

THE ST. JAMES'S GAZETTE

An Evening Review and Record of News.

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DRURY LANE.

DRURY LANE.—AUGUSTUS
HARRIS, Lessee and Manager.
EVERY EVENING, at 7.30, and EVERY MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, and SATURDAY, at 8.25, **THE FORTY THIEVES**. The best Pantomime ever produced at Drury Lane, the finest spectacle ever seen, and played by the best and funniest company ever gathered together.

LYCEUM.

LYCEUM.—FAUST, EVERY EVENING, at 8 o'clock. Mephistopheles, Mr. HENRY IRVING; Margaret, Miss ELLEN TERRY. Box Office (Mr. J. Hurst) open to till 5. Seats booked by letter or telegram.—LYCEUM.

ADELPHI.

ADELPHI THEATRE.—Messrs. A. and S. GATTI, Sole Proprietors and Managers. **THIS EVENING**, at 8.0, **THE HARBOUR LIGHTS** (303rd time). Mr. William Terriss, Messrs. Garden, Maclean, Lyndal, Boeys, Campbell, Russell, Wentworth, Travers, &c.; Mesdames Millward, Achurch, C. Jecks, Leigh, Brennan, Carter, &c. At 7.15, **FAMILY JARS**. **MORNING PERFORMANCE** Saturday next, at 2.

GAIETY.

GAIETY THEATRE.—Sole Lessee and Manager, GEORGE EDWARDS.—**EVERY EVENING** at 8, **MONTE CRISTO JR.**, a Burlesque Melodrama in Three Acts, by Richard Henry. Produced by Charles Harris. Misses Nellie Farren, Fay Templeton, Agnes Delaport, Sylvia Grey, Lottie Collins, McNulty, Barlow, Wilson, Beale, Selwyn; Messrs. Fred Leslie, E. J. Lonnen, G. Stone, W. Guss, A. Balfour, G. Honey, Charlie Ross, Musical Director, Meyer Lutz. At 7.30, No. 1 **ROUND THE CORNER**. Doors open at 7.15.

MORNING PERFORMANCE every SATURDAY, at 2. Doors open 1.30.—**GAIETY THEATRE**.

PRINCE OF WALES'S.

PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.
Mr. HORACE SEDGER, Lessee and Manager.
EVERY EVENING, at 8.30, an original Comedy-Opera, entitled **DOROTHY**. By B. C. Stephenson and Alfred Cellier. Preceded, at 7.45, by **A HAPPY DAY**, by Richard Henry. Doors open 7.30.

PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.
ALICE IN WONDERLAND.—MR. EDGAR BRUCE'S MATINEES.—**TO-DAY**, 2.30, and **EVERY DAY**, a Musical Dream-play in two acts, by Savile Clarke, founded on Lewis Carroll's delightful Stories. Music by Walter Slaughter. New Scenery, Properties, and Dresses. Doors open 2.15. Box-office 10 to 5. Special reduced prices of admission for children under twelve.

VAUDEVILLE.

VAUDEVILLE.—THIS EVENING, at 8.30, **SOPHIA** (223rd time), by Robert Buchanan. Messrs. THOMAS THORNE, Carleton, Thorne, Farquhar, Mellish, Grove, Wheatman, and LEONARD BOYNE; Mesdames Larkin, Leclercq, Venn, Forsyth, and K. Korke. At 7.45, **NEARLY SEVERED**. **MATINEE** every SATURDAY, at 2.30.

STRAND.

STRAND THEATRE.—FANNIE LESLIE.—**TO-NIGHT** (Tuesday), at Eight, will be produced a New Musical Variety Drama, in Four Acts, entitled **JACK IN THE BOX**, written by Geo. R. Sims and Clement Scott, in which Miss FANNIE LESLIE, Mesdames Florence West, Sallie Turner, Queenie Norman, and Amy McNeil; Messrs. Yorkie Stephens, Harry Parker, John Beauchamp, Lewis Waller, Cecil Ward, Malcolm H. Grahame, Arthur Lewis, A. Warden, and J. A. Arnold will appear. Original Music by W. C. Levey; New Scenery by W. F. Robson. The "Fair Scene" produced under the direction of Mr. Charles Harris. Preceded by New Comedietta, entitled **BY SPECIAL REQUEST**, by T. Malcolm Watson. Box-office open from 10 to 5.

AVENUE.

AVENUE.—ROBINSON CRUSOE.
Enormous success. **TO-NIGHT**, at 7.45, new Burlesque Pantomime in 3 acts and 10 tableaux, supported by Mr. Arthur Roberts, Miss Wadman, and a most powerful company. Box-office open daily. Doors open 7.30. **MORNING PERFORMANCE** on WEDNESDAYS and SATURDAYS, at 2.

HAYMARKET.

HAYMARKET.—Lessees and Managers, Mr. E. RUSSELL and Mr. G. F. BASHFORD.—**EVERY EVENING**, at 8, a play in four acts by Henry Arthur Jones, entitled **HARD HIT**. Mr. E. S. Willard, Mr. Arthur Dacre, Mr. H. Kemble, Mr. Frank Archer, Mr. P. Ben Greet, Mr. C. Dods-worth, Mr. U. Winter, Mr. Compton Courtis, Mr. Fenton, Mr. Ferrand, and Mr. H. Beerbohm-Tree; Miss Mary Rorke, Miss Lydia Cowell, and Miss Marion Terry. Booking-office open daily ten to five. No fees. Doors open 7.30.

ST. JAMES'S.

ST. JAMES'S THEATRE.—Lessees and Managers, Mr. HARE and Mr. KENDAL. **THIS EVENING**, at 8.20, will be performed a New and Original Comedy in Three Acts, written by A. W. PINERO, called **THE HOBBY-HORSE**. The characters by Mr. Hare, Mr. Waring, Mr. Mackintosh, Mr. B. Gould, Mr. A. Sims, Mr. C. W. Somerset, Mr. Hendrie, Mrs. Gaston Murray, Mrs. Tree, Miss Webster, Miss Huntly, and Mrs. Kendal. Preceded by, at 8, **A CASE FOR EVICTION**. Misses Webster, Huntley; Mr. Waring.—Box-office to till 5. Doors open 7.30. Acting-Manager, Mr. Huy.

GLOBE.

GLOBE THEATRE.—Every Evening, a farce in three acts, entitled **THE LODGERS** (founded on a French vaudeville), by Brandon Thomas and Maurice De Verney. Messrs. W. S. Penley, Chas. Glenney, M. De Verney, Wilfred Draycott, and W. J. Hill, &c.; Mesdames Vane Featherston, Blanche Horlock, and Fanny Brough, &c. Preceded by, at 8, a play in one act, entitled **BARBARA**, by Jerome K. Jerome. Box Office open daily from 10 to 5. Business Manager, Mr. E. F. Bradley.

THE LODGERS.—Special Matinée, WEDNESDAY, Feb. 16, at 3.—**GLOBE THEATRE**.

CRITERION.

CRITERION THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. CHARLES WYNDHAM. At 9, **DAVID GARRICK**. Mr. CHARLES WYNDHAM; Messrs. G. Giddens, W. Blakeley, and David James; Mesdames F. Paget, E. Miller, and Mary Moore. Preceded by, at 8, **WHO KILLED COCK ROBIN?** Mr. W. Blakeley, Mr. G. Giddens; Misses M. Scarlett and Rose Saker. Doors open at 7.30. **N.B.—MATINEE** of **DAVID GARRICK**, on SATURDAY NEXT, at 3 o'clock. Doors open 2.30.

COMEDY.

COMEDY THEATRE.—Sole Lessee, Miss MELNOTTE.—**LAST NIGHTS.**—**THIS EVENING**, at 8.0, **THE BEGGAR STUDENT**, an Original Comic Opera, in Three Acts. Music by Carl Millocker. English version by W. Beatty-Kington. Seats may be secured at the Box-office (open 10.0 to 5.0) and at all Libraries.

THE BEGGAR STUDENT.—LAST NIGHTS.—Notwithstanding the enormous success of this Comic Opera, it CANNOT be PERFORMED AFTER THIS WEEK.—**COMEDY THEATRE**.

COMEDY THEATRE.—MYNHEER

JAN.—In active preparation, for production on MONDAY next, Feb. 14, a new Comic Opera, in three acts, entitled **MYNHEER JAN**, written by Harry Paulton and Mostyn Tedde. Music by Edward Jakobowski. The cast will include Messrs. Harry Paulton, Frank Wyatt, Joseph Tapley, Sidney Harcourt, De Lange, Mons. Marius; Miss Camille D'Arville, Mdm. Amadi, Miss Kate Munroe, Miss Amy Martin, Miss Emma Broughton, Miss Annie Wilson, Miss M. Richardson, Miss Alice Lethbridge, Miss Melnotte. The Dances arranged by Mons. J. Hansen (by kind permission of the directors of the Alhambra Theatre). Entirely New and Elaborate Scenery by Mr. T. E. Ryan. The Costumes from designs by Lucien Besche, executed by Mons. and Mdm. Alias. An augmented Band and Chorus, conducted by Mons. Auguste Van Biene. Box-office now open.

ROYALTY.

ROYALTY THEATRE, DEAN-STREET
(two minutes' walk from Piccadilly-circus).—Under the management of Mr. WILLIE EDWIN. **TO-NIGHT**, at 8.45, **MODERN WIVES**, an adaptation, by Ernest Warren, of "Le Bonheur Conjugal," with the following powerful cast: Messrs. Willie Edouin, Lytton Sothorn, Morton Selten, F. H. France, Edward Thirby; Mesdames E. Brunton, Olga Brandon, Marie Hudspeth, V. Bennett, Eva Wilson, and Alice Atherton. Preceded by, at 7.45, **THE COMING CLOWN**. Box-office 11 to 5. (Seats may be booked one month in advance.) Doors open 7.30. Carriages 11. **MATINEE** SATURDAY NEXT, at 2.30.—Sole Lessee, Miss KATE SANTLEY.

COURT.

COURT THEATRE.—Lessees and Managers, Mr. JOHN CLAYTON and Mr. ARTHUR CECIL.—**TO-NIGHT** will be acted, at 8.30 punctually, a New and Original Farce in Three Acts by A. W. Pinero, entitled **DANDY DICK**, in which Messrs. Arthur Cecil, H. Eversfield, F. Kerr, E. Maurice, W. H. Denny, W. Lurg, and John Clayton; Misses Norreys, Laura Linden, Marie Lewis, and Mrs. John Wood will appear. Preceded, at 8.0, by **THE NETTLE**. Box-office open daily from 11 to 5. No fees.

DANDY DICK. By A. W. Pinero. Twelfth Time **TO-NIGHT**—**COURT THEATRE**.

MATINEE of **DANDY DICK** every Saturday, at 2.30.—**COURT THEATRE**.

SAVOY.

SAVOY.—R. D'O'LY CARTE, Proprietor and Manager.—**EVERY EVENING**, the New and Original Supernatural Opera, in Two Acts, by W. S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan, entitled **RUDDIGORE**; OR, **THE WITCH'S CURSE**. Commence at 8.15. Doors open at 7.45. Box-office open from 9 A.M. till 11 P.M. Morning Performance every SATURDAY, at 2.30.

SAVOY.—EVERY EVENING and **SATURDAY AFTERNOON**, **RUDDIGORE**, performed by the Company of the Savoy Theatre. Messrs. Rutland Barrington, R. Temple, R. Lewis, H. Henry, and Durward Lely; Misses Leonora Braham, Jessie Bond, J. Findlay, and Rose Brannan. Musical director, Mr. F. Cellier; Stage Manager, Mr. W. H. Seymour.

SAVOY.—The Company specially organized by Mr. D'O'ly Carte to represent the new Opera **RUDDIGORE** in New York will appear at the Savoy Theatre in TWO SPECIAL MORNING PERFORMANCES **TO-MORROW** (Wednesday) and **THURSDAY**, Feb. 9th and 10th, prior to their departure for New York on Saturday, February 12th. The company consists of the following artists: Messrs. George Thorne, F. Billington, F. Federici, L. Kloss, and Courtoise Pounds; Misses Geraldine Ulmer, Kate Forster, A. Jenouere, and Elsie Cameron.

SAVOY.—The private boxes, stalls, balcony stalls, and first circle seats left for the morning performances of **RUDDIGORE**, by Mr. Carte's American Company, **TO-MORROW** (Wednesday) and **THURSDAY**, Feb. 9 and 10, are now on sale at the Box-office of the Theatre and at the Libraries.

OLYMPIC.

OLYMPIC.—MR. EDWARD TERRY'S SEASON.—At 9.15, **THE CHURCHWARDEN**; at 8, **THE TWO BLINDS**; at 8.25, **HOME RULE**. Doors open at 7.30; carriages 10.45. Seats can be booked at the Box-office (no extra fee) from 10 to 5, and at the principal libraries.—**MATINEE** at 2.30 **EVERY SATURDAY**.—Acting Manager, Mr. H. T. Brickwell.

OLYMPIC.—Matinées of **HEARTS-EASE**, **TO-MORROW** and every WEDNESDAY until further notice. Miss **HAWTHORNE** as Marguerite Gautier. Doors open 2.30, commence 2. Seats may now be booked.

PRINCESS'S.

PRINCESS'S THEATRE.
THE NOBLE VAGABOND, by Henry Arthur Jones, at 8.15, in which Mr. Charles Warner, Messrs. George Barrett, Charles Cartwright, Julian Cross, E. W. Thomas; Mesdames Dorothy Dene, Bella Titheradge, Annie Hughes, &c., will appear. Doors open 7.15. Commence at 7.45 with **THE CLOCKMAKER'S HAT**. Miss Hampton, &c. Box-office open from 10 to 5.

HENGLER'S, Argyll-street, Oxford-circus.—**CHARLES HENGLER'S UNIQUE and CHARMING ENTERTAINMENT, the MAGNIFICENT CIRQUE**. Agreeably warm in the coldest of weather. **EVERY DAY** at 8.30, **EVERY EVENING** at 7.45. Prices 5s., 4s., 3s., 2s., and 1s. Children under 10 half price to all parts. Box-office open at the Cirque daily from 10 till 4.

HENGLER'S.—The Season Drawing to a Close.—**EVERY EVENING**, the Hippo-dramatic Spectacle, **TURPIN'S RIDE TO YORK**, introducing all the very attractive incidents, including Turpin stopping the York Mail and the Death of Black Bess, the best trained Mare in the World. Dick Turpin, Mr. EDWIN CROUSTE. Every Evening at 7.45. The season will terminate on Saturday, Feb. 20th.

THE LONDON SYMPHONY CONCERTS.

MR. HENSCHEL, Conductor.

THE LONDON SYMPHONY CONCERT, St. James's Hall.—ELEVENTH CONCERT, TO-MORROW, at 8.30. Programme:—Overture to "The Canterbury Pilgrims" (C. Villiers Stanford), Concerto for Violin in G minor (No. 1) (Max Bruch), Miss Nettie Carpenter; Symphony in C minor (No. 1) (Brahms); Terzetto, "Tremate, empj, tremate" (op. 116) (Beethoven), Mrs. Henschel, Mr. Henry Piercy, and Mr. Elliot Hubbard; Overture to "The Merry Wives of Windsor" (Nicolai).

RESERVED SEATS, 7s. 6d. and 3s.; admission 1s.; at Austin's Office, St. James's Hall, and usual agents'.

THE LONDON SYMPHONY CONCERTS, St. James's Hall.—ELEVENTH CONCERT, TO-MORROW, at 8.30. Vocalists: Mrs. Henschel, Mr. Henry Piercy, and Mr. Elliot Hubbard. Solo Violin, Miss Nettie Carpenter. Orchestra of 80 Performers.—**MR. HENSCHEL**, Conductor.

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MR. JOHN W. BASHFORD, Sworn Broker, 11, Hart-street, Mark-lane, has received instructions to SELL by PUBLIC AUCTION, principally without reserve, to close sundry accounts, &c., at the LONDON COMMERCIAL SALE-ROOMS, Mincing-lane, on THURSDAY, Feb. 10, at One o'clock precisely, the following STOCKS, viz.: 36 pipes and butts 35 hhds. 45 qr.-casks port and sherry, shipped by Sandeman, Cockburn, &c.; 1 pipe 2 qr.-casks Tarragona; 12 hhds. 4 qr.-casks red Lisbon, &c.; 96 hhds. 121 qr.-casks 10 cases brandy, including Hennessy's, 1872, Martell's, 1872, landed 1875, landed 1877, Jules Robins, 1880, United Vineyard Company's, 1878, &c.; 4 butts 34 hhds. 75 qr.-casks 20 octaves whisky, including J. Jameson's, G. Roe's, D.W.D., &c.; blended; 14 puncheons 12 hhds. 24 barrels rum, including Plummer's, &c.; 91 cases burgundy, sherry, &c., all in bond. Also, duty-paid, 3 qr.-casks port, 3 qr.-casks cordials, 1,388 dozens port, sherry, burgundy, claret, champagne, &c.; also 157 cases fine old landed champagnes, including Perrier Joutet's extra quality extra dry, 1878, Pommery's extra sec, 1878, landed 1882, and 1880, landed 1883; Vin Brut, 1880, landed 1883; Piper's sec, 1874-5, old landed, G. H. Mumm's extra quality, 1878, Duming's extra quality, 1880, landed 1884, Roper Frères' Crème-de-Buzy, &c. Catalogues and full particulars of the Auctioneer and Valuer, 11, Hart-street, Mark-lane, E.C.

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ASHTON WARNER, Secretary.

HOMELESS BOYS OF LONDON. FUNDS are urgently NEEDED to meet the support of the Training Ships "CHICHESTER" and "ARETHUSA," and the SEVEN HOMES on Shore, under the Management of the Committee of the NATIONAL REFUGES for HOMELESS BOYS and DESTITUTE CHILDREN.

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Table with columns: Name, Amount. Includes Mrs. Lewis £11 5 0, Mr. E.B. Ellington 2 2 0, Mr. F.G. Debenham (Homes and Ships) 25 0 0, Messrs. E. M. and M. T. Chater 1 1 0, Mrs. Cocks 2 0 0, Admiral A. H. Ingram 1 0 0, Miss Matthews 1 1 0, Capt. W. Myers 3 0 0, Miss E. Ponsobly 1 1 0, Mrs. H. Yatman 15 0 0, Miss T. Andrewes 4 4 0, Mr. H. Clarke (Ships) 2 2 0, Mrs. J. Dyer £2 2 0, Mr. W. Edwards 1 1 0, Mrs. C. Folwell 1 0 0, Mr. W. Gaviller (Homes and Ships) 25 0 0, Mr. J.H. Gilbert 2 0 0, Mrs. F.M. Gore 15 0 0, Miss E.M. Jones 1 10 0, Mrs. M.A. Lund (Ships) 1 0 0, Mr. H. Pigeon (Ships) 10 0 0, Miss F. Prescott 5 18 0, Mrs. Wain(Ships) 20 0 0, The Earl St. Germans 5 0 0, Mrs. Bertie Roberts 1 0 0, Children of Mrs. Cummins, 4s.; Anonymous, 10s.; Mrs. Green (Ships), 5s. Contributions are earnestly solicited and will be thankfully received by the London and Westminster Bank, 214, High Holborn, and by the Secretary, WILLIAM WILLIAMS. Boys' Refuge, 25, Great Queen-street, Holborn, W.C.

