to discuss on first principles, different views might be taken of it; but now that the system was in operation—now that all interests were more or less protected—he could not see either the justice or the utility of making free trade all on one side; and it was most unreasonable, that, while restrictions existed with regard to the importation of almost every article of manufacture, they should be called upon to do away with the whole of the protection to agriculture. Other countries would not admit their manufactures, unless on the payment of duties which, in many cases amounted almost to a prohibition. Would they tell him that in that state of matters there was anything like free trade? Instead of foreign nations showing anything like an inclination to do away with their tariff duties upon articles of British commerce, it was notorious that they were just pursuing a totally opposite course. In Prussia, where he was sorry to see that manufactures were greatly on the increase, they had imposed even higher duties on articles of British production than formerly, notwithstanding the readier admission that was now afforded to the grain of that country by the recent modification of the corn laws. Unless, then, that they could show him that the different countries of Europe were to act fairly by them, and all to take in their goods without charging any duty, he could neither see the propriety nor common sense of taking off the duties imposed by this country on the importation either of manufactured articles or of corn. (Applause.) Having said this much upon free trade in general, he would now take the liberty of reading the resolution. It was to the effect that, in the opinion of this meeting, it is absolutely necessary to the prosperity both of the agricultural and commercial interests, that the former should possess a fair and reasonable protection, in common with other branches of industry, because the agricultural interest is the paramount one in the state. Sir Archibald supported the resolution by affirming that two-thirds of the population, as well as an equal proportion of the capital of the country, was employed in agriculture; that manufactured goods were not only protected, but that many kinds of them were protected by much larger duties than that by which corn was protected, foreign manufactures having to pay in some instances an *ad valorem* duty of 30 per cent.; that much capital had been invested by farmers and landlords on the faith of protection: that the lowering of the price of corn (a necessary consequence of the abolition of the corn laws) would ruin the most important interest in the country, the agricultural tenantry, a class of men entitled to the highest praise—would injure the landlord—lower the condition of the labourer in every respect, and even the manufacturer himself would suffer in various ways, and particularly by the destruction of the most profitable market for his goods—the home market. But even if the allegations of the Leaguers were all true, and the manufacturers were to make larger profits by the duty on corn being abolished, he did not see why the agricultural interest was to be altogether ruined for that purpose. (Applause.) He concluded by moving the adoption of the resolution.

Mr Stodart, of Jervieswood Mains, said he had much pleasure in seconding the motion, and he begged leave to express his conviction that unless fair protection was given to the agricultural interest, no tenant was safe in laying his capital out on the soil. (Applause.) The motion was unanimously agreed to.

Mr M'Kenzie, of Dolphinton, proposed the next resolution. The resolution was to the effect, that this meeting is convinced that a departure from these principles would be subversive of true policy, in so far as it would diminish the growth of corn in this country, and make its population dependent for subsistence on foreign nations, at a time when

they might be unable or unwilling to supply it, and thus prove ruinous to the best interests of the country.

Mr Findley, of Easterhill, seconded the motion, which was agreed to by the meeting.

Mr Houldsworth, of Coltness, proposed the next resolution. He appeared before this meeting, he said, both as a manufacturer and an agriculturist, and he had no hesitation in saying, that long before he had any connexion with land, he entertained the same sentiments in every respect as to the necessity of having equal protection to the farmer, the landlord, and the manufacturer, as he did at present. He concluded by proposing a resolution, of which the following is the substance:—"That this meeting observes with satisfaction the declaration made by her Majesty's government that they are determined to abide by the principles of protection."

Mr Clark, of Parkhouse, seconded the motion, which was likewise carried without opposition.

Mr Lockhart, M.P. for Lanarkshire, in moving the next resolution, said—Mr Chairman, I cannot dissemble the pleasure I feel in being permitted to address you on this occasion. The proceedings of the Anti-Corn-law League are of so dangerous a nature, as to render it imperative on us to unite together. There is no step which they are not ready to take in order to attain their selfish ends. They have sought to sow discord among us—to set the labourer against the farmer, and the tenant against his landlord. They have endeavoured to overawe the legislature, and to browbeat the agriculturist out of that protection which he enjoys in common with all other classes of his fellow countrymen. They have tried to disturb the good understanding which ought to exist among the three great interests in this country, and in doing so have shown that they are friends to neither of them. (Applause.) It is not my desire to advert to irritating topics, or to dwell on the more serious charges which have been made against them—from which, indeed, they have shown little anxiety to exculpate themselves. What I wish to deal with, during the few minutes I occupy your time, are the false statements they have dispersed through the country. Their leader has been in this neighbourhood. He made a speech at Glasgow on the 15th of January, the chief object of which was to persuade the people of this country that the English farmers were with him. He boasted that he had converted all the farmers of Herefordshire, and of various other counties, by proving to them that the trade of a grocer or draper was better than that of a farmer. And he had the audacity to say that all the industrious and intelligent farmers were anxious to aid his cause; while the idle only and the slovenly were opposed to him. I think the various meetings of farmers which have taken place lately sufficiently contradict this assertion; but if any contradiction in respect to Lanarkshire were necessary, it was made on the spot by a friend of his own. Later in the evening Mr Bright congratulated the meeting on one subscription from this county—he said there was a very gratifying subscription from a Lesmahago farmer. Mr Cobden then went back into England, and boasted of his success among the Scotch farmers, and particularly among the tenantry of the Buccleuch estates, which has called forth a contradiction from Lord John Scott in very plain terms. Now, falsehoods like these are so transparent that they can do little harm; but the insidious misrepresentations contained in the publications which they have circulated through the country, at an enormous expense, have deceived not only the ignorant, but in many cases the better informed. It is on this account that I am happy to find that the agriculturists are everywhere exerting themselves, in order to dispel the false impressions which these misrepresentations are calculated to create, and especially to prevent the working class from being deluded into the belief that protection to their industry is an injustice to them. (Cheers.) Under this protection this nation has become the greatest and richest that ever existed. Now, it would surely require something more than mere assertion to show that, by reversing our system, we would become greater still; and in regard to the arguments which have been used by the League orators, I may remark that they are not applicable to a state of things which exists, or which can by possibility exist. The open and avowed policy of every civilized nation is protection to the industry of their own people. They differ in religion—they have different laws and different forms of government—but in this, and in this only, they all agree. We have seen what has happened since we altered our tariff—instead of following our example, they have increased their protective duties in, I think, five instances; and all our attempts to negotiate commercial treaties have failed. Were other nations to adopt an opposite course, then we would have free trade in its proper sense; and, whether for good or for evil, we would be obliged to change our policy. But a one-sided system of free trade is so great an absurdity, that it does surprise me that any one should be deluded by it. (Cheers.) It is the greatest possible folly. We would be cheated, in the way of trade, by all other nations, and in a very few years our resources, enormous as they are, would vanish. They say the corn laws have caused great variations in the price of corn, but the returns show prices have been steadier in this country since the present system was adopted than in any other country—Sweden and Switzerland excepted. They complain that their trade has been hurt by the operation of these laws—my belief is, that it has suffered from other causes. (Hear, hear.) I think it has suffered from the scandalous impositions which the dishonest members of the League have practised. Their devil's dust and their filled goods have hurt the reputation of British manufacture in foreign markets, and every Scotchman must be proud to think that his countrymen have never been accused of such practices. There is another cause of injury to our manufactures, in the enormous quantity of cotton yarn we export. At the period of the peace we exported about 12,000,000 lbs. yearly. (Hear.) The quantity has increased so rapidly, that we now export nearly ten times as much; and I cannot help saying it is not wise, for the sake of a trifling profit, to employ our people in an enfeebling occupation, in order to enable other nations to compete with our weavers. But notwithstanding the operation of these causes, the fallaciousness of the assertions of the League can be shown from official documents. I have here an abstract of the average annual quantity of cotton wool, on which duty has been paid for home consumption, ar-

anged in triennial periods. In the years 1815, 1816, and 1817, the average quantity was 99,000,000 of pounds. It has increased steadily, and to an extent almost to exceed credibility, for in last year duty was paid on 586,000,000 of pounds, being an increase of nearly 500 per cent. in twenty-eight years. Another assertion is, that they could exchange their goods for corn were importation free. But the state of the corn trade will show that this is another fallacy. It will be seen from the returns that while by much the largest quantity is imported from Russia, we export the smallest quantity of our goods to that kingdom. But even supposing all the expectations of the League to be realized, it is evident that any advantage, even to manufactures, obtained at the expense of our agriculture, would be ruinous to this country, and especially to the working classes; and for this reason, that the labour required for the cultivation of corn is greater in proportion to its value than what is required for the manufacture of those goods which the League proposes to exchange for the corn of the continent. You all know that there is not a single operation of agriculture in which the labour of man is not largely employed, but in our leading manufacture everything is done by machinery. The raw material is the produce of a foreign country, and in the different stages of its manufacture it is scarcely touched by the hand of man. And, looking to the future, it is likely that this disparity will be increased; for, while every invention in machinery supplants labour, and especially adult labour, all the recent improvements in agriculture have tended to give increased employment to the people. Great as has been the distress in this country for several years past, it would have been greater still but for tile draining and other improvements, which have given work to thousands; and if these improvements have not been carried to the extent they might have been, let the blame be cast on the Anti-Corn-law League, who have laboured to discourage them. In these remarks which I have ventured to make, I trust it will not be supposed that I am an enemy to machinery; on the contrary, I do most sincerely wish that every unhealthy and enervating work could be performed by it. (Loud cheers.) I care not to what perfection they bring it, or how much they increase it, so that a just protection be given to our native industry. It must always be remembered that in dealing with agriculture we are dealing with the paramount interest in this country on which three-fourths of our population depend. Even Mr McCulloch, the great authority of the League, thinks that the beneficial influence of manufactures depends, in a great degree, on their being subordinate to it; for we must not lose sight of the fact, that nearly three-fourths of our manufactures are consumed at home. Yet to hear the Leaguers talk, you would think that their home trade was nothing, and their foreign trade everything. Why, the dung put into our land is worth all the foreign trade of the country. It is the real interest of all classes that agriculture should be protected; but it is more especially the interest of the working classes. If the League should so far succeed in their designs as to throw any considerable portion of our land out of cultivation, then they would be at the mercy of that base and sordid confederacy, and they would treat them as the slopsellers of London have treated the sempstresses; who, as is well known, have taken advantage of the numbers of unemployed females, to reduce their earnings to the lowest possible scale. It is evident that, if prices be equalised with those of the continent, the rate of wages must be equalised also. If protection be withdrawn, they must sink to the continental level. We have experience of this in the case of the Spitalfields silk weavers. When foreign silks were prohibited they earned 16s. a-week—now that silks are admitted at a duty of 25 or 30 per cent. their wages are little better than those that are paid in France. And what are the wages of agricultural labourers in the corn countries of Europe? You never have a hint about wages from the League. Why, the wages of a labourer in Prussia are 2s. 6d. a-week. In threshing out three-and-a-quarter bushels of wheat the payment is 6d. I was on the continent myself last autumn. I never saw more expert workmen in my life than in the part of Germany I visited, and I was told their wages were 7½d. a-day. But a reduction of wages is scarcely the greatest evil to which our labourers would be exposed. Their numbers in 1831 were, in Great Britain alone, upwards of 1,200,000. They were going to take a large proportion of them from an occupation to which they have been used, and place them in one to which they have been unaccustomed. (Hear, hear.) From a healthy employment to an unhealthy one—from one that is constant to one that is fluctuating—at one time to be overworked, and at another, when speculations fail to be productive, to be thrown out of bread altogether. Were the views of the League to be carried out, the effect would be to rob the labourers of this nation of their bread. (Cheers.) I have always looked upon the agricultural population of Britain as the mainstay of the country, and on this point I cannot refrain from quoting a verse or two applicable to the point:—

"Princes and lords may flourish and may fade,
A breath can make them as a breath has made;
But a bold peasantry, their country's pride,
When once destroyed, can never be supplied."

But above all, they are going to rob this nation of its strength and of its independence. History teaches us that the countries which were remarkable in former times for their commercial greatness, fell by the corruption induced by the want of native agriculture; and such must be the fate of every nation which fosters those who have power to disturb, and have not strength to defend her. (Cheers.) [The honourable gentleman then read an extract from a speech of Dr Cooke, of Belfast, by which it was wished to prove that sacred history held the same view of agriculture and the agricultural classes.] The honourable member having then apologized for the imperfections of his speech, concluded.

Mr Davison, of Ruchill, seconded the motion, which was carried. Afterwards it was proposed and agreed to petition both houses of parliament.

ROSS-SHIRE COUNTY MEETING.

A public meeting of "heritors, commissioners of supply, and justices of the peace of the county of Ross," was held on Thursday fortnight, in Dingwall, the county town, for the purpose of petitioning parliament in favour of continued protection. The meeting was presided

over by a General Munro, of Teaninich, and the majority present were friendly to the cause. Letters were read from friends and foes by the clerk; among the latter of which was one by Sir George S. Mackenzie—one somewhat too long for these pages, but a document written in excellent spirit, and full of honour to the writer. He says:—

“Edinburgh.

“My dear Sir,—A public meeting of the county of Ross having been called for the purpose of ‘considering how the mischievous agitation of certain persons calling themselves the Anti-Corn-law League may be best met, and due protection for British industry secured,’ I trust that, though absent, I may be permitted, through you, to express my sentiments on the occasion, especially as I have possessed an estate in the county during the long period of nearly 48 years. I beg, in the first place, to notice the terms of the requisition, in referring to ‘certain persons calling themselves the Anti-Corn-law League.’ The persons who formed the League are better known to the world than we are; and, in point of talent and learning—of respectability of character, public and private—can stand a comparison with the best of us. I happen to know Mr Cobden personally; and during a visit to Manchester, about eight years ago, I enjoyed his hospitality and lived in his house. I cannot see on what ground we could claim the slightest superiority to men engaged in a cause to promote which landlords and farmers ought to have stood in the foremost rank. For, whose cause is it which these ‘certain persons’ advocate? I maintain it is our own. When I visited the vast machinery of Manchester, I viewed it not merely as the product of transcendent mechanical genius—not as a suite of things to be gazed at on account of their varied combinations and movements—but, in the gigantic establishments of that town and other places, I beheld the source of Britain’s greatness—the power which held us firm in the possession of our property—the arm which crushed the ambition of that extraordinary man who, but for our manufacturing skill and enterprise, would have established a military despotism over the whole of Europe, and made us slaves. Whence could the supplies for our fleet and our armies have been derived, but from the various manufactures which enabled our merchants to spread, from the centre of England, wealth to the world, which returned double wealth to them and their great country? And are we, at this time of day, when all Europe is engaged in efforts, seconded even by our own government, to banish our manufactures from the markets of the globe—are we, from motives excited by blind selfishness, to promote the ruin of our manufacturers, and of our country? Darkened must those be who do not perceive that, unless the man who lives by the work of his hands and the sweat of his brow can be provided with abundant and cheap food, he cannot work—he and his family must perish. To argue the matter at length in a letter would be a vain attempt; and I am unwilling to occupy the time of the meeting by what I have too much reason, with grief, to believe would be a hopeless appeal. I will content myself with addressing a few words to your feelings in behalf of the poor labourer, and ask, for what is wealth given to those who possess it? Wealth may, indeed, enable a man to eat the bread of idleness—the bread won for him by the toil of the poor. Wealth may be squandered in slothful ease, or in the so-called enjoyment of display, or in dissipation, or in gambling. There is no statute against such modes of disposing of wealth—‘every man may do as he likes with his own.’ But there is something superior to statute, which calls on every man to use the talents, and the strength, and the wealth he may have for the benefit of his fellow-creatures, and demands from him that he shall not waste his substance, but, by giving employment to the poor, keep them from beggary and starvation, while their comfort and their health are attended to. This something, that is above human law, is the law of nature and of nature’s God. And are those men who are struggling to obtain cheap and abundant food for the multitudes whom they keep from starvation, by employment in the mighty work which has lifted Britain to the highest pinnacle among nations, to be regarded by us as mischievous? They ought to be regarded as they are—as the friends of humanity, and as examples of patriotism.

“I have elsewhere said that the corn question is a landlord’s question, and does not concern the farmer. Landlords say they are entitled to live in the style belonging to their order; and that if rents fall in consequence of the industry of the country being well and cheaply fed, they must relinquish that style. I must not, however, enter into a discussion of what that style ought to be. I will only observe that high style adds to life neither happiness nor comfort, and very often removes both, together with the source that furnishes the supplies.

“As I believe that cheapness is the only thing that can create a demand for an increased supply of our merchandize, and that can maintain the superiority of the empire in mercantile enterprise, and consequent wealth and power; and as I have not intellect enough to perceive how keeping up the price of food can accomplish the desires of the requisitionists, to give ‘due protection to British industry’—how putting an artificial price on bread, while wages must necessarily rise and fall according to the demand for and the supply of labour, can promote industry—I must protest against every attempt to protect British industry by impoverishing and starving the industrious, and thereby checking the flow of capital in its natural channels, and driving it out of the country. If such be the remedy for impending evils to be proposed to the meeting (and such seems to be the landlord’s remedy in all parts of the kingdom), can it be expected that millions can bear destitution long?—that a starving man will not take by violence the loaf that is denied to him, when he offers labour for it?—that the country will not be involved in anarchy, and property be no longer held sacred? I think not; and would to God I could prevail on my friends to think with me on this momentous subject. The landlords will do mischief, not the League. In the meantime such meetings for making rent unnaturally high, as that over which you preside, can have no other ultimate effect than to alienate the tenantry from their landlords, and lead to their removing with their capital to another region, leaving the landlords to cultivate their own lands, and make the most of their loved protection.

“As one of the objects of the meeting is ‘to consider how the agitation of the League can be best met,’ I would propose for that purpose one of two things, or both, if it should please the meeting. First, let the meeting invite a deputation from the League to visit the north, and

I vouch for it that Ross, Cromarty, and Inverness combined, will be met on their own grounds; or, let a select deputation from the county visit the places where the League has already been, and proceed to counter agitate. This would be a manly mode of proceeding, for the mere publication of resolutions in the newspapers is child’s play. I have subscribed to the League fund. If your meeting requires a subscription to assist its deputation to face the League, I will give it as much, and more. I beg pardon for having detained you so long, and I am very faithfully yours,

G. S. MACKENZIE.

“To the Preses of the Meeting of the County of Ross, to be held at Dingwall.”

The landlords, having heard the letter read, proceeded to pass the usual protection resolutions, there being, however, not a few dissentients.

COUNTY OF BRECON.

A meeting of protectionists was held in the county town, as we learn by the *Morning Post* of Wednesday, but when, it does not say. It “was recently held at the great room, at the Castle hotel, and was attended by about 1,000 of the leading landlords, tenant farmers, and labourers, from all parts of the county.”

His Grace the Duke of Beaufort was represented by T. Davis, Esq., of Langattoek court; and Sir Chas. Morgan, Bart., by Philip Vaughan, Esq., of Brecon. The following is an outline of the proceedings which took place:—

Mr E. Watkins commenced the business of the day by moving that Mr J. Stephens, of Sheephouse, a tenant farmer, be requested to take the chair. This was seconded by W. R. Stretton, Esq., of Danypark, and carried unanimously.

After a few remarks from the Chairman, the first resolution was moved by Mr Williams, of Newton, a tenant farmer.

