

THE
ST. JAMES'S GAZETTE
An Evening Review and Record of News.

No. 2097.—VOL. XIV.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1887.

PRICE ONE PENNY.

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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. THIS DAY, at 7.25 and 7.35.

LYCEUM.

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

ADELPHI.

ADELPHI THEATRE.—Messrs.
A. and S. GATTI, Sole Proprietors and Managers. THIS EVENING, at 8 o'clock, THE HARBOUR LIGHTS (408th time). Mr. William Terriss, Messrs. Garden, Maclean, Lyndal, Boleyn, Campbell, Russell, Wentworth, Travers, &c.; Mesdames Millward, Achurch, C. Jecks, Leigh, Brennan, Nelson, &c. At 7.15, FAMILY JARS.

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 up to March 2nd, inclusive. LAST SEVEN PERFORMANCES. Musical Drama-play in two acts, by Savile Clarke, founded on Lewis Carroll's delightful Stories. Music by Walter Slaughter. New Scenery, Properties, and Dresses. Doors open 2.15, commence 2.30. Box-office 10 to 5 daily. Special reduced prices of admission for children under 12. Notwithstanding its great success, this delightful play CANNOT BE PERFORMED after Wednesday, March 2nd.

GLOBE.

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

GLOBE THEATRE.—Last four nights
of THE LODGERS. On Monday, Feb. 28, will be produced a farcical comedy, entitled THE SNOWBALL, by Sydney Grundy.

VAUDEVILLE.

VAUDEVILLE.—THIS EVENING, at
8.30, SOPHIA (238th time), by Robert Buchanan. Messrs. THOMAS THORNE, Carleton, Thorne, Farquhar, Mellish, Grove, Wheatman, and LEONARD BOYNE; Mesdames Larkin, Leclercq, Venn, Forsyth, and K. Rorke. At 7.45, NEARLY SEVERED. MATINEE every SATURDAY, at 2.30.

STRAND THEATRE.—FANNIE
LESLIE.—EVERY EVENING, at 8, JACK IN THE BOX, by Geo. R. Sims and Clement Scott. Miss FANNIE LESLIE and powerful company. Songs and Dances. At 7.30, BY SPECIAL REQUEST. Open at 7. MORNING PERFORMANCE every SATURDAY, at 2.

COMEDY.

COMEDY THEATRE.—Sole Lessee,
Miss MELNOTTE.—Enthusiastic reception of MYNHEER JAN.—Every Evening, at 8, the new Comic Opera, in 3 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, Charles Ashford; Miss Camille d'Arville, Mdme. Amadi, Miss Kate Munroe, Miss Amy Martin, Miss Emma Broughton, Miss Annie Wilson, Miss M. Richardson, Miss Alice Lethbridge, Miss Melnotte. Seats may be secured at the Box-office, open from 10 to 5, and at all libraries.

SAVOY.

SAVOY.—R. D'O'LY CARTE, Pro-
prietor and Manager.—EVERY EVENING, at 8.30, the New and Original Supernatural Opera, in Two Acts, by W. S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan, entitled RUDDIGORE; OR, THE WITCH'S CURSE. Messrs. G. Grossmith, R. Barrington, R. Temple, R. Lewis, and D. Lely; Mesdames L. Braham, Jessie Bond, J. Findlay, and R. Braddam. Preceded, at 7.40, by THE CARP. Doors open 7.30. Box-office open from 9 A.M. till 11 P.M. Morning Performance of RUDDIGORE every SATURDAY, at 2.30.

HAYMARKET.

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

NOTICE.—The THEATRE CLOSED
THIS EVENING being ASH WEDNESDAY.—HAYMARKET.

ST. JAMES'S.

ST. JAMES'S THEATRE.—Lessee
and Managers, Mr. HARE and Mr. KENDAL. Last Four Nights of THE HOBBY-HORSE. THIS EVENING, at 8.30.

THE HOBBY-HORSE.

The characters by Mr. Hare, Mr. Waring, Mr. Mackintosh, Mr. B. Gould, Mr. A. Sims, Mr. C. W. Somerset, Mr. Hendrie, Mrs. Gaston Murray, Mrs. Tree, Miss Webster, Miss Huntly, and Mrs. Kendal. Preceded by, at 8, A CASE FOR EVICTION. Misses Webster, Huntley; Mr. Waring.—Box-office to till 5. Doors open 7.30. Acting-Manager, Mr. Hux.

OPERA COMIQUE.

OPERA COMIQUE.—Lessee and
Manager, F. J. HARRIS.—Miss Kate Vaughan's Comedy Company.—THIS EVENING, at 8.15, THE RIVALS. In Act 2, Scene 3, a Gavotte will be danced. At 7.45 a farce, entitled NED KNOWLES. Doors open 7.15. MATINEE OF THE RIVALS on SATURDAY next, at 2.15. Band of the "New Club" on this occasion. Owing to the success which has attended THE RIVALS, the Revival of SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER will be POSTPONED until SATURDAY NEXT, the 26th inst.

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.

OLYMPIC.

OLYMPIC.—MR. EDWARD
TERRY'S SEASON.—At 9.15, THE CHURCHWARDEN; at 8, THE TWO BLINDS; at 8.25, HOME RULE. Last Weeks, owing to expiry of lease. MATINEE at 2.30 every SATURDAY.—Acting Manager, Mr. H. T. Brickwell.

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 on SATURDAY next, at 3 o'clock. Doors open 2.30.

COURT.

COURT THEATRE.—DANDY
DICK.—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. Lug, and John Clayton; Misses Norreys, Laura Linden, Marie Lewes, and Mrs. John Wood will appear. At 8 o'clock, THE NETTLE. Miss Cudmore, Mr. Kerr. Box-office open daily from 11 to 5. No fees.

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

AVENUE.

AVENUE.—ROBINSON CRUSOE.
TO-NIGHT, at 7.45, Burlesque, supported by Mr. Arthur Roberts, Miss Wadman, and powerful company. Doors open 7.30. MORNING PERFORMANCE EVERY SATURDAY, at 2.

HENGLER'S, ARGVILL-STREET,
OXFORD-CIRCUS.—LAST NIGHTS of Charles Hengler's Unique and Charming Entertainment. Each evening, TURPIN'S RIDE TO YORK, preceded by the Great Circus Troupe. Open at 7.15, commence at 7.45. Day performance every Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday. Open at 2, commence 2.30. The present season will terminate on Saturday, February 26th.

HENGLER'S GRAND CIRQUE.
THE LAST THREE MORNING PERFORMANCES of the present season, Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday, February 23rd, 24th, and 25th. Saturday Evening Next, Last Representations of all the charming and varied scenes of the present popular programme.

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GIANT CAGE OF EIGHT LIONS,
who are put through their wonderful and exciting performances by Mr. Seeth, the most courageous Lion Tamer the world has known.

TO-DAY, ASH WEDNESDAY, TWO
SPECIAL PERFORMANCES, including the GREAT SPORTING PANTOMIME, the STAG HUNT, in which is introduced the

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COMAN DOLL.

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Booking Fees.

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MOUS 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, 8.0.—
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'.

ASH WEDNESDAY.—TWO
SPECIAL PERFORMANCES.

THE SHIRE HORSE SOCIETY,
LONDON SHOW, 1887.

250 STALLIONS,
100 MARES.

AGRICULTURAL HALL, LONDON,
WEDNESDAY, 23rd February,
THURSDAY, 24th February,
FRIDAY, 25th February. } 1s. 6d.
Open to A.M.; close 7 P.M.

THE LONDON SYMPHONY
CONCERTS.

MR. HENSCHEL, Conductor.

THE LONDON SYMPHONY CON-
CERTS, St. James's Hall.—THIRTEENTH CONCERT, TO-MORROW, at 8.30. Programme:—Overture to Byron's "Parisina" (W. S. Bennett); Concerto for violin, in D, Op. 77 (Brahms); Dr. Joachim; Symphony in B flat (Haydn); Romance for violin, in F, Op. 40 (Beethoven); Dr. Joachim; Rhapsody No. 2, in D (Liszt), dedicated to Joseph Joachim.

DR. JOACHIM will Play Brahms'
Concerto and Beethoven's Romance in F, at the THIRTEENTH LONDON SYMPHONY CONCERT, TO-MORROW, at 8.30.

RESERVED SEATS, 7s. 6d. and 3s.;
admission 1s.; at Austin's Office, St. James's Hall, and usual agents'.—N. Vert, 6, Cork-street, W.

THE LONDON SYMPHONY CON-
CERTS, St. James's Hall.—THIRTEENTH CONCERT, TO-MORROW, at 8.30. Solo Violin, Dr. Joachim. Orchestra of 80 Performers.—MR. HENSCHEL, Conductor.

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TION.—TO-DAY (Ash Wednesday) ANNUAL INSTRUMENTAL CONCERT OF SACRED and APPROPRIATE MUSIC. Eminent Soloists selected from Her Majesty's Band, &c.

Afternoon performance 3 to 5.
Evening performance 7.30 to 10.
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BRITAIN, Albemarle-street, Piccadilly, W. EDMUND GOSSE, Esq., M.A., Clark Lecturer in English Literature, Trinity College, Cambridge, will TO-MORROW (Thursday), February 24, at Three o'clock, begin a course of Three Lectures on The Critics of the Age of Anne.

Subscription to this Course, half a guinea; to all the Courses in the Season, two guineas.

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Proprietors of Aldridge's, St. Martin's-lane, are honoured with instructions to SELL by PUBLIC AUCTION, with possession, at the MART, Tokenhouse-yard, on TUESDAY Next, March 1, at Two, the centrally situated and highly valuable FREEHOLD PREMISES, No. 26, St. Martin's-street, Leicester-square, now in the occupation of the Earl of Lonsdale, comprising a well-appointed 10-roomed residence, excellent coach-houses, with standing for 20 carriages, superior stabling for 23 horses, spacious yard covered with glass roof, harness, saddle, and men's living-rooms, &c.—Particulars and conditions of Messrs. Ellis and Ellis, solicitors, 5, Delahay-street, Westminster, and of the Auctioneers, W. and S. Freeman. On view.

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LUSITANIA ..	3,825	3,700	Mar. 17.
LIGURIA	4,688	4,200	Mar. 31.
AUSTRAL	5,588	7,000	April 14.
IBERIA.....	4,702	4,200	April 28.
CHIMBORAZO	3,847	3,000	May 12.
POTOSI.....	4,267	3,500	May 26.
ORIENT	5,386	6,000	June 9.

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THE ABERDEEN LINE.—Passage to Australia. The favourite Clipper ship PATRIARCH, 1,339 tons register, 100 A1 at Lloyd's, will be despatched from the East India Docks on the 5th March, taking first and second class passengers to SYDNEY, and at through rates to other Australian ports. The accommodation for each class is most comfortable. A surgeon will be taken. For particulars, apply to the owners, George Thompson & Co., 24, Leadenhall-street, E.C.

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IN ALL, more than NINE THOUSAND WAIFS and STRAYS have been gathered into these Homes, carefully fitted for an industrial career, and then placed out in service at home or abroad.

NO ENDOWMENT of ANY KIND exists, the whole being DEPENDENT on the FREE WILL OFFERINGS of the benevolent.

£16 Will MAINTAIN a BOY or GIRL in the HOMES for a year,

BUT ANY GIFTS, however small, will be GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGED if addressed to the Treasurer, WM. FOWLER, Esq.; to the Chairman of Committee, S. G. SHEPPARD, Esq.; or to the Founder, DR. T. J. BARNARDO, at the

OFFICES OF THE INSTITUTIONS,

18 to 26, STEPNEY CAUSEWAY, LONDON, E.

RUSSIA AND INDIA,

QUETTA,
BELOOCHISTAN

A GENTLEMAN in Quetta, Beloochistan, India, writes as follows, under date 15th Dec., 1886:—"I have for many years past been a regular consumer of your Fruit Salt, especially since arrival in India four years since. To its properties as a preventive I believe I owe the excellent health I have enjoyed during the whole of that time, which has been passed in stations of all peculiarities of climate—for instance, Allahabad, R. Pindi, Murree Hills, and this place."

RUSSIA and ENO'S FRUIT SALT.

An English Chaplain writes:—"Would you kindly inform me whether you have an agent in Russia for the sale of your Fruit Salt? If not, would it be possible to send two or three bottles through the post? We have used your Fruit Salt now for some time, and think so highly of it that my wife says she would not be without it for a great deal. For children's ailments I know of nothing to equal it. It acts like a charm. Our little ones have had no other medicine for some time; no matter what the ailment may be, cold, headache, or stomach-ache, the Fruit Salt seems to cure in a marvellously short time. The Fruit Salt seems to be just the medicine we have required for a long time—something thoroughly efficacious, which acts quickly, and is pleasant to the taste.—I am, faithfully yours, A BRITISH CHAPLAIN."

WHAT EVERY TRAVELLING

AND HOUSEHOLD IN THE

WORLD

ought to CONTAIN.

A BOTTLE OF

ENO'S FRUIT SALT.

IT is the BEST PREVENTIVE of and CURE for BILIOUSNESS, Sick Headache, Skin Eruptions, Pimples on the Face, Giddiness, Fevers, Blood Poisons, Feverishness or Feverish Colds, Mental Depression, Want of Appetite, Constipation, Vomiting, Thirst, &c., and to remove the effects of errors in Eating and Drinking. It is invaluable to those who are Fagged, Weary, or Worn Out, or any one whose duties require them to undergo Mental or Unnatural Excitement or Strain; it keeps the Blood pure, and prevents disastrous diseases by natural means.

SUDDEN CHANGES OF WEATHER.

Drawing an overcoat on the bank of life.—Late hours, fagged, unnatural excitement, breathing impure air, too rich food, alcoholic drink, gouty, rheumatic, and other blood poisons, biliousness, sick headache, skin eruptions, pimples on the face, want of appetite, sourness of stomach, &c., use ENO'S FRUIT SALT.

STIMULANTS and insufficient amount of exercise frequently derange the liver. ENO'S FRUIT SALT is peculiarly adapted for any constitutional weakness of the liver. A world of woes is avoided by those who keep and use ENO'S FRUIT SALT.—"All our customers for ENO'S FRUIT SALT would not be without it upon any consideration, they having received so much benefit from it.—WOOD BROTHERS, Chemists, Jersey, 1878."

CAUTION.—Examine each bottle, and see that the capsule is marked ENO'S FRUIT SALT. Without it you have been imposed on by a worthless imitation. Sold by all Chemists.

PREPARED only at ENO'S FRUIT SALT WORKS, Hatfield, London, S.E., by J. C. ENO'S PATENT.

BUTCHERS' MEAT

OF FIRST-CLASS QUALITY.

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MARSHALL & SNELGROVE'S.

The depression in the Meat Market enables us to offer MEAT OF BEST QUALITY on EXTRAORDINARY FAVOURABLE TERMS. Specialties for the Dinner Table: Pynlimmon Welsh Mutton, Pickled Tongues, well-hung Haunches and Saddles.

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10, WOODSTOCK-STREET, OXFORD-STREET, W.,

PITKEATHLY.—Special terms to buyers direct from REID and DONALD, Chemists, Perth.

IF you Want Money without Fees, amounts £10 to £1,000, before applying elsewhere see Mr. CLIBURN, personally if possible 43, Great Tower-street, E.C.

TO BUILDERS AND OTHERS.

The Commissioners of Sewers of the City of London will meet in the Guildhall of the said City on TUESDAY the 8th of March, 1887, at half-past Twelve o'clock precisely, to RECEIVE TENDERS for the Construction of a New Sewer in Silver-street and Falcon-square, agreeably to plans to be seen at the office of the Engineer to the Commissioners, in the Guildhall, where copies of the specification and printed forms of tender may be obtained on application.

Security will be required from the Contractor for the due execution of the Contract. The Commissioners do not pledge themselves to accept the lowest or any tender.

All tenders must be delivered before twelve o'clock on the said day of treaty, and the parties sending in proposals must attend personally, or by a duly authorized agent, at half-past twelve o'clock on the said day.

The party whose tender is accepted will be required to sign an agreement to execute a contract drawn up in accordance with the specification.

HENRY BLAKE, Principal Clerk.

Sewers' Office, Guildhall,

14th Feb., 1887.

THE ST. JAMES'S GAZETTE.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1887.

THE GERMAN ELECTIONS.

WHAT the effects of the German elections will be on the domestic politics of the empire it is not easy to foresee, nor specially profitable for Englishmen to inquire. Germany is a country where Parliamentarism, almost from the beginning, became a system of groups. No Minister can rely upon a single party strong enough to bear down all opposition. As BISMARCK long ago said of LOUIS NAPOLEON, a German Chancellor governs on "a policy of *pourboire*." He has to give a "tip" here and another there—to grant something with one hand to the Clericals, and with the other to the Conservatives—in order that he may manufacture a working majority for the purposes of the moment. How far the policy of *pourboire*, which in this case, seemingly, takes the form of a further relaxation of the Falk Laws, will enable Prince BISMARCK to go on with his famous economic programme, is a question of interest to Germans alone.

In this country we regard the elections mainly from their international aspect. We are less interested, for instance, in the collapse of the Radicals than in the comparative successes of the Socialists. We say comparative, because it does not appear that the actual numbers of the Social-Democrat deputies in the Reichstag will be increased. But if the party will be no larger it will derive additional prestige from the fact that it polls an enormously heavy vote in some of the great centres of artisan population. The Berlin elections are very striking. A few years ago the Socialists could not muster 2,000 votes in the imperial capital: now they cast 90,000, and the increase since the election of 1884 is over twenty thousand. The Conservatives have increased to some extent also, but not in the same proportion as the "Reds;" while—most significant fact of all—the German Liberals have lost heavily, and in their weakness will perhaps be reduced to becoming the allies of the Social Democrats. Here, then, is a phenomenon which Prince BISMARCK cannot possibly be indifferent to. In the new Reichstag the German Chancellor will probably find that two-thirds of the representation of Berlin is monopolized by the sect which he regards as the deadliest foe to society and civilization. Berlin, be it remembered, is the one really great city of the empire. It is a town among whose vast labouring population it is well known that terrible poverty has prevailed for many years; and with it there has developed the wild discontent which is the natural outgrowth of material suffering among a semi-educated proletariat. In such a soil the rank weed imported from France by the founders of German Socialism might have been expected to spread and luxuriate. But that it should have grown so fast, and choked so much other growth so quickly, is a serious symptom; the more so as modern Communism is international and infectious. The voting in the Berlin elections will tell in every country where there is a party of Social Revolution, and that means every country of the civilized world.

Of the "two strong devils"—to quote one of Prince BISMARCK's energetic phrases—which menace Germany, the one is certainly not crushed or bruised. What of the other? Will the elections secure Germany that peace abroad without which she cannot obtain prosperity at home? We confess it is difficult to find much cause for lightness of spirit in the state of affairs. It is fairly certain that the Septennate will be voted by the Reichstag. Good, so far. The peoples of the German Empire had been assured in the most solemn manner by their great statesman and their great soldier that if a majority unfavourable to the Government measure were returned, war was certain. Why this should be, we confess we have never been able to understand; and what is more, there are no signs that either in Germany or in other Continental countries they see into the matter much more clearly than we do. The Germans, however, were naturally not disposed to fly in the teeth of the deliberate warnings of BISMARCK and MOLTKE. They might have thought that, if war threatened within three months, it could make little difference whether or not at the end of three years the Government had to come to Parliament for a fresh military Budget. So Herr RICHTER and Herr WINDTHORST argued; but, with the experience of the past in their memories, the Germans were not inclined to set any arguments above the opinions of their Emperor, their Chancellor, and their General. Prince BISMARCK has got his Septennate, and if the Septennate "means peace," the anxious watchers of the European horizon may, as a Berlin journal observes, "go quietly to bed." Unfortunately, it is difficult to believe that the time for undisturbed repose has yet come. If the Chancellor's proposals had been decisively rejected by the nation, no doubt the situation would have become very bad indeed; but it is by no means

favourable even though they have been accepted. As far as can be known to any man outside one or two Chancelleries and Foreign Offices, German party politics have comparatively little to do with the issues of peace and war in Europe. The victory of the Government at the polls will not make impregnable the frontiers behind which two great military Powers frown defiance at Germany. It cannot check the increase of French armaments, or the growing strength of the nation which Germany humiliated in 1871. It can do nothing to quench the determination of France to get back her plundered provinces the moment that Germany is engaged in a struggle with another foe. On the temper of the CZAR, on the internal condition of Russia, on the development of the Eastern Question, above all on the formation of a Franco-Russian alliance, the distribution of German parties can have no influence whatever. Yet these are the factors on which peace or war in Europe depends; and until they are eliminated it is difficult to believe that we may dismiss the doubts and fears which have hung over the world during the last few months.

MR. GOSCHEN AND MR. BRIGHT.

