

THE ST. JAMES'S GAZETTE

An Evening Review and Record of News.

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CONTENTS.

LEADING ARTICLES:—	PAGE
THE NEUTRALIZATION OF EGYPT.....	3
A FORTNIGHT WASTED.....	3
OCCASIONAL NOTES.....	4
MISCELLANEOUS ARTICLES:—	
SCHOOL FARMS IN IRELAND.....	5
STORIES OF THE RUSSIAN OCCUPATION OF BULGARIA.....	6
THE SPRING HANDICAPS.....	13
NEW BOOKS AND NEW EDITIONS.....	7
VERSE:—	
TO THE MEMORY OF A SOMERSETSHIRE SQUIRREL.....	7
CORRESPONDENCE:—	
ABOUT BUTTERINE.....	13
AN ADDITION TO "THE STORY OF THE MANNINGS RETOLD".....	13
THE EVENING NEWS.....	8-12
LATEST TELEGRAMS.....	6
THE MONEY MARKET.....	9
THE DEBATE ON MR. PARNELL'S AMENDMENT.....	10
THE MORNING PAPERS.....	14
TRADE AND FINANCE.....	14
STOCKS AND SHARES.....	15
BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.....	15

DRURY LANE.

DRURY LANE.—AUGUSTUS HARRIS, Lessee and Manager.
EVERY EVENING, at 7.35; Morning Performance EVERY MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, and SATURDAY, at 1.25, **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 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 o'clock, **THE HARBOUR LIGHTS** (305th time). Mr. William Terriss, Messrs. Garden, Maclean, Lyndal, Boycu, Campbell, Russell, Wentworth, Travers, &c.; Mesdames Millward, Achurch, C. Jecks, Leigh, Brennan, Carter, &c. At 7.15, **FAMILY JARS, MORNING PERFORMANCE TO-MORROW,** 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 Farrer, Fay Templeton, Agnes Delaporte, Sylvia Grey, Lottie Collins, McNulty, Barlow, Wilson, Beale, Ethel Selwyn; Messrs. Fred Leslie, E. J. Lonnen, G. Stone, W. Guise, 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 Saville 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.

NOTICE.—Owing to the extraordinary rush for places to see ALICE IN WONDERLAND, it has been arranged to give SIX EXTRA MATINEES—namely, Feb. 21st to Feb. 26th. These will be positively the last performances of this delightful play.—**PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.**

VAUDEVILLE.

VAUDEVILLE.—THIS EVENING, at 8.30, SOPHIA (225th time), by Robert Buchanan. Messrs. THOMAS THORNE, Carleton, Thorne, Farquhar, Mellish, Grove, Wheatman, and LEONARD BOYNE; Mesdames Larkin, Leclercq, Venne, Forsyth, and K. Rorke. At 7.45, **NEARLY SEVERED.** MATINEE every SATURDAY, at 2.30.

STRAND.

STRAND THEATRE.—FANNIE LESLIE.—EVERY EVENING, at 8, a New Musical Variety Drama, **JACK IN THE BOX,** by Geo. R. Sims and Clement Scott, in which Miss FANNIE LESLIE, Mesdames Florence West, Sallie Turner, Queenie Norman, and Amy McNeil; Messrs. Yorke Stephens, H. Parker, J. Beauchamp, I. Waller, C. Ward, M. H. Grahame, A. Lewis, A. Warden, and J. A. Arnold will appear. Preceded by **SPECIAL REQUEST,** by T. M. Watson. Box-office open from 10 to 5.—**MORNING PERFORMANCE TO-MORROW (Saturday),** at 2.

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 EVERY SATURDAY,** at 2.

HAYMARKET.

HAYMARKET.—Lessee 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 Coultas, Mr. Fenton, Mr. Ferrand, and Mr. H. Beerholm-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.—Lessee 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. Free, Miss Webster, Miss Huntly, and Mrs. Kendal. Preceded by, at 8, **A CASE FOR EVICTION.** Misses Webster, Huntley; Mr. Waring.—Box-office 10 till 5. Doors open 7.30. Acting-Manager, Mr. Huy.

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 Rose Saker, F. Paget, E. Miller, and Mary Moore. Preceded by, at 8, **"WHO KILLED COCK ROBIN?"** Doors open at 7.30. N.B.—MATINEE OF **DAVID GARRICK TO-MORROW,** at 3 o'clock. Doors open 2.30.

COMEDY.

COMEDY THEATRE.—Sole Lessee, Miss MELNOTTE.—Last Two Nights.—THIS EVENING, at 8 o'clock, **THE BEGGAR STUDENT,** an original Comic Opera, in Three Acts. Music by Carl Millocker. English version by W. Beatty-Kingston. Seats may be secured at the Box-office (open 10 to 5) and at all Libraries.

THE BEGGAR STUDENT.—LAST TWO 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, Mde. 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 Beahe, executed by Mons. and Mde. Alias. An augmented Band and Chorus, conducted by Mons. Auguste Van Biene. Box-office now open.

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.

ROYALTY.

ROYALTY THEATRE, DEAN-STREET (two minutes' walk from Piccadilly-circus).—Under the management of Mr. WILLIE EDVOUIN. 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 TO-MORROW (Saturday), at 2.30.—Sole Lessee, Miss KATE SANTLEY.

COURT.

COURT THEATRE.—Lessee 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. Luag, and John Clayton; Misses Norreys, Laura Linden, Marie Lewis, and Mrs. John Wood will appear. Preceded, at 8 o'clock, by **THE NETTLE.** Box-office open daily from 11 to 5. No fees.

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

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

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.

SAVOY.

SAVOY.—R. D'OYLY 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.

OPERA COMIQUE.

OPERA COMIQUE.—Lessee and Manager, F. J. HARRIS.—Miss Kate Vaughan's Comedy Company.—THIS EVENING, at 8.15, **THE RIVALS.**—Mr. J. Forbes Robertson as Captain Absolute; Mr. James Fernandez as Sir Anthony Absolute; Mr. Lionel Brough as Bob Acres; Mrs. John Billington as Mrs. Malaprop; and Miss Kate Vaughan as Lydia Languish. In Act 2, Scene 3, a Gavotte will be danced by Miss Kate Vaughan and the company. Preceded at 7.45 by a farce, entitled **NED KNOWLES.** Doors open 7.15. Box-office open daily from 10 to 5.

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., &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. 10, at 3.—**GLOBE THEATRE.**

PARIS HIPPODROME at OLYMPIA. ADDISON-ROAD STATION, KENSINGTON.

OLYMPIA, the most accessible place in London by Rail or Road.

TO-DAY.—CHANGE OF PROGRAMME.—Several new and exciting acts, in addition to the Roman Chariot Races and Stag Hunt, in which is introduced the marvellous Mechanical-comedian Doll, the Junior Derby, Hurdle Race by Horses without Riders, Wild Indian Race, and the marvellous family of Trained Lions.

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PRESS ABSOLUTELY UNANIMOUS that the **PARIS HIPPODROME** is the **GREATEST SHOW OF MODERN TIMES,** and well worth a special visit to London from the most distant part of the kingdom. The Railway Companies are running Special and Extra Trains direct to the doors of Olympia.

THE STABLES filled with 300 Horses, Ponies, Dogs, Elephants, &c., and the Armoury and Harness-room may be visited during the interval by holders of Box and Stall Tickets.

TO-DAY, 2.30; TO-NIGHT, 8 o'clock. Private Boxes, £2 2s. and £1 1s.; Stalls or First Promenade, 5s.; Grand Circle or Second Promenade, 2s. 6d.; Amphitheatre, 1s. Children under twelve to Stalls, 2s. 6d.; Grand Circle, 1s. 6d., upon payment at the doors. Tickets at the Box-office (Mr. H. L. Boss), 10 to 5, and at the principal agents.

PROMENADE 5s.—The Fashionable Rendezvous for AFTERNOON TEA at OLYMPIA.

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 2.30, **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.

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MESSRS. DEBENHAM, TEWSON, FARMER, and BRIDGEWATER will SELL, at the MART, on TUESDAY, February 22, at Two, the capital LEASEHOLD FAMILY RESIDENCE, No. 7, Stanhope-terrace, Hyde Park, containing 18 rooms and offices, as follows:—On the three upper floors, nine bed-rooms; on the first floor, a well-proportioned double drawing-room with parquet floor and two fire-places, and small conservatory at back; boudoir, on the entresol; on the ground floor, outer and inner hall with tiled floor, large double dining-room, and butler's pantry; on the basement, kitchen, back kitchen, butler's bed-room, three vaults in front area, wine-cellar, and larder in back area. Also the stabling, No. 18, Westbourne-street-mews, in the rear, comprising three stalls, coach-house and room over. Possession of the residence on completion of the purchase. The stabling is let on a tenancy determinable at a month's notice. Particulars of Sharon G. Turner, Esq., Solicitor, 56, Lincoln's-inn-fields; and of the Auctioneers, 89, Cheapside.

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HOTELS.

COMFORTABLE WINTER QUARTERS.—THE HALL, BUSHEY, HERTS (16 miles from Euston). ROBT. J. BANNING, M.D., Resident Physician, Magnificent Mansion and Park. Tennis-courts, including Asphalte, Billiards, Special attention to invalids. HOUSE THOROUGHLY WARMED. Turkish, Swimming, &c. Baths. Residents Free. Electric Light. Excellent Cuisine. Good Stabling. Address, Manager. Telegraphic address, "Hydro, Watford." Private Wire.

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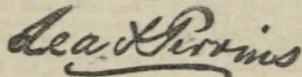
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THE EGYPTIAN CIGARETTE AND FRENCH GOVERNMENT TOBACCO COMPANY (Limited), of Yenidjeh, Cairo, and 86 and 88, LEADENHALL STREET, LONDON, having their own establishment at Yenidjeh, the centre of the DUBEC tobacco growing district, are able to secure the finest Tobacco growths; and, with the assistance of a large staff of skilled native workmen, are in a position to manufacture and import the finest brands of Egyptian Cigarettes.

"EGYPTIAN BEAUTIES." "THE MOSLEM." "AU SOLEIL."

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THE ST. JAMES'S GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1887.

THE NEUTRALIZATION OF EGYPT.

SIR JAMES FERGUSSON was asked in the House of Commons yesterday evening whether, without detriment to the public service, he could give any information with regard to the proposals which were stated to have been made by Sir H. D. WOLFF in Constantinople, "having in view the neutralization of Egypt and the Suez Canal." To this question Sir JAMES made the following answer: "I can only reply that her Majesty's Government adhere to the explanations which they have previously given of their policy in regard to Egypt; but I am not able to make any statement with regard to negotiations that are proceeding. The rumours that have appeared in the newspapers do not give an accurate representation of the objects her Majesty's Government have in view."

The answer is ambiguous, but in substance it may not be unsatisfactory. The latest "explanations of policy in regard to Egypt" were made by the First Lord of the Treasury only last week; when he said: "We remain in Egypt until our duties are discharged, until our international obligations have been fulfilled;—until we have been able to establish that Government in Egypt which the honourable gentleman has stated to be necessary—a native Government, a strong Government, a Government capable of holding its own, and discharging its duties as a great civilized Power." Now, if that is what the Government still stick to as a policy—and nothing can be clearer or more emphatic—there can be no neutralization of Egypt for a long time to come. For "a native Government, a strong Government, a Government capable of holding its own," is essential to a neutrality scheme. Such a scheme must rest upon a confident assumption that the native Government can take care of itself, can fulfil all the duties of self-rule, and can protect itself from internal disturbance; for when a nation is "neutralized," as Belgium is, the whole basis of the understanding is that no foreign Power shall interfere with its domestic concerns. Now the sort of Government which the First Lord of the Treasury described, the sort of Government which is the necessary basis for a neutrality arrangement, is just what Egypt cannot supply. And it is precisely because a native Government would not be "a strong Government, a Government capable of holding its own, and discharging its duty as a civilized Power"—it is precisely on this account that we keep control of the country. If any such plan as Sir H. WOLFF is said to have laid before the Porte is really contemplated by her Majesty's Ministers—and that something of the kind is afoot appears pretty certain—it follows that they think they see their way to the establishment of "a native Government, and a strong Government." And perhaps they do. At present, however, we fail to understand how it can be done. A native Government? Does that mean an Egyptian Government? Does it mean an Egyptian Government with the Khedive TEWFIK at its head? Hardly. No article of belief in affairs Egyptian is more commonly or more confidently held than that the elements of strong and tranquil rule do not exist in Egypt; and that TEWFIK himself could not live there for six months if the English retired and the country was left to its own factions. But since we hear that a part of the new scheme is rather to increase than to diminish the SULTAN'S authority in Egypt, perhaps the design is to supply a new Government from Turkey: with a MOUKHTAR Pasha to direct all as Mayor of the Palace. Of course that could be done. But the immediate result would be to replace Egypt beneath the rule of the SULTAN; and to talk of neutralizing the country under such conditions would be rather absurd. In short, there are no means of making Egypt a "neutralized" country. The necessary conditions do not exist; nor is it likely that they can be brought into existence for many a year to come.

But after what Sir JAMES FERGUSSON said last night we must not assume that "neutralization," as commonly understood, is really proposed. In fact, what we should rather infer is that some plan which is neither neutralization nor temporary occupation is intended: a two-stools project, perhaps. For this at any rate we should be prepared; with a watchful eye for the ingenuities which usually conceal the real character and the probable fate of such plans. As the French understand the project, they do not like it at all; and yet it must be supposed that its governing idea was to soothe and satisfy French susceptibilities. If our readers turn to our news columns they will see that the French press—the *Débats*, for instance—sees in the conditions which are said to restrict neutrality nothing less than a means of securing a potential English Protectorate under the sanction of all the Great Powers. But perhaps our neighbours do not know exactly what it is that Sir HENRY WOLFF proposes, any more than we do in England. But in all likelihood we shall not have to wait long for

complete revelation: certainly we shall not if the conditions reported this morning and commented on by the French press are contained in the scheme. All the Governments of Europe must know by this time what the plan really is, in full detail; and such of them as do not like it will not keep the proposal secret. There is certainly great anxiety in England to know what it is that our Government are about in this matter; the general feeling being meanwhile that this is not a time to propose any abdication of our authority in Egypt, or to feed Europe and India with the idea that we are at last ready to give up our traditional policy in Egyptian affairs. When Sir JAMES FERGUSSON or when some foreign Minister makes us acquainted with the real nature of Sir HENRY WOLFF'S suggestions, they may prove lovely beyond present expectation. But we are confident that we speak the sense of the country when we say (1) that a genuine neutrality scheme is impracticable, and that, no matter how strictly it might be defined on paper, it would be no guarantee of our great interests in the country whenever those interests were really endangered: (2) that a half-and-half neutrality scheme would probably yield yet worse results—if the Powers agreed to it, which does not seem likely at present: (3) that at a time when, for aught that any man can tell, a great war may break out that would completely alter the whole state of things in South-Eastern Europe, and even destroy the Ottoman Empire, it is not for England to fling away her hold upon Egypt.

A FORTNIGHT WASTED.

THIS is the fifteenth day since Parliament met, and, for any practical good that has resulted from their sittings, the members of the House of Commons might just as well have stayed at home. It is true that an excellent speech was made last night by Lord Hartington; but one of the most weighty passages in that speech was intended to prove that the occasion for its delivery ought never to have arisen. The general discussion on the Address consisted partly of vague lamentations and recriminations on the condition of Ireland; partly of speeches in favour of that one among the possible schemes of Irish reform which cannot possibly be accepted by the existing House of Commons. The amendment of Mr. Parnell, which has occasioned nearly a week of talk, is so framed as to direct the attention of the House exclusively to the very topics which formed the mainstay of the earlier debate. Lord Hartington pointed out that the only proper justification for moving such an amendment was a desire to turn out the Government, and that, while such a desire was natural in the Irish members, it could hardly be supposed that Mr. Morley, as a leader of a hopeless minority, was seriously trying to upset the Government for not having deserted the cause which they were returned in order to support. If the Government are to be turned out, it will not be on the question of Home Rule. It may be worth while for the Opposition to make the Government bring forward their Irish legislation, and attack that; or, by ousting them on some other question, to secure a new chance for the policy of repeal, either by a dissolution of Parliament or by some reconstruction of parties. But "a solid barrier of a hundred votes" stands between the Opposition and the repeal of the Union. Mr. Gladstone's scheme of Home Rule has been tried, found wanting, and condemned. Every argument that can be urged for it has been urged, and the present House of Commons is not to be convinced that the Unionists are in the wrong. To repeat the old discussions, and to reproduce the old arguments for and against, is pure waste of time. Mr. Parnell's amendment, with its question-begging reference to "satisfying the needs and securing the confidence of the Irish people," could not possibly lead to anything but waste of time. It is not to be wondered if the discussion made the atmosphere of the House feel rather "leaden," especially to those politicians whom the process of fighting the lost battle over again could not fail to remind of their numerical helplessness.

Lord Hartington made a very complete exposure of Mr. Morley's pretence of "pronouncing judgment in full" upon the Plan of Campaign. Mr. Morley's way of pronouncing in full exactly resembled the line taken by Mr. Gladstone. Both the Separatist leaders shirked the main question, whether the Plan of Campaign is worthy of condemnation and ought to be repressed. Each contented himself with a few remarks on such of the circumstances surrounding the Plan as could be considered to mitigate or justify its alleged illegality. Lord Hartington, with his usual directness, indicated the true ground of these suspensions of judgment and irrelevant apologies. He bluntly asserted that the English Separatists dare not condemn the Plan of Campaign for fear of alienating the support of their Irish allies; just as Mr. Parnell dare not explicitly approve the Plan for fear of alienating his English allies. A tacit acquiescence in crime, and a readiness to explain away legal obligations, is part of the price which Mr. Gladstone and his followers have to pay for the "confidence of the Irish people." If they showed but a spark of that public spirit and sense of justice which appeared to animate Mr. Gladstone's former speeches against the Land League, the despotic conspirators who manufacture "public opinion" in Ireland would

at once reconvert that "confidence" into the general detestation which preceded it.