Joseph Bailey, Esq., M.P., seconded the resolution. In the course of his remarks, Mr Bailey referred to the ruinous consequences which would follow the adoption of free trade to all engaged in agriculture, and proceeded to say, How could they tolerate free trade after the experience consequent on the late tariff? America—our twin sister—next to England the most active in commerce, and alive also to manufactures, instead of meeting us, said, “Now we will make a revenue,” and put a duty of from 4*l.* to 5*l.* per ton on British bar-iron, and 2*l.* to 3*l.* on pig-iron,—a charge equal to the present first cost of making the article. Mr Bailey then referred to the French and German league tariffs, and said that those countries, since the permission given to export machinery from England, had become nearly as competent to manufacture as ourselves; was it then right or reasonable to throw out of employment a large population under such a prospect? It was, he said, more a labourer’s question than a farmer’s, and more a farmer’s than a landlord’s, and he would explain this. If rents were reduced to such an extent as to disable a landlord from living as he did at present, he would be compelled to farm his own land, to kill his own meat, and grow his own corn; what, then, would become of the tenants? It was most essential, he contended, that a reasonable impost should be maintained; they had seen the extent of agricultural improvement which had been attained in this county; that improvement was yet in its infancy, and yet it had employed numerous hands to their general advantage. He then would say, most advisedly, that they did not deserve protection unless they protected themselves.

Mr Thomas Downes, of Gilstone, moved the second resolution, which was seconded by W. R. Stretton, Esq., who observed that he had risen for the purpose of seconding the resolution moved by Mr Downes; and unless he could lay his hands on his heart and swear that he did so with the belief that he was serving one class as well as another, he would not have anything to do with it. There was nothing in the resolution about landlords; their enemies might say, “away with the plough,” but on the plough depended all the work which they called upon the labourers of this country to do (hear, hear, hear)—without the plough the blacksmith, the wheelwright, carpenter, and mason, and all who formed the machinery of the county would get no employment. If wheat could be grown on our lands to compete with foreigners, what class would be benefited? The small tenant farmers would be first ruined, because it would be absurd to suppose that a landowner would let small farms of 30*l.* or 40*l.* per annum if obliged to reduce the rents 50 per cent.; or that he would keep up a hundred barns without use for them. No; they would cut down their buildings, and would be compelled to throw their lands open into wide tracts of pasture. Who then would give them work? Were they prepared to spin cotton for sixteen hours a day? and if they were, their hands were hardly fine enough for the loom, coming from the culture of the fields. But he trusted he should never see the old farmers of Breconshire begging their bread in the streets of Manchester; if manufacturers did support one half the unemployed, Mr Cobden would soon discharge those men working for 4*s.* per day, to get others at 1*s.* 6*d.* But all had different ways of thinking, and he now only asked those who thought with him to join in forming a society, which, by distributing tracts, and so on, should disseminate knowledge on the subject, and obtain converts as well as remove the adverse impressions which had been created. Yet, in spite of those impressions, he felt confident that in this country the labourer still looked up to the landlord as his friend, and he would find him such. As for himself, he could assure them that he came forward this day under the firm belief that he was assisting to secure a fair day’s wages for a fair day’s labour. (Cheers.)

Mr Watkins moved the next resolution.

Lord Viscount Hereford seconded the adoption, and expressed his hearty approval of the sentiments it contained. “The attempts of the League,” he said, “to carry out its ends are here most justly termed mischievous, for, in my opinion, its chief aim appears to be to set the farmers against the landlords, and the labourer against both landlord and tenant, for the purpose of arriving at some unjustifiable conclusion. I call, therefore, upon you, as men of honest hearts and kindly feelings, to endeavour to check the evil that must ensue from the separation of mutual interests in the various classes of the community. (Cheers.) First and foremost, I entreat you to use your best exertions in favour of the labouring man as most deserving of your protection, because Pro-



videance has placed him in a lower walk of life, and he is less able to protect himself (loud cheers)—next in favour of the tenant farmer—and, lastly, in favour of the landlords of the country. I call upon you to maintain inviolate the relations which exist between us all, and as you value the domestic and local happiness of your own families and firesides, so likewise regard the happiness and comfort of others, and more especially of those fellow-creatures who are your inferiors through circumstances. (Cheers.)

Mr Thomas Morris, of Trebarried, moved the fourth resolution.

A good few other resolutions were proposed and seconded, it seeming to be a rule that proposing should devolve on tenant farmers, and that seconding and making the speeches should be accomplished by landlords. "The resolutions," says the *Post*, "were carried without a dissentient voice, with the exception of a knot of about a dozen of the unwashed." * * * "and a subscription was entered into."

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANSWERS TO INQUIRIES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST.

Sir,—In my former letter I attempted to solve the problem which has puzzled our political economists, as to our balances of trade, whether they are accurately ascertained, and actually received by an importation of the precious metals. I shall now endeavour to grapple with another, which has been equally a stumbling-block to those who have expressed an opinion on the subject, namely—Why our imports have not kept pace with our exports?—for whilst the latter have nearly trebled in quantity, it is asserted, that the former have continued almost without alteration. In 1819 the official value of our exports was 33 millions, and in 1842, 100; and the real, or rather declared, value was calculated in the one year at 35, and in the other at 60 millions, whilst the valuation of our imports in 1819 was 31 millions, and in 1842, 64 millions.

The chairman of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce observes that "the imports we receive for our exports remain the same in quantity for the last twenty-five years, to obtain which we now export more than twice the quantity of goods we used to do, the value having sunk more than one-half."

Mr Greg likewise declared that, "whilst the quantity of goods exported has doubled, yet the value remained nearly the same," and asks the reason why, whatever quantity we produce, it sells for the same sum?

These gentlemen appear to have been led to entertain those sentiments in consequence of the opinions expressed by Mr McCulloch (as stated and refuted in my last), and Mr John Taylor, in his work entitled *Abasement of the Precious Metals*, who both consider it a conclusive argument that we export a larger quantity of goods, and of greater value, in exchange for a smaller quantity of less value, because they could not discover either in the vaults of the Bank of England or coffers of private bankers an amount of gold and silver equal to that we ought to have received for balances of our trade according to the returns from Mr Irving's office.—See the *Economist* of the 16th of March, page 590.

I am not surprised at Mr McCulloch and Mr John Taylor coming to such erroneous conclusions, who, studying in their closets, form their opinions from books; but that Mr Baines and Mr Greg should have taken the same fallacious view of the subject is rather astonishing, being men of business, and intimately acquainted with passing events.

The facts are, that although the value of our exports have been depreciated from various causes, which I am about to enumerate, so that three times the quantity may now be purchased for the same money as in 1819, yet our imports have not remained so stationary as represented, neither as to quantity nor value, as the table at foot will clearly demonstrate. They have not been so much depreciated in value, in general, as our articles of export are, for this reason, that producing countries have not possessed the means of increasing their products to the extent that manufacturing countries have been enabled to do, from the introduction of machinery in almost every branch of industry, if we except the article of cotton, of which in 1820 the quantity imported was 151,672,656, and, in 1842, 532,067,984 lbs. The increase in the quantity of coffee and sugar imported would have been much greater, and the value thereof less in proportion, were it not for our protective, or rather, in reality, prohibitory, tariff; the transition from slave to free labour in our colonies has had the effect of diminishing the quantity produced, and consequently of enhancing the prices of those articles, whilst the increase in our population has occasioned a greater demand for them.

The depreciation in the value or prices of our various manufactures has been occasioned not so much by over-production, adulteration, or competition, as Mr Cory, Mr Ferrand, and others, would make us believe, but is no doubt to be attributed to the following concatenation of circumstances, namely:—

1st. To the passing from a protracted state of warfare, directed for ten or twelve years principally against our commerce and credit, to its concluding general and long-continued peace.

2nd. To the very important inventions and general application of machinery and steam to all kinds of cotton, linen, and woollen manufactures.

3rd. To the great decrease in the price of the raw materials, drugs, and dye woods.

4th. To the admixture of less costly with more valuable materials in the manufacture of a great many articles of wearing apparel and of furniture.

5th. To the obtaining a direct intercourse with those states which formerly constituted the colonies of Spain and Portugal.

In consequence of the re-establishment of peace in Europe, the rate of freights and premiums of insurance began to lower, and have been almost continually decreasing ever since. Labour likewise became more abundant and cheaper, by reason of the demand for the army and navy being done away, whilst an influx of men discharged from both services tended for the moment to depreciate wages considerably.

The inventions of the spinning jenny, the water frame, the mule, and the power-loom, by an Arkwright, an Hargreaves, a Crompton, and a Cartwright; and the improvements in steam engines by Watts and

others, have contributed towards the great difference existing between the real and official value of our exports.

The great fall in the price of all raw materials, cotton in particular, dye woods and drugs used in our manufactories, consequent on the reduction of freights and insurances, has likewise had its influence.

The mixing of cotton with silk, wool, beaver, &c., enables our manufacturers to sell many articles of dress and furniture at lower prices; but so long as the goods so manufactured are not sold under wrong denominations, or imposed upon the public as made entirely of the superior raw material, the mixture is perfectly fair and honourable.

The establishment of a direct communication with the independent States of North and South America, instead of through the medium of the mother countries, causes our goods and merchandise to be conveyed thither at a much reduced expense.

In consequence of our shopkeepers being enabled to sell their wares at reduced prices, our ladies can afford themselves two new gowns, two new petticoats, two new shawls, two new chemises, caps, ribbons for their bonnets, and collars, two new pair of gloves, stockings, and shoes yearly, where formerly they were obliged to make one suffice.

But it is not only our own mothers, sisters, and daughters that have profited by the fall in the prices of our cotton, linen, and woollen goods, since the fascinating, fair, and sprightly Mexican, Peruvian, Chilian, Buenos Ayrean, Columbian, Bolivian, Venezuelan, Monte Videan, and Brazilian ladies have it in their power to provide themselves with a half dozen new outfits from top to toe per annum, at the cost of one in bye-gone days.

The opening the ports of all South America to our shipping, and our acquisition of nearly all the colonies of France, Holland, and Denmark, namely, the Mauritius, Cayenne, Ceylon, Demerara, Essequibo, Surinam, Trinidad, Cape of Good Hope, &c., together with the extension of our colonies in Canada, Australia, Van Dieman's Land, New Zealand, &c., and the expansion of our commercial relations with India, China, Egypt, and other parts of Asia, Africa, and America, more than compensated us for the loss or diminution our trade suffered, after the peace, with our European neighbours, and brought to our shores all the rich productions of the torrid zones and tropical climates, at much less cost than heretofore.

All these circumstances combined to render the value of our exports much less in proportion to the quantity than some twenty-five years ago, but at the same time, from some of those same circumstances affecting our imports, it will be seen, and must be acknowledged, that the prices of those have likewise been considerably reduced. Cotton, for instance, that used to sell at 2s. 11d. per lb., can now be purchased for 1s.; and what formerly cost 1s. per lb. can now be bought for 3d.; and tea, which during the East India monopoly cost from 3s. to 5s. 6d. per lb., can now be purchased at 1s. 6d. to 3s.

Monopolies in general raise the prices of the articles monopolized above their proper level, whilst competition often depreciates them below it. Trade and commerce, therefore, to be beneficial to the community at large, and profitable to the merchant and manufacturer in particular, should be as unfettered as the ocean, whether foreign or domestic; as, in regard to the latter, each individual's prosperity adds to the national stock of wealth and welfare; so, with respect to the former, "each state's prosperity adds to the stock of wealth and welfare of all."

It may certainly be doubtful whether our manufacturers derive any real benefit from their increased sales; for, if they get no more profit on two or three pieces of cloth sold now than they did on a single piece before the introduction of machinery, they have gained nothing by the extension of their trade.

	EXPORTS.	IMPORTS.
1818	46,603,249	36,885,182
1819	35,208,321	30,766,810
1820	36,424,652	32,438,650
1821	36,659,630	30,792,760
1822	36,968,964	30,500,094
1823	35,458,048	35,798,707
1824	40,396,300	37,552,935
1825	38,877,388	44,137,482
1826	31,536,723	37,686,113
1827	37,181,335	44,887,774
1828	36,812,756	45,028,805
1829	35,842,623	43,981,317
1830	38,271,597	46,245,241
1831	37,164,372	49,713,889
1832	36,450,594	44,586,741
1833	39,667,347	45,952,551
1834	41,649,191	49,362,811
1835	47,372,270	48,911,542
1836	53,368,571	57,023,867
1837	42,070,744	54,737,301
1838	50,060,970	61,268,320
1839	53,233,580	62,004,000
1840	51,406,430	67,432,964
1841	51,217,658	64,377,962
1842	47,012,651	65,204,729

Total ... £1,126,815,954 Total ... £1,166,277,547

P.S. Many valuable cargoes of goods exported never reach their port of destination, but are lost or shipwrecked every year (as the underwriters at Lloyd's and we know too well); the value of these cargoes are included in Mr Irving's schedules, but which they ought not to be, since they cannot be placed to the debit of the country they were destined for, because the loss generally falls on English insurers. Again, those cargoes of foreign produce which meet a similar disastrous fate can not, of course (not coming under his cognizance), form any part of the Inspector-General's returns, but which they ought to do if insured by English underwriters—since being included in the amount of exports of the country from whence they were shipped, their cost should be placed to the credit of that country, as a set-off against their imports from the united kingdom—hence it often occurs, that our exports, to any particular country, are over, and our imports therefrom under rated.

The Inspector-General's office requires to be radically reformed, before its "returns" can become a true index to our mercantile transactions.

From the above table it will appear that our exports and imports for the last twenty-five years nearly balance each other, according to the Inspector-General's returns, and from thence it might be concluded, "that we had not obtained more returns for treble the quantity of goods sent out of the country;" but if we deduct twenty per cent., which the goods imported cost us, less than the market price they are valued at, and add thirty per cent. to the amount of our exports for short valuation in the *cookets*,* freight, insurance, and profit, which our merchants add to the invoice cost of their shipments, we shall find a very heavy balance in our favour, and the only question is, if we have actually been put in receipt of such surplus. This can only be ascertained—as gold, silver, and diamonds are allowed to be landed without passing through the Custom house—by the books kept at the Bullion office at the Bank of England; it would certainly be a great desideratum to have this point decided by a return of all the bullion and precious stones received by importation, and issued for exportation during the last twenty-five years; for although part of the amount received might be for account of dividends on foreign loans, yet an approximate conclusion might be come to, as to the real balance of our mercantile transactions with foreign nations: other circumstances, such as the debts owing to our merchants by foreign purchasers, and those due by our merchants to them, might affect the balance—it could not, however, do so materially, as those due from the one to the other in 1818, could not vary much from what would be the case in 1842.

C. R.

MISCELLANEA.

PARLIAMENTARY INTELLIGENCE.
HOUSE OF LORDS.

Lord Brougham rose last night for the purpose of correcting a misrepresentation, or rather a misunderstanding, relative to himself, and indeed he was always being misunderstood, for nobody seemed able to understand him. He (Lord Brougham) had received a number of abusive letters, but those he did not mind. In fact he rather liked them, for he was used to them, and use being second nature it was natural he should like to receive them. Some of these letters asked him why he did not give up what he received out of the taxes paid by the poor, when he did nothing for the money. Now he (Lord Brougham) did work very hard—and, in fact, so far from wishing to do nothing, he had worked hard to try and get into some place where he might be in a condition to serve the public. (Hear.) He was quite willing to resign the pension of which he is in the receipt, if he might be allowed to go back to the bar, for when at the bar he (Lord Brougham) was in the habit of making a good, he might say, a decided good thing of it. As to work, he worked harder than any factory girl, and indeed he (Lord Brougham) wished he was a factory girl. (Hear.) Yes, he (Lord Brougham) would gladly change places with factory girls, for in fact he now did quite as much as they do. Why his friend, Lord Campbell, did as much, for he was often occupied in spinning yarns even until a very late hour in the evening. (Hear.) He hoped that the house would understand him, and if that was the case he didn't care for all the anonymous, abusive, vituperative, and insulting letters in the universe.

Lord Campbell quite agreed with the learned lord (Brougham) as to the hard work of the latter. He had watched the noble lord trying to work himself on to the woollack, but that seemed to be harder work than he (Lord Brougham) could accomplish.

Lord Brougham: That is not my hardest work. Listening to your speeches is harder than that.

Lord Campbell: My learned friend's interruptions are very hard on me. He says that he would be glad to go back to the bar; and perhaps his love for pleading has induced him to volunteer his services as counsel for the government.

Lord Brougham: My learned friend, I believe, is opposed to the government. Let him volunteer his services to the government as counsel, and he will evince his hostility in the strongest possible manner.

Lord Campbell thought this observation uncalled for.

Lord Brougham: Why, of course! It's not likely you would call for that which is condemnatory to yourself; and if you did call for it I don't see why I should respond to your call.

Lord Campbell rose to order.

The Duke of Wellington thought this altercation could do no good.

Lord Brougham concurred. He was afraid his learned friend (Lord Campbell) was past mending. (A laugh.)

Here the subject dropped.—*Punch*.

AMPUTATION PERFORMED DURING MESMERIC SLEEP.—The *Wolverhampton Chronicle* contains the following extraordinary statement, for the accuracy of which it vouches:—John Marrion, aged 45, residing in Can lane, Sedgley, received an extensive injury of the middle finger in January last, and became a patient of Messrs Thompson and Dunn. It has been since treated by those gentlemen in the usual manner, but the nature of the injury rendered amputation necessary. With a view to test mesmeric sleep, Marrion consented to the proposal to place himself under the treatment of Dr Owens, and on Sunday week, for the first time, he was mesmerised. The patient was afterwards daily mesmerised, and the case created intense interest in the public mind, more particularly among medical men, who attended in numbers every day to mark Dr Owens' progress. On Saturday the operation was performed, and Mr Dunn's room was thronged with medical and other gentlemen to witness the event. The patient, on being brought into the room, appeared rather flushed; but Dr Owens addressed him in a lively and friendly manner, and he took his seat evidently quite composed. In two minutes and a half deep sleep was produced, but the

doctor kept his position some time longer. Dr Mannix then felt the patient's pulse, which beat 100 per minute. Some questions were put to him while in this state by Dr Owens, and language being excited, he said he felt very comfortable. "Proceed with the operation," said the doctor, and in one minute Mr Dunn had performed it very neatly. The cutting the flaps, and the dividing of the bone by the nippers, was watched with breathless scrutiny by all present, but not a muscle quivered, nor did a sigh escape, nor any single thing occur to betray the slightest sensation. During the dressing the arm the hand was suspended over the table in a cataleptic state, without any further support. Two minutes after the operation Dr Mannix felt the man's pulse—it was still 100. Dr Owens then excited much laughter, and the patient laughed happily, evidently quite unconscious of the relief he had undergone. Some time elapsed, during which he continued sleeping, and on being questioned in that state, he was not at all aware of what had been done. Being awake (which was done instantaneously by Dr Owens' touching the organ of firmness, which seemed to act almost miraculously), and finding his arm in a sling, he ejaculated—"Thank the Lord for that!" In reply to questions, he said he had not felt it. Every gentleman present signed the minutes, which were noted by Mr Gatis, during the operation, when a liberal subscription was raised for the man, and Dr Owens was warmly congratulated.

DEMOCRATIC PROSPECTS.—The conduct of the Chartists, and especially of their leader, Mr Feargus O'Connor, has been far more powerful to retard, than the perseverance of Mr Sturge, or the fervid genius of Mr Miall, or the eloquence of Mr Vincent, have been influential to advance, the concession of the franchise to the working classes. The upper and middle classes will never want a good reason to allege against granting the suffrage to the "masses," as they are called, while they can point to the fact that universal suffrage has produced the repudiation of just debts in America, and the leadership of Mr O'Connor in England and Scotland. The registrar of births, deaths, and marriages, reports that of every hundred men in England who have occasion to sign the marriage register, forty-five cannot write, and therefore use marks. In the presence of these facts, it will be long ere the middle classes will consent to enfranchise men of twenty-one years of age, who have not managed to imbibe any spirit of religion, or any sense, not to say of honour, but of manhood!—*Westminster Review*.

POPULATION AT SIDNEY.—The *Sydney Herald* states, that in the year 1841 there were 1,924 marriages in the colony, and that in 1842 the number was 2,564. Of births, in 1841, there were 5,204; and in 1842, 6,333. The deaths were, in 1841, 2,894; in 1842, 2,717. The net increase in the population during the two years was as follows:—Births, 11,537; deaths, children, 2,555—being a net increase of children of 8,982, less death of adults, 3,056; the net increase of the population for the two years was, therefore, from births alone, 5,926.