WHEN Mr. Goschen made his speech last night at the St. George's Club, he was not thinking of Mr. Bright or of that gentleman's opinions on peace and war and the conduct of our affairs abroad. What the Chancellor of the Exchequer had to say on that subject was indirectly but plainly addressed to Mr. Labouchere, and those who, with him, have lately shown a clear determination to harass the Government in its dealings with foreign Powers; while at the same time they publicly rejoice over the humiliations which they believe our Ministers have endured, and are yet to endure. With these politicians we cannot suppose that Mr. Bright has any sympathy. If he is hostile to all interference in Continental affairs, to all foreign alliances or engagements that have anything to do with soldiering, his hostility is not adopted for party purposes, or invented for the sole end of turning out one Government and putting in another. At the same time, the lecture he delivered last night on "the late war panic in Europe" will be of more service to the men whose new intrigue we described on Monday than to anybody else. Not that Mr. Bright had much to say about "the late war scare" or the still-threatening condition of things that disturbs all Europe. But with a considerable remnant of his old vigour he preached the non-intervention doctrine once more, and once more denounced all the wars that we were ever engaged in as totally unnecessary as well as cruel and costly beyond measure. He does not know one of them, "from the time of William III., that might not have been without difficulty escaped;" with the result that our national debt would never have accumulated, our population would have been a great deal less barbarous and less ignorant than they are, and everything that tends to the true grandeur and prosperity and happiness of the people would have been infinitely advanced from what we see now in our own time." It is impossible, of course, to argue with a man who holds such opinions as these; but remonstrate we must against Mr. Bright's account of the bombardment of Alexandria, and the readiness with which he believes and repeats such stories as the one he told about the Battle of Aboo Klea. As to the bombardment, Mr. Bright says "The admirals and the whole body of men in the fleet were furious when they thought that the Egyptians were going to surrender and that there would be no fighting." That there is such a thing as delight in battle cannot be denied; and there is not much reason for regret, perhaps, if our soldiers and sailors retain a share of it as long as wars continue. But that the whole fleet before Alexandria, including its commanders, were "furious" when they thought the Egyptians were going to surrender—this is too much of a travesty, and Mr. Bright ought to know it. But what followed was worse still. Mark the style of narration when Mr. Bright tells us this story, which he says "he knows to be true," though it appears that he got it from a friend who got it from somebody else: "After one of the battles—I think that battle called Aboo Klea in which some persons whose names are well known were killed on the English side—that in the evening, after the battle was over, this gentleman heard shots and some noise which surprised him. He did not know what was going on; but when he made inquiry he found that the English soldiers were going about the field of battle, after the hot blood was gone and the battle was over, and they were bayoneting and shooting the poor Arab soldiers lying wounded upon the field. These people have all got a chaplain with them . . . and yet these horrors are perpetrated, and men come home and they are put into the House of Lords and are granted a large sum of money." The insinuation here that murder was done because "some persons whose names are well known were killed on the English side" is too obvious.

Some people will think that, even if this third-hand story is true, it does not become a man in Mr. Bright's position to embellish and parade it as an example of the way in which Englishmen make war. Great unnecessary cruelties are no doubt committed in every war; for there are brutes in every army, or wherever a thousand men are brought together. But this does not justify Mr. Bright in making such a use of a story which on the

face of it is very doubtful; and he may depend upon it that the Englishman who in these days goes about to weaken, soften, and destroy the fighting emperor of his fellow-countrymen is hardly less to blame than he who opens the gate of a citadel to the enemy.

However, there is a party in England just now who will rejoice in Mr. Bright's speech, and make a use of it that would be considered in any other country in Europe downright treachery: the party we mean, which is openly working for the Russian Government against our own. Said Mr. Goschen last night: "There have been and there are tremendous European difficulties. I see that nations are arming and that many countries seem to be bearing a weight of armament which is a source of public danger, and I inquire what in the circumstances the conduct of a patriotic Opposition ought to be. Ought it to endeavour to invent rebuffs, to suggest and connive at alleged failures on the part of those who represent the Executive Government?" Ought it to do, in short, what it lately did under the leadership of Mr. Labouchere? The answer is obvious enough; but we have not heard it yet from any of the more responsible leaders of the Gladstonian party. Nevertheless, we hope the Government will go steadily on with the policies it has hitherto pursued; and while we are confident that Mr. Labouchere's criticisms will have very little influence on the mind of the country, they do not affect the fact that there are grave dangers to be avoided, and therefore a great duty to be done.

NOTES.

The Home Secretary, in addressing his constituents yesterday, gave them an alluring sketch of the measures of domestic legislation on which the Government will embark, when once it has dealt successfully with the "conspiracy of obstruction" which stops the way in the House of Commons, and with the other conspiracy which threatens the foundations of society in Ireland. It is very creditable to the Government that they have formed designs for doing further useful work when the all-important work of the moment has been accomplished. But the nation is more eager to see the removal of those obstacles to good government which are growing more formidable day by day, than to enter upon the discussion of a legislative programme which will be as effective in 1888 as it would be in 1887. Fortunately the Home Secretary seemed fully aware that the first duty of the Government, in point of time, is to deal effectively with the conspiracies which he denounced.

Last night's "general discussion" on procedure was concerned for the most part with details which will have to be discussed again when the various amendments are proposed. Lord Hartington made a very sensible speech, giving a general approval to the proposed rules, but expressing considerable doubts as to the likelihood of their making procedure really effective and expeditious. Ambitious schemes for the reform of parliamentary procedure are at best an attempt to create, by resolutions of the House, an artificial substitute for good-feeling and public spirit. No such attempt is likely to attain complete success. The system of compulsory closure will not ensure the purging of debates from obstructive or useless speeches. What the House wants is to contain only members who respect themselves; or, failing that, members who will defer to public opinion on questions of decency and fair play.

Lord Harris renewed the defence of the flexible cutlasses yesterday. It appeared that the memory of an official of long standing had enabled the War Office to trace the history of the cutlasses in question, which some confusion in the records had rendered obscure. Almost all the cutlasses were made in Germany, and some English officers were appointed as a "View Department" at Solingen, to see that every cutlass passed the required test. Lord Harris triumphantly asserts that the viewers did their work most thoroughly, and that all the Solingen cutlasses, including those now complained of, did actually pass the required test. And yet the practical uselessness of the cutlasses has been shown to the satisfaction of the Admiralty, and is hardly denied by the War Office.

The quarrel which has for some time disturbed the relations between France and China is now apparently at an end. The hatchet has been effectually buried. The Peh-t'ang Cathedral is in course of demolition, another is about to rise on a more spacious site in a less obnoxious position, the Roman Catholic Bishop has been received in audience by Prince Ching and the other magnates of the Tsung-li Yamén, and the French Minister has assumed a most courteous and considerate demeanour. There can be no question that the Chinese have acted throughout with more than justice; and it is equally plain that the French, finding the Chino-Papal alliance too strong for them, have deemed it wise to exchange their hostile attitude for one of courteous consideration. Not only have the Chinese given a larger site in lieu of the one on which the cathedral now stands, but they have provided funds for the erection of the new building, and by an imperial decree have conferred ranks on the Bishop Tagliabue and the Abbé Favier which entitle those ecclesiastics to wear respectively a red button and a blue. For the moment the timely concession of France has averted the threatened establishment of diplomatic relations between Rome and China; but circumstances must inevitably become too strong

for our neighbours, as is indicated in an announcement just made that the Pope intends to despatch a special mission to Peking to convey his thanks to the Emperor for the consideration he has shown to missionaries, and to negotiate a treaty in their interest.

There is no truth in the report that Sir Reginald Hanson proposes to entertain at dinner all the prisoners out on bail at the next Old Bailey sessions, or that the following *menu* has been adopted for the occasion:—

Millbank oysters.
Burglars' soup aux pointes de centre-bit.
Petty larceny soles.
Fraudulent trustee sauce.
Bigamy cutlets.

Sirloin of beef with felonious intent.
Poached pheasants.
Hare à la Burke.
Omelette à la Arthur Orton.
Portland pudding à la Michael Davitt

That ardent champion of liberty Sir Wilfrid Lawson attempted last night to invoke the privilege of Parliament as a weapon to silence the utterances of the *Times* on the subject of the Parnellite members. The *Times* had said of these gentlemen that their "political existence depends upon an organized system of midnight murder." Nobody who was acquainted with the published evidence about the Land League and its "apostolical successors," and their connection with the Parliamentary party, will deny that there is truth in this description. It has in effect been accepted on many occasions by English politicians of every party, including the late Prime Minister and Sir William Harcourt. The Speaker held that it was not open to Sir Wilfrid Lawson to treat the question as one of privilege. The sensitive victims of plain speaking are therefore left to the legal remedies of ordinary citizens; and these will avail them but little.

Von Moltke has the reputation of being a chess-player of the first order, and enthusiasts of the game do not hesitate to attribute his success as a strategist to his mastery of it. Rosenthal, however, who has just been astonishing the Parisian amateurs with one of his phenomenal *tours de force*, tells a journalist that the great captain's skill as a chess-player has been grossly exaggerated. He cannot compare with Bismarck, who has beaten him without difficulty over and over again. Rosenthal has encountered some of the players who have tried conclusions with Bismarck, and the trouble he has had in beating them gives him the measure of the Chancellor's strength. Nevertheless, from what he knows of M. Grévy's play, Rosenthal believes him to be more than a match for the Chancellor, and he would be prepared to back the President, M. de Freycinet, and M. Léon Say against any three players in the world. Chess-players have certainly some reason to believe that it requires exceptional ability to become a proficient in their difficult game.

Mr. Bonsor, M.P., has raised, to the trade of which he is a member, a monument more durable than brass. The return for which he moved shows that in England and Wales there are 13,976 persons licensed as brewers for sale, and that they consumed in one year nearly 45 million bushels of malt and corn. That gives an average of about 3,200 bushels to each brewer. The figures for Ireland bring out a strikingly different result. There, forty-four brewers consume 4,190,000 bushels, or an average of 150,000! No doubt, if the matter were further examined, it would be found that even of the 4,000,000 bushels, more than a half is consumed by a single firm. It may be worth noting that the four beer-brewing towns in England are Burton (an easy first), Manchester, Salisbury, and Warrington. In London, the breweries are chiefly in the central, west, and south districts; while Hammersmith has a good share.

It is now rather more than two years since it was proved at Suakim that the Boxer cartridge was liable to jam, and it is two years all but a month since the manufacture of the solid-drawn cartridges was in consequence commenced. Englishmen will be glad to hear that already, in the opinion at least of the Surveyor-General of Ordnance, a sufficient stock of the new ammunition is in hand. They will, however, we take it, be at least equally surprised to learn that the manufacture of the condemned cartridges is still proceeding on a scale slightly greater than before. About forty-five million rounds are used annually for class-firing and so forth, and all this is still manufactured on the Boxer principle. Why this distinction is drawn, whether the War Office is afraid that its new style of cartridges cannot be trusted to behave properly till age has sobered them, or whether it is anxious to impress upon Tommy Atkins the difference between peace and war, Mr. Northcote has unfortunately neglected to inform us. Perhaps Colonel Hughes-Hallett will endeavour to obtain an answer to this question also.

Appropriately enough, it was reserved for Lord Derby—himself the incarnation of all the ideas and feelings most opposed to those of the Oriental mind—to raise a discussion on the propriety of releasing prisoners by thousands from the Indian gaols, even in celebration of the Jubilee of the Indian Empress. Probably, after last night's debate, in which two ex-Viceroyes who are not often found in agreement, Lord Lytton and Lord Ripon, expressed their approval of Lord Dufferin's action, while Lord Cross pointed out that the same thing was done on almost as large a scale ten years ago, we shall hear no more objections made. But it certainly does sound startling to hear that 23,007 criminals, to say nothing of persons imprisoned in consequence of civil proceedings, have been suddenly let loose. When, how-

ever, Lord Lytton goes on to say that of the 16,000 released in 1877 only two were afterwards recommitted, the argumentative Occidental is tempted to fly to the other extreme and ask whether we have not Europeanized our judicial arrangements over-much, and whether a general gaol delivery might not with advantage take place at yet more frequent intervals. Lord Lytton's story of the gaunt old widow who watched for a week by the side of a desert track, to implore mercy for her son from the Viceroy in person, and her dismay when her petition was referred by him to his "duly constituted advisers," shows how impossible it is for the natives to understand the ideas of the dominant race; and, what is more, how wildly impossible it is to conceive of an India governed directly by the House of Commons, or, still worse, by a Parliament of its own composed chiefly of Anglicized Baboos.

Mr. Raikes's answer to the old question, why English mail-vessels carry foreign letters to the East at $1\frac{1}{2}d.$ per half-ounce while English letter-writers are charged $5d.$, was as logical and as unconvincing as ever. We have to give, says the Postmaster-General, a fixed subsidy to the mail-vessels, and therefore it pays the Post Office to attract foreign custom, even at $1\frac{1}{2}d.$ per half-ounce. Quite true, no doubt, if the British Government were nothing but a merchant trying to buy in the cheapest and sell in the dearest market, regardless of the injury his competition might inflict on his neighbours. But has the Post Office ever calculated what the gain of a few thousands in postage may mean in possible loss of custom to English manufacturers and shippers? Is it not time that an English Government Department abandoned the principle of charging discriminating rates of an exceptionally favourable nature to its foreign customers, and taxing its own subjects to make up the deficiency, even though the ostensible result of the change be to diminish the net balance to the credit of the Post Office by some ten or twenty thousand pounds per annum?

Here and there in Ireland, "*rari nantes in gurgite vasto*," appear some half-dozen representatives of the old extirpated Celtic aristocracy. They seem to fare quite as ill at the hands of their National League tenantry as do the descendants of the Anglo-Saxon grantees. Such are, the O'Connor Don, a nineteenth-century scion in the direct male line of Roderick, the last King of Ireland; the M'Murrough Kavanagh, a descendant of the famous Dermot Mac Murrough "who brought the Norman o'er;" and others who at different times have enjoyed the fierce hostility of the National League. The Celt just now most conspicuous in that way is the O'Grady of Kilballowen, county Limerick, whose tenantry have joined the Plan of Campaign, and who has got the Court of Bankruptcy to lock up their ringleader, Morony. The times have changed, indeed, for Celtic chief as for Anglo-Saxon landlord, and Campaigners make no nice distinction as to origins. Yet there are sentimental English Radicals who believe that Ireland is angry over nothing but "alien" rule!

A plan issued as a Parliamentary Paper gives a very clear idea of the progress made with the building of the Forth Bridge. An elevation of the whole structure is shown; the completed work being coloured red and the work in position yellow. The whole of the foundations have been put in, and the main piers have been built up to the point from which the main supporting arms radiate. The girders for the land sections at either end are also ready to be placed on the piers as soon as the latter have been brought up to their full height; and we may assume that the ironwork for the various parts of the three main sections is in a forward state. Indeed, the plan is very far from showing the present condition of the work, for the engineers reported, at the meeting of the company last August, that all the main piers were completed. Whether the hope then expressed, that the bridge would be completed during 1887 will be realized remains to be seen. The Forth Bridge is not a beauty, but the elevation shows at a glance how careful the designers have been to avoid the mistake which led to the frightful disaster on the Tay—that of opposing too great a resistance to the lateral pressure of the wind in proportion to the height and width of the structure. When the Forth Bridge blows down it will be a bad look-out for the "noble ruin" on Calton Hill.

The use of bad language in the public streets is so common among certain classes of the community that the practice has ceased to be regarded as one that involves the risk of unpleasant consequences to those who indulge in it. A wholesome lesson on this point is conveyed by a case which came before the City Summons Court yesterday. A cabman was summoned for using abusive language while having an argument with another cabman on a cab-rank. When told to go away, his language, according to the evidence of a police constable, became truly shocking. The defendant, in excuse, pleaded that he was not aware that he had used any bad language at all. The presiding alderman nevertheless fined him $5s.$ and costs, with the alternative of three days' imprisonment; at the same time observing that "the defendant and men like him seemed to have an idea that they could use what language they liked in the streets; but the sooner he and others disabused their minds of this notion the better." A purification of the language used in the streets of London is certainly much to be desired. It is, however, probable that the erring cabman did not realize the full force of the terms he employed on the occasion which brought him to trouble. The most horrible imprecations and epithets are frequently regarded in certain circles as perfectly harmless expressions; in fact, as a kind of eloquence without affectation, worthy of admiration rather than blame.

THE REAL HISTORY OF THE CROFTER.

THE Duke of Argyll's new book, "*Scotland as It Was, and as It Is*," is certainly open to the remark that it has been written with a "tendency." The Duke, who is not only a great Highland proprietor but a great improver of his estates on the principles of agricultural improvement which have hitherto prevailed universally, suddenly finds himself confronted with the accusation that he has robbed numbers of his small tenantry of certain fragments of a primeval agrarian paradise which still linger on the earth and which had fallen to their lot. He has, therefore, written this book to set forth the true history of landed property and of agriculture in Scotland. It is not improbable that many persons have suspected that the crofter who has had his grievances paraded by ignorant and reckless advocates greedy for his vote, and who has had Acts of Parliament passed for his relief, is an arrant impostor; but, to judge how great an impostor he is, one must read these volumes. The peasantry of the Scottish islands and coasts is shown, with the greatest clearness, to have no shadow of claim to be regarded as the cultivators of ancient village communities which have gradually fallen under the tyranny of landlords. The crofters are no older than the last century; and are the descendants of a mixed multitude of men from all parts of the north of Scotland, recruited not by the chief of any Highland clan or by any superior holder of land, but by simple "tacksmen" or leaseholders, who brought them together to the spots where they are now settled. The explanation of their number and of their increasing poverty is that they were attracted by that short-lived but for a while most profitable industry—the extraction of soda and potash from kelp, the sea-weed produced in vast quantities on the long coast-line of the Scottish islands and on the shores of the numerous inlets in Northern Scotland. The only possible relief that can be permanently administered to their distress is emigration, which was once practised on the largest scale, but which has fallen into abeyance under the influence of the charlatans who have taken up the crofters' cause.

How has the delusion arisen which leads well-meaning sentimentalists and reckless agitators to represent the crofters as an ancient class cruelly wronged by very modern landlords? It has arisen from supposing the conclusions of learned and observant men (who must be much astonished at the use made of their labours) to be quite as true of the matters to which they refer as they may have been a thousand and more years ago. Undoubtedly the lands now inhabited by Celtic communities were once occupied by Celtic tribes, of which the different portions were under chiefs who led them to their ceaseless wars. There are some fragments of evidence on the dim verge of history which indicate the way in which parts of the land of the tribe were held by groups of tribesmen for purposes of cultivation and of herding cattle. The tribal state of society has long since disappeared; and, indeed, the first time at which the historian hears of the Irish and Scottish tribes they are under the most grievous oppression—not from any landlord, Saxon, Norman, or Celtic, but from their own chiefs: who harassed them cruelly—not by the collection of rents, for no means of collecting rent existed, but by visiting their lands with an enormous company of retainers and placing on them every species of exaction. What is true of some part of the Scottish Highlands, and what has given rise to the current delusions, is that, though tribal holdings of land are as extinct as the fashion of dressing exclusively in skins, the methods of cultivation which were once associated with such holdings survive to a small extent, or survived within comparatively recent time. It is possible that the division of farms into small pieces at considerable distance from one another, of tilling long strips of land in turn, and even of living in a common dwelling (which was a practice in some districts of the Highlands within the present century), have descended to the present crofters from far-off ages when property in land (so far as anything like ownership existed) took the same forms. The mistake of the crofters' friends lies in the rash assumption that nothing has taken place between the era of tribal holdings and the present time. The Duke of Argyll's book makes a complete exposure of this gross error. He gives us the real history of landed property in Scotland during many centuries. He shows that it went through many changes at the hands of competent national authorities—the Scottish kings and the Scottish Parliaments; and he insists that the great object of these changes was to improve the pre-existing system, more particularly by giving definiteness to the indefinite, and by substituting fixed claims and payments for the irregular and indefinite exactions which are characteristic of barbarism. Charters and leases, the Duke insists, had no object but this. Property is of enormous antiquity in the Celtic countries; but it inherited from primeval barbarism a number of privileges which were publicly mischievous and privately oppressive from the want of strict limitation and definition. Ricardo's theory of the growth of rent (and the Duke of Argyll has the greatest dislike of Ricardo) gives no true account of its origin in the countries with which the Duke deals. In them it began in a lenient composition for older and severer liabilities.

In the portions of the book which lie apart from its main contention there is a great deal which should have the deepest interest for us at a time when anarchical fancies are tempting men to find remedies for existing ills in a return to the institutions which belong to downright barbarism. During so much of their history as is known, the Highlands have always

been over-populated, relatively to a supply of food which till recent times was kept scanty by agricultural ignorance. The civilized remedy for over-population is emigration; there is none other which may be so much as named among men. The barbarous remedies are pillage of other men's lands or of their produce, or the division of land into common holdings. It is very curious that the modern redundant population of the Highlands, which has mainly arisen from some of the discoveries of civilization, should have been exclusively taken in hand by practitioners whose knowledge does not extend beyond the barbarous pharmacopoeia. The stimulus was first given to population by Lady Mary Wortley Montagu's introduction of inoculation from Turkey. It spread through the Highlands long before vaccination was heard of, and put a stop to small-pox, which had begun to rob whole villages of their children. The fertility of the people was further increased by the potato, which came into use throughout Europe in the later part of the last century, and had the same effects in Northern Scotland as in Ireland. Lastly, science gave, and before very long took away, a source of wealth to the Highlanders and islanders which added largely to their numbers—the kelp industry. When this decayed emigration was tried, amid every sort of discouragement, but with the most brilliant success; one great proprietor, Lord Selkirk, leading his people to those virgin lands in America of which the British farmer hears so much under their new name of Manitoba. But the modern Scottish and Irish Radical treats emigration as cruelty: with the result that the very populations who would thrive most in new countries are kept at home by political petting, to starve and to steal.

THE PLEASURES OF A SCOTCH SCHOOL INSPECTOR.

SCHOOL-INSPECTING has had most of the romance knocked out of it by this time, and the men appointed of late years to fixed districts must find it a comparatively tame business. You may make an efficient inspector nowadays without being able to wade the Spey on stilts. In the old days, however, when the Scotch inspectors were few in number, and had to peregrinate the country yearly from Yarrow to Skye, the life had its vicissitudes and even its perils. The school that could be examined in an hour might take a day to find. You never knew what might happen, either; for the old dominies in the north were a cantankerous people. One would receive you as if you were a king, another would bar you out, and a third would have no pupils till the harvest was over. The inspector of to-day, unless he is paying a "surprise visit," notifies his intention to hold the examination on a certain day at ten o'clock, and something has happened if he is an hour late. It was very different when you had to cross to a school in Orkney from the mainland, with the chance of being washed ashore about a week afterwards on the wrong side of the island.