Lord Hartington touched on a matter of immediate and practical importance when he spoke on the accusation of "jury-packing" now made against the Government. This is to be the great subject of Nationalist denunciations for the next few weeks. The truth about jury-packing is known: and is as fatal to the case of the Nationalists as was the truth about the Glenbeigh evictions. No honest man will attach weight to the charge; but unfortunately men's honesty has been strangely impaired by the late campaign against the Union. The Irish members dare not tell English members of Parliament, as they habitually tell Irish peasants, that the Government packs juries with a view to convicting the innocent. But men who look at the plain issue of a question, and who keep their heads in the midst of political excitement, will never be persuaded that it is wrong for the Government to use all legal means to obtain jurors who will decide according to the evidence and not according to the behests of *United Ireland*. Lord Hartington on this, as on other matters, was a worthy spokesman of English common sense and honesty.

It ought to be plain to the Government, from Lord Hartington's speech, that the Liberal Unionists will support them in any legislation which is necessary to make the criminal law effective. Coercive legislation, directed to the punishment of individuals or classes, might meet with considerable opposition. Any legislation which can be shown to be necessary in order to give effect to the ordinary criminal law will be supported by a large majority, undeterred by accusations of coercion and oppression. When once the Address has been voted, and the opportunity for unlimited babble is removed, it will be for the Government to show, without a day's unnecessary delay, that they are at last prepared to complete the work which they were appointed to do; and that they are ready to cope effectively with the conspiracy which has destroyed security of life and property, established a system of general slavery, and almost silenced public opinion throughout the greater part of Ireland.

NOTES.

Two of the Departments—they usually stick together—are openly quarrelling. The Admiralty declines to support the War Office in defending the bayonets which bend and the cutlasses that can be twisted into the form of a corkscrew. The spectacle of one Minister rising to say that the Government weapons are worthless, and another immediately afterwards declaring that they are fairly satisfactory, is not edifying. But good may come of it, since the Secretary for War admits that under the circumstances there must be an independent and immediate inquiry into the matter. Unfortunately we have had so many of these investigations already. In all other businesses but that of a Government Department it is found possible to remedy patent defects without interminable inquiry.

The dispute between the Admiralty and the War Office ought to admit of an easy solution. On the face of it, it looks as if the former Department were right and the latter wrong. The War Office declares that the weapons must be good because they passed the Enfield tests. If they failed on board ship, that was because the naval test is unfair. But what is an unfair test? In the case of a sword or bayonet, we really do not care whether it will or will not stand the trials devised at Enfield. What we want to know is whether or not it is likely to "crumple up" when driven at the body of an enemy; whether, in fact, it is a trustworthy weapon for fighting purposes. Now, it does seem that a cutlass which a sailor can bend over his knee into a permanent hoop-shape does not possess the required qualities.

Mr. Goschen ought to be gratified by the reception he met with on taking his seat. From both sides of the House the cheers that greeted him were loud and fervent. The Conservatives welcomed him with enthusiasm, which was quite as marked in a very large section of the Liberals. Many Gladstonians seemed glad to see the distinguished statesman back in the House of Commons. The general warmth of the greeting was fitly emphasized by the howls, yells, discordant noises, and semi-articulate observations which emanated from the Parnellites and certain of the Radicals. The rage of these legislators was a truly flattering compliment to the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Even when the *Daily News* calls him an "apostate," that turncoat print only reminds his fellow-countrymen that Mr. Goschen sticks to his principles.

At the Cardiff Assizes yesterday Mr. Justice Stephen decided a criminal case which had been awaited with great interest in that town. A statue of a deceased local politician had been erected on land belonging to the corporation; and members of the opposite party resented its erection on such a site, and denied that the character or eminence of the gentleman in question entitled him to that particular form of immortality. Various breaches of the peace and legal proceedings have arisen in connection with the statue; but the public interest culminated in the criminal

trial of a solicitor and an editor for the publication of a proposed inscription for the obnoxious work of art, in which the career of the politician was described in very unfavourable language. The alleged libel appeared three years after the death of its victim; and Mr. Justice Stephen held that a libel of the dead is not punishable, unless an intent to injure the living is proved. It is as safe to call one who died last year a liar and a murderer as it is to apply these epithets to Julius Cæsar or Oliver Cromwell; but if by calling A (deceased) a murderer, your real intention is to imply that B (still living) is the son or brother of a murderer, you will be liable to punishment.

The new explosive agencies somehow do not often answer the expectations of those who use them for purposes of mischief. Dynamite has a way of not exploding when desired, or of "going off" prematurely and injuring the wrong person. As far as can be understood from the telegraphic reports, this happened in the case of the bomb carried by the young gentleman who is supposed to have intended an attack on Mdme. Patti. It seems he put his case of nitro-glycerine under his seat, in order to have it ready for use when wanted; but it exploded too soon, and did no harm to anybody but its owner. He is said to be a weak-minded person, aged seventy-one, who describes himself as a "specialist in dyspepsia." He must be very dyspeptic indeed if he really wanted to still the great *prima donna's* sweet notes for ever.

The Bishop of London has not earned a reputation for good sense and discretion since he has presided over the metropolitan see. His latest achievement will not raise him in the eyes of London Churchmen. His lordship has seen fit to issue a circular to his clergy recommending them to solicit from their parishioners subscriptions for the proposed Church House. Now, as far as appears, the Church House will be of absolutely no use whatever to laymen, and of very little service to any clergymen but the few leisured and dignified personages in the metropolis who have time to frequent a comfortable club, where libraries, clerical periodicals, pleasant rooms, and, it seems, "light refreshments" will be provided. Whether founding this institution is the best possible mode in which the Church of England could celebrate her Majesty's Jubilee seems doubtful; so much so that of the quarter of a million required only about twenty thousand pounds have yet come in. Under the circumstances, the attempt of the Bishop of London to induce his clergy to act as collectors for this project is more likely to rouse indignation than to stimulate liberality. There are far better ways of spending money for the Church, whose clergy are in many cases falling into extreme destitution.

Hunting a murderer is a sport in which the public has not been privileged to share lately. We are threatened with a spell of it. That Lydia Green was murdered there is no doubt. That her murderer was the man Thomas Currell, who was "keeping company" with her, is understood to be the suspicion of the police; and everybody is now on the look-out for this person. Already we have got to the stage of "clues," and it is needless to say that the police "believe they are on the track" of the individual "wanted." It is sincerely to be hoped that they will keep on his track and catch him. The *Standard* reminds us this morning of a score or so of murders committed in London in recent years which still remain "mysteries." It is very much to be desired that the "Hoxton murder" will not, after being a nine days' excitement, have to be added to the list of London assassinations for which nobody has been brought to justice.

The warnings of approaching trouble in South-East Africa accumulate with the arrival of every mail from Natal. It is perfectly plain that the settlement which Mr. Stanhope announced last November settled nothing. Briefly, the arrangement made was that the Boer filibusters who call themselves the Republic of Western Zululand should be allowed to keep the greater part of the land they had stolen from the Zulus, while the rest of the country was to be annexed by England. A Commission has been at work delimiting the respective boundaries; but though it has finished its labours, the Zulus decline to be annexed and to submit to the transfer of so large a slice of their country to the Boer "Republic." This is precisely what was to be expected. Meanwhile the Boers, encouraged by their success in Zululand and the efforts of mischievous and unpatriotic busybodies like Dr. Clark, M.P., are making preparations to "eat up" the Swazis. Fifteen hundred filibusters are preparing to raid into this territory; and, if the commando is successful, there they will stop, relying with confidence that if they can only make good their hold for a few months the British Government will end by recognizing them.

Eight millions sterling per annum is, on the authority of Mr. Morris, the assistant-director at Kew, the value of the imports of fruit into Great Britain. Of this amount 96 per cent. comes from foreign countries, and only the balance of 4 per cent. from Greater Britain. And yet within the limits of the British Empire "there were all the fruit climates of the world; and we had also the fruit climates of the southern hemisphere, which latter could turn winter into summer and supply fruit in abundance just at the time when we needed it most." At present we import to the value of £2,000,000 from Spain, and £1,500,000 from Greece, while

America sends us apples to the value of over half a million. Meanwhile the colonial imports are trifling—Canadian apples are only one-sixth of the American supply; and though the Bahamas export £84,000 of pine-apples and bananas, the bulk of their produce goes not to London but to New York. Mr. Morris, however, hopes that we are on the eve of great changes in this respect. Australian growers are making arrangements for engaging a cool chamber on board the Orient Line steamers, and their fruits will come into the market at a time when few other supplies are available. We agree with Mr. Morris in hoping that "the results may be as satisfactory to our brethren in the colonies as they would be beneficial and full of promise for ourselves."

The newest thing in racing is a trial of speed between "méharis"—that is to say, camels—from Tuggurt to Biskra, a distance of about 140 miles. The affair was got up by the "Société des Courses de Biskra." The winner covered the distance in twenty-six hours, the second in twenty-nine, the third in thirty. This competition will give the French War Office a "line" for the calculations they are said to be making as to the advantage of establishing flying columns (or squadrons) of "camelry." At any rate, this sort of racing is far more practical than the races between geese promoted by the celebrated Marquess of Rockingham—celebrated on the turf, at least. Perhaps some day some learned Master of Arts will utilize the excellent education he received at the University of Cambridge for the purpose of writing a book entitled, "Camel-Racing in France: a History."

Theatrical "stock companies" are things of the past; but signs are not wanting that they will also be things of the near future. Last year it was very noticeable that the managers who used to provide the best touring companies—Mr. Wilson Barrett, for instance—had given the travelling business up. This year it is to be still more noticeable. The reason is plain. There are comparatively few first-class provincial theatres; very expensive railway journeys had therefore to be taken weekly; scenery and salaries are much heavier items than formerly—in short, these tours were a financial loss. The provincial managers, finding that they cannot get first-rate travelling companies, have to make terms with inferior ones, and the provincial public, having become fastidious, will not patronize these. Thus theatrical business in the provinces is very dull. The only cure seems to be a return to the system of stock companies. That would be for the good of London too, for it would provide young actors with the training of which they stand sadly in need.

Something has at last been discovered in which man is really very superior to woman. It is nose-power or sense of smell. Some American physicians having pondered over the fact that ladies are but rarely connoisseurs of wine, and, dismissing the idea that it is because they drink less of it, resolved to make experiments to get at the root of the matter. The results fully confirmed their suspicion that the feminine nasal organ is deficient in sharpness. The tests were conducted by mixing various essences with water; and it was found that whereas men could detect the presence of lemon-juice, for instance, in two hundred thousand times its weight of water, the women subjects failed to notice it in a quantity of water one-fifth as large. The conclusion drawn was, that the male nose is at least twice as efficient. Woman's love of perfumes is thus explained: half their pungency is lost on her. Ladies may ridicule the discovery, and retort that to smell is the virtue of the wolf and the dog; but it is none the less an undeniable defeat on what has always been supposed to be rather their own ground.

The late Holborn Workhouse scandal was brought under notice in the House of Commons last night by Mr. Newnes, who asked the President of the Local Government Board whether he was aware that on the bitterly cold night of the 12th of January a woman and her two infant children, in a half-starved condition, were refused admittance to the Holborn Workhouse, and that, had they not been taken to the police station and there fed and warmed, they might have died of cold and hunger. Mr. Ritchie's reply was to the effect that the woman, having no order from the relieving-officer, was told to go to the casual ward, but paid no attention to this instruction. There appeared to be no sufficient reason why, if she was destitute, she could not have applied before midnight for relief. Mr. Ritchie, however, admitted that it was much to be regretted that the woman and her children were allowed to be about on the pavement on a cold night, and stated that in consequence of refusing to admit her the porter had been censured by the guardians. If this poor woman and her children had been found dead on the pavement by the benevolent constable who took charge of her, instead of being found only shivering, it is to be presumed that, in addition to the porter being censured, some one would have been prosecuted for manslaughter.

The library of the Conservatoire at Paris has just acquired a MS. of quite exceptional value and interest. It is part of a diary kept by Richard Wagner during a few days of his stay in Paris in June, 1840. The future great composer was at this time reduced to the last stage of poverty, and the diary gives the record of his struggles and almost of his despair. He speaks in it bitterly of being supported by the alms of men like Meyerbeer and Laube, and consoles himself only with the reflection that they would not aid him unless they believed in his

worth and his future. His outlook is indeed dreary. He proposes to send some articles to be inserted in the *Gazette Musicale*. Lewald, of Stuttgart, holds out hopes that some of his compositions may get placed in a periodical called *Europe*. Otherwise there seems nothing in prospect. He writes on the day when his stock of money is reduced to its last sovereign. He has not yet had courage to tell his wife the state of his finances. All his hopes rest on a remittance which he expects from Laube. His quarter's rent will be due in a fortnight. Even Laube may cease to have faith, and accident may estrange his friends from him. He resolves that he will tell everything to his wife. All the entries have a curious simplicity and pathos. The biography of great men—says Balzac in one of those trenchant sentences which light up his page from time to time—should be a perpetual consolation to mediocrity.

Mrs. Henry Wood will be best remembered by her novel of "East Lynne." Of all English novels this has been the most frequently dramatized, not only in England and America, but on the Continent. Thus a play was produced at the Olympic lately which was announced as an adaptation from the French. The French "original," however, was an adaptation from the American, and the American play was a dramatization of "East Lynne." It has been calculated that over £20,000 has been made in this country alone off these dramatic versions. The authoress, however, did not obtain one penny of this sum. Mrs. Wood is one of the few lady novelists who have drawn a real boy. Her success was so much spoken of that she subsequently wrote a boys' school-story. This was a failure; for the boys were haughty persons who carried pistols, and their preceptor always addressed them as "Gentlemen." The "Johnny Ludlow" stories, which were very bright, were Mrs. Wood's. They originally appeared in the *Argosy*, which she edited. Her portrait was given in the January number, along with the first chapters of her new novel, "Lady Grace."

SCHOOL FARMS IN IRELAND.

AN excellent beginning has been made with one of the very first necessities in the industrial regeneration of Ireland. A plan has been set in operation enabling the teachers of the National schools to qualify themselves for teaching agriculture and the simpler forms of handicraft to their pupils; and although but little has actually been done up to the present, the scheme is capable of yielding, under certain conditions, excellent results.

First, we will take agriculture. The system in regard to this subject has been in practice a considerable time, and is fairly well known. The Commissioners of National Education have established at Glasnevin, near Dublin, the "Albert National Agricultural Training Institution:" where the science and practice of agriculture are taught to farmers, school-teachers, and others; and where the most improved systems of dairying are taught to young women, daughters of the agricultural classes. The Glasnevin farm extends over about 180 statute acres, and is arranged so as to illustrate the methods suitable for large and small holdings or for mere gardens or for indoor horticultural pursuits. A description of Glasnevin would of itself be interesting; but we must content ourselves with saying that, within the limits assigned to it, it efficiently discharges its functions, under the zealous direction of Mr. Carroll.

The system by which agricultural knowledge is disseminated from the Glasnevin centre resembles that of other training colleges, except that Glasnevin is a combination of a training college and a public school. The students are divided into five classes: free resident students, paying resident students, paying non-resident students, dairy pupils, and National school-teachers. The free places are open to all well-conducted young men, and are filled up by competitive examinations. The paying students are generally the sons of well-to-do farmers, or young men who intend to go into farming either at home or in the colonies. The value of such an institution to these classes is self-evident; and with that remark we pass them by, in order to come at once to the teachers, for it is through their agency that the seed grown at Glasnevin is to be taken into every parish and hamlet in Ireland.

Male National teachers, having farms or gardens attached to their schools, or who may expect to be able to get land for a small farm or a garden, are selected for a course of instruction extending over six weeks. They are boarded, lodged, and taught at the public expense during that time. Moreover, their travelling expenses are paid, so that there is every inducement to lead the teachers to take advantage of the institution. It should be added that, having acquired his certificate, the teacher who instructs his scholars in agriculture is entitled to a special result-fee, the amount of which is now 4s. and 5s. per head (according to class): considerably more than is paid for any other ordinary subject. These are the inducements offered to the teachers. A further stimulus is provided by the fact that in all schools, except in large towns, agriculture is obligatory for boys of the fourth or higher classes; but the obligation is only as regards theoretical or book agriculture, whereas the Glasnevin system aims at the teaching of practical farming according to the methods most suitable to local circumstances.

Now let us see how the plan works, bearing in mind that it is only in its infancy and that our latest information is Mr. Carroll's report dated July, 1886. He says:—"The sessions for teachers of the National schools were fairly well filled during the year. . . . It is gratifying that the teachers appreciate the courses provided by the Commissioners; and it is to be hoped that, on returning to their schools, the subject of agriculture will be taught by them in a manner more intelligent than if they had not entered the special agricultural course. Fifty-nine teachers attended during the three sessions, May 1st to October." Fifty-nine teachers out of more than 6,000! At that rate it will take a hundred years to qualify the schoolmasters of Ireland to teach their scholars agriculture. The miserably

inadequate scale on which the work is now being done comes out in another way, if we take the number of existing agricultural schools—that is, schools with land attached and having a competent teacher. The number is 64 out of a total of 7,768 schools under the Board of National Education. Donegal, Tyrone, and Mayo head the list with six each: in Monaghan, Fermanagh, Limerick, Carlow, Meath, Westmeath, and Leitrim there is only one. The area of the farm varies from a single acre up to thirty; but, in the cases where the farm is of considerable size, we often find that the village pedagogue is also a farmer on his own account.