The Economist.

APRIL 6, 1844.

COMMERCIAL.

INDIAN MAIL.—By the Overland Mail we have letters and papers from Calcutta to the 17th of February. The general tendency of the accounts of business are encouraging, and we have little doubt will create considerable activity in the manufacturing districts generally, and more especially in the cotton trade.—COTTON TWIST was in good demand, and a large business had been done at improved prices. White and grey long cloths and shirtings, and also printed and coloured cloths, especially those patterns suitable for the Afghan market, were in considerable demand at satisfactory prices. Cambrics, muslins, and printed handkerchiefs, were in less request.—In WOOLLENS considerably more business had been done; flannels particularly of fine qualities, were in considerable demand. Of RAW SILK the exports continued very heavy, at prices without any change; for the year ending the 31st of January the export had been larger than was ever known: it was 19,224 maunds (84 lbs. each) against 13,046 maunds to the same period in 1843; and 17,244 maunds to the same period in 1842. From the 1st of Jan. to the date of our accounts (the 12th of Feb.) the shipments had been 2,643 maunds. In silk piece goods, Corahs particularly, the shipments continued large without any change in price.—Of HEMP and JUTE the stocks were accumulating and becoming very large in consequence of a difficulty of procuring freightage at suitable rates—more valuable goods yielding better freights being taken in preference.—SUGAR was in continued demand at full prices; but first qualities were very scarce.—INDIGO (see our *Commercial Markets*).—On the whole the Indian commercial accounts and prospects are of an encouraging description.

From CHINA there are no accounts of special interest. The markets are represented generally as dull; there appears considerable suspicion that the Chinese are not disposed to adhere very closely to the rates of duty fixed in the tariff in all cases. The superintendent of customs at Amoy had already determined that a double duty should be charged on camphor; and it was further under consideration to impose an additional duty on tea and cotton, to enable the Hong merchants to pay off their debts.

COTTON.—The accounts from the United States tend rather to create an impression that the cotton crop will be fully larger than was expected—there are no calculations much below 1,800,000 bags, while some speak with confidence of its reaching nearly 1,900,000 bags. There is also a rumour that the bags are some-

* In my first letter this word is printed through mistake "markets."

what heavier than in former years, which rumour seems confirmed by an experiment tried on some of the cargoes already arrived in Liverpool, made by Messrs Gibson, Ord, and Co., of Manchester, by which it appears that the average weights of those particular cargoes are 16 lbs. per bag, or about 4 per cent. heavier than last year. But, on the other hand, there is no doubt a considerable quantity of cotton has been damaged by the storms. We may expect by the next packet a definite and exact account of the actual crop.

FRENCH LINEN DUTIES.—We have made particular inquiries as to the foundation for the rumours which have at several intervals during the last three months existed respecting an increase of the present duties on flax yarn, and linens into France, and we cannot find that there is any reason to believe that any such change is seriously contemplated. We are quite aware that the spinners are much disappointed in the effect of the last increase of duties; that additional protection has produced no benefit to them, for they are still unable to compete with the spinners in this country, and with their own adroit countrymen, who, if a good profit can be obtained, find little difficulty in evading an import duty. But the most serious tendency of that increase of duty, which could only be aggravated by a further increase, has been the injurious effects which have been produced on the linen trade generally. The manufacturers and weavers in Lille, and the neighbourhood, have suffered extremely from depressed markets and curtailed demand. The French Government, we know, has admitted that that attempt to bolster the trade has been a signal failure, and we do not believe will be induced to go farther in that wrong direction, however much they may be urged by a few spinners.

THE SUGAR DUTIES.—The public appear to be getting very much confused by the various and contradictory statements made in many of the papers respecting the exact relationship in which we stand by treaty with various countries, which would be likely to be affected by a change of our present sugar duties. The only two countries from which we would be likely to derive sugar, whose produce we are bound to admit *unconditionally* on the most favoured terms, are Brazil and the United States. The treaty with the former expires in November next, so that the latter is the only one which will remain as any inconvenience or impediment in the way of admitting free-labour sugar on more favourable terms. In the recent debate on Mr Labouchere's motion, Mr Gladstone appears to have had that difficulty in view, when he drew a distinction between the *United States* as only a *slave holding* country, and the *Brazils* as one which was notoriously a *slave-importing* country;—and for the first time the Ministers changed the ground of objection from *slave produce* to the *produce of those countries importing or committing at the importation of slaves*. By this new distinction the Government will be able to make the difference, which it is generally believed they contemplate, by which the produce of Brazil and other slave importing countries will be placed on a less favourable footing than that of other foreign countries.

The trade in the produce markets during the last week has been duller than for some time; but prices have remained without much change. The accounts from the cotton districts represent a much duller trade, caused chiefly by the unsettled state of the cotton market. In other branches there is no change.

RAILWAY AND SHARE MARKET.

There is little of interest to report during the last week in this market. There has been a considerable amount of business transacted, and prices generally remain without much alteration. On Thursday the market closed without much animation, but without any observable tendency to a decline of price. The receipts on all the leading lines are well kept up.

The third report of the select committee to consider whether any and what new provisions should be introduced into such railway bills as may come before the House in the present or in future sessions, has been published, with the resolutions to which the committee agreed, and have presented to the House. In these resolutions, we observe some very objectionable principles of interference; objectionable, we think, alike to the best interests of the public and of railway companies, of which we shall next week more specially treat, for as the report has only reached us this day, and involves a great many very important principles, we wish to give it more careful attention before offering any lengthened opinions on the principles which it contains.

We have before us an official statement showing the number of passengers who travelled in sixty-six railways, divided into classes, also the receipts from each class of passengers, and from goods, from the 1st of July, 1842, to the 30th of June, 1843. In looking over this statement we are very much struck with the great influence which low rates of fares charged for *third-class* passengers have on the total receipts. We have always been of opinion that the Railway Companies of this country commit a great error in retaining their fares, and particularly those of the second and third-class carriages, so high. We believe that in low fares there is yet to be discovered a source of new profit to Railway Companies to an extent not contemplated at present. An analysis of the receipts on the Belgian lines,

where very low fares are charged for the *third class*, will convince any inquirer of the importance of this principle. The account before us fully sustains the same view. Indeed there is no country in which cheap modes of travelling, which could be used freely by the working classes, would be productive of so much benefit to all concerned as in this. We intended to publish the statement before us, but want of space prevents us doing so this week. It is an important subject, and one to which we will return.

POLITICAL.

Both houses of parliament have adjourned, according to use and wont at Easter, for a fortnight. The last few days of their sitting were not signalized by anything remarkable. Mr Cobden has given notice that after Easter he will move for a select committee to inquire into the influence of protective duties on the national debt. This will prove a motion not second in importance to that in which the same gentleman, though nominally defeated, achieved so signal a triumph on a late occasion. The monopolists will thus have their arguments one by one cut from beneath their feet. Their *power* is already all that is left them, and as surely as the history of the world is to be realized, that also will be removed, and at no distant day. The national debt is a great burden, undoubtedly. We all know that, and *feel* it. But it is strange reasoning that attempts to prove that we are better able to bear *one* burden by the imposition of another! Yet that is, in fact, the argument by which the monopolist party attempt to reconcile us to the corn laws.

Lord Eliot has introduced a new bill for the registration of Irish voters. He described it as a means of assimilating the Irish to the English practice in this respect. The bill is likely to pass, though not without opposition. It does not tend to diminish the numbers of the constituency like the harsh measure of Lord Stanley, urged on by the present Ministerial party when in opposition; but it will raise up a large class of very dependent and servile voters in the persons of tenants-at-will, and, so far, will be an increase of power to the Irish landlords.

On Tuesday, on the motion of Mr Gladstone, the House resolved into committee to consider the state of the law of partnership, and agreed upon a series of resolutions relating to joint-stock companies and private partnerships, as the foundation of a series of bills. On the re-assembling of Parliament those measures will not fail to attract attention. It is admitted on all hands that the law in respect of partnerships and joint-stock companies wants amendment.

We publish in our paper to-day, according to promise, reports of several protection meetings. Large as the space occupied is, we have felt it a duty to those whom we oppose to put their arguments before our readers. We have done so in their own words, and in no unfair spirit. We are not frightened at what can be said against us. The thoughts suggested are not those of terror—they are those of grief. "Go, my son, and see with what little wisdom the world is governed!" is an injunction, alas, but too fit to be still given to every new entrant into manhood. Any lengthened commentary on those meetings would be out of place. If the language of the different speakers does not appear, on the face of it, to be language which, in respect of its reasoning, would disgrace a child, we should despair of being able by any words more conclusively to show it so. In the course of next week several free-trade demonstrations are to take place in the country—in particular at Wolverhampton and Liverpool. Continued discussion is the surest guide to truth, and we look with pleasure, for that reason, upon all these meetings, whether of protectionists or of free traders. Errors tend in time to correct themselves—all the more speedily for being brought to light. Truth and reason only will abide for ever.

THE QUARTERLY REVENUE TABLES were completed on Thursday, and it gives us pleasure to learn from them that the productive energies of the community are not impaired. The increase in the quarter is—Customs, 384,910*l.*; Excise, 85,316*l.*; Stamps, 45,885*l.*; Taxes, 1,987*l.*; Property tax, 107,627*l.*; Post office, 30,000*l.*; Crown lands, 30,000*l.*—making a total increase in the ordinary revenue for the quarter of 685,725*l.* There is a decrease under the head Miscellaneous of 500,264*l.*, which, though balanced against them in the account, scarcely affects the sources of revenue derived from the industry of the people. The total increase in the quarter, both of ordinary and extraordinary revenue, is 825,298*l.*, from which, deducting the decrease, there is a sum of 325,034*l.* more than in the corresponding quarter of 1843, to be applied to the services of the state. In the year there is a decrease in the amount of Stamps of 12,699*l.*, and in the amount of Taxes of 73,064*l.*, but on all the other branches of the ordinary revenue there is a considerable increase. The total increase, deducting the decrease of the revenue for the year, is 4,318,167*l.*, which is, however, less than the amount of the Property tax, 5,356,887*l.*, by 1,038,720*l.* This turns out, therefore, as the *Morning Chronicle* observes, "a much more productive tax than Sir Robert Peel anticipated; and the sum it yields shows that the whole of the incomes of 150*l.* and upwards, the limit of the tax, amount to something more than 200,000,000*l.* a year. What a prodigious mass of wealth! On the whole, these tables are satisfactory as an index to the still increasing trade, consumption, and wealth of the community."

COURT AND ARISTOCRACY.

We read in the journals that on Monday evening, pursuant to the commands of her Majesty, "General Tom Thumb," the celebrated American dwarf, had the honour of appearing, for the second time, before the Court at Buckingham Palace, to repeat the entertainment that had so gratified her Majesty and the Royal circle on the evening of Saturday the 23rd ult. The General went through his imitations apparently to the great delight of the Royal party; and her Majesty the Queen, at the conclusion of the entertainment, was pleased to present to the General, with her own hand, a superb souvenir, of the most exquisite handicraft, manufactured of mother-of-pearl, and mounted with gold and precious stones. On one side are the crown and Royal initials "V. R.," and on the reverse bouquets of flowers in enamel and rubies. In addition to this splendid gift her Majesty subsequently presented the General with a beautiful gold pencil-case, with the initials of Tom Thumb, and his coat of arms engraved on the emerald surmounting the case, accompanying the Royal souvenir with the expression of her Majesty's high gratification at the versatile talents of the General, and also a compliment to Mr Barnum, his guardian, on the aptness of his pupil. The General then made his *cogge*, amidst the congratulations of the Royal party.

F. M. HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON AND GENERAL TOM THUMB.—The dwarf had scarcely made his appearance in the afternoon at the Egyptian hall, after having left court, when his Grace the Duke of Wellington honoured the General with a visit. At the moment the Duke entered the room the General was in the act of giving an imitation of Napoleon musing at St Helena, and on the hero of Waterloo inquiring of Mr Barnum what the General was meditating on, Mr Barnum happily replied, "Upon the loss of the battle of Waterloo." His Grace then took the dwarf into his arms, and asked him several questions, with the answers to which the Duke appeared much pleased. On his departure the Duke presented the General with a handsome present.

Her Majesty, accompanied by the King and Queen of the Belgians and the Royal family, left town on Wednesday afternoon for Windsor Castle. In the second carriage were the Prince of Wales, the Princess Royal, and the Princess Alice.

It is rumoured that the contemplated visit of his Majesty King Louis Philippe to this country will take place early in June; and that his Majesty will be accompanied by the Queen and the Prince and Princess de Joinville.—*Standard*

MAUNDY THURSDAY.—This being the anniversary of the distribution of the Royal charities to the aged poor, the usual bounty was distributed in Whitehall chapel with the customary formalities.—Her Majesty having entered her 25th year of age, the number of men and women to whom the charities were distributed corresponded with that number.

THE KING OF THE BELGIANS arrived off Woolwich, in the *Princess Alice* steam packet, from Ostend, on Tuesday evening. His Majesty landed at the Dockyard at a quarter past eight, and was received by Lord Rivers, lord in waiting on the Queen; Captain Francis Seymour, groom in waiting to Prince Albert, and the officers of the Dockyard. His Majesty, attended by Lord Rivers, entered one of the Queen's carriages and four, and took his departure for town. Captain Francis Seymour, and the gentleman in waiting on his Belgian Majesty, followed in another of her Majesty's carriages. The royal party arrived at Buckingham Palace at ten minutes past nine o'clock, where his Majesty was received by the Queen and the Queen of the Belgians, attended by the ladies and gentlemen in waiting.

RESIGNATION OF LORD STUART DE ROTHESAY.—We are enabled to state, on competent authority, that Lord Stuart de Rothesay, her Majesty's Ambassador at St Petersburg, sent in the resignation of his post to the Earl of Aberdeen several weeks since, which being laid before her Majesty, she was graciously pleased to accept. A steamer will be placed at his disposal early in the month of May, so that his lordship may be expected home at the latter end of that month or in the beginning of June.—*Post*.

A numerous meeting of members of the House of Commons took place on Monday afternoon at the official residences of Sir R. Peel, in Downing street. The meeting broke up soon after three o'clock.

Earl Howe, chamberlain to the Queen Dowager, has been elected a governor of the Charter house, in the room of the late Viscount Sidmouth.

THE METROPOLIS.

MONOPOLY IN WATER.—The Marquis of Normanby, it appears, has given notice in the Lords, and Mr Ewart, for the 23rd instant, in the Commons, for select committees to inquire why the South London Water Companies do not "effectually purify their water by means of filtration," according to those clauses or contracts in their several acts of parliament, whereby they obtained power to increase their rates and profits, which power they have used or abused to a pretty considerable extent. If parliament, it was said, would but grant them the powers they sought, they engaged to complete their works for filtration in four years. They have taken *ten years*, and are taking double rates, but no works of purification, or any shadow of them, yet exist. Meanwhile the inhabitants of south London are taking the matter in their own hands, by forming themselves into a "Self-Supplying Filtered Water Company," and seeking, by Stuckey's patent, and a promised 10 per cent. profit to shareholders, to abate at once the nuisance and the monopoly. The existing companies are therefore in "a fix:" threatened by parliament on one side for not doing that which the cupidity of their directors or the jealousy of their engineers has hitherto prevented their doing, viz., adopting the only economical mode of filtration in existence; and on the other side by their customers, the public, wearied out, half poisoned, and doubly taxed, determining to dispense with them altogether. What will their shares be worth next year at this time?

REDUCTION OF DUTIES ON TEA, &c.—A public meeting was held on Wednesday evening in the theatre of the Western Literary Institution, Leicester square, for the purpose of adopting a ladies' memorial to

the Queen for the reduction of duties on tea, coffee, and sugar. Mr Ewart, M.P., occupied the chair. He opened the proceedings by characterising the movement itself as important to the trading community, to the promoters of the cause of temperance, and to his coadjutors on the right and left—the coffee-house keepers of the metropolis. The spread of teetotalism called for a spirited effort to procure a reduction of the duties on tea, coffee, and sugar. The question of temperance, although a most important one, was not the only consideration which should induce the present procedure. It should be remembered that these articles were amongst the most important ingredients of our commerce. The people were eminently called on to support this movement, not only for the sake of cheapening these important necessities, but of extending the means of employment for the working classes. This alone could be done by an extension of commerce, and how could this be effected without lessening the duties on these important articles of commercial enterprise? Impossible. It was not the walls of China, so many feet thick, but the fiscal barriers which had been erected, that shut out the advantages which ought to be derived from that vast empire with its acres of tea, and the other commodities, such as sugar, from Brazil, Cuba, Java, Cochin-China, Siam, and elsewhere, but the fetters which the legislature had imposed.—Mr Hare, a coffee-house keeper, next addressed the meeting, and terminated with a resolution to the effect that all duties on tea, coffee, and sugar should forthwith be reduced.—This was the signal for the Chartists present to excite a disturbance, which they did very effectually. They moved their usual amendment. After a great deal of wrangling discussion, the chairman intimated that he could not put the amendment, as it was inconsistent with the object of the meeting, but suggested that Mr George Thompson should take the chair for that purpose. Mr Thompson, having been installed, rose, and without ceremony took the sense of the meeting on the subject, when the amendment for the adoption of the people's charter was carried by an overwhelming majority, and the meeting separated with a trio of cheers for the charter.

METROPOLITAN DRAPERS' ASSOCIATION.—On Monday evening a meeting of this association was held at the Hanover-square Rooms, Mr Benjamin Bond Cabell, F.R.S., F.S.A., in the chair.—Mr Renni, in the absence of the secretary to the society, having read a long extract from the last annual report of the central committee, and stated the objects of the society were to induce the public to refrain from making their purchases after a certain hour in the evening, with a view to allow the assistants proper time for recreation and intellectual improvement, Mr Hindley, M.P., addressed the meeting, and proposed the first resolution, viz., "That this meeting is of opinion that labour prolonged to the extent which generally prevails in the drapery and other trades of the metropolis, is destructive to health, and opposed to moral improvement and mental cultivation." He said in many cases the masters had consented to close their shops at an early hour as soon as the principle of early hours could be fairly carried out. People opposed to the principle might say that they should first turn their attention to another branch of the business, viz., the milliners. It was certain that in this branch great abuses of human labour had taken place, yet they should turn their attention to one subject at a time, and he earnestly hoped that the principal customers at linendrapers—the fair sex—would support the object of the association, by making their purchases as early as possible. Mr Archer seconded the resolution. The second resolution, proposed by Dr Southwood Smith, and seconded by Mr W. D. Owen, was, "That it is also the opinion of this meeting, that while abridgment of the hours of the drapery business would give rise to incalculable benefit to those engaged as assistants therein, it would be also attended with important advantages to employers themselves and to society at large." The third resolution, proposed by Dr Moore, stated, "That the Metropolitan Drapers' Association, having for its object the abridgment of the present hours of business, with a view to the physical, moral, and individual improvement of the assistants, is, from its just, prudent, and conciliatory measures, well deserving support; and that this meeting pledges its hearty co-operation and encouragement by rendering it every possible aid, and especially by abstaining for the future from making evening purchases." Several speakers then addressed the meeting on the necessity of allowing the young men engaged in the drapery business proper time for study and amusement, with a view to their moral and physical improvement—among others by George Thomson, Esq., whose unexpected presence was hailed with universal delight. The meeting broke up at an early hour.

MORTALITY OF LONDON.—The total number of deaths in the metropolis, for the week ending last Saturday, as made up by the Registrar-General, is 1,080. The weekly average for the last five years has been 946. The population of London and the suburban districts, together comprising "the metropolis," is 2,007,550.