The work became more exciting as you went north, partly owing to the scarcity of bridges. The roads were rough enough to shake a trap to pieces, but still it was better to get into a dog-cart and hold on to the side than to walk. The worst of the roads, however, was that they had a way of ending on a river's brink and beginning again on the other side. If there had not been a "spate" the driver dashed boldly into the water, and after a struggle you got across. The stories with which you were beguiled at the country inns were generally about accidents at these fords—and the inspector sometimes preferred to cross on stilts. Stilts were generally kept at the ford, but never, so far as my experience goes, more than one pair. Thus, if they were on the wrong side of the river you had to wait, perhaps for hours, until some other wayfarer crossed. A school-inspector of to-day, whose talk is of the Differential Calculus or his new edition of Aristophanes, would think it an undignified thing to be carried across a river on the back of a brawny Highlander on stilts. But I have known one inspector cross a stream in this way, and I have often seen tourists carried over in the same fashion. There were times when one had to turn back after driving long distances. You would start on a fine sunny day, taking little notice of the mist on the hills, and arrive at what was a shallow burn two hours ago but is now a roaring torrent. It is in Skye that this phenomenon is most frequently seen. No one who has not witnessed it can easily believe how the rivers rise there: even the natives live in wonder. It used to be as important for a school-inspector to be a good swimmer as to be learned in the dead languages. I myself have known one who, when he could not get a boat to take him from one school—that is to say, from one island—to another, swam across in his clothes. (I believe a parliamentary candidate has done the same thing at the same place more recently.) The same inspector was storm-stayed in the dreary little village of Grantoun, where there is nothing to do except to count the inhabitants and discover how many of them are not called Grant. He was at the window of this inn and heard some one outside singing a Gaelic song with a refrain like this: "Pogua mema, allalula." I know no Gaelic: that is merely how the words sounded. He knew no Gaelic either; but he said "Pogua mema, allalula" to the chambermaid, and she ran out of the room. He tried it on a female pupil-teacher in presence of a minister, and the one blushed while the other frowned. Then he inquired of some schoolmaster what it did mean, and was told it was Gaelic for "Come and kiss me, darling."

In those days, I should say, the inspector was more feared but better liked than he sometimes is at present. The schoolmaster was more completely at his mercy; for the teachers were not so able to publish their grievances then as they are nowadays. So far as the inspector was concerned, they had perhaps fewer grievances, for the appointments are now made on a different principle. Of late our Governments, or rather the Education Departments who have the appointments, have preferred to give them to brilliant graduates who have no practical know-

ledge of teaching, and consequently neither understand nor make allowances for the schoolmasters' difficulties. Now that the teachers have their annual conferences and their newspapers "devoted to the scholastic interests," they can "show the inspectors up;" which must in itself be a great relief. The dominies of the old school were as unlike their dapper successors of to-day as the smoky hovels in which they taught were unlike the new "educational institutes;" and a few of them exist still. Up in the Scotch Highlands they regarded the new inspectors from Oxford with a suspicion that was probably reciprocated, and examination-day was a case of Greek meeting Tartar. There was the dominie who inveigled you into his house and placed a bottle of fiery whisky before you, with a simple cunning that had long since laid its plan. I remember one dominie who hovered round the inspector, taking notes; and if the latter displeased him there was a "row." You would occasionally arrive at a school and find it closed. Not only were the children off to the harvest, but their preceptor had gone too. Perhaps the obsequious dominie was the one against whose wiles you had to be most guarded. He would meet your chaise at some distance from the school, and explain that if the driver would put up at a farm-house some miles distant he would escort you to the school and carry your bag. Pretending to take a short cut, he would lose you in some wilderness, with intent to make you very late for the examination. The man who had his pupils arranged round the door, to bow like willows shaken by the wind when you appeared, was pretty sure to have been playing pranks with his "register." Then there was no getting some of these old fellows—capital teachers they might be, though, after a fashion—to adhere to the New Code. The "new-fangled" appliances were sent to them, such as maps etc.; but when you arrived to hold the examination there were no maps there. The dominie had a thousand ways of evading your questions on the subject; but if you persisted in having the maps, they would eventually be produced, from the inside, perhaps, of a hen-house, where they had been hung to keep the chickens warm. The ministers were generally present at these examinations; though they were not always on speaking terms with the teacher. I have heard a minister soundly rating the dominie before all the scholars—of whom there might not be more than a dozen—for not providing the inspector and himself (the minister) with lunch. The best story I remember in this connection is one that has the additional merit of unquestionable authenticity. In a village school in Elgin the minister attended to open the examination with prayer. Just as the prayer ended, a scholar entered who was by no means notorious for his cleanliness. "Michty!" cried a little boy, as his eyes fell on the apparition at the door, "there's Jock Tamson wi' his face washed!" Inspection-day was notable in some parts, if for nothing else, for the gala-dress in which the scholars appeared. Nowadays there are no such preparations; and our schoolmasters have forgotten, if they ever knew, that their predecessors used to address the school the day before the examination, warning the scholars against daring to show their faces next day unless they had donned their "Sabbath clothes."

A BUNDLE OF LETTERS: 1603-1607.

A MORNING spent in looking through bundle after bundle of slips of paper, each slip being a copy or *résumé* of a letter addressed to the great Minister Robert Cecil, shakes one's confidence in the idea that before the days of penny post public men were less persecuted by correspondence than they are now. It is astonishing to find upon what trivial matters the Prime Minister of Elizabeth and James the First was addressed. The care of the royal sports and pastimes might have seemed work enough for one man; yet, with all the State business that fell to Cecil's share, scarcely a hawk or hound was sent as a present to royalty until a correspondence had passed between the giver and the Minister; not a deer was stolen from a royal park—and a large number were taken during the early years of James I.'s reign—but Cecil was expected to look into the matter and see that the thieves were captured. It is only fair, however, to add that many a haunch of venison, many a couple of good dogs, and many a falcon indemnified the Minister for his toil in superintending the affairs of the chase; while for his zeal in taking higher game than stag or heron, his skill in tracking to earth Popish spies and recusants, James dubbed his trusty servant his "little beadle." Higher honours there were, of course; and here we may see the Sir Robert Cecil, to whom the letters before 1603 are addressed, changing into Lord Cecil, Lord Cranborne, and Lord Salisbury. Along with quite unimportant epistles in the Cecil correspondence are letters of burning interest. Before 1603 there are long letters from Elizabeth herself, written in a much more statesmanlike style than those of her successor. Side by side with hers we find letters from her favourite Essex, and his rival, Raleigh, with many others of equal note; till, as bundle after bundle is turned over, the great Queen's days pass, and we slip imperceptibly under the rule of a very different Sovereign.

We have here a bundle of letters dated 1603-1607, from which even a few cursory notes, taken almost at random, will be interesting. Raleigh's letters, alluded to above, were written before the shadows arose which were to cloud his fortune but not his fame. Before us is the correspondence touching the Main Plot, Raleigh's arrest, and that of Lord Cobham, Lord Grey, and others. According to one of Cecil's correspondents, neither Raleigh nor Cobham had the least fear of being executed, but confidently awaited the royal pardon; so that, if this be true, James's little comedy (he purposely delayed sending a reprieve till Cobham and Grey were on the scaffold) must have lost its full effect. It is heart-rending, even at this distance of time, to read the many letters which young Grey wrote from the Tower to his friend Cecil. As the eleven years of his captivity slowly passed away his tone grew more and more despondent, his health meanwhile failing, till at last death released him from his prison-house. Cobham, his fellow-captive, also kept up a correspondence with the Minister, constantly complaining of his health, his quarters, and his debts. In the

earlier letters his despicable character comes out very clearly. He was ready by any means to save his own skin, being quite indifferent to the ruin of his friends. In a confession made by one Gawen Harvey (1603), the man—after declaring that he never did anything out of affection to Raleigh (who starved him, he says, in his Guinea journey)—adds that “Lord Cobham many times (with tears) complained to him that if the ladies of the Court had been his friends he would have found more comfort in his affliction.”

At the end of 1604 we find a letter with a notice of the performance of one of Shakspeare's plays. This letter tells us that the comedy was to be acted at the house of Shakspeare's early friend, Lord Southampton; and we further learn from it that the actor Burbage called the play an old one, though it was printed in 1590, but only published under Shakspeare's name in 1598. The writer (Sir Walter Cope) complains that he has been “hunting players, jugglers, and such kind of creatures” all the morning, but “they are hard to find.” Anne of Denmark had a constant succession of plays and masques performed for her amusement; and, as Burbage, who came to Cope's aid, says, “There is no new play that the Queen hath not seen;” “but,” adds Cope, “they have revived an old one called ‘Love's Labour Lost,’ which for wit and mirth, he says, will please her exceedingly.” This is to be played the next night at Lord Southampton's, unless Lord Cranborne sends “a writ to remove the *corpus cum causam* to his own house in the Strand.” Burbage himself carried this letter; and it is not likely that the Minister disturbed an arrangement that had been made with so much trouble. In 1605 we have a letter from Ben Jonson to Cecil, now Lord Salisbury; whom the poet addresses as one “who approaches the divine goodness and supplies it here on earth,” begging him to release him from prison, where he and one Chapman have been thrust, unexamined and unheard. “The cause is (the word irks me, that our fortune hath necessitated us to so despised a course) a play, my lord, whereof we hope there is no other than can justly complain.” If guilty, they will embrace the asinine virtue, patience; but “they deal not charitably who, too witty in another man's works, utter sometimes their own malicious meanings under our words.” [Here we have a reference to the practice of “gagging,” as common on the stage at that time as it has ever been since.] “I call God to testimony (since my first error, which is punished in me more with shame than it was then with my body) I have attempered my style that I have given no cause to any good man of grief; and if to any ill by touching at any general vice, it hath always been with a regard and sparing of particular persons.” “Let me be examined, both by all my works past and this present, and not trust to rumour, but my books . . . whether I have ever (in anything I have written, private or public) given offence to a nation, to any public order or state, or any person of honour or authority.” He concludes by asking Salisbury either to have them tried or liberated, when, “freeing us from prison, you shall remove us to another, which is eternally to bind us and our muses, to the thankful honouring of you and yours to Posterity, as your own virtues have, by many descents of ancestors, ennobled to time.” The play must be “Eastward Hoe!” for which Jonson and its two other authors, Chapman and Marston, were imprisoned in 1605; and by his “first error” Jonson means the duel he fought in his youth, when he killed a fellow-actor and was imprisoned accordingly for some time.

Another letter of this date, taken at hap-hazard from the bundle, relates to the supposed Puritan leanings of Prince Henry, and is written by Sir John Harrington to Sir Thomas Challoner. Sir John is much scandalized by a sermon he has heard of, which contains the following prophecy:

Henry the 8 puld down Abbeys and cells,
But Henry the 9 wil pul down Bishops and bells.

The zealous courtier even goes so far as to say that the author of this impious rhyme deserves hanging, adding: “He should be found out, bolted out first, and bolted in after, with bolts of his heels”—surely an awful punishment. Another interesting letter (written in 1607) refers to Queen Elizabeth's tomb in the Abbey, which had apparently just been finished. The writer, one Nicholas Hillyarde, says that, hearing Salisbury wished “to see the tomb of our late Sovereign,”

I desire that I may be there to shew you my opinion in some things that may yet be done, but I hope you will like it very well. I requested to have the trimmings of the said tomb, because as a goldsmith I understand how to set forth and garnish a piece of stone-work. Not with much gilding to hide the beauty of the stone, but where it may grace the same, and no more. And having skill to make my radiant colours liker unto anills (enamels) than yet is to painters known, I would have taught someone, which would not have made it common, thinking the work had been of your lordship's cost, because of your calling me to have care of it. Had once envy enough about a Great Seal for my doing well in other men's offices.

John de Critz and Maximilian Poutrain are generally said to have been the artists of Elizabeth's tomb; but from this letter it appears that Hillyarde had a hand in it, and at the same time that he was not content with the share that had been allotted to him. A memorandum, dated April 9, 1607, records that the King desires payment to Cornelius Cure, the master-mason who superintended the design and erection of his mother the Queen of Scots' tomb in Westminster Abbey, of the sum of £825 10s., besides all the further expenses of the marble and other materials. No feeling for his mother's fate prevented the King from making her monument and Elizabeth's so much alike that it is difficult to say which sepulchre James intended to be the finest. But it must be added that when in 1607 the Prince of Nassau sent him a picture of the Queen of Scots, “taken to the life, when the Prince saw her in France,” this cold-hearted son had the grace to say that the Prince could not have given him “a greater jewel than the image of his mother.”

Gilbert, Earl of Shrewsbury, writes constantly to the Minister, generally about domestic matters, or complaining of his own fits of gout, or condoling with Lord Salisbury on the same affliction. In one letter, dated the 14th of December, 1607, he makes an interesting allusion to old Bess of Hardwick, the Dowager-Countess of Shrewsbury his step-mother and mother-in-law, who spent the last years of her busy ambitious life in retirement at Hardwick Hall. The Earl and his wife had lately been on a visit to Hard-

wick, and found there, he says, “a lady of great years, great wealth, and great wit, which yet still remaineth. She used me with all the kind respect and shew of good affection that might be; stayed us there with her one day, and so in all kindness I returned, without any repetition or so much as one word of any former suits or unkindness; neither was there any motion on either side, but only compliment, courtesy, and kindness.” Many of the Earl's letters speak of family quarrels, and of the ill-usage which he and his wife had to endure at the hands of the old lady; but the unwonted and belated peace between them probably lasted till Bess's death. Just two months after he writes again to Lord Salisbury with news of her decease. She “died,” he says, “last evening at five o'clock;” and “had the blessing of sense and memory to the last.”

MRS. PAPENDIEK'S JOURNALS.*

THE student of the eighteenth century—and more particularly he who loves to enter into the little life of the period, so to speak—will welcome with delight the volumes of “Mrs. Papendiek's Journals.” One regret he may feel—that the mind and the pen which would have revelled among these picturesque materials in the task of reconstruction is laid to rest, and is powerless to fashion some new story of the time of the Georges. To Thackeray such a book as this would have been a perfect treasure.

Mrs. Papendiek was the daughter of Mr. Frederick Albert, one of the scanty retinue of three which accompanied Charlotte Sophia, bride-elect of his late Majesty George III., from Mecklenburg-Strelitz to the larger splendours of London. Mr. Albert, apparently with some reluctance, provided himself with a wife, at the command of his royal mistress, before he quitted his native shores; a reluctance the more reasonable since the Princess named the lady. Mdme. Albert turned out a harmless but dull and stolid woman, very incapable of companionship with her husband or with Charlotte, her bright and intelligent firstborn. It was due to her influence that her daughter, at an early age, was induced to marry Mr. Papendiek, whose position in the royal household would appear to the uninitiated to have been of a menial character. Queen Charlotte, who understood these matters, did not approve of such a *mésalliance* for the daughter of her own gentleman attendant, and gave the girl-bride, on her first appearance at the palace, a crushing lecture on the married duties of a “young person.” Except, then, for a few years passed happily at school at Streatham, the uneventful life of Mrs. Papendiek was spent in the peaceful precincts of Kew or Windsor. From her earliest days she was nurtured in the precincts of the Court. She had the run of the royal nurseries, could boast princes and princesses as her sponsors at the font, and, in a word, enjoyed all that familiarity with the great of this world which is granted to a confidential attendant. From childhood upwards she heard and knew all the talk and rumours of the royal household—talk of the terrible and dangerous reductions of perquisites and privileges which, by lessening the splendour of the King and Queen's gentlefolk, were likely to encourage Mr. Fox and other dangerous demagogues to imitate the conduct of the French towards their Sovereign and his consort; talk of the last new intrigue of the Prince of Wales with Perdita or Mrs. Fitzherbert, or of his illicit establishments in Hampshire and elsewhere; talk of the jealousies and sorrows which fill the lives of royal followers as well as those of their less splendid brethren, the unknown *bourgeoisie*. The charming unconsciousness of the writer, the mingled awe and affection in her mind for the powers that be, make the effective interest of these volumes. To her eyes even that ill-conditioned person the Prince of Wales “had a countenance of a sweetness and intelligence quite irresistible.” Elsewhere she remarks of the “First Gentleman in Europe” that he “showed an elegance quite irresistible in everything he did before the public, whether in dancing, music, or what not.” Indeed, if her partiality be not over-zealous, the Prince was in early years more sinned against than sinning, and was encouraged rather than checked in vicious courses by his guardians—Colonel, afterwards Lord, Lake and Colonel Hulse. Mrs. Papendiek had an unstudied but effective power of character-portrayal, and she has drawn sketches of Queen Charlotte which seem lifelike. Quick and clever as Mrs. Papendiek shows herself, she was by birth and training a pure German; and one value of her picture of the thoroughly foreign home-life of George III. lies in her sympathy with and affinity to the German traditions of Queen Charlotte.

The interest, however, of these volumes is not confined to Miss Papendiek's experiences of royal persons or the gossip of the palaces. Her husband's musical talents, her own tastes and opportunities, brought her in contact with many of the famous men of the musical, artistic, and scientific world. Free access to theatres, the predominance of Germans in the world of fashionable music, intercourse with many minds, brought her acquainted with all that was interesting and prominent. She was intimate with Zoffany, the once famous painter; with Johann Bach, son of the great composer and himself a man of genius; and later with Herschel, once an itinerant bandsman but then Astronomer-Royal. And, not least interesting to note, she had come in her girlish school-days at Streatham to be a constant visitor with the Thrales. At their house she met Miss Burney, the Queen's Reader, to whose post she later succeeded; and gained the favour of the great Dr. Johnson himself, “because he said I was frank and open-hearted and liked to be corrected.” There, too, she met Sir Joshua Reynolds, then attracted by the charms of “pretty and graceful Angelica Kauffman;” and she was of the audience when Miss Burney read out aloud the new novel “Evelina,” the authorship of which she had not previously revealed to them—a work which Dr. Johnson “introduced to us, saying that a novel of a new character had been put into his hand, in which each of the persons introduced spoke in his or her own line, and that the moral was unobjectionable.”

* “The Journals of Mrs. Papendiek.” Edited by Mrs. Broughton. (London: Richard Bentley and Son. 1887.)

THE ST. JAMES'S GAZETTE.

FOURTH EDITION.

EARTHQUAKE IN FRANCE.

LOSS OF LIFE.

PANIC AT NICE, MONTE CARLO, AND CANNES.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.)

NICE, Feb. 23.—Several severe earthquake shocks were felt here early this morning. One house fell in, burying three persons in its ruins. The roofs of several others were cracked and fell partly into the street. The clocks stopped at 5.37 A.M. Several persons are stated to have been killed and injured. At Mentone, which was also visited by the shocks, the railway traffic has been suspended, in order that the tunnels may be inspected by the engineers. Despatches received from Leghorn and Milan state that the seismic disturbance extended to those places.

Noon.—Between five and eight o'clock this morning four earthquake shocks were felt here. Numerous casualties are reported. Two houses in the St. Etienne and St. Philippe fell in, three persons being buried in the ruins. The Maison Bourke has also fallen in. Great panic prevails, and the whole of the population are in the streets. The railway station is besieged by visitors anxious to get away.

CANNES, Feb. 23.—Three earthquake shocks occurred here at six o'clock this morning, the first being of a very violent character and lasting one minute. The second and third were slighter. Many of the inhabitants rushed from their houses in alarm, and went for safety to the sea-shore. No person is reported to have been injured.

PARIS, Feb. 23, 11.50 A.M.—Later particulars received here from the South state that the earthquake shocks this morning were felt at several places in Provence between five and six o'clock.

TOULON, Feb. 23.—Two violent shocks of earthquake were felt here at six o'clock this morning, the direction of the oscillations, which lasted fifteen and twelve seconds respectively, being from west to east.

AVIGNON, Feb. 23.—Three shocks of earthquake were felt here this morning between the hours of six and eight. The first shock, which was very violent, awoke all the inhabitants. No person was injured.

MARSEILLES, Feb. 23, 10 A.M.—The earthquake was felt here this morning, but no person has been injured, nor is any damage at present reported beyond the cracking of the walls of several houses.

GENEVA, Feb. 23.—Several shocks of earthquake were felt here at six o'clock this morning.

(CENTRAL NEWS TELEGRAM.)

NICE, Wednesday morning.—Two severe shocks of earthquake, each lasting for some seconds, were experienced here at about six o'clock this morning. Houses even of a substantial nature and the hotels rocked, walls were cracked, and many buildings collapsed. The utmost alarm prevailed. The panic-stricken people ran into the streets after the first shock, some only partially dressed. The second shock, which was more severe than the first, increased the panic. Up to half-past eight, however, no further shocks have been experienced. A calmer feeling prevails, but visitors are making arrangements for hasty departure.

Nice is at present crowded with English visitors. The Prince of Wales is at Cannes, and is quite safe.

Telegrams received here state that the shock was felt at about the same hour at Monaco, Monte Carlo, and even as far as Genoa. At Monte Carlo some rocks in the cliff were disturbed by the earthquake and fell into the sea.

(EXCHANGE COMPANY'S TELEGRAM.)

MONTE CARLO, Wednesday, 8 A.M.—A severe shock of earthquake occurred here at six o'clock this morning, lasting one minute, causing rocks and houses to fall. Thousands of people are now standing in the square in a state of terror. No further shock has been felt since six o'clock.

THE QUEEN.

Speaking at a Jubilee meeting at Folkestone yesterday, Lady Folkestone said the women's offering to the Queen was to be purely a personal present to her Majesty. "One thing I have heard talked about," continued Lady Folkestone, "is an equestrian statue of the Prince Consort; but nothing has yet been decided. If we put ourselves in the Queen's place for a moment, I think it would be found that we should like some such memento. I do not think you realize how lonely the Queen's life is. I was talking to Princess Christian not very long ago, and she said to me, 'You do not know how lonely mamma is.' She feels as if all her old friends were dying off one by one. All her daughters are married and have left her, except Beatrice, and she is so lonely! One cannot be astonished at this who looks back to the time when the Prince Consort was all in all to her. Hers was purely a marriage of affection. We cannot be astonished in this Jubilee year that she desires to show the people of England how much she longs for support, and that she still looks back to the past. Is it any wonder if she wishes to do honour to the man she loves so well?"