THE ST. JAMES'S GAZETTE.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1887.

PRINCE BISMARCK AND THE POPE.

THE publication, the other day, of Cardinal JACOBINI'S despatch to the Papal Nuncio at Munich was hailed with delight by all the supporters of Prince BISMARCK'S policy, and was at first considered as placing beyond doubt the result of the electoral conflict in Germany. In the debate in the Lower House of the Prussian Diet on the 24th of January, the Chancellor told the Catholic or Centre party that he believed that "before the election the voters would be enlightened as to whether, and how far, that party enjoyed the countenance of the Roman Curia in their revolutionary assaults against the German Empire." In so speaking Prince BISMARCK was probably following the precept that no one ought to prophesy unless he knows; for the despatch which has just been published is dated the 21st of January. Its contents fully justified the forecast of the Chancellor. It emphatically declared that the policy of the Government had the full approbation of the Papal See. The arguments which had convinced the POPE of the expediency of granting the military vote for seven years were explained at length; and all good Catholics were advised by their spiritual head to give their votes to candidates pledged to support the policy of the Government. The language of the despatch showed that implicit obedience was expected; and it was predicted that the appearance of the POPE in the electoral arena could not fail to determine the result of the contest.

To-day's telegrams from Berlin describe the attitude which Dr. WINDTHORST, leader of the Catholic party in the Reichstag, has taken up with respect to the Papal *manifèsto*. Dr. WINDTHORST has made a speech in which, while gratefully acknowledging the friendliness of the terms in which Cardinal JACOBINI speaks of the Catholic party and of its services to the Church, he declares that upon this occasion his party cannot accept the opinions recommended to them by the Holy Father. Dr. WINDTHORST points out that the arguments used by the Cardinal to prove his point are arguments drawn from expediency and convenience; and he maintains that on practical questions of policy the most loyal sons of the Church are free to exercise their own judgments and to draw their own conclusions. He declines to abandon the position he has taken up merely because the authorities at Rome differ from the Catholic leaders in Germany in their view of the necessities and conveniences of the moment. The Central party opposed the Army Bill in Parliament: they will oppose it in the elections, and they will oppose it in the next Parliament. They will continue loyal to the POPE and to the Catholic Church in all religious matters, and in whatever concerns the spiritual welfare of the country. But they will not abandon the cause of parliamentary control over the army; nor will they consent to grant the required troops to the imperial Government for a longer period than three years.

Dr. WINDTHORST'S uncompromising language suggests a doubt whether the interference of the POPE will have all the effect that was hoped by Prince BISMARCK and his supporters. It will not detach the whole of the Catholic party from the cause of the Opposition, nor will it shake the constancy of the parliamentary leaders of the Catholic party. At the same time it is plain enough—and it is obviously the common opinion in Germany—that the despatch will have a very considerable effect. It will not convert the Catholics *en masse* to Prince BISMARCK'S views; but it will lead to dissension among the Catholic voters if not among the Catholic leaders. Many of those who are to take part in the contested elections this month will give their votes without further reflection to candidates who support a measure which is explicitly recommended by the POPE. It seems that the electoral contest promised at the outset to be an even one, and that the publication of Cardinal JACOBINI'S despatch will serve to turn the scale in favour of Prince BISMARCK.

In order rightly to estimate the effect of the POPE'S intervention in German politics, it is necessary to bear in mind the true nature of the conflict which is being waged in the Empire. The question which the elections are to decide is really the question whether the German army is in future to be more or less subject to parliamentary control or more or less to imperial control. Prince BISMARCK has himself clearly stated that issue, and has again declared his detestation of the parliamentary system. He considers Parliaments to be unfit to control the military system and the foreign policy of a nation: and he demands the withdrawal of parliamentary interference with the army for a period of seven years. His opponents consider that in voting the required troops for so long a time as three years they are doing all that should be done if the principles of representative government are to be maintained. It is plain that the Opposition regard the argument that war must follow the rejection of a Septennate as a mere

threat. There is much force in the argument that Prince BISMARCK would not have refused the three years' vote if his only motive was fear of immediate attack, or even a belief that it is necessary to force on a war with France. The Opposition could never have cavilled at the extra four years if they had not thought that a constitutional question was in issue. It will appear, therefore, to a great part of the German nation that the POPE is taking the side of arbitrary government, and opposing the influence of Parliament in the German Empire. That attitude is not one which will, in the long run, strengthen the position of the Catholic Church in Germany. It may obtain a victory for Prince BISMARCK in this election; in the end it will damage the Church more than it will damage parliamentary government.

It cannot be a very pleasant position for Prince BISMARCK to be constrained to call the POPE to his aid. The fact that he cannot secure his objects without such an alliance is a sign that the arbiter of Europe is a long way from being omnipotent, even at home. Prince BISMARCK is, indeed, surrounded by many difficulties. The Socialists are only kept from active disturbance by the sternest suppression. Their opinions are growing in extent and in intensity, though in silence. The death of the EMPEROR, whenever it occurs, will put an end to many forbearances which are due to a willingness that the heroic ruler should end his days in peace. Russia threatens in the East and France in the West. Parliaments are restive, and democratic politicians have large followings. Amongst all these sources of trouble, which threaten to make the last years of the Chancellor's life among the most stirring of his stormy career, it is no great consolation to be able to snatch an occasional victory by the co-operation of the Roman Pontiff.

THE MAIL-BOAT FLEET.

WE had to tell the country on Saturday that the auxiliary fleet which we were supposed to possess in the great Cunard, Orient, Guion, and other steamships, exists only on paper. It was an unwelcome piece of information, no doubt; but considering the way in which the public services are managed, it did not occasion much surprise, probably.

It has been the business of the Admiralty to require all vessels, intended to be put upon the Admiralty list for transport or other service in case of war, to be built according to certain regulations. Compliance involved the owners in considerable extra expense, which, however, they incurred rather than lose the chance of making a good haul should the Admiralty be in sudden want of the vessels. But, as soon as the ships were placed on the list, the special fittings required by the Admiralty—which considerably reduced the cargo capacity of the vessels—were taken out of them; and, there being no special obligation to the British Government, the owners of these ships, while standing a chance of their being employed by the Admiralty, were at the same time quite at liberty to sell them to any foreign Power that might bid high enough. At this moment, if war were to break out, there is nothing save the patriotism of our great ship-owners to prevent the pick of our mercantile fleet going over to any Government that chose to pay well for the transfer. But, apart from all this, there is the fact that not one of the steamers on the Admiralty list is fit for immediate naval service, except perhaps as a transport. The merchant steamship transformable at short notice into an armed cruiser is still a thing of fancy, and the cruiser fleet of which we have all so fondly boasted exists only in the form of a schedule in the office of the Transport Department of the Admiralty.

The policy adopted by Lord George Hamilton will change all that, as will probably be seen when the contracts he has declined to disclose are laid on the table of the House. It will enrol the great steamers in obligatory service to the British Government; and it will put them in a condition to take the seas, either as transports or as cruisers, in ten days at the most. The financial problem has been solved by the happy idea of co-operation between the Admiralty and the Post Office. "You employ our ships to carry the mails," say the ship-owners to the Government, "and we will hold them at your disposal in war-time at freights calculated on a peace basis." The Government assents; the Post Office gets its mail service performed cheaper than before, in consequence of being relieved of the payment of subsidies; the Admiralty, by charging itself with the subsidies, at once makes a substantial addition to the fleet at a cost far less than it would have to pay for maintaining such an addition to the regular navy. And the whole charge upon the Exchequer, after all, will probably not exceed the amounts paid in former times under the panic charter system.

We have heard it attributed to Lord George Hamilton that he will not include in the new auxiliary fleet any vessel steaming less than eighteen knots. If that is so, the list of nine ships which we gave on Saturday must be reduced to five. But seventeen knots might fairly be made the limit at present. The auxiliary fleet would then, even in its weakest parts, be equal to the best that any other nation could put upon the seas—equal, we mean, to the vessels either of the Norddeutscher Lloyds or the Messageries Maritimes: and instead of numbering five ships, or even nine,

it would number at least twelve. As other ships of faster speed are built, the standard may be raised; but for the present it would be wise to secure all the British-owned ships capable of going seventeen knots and upwards. No doubt the amount of subvention will vary according to the service each particular vessel is capable of rendering; and a moderate amount would probably satisfy the owners of vessels which only just come within the limit. Our desire is to strengthen and extend the new policy, in which we discern a welcome because novel combination of wise liberality with not less wise economy.

NOTES.

There is a report that Lord Dunraven is about to resign his place as Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, "for similar reasons to those which led to Lord Randolph Churchill's withdrawal from the Ministry." This seems a doubtful story. What were the reasons of Lord Randolph Churchill's resignation? Those which he has given are that he had pledged himself to a reduction of expenditure, and that his colleagues did not see their way to docking the estimates for the defensive services, since the only means of reduction he could point to were the abandonment of defensive preparations at the home ports and our coaling-stations abroad. Are we to believe that Lord Dunraven thinks that a Colonial Secretary as well as a Chancellor of the Exchequer should go out of the Government for such a reason as that? It does not seem likely. True, Lord Randolph Churchill further says that he was disgusted at finding amongst his colleagues a general indisposition to save money at all. But that is an allegation without proof, against all natural presumption, and contrary to all that Ministers have said for themselves since Lord Randolph Churchill's retirement. If Lord Dunraven really means to go, he must have other and better reasons than this.

In another page we give an account of Mr. Parnell's speech of yesterday evening, and to describe it is enough. Some of his critics seem to be surprised that he did not break out into violent language, and to think it a merit that he abstained. But it is not Mr. Parnell's business to make violent speeches in the House of Commons, or anywhere else. That he leaves to other members of the Irish-American conspiracy;—men, however, who are in intimate association with him and work with him. They threaten, he cajoles. He is the diplomatic manager, they are the fighting men. But it is all one concern, and from end to end it is animated by the same feeling of hatred to England and the same determination to humiliate her and smash up the Union. Besides, it is not true that Mr. Parnell's speech was without menace. Subtle but most significant allusions were made to American dynamite, to the projected assassination of her Majesty's Ministers, to "the terrible tragedy in Phoenix Park," and so forth; and the purpose of these allusions cannot be doubted. They were intended to instil into the minds of his hearers a dread of the consequences that would ensue upon any attempt to put down the League. The House is, if possible, to be coerced into abandoning all idea of coercing the promoters and agents of robbery and treason. However, we are in hope that before very long we shall see what these menaces really amount to. It is time the Government closed with the conspiracy. There has been far too much delay about that necessary business already.

Conservative and Unionist electors of St. George's, Hanover-square, are recommended not to forget that the election in their division takes place to-morrow. It seems scarcely within the bounds of possibility that a constituency almost entirely composed of educated and intelligent persons could prefer Mr. Haysman (inventor and sole proprietor of Haysman's Boarding-School System) to Mr. Goschen; or that one of the least Radical districts in England should consent to return a political partner of Sir Wilfrid Lawson. But it is desirable not only that Mr. Haysman should be beaten, but that he should be beaten by an overwhelming majority. Therefore let Mr. Goschen's supporters not neglect to vote for their man. The victory may be certain; but it is a pity to lose any chances through apathy or over-confidence.

According to the *Cape Argus* of the 7th of January, Dr. Clark, M.P., that patriotic senator from Celtic Scotland, has been doing strange things in South Africa. In his anxiety to help the Transvaalers against both Englishmen and natives, Dr. Clark has been to Swaziland. Here he is reported to have been introduced to the King by an emissary of Mr. Krüger's, who stated that this crofter M.P. was "an Induna from the Queen who had sent him out to report on the grievances of the Swazis and Zulus." The Swazi King was overawed by this magnificent pretension, and took the advice of his councillors before talking politics with his visitor. However, there happened to be a few white men about who gave the King some information about the real status of Dr. Clark; and when that good Briton suggested that the Swazis should hand over their gold-bearing land in exchange for grazing-ground in the Transvaal, he was simply laughed at. His "little game" (that of getting hold of the gold-fields for the Boers) was seen through by the Swazis. This is the report of the Cape newspaper. If it is true, Dr. Clark has played a curious part, which is quite deserving the attention of some of his colleagues in the House of Commons. Perhaps somebody will ask a

question of the Government on the subject. This will give Dr. Clark an opportunity of disproving the calumny about his conduct—if it is a calumny.

When the Departments fall out the public may gain something. The question as to the bayonets and cutlasses, which are mildly spoken of as "defective," seems to be developing into a quarrel between the Admiralty and the Ordnance Department. If the War Office cannot supply her Majesty's ships with serviceable weapons, let the Navy order its own. Meanwhile, pending the solution of this dispute, the country is asked to be content with the explanation that the cutlasses were considered very good arms some thirty years ago, and quite satisfied Enfield when they were re-tested in 1871. Lord Harris is confident that they would stand the same test again if they were subjected to it. Of course, if sailors *will* try whether they can't bend their swords into a "V" shape, or twist them up like corkscrews, those weapons will give way. Why can't our blue-jackets be satisfied with the more gentle "tests" arranged at Enfield?

Referring to the loss of the *Kapunda* and the deficiency of British ships in boat accommodation, Mr. Howard Vincent points out that our law on the subject is much less stringent than that of other countries. Steamship owners say that it would be almost impossible to carry boats enough to hold all the crew and passengers of a vessel like the *Oregon*, without crowding the decks in a dangerous fashion. But the law might at least require that there should be some life-saving apparatus—not necessarily boats—available for every person on board. As Mr. Vincent observes, a majority of the disasters to passenger-ships have been due to collision. In such cases the colliding vessel may stand by and pick up most of the passengers if they can manage to keep afloat for a few minutes. Life-buoys and belts take up comparatively little room on deck, and a large steamer ought to carry them not by the score but by the hundred.

Mr. Manning, the United States Secretary of the Treasury, is credited with saying that the assent of the Queen in Council to the recent Act of the Dominion Parliament for the better protection of the Canadian fisheries against American fishermen, which was reserved by the Governor-General "for the signification of her Majesty's pleasure thereon," was a violation of the Treaty of 1818. This is absurd, as any tyro can see that the language of the Convention is exactly in conformity with the pretensions of the Canadians in this particular. Again, the commercial arrangements come to in 1849-50 have nothing whatever to do with either the fisheries question or the convention of 1818, as we have on several occasions pointed out; and no dispassionate critic will acknowledge that the international instrument named has lost one iota of its vitality. The Americans are quite clear about what they want; their perspicuity about the rights and the wrongs of the question is not so apparent.

Mr. Justice Hawkins has just pronounced a decision which recalls the famous judgment of Mr. Justice Maule. That eminent judicial humourist once pointed out to a person charged with bigamy that he had committed a very heinous offence against the law; that the law cannot be broken with impunity, and that therefore he (the prisoner) should be imprisoned for the space of one day. Mr. Justice Hawkins improved on his predecessor. He sentenced a female bigamist at Liverpool to imprisonment for half an hour. The poor woman had married at seventeen a scoundrel of a husband who had speedily deserted her, and occasionally returned to illtreat her and live on her earnings. She feloniously intermarried with another man in order to obtain a home and protection from this ruffian. The case was sufficient to excite sympathy in the sternest judicial bosom. And who shall say, after the half-hour sentence, that Hawkins, J., does not know how to temper justice with mercy?

Schubert scored another triumph at the Popular Concert last night. The song of the evening was his "Waldesnacht" ("A Night in the Forest"), and the singer was Mr. Thorndike. He and Mr. Arthur Chappell may be congratulated on their discovery—the work of a youth of twenty-three, and such a work! It made one remember Beethoven's words when, tossing on his death-bed, some friend brought him a few of Schubert's songs: "Surely the divine fire is in him!" The poem, by F. Schlegel, depicts the rapture of a poet at midnight, in the depths of a German forest. Every rustle of the leaves around him is the tremor of an angel's wing; every flash of lightning is the splendour of opening heaven; an accidental fire in the bushes is the glow of the judgment day. Somewhat extravagant perhaps, and eminently German; but eminently poetical, full of emotion, mystery, and awe. All this Schubert has caught in the most masterly manner. The right hand of the piano-player keeps up an incessant murmur—fit atmosphere for the noblest illusions; while the voice and the bass of the accompaniment maintain a series of melodies and declamatory phrases worthy to represent any thoughts, however mystical, religious, and entrancing. Surely it is one of the noblest songs ever conceived, even by Schubert himself, the most imaginative of composers! Where has this splendid creation lain hidden all these seventy years, till unearthed by these two most fortunate explorers for our benefit? The singer did his part thoroughly well. But it wants accompanying—real good playing—and it got but a poor measure of it last night. If Mr. Chappell will let us have

it once more, with a competent player, not one of his audience of last night but will bless him for the repetition. The rest of the concert was good; but it all somehow fades before Schubert and his "Waldesnacht."

M. Chevreul, the French centenarian, has never been able to relish fish, and he has systematically excluded it from his dietary all his life long. Intending centenarians whom his example may have tempted to abjure a favourite form of food will be glad to hear that an American centenarian, whose death at the age of 104 is mentioned in the New York papers, preferred fish to meat, and almost lived on it. John Walters, the individual in question, was a veteran of the war of 1812, and was wounded at Lundy's Lane. He afterwards lived for fifteen years among the Sioux Indians, and was obliged, like them, to make fish the staple of his food. He retained his taste for it after his return to civilization; and he attributed his great age partly to the fact that he had fish at two of his meals every day regularly, and partly to the practice of wearing earrings, which he adopted from his Indian friends.

When Alfred de Vigny undertook to provide his countrymen with something like a faithful version of "Othello," which had been so absurdly travestied in Ducis' rose-water adaptation, he found himself obliged, in deference to the exigencies of French taste, to discard the homely "handkerchief," which plays so important a part in the tragedy, and make the evidence of Desdemona's guilt take the more classic form of a "bandeau." Boito, the author of Verdi's libretto, has not found it necessary to follow this example. Whatever other alterations he may have made in the text, he has left the traditional handkerchief undisturbed. And among the "properties" of the new piece none has been the object of more elaborate preparation, the *Figaro* tells us, than the "chef d'œuvre" of gold and silk embroidery presented to Mdme. Pantaleoni, the artist cast for the part of Desdemona, on the day of the first representation of the opera, by M. Ricordi, Verdi's publisher, who had it made expressly for the occasion.