DREADFUL FIRE IN OXFORD STREET.—On Thursday night, shortly before twelve o'clock, a fire, attended with great destruction of property, and also with loss of life, broke out in the premises belonging to Mr Williams, situate at 287 Oxford street, the corner of Gilbert street, and known as the Crown and Cushion wine vaults. The premises were four floors high, and had a considerable depth and frontage. The fire broke out in the counting house, adjoining the bar, in which was deposited a vast quantity of spirits. The excitement which followed was most painful. At the second floor front a young female, named Fritchby, made her appearance; and with such fury did the flames travel, that before sufficient time had elapsed to procure a ladder, she was compelled to throw herself to the ground to escape suffocation. As the different engines arrived, they were taken to the best positions, and were all set to work—those of the London fire establishment under the direction of Mr Fogo, the foreman of the district. By the time, however, they were got into full play, the flames had reached nearly every room in the immense building, and they were rushing through the various windows, and also the roof, extending half way across the street, causing the most fearful apprehension to be entertained for the safety of the contiguous buildings. The origin of the fire could not be precisely ascertained. It is said that six persons have perished in the flames.

DREADFUL MURDER AT MARYLEBONE.—On Saturday evening last, Frances Elizabeth Crouch was most brutally murdered by her husband, William Crouch, a man employed about cab stands. The deceased

lodged at No. 4 Little Marylebone street, having parted from her husband in consequence of his brutal treatment and frequent intoxication. The following is a portion of the evidence of Mary Lynes, who occupied a room in the same house as the deceased, elicited during the examination before the coroner, Mr Wakley, on Monday:—"On the evening of Saturday last the deceased was in witness's room, nursing a child which had been put out to her to nurse. Witness was cleaning the stairs, when the prisoner came behind her, and inquired if his wife was at home. Witness replied that she was, and the prisoner ascended the stairs. The deceased was singing a song to the child, and witness remarked that as the prisoner entered the room the song ceased in a very abrupt manner, and almost immediately after a little girl named Simpson, who was in the room at the time, came to the head of the stairs and called out, 'Oh, he has cut her neck, and it is bleeding.' Witness ran up stairs, and saw Crouch standing by a chest of drawers, wiping a razor on a piece of rag. She then saw Mrs Crouch lying with her head against the door, with her throat cut. The child she had been nursing was lying under her. Witness said to the prisoner, 'Oh, you villain, get out of my room;' to which he made some unintelligible reply. He then ran down stairs, and went out to the corner of the street, and witness pursued him. Mr Davies, the landlord of the house, hearing the alarm, also ran out, and seized the prisoner, and witness caught him also." A policeman then came up, and took the prisoner. While in the custody of the policeman the prisoner said, "Oh! that cursed drink—if it had not been for that this would not have happened." (The prisoner here groaned two or three times, and said, "She's dead, and I wish I was by the side of her.") The prisoner tried to cut his throat with the razor, which he still retained when in the custody of the policeman, and inflicted a serious wound before his design was prevented. The coroner's jury returned a verdict of "wilful murder" against the prisoner. The prisoner was then conveyed to the Marylebone police court, where he was examined and committed to take his trial.

THE WILL FORGERIES.—On Saturday morning last the whole of the prisoners, Mrs Georgiana Dorey, Mrs Lydia Sanders, *alias* Emma Slack, Fletcher, Griffin, Sanders, and Barber, were again examined before the Lord Mayor at the Mansion house, and finally committed to Newgate, to take their trial at the next sitting of the Central Criminal Court.

THE DANGER OF SELLING ORANGES ON A SUNDAY.—Among the police reports in one of the daily papers of the week we notice the following:—

"Ellen Haggerty, a poor Irishwoman, was brought before Mr Bond, charged with hawking a basket of oranges about for sale whilst the congregation of St Margaret's church was leaving that edifice. Police constable 60 B said that, a few minutes after one o'clock yesterday, he saw the defendant with a basket of oranges opposite St Margaret's church. She was moving slowly along, and on desiring her to go away, she became very indignant, but did not make use of any bad language, and would not go, but kept moving along. She did not ask persons to buy, but was evidently there for the sole purpose of disposing of them. She said she was going to Millbank to serve some persons there, who were in the habit of buying oranges of her. The woman, in answer to the charge, said she had seven children who were solely dependent upon her for support, and that she was compelled to go out to endeavour to get them some food, as she had taken very little during the week. She was not in the habit of selling oranges on the Sabbath. Mr Bond discharged the defendant, telling her that there were six days for labour and one for rest; and that if she was brought before him again, charged with a similar offence, she would not be so leniently dealt with."

It will thus be seen that there is danger in selling oranges under the eye of policemen.

THE PROVINCES.

ANOTHER MURDEROUS ATTACK ON A BRIGHTON POLICE OFFICER.—The magistrates of the Brighton bench were engaged several hours on Monday in investigating a charge brought against a man named Eli Markwick, of committing a murderous attack on a policeman named Huggett. It appeared in evidence that about half-past twelve o'clock on Saturday night the policeman found the prisoner making a great disturbance at the door of the Fox public house, in Southover street, and endeavoured to get him home quietly. The prisoner went away, but the landlord, knowing that his customer was likely to return, asked the policeman to remain for a short time. The policeman accordingly remained for a few minutes, when the prisoner returned, and the policeman having gone a few steps to meet him, he drew a broomstick from behind him, and belaboured him over the head and body in a ferocious manner, till the landlord went to his release. The prisoner was found shortly afterwards crouched near the spot with the stick under his arm, and was conveyed to the town hall. On his way there he expressed a hope that the man would die, and said that several of the police ought to be served in the same manner as Solomons. The policeman's hat, which was protected and strengthened by leather, was broken through by the blows, and Mr C. Burrows, a surgeon, expressed his belief that, but for the hat, the blows would probably have been fatal. As it was, the poor fellow was so injured by the blows which he had received, and by the prisoner kneeling on his abdomen, that he had found it necessary to apply twelve leeches, and considered that there would be danger for several days, unless great care was taken.

ROUGH JUSTICE.—A correspondent of the *Times* records the following cases, as having occurred at the Rutland assizes. "A man named Bates is arraigned on a charge of burglary; the evidence against him (which appears in full) is slight in the extreme, with the exception of that given by the gaoler, who deposes that he listened outside the door of his cell, and heard him admit his guilt in conversation with other prisoners. The accused is convicted and transported for life. George Coulson is arraigned on a charge of arson. The evidence against him is slighter than in the case already given. The only facts worth notice being his purchase of Congreve matches on the day of the fire, and his being seen near the place where it broke out; again, however, the gaoler supplies all that is wanting, and in the face of a British jury and a British judge, is hardy enough to admit that he pulled off his shoes, listened to the prisoner's conversation when in prison, and overheard language admitting his guilt. On this the accused party solemnly denies the fact,

and begs that the other prisoner may be sent for, who on being questioned by the judge confirms the denial, and declares the gaoler's testimony false. Again, however, the prisoner is convicted, and sentenced to transportation for life."

HASTINGS ELECTION.—A petition will be presented against the return of Mr Brisco, some of his agents having been detected in bribery and treating.—*Globe*.

NEWCASTLE ELECTION.—MR STURGE.—It is whispered that a strong body of the electors of Newcastle are determined to invite this gentleman to be a candidate for the representation of the town, at the next general election, which is now expected to take place in no very long time. He is to come in upon principles of Radical reform and free trade; the last meaning not only free grain, but also free ports for cattle and salted provisions, with a great reduction of the tea, sugar, and coffee duties. Gateshead is expected to make a similar move.—*Tyne Mercury*.

BURY.—LORD ABINGER.—Lord Abinger has been taken seriously ill while on circuit at Bury St Edmunds, so much so as to cause the greatest doubt of his recovery. Mr Bransby Cooper, who was called to attend on his lordship, gives only slight hopes of continued life. The attack has been one of paralysis, and his lordship has been insensible and speechless since its commencement on Tuesday.

WOLVERHAMPTON.—FREE-TRADE MEETING.—On Monday, a large free-trade meeting will be held here, for the purpose of receiving a deputation from the National Anti-Corn-law League, consisting of R. Cobden, M.P., J. Bright, M.P., R. Moore, Esq.; and the meeting will be attended by the borough members, the Hon. C. P. Villiers, M.P., and Thomas Thornely, M.P. As there is no building capable of holding one half of the people that will attend the meeting, an immense pavilion is now being erected on purpose for the occasion. There is no doubt but this meeting will be the most important, and by some thousands the most numerous, of any in-door meeting ever held in Wolverhampton.

PETITION AGAINST THE TEN HOURS BILL.—Although the question that has excited the House of Commons during the past week may be considered as disposed of by the giving way of Lord Ashley, we think it right to put on record the fact that a petition to the House of Commons has been despatched, signed by the master cotton spinners of Manchester, setting forth various evil consequences which the petitioners have great reason to believe would result from the adoption of such a measure; denying that factory labour (under its present restrictions) is more severe or less healthy than that of other employments, while no other class of labour furnishes more constant employment or more regular wages, and praying the house not to sanction the ten hours' principle; and, as to factory labour, to adopt the bill of government, as the measure best calculated to meet the difficulties of the case, and the general object in view. Owing to the short time allowed to get signatures (only one day), many millowners could not be seen; but of 59 that were seen only six declined to sign, for various reasons. All the leading firms signed, as will be evident from the fact that the 53 individuals and firms whose names are attached employ about 24,000 hands, and their assessments amount to upwards of 44,000*l*. It was presented to the house by Sir James Graham on Friday evening.—*Manchester Guardian*.

SHORT HOURS IN BIRMINGHAM.—The booksellers and stationers of Birmingham have acceded to the request of their assistants; and in future their shops and places of business will be closed at half past seven every evening, Saturday excepted.

COLLIERS' STRIKE.—A correspondent of the *Times*, writing in that paper on Thursday, from the county of Northumberland, with reference to the contemplated strike among the pitmen of that district, makes use of the following language:—"An anticipated strike among the colliers in this county, and throughout the adjoining counties of Durham and Cumberland, has suddenly become the topic of general conversation in this part of the kingdom. In apprehension of this event, the inhabitants of this and other considerable towns within the county, and more particularly the great manufacturers located on and near the Tyne, have within the last few days been accumulating extraordinary quantities of coal for necessary consumption during the contemplated strike. The existing annual contract between the miners and their employers throughout the whole of this important portion of the English coal field expires on Friday the 5th of April; and the time for the renewal of the contract, which is usually about a fortnight previous to that day, has already elapsed, without any new agreement having been entered into between the parties. At present it is difficult to say how long the turn-out may continue, but be its duration brief or otherwise, considerable loss to the coalowners, privation to the men and their families, and inconvenience to the public at large, must be reckoned among its consequences. Nor will its effects, so far as they may concern the public, be confined to the scene of the strike; the inhabitants of the metropolis, and of all the other parts of the kingdom, who are now chiefly dependent for their fuel upon the supply obtained from the collieries on the Tyne and Wear, will also feel the inconvenience. At present the colliers are able to earn about 4*s*. a day, consisting of about eight or ten hours, but during the last six months they have been under an obligation, imposed upon them by the Executive Council of the Miners' Association, to limit their earnings to 3*s*. a day. The object of this has been to restrict, as far as possible, the supply of coals to the current demand for them, without allowing the coal-owners to accumulate any surplus quantity to meet the demand that may be made during the strike, and so to force the masters into a more speedy compliance with their wishes. The colliers employed in the collieries within the counties of Northumberland, Durham, and Cumberland, form a very considerable portion of the population of these counties. Their number is estimated at about 23,000, and they have nearly doubled their number within the last twelve years. The reason assigned for the increase is the ingress of miners from the lead mines, and from the collieries in the southern counties, which took place at and some time after the last strike, which occurred here in 1831-2. Constant employment can only be guaranteed to about 16,000, so that to enable the remaining 7,000 to maintain themselves, the whole number are obliged to submit to only partial employment. The matters at issue between

the coalowners and their men refer chiefly to the existing prices paid to the latter, and to the exceedingly vexatious nature of the fines imposed upon them with the view of inducing them to perform their work skilfully and satisfactorily."

THE PITMEN.—A conference of delegates from the mining districts of England, Scotland, and Ireland, has been held at Glasgow during the past week. The motion for a general "strike" was negatived by a large majority, though it was agreed that the miners of Northumberland and Durham should refuse to work on the 6th of April.

SCOTLAND.

THE CHAIR OF MUSIC.—EDINBURGH.—On Saturday, the 23rd of March, the Senatus Academicus reduced the list of candidates for the Professorship in the Edinburgh University to three—namely, Messrs Donaldson, Bennet, and Mainzer, and agreed to meet on that day week for electing a professor. In the interval, however, another candidate sent in his claims, a young gentleman, we are told, possessing high qualifications for the chair, namely, Henry H. Pearson, Esq., at present residing at Dresden, and son of the very Rev. the Dean of Salisbury. We understand that, in consequence of this application, the Senatus, on a motion made to that effect, and by a majority of one, agreed to postpone the election till the first day of June next, in order to give time for the electors to investigate the claims of the new candidate.—*Caledonian Mercury.*

EXECUTION OF JAMES BRUCE.—On Wednesday morning, at Edinburgh, this unfortunate individual suffered the doom which had been awarded him. He was perfectly firm and composed.

IRELAND.

LOYAL NATIONAL REPEAL ASSOCIATION.

The usual weekly meeting of the association took place on Monday. From an early hour the hall presented a crowded appearance, and much interest was evinced in consequence of the expected presence of Mr O'Connell. At ten minutes after one o'clock Mr O'Connell entered, greeted by the most rapturous applause. On the motion of the honourable gentleman, William Smith O'Brien, Esq., was called to the chair.

Mr O'Connell then rose and said—There is nothing like beginning well. (Cheers.) I beg to hand in 600*l.* from New York. (Great cheering.) I do confess that is worth cheering, for you have value for every shout, and still more value in the spirit that dictated it. Mr O'Connell moved a vote of thanks to their friends in New York.—Motion carried.

Mr John O'Connell then read a copy of a correspondence which passed between Lord Ffrench and Lord Charlemont, on the subject of the imperial parliament being made to sit occasionally in Dublin, proposed by the latter, and repudiated by the former, on behalf of Repealers.—Mr O'Connell moved the insertion of the documents on the minutes. He was delighted to find that Charlemont was stirring—that he was a working Irishman. (Cheers.) He would also move a vote of thanks to Lords Ffrench and Charlemont.—Passed with acclamation.

Mr O'Connell then rose. He had to express his unbounded gratitude to the people of England for the generous and enthusiastic manner in which they had evinced their sympathy for the cause of suffering Ireland. (Cheers.) England was beginning to be aroused—she was beginning to understand the case of Ireland. Let the Irish persevere, and then she would have all the good, all the virtue, and all the talent of England to support her. (Hear, hear, and loud cheers.) Let their motto be peace and perseverance. Last year (the year 1843) was emphatically named the Repeal Year—let this be the clinching one. (Cheers.) He would exhort the people of Ireland to do their duty. He would exhort them, province by province, county by county, to persevere. He, for his part, would do his duty. (Hear, hear, and loud cheers.) If he was prevented from doing it publicly, he would still do everything to further the cause; and he would leave in William Smith O'Brien a leader fit to conduct them in every emergency. (Cheers.) The honourable gentleman then moved—first, that it be referred to the committee to report on the best method of co-operating with the Presbyterians on the marriage question; 2nd, that a vote of warm thanks be given to the people of England for the expression of their sympathy in favour of Ireland; 3rd, that an address be prepared by the association, exhorting the people to peace and perseverance. Mr O'Connell then announced the rent to be 92*l.* 18*s.* 4*d.*

The association was then adjourned until Friday week.

FACTORY BILL.—IRISH MILLOWNERS.—The millowners of Belfast met on Wednesday, in the Commercial buildings, in order to record their opinion of Lord Ashley's ten hour amendment on Sir J. Graham's bill. Sinclair K. Mulholland, Esq., was called to the chair. A lengthened conversation occurred. The opinion appeared decidedly to be, that any material deviation from twelve hours would be prejudicial to both the employer and the employed.

REDUCTION OF INTEREST.—The Belfast banks have reduced the interest on local paper to 4½ per cent., and on English to 3½. The interest on deposits now on hand will be reduced to 2 per cent. on and after the 1st of July.—*Belfast Whig.*

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL.

UNITED STATES.

The packet ship *Virginia*, Captain Allen, with dates to the 11th ult., arrived at Liverpool from New York on Monday. She brings papers five days in advance of the last arrival. On the 8th Mr McKay, from the Committee of Ways and Means, in the House of Representatives, reported a new tariff bill, framed upon nearly the same principles as the Clay tariff in 1832. It is questionable, however, whether, in the present hostile position of the two houses of congress, it will pass. Mr Calhoun has been appointed Secretary of State by Mr President Tyler, in the place of the unfortunate gentleman who previously held the office, and who was killed by the explosion of the *Princeton's* gun. In the

earlier stage of Mr Tyler's presidency the same office was offered to Mr Calhoun and declined, as he then had an eye upon succeeding to the presidency himself. The recent turn which events have taken for that office, by placing Mr Van Buren at the head of the democratic party, has mainly, it is said, influenced Mr Calhoun in the selection of an inferior, but still most important, office. The accounts of the doings in the state legislatures—such of them as have "repudiated"—Pennsylvania, Maryland, Ohio, and others—afford anything but encouragement for the ultimate payment of their securities. The good citizens have no notion of direct taxation for the payment of their debts, and in some places the collectors had difficulty in escaping with their lives. The cotton market was dull; the price of the staple was receding in New Orleans, at New York, and elsewhere. The bubble speculation connected with the movement about the short crop had burst; one of the principal actors in it had failed to the tune of 250,000 dollars; others were expected to follow, and all was dismay and confusion. Business was brisk and money abundant, and the calamity which had overtaken the cotton speculators does not seem to have excited much sympathy, or produced any effect on the ordinary routine of business.

PRUSSIA.

For some time past negotiations have been pending for a commercial treaty between the United States of America and the Germanic Union of Customs. "I learn, upon good authority," says a correspondent of the *Morning Chronicle*, "that these negotiations have been brought to a close, and that a treaty has been actually signed by the Prussian government and Mr Wheaton, the American minister at this court. The effect of the treaty is understood to be to reduce the present duties on tobacco and rice imported into Germany from the United States; and on the other hand, to afford facilities for the introduction into the United States of several branches of German manufactures for American consumption. It is, of course, uncertain whether this treaty, at present entered into by Prussia only, will be ratified by the other states of the Germanic Customs Union, and still more uncertain whether the treaty will be ratified by the American legislature; but, as it stands, Mr Wheaton has gained a march upon all the other governments who have hitherto attempted to treat with Germany in commercial matters."

CHINA AND INDIA.

The intelligence brought is of the most satisfactory character. Peace and tranquillity prevailed throughout the whole of the British possessions in India. The affairs of Gwalior had been finally arranged to the satisfaction of the governor-general; the young sovereign had been formally installed on the 20th of January, in presence of Lord Ellenborough, the commander-in-chief, and all the military and civil authorities. On the 22nd the army of Sindiah was reviewed in presence of the maharajah and chiefs, and on the same day it was dissolved, by proclamation, the troops composing it having been directed to proceed to the several destinations assigned to them. The Mahratta soldiery, to the number of 20,000, had laid down their arms and tendered their services to the sovereign of Gwalior. On the 23rd Lord Ellenborough took his departure for Calcutta, accompanied by General Grey and the left wing of the army. A division was left behind until the new army should be organized, and other arrangements completed. Sinde was perfectly quiet, and the health of the troops had materially improved. The governor-general had issued a proclamation announcing that an augmentation of nearly 10,000 men would be required, ostensibly for Sinde and Gwalior, but in reality, we believe, to watch the movements in the Punjab. Some discontent had been exhibited in two or three of the Bengal and Madras regiments, who, it appears, have a strong reluctance to the service in Sinde; but no feeling of this kind prevailed in the Bombay army, and several regiments had volunteered their services for that district. But matters there are so tranquil, and so content are the people under the British sway, that troops are scarcely required. There is, in fact, no enemy to encounter; but Sir Charles Napier is wisely on his guard, and will keep up such an army as will prevent any plot or surprise on the part of the friends of the deposed Ameers. The accounts from China are equally favourable, and universal peace also reigns in that quarter. We regret to state, however, that the massacre of three Catholic bishops, with seventy Christians, at Corea, is confirmed. They were all beheaded, and about 180 more were said to have been strangled.