The report upon these schools is disappointing. The number of them shows a tendency to diminish. "Owing to indifferent management on the part of the teachers," says Mr. Carroll, "I was obliged to recommend that eight schools should be struck off the list; two schools were, however, placed on the list during the year. I have to repeat that I am not fully satisfied that those schools generally are doing the good work that is desired from them. Whilst some teachers have within the past few years improved their systems of management, others are in a condition which I do not consider satisfactory. . . I should like to see further encouragement given to them either by increased result-fees or premiums for superior management." If we turn to the reports of the inspectors of schools, we read the same story. "The proficiency in agriculture is poor. This subject appears uninteresting to the children and unpopular with the parents." "This branch is avoided whenever possible, except in a few cases, being a favourite with neither teachers nor pupils." "Pupils in this branch are pretty generally presented for examination, but except in a very few the answering is disappointing." "Only few pupils are well or fairly acquainted with this subject." "In a few schools, decidedly good; in most, poor." "The teaching is not practical, and is therefore of little use." (There is only one school-farm in this inspector's district.) On the other hand, some of the inspectors note a slow but distinct improvement; and this occurs where the schools have come under the Glasnevin influence.

In the dairy branch there is a much larger measure of successful achievement. "Most encouraging," is Mr. Carroll's verdict upon it. "Young women who have had little or no experience of improved dairy systems previous to their entering the dairy school are now in positions doing good work." A similar report is made upon the Munster Dairy School, near Cork. Hitherto, however, no teachers have been passed through the course of dairy instruction; and it is to be hoped that a way will be found of remedying this defect, especially as good results have arisen from the encouragement given by the board to dairy instruction in schools where the means exist for teaching this branch of industrial knowledge.

The recommendations to be made are few and simple. Ireland wants not one or two, but a dozen, Glasnevins, spread over different parts of the country, so as to deal practically with local peculiarities of climate, soil, etc. A knowledge of practical agriculture should be made obligatory upon all male school-teachers in the rural districts, and of dairy-work upon all schoolmistresses. The Commissioners should have power (if they have it not already) to acquire land for school-farms. Practical agriculture or dairy-work should be a compulsory school subject, and the scale of result-fees should be raised so as to pay the teachers for taking considerable trouble with it. Prizes should be offered for the best produce grown upon school-farms. These measures would render the advantages to be derived from the Glasnevin system available for the whole country within a reasonable time, and ensure that, from the central training college to the humblest village school, the operation of it would be continuous, persistent, and effective.

ROBERT DENNIS.

STORIES OF THE RUSSIAN OCCUPATION OF BULGARIA.

THE arrival of Russian troops, followed by the inevitable Polish, Russian, and German Jews, who came to dispute amongst themselves the percentage to be got from the commissariat, had a very good effect in the commercial point of view on our little Black Sea town.

First of all, we had a very fair restaurant, where a decent déjeuner or dinner could be got at about Paris prices. The dinners and breakfasts were certainly the best in the town, and the best eaten there since the Crimean war. Beef, mutton, and lamb cost even then about 4s. per lb.; and Monsieur X. probably made something out of the luxuries—such as champagne, of which the Constantinople value, before it received the baptismal brands of Carte Blanche, Théophile Ruderer, was 18 fr. a dozen, package included.

I recollect a curious scene or two in this restaurant. Probably most persons who have seen much of the aristocratic class of Russians know what a social hatred they bear to Jews—a hatred which does not in any way prevent the two races being on intimate terms on the bases of finance. I was joined at my table one day by a young colonel of one of the cavalry regiments of the Guard, when a general of brigade entered with a friend, very well dressed, whose race no one could mistake. The colonel called up the *restaurateur*, and quietly told him to ask the Jewish gentleman to withdraw. Mr. X. made difficulties, but ended by speaking to the general, who seemed unwilling to take any part. In a few minutes my colonel rose, walked up to the Jew, pointed his finger at him, and said, "Pachol! Fonn." The Jew rose, and the general followed him out of the dining-room. I know that "Pachol" is Russian for "Be off with you;" but though I have asked many Russians what "Fonn" meant, I could only learn that it was a term of contempt. Rather disgusted at this summary dismissal, I asked my friend whether he had any particular grievance against the Jew in question. "None at all," he replied; "but Jews must not sit in the same room and eat in the company of officers." The same Jewish gentleman had a large contract with the Russian Government; and, when the very liberal sum for refugees which I had received from the British Ambassador for the relief of Christian and Mus-

sulman refugees was nearly exhausted, he presented me with about a ton of soldiers' biscuit for them.

Another innovation was an al-fresco *café chantant et dansant* on the outskirts of the town, where tenth-rate Peroto "stars" sang and danced for the benefit of an audience chiefly military. A good many Bulgarian peasants, however, occasionally dropped in; and it was amusing to watch their always astonished and often scandalized faces at the performance of a ballet or *poses plastiques*. At one time the manager imported a phonograph, which raised shouts of laughter by its ludicrous reproduction of whatever words had been whispered into its trumpet-shaped mouth. One evening, I recollect, an old general of Cossacks who was passing through the town shouted down the funnel a string of hoarse words of command, just as he would have done to his own Donskoje troops on a battle-field. Unfortunately, however, he was neither the first nor the last to experiment; and when the manipulator put in the tinfoil sheet, telling the general that his turn was come, the machine ground out between a whistle and a wheeze

Certainement j'aimais Clairette,
Mais faut-il mourir de chagrin
Quand—

and then all the front rows burst into such a roar of laughter that the rest was inaudible. The phonographist, not the least abashed, apologized on the ground of the *dichés* having got "mixed," and informed us that the next effort of the machine would be to reproduce a touching Romaic song, which one of the divas had breathed into the instrument. For a minute the handle seemed quite inoperative—no effects; then, but with a burst like a mill-stream breaking a dam, came out of the trumpet a falsetto-basso-profondo of Cossack Russian intermixed with some rather unparliamentary expletives which the general had used in the ardour of his warlike imagination. The diva (who had learnt Russian) simply screamed; the general was so congratulated by the other generals—there were always six or seven generals there—that he began to believe, I think, that he had done something or other which ought to get him a promotion in the Order of St. George, which he wore amongst his dozen of medals and "decorations."

A profitable amusement of the private soldiers was that of pulling down Turkish houses. Before the town was evacuated there were about four hundred houses, big and little, of Mussulmans, who one and all had left for Constantinople. The larger and better-built houses were used as officers' quarters, so that of these about one hundred were left standing; the others were demolished by the troops under pretence of wanting firewood, although the commissariat allowed fuel in large quantities. The Christians (who returned to the town long before the Turks) induced the soldiers to smash up the smaller houses, and paid them an infinitesimal sum for the large oak beams and posts, which could be again used as building-timber. Every day for months I saw some gang of Russians, Greeks, and Bulgarians hauling away with ropes at some unfortunate cottage; but it is only fair to say that at that time the Christians did not believe in the possibility of the Mussulmans returning to Roumelia.

Apropos of timber, the Russians found it necessary for the landing and embarkation of their troops to make a much longer pier in our port than was the old Turkish one; and magnificent columns of pine were shipped from Odessa to be used as piles. Knowing the engineer officer who was charged with the construction, I told him that pine would never stand the attacks of the *teredo navalis*, which swarms in our gulf, and suggested at least either charring the timber or using creosote; but the answer was simply that "it would last long enough for them." It did not, however; for within fifteen months they had to cut down 60 ft. from the end to seawards, and, when two years afterwards the Roumelian Government paid to have the piles removed, I lunged a slight cane through one of the thickest of them with hardly more resistance than if they had been made of the honeycomb in the sort of paper-cells formed by the *teredo*. The supports of the old ramshackle Turkish pier of oak, only charred, and built at least forty years ago, still hold good.

In one of my walks on the pier I was joined by an acquaintance, a post-captain in the Russian Navy, who started the topic of the engagement during the war between the Russian unarmoured cruiser *Vesta* and the Turkish ironclad *Fethi Boulend*, saying that he had been requested to make a water-colour drawing of the affair for publication as a coloured lithograph. He begged me, however, to ask Hobart Pasha how far the Russian stories of the damage done by them, etc. etc., were true, as he wished to know the real facts of the case. The Admiral complied; saying that the Turkish ship had been only struck by one shot, which hurt nobody, and that the only advantage the *Vesta* seemed to have had was that of steaming faster than her opponent. Afterwards I heard from Russian officers the true story. The commander of the *Vesta*, in a fit of rage during the chase, took up a shell and dashed it on the deck, where it exploded and killed or wounded about a dozen of the crew. The business was hushed up as much as possible; but it is said that the officer in command had to leave the navy.

Occasionally our town was favoured by the visit of an agent of the Secret Police Bureau, in a handsome light-blue uniform, whose appearance was always a source of conjecture, and perhaps terror, to the officers of the corps there. After one of these visits six artillery officers of the same battery were sent under arrest to Russia by the first steamer. At another time the suicide of an officer was attributed (in whispers) to the arrival of one of these dreaded officials, although more openly it was said to be owing to losses at play. That the Russian political police never forgives is pretty well known. Here is an illustration. In the year 1830 Stanislas Jablonowski, the son of a Polish country gentleman, was appointed from one of the military schools at St. Petersburg to a commission in a Guards' Regiment, and had leave to visit his home before joining. While he was still with his family the Polish insurrection broke out, and the lad was ordered by his father to join the insurgents. He did so, much against his own will (as he told me), his Russian mili-

tary education having somewhat blunted his patriotism; but as his father threatened him with the paternal curse in case of disobedience, he threw in his lot with the patriots. When in the following year the insurrection was extinguished, young Jablonowski was fortunate enough to escape through Wallachia to Turkey, where he entered the regiment of Cossacks of the Guards (then chiefly composed of Christians of all nationalities and officered by Poles, the commander being General Czaykowski Pasha). In this regiment he rose gradually to the rank of adjutant major; and left the service, infirm and broken in health, about 1875, obtaining a small berth of three or four pounds a month as assistant surveyor of roads in the district of Sliven. Here he vegetated quietly till 1877, and, unfortunately for himself, elected to stay in the town of Sliven until the entry of the Russians; never dreaming that he would be punished for having fought against the Russians forty-seven years previously. But the police section of the army which occupied Sliven brought with it seven photographs of persons who were "wanted," and among them was a portrait of Jablonowski taken six years previously at Adrianople. Although arrested, he was at first treated very leniently, and invited daily to dinner by officers who knew his story; but a few weeks afterwards orders were received to convey him to the Danube headquarters, and he was sent under escort with a commissariat transport caravan. At first he was allowed to sit on a baggage-wagon, from which, after an hour or so, he was forced to alight and walk. For some distance he managed to make his way through the snow and mud, then fell, was flogged with the national whip (nabaika) till he stumbled up and proceeded a few more paces; then he fell a second time, and, flogging proving useless, was shot through the head and his corpse left lying by the roadside.

It is only fair to say that every Russian officer who was acquainted with this instance of "longanimity" seemed to blame both the arrest and the subsequent treatment of poor Jablonowski. But the fact that Bulgarians in general are well aware of Russia's unsparing treatment of "rebels" or political enemies, will do much to prevent the leaders of the National movement in Bulgaria from making terms with her, except when neither resistance nor flight is possible.

AMOUJAH BEY.

TO THE MEMORY OF A SOMERSETSHIRE SQUIRE.

The stateliest oak must one day fall,
And leave the spot whereon it stood
A barren waste, to show to all
The place it filled within the wood.
We never knew how vast it spread
Till prone we saw its giant form;
Yet we had often sought its shade
For shelter from the sun and storm.

A hundred of the saplings round
Might in a night in dust be laid;
A single spring would clothe the ground,
And branching hide the gap they made.
But many a June will come and go,
And autumn wither many a spring,
And children yet unborn will know
The place where reigned the forest king.

And such a royal tree wert thou,
And stoodst among thy fellows so,
A frame not ninety years could bow;
And now, alas! thou liest as low.
The rich were welcome at thy door,
The poor ne'er empty went away;
For Heaven had largely blest thy store;
And all alike will mourn to-day.

Thy spirit to that God has flown
Whom, hoping still that thou hadst found,
Thou still didst think might best be known
By doing that to all around
Which each would have by others done:
A nobler heart, a juster mind,
There was not underneath the sun;
And thou has left thy works behind.

They follow thee: thy mortal mould
Is laid within the ruined fane
Set up by pious hands of old,
A landmark to the western main,
The which thy care did late restore;
A beacon, like thy life, it stands
To guide, when waves and tempests roar,
The sailor home from distant lands.

Thy virtues these: but how to paint
The man, the friend whom we deplore!
Affection's colours seem too faint;
And pen and fancy aid no more.
And all we saw was but a part;
The beauteous whole is written fair,
Upon one proud and loyal heart
That broken waits to join thee there.

R. C.

NEW BOOKS AND NEW EDITIONS.

"Thekla." By Lady Herbert. (Burns and Oates.) This little book presents the autobiography of a young lady who began to think for herself at the age of five, and no long time afterwards felt fully qualified to instruct her elder relatives. How she did bravest battle with an unjust stepmother, and escaped from the wiles of a loose-thinking aunt, and how a certain "Charlie" proved exceedingly helpful and altogether charming, is likewise recorded; and by-and-by we hear a chime of wedding-bells, too soon to be followed by notes of sadder import. But our lovers had been previously received into the bosom of the Infallible Church; so that the author could not have imagined a happier conclusion. Lady Herbert apparently wishes to suggest the probable bent of any unprejudiced mind to the doctrines of Roman Catholicism; and the idea is worked out in a way that will doubtless give pleasure to the class of readers to whom it would naturally commend itself.

"Job and Solomon; or, The Wisdom of the Old Testament." By the Reverend T. K. Cheyne, D.D. (Kegan Paul and Co.) An exhaustive commentary on the books of Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiasticus, and Ecclesiastes, from the pen of Professor Cheyne, could not fail to be of the highest value to students; who will here find the results of the latest criticism, and these in their turn criticised afresh. The work is equally calculated to attract those who are not, so to say, technically students; in fact, every one who reads his Bible and wants to know more about it can turn over these pages with the certainty of pleasure and profit. Of course there are disappointments for old-fashioned thinkers—notably the genuine Koheleth turns out to have been little better than a pessimist; but Christians who hold to the essential originality of Christ's teaching have the smallest reason to be troubled at the discovery. At the same time it is an undeniable relief, now and then, to light on a favourite text and learn that it is neither spurious nor a mistranslation. Turning, for instance, to the Praise of a Good Woman, one had an instinctive dread that the finest verse would be marked as the insertion of a later hand. But no, it was the ancient poet's own thought that "she openeth her mouth with wisdom, and the law of kindness is on her tongue." The "words of Lemuel," by the way, would seem to offer one of the earliest specimens of that "acrostic" literature with which the present generation is painfully familiar; each distich beginning with a letter of the Hebrew alphabet. The estimate of "Sirach" includes some interesting remarks on the intrinsic worth of the Apocrypha, which Ewald so happily renamed the "intermediate writings." No doubt they belong to a period of decadence; but the transition to better things cannot be understood without them. Generally Professor Cheyne may be said to have inherited a double portion of the Stanleyan spirit: as shown alike in the mingled fearlessness and caution of his statements, and in his love of literary and artistic reference. He cannot pass by the third chapter of Job without reminding us that Swift regularly read it on his birthday; while, for a right apprehension of the book at large, he evidently considers the illustrations of Blake to be as serviceable as all the researches of advanced scholarship.

"Railway Problems. An Inquiry into the Economic Conditions of Railway Working in Different Countries." By J. S. Jeans, Fellow and Member of Council of the Statistical Society. (Longmans and Co.) We fully agree, with Mr. Jeans, that it is extremely difficult to make such a use of the figures with which the British public is supplied as to establish reliable comparisons of one period or one country with another as regards the working of railways. It has long since been pointed out that the omission from the English railway accounts of any statement of ton-mileage or passenger mileage, or of any division of the annual expenditure under the same heads as those into which the annual income is divided, keep not only the public but the railway proprietors themselves in the dark as to the conduct of their business. The attempt to elucidate the working of English by that of foreign railways, which is indicated as the purpose of "Railway Problems," is one deserving of all attention. But especially was it incumbent on a member of council of the Statistical Society to steer clear of any such blunders as the one for which Mr. Giffen's paper on "The Use of Import and Export Statistics" is memorable. That disaster, however, has not led Mr. Jeans to avoid such misstatements as go far to render nugatory a large amount of statistical study. Thus, in approaching the great economic question of the relative cost of carriage by land and by water, he tells us "that we do know that the total net profits from canals in the United Kingdom amounted in 1884 to £3,365,000; and if we assume that this amounts to 5 per cent. on the gross earnings," the latter will amount to £67,300,000. The length of canals in the United Kingdom is stated—page 404—at 4,000 miles; so that the gross earnings, according to Mr. Jeans, come to £16,800 per mile. But the freight earnings on the 18,000 miles of railway are said on the same page to amount to 38 millions sterling a year, or £2,100 per mile; just one-eighth of the canal mileage receipts! Errors of this kind, when not merely slips of the pen, but enlarged and commented upon, are serious. Again, as to the cardinal question of the relative cost of transport by railway and by coasting vessels, Mr. Jeans cites the evidence of a witness before the Select Committee on Canals, which he says is to the effect that the cost of transport by railway is 34 per cent. more than that of transport by sea. Any one with the slightest practical knowledge of the subject would be aware that some prodigious error was involved here. And in fact, on turning back a few pages, a table is cited which shows that the cost by rail is eightfold that by steam-colliers. The moral of the whole seems to be, that before publishing a work on the statistics of an important industry a writer would do well to ask some practical expert to look through his pages, lest while he is accurate as to decimals of a penny he may make errors as to millions of pounds.

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THE ST. JAMES'S GAZETTE.
FOURTH EDITION.