The fog which visited London during a portion of yesterday is a reminder that winter is still nominally with us; and that, although balmy breezes commence to blow and the sun once more to shine, it is too early to begin to ruralize. The fog-season from which we are emerging has not been conspicuously severe; but it has been marked by a circumstance interesting chiefly to those who reside in the provinces. The typical London fog has begun to invade the large towns. This winter there have been several excessively dense fogs in Liverpool and Manchester, and even further north; while at Birmingham, where on dull days there is usually an incipient fog, the familiar yellow mixture of smoke, soot, and pure fog has been seen sometimes for two or three days in succession. In the adjacent Black Country, too, where the keen brisk air is very unfavourable to haziness of atmosphere, bad fogs have been frequent. The eastern counties have suffered in the same way; and even so open and breezy a town as Colchester has been enveloped in yellow mists of peculiar density and pungency. The moral of all this, no doubt, is, that, if yellow fogs are not to become as common all over the country as sunless days are in London, we must make all our chimneys consume their own smoke. White fogs, of course, are as natural as showers.

A railway collision—or, to speak more correctly, a double railway collision—of, happily, an unusual character occurred yesterday at Summerseat and Ramsbottom, in the Rossendale Valley, Lancashire. For some unknown reason, an engine without any one in charge of it suddenly dashed out of a siding and came into collision with another engine; which, apparently demoralized by the bad example thus set to it, also bolted, heedless of the attempts made to stop it by its driver and stoker, who, finding their well-meant efforts and remonstrances useless, prudently jumped off and let it go away with its undisciplined companion. The two runaway engines, finding themselves at liberty, started off on an expedition to Ramsbottom, where they seem to have enjoyed themselves thoroughly—dashing into a coal train, injuring a stoker on the face, but fortunately killing nobody. The engines, however, had the satisfaction of blocking the permanent way and greatly impeding the traffic by their escapade; and would, no doubt, unless they had been captured, have effected an immense amount of damage, and probably some loss of life. It is to be hoped that there will be a searching inquiry into these remarkable proceedings; and if it is found that these particular engines are really uncontrollable, the sooner their services are dispensed with the better.

A member of the Metropolitan Asylums Board writes to us:—Allow me to say a word in reference to one or two points on which I think your article of yesterday on small-pox might mislead the public unfamiliar with the subject. In the first place, Dr. Buchanan's charges are not against all hospitals for infectious diseases, but only against small-pox hospitals; secondly, it is an accepted principle already that every small-pox case that can possibly be moved shall be taken out of London. The London hospitals are now only maintained for the very few cases (not likely to exceed a dozen in any one hospital) that cannot be moved without great danger. Mr. Power's statistics do not go so far as to prove that there is less infection from an Irish labourer ill with small-pox in a room in the middle of a crowded court than from the same man in an airy and isolated hospital. The infection is and must remain in London in any case: the question is whether the hospital lessens it. As a fact, the Registrar-General, as quoted in this very volume, reports that

in small-pox mortality the districts with a hospital in their midst stand in a better position than those "which have neither hospitals of their own nor make use of the hospitals outside them." As for the "other means for preventing the spread of infection," to which Dr. Buchanan somewhat oracularly alludes, let him only particularize them, and there can be no doubt that the Asylums Board, which on his own showing has brought its hospital and ambulance arrangements to the last point of efficiency, will only be too glad to adopt them.

The *Lancet* is shocked at the callousness of railway companies, which leave us to "shiver under burdensome rugs," instead of warming their carriages by pipes heated with the waste steam from the engine. That some such system is practicable there can be no doubt. It has been in existence in Germany for many years; while within the last few weeks it has been introduced, if not into England, at least into Scotland, as the Caledonian Railway has just fitted two of its suburban trains with the necessary apparatus. We doubt, however, whether the improvement would be as great as our contemporary implies. Of course, on long journeys in exceptionally cold weather it would be an advantage, especially to delicate people, that the carriages should be warmed. But days with the thermometer below 40 deg. are few and far between in England. That travellers are not as a rule conscious of hardship is sufficiently proved by the fact that on the coldest day in winter many passengers cross the fells of Westmoreland in an ordinary first-class compartment, who might, if they pleased, change into an artificially heated Pullman car. For it can hardly be supposed that they are deterred from entering the "Pullman" by the risk of fire that has just been shown to be so real in America. After all, we most of us travel a good deal in carriages and cabs even in the coldest weather, and there is not yet before the public any proposal to heat these vehicles with waste steam from the horses.

CORRESPONDENCE.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

To the EDITOR of the ST. JAMES'S GAZETTE.

SIR,—It seems idle to talk of relieving the congestion of our labour market by means of State-directed emigration, while immigration is unregulated and unchecked. So long as wages here, however wretched, are higher than abroad, the colonizing Englishman may better his own lot, but hardly that of the fellow-countrymen he leaves behind. Every gap so made attracts an additional foreigner. Stimulate the process, and, under present conditions, we shall merely substitute a squalid and alien horde for the class which now claims our sympathy. Cannot the champions of State-directed emigration devise some complementary scheme of State-limited immigration?—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Carlton Club, Feb. 7.

H. J. B.

MUSIC-HALL POLITICS.

To the EDITOR of the ST. JAMES'S GAZETTE.

SIR,—I lately read an article in your paper which appeared to me to show that you don't understand politics: I mean that you don't understand or appreciate the rules of the game as it is played nowadays, nor the conditions which must be kept by a man who wants to be a success. You criticised a speech which had been delivered by a new member of the House, on the ground that it contained witticisms closely resembling those that are to be heard at a music-hall. You seemed to think that, if our debates are to be enlivened, we ought to rely on rhetorical brilliancy, garnished with classical quotations and with the same sort of wit which was popular in the days of the Pitts and Foxes. Sir, that kind of wit is extinct, and, in my opinion, it is not in the least to be regretted. As to the dead languages, the miserable posthumous existence which they dragged on in Parliament is pretty well over. Greek is proscribed, thank goodness; and Latin only survives in a few time-worn tags, which have been practically incorporated into newspaper English. Mr. Gladstone is allowed to be eloquent for auld lang syne, and he does not try our patience by being witty into the bargain. With that exception, eloquence is as dead as the dead languages. We discuss business matters in business language; we abuse one another frankly; and we praise our leaders, our party, and ourselves, with the same well-chosen and businesslike phrases which adorn the alluring prospectus or the irresistible advertisement.

Now, Sir, this sort of thing, whether you like it or not, is illustrative of the spirit of the age. But I do not deny that it is apt to be monotonous. Our debates must be enlivened therefore; and the proper way to enliven them is not by returning to the effete gewgaws which glittered in the diatribes of statesmen who never travelled by railway nor knew how to compress their ideas within the compass of a post-card or a telegram. No, Sir; the way to cheer us on and keep us up to the mark is to imitate the very men against whom you are prejudiced—the humourists of the music-hall.

There is a great deal to be said in favour of music-halls. Some people think that the music-halls are the resort only of the classes and their dependents. This, Sir, is a mistake. The masses frequent the music-halls in large numbers. There is many a sound Radical voter who pays his shilling at the Pavilion or the Trocadero as regularly as your gilded lordling hires his gaudy box. I speak from observation; and I say that if our great music-hall singers want to hear the manly cheers of an enthusiastic proletariat instead of the languid titter of gratified aristocrats, it is to the virtues of the Grand Old Man and not to the memory of Lord Beaconsfield that their songs must be devoted. For one man who will applaud the name of Salisbury, the music-hall contains a hundred who will put down the glass

they have just raised to their lips, to join in the ovation which the name of Charlie Bradlaugh never fails to arouse.

A study of the effect of the political songs is one of several ways of convincing yourself that music-halls are really popular institutions. And what does this teach us? It teaches us that the forms of wit which are proper to a democracy are those of which the music-hall singers are masters. Simple easy jests, broad but not deep, catching phrases, which the humble hearer remembers without difficulty, and carries away with him to beguile the tedium of his long hours of labour—these are what we want. And I may tell you it takes some thought and training to invent such phrases. Their charm is subtle enough. The comedy flavour is so slight that a man accustomed to the more complicated jokes of over-educated aristocrats might fail to perceive it. "He did it." "Oh, what a surprise!" "Right before the missus, too!" Do you feel the force of these phrases, Sir? Without wishing to be offensive, I must say I doubt whether you do.

Such Radicals as Mill and Grote, and other slaves of theory and history, did not understand Radicalism. They used arguments which were difficult to understand, and they were cold, hard, unsympathetic men. Radicalism has won its modern triumphs because it has become easy-going and genial, relying on the instincts of large classes and discarding the cant about knowledge and the use of the reasoning powers. Give me an atrocity to describe, and I will show what can be done without any doctrinaire politics, and without troubling men's minds by a demand for intellectual effort. We modern Radicals know our business. And we know that the cheery simple witticisms of the music-hall are the only means of introducing a lively element into our politics without marring the effect. We see our way, as you Tories never will, to get on our side that large class of voters who, having few pleasures, are glad of the amusement which we provide for them in politics.

Now, Sir, just one word on the press. Your paper interests me a good deal. I look upon it as the last wail of a moribund aristocracy, and I want that wail to be kept up. What you want is more of the music-hall spirit in your own columns. Leaving you to work out that hint for yourself,—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

February 7.

A CANDID RADICAL.

BELGIAN NEUTRALITY.

To the EDITOR of the ST. JAMES'S GAZETTE.

SIR,—It is much to be desired that an immediate occasion should be made to give in Parliament the *coup de grâce* to the suggestion as to Belgian neutrality made by "Diplomaticus" in the *Standard*: a suggestion as cold-blooded as it is impolitic. And impolitic I venture to think it is for two reasons. Firstly, because it is difficult to see how we could any longer take our stand in Bulgarian affairs on the sanctity of treaties if we allowed that principle to be tampered with in the case of Belgium. Secondly, because in the event of French successes—a contingency, however much to be deprecated in the interests of England and Europe, not improbable—the French would reasonably claim (and might claim more) such a paramount influence in Belgium as would prevent a recurrence of the step which "Diplomaticus" would allow. Such a claim, if admitted, would mean for this country either war with France or the quiet acceptance of all the evils which Belgian neutrality was intended to obviate.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

February 5.

W. L. D. G.

THE AUSTRALIAN MAILS.

To the EDITOR of the ST. JAMES'S GAZETTE.

SIR,—In less than two months the Imperial Conference will assemble in London; the date of its meeting having been postponed from the 22nd of March to the 4th or 5th of April, in order to allow time for the arrival of the delegates from New South Wales. One of the subjects the conference is to discuss is the improvement of the postal communications between England and the colonies. Yet this is the moment which is chosen for an attempt to close for ten years every avenue of progress in either the cheapness or the efficiency of the postal service between England and Australia.

Last April tenders were called for; but none of those sent in were in proper form. Consequently new tenders were invited; and now the competition practically rests between the Peninsular and Oriental and the Orient Companies; for the colonies have already resolved not to have the mails carried in foreign bottoms, meaning thereby the respective fleets of the North German Lloyd's and the Messageries Maritimes. Though the exact nature of the tenders cannot be stated, we may take it that both the Peninsular and Oriental and the Orient lines are unwilling to depart very materially from the terms they have hitherto enjoyed. They are ready to agree to an accelerated speed; but they stick out for the full subsidy. This means that the Peninsular and Oriental Company want £85,000 a year for a fortnightly service if the contract is for ten years, and £100,000 if the contract is for seven years; while the Orient Company admit the principle of payment by weight, with a bonus added which would bring the sum to be paid them up to about the P. and O. figure. The Orient Company claim, of course, the possession of superior vessels.

Thus the case stands at present: the contracts only await the signature of the Postmaster-General; and he is, we are told, being urged to commit this country and the colonies irrevocably for ten years to an arrangement which, with whichever company concluded, would mark no advance upon the present postal facilities, would block any progress for the whole period of its duration, and would render the discussion of postal subjects by the approaching conference a farce. Into the merits of rival postal schemes I do not enter, and the competition of shipping companies is of no interest to me. But it does seem somewhat of a scandal that any one should even try to rush these important contracts through just on the eve of a conference which may change the whole aspect of the case. The existing contracts do not expire till the beginning of next year, so that the plea of urgency is ridiculous. There will be plenty of time to arrange the matter after we have heard what the conference has to say; and if the conference is worth the passage-money of the delegates, it will say a good deal.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

February 7.

D.

HAPPY LONDON.

THERE is no time of year better fitted for filling the inhabitant of a great town with a compassion for his country cousin than late winter or early spring. The fogs which have recently visited the metropolis must have reminded every Londoner of what a fortunate lot is his. A fog in the country is merely a white mist which makes everything wet, cold, and invisible. The countryman knows no variation in his fogs. He sees no gradual changes from yellow through brown to black. He can hardly taste them, and their only effect on his social life is to make it one degree duller than it was before. It deprives his labours of any idyllic pleasures they might otherwise possess, and his sports are stopped by any greater degree of it than suffices to make the fox's scent lie thickly on the grass. How differently does the same phenomenon affect the man whose work privileges him to dwell in London! Even as he lies in bed in the morning he can hear that the sound of the traffic in the great roads of the town is sweetly subdued. Lighted candles on his breakfast-table lend a festive air to the scene. As he strolls down to the City (it is only the imported Londoner who goes underground and then complains of the London climate), he observes with amusement that "vehicular traffic" is what the newspapers call "suspended." He has now the pleasure of exercising to the full his topographical instinct, by following the shortest line from one side of Hyde Park to the other, or in the more difficult feat of keeping to his favourite track through the archipelago at the bottom of Trafalgar-square. All through the day observations on the fog afford a pleasant relief from toil; and as he strolls home in the falling shades of night, which are readily perceptible in all but the thickest fogs, a continual series of small adventures will entertain him on the way. Piccadilly-circus and Hyde Park Corner each afford him several moments of observation and speculation. If, further on, he meets, as he probably will, a horse on the pavement by the Albert Hall in search of the way to Hammersmith, he will be able to gratify his feelings as a philanthropist by turning its head to the ungilded west. And when the happy citizen rests from the labours of the day in his drawing-room or "den," his evening paper will convince him of his own heroism. He will read of the dangerous state of the streets, of the more than usual probability of robberies in the most crowded thoroughfares, and of the almost intolerable inconvenience suffered by the community at large. And he will reflect that what has been a source of danger and loss to others has been to him an occasion of high-toned entertainment.

But it is not only when London is clothed in mists from the life-giving ocean, combined with the offerings of her own cheery grates, that her citizens can appreciate the advantages they enjoy over the less happily situated part of the population. The advent of spring has always inspired the most enthusiastic outpourings of our agricultural poets. We all know what the country is generally like in the Easter holidays; and yet that is what the unfortunate dwellers in the country hail as the most delightful time of year. After months of dull winter weather the denizens of the fields may find a relief in well-rehearsed east winds and impromptu snow-storms. But the pleasure is one which people who have spent their winter in a more rational manner cannot be expected to sympathize in. And as it is in the spring, so it continues to be during the rest of the year. When the tide of fashionable pleasure is at its highest in London, the country is the scene of all-pervading labour. Through June, July, and August, all the energies of our country cousins are devoted to the tedious task of watching their vegetables grow high and their beasts grow fat. When at last there are nobler beasts to be slain than sheep and oxen and pigs, a few tens of thousands of half-hearted Londoners leave their hearths and their homes to go and slay them. And then is the real time for the philosophic Londoner to enjoy himself. The one fault of London—an occasional tendency to overcrowding in the pleasantest places—is corrected. And all the time people who are not in London have to make a choice between the three terrible alternatives of yachting, playing cricket, or trying to kill wild beasts. But, if London is pleasant in September, it is pleasanter still in November, when the lifeblood of the country again begins to course through the metropolis and the natural phenomena of south-east Middlesex again show that that region is not as others are.

The observation of the course of nature is supposed to lend a charm to the country. And yet the seasons there are unmarked by anything except the regularly recurring growth of leaves and flowers, with the still more regular advent of birds and flies and caterpillars. What sight has the country to compare with that of many thousand men, timidly emerging from their great coats during the first warm days of spring, in a glorious array of glistening hats and wondrously coloured neckties?—not to mention that transformation in the appearance of the other sex which is far more splendid as a whole, though the details defy description. The shops, too, show a keener appreciation of the flight of time than can be discerned in trees and hedges. Christmas cards, valentines, light and dark blue rosettes, Easter eggs, all follow one another with a precision which no birds or birds' eggs can hope to rival. The best country garden cannot pretend to be really busy for five months in the year. But Covent Garden is always full. It would tax the pen of the most skilful auctioneer to enumerate the variety of fruits and flowers which are within reach of any Londoner. Oranges bloom within sight of the Hummums Hotel all the year round. Birds, of every known description from the redpole to the eagle, fill the air with their voices, while fishes, from the humble stickleback to the semi-fabulous double-tailed Japanese goldfish, disport themselves in depths easily penetrable by the naked eye. The time of day is unmarked in the country save by such sights as the beetle wheeling his droning way, the moping owl complaining to the moon, or the scarcely more lively ploughman plodding home. How far better is the sight of the City clerk careering westwards on the knifeboard, or the diner-out threading the streets in every direction in the well-appointed gondola of his native town. The experienced

Londoner can tell every hour of the day from the aspect of the streets. The industrious artisan, the busy clerk, the more leisurely professional man, mark the flow of the tide in the morning and its ebb in the evening. Ladies mark the high-tide of the day, which is further subdivided by the issue of the various evening papers, when the wise man will hoard his penny to invest it in the latest and ripest blossom of the daily crop. But the feelings of elation which must fill the bosom of every inhabitant of this favoured city should cause us to look with feelings of pity rather than pride on our less happy fellow-countrymen. It is indeed sad to think of the millions of men who cannot distinguish a road-car from an ordinary omnibus, who cannot grasp the historical difference between a street and an avenue, who might even confound the Metropolitan and District Railways. It is sadder to think of the children whose conception of London is limited to a South Kensington show, who have never extracted butter-scotch or chocolate from an automatic machine, who do not know how gas is lit or how to souse a "tiger" in Kensington Gardens.

THE THEATRE.