THE ECONOMIST'S LIBRARY.

Simmonds's Colonial Magazine and Foreign Miscellany, No. 4.
Edited by P. L. Simmonds, Esq., &c., 18 Cornhill.

Fisher's Colonial Magazine and Journal of Trade, Commerce, and Banking, No. 3. Fisher, Son, and Co., Newgate street.

Parties interested in the colonies felt indebted to Mr Simmonds for supplying, when it was wanted, a monthly organ devoted to colonial interests; but if he admit into it many such articles as that by Dr Binns, on the Sugar Duties, in the number for April, he will not, we should think, get thanks from many quarters, or from any quarters, long. The other articles, such as those on New Brunswick as an Emigration Field, on the State of Affairs in New Zealand, &c., are in better spirit and better keeping with the tone of such matter as a colonial magazine should consist of.

In *Fisher's Magazine*, the first article, entitled "England's best refuge lies in wisely husbanding her resources," is the best. The writer boldly denounces the corn laws, and, like many another writer, has a scheme of his own for extinguishing the national debt. He would have some of the national resources applied to the herring fishery for this purpose!

"The grand arena," he says, "on which the stores of the ocean are poured forth with the greatest profusion, is that of the herring fishery. Nothing, save our own supineness and negligence, could prevent our securing almost

a monopoly of this fishery. The stations or ports for the herring are chiefly Hastings, Folkestone, Cardigan, Swansea, Whitby, Scarborough, Great Yarmouth, and Lowestoft. Of these, Great Yarmouth is by far the most considerable, although no mean share of activity prevails at the latter place. The prodigious shoals which, prompted by their migratory and gregarious propensities, leave the Arctic seas in the month of June, bifurcate, as is very well known, into two grand divisions, one of which is precipitated unbroken into the German ocean, and fills the bays and estuaries on the eastern shores of Britain with their teeming myriads.

Why should not, then, a provision be hence made for reducing our debt? Certain portions of these extensive captures, in the various stations of our coasts, might be set aside for this purpose; and upon the assumption that our fisheries, both of the herring and other fish, which frequent our seas in vast multitudes, might be indefinitely enlarged.

"We abound," says Admiral Sir J. Bampton, "in all that can give encouragement and stimulus to enterprise and industry. We have capital, skill, energy, and patriotism, which—if duly brought into action, must be productive of everything which can contribute to national and individual prosperity—would give relief or employment to all our idle and starving multitudes."

"Is there any reasonable cause why government should not place one thousand or two thousand boats at each of the greatest herring stations, from the Orkneys to the Thames, duly equipped and registered for the capture of these myriads of the deep, on a more extensive scale than has yet been practised? These boats, when freighted with their cargoes of from six to eight, ten, or twelve lasts, each might be taken to separate curing houses, also duly registered, from whence they might be shipped off by steamers to the distant markets of the world. A department might be created for the management of this new source of finance, under due supervision, and the proceeds might be fairly appropriated to the enlargement of these fisheries, partly re-invested in stock, which would make lucrative returns."

However the produce might be applied, there can be no doubt but that something is capable of being done in the above way. "The history, cultivation, and consumption of sugar" in this number is a carefully written, unimpassioned, and useful article.

The Banker's Magazine, and Journal of the Money Market.
No. 1. Groombridge, Paternoster row.

"It is intended to make this magazine," we are informed in the preliminary address, "the vehicle for investigating and discussing all the interesting questions which, taken together, make up the sum of public opinion on the currency"—and a very large "vehicle" it will need to be, if it act up in any degree to the promise here given. There is not much in the present number to give a character to the magazine one way or another. No very decided opinions are expressed, but the opinions of others rather are given, which so far shows a becoming modesty, though it may be asked if the projectors had nothing else to make known there was little need for their labours. To be sure the "proposal for a new species of currency with one bank of issue," is an exception to this description, but the "we" of the magazine thinks it necessary specifically to disclaim the paternity of that production. The record of passing and abiding interpretation of law as regards banking will be a useful feature in the magazine. On the whole we would say that there is room for such a work, and we hope to see the present effort deserving and obtaining success.

POLITICAL.

FACTORIES (No. 2) BILL.—The new Factory Bill, brought into the House of Commons by Sir James Graham and Mr H. Manners Sutton, M.P. (the Secretary and Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department), has just made its appearance in a printed shape. It is entitled "A Bill to Amend the Laws relating to Labour in Factories," and contains as many as seventy-three clauses, with schedules, &c. The act is to take effect on the first day of October next ensuing. The factory inspectors are authorized to appoint certifying surgeons, for the purposes of the act, and to fix the amount of their fees. Full powers are conferred on inspectors of factories for the purposes of ascertaining the real age of children to be employed therein. Special provisions are enacted for the annual limewashing of factories, the protection of the workers in wet-spinning flax-mills, the due guarding and boxing-off of machinery, and the general prevention of accidents, as well as for their cure, if any should unfortunately occur. The hours of working for children and young persons are to be observed with strict regularity. Respecting the peculiar clauses relative to the time of working, we may simply state, that children may be employed in factories at eight years of age; that no child is to be employed more than six hours and a half per diem, except in certain cases (hereinafter specified); that no woman above eighteen years of age is to be employed in any factory, save for the same time and in the same manner as "young persons" may be employed in factories; and that work is to cease on Saturdays at half-past 4 o'clock p.m., &c. In any factory in which the labour of young persons is restricted to ten hours a day, it will be lawful to employ any "child" ten hours in any one day, on three alternate days of every week, provided that such child shall not be in any way employed in the same or in any other factory on two successive days, &c. Provision is made for recovering the time lost by partial stoppages, and additional regulations made with respect to meal times, and holidays, and the attendance of children at school. Silk mills are exempted from certain provisions of this bill, it being enacted that any child above eleven years old employed solely in the winding and throwing of raw silk may work without any proof of having attended a school for ten hours a day, but not after half-past 4 o'clock on Saturday afternoon. The seventy-third or "interpretation" clause enacts that the Factory Act as amended by this act, and this act, shall be construed together as one act; that the word "child" shall be taken to mean a child under thirteen years of age, and the words "young person," a person aged thirteen and under eighteen years of age, &c.

Thus it will be seen that the disputed question of "ten" or "twelve" hours, which has already been so strongly contested in the House of Commons, is in the present or new bill tacitly consigned to the shelf. The bill will not, of course, be read a second time until after the Easter recess.

HUMANE LEGISLATION.—Although we cannot make laws providing against all cases of cruelty and extortion, much might be done by the aristocracy and their humane tradesmen, in mitigation of the toils to which the thoughtlessness of the one and the avarice of the other, expose that large and suffering class, which is overworked in the nightly as well as daily task of preparing ladies for balls and drawing-rooms. If the ladies would associate and subscribe to agreements to give sufficient notice to their milliners to prepare their dresses, the needless hurry and excessive labour of the girls might be prevented, and the unfeeling and smaller portion of the gay world might be driven to conform, by the dressmakers giving it out that they would undertake no such work without the reasonable notice required. As it is understood that a committee of ladies is actually considering what may be effected in this way, these hints may not be undeserving of their consideration. If we cannot enforce humanity by law, at least we may by precept and example. It is in vain that we complain of the want of health of manufacturing children, when poison such as Godfrey's cordial is allowed to destroy the constitution of infants, long before they become fit for work. Or what chance can there be of a more moral agricultural population where dwellings are too small to admit of the due separation of the sexes in large families. What the community wants is a general benevolent superintendence of all heads of establishments, whether public or private; the governing mankind through their affections rather than their fears. This general rule holds good throughout, in the navy, the army, in factories, schools, and private families. Pestalozzi applied it to education, and has witnessed its triumph; and Lord Cochrane's empire over his heroic crew was mainly owing to it.—*Morning Chronicle.*

DEBTS OF THE UNITED STATES IN 1844.

	Debt. Dollars.	Interest. Dollars.
Maine - - - - -	1,811,715	86,743
Massachusetts - - - - -	7,720,539	386,026
New York - - - - -	23,847,166	1,377,260
Pennsylvania - - - - -	40,290,461	1,941,287
Maryland - - - - -	16,386,657	1,113,580
Virginia - - - - -	5,963,861	283,226
South Carolina - - - - -	3,495,164	209,709
North Carolina - - - - -	1,050,000	63,000
Georgia - - - - -	1,617,685	96,000
Kentucky - - - - -	3,964,500	232,270
Tennessee - - - - -	3,260,416	173,688
Ohio - - - - -	18,668,321	1,519,467
Louisiana - - - - -	20,558,000	1,818,444
Indiana - - - - -	11,943,914	597,196
Mississippi - - - - -	7,000,000	420,000
Illinois - - - - -	14,703,749	882,225
Alabama - - - - -	9,834,005	590,040
Missouri - - - - -	853,846	51,230
Arkansas - - - - -	3,500,000	210,000
Michigan - - - - -	5,641,000	337,170
Florida - - - - -	3,900,000	234,000
District of Columbia - - - - -	1,380,000	82,800
United States Government debt - - - - -	26,646,648	1,598,679
	Dollars 234,005,648	13,079,792

MISCELLANIES OF TRADE.

POST-OFFICE STATISTICS.—Some voluminous and highly-interesting statistical returns have recently been presented to the House of Commons. The following results are obtained. The total number of letters alleged to be missing amounted in October and November, 1839, to 588, of which 224 were found; in October and November, 1842, to 2,058, of which 592 were found; and in the two months ending July 5, 1843, to 1,800, of which 520 were found. The number of applications as to delay of letters amounted, at the above-mentioned periods, to 175, 316, and 260 respectively. The number of letters delivered in the United Kingdom amounted, in one week of the year 1839, to 1,585,973; in one week of the year 1842, to 4,202,546; in one week of the year 1843, to 4,020,246; and in the week ended May 21, 1843, to 4,212,658; showing that the recent reduction in the rates of postage has nearly trebled the number of letters despatched through the Post office. The total number of persons employed in the post offices of the United Kingdom in May, 1843, amounted altogether to 11,302; of whom 8,398 were employed in England and Wales, 1,399 in Scotland, and 1,505 in Ireland. This return, however, only relates to such situations as the Postmaster-General appoints to. The total number of letters forwarded through France to the East Indies, *via* Egypt, amounted in 1839 to 20,827; in 1840, to 72,516; in 1841, to 45,536; in 1842, to 44,079; and in 1843, to 14,509. The amount of money paid to France for the said letters was, in 1839, 1,147*l.*; in 1840, to 4,457*l.*; in 1841, to 3,341*l.*; in 1842, to 3,549*l.*; and in 1843, to 1,307*l.* The number of letters received from India in the above five years amounted respectively to 31,123, 122,396, 108,027, 106,455, and 37,120. The number of newspapers transmitted to India *via* France, amounted during the past year to 33,096, for which the sum of 76*l.* was paid to the French government. The number of outward letters not passing through France, forwarded by English steamers through Egypt, amounted in 1841 (in round numbers) to 225,000; in 1842, to 287,000; and in 1843, to 216,890. The number of homeward letters transmitted from India by the same channel was, in 1843 (including eight months of that year), 170,814. The number of chargeable letters which passed through the London general post (inwards and outwards) during the first four weeks of the year 1843 was as follows—

viz., unpaid, 312,839; paid, 2,431,231; stamped, 2,972,828; total, 5,716,898. The number of letters which passed through the London district post (exclusive of all general post letters) during the same period was—unpaid, 112,293; paid, 837,624; stamped, 1,020,091; total, 1,971,008. The estimated average for four weeks in the year 1839 was, for general post letters, as follows—viz., unpaid, 1,358,651; paid, 263,496; total, 1,622,147. The net revenue of the Post-office establishment of the United Kingdom (exclusive of charges in the government departments) amounted, in 1839, to 1,614,353*l.*; in 1840, to 1,589,486*l.*; in 1841, to 393,166*l.*; in 1842, to 444,115*l.*; and in 1843, to 478,479*l.* 216,585 money orders, to the amount of 466,798*l.*, were issued and paid in London during the quarter ended the 5th of January, 1843; and 981,194 money orders, to the amount of 2,055,192*l.*, were issued in England and Wales during the same time. The number of letters actually registered in London was, in June, 1843, 8,112.

IMPORTATION OF CONFECTIONS.—The following, taken from the city article of the *Times* of Tuesday, is interesting as showing the increasing annoyance and inconvenience occasioned by the continued high duties on the importation of sugar:—"Before the present tariff became law," says the *Times*, "we had occasion to remark the damage that was suffered by the revenue as well as by the confectioners of this country, in consequence of the admission, at a low rate of duty, of articles of confectionery manufactured in the Channel islands. The grievance then complained of was removed by the statute now in force, and the mischief on the part of Guernsey, &c., has, we believe, been rendered impossible. A trade, however, similar to that suppressed in the Channel, has sprung up in some of the British American settlements, and if it does not threaten evils of such great magnitude as those created by the importations from Guernsey, still the injury to the trade and to the revenue seems to be sufficient to call for the prompt attention of the legislature. The facts connected with this American confectionery are fully stated in a memorial addressed to the Board of Trade, by the confectioners of this country. The following scale shows the rate at which lozenges can be made in Halifax, and imported here for home consumption:—

	Per cwt.
	s. d.
Refined sugar in bond	27 0
Freight to and from Halifax	4 0
Duty on importation at Halifax	8 0
Ditto at home	9 10
Commission, insurance, and incidental expenses	5 0
Cost of sugar	53 10
Cost of manufacture	20 0
	73 10

Now, the English confectioner, according to the memorial, cannot get refined sugar to make his lozenges under the rate of 80s. per cwt., and then he has all the expenses of manufacture. It is obvious enough, then, that he is in no condition to compete with the importer, who has his lozenge ready made for 73s. 10d.; and his declaration to the government, that if no alteration takes place, he will be obliged to discharge his workmen, is most certainly entitled to full credit. This part of the statement refers to the injury which the trade suffers. The loss to the revenue is not less obvious. It will be remembered that in the flourishing days of the Guernsey trade, besides the confectionery, properly so called, we had frequent arrivals of a sort of sham confectionery, which was only intended to be re-converted into sugar, and then used for the purposes for which sugar is commonly employed. In a word, the sugar duties were evaded by a plan which it was hard to call illegal, for though it was evidently against the spirit of existing statutes, it was difficult to prevent it, according to the letter. We may conclude from the memorial before us, that something of the sort comes from Halifax, as the attention of the government is specially directed to some small loaves of sugar made from "succades" and "elecampane," which appear to have been sent to the Board of Trade with the memorial. The expense per cwt. at which such sugar can be made is shown by these two statements:—

FOR NO. 1, MADE FROM THE SUCCADE.

	Per cwt.
	s. d.
Foreign raw sugar	12 0
Freight to Halifax and England	5 0
Duty at Halifax	8 0
Duty at home	9 10
Commission, insurance, and incidental expenses	5 0
Expense and labour in forming the succade, refining in England, loss, &c.	15 0
Add one-third as water, having paid the duty of 9s. 10d. on importation into England	3 4
	58 2

FOR NO. 2, MADE FROM THE ELECAMPANE.

	Per cwt.
	s. d.
Foreign raw sugar	12 0
Freight to Halifax and England	5 0
Duty on importation at Halifax	8 0
Duty on importation at home	9 10
Commission, insurance, and incidental expenses	5 0
Expense of labour in forming into elecampane, and refining in England, with loss, &c.	15 0
	54 10

The expense of refined British-grown sugar, as already stated, is 80s. per cwt., and yet here we have a sugar, that can be used in syrups, and for all sorts of purposes, procurable for less than 60s. This must manifestly tend to decrease the consumption of sugar, imported as such, and thereby diminish the receipts at the Custom house. The anomalies thus pointed out are an illustration of the difficulties that must necessarily arise when a manufactured article can be imported at a lower price than the raw material, at least with reference to such goods as can easily be re-converted into their original state."

COTTON SPINNING IN RUSSIA.—Cotton spinning is rapidly progressing in St Petersburg and the neighbourhood, and the quantity of mill machinery sent over from this town since the legalizing of the export of machinery has been considerable. Including the machinery for four mills, which is about being sent over, we are assured that there will be not fewer than 500,000 spindles in St Petersburg in the present spring. It is the estimate of a practical man, who has long resided in St Petersburg, that one-fifth of the whole consumption of twist by Russia is now spun in that country. Of course, as many of our readers are aware, the twist spun in Russia is almost wholly of low numbers, indeed we might say all under 40's. This is all woven by hand—weaving is not pursued by any class as a regular employment, but taken up and laid down from time to time, pretty much as knitting stockings in this country. About this period of the year all the classes who weave are laying that occupation aside, and are going into the fields to perform the usual agricultural operations of spring, and the weaving will only be resumed in the intervals between these rural occupations, the principal time for weaving being winter. Large orders are now being executed in this town for spinning machinery for St Petersburg.—*Manchester Guardian.*

NEWCASTLE SHIPPING.—By the official return to government from her Majesty's customs of this port, Dec. 31, 1843, it appears there were registered at our custom house 1,380 vessels, 278,579 tons, and 14,351 men, being an increase, as compared with last year, of eight vessels, 3,332 tons, and 446 men.—*Newcastle Shipping List.*—[This increase may serve in part to explain the numerous complaints we have lately heard from the same quarter, of the lowness of freights, and the fall in the value of shipping. Of course, amongst ship owners, ship captains, and ship builders, as amongst all other men, there is a strong desire to improve their own condition, and provide for their sons, and they go on building, equipping, and sending ships to sea, almost as a matter of necessity. But they find, as other men find, that there is not a demand for their exertions equal to the supply. Trade cannot, from some cause or causes, expand with the population connected with shipping. There are more ships to carry goods than goods to carry, and the ever-increasing number of ships, as evidenced in the report, beats down the rate of freight which the competing owners of each ship can obtain. Our maritime population want more imports and more exports, which would also give more coasting trade, and how they can be obtained except by the legislature removing the restrictions which prevent continual increase of imports and exports, commensurate to our increasing ability to build and man ships to carry them, we believe the wit of all the men who ever lived cannot devise.]