THE PROPOSED NEUTRALIZATION OF EGYPT.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)

PARIS, Feb. 11.—The *Journal des Débats*, referring to-day to the question of the neutralization of Egypt and the proposals in connection therewith, attributed to Sir H. D. Wolff by some London newspapers, says:—"Let us suppose France or Germany to be invested by formal treaty with the right of commanding Belgian soldiers, with the right of sending an army corps across Belgium and the right of occupying Antwerp, Brussels, and Liège in case of a rebellion, and we shall have an approximate idea of the sort of neutrality which England has in view for Egypt. In French it would be called a protectorate." The *Débats*, in conclusion, expresses the belief that Turkey will still prefer the *status quo*, which leaves her liberty of action, to the strange kind of neutralization for Egypt which is proposed to her.

Sir James Fergusson, Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, replying in the House of Commons last evening to Sir Henry Tyler, who asked for information respecting the proposals reported to have been made by Sir H. D. Wolff at Constantinople for the neutralization of Egypt and the Suez Canal, said that he was not able to make any statement with regard to negotiations now proceeding, but he could say that the rumours appearing in certain newspapers did not give an accurate representation of the objects which her Majesty's Government had in view. Sir James said that her Majesty's Government adhered to the declarations they had made in respect of their Egyptian policy. The declarations to which Sir James here refers were made by Mr. W. H. Smith last week, in the course of the debate on Mr. Cremer's amendment to the Address. He said:—"We remain in Egypt until our duties are discharged, until our international obligations have been fulfilled, until we have been able to establish that Government in Egypt which the honourable gentleman (Mr. Bryce) has stated to be necessary—a native Government, a strong Government, a Government capable of holding its own and discharging its duties as a great civilized Power."

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff's memorial on the Egyptian question has been submitted to the Sultan, and a Council of Ministers will probably be held before the end of this week to consider it, and to discuss the question, in order to draw up a report for submission to the palace. The negotiations between Sir Henry Wolff and Kiamil and Said Pashas will commence next week. The *Paris Temps* professes to be able to give the following additional particulars of Sir Henry's scheme:—England proposes the autonomy of Egypt, under the nominal suzerainty of the Sultan, with the maintenance of the tribute to Turkey; the administration of justice restored to Egypt by the suppression of the Capitulations; England to have the right to require that the majority of the officers commanding the Egyptian army should be English officers; the possibility for England to reoccupy Egypt in case of the disturbance of order; the evacuation of Egypt by the English troops after the Powers have intimated the acceptance of these proposals. The *France* says that, while the proposals are certainly acceptable and contain nothing contrary to French interests or French principles, they are incomplete, and not of a nature to give France sufficient guarantees concerning the English occupation, which is only to cease after the adherence of all the Powers to the Convention. The word "after" is much too vague to please that journal, which says, "that may mean five years after Europe has been disarmed by renouncing the Capitulations;" it would prefer the word "simultaneous." In conclusion, the *France* shows what it means by calling the English proposals incomplete by declaring there is nothing in them which need prevent "Egypt remaining a British province, even after the departure of the English troops." The Cairo correspondent of the *Standard* telegraphs:—

The various versions of Sir H. Drummond Wolff's proposals to the Sultan which have been telegraphed here are naturally the subject of general comment. It is universally conceded that, while the total abolition of the Capitulations, to be followed by the immediate withdrawal of the British troops, would be much deprecated, the partial abolition of the Capitulations in respect to the consular criminal jurisdiction, the power of summary arrest of foreigners by the city police, and the taxation of foreigners would be very desirable. The autonomy of Egypt can scarcely be advantageously extended any further, except in regard to the right of establishing its own Customs tariff. With reference to the question of evacuation no one can at this moment allow the possibility of fixing a date without its being attended with disastrous consequences.

The correspondent of the *Times* quotes the reply of Nubar Pasha when asked some years ago as to the advisability of turning Egypt into an African Belgium. "It is eminently desirable," replied the Pasha, "provided you import the Belgians." Neutrality implies self-government, and that is impossible.

THE WESTBOURNE PARK TRAGEDY.—INQUEST AND VERDICT.

Dr. George Danford Thomas held an inquiry this morning into the circumstances connected with the deaths of Cornelius Wyness, aged twenty-seven, and Eleanor Wyness, aged twenty-three, late residents at a coffee-house, 4, Carlton-bridge, Westbourne Park, the former of whom, it was supposed, cut his throat after having murdered the latter last Tuesday morning. Inspector Mobley said he had made inquiries, and learned that the deceased woman, during the absence of her husband, who was a soldier in India, led an immoral life. After the man's discharge he found her in company with an artillery man, and he then threatened that he would some day murder her for her unfaithfulness. The jury found that the deceased woman had been murdered by her husband, who afterwards cut his own throat while suffering from temporary insanity.

NORTH ANTRIM ELECTION.

The polling for North Antrim to fill the vacancy caused by the elevation of Lord Macnaghten to the Bench is proceeding to-day. The candidates are:—Mr. Charles Lewis (Conservative and Unionist), Mr. McElroy (Gladstonian Liberal), and Mr. Traill (Independent Conservative). Crowds surrounded the various polling stations, and in a short time after these had opened a large number had recorded their votes. The voting proceeded briskly during the morning. The result will be declared to-morrow.

GERMANY AND FRANCE.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)

BERLIN, Feb. 11.—The *National Zeitung* to-day, commenting upon the postponement of the debate in the French Chamber on the Military Bill, attributes it to the desire of the French Cabinet to defer the discussion until after the German elections.

THE AUSTRIAN ARMAMENTS.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)

VIENNA, Feb. 11.—The semi-official *Fremdenblatt* to-day states that the Government will shortly apply to the Austrian and Hungarian Legislatures for the military credits recently announced which are intended for the completion necessary even in time of peace, of the reserve supplies for the Austrian and Hungarian Landwehrs, especially as regards uniforms and shoes. The credits will also include a grant for the equipment of the selected Landsturm battalions, with the exception of arms, as an ample supply of Werndl rifles will be available now that the regular army is armed with the magazine-rifle. The *Fremdenblatt* describes the credits as a non-recurring though indispensably necessary demand.

STATE OF SIEGE PROCLAIMED IN A GERMAN TOWN.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)

BERLIN, Feb. 11.—The Federal Council yesterday decided to proclaim the minor state of siege in the town of Olenbach, near Frankfort-on-Main.

THE RUSSIAN FLEET IN JAPANESE WATERS.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)

ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 11.—It is announced that the Russian war-vessels at present stationed in the Mediterranean have received orders to leave for Japanese waters, where it is intended to assemble a considerable squadron.

THE HOXTON MURDER.—INQUEST.

Mr. Wynne E. Baxter resumed to-day his inquiry respecting the death of Lydia Green, who is supposed to have been murdered on Saturday morning last by a man named Thomas William Currell. Annie Manton, a fellow-worker of the deceased, said that she last saw Currell on Saturday afternoon in Dalston-lane. Currell wished her good afternoon, and the witness said, "Have you seen Miss Green?" He replied "Yes." The witness then asked, "Is she not well?" to which Currell replied, "Oh yes; her mother is ill." He then said, "She asked me to meet you for her money and take it to her, as I told her I was coming this way." While they were walking down the lane they looked at a bill on a wall relative to the "World's Fair," when Currell said, "I have promised to take Lydia there to-night, but I don't suppose she will go now." The witness then gave him the wages of the deceased (18s.) which she had received from their employer. The witness and a companion went into a public-house with Currell, who already seemed to have had too much to drink. He afterwards accompanied them to Dalston Station, saying as he left them, "Look out for Lydia on Monday morning. I suppose she will come from Bishopsgate." The witness knew that the deceased and Currell quarrelled. She had never heard him threaten the deceased. She did not know if Currell was jealous of the deceased; but some time ago the deceased told her that some one had kissed her, and she did not think that Currell quite liked it. She also told the witness that if she spoke to any one in the street he wanted to know who it was, and all about the conversation. They were supposed to be engaged to one another.

Thomas Attrill, of 8, Baches-street, Shoreditch, a bricklayer, said that at a quarter to seven on Saturday morning he left home to go to his work. When at the corner of Charles-square he saw Currell, who said, "Good morning, Mr. Attrill; which way are you going?" The witness told him he was going towards the City, and Currell walked with him as far as the Crosby Head public-house. They went in and had some beer, which Currell paid for. He then said to the witness, "Is there any one about or up at home?" The witness said, "Do you mean Mrs. Green, or any of her family?" and he said, "Yes." The witness said, "The two old ladies who live underneath have gone out." Currell then said, "Do you know if Alice has gone out?" The witness said, "I do not know, but there is a light in the parlour." Currell then said, "Would you kindly lend me your latch-key, as I want to get some things out that I left there last evening. If I can get them out, it will save me 2s. I do not want to knock, as I don't want to disturb the people in the house." The witness saying that he would want his key in the afternoon, Currell replied, "I will give it to Mrs. Green, and she will give it to your wife." The witness then gave him the latch-key, and they parted. The witness had not seen him since, and neither had he seen his key. He had never before that morning had any conversation or drink with Currell.

The inquiry is proceeding.

THE LANARKSHIRE MINERS.

A Glasgow correspondent telegraphs:—Intelligence from Airdrie this morning states that the streets are quiet there to-day, and, although crowds of men were standing about discussing the situation, there has been no further attempt at disturbance. The military precautions last night and to-day were most complete; each of the 170 soldiers was supplied with twenty rounds of ball cartridges and further supplies were in readiness. Sentries were posted last night in front of the County Buildings and remain on duty to-day. An additional force of the 4th Hussars reached Airdrie at midnight, and had a mixed reception from the miners; but the only attempt at violence was the throwing of a stone, which struck an officer on the breast. He retaliated with a blow from the flat of his sword, and his assailant quickly disappeared. The provost and the magistrates of Airdrie have determined to swear in a number of special constables, and on this resolution becoming known about one hundred of the townspeople offered their services. In addition to the persons already arrested, the police are searching for others whom they believe to have been concerned in the riots. Quietude prevailed in the Stonefield district last evening, but the streets were patrolled by police. A mass-meeting of miners was held at midnight in the Academy Park, which was attended by many thousands. One of the speakers, named Clements, declared that Messrs. Ferrier and Strain had given the advance of sixpence, and that their men would recommence work to-day, as would all who had received the first and second sixpence. He expressed the hope that the miners would continue to keep the peace. The meeting afterwards dispersed and the men returned to their homes.

RETURN OF THE COURT TO WINDSOR.

The Queen, accompanied by Prince and Princess Henry of Battenberg and the children of the Duke and Duchess of Connaught, will leave Osborne House, Isle of Wight, on Friday morning next, cross the Solent to Gosport, and travel by special train to Windsor, where the royal party will arrive shortly before two o'clock.

PARLIAMENTARY NOTES.

The Conservatives and Liberal Unionists have this morning issued fresh whips respecting the division to-night, urging the attendance of members. The Unionist whip runs as follows:—"Your attendance is particularly and urgently requested in the House of Commons this evening, when the division will be taken on Mr. Parnell's amendment." The words "particularly and urgently" are underlined four times.

It is believed that Mr. Gladstone will not come to town for the division on Mr. Parnell's amendment. Sir William Harcourt will wind up the debate on behalf of the Opposition, and Sir Michael Hicks-Beach will reply for the Government.

Mr. J. A. Picton's amendment to the Address dealing with the costs of returning officers has been ruled out of order by the Speaker, on the ground that the subject is raised in Mr. Howell's Parliamentary Elections Bill, for the consideration of which a day has been fixed.

RAILWAY DIVIDENDS.

The dividend on Metropolitan District Railway Preference stock is announced at the rate of 2 1/2 per cent. per annum with £8,252 carried forward. This is against nil a year ago.

The Cockermouth, Keswick, and Penrith Railway directors have decided to recommend a dividend at the rate of 4 1/4 per cent. per annum.

THE ALLEGED LIBEL ON DR. BIRD.

Mr. Evennett (from the office of Messrs. Vallance and Co.) attended before Mr. Bridge, at Bow-street to-day, and submitted an information for a summons for libel against Mr. J. C. Durant, the printer of Life, by printing an article headed "Cockiolly Bird," on January 6th. The summons was granted and will be issued forthwith.

MUNIFICENT BEQUESTS TO THE SCOTCH UNIVERSITIES.

Lord Gifford, a judge of the Edinburgh Court of Sessions, who died recently, has bequeathed £80,000 to found national theology lectureships at the four Scottish Universities. Edinburgh gets £25,000, Glasgow and Aberdeen £20,000 each, and St. Andrews £15,000. The total value of the property left by his lordship is £190,000.

THE BURNLEY ELECTION.

Mr. T. O. S. Thursby, eldest son of Colonel Thursby, of Ormerod House, Burnley, and Holdenhurst, Christchurch, has been asked by the Conservatives and Liberal Unionists to contest the borough of Burnley, vacant by the death of Mr. Peter Rylands, and has consented to do so.

THE KNIGHTS OF LABOUR.

A Reuter's telegram from New York says:—"The local committee of the Knights of Labour has ordered the engineers of the stationary engines in the breweries to strike work. The men have not yet replied, but there are indications that they object to comply with the order."

A REPRIEVE.

The Queen has granted a reprieve to Jessop Gedling, the poisoner, sentenced to death at Nottingham Assizes.

THIS DAY'S MONEY MARKET.

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

There is a fair inquiry for money in the open market at 2 1/2 per cent. for short loans and 2 3/4 to 2 3/8 per cent. for discount.

Quarter past Two.

The Stock Markets opened with a weak appearance on an unfavourable reading of the news published this morning from Berlin, and prices have since continued to droop, especially in the case of political stocks, which are now decidedly flat. Egyptian issues are prominently heavy, and Russian of 1873 shows a considerable fall. Consols have given way 1-16 to 1/8 per cent. with the rest, and Home Railways show a fall all round. Metropolitan District is 1 per cent. lower. The dividend on the Preference stock is announced at the rate of 2 1/2 per cent. Brighton A is flat, although the traffic return for yesterday shows an increase of £188. The depression has extended to American Securities, where the fall in prices ranges from 1/2 to 1 1/4. Mexican Railway stocks opened very firm, but relaxed, and now show a considerable decline on the day. Grand Trunk of Canada stocks are weak with others.

The following are the changes as compared with yesterday's closing prices:— In the English Funds, Consols have advanced 1-16 for money to 100 11-16 to 100 13-16, and 1/8 for the account to 100 11-16 to 100 13-16; but Reduced and New Three per Cents. are unchanged at 101 1/4 to 101 1/8, and the New Two-and-a-Half per Cents. at 88 3/4 to 88 1/4.

In Home Railways, Caledonian has fallen 1/4, Great Eastern 3/4, Great Western 1/2, Brighton A 1/2, Chatham Ordinary 1/4, the Preference 1/4, North-Western 1/2, Sheffield A 1/2, Metropolitan 1/4, District 1, Midland 1/4, North British 3/8, North-Eastern 3/4, and South-Eastern Deferred 1/2. In Canadian and Foreign Railways, Grand Trunk Ordinary has fallen 1/4, the First Preference 1/4, the Second 1/4, the Third 1/2, the Guaranteed 1/4, Canadian Pacific 1/4, Mexican Ordinary 1 1/4, the First Preference 1/4, and the Second 1.

In Foreign Government Securities, Brazilian of 1883 has declined 1/2, Egyptian Domain 1/2, the Unified 1/4, the Preference 1, the Daira Sanieh 1, French of 1872 1/2, Hungarian Gold Rentes 1/4, Italian of 1861 1/4, Mexican Old 1/4, Peruvian of 1872 1/4, Portuguese Three per Cents. 1/4, Russian of 1873 1/4, Spanish Four per Cents. 1/4, and Turkish Tribute Loan 1/4; but Uruguay Unified of 1883 has risen 1/4.

In American Securities, Central Pacific shares have declined 1, Milwaukee 3/4, Denver 1, Lake Shore 3/4, Louisville and Nashville 3/4, New York Central

1/4, Erie 1/4, Ontario 3/8, Ohio and Mississippi 1 1/4, Pennsylvania shares 1/4, Union Pacific 1, and Wabash Preference 1.

Yesterday's Bank of England return shows an increase of £385,418 in the coin and bullion, which now amount to £21,814,396. As £87,000 in gold was received during the week, about £298,000 must have returned from the internal circulation. Notes also returned amounting to £348,255. Consequently the reserve increased £733,633, and now amounts to £13,969,016. The proportion to liabilities has risen 2 1/4 per cent. to 50 per cent. The "other securities" have decreased during the week £168,746, it is believed through the maturing of bills; while the "other deposits" have decreased as much as £871,164, chiefly through revenue payments, the increase in the public deposits being as much as £1,087,321. The Government securities have decreased £402,023. In the market it is believed that the repayments by the Government to the Bank considerably exceed what is shown by these figures, as it is believed that the Bank took a considerable portion of the Treasury bills last issue.

Messrs. A. P. Turner and Co. have received the following prices per cable, asked for the named shares and bonds in New York and Boston, on Thursday, February 10, at noon:—Lehigh Valley Railroad shares, 56 1/4; Missouri Pacific Railroad shares, 108 1/2; Baltimore and Ohio shares, 165; Pullman Car shares, 145; Cleveland, Columbia, Cincinnati, and Indianapolis Common shares, 65; Mexican Central Sevens (non-assent), 60 1/2; Missouri, Kansas, and Texas General Consolidated Sixes, 98 1/4; Texas and Pacific Consolidated of 1905, 100 1/2; Texas and Pacific Rio Grande Dividend First Mortgage Sixes, 71 1/4; Texas and Pacific Income Land Grant of 1915, 62; St. Louis, Alton, and Terre Haute Dividend Bonds, due 1894, 39; Richmond and Danville Debenture Sixes of 1927, 110; Houston and Texas Central General Mortgage Sixes of 1921, 70; East Tennessee, Virginia, and Georgia First Consolidated Fives of 1956, 99 1/2; Denver, Rio Grande, and Western First Sixes of 1911, 77; New York and New England Common shares 62 1/4; Texas and Pacific shares, 23 1/2; St. Louis, Arkansas, and Texas Second Mortgage 54 1/2.