THE piece in which Miss Leslie appears at the Strand Theatre was written for her several months ago by Messrs. Sims and Scott, and is understood to have enjoyed much favour at the hands of provincial audiences. Playgoers more exacting are, however, likely to complain that the story of "Jack in the Box," as the play is called, is a good deal too serious in its interest for the flippant treatment inevitable where frequent opportunities have to be found for songs and dances on the part of the hero. Moreover, it may with some reason be objected that the performer to whose idiosyncrasies so much is sacrificed in the way of consistency and reasonable development of situation lacks the personal charm and the finished method which sometimes excuse the introduction of music-hall doings upon the stage. It must be said, however, for Miss Leslie's impersonation, which is that of an impudent good-hearted lad employed in a travelling show, that it has plenty of animation and robust vigour, and that it readily gains the hearts of those playgoers who are to be won by step-dancing of the best. If Miss Leslie's sympathetic efforts were as satisfactory as gymnastic ones—for she "turns a cart-wheel" as one to the manner born—she might be able to command interest for Jack's passages of incongruous sentiment and for the deeds of chivalry which he performs in grateful defence of a man who once saved his life. As it is, we must confess to feeling a little incredulous and not a little weary as we watch the long series of victories gained by Jack over a dress-clothes villain of the Willard pattern, a cruel Italian *padrone*, and a singularly fatuous policeman. Whatever odds may be against him, Jack is sure to conquer; and the progress of the piece is perpetually being stopped in order to allow him to pose as the protector of the helpless and the defender of the innocent. His great enemies are a couple of conspirators who have plotted to keep out of his inheritance a man unjustly accused of murder; and these scoundrels are played with a will by Mr. J. A. Arnold and Mr. Lewis Waller, each good in his well-defined way. A heroine who is abducted and otherwise ill-treated finds an earnest representative in Miss Florence West; and Mr. Yorke Stephens, who does not make himself look nearly old enough to be Miss West's father, indicates with some feeling the sufferings of that young lady's ill-used parent. But the scheme of the piece, which is that of a music-hall melodrama, hardly admits of much histrionic distinction for its exponents; and it is clear enough that the authors, who are both capable of far better stage-work, have been hopelessly hampered by the special object of their labours. The great scene of the piece, a representation of Croydon Fair, seemed somewhat to disappoint the expectation of pit and gallery, which were otherwise enthusiastic in their applause of the production. The fair, in truth, was only too accurately rendered so far as noise and dust were concerned; but it seemed in reality quite as amusing as the rest of a very poor piece.

Miss Kate Vaughan, who began her series of revivals on Saturday evening with "The Rivals," is understood to include in her *répertoire* several standard comedies which are practically unknown to the playgoer of to-day. She would, we think, have done wisely to select one of these for the inauguration of her enterprise at the Opéra Comique. Her company, though in some respects very fairly up to the mark, has not worked sufficiently long together, and is not judiciously enough chosen to give a representation such as compares favourably with one or two recent revivals of this particular play. As a whole, the rendering is singularly uneven, and many of its details fail to harmonize one with another. The best individual performances are those of Miss Vaughan and of Mr. Lionel Brough—the one a very charming Lydia Languish, and the other the best Bob Acres of the contemporary stage. Neither impersonation is faultless; for while the actress's pretty method is lacking in breadth, the actor is too apt to exaggerate the loutish phase of humours such as those of Acres. But, for the sake of Miss Vaughan's winning grace and Mr. Brough's genuine comic power, much more serious shortcomings than these might well be overlooked. On the other hand, the excellent art employed by Mr. Fernandez upon his new reading of Sir Anthony Absolute cannot blind us to the fact that his reading is wrong. It is as certain as anything can be upon the stage, that a father who disinherited his son with the tragic earnestness so vigorously displayed by the new Sir Anthony would keep to his word, whereas every listener ought to feel sure that the moment the passionate explosion is over the old gentleman will be only too eager to reinstate "Jack" upon his own terms. A similar lack of the geniality demanded by the whole tone of the comedy is felt both in the cold and priggish Captain Absolute of Mr. Forbes Robertson and in the over-serious Mrs. Malaprop of Mrs. Billington. In these interpretations as in the other there are good points, no doubt; but they would be

more to the purpose if the embodiments were those, say, of a melodramatic miser, a young priest disguised as a soldier, and an ignorant old dame soured by misfortune. Fortunately the later scenes of the comedy are treated with a less heavy hand, and they make a correspondingly brighter impression. The interpolated gavotte too is, thanks to Miss Vaughan's inimitable dancing, a deservedly popular feature; and as the measure is tripped in the Bath Assembly Rooms it cannot—in one sense, at all events—be considered out of place. But it is open to the objection that it involves Miss Languish's premature discovery of the identity of her Ensign Beverley with the husband selected for her by her guardians. Few of the minor impersonations call for note. Mr. Arthur Elwood is perhaps even more depressing than the average Faulkland, and Mr. Forbes Dawson is quite overweighted as the delightful fire-eater Sir Lucius. Miss J. Gwynne is, however, as sprightly a Lucy as need be wished, and Fag's played with some dexterity by Mr. Fawcett.

For the afternoon of the 15th inst. Miss Eweretta Lawrence has arranged at the Royalty a special performance of a play by Mr. Gillette, described as a "comical pastoral," which, under the title of "The Professor's Wooing," has enjoyed some vogue in America. Miss Lawrence's chief supporter will be Mr. Beerbohm Tree. Other matinées of the week will be those on Wednesday and Thursday at the Savoy, where a company engaged for America is to try what it can make of Sir Arthur Sullivan and Mr. Gilbert's latest opera. This piece has been improved, as to the appearance of its title, by being turned into "Ruddigore," and its second act now runs more briskly in its compressed form.

"The Scarlet Dye" is the name of a new play by Miss Julia Masters, which is to be produced one day next week at Brighton with Miss R. Filippi as the heroine.

It is announced that, in consequence of previous arrangements, "Alice in Wonderland" cannot be performed at the Prince of Wales's for more than another fortnight; so those who wish to show young people a fascinating realization of whimsical fairy-land should lose no time. Mr. Toole will shortly commence some Wednesday afternoon revivals of favourite comedies and farces.

ENGLAND AS A FIGHTING POWER.*

A GERMAN officer (a major in the Prussian service) who comes forward to rouse the British public from its stupor, by showing the great and serious dangers that threaten the existence of the empire, is a person worthy of attention. Moreover, Major Wachs, unlike many of his comrades, is not at all disposed to take the "nation-of-shopkeepers" view of England, or to dismiss with contempt any nation that does not happen to possess an organized militia of one or two millions of men. The author of the little book before us is a friend and an admirer of the English, whose practical genius for self-government and for founding self-governing communities he is very ready to acknowledge. We therefore follow him with the more confidence when he argues that the position of Great Britain is nearly everywhere endangered, and that along the whole line of English empire abroad there is scarcely any point where hostile or rival interests are not awake and busy. Even these islands themselves do not appear to Major Wachs safe from an attack; for the coast defences seem to him insignificant and valueless, whilst the defence of the interior would be left to an improvised army unsupported by any trustworthy *place d'armes*. In fact, he looks upon the "Battle of Dorking" as quite capable of proving a bitter reality. Turning from the British Isles to the French, Belgian, and German coast, he discovers everywhere effective measures which contrast strikingly with the inefficiency of English defensive works. He goes on in the same strain with reference to the position of Great Britain in the Atlantic and Indian Oceans, in Central Asia, in the South Seas, in the Chinese and Japanese waters, and in the Pacific; and concludes by talking of the English army and navy as well as of our telegraphic and other means of communication. According to the German critic, there are in our empire scores of vulnerable points, and immense tracts of absolutely defenceless territory. The acquisition of the colonies was far easier than their future maintenance is likely to be, if we may trust the Prussian Major; and to keep the British Empire intact, over all its vast expanse, would, he thinks, tax our resources beyond their capacity. The danger is great, no doubt; but our Prussian friend has painted the picture a trifle too gloomily. Many of his apprehensions are based on suppositions of a very doubtful character.

Nor can we wholly approve of his remedies. Major Wachs is quite right in saying that England should increase the numbers of her army, and that she should bestow more care upon the fortification of her coasts, harbours, and coaling stations; but he goes a little too far in recommending the military organization of the Continental States for adoption by England. That may come some day, but not till the need of it has been proved very clearly and sharply. There remains the question whether England should give up altogether the great position she once held in the councils of Europe; or, to put it another way, whether it is safe to attempt to live in isolation, with many rivals, one or two persistent enemies, and no friends or allies. How this question is to be decided is a matter of great importance in the eyes of every German; and here we concur entirely with Major Wachs, who is anxious for a German-English alliance. It is probable that nothing but a union of England with the German Powers will avail to arrest the rising flood of Slavonic aggression.

Taken altogether, the book of Major Wachs, written in an excellent style and accompanied with seven maps, is well worth the attention of the English reading public, and it may be hoped that an English version will soon make its appearance.

* "Die Weltstellung Englands, militärisch-politisch beleuchtet, namentlich in Bezug auf Russland." Von Otto Wachs, königl. preuss. Major a. D. Mit 7 Karten. (Kassel, 1886.)

THE ST. JAMES'S GAZETTE.
FOURTH EDITION.

AGITATION AMONG THE ZULUS.

(FROM THE SECOND EDITION OF THE "TIMES.")

DURBAN, Feb. 8.—The *Mercury* publishes a report of a meeting of Zulu chiefs on January 4, the day after their meeting with the Boundary Commission, when Umnyamana and Undabuko protested against Sir A. Havelock's settlement and expressed their resolve to insist on their rights or to die. They complain that all the good country has been taken from them, and that what is left is not habitable. Mr. Osborn has referred Dinizulu's request for permission to pass through the reserve to Natal to Sir A. Havelock. The Zulus are determined to appeal to the Queen direct.

THE BULGARIAN THRONE.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)

VIENNA, Feb. 8.—Prince Alexander of Oldenburg, whom report designated last week for the provisional Regency of Bulgaria, is now regarded in diplomatic circles as the most likely candidate for the Bulgarian throne. He was mentioned immediately after the abdication of Prince Alexander of Battenberg, as a candidate who would be particularly acceptable to Russia; but it is stated that at that time the Prince desired that his name should not be brought forward—a request which was complied with. It is, however, pointed out that, in view of his close relationship to the Emperor, the Prince would, in the event of a positively expressed wish from his Majesty, waive all other considerations.

PRUSSIA AND THE VATICAN.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)

BRESLAU, Feb. 8.—In Catholic circles in this city it is stated that Monsignor Kopp, Bishop of Fulda, who during the debates in the Prussian Diet upon the amendment of the May Laws, acted as mediator between the Government and the Curia, will declare the Pope's intentions and explain the Catholic standpoint and interests when the expected new ecclesiastical Bill is brought forward in the Prussian Upper Chamber. It is understood that the Pope, desirous of meeting the views of the Prussian Government, will favour the nomination of Monsignor Kopp as a candidate for the vacant Prince Bishopric of Breslau.

SERIOUS SOCIALIST DISTURBANCES AT STETTIN.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.)

STETTIN, Feb. 8.—An electoral meeting, attended by Social Democrats, was being held in the Bock Brewery last night, when the police appeared and stopped the proceedings, ordering the assembly to disperse. Resistance was, however, offered by the people, and the police found it necessary to apply for the assistance of the military, who drove the crowd back with fixed bayonets. Several persons were wounded, and one man is stated to have succumbed to his injuries. The windows of the meeting-hall were smashed and the interior damaged by stones thrown by the mob.

BERLIN, Feb. 7.—A number of Socialist arrests, amounting, it is stated, to twenty-four, were made in Magdeburg and its environs yesterday. The prisoners were charged with being members of an illegal society.

COUNT DI ROBILANT'S RESIGNATION.

(CENTRAL NEWS TELEGRAM.)

ROME, Tuesday.—Count di Robilant, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, has definitely decided to adhere to his resignation.

MEETING OF MINISTERS.

A meeting of Ministers was held at the Foreign Office at half-past twelve to-day; Lord Salisbury presiding. Mr. Smith, Mr. Goschen, Mr. Matthews, and Sir Michael Hicks-Beach attended.

THE PRINCE OF WALES.

A Reuter's telegram from Paris says:—The journal *La Paix* this morning states that the Prince of Wales, while passing through Paris yesterday, paid a visit to President Grévy in the afternoon.

LORD HARTINGTON AND THE NORTH ANTRIM ELECTION.

Lord Hartington has written a letter urging the Liberal Unionists of North Antrim to vote for Mr. C. E. Lewis, the Conservative candidate. His lordship admits that, except on the question of the Union, the Gladstonian candidate is all that could be desired; but he insists that under existing circumstances it would be a fatal blunder to send a supporter of Mr. Gladstone's Irish policy to the House of Commons.

THE COAL AND WINE DUES.

The Hampstead Vestry has, on the motion of Major Craigie, seconded by Mr. Bartlett, C.C., passed a resolution, by thirty against eleven, in favour of a continuance of the coal and wine dues.

RIOT IN WALES.

Serious disturbances are to-day reported to have taken place amongst the tinplate workers at Abercarn, who have struck work against a reduction of wages. The strikers formed themselves in procession, and marched through the town. They came into contact with some of the millmen, and a conflict ensued, and the neighbourhood was in a state of riot for some hours. A large number of police have been drafted into the town. The men have resolved to continue the strike.

STOPPAGE OF A LONDON BANK.

Mr. Swynfen Eady applied to Mr. Justice Chitty this morning, on behalf of Miss Dancrofts, for the appointment of a provisional liquidator of the West London Commercial Bank, Sloane-square. According to counsel's statement, the bank closed its doors yesterday afternoon, and did not reopen them this morning. Miss Dancrofts was a creditor for £2,500, money deposited. It was stated that a petition for winding up had already been filed. Mr. Whitehorne, Q.C., for a director, also asked for a provisional liquidator, and said his client was first in the field. There had been a race between the two applicants, and the latter had his paper stamped a few seconds before the former. Miss Dancrofts asked for the appointment of Mr. A. A. James, and the directors sought to have Mr. Mackay, chartered accountant, appointed. Mr. Justice Chitty said he should appoint somebody, but he wanted first to hear what the bank had to say. Mr. Neuman shortly afterwards appeared, and said he represented the bank, and assented to the nominee of Miss Dancrofts, Mr. Maclean, Q.C., for the bank, later in the morning said that the reason the bank assented to Miss Dancrofts's nominee, was that the directors last night, when, owing to a run on the bank during the day, they resolved not to reopen, knew of Miss Dancrofts's motion. Mr. Justice Chitty made the order on both petitions to wind up, and gave the conduct of the order to Miss Dancrofts, appointing Mr. James provisional liquidator.

The West London Commercial Bank is a small concern, and the greater part of its business consists of tradesmen's accounts, many of these being accommodated with small loans. The loss to the little traders, it is feared, will be serious; but it is understood that the great run upon the bank yesterday left the directors no option but to close the bank. There is considerable excitement among those having accounts at the bank; but the failure will have no effect whatever in the financial world. The head office of the bank is at 34, Sloane-square. The company was registered in 1866. The subscribed capital is £49,110, in shares of £10 each, and £29,466, or £6 per share has been called up. The accounts are made up annually to the 31st of December, and submitted in January or February. In 1876 the dividend was 5 per cent., in 1881 it was 7 per cent.; but this had fallen to 4 per cent. in 1883, and 3 per cent. for 1884.

DEATH OF MR. PETER RYLANDS, M.P.

Mr. Peter Rylands, M.P. for Burnley, died at his residence, Massey Hall, Thelwell, Warrington, last night, at the age of sixty-seven. Mr. Rylands, who had been ill for several months, became worse yesterday, and died in the course of the night. He was the son of Mr. John Rylands, of Bewsey House, Warrington, and was born in 1820. Mr. Rylands, who was an ironmaster and wire manufacturer, was Mayor of Warrington in 1853, and was a magistrate for Cheshire, Lancashire, and his native town. He first entered Parliament in 1868, when he was returned in the Liberal interest for Warrington, which had previously for many years returned Sir Gilbert Greenall (Conservative) unopposed. At the 1874 election Mr. Rylands was defeated by Sir Gilbert Greenall by 180 votes. At the same general election Mr. Rylands also unsuccessfully contested South-East Lancashire. In February, 1876, he was returned for Burnley, which constituency he continued to represent till his death. On the introduction of Mr. Gladstone's Home Rule Bill, Mr. Rylands, an advanced Liberal, became one of the staunchest upholders of the Unionist cause, and he was one of the speakers at the great Coalition meeting held on the 14th of April last year at Her Majesty's Opera House, under the presidency of Lord Cowper. At the general election in July, he was opposed at Burnley by a Gladstonian candidate; but after a hard fight, with the whole force of the caucus against him he was returned by the narrow majority of 43 votes. Mr. Rylands was a member of the Royal Commission on the Contagious Diseases Act.

THE MURDER AT HOXTON.—IMPORTANT DISCOVERY.

Some further particulars have been discovered concerning the murder of Lydia Green, at Bacchus-street, Hoxton. It appears that the man, Thomas William Carroll, who is suspected of the murder, was formerly a corporal in the Royal Middlesex Fusiliers, and is well known to the police owing to his having been convicted of felony and sentenced to a long term of imprisonment. Last evening a post-mortem examination of the body was made, by order of the coroner, and it was ascertained that the death of the deceased had been caused by bullet-wounds, two bullets being found embedded in the brain. The police made inquiries to ascertain whether Carroll possessed fire-arms, and, on searching the room which he occupied up to the day of the murder, they found in a box a number of pin-fire cartridges, the bullets of which were similar to those found in the brain of the deceased. The police have also ascertained that Carroll stayed at a place in Clerkenwell on Sunday morning, and had breakfast there; but nothing else has been heard of him. Mr. Wynne Baxter will open the inquest this afternoon at the Shoreditch Town Hall.

FIRE IN THE CITY.

A large six-storied building was destroyed, and two others were damaged, by fire in the City this morning, while an old City church narrowly escaped. Shortly after twelve o'clock a policeman observed that the basement of the premises of Messrs. Jacobs and Davis, fancy-glass importers, 15, London-wall, was on fire. The fire brigade were communicated with, and a manual was soon on the spot from St. Luke's, whence the intelligence of the outbreak was transmitted to the headquarters of the district in Farringdon-road. Assistance was summoned from Islington, Watling-street, Scotland-yard, Kentish-town, and other stations, so that in a short time there were two manuals and five steamers present. The flames travelled up the staircase to the upper stories of the building with marvellous rapidity, and it was soon found that the building must be destroyed. Efforts were consequently confined to an endeavour to save the surrounding property, which was in great danger, and it suffered only in a small degree. By half-past two the fire had been subdued.

THE SALFORD LIBEL CASE.

Following the discharge of Mr. Samuel Hunter by the Salford Corporation from the post of gas manager, the Gas Committee of the Wigan Corporation yesterday decided to discharge Mr. G. G. Hawkins, their gas engineer, who was one of the principal witnesses in the case of Hunter v. Lever for alleged libel, which resulted in a verdict for the defendant and the dismissal of the plaintiff from his position. Mr. Hawkins yesterday addressed a letter to the Wigan Gas Committee, in which he explained his connection with the case, and tendered his resignation. The committee resolved to recommend the council not to accept Mr. Hawkins's resignation, but to discharge him. In the meantime they suspended him from office and took possession of the books and documents of the gasworks.