THE CORN TRADE.—A paper containing accounts relative to the import, export, and consumption of corn, grain, meal, and flour, in the year 1843, ending the 5th of January, 1844, has been printed by order of the House of Commons on the motion of Mr W. Gladstone, the president of the board of trade. The statistical information which it contains will be found an useful addition to that already obtained by previous returns relative to grain. It appears that the total quantity of foreign wheat upon which duty was paid for home consumption from the 5th of January, 1843, up to the 4th of January, 1844, amounted to 843,739 quarters; the quantity of British Colonial wheat (under the act 5th Victoria, cap 14), to 12,406 quarters; and the quantity of Canadian wheat (at the fixed duty of 1s.), to 12,412 quarters. No idea, however, can yet be formed of the probable annual importation of corn from Canada at the reduced rate of duty, as the act (6th and 7th Victoria, cap. 29) only came into operation last autumn. The total amount of duty received thereon was—for foreign wheat, 601,172*l.*; for British colonial wheat, 2,532*l.*; and for Canadian, 620*l.* The duties ruling in foreign corn during the period in question (1843-44) amounted, from January to the end of July, 1843, to 20s.; in August and September it fluctuated between 18s. and 14s.; and in October, November, and December, the duty was never lower than 19s., and frequently as high as 20s. The average rate of duty throughout the year may be stated at 14s. 3d. on foreign wheat. The largest quantity of foreign wheat was entered in the month of September, when no less than 600,846 quarters were entered in one week, at a duty of 15s. per quarter. As many as 46,396 quarters were entered in the same month, at a duty of 17s., and 40,501 quarters at a duty of 18s. a quarter. Under the old corn law, the greater part of the foreign wheat imported during the year was thrown upon the market in September or October, at a duty of 1s. per quarter only, and thus, whilst the new law has not restricted the importations, it has secured an immense increase of revenue. The total quantity of foreign wheat and wheat flour imported during the past year amounted to 948,309 quarters, and the total quantity of colonial to 119,239 quarters. The total quantity of foreign and colonial wheat and wheat flour, remaining in warehouse at the end of December, 1843 amounted to 220,743 quarters. The highest monthly average price of wheat in England and Wales was 59s. 7d., and the lowest 46s. 2d., exhibiting a difference between the two extremes of 13s. 5d. The quantities of other foreign grain imported during the year 1843 were as follows:—viz., barley, 178,686 quarters; oats and oatmeal, 84,597 quarters; rye and rye-meal, 4,872 quarters; peas 39,668 quarters; and beans, 47,999 quarters. It further appears that the average annual price of wheat of last year in the island of Guernsey amounted to 44s. per imperial quarter; and in Jersey to 46s. 6d. per imperial quarter, as far as regarded the produce of the island itself, but only 43s. as regarded foreign wheat. The quantities imported into, and exported from Guernsey, were respectively 21,874 quarters, and 4,185 quarters. In Jersey, the respective quantities imported and exported amounted to 33,451 quarters and 7,513 quarters. The total quantity of wheat and wheat flour exported from Great Britain was 71,236 quarters against 1,485,495 quarters imported. The largest wheat-exporting countries to Great Britain are Prussia (which exports about two-thirds of the whole), Germany, Russia, Denmark, and the North American colonies. Belgium takes the greater part of the wheat re-exported from England. From another part of this very interesting return—which has so important a bearing upon the corn-law question—we find that in the year 1842 (from the passing of the new corn bill on the 29th of April) the

total quantity of foreign wheat imported was no less than 2,612,488 quarters, which yielded a duty of 1,093,340*l.*; and thus the gross total amount which has accrued to the revenue of the country since the act came into operation is 1,694,512*l.*, averaging the sum of 847,256*l.* per annum. The average rate of duty paid in 1842 was only 8*s.* 4*d.*, whereas in 1843 it was 14*s.* 3*d.* a quarter. Finally, it appears that the total quantity of corn, meal, and flour of Irish growth imported from Ireland into Great Britain, in the year ended the 5th of January 1844, amounted to 3,206,484 quarters, of which 413,466 quarters consisted of wheat and wheat flour.

THE CORN TRADE IN FRANCE.—The *Moniteur* publishes the returns of the price of grain in the different markets of France in March last, from which it appears that wheat sold on an average for 22*f.* 83*c.* per hectolitre at Toulouse, Gray, Lyons, and Marseilles; 21*f.* 67*c.* at Marans and Bordeaux; 21*f.* 62*c.* at St Laurent and Le Grand Lempis; 20*f.* 38*c.* at Mulhausen and Strasburg; 18*f.* 65*c.* at Bergues, Arras, Boye, Soissons, Paris, and Rouen; 20*f.* 42*c.* at Saumur and Nantes; 16*f.* 58*c.* at Metz, Verdun, and Charleville; and 20*f.* 5*c.* at St Lo, Paimpol, Quimper, and Hennebon. The importation of corn into France during the month of February last was,—wheat, 112,627 metrical quintals; other grain, 6,821; flour, 85. The exportation was,—wheat, 8,353 metrical quintals; other grain, 5,704; flour, 3,135. The quantities remaining in the government bonding warehouses on the 1st of March amounted to,—wheat, 205,318 metrical quintals; other grain, 14,693; and flour, 20,216.

PUBLIC DEBT.—An account of all additions which have been made to the annual charge of the public debt, by the interest of any loan that has been made, or annuities created, in the last ten years, has just been presented to parliament, pursuant to the Act 27 Geo. III, cap. 13. The following are some of the particulars of which this account puts us in possession. In the year 1834, an addition was made to the annual charge of 123,644*l.*, in respect of 4,080,000*l.*, 3 per cent. reduced annuities; in 1835, the addition to the annual charge altogether amounted to 618,361*l.*, chiefly owing to the raising of 15,000,000*l.* for the compensation to slave owners; in 1836 the addition made to the annual charge was altogether about 157,024*l.*; in 1837 it was altogether about 51,600*l.*; in 1838 it was only 19,642*l.*; in 1839 the addition to the annual charge amounted to 180,461*l.*; in 1840 to about 16,562*l.* only; in the year 1841 it amounted altogether to 210,576*l.*; in 1842 to 36,092*l.*; and in the year 1843 the whole amount of the annual addition in question was only about 1,350*l.* Want of space prevents us from giving the full particulars of the description of capital, &c., by which the above changes have been rendered necessary.

ANCIENT CORN LAW.—The first and almost the only duty of the Augustalian cohort was to collect the supply of corn for Constantinople, and to see it put on board the ships; and, as for the supply which was promised to the Alexandrians, they were to collect it at their own risk, and by means of their own cohort. The corn for Constantinople was required to be in that city before the end of August, or within four months after the harvest, and the supply for Alexandria not more than a month later. The prefect was made answerable for the full collection, and whatever was wanting of that quantity was to be levied on his property and his heirs, at the rate of one *solidus* for three *artabæ* of corn, or about fifteen shillings for fifteen bushels; while, to help the collection, the export of corn from Egypt was forbidden from every port but Alexandria, except in small quantities. The quantity of corn required for Alexandria and Constantinople, to be distributed as a free gift among the idle citizens, was eight hundred thousand *artabæ*, or four millions of bushels; and the cost of collecting it was fixed at eight thousand *solidi*, or about sixty thousand pounds. The prefect was ordered to assist the collectors at the head of his cohort; and, if he gave credit for the taxes which he was to collect, he was to bear the loss himself. If the archbishop interfered, to give credit and screen an unhappy Egyptian, then he was to bear the loss; and if his property was not enough, the property of the church was to make it good; but if any other bishop gave credit, not only was his property to bear the loss, but he himself was to be deposed from his bishoprick; and lastly, if any riot or rebellion should arise to cause the loss of Egyptian tribute, the tribunes of the Augustalian cohort were to be punished with forfeiture of all property, and the cohort was to be removed to a station beyond the Danube. Such was the new law which Justinian, the great Roman lawgiver, proposed for the future government of Egypt. The welfare of the Egyptians was wholly forgotten. They were to be treated as slaves, whose only duty was to raise corn, for the use of their masters at Constantinople, and their task-masters at Alexandria. It became necessary to fortify the public granaries against the rebellious mob. The corn was brought by the Nile to the village of Chæreum, and the rice carried by barges on a canal to a part of the city named Phialæ, where the public granaries stood. In all riots and rebellions, this place had been a national point of attack; and often had the starving mob broken open these buildings, and seized the corn that was on its way to Constantinople. But Justinian surrounded them with a strong wall against such attacks for the future, and at the same time he rebuilt the aqueduct that had been destroyed in one of the sieges of the city.—*Sharpe's Egypt under the Romans.*

A PROLIFIC PROGENITOR.—There is now living at Walton-le-Dale, near Preston, a person of the name of John Critchley, a hand-loom weaver at present, but formerly a gardener and very eminent florist, who is in his 76th year. He is the father of twelve children, has seventy grand-children living, and six great-grand-children. The old man is still in good health, but his hearing is failing him. When asked if he wished to renew his life's lease, he frankly answered, "No, I have known its trials once, and would not desire to undergo them again."

INCREASE OF NEWSPAPER READING.—We learn from a very recent and useful publication, the *Parliamentary and Newspaper List*, of which the fifth edition has just been published by Dawson and Son, that between 1827 and 1841 the aggregate number of stamps for newspapers has increased in England from 25,863,499 to 48,640,070; in Scotland

from 1,795,573 to 6,129,289; and in Ireland from 3,543,346 to 5,990,623; so that while the increase has not been twofold in England and Ireland, it has been nearly fourfold in Scotland. Messrs Dawson's publication, which is in the form of a sheet, neatly mounted and highly glazed, contains, moreover, a complete statistical and moral table of all the newspapers in the empire, describing the side they take by appropriate colours, the day on which they are published, and the extent of their circulation. To this is added a list of the members of the House of Commons, whose politics are also designated by colours, so that the eye catches at a glance the political character of each member and each newspaper. For public offices, counting houses, and libraries this will be a useful little work.

STATE OF EDUCATION.—A statistical chart on a graduated scale has been prepared by Dr Johns, from the marriage registers, showing at one view the per centage of males and females who wrote their names in the twenty-eight principal manufacturing districts, compared with the mean of all England and Wales, and with the metropolis, Bristol, and Liverpool. From this it appears, that in the metropolitan district, out of every 100 men married, nearly 89 can write; of every 100 women 76—London being the highest on the scale, and Blackburn, in Lancashire, the lowest, viz., about 39 men and 15 women.

FOOD FOR THE MILLION.—The Aberdeen Steam Navigation Company's steam ship, *City of Aberdeen*, arrived on Tuesday forenoon with 213 cattle, and a large cargo of general goods; and the same night the steam ship *Duke of Wellington*, with 274 cattle, principally lean stock, intended for Barnet fair next week. These animals were all in fine order, and walked ashore at the company's new premises, 257 Wapping.

STATE OF EDUCATION IN THE WEST RIDING.—Mr Spencer T. Hall, the popular lecturer on phreno-magnetism, at a lecture given on that subject at the Philosophical hall, Huddersfield, on Monday evening week, having occasion to remonstrate with an unruly visitor in the gallery, said, "that at every town he had visited in the West Riding, including those of Sheffield, Bradford, and Halifax, he had invariably had to compliment his audiences on their good behaviour and their love in searching after the truth. He found the working classes of the West Riding especially a body of intelligent, well-informed characters, whilst in the south of England, the same class of persons, such were their ignorance, that they took him to be a conjurer or a performer of miracles; and those who ought to rank among the intellectual and 'quality' of the land, received him as an imposter and a cheat, without giving themselves the trouble either to search or to investigate into the truth or fallacy of that science which he taught, and to which he was so much attached. He felt a pleasure in congratulating the town of Huddersfield for having so many scientific gentlemen in it, and was glad to find that in a dense audience like that before him, there was to be found but one unruly character."

COMMERCIAL MARKETS.

FRIDAY EVENING.

INDIGO.—We have now to announce the arrival of the first parcel of indigo of the new (1843) crop, viz.: about 700 chests in the ship *Stag*, arrived off the coast, and as there is sufficient time for the landing and preparing the goods for show, it becomes more than probable that the whole will be put up for sale in the approaching quarterly sales, which commence on the 15th inst. Several more parcels of old indigo for the same sales having been declared, it is probable that the total will reach about 6,500 chests, and these will be sufficient of all sorts to satisfy the demand, which is expected to be extensive. Very little business in Indigo having been done this week, the article remains stationary at the last prices, which bear a small advance upon the average currency of the last quarterly sales in January. The accounts received yesterday from Calcutta mention a great activity in the indigo market at that place, every one investing money in it as a remittance, but unfortunately, in the progress of such activity, the value of indigo had been pushed up about 10 per cent., while it declined here about the same time (January sale). It is now dearer in Calcutta than in London. The shipments amounted to 27,000 chests to England, 7,500 to France, 365 to North America, 90 to foreign Europe, and 628 to the Gulph; total, about 36,000 chests; and nearly 14,000 chests more were still to be disposed of, which most were expected to find their way to England. The accumulation of indigo in the course of the summer and autumn, will this year be greater than at any time before, and there is no doubt that we shall witness the largest public sales in July and October ever known.

COCHINEAL.—The market is very steady, with little business doing.

SUGAR.—Refined: There has been an improved demand for home consumption goods, and an advance of 1*s.* per cwt. has been obtained. Export sorts also have been in more request, and the quotations are fully maintained. The same languor that has of late existed, prevailed in the British Plantation market at the opening on Tuesday, and little business was done, but yesterday buyers came forward more freely, and the sales during the three days amount to 1,100 casks, and the market to-day closes with more firmness, and 6*d.* to 1*s.* higher. Mauritius: 10,915 bags were offered in public sale yesterday, greater part of which was bought in 1*s.* 6*d.* above last week's prices, and some degree of firmness being thereby produced, rather improved rates were obtained for the part sold, and a few have since been taken at the advanced prices, which ranged as follows: very fine 66*s.* to 68*s.*—good and fine yellow 63*s.* 6*d.* to 65*s.* 6*d.*—low and middling 58*s.* to 63*s.* Bengals: Only 1,402 bags have been offered this week, which went off at barely previous prices. Middling and good white 64*s.* 6*d.* to 66*s.*—low white 63*s.* to 64*s.* 810 bags Madras chiefly sold at moderate rates. Fine brown and low yellows 53*s.* to 57*s.* 6*d.* For Foreign sorts the market remains steady, the demand being only partial, while on the other hand, holders do not show much anxiety to press sales. A cargo of white Havannahs, of the old crop, has been sold, floating, for a near port, at 25*s.*, and one of about 400 chests Bahias at 22*s.* 9*d.* for whites, and 18*s.* for the browns, also for a near port; and on the spot, about 500 chests yellow Havannahs at 19*s.* 6*d.* to 23*s.*, and about 200 chests whites at 22*s.* 483 baskets Java, offered in public sale, met few bidders, and were nearly all bought in: good and fine grey 21*s.* to 23*s.*—low and middling yellows 19*s.* to 20*s.* 6*d.*

COFFEE.—The home market continues in a dull and inactive state, and the business done has been extremely limited. For Mocha there is scarcely any inquiry, but nothing is offered out cheaper.—Ceylons: Since

our last report, this description has further declined, and good ordinary quality has been sold at 62s., at which price buyers were not readily found, but within the last two days a reaction of 1s. to 2s. has taken place, and as few parcels are now offered, 383 bags, brought forward in public sale to-day, sold at 64s. to 64s. 6d. for real good ordinary, and 62s. 6d. to 63s. for rather inferior, which are the closing quotations, but the market does not show much strength. 383 bags Triage, partly sold; fine at 40s. to 43s. 6d.—ordinary, chiefly bought in at 17s. to 20s.—Foreign: The market continues quiet, both as regards the export and home-trade demand, but holders keep very firm, and little is offered out, so that no reduction can be made in the quotations. In East India sorts no transactions have come to notice, an 1 the only private sale reported is 300 bags fine ordinary Brazils at 40s., there being some export buyers for colour sorts. 248 barrels and 25 bags Rios of superior quality offered in public sale, about one-third sold, viz.—low middling and middling 53s. to 60s. 6d.—the remainder fine fine ordinary and low middling bought in at 45s. 6d. to 52s. 68 bags fine fine ordinary Bahia sold at 45s. 100 bags St Domingo sold at steady prices. Ordinary and good ordinary 31s. to 32s.

COCOA.—569 bags Trinidad offered in public sale, were chiefly bought in at 47s. to 54s., but part has since been sold.

RICE.—For Bengal the demand continues dull, and very little has been done privately. 3,002 bags have been offered in public sale, but the sound part was all bought in—good middling white 11s. 6d.; the damaged, about 1,300 bags, sold at 9s. 6d. to 11s. 6,418 bags Batavia, in public sale, were also greater part bought in at full prices, low to good middling white 10s. to 11s.; but the whole has since been placed a shade under these rates, and that remaining unsold of the sale last week has also been disposed of.

PIMENTO is more inquired for, and small parcels have been taken for shipping at rather better prices.

PEPPER remains firm, but 1,806 bags Batavia, offered in public sale, being held for stiff prices, was greater part bought in at 3½d.; a few rather grey sold at 3½d. to 3¼d., and part of those bought in have since been taken at 3¼d.

CINNAMON is quiet, waiting the sale on the 29th instant, which will comprise about 1,200 bales.

CASSIA LIGNEA.—1,466 boxes brought forward by public auction met a very animated demand, and were all sold at an advance of 3s. to 4s. per cwt. Good middling and good 68s. to 72s.; low middling 64s. to 67s.

In other **SPICES** there is little alteration, and only a moderate business is doing.

SALTPETRE.—The market continues without animation, but prices are steady. We have been without public sales this week.

NITRATE OF SODA is dull.

The **COTTON** market continues depressed.

FOREIGN

Amsterdam and Rotterdam, April 2.—Coffee: The business is limited, yet prices are firmly maintained, at the rates of the last Company's sale for East India descriptions, of which there is less offering than usually; the green colour qualities remain in demand. Sugar: The declaration of the Company's sales of about 48,000 Canisters for the 30th of April has rendered the market more quiet; but there is no reduction in the value, and it is expected that orders for the sale will be extensive. Tin dull, notwithstanding the Company have disposed of all their stock. Spices looking up since it has been intimated that there will be no spring sale. Rice: Java abundant, and lower.

Antwerp, April 3.—Sugar: Further purchases to a limited extent have taken place, principally for export, and without any change in prices. Of coffee some considerable sales of Brazil have been made at previous quotations; St Domingo is offering somewhat lower, but Java and other East India descriptions are firmly held. Cotton neglected, and no buyers at the last prices. Oil somewhat lower. For rice there are but few purchasers. Of cocoa there have been direct arrivals, and prices are lower. Ashes less firm.

Harve, April 2.—Cotton: Notwithstanding the import having again been but small, buyers have been very backward, and sellers eager to realize, in consequence of the unfavourable accounts from the United States, another decline has been the consequence. Coffee: the prices of St Domingo are again lower, some of the parcels bought to arrive having been offered for re-sale, other descriptions without change in the value. Sugar: there is but little offering, and prices are firm. Whale oil and bone remain without demand or improvement.

Hamburg, April 4.—Coffee: There has been almost nothing done since last post, and prices of the ordinary descriptions are rather lower again. Sugar: Further purchases of yellow Havannah and brown Bahia have been made at full prices, the demand for the interior being good. Cotton without buyers. Wheat depressed, speculators being disposed to realize, and there being no disposition to buy for England.

JOINT STOCK BANKS.

No. of Shares.	Dividend ^a Per An	Shares.	Paid.	Thursday April 4.
15,000	—	(Agricultural and Commercial)	25	10 0 0
15,000	8l. per ct.	(of Ireland - - - -)	40	40 0 0
7,500	—	Do. New - - - - -	—	40 0 0
20,000	6l. per ct.	British North American - -	50	50 0 0
—	—	Do. New - - - - -	—	10 0 0
5,000	6l. per ct.	Ceylon - - - - -	25	20 0 0
8,000	—	County of Gloucester - - -	100	25 0 0
1,000	5l. per ct.	Commercial of London - - -	200	0 0 0
20,000	5l. per ct.	Colonial - - - - -	100	25 0 0
4,000	6l. per ct.	Ionian - - - - -	25	25 0 0
40,000	6l. per ct.	London and Westminster - -	100	20 0 0
60,000	6l. per ct.	London Joint Stock - - - -	50	10 0 0
—	—	Metropolitan - - - - -	25	7 10 0
40,000	8l. per ct.	Provincial of Ireland - - -	100	25 0 0
30,000	8l. per ct.	Do. New - - - - -	10	10 0 0
4,000	6l. per ct.	Royal of Australia - - - -	50	17 10 0
10,000	2l. per sh.	National Provincial of England	100	35 0 0
10,000	6s. per sh.	Do. New - - - - -	20	10 0 0
10,000	14l. per ct.	Northamptonshire Union - -	25	5 0 0
21,500	—	(West of England and South)	50	10 0 0
10,000	6l. per ct.	(Wales District - - - -)	20	12 0 0
20,000	6l. per ct.	Wilts and Dorset - - - -	15	7 10 0
20,000	8l. per ct.	Union of Australia - - - -	25	25 0 0
10,000	8l. per ct.	Do. do. - - - - -	—	2 10 0
60,000	6l. per ct.	Union of London - - - - -	50	10 0 0

BANK OF ENGLAND.