The London and River Plate Bank (Limited) are authorized to receive subscriptions for the Catalinas Warehouses and Mole Company of Buenos Aires, in 3,000 mortgage debentures of £100 each, bearing interest at 6 per cent. per annum, secured by a first mortgage on the property and income of the company. The price of issue is £95 per cent., payable £5 per cent. on application, and the balance in two instalments extending to April. The debentures will be to bearer, and will be redeemed at par on or before October, 1906, by yearly drawings. The present loan is required for the purpose of completing the embankment or sea-wall, constructing and paving streets, and other purposes.

ENGLISH GOVERNMENT SECURITIES. Consols 100 11-15 100 13-16. Ditto Account (March) 100 13-16 100 15-16. Reduced Three per Cents 101 1/4 101 1/4. New Three per Cents 101 1/4 101 1/4. New Two-and-a-Half per Cents 88 1/2 88 1/2. India Stock Four per Cent. 102 1/2 103. Ditto Three per Cent. 85 1/2 85. Ditto Four per Cent. 70 1/2 71. Ditto 4 1/2 per Cent. 73 73 1/4. Bank of England Stock 287 299. Metropolitan 3 1/2 per Cent. 107 107 1/2.

COLONIAL GOVERNMENT SECURITIES. Canada 4 per Cent. of 1910-35 103 1/2 104 1/2. N.S. Wales 4 p. C. of 1903-5-8-9-10 101 1/2 102 1/2. N. Zealand 4 per Ct. Cons. Ins. 94 1/2 95 1/2. Queensland 6 per Cent. 1891-95 106 118. S. Australian 4 p. Ct. of 1894-1916 98 100. Tasmanian 6 per Ct. of 1893-1901 106 120. Victoria 4 1/2 per Cent. of 1904 105 107.

AMERICAN SECURITIES. United States 4 1/2 per Cent. Bond 111 1/2 111 1/2. Ditto Four per Cent. 130 1/2 131 1/2. Virginia Funded Bonds 52 1/2 53 1/2. New York, Pennsylvania, and Ohio First Mortgage Bonds 45 1/2 45 1/2. Central Pacific Shares 39 1/2 39 1/2. Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul, Denver and Rio Grande Shares 94 94 1/2. Illinois Shares 133 1/2 133 1/2. Lake Shore and Michigan Southern 100-dol. Shares 97 1/2 97 1/2. Louisville and Nashville 100-dol. Shares 62 1/2 62 1/2. New York Central Shares 115 1/2 116. New York, Lake Erie, & Western 100-dol. Shares 34 34 1/2. Ditto Preference Six per Cent 72 73. Ditto Second Mortgage Bonds 100 1/2 101. New York, Ontario, and Western Shares 18 18 1/2. Ohio and Mississippi Shares 16 1/2 16 1/2. Oregon and California Seven per Cent. Preference Shares 19 1/2 19 1/2. Pennsylvania Shares 57 1/2 57 1/2. Philadelphia and Reading Shares 19 1/2 19 1/2. Ditto General Mortgage Bonds 103 104. Union Pacific Shares 58 1/2 59. Wabash, St. Louis, and Pacific Ordinary Shares 18 19. Ditto 100-dol. Preference 30 1/2 30 1/2.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN RAILWAY STOCKS. Caledonian 97 1/2 97 1/2. Great Eastern 65 1/2 65 1/2. Great Northern Ordinary 114 115. Ditto A 100 101. Great Western 136 136 1/2. Lancashire and Yorkshire 115 116 1/2. London and Brighton Ordinary 125 127. Ditto A 111 1/2 111 1/2. London, Chatham, & Dover Ord 21 1/2 21 1/2. Ditto 4 1/2 per Cent. Preference 97 97 1/2. London and North-Western 124 124 1/2. London and South-Western 120 127. Manchester, Sheffield, & Lincoln 66 1/2 67 1/2. Ditto A 35 1/2 36. Metropolitan 108 1/2 108 1/2. Metropolitan District 38 38 1/2. Midland 125 125 1/2. North British 98 1/2 99. North-Eastern 151 1/2 151 1/2. North Staffordshire 90 1/2 91 1/2. South-Eastern Ordinary 125 1/2 126 1/2. Ditto Deferred 103 1/2 103 1/2. Grand Trunk of Canada Ordinary 127 127 1/2. Ditto First Preference Stock 75 1/2 75 1/2. Ditto Second Preference Stock 50 1/2 57 1/2. Ditto Third Preference Stock 20 1/2 20 1/2. Ditto Guaranteed 72 1/2 72 1/2. Canadian Pacific Shares 63 1/2 64. Buenos Ayres & Pac. 7 p.c. Shares 23 1/2 24 1/2. Ditto 7 p.c. Debentures 120 128. Lombardo-Venetian 7 1/2 7 1/2. Mexican Ordinary 50 1/2 50 1/2. Ditto Eight per Cent. First Pref 114 1/2 114 1/2. Ditto Six p. Cent. Second Pref. 72 1/2 72 1/2. Ditto Six per Cent. Perpetual Debenture Stock 118 120.

MISCELLANEOUS SHARES. Australian Agricultural 119 124. Anglo-Am. Brush Light (63 paid) 2 2 1/2. Hudson's Bay 2 1/2 2 1/2. National Discount 10 1/2 11. Peninsular and Oriental Steam 62 64. Royal Mail Steam 37 39. Suez Canal 76 1/2 76 1/2.

FOREIGN STOCK MARKETS. Argentine Six per Cent. of 1868 100 1/2 101 1/2. Ditto Six per Cent. of 1871 101 103. Ditto 6 p. Cent. Hard Dol. Bond 72 73. Austrian Four p. Ct. Gold Rentes 85 87. Ditto Five per Cent. Silver 62 1/2 63 1/2. Brazilian Five per Cent. of 1865 100 102. Ditto Five per Cent. of 1871 98 99. Ditto Five per Cent. of 1875 98 99. Ditto 4 1/2 per Cent. of 1883 92 91. Buenos Ayres Six per Cent. of 187 93 1/2 93 1/2. Ditto Six per Cent. of 1873 97 1/2 97 1/2. Chilean 4 1/2 per Cent. Conversion Chinese Six p. Ct. of 1895, March 107 111. Ditto Six p. Ct. of 1895, June 107 109. Costa Rica 5 per Cent. Bonds A 66 1/2 67 1/2. Ditto B 4 p. Ct. now 5 p. Ct. 1884 57 1/2 58 1/2. Egyptian Three p. Ct. Guaranteed 98 1/2 99 1/2. Ditto Five p. Ct. State Domain 90 1/2 91 1/2. Ditto Four per Cent. Unified 70 1/2 70 1/2. Ditto Five per Cent. Preference 93 1/2 93 1/2. Ditto Four p. Ct. Daira Sanieh 67 1/2 68. Entre Rios 6 p. Ct. 1886 59 60. Ditto 6 p. Ct. Ry. Mortgage 93 94. French Three per Cent. Rentes 76 77. Ditto 4 1/2 per Cent. of 1872 105 107. Greek Five per Cent. of 1870 77 1/2 78 1/2. Ditto Five per Cent. of 1881 58 59. Ditto Five per Cent. of 1884 57 1/2 58 1/2. Hungarian Gold Rentes of 1881 75 1/2 75 1/2. Italian Five per Cent. of 1861 97 1/2 97 1/2. Mexican Old Three per Cent. 26 1/2 26 1/2. Ditto of 1854 11 1/2 11 1/2. Norwegian Four per Cent. of 1886 102 104. Peruvian Six per Cent. of 1870 14 14 1/2. Ditto Five per Cent. of 1870 11 11 1/2. Portuguese Three per Cent. 51 1/2 51 1/2. Russian Five per Cent. of 1871 92 93. Ditto Five per Cent. of 1872 91 1/2 92 1/2. Ditto Five per Cent. of 1873 91 1/2 91 1/2. Ditto 4 1/2 per Cent. of 1875 86 1/2 87 1/2. Santa Fe 5 p. Ct. N. C. Ry. Mort 95 98. Ditto 5 p. Ct. Extensions Mort 90 92. Spanish Four per Cent. 65 1/2 66 1/2. Ditto Two per Cent. 46 1/2 46 1/2. Swedish Four per Cent. of 1880 102 104. Turkish Six per Cent. Group 1 19 1/2 20 1/2. Ditto Nine per Cent. 2 13 1/2 13 1/2. Ditto Six & Five per Ct. 3 13 1/2 13 1/2. Ditto 4 1/2 p. Ct. Tribute Loan of 1871 69 1/2 69 1/2. Ditto Five per Cent. of 1854 92 94. Ditto Five per Cent. Defence 80 1/2 81 1/2. Uruguay Unified Five p. Ct. of 1863 46 1/2 47 1/2.

BANKS. Anglo-Egyptian 14 1/2 15 1/2. City 18 1/2 19 1/2. Colonial 32 34. Consolidated 7 7 1/2. Imperial Ottoman 9 1/2 9 1/2. London and County 83 84. London and Westminster 61 1/2 62 1/2. London Joint Stock 36 37. National Provincial (510 paid) 49 50. Union of London 35 36. MINING SHARES. Cape Copper 21 23. Indian Consolidated 1 1 1/2. Mason and Barry 7 11-16 7 13-16. Montana 7 1/2 8 1/2. Mysore Gold 6 1/2 6 1/2. Oregum Gold 3 1/2 3 1/2. Richmond Consolidated 4 1/2 4 1/2. Rio Tinto 10 3-16 10 5-16. St. John del Rey 30 33. Tharsis Sulphur 3 1/2 4. United Mexican 2 1/2 3 1/2.

TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE SECURITIES. Anglo-American 32 33. Brazilian Submarine 10 1/2 10 1/2. Consolidated Telephone 3 1/2 3 1/2. Direct United States 7 1/2 8. Eastern 10 1/2 10 1/2. Eastern Extension 10 1/2 10 1/2. Globe Ordinary 4 1/2 4 1/2. Ditto Preference 11 1/2 11 1/2. India-rubber, Gutta-percha, and Telegraph Works 22 1/2 23 1/2. Oriental Telephone 3-16 5-16. Telegraph Construction 38 39. United Telephone 12 1/2 12 1/2. Western and Brazilian 7 1/2 7 1/2.

TRAMWAY SHARES. Dublin 10 1/2 10 1/2. Glasgow 13 13 1/2. Liverpool Un. Tram. and Omnibus 10 1/2 11 1/2. London 18 1/2 18 1/2. London Street 20 20. North Metropolitan 20 20 1/2.

THE DEBATE ON MR. PARNELL'S AMENDMENT.

SPECIAL REPORT.

Mr. Goschen had no reason to complain of any want of warmth in the reception given to him by the House of Commons last night. The cheering, which began when he was first seen standing amid a crowd of members at the bar, was continued uninterruptedly until he was brought up to the table, sworn in, introduced to the Speaker, and had taken his seat; and the cheering came from both sides of the House. Even the Parnellites helped to swell the volume of sound; though their cheers were ironical, and were interspersed with wrathful shouts of "Renegade!" and "Turncoat!" and some derisive cries of "At last!" The Irish party followed up the cordial welcome given to the Chancellor of the Exchequer by a counter-demonstration of their own; for it had been arranged that the three new Irish members were not to take their seats until Mr. Goschen did, and in this way the sharp edge was to be taken off his victory. A vast amount of cheering was accordingly given to Mr. Timothy Healy; but it came from a small area, and had to make up in excessive individual effort for its want of widespread enthusiasm.

When the debate on Mr. Parnell's amendment was resumed, at half-past five o'clock, by Mr. William Redmond, the muster of members in the House was considerably thinned. Still, the honourable gentleman was amusing at times, and, though he taxed the patience of the assembly by speaking for nearly an hour and a quarter, they were willing to forgive much, if only on account of his own plea, that, as he is to be put upon his trial next week, and may then possibly be "imprisoned for a lengthened term," it was as likely as not that this was the last opportunity he would have of addressing them for some time to come. He busied himself mainly with an account of his own operations in carrying out the Plan of Campaign; and after he had aroused a good deal of laughter by charging the Government with having "stolen eighty pounds from Mr. Dillon," he blamed them, with some approach to humour, for not giving previous warning that they meant to treat the Plan as illegal. Mr. Redmond plaintively urged, but with a twinkle in his eye, that by their silence they had "led him into vicious courses;" and he suggested that the least they could have done, if they had been "good-natured," would have been to say, when they found him working out the Plan, "Look here, Redmond, you will probably get two years for this."

Lord Hartington rose at a quarter to seven, and spoke until eight o'clock. As soon as he was upon his feet the House began to fill up, and in a very few minutes there was not a vacant seat to be found anywhere. The noble Marquess was slow, deliberate, and weighty; and he never had an audience following him with a deeper interest or a closer attention, or more completely under his control. This was the more remarkable as he made no effort to be eloquent, and drew no help from the arts or graces of rhetoric. The speech from beginning to end was a piece of sustained argument, showing his skill as well as wisdom in debate, and mercilessly exposing the weak places in the speech of Mr. Parnell and the extraordinary omissions from that of Mr. Gladstone; while it made cruelly short work of the flimsy special pleadings of Mr. John Morley. Lord Hartington began by showing the great inconvenience of the comparatively new practice of moving, not direct votes of no confidence, but amendments in the form of abstract resolutions to the Address. He did not blame Mr. Parnell for trying to upset the Government in such a fashion; but he confessed himself unable to understand how a responsible politician like Mr. Morley could aid Mr. Parnell in the effort while quite unable to join in the charges which Mr. Parnell hurled against the Ministry. It was hardly reasonable to attack the Government because, having been commissioned by a majority of the nation to oppose a particular policy, they did not now within six months turn round and support it. He justified the rejection of the Tenants' Relief Bill of last session on the ground that it was unnecessary and unsuited to the circumstances, as events had since proved; for landlords and tenants had been enabled to make amicable arrangements which could never have been concluded if the Bill had passed, as the very existence of the measure would have been an inducement to the tenants to refuse to agree, and would have deterred the landlords from offering concessions. But so long as the dual ownership of land exists satisfactory relations between landlords and tenants will be impossible; and the only solution is to convert the occupiers into the owners of the land. This, with the provision of greater opportunities for the employment of the people in industrial enterprises and a good scheme of voluntary emigration would, Lord Hartington believes, be the best remedies to apply to the present condition of Ireland; and they are remedies to which the Government are not averse. When he went on to ask why, if there were other remedies, the Irish members did not suggest them, an ironical cheer broke out from the Parnellites, and in this Sir William Harcourt joined; but Lord Hartington, who has no want of readiness in debate, was equal to the occasion. "I do not understand," he said, "the cheer of my right honourable friend; but if he has other remedies to propose I suppose we shall hear of them from him before the debate is over." At all events, he went on, the suspension or reduction, or even the abolition, of the payment of rent, is no remedy at all. On the question of emigration he had Mr. Morley fairly on the hip. That right honourable gentleman had spoken with a sneer of emigration as Lord Hartington's "panacea." But the noble Marquess pointed out that the suggestion was not his own at all—he had simply adopted it from Mr. Morley himself; the only difference between them being that, while Lord Hartington advocated a voluntary emigration carried out by the local authorities, Mr. Morley had insisted on the virtues of compulsory emigration enforced by the State. To expose the inconsistency of Mr. Parnell in declaring that "the illegitimate and unconstitutional pressure" brought by the Government to bear on the landlords was "the best thing they could do," and at the same time that it "did more to demoralize the tenants than all the agitations of the Fenians," was of course an easy task; though Mr. Parnell himself did not seem to greatly enjoy the process. But Lord Hartington defended the action of the Government, and denied that any case of unconstitutional pressure had been made out, going for the purpose minutely through the cases in which Judge Curran and Sir Redvers Buller were involved. The noble Marquess also defended the prohibition of the Sligo meeting, which was called for the express purpose of

intimidating jurors; and, as to the charge of jury-packing, although what had happened gave some shock to British ideas, he pointed out that a class of men have to be dealt with in Ireland who, even though Irish jurors are sworn to give verdicts in accordance with the evidence, hold that it is their duty to ignore the facts altogether, and to give judgments only in accordance with their own opinions of what ought to be. Where jurors are likely to be influenced by the exhortations or threats of such a class, it is the duty of the Government to use any powers to remedy such a state of things. He justified the action of the Government, too, in regard to the Plan of Campaign, describing it as "right and straightforward;" and his treatment of the way in which the subject had been dealt with by Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Parnell, Mr. Shaw-Lefevre, and Mr. Morley—all of whose opinions or want of opinions upon it he quoted—was remarkable for its contemptuous disdain. It might be true, as Mr. Gladstone said, that the Plan was the "consequence" of the rejection of the Relief Bill; but did Mr. Gladstone mean to say that it was the "legitimate consequence"? Is it to be an accepted theory that when the House of Commons rejects any measure demanded by one section of the community, that section is legitimately and morally entitled to take the law into its own hands and to do for itself what Parliament has refused to do? The fact was—and this passage provoked loud cheers from the Ministerial side of the House and much wrath upon the Parnellite benches, and, indeed, in other quarters of the House—that Mr. Parnell shrank from approving of the Plan of Campaign lest it might alienate some of his supporters on the front Opposition bench, and some of the occupants of the front Opposition bench shrank from denouncing and condemning it lest they might alienate the support of Mr. Parnell. The Legislature had tried for years to "make landlords good by Act of Parliament," but had at last reached a point which compelled it to stop; for further and greater interference with the remaining powers of the landlords would do more harm upon a large scale than it would be possible to do good upon a small one. The Plan of Campaign would put an end to all the ordinary relations between landlord and tenant; for if it could be applied in one case it could be applied in all; if it could be used for fair reduction of rent it could be used for every reduction, and even for the abolition of rent altogether; and it was a weapon the use of which those who invented it could not possibly control. The result of permitting it could only be, not partial, but indiscriminate and wholesale evictions, if the landlords wished to retain any rights in their land at all. Against such an engine of warfare as the Plan, it was the duty of the Government to use every possible effort, and the duty of Parliament to support them. Dealing finally with Mr. Parnell's "warnings"—not "threats"—of dynamite and assassination, the noble Marquess pointed out that neither the Government nor Parliament could acquiesce in either passive or open resistance to the law; for the law must not be allowed to be powerless in any part of her Majesty's dominions; and he suggested that Mr. Parnell would be heard in a different spirit on this subject if, instead of uttering "warnings" of outrage, he would denounce the authors, and if, instead of sending out delegates to and receiving subscriptions from the American conspirators who plotted outrage, he would cut himself clear of all association with them. This passage also was greatly applauded by the House. Lord Hartington declined to support Mr. Parnell's amendment, and, in reply to Mr. Gladstone's reproach that he was "unable to grasp the true nature of the Irish problem and the true difficulties that grew out of it," he retorted that Mr. Gladstone himself seemed unable to grasp the true nature of the British problem or to frame a policy which should be approved by a large majority of the British nation. Until further progress was made and the conditions necessary to secure the confidence of the British people were more completely grasped, it was idle to pass vague resolutions about the best way of securing the confidence of the Irish people.