THE PROPOSED SOCIALIST TORCHLIGHT PROCESSION.

By a notice, issued yesterday, Sir Charles Warren has prohibited the torchlight procession from Clerkenwell-green, which had been announced by the Socialists for to-night.

The Central News says the metropolitan police authorities evidently attach great importance to the torchlight Socialist procession announced to be held in Clerkenwell to-night.

SERIOUS CHARGES.

The charges brought at the instance of the National Vigilance Association against Robert Howett, of Woodboro' Manor, Notts, and Ellen Wootton, a married woman, of abducting and procuring girls for immoral purposes, of conspiring to procure girls, of abducting heiresses, and other offences under the Criminal Law Amendment Act, came on for hearing before the Nottingham borough justices this morning.

Mr. Crump in opening the case said he should not be able to tell the number of Howett's victims in detail; but the prosecution were able to bring home to him a general design, carried on without much care, upon a family named Richardson.

The case is proceeding.

THE CHISWICK POISONING MYSTERY.

It is understood that the Government analyst has failed to detect any traces of irritant poison in the contents of the stomachs of the two children, Wilkes, who died at Chiswick under the somewhat mysterious circumstances already reported. It is stated that the analyst has carefully inspected the room at 10, Hunt-street, Chiswick, in which the mother and the six children slept and the circumstances under which the family lived.

LORD EDWARD CAVENDISH.

Lord Edward Cavendish, M.P., left Chatsworth this morning and proceeded to London, accompanied by Lady Edward Cavendish and his physician, Dr. Wrench. He will remain at Devonshire House for a few days and then proceed to Cannes.

THIS DAY'S RACING.

FOUR OAKS.

YARBOROUGH HUNTERS' FLAT RACE. (Two miles.)—Punjab (Captain Middleton), 1. Rosier (Mr. Abington), 2. Matilda (Mr. Moore), 3. Queen's Bench (Mr. C. Waller) also started. Betting: 11 to 8 agst Punjab, 5 to 2 each agst Rosier and Matilda, 7 to 1 agst Queen's Bench.

HARRINGTON HUNTERS' STEEPLECHASE. (About two miles and three-quarters.)—Bloom (Hall), 1. The Captain (Daniells), 2. The following also started:—Moss Rose (Keys), Coercion (Sly), Billy Pepper (Hewitt), Perceval (Brockwell), Randy (Mr. C. W. Waller), Petunia (Gregory)

The Second South Lancashire (Southport) Coursing Meeting has been postponed twenty-four hours on account of the frost.

THIS DAY'S MONEY MARKET.

CITY OFFICE, 13, Angel-court, Throgmorton-street, Twelve o'clock.

This being the first day of the fortnightly Settlement on the Stock Exchange, brokers and jobbers are engaged in the arrangement of the account, and very little new business is yet being done. Consequently prices have opened a little lower. There is, however, as yet no definite tendency discernible.

The demand for money in the open market is fair, and short loans are quoted 2 1/2 to 2 3/4 per cent., while the rate of discount is 2 1/2 to 2 3/4 per cent.

Quarter-past Two.

The Stock markets are very quiet for general business owing to the progress of the Settlement now commenced. As was expected, the account shows an increased speculation for the fall and rates of contango are lighter to accord with the easier rates for money.

somewhat better in tendency. The continuation rates on Americans range from 4 to 6 per cent. Grand Trunk of Canada stocks are steady on easier contangos, and Mexican Railway stocks are firm.

The following are the changes as compared with yesterday's closing prices:—In the English Funds, Consols are 1/8 better for money at 100 3/8 to 100 1/4; but are unchanged for the account at that price.

In Home Railways Caledonian has risen 1/4, Great Eastern 1/4, Brighton A 3/8, and South-Eastern Deferred 1/2; but Midland has fallen 3/8, and North-Eastern 1/4. In Canadian and Foreign Railways, Grand Trunk First Preference has risen 1/4, the Second 1/4, the Third 1/4, the Guaranteed 1/4, Mexican Ordinary 1/4, the First Preference 1/4.

In Foreign Government Bonds, Brazilian has fallen 1/2, Egyptian State Domain 1/2, the Unified 1/2, the Preference 1/4, the Daira Sanieh 1/2, French Rentes 1/4, the 1872, Greek Five per Cents. of 1881 1/2, the 1884 1, Hungarian Gold Rentes 1/2, Italian of 1861 1/2, Mexican Old 1/2, Peruvian of 1872 3/8, Portuguese Three per Cents. 1/4, Russian of 1873 1/4, Spanish Four per Cents. 1/2, Turkish Groups III. and IV. 1/2, the Tribute Loan of 1871 1/2, and the Defence 1/4; but Greek of 1879 has risen 1/2.

In American Securities, Pennsylvania Bonds have fallen 3/8, Central Pacific shares 1/2, Lake Shore 1/2, Louisville and Nashville 1/4, Erie 1/4, Pennsylvania 1/2, and Reading 1/2, but Wabash Ordinary has risen 1/2, the Preference 1/2, New York Central 3/8, and Denver 1/4.

The following are some of the rates of continuation current to-day at Settlement:—Caledonian 1/2 to 1/4, 1-16 to 3-16, Great Eastern 5-32 to 7-32, Great Western 3-16 to 5-16, London, Chatham, and Dover Ordinary 1s. to 2s., the Four-and-a-Half per Cent. Preference 1/2 to 1/4, London and South-Western 1/4 to 3/8, Metropolitan 3/8 to 1/2, District 1-16 to 3-16, Midland 3-16 to 5-16, North British 3-16 to 5-16 North-Eastern 5-16 to 7-16 1/2 to 3/8, South-Eastern Deferred 1/4 to 3/8, Grand Trunk of Canada Ordinary 6d. to 1s., the First Preference Stock 1/2 to 1/4, the Second Preference 1/2 to 1/4, the Third 2s. to 2s. 6d., the Guaranteed 1/2 to 1/4, Mexican Ordinary 1/2 to 1/4, the Eight per Cent. First Preference 1/2 to 1/4, the Six per Cent. Second 1/2 to 3/8, Egyptian Unified 2 to 4, Mexican Old Three per Cents. 5 to 7, Russian Six per Cents. of 1870 5 to 7, the Five per Cents. of 1872 5 to 7, Russian Five per Cents. of 1873 1/2 to 1/4 back, Spanish Four per Cents. 2 to 4, the Two per Cents. 6 to 7, Central Pacific shares 3 to 5, Lake Shore and Michigan Southern 100-dol. shares 1 to 3 per cent.

The Eastern rates of exchange are:—Bombay, 1s. 5 1/2 d.; Calcutta, 1s. 5 1/2 d.; Hong Kong, 3s. 4d.; and Shanghai, 4s. 8d.

Table with 2 columns: Security Name and Price. Includes English Government Securities like Consols, India Stock, and Colonial Government Securities like Canada 4 per Cent.

Table with 2 columns: Security Name and Price. Includes American Securities like United States 4 1/2 per Cent. Bond, New York, Pennsylvania, and Ohio First Mortgage Bonds.

Table with 2 columns: Security Name and Price. Includes British and Foreign Railway Stocks like Caledonian, Great Eastern, and London and Brighton Ordinary.

Table with 2 columns: Security Name and Price. Includes Miscellaneous Shares like Anglo-Am. Brush Light, Hudson's Bay, and National Discount.

Table with 2 columns: Security Name and Price. Includes Foreign Stock Markets like Argentine Six per Cent. of 1868, Austrian Four p. Ct. Gold Rentes, and various international bonds.

Table with 2 columns: Security Name and Price. Includes Banks like Anglo-Egyptian, City, and Colonial, and Mining Shares like Cape Copper and Indian Consolidated.

Table with 2 columns: Security Name and Price. Includes Telegraph and Telephone Securities like Anglo-American, Brazilian Submarine, and Consolidated Telephone.

LAST NIGHT IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MR. PARNELL'S AMENDMENT.

SPECIAL REPORT.

There was a good deal of doubt in the House of Commons last night as to whether Mr. Parnell really meant to move his amendment at all. The honourable gentleman, it was said, was far from well: to make a long speech was a trying ordeal for most men, and one to which an invalid scarcely ought to subject himself; and though there were a few scoffers ill-natured enough to suggest that what he was really suffering from was an attack of hesitation as to the policy of the Plan of Campaign and the difficulty of defending it in Parliament, there was enough in the conduct of Mr. Parnell himself to justify a good deal of uncertainty as to whether he would answer to the Speaker's call when the proper moment for moving his amendment arrived. For a long time he was nowhere to be seen; but some time after the hour of five had struck, and when almost the last of the questions on a long list was being answered, Mr. Parnell came in. He looked thin, and worn, and pale, as though scarcely recovered from a severe illness; but the scrupulous neatness of his personal appearance—the honourable gentleman is usually neat, but never shows such perfection of preparation as when about to favour the House with a long speech—and even the little extra attention to artistic effect involved in the carrying of a lovely camellia in his button-hole, showed that Mr. Parnell, unlike Mrs. Dombey, was prepared to "make an effort."

When the honourable gentleman rose to speak, the House, though not inconveniently crowded, was fairly well filled. Among a host of noble lords in the Peers' Gallery, Earl Spencer was conspicuous. But from the body of the House several well-known faces were missing. Mr. Gladstone was not present, and of course Lord Randolph Churchill was away; but what excited some surprise was the fact that Sir Michael Hicks-Beach was also absent, though the right honourable baronet came in when Mr. Parnell was about half through his speech. Lord Hartington was present, so was Mr. Chamberlain; and, indeed, both front benches were well filled.

Mr. Parnell spoke for upwards of an hour and a half, his voice occasionally showing signs of fatigue, especially towards the close of his speech. But he spoke with his usual cold, clear precision and his old deliberate utterance, which always conveys the impression that he is carefully weighing every single word before he finally adopts and fits it into its appointed place in the mosaic of his rhetoric. Indeed, this intellectual coldness and deliberation play a considerable part in the effectiveness of his public speaking. The speech was one of the longest he has yet made, and one of the cleverest. It was not spoiled by an excess of scrupulousness, or by a too great regard for accuracy in the interpretation of facts; but then, if it had been, it would have missed the mark at which it aimed. One purpose that Mr. Parnell had in view was to damage the Government if he could without being too particular as to the means whereby he did it; and certainly wherever there was a weak spot in their armour his stiletto probed it with wonderful skill. Another object which the honourable gentleman set up for himself was to justify the Plan of Campaign without formally identifying himself with it, and a third was to adopt a style of rhetoric which would arouse enthusiasm in Ireland and America without unduly outraging the feelings of the House of Commons. It is no small tribute to the skill with which Mr. Parnell handled his subject that in all his various purposes he succeeded. He moved his amendment on the ground that there had been no such disturbance of the relations between owners and occupiers in Ireland as the Address complained of; that there ought to be no fresh coercive enactments proposed; that the Government have acted in "an unusual, doubtful, and unconstitutional manner;" and that all Ireland requires to secure her happiness and welfare is Home Rule. For such disturbances as have taken place he blamed the Government, because of their rejection of his Tenants' Relief Bill; and fresh coercion, he declared, would fail in the future, as it always had done in the past, in improving the condition of the country and in improving what he described, amid some murmuring, as "the international relations" between England and Ireland. Coercion would only place the Government on the top of "an unpleasant inclined plane." Coercive measures could only be needed, not to improve the state of Ireland, but to enable Sir Michael Hicks-Beach to "put his political opponents in gaol." He warned the Government, in a very significant passage, that if they drove political agitation "beneath the surface," secret societies and agrarian and political crimes would be "revived in their worst forms." Of the "unconstitutional" courses adopted by the Government, some he ridiculed, others he denounced. He was rather amused at the Chief Secretary's confession that he had "put pressure" on the landlords, for though the results were good the example was bad; and he hinted that the Nationalists might not find it difficult to improve upon it. But all this came of an attempt on the part of the Government to "outshine" the Plan of Campaign, which had proved so successful as to excite their jealousy. He complained, however, with great bitterness of the attempt to get the Plan declared illegal, of the proclamation of the Sligo meeting, of the successive changes of venue in the prosecution of Mr. John Dillon, and of the system of jury-packing. Remembering that the Glenbeigh case, spite of wholesale misrepresentation, had turned out a failure from the Nationalist point of view, he was careful to explain that the Plan of Campaign had never been adopted there because (the reason is his own) "the twenty-five solvent tenants all paid their rent," and it is "the essence of the Plan that those who can pay should refuse to pay until their less fortunate brethren have got a fair settlement." On the conduct of Judge Curran and Sir Redvers Buller, with the Government at their back, he exhausted a prodigious wealth of adjectives. The action of the two agents was described as "helter-skelter, harum-scarum, slap-dash proceedings;" while the conduct of the Government was garnished at intervals with such epithets as "meanness," "a mean trick," "a shabby and miserable exhibition of trickery and dodgery," "stumbling, shifty, and broken-kneed," and "hitting political opponents below

the belt." All this was uttered without a trace of passion, in the calmest tone. It is true that the honourable gentleman at one moment uttered a sort of half-apology for speaking of the "lunacy" of the Government; but he used the word because he "really could not use a milder term." His treatment of the correspondence of Judge Curran and Sir Redvers Buller was uncommonly smart and skilful, and he certainly managed to amuse the House over both those gentlemen, and to somewhat surprise it when he declared General Buller to be "not quite candid," and to charge the Government with permitting the gallant General to "cook" the official report of his evidence. Of the Plan of Campaign Mr. Parnell said all manner of pleasant and agreeable things—that it was responsible for the comparative fewness of evictions and for the quiet state of Ireland; that not a single eviction had been enforced on any estate where the Plan was adopted, and so on; but he distinctly declined to pass any judgment upon it either for or against. He protested against Lord Salisbury's description of the Plan as "robbery and embezzlement," urging that it was the landlords who were the robbers. Against any fresh coercion he warned the House of the experiences of the past—how Mr. Forster's Coercion Act was followed by conspiracies, the Phoenix Park tragedy, the repeated explosions of American dynamite, the threatening of public buildings, and a general state of things in which "even her Majesty's Ministers were not safe from violent attack and attempts to assassinate;" and, though when subsequently charged with using "threats" he at once offered a denial, there was not a man in the House who did not understand how menacing this part of the speech was meant to be. However, according to his own account, he appealed to history in this way not to excite fear, but only to "show the uselessness of coercion."

In the subsequent debate there was nothing specially noteworthy until the speech of Mr. Hanbury, who from the Ministerial benches delivered a warm and glowing eulogy on the Irish character, pleaded that Irish affairs should be lifted out of the range of party spirit, censured the Irish Orangemen, and praised the rest of the people of Ireland on the astonishingly novel grounds of their providence, their thrift, their industry, and, above all, their eminently peaceful and law-abiding nature.

To say that the House was surprised by this perfectly fresh and unexpected mode of treating the subject is to put it very mildly. Honourable members could hardly believe their ears; and even the Parnellites were too astonished to cheer. It was left to Mr. Wodehouse, as a Liberal Unionist, to throw some faint gleam of light on Mr. Hanbury's peculiar views by the explanation, which greatly amused the House, that Mr. Hanbury's Lancashire constituency contained "a good many Irish voters."

The Attorney-General for Ireland, who spoke late, showed that the rejection of Mr. Parnell's Relief Bill had nothing whatever to do with the disturbances which had occurred in Ireland, and which had resulted entirely from the action of some of the honourable gentleman's colleagues. The Bill would not have touched the case of Glenbeigh at all. The Plan of Campaign was the real cause of the disturbances, and that Plan was not so much an attempt to attack rents as to crush landlordism altogether, ruin the landlords as a class, and drive them out of the country. The Attorney-General was beginning to reply to what he termed "threats of dynamitards from America" when Mr. Parnell protested that he had used no threats; he had only "referred to certain things which had happened." However, this assumption of injured innocence deceived no one, and the Attorney-General went on to say that such "references" as allusions to dynamite and to the possible assassination of her Majesty's Ministers would not deter the Government from doing their duty. A passionate speech of the usual character from Mr. Dillon brought the discussion to a close for the night; and the debate was adjourned on the motion of Mr. John Morley.

THE DEFECTIVE SWORD-BAYONETS.

Questions were asked in both Houses of Parliament last night with reference to the issue of worthless sword-bayonets to our blue-jackets. In the House of Lords, the Earl of Erne observed that in the battles of the Soudan more than one valuable life was sacrificed by the bad quality of the bayonets supplied to her Majesty's land and sea forces, and asked if the Government could give any information as to the sword-bayonets served out on the *Indus* the other day, which, "without exception, when tested, either bent double or twisted round like a corkscrew." Lord Harris replied, saying that the sword-bayonets in question were issued in 1869, and had passed muster, at least proved satisfactory, up to 1871. They were then withdrawn and altered to suit the Martini-Henry rifle, and were issued in 1874. They had been in use from 1874 to 1886, and there was no complaint about them until last year, when the training squadron did complain that one or more of the cutlasses had bent. They were being gradually withdrawn, however, and put to a severer test. Some of them had bent in a most remarkable way; but their having bent did not prove that they were not equal to the test demanded of them at the time that they were issued. The test then required was that they should bend to the extent of four inches over a block, and there was no doubt that they would still stand that test. The conjecture was that they had been put to a severer test; and he was informed that there was no steel made which would not give way if put to a severer test than that which it was originally made to stand. These sword-bayonets were originally supplied by contract. In 1858 15,000 were obtained from Charles Reeves, of Birmingham, 3,000 from Chevasse, of Birmingham, and 900 from R. and W. Aston, of Birmingham; and in 1859 3,300 were bought from Kirschbaum, of Solingen. They were altered at the Enfield Small Arms Factory to meet the views of the naval authorities, so as to comply with what was demanded. The tests were made on the responsibility of the superintendent of the Small Arms Factory, who was responsible for the supply being according to specification and samples. The sword-bayonet now complained of, Lord Harris added, comes within the subject of reference to the Royal Commission on Ordnance Stores now sitting. Mr. Northcote, the Surveyor-General of Ordnance, gave the same reply to a similar question by Mr. Hanbury in the House of Commons.

It is stated that very recently, on the return of a battery of artillery from India, the swords were tested, and every one failed.

FOOD ADULTERATION.—Mr. Cassall lecturing at the Health Exhibition said: "Homoeopathic Cocos are well-named, as they contain the smallest quantity of Cocos." CADBURY'S COCOA is guaranteed pure, and we recommend the public to buy no other.—[ADVT.]

RUSSIA AND BULGARIA.

OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

Among the parliamentary papers issued this morning is a Blue Book on Turkey (No. 1) and a White Paper on Turkey (No. 2). The Blue Book deals principally with the outbreak in Bulgaria, the abduction of the Prince, and his subsequent return. The published despatches fully confirm the reports of the high-handed policy adopted by General Kaulbars during that exciting period. His proceedings formed the subject of various communications among the Powers. Sir R. Morier, in a despatch dated November 1, addressed to Lord Iddesleigh, says he saw M. de Giers in reference to the arrival of Russian war-vessels at Varna, which General Kaulbars had threatened the Bulgarians should act resolutely against them, and also in reference to General Kaulbars' three days' ultimatum on the ill-treatment of Russians. M. de Giers endeavoured to minimize the language of Kaulbars' Note, pointing out that it did not threaten anybody in particular, but was only a kind of general protest against the insulting manner in which the friends of the Government were triumphantly proclaiming that the ships neither could nor would do anything.

When asked whether instructions had been sent from St. Petersburg authorizing the use of force by the ships, M. de Giers did not give me a perfectly direct answer; nevertheless his words distinctly conveyed the meaning that no such orders had been sent. I said that the Russian Consul at Varna had threatened bombardment. He absolutely refused to believe this, and said that the idea of Russia's bombarding a Bulgarian town was absurd on the face of it. His Excellency's language as regards the three days' ultimatum was very different from the above, and quite explicit. General Kaulbars had been instructed to insist under this threat on the immediate cessation of the ill-treatment of Russian subjects and protected Bulgarians. The matter was one which concerned Russia only, and was wholly unconnected with international arrangements respecting Bulgaria, on which Russia stood on a line with other Governments; for she, and she only, was the judge of what concerned her own dignity.

The White Paper is in continuation of the Blue Book, and brings the despatches down to the 17th of December last. M. de Giers, in a despatch to the Russian Ambassador in London on the 11th of November announces the withdrawal of General Kaulbars and the Russian Consuls from Bulgaria, and his Excellency then gives the Czar's views upon the position of affairs:—

When Prince Alexander of Battenberg definitely left Bulgaria the Imperial Cabinet did not think it possible to abandon in such a crisis a country created by Russia, but wished to help her to escape from it. This was the purpose of General Kaulbars' mission. It had two objects—that of assisting the men in power with advice, and of ascertaining the real wishes of the people. General Kaulbars' advice was such as the exigencies of the situation called for—namely, the cessation of party strife, the calming of passions in order to enable Russia and the Sultan to concert with the Powers on the best solution of the crisis. The Government in power, however, refused to listen to General Kaulbars' advice; they continued their course of violence, convoked an Assembly representing their own party and not the Bulgarian people. General Kaulbars was consequently obliged to declare that the Imperial Government recognized neither the Regency nor the Government, and thereupon the first part of his mission—that of advice—was exhausted.

General Kaulbars had then to inquire into the wishes of the population, and to do this he had to travel into the interior to put himself in direct contact with the population.

He did this openly, loyally, and in broad daylight, and could confirm, from what he saw with his own eyes, the certainty that the great majority of the Bulgarian people invoked the protection of the Emperor of Russia to shield them from oppression. General Kaulbars' presence in the country became the signal for redoubled violence on the part of the agents of the Government against all Bulgarians who dared to express their feelings to the representative of Russia. General Kaulbars protested in vain against these outrages. He only obtained evasive answers or merely nominal reparation. Matters reached such a point that the Imperial Government was obliged to send two vessels of the Imperial Navy. This measure imposed no check on the attempts against the security of the Consulate and of Russian subjects; consequently, General Kaulbars was compelled to threaten to leave Bulgaria. This declaration also proved fruitless.

M. de Giers then goes on to refer to the selection of Prince Waldemar, the proposed re-election of the Prince of Battenberg, the attempts of General Kaulbars to form a coalition Government, which he says was frustrated "in consequence of the encouragement which the party in power thought they could obtain from without." Another attack having been made upon the Russian Consulate at Philippopolis, General Kaulbars was ordered to leave. M. de Giers concludes his despatch in these words:—

Russia, who called Bulgaria into existence, has certainly no wish to attack her independence. She wishes to restore it to her. It is the right and the duty of Russia not to permit that the Bulgarian people, for whom she has fought, the people who do not concern themselves with politics, but who work, who wish to live in peace and in order, and who contain within themselves the germ of the country's future, should be oppressed by a minority of Radical agitators, should be turned aside from their natural course and transformed into a centre of anarchy, of revolution, and of hostility towards the nation which gave them their national life, and which has no other desire than to preserve it to them. His Majesty the Emperor does not despair of achieving that object, his Majesty will continue to devote his efforts to attain it. He will strive after it by pacific means, and without departing from treaty obligations, as long as the latter are equally respected by the other Powers. These are the circumstances under which our august master will await the development of the situation.

Lord Iddesleigh, replying to this despatch on the 8th of December, says her Majesty's Government do not propose to enter into any detailed examination of the facts contained in it. He thinks it right to state that the impressions of the Russian Government differ widely in many respects from those which her Majesty's Government have formed from the reports of the same events received from their agents on the spot, and from other and various sources of information.

Her Majesty's Government believe that their views in regard to these events and to the existing condition of Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia are in substantial agreement with those of other Governments who have the means of independent observation. He may, however, pass without further observation from this part of the subject to the statements made by M. de Giers as to the intentions of the Russian Government for the future. The Emperor will (says M. de Giers) continue to devote his efforts to this object, and desires to pursue it by pacific means and without departing from treaty engagements, so long as those are respected by other Powers. Her Majesty's Government equally desire the maintenance of treaties, the settlement of the questions which have arisen by pacific means, and the free exercise by Bulgaria of the autonomy provided for her by European agreement. Her Majesty's Government will be happy to take part in any discussions between the Powers parties to the Berlin Treaty with a view to the attainment of these objects, whether in the form of an exchange of ideas, of a conference of plenipotentiaries, or of an International Commission to determine the conditions of the union between Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia. It would, they think, be most in accordance with the course of procedure prescribed in the Treaty of Berlin on the occasion of the original constitution of the principality, that such deliberations should precede any decision as to the choice of the new ruler of Bulgaria; and her Majesty's Government would themselves prefer to reserve their opinion on this point until the conditions of the union have been examined and settled.

MESSRS. HATCHARD, 187, PICCADILLY, W., keep a large Stock of all the New, Standard, and Children's Books, Bibles, Prayer-Books, &c. Discount 3d. in the 10. Libraries arranged.—[ADVT.]

THE EUROPEAN SITUATION.

The more hopeful view of the European situation is still maintained, though (the Vienna correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph* says) it would be difficult to say upon what it is based. "Pacific assurances are, it is true, lavished on all sides; but their value is considerably reduced by the ever-increasing scale of European armaments. My private information does not point to any material improvement in the political outlook. From all I gather at trustworthy sources there is as yet little to justify optimistic forecasts. This country, impoverished and overtaxed as it already is, would certainly not incur fresh military outlay if there were not substantial ground to apprehend the possibility of war. Although the papers show praiseworthy discretion in giving few particulars of the preparations now going on, it is no secret that the War Office authorities are doing wonders in the way of recovering lost time." It is announced that the Delegations will meet in about a month, and it would not be surprising if by that time (the *Times*' correspondent remarks) the War Minister discovered that he must ask for a vote of 70,000,000 fl. Rumours to that effect are already in circulation. The correspondent adds:—

With respect to the relations between France and Germany, it is stated in diplomatic circles that Prince Bismarck is staunchly supported in his desire for peace by the Crown Prince. It is also said that the Chancellor has suggested to M. Herbet a way by which the French Government might assist him in resisting the German war party. The French Chamber has before it proposals with reference to the corn duties. If the discussion of these should be taken before that of the military credits the effect would, according to the opinion attributed to the Chancellor, be one of appeasement throughout Germany; and if one of the French Ministers were to take some opportunity of declaring that in the event of war in Eastern Europe France would remain neutral, this also, it is alleged, would complete the satisfaction of those in Germany who are sincerely seeking to preserve peace. Possibly, however, all this is mere conjecture, dictated by the natural desire which diplomatists feel to devise solutions for a crisis which appears to be one of daily growing difficulty. Prince Reuss stated positively to-day that the German Government has no intention of making war. As the French Government repeats the same thing for itself, there ought to be no need of further statements or pledges; and yet everybody feels that there is a need of something more explicit than has yet been said on one side or the other.

A Berlin newspaper states that Count von Moltke, in replying to a deputation of Conservative electors, authorized them to make public his opinion that the political situation was most serious.

The *Political Correspondence* publishes an account of a recent conversation between its London correspondent and a member of the British Cabinet, in the course of which the latter positively denied that Prince Bismarck was planning an attack upon France. Should, however, the Bulgarian question lead to war, Germany could not, he considered, long remain inactive, and France might then succumb to the temptation of attacking Germany while engaged elsewhere. This would mean a European war, which would be highly prejudicial to English interests, even without actual intervention on the part of England. The Minister is further represented to have declared that for this reason Lord Salisbury had modified his former attitude, and was now exerting himself to solve the Bulgarian question even at a partial sacrifice of English views.

THE FISHERIES QUESTION.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7.—The sub-committee of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives which is considering the fisheries question takes exception to the Bill passed by the Senate on the ground that it is ambiguous, and that it fails to include specifically railroads and also sailing vessels under the head of all means of communication. It is now preparing a Bill similar to that of Mr. Belmont, including certain provisions of the draft Bill submitted by Mr. Manning and other details suggested by Mr. Bayard.

ITALY AND ABYSSINIA.—OFFICIAL DESPATCHES.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)

ROME, Feb. 7.—The following telegram has been received by the Government from General Gene, dated Massowa, February 6:—

I take advantage of the Khedivial steamer going to Suakim to send this despatch. On the 27th of January, Ras Aloola, passing at some distance round Sahati, commenced his retreat towards Ghinda and continued it immediately towards Asmara, leaving at Ghinda only the usual chief of the Barambaras, Tesamma, and some soldiers. His losses are certainly very great in chiefs and soldiers. All, even the native Abyssinians, admire and fear the heroic conduct of our troops. The intentions of Ras Aloola are not known. Whether he retires to await reinforcements or whether owing to his losses, he has given up the idea of attacking Massowa. Major Piano arrived yesterday bearing letters from the Negus and Ras Aloola. The letter of the Negus, which is dated Makalee, January 26, says:—"In the first place you took Wuaa, and now you have also come to Sahati to erect a fortress. What object have you? Is not this country mine? Evacuate my country if you have come by orders. Why erect fortresses? You bring what is abundant with you—cannons, muskets, soldiers." Ras Aloola writes:—"What has happened was caused by your ruse. Let us now be friends, as in the past. Remain in your own country. All the regions between Massowa and here belong to the Negus. I have sent your brother that he may speak to you." Major Piano says he is commissioned to discuss the restoration of friendship and commerce. He will return to-morrow to Asmara, taking with him my reply, in which, without pledging myself, I seek to aid Saibeni and his companions. It appears certain that there is a momentary truce in the military operations of Abyssinia against us. I am telegraphing to the Minister of War a list of the officers killed and wounded.

APPEAL ON BEHALF OF A DESCENDANT OF DANIEL O'CONNELL.

Subscriptions are invited to a fund to relieve Mr. Daniel O'Connell, of Derrynane Abbey, county Kerry, of immediate and pressing calls upon him through hard times, and not arising from any fault of his own, in order that the historic pile and relics of the great O'Connell should not pass under the auctioneer's hammer into the hands of speculators. The amount required is comparatively small, and any contribution will be most thankfully received by the Bishop of Ardferd and Aghadoc, The Palace, Killarney, county Kerry; the Reverend Humphrey O'Reardan, C.C., The Presbytery, Waterville, county Kerry; Mr. H. O'Reany, Lochiare, Tivoli, county Cork; or Colonel Champion, Combermere, county Cork.

"WARMTH AND NOURISHMENT."—In "The Commercial Organic Analysis," Vol. II., it says:—"Several qualities of Cod Liver Oil are:—Pale, used only in medicine; the purest has a pale yellow colour, never quite colourless unless artificially bleached; Light Brown, an after-yield of inferior quality, but still largely used in medicine; and Dark Brown, or Tanner's Oil." JENSEN'S COD LIVER OIL, sold everywhere in bottles, at 1s., 2s., 3s. 6d., and 6s. 6d., exactly corresponds to the above description of the purest or pale yellow. Trade-mark, an iceberg, is on every wrapper.—[ADVT.]

MR. GOSCHEN IN ST. GEORGE'S.

The polling for the vacancy in St. George's, Hanover-square, takes place to-morrow. The canvass has been so nearly completed that Mr. Goschen's Central Committee have very little doubt that the majority will be as large as that by which Lord Algonon Percy defeated a much more formidable antagonist last year. It is so early in the season that many of the electors are still away from London, and no inconsiderable number abroad. All who are within reach are urged to come to town for the purpose of recording their votes, and the replies so far have been very favourable. Some will be unable to put in an appearance, but there is said to be good reason to hope that their absence will be more than counterbalanced by the Liberal Unionists, whose numbers will for the first time in this constituency tell on the present occasion.

Mr. Goschen last night addressed a crowded meeting at the Working Men's Conservative Club in Davies-street, Oxford-street. The real state of affairs, he said, was that men of every shade of political opinion had decided to sink their political differences in order to join together in the one cause which was at the present moment agitating the whole country—the cause of order—the cause of the Union—a cause which was faithfully and honestly represented by her Majesty's present Government. The all important question was, would they see fit to return him, and not only to return him, but to send him to Parliament as the representative of St. George's, Hanover-square, by a large majority? They must remember what they would be voting for on Wednesday next. They would not merely be voting for him, but for the Chancellor of the Exchequer of Lord Salisbury. He appealed to them to show, by the majority with which they returned him to Parliament, their determination to assist in the maintenance of that patriotic union. It was not merely on this question that he was prepared to co-operate with the Government. He could assure them that there was no question upon which he was likely to differ with them, and that there were many questions in which he was cordially in accord with them besides this question of Home Rule. There was no reason that he could see why the united party of common sense should not continue to act together for a long time.

Mr. Gladstone has sent a letter to Mr. Haysman, which was received by that gentleman yesterday, in which he says: "You have my hearty good wishes for success in the district for which you are so manfully standing."

THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

In the House of Lords yesterday the Lord Chancellor moved the second reading of the Lunacy Acts Amendment Bill. Remarking that a strong feeling prevailed that, under the present law, it was possible for designing persons to interfere with the liberty of the subject, he explained that his Bill provided that, as a condition of the power of restraint, notice should be served on every person alleged to be a lunatic, informing him that he could at his own option be brought before a magistrate. After some observations from Lords Herschell and Milltown, the Bill was read a second time, as was the Lunacy Bill, the object of which is to codify the existing Lunacy Laws. The Lord Chancellor moved the second reading of the Appellate Jurisdiction Bill, which enables Lords of Appeal in Ordinary to retain their seats in their lordships' House after resigning their legal offices. Lord Herschell observed that the Bill proposed for the first time to sanction the creation of life-peereages, by which legal lords might sit in that House without having any offices to discharge; but, instead of objecting to the proposal, he rather welcomed it as a reform. The second reading was agreed to.

THE QUEEN'S VISIT TO BIRMINGHAM.

The Mayor of Birmingham yesterday received a letter from Sir Henry Ponsonby, fixing Saturday, the 14th of May, as the date of the visit of the Queen to Birmingham for the purpose of laying the foundation-stone of the Law Courts, which the corporation are about to erect at a cost of £70,000. Arrangements are being made by which her Majesty, who will travel from Windsor by the Great Western Railway, will leave the special train at Bordesley, on the outskirts of the town; and, being there met by the mayor and corporation, will be escorted in procession through several of the main thoroughfares to the Council House, where the formal reception will take place. Her Majesty will proceed thence to the site of the new courts, about half a mile distant, and, having laid the foundation-stone, will return to Windsor.

THE EASTER REVIEW AT PORTSMOUTH.

General Sir George Wilks, Commander of the South-Eastern District, accompanied by Colonel Furse, Assistant Quartermaster-General, yesterday inspected the forts on Portsdown Hill, with the view of making arrangements for the accommodation of volunteers three days before the review at Easter. They also rode across the country to be manoeuvred over, and will now draw up a general idea of operations for the approval of the War Office. Plans are also to be devised for accommodating several thousands of volunteers at the forts on the occasion of the Jubilee review.

THE DEVONSHIRE BURIAL SCANDAL.

The adjourned inquiry into the circumstances attending the death of Selina Lever, housekeeper to the vicar of Stoke Gabriel, South Devon, took place yesterday. Dr. Blythe, the county analyst, sent in a report showing that he could find no trace of poison in the internal organs; and it was also stated that the medicine provided by a medical scientist was harmless. The coroner summed up at some length, and the jury, after consulting together for an hour and a quarter, returned a verdict of Death from natural causes; adding a rider to the effect that the vicar was greatly to blame for not calling in medical assistance, and censuring the nurses for not suggesting such a course to him.

MURDER OF TRAVELLERS IN AUSTRIA.

An innkeeper and his wife and son at the little market-town of Leitomischl, in Moravia, have just been arrested on a charge of having, during the last twenty-five years, murdered no fewer than eleven persons. The victims were all travellers who had put up for a night at the inn, and who had shown that they were in possession of money. For a considerable time the suspicions of the police had been aroused by the sudden disappearance of visitors staying at the inn. Among the latest cases was a cattle-dealer who, after visiting the market, was returning home with the proceeds of the sale of a herd of cattle, and a young baron who had won a large sum in a public lottery. After putting up at the inn, these men, like others before them, were never heard of again. The body of the baron was found in a field close by. The last case was that of the sudden disappearance of a lady, who was undoubtedly murdered and robbed.

THE STORY OF THE MANNINGS RETOLD.

A curious application at the Southwark Police Court on Saturday brings to mind again what might almost be called a famous crime. A woman came to seek advice as to the best way of making good her claim to be a daughter of O'Connor, who was murdered by the Mannings in Bermondsey in 1849. The applicant's mother has just died at the age of eighty-six, and on her death-bed confessed that O'Connor was the father of her children. This confession gives the children certain expectations, and they wish to trace the history of O'Connor, and to have access to reports of the trial. The magistrate suggested a visit to the British Museum for these researches in ancient history; while he incidentally remarked that he perfectly well remembered the trial. The application at the police-court has led to an article in the *Daily News*, in which the story of the Mannings is retold.