LIABILITIES.	ASSETS.
Account of the Liabilities and Assets of the Bank of England on the average of the Quarter, from the 30th of December to the 31st March, 1844	Circulation £21,125,000
	Deposits, 13,972,000
	Securities, £22,479,000
	Bullion, 15,783,000
	£35,094,000
	£38,263,000

PRICES CURRENT.

GOVERNMENT FUNDS.	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Good Friday.
Bank Stock, 7 per cent. - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—
3 per Cent. Reduced - - - - -	98½	99½	99½	98½	99½	—
3 per Cent. Consols - - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—
3½ per Cent. Ann. 1819 - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—
3 per Cent. Ann. 1726 - - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—
3½ per Cent. Reduced - - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—
New 3½ per Cent. Ann. - - - - -	102½	102½	102½	103	103½	—
New 5 per Cent. - - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—
Long Ann. Jan. 5, 1850 - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ann. for 30 years, Oct. 10, 1850	—	—	—	—	—	—
Do. Jan. 5, 1850 - - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—
Do. Jan. 5, 1850 - - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—
India Stock, 10½ per Cent. - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—
Do. Bonds, 3½ per Cent. 1,600l	—	—	—	—	—	—
Do. under 1,000l. - - - - -	88	88s. pm	87s. pm	89s. pm	87s. pm	—
South Sea Stock, 3½ per Cent. -	—	—	—	—	—	—
Do. Old Ann. 3 per Cent. - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—
Do. New Ann. 3 per Cent. - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—
3 per Cent. Ann. 1751 - - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bank Stock for Opp., April 12, -	200	200½	—	201½	201	—
3 per Cent. Con. for Account, ditto	—	—	—	—	—	—
India Stock for Account, ditto -	—	—	—	—	—	—
Canada Guaranteed Deben. 4 per Cent.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Exchequer Bills, 1,000l. 1½d. -	70	71	72	72	73	—
Do. 500l. 1½d. - - - - -	70	71	72	—	73	—
Do. Small 1½d. - - - - -	70	71	—	73	73	—
Do. Commercial, 1½d. - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—

RAILWAYS.

	No. of Shares.	Dividends per Annum.		Shares.		Paid.		Thurs.
		L. s. d.	p. ct.	L. s. d.	p. ct.	L. s. d.	p. ct.	
Edinburgh and Dalkeith - - - -	1,154	5 0 0	0 pct	50 0 0	—	50 0 0	—	—
Glasgow and Ayrshire - - - - -	12,500	2 10 0	0 pct	50 0 0	—	50 0 0	—	51
Glasgow and Greenock - - - - -	16,000	2 10 0	0 pct	25 0 0	—	25 0 0	—	14
Glasgow and Garmkirk - - - - -	4,000	6 10 0	0 pct	25 0 0	—	25 0 0	—	28
Dundee and Arbroath - - - - -	4,000	—	—	25 0 0	—	25 0 0	—	34
Birmingham and Derby - - - -	6,300	1 13 0	0 psh	100 0 0	—	100 0 0	—	62
Ditto Thirds, iss. 8s. dis. - - -	6,300	0 11 0	0 psh	33 6 8	—	25 0 0	—	—
Ditto Elgiths - - - - -	6,300	0 1 11	—	—	—	1 10 0	—	—
Birmingham and Gloucester - -	9,500	2 0 0	0 psh	100 0 0	—	100 0 0	—	96
Ditto New, iss. 7½ dis. - - - -	10,000	0 15 0	—	25 0 0	—	17 0 0	—	23
Bristol and Exeter - - - - -	15,000	2 16 0	0 pct	100 0 0	—	70 0 0	—	72
Ditto and Gloucester - - - - -	6,540	—	—	50 0 0	—	30 0 0	—	49
Caledonian - - - - -	36,900	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
Chester and Birkenhead - - - -	—	0 17 9	—	50 0 0	—	0 0 0	—	—
Eastern Counties - - - - -	56,000	0 7 0	—	25 0 0	—	23 0 0	—	12
Ditto New - - - - -	88,000	0 8 9	—	25 0 0	—	6	—	13
Ditto Extension - - - - -	144,000	5 0 0	0 pct	6 13 4	—	13 4	—	1½ pm
Eastern Union - - - - -	4,600	—	—	50 0 0	—	5 0 0	—	—
Glasgow, Paisley, and Ayrshire -	12,500	2 0 0	0 pct	50 0 0	—	50 0 0	—	—
Edinburgh and Glasgow - - - -	18,000	2 7 6	0 pct	50 0 0	—	50 0 0	—	68
Ditto New - - - - -	18,000	0 10 2	0 psh	12 10 0	—	12 10 0	—	—
Ditto Registered - - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	12 10 0	—	16
Grand Junction - - - - -	10,918	10 0 0	0 pct	100 0 0	—	50 0 0	—	—
Ditto Half Shares - - - - -	10,918	10 0 0	0 pct	50 0 0	—	50 0 0	—	—
Ditto Quarter Shares - - - - -	—	—	—	25 0 0	—	25 0 0	—	—
Great North of England - - - -	10,000	2 17 6	0 pct	100 0 0	—	100 0 0	—	99
Great Western - - - - -	25,000	3 11 6	0 psh	100 0 0	—	75 0 0	—	110
Ditto Half Shares - - - - -	25,000	2 15 0	0 psh	50 0 0	—	50 0 0	—	70
Ditto Quarter Shares - - - - -	37,500	0 13 2	0 psh	20 0 0	—	12 0 0	—	19
Hull and Selby - - - - -	8,000	3 10 0	0 pct	50 0 0	—	50 0 0	—	—
Ditto Quarter Shares - - - - -	8,000	—	—	12 10 0	—	6 0 0	—	9
Lancaster and Carlisle - - - -	16,000	—	—	50 0 0	—	3 0 0	—	8
Leeds and Bradford - - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Leeds and Selby - - - - -	2,100	—	—	100 0 0	—	100 0 0	—	—
Liverpool and Manchester - - - -	5,100	10 0 0	0 pct	100 0 0	—	100 0 0	—	—
Ditto New - - - - -	7,900	10 0 0	0 pct	50 0 0	—	50 0 0	—	—
Ditto Quarter Shares - - - - -	11,475	10 0 0	0 pct	25 0 0	—	25 0 0	—	—
London and Brighton - - - - -	36,000	2 0 0	0 psh	50 0 0	—	50 0 0	—	44
Ditto Loan Notes - - - - -	—	5 0 0	0 pct	10 0 0	—	10 0 0	—	11
London and Blackwall - - - - -	48,000	0 2 6	—	—	—	16 13 4	—	6
London and Greenwich - - - -	43,077	—	—	—	—	12 15 4	—	5
Preference or Div. 1½p. - - - -	11,936	—	—	—	—	18 17 2	—	17
London and Birmingham - - - -	4,125,000	10 0 0	0 pct	—	—	—	—	25
Ditto New Quarter Shares - - -	54,450	10 0 0	0 pct	—	—	—	—	—
Ditto New Thirds - - - - -	41,550	1 14 0	—	32 0 0	—	2 0 0	—	—
London and South-Western - - -	46,200	3 5 0	0 psh	—	—	41 6 10	—	83
Ditto Elgiths - - - - -	—	—	—	6 5 0	—	0 15 0	—	4
London and Croydon - - - - -	32,000	0 14 0	0 psh	—	—	13 15 9	—	—
Ditto Scrip, issued at 50s. dis. -	7,000	—	—	10 0 0	—	7 10 0	—	114
Manchester and Leeds - - - - -	13,000	4 7 6	0 psh	100 0 0	—	70 0 0	—	—
Ditto New Shares - - - - -	13,000	1 17 6	0 psh	50 0 0	—	30 0 0	—	49
Ditto Quarter Shares - - - - -	13,000	0 4 0	—	—	—	2 0 0	—	—
Manchester and Birmingham - -	39,000	1 13 0	—	70 0 0	—	40 0 0	—	49
Ditto Extension - - - - -	—	—	—	70 0 0	—	7 0 0	—	—
Midland Counties - - - - -	10,000	4 8 0	—	100 0 0	—	100 0 0	—	—
Ditto Quarter Shares, iss. 10 dis. -	10,000	0 17 0	—	25 0 0	—	15 0 0	—	—
Ditto Fiths - - - - -	10,000	0 2 4	—	20 0 0	—	2 0 0	—	3
Norwich and Brandon - - - - -	19,000	—	—	20 0 0	—	2 0 0	—	7
Newcastle and Darlington Junction	—	0 6 0	—	25 0 0	—	15 0 0	—	39
North Midland - - - - -	15,000	3 10 0	—	100 0 0	—	100 0 0	—	—
Ditto Half Shares, iss. 10 dis. -	15,000	1 15 0	—	50 0 0	—	40 0 0	—	45
Ditto Thirds, iss. at 11s. 4d. dis. -	25,500	1 13 4	—	21 10 0	—	21 13 4	—	—
Northern and Eastern - - - - -	10,556	1 15 0	—	50 0 0	—	45 0 0	—	57
Ditto Scrip, issued at 5s. dis. -								

PUBLIC SECURITIES OF UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

	Per Cent.	Redem. abn.	Amount in Dolls.	Dividends.	London Prices, April 2.	Amer. Prices, Mar. 5.	London Prices, April 6.	Amer. Prices, Mar. 11.
Alabama	5	1852	500,000	May & Nov.	—	83	—	83
"	5	1858	2,000,000	Jan. & July.	82	—	82	—
"	5	1863	3,500,000	May & Nov.	—	—	—	—
Indiana	5	1861	1,600,000	Jan. & July.	35	—	35	—
"	5	1866	1,600,000	"	—	—	—	—
Illinois	5	1870	5,000,000	"	40	39	40	39
"	5	1870	1,000,000	"	40	40	40	40
Kentucky	5	1868	1,250,000	"	93	104	93	104
Louisiana, Sterling	5	1848	1,800,000	"	—	—	—	—
"	5	1843	"	"	—	—	—	—
"	5	1844	"	"	—	—	—	—
"	5	1847	7,000,000	Feb. & Aug.	60	—	60	—
"	5	1850	"	"	—	—	—	—
"	5	1852	150,000	May & Nov.	—	—	—	—
"	5	1867	300,000	April & Oct.	—	—	—	—
Maryland	5	1859	750,000	"	—	—	—	—
"	5	1888	3,000,000	Jan. & July.	65	—	65	—
Massachusetts	5	1857	1,000,000	"	—	—	—	—
"	5	1868	500,000	April & Oct.	—	—	—	—
Michigan	5	1863	5,000,000	Jan. & July.	—	—	—	—
Mississippi, Sterling	5	1850	"	May & Nov.	—	—	—	—
"	5	1858	"	"	—	—	—	—
"	5	1861	2,000,000	Mar. & Sep.	—	—	—	—
"	5	1866	"	"	—	—	—	—
"	5	1871	"	"	—	—	—	—
New York	5	1838	3,124,270	Quarterly.	94½	103½	94½	103½
"	5	1850	877,000	"	—	—	—	—
Ohio	5	1850	4,000,000	Jan. & July.	—	—	—	—
"	5	1850	"	"	91	99½	91	99
"	5	1850	"	"	—	—	—	—
Pennsylvania	5	1854	3,202,500	Feb. & Aug.	—	—	—	—
"	5	1855	2,733,102	"	—	—	—	—
"	5	1858	3,070,661	"	67½	71	67½	71
"	5	1860	2,648,680	"	—	—	—	—
"	5	1862	2,295,400	"	—	—	—	—
"	5	1864	1,700,000	"	—	—	—	—
South Carolina Ba-	5	1866	£200,000	Jan. & July.	—	—	—	—
ring's	5	1868	1,000,000	"	—	—	—	—
Tennessee	5	1857	400,000	"	—	—	—	—
Virginia	5	1856	"	"	—	—	—	—
Florida	5	1860	1,000,000	"	—	—	—	—
"	5	1864	"	"	—	—	—	—
"	5	1865	"	"	—	—	—	—
Ditto Sterl. Bonds	5	1864	2,000,000	"	—	—	—	—
"	5	1864	"	"	—	—	—	—
United States Bank	5	1856	35,000,000	"	22s.	5½	22s.	5½
Shares	5	(An.)	"	"	—	—	—	—
Ditto Debentures	5	1841	£800,000	April & Oct.	60	—	60	—
"	5	1842	"	"	—	—	—	—
Ditto ditto	5	1841	£900,000	"	40	—	40	—
"	5	1842	"	"	—	—	—	—
Louisiana State Bk.	10	1870	2,000,000	Jan. & July.	—	—	—	—
Bank of Louisiana	8	1870	4,000,000	"	—	—	—	—
New York City	5	1850	9,600,000	Quarterly.	—	—	—	—
"	5	1851	"	"	—	—	—	—
New Orleans City	5	1864	250,000	Feb. & Aug.	—	—	—	—
"	5	1863	1,500,000	Jan. & July.	—	—	—	—
Philadelphia City	5	1863	175,000	May & Nov.	—	—	—	—
Baltimore City	5	1850	4,600,000	Quarterly.	—	—	—	—
Camden & Amboy	5	1854	£210,000	Feb. & Aug.	—	167	—	167
R. R. Bonds	5	1864	£225,000	"	—	—	—	—
Phil. & Reading R.	5	1860	£210,000	"	—	—	—	—
R. Bonds	5	ds.	"	"	—	—	—	—

PRICES OF FOREIGN STOCKS.

	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Friday.
Austrian, 5 per cent., 10 guilders	—	—	—	—	—	—
per pound sterling	—	—	—	—	—	—
Belgian Bonds, 5 per cent.	—	104½	—	104	—	—
Brazilian Bonds, 5 per cent.	87½	80	80½	80½	—	—
Do. New, 5 per cent. 1829 & 1839	—	—	—	—	79½	—
Do. New, 1843	—	—	—	—	37½	—
Buenos Ayres Bonds, 6 per cent.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cuba Bonds, 6 per cent.	—	—	—	—	102	—
Chilian Bonds, 6 per cent.	50½	—	—	—	—	—
Do. 3 per cent. deferred	—	—	—	—	—	—
Columbian Bonds, 6 per cent. ex	14½	15½	15½	16½	15½	—
Venezuela	—	—	—	—	—	—
Danish Bonds, 3 per cent., 1825	—	—	87½	—	—	—
Dutch, 2½ per cent. Exchange 12 gu.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Greek Bonds, 1824-25, 5 per cent.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Do. ex over-due Coupons	14½	15	15½	15½	15	—
Mexican, 5 per cent., 1857, ex over-	37	37	37½	37½	37	—
due coupons and debentures	—	—	—	—	—	—
Do. Small	—	—	—	—	—	—
Do. Deferred Stock, 5 per cent.	17	17½	17½	17½	16½	—
Do. Debentures	—	—	—	—	—	—
Neapolitan Bonds, 1824, 5 per cent.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Peruvian Bonds, 6 per cent.	31½	31½	31½	31½	31	—
Prussian Bonds, 4 per cent.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Portuguese Bonds, 5 per cent.	—	—	80	—	—	—
Do. Converted	—	—	—	47	45½	—
Do. Small	—	—	—	—	—	—
Do. Annuities, 1855	—	—	—	—	—	—
Russian Bonds, 1822, 5 per cent. in	—	—	117½	—	—	—
pound sterling	—	—	—	—	—	—
Do. do. Metallic	—	—	—	—	—	—
Spanish Bonds, 5 per cent. Div. from	27½	26½	27½	27½	27	—
December, 1840	—	—	—	—	—	—
Do. do. do. from Nov. 1842	—	21	—	—	—	—
Do. do. do. from Nov. 1843	—	—	—	—	—	—
Do. Passive Bonds	7½	7½	7½	7½	7½	—
Do. Deferred	15½	15½	16	16½	16½	—
Do. 3 per cent.	37½	37½	38½	38½	37½	—
Venezuela Bonds, 2 per cent.	41	39½	—	—	40	—
Do. do. Deferred	11½	11½	11	12	12½	—
Dividends on the above payable in	—	—	—	—	—	—
London.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dutch, 2½ per cent., Exchange 12 guil.	—	59½	59½	60½	61½	—
Do. 5 per cent.	—	102½	99½	99½	100½	—
5 per cent. New Loan, 1837	—	102	—	—	100½	—
Neapolitan Bonds, 5 per cent.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ex. per Dutch. 4½. Ex. per	—	—	—	—	—	—
pound Sterl. 25f. 65c.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Russian Inscription, 6 per cent.	—	—	—	—	—	—

IRISH STOCKS.

	Wed.	Thurs.	Friday.	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.
per Cent. Consols	98½	98	98½	98½	98½	—
Reduced Do.	—	—	—	—	—	—
¾ per Cent. Stock	101½	101½	101½	101½	101½	101
Reduced Do.	—	—	—	—	—	—
¾ Stock, New	101½	101½	101½	101½	101½	101½
¼ per Cent. Debentures	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½
Exchequer Bills	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bank Stock	—	—	—	191½	—	—
oyal Canal Stock	—	—	—	—	—	—
Grand Canal Stock	—	—	—	—	—	—
Co. Debentures 6 per Cent.	82½	84½	84½	84½	84½	84½
Do. Do. 4 per Cent.	—	—	—	—	—	—

CORN MARKETS.

(From Messrs Gillies and Horn's Circular.)

CORN EXCHANGE, MONDAY, APRIL 1.—The weather has been very fine now for nearly a week, and the farmers are busy in the fields. The arrivals are short, except of Irish Oats, of which during last week there was a liberal supply. In wheat, some Essex samples were cleared off early in the morning at last week's prices: free foreign much as before. Barley had a tolerably free sale, at nearly last week's prices. Oats, not dearer, but certainly not cheaper. A large supply of new beans were pretty well cleared off. There was no change in peas. Flour remains at last week's quotations.

BRITISH.	PER QR.	FOREIGN AND COLONIAL.	PER QR.
Wheat, Essex, Kent, Suffolk, white	57s to 62s	Wheat, White Spanish, Tuscan	60s to —
Lothian, Fife, Angus, do.	52s to 60s	High mixed Danzig	61s to —
Inverness, Murray, &c.	52s to 60s	Mixed do.	58s to 63s
Essex, Kent, Suffolk, red	52s to 58s	Rostock, new	60s to —
Cambridge, Lincoln, red	52s to 55s	Red Hamburg	— to 60s
Barley, English Malting, and Che-	—	Polish Odessa	53s to —
valier	33s to 36s	Hard do.	50s to —
Distiller's, English & Scotch	31s to 33s	Egyptian	—
Course, for grinding, &c.	—	Barley, Malting, &c.	—
Oats, Northumberland & Berwick	21s to 22s	Distiller's, &c.	—
Lothian, Fife, Angus	21s to 22s	Grinding, &c.	— to 21s
Murray, Ross	21s to 22s	Oats, Brew, &c.	—
Aberdeen and Banff	20s to 22s	Polands, &c.	—
Cathness	20s to 22s	Feed, &c.	—
Cambridge, Lincoln, &c.	20s to 21s	Do. dried, Riga, &c.	—
Irish	18s to 20s	Rye, Dried	—
English, black	20s to 21s	Undried	—
Irish	19s to 20s	Beans, Horse	34s to —
Potato, Scotch	23s to 25s	Mediterranean	26s to 29s
Irish	20s to 26s	Peas, White	—
Poland, Lincoln, &c.	22s to 26s	Yellow	34s to —
Beans, Ticks	28s to 32s	Flour, French, per 280 lbs. nett	—
Harrow	29s to 32s	weight	—
Small	30s to 38s	American, per Bar. 196 lbs.	—
Peas, White	34s to 36s	nett weight	33s to 25s
Boilers	37s to —	Danzig, &c. do. do.	—
Flour, Town-made Households	48s to 50s	Canada, do. do.	30s to 32s
Norfolk and Suffolk	40s to —	Sour, do. do.	—

SMITHFIELD MARKET.