THE IMPERIAL INSTITUTE.

The Lord Mayor presided yesterday at a meeting of the Mansion House Committee formed to promote the Imperial Institute scheme, and said they must regard it as settled that unless £300,000 could be found to purchase another site, South Kensington alone was available for the Institute. A resolution was passed to invite subscriptions to a fund, 70 per cent. of which would go to the Imperial Institute, and the remainder to a commercial museum in the City.

THE GOVERNMENT POLICY IN IRELAND.

LORD ASHBOURNE AND THE CABINET.

The *Dublin Express* has received the following from its London correspondent:—The Government, I believe, are seriously considering the question of grappling finally with the National League. The open defiance of the law, the mocking audacity of the more notorious members of the infamous conspiracy against life, law, and liberty, and the recrudescence of assassination are forcing home on the Government the necessity for this step.

The London correspondent of the *Freeman's Journal* says:—The Government have decided at last to substitute for the policy of pressure against the landlords a policy of extermination against the tenants. The work of eviction is henceforth to go on with extraordinary vigour; and the Chief Secretary, I am told, has undertaken, and everything possible will be done by the Irish Executive, to make up for previous weakness of action, which is attributable to Lord Ashbourne. I hear his lordship is not unlikely to find himself outside the Cabinet before many days. The movement against him is growing in the Government and out of it; and the outcry against his alleged culpability for the recent blunders of the Irish Executive is becoming more audible among the rank-and-file of the Tory party. Last evening it was openly stated that Lord Ashbourne would be obliged to tender his resignation in a few days. The rupture between Lord Salisbury and himself with reference to Sir Thomas Esmonde is stated to have been a serious one; but causes altogether outside Sir Thomas Esmonde's appointment are mentioned as influencing the enemies of Lord Ashbourne to agitate for his withdrawal from the Cabinet.

The London correspondent of the *Leeds Mercury* writes:—I hear that Lord Ashbourne's position in the Cabinet is uncomfortable, and that it is probable that before many weeks are passed he will resign, or, to speak more correctly, will be driven out. The Conservatives, rightly or wrongly, attribute much of the present troubles of the Government in Ireland to the action of Lord Ashbourne. It is said that he has hampered and interfered with the action of the Chief Secretary, and, being almost constantly on the spot, his control over the Irish Government is considerable. A growing suspicion exists that Lord Ashbourne has a kind of secret sympathy with the action of some of the Nationalists, and that he is not so strong and firm in enforcing the law as he ought to be.

THE GERMAN ELECTIONS.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)

BERLIN, Feb. 23, 1 P.M.—The results of 321 elections are now known, and comprise 62 Conservatives, 20 Imperialists, 85 National Liberals, and 61 Centrists three of whom support the Septennate. Thus the elections so far have resulted in the return of 170 members favouring the Septennate, and 103 opponents of the measure, namely, 10 New German Liberals, 6 Socialists, 15 Alsations, 12 Poles, and 2 Guelphs, besides the 58 Centrists.

THE CANADIAN ELECTIONS.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.)

OTTAWA, Feb. 23.—The elections to the Canadian Parliament took place yesterday throughout the Dominion. The Government have obtained a majority of over forty-five, and all the Cabinet Ministers have been re-elected.

HALIFAX, Feb. 23.—The Maritime Provinces have elected a small majority of Government supporters. Sir Charles Tupper has been returned for Cumberland by a large majority. Nova Scotia returns fourteen Unionists, thus reversing the secession majority obtained at the provincial elections in June last. This result puts an end to the secession agitation.

ENGLAND, TURKEY, AND EGYPT.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)

CONSTANTINOPLE, Feb. 22.—It is stated that the Sultan expects to receive shortly a detailed report from Ahmed Moukhtar Pasha upon Sir Henry Drummond Wolff's proposals.

RUSSIA AND AFGHANISTAN.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)

CALCUTTA, Feb. 23.—Owing to the extensive circulation in Afghanistan of a Russian pamphlet which, it is declared, gives an incorrect history of the work of the Boundary Commission, the Ameer has issued a pamphlet furnishing an accurate account of its proceedings. General Roberts will leave here on the 2nd of March for a tour in the North-West Provinces. The Commander-in-Chief also intends to visit Quetta, where he will meet General Chesney.

THE BULGARIAN QUESTION.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)

CONSTANTINOPLE, Feb. 22.—The Commission, composed of several Ministers, which was lately appointed by the Porte to deliberate upon the best settlement of the Bulgarian question, has held several sittings at the Palace during the last few days. Gadban Pasha attended one of them, and is stated to have subsequently expressed to the Grand Vizier his opinion that the only solution of the question would be a Russian occupation of Bulgaria, Turkey occupying Eastern Roumelia. In the event of the rejection of the Porte's proposals to the Regency, the tenor of which is not exactly known, the negotiations for the settlement of the Bulgarian question, without being entirely broken off here, would be continued at Sophia by the Commissioner to be sent by the Porte to the Bulgarian capital. The Bulgarian delegates await M. Natchevitch's reply to the Grand Vizier's proposals before leaving Constantinople. The Grand Vizier requested M. Zankoff to postpone his departure.

THE TROUBLES IN THE FRIENDLY ISLANDS.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)

MELBOURNE, Feb. 23.—Intelligence received here from Tonga Island announces that five more natives have been condemned to death, and that thirty others are awaiting their trial. The British Consul has succeeded in averting further executions, but has otherwise declined to interfere in the matter. The details of the affair are conflicting. The old Wesleyan party accuse the Honourable Shirley Baker of jury-packing and of personally conducting the trials of the natives. They have appealed to Sir C. Mitchell, Governor of Fiji, to despatch a war-ship to the island, where intense excitement prevails. The Roman Catholic priests have appealed for French protection.

THE HOXTON MURDER.

THE PRISONER BEFORE THE MAGISTRATE.

At the Worship-street Police Court this morning, Thomas William Currell was charged on remand with the murder of Lydia Green, by shooting her with a revolver, at 8, Baches-street, Hoxton, on the 8th of February. Mr. Sims, from the office of the Solicitor to the Treasury, appeared for the prosecution, on behalf of the Treasury. Mr. Arthur Newton, solicitor, was for the defence. Currell's demeanour was quiet, and he took little interest in the proceedings. The Treasury had summoned twenty-six witnesses, several of whom have not given evidence at the inquest. Mr. Sims said the facts were somewhat out of the ordinary run of cases of murder, and he thought it convenient to state the outline of the case. Having done so, evidence was heard, the first witness being the mother of the deceased, whose evidence was similar to that given at the inquest.

The case is proceeding.

THE SALFORD GAS SCANDAL.

A special meeting of the Gas Committee of the Salford Corporation was held to-day to consider what action should be taken in view of the recent revelations as to bribery and corruption in connection with the coal contracts. By a majority of twelve to four the committee decided to resign, and thus comply with the demand of a public meeting held last week.

COLLISION IN THE CHANNEL.

The crew of the steamship *Weatherhead*, of Newcastle, bound from Sunderland to Trouville, with coal, were landed at Dover this morning. The captain of the steamer reports that early this morning, when five miles off Folkestone, his vessel was run into by the barque *Valley of Wokington*, from Portland for Hull, with a cargo of wheat. The steamer sank within an hour after the collision, and the crew lost everything. One man is missing, and is supposed to have been drowned.

THE POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.

An account showing the gross amount received and expended on account of the telegraph service during the year ending the 31st of March, 1886, is published as a parliamentary paper to-day. The gross amount received by the Post Office during the year was £1,974,852 11s. 9d. The excess of expenditure over receipts amounted to £45,137 3s. 3d., and the total deficiency of telegraph revenue to meet expenditure and the interest on telegraph stock created in the year ending the 31st of March, 1886, was £371,554 6s. The total deficiency from 1872 to the 31st of March last was £2,553,009 13s. 6d.

THE WEATHER.

The weather forecast issued from the Meteorological Office for the twenty-four hours ending at noon to-morrow says that in the south of England, including London and the Channel, we may expect south-westerly winds, fresh or strong; cloudy, squally, some showers.

THIS DAY'S RACING.

SANDOWN PARK.

METROPOLITAN HUNTERS' FLAT RACE. (About two miles.)—The Sinner (Mr. Thirlwell), 1. Lady Munden (Mr. Abington), 2. Bloodstone (Mr. Villar), 3. The following also started:—Aramis (Captain Jones), Bringari (Mr. Waller), Nosgay (Mr. Coventry), Spark (Captain Sandeman), Azuline (Captain Lee-Barber), Kilworth (Captain Owen), and Stickjaw (Mr. Thompson). Betting: 9 to 4 agst Lady Munden, 7 to 2 agst The Sinner, 5 to 1 agst Bloodstone, 100 to 15 agst Nosgay, 10 to 1 agst Aramis.

ST. JAMES'S STAKES. (Two miles.)—Ducat (Mr. Lambton), 1. Robertson (Mr. E. P. Wilson), 2. Blason (Nightingall), 3. Lady Katharine (Robbins) and Vlvacious (Hale) also started. Betting: 2 to 1 on Ducat, 7 to 2 agst Robertson, 100 to 8 bar two offered.

BETTING BEFORE THE RACING.

LINCOLNSHIRE HANDICAP.—1000 to 60 agst Fulmen (t), 1000 to 60 agst Braw Lass (t), 500 to 30 agst Fullerton (t), 25 to 1 agst Tib (off), 33 to 1 agst Gay Hermit (t), 33 to 1 agst Middlethorpe (t), 33 to 1 agst Isobar (t), 33 to 1 agst Distinian (t and off).

THIS DAY'S MONEY MARKET.

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

The Stock Markets, as was to be expected, have all opened firm this morning because the German election returns presage a victory for the Government. In every department there is a rise, even in the American, although yesterday was a holiday in New York. Still there is little doing, both brokers and jobbers being occupied with the fortnightly Settlement, which begins to-day. So far as can be judged so early, there appears to be still a large speculative account open for the fall.

There is a good demand for short loans in the open market at 3½ per cent., and the rate for three months' bills is 3½ per cent.

Quarter past Two.

The opening of the Stock Markets showed a sensible improvement, in consequence of the result of the German elections, and the improvement in prices has since been increased by reports of firmness on the Continental Bourses; but in some of the leading Foreign stocks prices are rather under the best points. The English Funds improved this morning, but have relapsed, while Home Railways are above the figures quoted at the commencement of business, rates of continuation at the Settlement being in some cases rather easier than last time. American securities, although having no prices yet from New York to work upon, owing to yesterday's holiday there, are firm. The continuation rates on these securities range from 4 to 6 per cent. Grand Trunk of Canada stocks showed very little change at first, but have since improved on the state of the account. Mexican Railway stocks are again especially buoyant, and the rise in prices ranges from 1¼ to 4 per cent. on the favourable course of the traffic, and the easing of rates for carrying over.

The following are the changes as compared with yesterday's closing prices:—In the English Funds, Consols for money are unchanged at 100½ to 101 and for the account (March) at 100 15-16 to 101 1-16; but Reduced and New Three per Cents have advanced ½ to 101½ to 101½. New Two-and-a-Half per Cents are quoted at 88½ to 88½.

In Home Railways, Great Eastern has risen ½, Great Northern A ½, Great Western ¼, Brighton A 1, Chatham Ordinary ¼, the Preference ¼, North-Western ½, Sheffield A ¼, Metropolitan ¼, the District ¼, Midland ¼, North British ¼, North-Eastern ½, and the South-Eastern Deferred ½. In Canadian

and Foreign Railways, Grand Trunk Ordinary has risen ¼, the First Preference ½, the Second ¼, the Third ½, the Guaranteed ½, Canadian Pacific 1, Mexican Ordinary 2½, the First Preference 1¼, and the Second 4.

In Foreign Government Bonds, Egyptian State Domain has risen ¼, the Unified ½, the Preference ½, the Daira ½, Greek of 1881 1, the 1884 1, Hungarian Four per Cent. Gold Rentes ½, Italian Five per Cents. ¾, Mexican Old ¾, Peruvian Six per Cents. of 1870 ¾, the Five per Cents. of 1872 ½, Portuguese Three per Cents. ¾, Russian of 1873 ½, Spanish Four per Cents. 5-16, Turkish Groups III. and IV. ¾.

In American Securities, New York, Pennsylvania, and Ohio First Mortgage Bonds have advanced ¾, Central Pacific shares ½, Milwaukee ¼, Denver ½, Lake Shore ½, Louisville ¾, New York Central ¼, Erie ½, the Second Mortgage ¼, Ontario ½, Pennsylvania ¼, Union Pacific ¼, Wabash Ordinary ¼, and the Preference ½.

The following are some of the rates of continuation current to-day at the Stock Exchange:—Caledonian ¾ to ¾ con., Great Eastern ½ to ¾, Great Western 3-16 to 5-16, London and Brighton A ¼ to ¾, London, Chatham, and Dover Ordinary 1s. to 1s. 6d., London and North-Western 5-16 to 7-16, Metropolitan District even to ¾ con., Midland 3-16 to 5-16, North British 3-16 to 5-16, North-Eastern ¼ to ¾, South-Eastern Deferred ¼ to ¾, Grand Trunk of Canada Ordinary 6d. to 1s., the First Preference Stock ½ to ¾, the Second ½ to ¾, the Third 1-16 to ¾, the Guaranteed ½ to ¾, Mexican Ordinary 3-16 to 5-16, the Eight per Cent. First Preference ¾ to 1, 5-16 to 7-16, the Six per Cent. Second ¼ to ¾, 3-16 to 5-16, Egyptian Four per Cent. Unified 3 to 4 per cent., the Five per Cent. Preference even to 2 con., the Four per Cent. Daira Sanieh 3 to 5, Hungarian Four per Cent. Gold Rentes of 1881 ¼ to ¾ back., Mexican Old Four per Cents. 4 to 6, Peruvian Six per Cents. of 1870 5 to 6, the Five per Cents. of 1872 5 to 6, Portuguese Three per Cents. ¾ back to ¾ con., Russian Five per Cents. of 1873 ¼ to ¾ back, Spanish Four per Cents. 3 to 5.

The Federal Fire Insurance Company (Limited), whose capital is £1,000,000, announce an issue of 100,000 shares of £5 each. The company has been formed for the purpose of carrying on the business of fire insurance in all its branches. The company will be free from the expenditure of the initial expense incurred in the formation and establishing the company, and also for offices and staff, having, it is stated, a well-assured business and large premium income. The business, it is said, will be conducted on the safest and soundest limits of risks, and the directors propose at once to apply for admission to the Fire Offices Committee and adopt their tariffs and regulations.

ENGLISH GOVERNMENT SECURITIES.		
Consols	100½	101
Ditto Account (March) ..	100 15-16	101 1-16
Reduced Three per Cents ..	101½	101½
New Three per Cents	101½	101½
New Two-and-a-Half per Cents ..	88½	88½
India Stock Four per Cent. ..	103½	103
Ditto Three per Cent.	85½	86
Ditto Four per Cent. Rupee Paper ..	70½	70½
Ditto 4½ per Cent. Rupee Paper ..	72½	72½
Bank of England Stock	297	299
Metropolitan 3½ per Cent. ..	107	107½

COLONIAL GOVERNMENT SECURITIES.		
Canada 4 per Cent. of 1910-35 ..	103½	104½
N.S. Wales 4 p. C. of 1903-5-8-9-10 ..	101½	102½
N. Zealand 4 per Cent. Cons. Ins ..	94	95
Queensland 6 per Cent. 1891-96 ..	106	118
S. Australian 4 p. C. of 1894-1916 ..	97	99
Tasmanian 6 per Cent. of 1893-1901 ..	106	120
Victoria 4½ per Cent. of 1904 ..	105	107

AMERICAN SECURITIES.		
United States 4½ per Cent. Bonds ..	110½	111½
Ditto Four per Cent.	130½	131½
Virginia Funded Bonds	52	53
New York, Pennsylvania, and Ohio First Mortgage Bonds ..	47	47½
Central Pacific Shares	33	38½
Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul ..	93½	94
Denver and Rio Grande Shares ..	26	26½
Illinois Shares	131	132½
Lake Shore and Michigan Southern 100-dol. Shares ..	96½	97
Louisville and Nashville 100-dol. Shares ..	63	63½
New York Central Shares	115½	117
New York, Lake Erie, and Western 100-dol. Shares	34½	34½
Ditto Preference Six per Cent ..	72	73
Ditto Second Mortgage Bonds ..	101	101½
New York, Ontario, and Western Shares	18	18½
Ohio and Mississippi Shares ..	27	27½
Oregon and California Seven per Cent. Preference Shares ..	18½	19½
Pennsylvania Shares	57½	57½
Philadelphia and Reading Share ..	19	19
Ditto General Mortgage Bonds ..	105½	106½
Union Pacific Shares	58½	58½
Wabash, St. Louis, and Pacific Ordinary Shares	17	17½
Ditto 100-dol. Preference	25½	30

BRITISH AND FOREIGN RAILWAY STOCKS.		
Caledonian	97½	97½
Great Eastern	65½	65
Great Northern Ordinary	114	115
Ditto A	100	101
Great Western	135	136½
Lancashire and Yorkshire ..	115½	11½
London and Brighton Ordinary ..	125	127
Ditto A	112½	112½
London, Chatham, & Dover Ord ..	21½	21½
Ditto 4½ per Cent. Preference ..	97	97½
London and North-Western ..	104	104½
London and South-Western ..	120	127
Manchester, Sheffield, & Lincoln ..	65	66
Ditto A	35½	35½
Metropolitan	108½	109
Metropolitan District	38½	39
Midland	125	125½
North British	99½	99½
North-Eastern	151½	151½
North Staffordshire	90½	91½
South-Eastern Ordinary	124	125
Ditto Deferred	103½	103½
Grand Trunk of Canada Ordinary ..	12½	12½
Ditto First Preference Stock ..	74½	74½
Ditto Second Preference Stock ..	56½	56½
Ditto Third Preference Stock ..	20½	20½
Ditto Guaranteed	72½	73
Canadian Pacific Shares	64	64½
Buenos Ayres & Pac. 7 p.c. Shares ..	23½	24½
Ditto 7 p.c. Debentures	120	125
Lombardo-Venetian	72½	74
Mexican Ordinary	55	55½
Ditto Eight per Cent. First Pref ..	117½	117½
Ditto Six per Cent. Second Pref ..	79½	80
Ditto Six per Cent. Perpetual ..	119	121
Debenture Stock	119	121

MISCELLANEOUS SHARES.		
Australian Agricultural	118	122
Anglo-Am. Brush Light (43 paid) ..	2	2½
Hudson's Bay	22	22½
National Discount	10½	11
Peninsular and Oriental Steam ..	60	61
Royal Mail Steam	37	39
Suez Canal	77½	77½

FOREIGN STOCK MARKETS.		
Argentine Six per Cent. of 1868 ..	103½	101½
Ditto Six per Cent. of 1871 ..	102	104
Ditto 6 p. Cent. Hard Dol. Bond ..	71	72
Austrian Four p. Ct. Gold Rentes ..	85	87
Ditto Five per Cent. Silver	62½	63½
Brazilian Five per Cent. of 1865 ..	100	101
Ditto Five per Cent. of 1871 ..	98	99
Ditto Five per Cent. of 1875 ..	98	99
Ditto 4½ per Cent. of 1883 ..	99	91
Buenos Ayres Six per Cent. of 187 ..	98½	99½
Ditto Six per Cent. of 1873 ..	97½	98
Chilian 4½ per Cent. Conversion ..	95	99
Chinese Six p. Ct. of 1895, March ..	109	111
Ditto Six p. Ct. of 1895, June ..	107	109
Costa Rica 5 per Cent. Bonds A ..	61	60
Ditto B 4 p. Ct. now 5 p. Ct. 1888 ..	57	58
Egyptian Three p. Ct. Guaranteed ..	98½	99
Ditto Five p. Ct. State Domain ..	91½	92½
Ditto Four per Cent. Unified ..	71½	71½
Ditto Five per Cent. Preference ..	94½	95½
Ditto Four p. Ct. Daira Sanieh ..	68½	63
Entre Rios 6 p. Ct. 1886	89	90
Ditto 6 p. Ct. Ry. Mortgage	93	94
French Three per Cent. Rentes ..	77½	78½
Ditto 4½ per Cent. of 1872 ..	101½	103½
Greek Five per Cent. of 1879 ..	77½	78½
Ditto Five per Cent. of 1881 ..	58½	59½
Ditto Five per Cent. of 1884 ..	58	59
Hungarian Gold Rentes of 1881 ..	76½	77½
Italian Five per Cent. of 1861 ..	94	91½
Mexican Old Three per Cent. ..	26½	26½
Ditto of 1864	11½	12
Norwegian Four per Cent. of 1880 ..	102	104
Peruvian Six per Cent. of 1870 ..	15½	15½
Ditto Five per Cent. of 1872 ..	12½	12½
Portuguese Three per Cent.	53½	53½
Russian Five per Cent. of 1871 ..	93	94
Ditto Five per Cent. of 1872 ..	92½	93½
Ditto Five per Cent. of 1873 ..	93½	93½
Ditto 4½ per Cent. of 1875 ..	85	87
Santa Fe 5 p. Ct. N. C. Ry. Mort ..	97	99
Ditto 5 p. Ct. Extensions Mort ..	89	91
Spanish Four per Cent.	62½	63
Ditto Two per Cent.	46½	46½
Swedish Four per Cent. of 1880 ..	102	104
Turkish Six per Cent. Group 1 ..	20½	21½
Ditto Nine per Cent.	13½	13½
Ditto Six & Five per Ct. .. 384	135-16	137-16
Ditto 4½ p. Ct. Tribute Loan of 1871 ..	69	69½
Ditto Five per Cent. of 1854 ..	92	94
Ditto Five per Cent. Defence ..	80	80½
Uruguay Unified Five p. Ct. of 1863 ..	47½	48

BANKS.		
Anglo-Egyptian	15	16
City	18½	19½
Colonial	30	32
Consolidated	63½	74
Imperial Ottoman	9½	9½
London and County	80½	81½
London and Westminster	63	64
London Joint Stock	36	37
National Provincial (412 paid) ..	49½	50½
Union of London	35½	36½

MINING SHARES.		
Cape Copper	21	23
Indian Consolidated	7½	8
Mason and Barry	8	8½
Montana	7½	8½
Mysore Gold	6½	6½
Oreogum Gold	13-16	15-16
Richmond Consolidated	4½	4½
Rio Tinto	10½	10½
St. John del Rey	29	32
Tharsis Sulphur	3½	4
United Mexican	2½	3½

TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE SECURITIES.		
Anglo American	31½	32
Brazilian Submarine	10½	10½
Consolidated Telephone	7½	7½
Direct United States	7½	8
Eastern	10½	10½
Eastern Extension	10½	11
Globe Ordinary	4½	4½
Ditto Preference	11½	11½
India-rubber, Gutta-percha, and Telegraph Works	21½	23½
Oriental Telephone	3-16	5-16
Telegraph Construction	37½	38½
United Telephone	12½	12½
Western and Brazilian	7½	7½

TRAMWAY SHARES.		
Dublin	10½	10½
Glasgow	12½	13
Liverpool Un. Tram. and Omnibus ..	10½	11½
London	18½	19
London Street	19½	20
North Metropolitan	20½	21

THE EUROPEAN SITUATION.