On the 9th of August, 1849, Mr. Patrick O'Connor, an elderly man, who had been a gauger in the service of the Customs, was missed from his lodgings. Search was made for him high and low without effect, until on the 17th his body was found in the back kitchen of an empty house in Minver-place, Bermondsey. The house had been occupied by a Mr. and Mrs. Manning, known to have been acquaintances of O'Connor, and they had left it abruptly soon after the fact of his disappearance had been noised abroad. Immediately after the murder, Mrs. Manning had visited O'Connor's lodgings—by no means for the first time—and, as it was afterwards ascertained, had carried off a considerable amount of railway scrip and all the money she could find. She returned to her house, and remained there for two or three days, during one of which the police made a cursory inspection of the place, under the belief that the missing man was most likely to be found there. On the 12th, under the assumed name of Mrs. Smith, she fled with her plunder to Edinburgh. On the 17th, as already stated, the house was searched by the police, and the discovery of the body made suspicion certain. O'Connor's remains were found buried under one of the kitchen flagstones, in a grave about a foot deep, filled with quicklime. The body was lying face downwards, with the legs doubled up and tied to the haunches. Three days after "Mrs. Smith" was apprehended in a private lodging-house in the Scottish capital, through the instrumentality of a stockbroker to whom she had offered O'Connor's scrip for sale. In eight days more her husband was in the hands of justice. The pair had separated in their flight, and he was tracked to Jersey. He did not long keep their secret. While his wife was stoutly protesting her innocence—which, by the way, she did to the last—he made a statement charging her with the crime. It was to the effect that, having induced O'Connor to come to dinner, she asked him to go downstairs to wash his hands, and, as he reached the passage leading to the kitchen, she put one arm round his neck and shot him with the other. His grave was ready, and the rest did not take long.

The trial commenced at the Old Bailey on the 25th of October, 1849. It continued over two days, and it filled in with copious and crushing circumstantiality the outline already sketched.

Manning had been a railway guard; his wife had been a lady's maid. They had been married but two years, and when they stood together in the dock the man was but thirty years of age, and the woman twenty-eight. There could be no doubt of the nature of the relations between O'Connor and Mrs. Manning, nor of the fact that Manning was perfectly well aware of them. It is hardly too much to say that the murderers had neglected no precaution that might connect them with the crime. Manning had consulted a medical student who lodged with them as to the effects of laudanum in stupefying a man, and had observed that Mr. O'Connor was a person of considerable property. He had also requested his lodger's opinion on the probable fate of a murderer in the next world. When they had completed their preparations for the deed they gave the lodger notice to quit. He left on the 28th of July. Then they bought the lime and a crowbar, and Manning was very indignant with the man who brought the crowbar home because it was not wrapped up. Later on Mrs. Manning bought a shovel. While O'Connor's grave lay waiting for him, he saw it more than once, in his visits to the kitchen to wash his hands, when taking dinner or tea in the house. Mrs. Manning, in reply to his questions, said the landlord was repairing the drains. When all was ready, there was another attempt to get him to dinner, but at first it failed. A second invitation was more successful, and on the 9th of August he left home to dine with his "Maria," whose invitation he had happened to show to two friends that afternoon. A little later, on the same day, he was seen again; but after that none but the Mannings saw him alive. There was no dinner waiting for him at Minver-place, only the bullet, the crowbar, and the grave. He was once more taken downstairs to wash his hands, and he never returned.

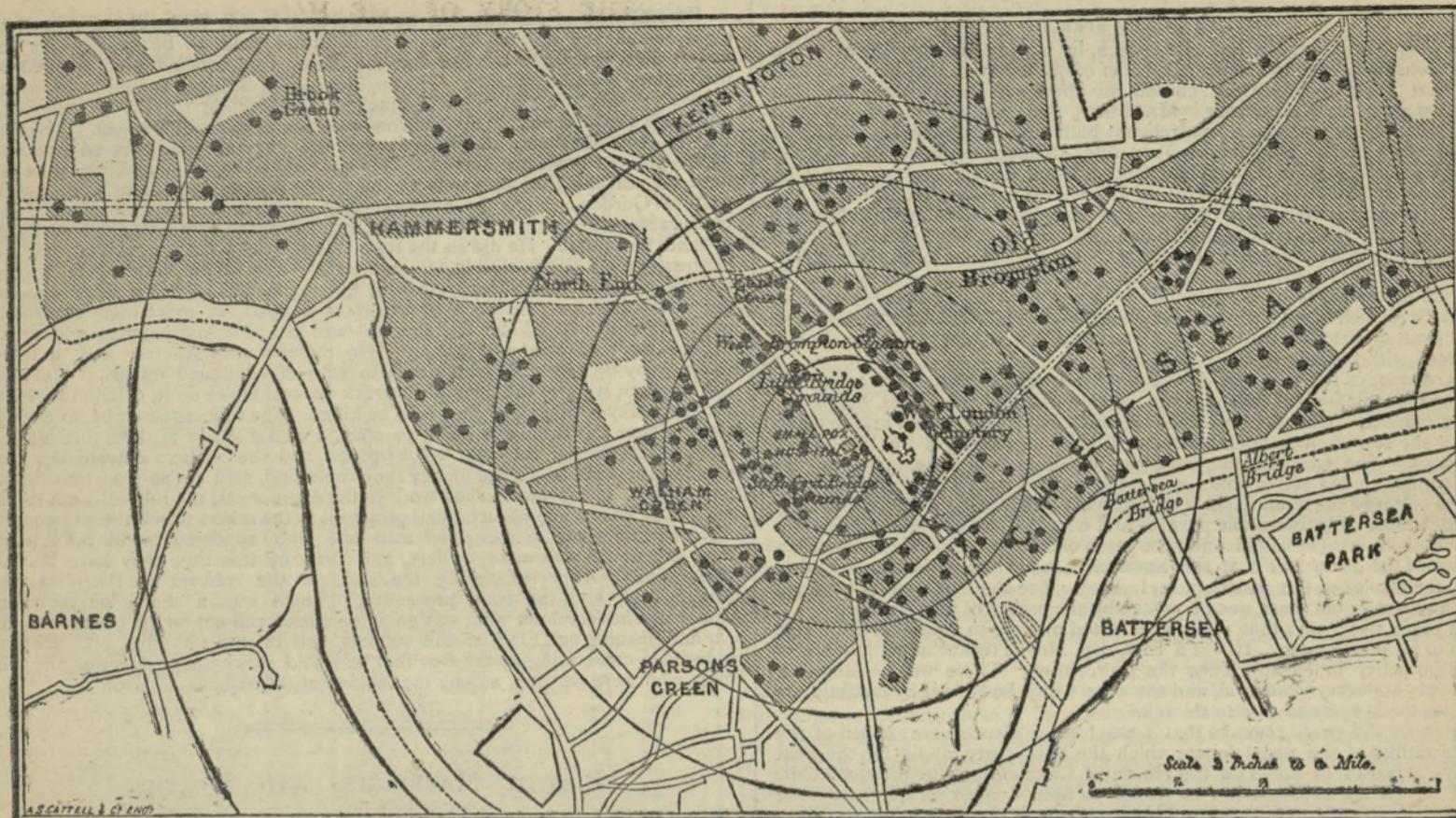
As the trial proceeded the wretched creatures, through their counsel, bandied accusations one against the other.

The woman declared that the man was the murderer; but the man had the last word, in a long confession published after the execution. In this he laid the whole blame of the conception upon his wife, and said that rage, rather than cupidity, was her original motive. O'Connor had irritated her by refusing to lodge in the house, and she said she would have her revenge, if she were hanged for it. Manning's statements are only to be taken for what they are worth; for he was most certainly a consummate sneak and scoundrel. He declares that he pointed out the risks of the crime, and then its wickedness. "I asked her what would become of her soul if she committed an act of murder," to which she said, "We have no soul; after we are dead we are like lumps of clay, and there is no more thought of us." When O'Connor came in to his last dinner, or semblance of a dinner, the dish-covers were on the table, but there was nothing beneath them. He at first declined to go downstairs, but the murderess told him that Miss Massey, a lady he supposed he was going to meet, was "very particular" about clean hands, and then he went. Manning, who was in his own bed-room, then heard the report of a pistol, and his wife came upstairs and said, "Thank God, I have made him all right at last!" "She insisted on my going downstairs. Upon my reaching the kitchen I found O'Connor resting on the grave. He moaned; and, as I never liked him well, I battered in his skull with a ripping chisel." When the woman went out in the evening to search O'Connor's lodgings, she left Manning alone with the body. But he could not remain in the house, and he went into the garden, and sat on the wall, and smoked a pipe with a neighbour. The pair evidently lost all faith in each other from the moment of the crime. The woman ran away at last, without telling Manning when she was going, or where. She was fiercely defiant in the dock after conviction, and declared that she had not had a fair trial. They were both sentenced to be hanged. The man did not say a word; the woman snatched a handful of rue from the front of the dock and threw it among the barristers, exclaiming "Base, shameful England!"

On Wednesday, the 14th of November, 50,000 persons waited outside Horse-monger-lane Gaol for the last scene:—

The crowding was fearful, and from time to time the injured were dragged out of the crush with ropes. Just before the culprits were pinioned the woman consented to see her husband and to speak to him—for the first time since the crime. Two warders sat between them. He leaned over and spoke to her in an imploring accent, and then they both rose, shook hands, and kissed each other several times. Manning was a coward to the last, and during the pinioning he asked Calcraft if he should suffer much pain. Not if he kept still, he was told. The woman nearly fainted at the sight of the hangman, and on recovering she asked the surgeon to bandage her eyes, which was done. In this way she was led to the scaffold, passing over her own grave—like O'Connor's, lined with quicklime. It was an agonizingly long journey, for the whole procession had to mount by a narrow staircase to the very roof. The man appeared first, and then the woman. The 50,000 spectators received them in perfect silence. As they stood side by side, both blindfolded, he held out his pinioned hand towards her, and one of the turnkeys guided it into hers. Then the drop fell. Mrs. Manning was hanged in black satin. Black satin has never been in fashion since.

A SMALL-POX CHART.



In this map the Small-Pox Hospital at Fulham occupies the centre of the series of concentric circles. The black dots represent the houses in the neighbourhood of that hospital which were invaded by small-pox from the 14th of September, 1884, to the 26th of September, 1885. These circles have a radius of a quarter of a mile, half a mile, three-quarters of a mile, and a mile. And it appears that inside the first circle (*i.e.*, the one more nearly enclosing the hospital) 10 houses in every 100 have been visited by small-pox; inside the second circle 2 in every 100; inside the third less than 1 in every 100; and inside the fourth about 0.70 in every 100. That the hospital is a source of contagion is thereby demonstrated clearly enough, and by very serious consequences.

TRADE AND FINANCE.

The Board of Trade returns for January are encouraging. The value of the imports amounted to £31,047,422, an increase over January of last year of £2,364,383, or about 8 1/4 per cent.; and the value of the exports of British and Irish produce and manufactures was £17,808,735, an increase of £595,954, or nearly 3 1/2 per cent. In the imports the increases are in articles of food and drink, metals, raw materials of textile manufactures, manufactured articles, and miscellaneous articles. In the exports, yarns and textile fabrics, machinery and millwork, metals and articles manufactured therefrom, raw materials, living animals, and articles of food and drink were shipped in larger quantities than in January of last year.

Money was in very quiet demand yesterday in the open market, and day-to-day loans were quoted 2 to 2 1/2 per cent., but money for a week was not quite so easy at 2 1/2 per cent., the market being rather borrowers than lenders at that figure. The influx of nearly £100,000 in gold caused discount rates to droop, and bills were taken at 2 1/2 to 2 3/4 per cent. The exact movements at the Bank were £90,000 received chiefly from Egypt and £6,000 received from the Continent. To-day the final instalment on the securities of Arthur Guinness, Son, and Co. (Limited) becomes payable.

The stock markets opened steady yesterday morning, but with a disinclination everywhere to enter into new engagements. It was the eve of the fortnightly Settlement, we have still a fortnight of the electoral struggle in Germany before us, and the recent fall has inflicted heavy losses. But very soon business became more active, and a general rise began. The low prices have induced small investors to buy in large numbers; and their purchases had an instantaneous effect both in encouraging the jobbers to deal and in deciding the sharper speculators for the fall to buy back. In the American market, Milwaukee shares rose 3, Lake Shore 1 1/2, Union Pacific 1 1/4, Louisville and Nashville 1 1/2, New York Central 1 1/2, Denver 1 1/4, and Central Pacific 2. Among Home Railway stocks, Chatham Preference advanced 3/4, Brighton A 1/2, Great Eastern 1/2, Great Western and North-Western 1/2 each, and Midland 1/4. North British advanced 3/4 at the close, North-Eastern 3/4 and South-Eastern Deferred 3/4; others being under the best points. Foreign Government bonds likewise improved: Hungarian Gold Rentes 1 1/2, Egyptian from 1/2 to 1, Portuguese and Russian of 1873 3/4, French issues 3/4, Spanish 3/4, and Italian 1/2. Greek of 1881 and 1884 were 2 higher.

The belief is very strong in the United States that a great European war would immensely benefit America and raise the prices of American Railroad securities. The first effect of the outbreak of war would, of course, be to lower prices of every kind. The fall would be greatest in Continental Government bonds and in those securities dealt in on the Paris and Berlin Bourses; but there would be a general fall in every kind of security, in which American Railroad securities would share. After a while, however, Americans believe that American Railroad securities would begin steadily to rise. In the first place, it is clear that a great war would increase the demand for American provisions of all kinds; and if Russia were to be involved in the war, and the Russian ports were to be closed, the demand would be immensely augmented. An increase of the demand for American produce would increase the earnings of American Railroad securities, would enrich the farmers, and would tend to stimulate the revival in trade.

FRAUDS IN THE BEER TRADE.

During the last few weeks, and chiefly since the commencement of the present year, there has been a systematic campaign by the authorities of the Excise against the adulteration of beer. The facts from time to time reported, and of late with growing frequency, must have caused very general surprise. In almost all cases the amount of adulteration was serious. Writing on this subject the *Daily Telegraph* says:—

The public have been grossly and systematically defrauded, and none too soon the officials of Somerset House have awoke to the fact that it is their duty to put an end to the fraud. Some eighteen months ago an Act was passed which made it an offence to dilute beer, and in consequence of this Act an Inland Revenue notice was sent out to the trade containing the following caution:—"A dealer in or retailer of beer shall not adulterate or dilute beer, or add any matter or thing thereto (except finings for the purpose of clarification), and any beer found to be adulterated or diluted or mixed with any other matter or thing (except finings) in the possession of a dealer in or retailer of beer shall be forfeited." The enforcement of this obvious measure of simple justice has come upon the trade like a catastrophe and spread confusion and dismay on every side. And no wonder; for with admirable impartiality all over London, east, west, south, north, in poor and in better-class neighbourhoods, the Excise authorities have brought to light vendors of our national beverage, tempering it with additions of 10, 12, 20, and even 30 per cent. of water and sugar. A barrel should hold thirty-six gallons of ale or stout; but in one case out of ten proceeded against in Westminster the barrel contained only thirty-one gallons of beer, five of water. In a Marylebone sample there were six gallons of water, plus a pound and a half of sugar; in another seven gallons of water and half a pound of sugar. In one or two flagrant instances the proportion has risen as high as twelve gallons; so that out of two barrels the ingenious retailer would be able to concoct a third—for which he would have paid nothing to the brewer and nothing to the revenue in the shape of duty. It is asserted that in hotels, and at the higher-class bars this system is unknown. In these cases the profits of the sale are enormous. The traditional glass has grown small by degrees and beautifully less, till now there are five or six of them to the quart; and as the liquid itself could be dispensed remuneratively at a penny per glass, whereas twopence is invariably paid, it does not require the use of the differential calculus to discover that the gains are excessive. Far different, however, is it with the ordinary retailer living in a poor district, whose counter business is only a small percentage of his trade. For his thirty-six gallon barrel of stout he pays 33s., minus a 5 per cent. discount, and he sells the great bulk of it at 3d. a pot, or 36s. a barrel—making not more than 3s. to 4s. 6d. on the whole. The humbler purchasers of these neighbourhoods demand the full pint—it is, in fact, the usage to allow for "a dash over;" and so far as stout is concerned it is conceded by the brewers that for a long time past this class of dealers has sold without profit at all—except that which they have snatched surreptitiously by "diluting." Ale, on the other hand, is ordinarily retailed at 4d. per pot, and this would leave a fair average profit of 12s. per barrel, or fully 30 per cent.

While a large proportion of the leading members in the trade now assailed express approval of the action taken by the Excise authorities, it is obvious that a change must ensue in the relations between the great brewing houses and their clients. It is frankly admitted that hundreds of these latter must succumb under the new régime, unless the great breweries deal with them on more liberal terms. This, we hear on the best authority, they are willing to do. They have had their good times, and the poor retailer has been driven to unworthy expedients which were unjust to the public and have demoralized the popular taste.

THE MORNING PAPERS.

MR. PARNELL'S SPEECH.

The *Times* says that Mr. Parnell's speech, in moving his amendment to the Address, was calculated to confirm the belief of his followers that he is the best agent that could possibly be chosen to dress up their cause for the political market at Westminster. Mr. Dillon, Mr. Healy, and Mr. O'Brien, addressing popular meetings in Ireland, blurt out truths which, from the point of view of the Gladstonian-Parnellite alliance, ought to be severely ignored in the House of Commons; and these patriotic orators cannot be expected so to school themselves as to make it safe to present them in the character of constitutional politicians. But Mr. Parnell is a master of the art of parliamentary phrase-making, and, if he can persuade his audience to close their eyes to facts, he is capable of tickling their ears with an inexhaustible succession of constitutional commonplaces. His speech last night may carry conviction to the minds of Gladstonians who are desirous of being convinced and who have been careful to avoid all intellectual processes that may interfere with the attainment of that object. But it will not impose upon any one acquainted with the actual state of Ireland.

The *Standard* remarks that Mr. Parnell's speech exhibited in a striking degree the combination of boldness and caution which characterizes his parliamentary manner. The very defects of his oratorical style enabled him to make precisely the sort of impression which, as a political leader, it was his object to produce. The frigidity, the tameness of his general tone, gave an air of moderation to his statements; while the studied vehemence of occasional passages betrayed the abiding spirit of bitterness and rancour which inspires his course of action. For the whole purpose and effect of the elaborate indictment he preferred against the conduct and the plans of the Government was to publish to the world the plain fact that the National League is, and is determined to remain, the master of the situation in Ireland. The challenge was not framed in so many words, but there was no mistaking the reality of the defiance.

The *Daily News* says that the speech owed nothing to theatrical brilliancy, or even to lucid reasoning. It was a cold, dry, almost technical, indictment of Ministerial policy in Ireland since the prorogation. There was nothing in it even novel; but every word told, and the case which he set out by making was proved, as the lawyers say, up to the hilt.