MONDAY.—From the results of last Friday's market it had been expected that, as the butchers then purchased in such very small quantities, the state of trade this morning would have been at least equal to that of Monday last. This was very far from being the case: and, notwithstanding the colder state of the weather this morning to what might have been expected from the mildness of yesterday, the butchers, both town and country, bought upon a most unusually small scale for everything. The little disposition exhibited upon their part to purchase would naturally produce a fall in prices, but the decline in the rates to-day exceed anything of the kind this year. For every description of meat the trade was very dull, and sales were with difficulty effected at a fall of from 2d. to even 6d. per stone throughout. The supplies were, with the exception of calves, plentiful, if not large, the numbers being 2,720 head of beasts, and about 27,000 head of sheep, with 400 pigs. The few lambs at market both to-day and on Friday met with a brisk sale at good prices, but as the lamb season has not yet commenced, no quotation is given, but about 6s 4d. or 6s 6d. per stone is near the rates realized.

FRIDAY.—This being a holiday market the supply of beasts on offer was extremely small, and of inferior quality, while the beef trade was in a very depressed state, at barely Monday's quotations. Although the numbers of sheep were scanty, the inquiry for them was heavy, at unaltered figures. This being the great lamb show, the supply of that description of stock was good, viz., 5,200. Prime qualities sold briskly, at an advance of 4d. per 8 lbs. In the value of other kinds no variation took place. The arrivals from the Isle of Wight were only 135 head. Calves and pigs were a mere drif, at barely late rates. Milch cows were numerous, and held at from 16s. to 18l. 10s. each.

Prices per Stone.				At Market.			
Monday.		Friday.		Monday.		Friday.	
Beef	2s 10d to 4s 0d	2s 6d to 3s 10d	Beasts	—	2,720	—	794
Mutton	3s 2d to 4s 0d	2s 8d to 4s					

—T. Gibson and H. Harding, Bristol, hat manufacturers.—J. Bradshawe, R. Holroyd, and H. Render, Salford, Lancashire, sizers (as regards J. Bradshawe).—J. G. Smith and A. T. Hamilton, Liverpool, commission merchants.—W. and J. Ciulow, Macclesfield, woollen drapers.—S. and W. Calley, Brixham, Devonshire, merchants.—J. Mather, S. Coop, and J. Holt, Woolfield and Bury, Lancashire, paper makers (as regards J. Mather).—J. Clarke and J. Skey, Upton-upon-Severn, Worcestershire, attorneys at law.—J. Nichols and J. Jefferson, Snow hill, City, ironmongers.—R. and G. Clay, Liverpool, iron merchants.—W. Horsfall, W. Slater, and A. Robinson, Halifax, Yorkshire, cotton spinners.—H. F. Letchworth and T. Morris, Reading, woollen drapers.—G. E. Carruthers, and C. H. Buncombe, Assembly row, and Redman's row, Mile-end road, surgeons.—J. T. and E. Mounsey, G. Elliot, W. and C. Croudace, Washington Colliery, Durham (as regards J. T. and E. Mounsey, and G. Elliot).—J. Gilpin and G. A. Brumell, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, porter merchants.—W. and G. Phillipson, Sutton park, Surrey, farmers.—I. Bass and E. Yate, Greville street, Hatton garden, ink manufacturers.—S. Chaplin and G. King, Buckingham, linen drapers.—T. Steadman and J. Pelton, Long acre, but now of West street, Soho, brass founders.—S. Willis and W. Parker, George and Dragon yard, Long acre, wheelwrights.—P. W. Dobby and A. Miller, Manchester, linen merchants.—J. Lluellin and W. Gillins, Earl street, Horseferry road, Westminster, cab proprietors.—R. Lamsdale and J. A. Chave, Chipping, Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, chemists.

BANKRUPTS.

GAME, J., Long Melford, Suffolk, corn dealer. [Amory and Co., Throgmorton street.
CHRISTOPHERS, J. S., East India chambers, Leadenhall street, merchant. [Grey, Great Tower street.
JOHNSON, J. C., Laurence Pountney hill, Cannon street, merchant. [Fyson and Curling, Frederick's place, Old Jewry.
BRADSHAW, J., Marylebone street, woollen draper. [Moseley, Bedford street, Covent garden.
BALL, W., Goodge street, Tottenham-court road, cabinet maker. [Venning and Co., Tokenhouse yard.
CARNETT, J. F., Wellington street, and Tooley street, Borough, hatter. [Shearman and Co., Great Tower street.
BROWN, W., Wapping, victualler. [Shoubridge and Co., Bedford row.
M'DONNELL, G., Mincing lane, City, wine broker. [Dodds and Linklaters, Leadenhall street.
WINSTANLEY, T., Laurence lane, City, commission agent. [Hall, Moorgate street.
MULLER, F. J. H., now or late of Adlle street, Wood street, City, furrier. [Teague, Crown court, Cheapside.
BALL, S., Liverpool, chemist. [Milne and Co., Temple.
GIBSON, E., Kendal, Westmoreland, and Dolwyddelan, Carnarvonshire, builder. [Allen and Co., Queen street, Cheapside.
ROBINSON, T., Leicester, wine merchant. [Barker and Co., Mark lane.
HAWKINS, G., Bristol, mason. [Daniels and Barker, Bristol.

INSOLVENTS.

W. Young, Tulse hill, Lambeth, Surrey, gentleman's servant.—J. Samuell, Guildford, Surrey, dyer.—T. Ellis, Bakewell, Derbyshire, stone mason.—G. Bottom, Huddersfield, Yorkshire, cloth weaver.—W. McCarthy, Portsmouth, clothier.—J. Lister, Brighouse, Yorkshire, worsted spinner.—W. Alsbury, Bath, licensed victualler.—H. Martin, Moulsham, Essex, wheelwright.—E. Brown, Harescomb, Gloucestershire, out of business.—G. Standley, Northampton, plumber.—R. Page, sen., Neithrop, Oxfordshire, out of business.—T. Frankis, jun., Gloucester, out of business.—J. Barrett, Bath, surgeon.—G. Fox, Thomas street, New Kent road, retailer of beer.—R. Prichard, Park road, St Marylebone, merchant's clerk.—C. Grimani, Frederick place, Old Kent road, commercial traveller.—J. Davison, Liverpool, boardinghouse keeper.—W. H. Bayfield, Charlotte West, Islington, fishmonger.—E. McGurk, Holyhood, Southampton, tailor.—T. Harrison, Sheffield, table knife manufacturer.—H. Ashton, Longsight, Lancashire, joiner.—J. Perry, Ann's place, Lant street, Southwark, livery-stable keeper.—W. Gough, Warfield, Berkshire, out of business.—W. W. Pratt, Peckham, Surrey, clerk in the customs.—J. Bispham, Manchester, out of business.—W. H. Stephens, Peckham, Surrey, undertaker.—Mary Hind, New street, Covent garden, out of business.—F. Boswood, Tavistock street, Tottenham-court road, out of business.

DIVIDENDS.

April 23, J. B. Winholt, Old Swan, City, merchant.—April 23, W. Chamberlain, Peckham, Surrey, draper.—April 23, A. Harris, Chichester, Sussex, hotel keeper.—April 23, R. Griffiths, Nine elms, and Belmont place, Vauxhall, coal merchant.—April 25, J. and T. Metcalfe, Cambridge, upholsterers.—April 23, J. Smith, Hoxton Old town, linen draper.—April 23, W. Paterson, Chelsea, common brewer.—April 24, D. Baseley, High street, Southwark, and Surrey place, Old Kent road, cheesemonger.—April 24, S. Phillips, Brook street, Hanover square, carpet warehouseman.—April 24, J. C. Crespin, Eastcheap, City, shipping agent.—April 24, J. Philpott, Billericay, Essex, coach proprietor.—April 23, J. Sparham, Froston, Suffolk, miller.—April 23, J. Bishopp, Westburton, Sussex, market gardener.—April 24, J. T. Burgon, Bucklersbury, City, wholesale hardwareman.—April 23, F. T. West, Commercial road, Lambeth, coal merchant.—April 23, A. Carter, Lower Thames street, City, ship broker.—April 23, R. Sharpe, Chelmsford, Essex, draper.—April 24, G. Lawes, Southampton, tailor.—April 24, J. H. Tipple, Wymondham, Norfolk, bombazin manufacturer.—May 1, J. Harford and W. W. Davies, Bristol, and Ebbw Vale and Sirhowy, iron masters.—May 3, J. Bumby, Malton, Yorkshire, hatter.—May 3, T. Smithson, York, tobaccoist.—April 25, W. Wood and H. Port, Burton-upon-Trent, Staffordshire, screw manufacturers.—April 23, H. Fulford, Birmingham, draper.—April 24, J. and H. Goddard, Market Harborough, Leicestershire, bankers.

CERTIFICATES.

April 26, R. Goodwin, Eton, Buckinghamshire, ironmonger.—April 24, W. Baker, Lower Grosvenor street, Bond street, surgeon.—April 24, S. White, Lamb's Conduit street, Holborn, surgeon.—April 24, J. Willis, Osborne street, Whitechapel, ale merchant.—April 24, G. Field, Bond court, Walbrook, City, packer.—May 7, R. Lang, Birstall, Yorkshire, tallow chandler.—April 24, T. Lay, Dudley, Worcestershire, grocer.—April 25, R. Davenport, jun., Birmingham, plumber.

CERTIFICATES.—APRIL 23.

R. Hazell, Ramsbury, Wiltshire, corn dealer.—S. H. Angier, Philpot lane, City, newspaper proprietor.—E. Evans, Llangurdirne, Carmarthen-shire, draper.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

W. Forsyth, Glasgow, grocer.—J. Murdoch, Newmilns, Ayrshire merchant.

Friday, April 5.

BANKRUPTS.

PHILLIPS, P., Southampton street, Covent garden, printseller. [Foord, Pinner's hall, Old Broad street, City.
PEGLER, F. J., Reading, Berkshire, woollen draper. [Wood and Fraser, Dean street, Soho.
KING, J., Budge row, City, tea dealer. [Dawes and Sons, Angel court, Throgmorton street.
CLIFT, W. G., Cross lane, High Holborn, coach broker. [Jones, Mark lane.
BEALD, N., Beech street, Barbican, leather seller. [Steinng, Staple's inn, Holborn.
SAGE, A. J., High street, Whitechapel, chemist. [Rawlings, Crosby-hall chambers, Bishopsgate street, within.
LAWRENCE, G. H. D., Hornsey, Middlesex, merchant. [Blunt and Co., Lothbury.
BRIGINSHAW, J., Wandsworth, Surrey, publican. [James, Basinghall street.
HODSON, T. C., Leominster, Herefordshire, linendraper. [Lloyd, Milk street, Cheapside.
DEVINE, M., Liverpool, grocer. [Cornthwaite and Adams, Dean's court, Doctors' Commons.
BROWN, J., Weymouth, grocer. [Hill and Matthews, Bury court, St Mary axe, London.

BIRTHS.

On the 1st instant, at the Manse of Wester Kirk, the lady of the Rev. W. B. Dunbar, of a daughter.
On the 1st instant, at Kirk Hallam hall, Derbyshire, the lady of the Rev. G. S. Ebsworth, vicar of Ilkeston, of a son.

MARRIED.

On the 24th of February last, at St Mary's, Islington, W. H. F. Plate, LL.D., to Emily, widow of the late J. Barnard, Esq., of Park street, Islington.
On the 30th ultimo, at St Marylebone church, Miss Mary Anne Marsden, of Oxford terrace, to Mr F. C. Pridham, of Cennen Tower, Wales.

DIED.

On Wednesday, the 27th ult., at Manchester, Mr John Burn, a worthy and excellent man, who expired in his 68th year. Most of our commercial readers are acquainted with a practical work of the highest value, which he published periodically, called *Burn's Glance*. It gives in a tabular form a *coup d'œil* of the annual imports and exports of the country, and has often been quoted in parliament as a standard authority.
On the 24th ult., at Copenhagen, the celebrated Thorwaldsen, aged 74. He was the greatest sculptor of his age.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

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

TO MR PROUT, 229 STRAND, LONDON.—Sir, The great benefit which I have received by taking Blair's Gout and Rheumatic Pills induces me to inform you of the particulars of my case. About three weeks ago I became afflicted with a severe attack of rheumatism, which, for three days and nights, prevented my having rest or sleep, and was totally incapable of attending to business, when I was recommended to try Blair's Gout and Rheumatic Pills, which I did, and took them regularly for four days, by which time the pain had entirely left me, and on the fifth day I was able to attend to business as usual. I shall endeavour, by every means, to recommend a medicine which has given me so much relief. If the publication of my case will render any service, you are at liberty to use it.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,

G. E. SMITH,

Assistant to Mr Barraclough, Snuff Manufacturer to the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor, 46 Ludgate hill, London.

Sept. 11, 1843.

The above recent testimonial is a further proof of the great efficacy of this valuable Medicine. Sold by T. Prout, 229 Strand, London, and all Medicine Venders. Price 2s. 9d. per box.

EASE IN WALKING AND COMFORT TO THE FEET.

Wellington street, Strand, London.

HALL and Co. SOLE PATENTEES of the PANNUS CORIUM, or Leather-Cloth Boots and Shoes, for Ladies and Gentlemen.—These articles have borne the test and received the approbation of all who have worn them. Such as are troubled with Corns, Bunions, Gout, Chills, or Tenderness of Feet from any other cause, will find them the softest and most comfortable ever invented—they never draw the feet or get hard, are very durable, and adapted for every climate; they resemble the finest leather, and are cleaned with common blacking.

The Patent India-Rubber Goloshes are light, durable, elastic, and waterproof; they thoroughly protect the feet from damp or cold.

Hall and Co.'s Portable Waterproof Dresses for Ladies and Gentlemen. This desirable article claims the attention of all who are exposed to the wet. Ladies' Cardinal Cloaks, with Hoods, 18s. Gentlemen's Dresses, comprising Cape, Overalls, and Hood, 21s. The whole can be carried with convenience in the pocket.

N.B. Hall and Co. particularly invite attention to their Elastic Boots, which are much approved; they supersede lacing or buttoning, are drawn on in an instant, and are a great support to the ankle.

PATRONIZED BY HER MAJESTY,
H. R. H. PRINCE ALBERT, THE ROYAL FAMILY,
AND THE SEVERAL COURTS OF EUROPE.
ROWLAND'S MACASSAR OIL.

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

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

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

ROWLAND'S KALYDOR

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

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

ROWLAND'S ODONTO, OR PEARL DENTIFRICE.

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

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

CAUTION.

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

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

••• All others are FRAUDULENT COUNTERFEITS.

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

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

15 per Cent. Discount for Cash to Shippers, Captains, and Emigrants.

SILVER SUPERSEDED, and those corrosive and injurious metals, called Nickel and German Silver, supplanted by the introduction of a new and perfectly matchless ALBATA PLATE.

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

	Plain.	Threaded.	King's.
Table Spoons and Forks	16s. 6d.	30s. 0d.	35s. 0s.
Dessert ditto ditto	12 6	25 0	30 0
Tea Spoons	5 6	13 6	13 6
Salt ditto	6 0	12 6	12 6
Fish Knives	5 6 each	12 6	12 6
Sauce Ladles	3 6 pair	7 6	7 6
Gravy Spoons	3 6 each	7 6	7 6

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

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

Foreign Orders promptly executed to any extent.

THREE PAPIER MACHE TEA TRAYS, 35s.; a set of three Gothic-shape ditto (including the largest size), for 35s.; three Gothic-shape japanned ditto, 25s.; three sandwich-shape ditto, 15s.; and every article in Furnishing Hardware unusually low; quality here is the primary consideration, hence their uninterrupted success for fifty years, and their present celebrity, as the best and most extensive Furnishing Warehouses in London.

TABLE KNIVES, ivory handles, warranted, 11s. per doz.; Desserts, 9s.; Carvers, 4s. per pair; a most extensive stock to select from, with balance handles, at 55s., 60s., and 70s., the long set of fifty pieces; white bone and other handles, 8s. to 15s. the twenty-four pieces: stag-handled carvers, 3s. 6d. per pair. The establishments of C. Watson have ranked pre-eminent for fifty years for their superior Table Cutlery, the whole of which is marked with his name and address, and subject to exchange if not approved of.

SOLAR and CANDLE LAMPS.—A Solar Lamp to burn common oil without smoke or smell, 22s. 6d.; a Palmer's Patent Candle Lamp, to give the light of two mould candles, plated, and with glass shade, 9s.; Hot Water Dishes for venison, beefsteak, or stews; a Set of Six London-made Patent Dish Covers, 18s. 9d.; Fenders, 3 ft. 6s.; 3 ft. 6 in. 7s.; if bronzed, 3 ft. 7s.; 3 ft. 6 in. 8s. Fire Irons, 3s. 6d.; Coal Scuttles, Tea Kettles, and every article in Furnishing Hardware unusually low.

FRUIT DESSERT KNIVES, with FRENCH FORKS, of C. WATSON'S NEW ALBATA PLATE (which is so rapidly superseding silver), in sets of twenty-four pieces, with ivory handles, 45s.; carved ivory handles, 50s.; Albert-pattern handles, 50s.; if in mahogany cases, 16s. extra. C. W. begs the public to understand this Metal is peculiarly his own, and is manufactured into every article for the Table and Sideboard. Plated and Silver Goods in every variety. Export and wholesale orders promptly executed.

To Families and New-married Couples, and indeed to all who study economy, combined with usefulness and elegance, the possession of his Catalogue will prove invaluable, and is sent to all parts of the Kingdom Gratis, and Post Free, on application at his Warehouses, 41 and 42 Barbican, or 16 Norton Folgate.

TORAILWAY SPECULATORS.—The First Number of the RAILWAY CHRONICLE will appear on the 20th of April. A detailed Prospectus will be sent free, by post, to all who furnish their address to the Office, 14 Wellington street North, Strand, London.

DISEASED AND HEALTHY LIVES ASSURED.
MEDICAL, INVALID and GENERAL LIFE
OFFICE, 25 PALLMALL, London.
Capital, £500,000.

This Office is provided with very accurately-constructed Tables, by which it can Assure Diseased Lives on Equitable Terms.

The Extra Premium discontinued on restoration of the Assured to permanent health.

Increased Annuities granted on unsound Lives, the amount varying with the particular disease.

Members of Consumptive Families assured at Equitable Rates. Healthy Lives are assured at Lower Rates than at most other Offices. Policies of twelve months' standing are not affected by Suicide, Duelling, &c.; and Assigned Policies are valid from the date of the Policy, should death ensue from any of these causes.

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

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

GUNS.—LONDON PROVED GUNS.—A SINGLE-BARREL GUN, with twisted barrel, and patent breech 28s.
A ditto ditto, London proved 35s.
A double-barrel Gun, with twisted barrel and patent breech 59s.
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A single-barrel Gun, 18s., usually charged two guineas.

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

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

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

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

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ELIOS STOVE, price 35s. will warm a Room 20 feet square at the cost of 2d. per diem.; is peculiarly agreeable and wholesome, and well adapted for Sitting or Sleeping rooms, Conservatories, or Shops. Drawings and Catalogues of prices sent in answer to post-paid applications. Country orders are requested to contain either remittances, or a reference in Town.

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Printed by CHARLES REYNELL (of No. 3 Brompton vale, Old Brompton), at the Printing Office of REYNELL and WEIGHT, No. 16 Little Pultney street, in the Parish of St James, Westminster; and Published by the said CHARLES REYNELL, at No. 6 Wellington street, Strand, London.—April 6, 1844.