Much sensation has been caused in Berlin by a scurrilous article which Prince Meschtscherski, the editor of the *Grashdanin*, has published against Prince Bismarck. The article describes the German Chancellor as a species of apocalyptic demon, who is preparing to let loose on Europe a war such as the world has never seen. The *North German Gazette* reproduces the article, and appends the following comment:—"The effusion of the *Grashdanin* passes the bounds of all conceivable carnival ribaldry. The inditer of such hysterical tirades is not merely availing himself of the licence of fools. There is in his foolery some method harmonising with his interests." The *Gazette* adds: "The publisher of the *Grashdanin* deemed it becoming to send his trash to Prince Bismarck direct by post, enclosing it in an envelope sealed with the princely (!) arms of Prince Meschtscherski." Apart from this incident, there is, it is stated, an uneasy sensation prevailing in Berlin at present that matters have taken a turn for the worse again.

All the Vienna papers had articles yesterday morning on the conversion of M. de Giers to M. Katkoff's ideas as expressed by the declaration in the *Nord*, the *Politische*, and the *Journal de St. Pétersbourg*. The Vienna correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph* says:—

The situation is considered by those who know most about it to be serious, quite independently of the German elections; indeed, within the past ten days the outlook in the East has become such that it is by no means certain trouble will not shortly break out in that direction. The armaments of Montenegro correspond strikingly with those of Russia, and I happen to know that some very conclusive information on the subject has just reached the Turkish Government; but there is another source of concern to continental diplomacy—grave misgivings are entertained as to the course of events in Bulgaria. It is now just two months ago since I pointed out, on the strength of trustworthy intelligence, the possibility of a radical change in the form of government in Bulgaria. The idea of erecting the principality into a kingdom had somehow occurred to a certain group of influential Bulgarians, and nothing that has happened since would be calculated to shake their faith in its merits. It is very likely not the only scheme which patriotic Bulgarians have in reserve for delivering their country from the pending uncertainty, though it is not the one that has the least chance of success. In any case, another *coup de théâtre* of some kind at Sophia is looked upon in Vienna as not at all improbable, a circumstance that accounts for precautionary measures reported from Belgrade. A telegram from the Servian capital states that the Minister of War has called in all officers on leave, also those belonging to the reserve.

ENGLAND AND EGYPT.

The Constantinople correspondent of the *Standard* says that the Grand Vizier received Sir Henry Drummond Wolff yesterday and discussed matters with him for about half an hour. It is expected that the formal negotiations will commence in a few days.

GERMANY, ITALY, AND THE POPE.

News received in Paris from Rome from a trustworthy source (the correspondent of the *Daily Chronicle* says) states that in return for the good offices of the Pope in mediating between Spain and Germany on the question of the Caroline Islands, and of the good effect produced by his Holiness's intervention on behalf of the Government candidates in the German elections with a view to obtaining a majority in favour of the Septennate as a means of maintaining peace between France and Germany, the latter country has consented to mediate with Italy in an endeavour to arrange a *modus vivendi* between the Vatican and the Quirinal. The proposal is said to be that that part of Rome including the city Leontine, and the zone from the Vatican to the sea by the Civita Vecchia, should become the absolute property of the Pope. Monsignor di Rende, who returned from Rome on Monday, came charged by the Pope to assure the French Government of the friendly disposition of the Holy See.

ENGLISH OFFICERS AT POTSDAM.

At the invitation of Prince William of Prussia, several English officers now staying in Berlin went to Potsdam on Monday and inspected the Hussars of the Guard, of which regiment his Royal Highness is commander. The *Times*' correspondent says:—

The party, which was under the guidance of Colonel Swaine, British Military Attaché, consisted of Colonel Talbot, 1st Life Guards, Major Ker Fox, and Lieutenant Clementson, both of the 19th Hussars. At the Potsdam Station these officers were met by Prince William's aide-de-camp and his regimental adjutant, who conducted them to the barracks of the Guard Hussars, at the entrance to which they were received and welcomed by his Royal Highness and the major of his regiment. They were then conducted to the riding-school, where guards of troopers in various stages of their term of service were paraded and drilled, and on emerging from the *manège* the party was saluted by a squadron on foot, drawn up in parade-dress, which then displayed its proficiency in sabre and carbine exercises, etc., as well as in infantry skirmishing practice and a march-past. The English cavalry officers were loud in their praise of all they saw. The dismounted squadron included the recruits of last November, and all were as smart and steady as the older soldiers of two years' standing. Prince William then showed his English visitors the men's kitchen, the corporals' mess, and the quartermaster's stores, and after lunch the party attended an officers' ride, which was in every respect perfect of its kind. After then calling on the commandant of Potsdam and the general of cavalry, and visiting Sans Souci, Colonel Swaine and his companions repaired to the palace, on the invitation of the Prince, who showed them his library and some of his wedding presents, graciously presenting to each officer a photograph of himself with signature and date attached. They then dined with the Prince at the regimental mess, and returned to Berlin no less impressed with the soldierly qualities of the young Hohenzollern Prince, heir to the German Crown, than with the splendid efficiency of the crack Hussar regiment which it is his Royal Highness's pride to command.

THE PERSECUTION OF THE CURTIN FAMILY.

Owing to the continued boycotting of Mrs. O'Connell Curtin, whose husband was some time ago murdered near Castleisland while defending his family from a band of Moonlighters, she recently decided to sell her farm and leave that part of the country. Notices of the contemplated sale were posted throughout the district, and a few days later other notices signed Captain Moonlight made their appearance beside them, intimating to all whom it might concern that any one who purchased the farm would meet with the same fate as the late John O'Connell Curtin. Notwithstanding the fact that these were almost immediately torn down by the police, their contents got into circulation. Mr. Meagher, auctioneer, attended yesterday for the purpose of conducting the sale, but there were no bidders and the auction was abandoned. A few private proposals were received, but these were so greatly below the value that they were not entertained. Though a police force has been stationed in a hut close to Mrs. O'Connell Curtin's house since the date of the tragic occurrence, the National Leaguers of the district have contrived to make her life and that of the members of her family a burden to them.

REVOLUTIONARY AGITATION IN RUSSIA.

Letters received in Berlin from St. Petersburg state that the military conspiracy which was recently discovered there appears to be more serious than was at first supposed. The official investigation into the affair still continues. Up to the present time there have been arrested in St. Petersburg five officers of the Marine Corps, two Marine Guards, two members of the Pauloff and two of the Constantinoff Cadet Corps, two members of the Corps of Pages, and two cadets of the Artillery School. Arrests continue to be made also in the interior at Woronesh, Charkoff, and Kieff. It is stated that one officer has already been hanged at Schlüsselburg as the ringleader. The object of the conspiracy was, it is said, to arouse discontent among the soldiers and the fleet on account of the peaceful policy of the Government.

The following account of a factory revolt that recently occurred at Wiaskniki, a small town in Central Russia, shows (the Vienna correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph* says) what spirit prevails among the working classes. The factory belonged to the heirs of a wealthy citizen lately deceased. At four o'clock one afternoon some four thousand workpeople, assisted by a thousand peasants from the neighbourhood, set to work destroying the factory and everything it contained. They broke into the counting-house, beat the cashier and bookkeeper to death, maltreated the manager and threw him into the river, and set fire to that part of the premises which they could not otherwise demolish. It was not until nine o'clock the next night that, by the assistance of two battalions of infantry, order was restored. The authorities declare that the revolt was promoted by the Nihilists. Be that as it may, there is trustworthy information to hand proving that the state of affairs in Russia is getting from bad to worse. Revolutionary propaganda is increasing apace with the poverty and distress brought on by stagnation in trade and industry. Russia has never been in such a critical condition before, and the worst is that there is no apparent issue to it save military aggression.

ACCIDENTS IN THE HUNTING-FIELD.

A serious accident occurred yesterday with the East Kent Foxhounds between Canterbury and Dover, by which two followers of the hounds sustained severe injuries. Miss Fielding, a daughter of General Percy Fielding, Commandant of the South-Eastern District at Dover, was thrown from her horse in attempting to jump a fence. The horse turned a somersault and fell upon the young lady who was rendered unconscious for an hour and a half. Prince de Waldburgh a student at St. Mary's College at Canterbury, who was immediately behind Miss Fielding, slipped off his horse and ran to her assistance. In dismounting he fell, and one of his ears was lacerated. He, however, was able to extricate the lady, and this prevented her from being kicked by her horse. The Prince's courageous conduct was loudly commended by those who witnessed the accident. Miss Fielding was carried on a hurdle to the nearest house.

At the meet of the Essex Hunt at Aldham yesterday, Mr. Curzon, banker, while running with the hounds, was thrown from his horse and fell on his head. He was taken up unconscious and bleeding from a bad wound on his head. He was at once removed to his home at Coggeshall in Sir E. Wood's carriage. Last evening his condition was stated to be serious.

The royal pack of staghounds met at Gerrard's Cross yesterday for sport upon the South Buckinghamshire uplands. Soon after the pack had been laid in and the hounds were in full cry, with the field following at a racing pace, the horse ridden by Frank Goodall, the Queen's huntsman, on reaching a meadow on Golds-hill, suddenly "pecked" and threw him. Goodall, turning a somersault, fell on his head and was picked up in an insensible condition. Mr. T. Wakley was fortunately near at hand, and immediately attended to the sufferer, who was found to have sustained concussion of the brain and other injuries. Goodall, who remained unconscious for a quarter of an hour, was removed to an hotel at Gerrard's Cross, whence he was driven to Slough, and subsequently to Ascot.

OUR ARMED CRUISERS.

A correspondent of the *Times* writes:—"The arrangements for the fitting-out of the merchant-vessels intended to act as auxiliary cruisers to the navy in time of war are almost complete. The Admiralty have pressed forward the preparation of the guns and stores for at least thirty of the vessels, which are to be held at the service of the Government, and the whole of the armaments are expected to be completed by the 31st of March, with the exception of a few spare fittings. The cruisers have been divided into three or four classes, with corresponding crews and armaments, and will be commissioned at Portsmouth, Devonport, and Chatham. The 5 in. gun is the recognized arm of the merchant fleet, and the Admiralty have decided to allot a certain proportion of quick-firing and machine guns to each ship according to its classification in the list."

THE CHELSEA VESTRY AND THE PUBLIC PARKS BILL.

Sir Charles Dilke attended a meeting of the Chelsea Vestry last night, and spoke with reference to the Public Parks and Works (Metropolis) Bill. A resolution that the vestry do dissent from and oppose the Bill having been carried, Sir Charles said that the House of Commons would be asked to refuse the money for the keeping of the parks; and if the money was not granted the parks would go back into a state of nature. If the vestry merely opposed the Bill, they would be defeated. They ought rather to bring a strong case before the Select Committee when the measure was referred to it. The vestry, besides petitioning against the Bill, should urge the Metropolitan Board of Works to be prepared with proposals, and also put themselves into communication with the vestries and district boards.

"RUDDIGORE" IN NEW YORK.

The first performance of "Ruddigore" given at the Fifth Avenue Theatre on Monday evening was witnessed by a large and brilliant audience, which crowded the theatre in every part. The *Daily News*' correspondent says:—"A most friendly disposition was shown toward the piece, and there was unmistakable evidence of a general desire to give it as cordial a reception as possible. The overture gave general pleasure, and was warmly applauded. The leading members of the company were heartily greeted when they appeared; but towards the end of the first act the interest of the audience began to flag, though there was considerable applause at the close of that act; still, the enthusiasm was visibly perfunctory. The second act perceptibly bored; and when the curtain finally fell the audience, which had become more depressed with every scene, left the theatre in anything but a jubilant mood. One reason was the palpable nervousness of some members of the company, who, feeling a gradually diminishing interest in the audience, acted with increasing lifelessness as the play advanced. The newspapers are charitable, but agree that the work is disappointing."

Mdme. ADELINA PATTI writes:—"I have found it matchless for the hands and complexion." (Signed) ADELINA PATTI. PEAR'S 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.]

THE POLICY OF THE GERMAN POWERS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

VIENNA, Feb. 20.—It would be erroneous to believe the policy of Austria-Hungary has changed because it has been silent. Count Kalnoky has no reason to speak, or to offend the Russians, as long as the negotiations go on at Constantinople. But his policy is the same as that which he expounded in November. It may be true that, having been Ambassador at St. Petersburg, he has personal Russian leanings; but Hungary is the determining factor of Austria's foreign policy; and even in Cisleithania the Government has to count with the Poles for maintaining its majority in the Reichsrath. Kalnoky would infallibly have been turned out in November last if he had ventured to declare a Russophil policy; and if he were to change now and allow a Russian occupation of Bulgaria, he would not remain Minister for a week. He would be replaced by Count Andrassy, simply because the Count would represent a policy consonant with the demands of Hungary. But there has been a certain change in the policy of Germany. Prince Bismarck's friendly language about Russia in the Reichstag was principally inspired by the wish to be able to mediate between Austria and Russia. But now M. Katkoff declares that there is no place for such mediation; that if Germany wishes to remain on good terms with Russia she must make Austria understand that she has no business in the Balkan Peninsula, which is the legitimate field for Russian supremacy alone. The same Katkoff unceasingly preaches that Russia has been duped by the alliance of the three Emperors; that France is her only friend; and that Bismarck, by perfidious manoeuvres, forces down the value of the rouble. It is not astonishing under such circumstances, and considering the great influence of Katkoff over the Emperor and public opinion, that Prince Bismarck should look askance upon the mission of General Martinoff to Paris, where he has had several interviews with M. Flourens. It is remarkable, on the other hand, that the Chancellor, who rarely receives the foreign Ministers himself, has paid a visit to Sir E. Malet, your Ambassador at Berlin. I know that he has great confidence in him; and, after having strongly objected after the death of Lord Ampthill, to the appointment of Sir R. Morier, he named Malet as a man who would be particularly acceptable; and certainly England could have made no better choice.

The situation, then, is changed somewhat for the better. Certainly, if anything can avert war, it is that Russia should find herself faced by a coalition against which she cannot hope to contend with success.

A LETTER OF THE LATE GENERAL GORDON.

The following characteristic letter from General Gordon to his sister, Miss M. A. Gordon, dated "Kartoum, Feb. 27, 1884," has now been added to the exhibition cases in the M.S. Department of the British Museum.

I have sent Stewart off to scour the River White Nile and another expedition to push back rebels on Blue Nile. With Stewart has gone Power, the British Consul and *Times*' correspondent; so I am left alone in the vast palace of which you have a photo., but not alone, for I feel great confidence in my Saviour's presence. The peculiar pain which comes from the excessive anxiety one cannot help being in for these peoples comes back to me at times. I think that our Lord sitting over Jerusalem is ruling all things to the glory of His Kingdom, and cannot wish things even different than they are; for if I did do so, then I wish *my will* not *His* be done. The Soudan is a ruin, and humanly speaking there is no hope. Either I must believe He does all things in mercy and love, or else I disbelieve His existence; there is no half-way in the matter. What holes do I not put myself [in]! and for what? So mixed are my ideas. I believe ambition put me here, in this ruin. However, I trust and stay myself on the fact that not one sparrow falls to ground without our Lord's permission, also that enough for the day is its evil. "God provideth for the way, Strength sufficient for the day." 1 March.—We are all right at present, and I have hope; but certainly things are not in a good way, humanly speaking. Baker's defeat at Suakim has been a great disaster, and now it has its effects up here. It is nothing to our God to help with many or with few, and I now take my worries more quietly than before. All things are ruled by Him for His glory, and it is rebellion to murmur against His will.

THE SUPERSESSION OF SIR THOMAS ESMONDE.

The news of the supersession by the Government of Sir T. Esmonde, the Nationalist High Sheriff of county Waterford, is confirmed. Yesterday evening Colonel Hillier, of Macallop Castle, and Mr. John Thomas Hudson, of Glenbeg, Dungarvan, Conservatives, were sworn in as High Sheriff and Deputy Sheriff respectively. Sir Thomas Esmonde had appointed Mr. Le Strange, solicitor, of Waterford, Nationalist, as sub-sheriff, and that gentleman had been discharging the duty up to the present. Mr. Hudson had held the position for some years previously. The letter which Sir Thomas Esmond, M.P., has received from the Lords Justices of Ireland is as follows:—

Dublin Castle, 21st February.

Sir,—I am directed to inform you that their Excellencies the Lords Justices have ascertained that you yesterday, although warned by proclamation, attended meetings held in the neighbourhood of Coolgreany in support of the Plan of Campaign. This deliberate act, following your previous conduct, demonstrates your determination while High Sheriff for the county of Waterford to promote and facilitate the methods and objects of this illegal combination. In view of those circumstances their Excellencies have no alternative but to direct the necessary steps to be taken to relieve you from the office of High Sheriff of the county of Waterford.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,

REDVERS BULLER.

The *Freeman's Journal* says:—Sir Thomas Esmonde's removal from the Waterford shrievalty is the sorriest display of spite made by the shabbiest and most thoroughly demoralized Government of recent times, and throughout the country will evoke the fiercest indignation. Lord Ashbourne, who knows not when he may be driven from office by his colleagues, may discover sooner than he thinks that an incoming Ministry consider his dismissed magistrates and sheriffs good enough company for an ex-Chancellor on the Privy Council.

A WORD FOR THE NAVY.

Mrs. Davenport Adams's "Sea Song and River Rhyme," just published by Mr. George Redway, is prefaced by a new poem by Mr. Swinburne, entitled, "A Word for the Navy." In the course of the poem, there occurs a strong protest against the neglect of naval armaments. The poet, addressing England, says:—

III.

The lords of thy fate, and thy keepers
Whose charge is the strength of thy ships,
If now they be dreamers and sleepers,
Or sluggards with lies at their lips,
Thy haters and traitors,
False friends or foes despoiled,
Might scatter and shatter
Too soon thy princely pride.

IV.

Smooth France, as a serpent for rancour,
Dark Muscovy, girded with guile,
Lay wait for thee riding at anchor
On waters that whisper and smile.
They deem thee or dream thee
Less living now than dead,
Deep sunken and drunken
With sleep whence fear has fled.

Later in the poem we have this earnest outburst, also addressed to England:—

XI.

But thou, though the world should misdoubt thee,
Be strong as the seas at thy side;
Bind on but thine armour about thee
That girds thee with power and with pride.
Where Drake stood, where Blake stood,
Where fame sees Nelson stand,
Stand thou too, and now too
Take thou thy fate in hand.

LORD RANDOLPH CHURCHILL.

"M.P." in a letter to the *Times*, supplies a passage omitted from the official report of the Conservative meeting at the Mansion House. He says:—"Lord Salisbury, in alluding to the recent resignation of Lord Randolph Churchill, expressed his regret at the loss which the party had sustained by that resignation and his high sense of the noble lord's great ability. He went on to say that he hoped with confidence that the separation would only be transitory, and that ere long they would again have the advantage of Lord Randolph's services. Lord Salisbury's expressions were much cheered by the meeting, and were subsequently echoed by Sir John Mowbray in the observations which he made."

Addressing a meeting of his constituents at Birmingham last night, the Home Secretary, referring to the resignation of Lord Randolph Churchill, said that in Lord Randolph's opinion retrenchment in the defences of our coaling stations and our mercantile ports at home was safe. In the opinion of the rest of the Cabinet it would be dangerous, and therefore with perfect honour and perfect goodwill on both sides it was necessary that they should part. He (Mr. Matthews) hoped before long, however, that when the Budget to which he objected was passed it might be possible for the Government to have again the advantage of Lord Randolph's services.

Sir William Hart-Dyke, speaking at a Conservative meeting at Dartford last night, referred to the resignation of Lord Randolph Churchill, and said that he (Sir William) was one of those who had always admired the great and brilliant acquirements of the noble lord, and he believed that it would not be long before he was again numbered among them.

The *Yorkshire Post* has reason to believe that arrangements are in progress by which Lord Randolph Churchill will probably return to the Ministry after the presentation of the Budget to the House of Commons, and that the announcement made in the House on Monday by Mr. Smith, that it is the intention of the Government to refer the Army and Navy Estimates to a Committee of the House of Commons for examination and report, is accepted by Lord Randolph Churchill at an ample guarantee that, as far as is consistent with the efficiency of the public service and the condition of Europe, retrenchment will find a position in the programme of the Government.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE FOR CIVIL SERVICE DEPARTMENTS.