In the subsequent debate a lively speech was made by Mr. Storey, who, as one of the five original English Home Rulers "when Home Rule was not fashionable," declined to accept the Plan of Campaign because he "preferred the Ten Commandments." Mr. Henry Fowler grew eloquent upon the iniquities of jury-packing, but carefully avoided all compromising references to the Plan of Campaign. Colonel Saunderson made an amusing speech, in which he drew a laughter-provoking picture of Mr. Parnell as "another Samson" assailing and confounding and obstructing the House of Commons with "a jaw-bone," and with eighty-five other jaw-bones all aiding and abetting; and at a quarter to one o'clock this morning the debate was again adjourned on the motion of Mr. Sexton.

THE SUPPOSED ATTEMPT TO KILL MDME. PATTI.

Fuller particulars are given this morning regarding the supposed attempt to murder Mdme. Patti, at San Francisco. The *prima donna* was giving a concert, and, after her second recall, an explosion was heard, and a cloud of smoke was seen rising in the top gallery. The house was startled, the people in the gallery were rushing about seeking the quickest means of exit, and it was only through the self-possession of a few men present in the boxes, coupled with that of Mdme. Patti, that a general panic was prevented. Some men in a box near the stage perceived that no serious result had occurred and that the danger was over. Mdme. Patti, comprehending the situation, came forward quickly and began singing "Home, sweet Home." This had a calming effect on the audience, and the concert was carried out to its conclusion. A policeman who had hastened to the gallery found a man with his face and hands burned and the remains of an infernal machine near him. He was conveyed to the hospital, where he stated that when he stooped to pick up his hat and cane he found a package under the seat, which he took up, and that as he raised it to see what it was it exploded. He gave his name as Dr. James Hodges, aged seventy-one years. Others give a different version of the occurrence. A lady who sat next him, and narrowly escaped injury, says that during the evening he made a number of significant remarks which pointed clearly to his purpose. Among the observations which she distinctly remembered was that Mdme. Patti was singing excellently that night, but that she would never sing any more. He was also heard to make uncomplimentary and revengeful allusions to a millionaire and his family who were present. The chief of the police pronounces him insane. The bomb was made of a can filled with powder, in the centre of which was a bottle. The can was wrapped in pieces of cloth, soaked in inflammable oil, and the bomb was arranged to explode by a number of friction matches, which were connected with a fuse inserted in the powder.

THE DEFECTIVE WEAPONS IN THE NAVY.

Additional inquiries were made in both Houses of Parliament last night as to the issue of defective cutlasses and sword-bayonets to the navy. In the Upper House, Lord Harris, the Under-Secretary for War, said he was not prepared to admit that the weapons complained of were defective. If it could be shown that they would not stand the test to which they were submitted in 1871, and which test was considered at the time to be perfectly sufficient, then he would admit they were defective. At present his information was that they would stand that test, but that a certain percentage would not stand the increased test demanded of swords and sword-bayonets at the present day. He complained, too, that some of these tests were unfair. Lord Elphinstone said that complaints had been received from the commanding officers of four ships, the *Active*, *Volage*, *Rover*, and *Devastation*. Some cutlasses and sword-bayonets in the *Active* having been found defective in actual use, orders were given for about half of those in the ship to be tested as follows. The point of the sword was placed in the deck, and pressure applied at the hilt until the point was turned about 50 degrees from the straight line. On being released the whole of those marked defective remained permanently out of the original line. Of the 50 cutlasses tested in this ship, 34 were found defective, and of the 55 sword-bayonets tested 40 were found defective. The same course was followed in the *Rover*, when 45 out of 50 cutlasses were found defective, and 54 out of 55 sword-bayonets. The same test was applied in the *Volage*, and 12 out of 50 cutlasses were reported defective, and 17 out of 55 sword-bayonets. The report from the *Devastation* at Queensferry was that on examining the sword-bayonets it was found that many would bend like hoop-iron. Some could be bent easily by hand and remain bent. The naval authorities, Lord Elphinstone said, were in no way responsible for the admission of the defective sword-bayonets into the service; the responsibility rested with the War Office. This matter came within the scope of the inquiry of the present Royal Commission; but the Secretary for War meant to institute an independent inquiry at once. Similar statements were made by Lord George Hamilton and Mr. Stanhope in the House of Commons. The contract price for a sword-bayonet and scabbard, it was elicited, was 14s.

THE ZULU BOUNDARY COMMISSION.

The Durban correspondent of the *Times* sends the following:—"The Zulu Boundary Commission having completed its work, Mr. Osborn summoned Dini ulu and his chiefs. The King and the Regent not appearing, the meeting only took place on January 28, when the Zulus were properly represented. Mr. Osborn forbade the presence of white men at the conference. He also refused to permit the Zulus to communicate with Natal or in any way with the outside world until they had consented to the proposed annexation, when the King and his chiefs might visit Natal and see the Governor. The Zulus replied that they were ignorant what 'annexation' meant, and that they wished to confer direct with the Natal Government. Mr. Osborn thereupon gave them one day to consider their reply. There is reason to believe that this account of the matter is the correct one. It is reported that the Boers are trying to organize a command of 1,500 men for the purpose of occupying Swaziland, which is now the scene of numerous gold-mining enterprises. Their plan is to repeat the 'New Republic' tactics there."

SPAIN AND MOROCCO.

In the Spanish Cortes yesterday, Count Toreno, in the name of the Conservative Opposition, asked the Government what steps it intended to take to defend the rights of Spain in Morocco in presence of the act of England in laying down a cable between Gibraltar and Tangiers, and in face of the French proposal to extend the Algerian frontier to the Moluya River, in the interior of Morocco. In reply, the Minister for Foreign Affairs declared that the Government considered it of serious importance to Spain that a British company had laid a cable between Gibraltar and Tangiers. It had led to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Morocco sending a strong protest to the British Government, with what result was not yet known. Spain, however, could not protest against acts of France that had not taken place, but any rectification of frontier would be considered by Spain as a very serious matter. The Minister expressed a hope that France would, in any action she might take, respect the ancient and legitimate rights of Spain in Morocco. The Madrid correspondent of the *Times* says:—

It may be convenient to recall the declaration made in 1882 by Lord Lyons to the French Minister for Foreign Affairs, and the reply of that Minister, M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire. Lord Lyons declared that neither England nor Spain could look upon any French movements in or interference with Figuig with the same tranquillity as they had displayed regarding French action in Tunis, which had resulted in the annexation of that country. M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire replied that France had no wish to give any grounds for complaint on the part of England or Spain, and all rights in the territory of Figuig would be respected. I am informed on good authority that France is the only nation which would oppose a guarantee by the Powers of the integrity of the territory of the Sultan of Morocco. If this should prove correct, French motives and intentions will be made perfectly clear, despite all protestations of France's desire not to extend her possessions westward.

THE FRENCH ACADEMY.

M. Edouard Hervé, the editor of the Royalist *Soleil*, was installed at the French Academy yesterday, in presence of a distinguished audience. M. Hervé's sponsors were M. Emile Augier, the dramatist, "the descendant of Molière," and M. Rousset, who was one of M. Hervé's teachers. M. Hervé pronounced the *éloge* of his predecessor, the late Duke de Noailles. M. Maxime Du Camp, who replied, reviewed M. Hervé's book on Ireland, and took the occasion to deliver an attack upon England which (the *Standard's* correspondent remarks) might have been expected from an acolyte of Mr. Parnell, but which sounded strangely from the historian of the Commune, and was certainly out of place at the Palais Mazarin.

HEAVY SNOWFALL AT ROME.

A correspondent at Rome telegraphs that it is fifty years since that city had a snowfall to compare with that of Wednesday and yesterday. The Pincian Hill, the Forum, Colosseum, and other picturesque points of the city were visited by numbers of persons curious to enjoy a spectacle never before seen by the present generation. The snow to the depth of several inches lay all Wednesday night and yesterday, and the tramcars ceased running on Wednesday.

INDIGESTION.—The main cause of nervousness is indigestion, and that is caused by weakness of the stomach. No one can have sound nerves and good health without using Hop Bitters to strengthen the stomach, purify the blood, and keep the liver and kidneys active, to carry off all the poisonous and waste matter of the system. See Green Hop Cluster on Label, or you may be deceived.—[ADVT.]

MR. GOSCHEN AND HIS CONSTITUENTS.

A large number of Mr. Goschen's supporters assembled last evening at the Conservative Club, Churton-street, Pimlico, to welcome their new member and listen to an address from Lord Algernon Percy. Mr. Goschen was introduced by Colonel Henderson. Mr. Goschen at once thanked those present, and the entire constituency, Conservatives and Liberal Unionists, for having elected him by the largest majority obtained by any member in the House of Commons. It was a most gratifying proof that the cause of the Union had in no way suffered, but had gained in strength. Mr. Haysman had been favoured with Mr. Gladstone's good wishes, but they did not seem to carry much weight. However, as their member, he now hoped to take his part as a fighting member of her Majesty's Government, giving good blows from the shoulder and expecting sometimes to receive sharp taps in return. He also hoped to have other opportunities of meeting his good friends, the electors of all classes belonging to the borough of St. George's, Hanover-square. The honourable member, who only spoke for two or three minutes, left immediately, amid ringing cheers and the strains of "He's a jolly good fellow."

AN INCOME TAX IN FRANCE.

There was a curious skirmish on the income-tax question in the French Chamber yesterday. M. Georges Périn, one of M. Clémenceau's lieutenants, proposed a resolution calling on the Government to submit a Bill establishing a progressive income tax, to supersede all existing taxes. He argued that this was the only just taxation, and he scouted the idea of evasion, declaring that imprisonment would easily put down frauds, and that under a democracy a man had no reason for concealing his income. M. Dauphin, Minister of Justice, replied that he was already pledged to propose an income tax, but it would not be progressive nor would it be the sole tax, for otherwise the difficulty of collection might bring the State to bankruptcy. The resolution was then divided into three parts. The first, calling on the Government to propose an income tax, was carried by 257 votes to 228; the word "progressive" was rejected by 221 to 110, and the word "sole" by 449 to 35. After some dispute as to whether a further division was in order, the first part of the resolution was again put, and was adopted by 286 votes to 238, the Reactionaries and the Moderates for once voting together in the minority.

THE LATEST RUSSIAN CONSPIRACY.

The St. Petersburg correspondent of the *Times* is able to give positive confirmation of the report concerning the discovery of a military conspiracy there. Two cadets of the naval school, one of whom is considered very clever, have been lodged in the fortress, together with a couple of last year's cadets of the same academy, who only a few months ago received their commissions as naval officers. The number of arrests made among the military cadets of other schools is not known, but it is still believed that the attempted suicide mentioned yesterday was connected with the discovery. The Emperor, it is stated, at first refused to believe the news, and became very angry. There seems to have been another plot to cause a mutiny in the army. One cannot help thinking (the correspondent remarks) that these young Russians may have been studying the accounts of the revolution of last year directed against Prince Alexander of Bulgaria.

FOREIGN AMMUNITION CONTRACTS.

The following letter has been received by the secretary of the British Work and Wages League:—

War Office, S.W., Feb. 2.

Sir,—I am directed by the Secretary of State for War to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 1st inst., and of the enclosed resolutions on the subject of foreign contracts. Mr. Stanhope desires me to inform you that it is not the policy of the Department to procure munitions of war in foreign countries when it can by any means be avoided. While it is essential that our army should be supplied with the best articles the world produces, to effect which the Department has sometimes to buy abroad, at the same time every effort is made to induce British manufacturers to perfect arrangements for turning out the required supplies. A good deal of progress has recently been made in this direction, and the foreign orders are decreasing.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

CHARLES G. E. WELBY.

RESISTING EVICTION.

An eviction under peculiar circumstances was carried out yesterday at Devon-road, near Abbeyfeale. The Sub-Sheriff of county Limerick, Mr. Frederick Hobson, with his bailiffs, who were protected by a large force of constabulary, proceeded to evict a middleman on the estate of Lord Devon. The party met with a very determined opposition. The house was barricaded with stones, and when the bailiffs approached the premises, they found them occupied by a number of men, who poured out boiling meal and water on the sheriff's officers. Resistance was offered for about two hours, and in the end the police had to charge the mob. The eviction was eventually carried out, and the under-tenants were reinstated as care-takers.

OLYMPIA.

The programme with which the famed Hippodrome of Paris opened on Boxing Day at this new pleasure-house has sufficed, without any change in its details, to attract and gratify vast audiences twice daily. In order, however, to invest the performances with fresh attractions the directors introduced several new features into the first part of the programme yesterday. The most notable novelty was the appearance in the arena of a number of trained lions, which, securely confined in a spacious iron cage, are brought into the centre of the circle and engage in a series of interesting and somewhat exciting performances under the direction of their trainer, Mr. Seeth. Among the other new features were an animated race, aptly entitled a "Junior Derby," by boy-riders on tiny ponies, elegant riding by a company of accomplished horsewomen, and an amusing burlesque of a Spanish bull-fight. The programme terminates with the picturesque spectacle of "The Stag-Hunt."

ADVERTISEMENTS.

VALUABLE DISCOVERY for the HAIR.—If your hair is turning grey or white, or falling off, use "The Mexican Hair Renewer;" for it will positively restore in every case Grey or White Hair to its original colour, without leaving the disagreeable smell of most "Restorers." It makes the hair charmingly beautiful, as well as promoting the growth of the hair on bald spots where the glands are not decayed. "The Mexican Hair Renewer" is sold by Chemists and Perfumers everywhere, at 3s. 6d. per bottle.

NOSE AND THROAT DISEASES. By GEORGE MOORE, M.D. Price 1s., or 12 stamps by post. London: JAMES EPPS and Co., 170, Piccadilly.

CLARKE'S World-famed **BLOOD MIXTURE** is warranted to cleanse the blood from all impurities, from whatever cause arising. For scrofula, scurvy, skin and blood diseases, and sores of all kinds its effects are marvellous. Thousands of testimonials. In bottles, 2s. 9d., and in cases containing six times the quantity, 11s. each, of Chemists everywhere.

COAL.—GEO. J. COCKERELL and CO.'S Best Coals, 24s. per ton, cash.—13, Cornhill, E.C.

ADVERTISEMENTS of the ST. JAMES'S GAZETTE should be sent to the Office, Dorset-street, Whitefriars, E.C., before Ten o'clock on the day of publication.

MR. BRIGHT ON THE IRISH CONSPIRACY

The *Birmingham Gazette* states that Mr. John Bright has addressed the following letter to a Liberal Unionist of Birmingham who had asked him whether he intended to address his constituents shortly, and for his views as to the negotiations relating to the project of Liberal reunion:—

Alexandra Hotel, Hyde Park-corner, London, February 9.

Dear Sir,—You ask questions which no one can answer. I have been accustomed to go to Birmingham at the invitation and under the arrangements of the Liberal Association. I suppose it has been thought best not to hold any meeting under the present confusion in the political world.

As to my opinions, I stated them very fully at the Town Hall meeting on the 1st of July last. I left no one in doubt as to my views on the Irish question, and what has happened since has only tended to confirm me in those views. The break in the Liberal party is to be attributed to the unwisdom of its leader, and the most deplorable thing in the whole of the disaster is the manner in which the bulk of the party has abandoned its position and its policy to adopt a new position and a new policy at the invitation or command of that leader.

Thirty years ago the bulk of the Liberal party—pledged to peace, retrenchment, and reform—followed Lord Palmerston into the war with Russia. Now the party will condemn their course of thirty years ago. At this moment they are talking for and voting for measures which few of them understand, accepting them as good from the hands of a popular Minister.

I have been associated very intimately with this popular Minister for twenty years. I have spoken for Ireland for thirty years, and have implored successive Prime Ministers to do what legislation can do for that country. My sympathy for the Irish people is as warm and as real as it ever was; and it is with this sympathy unbroken and unimpaired, that I dare not hand over their interests to the conspiracy which is bent on destroying the owners of the land, as one step—as they hope, a successful step—towards the severance of Ireland from the United Kingdom.

I think a majority of instructed and thoughtful men in Ireland will prefer the protection and the justice of the Parliament of the three kingdoms at Westminster to the rule of the conspiracy to whom so much of the present suffering and demoralization of their unhappy country is due. I have not answered your questions, but have said what occurs to me as I read your letter.—Yours very truly,

JOHN BRIGHT.

THE MIDLAND RAILWAY COMPANY.