The *Daily Telegraph* remarks that if any fresh evidence were needed of the absolute futility of the penal debate which the Irish party intend for the next four days, it is said, to inflict on the House of Commons, we might thank Mr. Parnell for having supplied it. In justice to him, it must be admitted that, wherever it is possible to impart a semblance of practical value to the discussion of Irish Nationalist grievances, he usually contrives to perform the feat. His complete failure, therefore, to achieve it last night—a failure the more conspicuous because his speech was, from the rhetorical point of view, effective enough—is decisive of the essentially unsubstantial character of his case. The one thing of which Mr. Parnell never will or can convince the English people is that, though they are able to govern Ireland and to govern her better than she can govern herself, they ought to abandon the endeavour because of the dangers which it involves. And every fresh effort which he or any one of his followers makes to impress Englishmen with this conviction, every new suggestion to them that they dare not do that which it is their duty to do, will only leave him further than ever from the accomplishment of his political aims.

The *Daily Chronicle* believes that Mr. Parnell's arguments will convince few people whose minds were not already made up that the Plan of Campaign was not primarily a political device intended to embarrass the Government and to advance the Separatist cause.

The *Freeman's Journal* considers that Mr. Parnell's speech stripped bare the Irish policy of the Government, and exhibited it to the world as "a wretched thing of mingled funk and folly." Either the Government blundered when they rejected Mr. Parnell's Bill, or they were guilty of an atrocious attempt to rob the landlords whom they sought to coerce into accepting half-rents. No amount of evasion can rescue them from that dilemma, and they had better concede their mistake. The falling-off in the eviction rate during the winter proves what a combination can accomplish. Landlords have learned at last that evictions in defiance of strong public opinion do not pay.

The *Irish Times* observes that the speech suggests absolutely nothing for the improvement of the relations of landlords and tenants, deals in no way with the existing problem, leaves everything just in confusion where it was, for the gratification of charging the Government with meanness, and reviling the honest efforts of such men as Judge Curran to benefit the tenants.

The *Dublin Express* is perfectly at ease as to Mr. Parnell's lugubrious prophecies of coercion. It is quite willing to submit to that coercion, which, as he says, is euphoniously described as an amendment of the criminal law. Nay, more, it would welcome it. The amendments in question are already part of the common law of Scotland, assuredly not the least liberty-loving part of the Queen's dominions. Special juries, change of venue, and the "precognition" of witnesses have not reduced North Britain to slavery. If they will reduce West Britain to order they will do good service.

THE SPEAKER AND MR. SEXTON.

The *Daily News* is of opinion that the Speaker's action last night in the matter of Mr. Sexton's question about General Buller's evidence before Lord Cowper's Commission will make thousands of Irishmen believe that the evidence of Sir Redvers Buller in favour of the tenants is being suppressed or curtailed. Other evil consequences will follow it of a still graver kind. The law of libel, in its substance no doubt a just and necessary law, imposes such serious risks upon the public exposure of official misconduct outside Parliament that any check upon its investigation inside Parliament, such as the Speaker has just applied, must be a matter of grave concern.

THE POPE'S INTERVENTION.

The *Morning Post* does not hesitate to say that the intervention of the Pope in the question of the Septennate has been injudicious and hurtful; for it is obvious that if the elections in Germany should now be decided against the Government, the Church will have sustained a humiliating defeat; while if, on the contrary, Prince Bismarck should obtain a majority in favour of the Septennate, the attitude assumed by Dr. Windthorst must fully justify the Chancellor in attributing the victory to the patriotic feelings of the nation. Prince Bismarck will consider that he owes no obligation to the Vatican, and Leo XIII. will discover the full extent of his mistake. The tenor of Dr. Windthorst's speech at Cologne should cause no surprise at the Vatican.

The *Standard* observes that if the intervention of the Pope should procure for Prince Bismarck a parliamentary majority, and if in ministering to that result his Holiness shall have in any degree strengthened the foundations of peace, he might follow up his success by asking to be allowed to arbitrate between France and Germany, with the object of placing their relations on a more satisfactory footing. As the friend alike of Germany and France, he is bound to neglect no opportunity presented to him by circumstance of averting a fresh struggle between those two countries. The attempt would not be successful; but the Papacy could lose nothing by making it.

A RAILWAY TRAIN STOPPED AND ROBBED.

Several days ago a train on the Texas and Pacific Railroad was robbed by eight armed and masked men. The facts are said to be these:—As the train pulled out from Gordon for the East, two masked men hopped on the engine, one on each side. The engineer, John Bosquet, turned to them and asked, "Where are you fellows going?" "Just going to take a little ride," answered one of them. "You will not ride on here," said Bosquet. "I guess we will," said the man; and in an instant the engineer was covered with two pistols pointed directly at his head. He was ordered to pull ahead, which he did until he reached the coal-chute at the trestle-bridge, something over a mile east of Gordon. Here the engineer discovered that obstructions had been placed across the track, and was ordered by the two men, who still held their pistols in hand, to pull up. He did so, the train stopping with the engine, baggage, and express-car on the east side of the trestle, while all the passenger coaches and the sleepers were directly over it, making it impossible for passengers to get out of the cars. As soon as the train stopped, six more men, all armed, appeared and ordered the engineer to take his pick and hammer and break in the door of the express-car. He refused at first, but was induced to do so by threats of instant death in case of continued refusal. He took the hammer, went to the door and struck several blows on it, calling on Messenger Losky to open it or he would be killed. The robbers stood by, and while the engineer was calling to Losky to open, fired a number of shots through the door, which caused the door to be opened, and the robbers entered the car, robbing the safe of all the money they could find, said to be from 8,000 dols. to 15,000 dols. Having finished work in the express-car, the robbers went to the mail-car. One of the robbers then proposed to the others to rob the passengers. "Never mind the passengers," said one who appeared to be the leader; "we are doing well enough here, and then by this time they have hid all their stuff." After ransacking the mail-car the robbers left the train and disappeared, and the train proceeded. There was a sheriff on the train, who, when he found out what was going on ahead, ran out on the platform of the car and, leaning out, fired at the robbers and in turn was fired on. He was induced to cease firing by the fear that he would strike the engineer or the fireman, who were standing among the robbers at the express-car door.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

BIRTHS.

SONS.
BACKHOUSE, wife of Major, the Buffs, at Dover, Feb. 4.
BANKS, wife of Mr. Edward H., R.N., at Stoke, Devonport, Feb. 3.
BASSETT, Mrs. Frederick, at The Knolls, Leighton Buzzard, Feb. 5.
CAULFIELD-STOKER, wife of Major B., Army Pay Dept., at Hurn Lodge, Beverley, Feb. 5.
HUNTINGDON, Mrs., at Elmend, Ealing-common, Feb. 3.
JACKSON, Mrs. T. G., at Nottingham-place, Feb. 4.
KELLY, wife of Rev. Maitland, at Salcombe Vicarage, Feb. 4.
LANE, wife of Mr. W. W., Naval Instructor, R.N., at Seabourne, Paignton, Feb. 4.
MILLS, Mrs. Charles E., at Levenhall, Musselburgh, Feb. 5.
SHADWELL, Mrs. F. B., at West Kensington, Feb. 5.

DAUGHTERS.

BOSANQUET, wife of Mr. F. A., Q.C., at Grenville-place, South Kensington, Feb. 4.
BURROWS, Mrs. Herbert F., at Pelham-grove, Sefton Park, Liverpool, Feb. 5.
COUSTAL, Mrs. Adolf, at Ladbroke-grove, W., Feb. 5.
GRIFPER, Mrs. John E., at Lyndhurst, Barnes, Feb. 5.
HARVEY, Mrs. Robert, at De Montfort-square, Leicester, Feb. 3.
KAYE-SMITH, Mrs. E., at Dane-road, St. Leonards-on-Sea, Feb. 4.
MACBETH-RAEBURN, Mrs. H., at Melina-place, St. John's-wood, Feb. 4.
PAWLEY, Mrs. Tom E., at Tonbridge, Feb. 3.
PEARSON, Mrs. H. Garcencieres, at Chatsworth-terrace, Barrow-in-Furness, Feb. 4.
WILLIAMS, Mrs. J. Charles, at Sydnop, Rhyl, North Wales, Jan. 31.

MARRIAGES.

BURTON-HAIGH.—At the Parish Church, Newport, I.W., Rev. F. Marlin Burton, B.A., LL.M., son of Mr. F. M. Burton, of Highfield, Gainsborough, to Rose, daughter of Archdeacon Haigh, Feb. 3.
CLARKE-FLOCKTON.—At Bundaberg, Queensland, Arthur W., son of the late Rev. Charles Clarke, M.A., of Barbados, to Isabel P., daughter of Mr. Francis S. Flockton, late of Sunbury-on-Thames, England, Dec. 14.
HAYDON-SCOTT-SMITH.—At Glasgow, Ernest W. Haydon, of Humberstone-road, Leicester, son of Mr. John N. Haydon, of Rowlands, Wimbome, to Madeline, daughter of the late Mr. William Scott-Smith, of Bathgate, Jan. 26.

HUGHES-PHELPS.—At Trinity Church, East Mellbourne, Victoria, Mr. William Hughes, of Melbourne, to Esther A., daughter of the late Mr. Samuel Phelps, of London, Dec. 28.
FLOWDEN-STOATE.—At St. George's, Hanover-square, Colonel Frederick L. Flowden, H.M.'s Indian Army, to Frances L., widow of Lieut. G. H. Stoate, R.N., Feb. 5.
RIGDEN-KELLAND.—At the Church of the Holy Trinity, Edinburgh, Rev. Richard Rigden, of Penkridge, Stafford, son of the late Mr. R. H. Rigden, of Salisbury, to Mary P., daughter of the late Rev. Philip Kelland, M.A., of Landcross, Devon, Professor of Mathematics at the University of Edinburgh, Feb. 3.

DEATHS.

ALLASON, Frances C., widow of Mr. Thomas, at Connaught-square, Hyde Park, W., aged 86, Jan. 5.
BEDDING, Mr. James, at Alpha-place, Regent's Park, aged 61, Feb. 3.
BEDINGFIELD, Lady Margaret P., widow of Sir Henry P., Bart., of Oxborough, at Bath, aged 79, Jan. 31.
BEHRENS, Theodore, son of the late Mr. S. L. at Auckland, N.Z., Dec. 6.
BELOE, Mr. Henry C., J.P., of Liverpool, at Catton Lodge, Leamington, aged 74, Feb. 5.
BOULTON, Mr. Thomas A., at Worthing, aged 70, Jan. 20.
BOWMAN, William, son of the late Mr. Abraham, of Stangrove, Eden Bridge, aged 30, Feb. 1.
CAMPBELL, Catherine, widow of Lieut.-Colonel John, 60th Royal Rifles, at Blackrock, county Dublin, Feb. 2.
CAYELL, Mr. John C., J.P., at Magdalen-street, Oxford, aged 74, Feb. 5.
COTES, Lady Louisa, widow of Mr. John Cotes, of Woodcote, at Pitchford Hall, Shrewsbury, aged 72, Feb. 5.
CUMBERLAND, Mr. Charles, F.Z.S., late of Hatfield, and formerly of Walton Place, near Epsom, at Scarsdale-villas, Kensington, aged 67, Feb. 5.
FRASER, Mrs. Janet F. M., widow of Mr. Archibald T. F. of Abertarf, at Boleskine House, Inverness-shire, Jan. 31.
GASKOIN, Mr. George, M.R.C.S., late of Westbourne Park, London, at The Priory, Caerleon, Monmouthshire, aged 70, Feb. 5.

GRISSELL, Captain Morton P., late 2nd Royal Lank Militia, at Winnebah, Gold Coast, West Coast of Africa, aged 35, Jan. 28.
HATCHETT, Hannah, wife of Mr. Francis, of Parkfield, Grove Park, Lee, S.E., Feb. 5.
HENNAH, Jemima H., widow of Mr. Thomas, H.E.I.C.S., at Forest-hill, S.E., aged 82, Feb. 6.
HOULDTICH, Frances E., widow of Rev. Edward, Rector of Matson, Gloucestershire, at Eastbourne-terrace, London, aged 81, Feb. 5.
KEMT, Major John, late of the Cavalry Staff, Canterbury, at Woodham Mortimer Rectory, aged 77, Feb. 4.
LANCASTER, Mr. John, late H.E.I.C.S., at Osborne-road, Southsea, aged 79, Feb. 5.
MARRON, William J., infant son of Major, King's Dragoon Guards, at Ringstead, Bournemouth, Feb. 3.
MATHESON, Dr. Duncan, at Granville-place, Portman-square, Feb. 5.
MULCASTER, General William E., son of the late Sir William H., C.B., K.T., K.C.H., R.N., at Portland-place, Bath, aged 66, Feb. 4.
PHILLIMORE, Captain William B., late Grenadier Guards, of Kendall's Hall, Herts, at Hyde Park-gardens, aged 58, Feb. 5.
PROWSE, Hally, daughter of the late Mr. James, of Wallingford, at San Remo, Jan. 29.
ROBSON, Thomas, son of the late Mr. William, at Finchley New-road, aged 46, Feb. 3.
TOASE, Mr. Edward D., late of Manchester, at Carlisle, aged 63, Feb. 4.
WEHLI, Baron, at San Remo, Italy, aged 56, Jan. 25.

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STOCKS AND SHARES.

THE following List gives the prices at one o'clock to-day. The principal Stocks and Shares not quoted below will be found in the Money Market Article on another page:—

COLONIAL GOVERNMENT SECURITIES

Table listing Colonial Government Securities including Canada, Cape of Good Hope, Natal, New South Wales, New Zealand, Queensland, South Australia, Straits Settlements, Tasmania, Victoria, and Western Australia.

REGISTERED AND INSCRIBED STOCKS.

Table listing Registered and Inscribed Stocks including Canada, C. of Good Hope, Natal, New South Wales, Queensland, S. Australia, Victoria, and W. Australia.

AMERICAN SECURITIES.

Table listing American Securities including Massachusetts, Atlantic First Leased Lines, Baltimore & Potomac, Central Pacific, Delaware and Hudson, Denver & Rio Grande, Lehigh Valley, New York Central, Ohio Third Mortgage, Norfolk and Western, St. Louis Bridge, Union Pacific, Allegheny Valley, and United N. Jersey Ry.

RAILWAYS.—BRITISH POSSESSIONS.

Table listing Railways in British Possessions including Atlantic and St. Lawrence, Bombay, Buffalo and Lake Huron, Canada Central, Chicago and Grand Trunk, Demerara, Eastern Bengal, East Indian, Great Indian Peninsula, Hamilton & N.W., Madras, Melbourne and Hobson's Bay, Nizam's, N. of Canada, Ditto North, Ditto South, Ditto West, Ontario, Quebec, St. John and Maine, Scinde, South Indian, S. Maharrata, Tasmanian, Toronto, Grey, and Bruce, Wellington, Grey, and Bruce, and West India.

BRITISH RAILWAYS.

Table listing British Railways including East London, Furness, Glasgow and South-Western, Hull, Barnsley, and West Riding, Junction Shares, Lond., Tilbury, & Southend, Mersey, North London, and Rhymney.

RAILWAYS.—DEBENTURE STOCK.

Table listing Railway Debenture Stocks including Caledonian, East London, Great Eastern, Great Northern, Lancashire and York, London and Blackwall, London and Brighton, London and Chatham, London and North-Western, London and South-Western, Manch. & Sheffield, Metropolitan, Midland, North British, North Eastern, North London, North Staffordshire, South Eastern, and Taff Vale.

FOREIGN RAILWAYS.

Table listing Foreign Railways including Antwerp and Rotterdam, Bahia and San Francisco, Brazilian Imperial, Buenos Ayres, Central Argentine, C. Uruguay, Conde d'Eu, Copiapo, Dutch Rhenish, East Argentine, Great Western of Brazil, Imp. Brazilian, Lima, Namur and Liege, N.-W. Uruguay, Ottoman, Prov. Orel-Vitebsk, Recife and Sao Francisco, Riga and Dunaberg, Royal Sardinian, Royal Swedish, San Paulo Brazilian, Smyrna and Cassaba, Southern Brazilian, Varna, West Flanders, and West. of Buenos Ayres.

LAND COMPANIES.

Table listing Land Companies including Canada Company, Canada North-West, Natal Land, Newfoundland, Otago and Southland, Peel River Land, Scottish Australian, South Australian, S. Austrin. Land Mort. & Agency, and Van Diemen's Land.

TELEGRAPH SHARES.

Table listing Telegraph Shares including Anglo-American, Cuba, Eastern, Great Northern, Indo-European, London P. Brazilian, Reuter's, Submarine, and West India.

AN INTERESTING VISIT.

"THE other day I had the privilege of spending an hour in the consulting-rooms of a medical electrician who bids fair to make himself a great reputation. Although Mr. B. Copson Garratt does not place himself so prominently before the public as do some others in his profession, I have good reason to believe that he is doing a work which is scarcely less extensive, and certainly is not less effective, than theirs. He will talk to you by the hour about medical Electricity, and he never tires of showing you its wondrous effects, although even he is unable to explain to you all the mysteries of its working.

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PUBLIC MEETING OF THE CITIZENS OF WESTMINSTER will be held at THE WESTMINSTER TOWN HALL, CAXTON STREET,

On THURSDAY, February 10, 1887, at Three o'clock.

Chairman, WILLIAM JAMES FARRER, Esq., High Bailiff of Westminster. The Meeting will be Addressed by

The Right Hon. W. H. SMITH, M.P. The Dean of WESTMINSTER. Cardinal MANNING. The Earl of DUNRAVEN, K.P. Sir RUTHERFORD ALCOCK, K.C.B. W. L. BURDETT-COUTTS, Esq., M.P. HOWARD VINCENT, Esq., C.B., M.P. SEAGER HUNT, Esq., M.P. And Others.

NOTICE.—Torchlight Procession from Clerkenwell-green.—Directions by Sir Charles Warren, the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis.—Whereas, a TORCHLIGHT PROCESSION from Clerkenwell-green has been announced for the night of the 8th February, on which night the thoroughfares of the metropolis may be liable to be obstructed.

I, Charles Warren, the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis, in pursuance of powers vested in me for keeping order and preventing obstructions when the streets or thoroughfares in the Metropolitan Police district may be liable to be obstructed, and of all other powers in that behalf for the preservation of the public peace, do hereby give directions to the constables of the Metropolitan Police NOT to PERMIT the formation of any such procession or the carrying of torches through the streets of the metropolis on that night.

Further, I direct the constables to caution every person who, after being made acquainted with this direction, shall willfully disregard or not conform himself thereto.

CHARLES WARREN, the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis.

Metropolitan Police Office, 4, Whitehall-place, S.W. 7th February, 1887.

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