The particulars of a Supplementary Estimate, amounting to £514,650, is issued as a parliamentary paper to-day. An additional sum of £8,200 is required for carrying out the improvements in the drainage system at the Houses of Parliament, making the total for the buildings for the year £56,065. The sum of £9,275 is required for the maintenance and repair of public buildings, in addition to the original estimate of £192,221, making the total under this head £201,496. An additional £15,900 is required for diplomatic and consular buildings, making the total for the year £57,577. The Irish constabulary require an additional sum of £30,960, of which £19,800 is absorbed as extra pay and £11,160 as travelling expenses. This expenditure has been incurred by extra duty arising out of riots, elections, meetings, etc. The Science and Art Department for the United Kingdom requires an additional £10,560. Under the head of Diplomatic Services, £16,785 additional is asked for. Telegrams consequent on the state of affairs abroad require an additional £7,800, and Sir H. D. Wolff's special missions to Constantinople and Egypt £6,190. The suppression of the slave trade service requires an additional £9,050. Of this sum £2,500 goes as tonnage and slave bounties (the capture of slavers having been more numerous than was anticipated); grants for the maintenance of freed slaves, £1,900; and compensation awarded to owners of American vessels detained in 1854, 1857, and 1860, on suspicion of being slavers, £4,650. The chief item in the increased expenditure is for the Revenue Departments; the Post Office requiring an additional sum of £236,000, and the Post Office Telegraphs an additional sum of £122,000.

SPIRONE is the remedy for Coughs and Colds, Asthma, Bronchitis, Inflammation and Congestion of the Lungs, Pneumonia, Pleurisy, Whooping Cough, Croup, Diphtheria, Pharyngitis, Laryngitis, Catarrh, Sore Throat, Quinsy, Enlarged Tonsils, Hoarseness, Loss of Voice, Colds in the Head, Ozæna, Hay Fever, and all other Complaints of the Respiratory Organs.—THE SPIRONE COMPANY, LIMITED, 17A, Duke-street, Manchester-square, London. Pamphlet post free on demand. Free Dispensary for the Poor at 99, Marylebone-road, W.—[ADVT.]

HOW TO KEEP WARM.—ROYAL GALVANIC BATHS, 55, MARYLEBONE-ROAD, FOR EVERY KIND OF ELECTRIC AND MEDICATED BATH.—FULL PARTICULARS MAY BE HAD OF THE SECRETARY.—[ADVT.]

MR. GOSCHEN ON PATRIOTIC OPPOSITION.

Mr. Goschen was entertained at a banquet at the St. George's Club last night, when there was a distinguished and representative company. Responding to the toast of "Her Majesty's Ministers," he said he had found in the Government colleagues determined at all costs to maintain, in the face of tremendous difficulties, the honour of this country abroad and to enforce law and order at home. Discussing what the conduct of a patriotic Opposition ought to be at a time of difficulty and danger like the present, he asked, Ought it to endeavour to invent rebuffs, to suggest and connive at alleged failures on the part of those who represent the Executive Government?

I have before me a dim outline of an orator who on a recent occasion seemed to pour out sentences of gloating satisfaction at the idea that her Majesty's Government had met with nothing but rebuffs at the hands of various foreign Governments. As I listened I endeavoured to detect, in the most charitable temper, some expression of regret that, in the opinion of the speaker, the country had suffered. There was no regret. There appeared to be, on the contrary, signs of satisfaction that her Majesty's Government was supposed to have failed in certain particulars. Well, now, that appears to me to be an unsatisfactory measure to deal out to an Executive Government at a time of great European difficulty. I am not holding this language because I am now a member of the Executive Government. I have held this language for years past. I have held this language because I have always desired that when Great Britain speaks in the councils of the nations it should be able to speak with the greatest authority; that in time of difficulty self-restraint ought to be imposed upon Opposition orators, to whatever party they belonged; and that the intense satisfaction of being able to say "I told you so," which we all know to be one of the greatest of human pleasures, ought not to influence a statesman if it shakes the authority of the Executive Government in a moment of gravity and crisis. There are times, and I am not sure we are far from those times, when it may be the duty of the Government to address either words of encouragement, or words of advice, or words of restraint, or words of remonstrance to other Powers. I want to know whether it is desirable, at a moment such as this, when the authorized mouthpiece of the Government has to speak, that you should hear an irresponsible voice bawling at his side, "Don't listen to him; don't believe a single word he says." If such a course is pursued, I say that that abstract Executive Government on behalf of which I am returning thanks is weakened in the councils of Europe and is unable to perform its duties on this great occasion when every patriotic Englishman and Scotchman and Irishman would wish that the voice of his Government could speak with power equal to the voice of any other nation in Europe.

Then there were difficulties at home, in respect of which he would bespeak for the Government of the day, whatever its politics, the support and sympathy of all right-thinking men. In former times the divisions of party were sharp, and party passions perhaps ran as high, if not even higher, than they do at present; but they were mainly concerned with constitutional questions, with legislative changes, with the ordinary materials of political controversy. At present, however, there seemed to be a danger that party spirit might lay its hands even upon issues touching the very constitution of society.

What ought to give greater satisfaction to all citizens in these islands than that we should be able to restore the reign of law in Ireland, and that we should be able to increase her prosperity, while at the same time doing our duty to all classes of her Majesty's subjects in that island. But now the very success of the Executive Government, if it should be successful, might seem to damp the hopes of those who have used the argument that you cannot govern Ireland except by granting her Home Rule. And so it may be possible that the sympathies of the Home Rule party in this country may be enlisted on the side of the continuance of the difficulties the removal of which would remove at the same time one of the chief arguments for the necessity of Home Rule. But we do claim this—that, whatever may be the views of any of our fellow-citizens as to the future of Ireland, they ought to sympathize with every effort made by the Executive Government in these most arduous times to maintain the law and to assist in the restoration of social order. There is this danger—that even tragical and heart-rending incidents may be turned into missiles in this unfortunate party warfare. I heard a case which occurred not long ago of a provincial orator who, alluding to the success of some of his glowing oratorical efforts, said to a friend, "Didn't I just score off the Glenbeigh evictions last night?" That was a jocular phrase, but that jocular phrase shows the existence of danger. It shows the danger of party spirit over-clouding great issues involving the whole of the social constitution of these islands; and it is just upon those questions that the Executive Government may fairly appeal to the support of men of all opinions irrespective of party interests.

Mr. Goschen went on to say that he was not without hope that the abstract Executive Government on behalf of which he was speaking might be able to call to its side new forces in the country—men who hitherto had taken little interest in politics, and who had, when political questions were put before them, said, "A plague on both your houses." They were the gentlemen who thought they need not mix in these political contests; but he trusted they would recognize that the day had come when they must come to the front in defence of social order and in the interests of their country. These non-political forces were the volunteers of politics, the auxiliary forces of social order. Backed effectually by them, the Executive Government would be strong enough to face the dangers of the situation.

TEN DAYS WITH CHINESE WRECKERS.

The mails from China have brought a remarkable story of the circumstances connected with the loss of the steamship *Stratheden*, of Glasgow. It appears that on the 10th of last month H.M.S. *Champion*, now serving on the China station, was despatched from Hong Kong in search of the missing Japanese ironclad *Unbe Kan*. After a two-days' run the *Champion* arrived at the Paracelles coral-reef, where, instead of finding the vessel she was in search of, she sighted the *Stratheden* stuck fast on the reef with the sea breaking over her. An examination of the vessel showed that she had not only been completely cleared of her cargo; but that her copper and brass fittings, water and steam pipes, and cabin furniture had all been removed, and no trace of the crew could be discovered. Soon after the look-out man sighted a number of junks on the extreme edge of the reef, some twelve miles distant; and on an armed boat from the *Champion* reaching them it was discovered that the entire crew of the *Stratheden*, consisting of ten Europeans, six Arabs, and about a score of Malays, were prisoners in the hands of a number of Chinese pirates, and had been living on the junks for ten days. It was then ascertained that after the *Stratheden* had struck on the Paracelles reef she was boarded by about 180 Chinamen, armed with axes, saws, chisels, and other weapons; and, the captain and crew offering no resistance, they gutted the ship and removed the cargo to their junks. They permitted the crew to take up their quarters on two of the junks, and here the men remained until discovered by the *Champion*, sleeping by night in relays, so as to be prepared against attack by the pirates. After being with the pirates several days, Captain Hutton, of the *Stratheden*, accompanied by one of his officers and a Malay, set sail in an open boat for Saigon, a distance of 500 miles. It blew a heavy gale on the night following their departure; and, as the captain has not been heard of since, it is feared that he and his two companions were drowned. The Chinamen, mean-

while, were only waiting for a fair wind to carry them and their booty to the island of Hainan, where it was their intention to have landed the crew of the *Stratheden* and have left them to shift for themselves. But the arrival of the *Champion* altered the entire aspect of affairs. The crew of the wrecked vessel quickly repossessed themselves of their personal effects and other articles which the pirates had previously stolen from them, and after getting on board H.M.S. *Champion* they were taken to Singapore and landed there. It was expected that the *Stratheden* would become a total wreck.

AN EGYPTIAN LIBEL CASE.

A great libel case is just now occupying the attention of her Majesty's Consular Court at Cairo. Colonel the Honourable John Colborne, Cairo correspondent of the *Daily News*, accuses Mr. B. H. Clere, editor of the *Times of Egypt*, of having maliciously libelled and defamed him in a pamphlet published in Cairo in the month of January, and entitled "Colonel the Honourable John Colborne, Cairo correspondent of the *Daily News*." The preliminary case was heard on Friday, the 11th of February, 1887, before Mr. Raphael Borg, her Majesty's Vice-Consul, and resulted in Mr. Clere being committed for trial on the criminal charge. Mr. Bond, barrister-at-law, appeared for Colonel Colborne; Mr. Clere conducted his own defence. This case is likely to give rise to a great deal of scandal. The incriminated pamphlet is an extremely violent one, the prosecutor being accused of nearly all the crimes it is possible for one man to commit. The date of the trial has not yet been fixed; but it is likely to commence about the end of the month and will last several days.

AN ARTISTIC FETE IN VIENNA.

The Vienna Carnival ended last night with a Court ball and a *redoute* at the Opera. On Monday the Vienna artists gave their annual *fête costumée*, which was a magnificent success. The guests were all required to imagine themselves in the year 1987, and to devise costumes which they might consider suitable to that coming year of grace. Fancy (the *Times*' correspondent says) ran riot in contriving eccentric travesties, and the result was indescribably amusing. A series of exhibitions representing the developments to be expected in art and science 100 years hence was one of the most attractive features of the fête. Some of the leading painters contributed caricatures of their own works, and some good-natured *prime donne* and musicians regaled the company with the music of the future. There were, of course, endless varieties in the application of the telephone, the telegraph, and photography to the uses of domestic life; and a lady of the future was shown listening to an operatic performance in her boudoir, and bringing up ices from a distant confectioner's shop by the touch of an ivory knob. Almost everybody of note in Vienna attended this fête.

THE JUBILEE NAVAL REVIEW.

Sixteen gun-boats and a large flotilla of torpedo-boats are to be made ready at Portsmouth for the Jubilee Naval Review at Spithead at the end of May. Besides the powerful squadron of ships now in the Steam Reserve, three sea-going squadrons will take part in the review. The Reserve Squadron is to be at Spithead by the 25th of May, the Training Squadron will return by the end of next month, and the Channel Squadron, due at Gibraltar on the 28th of April, will be ordered home for the review.

THE COMMISSION UPON ORDNANCE STORES.

The Royal Commission upon Ordnance Stores resumed its sittings yesterday after an adjournment of three weeks. Mr. Justice Stephen, the chairman of the Commission, having during the interval been engaged upon circuit. Lord Charles Beresford, M.P., gave evidence at considerable length as to the arms and other naval and military stores that have from time to time come under his inspection, and General Boxer gave evidence as to the cartridges supplied.

LORD COLERIDGE.

The Lord Provost of Glasgow received yesterday afternoon a telegram from Dr. McCulloch, of Carlisle, stating that Lord Coleridge was unable, on account of indisposition, to continue his journey from Carlisle to Glasgow. His lordship had arranged to deliver an address to the Glasgow Judicial Society this evening, and to-morrow evening was to be entertained at a banquet. It is hoped that his lordship will be able to fulfil these engagements.

THE REVENUE.

The receipts on account of revenue from the 1st of April, 1886, when there was a balance of £5,625,944, to February 19, 1887, were £78,475,868, against £76,541,295 in the corresponding period of the preceding financial year, which began with a balance of £4,993,207. The net expenditure was £77,656,065, against £79,482,469 to the same date in the previous year. The Treasury balances on February 19, 1887, amounted to £5,907,771, and at the same date in 1886 to £5,613,342.

THE SUEZ CANAL.

Mr. Gordon Bennett's yacht, the *Namouna*, passed through the Suez Canal on the night of the 29th of January in 13 h. 52 min. It had the electric light, and, being a yacht, was exempt from the rule limiting the speed to sixteen kilometres an hour. This rule makes sixteen hours the minimum time for ordinary vessels, and passages of seventeen hours with the electric light are now frequently made.

THE HEALTH OF LONDON.

The return of the Registrar-General shows that in London 2,612 births and 1,560 deaths were registered during last week. Allowing for increase of population, the births were 272, and the deaths 336, below the average numbers in the corresponding weeks of the last ten years. The annual death-rate per 1,000 from all causes, which had declined in the six preceding weeks from 26.3 to 17.6, rose again last week to 19.3. During the first seven weeks of the current quarter the death-rate averaged 20.9 per 1,000, and was 3.4 below the mean rate in the corresponding periods of the ten years 1877-86. The 1,560 deaths included 35 from measles, 13 from scarlet-fever, 15 from diphtheria, 41 from whooping-cough, 6 from enteric fever, 14 from diarrhoea and dysentery, and not one from small-pox, typhus, ill-defined forms of continued fever, or cholera. The deaths referred to diseases of the respiratory organs, which had been 364 and 373 in the two preceding weeks, further rose last week to 392, but were 149 below the corrected average. Different forms of violence caused 66 deaths; 59 were the result of negligence or accident, among which were 25 from fractures and contusions, 10 from burns and scalds, 3 from drowning, 2 from poison, and 15 of infants under one year of age from suffocation. The widow of a hawker died on the 19th inst. at 61, Grange-walk, Bermondsey, whose age was stated to be 102 years; the cause of death was certified as "old age."

CORRESPONDENCE.

SHOULD DR. CROKE BE PROSECUTED?

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

SIR,—I imagine that nearly all English Catholics, and many of the best Irish Catholics, would be rejoiced to see the question "Should Dr. Croke be prosecuted?" answered by the English Government in the affirmative. There can be little doubt that no one would be better pleased than the Pope himself: who dares not speak what, of course, is his mind and the mind of the whole true Church about Dr. Croke and his like, lest he should bring into conflict the Irish love of plunder and the Irish love of orthodoxy; when the latter would in all probability go to the wall, and there would be one "Catholic" country the less in the world.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

February 22.

A ROMAN CATHOLIC.

DON'T ASK!

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

SIR,—It is reported in this day's *Standard* that two detachments of the 24th Regiment "arrived in Loughrea on Saturday, and took up their quarters at the military barracks;" and that "the traders of the town have refused to supply them with provisions." As a consequence, no doubt, these provisions are now being procured from a distance with considerable difficulty and at extra expense to the public. It would be interesting to know what would be the authorized course taken by an officer commanding a detachment of German troops under similar circumstances.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

February 21.

C. O.

THE EUROPEAN SITUATION.

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

SIR,—I would beg you to permit me space for a few remarks in continuation of my letter in the *St. James's Gazette* of the 26th of January. The conviction would appear to be rapidly increasing on the Continent that Germany will not allow the question of peace or war with France to hang indefinitely over her head; but that she will force it to a final solution either one way or the other by some form of ultimatum or guarantee of neutrality, should the Eastern Question burst into war. It is asked, What would France do if Germany were to demand a guarantee of neutrality?

Well-informed men straight from Paris affirm their belief that France would consent to anything for the moment rather than be forced to fight Germany under actual circumstances. That may be so: because, no doubt, the game of France is to postpone the struggle a little longer until the events have declared themselves on her side. Germany is well aware of this; but if war must come sooner or later, she knows it would be better for her that it should come sooner than later. By demanding a guarantee from France that she would remain neutral if the Eastern war were to supervene, she complicates the Russian game. Should France give the guarantee, and, by placing France in the wrong, should she break her engagements, Germany would solidify her alliances. If France will give no such guarantee, Germany knows what to expect, and will act accordingly.

The result no man can predict; but one thing appears evident. Even if successful, Germany must suffer heavily in such a struggle. If, on the contrary, France were successful, we know what the result would be—the upheaval of the German Empire. And what is Russia's game at this moment? It seems to me that she will play the same waiting game she has played during two centuries. She will lose nothing by waiting, and she hopes to obtain that which she has so long been striving for by intrigue, bribery, and happy opportunity. She embitters England's relations with France at this crisis by encouraging her to resist us in Egypt. She herself insinuates she has created the Italian difficulties at Massowa by her emissaries. While promising assistance to France if she fights Germany, she counts on practically making Germany incapable of interfering in the final solution of the Eastern Question. And she hopes to distract the power of all Austria's allies to distant objects. Meanwhile Russia herself is in no hurry. Having failed in securing Bulgaria and in Kaulbarizing the Regency, she calmly retires, notwithstanding her threats, and bides her time. If she were to throw herself into war with Austria now, she knows she would probably have to count also with Germany, England, and Italy, and that they would be strong when she had exhausted herself. One thing she seems to have accomplished: she has reduced the Turk to be her humble vassal, at last; not, indeed, by arms, but by bribery, corruption, and the menace of her great and unscrupulous power, and more than all by the ignorance and folly of a certain party in England, which has driven the Turk into the arms of Russia. At this moment there is no doubt the Sultan and all his Ministers are quite Russianized, and would be prepared to act, either in Egypt or elsewhere, according to the Czar's orders. While waiting till the storm between France and Germany has burst, she will endeavour to keep Italy and England occupied; so that she may only have Austria single-handed to settle with. She could then intervene at a critical moment, most convenient to herself, and oblige Germany to detach large forces to her eastern border, or, by merely threatening the German frontier, either weaken her attack on France or save France should Germany's attack have already been successful. He who holds the last trump will win the last trick. He who has the last battalion in reserve will win the battle. Germany exhausted, even by a successful war with France, would be much less to be feared than before; Austria alone could hardly hope to struggle single-handed against Russia; and then would be Russia's opportunity. And is England to stand aside and do nothing while events accumulate which would make Russia the predominant Power in the world, to the enormous injury of England and her commercial interests. If we stand by and see those countries who are willing to be our friends to-day weakened or crushed one after the other, we must not hope to obtain an ally worth having when our turn comes; and that it would come very soon after no one who understands anything of the subject can doubt for an instant.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

February 22.

W. HOPE CREALOCK.

TRADE AND FINANCE.

The total receipts of revenue up to Saturday night last were £78,475,868 and during the week £3,039,042 was got in. There were still five weeks and four days to be accounted for. If the collections continue at last week's rate, which is very unlikely, there would yet be received £17,221,238, or over 5¼ millions more than the estimate for the year. The total expenditure up to Saturday night was £77,666,065, and during the week the disbursements were only £1,056,104. Up to Saturday night Customs showed an increase, compared with the corresponding period of last year, of £277,000, and Excise a decrease of £260,000. The two together, therefore, increased £17,000. Stamps increased £216,000, and income tax £1,720,000. The total revenue shows an increase of £1,934,573.

The value of loan money yesterday was increased by the calling in of sums by the London and Westminster Bank, which caused a good deal of scarcity in places, and the rate for advance for the day and for a week ranged from 3¼ up to 4 per cent.; the latter rate being paid by borrowers in preference to going to the Bank. But the supply of money outside did not suffice, and applications for ten-day loans to a considerable amount—chiefly, we believe, for account of stock-brokers—were made at that establishment. The payment of the Great Northern Railway dividend, together with an instalment on the Argentine loan, also caused some extra movement in money. Discount was easier at 3 per cent. in anticipation of a possible reduction in the Bank rate this week.

As the German elections, to judge from the returns then known, did not appear yesterday morning to have been favourable to the Government, the stock markets opened lifeless, and for some time tended downwards. Afterwards, however, there was improvement, and at the close Foreign Government bonds generally advanced. The result of the elections was still unknown; but as Berlin quotations were telegraphed higher, it was inferred that the result could not be unfavourable. In any event, firmness in Berlin gives greater confidence everywhere; for Berlin has not only been the originator and leader of the present speculation for the rise in Foreign Government bonds, but also it is supposed to have better political information than other Bourses. Another influence that tended to send up prices was the existence of a large speculation for the fall in this market. It has for some time been expected that the elections would be followed by a rise of prices, and consequently some speculators for the fall have for a week or more been closing their accounts. When Berlin was found to be firm yesterday, the buying back increased and greatly strengthened the movement set going in Berlin. The buying was the more active because to-day the fortnightly Settlement begins. The improvement in Foreign Government bonds had an influence on every department. For the time being the course of prices is entirely determined by politics. There can be no reasonable doubt that we should see much more activity both in trade and speculation, were it not for the fear of war. Everything that intensifies that fear sends down prices, and everything that lessens it sends them up. The fact that Berlin was more hopeful had an encouraging effect on every department. Still there was not much business. That will not come until confidence is restored or a fresh alarm occurs.