The eighty-sixth half-yearly report of the Midland Railway Company is issued to-day. The traffic for the half-year ending the 31st of December, compared with the corresponding half of last year, shows an increase from coaching of £30,554, a decrease from merchandise of £58,860, and a decrease from minerals of £58,610; net decrease, £86,912. The total revenue receipts for the half-year were £3,805,000, and the working expenses £1,938,000, or at the rate of 51.97 per cent. The sum available for dividend is £1,412,593, and the directors recommend a dividend on the ordinary stock at the rate of 5¼ per cent. per annum. After providing for this and the dividends on the preference stock a balance of £50,840 10s. 7d. is left to be carried to the account of the current year. The directors have not found it necessary to promote any Bill in the present session of Parliament. Several measures promoted by other companies affect this company's interests, and will receive careful consideration. The holders of £10 shares 1880 are now reminded that these shares are convertible into the ordinary stock of the company on the 31st day of August next, and that notice of intended conversion must be given on or prior to that date.

ILLITERATE VOTERS.

Among the parliamentary papers issued this morning is a return showing the number of persons who voted as "illiterates" at the last general election (August, 1886) throughout the United Kingdom. The number of electors who voted was 2,969,381, and of these 80,145 were illiterate. The number of illiterates who voted in English counties was 22,375 (the total votes polled being 1,026,411); the illiterates in Welsh counties numbered 1,346 (total vote 72,658). In the English boroughs out of a total of 1,281,283 votes polled, 13,941 were by illiterates. In the Welsh boroughs, where 35,920 electors recorded their votes, 925 were illiterate, the grand total for England and Wales being 38,587 illiterate voters in 2,416,272 recorded votes. In the Scotch counties, 195,479 electors voted, 3,303 of them being illiterate. In the Scotch burghs 162,636 votes were given, 1,533 being recorded by illiterate electors the grand total for Scotland being 358,115 electors, of whom 4,836 were illiterate. In the Irish counties 157,655 electors went to the poll, 34,085 of them being illiterate. In the seven contested Irish borough elections, 37,339 voters went to the poll, 2,637 of them being illiterate, the total for Ireland being 36,722 illiterate voters out of a total number of 194,994 polled. It will thus be seen that in Ireland the proportion of illiterate voters is more than one in five, in England and Wales the proportion is about one in sixty, and in Scotland one in seventy-five.

EVICTIONS IN IRELAND.

A return issued to-day shows that in the quarter ended the 30th of September last, 1,084 families, representing 5,685 persons, were evicted in Ireland for non-payment of rent, non-title, or breach of covenant; of whom 106 families, representing 567 persons, were readmitted as tenants, and 572 families, representing 2,983 persons, were readmitted as care-takers. In addition, 24 families, representing 112 persons, were evicted for other causes; of whom 4 families, representing 15 persons, were readmitted as care-takers. In the quarter ended the 31st of December last, the number of tenants evicted for non-payment of rent, non-title, or breach of covenant was 3,369, or 650 families, of whom 21 families, representing 90 persons, were readmitted as tenants, and 392 families, representing 2,142 persons, were readmitted as care-takers. There were also 16 families, representing 89 persons, evicted for other causes, of whom 4 families, representing 31 persons, were readmitted as care-takers.

BOYCOTTING A SCHOOL.

At Michelstown, county Cork, yesterday, seven hundred children absented themselves from the Christian Brothers School and the Presentation Nuns School on account of the refusal to remove from the schools the children of an "unpopular person." In the evening, a poor-law Guardian, named Cullinan, addressed the children and advised them not to return to school until the children of their "enemies" were removed.

THE LOSS OF THE "KAPUNDA."

It transpired yesterday that the man Leader, whose wife recently drowned herself and her three children at Fulham, was, with his little boy and an elder daughter, among the victims of the ill-fated *Kapunda*. Thus the whole family has been drowned within a few weeks.

REMARKABLE SALE OF SEALSKIN GARMENTS and other fine Furs, guaranteed half West-end prices. Ladies' fur sets, sable tail capes, trimmings, carriage and hearth rugs, and gentlemen's fur-lined coats. PHILLIPS, 52, NEWGATE STREET, LONDON. £20,000 worth trimmings and furs, every description, half price. Price lists on application. N.B.—Our only address.—[ADVT.]

THE SPITALFIELDS DISASTER.

INQUEST AND VERDICT.

Mr. Wynne E. Baxter this morning resumed the adjourned inquiry at Shore-ditch Town Hall, respecting the deaths of the seventeen persons who lost their lives at the panic which occurred at the Jewish Club, Princes-street, Spitalfields, on the 18th ult. The coroner, in summing up, described the structure of the club and the principle upon which it was managed. There was, he said, no suggestion that it was not respectably conducted. As to the origin of the disaster, the evidence had shown that a gas-pipe was broken by a young man who had taken hold of it to support himself while moving from one part of the house to another. The smell of the escaping gas caused cries of "Fire!" and "Gas explosion!" to be raised, and the panic was intensified by the turning off of the gas at the meter, though it had not been shown by whom this was done. There was, however, no reason to suspect his motive in the matter. As to the hall itself, the exits would not have been held sufficient if it had been licensed for theatrical purposes. In discussing the position of the club in relation to the Licensing Act, the coroner said:—

Proof of the sale of tickets which admitted to particular parts of the building on the 18th of January and of the sale on the premises of distilled and fermented liquor was proved to my satisfaction. This is not a matter strictly within the limit of this inquiry; but if you are of opinion that had there been better provision for egress there would either have been no deaths or fewer deaths; that if the building had been licensed, better provision for egress would have been compulsory, and that the club was only a pretext for evading the law as to licensing, it would surely be unreasonable to expect than an English jury should abstain from expressing an opinion on the present state of a law which, if altered, might successfully prevent the recurrence of so grave a disaster. The Hebrew Dramatic Club is not the only club of its kind, and theatrical buildings are not the only buildings in which a panic may occur.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental death, to which they added a rider to the effect that if the exit from the gallery had been in the same direction as the exit from the body of the hall, fewer deaths would have occurred; that, with whatever intention the club was opened, it certainly degenerated into a place of public amusement, and as such should have come under proper supervision; and that to prevent similar occurrences in the future all buildings of this or a similar kind, whether used for private clubs or otherwise, should be placed under the immediate supervision of some public representative body.

MYSTERIOUS MURDERS IN LONDON.

In commenting on the efforts of the police to discover the murderer of Lydia Green at Hoxton, the *Standard* says:—We trust, any way, that the Hoxton murder will not remain one of the many unpunished crimes of London. How Mr. Tower got into the Stoke Newington reservoir is never likely to be known. The police, failing to get the faintest clue, adopted the theory that he committed suicide, though of this there is not, and never was, a scintilla of proof, or even of suspicion. Not long before, a grocer's man was stabbed to death in Walworth by a thief whom he caught stealing a pound of tea from his cart. The act was committed in the sight of a number of craven or panic-stricken spectators, none of whom attempted to detain the murderer. He has never been apprehended. Mrs. Samuel's assassin is as yet at large, and it is still a matter of conjecture who stabbed the woman Ancock in her house in Sutherland-road, Bow, or who murdered the girl in Great Coram-street. Bodies of unrecognized persons are constantly being fished out of the Thames; and a few years ago a succession of corpses, with marks upon them all pointing strongly to death by violence, were found in the Paddington Canal. We may pass over the case of Urban Napoleon Stanger, the baker, who vanished so mysteriously. When Mary Seaward and Eliza Carter are known to have disappeared without ever being heard of since they left their homes in the East-end of London, one can only surmise as to what became of these little school-girls. Nor have the murder of Miss Hacker in Euston-square, and of Mrs. Reville, the butcher's wife at Slough, or of the woman found buried in the cellar in Harley-street, ever been cleared up; while the number of policemen who have been shot without their assassins having been brought to the gallows is getting rather large.

SINGULAR ACTION FOR LIBEL.

The case of the Queen v. Ensor and Carr, which was a criminal prosecution for writing and publishing in the *Western Mail*, Cardiff, an alleged libel on the memory of the late Mr. John Batchelor, to whom a statue had been erected by the Liberals of Cardiff, came on for hearing at the Glamorganshire Assizes yesterday, before Mr. Justice Stephen. Evidence for the prosecution having been given respecting the libel, which took the form of a suggested epitaph for a monument, Mr. Justice Stephen directed the jury to acquit the defendants, on the ground that an action for libelling a dead man would not lie, unless it was published with the intention of vilifying his posterity. It seemed to him that the mere vilifying of a dead man was not enough. The dead had no rights and suffered no wrongs. The living alone were the subjects of protection; and the law of libel was intended to protect them, not against that which gave them pain, but against writings which held them up to contempt and ridicule. The defendants were accordingly acquitted.

THE CAMPAIGN IN BURMA.

A Blue Book of 248 pages referring to Burma, recording events down to the 13th of January, is issued with the parliamentary papers. The record of military operations has already been published from time to time. In a despatch dated the 16th of December, to the Government of India, Lord Cross remarks that, as was foreseen, a period of disorder and straggling warfare had succeeded the military occupation of Mandalay, which had assumed dimensions somewhat, though not materially, exceeding what was anticipated. The same difficulties, it is pointed out, were encountered upon the annexation of Lower Burma, which were not fully and finally overcome for a period of eight years, although the country was generally pacified at the end of the third year. There was every reason to hope that the course of events would not be more unfavourable in Upper Burma.

MR. RIMMEL'S VALENTINES.

Mr. Rimmel's valentines for this year are at least as tasteful as their predecessors, if certain specimens may be taken as samples of the new designs. These at any rate are very pretty indeed; with a cheerful refinement about them suggestive of wedding-day.

Mme. ADELINA PATTI writes:—"I have found it matchless for the hands and complexion." (Signed) ADELINA PATTI. PEARS' SOAP, for the Toilet and Nursery, prepared specially for the delicate skin of ladies and children and others sensitive to the weather, winter or summer. Prevents redness, roughness, and chapping. Sold everywhere.—[ADVT.]

CORRESPONDENCE.

ABOUT BUTTERINE.

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

SIR,—The objection on the part of Messrs. Lovell and Christmas "to the attempt of the Dairy Farmers' Association to prohibit the import or manufacture of butterine" is entirely unnecessary, because no such attempt has ever been made or even contemplated. The position which this association has taken up may, perhaps, be best expressed in the words of a resolution arrived at by the council, on the recommendation of a special committee, that an effort be made to procure the passing of a law embodying the following points:—

1. That all establishments in the United Kingdom for the manufacture of fats intended for human consumption, such as "margarine," "butterine," or compounds in which are ingredients not extracted from milk, shall be registered.

2. That all such compounds manufactured, imported, or sold in the United Kingdom, in whatever package contained, shall be branded with a distinctive Government mark by the officers of Excise at a small charge; and that the offering for sale of any package not so branded shall be punishable with a heavy penalty.

It may be true, as Messrs. Lovell and Christmas state, that "the respectable manufacturers do not sell butterine as butter;" but the fact remains that it is extensively so sold to the public. I am well aware that some firms retail butterine under its true character, when it is specifically asked for; but many more unblushingly offer it as genuine butter. As I write there lies before me a circular issued by a Dutch firm of butterine manufacturers in a large way of business, who offer it "in packages of all sizes and shapes, and shipped direct from the factory to any part of the United Kingdom." The following, it is stated, are usually in demand:—Danish casks; Irish (twigged) firkins; Irish kitts; Swedish kegs; Jersey cools; Canadian tubs; Normandy baskets; Brittany baskets; oval cools; rolls, usual shape, 1 lb. and 2 lb. each; thick rolls (impression on ends), 1 lb. each; fancy rolls, Cumberland, Doncaster, Lincoln, Derby, and other shapes, ½ lb. and 1 lb. each; prints, ½ lb. and 1 lb.; lumps, Irish shape, 4 lb. each. "Packages branded as desired by buyer." Why all this trouble to closely imitate packages and shapes if the intention is not to deceive?

The chief fraud on the public is not, however, practised by the manufacturer, but by the retail dealer. For this reason, a clause has been inserted in the Bill, introduced into the Upper House by Lord Vernon, our late president, providing that—

Every retail dealer in margarine or oleomargarine shall in every case inform the purchaser of any quantity of the same that the article sold is margarine or oleomargarine, or shall at the time of delivering every portion or package supply to the person receiving the same a notice, by a label distinctly written or printed on or with every such portion or package, to the effect that the same is margarine or oleomargarine; and every retail dealer acting in contravention of the provisions of this section shall, on summary conviction, be liable, for the first offence, to a fine of £10, for the second offence to a fine of £20, and for the third or any subsequent offence to one month's imprisonment without the option of a fine.

I may add that at our forthcoming Dairy Conference the whole subject will come under discussion, and that every opportunity will be afforded for the expression of views on either side.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

British Dairy Farmers' Association,
Fleet-street, Feb. 10.

WILLIAM C. YOUNG, Secretary.

AN ADDITION TO "THE STORY OF THE MANNINGS RETOLD."

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

SIR,—Soon after the murder of Mr. O'Connor, in 1849, one of the managers of the electric telegraph, which had only lately been opened, told me the following story. A detective came into their office and said he had a clue to Mrs. Manning's whereabouts, adding that if he was right in his supposition she had gone down by the night-train to Edinburgh. She had a box of peculiar construction with her, and the address on it had been noted. The detective begged them to lose no time in telegraphing to the superintendent of police at Edinburgh. That official happened to be in the telegraph office when the telegram arrived, and the clerk called out to him to stop, as there was a message for him. He was on some particular business, and his cab, with a policeman in plain clothes, was waiting for him at the door. Entering the cab he immediately drove to the place indicated, and, on going up three pairs of stairs, saw outside the door the identical box described. He knocked, and, on being admitted, saw a woman answering the description given to him sitting with her travelling bonnet and shawl still on. To his question, whether she was the owner of the box, she answered in the affirmative; and he thereupon said, "Then I arrest you as the murderer of Mr. O'Connor. You must come with me." He took her to the cab, the policeman in plain clothes got on the box, and they drove straight to the railway station, where a train was just about to start. In this train the police superintendent and his prisoner took their seats, and off they went; the superintendent saying to his man, "Telegraph up to say we've got her." Mrs. Manning was brought to London, identified, tried, and hanged, as you have reported.

I tell the tale as it was told to me; and I think my memory serves me well, as I noted it at the time and mentioned it at a village lecture that I gave about the electric telegraph, with the wonderful fact that I now add—namely, that the time that elapsed from the giving in of the message in London to the time that the answer arrived back, saying that Mrs. Manning was not only found and arrested but was actually in the train and on the way to London, was exactly thirty-five minutes! That was one of the first triumphs of telegraphy in the detection of crime.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

February 10.

C. A. W.

THE SPRING HANDICAPS.

It is not so many years ago since the winter betting on the Derby, interesting as it was to those who found a business or a pastime in the things of the turf, did not exceed even if it equalled in importance the speculation which took place upon what were then the two chief handicaps of the spring, the Chester Cup and the "City and Suburban." The former of these two races was so popular, and the betting upon it so heavy, that numbers of horses were backed for it before the entries had been made, as it was taken for granted that no animal which had any sort of a chance of being favourably regarded by the handicapper would be omitted from the nominations. The City and Suburban Handicap, of more recent creation than the Chester race, soon became almost as popular, and for weeks before it was run for the betting was much more extensive than it now is on the Derby itself. All this is now changed; and, while the Chester Cup has sunk so low that it is not held of more account than many a small handicap at York or Doncaster, the City and Suburban has, like the Chester Cup, been so much affected by the institution of large handicaps like the Lincolnshire and the Manchester Cup that this year for the first time the weights, instead of being framed at the end of January and given to the sporting public as an interesting study to occupy them during the idle month of February, are to be kept back until after the Lincolnshire Handicap has been run for. By this means, it is hoped, some new life may be infused into the race; but there is good reason to doubt whether the change will be of any effect, for the falling-off in the number of entries both in the Chester Cup and the City and Suburban Handicap is due not so much to the fear of owners that previous running will interfere with the chances of the horses they have engaged—as that would apply to all the entries with equal force—as to the greater attraction exercised by new races worth considerably more money. There have, so far, been two handicaps worth a clear £2,000 run for in the first few weeks of the racing season; these being the Manchester Cup and the Leicestershire Handicap. The latter has this year been reduced to £1,200; but there has been added a third, the winner of which will receive close upon £3,000. This last-named is to be run for at Kempton Park in the same week as the Chester Cup; but, as it is called the "Jubilee Stakes," the executive may not intend to give it a permanent place in their programme.