At the close yesterday Foreign Government bonds were from ¼ to ¾ higher than on Monday evening. The Continental Bourses were reported firm, especially that of Berlin, and this was interpreted to mean that the German elections were regarded as favourable by the capitalists and speculators of Berlin. The greatest rise yesterday during the early hours was in Italian Rentes; it amounted to ¾, but others moved up at the close. It will be in the recollection of our readers that during the recent scare Italian Rentes fell very heavily. They had been at par at the end of December, and on the 3rd of this month they were down to 89½. Even now they are very much lower than they were early in January. In Egyptian bonds the rise ranged from ¼ to ½, French Threes advanced ¼, the Four-and-a-Half per Cents. ¼, and Russians of 1873 rose ½. Late in the afternoon Peruvian bonds were inquired for, and both issues advanced ¾ per cent. on rumours that the contract with the Government had been signed, and that a cash distribution would shortly be made to the bondholders. Consols rose from 1-16 to ¾. There is a large speculation for the fall open in these, the settling-day is approaching, and the Sinking Fund purchases may be expected to be large for some time to come. Home Railway stocks were dull in the morning, but they closed generally ½ higher than on the previous day. Brighton A exceptionally advanced ¾, Sunday and Monday's traffic return having been satisfactory. Canadian Railway stocks rose from ¼ to ¾, and Mexican Railway stocks from ¾ to 1¼; the traffic return of the latter having been very good. In American Railroad securities the stagnation was intensified yesterday by the holiday in New York, the arbitrage dealers being unable to buy or sell there, and others being unwilling to operate when the feeling of New York could not be ascertained till this afternoon. Even in American Railroad securities, however, there was improvement just before the close of business, because of the more hopeful tone of the Foreign department.

Burdett's "Official Intelligence" contains some new features of much interest and value. The same process of analysis has been applied this year to the local taxation of Scotland and Ireland as was last year applied to the local taxation of England, and the nature and working of the sinking-funds has been clearly pointed out. A condensed statement is also given of the national income and expenditure for several years, and a chapter explanatory of the various sources of revenue and items of expenditure of the Indian Empire, so as to make the subject clearer and to help to a better understanding of a matter in which so many English interests are bound up. An attempt is likewise made to give particulars of the progress and financial condition of all the colonies of which the stocks are quoted in the official list. A careful analysis of the previous efforts made by Parliament to regulate railway charges is also given. There are some observations upon the financial history of gas-lighting; an article is appended upon the development of tramway enterprise in the United Kingdom, the financial history of the year as reflected in the formation of new companies; the issue of new loans and the volume of new securities admitted to quotation in the official list are also matters dealt with; and the financial legislation is set out in detail.

THE MORNING PAPERS.

MR. GOSCHEN'S SPEECH.

The *Standard* hopes that the rebuke dealt by the Chancellor of the Exchequer to those flippant and reckless politicians who apparently find only material for satisfaction in the distresses and difficulties of their country will be noted by those whose conduct has invited it.

The *Daily Telegraph* fears that the disposition to take a delight when a Government is in difficulties is, and will always remain, a characteristic of human nature under a system of party politics.

THE GERMAN ELECTIONS.

The *Times* observes that after the warnings uttered by Prince Bismarck and Count Moltke and the exhortations of the Emperor himself, Europe will breathe more freely now that the German elections are over and have settled the main issue in Prince Bismarck's favour. The time has not yet come for estimating the exact effect of the present elections on German domestic politics, though it will be observed that the inflexible German Chancellor has already made another significant step in the direction of Canossa. But as regards the broad European question involved in the elections there seems to be no doubt that so far as the Septennate can secure peace the vote of the German Empire has rendered peace secure. There is no faltering on this point.

The *Standard* asks whether if we try to get behind the national vote, and if we ask ourselves what it substantially means, we shall not be forced to allow that it signifies that a large proportion of the German people regard Prince Bismarck and Count Moltke as alarmists. That is a very singular conclusion for so many of their countrymen to have arrived at. It is not a conclusion shared by the best judges out of Germany. Foreigners only see that Prince Bismarck and Count Moltke have made Germany compact and strong, and that German Parliaments, if they had their way, would have kept Germany distrustful and weak. The great work of sixteen years ago, solid though it seems, can be undone; and on the slightest sign of weariness or fainting on the part of Germany the French and Russian vultures will hasten to the quarry. The silence that has fallen upon France while watching the struggle between the Makers of Germany and its talkers, is something preternatural. But then the French people have been chastened in the bitter though instructive school of defeat and humiliation. The present generation of Germans remember only their triumphs and the demonstration of their strength. France, and the rest of the world as well, must wait yet a little longer in silence, in order to know for certain whether between the doers and the talkers a *modus vivendi* be possible.

The *Daily Telegraph* remarks that the increased power of the Anarchists in Berlin is in itself a serious aggravation of the perils by which Germany is menaced, and will continue to be threatened throughout the coming years, even should the horrors of war be temporarily averted from her. It reveals the rapid growth of a feeling in the breasts of the German working classes which may one day endanger German unity—nay, the very existence of the Teutonic empire—more violently and calamitously than even a Franco-Russian armed coalition.

The *Manchester Courier* says that if the French people and their representatives are earnest in their loudly expressed desire for peace, Prince Bismarck's success at the polls will afford them an opportunity of proving that his suspicion of their intentions was altogether ill-founded and undeserved. If they preserve after the elections the same dignified and pacific attitude towards Germany as they have hitherto maintained, they will secure for themselves a moral triumph in the eyes of Europe which would make the adoption of an aggressive policy by Prince Bismarck almost impossible.

MR. BRIGHT AND WAR.

The *Times* speaks of Mr. Bright with all respect as an unflinching and inflexible advocate of peace, and a statesman who has never tampered with his pacific principles for the sake of a passing popularity. But it wishes that he were more ready to look facts in the face, less prone to believe stories which dishonour his countrymen, less hasty to impute unworthy motives to those who honestly differ from him, and more willing to acknowledge that even good men may sometimes choose war as the lesser of two evils.

THE ANNEXATION OF EASTERN ZULULAND.

The *Morning Post* says that the advantages attending the annexation of Eastern Zululand are at least threefold, and are not on the British side only. In the first place, the acquisition of Eastern Zululand affords direct communication between Natal and Delagoa Bay. It will also, by the gain of a seaboard, materially improve commercial prospects in that part of the world. And, finally, it may be expected that this satisfactory decision, though somewhat tardy, will now effectually prevent the further advance of the Boers, and save a fair country and a brave people.

THE REPORT ABOUT LORD RANDOLPH CHURCHILL.

The *Liverpool Mercury* mentions a number of personal, as well as political, reasons why the Ministry and its main supporters should be far from anxious to have Lord Randolph back just now. They know he does not dare attack them openly, and they may be fairly of opinion that it will do him a world of good if he is allowed to kick his heels outside the charmed circle for some time longer. The balance of such reasons as can be adduced, as far as outsiders can judge, is therefore distinctly against any speedy return to office of Lord Randolph Churchill.

THE BAD WEAPONS.

The *Sheffield Daily Telegraph* urges that, if the Government will encourage home industry, the difference in price between foreign and British weapons will be repaid by the difference in quality, and more than repaid by the wise economy which spends money at home instead of spending it abroad. Give our soldiers and sailors an honest Sheffield blade.

THE "GROSS ATTACK UPON THE IRISH MEMBERS."

The *Daily News* thinks Sir Wilfrid Lawson has done well in drawing general attention to what the *Times* said yesterday about the Irish members. The public, the *Daily News* says, will not fail to note the kind of spirit in which the so-called "Unionist" agitation is being conducted by its chief organ in the press. All the world sees what the true alternative is. We must treat the Irish as a race of men who send the allies of murderers to represent them in Parliament; or as a nation with like love of liberty to our own. We must expel them from the Legislature and govern Ireland as a Crown Colony; or we must give them some legislative institutions. The British people will resent efforts to sow firebrands, arrows, and death between two kindred peoples, and will take the other alternative of granting to Irishmen the enjoyment of the self-government they prize themselves. Violent language, like violent delights, is likely to have violent ends. It injures only those who use it and the cause in which it is used; and in the present case it is a timely and instructive revelation of the true spirit and real purpose that lie behind the professions of the party which is crying and intriguing for a coercive policy in Ireland.

THE HYACINTH TRADE.

The hyacinth trade (says a writer in the *Standard*) is an important branch of horticultural commerce. For at least three hundred years it has been cultivated, and as early as 1597 Gerard mentions six varieties as grown in England. Less than a century later the six had multiplied into many single and double forms, and in the middle of last century the famous Dutch growers of this bloom, "supreme amongst the flowers of spring," offered for sale fifty single-flowered and nearly one hundred double-flowered varieties. One of them, known as "La Reine des Femmes," a single white, is said to have produced from thirty-four to thirty-eight flowers on a spike, and on its first appearance to have sold for more than £4 a bulb; while the "Conqueror," a double blue, brought fully double that price; the "Gloria Mundi" between £20 and £30, and the "King Solomon" an even higher price. The original of all these plants is not, as many people suppose, the wild hyacinth of our woods, but a scarcely less insignificant Oriental form, bearing on a single spike only a few narrow-lobed "washy blue flowers." The improvements in it are all due to the skill of the gardener, who selects his breeding forms with all the care which the grazier bestows on his Durhams and Ayrshires. The result is that it is by no means uncommon to see spikes of hyacinths six or seven inches long, and thickly set with blooms which measure in circumference from seven to nine inches. The English nurserymen have, no doubt, done much to bring this plant to what they are pleased to call perfection, though the botanist considers it the acme of monstrosity. But the Dutch growers still maintain their traditional eminence as the champion hyacinth-rearers of the world. There is something in the soil of Holland, something also in its humid atmosphere, congenial to these plants, and a great deal in the patient unexcitable character of its excellent people which peculiarly suits them for the placid labour of growing bulbs. Haarlem, which in the height of the tulip mania was the metropolis of this trade, is still pre-eminently the home of the bulb merchants. In a month it will be better worth visiting than at the season when the tourists usually are to be seen in its old-world streets. For in April and the beginning of May the suburbs for miles and miles will be perfectly aglow with the most delicately scented flowers. Whole fields of hyacinths and auriculas, and tulips and carnations, in the most bewildering variety of colours, impart an indescribable gaiety to the southern and western sides of the town, and from the conversation of the guests at the different hotels it is not difficult to gather that the chief business done in the spring is in this pleasing form of merchandise. An area of between one and two hundred acres is devoted to hyacinths alone, and the crop is reckoned to be worth more than £30,000 a year to the cultivators of these profitable "crops." In Covent-garden a single market-grower sells from 60,000 to 70,000 pots under glass, their flowering season being accelerated by forcing, so that from Christmas until the season when they can be grown out of doors hyacinths may always be had by those who choose to pay for the luxury. The reason why so vast a trade is done in this plant is that the bulbs, being rarely grown a second time, enormous numbers have every year to be procured from Holland, Belgium, and the other Continental countries which have a reputation for this bulb.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

BIRTHS.

SONS.
BARCLAY, Mrs. Harry, at Avington-grove, Penge, Feb. 17.
HARRISON, Mrs. G. Tonkin, at The Laurels, Felixstowe, Feb. 19.
HUGHES, wife of Captain Arbutnot J., R.A., at The Common, Woolwich, Feb. 20.
KING, Mrs. H. J. B. S., of West Hall, Sherborne, Dorsetshire, Feb. 18 (prematurely—stillborn).
STANTON, wife of Rev. A. Herbert, at Llangasty Talyllyn Rectory, Feb. 18 (stillborn).

DAUGHTERS.
BOYCE, wife of Mr. Hugh W., 19th Princess of Wales's Own Hussars, at Piercetown House, Newbridge, county Kildare, Ireland Feb. 18.
CANE, wife of Captain Claude, at St. Wolstan's, Celbridge, Feb. 18.
MAY, Mrs. Walter A., at Claremont-road, East Twickenham, Feb. 17.
PRICE, wife of Captain E. C. H., Duke of Wellington's Regiment, at Sea View, Prospect, Bermuda, Feb. 14.

MARRIAGES.

BARLOW—KEOWN.—At St. Luke's, Chelsea, Alexander R., son of the late Mr. James P. Barlow, of Hyde Park-gate, Kensington-gore, to Mary, daughter of the late Lieut.-Col. Henry Keown, North Down Rifles, formerly Captain 15th Hussars, Feb. 22.
FORSHALL—LANE.—At St. Matthew's, Bayswater, Rev. Frederic H. Forshall, Curate of Horfield, Bristol, son of Mr. F. H. Forshall, of Beachy View, Eastbourne, to Alice, daughter of the late Captain A. J. Lane, 50th (Queen's Own) Regiment, Feb. 15.

MUNDAY—GROVES.—At St. Mildred's, Lee, Clement, son of Mr. George Munday, of Fernside, Snaresbrook, Essex, to Ada E., daughter of Mr. Horatio Groves, Feb. 17.
PEARSON—HODSON.—At St. Luke's, Brighton, Frederick T., son of Mr. Thomas Pearson, of New Shoreham, Sussex, to Maude, daughter of Mr. William Hodson, Feb. 19.
SPRINGETT—DAWES.—At St. Michael's, Hershill, Kent, Rev. William D. Springett, M.A., Vicar of the Parish, to Katharine H., daughter of Mr. Edwyn S. Dawes, Feb. 15.

DEATHS.

ANGELO, Lieut. George L., of the Madras Staff Corps, Adjutant W.L.I. Regiment Madras Infantry, at Mandalay, Upper Burma, Jan. 4.
BUSHELL, Mr. Christopher, of Liverpool and Hinderton, Cheshire, aged 76, Feb. 18.
DOUGLAS, Sir Charles, K.C.M.G., for many years M.P. for the Boroughs of Warwick and Banbury, aged 80, Feb. 21.
FORSYTH, Katherine, wife of Alexander, M.D., at Park-place, Maze-hill, Greenwich, Feb. 18.
GILBERT, Eliza, widow of Mr. George F., at Witherhurst, Burwash, Sussex, aged 71, Feb. 16.
GRAY, Rev. John D., M.A., formerly Vicar of Abbotsley, Hunts, and late Rector of Market Weston, Suffolk, at Worcester-terrace, Clifton, Bristol, aged 65, Feb. 18.
HACKNEY, Mr. John, at Twickenham, aged 72, Feb. 19.
HARE, Francis A. C., son of Mr. John M., at Fairholt-road, Stoke Newington, aged 44, Feb. 19.
HARRINGTON, Mr. Sydney C., of Woolwich, aged 64, Feb. 11.
HAY, Mr. Robert, at Eardley-crescent, S.W., aged 68, Feb. 17.

HOLLAND, Mr. John, at Euston-road, N.W., aged 87, Feb. 21.
HOWES, Major-General F. A., R.E., at Balham, aged 57, Feb. 21.
JACKSON, Mr. Herbert H., of Bridlington, Yorkshire, at Rangoon, aged 25, Jan. 8.
LEWIS, Constance H., infant daughter of Mr. W. Howard, of Goldthorn-road, Wolverhampton, Feb. 8.
MAITLAND, Emily, widow of Rev. Pelham, at St. Saviour's Vicarage, Walthamstow, aged 78, Feb. 19.
MOCKLER, Surgeon Edward, formerly Queen's Bays and 17th Lancers, at Oxford-terrace, Hyde Park, aged 77, Feb. 17.
NEWINGTON, Elizabeth, widow of Rev. Frank, Vicar of Osmington, Dorset, at Plymouth, aged 68, Feb. 18.
ROSS, Rev. Alexander J., D.D., Rector of Snelston, Derbyshire, at Stepping, E., aged 67, Feb. 12.
THORNTON, Cecil B., son of Rev. Claude C., Vicar of High Cross, Hertfordshire, at Brighton, aged 16, Feb. 19.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

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The Staffordshire Joint Stock Bank, Limited, Birmingham, and branches, and their London agents, Messrs. Barclay, Bevan, Tritton, and Co., 54, Lombard-street, London.

SOLICITORS.

Messrs. Trinders and Co., 47, Cornhill, E.C.

BROKERS.

Messrs. Panmure Gordon, Hill, and Co., Hatton-court, Threadneedle-street, E.C.

SECRETARY AND OFFICES (pro tem.).

F. E. HERSEY, Esq., 144, Leadenhall-street, E.C.

PROSPECTUS.

This Company has been formed for the purpose of taking over (as a going concern, as from 31st December, 1886) and working and extending the well-known business of R. W. Winfield and Company, manufacturers of brass and iron work of every description, including chandeliers, gas-fittings, bedsteads, tubes, wire, art metal-work, and also artists in stained glass; in addition to which the firm have, in recent years, added electric lighting. Of the excellent work produced by the firm, the prize medals specified at the head of this prospectus are sufficient evidence.

The firm was established in the year 1829, and has been since successfully carried on, the books showing that during the 15 years to 30th June last, to which date the accounts have been annually made up, profits to the amount of £203,443 have been actually drawn out in cash, besides additions to the capital, as shown by the accountant's report referred to below.

The death of two partners, owning a considerable portion of the capital, is the reason for the business being now placed before the public. Those deaths, however, did not affect the active management of the business, which has for long been principally conducted by Mr. Charles W. Torr, who will continue as Managing Director, and the Directors consider that the circumstances under which the business is disposed of offer an unusually good opportunity of investing in a sound manufacturing business.

The premises at Birmingham are leasehold for terms expiring in 1920 and 1938, and cover an area of about eight acres; are well situated in Cambridge-street and Tindal-street, abutting on the canal, and intersected by branches thereof, and the leases are extremely valuable. The works occupied by the business cover 4½ acres, and are in every respect complete, the machinery and plant being of modern description, and thoroughly adapted for all requirements. The remainder produces an income considerably in excess of the rent payable by the Company for the whole property, and the Company thus not only stands rent free, but has a profit income from the leases. The premises in London are also well adapted for the business. The premises and contents are adequately insured against fire.

The addition of the electric light business has opened a new and important branch, and there can be no doubt that when the law relating to electric lighting is placed upon a more satisfactory basis, this Company, in common with others, must receive a large accession of business in this department.

With the view to arranging terms for the transfer of the business to the Company and for ascertaining the profits, an examination of the books of the firm has been made by Messrs. Good, Daniels, and Co., Chartered Accountants, of 57, Moorgate-street, London, and their report has been submitted to the Directors, who, judging from past profits (which have averaged for many years nearly £15,000 per annum), and the present activity of the business, are satisfied that it is one from which highly satisfactory results may be expected. Messrs. Good, Daniels, and Co.'s report can be seen at the offices of the Company's Solicitors, 47, Cornhill, E.C.

The price which the vendors have agreed to accept for the entire business as a going concern as from the 31st December, 1886, with the premises, plant, machinery, stock-in-trade, and all assets, except book-debts, is the sum of £143,000, payable £103,000 in cash, and £40,000 in the Ordinary Shares of the Company, issued as fully paid, which Ordinary Shares will not be entitled to any dividend until 7 per cent. has been paid to the holders of the Preference Shares. These terms are very advantageous to the Company, the amount of cash paid being far less than the present value of the property, the vendors being so satisfied with the prospects of the Company that they agree to accept payment of the balance of £40,000 in Ordinary Shares. The

vendors will pay all their own debts and liabilities, but the book-debts outstanding at the date of the transfer will be collected by the Company on account of the vendors, thus preserving the continuity of the trade connection.

With regard to the property, valuations were recently made for the purposes of probate and partnership, and those valuations have formed the basis of the vendors' estimate of value. Those valuations have now been again submitted to Messrs. Cheshire and Gibson, and Messrs. Thomas and Bettridge, of Birmingham, whose instructions on behalf of the Company were to examine and value the property and prepare a detailed inventory of the buildings, motive-power and gearing, fixed plant and machinery, loose plant and utensils, gas, steam, and water fittings, and of the London premises, fixtures and plant therein. The said valuations, which amount to £217,750, can be seen at the offices of the Company's Solicitors.

The stock-books have been examined by Messrs. Thomas and Bettridge, who certify the value of the stock at 31st December last to be £61,261. This certificate can also be seen at the offices of the Company's Solicitors.

The very valuable goodwill, patents, registered designs, and trade-mark, of which there are many—as specified in the agreement—are included in the sale, and for which no payment is made.

The terms of sale will leave as working capital £17,000, which is ample, as the Company will start with a sufficient stock-in-trade.

The vendors, who are the promoters, undertake to defray all expenses incidental to the formation of the company, including the costs of the valuations and reports before referred to, and all share brokerage and other charges up to the first allotment of shares.

Mr. Charles W. Torr, the working partner of the present firm, has for 15 years past had the active management of the business, and has agreed to accept the position of managing director of the Company for the period of seven years, on moderate terms. Mr. O. F. Thompson, who has been for many years the principal country representative of the firm, has also consented to join the Board, thus securing the continuance of the same able management which has for so long characterized the business.

It is intended to apply to the Committee of the Stock Exchange for an official quotation of the shares of the Company in due course.

The following contracts and agreements have been made with reference to the formation of the Company:—An agreement, dated the 3rd day of February, 1887, made between the firm of R. W. Winfield and Co., the vendors, of the first part, and said Charles Walker Torr, of the second part, and Frank Ernest Hersey, as trustee for the Company, of the third part, and a letter from the vendors to Mr. H. F. Gordon, dated the 9th day of February, 1887.

In addition to the foregoing, there are many current trade contracts, too numerous to set out, and applicants for shares are to be deemed to have waived publication of the names and dates thereof.

Copies of all the documents above referred to (other than trade contracts), and of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, can be inspected at the offices of the Solicitors to the Company, and applicants for shares are to be deemed to have notice of the contents of such documents.

If no allotment be made the deposit will be returned in full.

Applications for shares must be forwarded, together with a deposit of £1 per share, either to the Bankers of the Company, the Staffordshire Joint Stock Bank (Limited), Birmingham, and its branches, or London Agents, Messrs. Barclay, Bevan, Tritton, and Co., 54, Lombard-street, E.C.; or to the Secretary at the Offices of the Company, 144, Leadenhall-street, E.C.; from either of whom, and from the Bankers, Messrs. Panmure Gordon, Hill, and Co., Hatton-court, Threadneedle-street, E.C., and at the premises of the Vendors in Birmingham and London, prospectuses and forms of application can be obtained.

By order of the Board,
F. E. HERSEY, Secretary (pro tem.).

London, E.C., February, 1887.

THE FEDERAL FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY (LIMITED).

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1883, by which the liability of each shareholder is limited to the amount of his shares.
CAPITAL £1,000,000, in 200,000 Shares of £5 each.
First Issue of 1,000,000 shares of £5 each, payable 10s. on application and 10s. on allotment, beyond which no further call is contemplated.

DIRECTORS.

William John Barron, Esq., Thornton House, Bickley (Director of the National Provident Institution).

Francis Bennoch, Esq., 5, Tavistock-square, W.C. (Chairman of the Governments Stock Investment Company, Limited).

Oliver Bryant, Esq., 3, Elm-court, Temple, E.C.
R. Ingham Clark, Esq., F.L.S., Leadenhall House, E.C., and 2, Park Prospect, Queen Anne's-gate, S.W.

Thomas Cory, Esq., Swansea (Chairman of the National Bank of Wales).

Francis O'S. B. Reade, Esq., 83, Warwick-road, South Kensington, S.W.

Lieut.-Gen. J. L. Vaughan, C.B., 1, Edinburgh-mansions, Victoria-street, S.W. (Member of the Council of Foreign Bondholders).

John Wallace, Esq. (of J. Wallace and Co., London and Dundee), 81, Gracechurch-street, E.C.

BANKERS.

Messrs. Martin and Co., 68, Lombard-street, E.C.
The National Bank of Scotland, Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Dundee.

SOLICITORS.

Messrs. Davidson and Morris, 40 and 42, Queen Victoria-street, E.C.

BROKERS.

Messrs. Scrutton and Son, 75, Old Broad-street, E.C.

AUDITORS.

Messrs. H. Woodburn, Kirby, and Co., 19, Birch-lane, E.C.

SECRETARY.—William Christie.

GENERAL MANAGER.—David Christie.

TEMPORARY OFFICES.—40 and 42, Queen Victoria-street, London, E.C.

PROSPECTUS.

This Company has been formed for the purpose of carrying on the business of Fire Insurance in all its branches.

The Directors have appointed as their General Manager Mr. David Christie, whose experience in insurance business extends over a period of forty years, and who was lately General Manager for Europe of the South British, National, and Adelaide Insurance Companies. The Directors have also secured the services of Messrs. William Christie, A. G. Stephen, J. White, Williamson, William C. Mackie, F. G. Whibley, and R. McGregor Smith.

Mr. David Christie and the gentlemen above-named have all recently resigned their respective positions as managers in London, Manchester, Liverpool, Birmingham, Bristol, and Glasgow, of

the South British, National, and Adelaide Insurance Companies, for reasons which the Directors of this Company consider satisfactory, and bring with them connections both home and foreign, which will, the Directors confidently believe, produce a premium income of at least £100,000 for the first year, which will necessarily be largely augmented by means of extended operations and fresh agencies.

The following gentlemen have been appointed the Local Board of Directors in Manchester:—

William T. Alexander, Esq. (Messrs. Bryce and Rumpf), Manchester.

Hermann Hirsch, Esq., Shipping Merchant, Manchester.

Samuel Knowles, Esq., J.P. (Messrs. Samuel Knowles and Co., Calico Printers), Bury.

Thomas F. Mackison, Esq., J.P., Heywood.

Councillor William Noton, Oldham.

(Local Manager—A. G. STEPHEN.)

And similar Boards are in course of formation in Liverpool, Birmingham, Bristol, and Glasgow.

The business will be conducted on the safest and soundest limits of risks, and the Directors propose at once to apply for admission to the Fire Offices Committee, and adopt their tariffs and regulations. Under ordinary circumstances heavy initial expenses have to be incurred in the formation of Fire Insurance Companies, not only for establishing the Company, but also for offices and staff beyond what are necessary for the immediate business of the Company. In the present instance this Company will be free from expenditure of this nature, because it will start with a well-assured business and a large premium income.

It is an undoubted fact that there is no better or safer security than Shares in a well-managed Fire Insurance Company, and the Directors feel in submitting the Shares of this Company for public subscription that the investment will be one of unusual advantage.

The prospective value of the shares may be gathered from a perusal of the following comparative statement extracted from official share-lists for January, 1887, as to certain other Fire Insurance Companies, viz:—

Present Price per Share.	Dividends Paid.	Share, Paid up.	Share, Nominal.	Capital Subscribed.	Present Premium Income.	Name of Company.
£ 5. 0.	13 0 0	6 0 0	50	£ 1,200,000	123,061	Atlas
21 10 0	do.	5 0 0	25	450,000	112,959	Calcedonian
15 0 0	do.	2 10 0	100	5,000,000	114,184	Law
50 0 0	12 per cent.	25 0 0	250	1,000,000	168,773	National of Ireland
410 0 0	16 per cent.	100 0 0	1000	689,220	144,783	Royal Exchange

It will be seen from the foregoing table that, assuming this Company only obtains the amount of business which it confidently anticipates, it will at once be placed on a level as regards extent of business with Companies whose shares sell at a premium of 100 to 500 per cent., and whose dividends range from 12 to 33 per cent. per annum.

No promotion money whatever will be paid, and the preliminary expenses will only consist of the usual legal, printing, and advertising charges and expenses and brokerage in relation to the formation and registration of the Company.

The Memorandum and Articles of Association may be seen, and all further information obtained, at the offices of the Company, and of the Solicitors and Auditors.

Applications for Shares, on the form accompanying the Prospectus, should be forwarded to the Bankers of the Company, together with the amount payable on application. If no allotment is made the deposit will be returned in full.

Prospectuses and Forms of Application may be obtained from the Bankers, Brokers, Solicitors, and Auditors; or from the Secretary, at the temporary offices of the Company.

London, 14th February, 1887.

ROYAL EXCHANGE ASSURANCE.

Incorporated 1720.
Fire, Life, Sea, and Annuities.

NEW PROSPECTUS on application, showing REVISED RATES, CONDITIONS as to WHOLE WORLD and INDISPUTABLE POLICIES, &c.

Funds exceed £4,000,000.

Office: Royal Exchange, E.C., and 29, Pall-mall, S.W.

PHENIX FIRE OFFICE.

LOMBARD-STREET AND CHANCING-CROSS, London. Established 1782.

Insurances against loss by fire and lightning effected in all parts of the world.

Loss claims arranged with promptitude and liberality. WILLIAM C. MACDONALD, Joint Secretary.

LONDON ASSURANCE CORPORATION.

Established by Royal Charter A.D. 1720.

No. 7, ROYAL EXCHANGE, AND 43A, PALL MALL.

Marine, Fire, and Life Assurances have been granted by the Corporation for more than a century and a half.

Funds in hand exceed £3,400,000.

A GOOD PLAN.—Stock Exchange operations are often rapidly made to yield highly lucrative results, by adopting the safe method explained in sixth edition of Guide Book, sent Gratis and Post-free. Address, G. EVANS & Co., Stock-brokers, Gresham House, London, E.C. Established 1882.

Telegram just received from Grass Valley, California—"Results last fortnight twelve thousand dollars—Providence. (Signed) LAVIGNE DUPLAY"

NEVADA PROVIDENCE GOLD MINES, LIMITED.

CAPITAL £250,000, in 250,000 shares of £1 each, of which 50,000 are taken by the Vendors in part payment of the purchase, and the balance is now offered for subscription; payable as follows:—2s. 6d. on application, 7s. 6d. on allotment, 5s. one month after allotment, and the balance as required, with two months' notice of each call.

DIRECTORS.

G. P. Simpson, Esq., M.E., Director of the East Arrevalo Mexican Mining Company, Limited, 5, Belsize Park-gardens, N.W.

D. R. Ratcliff, Esq., J.P., Chairman of Milner's Safe Company, Limited, 28, Finsbury-pavement, E.C.

W. Leigh Bernard, Esq., Barrister-at-Law, Director of the United States Gold Placers, Limited, 1, New-court, Lincoln's-inn, W.C.

A. Le Neve Foster, Esq., M.S.T.E., 65, Cadogan-square, S.W.

W. A. Ross, Esq. (late Colonial Secretary, Gold Coast), Brixton, Surrey.

Alex. R. Robertson, Esq., Director of Lady Franklin Mining Company, Dashwood House, New Broad-street, London, E.C.

BANKERS.

The London and Westminster Bank Limited, 41, Lothbury, E.C.

BROKERS.

Messrs. Brunton, Bourke and Co., 13, Finch-lane, E.C.

SECRETARY AND OFFICES.

Percy B. Schreiber, Esq., 60, Queen Victoria-street, E.C.

ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

This Company is formed for the purpose of purchasing and further developing the extensive and very productive Gold Mining Properties, situate on Deer Creek, about a mile and a quarter west of Nevada City, Nevada County, California.

The mines are in full operation.

The profits taken from the books of the Mines, as shown in the reports of Mr. Stretch and Messrs. Lavigne and Duplay, are as follows:—

86,784 tons were extracted from 1882 to 1886, producing bullion 1,002,540 dols., which, after paying all working expenses, yield a net profit of 521,695 dols., being £108,686 sterling. This gives an annual net profit of £27,171.

From the 1st January to the 31st October, 1886, Mr. Lavigne's report shows the net profits to be £31,270, and, taking the average of the September and October months, the actual net profits are at the rate of over £37,000 for the year.

The present product is small in comparison with the results attainable upon the erection of an additional 50-stamp mill, which the Directors intend at once to put up, to work the ore in sight which on the "Providence Mine" Messrs. Lavigne and Duplay and Mr. Melville Attwood report to be as follows:—

Ore in sight in the galleries, after deducting 6 dols. per ton for working expenses and 25 per cent. for loss of gold in the amalgamation process.... \$3,216,500

Ore in sight in other parts of the Mine after making the same deduction as above..... \$1,245,000

Mr. Melville Attwood, in his Report of May, 1886, values the reserves placed in sight since the above calculations of Messrs. Lavigne and Duplay were made, after making deductions as above, at..... 300,000

Giving the total net value of ore in sight at..... \$4,761,500

being about £1,000,000 sterling.

This is independent of the Williams Mine of 56 acres.

Upon the basis of profits already obtained, averaging £27,171 a year up to 1886, and the additional 50-stamp Mill, bringing the total quantity of ore crushed to 200 tons a day, or 60,000 tons a year, the net annual profit would be £75,141 being over 25 per cent. on the capital of the Company.

The Directors, in justification of their recommending this property to investors, refer to the following Extract from Mr. Melville Attwood's Report of May last.

"I consider the 'Providence Mine' quite in its infancy. It would hardly be possible to find a property better situated for cheap and effective working. The climate is exceptionally good, water-power for the propulsion of machinery is cheap and ample, the outlet for tailings is all-sufficient, the locality is of easy access, being within a mile or two of railroad terminus. The recent discovery in the Ural Lode has, in my estimation, doubled the value of the Company's property. . . . The ore milling in six months gave an average return of \$13.41 per ton, being double the yield of Sierra Buttes Ore, and one-third more than the yield of 'St. John del Rey Mine,' Brazil."

The purchase price of the property is £240,000, payable £150,000 cash and £90,000 in fully paid shares.

Application will be made for an official Stock Exchange settlement and quotation.

By order of the Board,
WALTER BAXTER, Secretary.

February 22, 1887.

THE ANGLO-FOREIGN BANKING COMPANY, LIMITED.

Notice is hereby given that Share Warrant Coupon No. 23 of this Company will be payable at the rate of 7s. per share, free of income tax, on and after 1st March. Coupons must be left with the Company three days for examination Forms for listing the Coupons may be had on application at the Bank, 2, Bishopsgate-street Within, E.C.

By order of the Board,
WALTER BAXTER, Secretary.

February 22, 1887.

FRENCH ACCENT.—A Gentleman

of much experience in tuition offers to give lessons in FRENCH PRONUNCIATION and ACCENT, having regard especially to the particular difficulties experienced by English people in the pronunciation of French. The advertiser is a man of liberal education, who has had special means of studying the mechanism of a perfect French pronunciation, and he believes that he is able to show how the difficulties of English persons in acquiring a good French accent (mainly physical difficulties) may be overcome. He has had special practice also in teaching the mechanism of English pronunciation to foreigners, and the method pursued is carefully adapted to give confidence to the timid and diffident; timidity and diffidence being known to operate as great impediments to a good pronunciation. The advertiser believes that English people intending to travel will find these lessons of much practical and immediate service. None but principals treated with.—Address, stating requirements, to A. Z., 98, Cheyne-walk, Chelsea.

THE LIST OF APPLICATIONS will be OPENED THIS DAY, the 21st February, and CLOSED on or before THURSDAY, the 24th February, 1887.

THE GRANT ENVELOPE MACHINE COMPANY, LIMITED.

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862-1883, by which the liability of the shareholder is limited.

Capital—£75,000, in 75,000 shares of £1 each, payment to be made as follows:—5s. on application; 5s. on allotment; 20s. 25th March, 1887.

DIRECTORS.

Walter Jameson Waterlow, Esq., of Messrs. Waterlow Brothers and Layton, Limited.

Joseph Richmond, Esq., Messrs. Joseph Richmond and Co., Engineers and Envelope Machine Manufacturers.

James Norris Pimm, Esq., Envelope Manufacturer, Garlick-hill, E.C.

Sir W. Guyer Hunter, K.C.M.G., M.P., Director of H.H. The Nizam's State Railways Company.

* Sidney Austin Grant, Esq., 40, Kirby-street, Hatton-garden, W.C.

* Will join Board after allotment.

BANKERS.

The London Joint Stock Bank, Limited, Princes-street, E.C.

SOLICITORS.

Messrs. Ashurst, Morris, Crisp, and Co., 6, Old Jewry, E.C.

AUDITORS.

Messrs. Deloitte, Dever, Griffiths, and Co., 4, Lothbury, E.C.

BROKERS.

Messrs. Laing and Cruickshank, 3, Drapers'-garden, E.C.

SECRETARY (pro tem.)—H. Gauntlett Raikes, Esq.

OFFICES—Suffolk-house, Laurence Pountney-hill, Cannon-street, E.C.

PROSPECTUS.

This Company has been formed to acquire and develop for Great Britain, France, Belgium, Austria-Hungary, Germany, &c., all the patent rights of the "Grant Rotary Envelope Machine," an important and remarkable mechanical invention, and one which will certainly revolutionize the envelope trade.

Hitherto all envelope machines have been made on the slow reciprocating or alternating principle, which was considered to be the only one adapted to the requirements of envelope manufacture, but which, however, is not only the cause of great waste in the material, but the machines themselves have comparatively short lives.

In the Grant machines these objections are effectually removed by the substitution of the rotary for the reciprocating principle. It is a well-known fact that no system of machinery, either for printing or for manufacturing paper, has ever been able to compete with the rotary; but up to the present time it has never been applied to envelope-making, so that its application by the inventor is an entirely new departure from any machinery hitherto constructed. The result is that a simple machine has been produced which works without any waste of material, produces an important saving in the cost of envelopes, and is of almost unlimited durability.

The rotary action also enables one of the machines to turn out as many envelopes per hour as three machines of the old form. It operates automatically, requires no skilled labour, and only one-fourth horsepower per machine.

In addition to these advantages the machine, by an ingenious combination of the mechanical arrangements, points and embosses at the same time, so that the blanks put in at one end are turned out at the other as complete envelopes, embossed and printed as required. Notwithstanding the superior capacity and durability of these machines, they can be manufactured at a cost which will leave a large profit to the Company on the terms made with those who have already ordered them. The invention has received the approval of the leading envelope manufacturers and envelope machine experts, who are naturally the best judges of the value and importance of such a machine, and by whom it is conceded to be the most perfect mechanical device, and the most rapid, economical, and durable machine yet made.

It is estimated that about 28,000,000 of envelopes are made in Great Britain daily, with increasing demand; and it is believed that in France, Belgium, Austria-Hungary, and Germany the output is fully 75,000,000. The daily capacity of one Grant envelope machine of ten hours, at nominal speed, is 100,000.

The number of envelope manufacturers in the United Kingdom alone, is estimated by Messrs. Richmond and Co., the engineers, to be 250, besides the large number of stationers and others who make envelopes, and the number of envelope-making machines, of various kinds, at present in use, probably exceeds 2,000; while a considerable proportion of the 26 to 30 millions of envelopes, estimated to be manufactured in this country alone, are made by hand. It can therefore be reasonably expected that the advantages offered by the Grant envelope machine will be availed of, not only in substitution for the machines now in use, but by others who have depended on the slower process by hand-making, and who will find it impossible to compete with the rapidity and cheapness secured by the Grant Machine.

The Directors propose to sell the machines at remunerative profits, with an annual royalty, and it is believed that the sales in this and other countries, and also (if thought advisable) the sale of the patent rights for foreign countries to separate companies, will be sufficient to enable this Company, within a comparatively short period, to pay dividends of from 15 to 20 per cent. to the shareholders, and to provide bonuses equal to the whole amount paid to the vendors.

A number of orders have already been secured from our most prominent envelope manufacturers, among whom are the following:—

Messrs. Waterlow and Sons, Limited, London-wall.

Messrs. Thos. De La Rue and Co., Bunhill-row, E.C.

Messrs. James Spicer and Sons, 50, Upper Thames-street.

Messrs. Millington and Sons, Budge-row.

Messrs. McCorquodale and Co., Limited, Change-alley.

Messrs. John Dickinson and Co., Limited, 65, Old Bailey.

Messrs. C. Goodall and Sons, Camden Works.

Messrs. Cowan and Co., Craigside Envelope Works, Edinburgh.

The Company does not propose to have any manufacturing of its own for making the machines, as they will be made on reasonable terms by the present manufacturers of that class of machinery.

The machine can be seen in action at No. 40, Kirby-street, Hatton-garden, where all further information can be obtained.

The Company will take over from the Vendors the benefit of a profitable contract which they entered into with Messrs. Joseph Richmond and Co., on

the 25th January, 1887, for the manufacture of machines already ordered.

The Vendors are the promoters of the Company, and have themselves fixed the purchase-money at £50,000, £25,000 of which, being the maximum allowed by the rules of the Stock Exchange, they will take in fully paid-up shares, or in cash, at the option of the Directors. The Company will thus have an ample working capital of £25,000.

The only contract which has been entered into is one dated 9th February, 1887, made between Sidney Austin Grant and Walter Whitfield Bostwick of the one part, and Henry Gauntlett Raikes, as a trustee on behalf of the Company, of the other part, which, together with the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company, can be seen at the offices of the Solicitors.

If no allotment is made the deposit will be returned in full, and if a less number of shares is allotted than that applied for, the balance will be credited in reduction of the amount payable on allotment.

Prospectuses and forms of application for shares may be obtained of the Bankers, Brokers, and Secretary of the Company.

17th February, 1887.

BRITISH ORPHAN ASYLUM,

MACKENZIE PARK, SLOUGH.

The Board of Directors have the pleasure to announce that Sir Robert N. Fowler, Bart., M.P., has most kindly consented to preside at the Anniversary Festival of this Institution, which will take place at the Hotel Metropole on Thursday, the 12th May.

It is hoped that in the efforts now being made to commemorate this Jubilee year of Her Most Gracious Majesty's beneficent reign, that the stream of benevolence may not be diverted into other channels to the prejudice of long-tried existing institutions, such as the "British Orphan Asylum."

ALFRED MACKENZIE, Secretary.

Offices.—47, Cannon-street, London.

Bankers.—Messrs. Williams, Deacon, & Co., 20, Birchin-lane, London.

WESTWARD HO!

200 Trained Lads (First Party for this year) will (D.V.) leave "DR. BARNARDO'S HOMES" for Canada on March 17.

It is hoped that at least 600 carefully trained youngsters may be placed out in the Dominion at an aggregate cost of £5,100 during the present year; 622 Boys and Girls having been emigrated during 1886.

£8 10s. will defray the entire cost of Emigrating one Boy.

£51 will do the same for Six Boys; £102 for Twelve Boys; or £170 for Twenty Boys.

Who, by promising one or other of these amounts, will help to give some of these young fellows a start in life?

Contributions for the EMIGRATION FUND are urgently needed, and will be thankfully received and acknowledged by the Treasurer, Wm. Fowler, Esq.; by the Chairman of Committee, S. G. Sheppard, Esq.; or by the Founder and Director, Dr. T. J. Barnardo.

18 to 26, Stepney Causeway, London, E.

PEPPER'S QUININE & IRON TONIC.
Health, Strength, Energy.

It quickly arouses great Bodily, Nerve, Mental, and Digestive Strength, promotes Appetite, securing Health, Strength, and Energy.

Insist on having PEPPER'S TONIC. Bottles, 2s. 6d. and 4s. 6d. Sold everywhere.

Sulpholine
FOR CLEARING THE SKIN. *Lotion.*

In a few days Spots, Blemishes, Blotches, entirely fade away. Beautifully fragrant. Perfectly harmless. It renders the skin clear, smooth, supple, and healthy. Bottles, 2s. 9d. Sold everywhere.

SCHWEITZER'S COCOATINA.
ANTI-DYSPEPTIC COCOA OR CHOCOLATE POWDER.
GUARANTEED PURE SOLUBLE COCOA, WITHOUT SUGAR OR ADMIXTURE.

Consisting solely of the finest Cocoa Beans with the excess of Fat extracted. Made instantaneously with boiling Water, keeps in all Climates and Palatable without Milk. THE FACILITY pronounce it "The Most Nutritious, Perfectly Digestible BEVERAGE FOR BREAKFAST, LUNCHEON, or SUPPER, and invaluable for invalids and young children."

COCOATINA A LA VANILLE
Is the most delicate, digestible, cheapest Vanilla Chocolate, and may be taken when richer Chocolate is prohibited.

Sold by Chemists and Grocers, in air-tight tins, at 1s. 6d., 3s., 5s. 6d., 10s. 6d., &c.

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