With the weights for the City and Suburban, the Great Metropolitan Stakes, and the Chester Cup held back, the acceptances for the spring handicaps do not occupy quite the space which they once did in the *Calendar*, though the creation of the Crawford and Babraham Plates at Newmarket, as well as of the Jubilee Stakes at Kempton Park, goes far towards filling the void. The first of them is the Lincolnshire Handicap, with £1,000 added, run for on the 23rd of March; and, of the sixty-eight original entries, twenty-two have been struck out, including Mr. Barclay's Bendigo, who won two years ago; and The Bard, who had been entered in most of the spring handicaps but has since then been sold for 10,000 guineas to go to the stud in France. The Bard had also been entered for the Ascot Cup, together with Plaisanterie, Minting, and Bendigo, but it is doubtful whether any of them will be brought to the post; and it seems as if the Ascot Cup might, as so often happened about twenty or five-and-twenty years ago, be won by a three-year-old, seeing that such colts as The Baron, Florentine, and Annamite are engaged. The last-named was one of the few three-year-olds entered for the Lincolnshire Handicap; but he has been struck out, and the top weight is now assigned to Mr. James Lowther's King Monmouth (8 st. 12 lb.), who is called upon to concede 5 lb. to Mr. Naylor's Fulmen, the winner of a twelvemonth ago. The Dowager-Duchess of Montrose has a very strong team to represent her in this as in most of the other spring handicaps, including Oberon (7 st. 8 lb.), who is engaged in them all. Mr. P'Anson's Chislehurst (7 st. 12 lb.) and Castor (7 st. 9 lb.) may one of them make amends for Bread Knife's failure to get nearer than second a twelvemonth ago; while Mr. Gubbins's Ashplant (8 st. 3 lb.) and Mr. Cooper's Cardinal Wolsey (6 st. 9 lb.) have the credit of being likely to win a good handicap one day. The class of horses engaged in the Lincolnshire Handicap is not, however, very good; and the same may be said of the Leicestershire Handicap, run for on the Saturday of the ensuing week. There were only forty-four entries for this race, as against double the number two years ago, and out of these twenty-one have since paid forfeit; so that, in order to bring the race up to the advertised value of £1,200, the executive will have to add six or seven hundred pounds. The best horses engaged, such as St. Mirin, Fulmen, and King Monmouth, have been struck out; and, so far as class goes, the pick of those left in are the three-year-olds Gallinule and Veracity, each handicapped at 7 st. 5 lb., and Lady Muncester (7 st. 2 lb.) Run for between these two handicaps at Lincoln and Leicester, the Grand National Steeplechase at Liverpool will, as usual, be one of the most interesting races of the early spring; though here again there is a great falling-off in the entries, only forty-six horses having been nominated for a race which used to attract three times as many. At the same time the handicapper deserves to be complimented upon the way he has done his work, as only nine of them have failed to accept; the list being headed by two previous winners of the race in Mr. Lee's Roquefort (12 st. 8 lb.) and Mr. Boyd's Voluptuary (12 st. 2 lb.). Roquefort fell last year when going very well, and many people expect him to achieve a feat which has never yet been accomplished—that of winning with more than 12 st. in the saddle. Mr. Douglas's Old Joe, the winner last year, is again engaged, and he has to carry 11 st. 10 lb., or 4 lb. less than Count Erdödy's Too Good, who was second to him last year upon much less favourable terms. Mr. Lawrence's Frigate (11 st. 5 lb.) finished second both to Roquefort and Voluptuary, while she fell at the first fence last year; so that if she runs it will be for the fourth time. Much was thought of a hunter called The Sinner, who has won all his races and was entered for the Grand National; but he has been struck out, together with Ducat and Royal Fern, both of whom were supposed to be promising "jumpers." But the Grand National may, in spite of the small entry, be a race of some interest; seeing that all the best veterans of the day, such as they are, have been left in.

THE MORNING PAPERS.

THE GOVERNMENT AND EGYPT.

The *Times* urges the Government to make perfectly clear without loss of time their intentions respecting Egypt. It is as well to dismiss at once all such ambitious and impracticable schemes as the notion of making Egypt an African Belgium. They can only lead us into a dangerous *impasse*. It is as much as we can do to endow Egypt with "a native Government, a strong Government, and a Government capable of holding its own." Even in attempting to do this we must steadily bear in mind the indelible difference between Eastern and Western civilization. In Egypt the *kourbash* has only just been laid aside, and the *corvée*, though now happily doomed, is still in virtual operation. Belgium was much further advanced when it emancipated itself from the Spanish tyranny, and the Gueux were far more capable citizens than the fellahen who followed Arabi.

The *Standard* thinks it a pity that the employment of an inaccurate phrase should have revived French hopes and English and Egyptian fears. But it is well that the misconception should be of short duration. If the Powers will help England to make Egypt at once self-reliant and autonomous, Englishmen will be delighted. But the only way of helping England in the matter is for them to stand out of the way, to withdraw their own pretensions over the country, and to leave England slowly, safely, but surely to follow their example. England is the last prop of Egypt, and the last prop cannot be struck away till the country is fit to stand alone.

The *Daily News* says that the significance of the various reports of Sir Henry Wolf's plans is that they mark the clear revival of Mr. Gladstone's original idea of the neutralization of Egyptian territory. When an "accurate representation of the objects her Majesty's Government has in view" is made the *Daily News* will be glad to find that this policy is involved in them. It is satisfactory to know that the Tory party, who accused Mr. Gladstone and Lord Granville of sacrificing the empire when they suggested the withdrawal of our troops, have found out that withdrawal is not only our duty but our interest and our security. The *Daily News* will not grudge Lord Salisbury the honour of carrying into effect the policy he was so slow to appreciate. It is better to be wise somewhat late than never to be wise at all.

The *Manchester Courier* says that the objects which every British Government must keep in view in connection with Egypt are: First, our duty to the Egyptians; secondly, the maintenance of the integrity of the Ottoman Empire; thirdly, a due regard for the rights of other Powers; but, above all, the protection of our national interests in the main highway to India, and any scheme which fails to attain these objects will stand self-condemned.

LORD HARTINGTON'S SPEECH.

The *Glasgow Herald* says Lord Hartington's contribution to the controversy was moderate and fair-minded and yet acute and convincing in an eminent degree. Strengthened as it was by the contrast it presented to the violent and venomous rowdiness with which the Irish Home Rulers greeted the entry of Mr. Goschen, fresh from his victory, it must have appealed forcibly to former friends ashamed of the company they are forced to keep and yet afraid to leave it.

The Dublin *Daily Express* considers that Lord Hartington's speech goes to the root of the case. No one who reads the speech can doubt that there is a real desire on the part of the vast majority of the English people to consider and to deal honestly and indulgently with any problem which the ingenuity of any of the Nationalist members can propound.

The *Freeman's Journal* asks why Lord Hartington puts his back against the wall and refuses to budge in the direction of reform? The fact is that the speech, like his Newcastle utterance, is a confession of complete impotence and helplessness.

The *Irish Times* considers the speech grave and unanswerable. It was so perfectly in harmony with the views and actions of the Government that it is difficult to see now what there is left for Sir Michael Hicks-Beach to say.

LORD HARTINGTON'S APPEAL TO MR. PARNELL.

The *Standard* hopes that Mr. Parnell will at an early day consider it his duty to give an unequivocal response to Lord Hartington's appeal. Granted that the dynamite clubs, the moonlight men, and all the miscellaneous scoundrels that act on parallel lines with the League are not agents and followers of the Home Rule leader, is it true that he has no relations with them? Does he accept subsidies, does he depend upon subsidies, that come from the circles in which outrage is a creed? Will he supplement the "warnings" he addresses to the Government and the English people by openly and honestly denouncing the men who are preparing the crimes he foresees and by repudiating all further connection with them?

The *Daily Telegraph*, judging from the honestly indignant denunciation which so sturdy a Radical as Mr. Storey has levelled against the Plan of Campaign, is not without hope that the Gladstonian Liberals as a body may at last open their eyes to the deep discredit which will attach to them as a party by prolonging their silent condonation of the political methods of the men with whom they have so unhappily associated themselves.

MR. HENRY FOWLER'S CONJECTURE.

The *Times* observes that Mr. Henry Fowler, like many other members of the Opposition, is willing to vote for Mr. Parnell's amendment or any other that is likely to be defeated, because he can thus embarrass the Government without incurring the risk of having to face official responsibilities. It is possible, the *Times* says, to dignify this attitude with the name of criticism; but public men who have filled high offices in the State are bound to remember that even when they have no prospect of obtaining a majority their criticism ought to be limited by considerations of public duty and public decency. It is most lamentable that any one in the position of Mr. Fowler should go out of his way to suggest that the authors of the Plan Campaign, who are to be indicted next week in Dublin, will not have a fair trial. Of this Mr. Fowler can have no knowledge, and to put forward a conjecture of the kind is to damage the administration of justice in Ireland, which as long as the Union subsists every statesman, whatever his theoretical conceptions, is under an obligation to uphold.

The *Daily News* cannot quite agree with Mr. Fowler in his opinion that there should be no attempt to displace the Ministry. If there was the slightest sign on the Treasury bench either of any willingness to conciliate or even of any capacity to govern the Irish people, there would be a good deal to say for Mr. Fowler's view. But they are helpless and hopeless, and should be ejected as soon as may be to make room for men with a definite policy and a determination to carry it out.

"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.]

TRADE AND FINANCE.

The return issued by the Bank of England yesterday certainly shows a marked accession of strength. The reserve increased nearly three-quarters of a million, and now is very little short of 14 millions; while the proportion borne by it to liabilities is as much as 50 per cent. In other words, the Bank of England now holds utterly unemployed in its coffers half a sovereign for every sovereign for which it is liable. This, at first sight, appears an extremely strong position; but there is a weakness which cannot be too often pointed out, nor on which too much stress cannot be laid—namely, that the whole stock of gold held by the Bank is under 22 millions. What is even more important is the very large decrease in the "other deposits," which are now under 23 millions. In these deposits, as our readers will remember, are included the bankers' balances—that is, the unemployed fund at the disposal of the outside market. During the week these balances have decreased nearly £900,000, and they will continue to decrease till very nearly the end of March. The probability appears to be, therefore, that the supply of loanable capital in the outside market will rapidly diminish, and that the Bank of England will thus obtain control of the market. The expectation in the market, nevertheless, is that the directors will again reduce their rate of discount, and consequently the speculation for the fall in the value of money is going on. Yesterday the quotation for three months' bills was as low as $2\frac{3}{8}$ — $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent.; but it would be most unwise of the directors if they were to reduce their rate. As we have just pointed out, their whole stock of gold is under 22 millions; and though the political situation looks more hopeful at present than it recently did, at any moment we may have troubles that will try the money market. It is true that a considerable sum in gold is expected from Egypt this week; but, on the other hand, the opinion of the well informed is that very little gold will be received from New York; that the amount already shipped will go to Germany, and that therefore there will be but little increase in the Bank's stock, unless the directors adopt energetic measures to increase it.

Yesterday morning the stock markets opened in a hesitating temper, except in the market for American Railroad securities. There was a disposition rather to sell than to buy, and at one time, indeed, there was a considerable fall in Egyptian bonds; but a rapid recovery took place, and at the close all departments were buoyant. The Settlement had ended smoothly. In the Foreign market there is a very large speculative account open for the fall, though much less than in the Foreign; and in the market for American Railroad securities the account open for the rise has been immensely reduced. All this is favourable to a rise of prices; and as it is believed that the elections in Germany will give a majority for the Army Bill, it is hoped that Prince Bismarck will be satisfied, that no more alarmist utterances will be heard from Germany, and that somehow or other a settlement with France will be effected. This hope is strengthened by the fact that all the Continental Bourses were strong, and, the Foreign market being guided very largely by Berlin, firmness in Berlin encouraged a more hopeful feeling here. The news from the United States, too, is all favourable, and there are appearances of an active movement for the rise in American securities. Consequently, the speculators who had sold largely for the fall thought it prudent to buy back. Their buying at once sent up prices of all kinds, and the upward movement extended to every department of the Stock Exchange.

The selling of American Railroad securities from Europe in New York having come to an end, there appears to be a disposition there to put up prices all round. Circumstances are decidedly favourable. The fall last week swept away the whole rise of the past twelve months. In the meantime, however, there has been a rapid revival of trade, which promises to go on for a considerable time yet. The railway traffic returns are most satisfactory, the quarterly declarations of some of the leading companies showing that the net earnings, too, are very satisfactory; the iron and steel trades are greatly improving; in every direction there is evidence of increased prosperity; and thus it is felt that prices are now unduly low. Those who bought at the very low prices of the past few weeks are naturally eager to realize a profit; and they are evidently working to put up prices. The New York market was very strong on Wednesday, and the opening prices yesterday were also reported higher. Consequently, there was a general upward movement here in London, amounting at the close to $1\frac{1}{4}$ in Denver shares, Central Pacific, Erie Preference, and Wabash Ordinary; to $1\frac{1}{2}$ in Erie Ordinary, New York, Pennsylvania, and Ohio First Mortgage Bonds; 1 in Pennsylvania shares; and $\frac{3}{4}$ each in Louisville and Ohio and Mississippi shares. Home Railway stocks advanced along with American, though very much less. North-Eastern rose $\frac{3}{8}$, Great Eastern and Sheffield A $\frac{3}{4}$ each, and Sheffield Ordinary and Chatham $\frac{1}{2}$ each. In other cases the changes were slighter. Mexican Railway stocks rose from 1 to $1\frac{1}{2}$, and there was little change in Canadian Railway securities. In the Foreign market, Egyptian rose from 1 to $1\frac{1}{2}$, Hungarian Gold Rentes 1, Russians of 1873 $\frac{1}{4}$, Spanish $\frac{1}{2}$, Portuguese $\frac{1}{4}$, French Four-and-a-Halves $\frac{1}{2}$, and Italian $\frac{3}{8}$.

The India Council this week offered for tender 30 lakhs of rupees in bills upon the Presidency Treasuries and in telegraphic transfers, and sold 10 lakhs of rupees in bills and 26 lakhs in telegraphic transfers, making together 36 lakhs. Applicants for the bills at 1s. 5 13-16d. per rupee were allotted the full amounts applied for, as were likewise applicants for the transfers at 1s. 5 7/8d. per rupee. The amounts allotted are but slightly less than a week ago, when it will be recollected the total sold was a little over 37 1/2 lakhs; but the prices were decidedly lower. On Wednesday of last week the bills fetched 1s. 6d. per rupee, and the telegraphic transfers 1s. 6 1-16d. per rupee. A week previously the prices were still better—as much as 1s. 6 1-16d. per rupee for the bills, and 1s. 6 3-16d. for the telegraphic transfers. It would seem, therefore, that there is less demand for remittance; and this was to be anticipated, for in the present political condition of Europe it is natural that merchants should restrict their dealings. They are doing so in all branches of trade, and that consequently they should do so in the Indian trade is what might be expected, and, this being so, it is easy to understand that exchange should decline.

The SUBSCRIPTION LIST will CLOSE on or before TUESDAY, the 15th instant. ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

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ISSUE of £300,000 in 3,000 mortgage debentures of £100 each, bearing interest at 6 per cent. per annum, secured by a first mortgage on the property and income of the Company.

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Issue price £95 per cent., payable as follows:— On Application £5 0 0 per cent.

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The LONDON and RIVER PLATE BANK, Limited, is authorized to receive subscriptions for the above-mentioned Mortgage Debentures of the Catalinas Warehouses and Mole Company of Buenos Aires, the capital of the Argentine Republic.

The Debentures will be to bearer, with interest coupons attached, payable half-yearly, on 1st April and 1st October in each year, and the first coupon for six months' interest will be payable 1st October, 1887.

The principal will be redeemed at par on or before the 1st October, 1906, by yearly drawings in the month of August in each year, commencing 1887, in accordance with the table of redemption endorsed on the Debentures, with the proviso that the Company may, at its option, redeem, in any year or years during that period, any additional amount of the Debentures beyond the specified sum, at the rate of £103 sterling for every £100.

Both principal and interest are payable in sterling at the London and River Plate Bank, Limited in London, and are secured by a mortgage effected by the Company in Buenos Aires, in accordance with Argentine law and a deed of mortgage and trust made in London on the 24th August, 1886, as a first charge on the lands, concessions, income, and general property of the Company.

The Company, which has been established in the City of Buenos Aires for upwards of eleven years, owns a concession from the Argentine Government of the right to reclaim, by means of an embankment or sea-wall, a large extent of land from the foreshore of the river immediately fringing the city.

The whole embankment is about 1,550 metres in length. Of this about 700 have been completed, 400 are in a forward state, and it is estimated that the whole will be finished in two years. By the construction of the embankment about 222,000 square metres of land will be reclaimed, and after devoting 80,700 square metres for public streets under the terms of the concession, there will remain the property of the Company about 142,000 square metres, which is part of the security referred to in this prospectus.

According to independent valuations the value of this land—part of which already is, and the remainder will become, available for building or leasing purposes—will, when the works are completed, be more than twice the amount of the Debentures now offered.

The present loan is required for the purpose of completing the embankment, constructing and paving the streets, paying the Government the sum stipulated by the concession, viz., 3 dols. 10 c. per square metre of land reclaimed, and also for discharging an existing mortgage on part of the property of the Company, including some land in course of sale and not comprised in the security for the Debentures.

Upon a part of the reclaimed land the Company has carried on for more than eight years the business of landing, shipping, and warehousing merchandise, &c., for which a wooden pier and warehouses have been constructed, the accounts showing that the average net annual income has amounted to 150,369 dols. 60 c., or £25,061 12s. (exchange 40d. per dollar).

The paid-up Share Capital of the Company is 1,456,232 dols. 78c., or £242,705 9s. 3d. (exchange 40d. per dollar). The latest quotation for the shares in Buenos Aires is 100 per cent. premium.

The Argentine Government are engaged in negotiations for the construction of a harbour and docks at Buenos Aires, which will extend from north to south of the city's frontage. In accordance with the plans, the Company's pier may be removed to make room for these improvements. Upon their completion, which is expected to be in about eight years, the Company's property will immediately face the north entrance to the harbour, a position likely to further enhance its value.

The satisfactory construction and condition of the works executed by the Company, and the measurements of the land reclaimed and to be reclaimed, are attested by the report of Mr. John Coghlan, C.E.

Application for the debentures, accompanied by a deposit of 5 per cent., must be sent to the London and River Plate Bank (Limited), 52, Moorgate-street, London.

In cases where no allotment is made the deposits will be returned in full. When a less number of debentures is allotted than that applied for, the surplus of the deposit will be applied in whole, or in part, as the case may be, to the payment of the amount due on allotment.

In default of payment of any instalment at its due date, the deposit will be liable to forfeiture.

Receipts to bearer will be issued against allotment letters duly endorsed, and bankers' receipts, to be afterwards exchanged for the debentures, when ready, of which due notice will be given.

A copy of the report presented to the shareholders of the Company on the 25th January, 1886, and the balance-sheet made up to the 31st June last, as also copies of the Company's statutes, and of its contracts with and concessions from the Argentine Government, and a copy of the Deed of Mortgage and Trust, with Mr. Coghlan's report above referred to, can be seen on application to Messrs. Bircham, Drake, Burt, and Co., Solicitors, No. 59, Old Broad-street, E.C.

Prospectuses and forms of application may be obtained at the London and River Plate Bank (Limited), 52, Moorgate-street, E.C.; or of Messrs. Greenwood and Co., 28, Austinfriars, E.C. London, 10th February, 1887.

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